



Who is a foolish individual?



From time to time I visit the youth correctional centre by request and meet several inmates who are interested in Buddhism. Talking with and listening to them I often have the impression that people in the West look at Buddhism as a teaching of practice, to practise meditation and cultivate their wisdom and thereby approach enlightenment to become a Buddha. They think that they will be able to find true wisdom and compassion in and by themselves and become better or wiser persons than others. This is fine. But this is only one way of trying to understand Buddhism.

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism revealed by Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) and other prominent Buddhist priests, however, is the teaching not to become a better person or wiser person above others but rather to be aware of a foolish self, to become a humble person with no pretention of being good or wise in the true light of the Buddha Dharma.

In our life, we get knowledge, education, position, wealth, reputation, perhaps some kind of title. Then, we misunderstand that that is our true self. But it is not the true self. It is just acquired self, the self that is covered by decorations and accessories after our birth.

Master Shinran quoted the words of his teacher Master Honen (1133-1212) and said: "Persons of our teaching will be born in Buddha's realm by being aware of their foolish selves" although Master Honen was respected and admired by many priests in those days as "Chie Daiichi" (Number One in wisdom). Furthermore, Master Shinran called himself "gutoku" meaning a stubble-headed foolish priest, one hopeless of becoming a Buddha by his practices. Contrary to his words, he himself was admired by his followers for his humility and tranquil mind.

To be aware of his or her foolish self of egocentricity and blind passions means to meet Buddha's light, and become truly open and strong. True awareness of our foolishness in Jodo Shinshu is due to the working of Buddha's light of wisdom. Without the working of Buddha's light, how are we able to see and recognize our true nature of foolishness? Those who are aware of their own foolishness and thereby become truly humble are not separated from the light of the Buddha, compassionate working of the Buddha who tries to liberate such foolish beings to enlightenment. Embraced by the Buddha's compassion in which they find their true self, spontaneously, they find everlasting joy and peace and with true sense of gratitude.

Master Shinran found and brought for us the essence of Buddhism; boundless compassion and the great vow which is working as Amida Buddha and nurturing us beyond time and place.

Namo Amida Butsu.

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

智慧と慈悲

先日、お寺参りもなかなか出来ないお年寄りの方々を訪れました。「もう運転も出来なくなりました。目も悪くなって、うっかり外に出ますと危ないのでお寺にもご無沙汰です。仏様にも忘れられてしまいますね」と淋しそうに言われました。「まあ、私たちが忘れることはあっても、仏様は忘れることはないでしょう。お大事にして下さい」と言って失礼しました。帰り道、私はフット仏様の働きのことを思いました。

私たちは、ともすると仏様を単なる形として、仏像として仰いでいることがあります。そして、それに向かって、お願いしたり、祈ったりするのです。しかし仏様とは「働き」なのです。智慧と慈悲の働きが形として具体化され、私たちのために、仏様の方から来ていて下さるのです。そのような働きを仏様と呼んでいるのです。仏様は、智慧がないために、「むさぼり」の心を起こしたり、思い通に行かないと「怒ったり」、生の依るところも知らず、死の帰するところも知らない私たちを心配して来ていて下さっているのです。健康を誇る人たちも、やがて手足が動かなくなるのです。つかんだものも手放さねばならない時がくるのです。そんなことは知っています、と言ってもいつも他人事(人ごと)です。一刻も早く、いつでも、どこでも「私」を忘れずに、来て働いて下さっているみ仏の智慧と慈悲の世界に目覚めさせて頂き、安心して、力強く生かして頂きたいものです。聴聞を心がけ、仏様の働きにいよいよ耳を傾けていきましょう。合掌 泉

BTSA NOTES

As we begin the shortest month of the year, it's worth repeating that the annual general meeting is close at hand. This reminder is especially urgent since the meeting will be held on March 2, and this will be the last opportunity to publicize it.

In a related article, the official notification of the AGM mentions several important items to consider and to name six board members to two-year terms. We ask all members to join the AGM after the March shotsuki service to participate. If all goes as in past years—and there is no reason it won't—it shouldn't take more than an hour, possibly less.

At the time this Hikari was being put together, a date for a mein-making session had not been set. In anticipation of the spring chow mein supper which is scheduled for April 26, we plan to make mein noodles sometime in March. Please help us prepare for this major fund-raiser once the date is announced. Tickets for the supper will be distributed at the same time.

We will be estimating in February the cost of the food donations we've received for the Lethbridge Food Bank this year. The bin is beginning to fill up, but there's still time to drop off any of the items listed on the bank's website. If you haven't dropped off a package or parcel yet, its receipt will be greatly appreciate.

Unfortunately, the need continues to grow, and any help BTSA can provide will add to the bank's assets. Once the estimate is completed, BTSA will match that amount with a cheque made out to the Food Bank in addition to the donations.

The second annual pet memorial day service will be held with the Nirvana Day service on Feb. 12. Please see an accompanying article describing the service.

BTSA celebrated the new year with its annual party following the Ho-onko service on Jan. 12. Our thanks to Toban 2 for preparing and serving the delicious meal, and thanks to Roland Ikuta who planned the bingo games afterwards. The month wrapped up a movie night which featured an oyako-doburi meal. Please see a report and photos of the event elsewhere in the Hikari. Thanks to Terrie Ikuta and Eiko Aoki who planned the meal and made it a cooking class prior to the sit-down supper.

The board agreed at its meeting to welcome our new northern neighbor that created a buffer between the otera and the casino. The building houses a call centre for the Alberta Motor Association. Izumi sensei and I presented a basket of various treats to the associate office manager to officially welcome our new next-door neighbor. How the landscape has swiftly changed in the five years since BTSA was one of the first occupants besides car dealerships

and the casino, bespeaking the concept of change so central to the Buddhadharmā.

Please be reminded that a set of BTSA board meeting minutes is available in the library and open to members wishing to peruse it.

Akira Ichikawa



Joya-no-Kane

IZUMI SENSEI presided at the Joya-no-Kane ceremony on the last night of 2013 where close to 60 persons turned out for the event co-sponsored by the BTSA and the Nikka Yuko Garden Society. It marked a milestone 10th anniversary since the bell-ringing at the Garden was inaugurated. Following a brief service before a portable obutsudan, the participants took turns striking the bell. Buddhist lore has it that the bell should be struck 108 times, symbolic of the number of imperfections humans have.

Annual General Meeting – March 2

Notice of the BTSA 2014 Annual General Meeting – Please regard this as official notification that the 2014 AGM is scheduled for March 2, 2014, following the monthly memorial service. The BTSA by-law requires at least 15 days written notice prior to the date of the annual general meeting, with a notice in the Hikari constituting official notification.

As we approach another temple AGM, members are encouraged to stand for a board position for a two-year term. Under the staggered term system, six positions will have to be filled.

The board holds 11 monthly meetings (none in August) and looks after temple governance. The meetings rarely exceed two hours. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to set policy and look after important issues of the temple's wellbeing.

The AGM also will be asked to review: (1) a decision from the 2013 AGM to stop the burning of incense, with some exceptions, for a year; and (2) the one-year suspension of hospital visitations by temple representatives. It also will be asked to decide a board recommendation that regular services be suspended beginning the first Sunday after Obon in July through August and they be resumed on the first Sunday in September.

Financial and committee reports also will be circulated and presented. Other matters pertaining to temple matters will be invited from the floor.

CHAIR SCHEDULE Feb & Mar 2014

Feb 02 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Feb 09

Chair: Jack Nagai
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Feb 16

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Feb 23

Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Tak Okamura

Mar 02 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Val Boras
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Mar 09

Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Mar 16 OHIGAN

Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Mar 23

Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Mar 30

Chair: Deanna Jones
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.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Do Buddhists highlight certain years to hold anniversary memorials?

Yes, we do. Please refer to the following:

Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌法要
Year of Death / Anniversary Memorial
(死亡年)

2013..... First annual memorial - 1 year from death
2012... 3rd anniversary memorial - 2 full years from death
2008... 7th anniversary memorial - 6 full years from death
2002... 13th anniversary memorial - 12 full years from death
1998... 17th anniversary memorial - 16 full years from death
1990... 25th anniversary memorial - 24 full years from death
1982... 33rd anniversary memorial - 32 full years from death
1965... 50th anniversary memorial - 49 full years from death

A memorial service marking the death of the deceased not only calls for the adornment of the shrine and the reading of the sutra but also is a precious occasion for recalling the cherished memories of the beloved and, most of all, to listen to and realize the everlasting working of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. We are encouraged to hold these anniversary memorial services either at home or temple.

The BTSA also observes a monthly memorial service on the first Sunday of every month in memory of those people whose date of death falls in that month.

TOBAN UPDATE

Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

Toban 2014 Schedule

Toban 3 is up for February. Thanks to Sachi Scharf who is coordinating the schedule for those who have e-mail.

Mar. Toban 4	Apr. Toban 3
May Toban 4	June Toban 2
July Toban 4	Aug. Toban 3
Sept. Toban 2	Oct. Toban 4
Nov. Toban 3	Dec. Toban 2

Appreciation to **Toban 2** for January tea, cleaning and the delicious Hoonko/New Year's supper.

Soup Kitchen

Thanks to Lilly Oishi for coordinating and all volunteers helping at the January lunch.
Wed., Feb. 05 - Toban 4
Wed., Mar. 19 - Toban 2
Tues., Apr. 22 - Toban 3

Reminder: Please reserve room use with Fudge Takeda before marking your reservation in the foyer calendar.



SOUP KITCHEN duties on Jan. 22 were handled by BTSA. Seated, from left, Sam Taniguchi, Yasuo Izumi sensei, Tad Sakaguchi and Sachi Izumi. Backrow, from left, Reiko Takeyasu, Lilly Oishi, Jan Okamura, Marge Fujita, Sachi Scharf, Robbie Scharf, Akira Ichikawa and Katie Nakagawa. Missing is Lorita Ichikawa. Here, the workers were taking a coffee break after preparing soup and sandwiches. More than 70 persons were served lunch.

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 BSA 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!

Memberships to Jan 20, 2014: 45

Ho-onko Donations January 2014

Eiko Aoki	Tom & Lily Kaga	Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
Roy Asato	Sadae Kanegawa	Ken Ohno
John & Donna Dubbelboer	Hiroshi Kitagawa	May Ohno
Judy Fukushima	Don Matsuda	Heidi Oishi
Dorene Gordon	Kinuko Matsuno	Lilly Oishi
Chiduka Hamabata	Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno	Sheila Oishi
Shinako (Sheila) Higa	William T & Setsuko Nagai	Sut & Neva Oishi
Shirley Higa	Jim Nakagawa	Tak & Jan Okamura
Neil Hinatsu	Shig & Katie Nakagawa	Yumiko Osaka
Marie Hirashima	Teiji Nakamura	Roy & Pat Sassa
Jim Hironaka	May Nishikawa	Florence Senda
Tomi Hisaoka	Sway & Toshiko Nishimura	Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki	Mac & Reyko Nishiyama	Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa	Mitsuko Oga	Joyce Shigehiro
Susumu & Teruko Ikuta	Noriko Oga	& Trevor Van Sluys
Sue S Kado	Kimiko Ohno	Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro

Toshino Shigemi
Tomiko Shono
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Reiko Takeyasu
Tomiko Takeyasu
Masaye Tanaka
Bob & Shirley Taniguchi
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Jean H. Tatebe
Bill & June Terakita
George Tokuda
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Jim Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima

Total - \$5,040

Shotsuki Donations January 2014

Judy Fukushima
Chiduka Hamabata
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Marie Hirashima
Tomi Hisaoka
Kenneth Ito
Molly H. Ito
Sue S Kado
Hiroshi Kitagawa
John & Jean Miyanaga
Mark & Tamara Miyanaga
Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
Thomas & Mariko Mura
Jack & Rie Nagai
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
May Ohno
Randy Ohno

Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Lilly Oishi
Tod & Hollis Pickerell
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Miyo Sunada
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Jim & Irene Tanaka
Jean H. Tatebe
Raymond & Sue Thibodeau
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total - \$1,320

Other Donations January 2014

Tokio Hori
Rumiko Ibuki
Lily Y Kamachi
John & Alice Kanashiro
Eileen Kunimoto
Carolyn & Ken MacDonald
Lilly Oishi
Barbara Takeda
Bill Teshima
Tonarigumi Lethbridge & District Japanese Senior Citizen Drop in Centre
Keiko Kay Tsukishima

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.

2013 Tax Receipts

In compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency requirements, tax receipts for the year 2013 will be mailed out before the end of February, 2014. Thank you for your generous donations throughout the past year.

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katie@shaw.ca

Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays, 12-3pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays, 6:30 pm (Youth) & 7 pm (Adults)

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

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays, 1pm

PROGRAMS

Minyo Dance Practice

Sr. Minyo: Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6pm, Feb. 11 & 25, Mar. 4, 11 & 18

Jr. Minyo: Sundays after service, Feb. 2, Mar. 9 & 23

EXTRA PRACTICE: Both groups, Feb. 9 @ 12:30pm

Contact: Pat Sassa

Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group

Meets the 3rd Sunday monthly after Tea

Contact: Totsy Nishimura 403.752.3435 or swayn@telusplanet.net

Gentle Yoga for Seniors and Aiki Breathing will be offered in spring 2014

Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

Dharma Study

Sunday, Feb 8, 9am to 11:30

Introduction to Buddhism

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

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

Mrs. Kimiyo Furukawa (92) Jan 11, 2014

Temple Bookings

Before announcing in the Hikari calendar, please schedule all activities, including Toban meetings, events and food preparation with Fudge Takeda at 403-394-9789.

2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention Information-Sharing Meeting

When? Sunday, Feb. 2nd after monthly memorial service

Where? Multi-purpose room while we enjoy refreshments

Items of discussion: Registration, fees, transportation, hotel accommodations, deadline dates, etc.

For whom? Temple members

We anticipate your participation in this wonderful event in 2015.

- From the BTSA Convention Committee

2014 Obon Schedule and Cemetery Visitations

To help prepare for the summer and to plan family reunions and get-togethers, please note the schedule for the coming Obon season.

Watch for a schedule of bon odori practices at the temple, beginning in June.

July 6	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 13	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 19	6 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 20	1 pm	Mountain View Cemetery visitation
	2:30 pm	BTSA Obon Service at the temple
July 26	1:30 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation & Obon gathering

(Please note, the Taber visitation is on a Saturday to accommodate sensei's travel schedule as guest Obon speaker in Concord and Oakland, CA. All other cemetery visitations are on Sundays.)

Spring Chow Mein Supper

The spring chow mein supper has been set for April 26, with Judy Takaguchi again agreeing to head this demanding task. A mein-making session—date to be determined—will be held in advance of the supper. As in the past, we look forward to all members pitching in to undertake this major fund-raiser. More details will be forthcoming, including distribution of tickets.

PET MEMORIAL /NIRVANA DAY SERVICE – FEB 9

The second annual pet memorial service, in conjunction with the Nirvana Day service, will be held February 9, at 10:30 a.m. during the regular Sunday service. Everyone is invited to bring photos of their pets - deceased or living, sad or smiling - to pay tribute and express gratitude for all the joy and unconditional love they give.

The photos will be displayed on the homyo stand on the najjin.



New Year's Party & Bingo JAN 12



Dinner & Movie Night JAN 25

80 people were in attendance Saturday night to enjoy a meal of Oyako Donburi. \$1,040.05 was raised for relief efforts toward the Philippines. Thank you to Roland and Brenda Ikuta for food donations and overseeing the event. Thank you to Terrie Ikuta and Eiko Aoki for the recipe and cooking lessons, and to kitchen organizer, Sheila Oishi. Thank you to the kitchen volunteers, and those that came out and donated.





RECIPE Oyako Donburi (“Parent-Child”)

Family of 5 people

6 extra large eggs
 2 medium yellow onions
 4 boneless skinless chicken thighs
 1 small chicken breast

5 Tbsp mirin
 4 Tbsp shoyu
 2 Tbsp sake
 1 ½ Tbsp sugar
 ¼ - ½ tsp salt
 2 C dashi (1/2 Tbsp dashi-no-moto for 2 cups water)

1/2 bunch green onion

*½ cup of uncooked rice per person

*for some kick try shichimi sprinkled on top (to taste)

1. Slice chicken diagonally into 1" pieces.
2. Cut onion in half lengthwise; then slice lengthwise into ¼ " thick slices.
3. Slice green onion diagonally.
4. In a large frying pan, add Mirin and Sake and bring to a boil over medium high heat.
5. Add soy sauce, dashi and sugar and bring to a boil again.
6. Add onion in a single layer; bring to a boil; cook for 2 minutes.
7. Place chicken on top of the onion; cover and bring to a boil
8. Skim off the scum and fat and cook over medium heat for about 10 min.
9. Slowly and evenly drizzle beaten egg over the chicken and onion; cook covered until the egg is done.
10. Add the green onion right before turning off the heat
11. Pour the chicken and egg on top of steamed rice and pour desired amount of sauce on top.

Schedule 光 February & March 2014

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。

FEBRUARY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
10:30am Shotsuki Service Jr. Minyo 2	3	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 4	1:30pm Karaoke 5	6	7	9am Dharma Study Introduction to Buddhism 8
10:30am Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service 12:30pm Sr. & Jr. Minyo 9	10	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko 11	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 12	13	14	15
10:30am Regular Service 16	17	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 18	1:30pm Karaoke 19	20	21	22
10:30am Regular Service 23	24	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko 25	1:30pm Karaoke 26	27	28	

MARCH: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki Service 2	3	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko 4	5	6	7	1 8
10:30am Regular Service Jr. Minyo 9	10	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko 11	1pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 12	13	14	15
10:30am Spring Equinox Ohigan Service 16	17	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Sr. Minyo 6:30/7pm Taiko 18	1pm Karaoke 19	20	21	22
10:30am Eshinni and Kakushinni Memorial Service Jr. Minyo 23	24	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 25	1pm Karaoke 26	27	28	29
10:30am Regular Service 30	31					