



May 2009

In the Beginning was the Dharma Energy.



There was a large turnout of support at recent events such as the Fundraising dinner, the annual Chow Mein Supper

and the Dedication service. I observed many members and friends working tirelessly at our new temple. They, young and old, were continuously coming and going to prepare the events. I always admire some seniors, male and female, working quietly at the corner of the kitchen and social hall. I see that the Dharma is alive here. I felt the Dharma energy during these events. I thought, with this kind of energy our concern about the number of members or finances need not be a preoccupation. As long as there is Dharma energy, the future of the BTSA is bright. Members, especially Board Members, often talk about the number of members and financial details of the temple. I understand their concern about these issues since they are responsible for the temple's operations. They ask me how we should increase membership and create financial stability.

My response is always the same. As long as we respect and value the Dharma, we do not need to worry much about the number of members and the financial situation. The primary purpose of the Buddhist Sangha is not to increase the number of members or the amount of money but to receive the Dharma for ourselves. Out of joy of the Dharma we aspire to share the teaching

with others. Even if a lot of people come to the temple, we cannot say the temple is flourishing unless the Dharma can be found here. The temple that has no Dharma in its center is like a donut; the outer form is full but there is nothing in the centre.

Recently, someone e-mailed me an episode of a TV talk show entitled "Everything is amazing and no one is happy". Although the topic of conversation revolved around modern technology, we are able to apply it to our religious organization. Witnessing our recent events I can say "Everything is amazing and everyone is happy". Everything is amazing because of Dharma energy and everyone is happy because of the Dharma, the working of Amida. Let's not worry too much about the number of members and our financials.

I remember a story about Rev. Akegarasu of Higashi Hongwanji temple in Kyoto. As you know, there are ten branches under Jodo Shinshu organization. The two main branches of the organization are Higashi (East) and Nishi (West) Hongwanji. After the second world war, Higashi Hongwanji, in particular, found itself in extreme postwar financial difficulties. Rev. Akegarasu was invited to become the head of Higashi to rebuild its financial foundation. He refused to discuss the huge financial deficit. His only explanation was "Don't talk to me about money. If the true spirit of Buddha Dharma comes alive here, you won't have to worry about money". He proved himself right when several years later Higashi Hongwanji revived itself and their financial stability was assured.

The Dharma nurtures us in many ways—that is, the way to act, the way to speak and the way to think with the sense of

responsibility. But most of all the Dharma nurtures our energy of commitment and gratitude.

Small temples of small memberships have joined into one big temple. I feel more Dharma energy, a stronger one. Let's keep on burning the Dharma energy which has been nurtured by Amida's infinite wisdom and boundless compassion. Yes, we can overcome any difficulties that may come our way.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister-Kaikyoshi

「仏様のお蔭」

ある方から、「マラソンモンク」という記録映画を見せてもらいました。比叡山の千日回峰行という大変厳しい修行の記録です。千日間の最後の九日間は、食べることも、飲むことも、横になって寝ることもできない、という言葉絶する修行です。命を懸けての修行なのです。この修行を完遂された数少ない僧侶の方のお一人にお会いする機会がありました。私がまだ学生の頃です。血色のよい大柄なその方が、周りの人たちの質問に答えられていました。話のほとんどは忘れてしまいました。一つ印象に残っている言葉があります。「まあ、仏様のお蔭で出来たことです。」とその方は言われました。自分の修行を支えてきたのは、目には見えない仏様の力なのです、ということでした。

私たちには厳しい修行を完遂して迷いを超え、悟りの世界に生まれる、というような力はないようです。しかし、仏様の力が、人間の修行とは関係なく、常に、誰にでも働きかけ、支え、「真実への目覚め」に導いて下さっているということは「確かなこと」なのです。その「確かさ」を、私たちは厳しい修行によってではなく、聴聞を通して教えていただくのです。そして、この「確かさ」との出遇いが、私たちの日々の生活に、安らぎと力を与えて下さっているのでしょうか。

新会堂が仏様の働きのお蔭、皆様の努力のお蔭で、南アルバータに現れました。いよいよ聴聞させていただきます。合掌 いずみ

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PRESIDENT'S NOTEBOOK

The first Chow Mein Supper and Bazaar at our new temple occurred in March. With the generous help of our sponsors and many volunteers, there is no doubt that the event was financially successful. The enthusiasm of the participants at the many "work bees" necessary to prepare, clearly demonstrated the energy of the Dharma. Perhaps most important, it illustrated to us that we can work together in our new facility and through it, we are offered an opportunity to re-examine and learn something from our mistakes. This examination process is the real source of human development and personal growth: attempting something, accomplishing what we set out to do and learning from our mistakes. This process is a true measure of a successful event. Thank you and my sincere gratitude to everyone that supported, participated in and enjoyed this wonderful experience.

Our Hanamatsuri service was very well attended and it seemed that everyone, including the many guests and visitors left with a much deeper appreciation for this important occasion. I was privileged to be the chairperson at this service and while my focus and attention was certainly on other matters, I noticed and overheard the excitement and energy of the children. I recalled my own childhood and the Hanamatsuri services at the Raymond Otera and that same excitement and energy was rekindled. The procession and the concerned attention shown by parents assisting in the offering of incense and pouring of sweet tea on the statue of Buddha at the Hanamido brought back many memories. A touching moment occurred when Toshiko Tanaka offered incense on behalf of the Temple members. This was very symbolic, as our Sangha's future is represented by our children and yet we are ever so grateful for the vision, grace and experience of all

those that brought us to this moment. This is truly the essence of coming together to celebrate. Thank you to all those that participated and enjoyed our Hanamatsuri and thank you to Toban 2 who prepared the Temple and were wonderful hosts for this event.

As I write this, we have just concluded celebrating the dedication of our new Temple and hosting the Annual General meetings of the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC), the Ministerial Association and the JSBTC Women's Federation. Highlighting these events were the Banquet on Saturday evening, attended by 430 participants and the Dedication Service which hosted approximately 475. I am grateful to all of the members of the New Temple Dedication Committee and other Temple members who planned, prepared and carried out all that was required to stage these successful events. This was an opportunity for our Temple members to make new friends and renew old acquaintances from other Temples in Canada and to demonstrate our initial efforts to symbolically "Come Together". You as members, supporters and friends of our Temple can be very proud of what has been accomplished. Of greater significance is that we know that these events are just the beginning of so much more.

In Gassho,
Hajime Harry Sugimoto



TOBAN UPDATE

The Toban system consists of five working groups of ladies and men that keep the temple running smoothly. Tasks include day-to-day maintenance and set up, cleaning, preparation of the najjin for services, refreshments and meals for meetings, services and special events.

Toban 2 had a very busy month and fortunately had some new members and a very enthusiastic group. Thanks for all the new ideas, suggestions and hard work.

Appreciation goes to Lilly Oishi, Totsy Nishimura, Jan Okamura for planning and organization and to all Toban Groups and supporters who prepared and cooked for the Dedication events and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) meetings.

Toban 3 will be responsible for the month of May. Members include Pat/Roy Sassa, Fudge/Kinji Takeda, Kaz/Nobs Sugimoto, Sally Kanegawa, Debbie Friesen, Marjorie Fujita, Shirley Higa, Robert Hironaka, Rumi Ibuki, Tosh Ibuki, Sue/Ted Koyata, Kaye Matsuda, David Major/ LaVerne Hamabata, Joan/Jim Nakagawa, Katie/Shig Nakagawa, Flo/Yosh Senda, Nancy Setoguchi, Miyo/Mas Sunada, Harry Sugimoto, Dawn/Richard Takeda, Sumi/Joe Tomiyama

A Complimentary Volunteer Luncheon will be held after service on Sunday, May 31 in appreciation for everyone's contributions toward the Dedication Events.



Dedication Events Appreciation

I couldn't let this memorable occasion go by without a mention of some of the people working behind the scenes as well as those out front to make the Dedication Events run smoothly and generate so much enthusiasm. Sharing the planning and production with co-chair Harry Sugimoto and the large Dedication Committee was a highlight of the activities, making anything and everything possible.

Thanks to Tak Okamura who worked diligently to get the Temple prepared, doing everything from getting the new najin curtains up down to small details like putting up pictures and a baby-changing table...the list is seemingly endless. Tak and Maya worked daily with Trophies Unlimited to have the Donor Wall completed on time. The Wall was designed by Maya Ichikawa and constructed by Eichi Tanaka. Akira Ichikawa handled Exhibition rental, catering arrangements, signage, and, with Jim Tsukishima, the organization of JSBTC meetings. John and Donna Dubbelboer did an amazing job of registering banquet attendees and keeping track of numbers.

Table centerpieces were designed by Lila Takeda and assembled by Lila, Brenda Oishi and crew. A centerpiece for the Reception Table was donated by Flowers on Ninth. The Banquet Reception was aptly handled by Judy Takaguchi, Totsy Nishimura Brenda Oishi, Renae Barlow, Kimie Sudo, Lisa Oishi, and Charlotte Ikuta. Four hundred and twenty-seven meals were served at this gala event and Judy did all the name tags.

The Banquet Entertainment was just right for the occasion. Thanks to: **Cocktail and Dinner Hour Jazz** Herb Hicks Trio with Andrew Ichikawa; **Commemorative Video**/David Tanaka, Harry Sujimoto; **Momiji Dancers**/Aya Hironaka, Sally Kanegawa and Lilly Yamashita; **Karaoke**/Sway Nishimura; **Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir** with Charlotte Ikuta, Jennifer Koba, David Major and Andrew Ichikawa; **Sing-Along**/Katie Nakagawa, Roland Ikuta, and Andrew Ichikawa.

The Dedication/Memorial Service on Sunday morning was attended by approximately 475 people with lunches served to around 370. Thanks to: All the Ministers who attended; **Service Program**/Rev. Izumi; **Commemorative Booklet**/Maya Ichikawa; **Commemorative Pens**/Brenda Ikuta; **Service MC**/Roland Ikuta; **Ochigo Organizers**/Rev. Izumi, Brenda Ikuta, Maya Ichikawa; **Ochigo Helpers**/Aya Hironaka, Rie Nagai, Eiko Aoki, Pat Sassa, LaVerne Hamabata, Charlotte Ikuta, Lisa Sakamoto, Lisa Oishi, Arlene Oishi, Noriko Ikuta, Mariko Hironaka, parents and grandparents; **The Children**/Keenan Takeda, Blaine Hironaka, Kai Ichikawa, Sebastian Liska, Owen Vanderhulst, Duncan McLean, Sam Hilgersom, Maximo Chung, Cole Takeda, Logan Abbott, Scott Johnson, Dexter Johnson, Jordan Hironaka, Kira Takeda, Kyomi Coffman, Madeline Chung, Ayano Ikuta, Ally Hironaka, Devyn Sassa, Akane Ikuta, Amy Janz, Asha Ichikawa, Lily Hilgersom, Taiga Coffman, Akeo Ichikawa; **Photographer**/David Tanaka; **Service Greeters**/Mac and Reyko Nishiyama, Reiko Takeyasu, Renae Barlow and Harry Sugimoto;

Donations/Roy Sassa and Tom Hirashima; **Ushers**/David Major, Sway Nishimura, Jack Nagai, and John Dubbelboer; **Dedication Luncheon**/Lilly Oishi, Jan Okamura, Totsy Nishimura and the Toban work crew.

The energy and enthusiasm generated by the celebration is reflected in one of the many congratulatory messages received following the events and printed below. The term "once in a lifetime" occurred many times over the weekend. In case you didn't get a good look at the donor wall, the dedication is printed below. We hope to get some pictures on the BTSA website soon, however those who have not already done so can go to The Living Dharma website <http://www.bcc.ca/> for a wonderful video of the Dedication. The Galt Museum filmed the Sunday event for historical purposes and will provide a copy to us. Also, we are hoping that the "Coming Together" video will be available at cost in the near future. All in all it was a great time.

With gratitude to each and every one of the contributors who gave of their talents, skills, time and energy to create the celebratory events that made up the new Temple dedication.

In gassho,
Lorita Ichikawa



Letter from the Nishiyamas:

CONGRATULATIONS to each of you and to all the others who worked so diligently for the past years...to make this weekend so SPECIAL!!! It was a wonderful, warm weekend gathering of so many family, friends. The Saturday banquet set off the mood in such a lively way with the Herb Hicks group with Andrew. The evening entertainment was just the right length. The audience participation for the sing a long was a great idea and the crowd obviously enjoyed it. Of course the Tanko Bushi really topped off the evening festivities in a great way. It was nice to see so many people out there dancing. Wasn't that a great turnout for Sunday Service? The Ochigo parade was so special. So many delightful little children brought back so many memories of our girls (all five of them) trying to balance the crowns on their heads. The najin was beautiful with the flowers and so many ministers in their special white "koromo". I heard many people saying they were so glad that they came. The lunch was superb. It was good to touch base with so many of our friends from across Canada that we hadn't seen a long while.

Gassho,
Reyko and Mac



OCHIGO PARADE Temple Dedication Service Sunday, April 26, 2009







THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

HANAMATSURI

April 12, 2009



UPCOMING EVENTS

Parents' Potluck

Sunday, May 10, 2009

hosted by the Dharma class

Please stay after regular service, bring a dish and enjoy lunch with friends.

THANK YOU Mrs. Mitsuko Shigehiro for the donation of five child-size kimonos.

Memorial Donation March 21 to April 28/09

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dick Adachi | Sunao & Kaye Ayukawa |
| Chojukai | Chiduka Hamabata |
| Shirley Higa | Hideo & June Hinatsu |
| Janet Hinatsu | Rumiko Ibuki |
| Akira & Lorita Ichikawa | Yoshiye Ikebuchi |
| Irene Karia | Ruth Liska |
| Margaret Mazerolle | David Major & LaVerne Hamabata |
| Shig & Katie Nakagawa | Susumu Nakamura |
| Ken & Mary Nishi | Mitsuko Nishi |
| May Nishikawa | Ken & Bonnie Ohashi |
| Alice Ohashi | Frank & Kimi Ohno |
| Kaz & Setsuko Ohno | Arlene Oishi |
| Lilly Oishi | Hideko Oishi |
| Peter Oka | Fujiko Okamura |
| Tak & Jan Okamura | Yumiko Osaka |
| Jim & Daisy Oshiro | Roy & Pat Sassa |
| Yosh & Flo Senda | Nob & Kaz Sugimoto |
| Tomiko Sugimoto | Mas & Miyo Sunada |
| Noris & Sachi Taguchi | Kinji & Fudge Takeda |
| Robert & Judy Takaguchi | Elaine Tanaka |
| Morison Tanaka | Sam & Betty Taniguchi |
| Masae Taniwa | Frances Tatebe |
| Bill Teshima | George Tokuda |
| Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita | Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara |

Total.....\$3,860.00

Shotsuki Hoyo - April

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lilly Oishi | Yuse & Chiyomi Matsuno |
| Roy Takeda | Toshiko Takeda |
| Fumi Sugimoto | Teiji Nakamura |
| Joe & Sumi Tomiyama | Yoshiye Shirakawa |
| Morison Tanaka | Cliff & Mary Thomas |
| Janet Hinatsu | Ayako Imahashi |
| Robert & Judy Takaguchi | Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima |
| Roy & Pat Sassa | Jim & Aya Hironaka |
| Kay Tsukishima | David Major & LaVerne Hamabata |
| Glen & Pam Tanaka | |

Total.....\$545.00

2009 Buddhist Memorial Service

仏教徒の年忌法要

Year of Death (死亡年)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2008 First annual memorial | 1 year from death |
| 2007 3rd anniversary memorial | 2 full years from death |
| 2003 7th anniversary memorial | 6 full years from death |
| 1997 13th anniversary memorial | 12 full years from death |
| 1993 17th anniversary memorial | 16 full years from death |
| 1985 25th anniversary memorial | 24 full years from death |
| 1977 33rd anniversary memorial | 32 full years from death |
| 1960 50th anniversary memorial | 49 full years from death |

A memorial rite marking the death of the deceased not only calls for the adornment of the shrine and the reading of the sutra but also is a precious occasion for recalling the cherished memories of the beloved and the most of all to realize the blessings of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. (from Jodo Shinshu Handbook for laymen) **On the first or near the first Sunday of every month, the BTSA observes a monthly memorial service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi-命日) falls in that month. Please bring a Homyo of your loved one.**

BTSA BUILDING DONOR UPDATE April, 2009

Official tax receipts can be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Anyone wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. The donor wall is now up displaying names through to March '09. The donor levels are as follows:

DIAMOND \$25,000 or greater	PLATINUM \$10,000 to \$17,499	SILVER \$2,500 to \$4,999
EMERALD \$17,500 to \$24,999	GOLD \$5,000 to \$9,999	BRONZE \$1,000 to \$2,499

PLATINUM Level Donors

- Chris Pfliger & Karen Masuda
in memory of Akio Masuda

BRONZE Level Donors

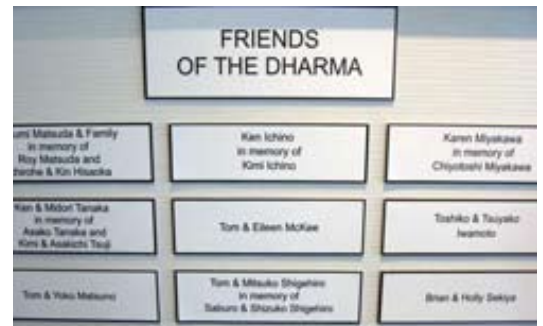
- Mrs. Mitsuko Nishi
- Corrinne & Thomas Mather
- Teiji Nakamura & Family in memory of Aya
- Montreal Buddhist Church

FRIENDS of the Dharma Donors

- K. Gay Takeda
- Martha Katsuta
in memory of Yoichi Oishi, Yoshiyuki Oishi, Yoshio & Misa Katsuta
- Helen Higa in memory of husband Roy (Mas) Higa
- Kuni, June, Denise, Kevin & Karen Ikuta
in memory of Shinjo & Mino Ikuta
- Bill Teshima in memory of Yoshio & Kimie Teshima
- Pamela Y. Sugimoto
- Takako Sugimoto
- Bill and June Terakita
- Blaine Takeda
- Louise Takeda



The donor wall dedication plaque is shown on the far right window in black. Its text can be found on page 8 of this Hikari.



For information contact: Jim Tsukishima 403.327.1279 mtsfarm@telus.net or Roland Ikuta 403.317.0078 Rolikuta@shaw.ca



BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

PLEDGE FORM

I wish to support the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION _____ I wish for my pledge to remain confidential _____

_____ Monthly Instalments of \$ _____ for _____ years _____ Yearly instalments of \$ _____ for _____ years

_____ One-time Donation of \$ _____ Notation (eg. *In memory of*) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

2009 May & June Schedule

五月と六月の予定表

Sunday Regular Service starts at 10:30am

*Study/Discussion group held after regular service

MAY

- 03 SUN 10:30am** Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要
10 SUN 10:30am Parents' Day Service and Potluck 母の日
17 SUN 10:30am Regular Service
24 SUN 10:30am Gotan-e Fujimatsuri Service 降誕会
31 SUN 10:30am Regular Service

JUNE

- 07 SUN 10:30am** Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service 祥月法要
14 SUN 10:30am Regular Service
21 SUN 10:30am Regular Service
28 SUN 10:30am BTSA Annual Service and Picnic

Any questions or requests?

Please contact your minister (403)-382-7024

2009 COMING EVENTS

MAY

- 10** Parent's Day Potluck Lunch
31 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

JUNE

- 28** BTSA Annual Service and Picnic

JULY

- 18** Bon Odori & Bazaar
19 Obon Service

OCTOBER

- 17** Chow Mein Supper
Bake Sale & Bazaar

NOVEMBER

- 13-15** Alberta Buddhist Conference
21-22 Mochitsuki
29 Noodle Making

DECEMBER

- 31** New Year's Service Bell Ringing,
Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden

REGULAR EVENTS

*Study/Discussion Group

Sundays after morning service and tea.

The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Please contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi

Momiji Dancers

Mondays, 5:45 - 8pm

- May 11, 3pm
Last practice of the season
- Watch for Bon Odori practice dates

Tonarigumi

Tuesdays, 12 - 3:30pm

Taiko Class

Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:30pm

Please contact David Tanaka
403.330.1548 or david@eyesquared.com

Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm

Saturdays 7 - 9pm

25th Anniversary Concert - May 16

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursdays 7 - 8:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next **World Women's Convention** is being held in Kyoto, Japan in conjunction with the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin. The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Women's Federation would like to have preliminary numbers of people (men and women) from Southern Alberta interested in attending. The dates are May 16 & 17, 2011 with Rev. Fujii as the Canadian Minister Coordinator. If you are at all interested please contact Donna Dubbelboer at 381-7643 or jdubbelboer@shaw.ca. We are simply looking for numbers. The cost has yet to be decided, as well as travel, tours, etc. **Please let Donna know before May 15, 2009.**

Spring Programs at the Temple are filled, with good response from both BTSA members and the community. If there is interest we can run these classes again in the fall. Please contact Lorita Ichikawa at 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@g.mail.com

Creative Movement & Art for Kids

Fridays 1:30 - 3:30 May 1, 8, 29; June 5, 12, 19

Gentle Yoga for Seniors

Mondays 11am - 12pm, May 4, 11, 25; June 1, 8

Naikan: An Approach to Self-Reflection

Saturdays 1:30 - 3pm May - June 13

Temple User Groups This is a reminder and request that all booked and frequent users groups leave the premises clean. Please wash used dishes and cups. They should first be soaked, 3-5 minutes in a bleach solution (Chinook Health Regulation), placed in the automatic dishwasher and washed. Also, please check that all Temple doors are securely closed before leaving the building. Thank you.

Membership fees for 2009 are now being accepted. The annual fee is \$100 per member as voted at the annual general meeting.

Commemorative pens and booklets are available at the temple for those who did not receive them at the Dedication service.

A bottle drive to benefit the Choir will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 1 p.m.. We will leave from the Temple and caravan to the Bottle Depot. Please collect and bring all refundable containers. Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4926 or katiinak@shaw.ca

Donor Wall Dedication Plaque The first generation of Japanese Canadians to settle in Southern Alberta, despite hardship and limited financial means, established eight Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples. All the southern Alberta temples owe much of their longevity and legacy to these pioneers as well as those forcibly relocated from the west coast, whose devotion never wavered in the face of adversity. As the early founders did for us, we hope to build a strong foundation for Jodo Shinshu in the 21st century. To continue the legacy of those early pioneers of Buddhism and in gratitude to the donors who contributed towards building this beautiful Temple we will always remember its heart and spirit are the treasures within: the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.