



June 2018

Buddhist In Heart

In recent months we lost five elderly Buddhist friends one after another. Their average age was 90 years old. They were all Nisei, the second generation of Japanese descendants who were born and raised in Canada. They dedicated much to establish a Buddhist community and our temple, our spiritual home.

These elderly Nisei went through very difficult times in Canada, including the Second World War. Canada is actually a Christian country based on God's Law, not natural law that Buddhists follow. These Nisei friends may have suffered various kinds of discrimination during their lifetime and, yet, retained and maintained their own religion, Buddhism, until their death. I admire their courage and devotion.

I do not know how much time they studied Buddhism and how much they knew about Buddhism, but they were Buddhists. I don't think they were intellectual Buddhists. I call them Buddhists in heart. Master Rennyo, the eighth descendant of Shinran Shonin, said: "Those who have encountered Amida's compassion in their lives are wise even though they may not be able to read and understand many sutras." In other words, those who understand many sutras are not necessarily Buddhist. Apparently, understanding teachings intellectually and living the teaching with appreciation are two totally different things. Those who put their hands together and recite nembutsu namo amida butsu in gratitude are true Buddhists. Buddhists in heart are true and genuine Buddhists.

The families of these individuals endured a difficult time during their funeral services. Generally speaking, we do not want to see death and dying of our loved ones. We do not want to part with them. But we must face these realities one day. We must face our own death and dying sometime.

Some families call me for the last rite service which is also called the pillow service. Usually, a family calls me at the time when someone dies. However, I recommend the family call me before the death occurs. It is because the family members are able to accept the death of loved ones more easily. The dying person and the family members are gathered together and hear sutra chanting, hear one of the epistles written by Rennyo. The dying person will be able to hear the last dharma talk and is ready to leave this world for Buddha's world in peace. The dying person often put his or her hands together on the hospital bed while listening. It is a solemn moment for everyone gathered.

Rennyo said: "Amida Buddha arranges our minds. Arranging our minds means that the Buddha, leaving our minds as they are, add wisdom to them. It does not mean that he removes our ego mind and fills with Buddha's light of wisdom." This is called transformation by the working of other power of Amida Buddha beyond our small ego. In the world of birth and death, love and hate, the Buddha of great wisdom and compassion is always working, calling to us "come as you are" to turn our sadness and sorrow into peace and joy.

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

同伴者

最近、遠藤周作の「キリストの生涯」という本を読みました。彼は、日本では周知のキリスト教徒で、ほとんどの著作はキリストの愛を中心に書かれています。この本の中には「同伴者」という言葉が何度か出てきます。「同伴者」とは「同じ友」ということでしょう。キリストは生涯を通して、苦しみ、悩む人々と、その苦しみ、悩みを共有していかれました。そのことが、キリストをして「愛の人」と言われるゆえんであります。弟子たちは、そのようなキリストを、死してもなお生き続け、語り続けている方として慕っていくのです。感銘を受けました。

愛は状況が変わると、憎しみになることがあります。その点、キリストの愛は絶対愛と言う方がよいかもしれません。仏教では、この絶対愛を「一如の慈悲」と言っています。一如は字の示すように「ひとつのごとし」ということです。他の苦しみ、悲しみを他人事としてではなく、「わがごとし」と一つになって、いつくしみ、悲しむのです。「自分さえ良かったら。。。>という心ではありません。この様な「一如の慈悲」が阿弥陀様の心でしょう。親鸞聖人は、お慈悲の中で、お念仏申しながら生活している人々を、「同行、同朋」(同じ友)と仰っています。そして、その人々と共に、悲しみ苦しみ多いこの世を、力強く、安心して生きられたのでありました。

合掌 泉康雄

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403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

2018 Obon Season Schedule



Taber, 2017

July 1 (Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon Service at Heritage Inn)
July 8 (Sun)	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
	1:30 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation
July 14 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori
July 15 (Sun)	1 pm	Mt. View Cemetery
	2:30 pm	BTSA Obon / Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

CHAIR SCHEDULE

June & July 2018

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

<p>Jun 03 SHOTSUKI Chair: Deanna Jones Audio: Tak Okamura</p> <p>Jun 10 Chair: Sheila Oishi Audio: Sway Nishimura</p> <p>Jun 17 PICNIC Pavan Park Chair: Florence Senda Audio: Akira Ichikawa</p> <p>Jun 24 Chair: John Dubbelboer Audio: Ross Jacobs</p>	<p>July 01 SHOTSUKI Chair: Sylvia Oishi Audio: Tak Okamura</p> <p>July 08 Chair: Joyce Shigehiro Audio: John Dubbelboer</p> <p>July 15 OBON/SHOTSUKI 2:30 p.m. Chair: Roland Ikuta Audio: Sway Nishimura</p>
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- Please see Obon schedule for July elsewhere
- No formal services from BTSA Obon thru the end of August
- Regular services resume Sept. 2.

JSBTC AGM report

The JSBTC AGM was held in Calgary April 27-29th. The meetings were held without any major conflicts or issues. There were two matters that came up prior to the meeting but were settled before the meeting began.

One matter had to do with a civil litigation suit that was being conducted against the president of the JSBTC Dave Otori. Kelowna Buddhist Temple had suggested he resign his status as the President which he did prior to the meeting. He will remain an advisor to the board of directors until his legal issues are settled.

The second matter was the statement from the Kelowna Temple that they may withdraw their participation as a member temple of the JSBTC. A meeting had occurred between Harvey Kaita representing the board of the JSBTC and the Kelowna board and they were able to clarify the benefits that the JSBTC provides to the member temples. The Kelowna temple will be meeting with their general membership in the future to discuss further plans.

There were several directors who were at the end of their term but all elected to remain on the board. The JSBTC board is Larry Wakisaka (Toronto) as president, Greg Chor (Vancouver) as treasurer, Amy Wakisaka (Toronto) as director of the Living Dharma Center, Harvey Kaita (Manitoba), Laura Sugimoto (Calgary), Kent Macarl (Vancouver), Debra Campbell-Hayashi as secretary (Vernon) and Trudy Gallagher (Victoria). Tatsuya Aoki Socho and Grant Ikuta Sensei continue as ex-officio members. The assessment for 2019 will remain at \$80 per person.

There were several presentations from member temples about their success stories from 2017 and a Dharma learning session conducted by the ministers. It was a very harmonious and inspirational meeting that was enjoyed by all. The members of the Calgary Buddhist Temple did a tremendous job in running the meetings and hosting such a large group. The 2019 meeting will be held in Vancouver and the 2020 meeting will be held at the BTSA. If anybody would like further information or would be willing to consider attending future meetings please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Gassho
Roland Ikuta

Translation 15

This is a continuation of translations of Kudensho (Note 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.

The Proofreading of ALL Sutras

When Tokiuji Shurinosuke, the father of the Zen acolyte of Saimyoji Temple, was administering the government, he had all the sutras copied. He ordered two feudal lords to conduct a search for the priestly scholar, saying: "Let us find a wise and well learned monk for the proofreading." At that time they found Shinran Shonin through some circumstance. Shinran, accepting this request, proofread all the sutras.

During this time, Shinran became very close to the Vice Shogun (Yasutoki). At one time an occasion arose when sake was served with many kinds of rare delicacies, and all the lords passed the sake cup from one to another. Shinran in particular did not conduct himself with the dignity of a monk who strictly observes the precepts; his behavior was that of a lay-priest and a layman. Without any hesitation he savored the taste of the fish and fowl. Then the fish salad was place before him; he ate this also while wearing his kesa¹. The Zen acolyte of Saimyoji, who was called Kaiju-maru and was nine years of age, saw this and approached Shinran and whispered into his ear, saying: "Each and every one of those lay-priests when he eats fish removes his kesa. Why do you eat while wearing your kesa? This I cannot understand."

Shinran answered: "As the lay-priest are accustomed to such occasions as this, they understand that they should remove their kesa when they eat fish. But for me, it is a very rare occasion that I get to eat this kind of food, so I started to eat in a hurry, forgetting to remove it."

Kaiju-maru again, said: "Your words seem as if they are false. Certainly, they must have some deep meaning. You think that since Kaiju-maru is only a young child, you treat me lightly." So saying, he left. Later, on another occasion, Shinran again was eating fish while wearing his kesa. Kaiju- maru asked him the reason two or three times. Shinran answered him, saying: "I forgot again."

Kaiju-maru said: "You could not be forgetting like this. But you may feel that because of the foolish mind of a young child I may not be able to understand the deep meaning, so you do not explain this to me. However, I beg you to fully explain the real reason."

Shinran, finding it hard to refuse the repeated requests, answered young child, saying: "For one finds it rare to attain human form, to destroy life and greedily eat meat is very wrong. So, in the precepts of Shakyamui Buddha, this has been strictly prohibited. However, since sentient beings of the present age are living in a time called the 'corrupt age of the latter days', there is no one who follows the precepts; consequently, there is no one to break them. On this basis, even though one may shave off his hair and wear dyed robes, his mind is the same as those who live in the mundane world. Thus, even though I eat meat, at least, I wish that those living beings will find release. However, although I am a disciple of the Buddha, my mind is stained by worldly dust. I have no wisdom nor virtue. How can I possibly save sentient

beings? Now, the kesa is a spiritual cloth which is a symbol of the emancipation of the various Buddhas. Thinking that if I eat meat while wearing this kesa, I shall bring to fruition the vow of saving sentient beings by the virtue of the kesa, I ate meat while wearing the kesa. Illuminated by the unseen gods, unafraid of men's moral eyes, and again being made to seem pitiless and shameless ... this is the way I think."

This time, Kaiju-maru, young as he was, showed deep emotion on his face, and he very deeply rejoiced.

"The man who can rule the world, his capacity is something that appears from childhood", Shinran remarked at a later time.

¹Kesa: a dyed robe

New Collection from Izumi Sensei

The latest collection of Izumi sensei's articles were combined in Dharma: My Guiding Light No. 13 to coincide with this year's Hanamatsuri season. The anthology is available at the temple for all those who are interested in having a copy. A small donation is requested.



The reader contains short dharma messages in English and Japanese and continues the publication of sensei's talks since his first volume when he was resident minister of the Vancouver temple in the 1980s.

BON ODORI PRACTICE



EVERYONE WELCOME

COME LEARN THE DANCES FOR THE BTSA BON ODORI JULY 14 GALT GARDENS

Every Monday From June 4 through July 9 at 6:30 p.m.

BTSA - 470 40th St. S.

BON ODORI PRACTICE

2018 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!

BON ODORI

JAPANESE SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL

JULY 14 · 6pm · Galt Gardens



MUSIC & DANCING

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRESS

TAIKO DRUMMING

ACTIVITIES & VENDORS
 Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden
 Nikkei Cultural Society
 Zakka-Ya Lethbridge

CRAFT SALE

SNO-CONES

JAPANESE FOOD
 KOKO Restaurant
 Lighthouse Japanese Restaurant
 Okinawa Cultural Society

The Bon Odori is a Japanese Buddhist folk dance performed outdoors in a circle around a Taiko drum on a raised platform, decorated with lanterns. Obon is a dance of joy, a time to remember and honour those who have passed on. It is a time to appreciate all that they have done for us and to recognize the continuation of their influence upon our lives.




BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Membership to May 25: 160

Hanamatsuri Donations

May 2018

Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka
 Aki Kimoto
 Yoshiko Tsukishima

Total - \$450

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

May 2018

George Fujimoto
 Dorene Gordon
 Randy Higa
 Shinako (Sheila) or Randy Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Dr. Roland & Brenda Ikuta
 Ray & Donna Journoud
 Marvin & Sharon Koizumi
 Shigeru Kounosu
 Reyko Nishiyama
 Setsuko Ohno
 Yumiko Osaka
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Harry Sugimoto
 Kazuko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Tsuyako Tajiri
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Betty Taniguchi
 Brenda & Lester Tanner

Total - \$3,200

Other Donations

May 2018

Bob S. & Molly Akune
 John & Rita Aoki
 Rachael Crowder
 Laura M. Dempsey
 Jack & Evie Gibbons
 Kumar Gurung
 Randy Higa
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 B. Ken Ikebuchi
 Kenneth Ito
 Rev. Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Setsuko Kikuchi
 Catherine Koyanagi
 Wayne & Rhonda Kwan
 Kimino Nishi
 Kiyoto & Toki Nishijima
 Shigeru Nogamine
 Setsuko Ohno
 Florence Senda
 Ken & Lidia Shigemi
 Nobuko & Mary Shono
 Tomiko Shono
 Jim & Irene Tanaka
 Bill Teshima
 Theresa & Ken Uchikura
 Yasuo & Lil Yamashita

Total - \$2,010

Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not to be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays @ 1pm

We will resume on September 5th.

Contact Nao 403.327.7357

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albriio.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bon Odori practice on Mondays, 6:30, June 4 to July 9

Those wishing assistance to dress, please arrive well before 6:30.

Contact Pat Sassa for info: sas7@telus.net

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 2** volunteers for May activities. June will have **Toban 3** up for duties that include Shotsuki, the monthly memorial service June 3. Thanks to members of **Toban 3** for providing lunch at the Soup Kitchen on May 23rd. **Toban 2** will prepare and serve our last Soup Kitchen of the year on Wednesday, June 6. Our **Annual Potluck Picnic** is June 17.

Contact: Lorita at 403.327.1668
or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Schedule Update

June Toban 3

July Toban 2

Aug Toban 4

Soup Kitchen 2018

June 6 Toban 2

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

New and Gently Used Sale

Saturday, June 2
10:00 – 3:00 p.m.

470-40th Street South, Lethbridge, AB

In addition to the typical fare, there will be a large assortment of **Japanese** dishware, décor, clothing, collectibles and books.



Contact Brenda Ikuta (403) 317-0078 (phone or text)
Brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com



Soup Kitchen

Toban 3 members prepared lunch May 23 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen, under Emily Stitt's direction. From left, helpers included Akira Ichikawa, Sachi Izumi, Joe Tomiyama, Deb Friesen, Emily Still and Harry Sugimoto. In front, from left, Izumi sensei, Shannon Tomiyama, Sumi Tomiyama and Marion Tomiyama.

IKEBANA CLASS

Saturdays • June 16 thru August 25, 2018
(no classes on July 14)
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at BTSA

EVERYONE WELCOME

Call Lilly Oishi to sign up for the class.
Donation of \$15 to the BTSA.
Phone: 403-328-2159, or email: lilly.oishi@gmail.com
❖ Please bring your own ikebana equipment.

Report from the 2018 JSBTC WF AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year was hosted by the Calgary Buddhist Temple. It's always nice to meet new people and renew acquaintances from across Canada as well as exchange thoughts and ideas.

WF AGM highlights:

- Over \$4,000 collected this year from the WF Dana Day! Because of returned funds from the previous year, the amount of \$3,000 was designated to go to the Canadian Red Cross and \$3,000 to Indspire (Indspire helps Indigenous students in Canada complete their post-secondary education for a successful future.)
- The last batch of used stamps collected from across Canada were valued at \$300. The proceeds were forwarded to the Save the Children Fund.
- Foreign Coin Collection is ongoing. This leftover change goes to the Air Canada Foundation which supports causes and programs such as the Children's Miracle Network and member pediatric hospitals across Canada.
- Sustaining Fund interest/proceeds are used to support our Canadian ministerial training. No applicants this year but foresee possible financial support being required by Rev Ouchi and Rev Gubenko as they continue their studies.
- Youth Dharma Assistance – One applicant last year, Miriah Conway of Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple, received \$500 towards her attending the Hongwanji sponsored Japan Youth Tour.
- 2019 World Buddhist Women's Convention Update:
 - o August 30-September 1, 2019 in San Francisco (Marriott Hotel)
 - o \$350 USD registration fee; Keynote speakers have been identified (see poster)
 - o The WF Executive Committee will designate someone from the executive to set up a working committee which will organize selection of a panel speaker, district attire and stage performance, etc.
- Terms of Reference for JSBTCWF
 - o A subcommittee was formed (Susan Huntley, Maureen Hatanaka, and Brenda Ikuta) to draft and distribute a copy to each chapter by September 30, 2018. Adjustments to be made by January 30, 2019 for distribution and approval at the 2019 AGM.
- JSBTC WF Executive Committee voted in for 2018:
 - o June Asano, Dianne Mark, Darlene Rieger, and Myra Takasaki – all from the Toronto Buddhist Temple
- The 2019 AGM will be held in Vancouver; the 2020 AGM in Lethbridge.

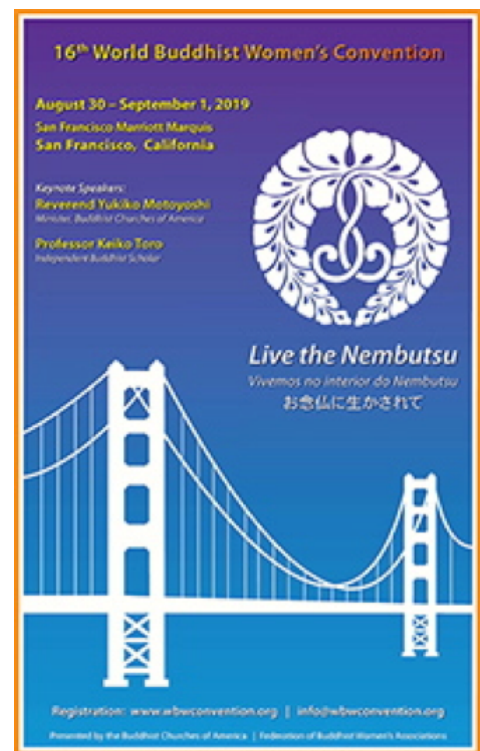
Submitted by Brenda Oishi

Women's Federation and World Buddhist Women's Convention 2019

August 30 – September 1, 2019, the Buddhist Churches of America Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (BCA FBWA) will host the 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention at the San Francisco Marriott Grand Marquis in San Francisco, California.

The Convention is an opportunity for Jodo Shinshu followers to gather together on an international level; meet new people, learn together, share experiences, and spread the circle of Dharma followers today and for generations to come. Originally, the Convention was held for women only; however, over the years, it has welcomed all, men and women, in the Jodo Shinshu Sangha or spiritual community.

If you think you may be interested in attending, please email Susan at jsbtcwf.shuntley@gmail.com to ensure you're kept in the loop regarding further details and announcements.





BTSA Picnic - June 17



Keep your fingers crossed for a nice summer day when BTSA holds its annual picnic June 17 at the John Martin Recreation Centre in Pavan Park (110 - 62 Avenue North).

Directions to the park: Drive north on 13th Street North, past Hardieville, and look for the Pavan Park sign on the left-hand side of the road. The access road goes down coulees to the river bottom. Spend a relaxing morning and early afternoon with members and friends.

The regular Sunday service will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the shelter that protects users from any kind of weather. If the sun shines, there's a broad green space next to the shelter, and a children's playground.

We'll try to have the place open around 9:30 a.m. The picnic is a potluck-style event and members and friends are asked to bring salads and/or desserts to feed 6 to 8 persons. KFC, rice and beverages will be provided to complement the dishes everyone brings to share. **Please bring your own plates and cutlery in order to reduce waste.** The temple will bring the styrofoam cups for tea (and some plates for those that forget).

Bring lawn chairs for those wanting added comfort, as well as sunscreen, bug repellent, and hats.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, **June 3**, Tomoko Greenshields will plan activities for the class. Tomoko is a BTSA member and runs the Zakka-Ya store downtown selling Japanese goods.

Sunday, **June 10**, children will be invited to plant pansies and petunias in the raised flower bed. We have recycled our sand box for this activity.

Don't forget the BTSA picnic on **June 17**, Father's Day. Bring a ball, frisbee or other items to throw around as there will be lots of green space. Stay around to play BINGO and win prizes.

Parents Day



Izumi sensei described the importance of interdependence in his Parents Day service message by noting how the parent-child relationship emphasizes the Buddhist principles of co-existing and co-arising that speak to the oneness of life.

A nice turnout of members and friends enjoyed the clear May Sunday and a lunch that featured sandwiches and assorted garnishes. Each person also was presented with a tomato plant on the occasion.





JUNE: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY ** for families whose loved one passed away from the last year obon to this year					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH*	10am New & Gently Used Sale*
					1	2
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* Private Memorial Service* 3	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 4	1pm Tonari Gumi 5				10:30am Explore Buddhism* 9
10:30am Regular Service* 10	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 11	1pm Tonari Gumi 12	2pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13			10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana 16
10:30am BTSA Picnic* 17	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 18	1pm Tonari Gumi 19				10:30am Ikebana 23
10:30am Regular Service* (Rev. Izumi away) 24	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 25	1pm Tonari Gumi 26	2pm Correctional Centre visit* 27			10:30am Ikebana 30

JULY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Regular Service* 11am Brooks Cemetery 1	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 2	1pm Tonari Gumi 3				10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana 7
10:30am Regular Service* 10am Magrath Cem 11am Temple Hill 1:30pm Taber Cemetery 8	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 9	1pm Tonari Gumi 10	7pm Board Mtg* 11			10:30am Explore Buddhism* 6pm Bon Odori, Galt Gardens* 14

AUGUST: TOBAN 4

1pm Mt. View Cemetery* 2:30pm BTSA Obon/Hatsu-Bon**/July & August Memorial Service* 15	16	17	18	19	20	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana 21
No Service 22	23	1pm Tonari Gumi 24	25	26	27	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana 28
No Service 29	30	1pm Tonari Gumi 31				NOTE: 10:30am Explore Buddhism* Will continue throughout August on Saturdays.