



## Master Shinran and A Beautiful Bird named 'Ran'

It is known that the name 'Shinran' was taken from Seshin (or Tenjin, Vasubandhu in India) and Donran (T'an luan in China) of the second and third high priest respectively in the stream of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

It is interesting to learn about the literal meaning of the two kanji characters which make up 'Shin-Ran'. It means 'Parent-Ran'. 'Ran' is the name of a mythical bird which appears in legends in China. It is said that 'Ran' is a very beautiful and elegant bird that has feathers of five colors, and its voice is very elegant. However, the baby bird of 'Ran' is ugly and disgusting. Nobody is able to recognize that the mother bird and the baby bird are really parent and baby. Sad to say, the baby bird also is not able to recognize that her mother is its real mother. The mother bird calls to her, "I am your mother. I am the one who really cares about you. Please rely on me." But the baby bird never listens to her mother; instead, she turns her back on her mother no matter how much the mother bird loves her and takes care of her. When the mother bird approaches her, the fledgling runs away. The mother bird is grieved and her sadness is deep. She thinks, "How can I make my baby bird recognize me as her real mother?" Then, one day the mother bird decides to become like her baby, the ugly bird. She throws herself in the muddy and filthy water. She covers herself with mud and appears before her baby bird. Looking at her, the baby bird, for the first time, recognizes her as her mother and calls her 'Mother'.

This is an analogy. Are we not like the baby bird who does not listen to the spiritual parent, the Buddha of boundless compassion? I think that the ugly and disgusting bird represents us, those who have been sunk and mired in the world of delusion based on our ego attachment. The sutra says: It is very difficult for the words spoken by the Buddha to be heard from the far bank of enlightenment. Yes, it is true that an urgent voice cannot be heard by the ordinary humans caught up in their blind passions. We continually turn our backs to truth calling and run away from the Buddha. Therefore, the Buddha of wisdom transforms himself into the Buddha of compassion, jumps into our world of blind passions, and becomes one with us through the beckoning call of Namo Amida Butsu – Take refuge in my Life! – to liberates us equally without discrimination and judgement. Thus, our doubt, ego attachment and arrogance are melted away and we become one with the Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion.

How happy we are that although we are not able to grasp Buddha's compassion because of our blind passions, nevertheless the Buddha, our spiritual parent, never gives us up but grasps and nurtures us constantly all the same. We, for the first time, respond to the boundless compassion of the Buddha, reciting Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude and joy. Namo Amida Butsu that Master Shinran taught is, indeed, the everlasting compassionate and urging call of the Buddha to invite us to the realm of true awakening of life.

Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude,  
Yasuo Izumi, Minister  
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

### タンポポ

自分の庭にタンポポが咲きだすと、それを取り除くのに一苦勞です。しかし、早めに、根っこから取り除かなくては、大変なことになります。まさに自分の敵のような気持ちで、見つかり次第、徹底的に取り除こうとしています。自分の家の庭に、タンポポを一面に咲かせたいと考えている人は、まずいなしでしょう。

お寺の前には、大きな空き地があります。その空き地に、タンポポが、今が盛りと一面に咲いています。見事なものです。こんなに咲いていればお手上げです。あきらめから、賞賛になります。敵ながらあっぱれ、ということになるのです。変ですね。たとえ見事で賞賛しても、自分のところに、タンポポ畑をつくらうとは思いません。自分の家と他人の空き地との違いです。他人の空き地、他人の庭はさして気にならないのです。どうでもよい、と言ってよいでしょう。これが私たちの偽りのない心でしょう。いつも、自他を注意深く分けているのです。その心の延長には、他の苦しみは、他の苦しみ。自分とは無関係という心もあります。仏様の心は、自他の壁が破られた状態と言えるでしょう。あるいは、自他の壁が破れた方を「仏様」と呼び、そこから生まれる働きを「慈悲」と呼ぶ、と言えるでしょう。他の苦しみが、自分の苦しみとうつるのです。自他一如（自分と他人は一つの如し）です。他と自分との隔たりがなくなっているのです。

仏教徒とは、そのような仏様に会い、そのような心を聞き、育てられていく者というのでしょうか。 合掌 泉開教使

# BTSA NOTES

The annual BTSA picnic is set for June 15, a few days before the summer solstice and the longest day of the year. Keep your fingers crossed for a nice, warm day for this outing on the third Sunday of the month. A regular service out in the open is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. at this year's site, the Elks Community Kitchen in Indian Battle Park.

Gates to the compound will be opened at 9 a.m., so come out early and spend a leisurely morning before the service chatting with friends. And stay for the festivities. Bring family and children to the outing that will feature KFC treats, potluck contributions, Bingo games, and other activities in the not-too-wild enclosure, but bring suntan lotion and insect repellent just in case.

In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held at the temple.

The summer season inaugurates odori (dance) practice at the temple in preparation for the bon odori on July 19 at the Galt Gardens. It begins June 9 (Monday) at 6:30 for an hour and will be held each Monday thereafter through July 14. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn the moves in preparation for the July gala.

Please check page 6 in this issue for the Obon schedule of visitations Izumi sensei will be making to southern Alberta cemeteries.

The month of May was a busy one at the temple, beginning with funerals scheduled the first three days and ending with a Parents Day celebration on the last Sunday. We bid farewell with gratefulness (as in the English title of Ondokusan) to three longtime and devoted friends of the Dharma--Susumu Kyojo Ikuta sensei, Asaye Sakamoto and Sadae (Sally) Kanegawa--whose lives are model Jodo Shinshu teachers.

Appreciation also goes out to members of Toban Four and friends for preparing and serving the delicious meal after the Parents Day Sunday service on May 25.

Looking forward to the days ahead, the board will be exploring ways BTSA might assist the Calgary Buddhist Temple raise close to \$1 million for a major building refit to coincide with the World Buddhist Women's Conference next May. The ambitious project, described in an insert sent out with last month's Hikari, needs all the help it can receive from Jodo Shinshu members across the country.

It was a proposal dear to the heart of the late Ikuta sensei, and both his family and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada have indicated that donations to the plan in his memory would be graciously accepted. They may be sent to: Capital Campaign, Calgary Buddhist Temple, 207 6th Street N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 0B6.

Please keep in mind that all BTSA board meeting minutes are available to members. They're kept in binders in the board room library.

Akira Ichikawa

## BUDDHIST Q & A

### Q. What is Obon?

A. Obon is essentially a Buddhist memorial service to remember those who have died. "O" is a Japanese honorific prefix. It is said that the term "bon" comes from "urabon" in Chinese which is derived from "ullambana" in the original Sanskrit. The term "ullambana" means "upside down" which indicates unwholesome view of life. The historical Buddha said that the causes of human sufferings are based on our wrong view of life. Therefore, Obon is also a time to listen to Buddha's teaching to reflect on our life through Buddha's wisdom and compassion. (Y.I.)

## CHAIR SCHEDULE June & July 2014

### Jun 01 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Sway Nishimura  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

### Jun 08

Chair: John Dubbelboer  
Audio: Tak Okamura

### Jun 15

ELKS COMMUNITY KITCHEN  
Chair: Florence Senda  
Audio: John Dubbelboer

### June 22

Chair: Deanna Jones  
Audio: Sway Nishimura

### June 29

Chair: Katie Nakagawa  
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

### July 06

Chair: Joyce Shigehiro  
Audio: Brenda Ikuta  
Sensei at Obon, Brooks, AB

### July 13

Chair: Kynan Gordon  
Audio: Tak Okamura  
Sensei at Temple Hill, Magrath  
Obon

### July 20 BTSA

OBON & SHOTSUKI, 2:30 P.M.  
Chair: Roland Ikuta  
Audio: John Dubbelboer

### July 27

No formal services from this Sunday thru the end of August. Regular services resume Sept. 7

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**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.

## PARENTS DAY AT THE TEMPLE

In observing Parents Day at the temple on May 25, Izumi sensei noted the convergence of Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June as appropriate since, "After all, our father and mother exist mutually which Buddhism says co-existing and co-arising." Sensei referred to a sutra wherein the Buddha speaks of the inability of children to repay their parents for all they have done for them but with the proviso that if the children learn the dharma and lead their parents to it, this will be more than repayment. Taking refuge in the dharma will contribute to parental peace and happiness, respect and esteem, sensei added. Following the service, the large crowd enjoyed a delicious and generous meal of ham, potato salad, candied yam, Jello salads, rolls, pastries and fruit. Our thanks to Toban Four for the scrumptious lunch and to the Dharma Class for the cake and the miniature paper Buddhist altar.



## TOBAN UPDATE

Contact [lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com](mailto:lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com) or 403.327.1668

### Toban 2014 Schedule

June Toban 2	July Toban 4
Aug. Toban 3	Sept. Toban 2
Oct. Toban 4	Nov. Toban 3
Dec. Toban 2	

Thank you to **Toban 4** volunteers for overseeing the Sunday tea and cleaning during May. A good turnout of folks enjoyed the Parent's Day lunch provided by Toban 4 with gifts and dessert by the Dharma.

## BTSA PICNIC

Keep fingers crossed for a beautiful day June 15 for the annual BTSA picnic, again this year at the Elks Community Kitchen in Indian Battle Park on June 15. All members are welcome to this annual, festive event, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a regular Sunday service.

We have the facility from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We'll try to be there at the appointed hour to unlock the gate. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to this potluck event.

BTSA will be providing Kentucky fried chicken, beverages and bingo prizes for all. There will be games for the children. Plan to come out and make a day of it with family and friends.

In the event of inclement weather, we'll meet at the temple and have an inside picnic.



# 2014 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

## Notes

\*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 BSA and this category of membership does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada.

## LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

Memberships to May 28, 2014: 200

### Shotsuki Donations

May 2014

Joyce Adachi  
Mary-Jean Aubin  
Brad Fujimoto  
George Fujimoto  
Dorene Gordon  
Jim & Atsuko Hagihara  
Randy Higa  
Shinako (Sheila) Higa  
Shirley Higa  
Marie Hirashima  
Gail Ikebuchi  
Ray & Donna Journoud  
Tom & Lily Kaga  
Shigeru Kounosu  
Eileen Kunimoto  
Mitsuko Oga

Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
May Ohno  
Darcee Richardson  
Roy & Pat Sassa  
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi  
Emily Stitt  
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto  
Miyo Sunada  
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi  
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
David & Linda Tanaka  
Eichi & Betty Tanaka  
Masaye Tanaka  
Toshiko Tanaka  
Brenda & Lester Tanner  
Jean Tatebe

**Total - \$1,450**

### Other Donations

May 2014

Roy & Nancy Adachi  
Eiko Aoki  
Craig & Leanne Erickson  
Bob & Sharon Foster  
Keiko Higa  
Larry & Mary Higa  
Sue & Wes Higa  
Rumiko Ibuki  
Gail Ikebuchi  
Dr. Roland & Brenda Ikuta  
Kuni & June Ikuta  
Mak Ikuta  
Frank & Dimples Inaba  
Fumi Inaba  
Molly H. Ito  
Kanegawa Family

Richard & Suyeko Kanegawa  
Eleanor Katakami  
Alan Koyata  
Takeshi & Sue Koyata  
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno  
Ken & Vicki Nakagama  
Shig & Katie Nakagawa  
Kenny & Shoko Nakatani  
Mitsuko Nishi  
Saburo & Kimino Nishi  
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura  
Shigeru Nogamine  
Mitsuko Oga  
Sonny Ohama  
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno  
May Ohno  
Tak & Jan Okamura  
Okuma and Tashiro Farms  
Setsuko Okuma  
Toby Okuma  
Kay Osaka & Family  
Yumiko Osaka  
Fumi Ota  
Liz Rolston  
Tadanori and Chieko Sakaguchi  
Sakamoto Family  
Florence Senda  
Joe & Mary Shigehiro  
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro  
Tomiko Sugimoto  
Miyo Sunada  
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi  
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri  
Robert & Judy Takaguchi  
Alan & Deb Takasaki  
Don Takasaki  
Glen Takasaki  
Soni Takasaki  
Fuji Takeda  
Reiko Takeyasu  
Masaye Tanaka  
Sam & Betty Taniguchi  
Amy & Masami Tashiro  
Wanda Tomiyama  
Tak & Yoko Tsujita  
Lloyd Tsukishima  
Theresa and Ken Uchikura  
T. Yoshida

**Total - \$10,050**

**Note:** Hikari apologizes to Fujio and Yoshiko Tsukishima for the error in transcribing their names in the May issue donations.

We try to be as thorough as possible but occasionally make errors. Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it won't be published. Thank you.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Southern Alberta Buddhist

Thursdays, 6:30-8pm through July 17

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403. 327.4296 or katiinak@shaw.ca

### Tonari Gumi

Tuesdays, 12-3pm through June

### Taiko Class

Tuesdays, 7pm

Contact: David Tanaka at 403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

### The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Will resume in September.

Please keep in mind our fall concert (date TBA).

## PROGRAMS

### Bon Odori Dance Practice

Mondays, June 9 - July 14, 6:30-7:30pm

Contact: Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or sassybachan@gmail.com

### Women's Federation World Convention Craft Group

Will not meet regularly until further notice.

### Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Val Kunimoto

Continues Thursdays through June 19.

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

### Art making and Journaling Group

Continues Saturdays through June 28.

Contact: Maya Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or mayaichikawa9@gmail.com

### Art Expression for Seniors

Continues Fridays through June 27.

Contact: Maya Ichikawa 403.327.1668 or mayaichikawa9@gmail.com

### Ikebana

Wednesdays, 10 - 11am running June to August

Donation to the BTSA is \$30

Contact: Lilly Oishi 403.328.2159 or lilly.oishi@gmail.com

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Condolences

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones.

**Kunio Ichino** (93) April 29, 2014



## REMINDER: TEMPLE CHAIRS STILL AVAILABLE



Any members interested in purchasing temple chairs (pictured) may do so for \$5 each getting in touch with any board director. As noted in the May Hikari, the bulk of these chairs--stored in the shed in the back parking lot--will be advertised for sale on Kijiji shortly. The board wanted any members interested in purchasing them first choice before making them available to the public. They are all in fairly good condition and are stackable.



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## IKEBANA CLASS

**Wednesdays**  
**June 4 through August**  
**10 to 11 a.m. at BTSA**

## EVERYONE WELCOME

Please get in touch with Lilly Oishi to sign up for the class. Donation of \$30 to the BTSA.  
Phone Lilly at 403-328-2159 or email  
lilly.oishi@gmail.com

## Chuckles

A LITTLE IRONY greeted those attending the Movie Night film on the morning of Apr. 12 at the Movie Mill theatre which had been rented to show "The Burmese Harp." No mistake; the marquee advertised the regular feature that was scheduled following the special BTSA showing. Coincidental humor, you might call it.



## BON ODORI PRACTICE

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bon Odori practice sessions that begin June 9 at the temple and run through July 14. Sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. and will run for an hour. The last practice will be on the Monday before the Bon Odori.

Turn out and learn the dances scheduled for the event on July 19. The hour-long practice also provides good exercise for all participants.

## 2014 Obon Schedule and Cemetery Visitations

July 6	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 13	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 19	6 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens
July 20	1 pm	Mountain View Cemetery
	2:30 pm	BTSA Obon Service at the temple
July 26	1:30 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation & Obon gathering

(Please note, the Taber visitation is on a Saturday to accommodate sensei's travel schedule as guest Obon speaker in Concord and Oakland, CA. All other cemetery visitations are on Sundays.)

# BON ODORI PRACTICE

Mondays beginning June 9 through  
July 14 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

## EVERYBODY WELCOME

## Chow Mein Supper Postscript

A blustery day didn't dampen spirits as the spring chow mein supper on Apr. 26 drew numerous volunteers to the sellout event. This postscript follows up on the brief summary in the May Hikari by acknowledging with thanks the generous donations received from the following:

R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicki Nakagama  
Westbridge Construction - Frank Beekman  
Wanda, Sumi and Joe Tomiyama - pickles  
P&H Milling - Bob Grebinsky  
Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw  
Harwood Distributor - Jim Wallace  
Regent Restaurant - Wayne Kwan  
Fairfield Appliance - Glen Tanaka  
Hironaka Employees Benefit - Norris Hironaka

To date, the following represents the balance sheet for the supper.

Total Revenues.....	\$20,743.00
(includes mein-making expenses & sales)	
Total Expenses.....	\$5,558.00
Net Profit.....	\$15,205.00





## PARENTS' DAY 2014



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

### Sunday, June 1

#### BASIC KANJI CHARACTERS

With Abby McMeekin, Japanese language professor at U of L and mom to Celine and Sophie.

\*This activity will begin when the class is dismissed from service.

### Sunday, June 8

#### MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

With Gillian Hestad, Masters student with a focus of study on mindfulness and children. Visit her website at [www.mindfulchild.info](http://www.mindfulchild.info).

\*Activities will begin in the Dharma room at 10:30 am

### Sunday, June 15

#### ANNUAL BTSA PICNIC

10:30 am service and picnic to follow at the Elk's Shelter. Kids' activities and games, including races, BINGO and a pinata.

**JULY & AUGUST:** There will be no formal Dharma classes in session. The Dharma classroom will continue to be available to children and parents during July services and tea.



# Schedule 光 June & July 2014

## Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要 (service in English)

Please bring Homyo (Buddhist Name) of your loved one. 法名をご持参ください。

JUNE: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki Service 1	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 2	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 3	10am Ikebana 4	10am Gentle Yoga 6:30pm Choir 5	2pm Art Expression 6	1pm Art making & Journaling 7
10:30am Regular Service 8	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 9	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 10	10am Ikebana 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 11	10am Gentle Yoga 6:30pm Choir 12	2pm Art Expression 13	1pm Art making & Journaling 14
10:30am Annual Picnic and Service 15	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 16	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 17	10am Ikebana 18	10am Gentle Yoga 6:30pm Choir 19	2pm Art Expression 20	10:30am Intro to Buddhism 1pm Art making & Journaling 21
10:30am Regular Service 22	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 23	12pm Tonari Gumi 6:30/7pm Taiko 24	10am Ikebana 25	6:30pm Choir 26	Visitation at Correctional Centre 2pm Art Expression 27	1pm Art making & Journaling 28
10:30am Regular Service 29	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 30					

JULY: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7pm Taiko 1	10am Ikebana 2	6:30pm Choir 3	4	5
10:30am Regular Service (Sensei in Brooks) 6	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 7	7pm Taiko 8	10am Ikebana 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 9	6:30pm Choir 10	11	12
10:30am Regular Service (Sensei in Temple Hill, Magrath) 13	6:30pm Bon Odori practice 14	7pm Taiko 15	10am Ikebana 16	6:30pm Choir 17	18	6pm Bon Odori Galt Gardens 19
1pm Mountain View Cemetery Visitation 2:30am Obon & Shotsuki Service 20	21	7pm Taiko 22	10am Ikebana 23	24	25	26
No Service 25	26	7pm Taiko 27	10am Ikebana 28	29	30	31