

Hikari the Light



June 2016

Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, alone is true, real and sincere.
– Master Shinran (1173-1263)

It is very tragic about the wild fire around Fort McMurray. Once the area was the place known for its oil sands industry and attracted many people with many available jobs. Then, when the price of oil went down, people lost their jobs. And now there are many people in that area who are still suffering due to the loss of their houses and belongings. There is nothing in this world that really guarantees things around us will remain forever. Things and people, including ourselves, are constantly changing in this world. Our life often does not go as we would like. That was Buddha's teaching, the dharma, the universal law. When things do not go as we like, we must endure. We must patiently wait for the next day. However, it is true that this world is not always an easy place to live. This world is where we must endure.

Soseki Natsume who was and still is one of the greatest novelists in Japan wrote in the beginning of one of his books entitled *Kusamakura*: **Going up a mountain track, I pondered... Approach everything rationally, and you become harsh. Pole along the stream of emotion, and you will be swept away by the current... It is not a very agreeable place to live, this world of ours.**

In Buddhism, the place where we live is called Saha in Sanskrit (*shaba* in Japanese) meaning "endurance." In this world, things do not go as we desire them to go. So, we must constantly endure. We cannot change the world. We cannot

change even a person beside us in a way we like. Then we learn that we must change ourselves, our perception. Otherwise, born in Saha and die in Saha. We endure our life and die in endurance. How should we deal with our world, our life? The Amida Sutra gives us a direction.

In the Amida Sutra it says: **Sakyamuni Buddha (the historical Buddha) has successfully accomplished an extremely difficult and rare task. In this Saha world, he has attained the supreme, perfect enlightenment, and for the sake of all beings in the world, expounds the rare teaching (of Namo Amida Butsu) which is the most difficult in the world to receive.**

Namo Amida Butsu means "To take refuge in the Buddha of infinite wisdom and compassion". It is actually a call of Amida Buddha's unconditional love which is working beyond our small self. It is indeed the most difficult to receive Namu Amida Butsu that calls to us whose life is deeply mired with a self-centered mind. Nevertheless, we are now able to hear the teaching of Namo Amida Butsu. As Soseki Natsume wrote, the world of ours is not a very agreeable place to live. Therefore, Amida Buddha, without abandoning all beings in pain and affliction, fulfilled the heart of great compassion. Those who encounter Amida's call, Namu Amida Butsu, in our world, in this Saha world of continuous endurance, turns into the world of peace, serenity and comfort. We recite "Namu Amida Butsu" to the Buddha in gratefulness.

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

一隅を照らす

もう20年以上にもなりますが、「一隅を照らす」という題で随筆集を出しました。この題は、比叡山に天台宗を開き、延暦寺を建立した伝教大師最澄の本の中にある言葉です。苦行する僧侶のために書かれた本ですが、一隅を照らす者こそ国の宝である、と最澄は言っています。そしてそれを目標として、僧侶の育成をしました。最澄より約400年ほど後にお生まれになった親鸞聖人も、比叡山で二十年にわたり勉学修行に励まれました。しかし、厳しい修行を捨て、山を降り、庶民のためにアミだ如来の教えを弘められました。そのような聖人が、「一隅を照らす」という考えをどのように味わっていたのだろうか、と思います。一隅を照らすのは、厳しい修行をしている僧侶であり、国の宝となる者も、そのような僧侶です。しかし、親鸞聖人は、智慧のかたまりであるアミだ如来が、生にまどい、死を恐れて生きている我々を憐れみ、慈悲の姿になって照らして下さい、と味わっていたのではないかと思います。というのも、親鸞聖人がお書きになった中に、源信僧都の言葉を引用して「罪の人々名(南無阿弥陀仏)をよべ、われも光のうちにあり、まどいの眼には見えねども、仏は常に照らします」とあるからです。私の心の隅までも照らしてください、とお願いして下さる仏様がいらしゃる事を知ったものは、誰でも、国の宝となるのであります。感謝のお念仏を申しませう。 合掌 泉康雄

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403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA Notes

The BTSA board voted this month to contribute \$3,000 toward the Canadian Red Cross for wildfire relief in northern Alberta to take advantage of the matching grant by the end of May by the Canadian federal government.

Subsequently, in response, many temple members have contributed donations designated for wildfire relief. Plans are afoot to sponsor some kind of further fund-raiser to help the many thousands who were forced to evacuate the town of Fort McMurray and other places caught in the path of the shifting wildfires.

Thank you BTSA members who, in the past, poured out your compassion and donations to disasters in far-away locales--deadly tsunami catastrophe in northeast Japan, typhoon wreckage in the Philippines, earthquake destruction in Nepal--and close to home: flooding in High River, and now, the terrible toll in the north.

We are truly fortunate that our lives continue uninterrupted by overwhelming calamities for the most part.

Looking forward to June, the annual BTSA picnic is on tap on June 19. Please look over the related item elsewhere in the Hikari.

An Ikebana class supervised by Lilly Oishi begins June 4 and bon odori practice on June 6. Posters about these events in this issue provide dates and times. The practice sessions are a prelude to the annual bon obon in mid-July in the Galt Gardens in downtown Lethbridge on July 16. Also, please refer to the schedule of obon services in the area and Lethbridge.

The month of May began with the annual spring chow mein supper. There are selected photos and recap of the major event in this issue. We extend a rousing round of applause for all those who volunteered in great numbers for the preparation and the actual event. It takes great planning to arrange this event, but many are getting used to what to expect after so many years. Still, there's no denying that the heavy lifting is demanding for aging helpers. It was great to see younger volunteers giving us a hand; they're always more than welcome.

Several structural changes around the temple have occurred recently.

Renovations to the back hallway began a couple of days after the supper, and the protective laminate has been installed along all the walls. Over the years, scars and chips appeared and the board decided to repair them with the overlay. Only the rounded edges around corners remain to be installed before the job is completed.

And as mentioned last month, the parking lot stall lines have been repainted as well.

Thirdly, the board is continuing discussions for a new outdoor sign, one that more clearly identifies it as a Buddhist temple.

During May, a Movie Night held in the morning featured

the award-winning feature "Gandhi" at the Movie Mill. About 35 persons screened the film. Other movie nights are planned for later this summer. Watch for the notices.

The month wrapped up with a Parents Day luncheon by the Dharma students on May 29, compressing both the past Mother's Day Sunday and the forthcoming Father's Day in June to honor parents.

Upcoming planned events include guest speakers and a reprise of our wellness workshop--Genki Desuka?--in the fall. Please stay tuned.

Akira Ichikawa

CHAIR SCHEDULE June & July 2016

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

June 05

Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Tak Okamura

June 12

Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

June 19 ANNUAL PICNIC,

Pavan Park
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

June 26

Chair: John Dubbeloboer
Audio: Ross Jacobs

July 03

Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Tak Okamura

July 10

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

July 17 BTSA OBON, 2:30pm

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. 4

MC designates: if you are unable to chair on your assigned date or have made other arrangements on your own, please inform Sway Nishimura. Thank you.

Dharma class MCs may assist or take the place of those assigned. This will be prearranged.



After seven years of use, the parking lot lines were freshened Apr. 21 so patrons could park more easily in the appointed spaces. JBLines of Lethbridge swept the lot and applied a new coat of yellow paint for just under \$1,000.

This was the first time the stall lines were repainted since the temple was dedicated in April, 2009.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. I understand that Sakyamuni (Gautama) Buddha was born and died nearly 2500 years ago in India. I know that he was a historical personage. How about Amida Buddha? Did Amida Buddha live in our world? Is Amida Buddha a male or a female?

A. Amida Buddha is not a person but a personification of true and real life. Amida Buddha is actually beyond a human category of male or female. But in ordinary language we use "He". Sakyamuni Buddha spoke about Amida Buddha frequently, especially in the Larger Sutra (Sukhavati Vyuha Sutra). Amida in Sanskrit means immeasurable or infinite since "A" indicates "no" or "non", and "Mida" means "measure." Everything we are able to measure and touch exist only temporarily. And yet, we cling and become attached to them. Thereby, we create the unrealistic world in which we constantly suffer. In the world of delusion and suffering, Amida Buddha is always working for our sake and guiding us to true awakening of life. I said that Amida Buddha is not a person, however, for those who entrust and take refuge themselves in Amida's life, Amida Buddha is very real and often regarded as a person. One of the wonderful people of awakening of faith once wrote, "I am the most fortunate person! I am altogether free from woes of all kinds. I am protected by you, my spiritual parent. How happy I am with your favour! How pleased I feel for your favour!" Indeed, Amida Buddha is living and working in our world. (Y.I.)



Chopping celery, slicing onions

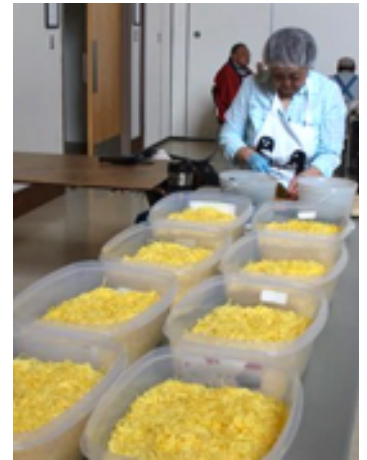


Chow Mein Supper Prep April 30

Volunteers assembled Apr. 30 to prepare for the annual spring chow mein supper at the BTSA, completing tasks in record time. This was the first time the supper was scheduled for a Sunday--the following day on May 1--with the hoped-for result that the turnout for preparations would increase. Thanks to all who gave up their Saturday for this important temple fund-raiser. Photos by John Dubbelboer



At the Wok



Checking garnish



Lunch Break

2016 OBON Schedule

July 3(Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 10 (Sun)	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 16 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori at Galt Gardens
July 17 (Sun)	1 pm	Mountain View Cemetery visitation
	2:30	BTSA Obon/Shotsuki Service @ Temple
July 23 (Sat)	1 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation

2016 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!

Other Donations

May 2016

Anonymous Cash Donation
 Bhutanese Buddhist Group (DK Gurung)
 George & Cathrine Fujita
 Norris Hironaka
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Leanne Kitagawa
 Dave & Val Kunimoto
 Roy & Minie Nakatsuru (Hanamatsuri)
 Mitsuko Oga
 Noriko Oga
 Heidi Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Rachael Crowder
 Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Florence Senda

Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita

Total \$3,254

Apologies to Roy & Minie Nakatsuru for overlooking their donations to Hanamatsuri and Shotsuki in the April Hikari.

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.

Membership to May23: 201

Shotsuki Donations

May 2016

George Fujimoto
 Dorene Gordon
 Randy Higa
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Marie Hirashima
 Ray & Donna Journoud
 Tom & Lily Kaga
 Shigeru Kounosu
 Eileen Kunimoto
 Roy & Minie Nakatsuru (April)
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
 Mitsuko Oga
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
 Kimiko Ohno
 Randy Ohno
 Hisae Price
 Darcee Richardson
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Craig & Sachi Scharf
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Fumi Sugimoto
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
 David & Linda Tanaka
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Brenda & Lester Tanner

Total \$1,435



The BTSA soup kitchen crew on May 18, under Lilly Oishi's supervision, included, seated from left, Heidi Kounosu, Sumie Tsukushima and Tad Sakaguchi. Standing from left were Dorene Gordon, Tosh Ibuki, Joyce Adachi, Lilly, David Tanaka, Chieko Sakaguchi and Akira Ichikawa.

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays, 1:30pm

We will resume in the fall on Sept 7. Thank you!

Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

Taiko Class

Adult taiko, Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@albrio.com

Minyo dancers Tuesdays, 4:30pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

PROGRAMS

BTSA Children's Taiko continues every Sunday except when there are monthly memorial or special services. Taiko is after regular services, Dharma class and tea, usually at noon. Kynan Gordon leads these sessions which are open to the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning is in full swing for the **13th annual Bon Odori** Dance Festival to be held Saturday July 16 beginning at 6 pm. Dance practice will be held Mondays at 6:30, June 6 – July 11 at the temple. Please join in and invite friends – everyone is welcome to participate or just enjoy the festivities. Contact Lorita with questions or for further information.

The BTSA is looking for a part time book keeper. This will be primarily for entering data into Quickbooks to help out the treasurer. This person would also reconcile the deposits and receipts from Sunday services and other special occasions. There will be other duties including helping with issuing receipts during tax time. This position is payed an hourly wage of \$20 per hour and it is expected that there would be 1-3 hours of work per week. There already is a person who has expressed interest but the board felt that because this is a paid position that we should put a notice in the Hikari to make sure all interested parties could apply. If this position interests you please contact Roland Ikuta (403-317-0078) or Akira Ichikawa (403-327-1668).



BON ODORI PRACTICE

**Mondays beginning June 6 through
July 11 from 6:30 p.m.**

**Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
470 - 40th St. S. - Lethbridge**

EVERYBODY WELCOME

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 3** and friends who carried out the monthly tasks. The social with cookies and tea after regular services continues to be well attended – a good time to chat and enjoy a visit with friends, new and old. Much appreciation to the parents/ grandparents and Dharma kids who put on the Parent's Day Lunch and provided gifts of tomato plants with support provided by **Toban 3**.

Toban Schedule:

June Toban 4 **July** Toban 3 **Aug** Toban 2

Soup Kitchen: June 22 Toban 3 is in charge. It is our last this year. You don't have to be in a toban to participate. Let me know if you are interested.

Contact 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail



いけばな

IKEBANA CLASS

Saturdays • June 4 through August 27
(no class on July 16)

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.

CHOW MEIN SUPPER May 1st

The first BTSA chow mein supper held on a Sunday under beautiful blue skies on May 1 netted about \$19,000 (See figures below). Another sellout supper with the 2000 tickets going quickly confirmed that demand continues to exceed supply. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their weekend to prepare on Saturday and helped out the next day at the supper to continue assisting in the temple's big fund-raising exercise.

As with past suppers, this one's success depended on all the helpers and those who graciously donated to the event. Special appreciation to Judy Takaguchi who supervised, Jan Okamura who assisted, and Cliff Thomas who looked after ticket distribution and collection. Thanks to the following for their donations and assistance:

- 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
- P&H Milling - Bob Grebinsky
- R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama
- Wesbridge Construction - Frank Beekman
- Taber Transport - Kei Nishida
- South Country Co-op Taber - Rod Yokoyama

Please bear in mind that figures to date (top right) are approximate--although close as possible--since many staples and items used during the supper have been purchased for other events at the temple throughout the year.

Revenue			
Ticket sales and donations	\$24,276.00		
After-supper sales of goods	788.35		
Total	\$25,064.35	\$25,064.35	
Expenses			
Lethbridge Meat	\$ 3,888.23		
Expenses Reported by Judy	1,212.52		
Other Expenses, e.g., meals	1,091.99		
Total	\$ 6,192.74	\$ 6,192.74	
Net			\$18,847.61



Much rice to wash



Ribs



Busy Kitchen



Filling supper packs



Final product



Three assembly lines



Runners



Drive-thru customers



This way out



Directing traffic

PARENTS DAY

Close to 60 persons turned out for the Parents Day on May 29 and were treated to a luncheon put on by the Dharma class students. Those who came were presented with a gift of a tomato plant to take home.



Annual BTSA Picnic June 19

The John Martin Recreation Centre in Pavan Park (110 - 62 Avenue North) in Lethbridge is the site for this year's BTSA picnic on June 19 (Sunday).

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. Come out and spend a relaxing morning and early afternoon with members and friends.

The regular Sunday service is set to 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 temple will provide KFC, rice and beverages as usual, to complement the dishes everyone brings to share. Those coming to the picnic are asked to bring salads and/or desserts to feed 6 to 8 persons.

If the past is any indication, there should be plenty of gochiso for all those who attend. Bring lawn chairs for those wanting added comfort, as well as sunscreen, bug repellent, and bonnets and caps.

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Whose gift is it?

When you have a birthday party, your friends bring you gifts and presents for you, don't they? You receive the gifts with a "thank you." The gifts are yours and you are happy. You don't tell your friends, "I don't like your gift, so take it back". You wouldn't say that because it is very rude. But the Buddha said this once, "I do not need your gift. Please take it back." You might think, "What a rude man he was". But wait. Please read the following story.

One day, the Buddha was walking in the forest of a village. A wicked man came to him and said, "You are good for nothing! I don't like you. Leave our village!" The Buddha quietly listened to his bad words. Then the Buddha asked the man, "Suppose, you give a gift to someone but that someone did not receive it. To whom does the gift belong?" The man said, "It belongs to me, of course!" The Buddha said, "I do not want to receive your gift of bad words. Please take it with you. It is yours!" So, we should always gift our friends with gentle and kind words. (Y.I.)





JUNE: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
			1	2	3	4 10am Exploring Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana
5 10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service*	6 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	8 7pm BTSA Board*	9	10 1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*	11 10am Exploring Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana
12 10:30am Regular Service* 12pm Child/Youth Taiko	13 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	14 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	15	16	17	18 10am Exploring Buddhism* 10:30am Ikebana
19 10:30am Annual BTSA Picnic*	20 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	21 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	22 Soup Kitchen Toban 3*	23	24	25 10:30am Ikebana
26 10:30am Regular Service* 12pm Child/Youth Taiko	27 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	28 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	29	30		

JULY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30am Ikebana
3 10:30am Regular Service* 11am Brooks Cemetery visit/service @ Heritage Inn	4 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	5 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	6 7pm BTSA Board Meeting*	7	8 1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*	9 10:30am Ikebana
10 10:30am Regular Service* 10am Magrath Cemetery visit 11am Temple Hill Cemetery visit	11 6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	12 12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko	13	14	15	16 6pm 13th Annual Bon Odori Festival at Galt Gardens
17 1pm Mountain View Cemetery visit 2:30pm Obon Service*	18	19 12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance	20	21	22	23 10:30am Ikebana 1pm Taber Cemetery visit
24 No Service	25	26 12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance	27	28	29	30 10:30am Ikebana