



May there be peace in the world, and may the Dharma spread! Master Shinran (1173-1263)



Recently, Nepal was hit twice by serious earthquakes. Like the Japanese in Japan, the Nepalese experience earthquakes almost every day. But this time, the two earthquakes were very serious: 7.8 magnitude each. Thousands of people died and more than ten thousand were injured. It was really devastating.

This disaster in Nepal reminded me of the disaster in the northern part of Japan four years ago. After the disaster, the Japanese used a term, “yorisou”, more frequently than before. “Yorisou” literally means “to be close together”. It is a beautiful expression of compassion, a sense of empathy. I see the term from time to time not only in religious articles but also in various magazines and newspapers in Japan. It is natural for us “to be close together” and share things with each other when we encounter such difficulties and hardships beyond our thoughts and imaginations. However, four years after the disaster, I heard that although they still use the term, they have started forgetting the people who suffered and are still suffering from the disaster. The term, yorisou, “to be close together”, seems to be hollow, without much meaning. Surviving victims in Fukushima still try to send a message to people, “Please do not forget us.”

Here, “to be close together” actually means not to forget or to abandon those

people who suffered and are still suffering. But, in reality, people start to forget and abandon them. It is extremely difficult or almost impossible to always be compassionate to others, to take others’ suffering and pain as our own. Perhaps, it is human nature to use empty words without a sincere mind. In the sutra, it says, “What people think and what they say are different; their words and thoughts are insincere.” It is sad. But it is true. This shows us human limitations and imperfections. Lamenting over his own imperfections, Master Shinran said, “With a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world – this burning house – all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity. The nembutsu alone is true and real and sincere.”

With these words, did Master Shinran try to escape from this world to the world of nembutsu, or to the realm of Pure Land? No, definitely not. Buddhism is not escapism. Pure Land is not an eternal resting place. Rather he listened to Buddha’s calling, truth calling of Namo Amida Butsu amid this world. Furthermore, he found joy in the voice of Amida Buddha coming from the Pure Land of oneness in which the Buddha never forgets us, never abandons us who are living in this fleeting world, in this burning house. With great joy and serenity in the working of Namo Amida Butsu, Master Shinran courageously lived 90 years of his life sharing his deep appreciation and gratitude with others. I am happy and grateful for following the steps he walked.

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

心ころころ

アルバータの天気はなかなか予測が来ませんが、今のところ快晴つづきです。気も心も軽くなります。人間の心は、昔から「心ころころ」と言われるように、周りの状態、状況によってよく変わります。不安定な心でお悟り(浄土真宗では智慧の光に満ちたお浄土)の世界に生まれることは不可能です。この心にも仏のお慈悲の心を頂くのです。私たちの変わる心に、杭が打ち込まれるのです。これが「必」の字です。み仏の心を聞くものは「必ず」お浄土に生まれるようにして下さる、と言うことです。浄土真宗では「聞く」ことを大切にしていますが、その内容は「自分の不安定な心」と「仏様の変わらぬお慈悲の心」を聞くということです。親鸞聖人は、「体の病」と「心の病」についておっしゃっています。お浄土参りは「体の病」では判断できないが、「心の病」については、一刻も早く仏様の心へにあって、お浄土への道を歩むように、と勧め下さっています。いよいよ聴聞させて頂きましょう。合掌 泉康雄

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BTSA Notes

By the time you read this, most likely the World Buddhist Women’s Convention that has been so long in the works will be underway or completed at the Calgary Telus convention centre. This quadrennial get-together--hosted this year by the Canadian organizing committee headed so ably by Susan Huntley--will have been the second one held in the country. The first was in 1990 in Vancouver.

Complete summaries of the convention will be published in the July/August issue of the Hikari.

The busy summer season launched by the world convention continues for BTSA through June and July, before the break after Obon service on July 19. Please see the schedule for Obon elsewhere in this Hikari.

Plans also are afoot for the annual BTSA picnic, this year at the Rotary Park facilities in north Lethbridge. Again, see the related picnic article elsewhere for information and instructions of the park’s location. Make note of the time and date on your calendar to catch this leisurely event.

Other articles describe the busy spring chow mein supper and photos from May 2, and the special Parents Day lunch on May 24. Associated with the latter event was a fundraiser for Nepal earthquake relief that brought in \$322.

The devastation in Nepal has been widespread and horrific, and BTSA wants to assist in whatever way it can. The board voted at its May meeting to send \$3,000 to the Canadian charity, Doctors Without Borders (Medecins sans Frontières), in time to have it matched by the federal government’s relief program. Other fundraisers are planned for later dates.

A note of interest: many of our members may know that there is a Jodo Shinshu temple in Kathmandu that suffered damages during the earthquakes. Photo of the temple below.



In other deliberations, the board will (1) explore whether solar panels for the temple might be a less expensive power alternative; and (2) try to clarify which temple activities are temple-sponsored from those offered by other users of the temple. This latter is to minimize any confusion that might occur. A retreat was suggested to consider these and other matters, given that more than five years have passed since

the dedication and there may be need for a review of the objectives established at the time of BTSA’s founding.

Please keep in mind that all minutes of the board meetings are open and available to members. They are kept in binders in the board room.

Akira Ichikawa

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. Please explain the meaning of a calligraphy written by Monshu Kojun Otani, which we recently received from our Mother Temple in Kyoto, Japan.

A. The calligraphy is written in five Japanese characters pronounced “ji-shin-kyo-nin-shin” (自信教人信). It means “secure one’s own entrusting heart to the Dharma, guiding others to the same path.” The phrase was originally composed by Master Zendo (Shan-tao) in China. Master Zendo was born in 617 and passed away in 681 during which time he revealed that Amida’s great compassion expressed in Namo Amida Butsu was the cause of our birth in the Pure Land of Oneness. Master Shinran (1173-1263) in Japan admired and deeply respected Master Zendo and used the phrase in his writing. I think that the phrase is “raison d’etre” not only of the Buddhist organizations but also of the followers of Jodo shinshu teaching. We all must take it in our hearts. We must listen to the Dharma and share what we understand and appreciate the essence of the Dharma with others. (Y.I.)

CHAIR SCHEDULE June & July 2015

Jun 07 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Brenda Oishi

Jun 14
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 21 BTSA PICNIC
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Jun 28
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Sway Nishimura

July 05
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

July 12
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

July 19 BTSA OBON 2:30
Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Tak Okamura

- Please see Obon schedule for July elsewhere.
- No formal services from Obon thru the end of August.
- Regular services resume Sept 6.

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.

BTSA Picnic

Rotary Park is the site for this year's BTSA picnic on June 21 (Sunday).

It's located in the North Lethbridge Sports Park at 2801 30th Ave N (28 St. & 30 Ave. North). 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 covered shelter that protects users from any kind of weather. If the sun shines, there's an adjacent green space with children's playground equipment and everyone can enjoy the rays. We'll try to have to place open around 9:30.

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. The temple found a cache of styrofoam plates so they will be provided to all along with cups and utensils. There will be treats for kids, and the day will be completed with rounds of bingo and prizes.

Reminder: entrance to the fenced-in park is at the north end of the site. Bring lawn chairs for those wanting added comfort, as well as sunscreen and bonnets and caps.



2015 OBON Schedule

Here's an advanced listing of Obon events in July to help prepare for this important Jodo Shinshu commemoration.

July 05 (Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 12 (Sun)	10 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation
	11 am	Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 18 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 19 (Sun)	1 pm	Mountain View Cemetery visitation
	2:30	BTSA Obon/Shotsuki Service at temple
July 25 (Sat)	1 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation and Obon gathering



MOVIE NIGHT at the Temple

Fundraiser for the Nepal earth quake victims

THE VISITOR

June 27th at the temple

bento supper at 6pm and movie at 7:30

* Contact Roland 403-317-0078 if you plan to attend the supper part of this event.

"The Visitor" was hailed as one of the most intriguing dramas of 2007. It stars Richard Jenkins in a "perfect performance (Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly), as Walter, a disaffected college professor who has been drifting aimlessly through his life.

During a trip to New York, Walter discovers a couple has taken up residence in his apartment in the city. He develops an unexpected and profound connection to them that will change his life forever.

As challenges arise for his tenants, Tarek and Zainab, Walter finds himself compelled to help his new friends and rediscovers a passion he thought he had long lost. Written and directed by Tom McCarthy, this film is about rediscovering life's rhythms in the most unexpected places.



2015 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!



Toban 2 members looked after Lethbridge Soup Kitchen duties under the direction of Jim Tsukishima on May 22. From left, the workers were Robert Takaguchi, Tom Shigehiro, Jim Tsukishima, Betty Tanaka, Sway Nishimura, Judy Takaguchi, Chiyomi Matsuno, Irene Sakamoto, Mary Shigehiro, Sumie Tsukishima, Joe Shigehiro, Mitsuko Shigehiro, Yuse Matsuno and Totsy Nishimura. The crew prepared shepherd's pie which went over big with a large lunch crowd of more than 100 persons.

Membership to May 22, 2015: 188

Hanamatsuri Donations May 2015

John & Donna Dubbelboer
Katoye Maruno

Total \$200

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations May 2015

Dorene Gordon
George Fujimoto
Chiduka Hamabata
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Marie Hirashima
Randy Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Ray & Donna Journoud
Eleanor Katakami
Shigeru Kounosu
Eileen Kunimoto
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Randy Ohno
Evelyn Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Roy & Pat Sassa
Fumi Sugimoto
Harry Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
David & Linda Tanaka
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Shirley Taniguchi
Brenda & Lester Tanner

Total \$1,489

Other Donations May 2015

Rachael Crowder
Chojukai
Rumiko Ibuki
Hanako Ikeda
Lester & Mickey Ikuta
Nakagama's Japanese Foods
Jaglit S. (Jack) Panesar
Masaye Tanaka
Setoguchi Farms
Ron & Kathryn Yoshida

Total \$1,897.67

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 Choir

Thursdays 6:30 – 7:30 pm, June 11 to July 16
Please feel free to sing with us for these sessions and the July 19 Obon Service. Whether for the short or long-term, new or returning participants are always welcome. Lorita will be back to lead the choir.

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

Taiko Class Tuesdays, 7pm (Adult) will break for the summer with the start of Obon practice and resume in Sept. Youth taiko will resume in Sept with day and time TBA.
Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@albri.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Will resume Sept 16
Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

Minyo dancers Tuesday, June 2, 4-6pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

Obon Practice begins June 8

Every Monday, 6:30 - 7:30

PROGRAMS

Ikebana with Lilly Oishi
Saturdays, June 6 - August 29, 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are 42 bags of **mein noodles for sale**. They were made on Mar. 28, 2015 and will be sold to members only: 2- bag limit @ \$3.50 each.

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 2** members for covering the May activities and special appreciation to those who prepared/served the Shotsuki tea and refreshments: Betty Tanaka, Keiko Gordon, June Terakita, Margie Tomomitsu and Kynan Gordon. Lorita continues on as the contact person for Toban 2.

Coordinated by Jim Tsukishima **Toban 2** made and served lunch at the **Soup Kitchen** on Friday, May 22nd. Many thanks to the great turnout of volunteers who helped.

The final **Soup Kitchen** for this year is **Friday, June 23** will be coordinated by Lilly Oishi...volunteers are welcome.

Thanks to the Dharma kids, teachers, parents, grandparents and volunteers for the delicious, nutritious **Parent's Day Lunch** served up with their homemade apple juice and a special cake.

Toban 3 is up for the Month of June which includes the **Annual Picnic**, June 21. It's a potluck! BTSA will provide rice, chicken, takuan and beverages.

Toban Schedule

JUNE Toban 3 • JULY Toban 2 • AUGUST Toban 4

If you would like to be on a Toban call list (BTSA members or friends are welcome), please contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com



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IKEBANA CLASS

Saturdays • June 6 through August 29
(no class on July 18)
10 to 11 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.



BON ODORI PRACTICE

Mondays beginning June 8 through
July 13 from 6:30 p.m.

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

EVERYBODY WELCOME

Chow Mein Supper on May 2

The spring chow mein supper on May 2, netted \$20,229.76, according to figures compiled by Jan Okamura who oversaw this major fund-raising event. The wrap-up is presented below.

Jan thanks “all the members and friends who again worked hard for two days to complete another chow mein takeout. The team leaders and their workers were very efficient and the days progressed smoothly. We are very grateful to all the generous donors who help us to again have a successful chow mein takeout.”

The breakdown is as follows:

Tickets sold: 2008 + 19 (Total - 2027 @ \$12)	\$24,324.00
Leftover chow mein dinners sold	395.00
Leftover sauce and ribs	171.65
Donations	<u>1,043.00</u>
Gross Income	\$25,933.65
Less expenses	<u>5,703.89</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$20,229.76</u>

BTSA acknowledges the following donors with thanks and appreciation:

- R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama
- Wesbridge Construction - Lyle Sakamoto
- Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama - pickles
- P&H Milling - Bob Grebinsky
- Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw
- Harwood Distributors - Jim Wallace
- Hiroba - Wayne Kwan
- Fairfield Appliance - Glen Tanaka
- Hironaka Employees Benefits - Norris Hironaka
- Jim Tsukishima
- Two donors of baking goods

From the BTSA, thanks to Jan for coordinating this event and doing so with such aplomb and efficiency. Domo arigato.





THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

children & youth dharma classes

On May 24 the Dharma class hosted the Parents Day Lunch. Tomato plants were made available to members, and as a last minute fundraiser for Nepal. \$322 was donated - thank you very much!



TAIKO with Kynan Gordon
Jun 14 & 28 after service (11:30)
Multi-purpose room



YOUTH BENTO CLASS

11 to 25 years • Maximum of 11 cooks
Friday, June 12 • Temple kitchen from 5-7pm
Obento will include: teriyaki chicken, rice balls, assorted vegetables

For more information
or to register call
Brenda at (403)
317-0078 or email at
rolikuta@shaw.ca





JUNE: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo 7pm Taiko				10am Ikebana
	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:30am Shotsuki Service 7	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 8	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 9	7pm BTSA Board Meeting 10	6:30pm BTSA Choir 11	1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit Bento Workshop 12	10am Ikebana 10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 13
10:30am Regular Service 14	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 15	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 16	17	6:30pm BTSA Choir 18	19	10am Ikebana 20
10:30am Annual BTSA picnic 21	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 22	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 23	24	6:30pm BTSA Choir 25	26	10am Ikebana 10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 27
10:30am Regular Service 28	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 29	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 30				

JULY: TOBAN 2

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