



April 2010

## Yoyo Weather



Around this time, the weather of southern Alberta is not stable and very unpredictable. Someone told me that this kind of weather is called “yoyo weather” because it literally has ups and downs; nice day, snowy day, rainy day, warm day like 15 degrees and cold day like minus 10 degrees, etc. One of problems around this time is that a car easily gets dirty. One fine Sunday morning I noticed from my office that my car in the temple parking lot was so dirty compared with others. I decided to wash the car myself. Then one of members came to me and said, “Sensei, I’ll take your car to the nearby gas station where there is car-wash.” I thanked him and went with him to the gas station. Several cars were waiting in line for their turn. Our turn came and a huge machine washed my car within three minutes while we remained in the car. It reminded me again of the marvellous modern technology that exists. After the car wash, I turned on the wipers to clean the windshield. I noticed few unclean spots. I said, “After all, the machine is not perfect. It could not clean the windshield thoroughly.” My companion replied: “Sensei, these spots are not outside but

inside. You have to clean them yourself! The machine cannot help you.” We laughed.

Buddha Dharma always mentions the inside of ourselves: mind, ego self which we are not able to see. Buddha Dharma does not seriously talk about the acquired self or our outer form of appearance such as wealth, fame, title, knowledge and etc. We are able to see and recognize outside of others as well as our own but not inside. Unclean and stained spots created by our ego self, inside of ourselves, are called “bonno”, blind passion and selfish desire which constantly obstruct the view to see the true picture of ourselves. With “bonno” we keep repeating the cycle of delusion in which we are not able to find true peace of mind. It is like a tiny insect on the edge of a cup, walking round and round the rim with no progress toward inner peace. We might acquire and gain wealth, fame, title, knowledge but our “bonno”, the cause of delusion, is still there. Venerable Master Shinran who grieved and cried over his own “bonno” in his youth, joyfully and gratefully wrote a poem in the latter part of his life:

*Obstruction of blind passion  
turn into Enlightenment*

*It is like the relation of ice and water;  
The more the ice, the more the water;  
The more the obstruction, the more  
Buddha’s Compassion.*

Through the Buddha Dharma, Shinran encountered the great heart of the Buddha, Compassion, which is like the warmth of the sun illuminating and melting his ice of “bonno.” The ice of our blind passion and desire is not separated from the water of Buddha’s compassion which opens up the new world of enlightenment, the realm of true awakening of life.

Namo Amida Butsu,  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSa

## 心の転換

人間は「安らぎ」「幸せ」を求めます。一生涯かかって求めているようです。その為に、「お金が入れば、地位を持てば、名誉を手に入れば。。。」と忙しく走り回っているのではないのでしょうか。しかし、求めているものは、案外、すぐそばにあったと言うことがあります。

身近な例えですが、こんなことがありました。先日、セルフウォッシュをどこかに置き忘れたようで、家の中、お寺の中、車のトランク、グラージの中を探しました。お墓参りをしたことを思い出して、お墓まで探しにいきました。しかしどこにもありません。まあ、どこからか出てくるだろうと、のんきに構えていました。しかし、二日目になっても見つかりません。仕方なく、店で新しいものを買うことに決めました。いよいよ買う時になって、もう一度車の中を調べたのです。運転座席を後方に動かしました。なんと座席の下に落ちていたのです。求めていたものは、座っている真下にあったのですが、それに気がつかずなかったのです。

無数の「いのち」が「私」を支えています。今、ここで、支えています、「安らぎ」「幸せ」を求め、つかもうとするあまり、目を外に向けています。その私たちの目を、まず「いま、ここに」に向けようと働いてくださるのが仏様です。私たちには、仏様の智慧の働きによる、「心の転換」が必要なのです。いよいよ、仏様の働きに耳を傾けましょう。合掌 泉

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## BTSA NOTES

April is a joyous and festive month on the Buddhist calendar with Shakyamuni's birth and the renewal of spring. Hanamatsuri, one of Jodo Shinshu's three major services, along with Ho-onko and Obon, is scheduled for April 11. Please plan to attend the Hanamatsuri service at 2 p.m., and stay for the potluck supper that will follow.

We take another turn at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen on April 7, after a day there on March 22, as part of BTSA's community involvement. Along these lines, the BTSA's Haiti disaster relief supper, cosponsored by The New Dynasty Restaurant on March 21 was fully attended and 60 persons enjoyed a multi-course feast (please see elsewhere in the newsletter for a full report).

Looking ahead, the spring chow-mein supper is on May 1 and we look forward to everyone's assistance leading up to the event and the event itself. Keep your fingers crossed for a warm sunny spring day as it'll be a drive-through, take-out again. This major fund-raiser helps to keep the temple operating.

Dharma energy certainly was apparent at the chow mein noodle-making session at the end of February, with a dozen members coming out to mix dough, then returning the following day to join more than 50 persons who cut dough, worked it through several presses before running it through the noodle-making machines. The three woks were kept busy, followed by the cooling and packaging of noodles. Thanks to all who showed up, worked tirelessly and helped clean up afterwards.

The temple's mortgage-free status was a major item at the annual general meeting on March 7. The AGM approved the 2010 membership fee at \$100, the same as the previous year, and was told the Board will create a student member category.

Forty members in attendance received various committees reports, all of which are posted on the website along with the minutes. Please check there for details. One item that should be highlighted is the generosity that helped BTSA to retire the mortgage so speedily: the fund-raising committee reported nearly \$1.3 million was raised in donations and pledges in the campaign. Our profound appreciation to everyone's support and dedication.

We thank Sylvia Oishi for agreeing to serve as the 12th member of the board, which has been operating with 11 members since last September. All directors' terms expire at the 2011 annual general meeting.

Tak Okamura reported that the Nikkei Cultural Society has donated \$5,000 to the BTSA, earmarked for BTSA youth activities.

The Board at its March 10 meeting struck a finance committee that would relieve the treasurer of a workload that has grown with the amalgamation of the founding BTSA temples. A transition plan for the treasurer's position is expected at the April meeting.

In other matters, the Board:

- decided to investigate the possibility of a steel container as a storage bin;
- acknowledged the \$5,000 donation received from the NCS, as noted at the AGM;
- agreed to advertise for sale the piano in the multipurpose room;
- was advised that the donor wall had been repaired and yellow safety tape will be placed on exterior steps (this last has been done); and,
- was informed the John Martin Recreation Area at Pavan Park is confirmed for the BTSA picnic on June 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Akira Ichikawa

## TOBAN UPDATE

### Toban Rotation Schedule

April – Toban 1

May – Toban 2

Thanks to **Toban 4** for serving tea and doing all the regular tasks during the month of March.

### The Soup Kitchen

The meal on March 22 was prepared and served by members of **Toban 3**. Five pots of stew and three large rice cookers made enough to serve 140 guests, 12 volunteers and a half dozen staff. Many thanks to Toban leaders, Harry Sugimoto and David Major and to all those, some who drove in from Taber, who came and helped.

On April 7 the Soup Kitchen meal will be coordinated and prepared by members of Tobans 1 & 2, however if others wish to volunteer, contact Lilly Oishi.



*BTSA members at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen on March 22. From left, Joyce Crittenden, coordinator; LaVerne Hamabata, Marge Fujita, Kay Crittenden (of the Soup Kitchen), Miyo Sunada, Kaz Sugimoto, Molly Ito, Shinako Higa, Sue Koyata, Lily Kaga, Harry Sugimoto, Florence Senda and Kay Masuda. David Major, also on the work crew and co-chair with Harry, took the picture.*



# DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR HAITI



A gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Matthew Lui and co-sponsored by the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (BTSA) and the New Dynasty Restaurant on Mar. 21 raised \$6,475 for Haiti disaster relief. All proceeds were donated to the Lethbridge chapter of the Canadian Red Cross. With great pleasure sixty donors enjoyed the elaborate and delicious 12-course meal prepared by Matthew. He and Simon Mak, New Dynasty host, were greeted with an enthusiastic standing ovation when they entered the room as the last desserts were being served by the friendly and efficient New Dynasty staff. The menu, mainly gourmet Chinese cuisine, included Thai Style Barbecue Ribs and Grilled Teriyaki steak to symbolize, as Matthew noted, different cuisines and people coming together to support the people of Haiti.

For Matthew, it was somewhat of a family affair, with wife Christina providing support and their son Lynol taking pictures. Our appreciation to Christina for contacting the Lethbridge Lodge and Lynol, a professional photographer, for his contribution of two large framed black and white photographs. Thanks to Wendy Steel, Lethbridge Lodge Botanica Restaurant for a lovely basket of Starbucks products along with a night's stay and breakfast for two at the Lodge. Through the generosity of these donors, three door prizes were won by BTSA - Haiti donors: Joe Tomiyama, Tak Okamura and Joy Saruwatari. Thanks to Safeway and Moxie's who also donated goods for the dinner and to our own Board and Toban leaders who supported this endeavor. Appreciation is extended to all who purchased tickets and attended the event or otherwise made a donation to the Haiti Fund through BTSA.

It was heart-warming to be able to join this community effort and we hope for more opportunities to continue contributions to those in greatest need. We look forward to future partnerships with Matthew Lui and the New Dynasty Restaurant.

Lorita Ichikawa





# BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

470 - 40th Street South, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5 | 403.327.1260 | www.thebtsa.com

## 2010 Membership Form

- Full Membership  
(\$100 for each member)
- Student Membership\*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by Email only.

Please send this form and your remittance to:  
 Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer  
 470 40th Street South  
 Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

### Notes

\*Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the BTSA and this category of membership does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada.

## LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

### ATTENTION DONORS

The Finance Committee is trying streamline the donation process! To that end, we kindly request that, whenever possible, please make your donations with a cheque (instead of cash). This would greatly assist and streamline our bookkeeping efforts and, more importantly, ensure the amount of your donation is recorded accurately. Also, we will be counting and depositing donations on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. Those donations received on or before the 3rd Sunday of the month will be recorded in the next month's Hikari. Those donations received after the 3rd Sunday will be featured in the subsequent month's Hikari. Official tax receipts can be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donation.

### Memorial Donations

March 2010

Shinako Higa  
 Toshimi & Marian Ibuki  
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi

**Total - \$500.00**

### Shotsuki Hoyo

March 2010

Sharon (Higa) & Arlon Bauer  
 Jim & Atsuko Hagihara  
 Randy Higa  
 Shinako Higa  
 Shirley Higa  
 Tomi Hisaoka  
 Rumiko Ibuki  
 Ray & Donna Journoud  
 Takeshi & Sue Koyata  
 Katoye Maruno  
 May Nishikawa  
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama  
 Takumi & Mitsuko Oga  
 Frank & Kimi Ohno  
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
 May Ohno  
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
 Sonia Sitz  
 Fumi Sugimoto  
 Harry Sugimoto  
 Tomiko Sugimoto  
 Tsuyako Tajiri  
 Kazuko Takaguchi  
 Toshiko Takeda  
 David & Linda Tanaka  
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
 Toshiko Tanaka  
 Brenda & Lester Tanner  
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
 Keith & Kathleen Turnbull

**Total - \$1,195.00**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Obituaries

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

**Mrs. Mitsue Noda (90) Feb 3, 2010**

**Mr. Larry Naoto Tamaki (59) Mar 15, 2010**

### Two Members Honored

Two BTSA members received community honors during March.

**Aya Hironaka** was presented the Arts and Cultural category prize of the Immigrant Achievement Awards and **Florence Senda** was selected as an inductee in the Builder category of the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame and is scheduled to be installed on May 1. Congratulations to both.

### Volunteers Needed

The BTSA Board of Directors Finance Committee needs your help. We are looking for BTSA members who have an expertise in finance, money management and/or bookkeeping. If you can be of assistance, please contact Robert Takaguchi email [guch@shockware.com](mailto:guch@shockware.com); or Renae Barlow [renaeb@telus.net](mailto:renaeb@telus.net) for more details.

The Finance Committee is also looking for volunteers willing to count and record donations on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of everyone month. An announcement will be made at the service requesting your assistance. If you are present and have some time after tea, your help would be appreciated. Depending on the event, we may need from 2 to 4 volunteers on these Sundays and we expect it will take about an hour.

**Choir Bottle Drive** will be held Monday, May 17 at 1pm. Save your bottles, cans and cartons until then or feel free to drop them off at the temple prior to the 17th. Thank you for your continued support in our endeavors.

**Flowers** are delivered to those in hospital.

Please contact Kay Tsukishima, 403.327.9786 or Kaz Takaguchi, 403.328.3190 if you are aware of a BTSA member who has been hospitalized for a week or more.

**The Temple Library** in the Board Room awaits organization, but members are welcome to check out any titles they wish. A recent addition is "Now Is The Moment", a softcover book, donated by its author, Robert Hironaka.

**The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples AGM** will be held April 24 and 25 in Steveston, BC.

**Spring Bake Sale & Bazaar** is planned for Saturday, May 29.

**The annual Picnic** is scheduled for Sunday, June 20 at the John Martin Recreation Centre, Pavan Park. This will be a Potluck event with BTSA supplying Rice, Kentucky Fried Chicken and soft drinks.

**The Bon Odori and Bazaar** will be held at Galt Gardens on July 17 (Obon Service on July 18). Planning is starting soon and if you are interested in helping out, please contact [lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com](mailto:lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com)

**The BTSA is selling its upright Mendelssohn piano.** Good Condition. Approximate value is estimated at \$1,000. If interested contact Akira Ichikawa at 327-1668 or email [ichikawa@uleth.ca](mailto:ichikawa@uleth.ca). Deadline for offers is April 30, 2010.

### Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju)



Bon Odori in July



BTSA Picnic in June

## 2010 Buddhist Memorial Service

### 仏教徒の年忌法要

#### Year of Death (死亡年)

2009	First annual memorial	.....1 year from death
2008	3rd	.....2 full years from death
2004	7th	.....6 full years from death
1998	13th	.....12 full years from death
1994	17th	.....16 full years from death
1986	25th	.....24 full years from death
1978	33rd	.....32 full years from death
1961	50th	.....49 full years from death

A memorial rite marking the death of the deceased not only calls for the adornment of the shrine and the reading of the sutra but also is a precious occasion for recalling the cherished memories of the beloved and the most of all to realize the blessings of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. (from Jodo Shinshu Handbook for laymen) On the first or near the first Sunday of every month, the BTSA observes a monthly memorial service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi-命日) falls in that month. Please bring a Homyo of your loved one.



**BTSA Japanese Conversational Language**

Rev. Izumi  
 Beginner Level  
 Saturdays 10 - 11 am, BTSA Temple  
 Have fun speaking Japanese. Plus, learn some Kanji for everyday use and its related meaning to Buddhism.  
 Contact: Denise Takao  
 detakao@telus.net or (403) 381-1187

**PROGRAMS open to the community**

**Gentle Yoga for Seniors** with Val Kunimoto.  
 The spring session runs April 13 - May 18.  
 Registration is full.

**Naikan:** gentle art of self-reflection through journal writing and meditation runs through April. Registration is closed.

**Cooking Classes were held for 4 sessions during the month of March**

Miyo Sunada and Kaz Sugimoto shared their method of preparing Oden. Jean Oga and Sachi Taguchi demonstrated two ways of preparing vegetable rice. Kim Ohno and Sets Ohno showed us their method of preparing dough for a variety of tempura and how to prepare the raw shrimp for the panko breadcrumbs. Eiko Aoki demonstrated her method of preparing the broth and vegetables/meat for sukiyaki.

The highlight of each session was tasting the food prepared by each demonstrator along with the registrants. A big "Thank You" is extended to the volunteer demonstrators. Classes will continue on a monthly basis. It is hoped that volunteer demonstrators will step forward to share their skills. Please notify Lorita or Pat if you are willing to assist. Thanks to Pat Sassa who coordinated the classes...another terrific program!

**Japanese Lesson:**

**How do you say this in Japanese?**

"How are you?"


"O genki desu ka?"

"Ikaga desu ka?"

I'm fine = genki desu.

I'm not fine = lie, genki dewa arimasen.

**Kanji Corner**

 <p>Haru はる Spring</p>	一	=	三
	𠄎	夫	春
	春	春	春

9 strokes

Combines 三 (san) and 人 (hito) and 日 (hi).  
 Together it means: three people are enjoying the warmth of the sun.

*Happiness that you experience because things went your way will eventually crumble; the happiness that you experience while being unable to change some difficult circumstance will never crumble.*

- Hasumaro Sasaki

**REGULAR EVENTS**

**\*Study/Discussion Group**

Sundays right after the morning chanting (Shoshinge). The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi

**Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir**

Thursdays 7 - 9 pm  
 Please contact Katie Nakagawa  
 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

**Tonarigumi**

Tuesdays 12 - 3 pm

**Taiko Class**

Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 pm  
 Please contact David Tanaka  
 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

**The Lethbridge Karaoke Club**

Wednesdays 1:30 - 4 pm  
 All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy.

**Momiji Dancers**

Mondays, 2:30 - 4:30 pm



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA  
**children & youth dharma classes**

The Dharma class was fortunate enough to have Flo Senda bake with them in the kitchen this month. Mrs. Senda came to temple on March 21 prepared with several loaves of bread she had baked the night before and enough dough for the class to make buns and take home.

While the kids enjoyed eating their slices with jam, Mrs. Senda shared stories about her childhood and the fact that homemade bread and jam was nothing out of the ordinary. The Dharma class is extremely grateful to Flo Senda for providing a wonderful experience.

Thank you also to Roland and Brenda Ikuta for prepping and bringing the ingredients to go with Flo's bread. They provided the jam and assisted the kids in peeling eggs and making the egg salad sandwiches that the entire congregation enjoyed.



**UPCOMING IN APRIL**

HANAMATSURI SERVICE

APRIL 11, 2PM

The children always look forward to Hanamatsuri celebrations in April, commemorating the birth of the Buddha. This year there will be a short performance that all youth in attendance are invited to join. There will be an activity related to spring and perhaps the weather will cooperate and children can enjoy our own Lumbini garden and playground. Last but not least, a birthday cake for all to enjoy.



Pouring sweet tea over a statuette of the baby Buddha.

# April & May 2010 Schedule

# 三月と四月(2010年)の予定表

**Chanting (Shoshinge) starts at 9:40am** (Study/Discussion group will be held following Regular Chanting). Everyone welcome!

**Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service** 祥月法要 Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

**\*Infant Presentation Ceremony** (初参り) before the Hanamatsuri service. If you or your friends have infant(s) please join us.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL					7pm SAB Choir		10am Japanese Conversation 1:30pm Naikan
						1	2
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		10am Japanese Conversation 1:30pm Naikan
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	*2pm Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday はなまつり。花祭り	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	3pm Visitors "On Our Own"	7pm SAB Choir		10am Japanese Conversation 1:30pm Naikan
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service (Rev. Izumi will be in Richmond)	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club  JSBTC Ministers' Meeting	7pm SAB Choir  JSBTC Ministers' Meeting			10am Japanese Conversation 1:30pm Naikan
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir			10am Japanese Conversation 1:30pm Naikan
25	26	27	28	29	30		

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY							10am Japanese Conversation  Chow Mein Supper
							1
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Monthly Memorial Service	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		10am Japanese Conversation
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		10am Japanese Conversation
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Gotane (Shinran Shonin Birthday) 降誕会	1pm Bottle Drive 2:30pm Momiji Dancers	Gentle Yoga 12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir			10am Japanese Conversation
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
9:40am Chanting 10:30am Regular Service	2:30pm Momiji Dancers	12pm Tonarigumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Leth Karaoke Club	7pm SAB Choir		10am Bake Sale & Bazaar	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						