

**Funeral Committee Report to the BTSA-AGM
March 7, 2010**

The Funeral Committee began brainstorming on the topic of providing a one day information session for the members and public as early as October 2, 2008. The topics to be covered would possibly include:

- a) preplanning funerals
- b) prepaying for funerals
- c) estate planning
- d) personal directives

The committee met in May and July, 2009 at which time we invited Renae Barlow to assist us on how to initiate the above event. The date was set for October 24th at the temple. As we continued to brainstorm with Renae, she took the lead in drafting the letters that would invite as many possible businesses to partake in the Funeral Fair. We were successful in having 13 exhibitors in the full day event. Each had a table for display and information and most tables had two manning them.

It was a very successful and interesting day. A second Fair is considered for next fall.

The full report from Renae can be found with the Religious Committee Report.

Other topics that were included at the meetings included:

- a) having the Toban leader for the month to be part of the Funeral Committee during the family visitation to assist in their funeral planning. This is vital in planning the lunch for the family.
- b) the Funeral Committee concluded at one point that they would not offer a full meal of Chow Mein and/or a meat (or alternate) dish. This was taken to the Board, whereby the final decision was taken back to the Toban leaders and their respective members to make the final decision. The final consensus was to offer the full meal if the family so wishes.
- c) to have Sensei provide the Funeral Planning Guidelines to the family when the opportunity arises in order that the family become somewhat familiar with the procedures of the temple. It would also hasten the time during the committee's visitation. Regardless, it is always stressed to the family that whatever is deviated from the guidelines were respected as the family's choice.
- d) the need to have 2 more volunteers on the committee to assist with home visits.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Sassa