



May 2018

A skillful swimmer



The foundation of Buddha's teachings is called “three dharma seals.” A seal is used as evidence of authenticity. All Buddhist schools must have three dharma seals. Otherwise, these are not called Buddhism. So, what are the three dharma seals?

They are: impermanence, non-ego and nirvana. Impermanence means that everything changes and nothing remains unchanged. For example, we are born, get old, become sick and die. No one can deny it. Furthermore, our body is interdependently composed of many element--water, blood, skin, flesh and bone, etc.—that change interdependently and lacks an ego. Shakyamuni Buddha discovered these truths and lived accordingly.

Dharma in kanji character implies flowing water, like that of a river. We are able to cross the same river but not the same water. Water constantly flows naturally from on high downward with no ego attachment.

The Buddha is like a skillful swimmer who knows the natural flow of life and swims accordingly. He was the man who became one with the natural flow of life. No struggle and no fighting. There is no ego to disturb. The Buddha truly enjoys life. He smiles at life. There is a peace and tranquility within

him. This is called nirvana. So, nirvana is not some kind of location. It is a state of mind, Buddha's mind, the mind of oneness and naturalness, non-ego, peace and happiness.

On the other hand, we are not one with the dharma's natural flow of life. We are not a skillful swimmer like Shakyamuni Buddha. We do not see the river's current clearly and correctly. We have little wisdom to see and accept it as is. We are not one with water. We struggle, fight, complain and fear the flow of life, then we sink. We sink to the bottom of delusion and suffering. Is this not true of the foolish, ego-bound beings such as we?

How do the dharma seals relate to the nembutsu, namo amida butsu, we often talk about?

Nambutsu, namo amida butsu, is the call of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of wisdom and compassion who makes us realize our foolish selves and at the same time works for spiritual liberation of all sentient beings. Those of us who experience constant disagreeableness in life, struggle, fear and cry over our own ignorance and helplessness, are embraced by Amida and liberate from delusion and suffering.

Shinran Shonin said: When we reflect on the Vow of Amida Buddha, we find that this Buddha, without abandoning sentient beings in pain and affliction, has taken the directing of virtue to them as foremost, thus fulfilling the mind of great compassion.

Amida's compassion never abandons us but envelops us as we are. When we encounter Amida's working, the word, namo amida butsu bubbles out from our mouth in deep gratitude and appreciation. We live this life, our life, courageously with peace of mind.

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

喜んで働く

恒例のチャームサパーの準備が始まっています。100人ほどの会員、非会員が朝早くから、オニオン、セロリーを刻み、ひき肉を炒め、お米を洗い、明日への準備に忙しいことです。私も、その中に入り、合間を縫っては、5月号の記事を書いています。みんなの、さわやかな大きな笑い声や、楽しそうな話し声が聞こえてきます。集まった誰もが、自分の利益で働いている人はいません。みんな、お寺のために働いてくれています。世の中には、自分の利益のためにのみ働く人たちがいます。自分が得をすることばかり考えて働いている人たちがいます。その人たちに、このようなさわやかな笑い声や、楽しい会話の声があるだろうか、とフト思います。

日頃、み教えを喜んでいるある方が、「働く」ということは「傍(はた)を楽にする」ということだと仰っています。他が楽しむことが、自分の喜びになっている、ということですね。尊い心です。薄っぺらな言葉や形だけでなく、本当に仏様のみ教えを聞かせていただく者には、このような心が育てられていくのでしょうか。まことに、み仏のみ教えは、私たちを育て、導き、勇気を与えて下さる光です。聞くことを通して、この広大な光に遇わせていただき、日々、喜んで働きたいものです。 合掌

南アルバータ仏教会 開教使 泉康雄

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403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

New Collection from Izumi Sensei

The latest collection of Izumi sensei's articles were combined in Dharma: My Guiding Light No. 13 to coincide with this year's Hanamatsuri season. The anthology is available at the temple for all those who are interested in having a copy. A small donation is requested.



The reader contains short dharma messages in English and Japanese and continues the publication of sensei's talks since his first volume when he was resident minister of the Vancouver temple in the 1980s.

Gotanye



Shinran Shonin (Kiri-e art) by Daido Kato

Shinran Shonin, founder of our Jodo Shinshu sect, was born May 21, 1173. and BTSA will be observing his birthday--Gotanye in Japanese-- at the regular Sunday service on May 20 at 10:30 a.m.

He was given the name Matsuwakamaro at birth, and went by several other names in his lifetime. Shinran died on Jan. 16, 1263, at the age of 90. His death is one of the major Jodo Shinshu commemorations, called Ho-onko, observed during the month of January.

Grant Ikuta Sensei's TED talk

Grant Ikuta sensei's version of his TED talk on Apr. 7 involved Teaching Enlightenment Dharma and was entitled "Of Curious Encounters and Buddhist Stories."

Sensei, resident minister of the Steveston B.C. Buddhist Temple, gave a public talk a day before his guest appearance at BTSA's Hanamatsuri and shotsuki service.

Ikuta sensei recounted a history of the Hongwanji, the mother temple in Kyoto, along with that of Shinran, founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, before leading the group in chanting an English version of Shinran's major work, Shoshinge.



Speaker Series - Dana Inkster



Dana Inkster, an independent filmmaker and publisher of the Lethbridge Living Magazine, described the making of her National Film Board documentary, "24 Days in Brooks" in the BTSA Speaker Series Apr. 26.

The award-winning film was screened before her discussion of how it was made. It depicts a 2005 drive to unionize workers at the Lakeside

Packers, and a subsequent strike, and how the small town of Brooks became a center of diversity as immigrants were attracted to it with the promise of jobs.

Inkster also is president and CEO of EM Workshop, Inc.

CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2018

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

May 06 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 13
Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

May 20
Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Ross Jacobs

May 27
Chair: Val Boras
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 03 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 10
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Jun 17 BTSA PICNIC Pavan Park
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Jun 24
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Ross Jacobs

Translation 14

This is a continuation of translations of Kudensho (Note On Oral Transmission) begun in the September, 2016 Hikari. Kudensho is a Jodo Shinshu historic text believed to have been written by Kakunyo (1270-1351), a great-grandson of Shinran, and translated by Rev. Phillip Eidmann and Rev. Yasuo Izumi.

Shinran Shonin Visiting Ango-in As A Messenger

Once Shinran spoke: “When teacher Genku of Kurodani was vigorously propagating Jodo Shinshu, people (including the Superior One - Emperor), who were adhering in prejudice against it, filled the whole country. Thus, in order to destroy the principles of the establishment of the new school, using the occasion of the previous service which was conducted for seven days at the Imperial Court (Seikaku¹ of Ango-in being the officiating preacher), there was an Imperial order: ‘There shall be no Pure Land teaching such as Jodo Shinshu beside the various teachings of the Path of Sages.’ However, obedient to the Imperial command, while Seikaku thought to protect the main intention of his teacher Genku, he did not expand the disruption; rather he said, ‘The arising of a Pure Land teaching outside of the Path of Sages can be a great benefit to the ordinary man’s direct entrance.’

“Then, on hearing of the whole matter that happened in the court, Genku thought: ‘If we are abolished, how can the principles of Jodo stand?’ So, he decided to send a man to Ango-in. As he chose among them for the duty, thinking, ‘Who shall it be?’, Genku decided, ‘It should be the duty of Zenshin (Shinran).’ Among his colleagues, the same opinion was given out, ‘That person is the most fitting.’ I, Shinran, thereupon strenuously declined more than once. However, it being hard to excuse himself because of teacher’s order, I decided to go to the Ango-in as a messenger.

“Hereupon, I asked: ‘Can someone accompany me since it is a very important matter?’ Genku said: ‘That is true. Zenshaku (Saii) will accompany you.’ We both went to the residence of Ango-in and asked to see Seikaku. His attendant told them that he was bathing. When Seikaku asked, ‘Who is the messenger?’ the attendant said: ‘Shinran has come.’ Then, he was greatly surprised, thinking, ‘It is a rare chance to meet this messenger. Something must be serious.’ He quickly came out of the bathroom to meet them face to face.”

I explained in detail the principles spoken by Genku. Seikaku said: “What you explained has been my thought for years. How could I take it lightly? Even though it is an Emperor’s order, I cannot destroy teacher’s pronouncement. Before I accepted the Imperial order, I stated that one should not confuse or disorder the two schools of the Path of Sages and the Path of the Pure Land. This, however, is because I lay more weight of respect on the Dharma Teacher than on an Emperor’s order, he should put his mind at ease.”

There is no time to detail in full this whole session: Then, I returned and explained the whole session at the court with the preacher; and in front of Genku, without dropping a word, I again told the direct conversation. Then Genku asked Saii who had been urged to accompany me, “Are there any errors in what he said?”

Saii replied: “I have heard the preaching of the dharma at both places. It transcends words.”

Among the three hundred eighty odd followers, Shinran was said to be the foremost disciple and said to be clever. He had been well selected, and, he had accomplished this mission. Moreover, Saii added to his words of testimony: Was this perhaps not just the same the testimony of Prabhutaratna²? This matter was, in the time of the great teacher, an appropriate recognition.

Although Shinran was not less unworthy than the predecessors in ability as a preacher, he swore an oath before Honen, “I shall cease to be a teacher of men or a preceptor.” Henceforth, he did not flatter the dana³ givers, nor act at their command.

About that time, Joshin who became Shinran’s disciple later finished a construction of a large temple. He repeatedly invited him but Shinran strongly declined to the very end. Although, at that time, Shinran was a provisional personage, he, being as the same as the corrupt and dissolute ordinary man, showed that the error of an Impure preaching of the Dharma was a grave matter.

¹Seikaku (1167-1235): Shinran’s senior colleague living in Ango-In on Mt. Hiei in Kyoto

²Prabhutaratna: the name of ancient Buddha of abundant treasures. According to the Lotus Sutra, this Buddha appeared before Sakyamuni Buddha and testified his discourse of Dharma to be true.

³dana: giving, generosity and caring

Early Obon Notification



Advance notice of the southern Alberta Obon schedule in July is published to assist members to make plans for the important Buddhist holiday, often an occasion for family reunions.

Please check over the district cemeteries Izumi sensei will be visiting to conduct services.

July 1 (Sun)	11 am Brooks Cemetery
July 8 (Sun)	10 am Magrath Cemetery
	11 am Temple Hill Cemetery
	1:30 am Taber Cemetery
July 14 (Sat)	6 pm Bon Odori
July 15 (Sun)	1 pm Mt. View Cemetery
	1:30 pm BTSA Obon / Shotsuki
	Monthly Memorial Service

2018 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!

Membership to April 23: 107

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2018

Joyce Adachi
 Eiko Aoki
 John & Rita Aoki
 Eietsu Chiba
 Jim & Evelyn Cozac
 John & Donna Dubbelboer
 Ayako Endo
 Judy Fukushima
 Dorene Gordon
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Christopher & Yumi Johnson
 The Estate of Tom & Lily Kaga
 Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara
 Stanley & Audrey Kanegawa
 Chizuko Kimura
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Dave & Val Kunimoto
 Alana Leavens

Matthew & Christina Lui
 Kinuko Matsuno
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
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 Tad Mitsui
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 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 May Nishikawa
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 Reyko Nishiyama
 Mitsuko Oga
 Noriko Oga
 Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
 Setsuko Ohno
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi
 Sheila Oishi
 Sut & Neva Oishi
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Yumiko Osaka
 Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
 Irene Sakamoto
 Roy & Pat Sassa

Craig & Sachi Scharf
 Florence Senda
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 Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Tomiko Shono
 Emily Stitt
 Harry Sugimoto
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 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Yoshio Taguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
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 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
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 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama

Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Jim Tsukishima
 Sumie Tsukishima
 Keiko Kay Tsukishima
 Wayne & Amy Tsukishima
 Yukiko Yoshizumi

Total - \$6,128.15

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

April 2018

Shirley Higa
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Dave & Val Kunimoto
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 May Nishikawa
 Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
 Kimiko Ohno
 Setsuko Ohno
 Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
 Sheila Oishi
 Yumiko Osaka
 Irene Sakamoto
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Craig & Sachi Scharf
 Emily Stitt
 Harry Sugimoto
 Kazuko Sugimoto
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Barbara Takeda
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Clifford Thomas
 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Total - \$1,947.50

Other Donations

April 2018

Grace Devaux
 Craig & Leanne Erickson
 Fairfield Appliances Ltd
 Shinako (Sheila) or Randy Higa
 Norris Hironaka
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Jack & Viola Ikeda
 Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Isamu & Sharon Kawade
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 Clifford Thomas
 Teruko Tokitsu
 Jim, Marion or Shannon Tomiyama
 Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Nobby & Rose Yamashita

Total - \$7,025

Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not to be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays @ 1pm
Spring session will end on May 30th. After a summer break we will resume on September 5th.
Contact Nao 403.327.7357

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm
Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

Minyo Dance

Beginner group on Mondays, 6-8pm to the end of May
Sr. Minyo group on Tuesdays, 4-6pm to the end of May
Bon Odori practice on Mondays, 6:30, June 4 to July 9
Contact Pat Sassa for info: sas7@telus.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Jiro Sasaki (95) passed away April 2, 2018
Mitsuyuki Terakita (89) passed away April 5, 2018
Tom Kaga (93) passed away April 15, 2018
Miyeko Oshiro (89) passed away April 12, 2018
Yoshiyuki Terakita (88) passed away April 19, 2018

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 4** volunteers for March activities, as well as additional memorial services. May will have **Toban 2** up for the Sunday after-service tea and related duties that include Shotsuki, the monthly memorial service May 6. Thanks to **Lilly** and her crew for providing lunch at the **Soup Kitchen** on April 23rd.

Contact: Lorita at 403.327.1668
or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Schedule Update

May: Toban 2 June: Toban 3 July: Toban 2

Soup Kitchen 2018

May 23: Toban 3 June 6: Toban 2



Soup Kitchen

Lilly's crew took a turn Apr. 23 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. From left, Lilly Oishi, Joyce Adachi, Annie Martin, Jim Tsukishima, Sut Oishi, Neva Oishi, Heidi Oishi and Dorene Gordon. Ron and Betty Ann Masuda had to leave early before they could be included in the photo by Akira Ichikawa who also helped.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA

NEW & GENTLY USED SALE

Saturday, June 2
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Please consider donating...

New and gently used items

- particularly Japanese dishware, décor, and collectibles

- No clothing or books unless it is relevant to Japanese culture (e.g. Japanese cookbooks, kimono, happi coat, etc.)

- Please drop off donations by Sunday, May 27 (they can be left under the Boardroom table or in the Dharma School room)

Your time

- In preparation for the event and during the sale.

Interested in participating in this event?

Contact Brenda Ikuta 403.317.0078
brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com

**Thank you in advance for contributing to this important fundraiser!*

BON ODORI PRACTICE



EVERYONE WELCOME

COME LEARN THE
DANCES FOR THE
BTSA BON ODORI JULY 14
GALT GARDENS

Every Monday From June 4
through July 9 at 6:30 p.m.

BTSA - 470 40th St. S.

BON ODORI PRACTICE

Chow Mein Supper Prep & Event

The temple was a bustling beehive of activity Apr. 21 and 22 in preparation for the spring chow mein supper and the drive-through supper itself. More than 2,100 suppers were prepared. The supper grossed \$28,396 based on the sale of 2,100 tickets each at \$13, donations, and the sales of left-over suppers and foods. With total expenses at \$7,632.56 the net came to \$20,743.44.

Thanks to Pat Sassa who coordinated the supper, and the many members and friends who helped in this biannual event. All helpers deserve a round of applause. See photos taken by Harry Sugimoto and Akira Ichikawa.

Deep appreciation to the following kind donors:

- Fairfield Appliances - Glen Tanaka
- Deb Friesen - baking
- Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw
- Hironaka Employees Benefits - Norris Hironaka
- Wayne and Rhonda Kwan
- R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama
- Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama - dill pickles
- Wesbridge Construction - Frank Beekman





Grant sensei speaking



Mayah and Duncan at hanamido



Part of the large service crowd.

Hanamatsuri

The annual Hanamatsuri service Apr. 8 drew a large crowd, with about 30 guests from the Southminster United Church. Grant Ikuta sensei of the Steveston Buddhist Temple was the guest minister for the commemoration of the birth of the historic Buddha, Shakyamuni. The service was combined with the monthly memorial service (shotsuki) for April.

The traditional hanamido--a flowered canopy--was set up, with the baby Buddha in the center over which sweet tea was poured by children. It is said that a gentle sweet rain fell at the time Buddha was born in Lumbini (present-day Nepal) in 480 BCE (Before the Common Era).

Packages of goodies were distributed to the children in attendance, and entertainment was provided by dancers Asha Ichikawa and Bronwyn Taylor; and Dean and Duncan Jacobs; pianists Mayah Van Sluys, Seiji Hilgersom and Akeo Ichikawa.

The visitors from Southminster were welcomed by Roland Ikuta, the MC. They were invited to attend after a young member, Natalie Petherick, asked about Hanamatsuri and a member of BTSA and of Southminster serving on the Nikka Yuko Garden Society exchanged messages to set up the visit.



Natalie Petherick with Izumi sensei



Happy Birthday Buddha!



MAY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH	10:30am Explore Buddhism*
		1	2	3	4	5
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service 6	6pm Beginner Minyo 7	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 8	1pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 9	10	11	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 12
10:30am Regular Service* 13	6pm Beginner Minyo 14	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 15	1pm Karaoke 16	17	18	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 19
10:30am Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)* 20	6pm Beginner Minyo 21	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 22	9am Soup Kitchen 1pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 23	24	25	9am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Explore Buddhism* 26
10:30am Parents' Day Service* 27	6pm Beginner Minyo 28	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 29	1pm Karaoke 30	31		

JUNE: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH*	10am New & Gently Used Sale*
					1	2
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* Private Memorial Service* 3	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 4	1pm Tonari Gumi 5	6	7	8	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 9
10:30am Regular Service* 10	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 11	1pm Tonari Gumi 12	2pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13	14	15	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 16
10:30am BTSA Picnic* 17	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 18	1pm Tonari Gumi 19	20	21	22	23
10:30am Regular Service* (Rev. Izumi away) 24	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 25	1pm Tonari Gumi 26	2pm Correctional Centre visit* 27	28	29	30