



June 2023

**Knowledge of the teaching may be interesting but ultimately unnecessary, meditative practice may be meaningful but eventually unproductive, and moral virtue is to be applauded but fails to liberate us from delusion.** — Taitetsu Unno



The emblem of Jodo Shinshu, the teaching of Shinran Shonin, takes the form of a wisteria, flower so beautiful, yet blooms hanging low, symbolizing humility and

humbleness. It is a beginner's mind. We should never be arrogant.

Shinran Shonin was a humble man who was born in 1173 and died in 1263. What Shinran taught us can be summarized in a short phrase:

*Entrusting Amida's compassionate Vow, reciting the Nembutsu, Namu Amida Butsu in gratitude, we will be born in the Pure Land and become a Buddha.*

It is simple. But it is not easy to entrust Amida's compassionate Vow because we rely on ourselves. We have a strong ego attached to ourselves. We trust and believe in ourselves, in our ability to become a Buddha. Shinran called this *Jiriki*, self-power. "Self-Power" means to rely on our small self and thereby continue to live in the life of delusion and suffering. For such beings, Amida continues to call on us, "I am the one who is truly concerned about you who are deeply mired in the life of delusion everyday. Please be aware of my heart and rely on Amida!" This is Amida's call, Namu Amida Butsu. And yet, we turn our backs to Amida's compassionate call. So, there is not time for Amida to take a rest.

Shakyamuni Buddha who appeared in this world 2600 years ago taught us not only about truth of this world, but also the truth that is beyond this world, that is Amida's Pure Land filled with the Light of wisdom. The Light of wisdom always

manifests itself in the form of unconditional Compassion.

Strictly speaking, I do not think that there is such unconditional compassion and love in this world.

We sometimes hear of the great compassion between a mother and her newborn baby. But such compassion is conditional, because we do not know if that mother shows the same compassion toward her neighbor's baby. So, everything in our world, from the time of birth to the time of death, is conditional. This is the reality of our world. Therefore, Amida Buddha embraces all sentient beings as they are.

Shinran Shonin touched this kind of world, the world of Amida, immeasurable wisdom and compassion. However, when he was still young, he studied and practiced at Mt. Hiei, continuous sitting meditation, cultivating wisdom, constant walking around Mt. Hiei. He really wanted to become a Buddha one day. But he found that no matter how much he studied and practiced the Buddha way, the further away, he felt, he was getting from Buddhahood. Later he realized what he was doing was *Jiriki*, self-power.

Finally, he left Mt. Hiei and visited Honen who also descended from Mt. Hiei many years before. The age difference between Honen and Shinran was 40 years. Honen was teaching the Nembutsu for the mass of people such as samurai, monks, farmers, and ordinary civilians.

Shinran heard for the first time what Honen was teaching- the teaching of the Nembutsu. Soon, Shinran abandoned the various practices and relied on Amida's compassionate Vow.

We, the followers of Shinran Shonin must take refuge in Amida's immeasurable life of wisdom and compassion in our life of change and uncertainty. Every day, we are returning to Amida's home, the Pure Land, reciting Namu Amida Butsu in gratitude. There is joy and happiness

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

## 「老いる」ということ

皆様、山火事で空気が汚れましたが、お元氣でしょうか。お伺いします。

先日、歯医者さんに行ってきました。女性のお医者さんが、「前歯の横の歯が虫歯になっていますが、取りますか?」「ああ、困ったなあ、目につくところだな。。。」「時間がありますか」と尋ねられました。「2, 3時間位であれば。。。」「虫歯を取って、他の歯を埋めます」「へえー、そんなことが出来るのかなあ」と思いながら、「お願いします」と頼みました。それから1時間半、口をあけっぱなし。麻酔を三回も打たれました。痛いこと痛いこと。それでも我慢をしたおかげで、「さあ、これでハリウッドへ行っても大丈夫です」と冗談を言われて、無事、済みました。現代の治療の方法に驚きました。

それにしても、老いる、ということはいろいろ失うことですね。聴力、視力、忍耐力、髪の毛も。

それでも、お陰様で終わってホッとしました。

合掌 泉康雄

# UPDATE

## from the Board of Directors

Hope you are all well and enjoying the nice weather. Here is a brief summary from the board meeting of May 10, 2023:

The Youth Group is active and getting organized. They have selected a name for the group, "Ikigomi" and developed a mission and vision statements. The Ikigomi group is for the 14 to 45 year age group. They are planning a number of fun and thoughtful activities for the coming months.

Kynan Ono will be heading up the Bon Odori organizing committee. The first meeting of the group took place on May 21, 2023. Roland Sensei gave Kynan a flash drive that has all Lorita Ichikawa's organizational notes of Bon Odori past.

Day of Mindfulness was held at the Temple on Saturday, April 26, 2023 with 15 attendees. This was a collaborative effort between BTSA and Vickie MacArthur and the donations were evenly split.

A creative "Art Hive" has been set up in the multipurpose room by Maya Ichikawa and Brenda Ikuta, with the goal to create a space for people of all ages to enjoy making and sharing something they can take home. The theme this month revolves around plants and gardening.

Thank you to the organizers and volunteers for the Karinto making day which took place on May 20, 2023.

"Sharing the Stories Celebration" is a follow up to the Butsudun Workshop was held on May 13, 2023 at the Bunka Center.

June Shotsuki is on June 4th. Here is the link for the Youtube live stream.

<https://youtube.com/live/iTk4SQh0TA?feature=share>

A reminder about the Temple Picnic on June 18th (Father's day). It will be held at Pavan Park. Please see the notice in this Hikari for details.

If you have any comments or concerns about events at the temple, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kynan Ono, one of the board members, or Izumi Sensei or Roland sensei.

## CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE

### June & July

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

**Jun 04**  
SHOTSUKI  
Wayne Tsukishima  
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

**Jun 11**  
Harry Sugimoto  
Bob Muskovich, AV

**Jun 18**  
BTSA PICNIC

**Jun 25**  
Sheila Oishi  
TBA, AV

**July 02**  
Andrew Ichikawa  
Brenda Ikuta, AV

**July 09**  
NO SERVICE

**July 16**  
OBON SERVICE @ 2:30 pm  
Kynan Ono  
Robbie Scharf

## Zoom presentation

### Growing Our Sanghas



**Saturday, June 3, 2023: 10 am (9 Pacific)**

Registration required:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvd0morTMvEt3E8mNCU3AkkA7r0eSGJ\\_2B](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvd0morTMvEt3E8mNCU3AkkA7r0eSGJ_2B)

The JSBTC is very fortunate to have Rev. Kenji Akahoshi speak to us about the benefits of Shin Buddhism and growing our sanghas. Rev. Akahoshi is a retired Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) minister living in California, who is much in demand across the U.S., and in Hawaii.

He an accomplished speaker who presents inspirational and challenging material, encouraging listeners to participate and re-think Jodo Shinshu in 2023 and what it means.

# BTSA Picnic

June 18, 2023

John Martin Shelter, Pavan Park

10:30 am Service

Potluck

We will be having our temple picnic on June 18th (Father's Day). The location this year is at the John Martin Picnic Shelter in Pavan Park. Pavan park is located on the North side of Lethbridge. The access road is off 13st North as you drive past Hardieville.

We will have Rice, Kentucky fried chicken and drinks provided by the temple. It is a potluck event. Please bring a salad, vegetables, dessert, or other side dishes. We will meet at Pavan at 9:30 am with the service at 10:30 and the meal at 12:00.

There will be a bingo after the lunch with lots of good prizes. Please come and enjoy the Sangha. A reminder to bring your own dishes and utensils so we can reduce our use of paper plates and disposable cutlery. We hope to have a good turnout. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Roland or Kynan Ono.



Photo archives: 2014

## Dinner & A Movie Night Ikigomi Fundraiser

Saturday, June 3, 2023

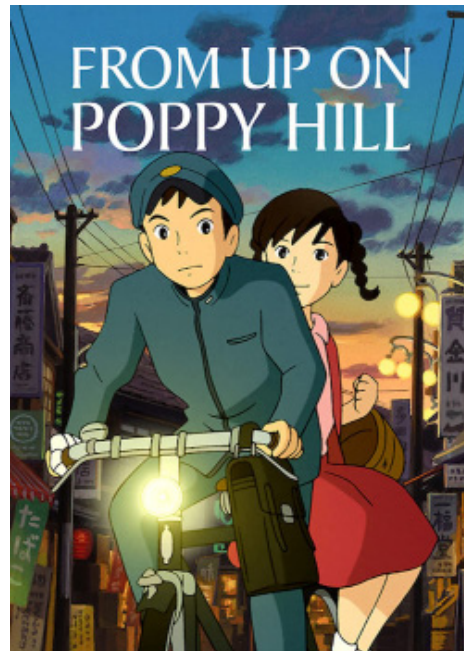
5 pm at the BTSA

The Ikigomi youth group will be holding hosting a bento meal and showing the Studio Ghibli film, *From Up On Poppy Hill* as a fundraiser event.

Physical tickets will be available at the temple's Sunday service gatherings leading up to the event, as well as online through eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/from-up-on-poppy-hill-movie-and-dinner-night-tickets-640182612427>

For members of Ikigomi, please sign-up for volunteer meal prep the evening before. For further inquiries contact Ky Ono.



## Soup Kitchen

The Temple will be hosting three Soup Kitchen meals this year:

- Friday, June 23
- Friday, August 4, 10:00-1:30 (lunch)
- Sunday, August 20, 9:00-12:00 noon (brunch)

The June 23rd event has already been filled.

If you wish to volunteer for the August meals, please contact Emily, [emistitt@hotmail.com](mailto:emistitt@hotmail.com), or 403-380-6683.

### REGULAR EVENTS

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact [tanaka.david@gmail.com](mailto:tanaka.david@gmail.com) 403.330.1548

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am

Contact [bobmuskovich@gmail.com](mailto:bobmuskovich@gmail.com) or Rev. Izumi

Meditation Thursdays @ 7pm

To register contact Vickie Macarther [spiritoyoga@shaw.ca](mailto:spiritoyoga@shaw.ca)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Condolences

Marie Yoshiko Hirashima (91) May 5, 2023

Tom Hajime Urano (77) May 11, 2023

James Mitsuru Oshiro (93) May 17, 2023



## OBON 2022 SCHEDULE

### Bon Odori Practice

Mondays 6:30-8 pm  
May 15 - July 10

### July 2 (Sunday) Service

11 am @ Brooks Cemetery  
Obon Service @ Heritage Inn

### July 9 (Sunday) Service

(date correction from May Hikari)  
10 am @ Magrath Cemetery  
11 am @ Temple Hill Cemetery  
1:30 pm @ Taber Cemetery

### July 15 (Saturday) Bon Odori

7 pm @ Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

### July 16 (Sunday) Service

1 pm @ Mountain View Cemetery  
2:30 @ BTSa for Obon/Monthly Memorial Service  
(July & August)

# BON ODORI PRACTICE

- 2023 Bon Odori Dance Festival is scheduled for July 15th
- Practices will be held May 15 through July 10 (8 weeks)
- Mondays, 7 - 8 p.m.
- 6:30 – 7 for learning activities on some of the days (TBD)
- A full schedule of dances and learning activities will be available on the temple website: [thebtsa.com](http://thebtsa.com)
- Meet in the multi-purpose room of the temple
- Refreshments will be provided each week.
- Everyone of all ages are welcome, no experience is required, no registration is required
- Bring happi coats, round fans (uchiwa), folding fans (senshu), towels (tenegui) if you have them.
- If you would like more information contact Brenda Ikuta 403-317-0078, [brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com](mailto:brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com)



# EVERYBODY WELCOME

# KARINTO/Kakimochi-Making

A Karinto/Kakimochi making session was held May 20.

Prior to this event, volunteers shopped for groceries, serviced machines and made twelve batches of dough for this Temple fund raiser.

On Saturday, a big turnout of volunteers sliced, rolled, cut, fried and baked this delicious treat. Volunteers then took home buckets of fried product to be glazed and roasted. Once this is all returned to the temple, it will be weighed and packaged ready to be sold. Dates and prices are yet to be determined.

Thank-you to everyone for coming out and sharing your expertise, making this another successful event.



photos: John Dubbelboer

# 2023 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [THEB.TS.A.COM](http://THEB.TS.A.COM)

- Full Membership (\$100 for each member)       Student Membership\*

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Names(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home#: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 21 – 120

### Hanamatsuri Donations

Anonymous  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Chizuko Kimura  
Joyce Miyashita  
Jim & Joan Nakagawa  
Mitsuko Oga  
Setsuko Ohno  
Irene Sakamoto  
Sachi Scharf  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro

### Shotsuki Donations

May 2023  
Kathy Cochrane & Michelle Demers  
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Neil Hinatsu  
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahrih Rempel  
Nitta Kayo  
Karen Mizushima  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng  
Setsuko Ohno  
Joyce Oishi  
Doreen Osaka  
Darcee Richardson  
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson  
Irene Sakamoto  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Sachi Scharf  
Emily Stitt  
Harry Sugimoto

Kazuko Takaguchi  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
Alan & Margaret Tanaka  
David & Linda Tanaka  
Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
Masaye Tanaka  
Noel & Karen Thomas

### Other Donations

May 2023  
Richard & Valerie Boras  
CanadaHelps.org  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Teruko Ikuta  
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi  
Michie Kawasaki  
Ken Kounosu  
Leah Kounosu & Yoshi Kimata  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Kimino Nishi  
Alan & Margaret Tanaka

### Funeral Donations

May 2023  
Syed & Cheryl Ali  
Anonymous  
Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa  
Judy Fukushima  
Estate of Marie Yoshiko Hirashima  
Tomi Hisaoka  
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahrih Rempel  
Nitta Kayo  
Taxi & Doreen Kitagawa  
Rosemary Kitagawa  
Estate of Shigeru Kounosu  
Leah Kounosu & Yoshi Kimata  
Joyce Miyashita

Amy Nakamura  
Starr Nakamura Mills  
May Nishikawa  
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura  
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng  
Setsuko Ohno  
Heidi Oishi  
Tak & Jan Okamura  
Naomi Plausteiner  
Kenneth or Keiko Sampson  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Sachi Scharf  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Kazuko Shimosawa  
Nobuko & Mary Shono  
Emily Stitt  
Tomiko Sugimoto  
Yvonne Sugimoto  
Sachiko Taguchi  
Harumi & Michi Takaguchi  
Kazuko Takaguchi  
Bob Takeshita  
Noel & Karen Thomas  
Jim, Marion or Shannon Tomiyama  
Marjory Tomomitsu  
Keith & Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull  
Sandra Vickers

Please inform us if your name has been omitted, misspelled, or if you wish for your name not to be published. Thank you.



The Vernon Buddhist Temple would like to invite you to join a gathering of the B.C. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Sanghas for a week-end of learning and fun. James Martin Sensei is the Guest Speaker and he will be approaching the Theme, “The Dharma of Pie: Many ingredients make ONE” from a unique angle.

Optional activities have been planned that showcase the flavours and beauty of Vernon. There will be Okanagan Wine Tasting, and visits to The Davidson Orchards or a working Cidery, a walk on the Okanagan Rail Trail along the beautiful Kalamalka Lake, or a drive to the Rise Golf Course to see the spectacular views from there. Of course there will be lots of Okanagan fruit and home made pies.

**Please refer to the registration form on the opposite page. Deadline is August 31.**





## “The Dharma of Pie; Many Ingredients make ONE”

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2023

Hosted by: VERNON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, B.C., Canada

Venue: Vernon Japanese Cultural Center, 4895 Bella Vista Rd.

### Guest Speaker: James Martin Sensei



**CONVENTION:** Come for great Dharma talks on our theme (English & Japanese).

Breakout sessions- Mottainai dance, Ondokusan harmony, Tai-chi, lay speaker on The Experience of becoming part of the ONE. Fantastic homemade Okanagan pies, Okanagan wine tasting. Visits to Davidsons Orchards, Planet Bee, Cambium Cidery, the Okanagan Rail Trail along beautiful Kalamalka Lake, or drives to scenic Vernon vistas.

**REGISTRATION:** Please register by one of the following methods by August 31, 2023

1. Email: [humaric37@gmail.com](mailto:humaric37@gmail.com) (to send or obtain a fillable registration form)
2. Mail: complete the information below & mail to H. Cameron, 5600 Hartnell Rd. Vernon, BC, Canada V1B 3J5  
Attention : Convention Registration.
3. Phone: 250-542-5633

**PAYMENT:** Cheques payable to: Vernon Buddhist Temple

Or Etransfer to [vernonbuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto:vernonbuddhisttemple@gmail.com)

Please include note with e-transfer indicating your name & stating “convention registration”.

Type of registration	Fee
Adult- convention including all meals and wine tasting	\$ 100
Lectures only	No charge. (coffee breaks/lunch by donation)
Saturday Dinner Banquet only	\$ 40.00

**Accommodation:** for **Hotel Reservations** please contact hotel directly:  
 Quality Inn & Suites, Vernon. 4204 32 Street, Vernon, BC. V1T 5P4.  
 Phone 250-542-4434. (Toll free 877-424-6423)  
 Mention “BC Buddhist Convention” for group rate of \$ 129.00 per night + tax (based on 2 adults per room).  
 Rates effective until Aug 15, 2023  
 Website: <https://www.choicehotels.com/british-columbia/vernon/quality-inn-hotels/cn661>

**ENQUIRIES:** phone - (250) 542-5633. Email – [humaric37@gmail.com](mailto:humaric37@gmail.com)



\_\_\_\_\_ If mailing please cut off here & send in mail \_\_\_\_\_



Please send this portion to: Vernon Buddhist Temple c/o H. Cameron, 5600 Hartnell Rd, Vernon, BC, Canada V1B 3J5 Attn: Convention Registration

Please fill in one registration form per family.

(please check type of registration)

Persons name(s):	Adult (check)	Child age	Banquet only	Any special dietary needs? Please specify
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please enter your contact information (phone # & email):



JUNE: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY <b>Minister Schedule</b> - Rev. Izumi will be at temple on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta will be at temple on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday						
<b>10:30am</b> Shotsuki Memorial Service (live stream) <b>4</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>5</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>6</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>7</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>8</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>1</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Study Class* <b>2</b>
<b>10:30am</b> Regular Service* <b>11</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>12</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>13</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>14</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>15</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>2</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Study Class* <b>3</b>
<b>10:30am</b> BTSA Picnic* Pavan Park <b>18</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>19</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>20</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>21</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>22</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>23</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Study Class* <b>24</b>
<b>10:30am</b> Regular Service* <b>25</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>26</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>27</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>28</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>29</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>30</b>	

JULY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>10:30am</b> Regular Service* <b>11am</b> Brooks Cemetery Visit, Obon Service <b>2</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>3</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>4</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>5</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>6</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>7</b>	<b>1</b> 10:30am Study Class* <b>8</b>
No BTSA service <b>10am</b> Magrath <b>11am</b> Temple Hill <b>1:30pm</b> Taber <b>9</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>10</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>11</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>12</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>13</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>14</b>	<b>7pm</b> Bon Odori* <b>15</b>
<b>1pm</b> Mountain View Cemetery <b>2:30pm</b> Obon/Shotsuki Memorial Service* <b>16</b>	<b>7pm</b> Odori Practice <b>17</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>18</b>	<b>7pm</b> Taiko <b>19</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>20</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>21</b>	<b>7pm</b> Meditation <b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					