



February 2018

## Truth of Impermanence



**The famous Japanese *Iroha* poem** begins as follows: The colors blossom, scatter, and fall. In this world of ours, what lasts forever? We see flowers. Flowers change and people who look at them also change.

Of course, we know that everything including nature constantly changes. This is called impermanence or *mujyo* in Japanese.

This is the *dharma*, the universal natural law which never changes at anytime and anywhere. There is no room for our small ego to intervene. Beyond our will, everything including ourselves changes.

At the end of the last year someone brought me a photo. It was the photo of a young man full of life with a lot of hair on his head. "Wow!" was my reaction. It was a photo of me almost 40 years ago when I was assigned for the first time to Lethbridge. (Truth of impermanence was revealed in my photo.)

When getting older, it seems to me that everything changes much faster. When I was a child, one year did not pass so quickly. I used to wait for the New Year to come. I used to count down the days. I was excited. But now I do not. I know the new year 2018 will pass much faster than the last year. The reality, however, is that whether young or old we are given

the same length of time, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. It's always the same.

"How fast does time go?" asked the Buddha one time. "Year by Year," said one of his disciples. "Day by day," said another. "Moment by moment," said the third one. The Buddha smiled in agreement. Everything including my body and mind changes momentarily.

The absolute present is only here and now, this moment. We must live fully here and now. It is unique and precious. We must treasure it. But when I reflect on myself, I realize how often I waste everyday, regretting and complaining about the past or merely dreaming of the future. Furthermore, I realize how often I forget and am ungrateful, because of my selfish mind, that everyday is supported and cared for by so much seen and unseen help, goodwill and blessing. I am not really grateful. I surprise myself how self-centered I am.

No wonder Amida Buddha has been calling on me who always turns his back to the life which is true and real. Jodo Shinshu does not teach me to become a Buddha--be good, then better and best, finally become a Buddha. Jodo Shinshu teaches me to receive the compassionate vow of the Buddha whose everlasting compassion works for me because of his concern about my life and, those of every sentient being.

Master Shinran wrote: The light of Amida's compassion illumines us from far; those beings it reaches, attain the joy of *dharma*, so take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.

This year again, let's listen together to the voice of Amida--*namo amida butsu*--which has been working for us, and live each moment with peace and serenity.

南無阿彌陀仏の

先月は、お寺に集まる皆様が「明けましておめでとう」と笑顔で挨拶を交わして賑やかなことでありました。「明けまして」とは明るくなります。という意味でありましょう。覚如上人の御書物の中には、日輪が、須弥山を中心に回ってくると、この世界に光が現れてこの世の闇が除かれ、明るくなる、ということが説かれています。日輪とは太陽のこと。須弥山とは古代インドの宇宙観で、この山を中心に世界が存在していると教えます。

今年も、太陽が地平線に現れ、我々の世界を明るくしてくれています。しかし外は明るくても、我々の心の中は、相変わらずモットモット、イライラ、クヨクヨの煩惱の渦が巻いています。しかし、阿彌陀如来の光は、この心の闇を破って南無阿彌陀仏の呼び声として、日々私たちに届き、抱きとって下さっているのです。この真実の呼び声に耳を傾け、勇気づけられながら、心豊かに過ごしたいと思っています。

合掌 南アルバータ仏教会開教使 泉康雄

**BTSA Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi**  
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470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5  
403.327.1260 • [www.theBTSA.com](http://www.theBTSA.com)

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

# BTSA Notes

Please see details of the AGM and accompanying visitation of Tatsuya Aoki sensei in related articles in this issue.

The temple will be holding its dual observance of Nirvana Day and Pet Appreciation Day on Feb. 11. The two commemorations seem to have conjoined the death of the historical Buddha which is Nirvana Day and the supposed legion of animals that attended him at his deathbed.

Animals, regarded as sentient beings by the Buddha, are a constant in much Buddhist legend, literature and discussions.

As children, many BTSA members might have read or been exposed to a charming book entitled *The Cat Who Went to Heaven*. This prize-winning story, written by Elizabeth Coatsworth, an American author, relates the story of a struggling and penniless Japanese artist who receives a cat he didn't want in place of food he did.

This children's novel has Buddhistic twists and turns and, ultimately, a happy ending that might delight adults as well. Its storyline emphasizes the connection between the worlds of the Buddha and animals.

2017 ended with a bit of disappointment when extremely frigid weather forced cancellation of the annual Joya no Kane ceremony at the Nikka Yuko Garden. Readings in the minus 20 range fell far below the minus 15 cut-off advertised for the event.

By the next day, temperatures had risen so that the new year's service at the temple drew the largest turnout since its inception.

By mid-month, mild wintery but bright days drew even greater numbers to the Ho-onko service and the following new year's party. Please look over some of the photos from that gathering elsewhere in this issue.

As we move into the second month of the new year, please accept another round of thanks to all who have shown such dedication to keeping our temple meaningful and inviting. A full slate of activities is planned for the year. There is a tentative schedule for 2018 on the table in the front lobby of the temple. Help yourself to a copy and consider getting involved in events scheduled and yet-to-be scheduled.

Akira Ichikawa

# Annual General Meeting MARCH 4

## Notice of the BTSA 2018 Annual General Meeting

This is official notification of the 2018 AGM scheduled for March 4, 2018, following the monthly memorial service. The BTSA by-law requires at least 15 days written notice in advance of the date of the annual general meeting, with a notice in the Hikari constituting official notification. Please consider this the official notification of the meeting.

The board has scheduled the 2018 annual general meeting and hopes as many members as possible turnout to participate in the temple's governance. Several matters requiring membership input will be on the agenda, including a temple investment policy requested by last year's AGM, revision of the current temple rental policy, and BTSA's involvement in the JSBTC Women's Federation.

As usual, the AGM will have to elect board members. The two-year terms of several members are expiring this year. Financial and other reports for the past year will be distributed at the meeting.

## CHAIR SCHEDULE February & March 2018

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

**Feb 04** SHOTSUKI  
Chair: Ross Jacobs  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

**Feb 11** NIRVANA DAY  
Chair: Jeff Haines  
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

**Feb 18**  
Chair: Val Boras  
Audio: Ross Jacobs

**Feb 25**  
Chair: Sway Nishimura  
Audio: Tak Okamura

**Mar 04**  
Chair: Sheila Oishi  
Audio: John Dubbelboer

**Mar 11**  
Chair: Florence Senda  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

**Mar 18**  
Chair: Harry Sugimoto  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

**Mar 25**  
Chair: Deanna Jones  
Audio: Ross Jacobs

**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.

## Rev. Tatsuya Aoki to visit



Rev. Tatsuya Aoki, resident minister of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple and socho of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, will be visiting BTSA on March 4 as part of his tour of Canadian temples.

Sensei will be giving the dharma message at the monthly memorial service for the month and will be present at BTSA's scheduled annual general meeting following the service.

## Temple New Year's Service

About 30 persons turned out for BTSA's new year's day service, that included an after-service get-together for refreshments and a tasty bowl of ozoni (Japanese mochi soup) traditionally offered on January 1. Thanks to Sheila Oishi who prepared the treat.



## Nirvana and Thank Your Pet Day - Feb. 11



BTSA will be observing Nirvana Day and Pet Appreciation Day on Feb. 11 during its regular Sunday service, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Nirvana Day commemorates the death of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, who is believed to have died at age 80 sometime during the 5th century BCE (Before the Common Era, now used in place of BC or Before Christ).

Gratitude toward animals would seem to arise partially from Buddhist attitudes toward them as sentient beings, reflected in the idea of rebirth expressed through stories in the Jataka tales that depict them as the Buddha in previous lives.

Whatever the origins, gratefulness toward pets continues in observations such as Pet Appreciation Day which Izumi sensei launched several years ago at BTSA. Members are invited to bring photographs of their pets, and have them displayed in the shrine area during the service.

## Final Call for Food Bank Donations

There's still a couple of weeks to make a donation to the BTSA food bank box in the multipurpose room. The donated goods and a matching amount of the estimated items will be turned over to the Lethbridge Food Bank in mid-February.

If you haven't had a chance to drop off food items, please give some thought to doing so. The need remains strong in the community for assistance, and BTSA hopes to help by responding to that need.

Thanks to all who have contributed thus far.





# 2018 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

## \*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 Jan. 26: 49

#### Ho-onko Donations

January 2018

Eiko Aoki  
Eietsu Chiba  
John & Donna Dubbelboer  
Judy Fukushima  
Dorene Gordon  
Shinako (Sheila) or Randy Higa  
Shirley Higa  
Neil Hinatsu  
Marie Hirashima  
Tomi Hisaoka  
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa  
Tom & Lily Kaga  
Chizuko Kimura  
Bill & Sherry Kinoshita  
Hiroshi Kitagawa  
Kay K. Matsuda  
Kinuko Matsuno  
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno  
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy  
Joe & Marion Mori  
Jim & Joan Nakagawa  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Teiji Nakamura  
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru

May Nishikawa  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Reyko Nishiyama  
Mitsuko Oga  
May Ohno  
Setsuko Ohno  
Heidi Oishi  
Lilly Oishi  
Sheila Oishi  
Tak & Jan Okamura  
Hisae Price  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Ayumi Sawada  
Yoshiko Sawada  
Craig & Sachi Scharf  
Carol Sekiya  
Florence Senda  
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto  
Kazuko Sugimoto  
Tomiko Sugimoto  
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi  
Yoshio Taguchi  
Barbara Takeda

Fugi Takeda  
KB Takeda & Lila Ho -Takeda  
Tomiko Takeyasu  
Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
Glen & Pamela Tanaka  
Betty Taniguchi  
Cathy Taniguchi  
Shirley Taniguchi  
George Tokuda  
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu  
Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
Sumie Tsukishima  
Keiko Kay Tsukishima  
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima  
**Total - \$4,880**

#### Shotsuki Donations

January 2018

Yosh & Sue Aimoto Stan  
Bandura  
George Fujimoto  
Judy Fukushima  
Shirley Higa  
Neil Hinatsu

Tomi Hisaoka  
Jerry & Cathy Kinoshita  
Hiroshi Kitagawa  
John & Jean Miyanaga  
Mark & Tamara Miyanaga  
Robert & Toshiye Miyanaga  
Joyce Miyashita  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Roy & Minie Nakatsuru  
May Nishikawa  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Reyko Nishiyama  
May Ohno  
Randy Ohno  
Lilly Oishi  
Yumiko Osaka  
Tod & Hollis Pickerell  
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Harry Sugimoto  
Raymond & Sue Thibodeau  
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu

**Total - \$1,695**

#### Other Donations

January 2018

Cheryl Ali  
John & Rita Aoki  
Richard & Valerie Boras  
CanadaHelps.Org  
Karen Dunsmore  
& Dennis Wilford  
Judy Fukushima  
Dunstan & Nancy Griffin  
Growers Supply Ltd  
Dhan Kumar Gurung  
Shirley Hashizume  
Shinako (Sheila) or Randy Higa  
Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka  
Tomi Hisaoka  
Jim & Linda Hubbell  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa  
Tosh & Tsuyako Iwamoto  
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi  
Tom & Lily Kaga  
Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara  
Tosh & Kaz Kanashiro  
Richard & Suyeko Kanegawa  
Eleanor Katakami  
Alice M Kimura  
Hiroshi Kitagawa  
Kay & Rosemary Kitagawa  
Alan & Carla Koyata  
Ken & Amy Kurio  
Yasue Maruyama  
Kay K. Matsuda  
Elizabeth Miller  
Darkene & Peter Mitchell  
John & Jean Miyanaga  
Robert & Toshiya Miyanaga  
Gerry Miyashiro  
Joyce Miyashita  
Kay Kimie Moriyama  
Harry W. & Beverly Nagata  
Ruth Nagata  
Jim & Joan Nakagawa  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Nakamura Farms  
Greg & Maureen Nakamura  
Kazuo & Nancy Nakamura  
Teiji Nakamura  
Sonny & Kimiko Nakashima  
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru  
Nikkei Cultural Society  
of Lethbridge & Area

Kiyoto & Toki Nishijima  
May Nishikawa  
Mas & Evelyn Nishima  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Norreen Nishiyama  
Shigeru Nogamine  
Alexandwe & Fay Oakes  
Mitsuko Oga  
Setsuko Ohno  
Heidi Oishi  
Lilly Oishi  
Sheila Oishi  
Tak & Jan Okamura  
Bobby & Shirley Okuma  
Setsuko Okuma  
Kay Osaka  
Yumiko Osaka  
Shig Sakamoto  
Gordon & Joy Saruwatari  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Diane Sawa  
Joyce Shigehiro  
& Trevor Van Sluys  
Howard & Sharon Shikaze  
Tomiko Shono  
Kazuko Sugimoto  
Guy and Joyce Sunada  
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi  
Fugi Takeda  
Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
Masaye Tanaka  
Betty Taniguchi  
Amy Tashiro  
Kevin & Margaret Tashiro  
Julie Tateyama  
Shelley Tateyama  
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita  
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama  
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu  
Tonarigumi Lethbridge &  
District Japanese Senior  
Citizen Drop in Centre  
Tri-T Farms (2005)  
Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
Sumie Tsukishima  
Toshiko or Keith Tsukishima  
Theresa & Ken Uchikura  
Wesbridge Construction Ltd.  
Nobby & Rose Yamashita  
Yasuo & Lil Yamashita

**Total - \$18,378.20**

Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not to be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it will not be published.  
Thank you.

**2017 Tax Receipts:** Tax receipts for 2017 will be mailed out by the end of February 2018, in compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency requirements. Thank you for your generous donations throughout the past year.

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Tonari Gumi** Tuesdays @ 1pm

**The Lethbridge Karaoke Club** Wednesdays @ 1pm  
Contact Nao 403.327.7357

**NCS Adult Taiko** Tuesdays @ 7pm  
Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

## Minyo Dance

Beginner group on Mondays, 6-8pm  
Sr. Minyo group on Tuesdays, 4-6pm  
Contact Pat Sassa for info: sas7@telus.net

## Announcements

### Condolences

Mr. Fujio Tsukishima, 86, passed away on January 10, 2018.

## TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 3** for helping out in January, especially with the Hoonko/Monthly Memorial Service/New Year's Party on January and memorial during the month. February will have Toban 4 volunteers up for the regular services. We are updating the printed Toban lists, please let me know of any changes. Contact: Lorita at 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

### Toban 2018 Schedule

February	Toban 4
March	Toban 2
April	Toban 4
May	Toban 2
June	Toban 3

### Soup Kitchen 2018

March 23	Toban 2
April 23	Toban 4
May 23	Toban 3
June 6	Lily's crew

## In Search of Missing Items

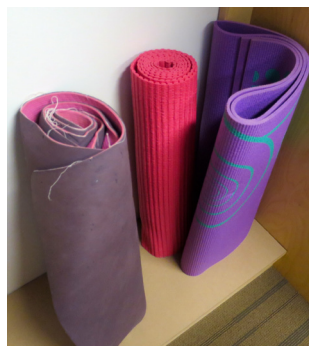
Last fall, a DVD player and several children-themed DVDs went missing from the Dharma classroom. If you are in possession of these items or know of their whereabouts, please contact Maya Ichikawa or return to the Dharma room. Thank you.

## Lost items at Temple

Are you missing your favorite jacket or scarf? Can't find your nice boots? How about those prescription glasses? Where's that cane, that yoga mat?

If anyone reading this article is missing any of these things, they may have been left at the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. The items pictured are among those left at the temple, so please check them out the next time you're here to see whether any of them might belong to you.

We would like to clear the premises of unclaimed goods and plan to discard them eventually or give them to a charity that will accept them. So, next time you're at the temple, please check the cloak room.





# Ho-onko & New Year's Party

There was a sizeable turnout Jan. 14 at the Ho-onko service commemorating the death of Shinran--Jodo Shinshu's founder--in 1263. The observance is one of Jodo Shinshu's important services during the year.

The service--also the monthly memorial for January--was followed by BTSA's annual new year's party which concluded with a bingo session for all those present. Thanks to Toban 3 for catering and preparing the meal that included sashimi. Look over the photos to get an idea of the day's activities. *Photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa*



Dharma message



MC Roland Ikuta



Oshoko



Cheers!



Kampai!



Food line



Desserts



Large numbers enjoying supper





## Kindness Matters

Thank you to Joyce Oishi who gifted the Dharma class with a box of cards from kindnessmatterscards.com. The cards provide ideas of how to spread kindness and the kids were encouraged to leave a card where someone could happen upon it.



Roland and Duncan calling Bingo





FEBRUARY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH*	10:30am Explore Buddhism*
				1	2	3
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 4	6pm Beginner Minyo 5	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6	1pm Karaoke 7	8	9	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10
10:30am NirvanaDay/ Pet Appreciation Service* 11	6pm Beginner Minyo 12	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 13	1pm Karaoke 2pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 14	15	16	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 17
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 18	6pm Beginner Minyo 19	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 20	1pm Karaoke 21	22	23	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 24
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 25	6pm Beginner Minyo 26	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 27	1pm Karaoke 2pm Correctional Centre visit* 28	29		

MARCH: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev. Izumi in Japan from March 17 to March 28</li> <li>• Rev. Ikuta will be guest speaker for Hanamatsuri</li> </ul>					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH*	10:30am Explore Buddhism*
				1	2	3
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* 4	6pm Beginner Minyo 5	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 6	1pm Karaoke 7	8	9	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10
10:30am Ohigan Service* 11	6pm Beginner Minyo 12	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 13	1pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 14	15	16	17
10:30am Eshinni & Kakushinni Service* 18	6pm Beginner Minyo 19	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 20	1pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 21	22	9am Lethbridge Soup Kitchen Toban 4* 23	24
10:30am Regular Service* 25	6pm Beginner Minyo 26	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 6:30pm Japanese Language Class 27	1pm Karaoke 28	29	30	9am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Explore Buddhism* 31