



Pet Appreciation Service

Recently, we observed the “Pet Appreciation Service” which we used to call “Pet Memorial Service”, the day to remember and appreciate those pets, living and dead.

Buddha’s teaching does not say that humans are above animals. Buddha’s compassion and warm affection embrace humans as well as animals, birds, insects and even plants. There is no discrimination among humans, animals, birds and insects. They live their lives equally with all their might. Although we, ordinary humans, have no wisdom to see oneness of life, the Buddha said that all living beings are connected with one another.

Animals are called “do-butsumi” in Japanese, meaning “living things which move.” A human is called “nin-gen” meaning “between people” indicating that humans are social beings. We conventionally divide animals from humans, but humans are also living things which move. In this sense there is no difference between humans and animals. Furthermore, we can say that animals, especially pets, are part of our life, a part of social beings.

Pets provide companionship; they are excellent companions and really trustworthy friends. Why? Because animals and pets, I think, do not lie like humans. We humans sometimes tell lies and harm others by doing so. There is a Buddhist precept which says, “Do not tell a lie and refrain from pointless and harmful talk.” The Buddha once said: “What people think and what people say are different; their words and thoughts

are insincere. Flattering and disloyal, they behave toward others with cunning words.” These are quite severe and strong words to describe humans. But it is true. Our minds change in selfish ways. So, our words also change according to our convenience. We humans often do not trust each other. On the other hand, dogs, cats and other animals do not lie like we do. So, we can trust them. They become our pets, good companions, trustworthy friends. Their loyalties often touch our hearts and minds. They are ready to sacrifice their own lives for the sake of humans, even if it comes from their instinct. In this sense, they are truly trustworthy.

My wife and I used to have a female dog. Since she died some years ago we haven’t had a pet. My wife is a dog lover. So, she wants to have a dog again. But I say, “You can have one after I die. Perhaps, you will need a good companion.” She says “That is why I need a dog now!”

Do you know the difference between a true pet lover and an ordinary pet lover? A true pet lover can sense a pet’s feelings well. They talk to their pet. They can hear what the pet wants. My wife used to tell me, “Our dog listens to me and I listen to her. I can see her smile.” I like dogs but I cannot see their smile. I wonder “Do they smile?” I can see only when the dog gets angry. Animal lovers can see that all animals and humans are really connected. They see a pet’s pain and sadness as their own. They don’t love their pets just out of their own interest or their own amusement. Are all animals including our pets our teachers to reflect our actions in everyday life?

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

聞法

バンクーバーで漁業関係の仕事をしている友達から「仏様は慈悲の働きなのですね。長いこと、仏様とは単なる仏像とと思っていました」という便りがありました。多くの人たちは、仏教徒とは「仏像を拜む人達」と考えているようです。それも間違いではないでしょう。しかし、単なる仏像でもなく、動かぬ仏像でもありません。ある年配の方が「夫を亡くしてからというもの、毎日お仏壇の前に座ると、愚痴が出て仕方ありません」と言われていたことを思い出します。「愚痴」とは、人生の本当の姿を見通すことが出来ない、智慧のない私たちのことを言います。「愚」も「痴」も「おろか」ということです。それは、知識があるとか、ないとかということではありません。人生を自分の都合のいいようにしか見ることが出来ない、あるいは自己中心でしか物事を考えることが出来ない私たちのことを「おろか」というのです。それは、計り知れない「おろかさ」です。ですから愚痴も出ます。悲しみ、苦しみも絶えることもありません。しかし、その深い「おろかさ」ゆえに、仏様の智慧が慈悲となって働き、仏像として現れ、南無阿弥陀仏の呼び声となって、本当に明るいお浄土（目覚めの世界）へと導いて下さるのです。ですから、私たちの生活は、愚痴だけでおわってしまう、というものではないでしょう。愚痴が出てくる度に、仏様の心、お慈悲の心に帰っていくのです。そこに聞法の大切さがあります。昔の方々は「暇があるからみ教えを聞くのでない。時間を作って法を聞き、お慈悲に遇わせて頂くのだ」と言われました。ますます聴聞させていただきましょう。 合掌。南アルバータ仏教会 泉康雄

BTSA Notes

Because the first Sunday of March which is reserved for the annual general meeting falls on the first day of the month, the meeting's decisions will be reported in the next Hikari. The main topics had to do with the election of new directors to replace those whose two-year terms ended with the AGM and a request of the membership to decide on the future of the Alberta Buddhist Conference.

March promises to be a busy month, following the AGM, with the board having to establish a new executive for the coming year. A movie night is planned for the evening of Mar. 14 after a session of meditation during the day with Rachel Crowder; the spring ohigan (or equinox) will be observed at the Mar. 15 Sunday service; a memorial to Eshinni (Shinran's wife) and Kakushinni (their daughter) will be observed at the Mar. 22 service; and mein-making is scheduled for Mar. 28.

Please remember that daylight saving time goes into effect at 2 a.m. on Mar. 8, so set your clocks ahead to insure you won't miss Sunday service later that day.

Coming up in April is Hanamatsuri (birth of Buddha celebration) on Apr. 5, in conjunction with the monthly memorial service, beginning at 2 p.m. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto sensei of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Ontario, Oregon, has been invited as the guest speaker. Further details to follow in April's Hikari.

Looking back to the past month, relatively temperate weather brought out sizeable turnouts for the monthly memorial service and the Nirvana Day/Pet Appreciation commemoration. Unlike eastern Canada, punished by snowstorm after severe snowstorms, dustings and skiffs of flurries didn't keep members away from attending temple. In the past, record area snowfalls seem to have occurred in March and April--even May--but keep fingers crossed that there won't be a recurrence this year.

Elsewhere in the Hikari, there are articles concerning BTSA's \$200,000 loan to the Calgary Temple, the results of the food donations drive for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank, and an early reminder of the Obon schedule in July. Please refer to them for updates.

Akira Ichikawa

Spring OHIGAN Service Set for March 15



BTSA ohigan commemoration is scheduled with the regular Sunday service on Mar. 15, highlighting the spring equinox and the idea of balance. The following is a slightly-altered version of the event described on the Los Angeles Betsuin website:

Higan is an abbreviation of "To-Higan" which literally means "to reach the other shore." In Buddhism, the world of suffering is symbolically referred to as "this shore" and the world of Enlightenment is called "other shore."

The term Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita - "gone to other shore," and suggests the Six Paramitas of charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. Various sutras teach that the Six Paramitas or perfections of practice are the way of reaching the other shore from this shore.

In Jodo Shinshu, the observance of Higan is simply the expressing of our gratitude to Amida Buddha for awakening us to Boundless Compassion and Wisdom. Our part in this observance would be to respond to compassionate working which comes to our world of delusion and to apply it in our relation with man and other living beings on this earth. This appreciation in our daily life is the way of the Nembutsu expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving for the wondrous virtues of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of boundless and unconditional Compassion. Amida Buddha liberates us equally just like the sun's ray which falls on the earth.

CHAIR SCHEDULE March & April 2015

Mar 01 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Mar 08
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Mar 15 SPRING OHIGAN
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Mar 22
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Mar 29
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Tak Okamura

Apr 05 HANAMATSURI/ SHOTSUKI @ 2PM
Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Apr 12
Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Apr 19
Chair: Kynan Gordon
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Apr 26
Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

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.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. How can we draw young people to our temple and expand the circle of the teaching? どのようにして若い人たちをお寺に集まるようにしたらよいでしょうか？

A. It is a concern for elderly people in particular, who regularly come to temple. However, I do not think that there is a magic formula to draw young people to our temple. This is up to us, ministers and the followers of the teaching. If we appreciate the teaching, practice what we learn and then try to share the teaching with others; young people eventually will follow us. For outsiders, we must open our door with various programs and create a friendly atmosphere. I think that we need patience for this. In the case of our children and grandchildren, they will tend to follow what their parents and grandparents are doing, saying and thinking based on their teaching. If the parents, from time to time, talk negatively about their temple, their children and grandchildren may rarely attend to listen to the teaching. I say this because our present Board members who work diligently for our temple, more or less, have received positive influence from their parents or grandparents. (Y.I.)

Mein Noodle Session, March 28



The temple will be making mein noodles on March 28, Saturday, in preparation for the spring chow mein supper scheduled for May 2. We look forward to a great turnout for this event, a wonderful chance to socialize. The above photo is from the session in November, 2014, and shows Sway Nishimura running the dough through the press a second time as Bob Imahashi looks on. Come out and join the fun...we can use all the help we can get.

2015 OBON Schedule

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

July 5(Sun)	11 am	Brooks Cemetery visitation (Obon service at Heritage Inn)
July 12 (Sun)	10 am 11 am	Magrath Cemetery visitation Temple Hill Cemetery visitation
July 18 (Sat)	6 pm	Bon Odori, Galt Gardens, Lethbridge
July 19 (Sun)	1 pm 2:30	Mountain View Cemetery visitation BTSA Obon/Shotsuki Service at the temple
July 25 (Sat)	1 pm	Taber Cemetery visitation & Obon gathering



Movie Night at the Temple

The next Movie night at the temple will occur on Saturday March 14th at 7 PM.

We will be showing the movie "Buddha's Lost Children". It is a documentary from 2006 that has won over seven international awards. It is about an orphanage in Thailand that was set up by a Thai-boxer.

In the remote borderlands of Thailand's Golden Triangle, a professional Thai-boxer turned Buddhist monk devotes himself to the care of the poorest hill tribe children. Stunning cinematography and a compelling story make this film an extraordinary experience of a hidden realm. This intimate, emotional charge portrait, charts how the monk's unique brand of tough love unlocks the boys' potentials.

There will be snacks served after the movie. Everybody is welcome! If you have any questions please contact Roland Ikuta at 403-317-0078 or send an email to rolikuta@shaw.ca

**2015 Memberships to
Feb 10 - 80**

**Shotsuki Hoyo
Donations**
February 2015

Ken & April Fleury
Yoshio Fujimoto
Randy Higa
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Ray and Donna Journoud
Yoko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Heidi Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Roy & Pat Sassa
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Brenda & Lester Tanner
Jean H. Tatebe
George Tokuda
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Total \$1,040

Other Donations
February 2015

Arthur Brown
Irene Cassady
Rachel Crowder
Don & Darlene Dodds
Dale & Carol Fujita
Rumiko Ibuku
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Haruko Ikeda
Eleanor Katakami
Frank & Sue Kimura
Tad & Kikuo Kokaji
Kristie Masuda
Hanako Misumi
Lilly Oishi
Roy & Pat Sassa
John & Lucy Takahashi
Masaye Tanaka
Jim Tsukishima

Total - \$1,724

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.

BTSA Transfers \$200,000 to Calgary Buddhist Temple

The loan request of \$200,000 from the Calgary Buddhist Temple was completed, effective Feb. 1, through the Alberta Treasury Branch where both BTSA and the Calgary temple have accounts. The amount was approved by a special meeting of the BTSA in November, 2014.

The loan is scheduled to be repaid in February, 2020, at 3 per cent per annum as agreed to in the promissory note provided by the Calgary temple. Calgary plans to spend the amount toward the renovation of its temple, already in progress, in preparation for the World Buddhist Women's Convention on May 30 and 31, 2015.

In accordance with BTSA's decision in November to seek a promissory note, the Calgary temple provided the attached based upon BTSA's certificate of incorporation. The promissory note uses the address of the law firm retained at the time of incorporation in 2007 and parenthetically adds "(or such other place as may be designated by the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta)." The certificate was drafted long before BTSA had a permanent home.

PROMISSORY NOTE

Amount: \$200,000.00
Interest: 3% per annum
Due Date: January 31st, 2020

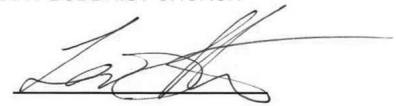
The undersigned CALGARY BUDDHIST CHURCH promises to pay on or before January 31st, 2020, the BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA at 110, 220 - 4th Street S, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4J7 (or such other place as may be designated by the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta) the sum of TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND (\$200,000.00) DOLLARS with interest at the rate of THREE (3%) PERCENT per annum from February 1st, 2015.

For Value Received.

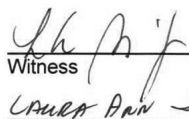
Dated at the City of Calgary in the Province of Alberta, this 13 day of January, 2015.

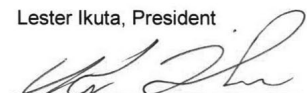
CALGARY BUDDHIST CHURCH


Witness



Per: Lester Ikuta, President


Witness
LAUREN BAIN SUGIMOTO



Per: Ken Nishi, Secretary

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

Taiko Class Tuesdays, 7pm (Adult) and Fridays, 7pm (Youth)

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

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays, 1pm

Contact Nao (403.327.7357) or Tad (403.942.7783)

Minyo dancers Tuesdays, 4-6pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

PROGRAMS

Art Expression Workshops with Maya Ichikawa, Art Therapy student

April 7, 10am - 2:30pm: Self-Reflection in Images

April 8, 10am - 2:30pm: Art & Journaling

Sign up for one or both. No art experience necessary. Please bring a lunch.

Contact: mayaichikawa9@gmail.com or 403.382.1268

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be aware of the free-standing bulletin board in the multi-purpose room, providing up-to-date information and sign-ups for the **WBWC Convention**.



Joshin Dennis Fujimoto

Sensei, resident minister of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple in Ontario, OR, is the Hanamatsuri speaker at the BTSA service on Apr. 5.

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 4** for supporting the February activities. Members will be active again in March in preparing lunch for the **Soup Kitchen** March 18. You don't have to be in Toban 4 to help out at this event... just give Jan a call or show up at or before 9 am!

Thanks to Judy and Robert Takeguchi for their leadership of Toban 2 – they have decided to step down from the leadership group, but will still continue with the toban and sangha activities. Wonderful job!

Toban 2014/15 Schedule

MAR Toban 2 • APR Toban 4 • MAY Toban 2

Soup Kitchen

Wed Mar 18 • Jan/Tak Okamura, Toban 4

Thanks to you all!

The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others ... Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but is ever a part of the heaving surface of the ocean, so must I never live my life for itself, but always in the experience which is going on around me. It is an uncomfortable doctrine which the true ethics whisper into my ear: You are happy, they say therefore you are called upon to give much.

--Albert Schweitzer

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

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 BTSA 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!**

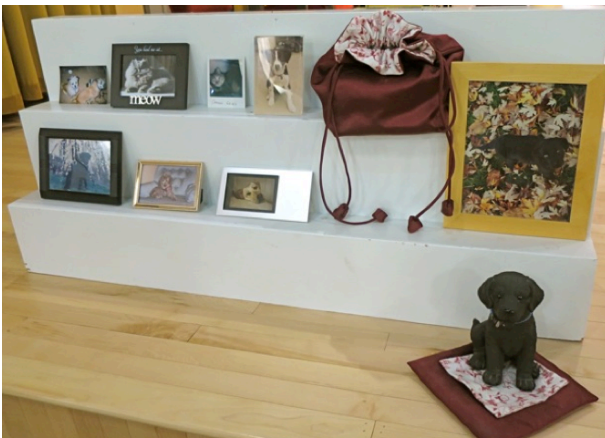
Food Donations to Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank



BTSA FOOD DONATION to the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank was valued at close to \$900, with the donations--both food and monetary--totalling \$445 and the temple matching that amount with a cheque. The photo shows several board members with Rev. Izumi posing with food parcels before they were turned over to the Food Bank during the second week in February. Starting at the right, Wayne Tsukishima, Izumi sensei, Sylvia Oishi, Val Boras, Brenda Ikuta, Jim Tsukishima and Roland Ikuta. BTSA thanks all those who contributed so generously to this annual temple project.

photo: John Dubbelboer

Nirvana Day/Pet Appreciation Service - Feb 15



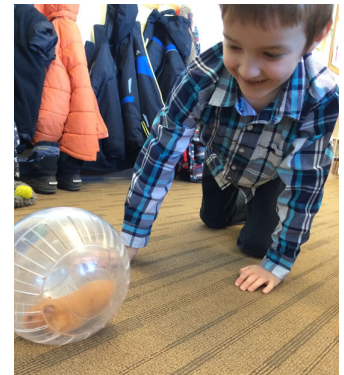
PHOTOS OF PETS were displayed on the naijin at the Nirvana Day and Pet Appreciation Service on Feb. 15. The board had suggested the name of the event be changed from pet "memorial" to pet "appreciation" since many of the pets honored may still be living. In his dharma message, Izumi sensei emphasized the point that Buddhism does not consider humans as being above animals and that it is appropriate to couple the two commemorations together since it is alleged that many sentient beings--humans, animals, birds and insects alike--were present when the historic Buddha entered nirvana more than 2,500 years ago.

photo: Akira Ichikawa



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA children & youth dharma classes

This past February Abby McMeekin led the class in Haiku writing and Asha brought in her pet, Gingersnap for pet appreciation. The students watched videos about the bond between pets and their humans, and decorated frames for pictures of their pets, past and present.



Upcoming: MARCH = MINDFULNESS

- March 8: Zentangles (Maya)
- March 22: Naikan for Kids (Lorita)

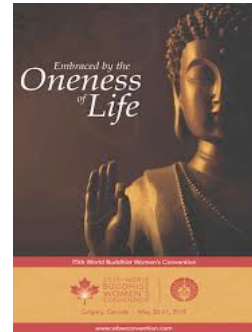


2015
WORLD
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
CONVENTION

WBWC UPDATE March 2015

Several BTSA members are on the roster of workshop presenters at the Convention with themes based the Eightfold Path.

John Harding, Chair of [Religious Studies](#) and Coordinator of [Asian Studies](#) at the University of Lethbridge. will discuss **Right Effort: Buddhism in Canada, Past and Present**. He notes that Jodo Shinshu dominated the first half of the history of Buddhism in Canada and “Right Effort” among Buddhists here in Southern Alberta played a surprisingly central role for Buddhism in Canada.



Andrew Ichikawa's presentation **Right Mindfulness – Why Music?** will explore the role of music in everyday life and how music can support our efforts towards right mindfulness. His practice, Pathways Music Therapy, provides music therapy services in Lethbridge to children in early childhood settings, to children and adults with developmental disabilities and to older adults in continuing care.

Lorita Ichikawa will facilitate a workshop on **Right Meditation: Naikan**, a structured form of self-reflection that can help us to find gratitude in our everyday lives. Developed by Yoshimoto Ishin, a devout Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, Naikan is an accessible approach to meditation, a way of reflecting on the teachings of the Buddha. Lorita, a retired psychologist, has led Naikan and related classes at BTSA.

Rev. Yasuo Izumi will speak on **A life of gratitude**. This talk will focus on Ondokusan (Gratefulness) to explore the meaning of gratitude according to Shinran Shonin with the emphasis on the difference between daily language and dharma language. Izumi sensei is the minister of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (BTSA).

Watch for all Workshops to be posted soon. Visit our website at www.wbwconvention.com

There are still a few spots available! Go to the website to register, to volunteer, to purchase banquet only tickets or to order a custom designed monto-shikosho.

All Canadians attending the convention reminders:

1. Make your hotel reservations
2. Attire to wear to the convention: a white collared shirt, denim/blue bottoms and wearing a coordinating Canadian scarf (optional for men) – if you have not received a scarf, please contact Donna at jdubbelboer@shaw.ca to arrange to pick up yours

