

Hikari the Light

June 2009



Sagari-Fuji (Wisteria Flower)

Only when we become humble are we able to truly listen to the Dharma (Truth) and to be grateful for it.



When we come to our new temple and walk through the main entrance we notice beautiful purple flowers

on the left side. Although the flower is an artificial, it looks very beautiful and always in full bloom welcoming all of us, members and friends, old and young.

I wonder how many people know that the flower is called Fuji-no-hana, “wisteria flower” and that it is used as the official crest of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The wisteria flower, although very beautiful, blooms with its head hanging low. Thus we call it “Sagari-Fuji” in Japanese. The root word of “sagari” is “sagaru” meaning “to hang” or “to come down” symbolizing the attitude of humbleness or humility which stems from gratitude in our everyday actions. Strictly speaking, Jodo Shinshu teaches us that whatever we do in our everyday lives is the expression of gratitude. To become a humble person is particularly important in our teaching. Only when we become humble are we able to truly listen to the Dharma (Truth) and to be grateful for it. The mind of a humble person is always open and gentle.

In order to illustrate this point, here is a story: A young man visited a Buddhist temple to ask what Buddha Dharma is. A temple priest welcomed him, invited to his

room and started to prepare tea for the guest. But the young man said, “I am a busy man. I have no time to drink tea. Besides, I’ve come here to listen to the Dharma. Let me introduce myself. I recently graduated from the University where I took economy and commerce and also studied comparative religion...” While the young man talked on like this, the priest continued to prepare tea, then started to pour the tea into the guest cup. He poured the tea, then poured more. Finally it overflowed. The young man cried out, “The tea is overflowing. Can’t you see?!” With a smile, the priest said, “Yes, I can see. You came here to learn the Dharma. But where is there room in your mind to accept it?”

In the Song of Shoshinge, Shinran Shonin wrote:

*The true working of Amida’s Vow,
For evil beings with perverted
views and arrogance
Is extremely difficult to believe and retain;
Of all difficulties nothing is more difficult
than this.*

(Amida’s Vow means the working of true Compassion to liberate all beings to the realm of Enlightenment. Evilness in Buddha Dharma implies a self-centered human mind which rejects Amida’s working.)

In Jodo Shinshu, to become a good person is not enough. We encourage children who are relatively not spiritually mature enough, by saying “Be a good person. Avoid bad things. Don’t tell a lie. Don’t create trouble. Be kind.” and so on. However, when we become mature adults, I think, we must examine and reflect on ourselves more deeply in the light of the Dharma, the working

of Amida, and become humble like Sagari-Fuji. A person of truly humble and grateful character is the outcome of being illuminated and nurtured by Amida’s Light and Life, Wisdom and Compassion.

A pious lady of Jodo Shinshu wrote: *Sagari-fuji, just hanging and nodding with its head low, yes, yes.* Hearing Amida’s call, Namo Amida Butsu, we respond “yes, yes” and return to the True Home of Enlightenment.

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister of BTSA

もう七十年以上も前のことですが、仏法を大変よろこばれた方に、浅原才市という方がおられました。その方が「悪いやつ 悪いやつ 才市や悪いやつ 悪いことには底がない」と書いています。ここに書かれている「悪いやつ」というのは我欲、我執のことです。自分の都合で物事を見ていくという意味でしょう。まことに、人間ほど、底なしに我欲、我執をもつ動物もないようです。自分を深く見つめて才市さんは、このように言われたのでしょう。本当に自分を見つめるためには、光に遇わねばなりません。自分の悪さは自分では分からぬからです。光に遇う、と言うことが聴聞する、ということでしょう。それは必ずしもお寺でなされるだけではありません。仏様を思うところに、光に遇うことがあります。親鸞様は、仏様は光である、と仰っています。才市さんは光の仏様にあった方であると思います。「悪いやつ」と知らされると同時に、光の仏様に抱かれて生きていたことに気づかれた人でありました。光に遇うことが、真に人間完成の道(成仏)であります。合掌 いずみ

PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

I think that we were all looking forward to a bit of a hiatus following the hectic activities during the month of April. This has not been the case. I thought that perhaps we would have the opportunity to turn our attention to some of those items that we were not able to properly address during the past two or three months. There is still much to be done as we continue to develop our routines within our Temple and solidify our processes. Let me begin by thanking all of you for your effort, patience and understanding during this period. I knew at the outset that we would face a very steep learning curve. Please understand that many of the issues that we face today are a direct result of our attempts to work with new systems, new ideas and new processes. We will learn from these experiences provided we are willing to openly share and communicate with each other.

Thank you for your continued efforts to bring issues to our attention. Your support in this regard is much appreciated. Better yet, I encourage you to look upon these issues as an opportunity to become directly involved yourself. Much is said about the wonderful energy that is prevalent within our new Temple. Perhaps the identification of an issue combined with energy and enthusiasm will become your catalyst to consider a much more active role within our organization. We are always in need of willing individuals who wish to help out by bringing new ideas and fresh approaches to any of our Committees. We should try to avoid our total reliance upon the same group of individuals to bring forth ideas and carry out tasks as we may have done in the past. It's not that we don't appreciate the efforts of those that have already "stepped up" and are consistently active in aspects of our organization but we surely don't wish to wear out those that are involved now.

With a larger more enthusiastic Temple membership, we have the capacity to spread out the workload so that each of us can contribute a little without feeling overloaded. We can surely benefit from the enthusiasm of young people and at the same time make use of the experience and wisdom of our older members. For our young people, just consider what your involvement on one of our projects or special events might look like on your career resume. Even if you're not a regular Sunday service attendee, there is an opportunity and a place for you to become involved in our Temple events and activities.

Eventually we come to realize that our energetic involvement and willing participation is the result of having been nurtured by the Dharma. I encourage you to seek out any member of our Board of Directors or the Chairpersons of our many Committees and allow that energy to fully develop within you.

In Gassho,
Hajime Harry Sugimoto



Parents' Day Potluck Lunch

TOBAN UPDATE

The Toban system has consisted of five working groups of ladies and men that keep the temple running smoothly. Tasks include day-to-day maintenance and set up, cleaning, preparation of the naijin for services, refreshments and meals for meetings, services and special events. Mary Thomas has just resigned from leadership of **Toban 5** for health reasons and will be talking to group members about changes for that Toban and the Toban system. Recommendations will then come to the Toban Leader's group for decision on any changes. Mary has been an excellent leader and we thank her for her valuable work. Health permitting, Mary will help out when she can.

Toban 3 was kept busy with three consecutive funerals in May and were able to call on Tobans 4 and 5 for assistance. The Potluck lunch was a fine feast with thanks due to Maya, Brenda and the children for gifts to parents and grandparents and to Toban 3 for the organization and clean-up of the meal. A complimentary luncheon for members was the last event of the month on May 31 in appreciation for everyone's contributions toward the Dedication activities.

Toban 4 will be responsible for the current month and begins with a funeral luncheon preparation, June 1. Members include Jan/Tak Okamura, Jean/Tak Oga, Sachi/Noris Taguchi, Dick Adachi, Judy Fukushima, Tokio Hori, Amy/Ken Kurio, Kay/Kiyo Moriyama, Rie/Jack Nagai, Yumiko Osaka, Kay/Frank Osaka, Heidi Oishi/Stan Peters, Joyce/Tosh Saruwatari, Kaz Takaguchi, Kay Tsukishima, Betty/Sam Taniguchi, Shirley Taniguchi, Ayako/Mas Taniguchi

RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE REPORT

Following a Religious Committee meeting on May 12, several items were approved by the May 13th Board meeting.

Summer Services

There will be Sunday Services throughout July and August at the regular time of 10:30 a.m. The service will be more informal with a shorter dharma talk and chanting.

Sensei will be available for all Sundays with the exception of July 5th when there will be no service (temple being rented by a temple member for family reunion); and July 12th when he has another commitment. Renae Barlow will chair and be the speaker on July 12th.

There will be no scheduled Dharma classes during the summer, however parents and children who wish to attend are invited to use the Dharma classroom as well as an outside play area which is being constructed this spring.

Japanese Dharma Talk

The Sunday Service will include a short, five to ten minute, Dharma talk in Japanese to accommodate the elder members of the congregation. In response to a member request, "this demonstrates concern and respect for the elders in our congregation that find comfort in hearing the dharma in their native language." The committee recognizes "that the congregation is undergoing a transition and the accommodation of the Japanese Language is not a long term commitment." It was noted by the committee "that the Sensei invite 'non Japanese speaking members,' to sit in quiet loving kindness and compassion meditation or reflection during the Japanese speaking portion."

Monthly Speaker/Movie Events

The Religious Committee is planning a monthly speaker/movie series for ages 15 – 25 to include a movie, followed by a speaker and discussion. The event is planned for one Sunday a month at 1 pm and will start with a series of four in September (September – December). More details to follow.

Study Group

The study group plans to structure classes around the Tannisho. This will provide a means to study Jodo Shinshu, provide a study format using a study guide, and encourage discussion. Study topics and schedule will be announced in the Hikari.

If you have any questions about the Religious Committee please feel free to talk to one of the members. Renae Barlow (chair), Jim Tsukishima, Mac Nishiyama, Reyko Nishiyama and Kimie Sudo.

BUDDHIST WORD OF THE MONTH

Tannisho: The Tannisho is one of the most widely read works in Japanese Buddhism, known not only as a religious but literary classic. The Tannisho is a two-part work representing a compilation of teachings by Shinran Shonin. The first part consists of direct quotations of Shinran's own words as recorded by his follower Yuien. The second part consists of Yuien's commentary interspersed with Shinran's own statements. The primary focus of these statements is to convey the power of the Nembutsu in the here-and-now.

OBITUARIES

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta express our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

Ichio Ibuki, 74	March 27, 2009
Chizu Nakamura, 89	April 1, 2009
Tomio Hirashima, 79	May 1, 2009
Kingo Sakamoto, 87	May 15, 2009
Gene Thomas Tajiri, 57	May 16, 2009
Hisashi Furuiye, 82	May 18, 2009
Leslie Takashi Higa, 53	May 26, 2009
Kenji Tatebe, 86	May 28, 2009

2009 Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

2008 First annual memorial	1 year from death
2007 3rd anniversary memorial	2 full years from death
2003 7th anniversary memorial	6 full years from death
1997 13th anniversary memorial	12 full years from death
1993 17th anniversary memorial	16 full years from death
1985 25th anniversary memorial	24 full years from death
1977 33rd anniversary memorial	32 full years from death
1960 50th anniversary memorial	49 full years from death

A memorial rite 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 the most of all to realize the blessings of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. (from Jodo Shinshu Handbook for laymen) **On the first or near the first Sunday of every month, the BTSA observes a monthly memorial service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi-命日) falls in that month. Please bring a Homyo of your loved one.**

Why Join the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta?

If you haven't already done so, it is time to pay your membership fee. At a recent board meeting the membership fee was set at \$100 per adult. This is a fraction of what it costs to maintain the temple so your donations are also much appreciated.

Those who wish to join the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta and pay their annual membership fee are considered full members in good standing. Being a member signifies your commitment to the continued success of the Temple and the Sangha.

Membership allows one to stand for office on the board of directors of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta and they also become members of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada.

Everyone, regardless of membership status, is welcome to participate in regular and special services, to help out with social events and temple maintenance and to serve on temple committees.

Membership is used by the temple to ensure that our services are made available to as many members as possible.

The benefits we offer include membership in the national organization, regularly weekly services, special services provided by our resident minister and the camaraderie of taking a spiritual journey with many other like-minded individuals.

Membership allows us to send out information on forthcoming events and to keep abreast of family needs such as providing ministerial visits to seniors.

Maintaining a large organization such as ours requires that we utilize the skills and resources of our members in order to provide a full-time minister, to maintain a large building and to providing space for social events and clubs.

Membership in the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is open to everyone.

MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009

New Membership Renewal

2009 Membership is \$100 for each member.

1st Name _____

2nd Name _____

3rd Name _____

4th Name _____

Address _____

City, Postal Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by Email only.

Please send this form with your remittance to the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta or:

Robert Takaguchi, Treasurer
Box 1249
Raymond, AB, T0K 2S0

BTSA BUILDING DONOR UPDATE May 2009

Official tax receipts can be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Anyone wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. The donor wall is now up displaying names through to March '09. The donor levels are as follows:

DIAMOND \$25,000 or greater
EMERALD \$17,500 to \$24,999

PLATINUM \$10,000 to \$17,499
GOLD \$5,000 to \$9,999

SILVER \$2,500 to \$4,999
BRONZE \$1,000 to \$2,499

PLATINUM Level Donors

- Elaine Tanaka, Gordon Tanaka, Pat Tanaka, Richard & Marlene Tanaka
in memory of Hiroshi & Akiko Tanaka

GOLD Level Donors

- Takao & Mitsuyo Fujimoto in memory of Koukichi & Sachiyo Itohiya
- Noreen Okubo in memory of Aiko Nishimura

SILVER Level Donors

- Rev. Eisho Aoki
- Miyoshi & Kikuye Kariatsumari
- Asaye Sakamoto & Irene Sakamoto in memory of Masahiro Sakamoto, Kojiro & Yumi Sakamoto, Darren Sakamoto



FRIENDS of the Dharma Donors

- James & Eiko Ito
- Greg Chor
- Rev. Shigenori Makino
- Shigehiro Family in memory of Otoichi & Asano Shigehiro
- Amy Nakamura in memory of Chosaburo & Kohide Nakamura
- Stony Nakano in memory of Joan Nakano
- Wakao & Jean Kamimura in memory of Charlie & Kazuko Kunimoto



For information contact: Jim Tsukishima 403.327.1279 mtsfarm@telus.net
or Roland Ikuta 403.317.0078 Rolikuta@shaw.ca



BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

PLEDGE FORM

I wish to support the 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 _____

Memorial Donation April 29 to May 2/09

Adachi Dick
Adachi Roy & Nancy
Akune Bob & Molly
Akune Roy & Itoko
Akune Shizuka
Akune Ted & Rose
Alberta Shigakenjinkai
Aoki Rita & John
Araki Merv & Daisy
Ayukawa Sunao & Kaye
Buller Mitch
Chojukai
Cholka David & Lorelle
Cozac J & E
Evans Glynne & Susan
Ezaki Harold & Ishiko
Ezaki Marlene A
Fujiita Eileen
Fujita Kenji & Marion
Fujita Ron & Marilyn
Fujita Mike, Jenny, Michiyo & David
Fukuoka Kenjinkai
Fukushima Judy
Goetz Julia
Goshinmon Masa
Graham Jackie L.
Gust Albert & Cathy
Hamaura Bob & Misaye
Hashizume Shirley
Higa Larry & Mary
Higa Shinako (Sheila)
Higa Shirley
Higa Sue & Wes
Hinatsu Hideo & June
Hiraga George, Kevin, Connie, Ashley, Kyle,
Hironaka Jim & Aya
Hironaka Tucker
Hisaoka Tomi
Ibuki Rumiko
Ibuki Toshimi & Marian
Ichikawa Akira & Lorita
Ikebuchi Yoshiye
Imahashi Ayako
Inaba Fumi
Ito Molly H.
Kado S Sue
Kadonaga Mush & Betty
Kaga Tom & Lily
Kajiwara Massey & Barbara
Kamitakahara Sab & Kiyomi
Kamitomo Katie
Kanashiro John & Alice
Kanashiro Toshio & Kazuye
Kanashiro Min
Kanegawa Sadae
Kano Katy
Kawade Gene & Shannon
Kawade George & Rene
Kawade Isamu & Sharon
Kawasaki Tadao & Michie
Kimura George
Kita Miyo
Kitagawa Mush & Mitze

Kobayashi Koji & Kazuko
Kobayashi Tomiko
Kurio Ken & Amy
Kurio Matt & Clara
Leavens Allan or Lillian
Major David & LaVerne Hamabata
Matsuda Kasumi
Matsugi Setsuko
Matsumoto Harry
Matsuno Yutaka & Chiyomi
Medoruma Tom & Sumi
Murakami George & Mary
Murakami Scott & Deb
Nakagama Nobuko
Nakahama Reiko
Nakahama Tosh
Nakamura Betty
Nakamura Kazuo & Nancy
Nakamura Chizu (estate)
Nakamura Susumu
Nakatsui Ron, Renee, Thomas,
Melanie, Natalie
Nakatsui Jean & Jamie
Nishikawa Harold & Audry
Nishima Mary & Ayako
Oga Noriko
Oga Takumi & Mitsuko
Ohashi, Mrs. Alice
Ohno Frank & Kimi
Ohno Kaz or Setsuko
Ohno May
Oikawa Kazumi & Mary
Oishi, Mrs. Hideko
Okamura, Tak & Jan
Okamura, Mrs. Fujiko
Okuma Setsuko
Osaka Frank & Kay
Osaka Yumiko
Oshiro Jim & Daisy
Richardson Darcee
Sakamoto Asaye
Sakamoto Irene
Sakamoto Shig
Sakamoto Tobie
Saruwatari Tosh & Joyce
Sasaki Jiro & Mae
Sassa Roy & Pat
Savage Peter & Terrie
Sawada Natsuko
Sekiya Harry & Fumi
Senda Roy & Kyoko
Senda Yoshio & Florence
Shigehiro Bob & Eiko
Shigehiro Joe & Mary
Shigehiro Mas & Sandy
Shigehiro Tom & Mitsuko
Shigemi Takaaki & Hajime
Shigemi Toshino
Sugimoto Noboru & Kazuko
Sugimoto Takako
Sunada Masato & Miyo
Taguchi Noris & Sachiko

Tajiri Tom & Tsuyako
Takaguchi Kazuko
Takaguchi Robert & Judy
Takeda Roy
Takeyasu Reiko
Takeyasu Tomiko
Tamura Ken & Maxine
Tanaka Jane
Tanaka Pat
Tanaka Toshiko
Taniguchi Sam & Betty
Tashiro Amy & Masami
Tatebe Jean
Terakita Masaji & Shirley
Terakita Mitsuyuki & Hideko
Teshima Bill
Tomita Shizuo & Dorothy
Tomiyama Jim & Marion
Tomiyama Joe & Sumiko
Tsujita Tak & Yoko
Tsukishima Fujio & Yoshiko
Tsukishima Keiko Kay
Ueda Roy & Dot
Yamagish Mrs S
Yamashita Yasuo & Lil
Yoshioka Sam & Pat

TOTAL: \$5,820.00

Shotsuki Hoyo May/09

Dorene Gordon
Keiko Higa
Shirley Higa
Sadae Kanegawa
Setsuko Matsugi
Reiko Nakahama
Tosh Nakahama
May Ohno
Roy & Pat Sassa
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Nobby & Michiko Sudo
Noris & Sachi Taguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Kinji & Fudge Takeda
Roy Takeda
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Toshiko Tanaka
Shigeru Kounosu

TOTAL: \$1,050.00

Hanamatsuri Donations

TOTAL: \$7,355.00



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA children & youth dharma classes

UPCOMING EVENTS

BTSA Annual Service & Picnic

John Martin Recreation Area, Pavan Park

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Service begins at 10:30am

The annual potluck picnic is this month. There will be games, races and a piñata for the kids. The BTSA will provide chicken from KFC and beverages. Don't forget a hat, sunscreen and repellent.



Photos from last year's BTSA picnic

In the month of May:

Parents' Day preparation by Dharma students; at the potluck there were geraniums and tomato plants to take home.



2009 June & July Schedule

六月と七月の予定表

Sunday Regular Service starts at 10:30am

*Study/Discussion group held after regular service

JUNE

07 SUN	10:30am	Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要
10 WED	7:00pm	BTSA Meeting
14 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service
21 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service
28 SUN	10:30am	BTSA Annual Service and Picnic

JULY

04 SAT		Hoji
05 SUN	12:00 noon	Cemetery Service at Brooks
	1:00pm	Obon Service at Brooks
12 SUN	10:00am	Cemetery Service at Magrath
	11:00am	Cemetery Service at Temple Hill
18 SAT		Annual Bon Odori at Galt Gardens
19 SUN	1:00pm	Cemetery Service at Mt. View
	2:30pm	BTSA Obon Service and Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service (July and Aug.) お盆法要並びに7月と8月祥月法要
26 SUN	10:30am	Regular Service

August 02 SUN 1:00pm Cemetery Service at Taber

Informal Regular Sunday Service will be held throughout August.

2009 COMING EVENTS

JUNE

28 BTSA Annual Service & Picnic
John Martin Recreation Area
Pavan Park

JULY

11 Bon Odori Dancers and BTSA Choir
Nikka Yuko Gardens 1:30 – 2:30 pm
18 Bon Odori & Bazaar, Galt Gardens
19 Obon Service

OCTOBER

17 Chow Mein Supper
Bake Sale & Bazaar

NOVEMBER

13-15 Alberta Buddhist Conference
21-22 Mochitsuki
29 Noodle Making

DECEMBER

31 New Year's Service Bell Ringing,
Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden

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

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

Bon Odori Dancers

Wednesday, June 3 at 7pm and thereafter
Wednesdays at 7pm through July 15

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Spring break May 29 – June 18
Practice: June 25, July 2, July 9
Thursdays 7 - 9pm

Tonarigumi

Tuesdays, 12 – 3:30pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30pm
Please contact David Tanaka
403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesday, June 3 - 1pm
Last meeting until October

SPRING PROGRAMS

Creative Movement & Art for Kids

Fridays, 1:30 – 3:30 June 5, 12 ,19

Gentle Yoga for Seniors

Mondays, June 5 at 10am, June 8 at 11am

Naikan: An Approach to Self-Reflection

Saturdays, 1:30 – 3pm June 6 & 13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership fees for 2009 are now being accepted. The annual fee is \$100/member.

Dharma: My Guiding Light

仏法:人生の道しるべ

In celebration of new Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta, Sensei Izumi has published his seventh book in the series "Dharma: My Guiding Light". The BTSA has printed 500 of these publications for distribution across

Canada. If you would like to order copies, please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Sensei Izumi. A donation of \$2.00 per book to cover printing costs would be appreciated. (Thank you, Toronto Buddhist Church for ordering 150 copies.)

Temple User Groups This is a reminder and request that all booked and frequent users groups leave the premises clean. Please wash used dishes and cups. They should first be soaked, 3-5 minutes in a bleach solution (Chinook Health Regulation), placed in the automatic dishwasher and washed. Also, please check that all Temple doors are securely closed before leaving the building. Thank you.