

Hikari the Light



January 2023

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.

In view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, as Nembutsu followers who have deeply inscribed in our hearts and minds Shinran Shonin's message of "May there be peace in the world," we firmly stand against the military infringement of the other nation's sovereignty, and also aspire for immediate return of peace in Ukraine.

Over the last year, COVID-19 continues to be a global pandemic. 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 other 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.

The pandemic has forced us to learn firsthand that we will continue to be confronted by unexpected situations even in modern times despite technologies both in science and medical fields being highly developed. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear that there is no life nor entity in this world that lasts forever. This truth, the principle of impermanence, has never changed even in this time and age approximately 2500 years since his time. Another fact that does not change is our inability to accept this truth as it is, and because of this, we continue struggling.

This is the very reason why, regardless of the pandemic, we can rely on the Jodo Shinshu teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, which guides us as a spiritual foundation that enables us to move forward even when being overwhelmed with difficulties. A gathering at the temple with Amida Buddha as its center provides a great opportunity to receive the Dharma as well as an occasion in which people can support and reassure one another as fellow practitioners who follow the same teaching.

I hope you will continue to share the teaching within the greater society through various ways and your temple will or continue to serve as a place where people can gather and find comfort in its activities. 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.

January 1, 2023

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。

まず、2022年2月に始まったロシア連邦のウクライナ侵攻に対して、私たち念仏者は親鸞聖人がお示しくださった「世のなか安穏なれ」のお言葉を改めて深く心に刻み、武力による他国の主権の侵害を強く非難するとともに、一刻も早くウクライナに平和が訪れることを願ってやみません。

さて、昨年も、世界では新型コロナウイルス感染症の流行が続きました。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すべての方々に、謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、罹患されている皆様、後遺症を患われている皆様に心よりお見舞い申し上げます。また、医師や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。

新型コロナウイルス感染症の流行は、科学技術が発達し、医療も進歩した世の中にあっても、私たちの予想できない事柄が現実起こるということを知らしめました。仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、この世を諸行無常であると示されました。約2500年たってもそのことには変わりはありません。そして、この真理をそのままに受け入れることができず、悩み苦しむ私たちの姿も変わることはありません。

それ故にこそ、新型コロナウイルス感染症の流行以前も以後も変わることなく、親鸞聖人が説かれた浄土真宗のみ教えが、日々悩み苦しむ私たちの生きる支えとなります。阿弥陀如来を中心とするお寺の集まりは、み教えを聞く場であると同時に、同じみ教えを依りどころとする私たちがお互いに支え合い助け合って、安心して集うことのできる場でもあります。

皆さまには、今後も様々な工夫を凝らして、広くみ教えを伝えられることで、お寺に多くの方が集まり、その誰もが心穏やかに過ごせる場所となりますことを願っております。そして、引き続き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、年頭のご挨拶いたします。

2023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* May you find peace and joy in 2023



Many years ago, I remember, my teacher told me, “On the first day of the year, we should think of death.” “Think about death on the first day of the year? Why?”, I thought. Another teacher said, “The first day of the Year, we should think of the nembutsu, namo amida butsu.” These teachers were talking about completely different things. I have puzzled for some time about what they have said. But after years passed by, I realized that what they were talking about were the same thing in different ways.

No one is able to avoid death while we are living this life. I am sure Shinran Shonin thought about death, his own death, deeply at Mt. Hiei where he practiced the Buddha-way for twenty years. He did not want to die just like us. He tried to find the way to go beyond birth and death while he is living. But he was not able to find the answer. Descending Mt. Hiei, he met Honen. Honen was a great master as well as a good mentor for Shinran. Although Shinran was practicing the nembutsu to reach Buddhahood on Mt. Hiei before, he found a new nembutsu which was opened for everyone, soldiers, farmers, men and women. It was the nembutsu, compassionate calling from the Buddhahood. Shinran encountered, for the first time, the nembutsu of Amida’s working which is called Other Power. He learned that one thought of moment of entrusting heart to Amida, he will be born in Amida’s world, the Pure Land of bliss. He knew he was not going to die but be born in Amida’s home of peace and serenity. Thus, he was able to solve the problem of death. I am sure Shinran Shonin recited the nembutsu, namo amida butsu in deep gratitude.

I fondly recall the words of my teachers on the first day of the new year. What they have said about death and life of the nembutsu were so true.

In gassho,

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



皆様、あけましておめでとうございます。本年もどうぞよろしくお願ひ致します。

毎朝、犬の太郎を30分近く散歩に連れて行くのが私の役目です。家の前は公園です。ぐるりと回って帰ってくるのが習慣になっています。ところが、その朝は大雪です。「どうしようかな」と考えました。「昼になれば、歩きやすくなるだろう」と思いました。ところが、太郎が「早く出かけよう」とばかり待っています。それで、いつものように散歩に連れていくことにしました。道は雪に覆われ、方向がなかなか、分かりません。雪は降り続けています。太郎は勝手に歩いています。注意して歩くと、所々に先に歩いている人の足跡がうっすらと見えました。おかげで無事家に戻って来ることが出来ました。

ところで、私たちの教えは、自分勝手に作ったものではありません。先人の足跡を学び、聞いていく教えです。親鸞聖人も七人の高僧方の「みあと」をしたい、そこに独自の教えを展開されました。特に、「念仏」についても、「私が仏を念う」から、「仏が私を念っている」と、他力念仏のみ教えを、私たちに届けて下さったのです。

合掌 泉康雄

2023 New Year's Greeting from Office of the Bishop



On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC), I wish to thank all of you for your support and understanding throughout the past year.

Looking back on 2022, we can reflect on the many changes that have affected our lives in subtle ways, some for the better and others for the worse. We give gifts to loved ones not truly knowing what it is they wish to receive. By the same token we receive whether it is that which we desire or not. It is not in

our control. What is most important as a Shinshu follower is to know that the giving and receiving is done with a heartfelt sense of appreciation and gratitude

During the first few weeks of the New Year, we greet everyone with a "Happy New Year!" It's a wonderful expression that has such a feeling of "freshness." As we begin a fresh start of the new year, I would like to suggest a theme of "Healthy Sangha". Let us continue to nurture and sustain our sangha in health and wellness.

This past year we have welcomed two fresh and new ministers to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. Rev. Naoki Hirano was assigned to Kelowna, Vernon, and Kamloops Buddhist temples in interior BC and has now completed his one-year Kaikyoshi (overseas minister) training and has been granted Kaikyoshi status by Nishi Hongwanji our mother temple in Kyoto as of July 1, 2022. Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta was assigned to the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in Lethbridge as of November 1, 2022 to begin his one-year Kaikyoshi training.

To all members and friends of the JSBTC, thank you for your kindness and support throughout the last year. We look forward to another wonderful year together. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Holiday Season!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki
Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

年頭の辞

旧年中は大変お世話になりました。カナダ開教区を代表して、謹んで御礼と新春のお慶び申し上げます。一年を振り返るこの時期、ウィルス拡散の規制解除によって家族や友達と過ごせる時間が増えました。ギフトを送る、頂くだけではなく、一緒に過ごせる限りある時間が大切で、ありがたいことだと気付くことが大事ですね。新年の教団からのテーマは「ヘルシー サンガ」を掲げたいと思います。身体の健康だけではなく、だれもが安心して来れることができる仏教会としていきましょう。

教団のニュースとしては、BCインテリア仏教会(ケローナ、バーノン、カムループス)に駐在している平野直樹先生が一年の開教使研修を経て、正式に西本願寺から開教使としての辞令が7月1日付で発布されました。また、南アルバータ仏教会には生田ローランド先生が11月1日付で一年の開教使研修が始まりました。

仏教会メンバーの皆様におかれましては、昨年に引き続き教団へのサポートと理解を宜しく願います。

合掌

カナダ開教区 総長

青木 龍也



UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

The Audio-Visual (AV) Committee has been updating thebtsa.com website so it can become the place to go for accurate and up-to-date information for BTSA events. If you would like to book the Temple for an event, click on the *Member* tab then click on *Booking* and fill in the online form.

Archived copies of all previously published *Hikari* Newsletters are available on the website. One way to search for a key word within the *Hikari* Newsletters is to do a google search and include *Hikari* as one of the search words.

BTSA is looking for two co-leads to form a three-person lead team with Brenda Ikuta for the next chow mein supper. More than \$30,000 was made from the November 2022 chow mein supper. Thank you to all the volunteers!

Ministers' Appreciation was a success, thanks to all who attended and contributed such delicious side dishes. Ministers' Appreciation will become an annual event.

Especially at this time of year, we think of others who are less fortunate. BTSA makes an annual charitable donation and this year, \$1000 will be donated to the following charities:

- Mindful Munchies (collaborative effort between Lethbridge Food Bank, Lethbridge Schools, and My City Care)
- Opokaa'sin Early Intervention Program (offering early learning, childcare, family preservation, and family resource network to indigenous urban families)
- 5th on 5th Youth Services (help youth and young adults find employment in local, small to medium-sized businesses)

Dr. Darren Aoki, professor with Plymouth University, in conjunction with BTSA, will conduct an Obutsudan workshop on a Saturday at the end of February or the beginning of March 2023. Read further in the newsletter for more details.

Kenneth Tanaka is an author of Buddhist articles and books. JSBTC has donated 25 copies of Tanaka's book entitled *Gem* to BTSA. Two copies will be placed in BTSA's library. The other copies will be gifted to anyone who would like to receive a copy.

The January Shotsuki and Ho-onko service will be held Jan. 8 at 2 pm. Ho-onko is the memorial for Shinran Shonin who is the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Here is the link to the YouTube Live Channel: <https://youtu.be/BKT2IqdNzdM>

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Boras
BTSA Secretary

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE

January & February

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

Jan 01

Sheila Oishi
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Jan 08 @ 2 PM

HO-ONKO & SHOTSUKI
Bob Muskovich
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Jan 15

Jeff Haines
Robbie Scharf, AV

Jan 22

Harry Sugimoto
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Jan 29

Val Boras
Bob Muskovich, Audio

Feb 05

NIRVANA DAY, SHOTSUKI
PET APPRECIATION
Ross Jacobs
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Feb 12

Sheila Oishi
Kynan Gordon, AV

Feb 19

Maya Ichikawa
TBD

Feb 26

David Major
Brenda Ikuta, AV

JANUARY 8

Ho-onko and Shotsuki service

The temple will host a New Years Party, with supper and Bingo after the Ho-onko and shotsuki service. We invite everybody to come and celebrate.

Ho-onko is one of the three main services of our Jodo Shinshu calendar (Hanamatsuri and Obon are the other two). We combine our Toban and volunteer efforts for these events - many hands make light work and allows everyone time to enjoy the celebrations. For the meal, we will order in the main dishes and the rest will be prepared and served by volunteers. **If you can help out with this event we would be sincerely grateful!**

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A9A723A2FE3-january>

Or you can let Brenda Ikuta know: (403) 317-0078.

Thanks for all your support!

December Shotsuki Minister's Appreciation

BTSA coupled the Ministers' Appreciation Month event on Dec. 4 with the monthly memorial service (shotsuki-hoyo) where Rev. Yasuo Izumi likened our world to a burning house with multiple temptations of money, fame, love, social position, title and so on.

Elaborating on this theme, sensei referred to Zendo--one of the seven masters of Jodo-Shinshu--who "is like a Buddha who is calling us 'Return to the city of nirvana.' Nirvana is the realm of no blind passions which is identical with the Pure Land."

Following the service, a presentation was made to Izumi Sensei as part of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Ministers' Appreciation Month inaugurated in September jointly by JSBTC and the JSBTC Women's Federation to express thanks to ministers and assistant ministers "for their dedication and commitment to their sangha and to the communities they serve."

Thereafter, an appreciation luncheon with a cake was served.



MC Andrew Ichikawa



Presentation to Rev. Izumi, with Mrs. Izumi



Appreciation Party with cake
Rev. Izumi with Rev. Roland (R) and Jeff Sensei (L)



photos: Dubbelboer, Ichikawa

2023 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. 21 – 154

Shotsuki Donations December 2022

Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
 Neil Hinatsu
 Gene and Hilda Horii
 Terry Horii
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira Ichikawa
 Joyce Miyashita
 Karen Mizushima
 Shig and Katie Nakagawa
 Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
 Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
 Setsuko Ohno
 Heidi Oishi
 Evelyn Osaka
 Darcee Richardson
 Emily Stitt
 Noris and Sachiko Taguchi
 Eichi and Betty Tanaka
 Glen and Pamela Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Jim, Marion and Shannon Tomiyama
 Ken and Hiroko Yoshihara
Total - \$2,875

Other Donations December 2022

Anonymous Cash Donation
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Rev. Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
 Tami Maclean
 Trent Takeyasu and Veronica Horn
 Alan and Margaret Tanaka
 Harold and Florence Tomiyama
Total - \$777.90

Funeral Donations December 2022

Ted and Rose Akune
 Shirley Hashizume
 Don and Mila Henry
 Barry Hisaoka
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Akira Ichikawa
 Gail Ikebuchi
 Jim Kaga
 Lily Kaga
 Michie Kawasaki
 Allan Matsuda
 Matsuda Family
 Joyce Miyashita
 Toshiko Nagata
 Gil and Rose Oishi

Heidi Oishi
 Mitsuko Oishi
 Sut and Neva Oishi
 Tak and Jan Okamura
 Roy and Pat Sassa
 Masaye Tanaka
 Mitsuru Keith and Midori Jane Tanaka

Total - \$4,140

**Total Donations
\$7,792.90**

Please inform us if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Anyone wishing not to be acknowledged in print, let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30pm will resume Jan. 16
 Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 sas7@telus.net

*The Minyo Dancers perform weekly at the Nikka Yuko Gardens nikkayuko.com/events.asp

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm will resume Jan. 10
 Contact tanaka.david@gmail.com 403.330.1548,

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am

Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation Thursdays @ 7pm will resume Jan. 12

To register contact Vickie Macarther spityoga@shaw.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Mrs. Kasumi Matsuda (101) Nov. 27, 2022

Minister Schedule

- Rev. Izumi will be at temple on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

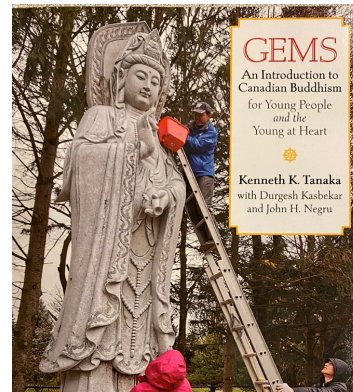
- Rev. Roland Ikuta will be at temple on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday

Thank you very much!

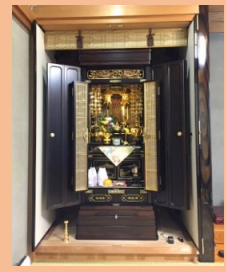
My wife and I express our sincere appreciation to all members and friends of the BTSA for the beautiful flowers and generous gifts on the occasion of the "JSBTC Ministers Appreciation Day" on December 4th after December Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service. In gassho, Rev. Yasuo Izumi

GEMS by Kenneth Tanaka

The BTSA has received 25 copies of the book GEMS by Kenneth Tanaka. It is subtitled *An Introduction to Canadian Buddhism for Young People and the Young at Heart*. The books are a gift from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. It is the Canadian version of his previously published book *Jewels*. There are chapters specific to Buddhism in Canada written by Durgesh Kasbekar (A member of the Steveston Buddhist Temple) and John Negru. This book is written from a general Buddhism perspective and is not specific to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It has excellent review chapters on the life of the historical Buddha and about the teachings. It also has a section on issues and problems in daily life that specifically addresses questions from young adults. It even has a chapter on humour and Buddhism! If any of the temple members would like a copy of this book please contact Reverend Roland: Revroland@shaw.ca



***Butsudan* – Buddhist Family Altar**



Do you own a *Butsudan*...

and wonder what it is and what its significance is to your family?
but feel it doesn't fit in your current life and are unsure of what to do with it?
Or, perhaps you'd like to obtain a *Butsudan* to invigorate your Buddhist faith?

The **Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (B TSA)**, in co-operation with the **Nikkei Memory Capture Project** invites you to a special one-day event:

仏壇

***Butsudan* Workshop**

Saturday 25 February 2023, 10.00 am to 4:00 pm
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

仏様

The *Butsudan* Workshop provides you with the opportunity to:

- deepen your understanding about your *Butsudan's* meaning, rituals, spiritual value, and history
- refresh your *Butsudan* and revitalise its meaning in your life, or repurpose it for donation.
- obtain a *Butsudan* and have it consecrated in a special ceremony, the *nyū-Butsu shiki*.

The *Butsudan* Workshop consists of three sessions – you can attend one, two, or all.

Session 1 (10-11 am)	Session 2 (11am-3pm)	Session 3 (3-5pm)
<i>Butsudan</i> Information Session Reverend Roland Ikuta will introduce the <i>Butsudan's</i> meaning, history, rituals, and upkeep.	<i>Butsudan</i> 'Memory Making' Session Create a 'living memory' portfolio, including a visual+audio record of your <i>Butsudan</i> . Facilitated by the Nikkei Memory Capture Project.	<i>Nyū-butsu shiki</i> – <i>Butsudan</i> consecration ceremony A <i>nyū-butsu shiki</i> will be held for those in attendance wishing to take away a donated <i>Butsudan</i> .

Please can you help to record Southern Alberta's Japanese Canadian history?

***Butsudan* 'Memory Making' Session**

Butsudan played a central part in southern Alberta's Japanese Canadian history. Your memories about your family's *Butsudan* can reveal much about this history. Please would you share some of these with the **Nikkei Memory Capture Project**?

Working with trained oral historians, you are invited to create a '**living memory**' portfolio to keep for your family and pass on to future generations.

With your consent, your portfolio will also be archived for future researchers to study Japanese Canadian history.

To create a portfolio, please bring your *Butsudan* to the *Butsudan* Workshop to set it up with its accoutrements; or we can arrange a short home visit.

Living Memory Portfolio*

Your 'living memory' portfolio will include:

- A 360° moving photograph, or set of still photographs, of your *Butsudan*
- A short digitally recorded oral history interview that preserves your memories and stories.



For more information, please contact Reverend Roland Ikuta (cell: 403-360-8400, email revroland@shaw.ca), or Dr. Darren J. Aoki (albertanikkei@gmail.com).



JANUARY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
10:30am New Year Service* 1	2	3	4	5	6	10:30am Study Class* 7
2pm Ho-onko and Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) New Year Party 8	9	7pm Taiko 10	11	7pm Meditation 12	13	10:30am Study Class* 14
10:30am Regular Service* 15	6:30pm Minyo Dance 16	7pm Taiko 17	18	7pm Meditation 19	20	10:30am Study Class* 21
10:30am Regular Service* 22	6:30pm Minyo Dance 23	7pm Taiko 24	25	7pm Meditation 26	27	10:30am Study Class* 28
10:30am Regular Service* 29	6:30pm Minyo Dance 30	7pm Taiko 31				

FEBRUARY: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	7pm Meditation 2	3	10:30am Study Class* 4
10:30am Nirvana Day, Shotsuki Memorial and Pet Appreciation Service* (live stream) 5	6:30pm Minyo Dance 6	7pm Taiko 7	8	7pm Meditation 9	10	10:30am Study Class* 11
10:30am Regular Service* 12	6:30pm Minyo Dance 13	7pm Taiko 14	15	7pm Meditation 16	17	10:30am Study Class* 18
10:30am Regular Service* 19	6:30pm Minyo Dance 20	7pm Taiko 21	22	7pm Meditation 23	24	10:30am Study Class* 25
10:30am Regular Service* 26	6:30pm Minyo Dance 27	7pm Taiko 28				