

# Hikari the Light



January 2022

## New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,  
It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.  
This self is false and insincere;  
I completely lack a pure mind. (*Hymns of the Dharma-ages*)

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

### 年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年一昨年に引き続き、私たちの生活は新型コロナウイルス感染症(COVID-19)の流行に対応したものとなりました。ここに、新型コロナウイルス感染症によりお亡くなりになられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、罹患されている皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。また、治療・対策にあたられている医師、看護師をはじめとする医療従事者の方々、ライフラインの維持に努めておられる方々に深く敬意と感謝を表します。

この新型コロナウイルス感染症は、私たち一人一人の生活に大きな影響を与えました。それは、同時に社会の問題も浮き彫りにしています。仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、自分自身の考えにとらわれ、真実をみることのできない私たちの姿を指摘されています。私たちが自分の思い通りに行動したら、社会の中に対立や分断を生むことになりま

す。親鸞聖人は、ご和讃に「浄土真宗に帰すれども 真実の心はありがたし 虚仮不実のわが身に 清浄の心もさらになし」とうたわれました。阿弥陀さまのおはたらきによって知らされる私たちの本当の姿は、縁起や無常、無我というこの世界の真実をそのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ姿です。親鸞聖人は、そのような私たちに阿弥陀さまのおはたらきが届いていると明らかにされました。いまだに新型コロナウイルス感染症の収束が見通せない世界ですが、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞き、それを依りどころとして日々の生活を過ごしてまいりましょう。

現在の厳しい状況の中でさまざまな試みを重ねながら、今までとは違った方法で浄土真宗のみ教を広く社会へ伝える取り組みもなされていると聞き、たいへん心強く思います。これからもお寺が皆さまの心の支えとなりますよう、お寺の活動にご理解とご協力を頂きますことをお願い申し上げます、年頭のご挨拶といたします。

2021年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派  
門主 大谷光淳



# Happy New Year to all readers of the *Hikari, The Light*. Thank you for your generous support throughout the year.



We have been able to welcome the new year, 2022. It is not our own power nor our own will by which we will be able to welcome another year. There are many causes and conditions, visible and invisible to bring us to this day, the first day of 2022. This event is not a matter of course (*atarimae*) but it is difficult to come by (*arigatai*). How marvelous it is. We breath in deep and breath

out slowly to say, "Hello 2022!" Even constant breathing is not by our own power. Our heart is always and constantly working beyond our power and our will. We cannot control our heart beating, saying just stop here and there. We can control breathing but not heart beating. Our heart is working every day and each moment beyond our will and beyond our power. Thinking of this, we must become humble. Modern people, however, are getting arrogant and selfish.

Many people think science can do whatever they desire. This is human arrogance and greed. And now, because of our own arrogance, selfishness and greed, there are many problems on this earth such as climate change, nuclear power, over population, pollution, huge gulf between poor and rich, racial discrimination and so on and so forth are rapidly arising. This is a modern sickness we together have created and suffered from it. This is called corrective actions (*karma*) of humanity. We all have responsibility for this and we must solve them together.

However, a fundamental problem and suffering which we all have regardless of time, race or gender is the problem of birth and death, delusion from the time of birth to the time of death.

Shinran Shonin (1173-1263) struggled and tried to solve the problem of birth and death for 20 years. He realized, however, reliance of ego-self was not a solution. Human knowledge and capacity do not solve the problem of birth and death.

Shinran wrote: *The ocean of birth and death, of painful existence, has no bound; / Only by the ship of Amida's universal Vow / Can we, who have long been drowning, / Unfailingly be brought across it.*

Here we rely on Buddha's wisdom which expresses in Amida's Compassionate Vow expressed in *namo amida butsu*. On New Year's Day, we evermore rededicate ourselves to take refuge in Amida's great wisdom and compassion and find true peace and joy.

*Namo Amida Butsu*

Yasuo Izumi, Minister  
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



新年明けましておめでとうございます。2022年も何卒よろしくお願  
い申し上げます。

令和4年（2022年）の新しい年を迎えることが出来ました。数えき  
れない多くの目に見える命、そして目に見えない命の繋がりを通し  
て、新しい年を迎えることが出来ました。考えてみますと、まことに有  
難いことであります。この与えられた命を、また大切に、皆様ととも  
に、一年の計画を立てたいと考えています。

新型コロナウイルスの問題が出てきておりますが、その都度、調  
節をしながら、仏教会活動を続け、法務に専念していきたいと思  
います。

皆様には、健康に留意されながら、いよいよ、共に聞法を続けてい  
きましょう。

「元旦や 命のいづき 新らしや」(康)

合掌 開教使 泉康雄

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403.327.1260 • www.thebtsa.com

# Holiday Season: “Dana” Generosity



As Buddhists, we try to live respecting and admiring the truth and the goodness of people of all religious traditions. So please enjoy the winter holiday season of its many diverse cultural and religious backgrounds! We make a choice of a gift not knowing precisely what is desired by the receiver. In return we will be receiving gifts from others

who do not know exactly what it is that we desire. The important thing to remember is the ‘spirit’ of the season which is to give with no conditions and to have a sense of gratitude and appreciation as the receiver.

What better time is there to practice dana, the Pali word for generosity? Dana is about giving with no attachments or from any thought of receiving anything in return. It is a gift of gratitude and of letting go of the sense of self that feels the need to acquire more and more in our perpetual scavenger hunt for happiness. It is my wish that all the temples in Canada share the Buddhist practice of ‘giving’ with a hope that we can use this joyful time to expand our generous hearts and give to local charities of your choosing..

This is a time when we are able to express our appreciation to so many people who have helped us throughout the whole year. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to your local Sanghas. I would like to express my appreciation to the senseis and temple directors for their dedication in maintaining and keeping our temples vital and moving ever forward. As we enjoy wonderful family time during the festive season, I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and New Year!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki  
Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

## 年末・年始におもう、「布施(ふせ)」のころ

BC州で記録的な豪雨により、各地において洪水や土砂災害が起きています。被害にあわれた方達の安全と各地の速やかな復興を願っています。2021年から2022年を迎えるこの時期、BC災害の災害や、各地にてチャリティー活動が活発になる時期です。仏教徒として大切な「布施の行」の実践をしやすい時期ですね。法話の中で、六波羅蜜(ろくはらみつ)という大乘の菩薩(ぼさつ)が修める6種の行業で「布施」の話が聞かれた、読まれた方も多いかと思います。

仏教には他に「四摂事(ししょうじ)」ということばがあります。あえて、難しく申しますと、菩薩(仏さまになろうとしてその目標に向かって修行する人)が人々を救おう、として行う四つの事、ということです。もう少し簡単にいえば、その菩薩行にならって、私たちが生きていく上での生活目標です。この「四摂事(ししょうじ)」を順番に紹介します。

1. 「布施摂(ふせしょう)」 相手に財や法を施すこと
2. 「愛語摂(あいごしょう)」 相手にやさしいことばで話すこと
3. 「利行摂(りぎょうしょう)」 相手の利益になるようにすること
4. 「同事摂(どうじしょう)」 相手の中に入り、相手の苦楽をともにすること

最後の「同事」というのはあまり聞きなれないかもしれませんが、とても大事なことで現代社会にあっていちばん欠けていることではないか、と感じています。「同事」の反対は「対治(たいじ)」です。あるお医者さんがこのことばに感銘を受けて、ご自身の医学での立場でこの「同事」を説明していました。その先生によると、例えば、末期のガンの方がいるとすれば、「がんばって、あきらめないで」と施療するのが「対治」、そうではなく、「よくがんばったね、もういいよ」と相手の苦しみのなかに自分を入れていく、この方にとっては自分の苦しみをわかってくれる人がいる、というのが何よりも苦しみの和らぎになります、そのことが「同事」です。相手の中に入り、相手の苦楽をともにすること。「同事」ということ、つまり、相手の中に入り、相手の苦楽をともにする、ということ、とても尊いことです。なかなか、簡単には行えませぬ。

どうか皆様も年末のこの時期、出来る範囲でローカルのチャリティー(Foodbank 等)へ直接ご寄付を協力いただきますよう、お願い申し上げます。どうかみなさま、よいお年をお迎えください。

合掌  
カナダ開教区 総長  
青木 龍也

# BTSA Notes from the Board of Directors

Happy New Years to all of the members of the BTSA! We hope this edition of the Hikari finds all to be healthy. As we go through yet another round of restrictions and limitations due to the COVID pandemic it really emphasizes the first Noble Truth that life is full of suffering. Although our gathering numbers remain restricted I hope you managed to get some visits in with family during this holiday season.

At the December board of directors meeting we decided to open up temple services attendance to the limits set by the provincial government. Unfortunately due to the Omicron variant things seem to be worsening. Given the new situation we will suspend in-person services. We will continue to have Shotsuki service live streamed on our YouTube Channel.

On December 31st there will be bell ringing at the Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens at 9 PM. Please note the change in time. If the temperature is below -15 degrees the event will not be held. On Jan. 1st at 10:30 there will be a short New Years day service with limited attendance. On Jan. 9th we will hold a joint Hoonko and Shotsuki memorial service at 10:30 AM. There will be limited attendance and it will be live streamed. We will not be having our New Years celebration party this year.

We were hoping to have regular Sunday services again but the board will make further decisions once we are past this fifth wave.

In other meeting news, we were informed that Izumi sensei has moved from his residence in Coaldale to a house on Lakeview Drive South in Lethbridge. This will help reduce his driving. Thanks to members of the temple who helped with his move in December.

The dishwasher has been replaced with a new unit. The kitchen at the temple should be ready to welcome activities once we are able to serve food again.

There was an issue with the telephone transformer at the temple that has now been replaced. Unfortunately during the time it was not working, telephone and internet service at the temple was interrupted. This was the reason that the December Shotsuki service could not be live streamed.

Finally, the board of directors made a decision to continue the temples annual charitable giving program. Due to concerns around food insecurity in our community we decided to make donations to the two food banks in Lethbridge and to the Victoria Park High School hamper program.

For further updates on the Temple activities in 2022 please check the February Hikari as ongoing decisions are continuing to be affected by the current COVID situation.

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Exploring Buddhism** continues in the new year  
Saturdays, 10:30am  
Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please note Reverend Izumi's new address and phone number:**

1038 Lakeview Dr. So.                      new home #: 403-380-2981  
Lethbridge, AB                              same cell #: 403-382-7024  
T1K 3E8

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Hello!

Please join us on Sunday, February 6th, 2022 at 12pm Pacific; 1pm Mountain; 2pm Central; or 3pm Eastern, for an online presentation on the JSBTC (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) Japan Tour in 2023 hosted by the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement. Everyone is welcome to attend!

The tour will be from May 7-12, 2023 and the occasion is to commemorate Shinran Shonin's 850th Birth Anniversary as well as the Jodo Shinshu 800th Foundation Anniversary Kyosan Hoyo in addition to the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention – all in Kyoto, Japan!

We are honored to have Rev Yoshimichi Ouchi give a brief overview of the service and the convention as well as we are pleased to have Mr. Akihito Takemoto of KINTETSU INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS (CANADA) INC. Toronto Branch, give a presentation regarding travel for the Canadians. For planning purposes, Honwanji/Japan needs to know the number of Canadians who have a strong interest in attending and our deadline is Monday, Feb 21/22. Visit <http://canada.kiecan.com/jsbtc/> for more information on the tour and be aware that some details are still being finalized and are subject to change.

Think about going to Japan over the holidays and plan to attend this informative presentation to help you make your decision and have an opportunity to ask questions about the tour. Your attendance and input will be valued.

**CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL PRESENTATION ON SUNDAY, FEB 6, 2022!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUtd-ihzrgtHde0Ti2FaaC2yfcVwpDh8icf>

In gassho,  
CBT Sangha Engagement

# BTSA Moments to Recall

Following are a few photographs from a BTSA event 10 years ago as part of an occasional Hikari feature.



2012 New Year's Service on January 1st.



Later, on the 15th, *Ho-on-Ko*, followed by reception and *kampai* for the new year.



# 2022 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.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Dec. 20 – 159

**Shotsuki Donations**

December 2021

- Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
- Neil Hinatsu
- Gene and Hilda Horii
- Terry Horii
- Rumiko Ibuki
- Lily Kaga
- Gary E and Beverly S McIlroy
- Shig and Katie Nakagawa
- Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
- Heidi Oishi
- Sut and Neva Oishi
- Darcee Richardson
- Eichi and Betty Tanaka
- Glen and Pamela Tanaka
- Masaye Tanaka
- Bill and June Terakita

**Total - \$1,470.00**

**Other Donations**

December 2021

- CanadaHelps.Org
- Mitsuyo Fujimoto
- Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
- Helen Hikita
- Rumiko Ibuki
- Akira Ichikawa

- Ken or Carolyn MacDonald
- Shane and Etsuyo Nishi
- Sachi Scharf

**Total - \$2,305.60**

**Funeral Donations**

December 2021

- Mitsuyo Fujimoto
- Colleen Kondo
- Eichi and Lido Kondo
- Haruko Ikeda
- Kinuko Matsuno
- Yutaka and Chiyomi Matsuno

- Judy S. Miyauchi
- Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
- Sharon Plante
- Harumi and Michi Takaguchi
- Kazuko Takaguchi
- Robert and Judy Takaguchi

**Total - \$1,030.00**

**Total Donations  
 December - \$4,805.60**



# FOR CHILDREN

There once lived a tiger king on the grassy plains. The tiger was always hungry. One day, he wrote a letter to the head of the woods, an old deer. "I am hungry. Send me your friends, one by one. Otherwise, I will be there and eat them all up."

The head deer and the other animals gathered in the woods. The old deer had an idea and called a small but brave rabbit as a messenger to the tiger. The rabbit went to see the tiger. It was a long journey for the rabbit. Finally, the rabbit arrived near the tiger.

The tiger roared grrrrrow! and asked the rabbit, "Why did you come here?"

"I want to talk to you," said the rabbit.

"I am hungry but you are too small to eat. What do you want to talk about?"

"Our head will send you someone, one by one."

"Well, that is good. But you did not need to come here to tell me this. After all, if nobody comes, I will be there," said the tiger.

"By the way, Mr. Tiger, while I was coming here, I saw a bigger tiger than you and he said he is the king around here," said the rabbit.

"What! I am the biggest tiger here and I am the king. That tiger must be fake. I'll beat him. Take me to him!" said the tiger angrily.

"Yes, I will take you there," said the rabbit and guided the tiger.

On the way, the tiger asked the rabbit, "Where is he?"

"Well, very soon you can see him." As the head deer said, the rabbit took the tiger into the woods and showed him an old well.

"Mr. Tiger, a bigger tiger than you is living in the well."

"Okay, I'll catch him," said the tiger, looking into the well. The tiger saw another tiger who looked just like him. "That's right. There is a fake king there." The tiger roared into the well. A bigger roar came back.

The tiger called out, "You are a fake king. I am the real one."

From inside the well, the other tiger replied, "You are a fake king. I am the real one."

The tiger was so upset and jumped in the well... splash! "Help me!"

This was the old head deer's idea. Then the rabbit, the deer and all of the animals came to pull him out from the well. From then on, the tiger became a friend to all the other animals.

(Y. Izumi)