



March 2023

Sentient beings who encounter Amida's light have the three defilements swept away, and they become soft and gentle in body and mind. – from the Larger Sutra



The quotation is from the sutra of “Immeasurable Life” which is usually called “Larger Sutra”, expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha. Shinran Shonin said Jodo

Shinshu is the Larger Sutra. In other words, Jodo Shinshu is actually not the name of the organization. Shinran never intended to form the new organization. The organization may disappear, but the Larger Sutra will continue as long as human beings have three defilements.

At the end of the Larger Sutra, the Buddha said: In the future, all the sutras will become extinct. However, out of compassion and pity, I will ensure that this sutra alone remains for further one hundred years.

One hundred is a “full number” meaning “forever.”

The Larger Sutra describes Amida's light of wisdom and compassion which will liberate all sentient beings to Buddhahood.

“Three defilements” in the above quotation mean greed, anger and foolishness, which are called three poisons because these will harm not only oneself but also others. Greed means our excessive desire. We need more and more. When we gain fame, we need money, or when we gain money, we need fame. There is no limitation of our desires. When our desire is not fulfilled, we get angry or upset. When we get angry and upset, we do not see things clearly which is called foolishness.

Foolishness means the lack of wisdom. How should we deal with these poisons?

The Sutra says, “If people aspire to develop compassion instead of greed, and practice loving-kindness instead of anger, and cultivate wisdom instead of foolishness then there is no more greed, anger, and foolishness and they will reach Buddhahood.”

However, Shinran wrote: **The aspiration for true awakening through self-power taught in the Path of Sages is beyond our minds and words; We foolish beings with three defilements are ever sinking in transmigration.**

We who have been mired in this world are not able to see Amida's light. Therefore, Amida Buddha appeared in the visual form before us. That is a standing statue of Amida Buddha of compassion. We see 48 rays behind Amida Buddha's statue. These 48 rays mean that Amida Buddha's twelve lights are shining on four corners. (*Shoshinge* explains these twelve lights) These lights have the three defilements swept away.

We see icicles hanging under the eaves in very cold weather. These icicles will gradually melt away by the light and become water. Similarly, our three defilements will become soft and gentle in body and mind through Amida's light.

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



三寒四温

最近の天候は、少し暖かくなったと思
うと、急にまた寒くなります。少し積もつ
た雪が溶けたり、また雪になったりと、天
気がすぐ変わります。私たちの体は、
それに合わせて、順応してくれています。
健康だからでしょう。ありがたいこと
です。しかし、順応できないお年寄りの
会員が、最近、何人が亡くなっていかれま
した。92歳、94歳、94歳、96歳
の方々です。これらの方々は、お寺のため
に、良く働いてくださいました。聴聞も欠
かすことはありませんでした。聴聞をし
て、良く働いてくださる方々によって、私
たちのお寺が支えられ、次の世代へと、
み教えが伝えられていきます。「ナモアミ
ダブツ」のみ教えは、いつの時代にも、ど
こにいても、私たちを照らし、育み、日々
を安らかにしてくさるのです。それは、
「ナモアミダブツ」が仏様の、変わらぬ「
大悲の呼び声」に支えられているからで
しょう。 合掌 泉康雄

EXPLANATION OF BUDDHIST TERMS

Ōjō: Ojo literally means “going to be born” in Amida's home (the Pure Land of peace) filled with the Light of wisdom and compassion. Those who entrust Amida's Vow, here and now, will be born in Amida's realm instantly when we discard our physical body, and we will meet our loved ones again. (Y. I.)

UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

The **BTSA Annual General Meeting** will take place after the Shotsuki service on Sunday, March 5th, 2023. Several reports will be presented. We would welcome 1-2 new people to join our board of directors. If you are interested in joining our board please contact Val Boras, Rev. Roland or Kynan Ono. Most of the current Board members have agreed to stay on (for another two-year term / complete the 2nd year of their two-year term).

Below is information to join the AGM via zoom. No password is required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85902468546>

And here is the link to the livestream of the March Shotsuki Service prior to the AGM:

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

The Audio-Visual (AV) committee has been busy planning for upcoming events which will require AV support, including the Annual General Meeting and Butsudan Workshop, in addition to Sunday services and Shotsuki. David Major has joined the AV committee. We welcome him and thank him for his service.

A new podcast, *The Four Noble Truths*, has been posted on the website (thebtsa.com) - check it out!

The Dell laptop has proven unreliable for AV operations so an Acer Aspire laptop will be purchased as a replacement.

Youth activities will start up again with plans for a movie night and dinner. Ideas for future activities include mochi making, talent show, and Japanese language class. The target group for the youth activities are teenagers to adults in their 30's.

Bon Odori will take place on July 15, 2023 at the Temple grounds from 7:00 pm.

Thank you to all the organizers and volunteers!

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Boras
BTSA Secretary

Annual Report from the Chairperson

I hope this report finds all of the members well. It has been a very eventful year for the BTSA. Shortly after our AGM in March 2022, we held a town hall meeting to discuss the plans for the Sangha and activities as we re-open the temple from COVID restrictions. At the town hall meeting, we decided to resume regular weekly Sunday services with the Toban system continuing. The monthly cleaning duties, the responsibility for the meals for the Sandai Hoyo (Ho-onko, Hanamatsuri, and Obon), and funeral services would be taken over by an all-Toban group. It was decided we would resume help at the Soup Kitchen. Other activities held at the temple, including Taiko, Odori, Meditation, and Explore Buddhism, would continue on a regular basis.

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE March & April

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

Mar 05
SHOTSUKI
Joyce Shigehiro
Robbie Scharf, AV

Mar 12
John Dubbelboer
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Mar 19
Wayne Tsukishima
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Mar 26
Val Boras
Kynan Gordon, AV

Apr 02
HANAMATSURI/
SHOTSUKI @ 2 PM
Harry Sugimoto
TBA, AV

Apr 09
Jeff Haines
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Apr 16
Kynan Gordon
Robbie Scharf, AV

Apr 23
Sheila Oishi
David Major, AV

Apr 30
Andrew Ichikawa
Bob Muskovich, AV

Obon Odori was held in the parking lot of the temple, with around 350 people attending. The traditional graveside services in Brooks, Taber, and Magrath Raymond resumed with large groups attending. The Mountain View graveside services were conducted before the Obon service at the temple and had over 400 people attend. The Obon service was held with over 100 people attending, and the meal served was catered by LA Chef.

Chow Mein-making events were held in March and October in preparation for our first Chow Mein supper event in almost three years. We could serve over 2200 meals without difficulties due to the large number of volunteers that came out to help during the three days. Other activities that resumed this year included an "Everything Japanese used items sale" that was very successful.

A complete temple clean-up occurred in September 2022, with over 40 members participating in cleaning. Some parts of the temple had not been cleaned for several years, and a noticeable change was seen.

A significant event for the temple was the transfer of the President's duties from Roland to Kynan Ono. Roland completed his Kyoshi certification in August of 2022 and officially started work on a half time basis, as a Kyoshi minister with Izumi sensei. They are currently sharing duties and alternating running the services on Sundays.

The AV committee continues to be very active, with significant additions to the temple website, including a new online booking system. The temple commercial and welcome video was released on Jan.1st with over 5000 views from our Facebook page and webpage. Hopefully, this video will encourage new people to attend our activities. Please see the update from Brenda.

Sadly, the BTSA has lost many members this past twelve months. Their presence, influence, and guidance are greatly missed. It has been a challenging time for many families with these losses.

If you have any concerns or questions about the BTSA, please do not hesitate to contact Roland Sensei, Kynan Ono, or one of the board members. Thank you to all of the members who have contributed to the running of our temple.

MINISTER'S Report

Highlights from March, 2022 to March, 2023

March 20 (Sun) Spring O-Higan Service
April 3 (Sun) Hanamatsuri Service
April 16 (Sat) JSBTS Meeting by Zoom
April 24 (Sun) Town Hall Meeting post service
May 19 (Thu) Received an invitation from Nikka Yuko J.G.
(Cultural Center Opening Day)
May 22 (Sun) Hoonko Service
June 20 (Mon) Meeting with Dr. Darren Aoki
July 3 (Sun) Brooks Obon
July 9 (Sat) Officiate Wedding for Kynan and Connie / Reception
July 10 (Sun) Cemetery Service – Magrath / Temple Hill / Taber
July 14 (Thu) Invitation from Nikka Yuko J.G.
(55th Anniversary)
July 16 (Sat) Bon Odori (Beautiful Day) at Temple
July 17 (Sun) BTSA Cemetery Service/ Obon Service
July 28 (Thu) Invitation from College (Talk about Buddhism)
Sept. 13 (Tue) participate in Soup Kitchen
Sept. 15 (Thu) JSBTC MA meeting
Oct. 4 (Tue) Published 15th booklet on Dharma Guiding Light
Oct 22. (Sat) Discuss Minister's new contract
Nov. 1 (Tue) Rev. Roland Ikuta starts work at the BTSA
(One year Training period)
Dec. 4 (Sun) Appreciation Luncheon for Ministers
Dec.31 (Sat) 9:00pm Year End Bell Ringing
(Izumi, Roland and Kynan)
Jan. 1, 2023 (Sun) Shusho-E post COVID, over 30 attendees
Jan. 8 (Sun) Hoonko/ New Year's Party
Feb.12 (Sun) Nirvana Day and Pet Appreciation Service

*During the year, I contributed English and Japanese articles for Hikari (Thanks Maya)
Study Class every Saturday / Conducted Sunday Services and Funerals services/ Visitation Senior Home/ Extend Care

Humbly submitted by Rev. Izumi
March 5th, 2023



Audio Visual (A/V) REPORT

Members of the A/V Committee: Kynan Ono, Arjan Gill, Ross Jacobs, John Dubbelboer, Bob Muskovich, Jeff Haines, Roland Ikuta, Brenda Ikuta, David Major

Focus since the 2022 AGM: making the A/V system support post-pandemic needs.

1. Equipment:

- HDMI blue tooth connector (\$207.00) allows us to utilize the Dharma School large screen TV in the hondo and boardroom.
- Laptop remote (\$50.00)
- New laptop for the A/V system: although the last one was only 4 years old, there were difficulties with it from the beginning. The old one can be used for Dharma School purposes moving forward.

2. Livestreaming:

- Shotsuki Services
- Funeral Services
- Special Events (e.g. Butsudan Workshop)

3. Website:

- Updating contact information for ministers, map for temple location
- Calendar of activities
- Event posters have a place now on the main page
- Booking the temple: process
 - > Go to the website: thebtsa.com
 - > top right corner: click on "member"
 - > from the menu: click on "booking"
 - > download the "booking form"
 - > must be a paid member to book the temple; if so, send completed form to sylvia.oishi@gmail.com
 - > booking is not confirmed until Sylvia sends a reply email
 - > if appropriate, information is sent to the applicant regarding fees and assignment of a temple coordinator

4. Podcasts:

- Vickie MacArthur: Yoga/Meditation
- Four Noble Truths

5. Temple Social Media Commercial

- Although completed for last AGM, the commercial was held back until many of the temple activities were consistently open
- Released on New Years Day 2023
- Reached just under 5000 people's feeds due to boosting it beyond our regular Facebook viewers in the first week (\$60).
- 291 chose to click on the link = \$0.21/link
- The range was just in Alberta with the primary viewers being in Lethbridge and in the age range of 45-65+.
- Shorter versions of it will be posted broadly with the intent that it comes up frequently on people's Facebook feeds to remind them of the temple.

Focus in the next year: Continuing to work on content for the website and social media and making them reliable resources for temple information. Continuing to work on the A/V system so that it supports versatile programming at the temple.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Ikuta

Toban Summary

Toban Leaders and Advisors: Dorene Gordon, Betty Tanaka, Mary Shigehiro, Judy Takaguchi, Emily Stitt, Sachi Scharf, Brenda Ikuta, Pat Sassa, Joyce Adachi, Nancy Eng, Amy Tsukishima, Jan Okamura

Town Hall Meeting, April 24, 2022: attended by 37 people; discussed re-opening temple activities post-pandemic:

- What will the Sangha do in the next year?
- How will we do it?

Recommendations/Decisions/Outcomes from meeting:

1. Toban system

- Continued on a 3-month rotation and re-evaluated at Obon and again at the 2023 AGM
- Gathered updated Toban member information on an excel spreadsheet and put on the Board shared drive
- Removed funeral services from Toban duties
 - o Toban leaders currently sit on the Funeral Committee
 - o General call out for volunteers who have expressed an interest in supporting funeral/memorial events: service and refreshments afterwards.
- Removed monthly clean-up from Toban duties
 - o General call out for volunteers
 - o Scheduled 3 times per year (September, February, June)
 - o Lunch follows hosted by the temple
- Removed Sandai Hoyos from Toban duties
 - o General call out for volunteers

2. Sandai hoyo

- a. Obon 2022 (separate committee)
- Bon odori was held at the temple with overall success
- Catered lunch for Sunday -LA Chef \$1,000 credit from 2020
- Paid another \$1,962.03 (estimating 100 attendees)
- b. Hoonko 2023
- Menu was determined by the Toban assigned to that month
- Volunteers from all Tobans for food service and activities
- Ordered in 3 Chinese dishes and supplemented with side dishes and dessert
- Bingo followed
- Approx. \$1,318.00 total expenses

3. Sangha Engagement

a. Movie Night

- None have occurred since Town Hall Meeting although there was general support to continue this activity
- April 2023: proposed activity focusing on youth and young adults
- TBD: proposed Tonarigumi activity

b. Picnic

- June / Father's Day 2022
- KFC and potluck
- Bingo
- Food was coordinated by the Toban 4 this year
- They made a checklist for the future organizers.

c. Minister Appreciation

- December 2022
- KFC, cake and potluck
- Celebrated (in-person) Izumi Sensei's 50 years of being a minister in Canada
- Acknowledged Ikuta Sensei achieving Kyoshi and Haines Sensei having Tokudo

d. Soup Kitchen

- Coordinator: Emily Stitt
- 3 sessions booked in 2022; one was cancelled by the organization.
- 3 booked for 2023

e. Mochi Making

- Proposed for December, 2022 because a member volunteered to assist in facilitating the event
- Unfortunately omitted because Chow Mein Supper was pushed into late November.
- Proposed event in December 2023

4. Fundraising

a. Safe installed in the west storage room.

b. All Things Japanese Sale (separate committee)

- September 24/25, 2022
- Brought in approximately \$3,300
- c. Mein Making and sales
- Coordinators: Mary Shigehiro, Emily Stitt
- October 14/15, 2022
- Provided Chow Mein Supper supply
- Also provided 4 bags/volunteer at \$4.00/bag
- Advertised in the Hikari after the event and made available for sale after Sunday Services

d. Chow Mein Supper (separate committee)

- November 6, 2022 was the first date set and was moved to November 20 due to supply concerns and short timelines
- Decided on 2100 meals rather than the smaller scale meal at the Town Hall Meeting. Reasoning: it took more work to figure out the amounts for new, smaller numbers
- Increased price to \$20 due to increase in food costs, new containers, and respecting 'best before dates' due to the unexpectedly long pandemic
- Opened a Sysco account
- Solicited more donations from corporations: flour, sugar (oil in the future)
- Addressed some equipment / structural issues: dishwasher, cooler, kitchen drains
- Addressed some environmental issues: styrofoam containers
- Organization of a designated clean up crew was uplifting after a weekend of work
- Intention moving forward: replace one rice cooker for a new one each Chow Mein Supper
- Alan Tanaka and Joyce Adachi have graciously agreed to help in the coordinator roles moving forward

Proposals:

1. One Chow Mein Supper in 2023 and focus on building a leadership team
2. Two Chow Mein Suppers in 2024
3. Submission of the Special Services and Events Calendar for 2023

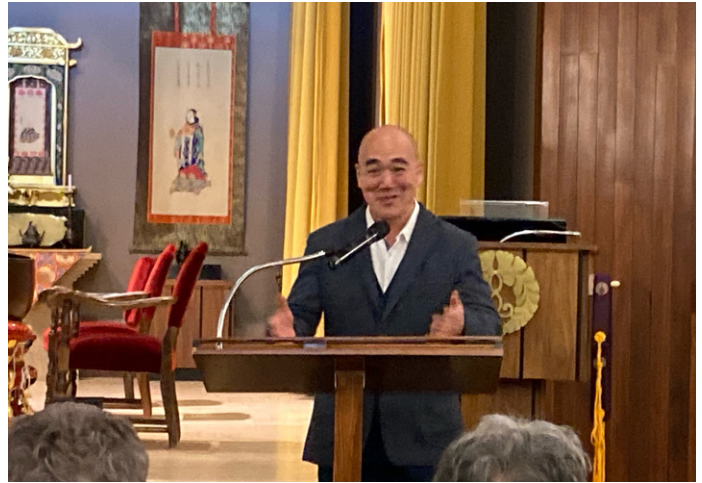
Respectfully submitted by Brenda Ikuta

BUTSUDAN WORKSHOP

The information session on Saturday, February 25 was well attended with 20+ people in-person and about 16 watching the livestream. For those who wish, the recorded session is available on the temple's YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LyDNxrV8UUI&t=6>

Refreshments and conversations were shared following the one-hour session. Some participants took the opportunity to create a 'living memory' portfolio, including a visual and audio record of their family butsudan. This portion of the workshop was facilitated by the Nikkei Memory Capture Project. Two of the butsudan on display found new homes. They had been housed at the temple for a number of years. The afternoon ended with an installation service for one owner's new butsudan.

We are grateful for the ability to collaborate with the Nikkei Memory Capture Project and for the generous and thoughtful work of the researchers and facilitators, Dr. Darren Aoki, Elaine Toth and Darcy Tamayose.



Dr. Darren Aoki




presents

FORGIVENESS

A play based on Sakamoto's award winning book

Bus Ride from Nikka Yuko to Calgary Theatre

Tickets:
\$150
-
Without Refreshments
\$175
-
Treats and Drinks
Charcuterie
Bento Box

March 19, 2023 ● Departure: 11AM ● Showtime: 2PM

For further details about the play please visit
www.theatre Calgary.com/shows/2022-2023/forgiveness

photos: John Dubbelboer, Darcy Tamayose

2023 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THEBTA.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 BTA 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 February 22 – 55

Ho-onko Donations
February 2023
Yutaka and Chiyomi Matsuno
Tomiko Takeyasu

Shotsuki Donations

February 2023
Anonymous
Ken and April Fleury
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Gene and Hilda Horii
Terry Horii
Rumiko Ibuki
Yoko Nishimura
Ayako Nitta
Heidi Oishi
Darcee Richardson
Roy and Pat Sassa
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Harry Sugimoto
Noris and Sachiko Taguchi
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Alan and Margaret Tanaka
Eichi and Betty Tanaka
Jim, Marion & Shannon Tomiyama
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama

Other Donations

February 2023
Anonymous
CanadaHelps.Org
Ken and April Fleury
George and Catherine Fujita

Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Doug Hironaka
Rumiko Ibuki
Rev Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
Heidi Oishi
Ron and Mary Rhymer
Irene Sakamoto
Alan and Margaret Tanaka

Funeral Donations

February 2023
Donald and Karen Akira
Anonymous
Richard and Valerie Boras
Kathy Cochrane & Michelle Demers
Marcia Dougherty
John and Donna Dubbelboer
Mas and Mutsuko Fukushima
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Randy Higa
Gerry and Joanne Hilgersom
Tomi Hisaoka
Frances Hiscocks
K. Pat Hokama
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahiri Rempel
Maya Ichikawa & Marko Hilgersom
Grace Ichikawa
Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa
Gail Ikebuchi
Dr Roland and Brenda Ikuta
Kuni and June Ikuta
Lily Kaga
Etsuko Karaki
Fran Kato
Michie Kawasaki
Sharon Kitamoto
Kikue Kubota
Milnes and Noriko Kurashige
Yutaka and Chiyomi Matsuno

Ken and Vickie Nakagama
Jim and Joan Nakagawa
Shig and Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Craig and Dana Nakashima
Mitsuko Oga
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Arlene Oishi and Jeff Coffman
Jitsuya Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Tak and Jan Okamura
Etsuko Osaki
Hisae Price
Irene Sakamoto
Sachi Scharf
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Tom and Laura Sugimoto
Brian Tajiri
Tsuyako Tajiri
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
KB Takeda and Lila Ho-Takeda
Wendy Takeda
David and Linda Tanaka
Eichi and Betty Tanaka
Glen and Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Betty Taniguchi
Dr. Frances Tatebe & Arnold Ralph
Aya Terashima
Clifford Thomas
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak and Yoko Tsujita
Wayne and Amy Tsukishima
Keith and Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull
John and Carole Wevers

REGULAR EVENTS

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30pm
Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 sas7@telus.net

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm
Contact tanaka.david@gmail.com 403.330.1548

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am
Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation Thursdays @ 7pm
To register contact Vickie Macarther spiritoyoga@shaw.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Shigeru Kounosu (94) Feb. 6, 2023
Hisashi Shimozawa (94) Feb. 11, 2023
Noris Taguchi (92) Feb. 12, 2023

MEIN-MAKING SESSION Saturday, March 11 at 8am
Inquiries contact emistitt@hotmail.com

NENJU REPAIR

Sunday, March 5
There will be a Nenju Repair Table in the multipurpose room which people can visit after service. Attendees are welcome to bring in their broken nenju and see if there is appropriate material to repair them.

TEMPLE CLEAN UP

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who came out for Clean Up Sunday, February 26. We got a lot of sorting, cleaning and decluttering done. The temple is now ready for a spring full of fun and important events. It was great to enjoy a pizza lunch and socializing afterwards.



Additional images from the Butsudan workshop. With thanks to photographers, John Dubbelboer and Darcy Tamayose.



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

Nirvana day and Pet Appreciation

My land shall be like nirvana, Being supreme and unequalled. Out of compassion and pity, I will bring all sentient beings to emancipation. ... —The Vow of Bodhisattva

Nirvana literally means no burning of three poisons. Shakyamuni Buddha was able to control his three poisons completely. In Sanbutsuge it says: Ignorance, greed, and anger are completely absent in the World-honored One.

However, the word nirvana here is pari-nirvana, meaning Shakyamuni Buddha's complete physical death. It happened on Feb. 15th, almost 2600 years ago. The Buddha said, "This is my last death," meaning there is no more samsara, repetitions of birth and death. He was released from rebirth.

Shakyamuni Buddha passed away in Kushinagar in Northern India. He was 80 years old. During his life, he taught non-discrimination and equality of all living beings. There were no words of discrimination in his teachings. In India, however, there was and still is a strict caste system, dividing people into four categories- Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisha, Sudras. As soon as one is born, he/she will belong to one of these caste. The Buddha denied the caste system. The Buddha said: People are sacred because of their actions, not by birth. The Buddha accepted people even in the lowest class in his Sangha. One time, a man who belonged to the Sudra class came to Buddha's Sangha. He wanted to learn Buddha's teachings. The Sudra class is the lowest in the four caste system. The people who belong to Sudra did the manual labor and they were servants of the household. The Buddha accepted him, saying, "Anyone who want to hear and learn the dharma, I accept them." Buddha accepted a man of the Sudra class.

Another time, the Buddha accepted a man who was dull in his nature. His name was Shurihandoku, and he was not able to memorize or remember any words of what the Buddha said. So, he wanted to leave the Sangha. But one day, the Buddha gave him a bloom for him and told him, "Please keep the following words, repeating with this bloom, 'clean the garden and sweep the dust.'" Shurihandoku was hardly able to memorize these simple words. But he tried to remember these words and kept the temple garden clean and swept the dust with his bloom every day. After some years he suddenly realized, "Ah, the Buddha taught me to clean my mind and sweep my blind passions." Later, Shurihandoku became one of the great disciples of the Buddha. His name appears in Amida sutra.

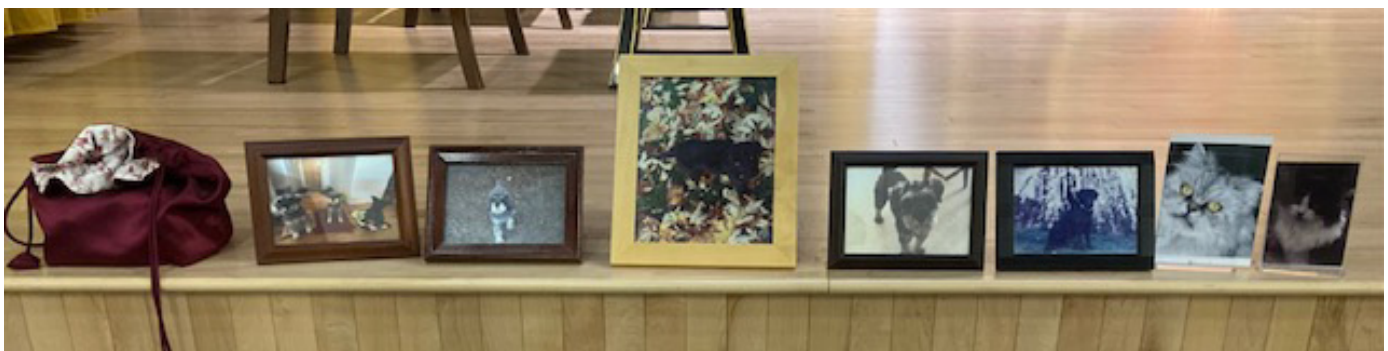
The Buddha protected animals. In his time in India, there were people who killed animals as a sacrifice, or offering to their gods, so that, they believed they could be happy. The Buddha told them it was wrong. He said it is not right to make another unhappy so that you can be happy. Everyone wants to remain alive and be happy just as you do. The Buddha was always kind and compassionate to all living beings including animals and even tiny insects.

Therefore, it is said that when the Buddha was passing away, all kinds of animals gathered around a dying Buddha to bid their farewell. I do not think any other great spiritual leaders in the world died in such a peaceful atmosphere.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Rev. Yasuo Izumi



almostconceptartist, deviantart.com



The Nirvana Day and Pet Appreciation service occurred on Feb. 12. Above are some of the photos that were displayed of members' pets, living and deceased.



MARCH: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						10:30am Study Class
			1	7pm Meditation 2	3	4
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) AGM Nenu Repair 5	6:30pm Minyo Dance 6	7pm Taiko 7	8	7pm Meditation 9	10	8am Mein-making 10:30am Study Class* 11
10:30am Spring Equinox (O-Higan) Service* 12	6:30pm Minyo Dance 13	7pm Taiko 14	15	7pm Meditation 16	17	10:30am Study Class* 18
10:30am Regular Service* 19	6:30pm Minyo Dance 20	7pm Taiko 21	22	7pm Meditation 23	24	10:30am Study Class* 25
10:30am Eshinni and Kakushinni Memorial Service* 26	6:30pm Minyo Dance 27	7pm Taiko 28	29	7pm Meditation 30	31	

APRIL: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00pm Hanamatsuri Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) 2	6:30pm Minyo Dance 3	7pm Taiko 4	5	7pm Meditation 6	7	1 10:30am Study Class* 8
10:30am Regular Service* 9	6:30pm Minyo Dance 10	7pm Taiko 11	12	7pm Meditation 13	14	10:30am Study Class* 15
10:30am Regular Service* 16	6:30pm Minyo Dance 17	7pm Taiko 18	19	7pm Meditation 20	21	10:30am Study Class* 22
10:30am Regular Service* 23	6:30pm Minyo Dance 24	7pm Taiko 25	26	7pm Meditation 27	28	10:30am Study Class* 29
10:30am Regular Service* 30				Minister Schedule - 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		