BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

HikaritheLight July & August 2015

Humbleness and Humility



There are many schools under the name of Buddhism. Jodo Shinshu expounded by Master Shinran is one of them. Concerning birth in the world of Buddha or Pure Land, Jodo Shinshu talks about Other Power, meaning Buddha's working beyond our small self, beyond ego-attachment. Our contrivance or calculative efforts toward Buddha's world, therefore, do not work. Master Shinran talked about good acts, positive karma that sometimes brings negative results. For example, it is good to chant the sutra. But it will bring negative result when we do it in order to surpass others.

The following story illustrates this point: Once there was a Buddhist woman in Japan. She was a so-called churchgoer. She goes to Buddhist Temple every Sunday, chants sutras, listens to the minister's talk eagerly. At home she meditates in front of her Buddha's shrine every morning. All that she does is fine and noble. But because of these, she thinks that among her congregation and friends, only the minister and she will be born in the Pure Land without fail. One day, the minister got involved in some kind of trouble and had to leave the temple. When she heard this news she grinned and thought to herself," Now, I am only one who is able to be born in the Pure Land." Well, what do you think about this?

According to the teaching taught by Master Shinran, she will not be able to be born in the Pure Land. This is because the Pure Land is the realm where Buddha's thoughts and practices to benefit others in terms of spiritual liberation, is fulfilled. Therefore, Pure Land is also called the Fulfilled Land by the Vow of Amida Buddha to save others. In other words. Pure Land is the realm of non-ego attachment. This means that the Pure Land is the realm of Amida's unconditional love and compassion toward us. With our ego-mind or selfish efforts we are not able to reach Buddha's realm. In this sense, only those who humbly listen to and receive Buddha's vow by which Amida Buddha is working for our spiritual freedom, will be born there.

A great theologian once said that when people try to come closer to God and pray at the top of a tall tower they actually make themselves morally corrupt. It is because they misunderstand that they are special - above others - and look down on other people. He said that when they pray they must make themselves low.

Here, I can see the important similarity between Buddhist humbleness and Christian humility to negate human arrogance and take refuge in the working of Buddha or God.

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

シェルター(避難所)

どこのピクニック場でも、大小の差はあってもシェルター(避難所)があります。 先日お寺のピクニックがありました。毎年6月の終わり頃にピクニックを行っています。この後、夏休みになります。今年のピクニックは、最近完成したロータリーパークでありました。簡単な朝のお参りの後、楽しいひと時を持ちました。シェルターは暑い日、寒い日の避難所です。新しいロータリーパークのシェルターは、天井に寒さを防ぐヒーターまで着いています。体を保護してくれるわけです。

「お寺」は「精神的な避難所」です。私たちの心は放っておけば大変危険なものです。欲望のままに動きます。名誉がほしい、権力がほしいとどこまでも高上がりします。周りの人は、そのような'心'に忠告を与えてくれません。聞く耳も持っていないことを知っているからです。お寺とは、仏様の前で、欲に乱れ、狂っている私たちの心を静かに見つめる所、いわば'心'の避難所なのです。目まぐるしく変わる現代を生きる私たちには、そのような場所が特に必要であることを思います。お寺で、仏様のお心を聞かせていただきましょう。合掌

南アルバータ仏教会 泉康雄

BTSA Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi 403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca 470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5 403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA Notes

Obon season descends, and this important Buddhist event is observed in southern Alberta at several of the area cemeteries, with Izumi sensei officiating. It is also a festive time, although the importance of the occasion may sometimes be lost in the gaiety associated with the bon odori (dance).

The origin of Obon is traditionally linked to the Ullambana Sutra wherein a Buddhist disciple who peers into hell is shocked to discover his tormented mother. among the suffering minions When she is liberated, thanks to his efforts with the advisement of the Buddha, he is unable to contain his joy and breaks out into dance.

Patricia Usuki sensei--one of the keynote speakers at the World Buddhist Women's Convention during the last weekend in May in Calgary--carefully notes, that Obon "is not, as some mistakenly believe, to welcome back the spirits of the dead. Instead, it is a time of gratitude, giving, and joy in the Truth of Life. Hence, it is also known as Kangi-e, or the Gathering of Joy."

She adds: "Obon season is a time to express our gratitude to loved ones who have passed on before us. Without them, we would not be who we are today, due to the basic tenet of interdependence. We would not be where we are and we would not be able to do the things we do to enjoy life."

Throughout July, Izumi sensei will be at various locales to commemorate Obon. The schedule is reprinted elsewhere in this Hikari. Please refer to it in case you want to observe Obon near your home town.

The BTSA bon odori will be held July 18 at Galt Gardens in downtown Lethbridge, beginning at 6 p.m. As in past years, we ask all who are able to help set up to assemble at the site at 1 p.m. With plenty of help, the job should be done in a few hours. A footnote: there are two more practice sessions at the temple; please see the note elsewhere.

By far the major event of the recent past was the three-day WBWC in Calgary that attracted close to 1,800 delegates from numerous Jodo Shinshu venues around the world. Please see a summary elsewhere in this issue and selected photos of some of the participants. BTSA applauds Susan Huntley and the committee for an amazing job of organization and smooth operation. Our members certainly were high-profile MCs and moderators: thank you Val Boras, Sheila Oishi, Joyce Shigehiro and Sylvia Oishi.

BTSA received a friendly and upbeat post-convention visit on June 1 from about 20 members of the Los Angeles Betsuin Women's Association as they toured southern Alberta and, eventually, points east, including Toronto. Thanks to Toban 3 members who prepared a tasty lunch for them before their visit to the Nikka Yuko Garden.

June 21 was the annual picnic at the Rotary Park Shelter. About 60 persons attended. Thanks to all the planners and those who brought gochiso for a pleasant day of leisure and fun. The month wrapped up with a movie night which also included a fund-raiser supper for the Nepal earthquake relief.

A reminder that regular Sunday services are suspended after the Obon service on July 19, through August, to the first Sunday in September. Keep in mind that the monthly memorial service for September is on the second Sunday, Sept. 13.

Also note that this issue of the Hikari is for the months of July and August. A separate issue will not be published in August.

Akira Ichikawa

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. What is O-Bon and Bon-Odori?

A. O-Bon is a Buddhist memorial service for those loved ones who have departed before us and is observed in either July or August on the 15th day. "O" is honorifics. The word "Bon" comes from the Sanskrit "Ullavana" which became "Ura-bon" in Chinese. Ulla or Ura means to hang upside down and implies suffering. Vana is the Sanskrit word for bowl, a container of food. Thus "ullavana" means to be delivered from suffering by means of offering food. This particular service is based on a story of Moggalana (Mokuren in Japanese), a Buddha's disciple, whose mother passed away, lived in the realm of hungry ghost and was suffering. With the aid of his fellow monks, the mother was relived from the realm of suffering. Moggalana and his fellow monks began to dance in their great happiness and joy. This is the beginning of the O-Bon Service and Bon-Odori.

CHAIR SCHEDULE July & September 2015

July 05

Chair: Deanna Jones Audio: Akira Ichikawa Sensei at Obon, Brooks

July 12

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro Audio: Brenda Ikuta Sensei at Temple Hill, Magrath Obon

July19 BTSA OBON 2:30 Chair: Roland Ikuta Audio: Tak Okamura

Sept 06

Chair: Jack Nagai Audio: Sway Nishimura

Sept 13 SHOTSUKI Chair: Kynan Gordon Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 20 FALL OHIGAN Chair: Ross Jacobs Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Sept 27

Chair: Robert Takaguchi Audio: Tak Okamura

• Please see Obon schedule for July elsewhere

- No formal services from Obon thru the end of August.
- Regular services resume Sept 6.

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.

BON ODORI

Preparation for the 14th annual Bon Odori Japanese Summer Dance Festival in Galt Gardens on July 18 is in full swing, with odori practice on Monday evenings continuing through July 13. Mayor Chris Spearman, special guest will bring greetings from the city and join in the dancing.

KOKO Restaurant will join the Bazaar and will be selling food along with the Lighthouse Japanese Restaurant whose sales were so successful last year. Youth will be on hand to again make the cooling Kori (snow cones) and sell snacks and water. Nanao Kimono is a new vendor, specializing in Japanese dress (yukata) and accessories. Items will be available from 1-2:30 p.m. in the BTSA Board Room before moving over to the festival site for the 5 pm set-up. This will accommodate the dancers and other interested people who might want a new yukata before the dancing begins.

Staff of Nikka Yuko Garden have been invited to the afternoon sale and will also sell kiosk items and have activities for the whole family at the festival. BTSA craft sales will focus on hachimaki (head bands) with the BTSA logo as well as a few other items. Posters, designed by Maya are available – please assist in this distribution if you can.

Set - up begins at 1 p.m. and all able members and friends are invited to join in building the stage and hanging lanterns. We request help to clean up following the dance as well. Contact Lorita with questions or for further information.

2015 OBON Schedule

Please note the dates and times of cemetery visitations and the BTSA Obon service.

July 05 (Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 12 (Sun)		Magrath Cemetery visitation Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 18 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 19 (Sun)	1 pm 2:30	Mountain View Cemetery visitation BTSA Obon/Shotsuki Service at temple
July 25 (Sat)	1 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation and Obon gathering





Below: About 20 members of the Los Angeles Betsuin

visited BTSA on June 1, the day after the world convention in Calgary. After a brief service, Izumi sensei gave the visitors a tour of the temple, and Toban 3 members prepared a lunch for them. Ernest Hida, a former president of the Betsuin, led the group on a tour of the Nikka Yuko Garden after lunch, then eventually took the troupe to eastern Canada, including the Toronto temple. Photos show part of the group before the short service and a group photo with several BTSA members in front of the temple.





2015 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!

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. I do not think I am an evil person. What is 'evil' in Buddhism?

A. Evil in Buddhism means blind passions or defiled mind. Evil person in Buddhism, therefore, means the one who commits, for example, ten evil deeds and five offenses defiled by egocentricity. Evil persons make themselves delay to discover enlightenment. Ten evils are: killing living beings, stealing, committing adultery, telling lies, using intoxicants, uttering abusive words, engaging in idle talk, greed, anger and wrong view. Five offenses are: killing one's father, killing one's mother, killing as Arhat (sages), causing Buddha's body to bleed, causing disunity in the Buddhist order. Do you still think that you are not an evil person? Let us listen to and appreciate Buddha's boundless compassion expressed in Namo Amida Butsu which is working for evil and imperfect person such as ourselves.

Membership to June 25, 2015: 193

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

June 2015 Mitsuyo Fujimoto Randy Higa Shinako (Sheila) Higa Shirley Higa Neil Hinatsu Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno Mark & Shelly Murakami Shiq & Katie Nakaqawa May Nishikawa Mitsuko Oga Sut & Neva Oishi Tak & Jan Okamura Masaye Tanaka Brenda & Lester Tanner Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total \$635

Other Donations

June 2015 Kiyomi Asada Dorene Gordon Rumiko Ibuki Rev. Nobuyuki Kasagi Tsutomu Stony Nakano Kaz & Setsuko Ohno Dana Oikawa Heidi Oishi Jaglit S.(Jack) & Jeet Panesar Lillian Sasaki Craig & Sachi Scharf Bob & Jane Senda Florence Senda Nori Sugimoto Fugi Takeda Tammy Tanaka Amy Tashiro Tak & Yoko Tsuji Keiko Kay Tsukishima

Total \$1,616.40

Please Note: Donations at Obon and for the months of July and August will be published in the September issue of the Hikari.

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.

"Thank you" and recognition to **Akira Ichikawa** for his dedication as the editor of the Hikari.

With great appreciation, Maya Ichikawa, Hikari lay-out design

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm, to July 16

Please feel free to sing with us for these sessions and the July 19 Obon Service. Whether for the short or long-term, new or returning participants are always welcome.

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Summer break from June 30 to Sept 15

Taiko Class will break for the summer and resume in Sept. Youth taiko will resume in Sept with day and time TBA. Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@albrio.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club will resume Sept 16 Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

Minyo dancers Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 Obon Practice runs thru June 13 Every Monday, 6:30 - 7:30

PROGRAMS

Ikebana with Lilly Oishi Saturdays, June 6 - August 29, 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dharma class Taiko practice with Kynan Gordon will continue on Sundays at 11:30. The group will be performing "Matsuri" at intermission at the Bon Odori, July 18 along with the Youth and Adult Taiko groups.

Do you want to learn how to make "Kaki-mochi" or "Karinto"? Mary Shigehiro will instruct us on this on Saturday July 25th at 9am at the Temple kitchen. Please register by phone to Jan Okamura at 327-0464. Cost will be \$3 per person to cover the cost of oil and ingredients but you will take home samples.

We will be hosting Naoko Benno, owner of **Nanao Kimono** (Calgary) in the BTSA Boardroom on the day of the Bon Odori, July 18 from 1pm - 2:30. She will have yukata, accessories and other items for sale and is coming down early to accommodate those interested in purchasing prior to her set-up at the Bon Odori. This is a convenience for us as she usually sells online. You can check out her website at nanaokimono.com



BON ODORI PRACTICE at the temple continues for two Mondays in July--the 6th and the 13th--beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend in preparation for the annual bon odori at Galt Gardens on July 18. Come out and learn the steps to all the dances.

TOBAN UPDATE

Thank you to **Toban 3** who served tea and snacks for Shotsuki and handled the monthly clean-up for June. Appreciation to all who contributed potluck picnic on June 21; to **Toban 3** for preparing the rice, takuan, tea and organizing all the food and utensils; to Roland and Brenda for the Bingo gifts; and to Maya for the kids activities. A good time was had by all who attended!

Lilly Oishi coordinated lunch at the Soup Kitchen on Tuesday, June 23 with the help of volunteers who served over 100 people. Thanks to all of you!

Toban 2 is up for the Month of July where the main

toban event is the supper after Obon service. We can still use a couple of people to cut vegetables for chow mein on Saturday, July 18 at 9 am in preparation for the supper on Sunday. Contact Lorita if you are able to help at 403.327.1668 or lorita. ichikawa@gmail.com

Toban Schedule

JULY Toban 2 AUGUST Toban 4 SEPTEMBER Toban 3



BTSA Picnic June 21

Several members noticed a chirping bird accompanying the singing of the gatha, Shinshu Shuka, at the BTSA picnic on June 21, this year at the Rotary Park shelter. The chirping continued throughout much of the gatha and was a pleasant and light-hearted addition. So spontaneous.

About 60 persons spent the late morning and early afternoon moving in and out of the shelter to catch the warming rays of the sun that were sporadically blocked by fast-moving clouds; and the radiant heaters in the shelter ceiling helped ward off the occasional chilliness as well.

Following a short service with Izumi sensei commenting on the winged accompanist, everyone was treated to the smorgasbord gochiso that attendees brought to supplement the usual KFC treats, rice, takuan and beverages provided by the temple.

The time spent was leisurely and relaxing, with friends chatting, strolling about the site, and playing numerous games of bingo. Thanks to all members who helped organize the food preparation, the bingo games, and activities for children.



The smorg (in Swedish, groaning board) required three tables...look at the goodies.



Izumi Sensei Chanting at picnic service



Florence Senda was the MC for the service



Youngest picnicker James Van Sluys with sister Mahya



Ken Ohno and Neil Hinatsu preparing the tea



John and Donna with Toshiko Takeda



Relaxing in the elusive sun, often covered by clouds...



Sway and Totsy chatting with Stan and Heidi



More cards the merrier



Children try their luck at the pinata



...and playing on the shelter's equipment

Youth BENTO Class #2

Chicken Teriyaki and Onigiri (rice balls)

The second Youth Bento Class was held in the Temple kitchen Friday, June 12 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. Eight youth (aged 11-16 years) made supper for themselves and their families (\$5 per meal). Many thanks to Eiko Aoki for passing on these wonderful and important cooking skills to our youth. Also thank you to Izumi Sensei, Shannon Tomiyama, Maya Ichikawa, Akira Ichikawa and Sachi Schaarf for your assistance.

If youths in your family would like to participate in the Session #3 (early fall), contact Brenda at (403) 317-0078 or email rolikuta@shaw.ca. Space is limited to 11 participants.

In Gassho, Brenda Ikuta













photos: Akira Ichikawa

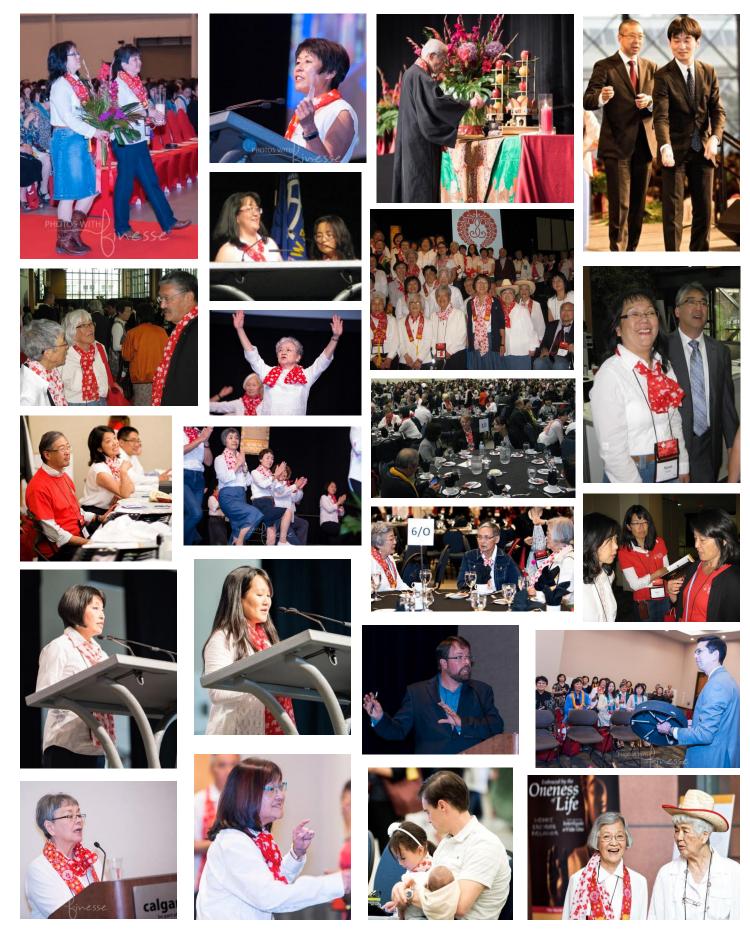
MOVIE NIGHT AND BENTO Approximately 50 members and friends turned out and helped raised about \$1,300 toward the Nepal earthquake relief at the bento/Movie Night on June 27. Thanks to all the volunteers for a delicious meal and everyone who contributed to the relief fund. The movie, "The Visitor", was a touching look at people caught up in immigration problems in the United States and the evolution of an impassive professor into a participant in an engaged life. photos: John Dubbelboer





						44	ABN
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JULY: IOBAN 2	*OFFICIAL BTSA AC	TIVITY		1	6:30 pm BTSA Choir* 2	3	10am Ikebana Calligraphy with Sensei at Nikka Yuko Gardens 4
	10:30am Regular Service* 11am Brooks Cemetery Visitation*	1pm Art for Seniors 6:30pm Obon Dance Practice* 6	10am Art Workshop	7 pm BTSA Board Meeting* 8	6:30 pm BTSA Choir* 9	1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*	10am Ikebana 10:30am Exploring Buddhism*
lnr	10:30am Regular Service* 10am Magrath Cemetery* 11am Temple Hill Cemetary*	1pm Art for Seniors 6:30pm Obon Dance Practice* 13	10am Art Workshop	15	6:30pm BTSA Choir*	8:30am Exploring Jodo Shinshu at YMCA*	10am Ikebana 6pm Bon Odori at Galt Gardens*
	1pm Mountain View Cemetery* 2:30pm Obon Service*	1pm Art for Seniors	21	22	23	24	10am Ikebana 1pm Taber Cemetery* (No refreshments after the service) 25
	No Service	1pm Art for Seniors	10 am Art Workshop				
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AN 4		,	,	,	AUG 1: 11am	Archmount Cemetery (Okepration of Okinawa	1
: TOB	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
AUGUST: TOBAN 4	No Service	BCA Ministers' Seminar 10	BCA Ministers' Seminar 11	BCA Ministers' Seminar 12	13	8:30am Exploring Jodo Shinshu at YMCA* 1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*	10am Ikebana
	No Service						10 am Ikebana
	No Service	17	18	19	20	21	10am Ikebana
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	No Service	31					
					l		

8 **Hikari**theLight

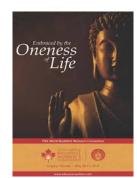


For more photos from the WBWC convention and numerous videos on You Tube from a Brazilian source, please click on: http://www.photoswithfinesse.com/photocart/index.php?do=photocart&viewGallery=10107#page=thumbs https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwBBEPGLqiCMquQV7JNCR9w/videos



WBWC UPDATE June 2015

Embraced by the Oneness of Life was the recurring theme experienced by almost 1,800 Buddhists from Japan, Brazil, the U.S., Canada and Hawaii who attended the World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary, Alberta May 30 - 31, 2015. From the majestic and moving opening ceremony to the equally significant closing, there was music, dancing, visiting, chanting, and inspiring dharma messages bringing laughter and tears, stimulating the mind and warming the heart.



We were honored to have the attendance and participation of his Eminence Monshu Ohtani Kojun (Sennyo Monshu). "Gomonshu-sama" as he is called by Jodo Shinshu followers is the 25th generation Sennyo Monshu or Hongwanji head priest.

The keynote speakers, Reverend Nana Yanase from Japan and Reverend Patricia Kanaya Usuki, born in Canada and living in the U.S.A., shared the dharma through music, life stories and a broad experience and knowledge of the teachings. A panel, comprised of women from each of the Districts, touchingly described their personal pathways in and towards embracing the dharma.

Workshops themed on the Eight-Fold Path provided food for the body, mind and spirit with activities to match that included dancing, singing, writing, and exercising. There were stimulating opportunities to learn more about music, history, art and self-reflection ...all in the context of Buddhism and the Oneness of Life.

Over meals and during breaks, participants were able to meet and socialize, culminating in the dinner banquet where each table was arranged with a mix of delegates from each country. The banquet portion of the evening included a singing performance from Rev. Nana Yanase and entertainment from the District countries. A highlight was the joining of performers and delegates, including Gomonshu-sama and other dignitaries in the favorite odori *Tanko Busshi*. To close the evening entertainment, dancers from across Canada performed a lively zumba to the tune of *The Best Day of Our Lives*.

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation, together with the temples across Canada have worked together to provide a successful and memorable experience. Despite being a small Sangha with limited resources and spread across a large country geographically, we are grateful that all those who came from around the world to Calgary enjoyed this convention and fulfilled our hope for a memorable experience where we were truly "Embraced by the Oneness of Life".

As with previous years, a post convention report will be published and will contain a text copy of all the speeches as well as many photos. A DVD of the convention and a full version of the keynote speakers is planned and will hopefully be available soon.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada handed the World Buddhist Women's Convention flag to the Buddhist Churches of America Buddhist Women's Association who will host the next World Buddhist Women's Convention August 30 to September 1, 2019 in San Francisco, California. See you there!