## **BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

# HikaritheLight

# New Year's Greeting "Immeasurable Light and Life."



At the beginning of the year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hongwanji, Kyoto.

While awaiting the Seven hundred fiftieth Memorial for Shinran Shonin which will commence next year here at Hongwanji, we are in our final year of preparations. The restoration of the Founder's Hall was completed last year and many other facilities in the Hongwanji precinct have also been newly built or restored.

光寿無量

年頭の辞

新しい年の初めにあたり、京都の本願寺よりご挨拶申しあげます。 本願寺では親鸞聖人の750回大遠忌法要を明年にひかえ、準備の最終年となりま した。御影堂の修復が昨年完了したのを始め、境内白洲はほぼ整備が終わりました。 大遠忌法要は南米開教区では2007年に、ハワイ開教区では2009年に勤まり、 北米開教区では今年春、お勤めされます。750年前の海を隔てた遠い国の親鸞聖人 ととらえると、身近に感じ難いかもしれませんが、私が、今、此処で本当に生きる道 を開いてくださった方として仰ぐとき、時間空間の隔たりは問題になりません。

経済が発展し、科学技術が進歩した今日、つい、私たち人間も進歩したかのように 考えてしまいます。しかし、三毒と呼ばれる貪欲・瞋恚・愚痴の三つを抱えた私の姿 は、昔の人と変わりません。世の中が変わった分だけ、私が抱える三毒の影響力も大 きくなりました。経済活動のグローバル化は、生活の格差を広げ、富や力を一部の人々 に集め、他方に生存を脅かす貧困問題を引き起こしました。一人ひとりが我が身のあ りさまをしっかり見つめ、節度ある生き方や社会のあり方を築きたいと思います。私 たちが助け合い、支え合うためには、自らのいのちを省みると共に、他の人々の声を 聞く必要があります。そこでは阿弥陀如来のお慈悲に包まれ支えられた私である、自 他共に凡夫であるという自覚が元になるでしょう。

今年も、お念仏申して、一時ひとときの大切さを忘れず、過ごさせていただきましょう。

2010年1月1日

净土真宗本願寺派門 主 大 谷 光 真

BTSA Minister: REV. YASUO IZUMI 403.382.7024 • yasuo123@telus.net 470 - 40th Street South Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5 403.327.1260 fax 403.327.7587 www.theBTSA.com Shinran Shonin's Memorial was observed in the South America District in 2007 and in the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in 2009, and will be conducted in the Buddhist Churches of America this coming spring. If you were to think of Shinran Shonin merely as someone who lived seven hundred fifty years ago in a distant, faraway country on the other side of the ocean, it may be difficult to feel close to him. However, if you look up to him as the person who shows us the way to truly live our lives here and now, the difference of time and space does not matter.

As economics continue to develop and scientific technology advances in today's world, we human beings are likely to think that we are progressing in the same accord. However, since humans all possess the so called "three poisons"-greed, anger and ignorance-we are no different than the people of the past. Moreover, as the world and society change, the influence of our three poisons has become even greater. Globalization of economics has widened the gap in the standard of living between rich and poor, and concentrated affluence and power to a limited number of people, while on the other hand it has caused poverty issues that threaten the lives of people. Each of us must come to see clearly our own true selves and work toward building a moderate way of living and society as it should be. In order to realize mutual support and cooperation among ourselves, we need to listen to other people's opinions as well as reflect upon our own lives. This must be done on the awareness that each one of us, including myself, is a foolish, ordinary being who is embraced and supported by the compassion of Amida Tathagata.

Let us say the Nembutsu and cherish every single day, reflecting on the importance of each moment.

January 1, 2010

Optanie Koshin

OHTANI Koshin Monshu Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



# **Standing Buddha**

Seeing the sentient beings of the nembutsu Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in the ten quarters, The Buddha grasps and never abandons them, And therefore is named "Amida". — Shinran Shonin

#### Some 35 high-school students

recently came with their teacher to visit our temple. As usual, I introduced them to what we are doing every Sunday at our temple. After responding to some questions from them, I asked if they had ever seen a statue of standing Buddha before, pointing at the main object of reverence at our shrine. As I expected, they replied that they had never seen a standing Buddha before. I asked this question because I have no recollection myself of having encountered a statue of a standing Buddha before, at least in this area. I often see a sitting Buddha made of wood, stone or metal at the local gift shops or craft stores but not the one standing.

I have often wondered why I do not see the standing Buddha here in the western country. I have come to realize why this is. Many people, in the west in particular, believe that there is only one Buddha, a historical one who was born in northern part of India (in contemporary Nepal) nearly 2500 years ago and attained enlightenment through meditation at the age of 35.

However, a true Buddha is enlightenment in action. The true Buddha or enlightenment is not static but always active and we call this Buddha "Amida Buddha". Amida Buddha is the Buddha of boundless, limitless and unconditional compassion coming out of true wisdom of oneness. Those who entrust themselves to the great compassion of Amida Buddha are called nembutsu followers. For them, the Buddha must be a standing Buddha. Just imagine a mother and her toddler. One sunny day the mother is knitting something at her front yard and the toddler is playing beside her. Imagine that the toddler suddenly starts to come closer to the street. Of course, it is natural that the mother cannot stay still but must stand up to rescue and grab her child. Like this, true wisdom naturally manifests itself in the form of compassion to liberate us, all sentient beings in delusion and suffering. The sitting Buddha represents wisdom and a standing Buddha compassion. The former represents enlightenment and the latter enlightenment in action.

Among Buddhist schools, Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land Way) revealed by Venerable Master Shinran (1173-1263) often talks about the Buddha of compassion who is constantly and always working and moving into our life and hearts and minds to awaken us to the realm of enlightenment which is true and real. In one of his poems Shinran wrote with joy and appreciation:

Seeing the sentient beings of the nembutsu Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in the ten quarters, The Buddha grasps and never abandons them, And therefore is named "Amida".

The standing Buddha of Amida appears for us and becomes one with us whose eyes are blocked by blind passions to see the Buddha /enlightenment. How wonderful it is!

In Gassho, Yasuo Izumi, Minister-Kaikyoshi

#### 立ち姿の仏様

本堂に入りますと、仏様の立ち姿が目 に留まります。私たちのみ教え(浄土 真宗)では、仏様はいつも立っておら れます。仏様が座っておられると、私 たちが近づいていかねばなりません。 仏様の立ち姿は、仏様が私たちに近 づいていて下さる、ということを表わ しているのです。そうです。立ち姿の 仏様は、慈悲の姿なのです。慈悲の「 該 は苦しみを抜く、ということ。「悲 」 は安らぎを与える、ということです。世 の中は、自分の思い通りに行かないこ とがいろいろとあります。しかし、その 原因をたどれば、結局、「自分の思い 通りにしたい」ということにあるよう です。地位を得たい、名誉がほしい。 そして、地位や、名誉が手に入りだす と、お金がほしい、敬われたい、とな ります。欲に限りがありませんから、 いつになっても、自分の思い通りには なりません。そして苦しみます。 人間 の苦しみに寄り添って、人間の愚か さを知らしめて下さるのが、仏様(真 実)の働きです。光が闇を知らせて下 さるのです。私たちは、立ち姿の仏様 の働き(慈悲)によって、はじめて、仏 道を歩むことが出来るのです。合掌 泉

Happy New Year to all members and friends! Rev. & Mrs. Y. Izumi

**皆様、明けましておめでとうございます。** 泉康雄、早智

## **BTSA NOTES**

Happy New Year to all. As we begin a new year and all the challenges it brings, we're reminded that past is prologue and look back at an auspicious and significant 2009. We occupied the new temple and held our first service on Jan. 18, appropriately a week before Ho-onko, and marked a milestone in the fledgling BTSA.

A board led by David Major, who worked tirelessly to guide and nurture the new BTSA established in December, 2006, received encouragement from a supportive sangha from its founding and throughout the past year. The formal opening and dedication service in April invigorated the Jodo Shinshu movement in southern Alberta, and by year's end all former temples in the area combined to assure the movement's future. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to many Dharma friends and associates who donated generously from throughout Canada, the United States and Japan.

One of the last events of 2009 came in the middle of the season's first major snowfall that threatened its cancellation. Despite blizzard conditions, hearty members braved the snow and wind to prepare sushi for the first Bodhi Day Bake and Craft Sale on Dec. 5. Other members made their way through the storm to deliver donations they had prepared. Fearing cancellation would disappoint those who might ignore the inclement weather to attend, we proceeded and were delighted with the volunteer turnout of more than 40 members and an equally strong response from the public. Thanks to co-chairs Brenda Ikuta and Debbie Friesen and everyone who assisted in the sale.

Thanks also to all the members who worked in various and numerous ways throughout the year for the temple's welfare. A search of other temples' newsletters on the internet disclosed the following gem from a friend of the Dharma: "Toban not only means 'my turn' but 'my chance' to show my appreciation to all the men and women whose monetary donations and hard work resulted in this beautiful place, our Temple, to hear the Dharma." How applicable this is to our own membership and temple.

The New Year's Day service signals a time to rededicate ourselves to understand the Buddhadharma. Please remember we will be observing on Jan. 10 one of the three most important Jodo Shinshu memorials, Ho-onko that commemorates the death of the founder, Shinran. This will be combined with the monthly memorial service for January and followed by a potluck new year's party. The following Saturday (Jan. 16) is set for the townhall meeting to discuss membership. Please attend both events.

At the Dec. 9 meeting, the BTSA board:

• awarded to Roest Acoustics a contract to install at a proposed cost of \$5,390 plus GST acoustic panels in the multipurpose

room to improve sound quality. Roest is donating \$1,500 to reduce the cost to \$3,890 plus GST.

• agreed to have Wesbridge/Air Tech install motorized dampers at a cost of \$1,878.00 plus GST for each of the two outside air ducts in the Dharma classroom.

• acknowledged with thanks a recent donation of \$44,067.25 from the former Taber Buddhist Temple.

• thanked Todd Imahashi for his donation of a laptop computer dedicated to heating/cooling data for the temple.

• scheduled the BTSA annual general meeting for March 7, following the monthly memorial service that day.

As noted previously, a copy of board minutes and accompanying reports are available at the temple for perusal by interested members.

Akira Ichikawa

# **TOBAN UPDATE**

<b>Toban Rotation</b>	Schedule
January	Toban 2
February	Toban 3

The highlight of December was the 1st annual Bodhi Day Bake Sale on December 5th. Bodhi Day, traditionally celebrated December 8, commemorates the day Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, experienced enlightenment while meditating under a Bodhi tree.

Thank you to co-chairs Brenda Ikuta and Debbie Friesen for planning and organizing this successful event (despite inclement weather), Thanks to Lilly Oishi for heading up the manju and sushi making. None of this could have happened without the dedicated volunteers, working from dawn 'til dusk through blizzard conditions. Thanks to Pat Sassa for organizing the work bees and craft sale and to all those who created and donated their work. And thank you to all who braved the weather to drop off the wonderful baking items.

Also in December, Toban 1 prepared and served the lunch for the funeral of Roy Takeda. Thank you to those who came out to help Toban 1 with the end of the month temple cleaning on December 21st.

Toban 2 will coordinate a Potluck Supper as part of the New Year's celebration following the Joint Hoonko/Shotsuki Service on January 10 at 2 p.m.

#### Soup Kitchen Schedule for 2010

Monday	March 22
Wednesday	April 7
Tuesday	June 22
Wednesday	July 21

#### **Memorial Donations**

Nov 25 - Dec 24, 2009

Dick Adachi John & Rita Aoki Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa Gordon & Brenda Boras Choju Kai Floyd & Yoko Gillies Keiko Hamatani Toshiko Hase Shirley Hashizume Yosh & Lois Hattori Shirley Higa Hideo & June Hinatsu Janet Hinatsu Marie Hirashima Tomi Hisaoka Violet Horii Jim & Linda Hubbell Rumiko Ibuki Akira & Lorita Ichikawa Yoshiye Ikebuchi Ayako Imahashi Fumi Inaba Frank & Dimples Inaba Robert & Anne Janzen Bert Kaga Tom & Lilly Kaga John & Alice Kanashiro Sadae Kanegawa Joe & June Kanomata Eleanor Katakami Timothy Katakami Isamu & Sharon Kawade T. Kawamoto Sachiko Kishimoto Sue Kitagawa Ted & Sue Koyata Setsuko Kunimoto Ken & Amy Kurio Lethbridge Karaoke Club Ron & Lois Malony Katove Maruno Yas Maruyama Kay Matsuda May Matsumiya Toshi Miyanaga Joyce Miyashita Kiyoshi & Marion Mori Betty Morivama Kiyo & Kay Moriyama Ken & Vicki Nakagama Shiq & Katie Nakagawa Greg & Maureen Nakamura Teiji Nakamura Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru

Yoshio & Setsuko Nishiguchi Sway & Totsy Nishimura Mac & Reyko Nishiyama Janice Noji Fay & Sandy Oakes Noriko Oga Tak & Jean Oga Sonny Ohama Ken & Bonnie Ohashi Alice Ohashi Frank & Kimi Ohno Kaz & Setsuko Ohno Trickey Oikawa Kimio Oikawa Hideko Oishi Setsuko Okuma Yumiko Osaka Gerald Price Tad & Chieko Sakaguchi Shig Sakamoto Jiro & May Sasaki Roy & Pat Sassa Natsuko Sawada Florence Senda Takaaki & Hajime Shigemi Toshino Shiqemi Howie & Sharon Shikaze Yoshiye Shirakawa Nobuko & Mary Shono Tomiko Shono Fumi Sugimoto Hideko Tajiri June Tajiri Rick & Dyann Tajiri Kaz Takaguchi J.H. & May Takahashi Shin & Hisako Takahashi Fumi Takaki Fumi Tamaqi Eichi & Betty Tanaka Toshiko Tanaka Bob & Shirley Taniquchi Sam & Betty Taniguchi Masae Taniwa Amy & Masami Tashiro Joe & Jean Tatebe Tami Terakita Bill Teshima Teruko Tokitsu Joe & Sumi Tomiyama Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu Tak & Yoko Tsujita Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima Yukio & Katsuko Uchimura Brian & Susan Van Uden Mrs S. Yamaqishi Ken & Ruby Yamamoto

Total - \$4,850.00



BRONZE \$1,000 to \$2,499

PLATINUM \$10,000 to \$17,499

**BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA** 

Name
Company
Address
City
Province/State Postal/Zip Code
Phone
Email
TOTAL CONTRIBUTION
I wish for my pledge to remain confidential
Monthly Instalments of \$ for years
Yearly instalments of \$ for years
One-time Donation of \$
Notation (eg. In memory of)
Signature
Date

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta c/o Robert Takaguchi, Treasurer Box 1249 • Raymond, AB TOK 2S0

**Building Fund Donations** 

December 2009

Bronze Stan & Lucy Yoshioka in memory of Roy & Amy Muraki

# Reflections on the Bodhi Day Bake and Craft Sale

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped in the days before the bake and craft sale to prepare the mein noodles and manju; to the dedicated committee members for their wonderful ideas and assistance in organizing the event; and to those who were able to make it out of their driveways to help with the sushi and manju making, to bring their donations, to volunteer their time at the sale or to pick up people who were stuck in their homes. 61 centimeters of snowfall December 5th weekend put a huge obstacle in what was supposed to be a quick, fun, easy fundraiser.

The phone calls began at 5:30 am as the first volunteers woke up and noticed 3 feet of snow in front of their garage doors. Questions about whether we should cancel the sale flew back and forth across the telephone lines. Concerned about how we would contact all those unknown donors and customers... and what about all that sushi rice that was soaking overnight... we decided to forge ahead. For all we knew, the weather would clear up by sale time. I worried for the health of our volunteers. With a heavy heart and serious doubts, we set our truck on four wheel drive and made our way to the temple.



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





L: Every second Sunday of the month Sensei gives a Dharma talk to the kids. R: The Dharma class posing in front of the Bodhi tree they decorated.

Thank you to Pat Sassa for volunteering to read to the Dharma class. Please come again!



Thinking we would be some of the first to reach the temple... after all, we were 3 of the youngest volunteers... imagine our surprise to see a dozen vehicles parked around the temple, Two seniors were entering the temple ahead of us, bundled up against the blowing snow, their arms full of bake sale contributions. Although it was still dark, the kitchen was bright with light, noise, action, stations set up, men and women working industriously. I was embarrassed that so many got there before me.

As the morning unfolded, I witnessed the amazing adaptability of our congregation. Key cooks couldn't make it out of their driveway. No problem, did they need a ride? In the mean time, the void was filled with volunteers that weren't scheduled but thought we might need some help on such a morning. How did those sidewalks get shoveled before the snow clearing company arrived? I didn't have that job in my volunteer plan. The weather blustered outside, chatter and laughter and industrious energy continued inside.

Phone calls were taken throughout the morning: was the sale still on? Was there a line up yet? I don't think I can make it, I've been shoveling all morning and I still can't get out of my driveway! Volunteers were shuffled, procedures changed, set-up altered. Throughout the reorganizing I was supported by calm smiles, conversation, reliability, capability, adaptability, helpful suggestions, quiet finding and fixing unidentified holes in my plan.

And what would we do without the customers? Some still came early, expecting the customary line up and mad rush for the specialty items. Some called chauffeurs because they "felt so badly for the organizers". Some left the building with numerous boxes of goodies for their staff and friends. Cash was flowing slow and steady for the most part. The sushi and manju piles slowly receded to an acceptable residual pile of boxes. As we prepared to close up, the cleaning was done quickly and without fuss. How much did we make in the end? Much less than the last bake sale but we were surprised at the net income... especially with our half price sales following Shotsuki service the next day. Our total income was \$6,694 and with the majority of expenses submitted, the net profit was \$5,774.92

Would I have had it any other way? Yes. I wanted a sunny, clear day with a hall full of frenzied shoppers jostling for the last 5 bags of mein noodles at 2:30 and snapping up those cakes and pies at the prices that we set. I wanted piles of money in the cashboxes and the taste of a successful fundraiser under my belt. Far from this ideal. I came away with a deep gratitude for the resilience and fortitude of this wonderful group of people. I was buoyed by their quiet and capable support and I sincerely hope that my eyes and heart were truly open to their example.

In gassho, Brenda Ikuta

## January & February 2010 Schedule

#### JANUARY

•/ •• • •		
<b>01</b> FRI	<b>10:30</b> am	New Year's Day Service (修正会)
<b>03</b> SUN	No Service	
<b>10</b> SUN	<b>2:00</b> pm	Hoon-ko with *Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service
		(報恩講。祥月法要). New Year's Potluck Party (新年会)
<b>16</b> SAT	<b>1:00</b> pm	Town Hall Meeting about Membership
<b>17</b> SUN	<b>9:40</b> am	Chanting (Shoshinge)**
	<b>10:30</b> am	Regular Service Monthly Toban Leaders Meeting after Service/Tea.
		Everyone welcome!
<b>23</b> SAT		The Choir has been invited to sing for the Southern Alberta New Japanese Immigrant Association (SANJIA) New Year's Party at the Coast Hotel.
<b>24</b> SUN	<b>9:40</b> am 10:30am	Chanting (Shoshinge)** Regular Service
<b>31</b> SUN	<b>9:40</b> am 10:30am	Chanting (Shoshinge)** Regular Service

#### **FEBRUARY**

<b>07</b> SUN	<b>10:30</b> am	*Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service (祥月法要)
14 SUN	<b>9:40</b> am	Chanting (Shoshinge)**
	<b>10:30</b> am	Nirvana Day Service
<b>21</b> SUN	<b>9:40</b> am	Chanting (Shoshinge)**
	<b>10:30</b> am	Regular Service
<b>28</b> SAT	<b>9:40</b> am	Chanting (Shoshinge)**
	<b>10:30</b> am	Regular Service

\*Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one on Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service date.

\*\*Chanting will last 30 minutes. Everyone welcome!

Any questions or requests? Please contact your minister (403)382-7024

#### PROGRAMS open to the community

**Gentle Yoga for Seniors** with Val Kunimoto runs January 12 – March 9 (no class Feb. 16) for eight sessions. Suggested donation is \$40 for BTSA members and \$50 for nonmembers.

#### **Cooking Club**

We hope to get a Japanese Cooking Club going in the new year. It will likely run Saturdays with approximately six participants per class to start. If you are interested in learning or would like to provide instruction, please contact Pat Sassa at 403.329.3105 or sas7@telus.net. Details to follow.

#### Naikan: An Approach to Self-Reflection

is a gentle way of reflecting on one's life, one's relationships with others and our impact on the world around us. Using a journal writing ap-

proach, participants will be guided through a simple yet profound way of self-reflection. Each session will include introductory information, brief meditation and discussion. If there is class interest, other methods of self-reflection will be explored. Saturdays March 6 – April 24 for eight sessions 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$40. For further information or to register, contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403.327.1668

#### **REGULAR EVENTS**

#### \*Study/Discussion Group

Sundays after morning service and tea. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi

#### Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Practices will commence January 7. Thursdays 7 – 9 pm Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katienak@shaw.ca

**Tonarigumi** Tuesdays 12 - 3pm

#### Taiko Class Tuesdays

6:30 - 6:55 Kids session (under 10 yrs old) 7:00 - 7:40 Beginners 7:45 - 9:15 Returning members Please contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@eyesguared.com

#### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm All interested are welcome to join or just listen and enjoy.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Obituaries

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

Sachiko Katakami (88) Dec 5, 2009 Eiji "Roy" Takeda (84) Dec 15, 2009 Tomiko Kobayashi (87) Dec 23, 2009

#### Membership Fee is \$100 per person. Let's expand a circle of the Dharma! We appreciate your support!

#### **Temple Scheduling**

Fudge Takeda will be away through Jan. 22, 2010, so if a temple facility needs to be reserved, please contact Akira Ichikawa in her absence. Email him at ichikawa@uleth. ca or call 403-327-1668. Additionally, if any reservation is cancelled, please notify Fudge or Akira.

**Gift Cards** are still available for sale to raise funds for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Women's Federation (WF). When you purchase gift cards, you get the full value of the card and the WF will automatically receive a percentage from the sale of each card. Please contact Donna Dubbelboer at jdubbelboer@shaw.ca with questions or to place your order. More information regarding the over 250 other types of gift cards is also available.

#### Onenju (Ojuzu) For Sale

New Onenju from Japan are available. (\$15 for male onenju. \$18 and \$20 for female onenju)

**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.