## **BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

# HikaritheLight December 2010

# Gaze at our own death

Recently, the BTSA had its second annual Funeral Fair. The purpose of the Fair is to provide some information to the public and temple members about funerals, estate planning, writing a will and so on. On that day, early in the morning, I received a phone call. A lady, apparently a young lady, asked me in a cheerful voice, "I heard there is a bazaar today. What time does it start?" I said, "No, not a bazaar but a funeral fair." "Oh, Funeral Fair?" her voice suddenly changed to a disappointed tone and she hung up the phone.

We all, sooner or later, must face death with no exception. Actually, we are facing our own death every day from the moment we are born. Our own death is 100 percent guaranteed. No one lives forever. We are all mortal beings. It is also true that no one can take our place either. We know it.

Generally speaking, however, like the young lady who hung up the phone with a disappointed tone, our attitudes toward death or dying are not positive. We do not want to think about the issue of death and dying. Especially, when we are young we do not think about death. When we are physically healthy we do not think about dying. Even as we get older we do not want to talk about it. We try to push it away. We try to completely ignore it as if there were no death and dying.

Do you know the story of the ostrich? It has a strange behaviour or habit. When enemies, like lions and leopards, approach

BTSA Minister: REV. YASUO IZUMI 403.382.7024 • yasuo123@telus.net 470 - 40th Street South Lethbridge, AB TIJ 3Z5 403.327.1260 www.theBTSA.com the ostrich, it reacts. How? The ostrich buries its head in the sands. The ostrich tries not to see its enemies so that it feels safe and sound. We laugh at the ostrich's behaviour. But we do the same thing that the ostrich does.

We bury our head and try not to see the reality of death and dying. Why? Because we think that death and dying are our enemies. But this way of thinking is not natural. It is not natural to think that birth is good and death is bad or living is positive and dying is negative. It is not natural that we divide life into two; life and death or living and dying. This way of thinking is against the natural law, the universal law of life.

Life is both living and dying, rather, living with dying. Life is constantly flowing and ever-changing and therefore death and dying are a part of life. They are not the enemies we hate.

Impermanency and transiency is called Life. A person who has discovered this simple truth, the law of life, is called a Buddha, an awakened one. The Buddha discovered the very simple truth of life, that is, the life of transiency, a constant flow of life. Those who experience the life of impermanency know that the life of grasping and attachment will end up in vain. They know that attachment of wealth, fame, position, love ends up in vain. As a result, they become more appreciative of the here and now. They become unselfish, more modest, humble and peaceful.

I read an article about a couple who won \$11.2M. An interesting thing that they said was that the money they won was nothing. And as they said, they didn't

spend any of it on themselves. Often people who win a big lottery say "I will use the money for a new luxurious house, a new nice car or one year complete vacation" and so on. This couple, however, said that the money they won was nothing. They said that they feel privileged to be able to give back to the community to help people. They told reporters, saying "We have an old house and we have each other. We are happy as we are." The article further says that the big win came at a difficult time in their lives. The wife was recently undergoing treatment for cancer.

The awakening of transiency, truth of life, can bring people transformative change. They realize that life really includes living with dying. It includes happiness with sadness. It includes pleasure with hardship. Those who realize the life of impermanency come to know that each moment is a treasure because it is unrepeatable. The awakening of the reality of impermanency indeed changes their perspective of meaning and value of life drastically.

Amida Buddha represents truth of life; life of transiency and life of non-attachment. Through the working of Amida Buddha, our self-attachment and grasping mind is broken through. The light of Amida embraces us and nurtures us and eventually transforms our ego-mind into true awakening of totality of life. Those who take refuge in Amida's working, Namo Amida Butsu, find peace and tranquility in their lives.

Namo Amida Butsu, Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

## 法話会

あるお寺で、法話をする機会がありました。 話し終わった後、休憩室で、各お寺から届い ている会報を読んでいました。以前に書い た私の話が載っていました。なつかしく読み 終えたところ、最後に、書いた人の名前が私 ではなく、他の人の名前になっていました。 あきらかに盗作です。おかしくなってしまい ました。あきれましたが、怒る気持ちにはな れませんでした。自分の書いた法話が、なに か人の役に立てばいい、と思いました。

浄土真宗では、法話を大切にします。読経だけでは終わりません。お経を分かりやすく、自分の経験に照らしてお話をしたり、たとえでもってお話をします。真宗が栄えてきたのも、たえず語られてきた法話のおかげであると思います。本願寺八代目の蓮如上人は、法話の後、談合をもたれました。そして、教えに何か疑問のあるときには、「ものを申せ」と集まる人を励ましておられます。これは、現代で言えば、教えを中心とした円滑なコミニケーションと言えましょうか。一方通行の話ではないのです。「自分は知っている、自分が一番」というような上から下への話しではありません。

私たちは、富や、地位や、名誉にかかわらず、みな「思いどうりにいかない人生」を生きています。それぞれの悩みを持って生きています。そのような中で、教えを聞き、教えに遇って行くことが大切と思われます。私たちのお寺では、日曜のお参りの後には、かならず茶菓が出され、お互いに話をする機会があります。これは、新しいお寺になったときからの習慣となりました。どうぞ、日頃お寺にで縁のない方も、お友達を誘ってお参りください。教えの輪を広げて行きましょう。

#### 合掌 泉康雄



## **BTSA NOTES**

The holiday season is upon us and whether Buddhist or not, it's difficult to avoid the rush which is as much cultural as it is religious. Despite the crush of the rush, it seems appropriate to pause and consider how far we've come along as an organization in four years. We are indebted to many of our Dharma friends who are no longer with us but whose memories sustain us in innumerable ways. So, too, to all members who have enlivened the sangha through their continued participation and support. Thanks to all.

More than 30 BTSA members registered for the ABC in Calgary during the last weekend in October in conjunction with the 750th anniversary memorial commemoration of Shinran Shonin. Fredrich Ulrich Sensei's dharma talk about Shinran and what he represents highlighted the closing service. As his final act as socho of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, Orai Fujikawa Sensei presided at a Sarana Affirmation ceremony in which 10 new Jodo Shinshuist were welcomed into the sangha.

Thanks to Roy Sassa and Jim Tsukishima who were drivers of the two vans that carried many of the members to the conference. The trip home in temperate weather was timely enough for everyone to return in time for little Hallowe'en goblins out trick or treating. We hope soon to begin planning for the 2011 ABC hosted by the BTSA.

Renae Barlow organized a well-run Funeral Fair for the second year in a row on Nov. 6. Please see her write-up on the event elsewhere in the Hikari.

We acknowledge with gratitude 24 cases of apples donated to the temple during the last week in October by Yosh Terada and his wife, Flo, both long-time members of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple. Yosh, who is an apple orchard owner, claimed the apples, called Aurora Golden Gala, are "sweet, tender and juicy" as members who bought them after the November shotsuki service will attest. Coincidentally, he and his wife attended the ABC as a planned trip to Calgary fell on the same weekend as ABC. Many of us had a chance to thank him in person for his donation.

More than 50 volunteers turned out on a frosty Saturday morning to make mein noodles on Nov. 20. Thanks to everyone for helping out to produce the tasty tidbits for the Second Annual Dharma Bake and Craft Sale on Nov. 27.

Remember the schedule for the holiday season: Joya-e Kane (End of the Year Bell-Ringing) at 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the Nikka Yuko Garden, weather and temperature permitting; New Year's Day Service at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2011; and Ho-on-ko and the monthly memorial for January on Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. There will be no Sunday service on Jan. 2 because of the New Year's Day service.

The board at its November meeting:

- authorized a financial committee to invest \$300,000 in GICs, based on the best returns it could get from a financial institution;
- agreed to spend up to \$1,400 for the purchase of an LCD projector and a manual screen, mainly in conjunction with the film nights which were inaugurated this fall but for other purposes as well;
- approved a membership committee survey to be circulated to former members of the amalgamated temples;

Akira Ichikawa

## **TOBAN UPDATE**

#### **Toban Rotation Schedule**

December Toban 1 January Toban 2

**Toban 4** with the support all the Toban groups, prepared meals for two funerals in November. Toban members and other volunteers participated in mein-making, sushi-making and manju-making adding to a successful **Bodhi Day Bake Sale and Bazaar.** 

#### Soup Kitchen

A last-minute request from the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen to the BTSA to pinch-hit because of a cancellation brought out 12 volunteers who braved the inclement weather (first heavy snowfall of the season) on Nov. 16. Thanks for your help on such short notice. Members volunteering on short notice were, from left in the front row, Betty Taniguchi, June Terakita, Dorothy Tomita, Marie Hirashima, Jan Hinatsu, Sachi and Sensei Izumi, and Hisaye Price. In the back, from left, Sam Kounosu, Sam Taniguchi, Jim Tsukishima and Akira Ichikawa.





Yosh and Flo Terada of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple, pictured here with Toshiko Tanaka and Katie Nakagawa, donated 24 cases of apples. Please see story opposite.









# 2nd Annual FUNERAL FAIR

On Saturday November 6th, the BSTA Funeral Committee hosted the second Funeral Fair event. We would like to thank our major sponsors of Generations Funeral Home & Crematorium and Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematorium. We had ten exhibitors representing various aspects of end of life issues including funeral planning, legal advice, financial and tax planning, personal directives and even how to preserve memories of loved ones. For a very beautiful fall day, we had a good turnout of about 80 people. A few less than last year - but more of people who were from the general public. The exhibitors not only provided amazing door prizes (chocolates were a big hit!) but they also worked very hard to provide informative and interesting seminars on issues of importance to end of life issues. The feedback from participants was very positive and those who attended were appreciative of the opportunity to explore end of life matters in a relaxed atmosphere. A big heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped out with attending the information table, passing out programs and serving tea and treats. We all worked together to provide a valuable insightful day for many people.

NOTE: The funeral committee will be meeting to consider the hosting of another funeral fair event. If you have any feedback or comments about the event, please let me know by emailing renaeb@telus.net and I will pass them along to the Funeral Committee.

# Memorial & Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

November 2010

Roy & Nancy Adachi
Bob & Molly Akune
Roy & Itoko Akune
Shizuka Akune
Ted & Rose Akune
Rita & John M. Aoki
Merv & Daisy Araki
Roy Asato

Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa Gordon & Brenda Boras

Kiyoo Chiba Kai Choju Don & Deb Friesen Dale & Carol Fujita Judy Fukushima June Grover Chiduka Hamabata

Bob & Misaye Hamamura Lori Henry Keiko Higa

Shinako (Sheila) Higa

Shirley Higa

Hideo & June Hinatsu Janet Hinatsu Kaz & Yori Hiraga Yoshie Hiraga Marie Y Hirashima Robert Hironaka Tucker Hironaka Barry Hisaoka

Neil & Livia Hisaoka Tim Hisaoka Tomi Hisaoka Violet Horii Eleanor Hvizdos Rumiko Ibuki

Toshimi & Marian Ibuki Akira & Lorita Ichikawa

Gail Ikebuchi
Helen Ikebuchi
Yoshiye Ikebuchi
Susumu & Teruko Ikuta
Ayako Imahashi
Fumi Inaba
Molly H. Ito

Dennis & Sandra Izukawa Joyce & Ted Izukawa Brian & Judy Jackson

Christopher & Yumi Johnson

S. Sue Kado Tom & Lily Kaga

Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara Douq & Alice Kamitomo

John Kamitomo Katie Kamitomo Rov Kamitomo Toshio & Kazuye Kanashiro Sadae Kanegawa Joe & June Kanomata

Etsuko Karaki

Irene Karia Alan & Luanna Kast

Isamu & Sharon Kawade Edward Kawakami

Tadao & Michie Kawasaki

George Kimura Hiroshi Kitagawa

Kay & Rosemary Kitagawa Ken & Sue Kitagawa Takeshi & Sue Koyata Dave Kunimoto Matt & Clara Kurio Ken & Amy Kurio

Richard & Donna LaPlace Robert & Wendy Macphail George & Nellie Mann

Katoye Maruno Allan Matsuda Edward Matsuda Kay K. Matsuda Ray Matsuda

Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno Tom & Sumi Medoruma Dan & Carol Merkle Emi Minemoto

Robert & Toshye Miyanaga

Joyce Miyashita Kiyoshi & Marion Mori Kiyo & Kay Moriyama Ayako Murakami

George & Mary Murakami

Jack & Rie Nagai

William T. & Setsuko Nagai Harry W. & Beverly Nagata Ken & Vickie Nakagama Shig & Katie Nakagawa Tosh Nakahama

Tosh Nakahama Betty Nakamura

Kazuo & Nancy Nakamura Susumu Nakamura Teiji Nakamura

Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru

Teruko Nishida

Kiyoto & Toki Nishijima William & Jane Nishijima Harold & Audry Nishikawa

May Nishikawa

Sway & Toshiko Nishimura Mac & Reyko Nishiyama

Rod Nishiyama
Fay & Sandy Oakes
Noriko Oga

Takumi & Mitsuko Oga Sonny Ohama

Ken & Bonnie Ohashi

Alice Ohashi Frank & Kimi Ohno Kaz & Setsuko Ohno

Pat Ohno Tom Ohno Hideko Oishi Lilly Oishi

Mrs. Fujiko Okamura Tak & Jan Okamura Kay Y. Okugawa Setsuko Okuma Yumiko Osaka

George & Grace Oshiro

A.K. Otsuka Hisae Price

Duane & Pamela Ptycia
Barrie & Jackie-Lynn Robb
George & Thelma Saito
Irene Sakamoto
Shig Sakamoto
Flo Y. Sameshima
Hisako Sameshima
Margaret Sameshima
Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari

Jiro & Mae Sasaki, Roy & Pat Sassa

Douglas & Shirley Scotney Harry & Fumi Sekiya Florence Senda Roy & Kyoko Senda Aige Shigehiro Bob & Eiko Shigehiro Joe & Mary Shigehiro Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro

Toshino Shigemi Yoshiye Shirakawa Tomiko Shono Terry & Carol Steen Fumi Sugimoto

Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto

Tomiko Sugimoto Betty Sullivan

Masato & Miyo Sunada Noris & Sachiko Taguchi

Robin Tajiri Tom Tajiri

Kazuko Takaguchi Robert & Judy Takaguchi

Dell S. Takahashi
Fugi Takeda
Barbara Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Wendy Takeda

Reiko Takeyasu Fumi Tamagi

Eichi & Betty Tanaka

Elaine Tanaka

Glen & Pamela Tanaka Ken & Midori Tanaka Masaye Tanaka Morison Tanaka Toshiko Tanaka

Harry & Betty Tanigami Bob & Shirley Taniguchi Sam & Betty Taniguchi

Masae Taniwa

Amy & Masami Tashiro Joe & Jean Tatebe Bill & June Terakita Mas Terakita

Bill Teshima Clifford & Mary Thomas

Teruko Tokitsu George Tokuda Rick Tokunaga

Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Harold & Florence Tomiyama
Jim & Marion Tomiyama
Joe or Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima
Boyd & Shirley Tucker
Keith & Kathleen Turnbull

Theresa Uchikura Min Urano

Tsugi & Teresa Utsunomiya Glenn & Janice Vazari John David & Lois Williams

Mrs. S. Yamagishi Ken & Ruby Yamamoto Yasuo & Lil Yamashita Sam & Katherine Yoshida

Total - \$10,775.00

BTSA acknowledges with thanks a cash donation from Norris Hironaka toward the chow mein supper. This was received too late to include with the list of donors in the last Hikari.

#### **REGULAR EVENTS**

#### Japanese Conversational Language Class

Instructor: Rev.Izumi

Will tentatively resume in late February or early March.

For more info contact: Denise Takao at 381.1187 or detakao@telus.net

#### Study/Discussion Group

Sundays (except first Sunday of the month) 9:40am

Morning chanting and discourse. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu revealed by Shinran Shonin.

Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi 382.7024

#### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Choir will resume in January

Please contact Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296 or katienak@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays 12 - 3pm

Tonarigumi Bingo will end December 14 for this year and will start on January 11, 2011

**Taiko Class** Tuesdays 7 - 8:30pm

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

#### **FALL/WINTER PROGRAMS**

Yoga for Seniors, Breathing, Stretching and Movement, and Exploration in Art for Children involving increased community participation as well as serving BTSA members, wrapped up at the end of November. Thirty-nine people registered for the fall programs with a total in donations of \$1,710. A good portion of the donations go toward honoraria, supplies and equipment for the leaders, who are all professionals in their areas of expertise. Although the groups are viewed as community outreach rather than fundraisers, BTSA does retain approximately one quarter of the donations for expenses. Winter programs will commence at the end of January. Courses are popular and registration is limited.

#### "Breathing, Stretching, Moving" (Aiki Breathing Class)

Instructor: Lincoln Chew

Mondays: 10:45am - 12pm Eight sessions

January 24 - March 21, 2011 (No session Feb 21)

Maximum enrollment: 20 • Suggested Donation: \$40

This class introduces non-martial aspects of breathing, gentle stretching and movement used in beginning Aikido and associated arts such as Taiji and Qigong. It is for people interested primarily in cultivating health, relaxation and overall well-being.

Gentle Yoga for Seniors

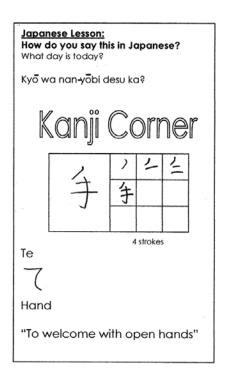
Instructor: Val Kunimoto

Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30am Eight sessions

January 25 – March 22, 2011 (No session February 22) Maximum enrollment: 18 • Suggested Donation: \$40

This restorative yoga class will allow participants to relax physically and mentally using gentle exercises while sitting in a chair, standing, lying down or using a wall, bolsters and other supports. It will include breathing, gentle stretching, sitting meditation, and full relaxation.

Contact Lorita Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com Further classes to be announced



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Condolences

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

Mrs. Fujiko Okamura (95) Nov 7, 2010 Mrs. Fong Yee (82) Oct 13, 2010 Mr. Bob Miyagawa (78) Nov 21, 2010

**New Phone:** Please remember to register all temple meetings/ events with **Fudge Takeda** @ (403) 394-9789

## Movie Night At the Temple "SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER AND SPRING"

A film by Kim Ki-Duk

Korean with English subtitles • Rated R for sexual content

Friday, December 10, 2010

6pm Curry Rice Dinner,

7pm Movie

Any questions contact Roland Ikuta at 403.317.0078 or Rolikuta@shaw.ca Please let us know if you plan to attend.

#### Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju) **The scrolls of Amida Buddha are also available.** 

#### 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.

# Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Bodhi Day Bake and Craft Sale!

Work began months ago with crafters industriously bent over their projects. The BTSA kitchen and multipurpose room was busy throughout November with volunteers making the much anticipated chow mein noodles, manju, and sushi. A beautiful assortment of baking arrived Saturday morning and filled 3 rows of tables. The set-up and pricing teams worked efficiently and creatively on Friday night and Saturday morning. They were fantastic with their ideas for how to make the sale experience more enjoyable for both sellers and buyers. Thanks to Lily and Sheila Oishi who organized a delicious lunch for the volunteers who had been working all morning.

Of course, where would we be without the loyal customers? Many lined up for ½ hour, some of them outside, before the doors opened at 1 p.m. Thanks to Izumi Sensei and the Dharma Class who were the first friendly faces to greet them. Once the doors were open it was a blur... all the mein noodles were sold in the first ½ hour and the baking was virtually gone in 45 minutes. The sushi was sold by the end of the 2 hours and there were 19 boxes of manju that were sold the next morning after Sunday service. Many people were happy with their treasures from the craft table and it looks like the kids' Dharma Chips will become a bake sale staple. There was a free draw for a flower arrangement from Flowers on 9th. The happy winner was Micheal Zalmanovitch. The information collected from the draw indicated that many people found out about the bake and craft sale through "word of mouth". (So keep spreading the word!) The clean up team was a dream as they efficiently returned the temple to its original state.

How can you ensure that you thank everyone that had a hand in this event? Impossible with this temple full of "head down, get it done well, before you move to the next thing" members. They are silently in the background filling in holes you never knew existed, they calmly and knowledgeably help you out for the holes they let you find, they stay or show up for clean up when everyone is the most tired, and in the end they pat you on the back for a job well done. Thanks to all of you!

All the bills are not in yet so the final total is not available. But by the quick sales, empty tables and tired smiles on the volunteers' faces one could assume that the 2010 Bodhi Day Bake and Craft Sale a success.

In gassho, Brenda Ikuta



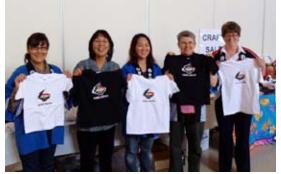
















photos: John Dubbelboer, Maya Ichikawa

#### **NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES**

The Dharma class welcomed yoga teacher Juli Talerico in early November. There was a good size turn-out of participants and observers for yoga fun. Juli has offered to teach another session at the temple and we look forward to it.











Another exciting November event was the Bodhi Day Bake Sale & Bazaar. The kids greeted customers at their Dharma Chip table located at the entrance of the temple. The chips proved to be a hot commodity that sold out in the first half hour. To those that were too late, the class promises to make more next year!













# December 2010 & January 2011 Schedule +二月と一月の予定表

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。 Annual Buddhist Memorial Service in 2011

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DECEMBER			12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	2	3	4
	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service	6	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 8	9	6pm Curry Supper/ Movie Night	11
	<b>9:40</b> am Chanting <b>10:30</b> am Regular Service		12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke			
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	9:40am Chanting 10:30am	20	7pm Taiko	22	23	24	25
	No Service					11:30pm Joya-no-kane (New Year bell ringing)	
	26	27	7pm Taiko 28	29	30	Nikka Yuko Garden <b>31</b>	

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
							10:30am New Year Day Service
ר	No Service						
	2	3	<b>7</b> pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir	7	8
	2:00pm Hoonko/ Shotsuki Monthly/ New Year's Party		12 noon Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke	Zam CAD Chair		
	9	10	<b>7</b> pm Taiko <b>11</b>	12	7pm SAB Choir	14	15
	9:40am Chanting (48 Vows) 10:30am Regular Service	17	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir	21	22
	9:40am	10:45am Breathing,	10:30am Gentle Yoga	17	20	21	22
	Chanting (48 Vows) 10:30am 23 Regular Service	Stretching, Moving	12 noon Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	1:30pm Karaoke	7pm SAB Choir		
	30	31	7piii Taiko <b>25</b>	26	<b>27</b>	28	29

8