



## Who is confused?



A few days ago, my friend told me the following story: One night he was driving back to his home with his wife after playing cards with their friends. It was a cold night, and snow was falling lightly. Suddenly, they saw an elderly man bent over and supported by a cane. He was walking alone. So, my friend drove slowly, watching the elderly man wondering what he was doing alone at almost midnight. Then the elderly man fell. His wife cried out to her husband, "You'd better go to help him!" He got out of the car, went to the elderly man and helped him up. He asked the elderly man, who was nicely dressed, "What are you doing in the middle of the night?" He replied, "I am going to eat lunch at a restaurant. It is almost 12 o'clock. I have to hurry." My friend said, "What are you talking about? It is not daytime but almost 12 o'clock midnight. Where are you living? I'll take you back to your house." Fortunately, the elderly man knew his address. So my friend took him there. Listening to his story I thought "Oh, poor old man, but he was really fortunate that my friend found him. Otherwise he would have frozen to death that night." Apparently, he misunderstood and confused midnight with noon.

Although this is an extreme case, we often forget things and get confused as we get

**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

older. For example, you may have gone downstairs to get something but forgotten what you wanted. For a moment or two you get confused. Then you remember after returning upstairs. As we get older, we start to become forgetful and then, one day, we may be really confused like that elderly man.

From the eyes of Buddha's wisdom, however, we are already confused spiritually from a religious point of view. Actually, we have been confused from time immemorial because we have no true wisdom to see things, including ourselves, as they are. Wisdom in Buddhism means to see things, people and ourselves clearly with no discrimination and no prejudice. For example, when some people see a red rose, they see its price value, wondering how much it will cost. Others see its color value, thinking pink is better than red. Still others see its life value, wondering how long it will last. We do not see the rose itself which is irreplaceable. We see it with the colored glasses of our self-centered view. The same can be said about seeing other people.

We see others according to his or her appearance, how he or she is dressed, and judge whether he or she is good or bad, rich or poor, famous or not, honest or not. We do not see the person as he or she really is. We hardly see the person as being really unique and irreplaceable. This is called discriminatory mind stemming from our self-centered view. We put up a thick wall around our small selves and separate ourselves. Thus, we create the life of duality - twoness. Because of this, we quarrel, fight, in the worst case, kill each other, thinking this person is my enemy. The enemy, however, is actually not others, not over there, but here within ourselves, the self-centered mind. We are bound by our own creation of a self-centered mind and deeply mired in the ocean of delusion.

Because of our confusion, Buddha's boundless compassion has been working for us to free ourselves from the ocean of delusion. Although we are, at first, not able to see things, people and ourselves as they are, we are gradually nurtured to see in the light of Buddha's compassion. Buddha's wisdom and compassion are for us who are deeply stuck in the ocean of delusion wherein we suffer. We, who are spiritually confused and who create our own delusion, must constantly listen to the Dharma, Buddha's heart of oneness.

In gassho (to put palms together in one in gratitude),  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister  
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

### 仏教講座

毎月二回、土曜日に英語仏教講座を持っています。宣伝は会報と新聞の宗教欄を利用しています。新聞は無料で快く掲載してくれますので助かります。教材は浄土真宗ガイドを使用しております。不思議なことに毎回白人ばかりです。参加される方々には浄土真宗ガイドを差し上げ、最後まで読んでください、と言っています。仏教から浄土真宗への流れが、特に教義面で簡潔に説明されているからです。

カナダでも、仏教熱が盛んになった言っても、浄土真宗の教えは全くと言ってよいほど知られていません。もちろん「親鸞」という名も知られていません。以前、アメリカの開教使が「親鸞聖人を狭いクローゼットから出さねばならない。人種を超えて聖人の教えを伝えよう」と言っておられました。同感です。勿論、教えは頭だけの理解で弘まるものではありません。聖人が歩まれたごとく、常に、み仏の大悲に照らされ、自己をみつめていく姿勢が大切だと思います。そのようなことを考えると、毎月二回の土曜講座は、毎週の日曜法座と併せて、いよいよ私にとってやりがいのある仕事になります。合掌 開教使 泉康雄

## BTSA Notes

The major news during the month was the approval of a \$200,000 loan to the Calgary Temple at a special general meeting of BTSA on Nov. 16, following the regular Sunday service. Please look over the article on this page about details.

As December begins, please keep in mind the following key dates and events:

- Dec. 7: monthly memorial service, beginning at 10:30 a.m.;
- Dec. 14: Bodhi Day observance during regular Sunday service, 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 21 and 28: no Sunday services;
- Dec. 31: Joya-no-Kane (year-end bell-ringing), Nikka Yuko Garden, 11:30 p.m., weather permitting (cancelled if below minus 20);
- Jan. 1, 2014: New Year's Day Service, 10:30 a.m; and,
- Jan. 11: Ho-onko and monthly memorial service, beginning at 2 p.m., followed by the New Year's Party.

Mein-making on Nov. 16 drew a great crowd who socialized while making the noodles for the annual bake and craft sale. Thanks are extended to all who helped make the sale a success by donating pastries and other items, and spending countless hours making various kinds of manju.

The November shotsuki turnout suffered with the season's first major snowstorm, but the temple parking lot was cleared in time for the service, thanks to the efficient work of Jamie Meeks with whom the temple has continued an agreement for another year of snow removal.

In preparation for a new year, the repeated request goes out to all members to allow their names to be nominated for a board position. The two-year terms of six board members expire at the annual general meeting in March. Please consider standing for a directorship.

This time of year is an occasion for the seasonal appeal for food parcel donations. We will be collecting items through January, then present them to the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank in February,

As the final days of 2014 rapidly approach, BTSA expresses its gratitude to the membership for its unstinting support throughout the year. Thanks to sensei, the directors, the members and many friends for their reliable and tireless efforts to keep the temple running smoothly so it is ready for its primary objective of advancing the Buddhadharma. BTSA looks forward to everyone's continuing support in the new year.

Akira Ichikawa

## BTSA OKs \$200,000 Loan To Calgary Temple

A BTSA special general meeting on Nov. 16, voted to lend the Calgary Buddhist Temple \$200,000 to assist in the renovation of the temple building. The meeting, held after the regular Sunday service, agreed to include a provision asking Calgary for a formal written loan agreement.

The resolution which was passed unanimously reads:

It is hereby resolved that the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta will lend the Calgary Buddhist Temple \$200,000.00 (two hundred thousand dollars) toward their temple renovation project. This loan will be paid back at 3% interest per annum. The principal plus interest will be paid back within 5 years and will be secured by the renovated temple property. There will be a formal written loan agreement.

The meeting was told BTSA has sufficient funds to provide the loan, and the reference to "a formal written loan agreement" was considered a standard part of any good practice.

The Calgary temple has been undergoing a renovation preparatory to the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention on May 30 and 31. BTSA members can follow the development of the remodeled structure at the Calgary Buddhist Temple's "renovation newsletter site" at <http://calgary-buddhist.ab.ca/>



<http://calgary-buddhist.ab.ca/>

## CHAIR SCHEDULE December 2014 & January 2015

**Dec 07 SHOTSUKI**  
Chair: Robert Takaguchi  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

**Dec14**  
Chair: Pat Sassa  
Audio: Tak Okamura

**Dec 21**  
No Service

**Dec 28**  
No Service

**Dec. 31 JOYA NO KANE**  
New Year's Eve at  
Nikka Yuko Garden  
(weather permitting)

**Jan 01 NEW YEAR'S SERVICE**  
Rev. Izumi

**Jan 04**  
Chair: John Dubbelboer  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

**Jan 11 HOONKO/SHOTSUKI @ 2PM**  
Chair: Sway Nishimura  
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

**Jan 18**  
Chair: Florence Senda  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

**Jan 25**  
Chair: Katie Nakagawa  
Audio: Tak Okamura

**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.



## Great Turnout For Mein-Making

Close to 60 members and friends turned out Nov. 15 to press and cut dough into pieces that were run through noodle machines, to fry them, then to cool and to bag the finished products for the annual Bake and Craft Sale on Nov. 29. It was a long day, but the process moved along smoothly and workers had a chance to socialize. Thanks to Jan Okamura and Pat Sassa for looking after the overall operation. Thanks to the many helpers who turned out on a cold but sunny day to add their touch to this fund-raising event. Thanks too to all the great cooks who prepared the morning coffee break and delicious lunch.

Demand for the noodles runs as high as for chow mein supper tickets, and they are often the first item to sell out at the bake sale. We look forward to everyone's continuing help at the next mein-making session, sometime early in 2015.



## FOOD BANK BOX

A quick reminder that the food bank box in the multipurpose room invites your kind donations of food parcels. The file photo is from last year with the collection box brimming over the top with useful goods. This year the proceeds, plus a matching cheque for the estimated amount of the items collected, will go in February, 2015, to the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank. Thanks for your help.



November Shotsuki morning Nov. 2 greeted members with the first major snowfall of the season. It was short-lived, as warm temperatures turned the snow slushy. The snowfall was heavy enough to keep attendance low.

## Ring Out the Old, Ring In the New

2014 is slowly ebbing away, and the time is drawing near for the Joya no Kane once again. This traditional Buddhist practice involves tolling a bell 108 times, corresponding to the number of human desires and passions, and to rid them in order to usher in a new year, presumably with a clean slate.

Izumi sensei will be presiding at the 11th annual Joya no Kane at the Nikka Yuko Garden, with whom BTSA partners for the event. Despite expected cold weather, the ringing will go ahead unless the temperature falls below -20 C. The public is welcome to attend, with refreshments to be served by the Garden staff after the ringing.



photos: Akira Ichikawa

**Memberships to  
Nov 29 - 219**

**Shotsuki Hoyo  
Donations**

November 2014

Chiduka Hamabata  
Shirley Higa  
Neil Hinatsu  
Dave & Val Kunimoto  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
May Ohno  
Tak & Jan Okamura  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Craig & Sachi Scharf  
Emily Stitt  
Fumi Sugimoto  
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto  
Tomiko Sugimoto  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
Fugi Takeda  
George Tokuda  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

**Total \$700**

**Other Donations**

November 2014

Sharon Connaughty  
Rachel Crowder  
Irene Feeney  
Dale & Carol Fujita  
Marg Fujita  
Norris Hironaka  
Tomi Hisaoka  
Violet Horii  
Rumiko Ibuki  
David Ikeda  
Teruko Ikuta

Anna Kert-Kravitz  
Sue Kitagawa  
Ken & Amy Kurio  
Wayne & Rhonda Kwan  
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno  
William T & Setsuko Nagai  
Roy & Luri Nagata  
Ken & Vickie Nakagawa  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Teruko Nishida  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama  
Mitsuko Oga  
May Ohno  
Heidi Oishi  
Sylvia Oishi  
Yumiko Osaka  
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi  
Irene Sakamoto  
Tobie Sakamoto  
Florence Senda  
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Sonia Sitz  
Nori Sugimoto  
Cathy Takeda  
Reiko Takeyasu  
Sam & Betty Taniguchi  
Carmen Tillman  
Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
Jim Tsukishima  
Sumie Tsukishima  
Ian Wolsey  
Ron & Kathryn Yoshida  
**Total - \$5,924**

We try to be as thorough as possible but occasionally make errors. Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it won't be published. Thank you.

**BUDDHIST Q & A**

**Q. What does *kaikyoshi* mean?** 開教使とは?

**A.** A Japanese term, Kaikyoshi, literally means "kai" (to open), "kyo" (teaching) and "shi" (a messenger). It means a messenger to open Buddha's teaching. The word is used for Jodo Shinshu minister working in the oversea districts. As the word indicates a Jodo Shinshu minister is not a teacher but a messenger to share the dharma with people living outside of Japan. Furthermore, as Shinran Shonin said, the relationship between minister and lay people is not one of teacher and disciple. We are all fellow brothers and sisters in the Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion. There is no concept of "above and below" in Jodo Shinshu organization. The titles such as "Bishop", "Reverend" and "Sensei" are just conventional. We all must listen to Buddha's teaching and live accordingly. (Y.I.)



**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!**



## REGULAR EVENTS

### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

**Tonari Gumi** Tuesdays, 12-3pm

**Taiko Class** Tuesdays, 6:30 (Youth) and 7pm (Adult)

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

**The Lethbridge Karaoke Club** Wednesdays, 1pm

Holiday break on Dec 17, 24 & 31. Will resume on Jan 7.

**Minyo dancers** Tuesdays, 4-6pm

Dec 9 only. Will resume Jan 6.

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences

The BTSA expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones:

**Francis Thomas Dooley (76) Nov 6, 2014**

**For temple visitors...** There is a bell on your left at the temple front door.

For seekers of Jodo Shinshu (Shin Buddhism) - "Jodo Shinshu A Guide" is available.

### SPECIAL DRAW IN JANUARY

Wanda Tomiyama has generously donated a beautiful hand-knit Alpaca sweater/cardigan and has suggested that it could be used as a fundraiser at the temple. We have decided to present it as a raffle prize at our New Year's Party on Jan. 11th & ask for your support. The tickets will be sold on that day only. The proceeds will be directed to the World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary, May 30 - 31, 2015. Thank you!



## TOBAN UPDATE

If you are not on a toban call list and would like to help in any way, please contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668 Both members and friends are welcome!

**Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.**

– Elizabeth Andrew

Thank you to **Toban 3** for a very busy month.

### Toban 2014/15 Schedule

Dec. Toban 2

Jan. Toban 3

Feb. Toban 4



2015  
WORLD  
BUDDHIST  
WOMEN'S  
CONVENTION

## WBWC UPDATE Winter 2014

**Registration for the convention** is now closed but there is still lots to do before the convention. Visit our website at [www.wbwconvention.com](http://www.wbwconvention.com) for the following on what **You Can Do!**

1. Book your **hotel and travel arrangements**
2. Pre-order a **Montoshiki-sho** or **Wagesa** (online)
3. Order additional **Banquet Tickets** (online) - registration for the full convention includes one ticket
4. **Volunteer** by completing the "Volunteer Application"
5. **Donate** - Be a part of the Sangha (community) in support of the convention
6. Register for the three-day post-convention **Canadian Rockies Trip for Canadian Delegates** which includes Banff and the Columbia Ice Fields. Details and booking information has been sent to all temples.

**Practice, Practice, Practice** - The Canadian entertainment piece for the Saturday evening of the convention (May 30, 2015) is **Zumba!** We encourage all of the Canadians attending the convention to practice and be ready for our big performance! For those who may be physically unable to do the dance, plan to be onstage with us to get the crowd clapping in time to our music.

Thank you to **Toronto** for putting this together! Link to the dance instruction video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWIOjFWN5xk> Link to the dance video is [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnZHaGrws\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnZHaGrws_s)

### Unable to attend the full weekend convention?

Consider purchasing a ticket for the **Banquet only** which would be on Saturday, May 30/14 – this is an option available online and is open to all.

Please contact your temple volunteer **convention liaison** (below) if you have any questions or concerns and they can answer or direct inquiries to the convention committee.

Steveston: Itoko Akune

Vancouver: Molly Akune/Lorna Bishop

Fraser Valley: Amy Nagamatsu

Kelowna: Shirley Tanemura

Vernon: Mari Cameron

Kamloops: Kaz Kobayashi

Calgary: Susan Kitgawa

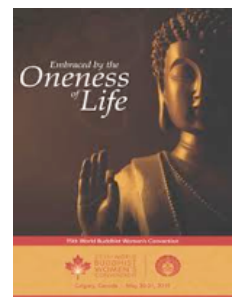
BTSA: Totsy Nishimura

Manitoba: Jim Hisanaga

Toronto: June Asano

Hamilton: Marlene Frazer

Montreal: Shirley Shikatani





# Raffle Results

Thank you for your support of the BTSA's raffle with proceeds going to the World Buddhist Women's Convention. \$7,270 worth of tickets were sold.

1st prize winner of flights for two anywhere West Jet flies was Mackenzie Hanna.

2nd prize of the handmade quilt was Connie Nuttall.

3rd prize of the wine basket and 6 handmade Japanese placemats was Jackie Robb.

A big thank you to West Jet (with the help of Susan Huntley and Kim Sugai), to Hisae Price for making the lovely quilt and oriental placemats and to Lili Gillis and Randy Crossan for the wine basket.

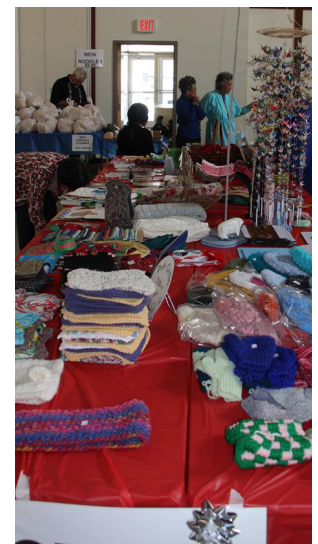


Thanks again for your support,  
Totsy Nishimura  
Katie Nakagawa  
Donna Dubbelboer

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**  
Other proceeds from the weekend's activities  
(NOTE: before expenses, if any)  
Bazaar \$5,662  
All things Japanese \$1,733  
Craft Sales \$1,202

## BTSA BAKE & CRAFT SALE Nov 29

## MANJU-MAKING Nov 28



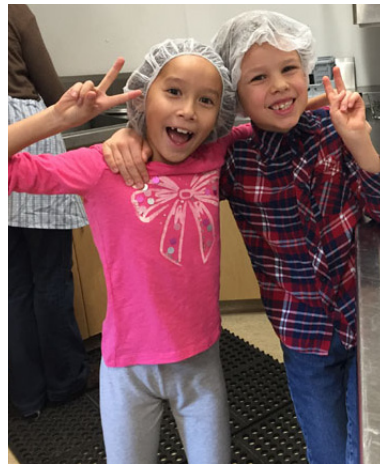
photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa





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

Thank you to all those who participated in the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser hosted by the Dharma class. The class received \$328.15 in donations that will be used for their annual shopping trip where they will purchase items for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, Dec 7**  
Food Bank shopping trip  
Superstore @ 10am

**Sunday, Dec 14**  
Bodhi Day Celebration

photos: Joyce Shigehiro

# Schedule 光 December 2014 & January 2015

## 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。

DECEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke		2pm Art Expression for Seniors	10:30am Explore Buddhism
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service 2:30pm LRH Annual Memorial Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance	1pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting		2pm Art Expression for Seniors Correctional Centre visit	10:30am Explore Buddhism
10:30am Bodhi Day service		12pm Tonari Gumi			2pm Art Expression for Seniors	
No Service					Correctional Centre visit	
No Service			11:30pm 12th annual Year End Bell Ringing at Nikka Yuko Garden			

JANUARY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10:30am New Year's Day Service		
10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			
2pm Hoonko Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service New Year's party		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting			
10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			10:30am Explore Buddhism
10:30am Regular Service		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko	1pm Karaoke			10:30am Explore Buddhism