



April 2023

## OHIGAN Talk



**Amida and Bodhisattvas Kannon and Seishi / Ride on the ship of the great Vow;/Going out on the ocean of birth-and-death,/ They call to beings and bring them on board.**  
— Shinran Shonin

The “O” of Ohigan is an honorific prefix and “Higan” means the “Other Shore” which refers to Amida’s Home, the Pure Land. Whereas this shore is our world of suffering, the world in which things do not go as we desire. When things do not go as we desire, we get frustrated and suffer. Therefore, a life of suffering is not a pessimistic view, but rather a realistic one. The Buddha encourages us to see life as it is, not to see it as we want to see it.

There are two kinds of Buddhas: the static Buddha is symbolized by a sitting Buddha and the active Buddha is a standing Buddha. The static Buddha refers to the Buddha who stays at the Buddha’s realm and enjoys its enlightenment. The active Buddha is the Buddha who makes vows and move to this shore, our world, to lead all sentient beings to Buddha’s realm. This active Buddha is called Amida Buddha of boundless compassion who always calls us and becomes one with us.

I do not know how many of you have a Butsudan (Buddha’s shrine). The Butsudan represents “Other Shore” of

Amida Buddha. My wife and I have a portable Butsudan in our kitchen. Every morning and evening we bow in front of the Buddha to express our gratitude to Amida Buddha’s wisdom and compassion. The Butsudan is not a place for the dead but for the living, showing us the place of enlightenment, “Other Shore” of Amida. The Butsudan should be the center of our everyday life as well as a clear mirror to reflect on this shore where we live.

In our Butsudan, we can see the tiny hands of Amida Buddha. These hands are called “embracing and never abandoning” hands. The hands of “embracing and never abandoning” express Amida’s heart of great compassion. Amida Buddha calls on us, “Your suffering is my suffering. Your happiness is my happiness.” Thus, Amida becomes one with us and guides us to the “Other Shore” (Higan) of peace and serenity.

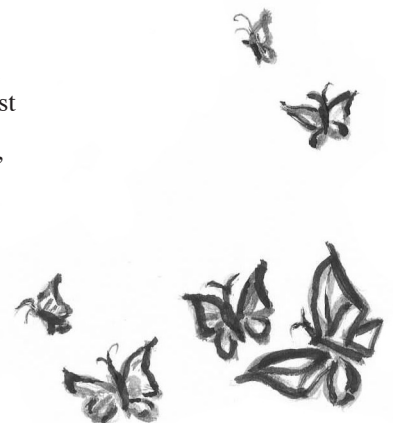
In the above mentioned poem, Shinran Shonin puts a note beside “call” explaining “to continue to call.” Kannon and Seishi Bodhisattva represent Amida’s helper of compassion and wisdom respectively. Amida Buddha of wisdom and compassion is coming to this shore (our world) and continuing to call on each of us on board of Amida and bring us to the “Other Shore”, Amida’s home. Whether we are walking or even sleeping, Amida Buddha, an active Buddha, is always thinking of us and moving to our world, this shore of suffering, and continue to call on us, “Please be aware I am with you, Please entrust Amida’s life. I will bring you to the Other Shore, Amida’s home, of peace and serenity.” This is not only Amida’s compassionate call but also Shinran Shonin’s urging call to each of us to take refuge in Amida in our ocean of birth-and-death.

Namo Amida Butsu  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister

### 春きたる

春のお彼岸が終わり、陽がすっかり長くなりました。東京では、数日前に「桜が咲きだした」と聞きます。レスブリッジでは、まだ雪が所々に残っています。その雪の間には、草が緑色になって春を待ち望んでいます。木の芽は、まだ現れていないようですが、春はすぐそこに来ています。

4月2日は「花まつり」が営まれます。お釈迦様がお生まれになったのは4月8日ですが、私たちのお寺では第一日曜日に、祥月法要と兼ねて営まれます。「花まつり」と呼ばれる美しい言葉は、明治時代にヨーロッパへ留学していた学生達によって作られたということです。キリスト教の世界にあつて、彼らは春を迎え、お釈迦様のご誕生を思い出したのでしょう。お釈迦様の教えは、いつでも、どこにいても、心の灯になるものと思います。皆で、ご誕生日をお祝い致しましょう。 合掌 泉康雄



y.l.

# UPDATE

## from the Board of Directors

I hope this message finds all the Sangha members well. There have been many activities at the temple over the past month. It is officially spring, and warmer weather will come soon.

On February 25th, the Obutsudan workshop was held. It was a collaboration between the BTSA and the Nikei memory capture project. Thanks to the organization of Dr. Darren Aoki and his team, it was a very successful day. Around 25 people attended the workshop in person, and 16 followed via live stream. In addition, there have been over 150 views of the recorded session. Due to the event, three families welcomed one of the used Butsudan into their homes.

February 26th was a temple clean-up day. With over 46 people coming out to help, the work was completed quickly. All enjoyed a pizza lunch after the clean-up. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped during this busy time of the year.

On March 5th, we held our AGM after the Shotsuki service. The report of the AGM will be made available on our temple website. Karen Thomas and Bill Ormandy were newly elected to the board. Ongoing members include Brenda Ikuta, Wayne Tsukishima, Trent Takeyasu, Anthony Richardson, Sheila Oishi, Sachi Scharf, Val Boras, Jeff Haines, Kynan Ono, and Andrew Ichikawa. Izumi Sensei and Roland Sensei will serve as advisory members. The BTSA would like to thank Bob Muskovich for completing his term and providing valuable contributions to the board over the past four years. The new executive of the temple is Kynan Ono as president, Val Boras as secretary, Trent Takeyasu as treasurer, and Andrew Ichikawa as vice president. If you have any questions or concerns about the organization of temple activities, please get in touch with any of the board members.

On March 10 and 11th, a mein-making session was completed. We had lots of volunteers who participated. Thanks to Emily Stitt and Mary Shigehiro for coordinating this event. Mein noodles will be available for sale to members at the Hanamatsuri service for four dollars per bag. Thank you to all the volunteers that contributed to this vital fundraising event for the temple.

The booking system for using the temple for private functions has been updated. All bookings are now completed via the temple website (theBTSA.com). Please go to the booking section on the website to complete a form and submit it to Sylvia Oishi, who will confirm the booking. The former booking folder will no longer be used.

Thanks to Sachi and Craig Scharf, a new safe has been installed at the temple. This will ensure the security of any cash or monies that need to be held at the temple for short periods.

The Shotsuki and Hanamatsuri service will be held in person and live-streamed on April 2nd at 2 PM. The link to the online service on our YouTube Channel is:

[https://youtube.com/live/PWm\\_epuIhTU?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/PWm_epuIhTU?feature=share)

If you have any concerns about events at the temple, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kynan Ono, one of the board members, or Izumi Sensei or Roland sensei.

## CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE

### April & May

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated

**Apr 02**  
HANAMATSURI/  
SHOTSUKI @ 2 PM  
Harry Sugimoto  
Kynan Ono, AV

**Apr 09**  
Jeff Haines  
Brenda Ikuta, AV

**Apr 16**  
Kynan Gordon  
Robbie Scharf, AV

**Apr 23**  
Sheila Oishi  
David Major, AV

**Apr 30**  
Andrew Ichikawa  
Bob Muskovich, AV

**May 07**  
SHOTSUKI  
Connie Trang  
Kynan Ono, AV

**May 14**  
Maya Ichikawa  
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

**May 21**  
Wayne Tsukishima  
Brenda Ikuta, AV

**May 28**  
Joyce Shigehiro  
Robbie Scharf, AV

## Hanamatsuri and April Shotsuki Service

**APRIL 2, 2023**  
**SERVICE IS AT 2:00 P.M.**  
**MEAL TO FOLLOW**  
**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

If you would like to help with Hanamatsuri, please sign up at the link below or you can email [brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com).  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A9A723A2FE3-january1>

Hanamatsuri is one of the three main services for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (the other two being Hoonko in January and Obon in July).

Volunteers from all Tobans and the general volunteer pool work together on these three events... "*many hands make light work*" and it is a way we all can enjoy these major celebrations.

Looking forward to seeing you at this joyous spring festival!



## What is Hanamatsuri?

Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival) is the day to celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, a future Buddha. In Mahayana lore it happened on April 8th nearly 2600 years ago. Siddhartha was born as a prince of the Shakya tribe in Northern India, the present Nepal. (Nepal was established in 1768) When he was 29 years old, he went out to search for truth of life, leaving his castle, his wife and son. After 5 years, he abandoned an ascetic life, receiving gruel food from a village girl, and sat under a pipal tree (which was called a Bodhi Tree after his awakening). On December 8th, he found truth called Dharma which means teachings "to support." Many people became Buddha's disciples including his wife and son. He left numerous teachings for many kinds of people. Gautama (Shakyamuni) Buddha passed away at the age of 80. His teaching is called Buddha Dharma (Buddhism) which supports and guides millions people in the world today. Y.I.



## Japanese Canadian Legacies Society

Excerpts from [jclebrities.com](http://jclebrities.com)

### Survivors Fund Update

The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund (JCSHWF) has received many applications from across Canada from individuals interested in becoming full-time Outreach Workers to support the program, which will provide health supports to our survivors. The BC-based project office of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) reached out to specific areas of the country with in-person outreach in Ontario and with targeted emails and e-news to different regions based on demographics and with print publications in The Bulletin, Nikkei Voice, and Montreal Bulletin. Thank you to the individuals and organizations that helped spread the word.

The JCSHWF Human Resources Committee is currently evaluating applications and will be in contact with each applicant shortly. The fund will hire between eight to ten outreach workers across Canada, reflecting the demographic distribution of survivors. The grant application platform is in development, and the goal is to have the fund open by May 2023.

All applications will be processed at [www.jcwellness.org](http://www.jcwellness.org) For survivors without online access and/or who require assistance, it will be possible to apply via telephone by appointment.

Many families are anticipating this fund. Any inquiries can be directed to [info@jcwellness.org](mailto:info@jcwellness.org) or by phone at 250.797.6300. Once the program begins, outreach workers will be working across the country to support our seniors.

### Community Fund

The \$12 million community fund is the most forward-looking of the legacy initiatives, with the potential to support young Japanese Canadians across Canada.

The program looks to invest in the future of the Japanese Canadian community by allocating funds to support four project streams: community-led projects, arts & sports, scholarships for post-secondary education, and infrastructure.

Intergenerational wellness will be a fifth stream to support the overwhelming number of requests for projects that support seniors' groups; family healing and sharing projects (such as self-published books, digital scrapbooks, reflective storytelling, oral histories, etc.); and finally, group gatherings that address historical trauma.



## April is BTSA Membership Month

See page 6

# MEIN-MAKING

Our mein-making session on March 11 was a huge success, despite wintry conditions.

Prior to Saturday, volunteers shopped for groceries, weighed out flour, mixed the dough and serviced machines.

56 volunteers came on Saturday to prepare the mein, including a crew who prepared a delicious lunch. Ten additional members came for the important job of clean-up.

We made 45 batches, which made 760 bags. 304 were sold that day.

A big thank-you to everyone for donating your time, baking and making this a fun event.



## REGULAR EVENTS

**Minyo Dance** Mondays @ 6:30pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 [sas7@telus.net](mailto:sas7@telus.net)

**NCS Adult Taiko** Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact [tanaka.david@gmail.com](mailto:tanaka.david@gmail.com) 403.330.1548

**Study Class** Saturdays @ 10:30am

Contact [bobmuskovich@gmail.com](mailto:bobmuskovich@gmail.com) or Rev. Izumi

**Meditation** Thursdays @ 7pm

To register contact Vickie Macarther [spityoga@shaw.ca](mailto:spityoga@shaw.ca)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences

**Aiko Yoshihara (99) March 13, 2023**

**Amy Kuryo (93) March 20, 2023**

**Bill Terakita (90) March 21, 2023**

### Youth Group

The BTSA, in conjunction with the Nikkei Cultural Society hosted a volunteer orientation activity in March. The hope is to provide regular activities going forward for youth and young adults.

On April 1st, the group will raise funds with a ramen dinner and movie viewing of "Ponyo" at 7pm, at the temple. If you are interested in attending or volunteering for this event, please contact Kynan Ono [kynan.ono95@gmail.com](mailto:kynan.ono95@gmail.com)

## TOBAN UPDATE

**Toban 3** is up for the month of April. All Tobans will be contributing to Hanamatsure/Shotsuki Service on April 2nd.

Thanks to **Toban 2** for activities in March, including the Shotsuki Service/AGM lunch.

**Toban 4** is up for May.

**Soup Kitchen** All Tobans

Dates for the year are:

June 23, August 4 & 20, 10 am - 1 pm

Remember: You don't have to join a toban to volunteer, nor be a BTSA member to help and join our activities.



photos: John Dubbelboer

**Hikari**theLight

# 2023 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [THEBTSA.COM](http://THEBTSA.COM)

Full Membership  
(\$100 for each member)

Student Membership\*

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

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

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

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

Home#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## \*Note

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 does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, the national organization.

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

Membership  
to March 21 – 89

**Ho-onko Donations**  
Eietsu Chiba

**Hanamatsuri Donations**  
Helen Hikita

**Obon Donations**  
Leon Fiedler

**Shotsuki Donations**  
March 2023

John and Donna Dubbelboer  
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon  
Nadine Hamabata  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Neil Hinatsu  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Andrew Ichikawa and Tahiri Rempel  
May Nishikawa  
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng  
Setsuko Ohno  
Bob and Eiko Shigehiro  
Joe and Mary Shigehiro  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto  
Robert and Judy Takaguchi  
KB Takeda and Lila Ho -Takeda  
Alan and Margaret Tanaka  
Jim, Marion & Shannon Tomiyama  
Keith and Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull

**Other Donations**  
March 2023

Anonymous  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Sachi Scharf  
Sachiko Taguchi  
Alan and Margaret Tanaka

**Funeral Donations**  
March 2023

Anonymous  
Joyce Adachi  
Ray and Susan Arkawa  
Linda Kimura Bingham  
Naomi Cramer  
Leon Fiedler  
Earl and Leanne Fisher  
Judy Fukushima  
Wendy Gerlock  
Larry and Yoshimi Golden  
Lois Hattori  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Wes Higa  
Douglas Hironaka  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Andrew Ichikawa and Tahiri Rempel  
David and Jenna Ichikawa  
Kyle Ichikawa  
Laura Ichikawa  
Gord and Deb Jensen  
Yumi Johnson  
Lily Kaga  
Suyeko Kanegawa  
Stan and Shirley Koyanagi  
David Major

Kinuko Matsuno  
Yutaka and Chiyomi Matsuno  
Gord and Gail Mitten  
Joyce Miyashita  
Harry W. and Beverly Nagata  
Ken and Vickie Nakagama  
Jim and Joan Nakagawa  
Shig and Katie Nakagawa  
May Nishikawa  
Karen Nishiyama  
Mitsuko Oga  
Setsuko Ohno  
Dean Oikawa  
Scott Oikawa  
Heidi Oishi  
Jean Oishi  
Mako Okada  
Tak and Jan Okamura  
Joanne Planidin  
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson  
Roy and Pat Sassa  
Bob and Eiko Shigehiro  
Joe and Mary Shigehiro  
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto  
Kazuko Sugimoto  
Louise Taguchi  
Patricia Taguchi  
Sachiko Taguchi  
Kazuko Takaguchi  
Cathy Taniguchi  
Carolyn Terakita and Dr Leigh J. Morris  
Bill Teshima  
Clifford Thomas  
George Tokuda

# Membership Month Reminder

April has been designated as membership renewal month and BTSA is gently reminding everyone that 2023 membership remains at \$100 a person. Your dues help cover a portion of the temple's annual operating costs, but more importantly reflect a commitment to the temple. Thank you for your continuing membership and support that keep BTSA relevant and meaningful.

We also extend a warm welcome to any and all prospective members interested in joining the Sangha.



The serene Buddha in the BTSA gardens sits in the sun near the receding snowpack. Welcome spring!

photo: Brenda Ikuta

Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama  
Brenda Tsukishima  
David Yoshida  
Douglas Yoshida

Please inform us if your name has been omitted, misspelled, or if you wish for your name not to be published. Thank you.

# Request for Essays from Sangha Members



Jodo Shinshu International Office

1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco CA 94109

[Office@jsinternational.org](mailto:Office@jsinternational.org)

Greetings,

Last year, the Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO) published a collection of essays by those who discovered Jodo Shinshu and made it a part of their lives. In an effort to share more voices of Nembutsu followers, JSIO is creating a second collection of stories and essays. This time the theme is “Making the Temple Home.” We would like to hear about how you have found a home at your temple and within Jodo Shinshu. Whether you grew up attending temple/church, rediscovered it at a particular stage in life, or came to it on your own there are many ways to connect with the teachings and the temple. What aspects of Jodo Shinshu and/or the temple community keep you engaged? How has it been a centering force in your life? We would love to hear about your personal connection to the temple and how it has developed or grown over time.

If you are interested in contributing your story to this collection, here are the guidelines. Please limit your writing to no more than 1500 words. Longer works may be considered if space allows or other extenuating circumstances. We are hoping to receive the first round of essays by the middle of May. Before submitting your essay, please be aware we may ask you to make edits. These edits may be due to length, to clarify a point or a need to make your work more accessible.

Please make sure we would be able to publish your work if you are also submitting it to another publishing outlet. Lastly, our title for the collection is currently a working title. If you would like to include suggestions, we would greatly appreciate it.

Please let us know if you are interested in writing an essay. We’re happy to provide more detail or answer any further questions about this project. We can be reached at this email address: [office@jsinternational.org](mailto:office@jsinternational.org).

In Gassho,

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara  
JSIO Program Director



APRIL: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY <b>Minister Schedule</b> - Rev. Izumi will be at temple on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta will be at temple on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday						10:30am Study Class*  7pm Youth Movie Night <b>1</b>
2:00pm Hanamatsuri Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) <b>2</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>3</b>	7pm Taiko <b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	7pm Meditation <b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>8</b>
10:30am Regular Service* <b>9</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>10</b>	7pm Taiko <b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	7pm Meditation <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>15</b>
10:30am Regular Service* <b>16</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>17</b>	7pm Taiko <b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	JSBTC AGM, Steveston 7pm Meditation <b>20</b>	JSBTC AGM, Steveston <b>21</b>	JSBTC AGM, Steveston 10:30am Study Class* <b>22</b>
10:30am Regular Service* <b>23</b> <b>30</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>24</b>	7pm Taiko <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	7pm Meditation <b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>29</b>

MAY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>1</b>	7pm Taiko <b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	7pm Meditation <b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>6</b>
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service <b>7</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>8</b>	7pm Taiko <b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	7pm Meditation <b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>13</b>
10:30am Regular Service* <b>14</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>15</b>	7pm Taiko <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	7pm Meditation <b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	10:30am Study Class* Karinto Making <b>20</b>
10:30am Ghotan-e (Shinran's Birthday)* <b>21</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>22</b>	7pm Taiko <b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	7pm Meditation <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	10:30am Study Class* <b>27</b>
10:30am Regular Service* <b>28</b>	6:30pm Minyo Dance <b>29</b>	7pm Taiko <b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			