



The Sound of the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu



When winter comes and heavy snow starts to fall, I still vividly recall a fearful incident I had experienced years ago in Coaldale where my wife and I now live. It was winter when we moved to Coaldale from Vancouver.

One day I decided to go to the library in downtown Coaldale. It is about a 25-minute walk from our house. Although it was the middle of December and dusk was already approaching, the weather was unusually warm. So, I walked wearing a light jacket. At the library, I was absorbed in reading an interesting book until the library chime announced that the door would close soon. It was almost 9 p.m. I immediately put the book back on the shelf and went out. I was surprised to see that it was very dark and cold outside. Even light snow was falling. I had forgotten what my friend had cautioned: "Alberta weather is unpredictable." I regretted that I left home wearing a light jacket. I started tripping down the path.

The snow fell harder and harder. Soon the weather turned blizzard-like. Visibility was poor and I was still halfway to the house. So, I started running, ducking my head against the driving snow. Then I suddenly could not see where I was. I completely lost my direction and stood there. I panicked.

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I was frightened. I thought I might freeze to death. Just at that time, I heard a freight train whistle from my right side. The train occasionally runs from east to west, back and forth. The whistle echoed in the night sky. I found where I was and I was able to safely direct myself home. The sound of the whistle rescued me in the night of a blizzard.

In the sutra there is a phrase: The Buddha continuously awakened the people of the world with the sounds of the Dharma. In Jodo Shinshu the essence of the Dharma which is true and sincere, is the nembutsu, namo amida butsu. Namo amida butsu is like the sound of the train that eased my fear.

Shinran Shonin says that namo amida butsu is an urging call of Amida Buddha who is working to liberate all sentient beings in delusion and suffering to enlightenment. Although the blizzard is not of our making, the world of delusion and suffering is indeed the result of our self-centered life. Into our self-centered life, Amida Buddha becomes the sound and voice, and calls us, "I am here with you! I'll never leave you alone!"

The sound and voice of Amida's calling makes us aware of our ignorant-self of the present life and directs us to the realm which is truly bright and extensive. Shinran Shonin who heard the assuring sound and voice of Amida Buddha in his imperfections and failings wrote joyfully: The nembutsu is a great torch in the long night of ignorance; Do not sorrow that your eyes of wisdom are dark. Namo amida butsu is a ship on the vast ocean of birth-and-death; Do not grieve that your blind passions are heavy.

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

心豊かに生きる

今年の報恩講は例年になく暖かい日に恵まれ、無事、お勤めすることが出来ました。報恩講ではいつも親鸞聖人がお作りになった正信偈を皆で頂きます。大体、お経は、大切なことが最初に出てきます。話をするときでも、ダラダラと前置きが長いと聞いている方は眠くなってしまいます。正信偈は、釈尊が直接お説きになったお経ではありませんが、最初に「帰命。。。」と出てきます。帰命は「命に帰る」と書かれてありますが、仏様の限りない「いのち」の世界に帰っていくということで、このことが最も大切なこととなります。

ところが親鸞聖人は、この「帰命」を仏様が私たちに「帰命せよ」と招き呼んで下さる仏様の「声」であり「はたらき」である、と頂かれました。つまり、仏様が、仏道修行一つできないどころか、愚痴の日暮らしをしている私たちに「お願いだから仏の限りない「いのち」の世界に帰って来いよ」と呼んで下さる声、と頂かれたのです。

歳を重ねると、体力、視力、聴力といろいろ失っていくことばかりですが、仏様は、永遠の「いのち」の古里（ふるさと）に、帰らせよう、生まれさせようと、日々働いていて下さるのです。この仏様の呼びかけを、日々の生活に頂き、糧とし、心豊かに生かしていただきましょう。

合掌 南アルバータ仏教会 泉康雄



Notice of the BTSA 2019 Annual General Meeting

This is official notification of the 2019 AMG scheduled for March 3, 2019, following the monthly memorial service. BTSA by-law requiring at least 15 days written notice in advance of the date of the AGM in the Hikari constitutes official notification. Please consider this the official notification of the meeting.

Kevin Sassa, the newly-selected financial adviser for BTSA at the Bank of Montreal Organization (BMO), will review briefly the investment strategies developed for the temple. Setting the amount for membership donation for 2020 also is on the agenda, along with discussion of the future running of the tobans and participation in the Women's Federation of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, our national organization.

BTSA continues its search for potential new board members as several current members' terms are ending. Anyone interested in sitting on the BTSA board or helping to run the temple are asked to contact Roland Ikuta at (403) 317-0078 or rolikuta@shaw.ca.

New Year's Eve 2018 Bell-Ringing

Hearty visitors braved the new year's eve cold, turning out in numbers to get a chance to ring out the old year—2018—at the Nikka Yuko bell tower. As in the past, Izumi sensei offered a brief service before those present had an opportunity to release the striker against the bell. This was the 14th renewal of the event, which suffered its first cancellation last year because of extreme frigid weather.

The standard Buddhist ceremony in Japan has the bell tolled 108 times, the number representing the earthly desires causing human suffering. While there may not have been that many participants at the Garden, each strike of the bell nonetheless was considered to expunge one of those desires. In so doing, the new year may be considered starting anew.

Photos by John Dubbelboer



Bell-ringer and Kynan Gordon



Kynan handing out orange Sensei looks on

CHAIR SCHEDULE February & March 2019

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

Feb 03 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Feb 10
Chair: Jeff Haines
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Feb 17
Chair: Val Boras
Audio: Ross Jacobs

Feb 24
Chair: Akira Ichikawa
Audio: Tak Okamura

Mar 03 SHOTSUKI
(AGM to follow)
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio John Dubbelboer

Mar 10
Chair: Bob Muscovich
Audio: Roland Ikuta

Mar 17
Chair: Harry Sugimoto
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Mar 24
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Ross Jacobs

Mar 31
Chair: Rachele Muscovich
Audio: Akira Ichikawa



Line Up to Ring Nikka Yuko Bell

Translation 20

This is a continuation of translations of Kudensho (Note On Oral Transmission) begun in the September, 2016 Hikari. Kudensho is a Jodo Shinshu historic text believed to have been written by Kakunyo (1270-1351), a great-grandson of Shinran, and translated by Rev. Phillip Eidmann and Rev. Yasuo Izumi.

A Commentary Attached to the Eighteenth Vow

“This Buddha now actually abides, having become Buddha”, etc. In the commentary in the books which are current in this world, there is “abides in the world”. However, both the masters of Genku (Honen) of Kurodani and of Shinran of the Hongwanji quoted this omitting the word ‘world’. When I (Kakunyo) considers the reason privately, is there, indeed, a reason for the abbreviated line?

First, the Mahayanabhisamaya-sutra

If in the Pure Land, they become Buddha,
Each is a Fulfilled Body;
If in the Impure Land¹, they become Buddha,
Each is a Incarnated Buddha.

Since the great master Zendo, set up the principle of the Fulfilled Body and Fulfilled Land using this passage as his authoritative source, did they think that by letting the words “in the world” stand, the significant meaning would be very shallow and narrow?

The reason is that in connection with Amida Buddha of “In the Pure land they become Buddha”, if we read “abides in the world now”, then wouldn’t its meaning be understood thoroughly? Even beyond its explaining ‘the world of the highest bliss, there is no reason why the word “world” should be removed in the meaning of the Fulfilled Body and Fulfilled Land, still, it is also a case in our own teaching of a tentative meaning which is a case of commenting on the shallow and narrow side. Usually in various schools, people use these words when the meaning is shallow and narrow.

First, in the Abhidharma-kusha-ron it is stated:

Peacefully in establishing the physical world
the wheel of wind abides farthest below.

Thus, when we use this world for the establishment of the physical world, the line is clearly understood. Of course, there is all the more reason that it will be in the writing of Vasubandhu².

However, in our school (Shinshu), depending on the ideas of the venerable Zendo, it is basic that it is already set up and established as the Fulfilled Body and Fulfilled Land.

In considering the basis of the passage in the treatise:

To observe its formations
It eminently surpasses three worlds. (Jodo-ron)

When we speak of Amida Tathagata who has attained complete Enlightenment in the Fulfilled Land which eminently surpasses three worlds, how can we set up the principle with the word ‘world’ which we are accustomed

to use for matters of the shallow and narrow world? From this reasoning, it seems that they abbreviated this one word.

So, on reading this, “‘This Buddha now actually abides, having become Buddha,’ if one reads that the Buddha now exists, having perfected Buddhahood, it sounds far better’.” Logically, literarily, this one is superfluous. On the basis of this logic, I (Kakunyo) discussed the present understanding inferring the transmission of both patriarchs with the Master Rhonen, who had studied the eight sects successively (especially the three-discourse sect), he said, “‘Though this whole principle is not transmitted in Jodo Shinshu, this understanding is most agreeable.’”

¹Impure Land: This world

²Vasubandhu (320-400) born in India

Pet Appreciation and Nirvana Day



BTSA observes Pet Appreciation Day in conjunction with the regular Sunday service on Feb. 10 at 10:30 a.m. We encourage everyone to bring photos of their pets to display on the naijin. The pets may be living or deceased. It is our chance to thank all the pets who have asked for so little while providing us much pleasure and companionship.

The service also commemorates Nirvana Day that remembers the death of the historic Shakyamuni Buddha, who is reputed to have died on Feb. 15 of the modern calendar.



Two dozen persons welcomed New Year’s Day by attending a brief service at the temple. They raised their glasses to hail the first day of 2019 with Izumi sensei.

2019 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!

Ho-onko Donations

January 2018

Eiko Aoki
Eietsu Chiba
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Judy Fukushima
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Naoki Hirano
Tomi Hisaoka
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Chiuko Kimura
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Kinuko Matsuno
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Joyce Miyashita
Joe & Marion Mori
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Jim & Joan Nakagawa
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Noriko Oga

Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Yumiko Osaka
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Roy & Pat Sassa
Craig or Sachi Scharf
Florence Senda
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Shan Shigehiro or Craig McMahon
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Tomiko Shono
Emily Stitt
Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Barbara Takeda
Tomiko Takeyasu
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Betty Taniguchi
Cathy Taniguchi
Shirley Taniguchi
Bill & June Terakita

Clifford Thomas
George Tokuda
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Sumie Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima

Total - \$4,197.50

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.

Shotsuki Donations

January 2018

Yosh & Sue Aimoto
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Tomi Hisaoka
Tosh & Kaz Kanashiro
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Eileen Kunimoto
Jim & Joan Nakagawa
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Reyko Nishiyama
Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
Randy Ohno
Lilly Oishi
Yumiko Osaka
Roy & Pat Sassa
Ayumi Sawada
Yoshiko Sawada
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Harry Sugimoto
Kazuko Sugimoto
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu

Total - \$1372.50

Other Donations

January 2018

Choju Kai
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Tosh Iwamoto
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
Lily Y Kamachi
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Lisa Nakamura
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
Tak & Jan Okamura
Eichi & Betty Tanaka

Total - \$2,410

2018 Tax Receipts:

Tax receipts for 2018 will be mailed out by the end of February 2019, in compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency requirements. Thank you for your generous donations throughout the past year.

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Minyo Dance I Tuesdays @ 4pm

Minyo Dance II (Beginners Level) Mondays @ 6pm
Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or sas7@telus.net

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1 pm
Contact Heidi Oishi 403.330.6461 or heidi.oishi@gmail.com

PROGRAMS

Yoga with Valerie Kunimoto Wednesdays
Gentle Beginning Yoga 9:30-10:30 am
Gentle Restorative Yoga 11 am-12 pm
Runs through February 27
Contact: Lorita 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences **Kazuo Nakamura** (89) Jan 5
Chiduka Hamabata (100) Jan 11
Roy Kiyoshi Nakatsuru (93) Jan 18

From The Members of the Lethbridge Karaoke Club
February 6, 2019 will be our last karaoke session at BTSA.
We thank all who supported our group over the years.

TOBAN UPDATE

Contact: Lorita, 403.327.1668
lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Toban Schedule:

Toban 2 will be up for February
Dharma Youth Pancake Brunch: Feb. 10
Toban 3 scheduled for March

Soup Kitchen 2019

Next Soup Kitchen March 20 **Toban 4**



Bricks off back



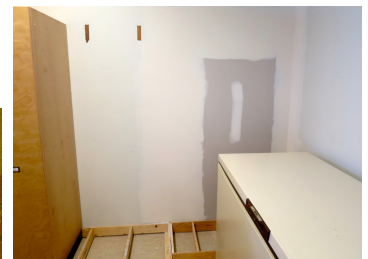
Bricks off side



Enclosed area



Partial Brickwork



Inside Wall Fixed

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

470 - 40th Street South, Lethbridge, Alberta

Movie Night Isle of Dogs



Friday, February 8, 2019

Movie - 7:00 p.m.

"**Isle of Dogs**" is a 2018 stop-motion-animated science-fiction comedy-drama film written, produced and directed by Wes Anderson. Set in a dystopian near-future Japan, the story follows a young boy (Koyu Rankin) searching for his dog after the species is banished to an island following the outbreak of a canine flu. The film's ensemble voice cast includes Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Jeff Goldblum, Bob Balaban, Greta Gerwig, Frances McDormand, Courtney B. Vance, Fisher Stevens, Harvey Keitel, Liev Schreiber, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, F. Murray Abraham, Frank Wood, Kunichi Nomura, and Yoko Ono.

Social gathering to follow with refreshments

Admission is free, donations accepted.

WALL REPAIR

Restoration of the part of the east and north exterior walls began in mid-January, with work progressing rapidly despite the busy temple schedule and cold weather. Workers have been able to remove the old bricks to prepare the wall for new bricks. There may be a slight visible change since the original bricks were no longer available. However Wesbridge, the contractor who built the original structure that opened in 2009, tried mightily to match as closely as possible the original.

The corner wall in the kitchen that was affected when the wall was damaged has been repaired, and cupboards that had to be moved will be put back to their original platform.

Ho-onko, New Year's Party

Naoki Hirano sensei, assistant minister at the Steveston Buddhist Temple, was the guest speaker at the annual Ho-onko service at BTSA on Jan. 13. The service, coupled with the monthly memorial service for January had a sizeable turnout. The service was followed by the temple's annual new year's party with delicious offerings provided by Toban 4.

Photos by John Dubbelboer & Akira Ichikawa



Intro of Guest

Correction notice: Apologies to Hirano sensei. In our January issue we misspelled his name in an article.



Ho-onko Service



Hirano Sensei



New Year's attendees



Kampai

Final Request for Donations

BTSA will be contributing the food donations made during the past months to the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank in mid-February, so there's still some time for those who haven't had a chance to donate to do so. The temple will estimate the value of the items donated and match the amount with a cheque to the Food Bank. As the recent photo shows, the box is full, with some items set aside it on the floor. Please feel free to add to those already on the floor... and thank you to all who have donated so generously this season.





THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

PANCAKE BREAKFAST February 10

The Dharma Class will be providing a pancake and sausage breakfast after service on Sunday, February 10. We hope to have a good turn-out of kids flipping pancakes in the kitchen and a hungry membership to feed.

We ask that dharma students and any parents helping out to arrive at the kitchen at 10 a.m. Please bring a griddle if you have one- the temple will provide everything else. Toban 2 will be providing assistance.



<http://uustpete.org/sites/default/files/post/images/pancake-breakfast-1204.jpg>



Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada **Buddhist Youth Tour to Japan** **2019 Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)**

Dates of Trip: **July 9-25, 2019**

Cost of Trip: **CDN \$2,500**

(plus Travel Insurance arranged for by the participant)

Candidate Qualifications

- ✓ Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
- ✓ Between the age of 15 and 25
- ✓ In good health



Application Deadline: **Feb 28th, 2019**

Application form is available from your local temple.

If there are any questions regarding the tour, please contact
 Rev. Grant Ikuta (JSBTC Group Leader).

Steveston Buddhist Temple: (604) 277-2323

or

E-mail: rev.ikuta@steveston-temple.ca



Meeting Dharma Friends from Hawaii, Buddhist Churches of America, South America, and Japan!



FEBRUARY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY					12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH	
					1	2
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* 3	6pm Minyo II 4	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 5	9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga 1pm Last Karaoke Students visitation from College* 6		7pm Movie Night at the Temple* 8	10am Yoga Meditation Workshop 10:30am Explore Buddhism & Jodo Shinshu* 9
10:30am Nirvana Day & Pet Appreciation Service Pancake Breakfast* 10	6pm Minyo II 11	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 12	9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga 2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13		14	10:30am Explore Shin Buddhism & Nihongo* 16
10:30am Regular Service* 17	6pm Minyo II 18	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 19	9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga 20		21	10:30am Explore Shin Buddhism & Nihongo* 23
10:30am Regular Service* 24	6pm Minyo II 25	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 26	9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga 2pm LCC visit* 27		28	

MARCH: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH	10:30am Shin Buddhism and Nihongo*
					1	2
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* 3	6pm Minyo II 4	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 5			6	7
10:30am Eshinni and Kakushinni Service* 10	6pm Minyo II 11	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 12	2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13		14	15
10:30am Spring Equinox Ohigan Service* 17	6pm Minyo II 18	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 19			20	21
10:30am Regular Service* 24 31	6pm Minyo II 25	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 26	2pm LCC visit* 27		28	29
						10:30am Shin Buddhism and Nihongo* 30