

Hikari the Light



June 2019

How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the ground of Amida's Universal Vow, and my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma of the nembutsu.... – Shinran

A summary of my talk on the occasion of the 115th/40th Anniversary of the Vancouver Buddhist Temple.

It was in 1977 when I was assigned to Vancouver Buddhist Temple and two years later, in 1979, we decided to demolish the existing old temple and build the new one. I fondly recall those days. A Buddha's shrine and Minister's office were temporarily relocated to the Japanese Language School, two blocks north of here. So, whenever I drove to the office in the morning, I was able to see the progress of the new temple building. Some evenings I would bring my wife and children, sit on the bench at the Oppenheimer Park across the temple and watch the new temple developing.

One morning, when I saw the front door, I felt something was wrong and soon realized that the entrance door was too narrow. I asked one of workers, "Don't you think the door is too narrow?" He took a look and said, "Well, this is normal."

"Yes, it is normal for the ordinary house but, you know, we are building the Buddhist Temple. How can pallbearers take a casket through the door?" I asked. The man looked at the door again for a moment or two and laughingly said, "That's right. You cannot go through with a casket unless carrying it sideways." Next day the door was immediately replaced with a double door as we can now see. I vividly remember that incident as if it were yesterday.

The entrance door of a Buddhist temple is always wide. When we built our new Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta 10 years ago, I asked the building committee to make a wide entrance. When you visit our temple you will see a wide and bright entrance. A wide entrance of a Buddhist temple symbolizes a humble gesture to welcome anyone to enter. In contrast, an entrance of a traditional Christian church is usually narrow. For example, the Bible says: Make every effort to enter, for many will try to enter and will not be able. A narrow door suggests that a firm and strong belief in God is required for all Christians. In other words, the entrance to heaven is opened only for those who strive to pass through the narrow entrance, only for those who knock hard on the narrow door.

It reminds me of the gate of self-power for enlightenment. Self-power means to rely on one's self, self-effort. Shinran Shonin said that the gate of Jodo Shinshu teaches the gate of other power, the working of Amida Buddha beyond our self. He taught that Amida accepts us as we are. It is the path for everyone no matter who we are. So, the entrance of a Buddhist temple is wide. In Juseige which we often chant, it says: "For the sake of all beings I will open forth the Dharma-store. And universally bestow its treasure of virtue--namo amida butsu--upon them." This is Amida's vow. It indicates that the compassion of Amida Buddha welcomes us and accepts all beings without discrimination. The door of the Pure Land is always open for us before we ask. It must be open wide for those of us so full of blind passions of greed, anger and foolishness due to our selfish mind, selfish desires.

6月になって

6月になりました。ほんの二週間ほど前まで冷たい雨が降って、寒い日が続きました。いつ暖かい日が来るのだろう、と心細くにもなりました。しかし、暖かい季節は確かにやってきました。心配することもなかったのですが、やはり暖かくなるまで、「今年は大丈夫だろうか」と思ったりしました。

私たちの太郎を、とうとう学校に入れることにしました。太郎は私たちの孫の名前ではありません。犬の名前です。私たちの犬と言っても、ワイフの犬のようなものです。何しろ私の方は外で仕事があります。ワイフは家の仕事で、ほとんど太郎と暮らしているようなものです。ところが、太郎は私の言うことをよく聞くようなのですが、ワイフに対しては、かなり横着に構えます。私を、犬の主の一人とみるより、友達ぐらいにみるからでしょうか。近くにいる人を粗末に扱うのは人間の社会でも、よくあることです。本当は近くにいる人が、いつも一番よく気にしてくれているのでしよう。ところが、太郎は最も近くにいる、大切な人の言うことを聞きません。まったく人間の真似をしています。

それで、先日、とうとう学校に入学させることにしました。そして5回の授業があつと言う間に終わり、先生から「6回目は卒業式です。卒業帽子をかぶります」との知らせ。「犬にも卒業があるのか、知らなかったね」とワイフと大笑いしました。人間も光に照らされると、自分の誤りが少しずつ分かり、良くなっていくといわれます。太郎も先生のおかげで、少し良くなったようです。

合掌 泉康雄

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470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

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

MESSAGE: On the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

The year 2023 will mark the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and 2024 will be the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. To commemorate these occasions, we will be having the joint celebratory observance in 2023.

Shinran Shonin was born in 1173 and entered the priesthood at the age of nine. However, after devoting many years to monastic Buddhist practices on Mt. Hiei, he decided to descend the mountain at the age of 29. Following the guidance from his new mentor Honen Shonin, who introduced him to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin came to entrust himself to the Nembutsu teaching preached by his master. Several years later, their Nembutsu teaching was banned and Shinran Shonin was exiled to Echigo, present Niigata. Following his pardon, Shinran Shonin moved to the Kanto region where he engaged in propagation of the Nembutsu teaching of Other Power, namely the working of Amida's great wisdom and compassion. It is believed to be then when he began writing his main literary work, The True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way, known as Kyōgyōshinshō. Since the essence of his teaching that emphasizes entrusting oneself to the Buddha's working of Other Power and recitation of the Nembutsu was clarified in the composition, the Kyōgyōshinshō is also referred to as gohonden, or the most foundational scripture of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Based on Shinran Shonin's own inscription in the writing stating that he was 52 years of age at the time, the year 1224 became designated as the year when the Jodo Shinshu teaching was established.

Buddhism began approximately 2500 years ago when Śākyamuni became a Buddha, awakening to the true reality of this world, such as, the principles of dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. However, ordinary people like us are neither able to realize the truth of enlightenment nor practice a life of nonattachment. To the contrary, we see things from our egocentric viewpoint and because of that we constantly suffer, encounter hardship, and fight with one another. That is why Śākyamuni Buddha informs us of the existence of Amida Buddha who had vowed to save all ordinary and foolish beings like us, by guiding us to supreme enlightenment. Furthermore, Shinran Shonin clarifies that we, as the recipient of Amida's working, have already received the Buddha's wish in the form of the Name, Namo Amida Butsu.

As the manifestation of the ultimate wisdom and compassion that accepts everything as it is, Amida Buddha's working equally embraces every living being, never to abandon us no matter how egoistic and filled with blind passions we may be. When truly realizing how vast the Buddha's compassion is, we cannot help but feel ashamed of our way of living that is a far cry from Amida Buddha's wish. That is why Shinran Shonin laments, "How ugly it is! How wretched!" in referring to himself. However, this feeling of shamefulness could motivate us to endeavor to lessen the Buddha's sorrow even if only limited results were expected. Furthermore, that sentiment should synchronize with our efforts of sharing the Buddha's Vow with as many people as possible and feeling others' grief and joy as our own, because these acts are in accord with the wishes of Amida Buddha, and also Shinran Shonin who aspires for peace and tranquility and the Buddha's teaching to spread throughout the world.

Let us appreciate the Dharma and Nembutsu teaching even more deeply, and together strive to realize a society in which everyone can live in peace and harmony, resonating in the hearts and minds of all. As the first step of this movement, I would like to ask for everyone's cooperation in continuing our organizational plans for the future and successfully conducting the joint celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching.

January 9, 2019
SHAKU SENNYO
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Service Schedule

At the conclusion of the annual commemorative ceremony of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching on April 15, 2019, Sennyo Monshu unveiled the schedule of the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, which will be conducted in 2023 as follows:

March 29 to May 21, 2023

(5 sessions / 6 days per session)

1st session	March 29 (Wed) – April (Mon)
2nd session	April 10 (Mon) – April 15 (Sat)
3rd session	April 24 (Mon) – April 29 (Sat)
4th session	May 6 (Sat) – May 11 (Thu)
5th session	May 16 (Tue) – May 21 (Sun)

親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要 期日について

専如ご門主様は4月15日、立教開宗記念法要のご親教で、2023年ご修行の「親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要」の法要期日をお示しになりましたので、お知らせいたします。

法要期日は同年3月29日から5月21日まで、5期30日間。各期の期日は以下の通りです。

第1期	3月29日(水)	~4月3日(月)	6日間
第2期	4月10日(月)	~4月15日(土)	6日間
第3期	4月24日(月)	~4月29日(土)	6日間
第4期	5月6日(土)	~5月11日(木)	6日間
第5期	5月16日(火)	~5月21日(日)	6日間

以 上

親鸞聖人御誕生八百五十年

立教開宗八百年 についての消息

来る2023年には、宗祖親鸞聖人のご誕生八百五十年、また、その翌年には立教開宗八百年にあたる記念すべき年をお迎えするにあたり、2023年に慶讃法要をお勤めいたします。

親鸞聖人は承安3年・1173年にご誕生となり、御年九歳で出家得度され、比叡山で修行を重ねられました。二十九歳の折、山を下りて法然聖人の御弟子となられ、阿弥陀如来の本願念仏の世界に入られました。その後、専修念仏停止によって越後にご流罪になられ、赦免の後は関東に赴かれて他力念仏のみ教えを人々に伝えられるとともに、『教行信証』の執筆にとりかかられました。他力念仏のみ教えがまとめられた本書は、浄土真宗の根本聖典という意味でご本典と呼ばれています。そして、そのご本典の記述によって、その成立を親鸞聖人五十二歳の時、すなわち元仁元年・1224年とみて、この年を立教開宗の年と定めています。

仏教は今から約二千五百年前、釈尊が縁起や諸行無常・諸法無我というこの世界のありのままの真実をさとられたことに始まります。翻って私たちは、この執われのないおさとの真実に気づくことができず、常に自分中心の心で物事を見て、悩み、悲しみ、あるいは他人と争ったりしています。釈尊は、このような私たちをそのままに救い、おさとの真実へ導こうと願われたのが阿弥陀如来であることを教えてくださいました。そして、親鸞聖人は、この阿弥陀如来の願いが、南無阿弥陀仏のお念仏となってはたらき続けてくださっていることを明らかにされたのです。

ありのままの真実に基づく阿弥陀如来のお慈悲でありますから、いのちあるものすべてに平等にそそがれ、自己中心的な考え方ができない煩惱具足の私たちも決して見捨てられることはありません。その広大な慈悲を思うとき、親鸞聖人が「恥づべし傷むべし」とおっしゃったように、阿弥陀如来のお心とあまりにもかけ離れた私たちの生活を深く慚愧せざるをえません。しかし、この慚愧の思いは、阿弥陀如来の悲しみを少しでも軽くすることができればという方向に私たちを動かすでしょう。

それは、阿弥陀如来の願いを一人でも多くの人に伝え、他人の喜び悲しみを自らの喜び悲しみとするような如来のお心にかなう生き方であり、また、世の安穩、仏法弘通を願われた親鸞聖人のお心に沿う生活です。み教えに生かされ、いよいよお念仏を喜び、すべのいのちあるものが、お互いに心を通い合わせて生きていけるような社会の実現に向け、宗門総合振興計画の取り組みを進めながら、来るべき親鸞聖人ご誕生八百五十年ならびに立教開宗八百年の慶讃法要をともにお迎えいたしましょう。

平成31年

2019年 1月9日

龍谷門主 釋 專 如

July Obon Schedule

Brooks, 2018



Please check out the Obon service schedule for your area during July. Izumi sensei will be conducting cemetery services, as well as the major service at the temple on July 21.

July 7 (Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon Service at Heritage Inn)
July 14 (Sun)	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill visitation
	1:30 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation
July 20 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori at Galt Gardens
July 21 (Sat)	1 pm	Mt. View Cemetery visitation
	2:30 pm	BTSA Obon Service and Shotsuki (July & August) Memorial @ Temple

BON ODORI PRACTICE



Photo from 2018 Practice

EVERYONE WELCOME

COME LEARN THE DANCES FOR THE
BTSA BON ODORI JULY 20
at GALT GARDENS

Every Monday From June 3
through July 15 at 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
(Excluding July 1, Canada Day)

BTSA - 470 40th St. S.

BON ODORI PRACTICE

HikariTheLight

2019 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!

Membership to May 24 – 159

Shotsuki Donations and Late Hanamatsuri
 May 2019

John & Rita Aoki
 George Fujimoto
 Dorene Gordon
 Gary Higa
 Randy Higa
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Ray & Donna Journoud
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 Reyko Nishiyama
 Setsuko Ohno
 Hisae Price
 Darcee Richardson
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Ayumi Sawada
 Yoshiko Sawada
 Emily Stitt
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Tsuyako Tajiri
 David & Linda Tanaka

Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Masaya Tanaka
 Tammy Tanaka
 Brenda & Lester Tanner
 Maya Yoshida
Total - \$1,117.36

Other Donations
 May 2019

Dhan Kumar Gurung
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Michie Kawasaki
 Yoshie Kurita
 Deanna Jones & John Wolsey
 Kevin or Tami Maclean
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 R Nakagama Co.
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Irene Sakamoto
 Tobie Sakamoto
 Roy & Pat Sassa

Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Estate of Reiko Takeyasu
 David & Linda Tanaka
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Jim, Marion & Shannon Tomiyama
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Total - \$1,968

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.



Spring chow mein supper morning surprise May 5 didn't hamper the day's activities with many members and Dharma friends turning out to help overcome the late-spring snowfall and warm up the day. All 2,100 tickets at \$15 each were sold by day's end, resulting in \$31,500. With donations and related sales, total gross sales came to \$32,556. Briefly, the summary:

Ticket sales	\$31,500.00	
Donations	545.00	
Miscellaneous sales	<u>511.00</u>	
Gross Total		\$32,556.00
Expenses		<u>8,596.58</u>
Net Profit		\$23,959.42
*Sysco Credit (for containers)		<u>495.96</u>
Total Net Profit		\$24,419.38

BTSA thanks those who kindly donated to the temple for the supper:

- Fairfield Appliances – Glen Tanaka
- Gouw's Quality Onions – Casey and Kyle Gouw
- Hironaka Employees Benefits – Norris Hironaka
- Wayne & Rhonda Kwan
- R. Nakagama Co. – Ken and Vicky Nakagama
- South Country Co-op, Taber – Rod Yokoyama
- Taber Transport – Kei Nishida
- Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama – dill pickles

A rousing thank you to everyone who contributed to this group effort. We hope you enjoyed the camaraderie that relieved all the hard work. BTSA appreciates your untiring efforts.



More photos of the Chow Mein Supper on page 7.

REGULAR EVENTS

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

Bon practices begin June 3rd: Mondays 6:30 - 7:45pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or sas7@telus.net

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1 pm

Contact Heidi Oishi 403.330.6461 or heidi.oishi@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences:

Reiko Takeyasu (93) May 9

Mark Tsukishima (27) May 7

Akira Terashima (93) May 9

Congratulations (Wedding):

John Wolsey & Deanna Jones May 18

EcoSangha Talks

A proposal to install solar panels at the BTSA was brought to the May board of directors meeting. There was general support for solar panels and the discussion developed into finding out more detail about the EcoSangha in Seattle and engaging our Sangha in a conversation about what steps to take to reduce the BTSA environmental footprint. Please stay tuned for a notice of an upcoming town hall or seminar to get involved in ways to reduce our CO2 emissions and how we can become a more ecological Sangha.

CHAIR SCHEDULE June & July 2019

Jun 02 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Deanna Jones

Jun 09
Chair: Sheila Oishi

Jun 16 PICNIC
Chair: Bob Muscovich

Jun 23
Chair: John Dubbelboer

Jun 30
Chair: Harry Sugimoto

Jul 07
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro

Jul 14
Chair: Jeff Haines

Jul 21 2:30 pm
OBON & SHOTSUKI
Chair: TBA

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

•Please note Obon
schedule for July on
page 3

•No formal services
from BTSA Obon thru
the end of August

•Regular services
resume Sept. 1

Ross Jacobs will
handle audio until
placement of the new
system is completed
and operating.



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IKEBANA CLASS

Saturdays • June 15 thru August 24, 2019

(no class on July 20)

At BTSA; time to be announced

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.

TOBAN UPDATE

Each Toban serves four separate months during the year, which includes one of our three major service suppers, tea after regular services and monthly clean-up. You don't have to join a toban to volunteer! Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Appreciation to **Toban 3** for serving during the month of May and to both **Toban 3 & 4** serving for two funerals. Brenda did a great job of heading up the Spring Chow Mein Supper with mentor Judy and all-toban and members lending their efforts. Next up is **Toban 4** with our annual potluck, picnic June 16.

Soup Kitchen 2019

Special thanks to Annie and **Toban 2**. - She notes " We had a great team at the soup kitchen and served 101 clients - egg and chicken salad sandwiches and Minestrone soup." **Toban 3** will do the last soup kitchen of the year on June 5.

May Soup Kitchen

Toban Two at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen on May 22. Front from right: Donna Dubbelboer, Mary Shigehiro, Dorene Gordon, and June Terakita. Middle from left: Robert Takaguchi, Betty Tanaka, Chiyomi Matsuno, Judy Takaguchi, Toshiko Nishimura and Eichi Tanaka. Back from left: Sway Nishimura, Joe Shigehiro, John Dubbelboer, Jim Tsukishima, Annie Martin and Mikallia Holt (volunteer on Tuesdays).

JSBTC AGM in Vancouver

Kynan Gordon and I attended the 2019 AGM Apr. 27-28 in Vancouver. Vancouver welcomed the Ministers, JSBTC Board members & AGM delegates with beautiful weather and cherry blossoms. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces when I go to the AGMs; however this year we were short two JSBTC board members due to health issues and Sensei Miyakawa also left the AGM early due to health issues.

Some business items that were addressed at the AGM are:

- Resolution to keep the JSBTC assessment at \$80/member for 2020. This amount has remained the same for several years.
- The ministers retirement fund is being invested well. The investment sits at just over \$1 Million and is receiving an 8% return on investment.
- A JSBTC motion to adopt a compensation grid for paying the Socho which would see an incremental pay increase after several years of service in the Bishop role.
- JSBTC's first newsletter, with an invitation to include suggestions for future newsletters. They are also looking for a catchy name to call their newsletter. Any suggestions for the name or content can be sent to jsbtcnewsletter@gmail.com.
- Sensei James Martin who retired April 30. Calgary has a succession plan where Sensei Robert Grubenko will take over the ministerial duties. Sensei Grubenko is finishing up his Kaikyoshi and will be finished in November 2019.
- Human Rights tour - Average cost of \$800/person for flight and accommodation. The LDC is graciously covering 1/2 the cost to keep the average price per person affordable.

We listened to temple success stories. It seems that most temples are looking at ways to engage the public and increase membership.

- Toronto Buddhist Church has a handheld camera to record services which they intend to broadcast via Facebook. This is a private page that requires approval by the site administrator. They are currently in a pilot stage and do not have any feedback yet. They are looking to provide services to people East of Winnipeg.
- Kamloops held a festival the day before Hanamatsuri which had booths that taught people how to oshoko, how to wear a yukata, and had food and games. All in an effort to raise awareness and increase attendance.
- Vancouver Buddhist Temple has short YouTube videos that give a visual orientation on the temple, how to enter the hondo, how to oshoko, how to bow as a person exits the hondo. It's located on the Living Dharma Centers YouTube page.

Dr. Kent Matsuda from the Buddhist Churches of America attended the AGM. He talked about temple security and suggested enlisting off duty police officers to be security guards. This is in light of all the shootings that have occurred in the United States where gunmen go into a church and open fire.

He also talked about the next generation of Buddhist, who are not Japanese people and the Millennial Generation. He said they are

coming to the Temple for the dharma message. He expressed the importance of the dharma message being spoken in words they can relate to.

Dr. Matsuda said that the next BCA national conference will be at the end of February, 2020. They will have a social media workshop and talk about connecting to people all over the world through social media. Young people today connect through social media. The millennial generation has less importance on coming to regular Sunday services, but more likely to come to major events instead.

Guest speaker Dr. Jessica Mein spoke on socially-engaged Buddhism, defined as "The application of Buddhist principles and practices to the task of instigating systemic changes in social, political, and economic institutions and policies such so as to further the wellbeing of the people and other beings affected by them to change the systems and structures responsible for communal suffering, not merely the persons who create and control them."

She showed the INEB (International Network of Engaged Buddhists) website.

She talked about the suffering seen in Cambodia. As quoted by Maya Ghosa Ananda "The suffering of Cambodia has been deep. From this suffering comes great compassion. Great compassion makes a peaceful heart. A peaceful heart makes a peaceful person. A peaceful person makes a peaceful family. A peaceful family makes a peaceful community. A peaceful community makes a peaceful nation."

Dr. Mein ended by telling us about the Tzu Chi Foundation - committed to hospital care and disaster relief. Based in Taiwan, this foundation started off collecting spare change and saved enough to build a hospital. Tzu chi Canada came to Vancouver in 1992. When the Tzu Chi volunteers are giving supplies to a person in need, they bow to the recipient because the recipient is giving the opportunity to the volunteer to practice Buddhism.

Kynan Gordon and Arjun Gil presented their film project Ripple to the AGM, which was well received. They showed the mein-making film they created for the BTSA which helped to showcase their abilities.

Socho Aoki showed "I am OCBC" which you can find on YouTube. It's a documentary from the seniors of Orange County Buddhist Church and very well put together as well. OCBC also has a website Everyday Buddhism which has free and paid classes anyone can attend online about Buddhism.

All in all it was another successful AGM. BTSA is hosting the 2020 AGM! We will start planning for it in September 2019 and any volunteers that wish to join the planning committee are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Deanna Wolsey at deewolsey13@gmail.com or text me at 403-593-9413 or see me in person at temple.

Deanna Wolsey

The 2019 annual BTSA picnic will be held June 16 at the same site as last year, the John Martin Recreation Area at Pavan Park. BTSA reserved the area from 9 a.m.; we will try to open the enclosure near that time. As in past years, the format is a potluck lunch augmented by KFC. Everyone is invited to bring an enticing, preferred contribution. Plan on coming out and spending the day at an outdoor Sunday service, hopefully, in the sun.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, **June 9**, We are happy to welcome artist and BTSA member, Annie Martin, who will lead the dharma class in an art activity.

Don't forget the BTSA picnic on **June 16**, 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.

We welcome members to visit the dharma room. We are also trying to bring art projects out into the multi-purpose area so everyone has an opportunity to create. For the month of June we will have materials available to create fairy gardens. Thank you to Karla and Brenda for providing materials and great ideas.



Sample of Fairy Garden
pinterest.com



Mother's Day Tea

Mother's Day Tea

Mother's Day turnout of members and Dharma friends May 12 was numerous and treated to a wonderful lunch and tasty centrepieces prepared by Toban 3. Thanks to all for coming to the service during which Izumi sensei likened mother's love to Amida's compassion.

Sensei also quoted a poem by Rev. Akegarasu, a Jodo Shinshu minister who lived in Japan: "There are billions of mothers for billions of people. But will there be a mother over my mother?"

"The poem became very famous," Sensei said. "Most people understood that 'mother' in the poem as an earthly mother. But an earthly mother is an earthly mother who loves her own child, not necessarily others' children. There is human limitation. Rev. Akegarasu's true intention was that 'mother' in his poem meant Amida Buddha of unconditional compassion beyond human limitation. His poem was metaphorical."

The shotsuki service for May was held on the second Sunday since the spring chow mein supper was scheduled for the usual first Sunday shotsuki date.



Supper Prep & CMS photos

A great turnout of members and Dharma friends May 4 made for hasty preparations for the spring chow mein supper. Thanks to all for their tireless work on behalf of the BTSA. Please see page 4 for the supper activities and results. Photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa





JUNE: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* 2	6:30pm Bon Practice 3	1pm Tonari Gumi 4	Soup Kitchen Toban 3 5		12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH 7	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 8
10:30am Regular Service* 9	6:30pm Bon Practice 10	1pm Tonari Gumi 11	2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 12			Ikebana class begins on Saturdays thru Aug. 24, except July 20 15
10:30am Service & Annual Picnic* 16	6:30pm Bon Practice 17	1pm Tonari Gumi 18	2pm LCC visit* 19			10:30am Explore Buddhism* Ikebana 22
10:30am Regular Service* 23	6:30pm Bon Practice 24	1pm Tonari Gumi 25	26			10:30am Explore Buddhism* Ikebana 29
10:30am Regular Service* 30						

JULY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH 5	10:30am Explore Buddhism* Ikebana 6
11am Brooks Cemetery/Obon service* 7	6:30pm Bon Practice 8	1pm Tonari Gumi 9	2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 10			10:30am Explore Buddhism* Ikebana 13
10am Magrath Cemetery service 11am Temple Hill Cemetery service 1:30pm Taber Cemetery service* 14	6:30pm Bon Practice 15	1pm Tonari Gumi 16	17			6pm Bon Odori @ Galt Gardens* 20
1pm Mt. View Cemetery Service 2:30 BTSa Obon Service (Hatsubon, July & August Shotsuki)* 21	22	1pm Tonari Gumi 23	2pm LCC visit* 24	25	26	Ikebana 27
28	29	30	31			
Upcoming dates: August 4 (Sun) @ 1:30pm Sutra chanting for "Day of Peace and Serenity" at Nikka Yuko August 11 (Sun) @ 2pm Obon at Japanese Cultural Center in Edmonton						