## **BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA**

# HikaritheLight

The ocean of birth and death, of painful existence, has no bound; Only the ship of Amida's universal vow carries us unfailingly across the sea.

— Shinran Shonin (1173-1263)



**People want to live** a long healthy, productive and happy life. There are many programs for responding to these demands. It is fine. But how about death and dying? Are we concerned about it? Are we able to accept it as just a natural event since our life is impermanent? How about our own death?

In Buddhism, the matter of death is always a priority to solve. Buddhism calls it "Shouji ichidaiji", the great importance of birth and death. From the Buddhist point of view, we have been born again and die again in the world of delusion from time immemorial. When the historical Buddha was born he said that this is my last birth as a human. The ultimate goal of Buddhism is spiritual liberation; to be freed from samsara, the endless cycle of delusion, birth and death.

People ask, "Where am I going after I die?" People who do not have an answer or direction for this question are not really happy people. They carry a speck of fear and uneasiness in their life all the time, no matter how comfortable a life they may have financially. We must hear the world which is beyond and yet embrace our limited and changing world anytime and anywhere.

BTSA Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi 403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca 470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1 J 325 403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com A well-known writer, Eiji Yoshikawa, wrote his own life story and questioned himself : "It is said that human life is like a journey. In this journey there must be a destination where one can settle. In this journey of life, people would surely be perplexed if he or she asked them, 'Could you please tell me where I am going?"

Shoma, uneducated but a pious Jodo Shinshu follower, encountered a woman who said, "I went to a couple of Buddhist temples and asked monks there where I am going after I die. The answer I received from each Buddhist monk was different. Please tell me which one is true." To this Shoma said, "You asked the wrong people. They are humans like us. Why don't you ask the Buddha? Listen to the Buddha well. Then, you will understand."

Amida Buddha is the Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion. This Buddha is the one who perfectly fulfilled self-benefit and benefit foolish beings like us. Fulfillment of self-benefit is called true wisdom. Fulfillment of benefit for us is called compassion. The realm of the Pure Land is called fulfilled land of wisdom and compassion.

The Pure Land is not the product of fairy tales or the extension of a secular world of desires. Everything which Amida has done was for us who are deeply mired and directionless in this world of delusion due to excessive selfish desires, self-centered mind. For such beings, the Buddha moves. In other words, with two great virtues of wisdom and compassion, Amida Buddha has been working and calling with the name Namo Amida Butsu to liberate us to the Pure Realm of enlightenment.

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

#### お念仏の声

最近、トロント仏教会で開催されたカ ナダ教団の総会に出席してきました。会議 の最終日は、例年のごとく、本堂で教団関 係の出席者を中心に追悼法要が営まれま した。三、四十年前の一世の方々が健在で あった頃は、本堂に集まった人たちからお 念仏の声が聞こえていました。しかし、この 度は、法要の前後の本堂には私語も多く、 大声で笑う人もいたりして、時の流れを感 じさせられました。私たちの教団は「念仏 教団」として続いてきました。しかし、この 理解さえも薄れてきたように思わされまし た。京都の本願寺から送られてくる新聞な どには、「念仏教団」の隆盛がうかがわれま す。仏様のご加護と多くの人々の信仰の力 強さを思います。「土徳」という言葉があり ますが、カナダという土地に、お念仏(仏様 の呼び声、「南無阿弥陀仏」のこと)の徳が 染み込むためには、不断の努力が益々必要 であるという事をしみじみ思い、よき勉強

をさせてもらいました。 合掌 開教使 泉康雄



# **BTSA Notes**



What better way to herald the spring/summer season than the temple apple tree in full bloom? It's not a bo tree, but the small statue of the Buddha doesn't seem to mind.

The month of June continues with a full slate of activities noted in this Hikari. Please look over all the articles, keeping in mind that it isn't too long before

our major July event--Obon--comes up. We're continuing the bon odori practices on Monday evenings right up to the week before the 150th Canadian birthday and 50th anniversary celebrations at the Nikka Yuko Garden.

The dancers have been busy since last month, as shown in the photo below:



All interested persons are welcome to join the practice on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Thanks to Pat Sassa and helpers to showing and demonstrating dance steps.

Look over the photos from the busy chow mein supper weekend elsewhere. Our thanks to all members and Dharma friends to pitched in for this major event. Thanks, too, to the tireless co-coordinators, Jan Okamura and Judy Takaguchi, and the kind donors.

Akira Ichikawa

## Art Therapy talk

Maya Ichikawa's talk, entitled "Art Therapy: A Community Practice", involved hands-on activity, with the 20 persons in attendance expressing themselves through a variety of media. Her presentation on May 13 at the temple described how art therapy can be effective in group settings and a wider community, going beyond just individual therapy.



# **Topic: Caregiving**



Dr. Roland Ikuta spoke about caregiving and caregivers at the temple to a gathering estimated in excess of a hundred persons on May 4.

Caregiver burden and the need for support were major factors of his talk, which looked statistically at an aging population that will require increasing care in the near future. Dr. Ikuta noted various reasons caregivers generally--but specifically for dementia and Alzheimer disease patients--have described the stress they face, adding the need to support them in a variety of ways to provide relief.

He also said he has known six persons he characterized as super caregivers for their ability to care unconditionally, most often displaying patience, empathy and compassion.

His talk was part of the temple speaker's series and was assisted by the Alzheimer's Society of Lethbridge.

## Guest Speaker Series: Andrew Ichikawa



# "At The Heart Of Music"

Thursday, June 8, 2017 7:00 p.m. Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (470 - 40th Street South)

Open to the Public. Free admission.

Music engages us and helps us to connect with others. How does music affect us on a personal level? How does music build community? This presentation will invite you to reflect on your own responses to music in answering these questions.



Andrew Ichikawa is a Music Therapist Accredited (MTA). He has a Bachelor of Music from McGill University and a Bachelor of Music Therapy from Capilano University. His practice, Pathways Music Therapy, provides music therapy services in Lethbridge and surrounding communities to children in early childhood settings and to children and adults with developmental disabilities. He is the Treasurer of the Music Therapy Association for Alberta (MTAA) and a member of the Canadian Association for Music Therapy (CAMT).

# Translation 7

This is a continuation of translations of Kudensho (Notes On Oral Transmission) begun in the September, 2016, Hikari. Kudensho is a Jodo Shinshu historic text believed to have been written by Kakunyo (1270-1351), a great-grandson of Shinran, and translated by Rev. Phillip Eidmann and Rev. Yasuo Izumi.

# Not Depriving of a Main Image and Sacred Scriptures

Shingyo did not accept the teaching of Shinran Shonin regarding the meaning and significance of a passage of the Dharma; he stuck up his nose in disdain and was on the point of returning to his own province. At that time a fellow disciple said: "Since Shingyo is leaving the Order and returning to his home province, shall we take back the main image of Amida and sacred scriptures that you gave him? Especially, since you have written your name, 'Shaku<sup>1</sup> Shinran', under the title of the sacred scriptures. Since he is leaving the group of followers, I wonder if he will treat these with reverence and respect."

Then Shinran spoke, saying: "It is indeed wrong to have him return the main image and scriptures. The reason I say this is that I do not have even a single disciple. What did I teach that he should be called my disciple? Since all of us are disciples of Amida Tathagata, we all walk together on the path of Amida. Our entrusting heart in birth through the Nembutsu is due to the guidance of the two Honored Ones, Sakyauni Buddha and Amida Tathagata; this shinjin (entrusting heart) is not given by me, Shinran, at all. (*To be continued*)

1. Shaku: affixed to the Buddhist name.

## Book additions to the Library

Two titles recently added to the temple library are Buddhism on Air: Televised Kaleidscope of a Growing Religion, by Kenneth K. Tanaka, a former Buddhist Churches of America minister; and Being Mortal, by Anul Gawande, a writer and surgeon.

Tanaka's book is based on a yearlong televised series on Buddhism that aired in the Los Angeles area. It presents in transcript form talks and interviews with noted Buddhist teachers and scholars on a broad range of topics. Tanaka has been a professor of Buddhist Studies at Musashino University, Tokyo, since 1998.

*Being Mortal* has as its focus on the care and treatment of the elderly and the dying as it has evolved over the last century to what it is today and could become in the future.

Gawande practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; and is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Samuel O. Thier Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He also has been a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine since 1998.

## CHAIR SCHEDULE June & July 2017

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

**Jun 04** SHOTSUKI Chair: Deanna Jones Audio: Tak Okamura

**Jun 11** Chair: Sheila Oishi Audio: Sway Nishimura

**Jun 18** Chair: Florence Senda Audio: Akira Ichikawa

#### Jun 25

Chair: John Dubbelboer Audio: Ross Jacobs **July 02** Chair: Robert Takaguchi Audio: Tak Okamura

**July 09** Chair: Joyce Shigehiro Audio: Brenda Ikuta

July 16 BTSA OBON & SHOTSUKI 2:30 PM Chair: Roland Ikuta Audio: Sway Nishimura

Please see Obon schedule for July elsewhere

- No formal services from BTSA Obon thru the end of August
- Regular services resume Sept. 3

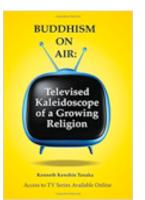
# **BUDDHIST Q & A**

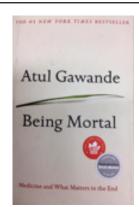
# Q. Why does "Sharihotsu" appear many times in Amida Sutra?

**A.** Sharihotsu (Sariputra in Sanskrit) is a name of 10 great disciples of the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni. Amida Sutra (Amida-kyo) is a discourse given specially to Sharihotsu among 1,250 followers. In this sutra Sakyamuni Buddha explained the beautiful realm of the Pure Land, and in that land is the Buddha called Amida of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion. Furthermore,

Sakyamuni Buddha encouraged all people to rely with all their heart on Amida's Name, Namo Amida Butsu, rejoice in their entrusting, and awaken the desire to be born in the Pure Land. When we chant Amida Sutra, replace our own name in the place of Sharihotsu. Beyond time and space, the Buddha calls us individually and personally many times to make sure to place reliance on Amida's compassion. (Y.I.)







# 2017 Membership Form

<ul> <li>Full Membership</li> <li>(\$100 for each member)</li> </ul>	○ 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 Hika	ri newsletter by email only.

Please send this form and your remittance to: Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer

470 40th Street South Lethbridge, AB, T1 J 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!

#### May 25, 2017 Membership: 189

#### Hanamatsuri Donations

May 2017 Ken & Amy Kurio Yumiko Osaka Clifford & Mary Thomas

#### Total - \$280

#### Shotsuki Donations May 2017

Esther Ayukawa George Fujimoto Dorene Gordon Randy Higa Shinako (Sheila) Higa Shirley HIga Neil Hinatsu Ray & Donna Journoud Marvin & Sharon Koizumi Shigeru Kounosu Mitsuko Oga Kaz & Setsuko Ohno Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng May Ohno Joyce Oishi Yumiko Osaka Roy & Pat Sassa Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro Emily Stitt Harry Sugimoto Kazuko Sugimoto Noris & Sachiko Taguchi Robert & Judy Takaguchi Eichi & Betty Tanaka Masaye Tanaka Toshiko Tanaka Betty Taniguchi Lester & Brenda Tanner Clifford & Mary Thomas

Total - \$1,600

#### Other Donations May 2017

Bal Boora CanadaHelps.Org Racheal Crowder Dhan Gurung Rumiko Ibuki Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi JSBTC Women's Federation Brent Lloyd Nobuko Matsushita Jagjit S.& Jeet Panesar Ayumi Sawada Yoshiko Sawada Florence Senda Masaye Tanaka Brenda Tsukishima David & Hoa L. Tsukishima Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Total - \$2,896.51

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.

## **New Temple Vehicle**



The BTSA board decided at its June meeting to purchase a new vehicle for the temple to replace the 2011 Nissan Sentra with more than 200,000 kilometres and increasing maintenance costs. The replacement auto is a 2016 version of the same model, with the purchase price \$18,416.

The white Sentra was purchased from McDonald Nissan with a six-month financing provision that reduces the overall amount. Allowances included a special \$500 discount offering during the week and a trade-in value on the old vehicle of \$1,260.

Thanks to Tak Okamura for seeking comparative quotes from four other dealerships and for looking after the transaction.

## Found earring and other items

The temple has amassed many items forgotten or lost on the premises. There are various items of outer clothing in the cloakroom and back closet. Among

the found items is an earring about the time of the chow mein supper on Apr. 30. If anyone thinks he or she may have misplaced an outer garment or the earring at the temple, please inquire. The earring is lost without its mate.



## **TOBAN UPDATE**

Thank you **Toban 4** for coordinating activities in May. Much appreciation to Jan, Tak and the whole crew for preparing the Parent's Day chow mein lunch. For the Dharma class, thanks to Brenda and Roland for the tomato and marigold plants (grown from seed by Brenda) distributed to the parents, and to Maya, Sam and Lily for serving the "Happy Parents Day" cake.

**Toban 2** is up for the month of June. All toban 2 members are invited to help out with the monthly activities.

**Toban 3** will do the next **Soup Kitchen** June 22, the last of the season.

#### **REGULAR EVENTS**

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

#### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

The karaoke club will resume on Sept 13 at 1:30pm Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences Makio Nishiyma (89) May 28, 2017 John Yoneichi Kanashiro (93) May 29, 2017

Junior practice for "Wonderful Canada" on Sundays @ 12:15 until July 2nd. Bon practice with the other numbers starting June 5th. Practices will always start with "Wonderful Canada".

#### Please mark Sunday, June 11: Mass dress rehearsal at the Nikka Yuko Gardens at 12:30.

The Calgary Kaede kai dancers (5) are bringing down Sensei Hirano from Richmond to help out with formation for our dancers. The Calgary Kaede kai dancers will join us on Saturday at the Festival.

**Calligraphy Class** July 22 to Aug 26, 1 - 2pm (Members Only) Contact: Rev. Izumi

# Parents Day & Gotanye





Those attending temple on May 21 commemorating the birth of Shinran Shonin were treated to a chow mein and sweet and sour lunch prepared by Toban Four. Because the occasion also celebrated Parents Day--in lieu of Mother's and Father's days-the Dharma class had a cake for the occasion.

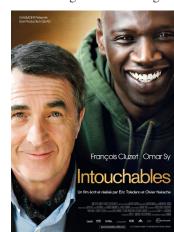
Thanks to Brenda and Roland for the tomato plants and marigolds that were provided to all who attended.

## Movie Night At the Temple

Acclaimed by critics, *The Intouchables* is a 2011 French film that is the next feature at Movie Night at the Temple on June 2, at 7 p.m. In his talk about caregivers and caregiving

early in the month, Dr. Roland Ikuta showed a clip from the film to show how caregiving has been depicted in recent popular films.

As described in a film synopsis on Google, *The Intouchables* depicts "an unlikely friendship (that) develops between a wealthy quadriplegic and his caretaker, just released from prison."



# **Obon Schedule**



July 2 (Sun)	11 am	Bro (Ol
July 9 (Sun)	10 am	Мс
	11 am	Ter
	1:30 pm	Tab
July 15 (Sat)	6 pm	Bor (thi
July 16 (Sun)	1 pm 2:30 pm	Mc BTS

Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon Service at Heritage Inn) Magrath Cemetery visitation Temple Hill visitation Taber Cemetery (NEW) Bon Odori at Nikka Yuko Garden (this year only) Mountain View Cemetery BTSA Obon Service and Shotsuki (July & August) Memorial at the Temple



# Supper prep & Take-out Supper

Helping Hands Lighten the Work

The temple was abuzz with chow mein activity during the last weekend in April with preparations on Saturday (29th) before the take-out supper on Sunday. (30th).

Thanks to all volunteers--members and friends-who turned out in large numbers to offer a hand for this major temple fund-raiser. Please look over the photos catching the activities on both days. Photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa

**April 29 - Major Preparations** 

Slicing pickles

Cooking ribs

Cutting celery

April 30 - Suppertime



Rice ready to go

Assembly lines



Finished product

Here's supper!

Co-coordinators were Jan Okamura and Judy Takaguchi. Jan reported the following:

The Spring 2017 Chow Mein Takeout was increased by an additional 100 tickets and I'm glad to say the cooking and delivery of the dinners went smoothly all day. Thank you to the Temple members and Temple friends who worked hard on both days to make this fundraising event another success.

Tickets sold 2089	\$25,068.00
Cash donations	912.00
Leftover food sale	572.20
Total	\$26,552.20
Less approximate expense	6,889.46
Approximate net profit	\$19,662.74

#### Our thanks to donors:

Fairfield Appliance - Glen Tanaka Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw Harwood Distributors - Jim Wallace Hironaka Employees Benefits - Norris Hironaka Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama - pickles R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama South Country Co-op Taber - Rod Yokoyama Taber Transport - Kei Nishida Wayne Kwan Wesbridge Construction - Frank Beekman 2017 BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples Federation Vancouver Island Obon Tour & Cumberland Memorial 50th Anniversary

#### Date: August 11 –13, 2017 Fee: \$375 per person (based on double occupancy) Highlights:

- 50th Anniversary Banquet for Cumberland Japanese Cemetery Memorial.
- Special Presentation by Cumberland Museum.
- Visiting the Cumberland Japanese-Canadian Camp site 1 as well as the former Royston Buddhist Temple in Royston.
- Visiting the Japanese-Canadian cemetery sites in Cumberland, Nanaimo, Chemainus, Duncan, and at the Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria
- Obon Service in Nanaimo
- Obon festival at Ross Bay Cemetery in Victoria.
- Enjoying fine culinary cuisines of the Island.

Join us for this special journey of the heart. A trip you won't want to miss.

For a detailed schedule of weekend events or for more information please contact Rev. Grant lkuta at rev.ikuta@steveston-temple.ca, or at the Steveston Buddhist Temple (604) 277-2323.

#### What's Included:

- Return Ferry Fees (foot passenger. Personal Vehicles will be left at the Tsawassen Terminal)
- Bus Fee (Chartered bus will pick us up at Steveston Buddhist Temple and Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal for those joining from the Island)
- Most meals including the Friday evening Banquet. (Friday lunch on your own).
- Hotel for 1 night in Courtenay, and 1 night in Nanaimo (double occupancy).
   (Fee is based on 40 individuals on a 47 seat chartered bus. Price may go down slightly if we can get more people joining the tour).

Trip Sponsors& Supporters: BCJSBTF, Steveston Buddhist Temple Fujinkai, BCJSBTFWF, Cumberland Township, Sands Funeral Home in Nanaimo, Comox Valley Nikkei Association, Victoria Nikkei Community Society.

## Pat Sassa & WF Commendations

Izumi sensei presents Pat Sassa on May 14 a Certificate of Commendation from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation for her contribution as past president of the Federation. The WF celebrated its 35th anniversary at the JSBTC AGM in Toronto in April with commendations for other past presidents: besides Pat, Terri Komori, Ritsu Saimoto, Jean Furukawa, Itoko Akune, Donna Dubbelboer, Jessie Ebata, Noriko Ikuta and Susan Huntley.

At the AGM, from left, Lori North; and commendations to Susan Huntley, Jessie Ebata, Donna Dubbelboer and Noriko Ikuta. Socho Aoki is on the right.



Photo: John Dubbelboer



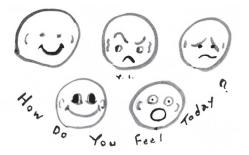
## FOR CHILDREN ONLY

How do you feel today? Happy or sad? When you are happy, your face looks happy. When you are sad your face looks sad, right? Your face changes depending on how you feel, doesn't it? Actually, you have many kinds of faces: A happy face, a sad face, a lonely face, an angry face, a frightened face, a frustrated face. And many more.

So many that they cannot all be counted. You only have one face but many different expressions! It is strange, isn't it. Why do you have so many kinds of expressions?

It is because your facial expressions are deeply connected with your mind. Do you know that your mind sometimes acts like a monkey? Swaying from one thought to the next thought, and quickly changing directions. That is why the expression on your face changes so often. And, it is hard to control your mind.

So, be still and listen carefully to the compassion and love of Amida Buddha. And notice, Buddha's children always show happy and smiling faces. (Y. I.)



# Thank You For Your Support

At the recent JSBTC Annual General Meeting hosted in Toronto, the Women's Federation made a very sizable donation of \$120,000 to the Ministers' Retirement Fund. The funds were proceeds raised through the very successful World Buddhist Women's Convention held in Calgary in 2015. Also at the AGM, the Toronto Buddhist Church made a generous donation towards the Ministers' Retirement Fund. Both of these donations were due in part of the ongoing efforts of the JSBTC to promote the importance of providing long term security for our dedicated ministers who have spent a lifetime spreading the Nembutsu teachings at temples across Canada.

On behalf of the Ministerial Association as well as those ministers who are already beginning to receive the benefits from the Ministers' Retirement Fund, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Women's Federation, to the Toronto Buddhist Church, to the JSBTC and to all the individuals who have contributed to this fund. Your contribution and ongoing effort is truly appreciated by all of the ministers, both those who are currently serving our national organization and those who have already retired.

In Gassho, Rev. Grant Ikuta, Chairperson JSBTC Ministerial Association

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



A busy month of May learning about gardening, recycling and bees, eating popcorn and cake pops, picking up around the temple and celebrating parents.















JUNE: TOBAN 2

JULY: TOBAN