

# Hikari the Light



April 2014

## Powerful and Everlasting Voice

While my wife was away, I made fried vegetables. I used several kinds of vegetables. I wanted it a bit spicy so I added just one small piece of a jalapeno pepper. My wife told me before she left “When you want to have spicy food, use jalapeno a little.” So, I picked up a tiny one from the fridge, carefully took all seeds out, cut it into pieces and then added them to the other vegetables. Oh, the taste was very good. It was really amazing that just one tiny jalapeno affected all other vegetables and made quite a delicious spicy side dish.

Like a tiny jalapeno has the power to affect other vegetables, some simple and short words often affect other people. We use many kinds of words in our daily life. Some words like “Thank you” or “Sorry” have a strong impact on others, but these words are exchanged between humans. After using them, these words soon disappear.

Namo Amida Butsu that we use are words but Buddha’s words, the words of truth which never disappear. As long as there are sentient beings in suffering and affliction, Buddha’s words will have great meaning. Buddha or truth becomes the word to communicate with those of us who are deeply mired in the world of duality, full of gain and loss, win or lose, love and hate, elation and despair. Our everyday life is like a pendulum, swinging and changing from gain to loss, from win to lose, from love to hate, from joy and grief. The pendulum has a fixed point that does not move but stays still and firm. This point is like the realm of the Buddha. A hanging weight swings

from right to left, left to right, which is like our daily life, moving from morning to night. Master Shinran wrote: “Love and hate arising out of conflict and accord are like high peaks and mountain ridges.”

A thing that connects the fixed point above and the hanging weight is a rod. This rod extending from the fixed point to reach the hanging weight is like the Name that calls, Namu Amida Butsu. Without the rod of Namu Amida Butsu, the Buddha or truth is not able to connect to our world of delusion. The Buddha of boundless compassion tries to liberate us by making us listen to the voice of Namu Amida Butsu.

### **“Take refuge in my life – life of true awakening!”**

An enlightenment which is isolated from sentient beings and their world is meaningless. We remember that the historical Buddha Sakyamuni hesitated whether to teach the dharma of Namu Amida Butsu which is difficult; but, realized that his enlightenment would not be perfected unless he taught it. Namu Amida Butsu is the call of universal unconditional compassion, Amida, urging, “Take refuge in my life – life of true awakening!” It is powerful energy to change our perception, to show who we really are. It is a force awakening us to Buddha’s realm, the realm that is true, real and sincere. As long as we, sentient beings remain caught up in the delusion of dualistic life, Namu Amida Butsu will never disappear but will work constantly for us and become our strength to live our life which is difficult to bear. In response to Buddha’s compassion we recite Namu Amida Butsu in gratitude and joy.

In Gassho,  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister  
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



### 花祭り

長く厳しい冬も、三月の末にもなるとやっと春の兆しが見え始めました。4月は「花祭り」。釈尊のご誕生を「花祭り」としてお祝いすることは、いかにもアルバータにはふさわしいと思われます。

お釈迦様の残された多くの教えは、一切経とも大蔵経とも言われています。学問的なことはともかく、その中心は「慈悲の心」と言ってよいでしょう。現代の言葉では「限りなく、深い親切心」と言えるかもしれませんが、それは、親切の押し売りというような、損得を考えた自己中心的なことではなく、他の苦しみ悲しみを自分のことのように思っていくことでしょう。自他一如の世界です。

お釈迦様の八十年のご一生は、そのことを実践し、他にも伝えていく、ということにあったと言えるのではないのでしょうか。物質世界の中で、いよいよ我利、我欲の生活に振り回されて、しかもそのことにも気がつかない私達。慈悲の心を聞きながら、限りある人生を、強く、明るく、つつましく生きたいと思ひます。

合掌 開教使 泉康雄

BTSA Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi  
403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca  
470-40 St S, Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5  
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

# BTSA NOTES

Springtime traditionally signals renewal after a grueling winter in many societies and the BTSA is no exception. But, then again, there doesn't seem to have been much or any dormancy at the BTSA through the winter months.

Still, appropriately, April is designated as membership month. BTSA invites all to remit their dues for 2014 to the treasurer, and welcomes new members as well. As in past years, individual membership remains at \$100. Please note on this Hikari's donation page that the current total of paid-up members as of Mar. 25 is 115.

April is also another busy month, following up on equally busy March, with Hanamatsuri on Apr. 6 and the spring chow mein supper on Apr. 26. JSBTC also holds its annual general meeting during the last weekend of the month, this year at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. Toban 4 and volunteers looked after two funerals, dough mixing, and mein-making during March.

March also began with the temple's annual general meeting and readers are referred to a report elsewhere in this Hikari. Briefly, the temple is in good financial health despite a bit of a loss from the previous year. The 2013 engagement review has been uploaded onto the temple site and may be accessed on the "Temple" link once searchers go to the website at thebtsa.com

For those who visit the site, also be aware there is a Bishop's update from Tatsuya Aoki sensei of the Vancouver temple, along with an interesting link to a video of Buddhist students at Ryukoku University in Kyoto involved in an urban outreach experiment.

The new temple executive is typically chosen at the March board meeting, following the AGM, but this action was continued to the April meeting since all the directors were not able to attend the March meeting. The new executive will be decided at the April meeting.

Please be reminded that all the actions of the board in minuted form are available to all members wishing to read them. The minutes are available in the board room in files according to year.

Akira Ichikawa

## CHAIR SCHEDULE April & May 2014

**Apr 06** HANAMATSURI/  
SHOTSUKI SERVICE @ 2 PM  
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro  
Audio: John Dubbelboer

**Apr 13**  
Chair: Katie Nakagawa  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

**Apr 20**  
Chair: Kynan Gordon  
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

**Apr 27**  
Chair: Pat Sassa  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

**May 04** SHOTSUKI  
Chair: Robert Takaguchi  
Audio: Tak Okamura

**May 11**  
Chair: Roland Ikuta  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

**May 18**  
Chair: Val Boras  
Audio: John Dubbelboer

**May 25**  
Chair: Sheila Oishi  
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

**MC designates:** if you are unable to chair on your assigned date or have made other arrangements on your own, please inform Sway Nishimura. Thank you.



Steam emitted from the two temple boilers through two venting pipes under the eaves on the east side of the building condenses to water on cold days and drips to form layers of ice. The elephant look-alike was detected in the resulting ice sculpture. Photo: David Tanaka



## April is BTSA Membership Month

See page 4

# 2014 AGM Report

Regular Sunday services will be suspended beginning the Sunday following the BTSA Obon service and through August, with regular services resuming on the first Sunday in September, the BTSA decided at its annual general meeting on Mar. 2.

Effective this year that means Sundays from Jul. 27 through Aug. 31, with resumption set for Sept. 7. Toban groups for Jul. 27 and the month of August will continue in the event of a funeral, but will not have other duties during these times.

Izumi sensei said he would be present in August and the temple will remain open. He said he would provide Sunday service if there is any interest expressed, but it will be informal in nature.

The AGM also voted to make permanent the two one-year trial moratoria passed by the 2013 AGM: (1) no burning of incense in the temple during regular Sunday and the three special (Sandaihojo) services; and (2) BTSA gifts not be given for hospital visitations. In the first case, the AGM added that no exception is to be made thereby eliminating a former proviso that allowed burning, for instance, at the request of a family for a funeral or memorial.

Treasurer John Dubbelboer presented the 2013 review engagement prepared by the accountant firm of Moriyama and Burton along with a budget for 2014.

Although total assets at \$632,000 in 2013 were down from \$641,000 in 2012, the temple was considered to be in good financial health. The decrease in assets was tied to unbudgeted expenses of \$6,000 on a sound system in the hondo for the hard-of-hearing, a loss in investments because of a drop in gold prices, and a slight membership drop.

It was noted that a casino assigned to the temple in September, 2014, could be expected to add \$30,000. The proposed budget forecast a surplus of \$13,000.

Reports also were presented by the board chair, the minister, the Development and the Program and Operations committees, and the Dharma School.

Five board members whose two-year terms ended agreed to let their names stand for re-election. No others were nominated. The re-elected by acclamation were Akira Ichikawa, Roland Ikuta, Brenda Ikuta, Sylvia Oishi and Jim Tsukishima. They join five other who have a year left in their terms: John Dubbelboer, Trent Takeyasu, Val Boras, Roy Sassa and Wayne Tsukishima. The board will seek two other members who are interested in serving to maintain the board at 12 directors.

BTSA extends thanks to Eichi Tanaka and Joyce Shigehiro who served out their terms. Their contributions and involvement were greatly appreciated.

Membership dues of \$100 an individual for 2015 were approved on the recommendation of the temple board. The 2014 dues were approved the year before.

Roland Ikuta reported that a three-month trial period with A-1 Janitorial had been completed and that the board approved the continuation of the service for a year, with a 30-day notice of cancellation by either party.

More than 35 persons attended the AGM which also noted that the basic life-saving course for temple members that was raised at the 2013 AGM might be incorporated in a Wellness Event proposed for the fall.

# HANAMATSURI April 6 at 2 pm



Hanamatsuri, one of three major holidays on the Jodo Shinshu calendar, commemorates the birth of the Buddha. BTSA observes Hanamatsuri at 2 p.m. on Apr. 6, along with the monthly memorial (shotsuki), Izumi sensei presiding.

Hanamatsuri which literally means floral or flower festival has as its centerpiece the hanamido, an altar decorated with flowers, that is said to resemble Lumbini's Garden where the historical Buddha is said to have been born. A statue of the baby Buddha stands in the middle of the hanamido and is bathed in sweet tea during the service recalling the sweet rain that is said to have fallen during his birth.

The service also focuses on children and gifts are presented to those in attendance. Following the service, entertainment by some of the Dharma class students is planned. Thereafter, a supper will be served in the multipurpose room.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend this festive service.

### Special Note:

**Please wear your montoshikisho to Hanamatsuri so we might take a photograph with everyone wearing one, regardless of the design. To those who purchased the item made specifically for the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention (right), it would be nice to have you wearing that one. The photograph is intended to publicize the WBWC.**





# Membership Month Reminder

Please regard this gentle reminder that April has been designated as membership renewal month and BTSA kindly solicits the 2014 membership dues during the month. The dues continue at \$100 a person. Please make cheques payable to the BTSA and remit to the Treasurer c/o the temple. The dues that are collected help to cover a small portion of the temple's annual operating costs. We thank all members for their continuing membership and support that makes BTSA the energetic and dynamic place it is.

At the same time, we warmly invite any and all new members interested in joining the Sangha. Please fill out to the membership application form and leave or send to the temple.

## 2014 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.: \_\_\_\_\_

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!**

Memberships to March 25, 2014: 115

### Shotsuki Donations March 2014

John & Donna Dubbelboer  
 Gary Higa  
 Randy Higa  
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
 Shirley Higa  
 Tomi Hisaoka  
 Chris & Susan Huntley  
 Rumiko Ibuki  
 Molly H. Ito  
 Tom & Lily Kaga  
 Sadae Kanegawa  
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama  
 Mitsuko Oga  
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
 May Ohno  
 Yumiko Osaka  
 Ken & Nancy Setoguchi  
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
 Tom Shimozawa  
 Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri  
 Toshiko Takeda  
 Bremda & Lester Tanner  
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

**Total - \$940**

### Other Donations March 2014

Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa  
 Chojukai  
 Rachel Crowder  
 Larry & Mary Higa  
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
 Shirley Higa  
 Tomi Hisaoka  
 Rumiko Ibuki  
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa  
 Dr. Roland & Brenda Ikuta  
 Ray & Donna Journoud  
 Toshio & Kazuye Kanashiro  
 Eleanor Katakami  
 Anna Kert-Kravitz  
 Lethbridge Karaoke Club  
 Gerry Miyashiro  
 William T. & Setsuko Nagai  
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
 Teiji Nakamura  
 Tsutomu Stony Nakano  
 Hideko Nishi Family  
 Norreen Nishiyama  
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
 Ken Ohno  
 Heidi Oishi  
 Sut & Neva Oishi  
 Tak & Jan Okamura  
 Setsuko Okuma  
 Yumiko Osaka  
 Ayako Otsuka  
 Roy & Pat Sassa  
 Mike & Margaret Schneyder  
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
 Tomiko Sugimoto  
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi  
 Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri  
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
 Scott Takaguchi  
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi  
 George Tokuda

**Total - \$10,585**

## BUDDHIST Q & A

**Q. I purchased a new o-but sudan (a Buddhist shrine). Can I bring the old one to the temple?**

**A.** Yes, please bring it to the temple. We have a few old and unused o-but sudan. There might be someone who needs one. If there is no need for them, we will eventually burn them after a short ceremony, similar to the way we perform a ceremony when we welcome a new o-but sudan at home. (Y. I.)

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

### Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays, 12-3pm

### Taiko Class

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm (Youth) & 7 pm (Adults)

Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays, 1pm

## PROGRAMS

### Minyo Dance Practice

Sr. Minyo: Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6pm, Apr 1, 8, 22 & 29

Jr. Minyo: Sundays after service, Apr 20 with Sensei Joanne and Sr. Minyo

Contact: Pat Sassa

### Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group

Meets the 3rd Sunday monthly after Tea

Contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

### Gentle Yoga for Seniors

8 sessions, will run Thursdays from 10 to 11 am April 17 and May 8 – June 19.

**Aiki Breathing** will not be offered this spring.

### Naikan Self-Reflection

Sessions will run most Saturday's 12:30-2pm on Saturdays.

New participants welcome.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences

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

**Tosh Miyagawa (93) March 11, 2014**

**Anyone interested in purchasing Yukatas or accessories?** Naoko

Hashimoto from Calgary will be down May 2nd at the Nikka Yuko Gardens, 1pm. Contact Pat Sassa for further details.



## children & youth dharma classes UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join the Dharma kids on Hanamatsuri, April 6 at 2pm for birthday performances/presentations and celebration.

The Dharma class will welcome Flo Senda on April 20 to instruct them in making buns from scratch. All students please go directly to the temple kitchen upon arrival at 10:30am.

Mindfulness activities with special guest, Gillian Hestad, is also coming this spring with further details to follow shortly. Visit her site at [www.mindfulchild.info](http://www.mindfulchild.info) and take note of her MindfulChild information night on April 10 at Mike Mountain Horse School for those interested.

## TOBAN UPDATE

Contact [lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com](mailto:lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com) or 403.327.1668

### Toban 2014 Schedule

Apr. Toban 3	June Toban 2
May Toban 4	Aug. Toban 3
July Toban 4	Oct. Toban 4
Sept. Toban 2	Dec. Toban 2
Nov. Toban 3	

Thanks to **Toban 4** for March tea, cleaning and additional activities. With April comes Hanamatsuri and a busy month for **Toban 3**.

Additional volunteers are needed for Hanamatsuri supper preparation and for the Soup Kitchen on April 22. If you can help, please contact Sachi Scharf at [scharf1@shaw.ca](mailto:scharf1@shaw.ca).

### Soup Kitchen

Thanks to **Toban 2** for providing a curry and rice lunch on March 19 at the Soup Kitchen.

**Reminder:** Please reserve room use for **all** events with Fudge Takeda 403.394.9789 [ktakeda@telusplanet.net](mailto:ktakeda@telusplanet.net) before marking reservation in the foyer calendar to prevent double-booking.



Toban 2 members prepared a curry rice lunch at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen on Mar. 19. Those helping out were, from left, John Dubbelboer, Judy Takaguchi, Robert Takaguchi, Betty Tanaka, Sam Kounosu, Chiyomi Matsuno, June Terakita, Yuse Matsuno, Tom Shigehiro and Fujio Tsukishima. Also helping were Jim Tsukishima, who took the photo, and Sumie Tsukishima. Thanks to all for lending a helping hand.



The 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC) registration is now 'open' and accepted via regular mail OR online at <http://www.wbwconvention.com/registration/online-registration/> (select the "Click Here to Register Today" button). Convention registration fee is \$325 CDN per person and registration is not confirmed until payment has been received - Canada is allocated 200 seats so register early to avoid disappointment!

The first registration deadline is May 30, 2014 – after this date, registration is open to the public. Final registration deadline is Nov 29, 2014 and remember space is limited!

"Frequently Asked Questions" can be found on the convention website: <http://www.wbwconvention.com/registration/frequently-asked-questions/>.

## Convention Announcement



Recently confirmed is the Japanese Keynote Speaker for the 2015 WBWC – Rev. Nana Yanase! A renowned minister who is a sixth generation resident minister of the Kyō On Ji Temple in Nara Prefecture. Rev. Yanase debuted as a singer – songwriter in May, 2004 with her debut single "Kaero" (Let's Go Home). Nana's appeal is instantly recognizable with her eloquent melody and gentle, yet deeply heart rendering vocals and lyrics.

At the age of 30, Nana was diagnosed with uterine cancer. Through her life altering experience of dealing with her cancer, as well as her position of being a female minister, Nana experienced deep insight into "life and death". It was her music which became the vehicle of healing for Nana. Through it, she was able to overcome her medical conditions, and her music continues to inspire all those who have encountered it.

## Spring Chow Mein Supper April 26

Tickets for the annual spring chow mein supper on Apr. 26 were distributed at the mein-making get-together on Mar. 23, and they're selling quickly. Anyone who haven't sold their allotments by mid-April are asked to notify their toban leaders so they might be re-distributed to those seeking more tickets.



This spring's drive-through supper still costs \$10 each, although rising ingredient prices may force an increase in the future.

BTSA asks its members to turn out in large numbers for this important fund-raiser and to lend a helping hand during the preparations on Apr. 25 and the actual event the following day. We also request members to bring their knives and cutting boards to supplement those at the temple.

Thanks again to Judy Takaguchi who agreed to coordinate this supper after the great job she did last spring.

## Movie Night Reminder April 12

Remember "The Burmese Harp", a 1956 award-winning film, will be shown at 10:15 a.m. on Apr. 12 (Saturday) at the Movie Mill. This showing is part of the temple's Movie Night program, switched in this instance to the morning. Admission is free with donations gratefully accepted.



### BTSA Fundraiser Raffle for the 2015 WBW Convention in Calgary • \$10.00/ticket, sold at the temple



First Prize - round trip for two people to any scheduled Westjet destination



Second Prize - Hand Stitched Queen Sized Quilt



Third Prize - Gift Basket  
4 bottles of wine & 6 hand made placemats



# Mein-making

photos: Akira Ichikawa and John Dubbelboer



Rolling Out the Dough



Through the press



Cropping it to size to get ready for the noodle cutter



Making noodles



Cooking and packaging (below)



A well-deserved break



# Schedule 光 April & May 2014

## Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 (service in English)

Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

APRIL: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko				
2pm Hanamatsuri and Shotsuki Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke 7pm BTS Board Meeting			10:15am Movie Morning
10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	10am Gentle Yoga	Visitation at Youth Correctional Centre	10:30am Dharma Study Introduction to Buddhism
10:30am Regular Service Sr. & Jr. Minyo		Soup Kitchen Toban 3 12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke JSBTC Ministers' meeting (Vancouver)	JSBTC Ministers' meeting	8am Chow mein prep JSBTC Ministers' meeting	8am Chow mein prep 1pm Chow mein supper JSBTC AGM (Vancouver)
10:30am Regular Service JSBTC AGM (Vancouver)		12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			

MAY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			
10:30am Parents' Day		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke 7pm BTS Board Meeting			
10:30am Gotan-e Service (Master Shinran's Birthday)		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke		Visitation at Youth Correctional Centre	
10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			