



June 2022

Shinjin and Idol Worship

Shinjin, entrusting heart, is Amida's mind of great compassion, it necessarily becomes the truly decisive cause of attaining of the Amida's realm of peace and serenity.

– Shinran (1173-1263)

Around this time, many people start to cut the lawn at their house. Since we gave away our gas-operated lawnmower to our neighbor when we moved to our present house, we bought a small 16 inches battery-powered lawnmower. It looks like a toy and does not have much power like the one operated by gas. But it works all right. At least we contribute to the eco-system.

The first word of the above-mentioned quotation is “shinjin” which is the core of Jodo Shinshu teaching. Rennyo, the eighth descendant of Shinran, says: If you wish to know thoroughly the essentials of the teaching recommended in our tradition and attain birth in the land of Amida, you should, first of all, know about *Shinjin*, entrusting heart of Other Power.

Shinjin is often translated as entrusting heart or simply faith in English. Faith usually occurs by dualistic thinking – “I and thou” kind of relationship. Jodo Shinshu says “Shinjin is the heart of Other Power, Amida's working.” For Amida Buddha, “I” am not other.

Shinran Shonin said *shinjin* is true mind of Amida. Our mind is not true. It constantly changes according to the circumstances, jumping around just like a monkey in the forest. Our mind tells a lie and cheats others. True mind means Amida's mind of great compassion by which Amida Buddha constantly calls all sentient beings to bring them to Amida's realm of peace and serenity. In other words, Amida becomes a voice of “namo amida butsu” which is easy for us to

hold and to recite. Amida Buddha of wisdom and compassion appears for us whose self-centered mind creates the world of delusion and suffering.

Buddhism always talks about everything as operated by causes and conditions, seen and unseen. This is the universal law which everyone agrees. The cause of Amida is you and I who are *bonbu*, foolish beings. Amida Buddha appears with “namo amida butsu” for our sake, our foolishness, self-centered beings, our delusion and suffering. There is no need to prove Amida's working for us. Wherever and whenever there are foolish beings, Amida is always there. Amida is constantly calling us with “namo amida butsu” – please take refuge in Amida, infinite wisdom and compassion.

In the sixth century, Shan-tao (Zendo) in China talked about the two rivers of greed and anger. The river of greed and the river of anger are also the problem in modern life. The moment we hear Amida's true mind, it becomes our mind, *shinjin*, in the midst of greed and anger. In *shinjin*, Amida and I are not two but one. In other words, a thought of “I” or our ego is taken away by Amida. Rennyo again said: In Buddha Dharma there is no ego. When we stand before true mind of Amida, our false mind is taking away or crushed gradually. It is natural.

Some people say that Buddhism is idol worship. Idol worship means Buddha and we are separated. We look up to Amida Buddha over there and bow to its image. In this case, Amida and we are two. Idol worship occurs in dualistic thinking, meaning Buddha and I are separated.

But in the world of *shinjin*, Amida Buddha and I are one. The image of Amida Buddha is called “upaya” or “hoben” in Japanese which means approaching toward us, the image of Amida Buddha is approaching us with “namo amida butsu”- truth calling. We are actually bowing not to an idol but to infinite wisdom and boundless compassion, expressed in “namo amida butsu.”

Amida actually is not over there but right here and right now, suffering with us and constantly guiding us to Amida's home, true and real, the realm of peace and serenity. How grateful it is! With deep gratitude and appreciation we respond to Amida with “namo amida butsu”.

Gassho - Amida and I are one.

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern AB

「大悲は大地の如し。」

親鸞聖人のお言葉です。大悲は大慈悲のこと。アミダ仏の「やさしさ、いつくしみ」の心は、私たちを支える大地のように広く、たくましい、ということでしょう。いつ、どこで、何があっても、私たちを、無条件に、抱きとって下さるのです。

ある方が、「自分は死んで地獄へ行ってもいい。どうせ、そこには多くの友達がいるんだから。。。と冗談のように言っていました。ところが、地獄と言うところは、「独りにして、付き従うものなし」と言われるところである、とお経に書かれています。独り、ひとりの地獄があるのです。そこは、必ずしも、死んでいく処ではないでしょう。孤独とは、仏様の世界から離れているということなのです。

仏様の、私を目覚まし、呼びたもう呼び声、「ナモアミダブツ」を聞かず、仏様の大地をも知らず、ただ、「もうかった、損a dog or animalsした、好きだ、嫌いだ」と生きてきて、気が付いたら「独り」だった、ということなのです。

生きている今、アミダ仏の大悲のところに耳を傾け、本当の喜び、安らぎに、気づかせていただきますよう。

合掌 泉康雄

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UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

I hope this message finds all the Sangha members well. The weather has been more pleasant and there has been less wind these past 2 weeks. I hope we get more rain to help our gardens grow.

Temple services in May continue to go well with 25-45 people attending. **Thank you to Toban 2** for looking after the Naijin and providing snacks after the service. The feeling of fellowship has returned to our Sunday gatherings.

The trees and shrubs surrounding our temple were trimmed by Twig and Owl arborist at the end of April and look much tidier. We also had the out side windows cleaned and will be trying to schedule a date for a clean up of the interior in July.

Don't forget about our temple picnic on June 19th at the Elks compound in Indian Battle Park. It is pot-luck with the temple providing KFC Chicken, rice and drinks. We will have a short service at 10:30 am followed by our meal, short children's games and BINGO.

The Shotsuki service for June 5th will be held in person and live-streamed. The link to the online service on our YouTube Channel is: <https://youtu.be/n3kbMnQ4waI>

The Every Thing Japanese sale that was to be conducted on June 11th will be postponed. We will continue to collect items in the Dharma classroom until September.

We have a final plan for our Obon weekend. Bon Odori will be held at the temple on July 16th at 6:30 PM. It will be held out side (weather permitting). We have invited several food vendors to attend. On Sunday July 17th we will have a graveside service at Mountain View Cemetery at 10:30 AM followed by service at the temple at 12:00 (Noon) and a lunch catered by LA Chef following the service. Please note the time changes compared to our pre-pandemic schedule. This is a trial run of a new schedule that we feel might be more convenient for those attending from out of town and so we can have LA Chef cater. (We are using a credit with them that we had for a JSBTC banquet that was planned for 2020). Please see the Obon schedule in this Hikari for the schedule for graveside services in the out of Lethbridge locations.

It has been great to see people attending events at the temple again. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue to gather as a Sangha. If you have any questions or concerns about the temple, please contact Roland 403-317-0078 or Rolikuta@shaw.



Site of the BTSa picnic, June 19, 2022.
Please see Board update for details.

OBON 2022 SCHEDULE

Bon Odori Practice

Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm
May 16 - July 11

July 3 (Sunday) Service

11 am @ Brooks Cemetery

July 10 (Sunday) Service

10:30 am @ Magrath Cemetery
11:30 am @ Temple Hill Cemetery
1 pm @ Taber Cemetery

July 16 (Saturday) Bon Odori

6:30 pm @ Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

July 17 (Sunday) Service

10:30 am @ Mountain View Cemetery
12 noon @ BTSa
1 pm Lunch (BTSa)



BON DANCE FESTIVAL ODORI

JULY 16 · 6:30pm · BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

MUSIC & DANCING

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DRESS

TAIKO DRUMMING

ACTIVITIES & VENDORS



www.thebtsa.com

Gotanye Service Shinran's Birthday

Gotanye, memorializing the birthday of Shinran, was observed at the May 22 Sunday BTSA service. Shinran, the acknowledged founder of our Jodo Shinshu branch of Buddhism, was born May 21, 1173, and lived 90 long years, Izumi sensei noted, until his death on Jan. 16, 1263.

Sensei explained that the service is called *Gohtan-e* in Japanese, meaning birth from a sacred realm, an expression noting when great persons like Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran are born. Briefly recounting Shinran's life, sensei said Shinran was nine-years-old when he received an ordination, then proceeded to a Mt. Hiei Buddhist learning centre.

After 20 years of practising the dominant form of Tendai Buddhism taught there by a master named Saicho, Shinran who became discouraged heard about Honen who taught about Amida Buddha and established Jodo-shu, meaning Pure Land school, according to Izumi sensei.

Sensei added "Shinran had no intention to bring up the new Buddhist school called Jodo Shinshu, True teaching of the Pure Land school. But after his death, his followers found the differences in the teaching between Honen and Shinran, that is Honen emphasized recitation of the nembutsu, Amida's name, whereas Shinran emphasized *Shinjin*, entrusting heart to Amida."

"Shinran said *Shinjin* is Amida's true mind. True mind of Amida comes to us and made us to recite the nembutsu. According to Shinran, *shinjin* is the cause of birth in Amida's Home and recitation of the nembutsu is the expression of our gratitude. For Shinran, *shinjin* is Buddha nature. Amida's true mind is the cause to liberate all sentient beings equally without discrimination," sensei concluded.

Sunday service ended with a pleasant gathering for tea by Toban 2 in the adjoining room.



MC Jeff Haines



Sensei gives dharma message



Shinran Scroll on naijin



Enlarged View of Shinran

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The JSBTC WF AGM was held April 30th 2022 via Zoom with 20 delegates online.

Rev. Christine Yanko gave the Dharma message highlighting the following:

- Navigating Life Changes
- Negative feelings are human
- Be kind to yourself
- Amida Buddha loves you for what you are

Around \$200 was collected from used stamps and foreign coins for Save the Children. Please continue collecting and bringing to the temple.

WF is planning fund raising projects to help with costs of Japan WF Convention 2023.

A committee was formed to design cards for sale.

WF Convention – Japan 2023

So far 59 delegates from Canada are registered.

Susan Huntley will be Canada's speaker.

Program performance will be odori dance to "Wonderful Canada".

Dress – white top, dark bottoms and we are looking into getting matching indigenous scarves.

Submitted by

Donna Dubbelboer

EVERYTHING JAPANESE SALE

The organizers have found that there isn't quite enough volunteers available at this time to run the sale. We will postpone this event until the beginning of September. It will be one of the first activities the Sangha engages in when temple activities start up again. We will continue to collect donations throughout the next 3 months; you can drop them off any Sunday (10:00-12:00 noon) or make alternate arrangements by contacting either:

Brenda Ikuta at (403) 317-0078 or brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com

Sachi Scharf at (403) 915-6776 or scharf1@shaw.ca

Thank you everyone who dropped off donations, contacted Sachi and Brenda or signed themselves up through Sign Up Genius.



REGULAR EVENTS

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, tanako.david@gmail.com

Minyo Dance Bon Odori practice on Mondays, 6:30 pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or sas7@telus.net

Exploring Buddhism Saturdays, 10:30am

Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Tsuyoshi Hironaka (89) April 6, 2022

TOBAN UPDATE

Soup Kitchen

Emily Stitt is coordinating Soup Kitchen groups and looking for volunteers for the following dates:

Sunday, August 14 Brunch

Tuesday, Sept. 13 Lunch

Please email emistitt@hotmail.com

Toban 4 is up for June, led by Joyce Adachi. This group will be helping out with essentials for the BTSA picnic.

Appreciation to **Toban 2** for teas in May, led by Dorene Gordon and Betty Tanaka.

Chow Mein Noodles: We still have just over 100 bags of noodles available for sale (\$3.50/bag). These are available to both members and non-members. They can be picked up Sundays before and after service or by making alternate arrangements (contact Brenda Ikuta (403) 317-0078 or brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com)

2022 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.: _____ Cell: _____

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
at May 18: **119**

Ho-onko Donations
January 2022

Gord and Joy Saruwatari

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2022

Anonymous
Gord and Joy Saruwatari
Jim and Joan Nakagawa

Obon Donation

Gord and Joy Saruwatari

Total for Sandai-Hoyo
(Three Holidays) - \$440

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

May 2022

Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Lily Kaga
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno

Roy and Pat Sassa
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Noris and Sachiko Taguchi
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Dave and Linda Tanaka
Eichi and Betty Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
George Tokuda

Total \$870.00

Other Donations

May 2022

Anonymous
CanadaHelps.Org
Akira Ichikawa
Rev. Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
Gene Kawade
Michie Kawasaki
Lyal Sakamoto
Gord and Joy Saruwatari
Sachi Scharf
K.B. and Lila Ho Takeda

Total - \$1,798.96

Funeral Donations

May 2022

Misae Masuda

Total Donations - \$3,208.96

Please inform us if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Anyone wishing not to be acknowledged in print, let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

FOR CHILDREN

Do you like dogs? Whether a dog or other animal, if we train them, they will become good friends to human. I have a small dog named Taro, which means "a first child". He was born in the United States. When he was a puppy, Taro was so tiny that he was able to sleep on my wife's palms. Now, he is a big, no, still small dog. But he barks a lot whenever someone comes to our door. He is a good burglar alarm. And he is proud of it even though there is no burglar.

When it's morning, Taro comes to wake me up. He jumps on me to wake me up. So, I tickle his belly. Taro likes it. After I take him to pee, he eats his own breakfast.

While we are eating, Taro always comes to me and sits beside me. He knows I will give him something secretly. Then we go for a walk for about 30 minutes. He likes to walk. Taro says it is good for me.

Then he poos a couple of times and I pick them up each time since he is not able to do so. But Taro says, "Thank you!" and bows to me. Yes, Taro is a Buddhist dog.

When I go to work, he raises his paw high and says bye-bye, then he runs to the next room where there is a large window. From the window he watches me with a smile.

When I come home, Taro is so happy, jumping around me. He knows I will give him a snack. Taro sleeps a lot. He thinks it is good for dogs. Taro thinks more sleep, more health. He does not study like you. But Taro thinks he is a smart dog. I agree. At night, he sleeps in his own bed. Do you sleep a lot like Taro? You say, "No way! If I sleep like Taro, my teacher will give me a bad mark!"

Anyway, Taro is my best friend, forever.

— Y. Izumi



MAY Shotsuki Service

Izumi sensei's dharma message at the May BTSA shotsuki service on May 1 focused on Amida Buddha by quoting Shakyamuni: "Sariputra, the people who hear of the Pure Land of Amida should aspire to be born there. Why? Because they will be able to meet together in one place with our good teachers and friends again."

Though sparsely-attended it was an in-person event after weeks of on-line sessions due to the pandemic. It was streamed as well.

Sensei continued "...Shakyamuni Buddha encouraged Sariputra who actually represents all of us, to take refuge in Amida. In order to make it sure, Shakyamuni Buddha called Sariputra's name again and again, 33 times in Amida sutra. And also all Buddhas in the whole universe praise what Shakyamuni Buddha is doing."

"We modern people do not believe whatever they are not able to see with their own eyes." sensei added. "But our doubt will soon disappear when we hear Amida's deep heart of compassion. The deep heart of compassion is expressed in Amida's statue. As you can see Amida's right hand always represents inviting and calling constantly all sentient beings. Amida's left hand represents grasping and never abandoning all of us."



MC John Dubbelboer



Izumi sensei's message



Naijin with homyo cards displayed





JUNE: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						10am Exploring Buddhism
			1	2	3	4
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* Streaming option	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30am BTSA Picnic & Service @ Elks compound*	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				
26	27	28	29	30		

JULY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						10am Exploring Buddhism*
					1	2
11am Obon Service @ Brooks Cemetery	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Obon Cemetery Services 10:30am, Magrath 11:30am, Temple Hill 1pm, Taber	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice	7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism* 6:30pm Bon Odori @ BTSA*
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:30am Obon Service @ Mountain View Cemetery 12pm BTSA 1pm Lunch*		7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		7pm Taiko				10am Exploring Buddhism*
24	25	26	27	28	29	31