



May 2019

Two expressions: Funeral Service and Celebration of life



When someone dies, we usually have a funeral service. In recent years I frequently began hearing people say “celebration of life” instead of funeral service. I have been thinking of the difference between the two expressions for some time: a funeral service and “celebration of life.”

The Buddhist funeral service is not only a time to show respect and gratitude for those who are left behind but also a time to reflect on our own mortal life. For Buddhists, reflection of mortal life--the life of impermanence--becomes an opportunity to awaken to Buddha’s great compassion which is working in our lives. Buddhism always encourages us to see life clearly. We should not act like an ostrich which puts its head in the sand when an enemy comes. The Buddhist attitude is: Try to look at reality as it is, don’t try to avoid it or try to ignore it.

There is a Buddhist saying: to know the life of impermanence is the beginning of enlightenment, to seek the realm of perfect bliss. We are not able to experience our own death. But human beings are the only species in the world to think of death and dying. We should not waste an opportunity to encounter death, the death of others.

I asked several funeral directors whether the expression “celebration of life” is new. They said it is still a relatively new expression, perhaps for the last 10 or 15 years. I asked them their evaluation of the expression, and they replied, “Well, it sounds good.” I understand. Funeral directors witness people who cry and mourn before the deceased every day. For them, an expression “celebration of life” must sound pleasant and positive. They like it and may assume those who lost loved ones like the expression.

I do not know who created the expression “celebration of life” but whoever did has been successful in making people relieved even for a moment. This is great. But our life has both a living part and a dying part. Unless we try to find the solution of the dying part our life is incomplete.

A lady who lost her young boy wrote: “Within this world of dream and delusion,/ Awaken we must to the frailty of life. My child, now gone, in truth, /The teacher who shows me reality of life.” The child’s death actually brought the lady Buddha’s teaching. The thought of death and dying is not something we should avoid or ignore. Death is not an enemy in our life but rather a friend to deepen our understanding of the reality of life--birth-and death.

Like the lady says that Buddhists see our loved one as our good teacher who taught the life, living part and dying as it is. Through painful and sad experience which no one can avoid we will encounter Amida’s great vow which embraces our life, both the living part and dying part as it is. Then and only then are we able to live every day to the fullest without fear and uneasiness.

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

最近、バンクーバーのお寺で法話をする機会がありました。30代の頃、バンクーバーのお寺に18年間ほど駐在していましたので、多くの方々が「また会えてよかった」と喜んで下さったり、写真を撮ったり。。。それにしても、何十年ぶりかにお会いした方々は相当、歳を取っておられました。「私たち、一番最初に結婚式をしてもらったんですよ。覚えておられますか」と、もう初老になられたご夫婦が、ニコニコして思い出話をしてくださいました。私の方は、全く忘れてしまいましたが、「ハイハイ」と相槌をうって聞かせてもらいました。人の姿については「歳を取られたなあ」と見えても、自分は変わっていないと思っています。しかし、鏡を見ては「あーあー」とため息が出ます。外見は、どうしても変わっていきます。心はどうでしょうか。当時、親切な人だなあ、やさしい人だなあ、と感じた人は、やはり同じように親切で、やさしい人でした。お経には、「仏様の光に遇うものは、身も心も柔らかくなる」とあります。これは、仏様の願いであります。「身」と言っても肉体ではなく、見えない心が「姿」に現れる、ということでしょう。それは、丁度、冬、軒下から下がっている沢山の凍ったツララも、春の暖かさに触れると、やがて溶けて水に変わっていくようなものではないでしょうか。仏様の光に照らされ、育てられた人たちは、年月が過ぎても心は変わらないのだなあ、と思ったことです。

合掌 泉康雄

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403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca
470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

Spring Chow Mein Supper – May 5



Calling all members and Dharma friends for the 2019 Spring Chow Mein Supper. We can use all the help we can get to prepare for and execute one of our major annual events. Preparations begin May 4 at 8 a.m., with the supper the following day—Sunday, May 5. Sunday service is cancelled for the day.

The usual format—drive-thru, takeout—will be in effect. The cost of the supper is \$15.

Please note that the May Shotsuki will be held during the second Sunday of the month, May 12, at 10:30 a.m.

BON ODORI PRACTICE



Photo from 2018 Practice

EVERYONE WELCOME

COME LEARN THE DANCES FOR THE
BTSA BON ODORI JULY 20
at GALT GARDENS

Every Monday From June 3
through July 15 at 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
(Excluding July 1, Canada Day)

BTSA - 470 40th St. S.

BON ODORI PRACTICE

Report from 2019 JSBTC-WF AGM

Hosted by Vancouver Temple – April 26 - 28

Dana Day funds of \$2,000 per organization will be allocated to Blankets for Canada (started in Lethbridge) and Indspire (helping indigenous students in Canada complete their secondary education)

The used stamps collected across Canada for 2018 raised \$255 for International Save the Children's Fund (\$75 to provide a child with a uniform, text books and stationary for a year, \$75 to stock a medical clinic, \$50 to provide clean water, \$30 to provide medical care – to protect against parasites and vitamin deficiency, and \$25 for fruit trees that will provide food for the family and a crop to sell).

Last year 12 pounds of coins were given to Air Canada, to assist with their charity work.

Youth Funds are available. Temples should encourage their youth to apply for these funds to attend the Japan youth tour and other youth activities.

26 people and 4 ministers are going to the World Buddhist Women's Convention in San Francisco. A song and dance routine will be Canada's entertainment.

Work is continuing on the Terms of Reference and Policies and Procedures.

The 2020 AGM will be in Lethbridge.

Submitted by Donna Dubbelboer

Early Obon Schedule Notice



Brooks cemetery visitation, 2018

Early reminder of Obon season cemetery visitations and services, with greater details to come later.

- July 7 (Sun) 11 am Brooks Cemetery Service**
July 14 (Sun) 10 am Magrath Cemetery Service
11 am Temple Hill Cemetery Service
1:30 pm Taber Cemetery Service
July 21 (Sat) 1 pm Mt. View Cemetery
2:30 pm BTSA Obon Service/July & August
Shotsuki Monthly Memorial

August – No services at BTSA; services resume in September

Logan Boulet Effect



Most persons attending the Apr. 7 Sunday service wore something with a touch of green to observe Green Shirt Day designated for Logan Boulet, the young Humboldt Broncos hockey team member, who was killed along with 15 others in the horrendous hockey team bus-trailer truck collision on Apr. 6, 2018. Logan died of his injuries in hospital the following day. It was reported six of his organs were transplanted to those in need.

Logan, who was from Lethbridge, gained national and international prominence when he signed a transplant form previously to donate his organs in the event of his death. The so-called Logan Boulet Effect led to an increase in sign-ups for organ donors when his action became known. Green Shirt Day honors Logan's legacy and encourages others to emulate his selfless act.

Gotanye – May 19



Gotanye—the birthday of Shinran—will be observed at the May 19 Sunday service. Shinran Shonin was born on May 21 in 1173 in Kyoto and died at the age of 90 in 1263. He is known as a founder of Jodo Shinshu which belongs to the Pure Land teaching.

Among 84,000 dharma-gates which Shakyamuni Buddha expounded Shinran Shonin declared the Larger Sutra is the true teaching of the Pure Land and others the provisional means of the Pure Land teaching.

The Larger Sutra Shakyamuni states: The reason all Buddhas appear in the world is their desire to save the multitudes of beings and by blessing them with the true and real benefit. The true and real benefit is Amida's Vow expressed in Namo Amida Butsu by which all sentient beings are liberated from delusion to enlightenment.

Born into an aristocratic family, the young Shinran—known as Matsuwakamaro—lost both of his parents as a young boy. He eventually met a monk named Honen and became his disciple. In subsequent years, Shinran developed his nembutsu practice that spread among commoners, placing trust in Amida Buddha's compassionate vow.

CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2019

May 05 NO SERVICE
SPRING CHOW MEIN SUPPER

May 12 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Lorita Ichikawa

May 19
Chair: Sylvia Oishi

May 26
Chair: Val Boras

Jun 02 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Deanna Jones

Jun 09
Chair: Sheila Oishi

Jun 16 PICNIC
Chair: Bob Muscovich

Jun 23
Chair: John Dubbelboer

Jun 30
Chair: Harry Sugimoto

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

Ross Jacobs will handle audio until placement of the new system is completed and operating.

2019 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 25 – 140

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2019

Eiko Aoki
 Eietsu Chiba
 John & Donna Dubbelboer
 Mitsuyo Fujimoto
 Judy Fukushima
 Dorene Gordon
 Jeff Haines
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Christopher & Yumi Johnson
 Lily Kaga
 Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara
 Aiko Kimura
 Chizuko Kimura
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Dave & Valerie Kunimoto
 Kinuko Matsuno

Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
 Joyce Miyashita
 Joe & Marion Mori
 Jim & Joan Nakagawa
 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
 Sylvia Oishi or Terry Hanna
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Yumiko Osaka
 Darcee Richardson
 Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
 Irene Sakamoto
 Janice Sasaki & Rob Luck
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Sachi Scharf
 Harry & Fumi Sekiya

Florence Senda
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro
 Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Tomiko Shono
 Emily Stitt
 Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Kazuko Takaguchi
 Barbara Takeda
 Fugi Takeda
 David & Linda Tanaka
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Ayako Taniguchi
 Betty Taniguchi
 David Taniguchi
 Shirley Taniguchi
 Clifford Thomas
 George Tokuda
 Shizuo (Suzi) & Dorothy Tomita
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Yoshiko Tsukishima
 Yukiko Yoshizumi
Total - \$ 6,491.30

Shotsuki Donations

April 2019

Dr Roland or Brenda Ikuta
 Nadine Hamabata
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Lily Kaga
 Eleanor Katakami
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Rumiko Eileen Kunimoto
 Dave & Valerie Kunimoto
 Allan & Lillian Levens
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 Kenny & Shoko Nakatani
 Doreen G. Osaka
 Yumiko Osaka
 Mitsuko Oga
 Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
 Setsuko Ohno
 Lilly Oishi
 Joyce H. Oishi
 Sheila Oishi
 Evelyn Osaka
 Irene Sakamoto
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Sachi Scharf
 Emily Stitt
 Harry Sugimoto
 Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Wendy Takeda
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Clifford Thomas
 Jim, Marion or Shannon Tomiyama
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Maya Yoshida

Total - \$2,195

Other Donations

April 2019

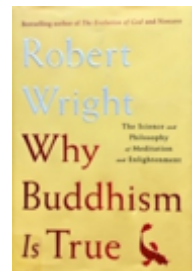
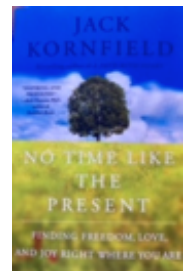
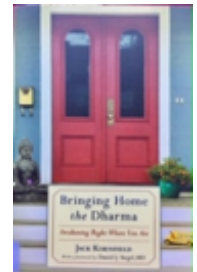
John & Nancy Brown
 Theresa M Chruscinski
 Kathy Cochrane
 Carolyn Coverdale
 Shelley Credico
 Michelle Demers
 Dorothy Follinglo
 Judy Fukushima
 Dorene Gordon
 Judy Hasinoff
 Mary Hyder

Rumiko Ibuki
 Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Dr Roland & Mrs Brenda Ikuta
 Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Davin Johnson
 Dianne Kambeitz
 Myrna Kambeitz
 David & Valerie Kunimoto
 Kay Long
 Lauri Maclachlan
 Pamela Miller
 Harry W. & Beverly Nagata
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi

Tak & Jan Okamura
 Jodie Ortileb
 Joanne Overn
 Marion Pashkovich
 Barrie & Jackie-Lynn Robb
 Eileen Sameshima
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Ayumi Sawada
 Yoshiko Sawada
 Cynthia Siske Edger
 Masaye Tanaka
 Jim Tsukishima

Total - \$2,580

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

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

Minyo Dance I Tuesdays in May @ 4pm

Minyo Dance II Mondays in May @ 6pm

Bon practices begin June 3rd: Mondays 6:30 - 7:45pm
Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 or sas7@telus.net

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1 pm
Contact Heidi Oishi 403.330.6461 or heidi.oishi@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Neil Sakamoto passed away on April 26 at the age of 59

TOBAN UPDATE

Each Toban serves four separate months during the year, which includes one of our three major service suppers, tea after regular services and monthly clean-up. You don't have to join a toban to volunteer!

Contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Appreciation to **Toban 2** for Hanamatsuri and Monthly Memorial Service April 14. Special thanks to Keiko Gordon for organizing a great meal and volunteers for preparation, serving and cleanup. Dharma child/youth put on a wonderful program. Thanks to all who participated in celebrating the historical Buddha's Birthday.

Next up is **Toban 3** looking forward to a special Mother's Day Luncheon with youth & parents participating. And we can't forget the **Spring Chow Mein Supper May 5!**

Soup Kitchen 2019

Thanks to **Lilly's Crew** for preparing lunch at the Soup Kitchen April 23. Next Soup Kitchen is **Tuesday, May 21**. Please note that anyone is invited to join in with **Toban 2** to help. Let Lorita know if you are interested.

New Water Cooler



In an effort to reduce plastic use but still encourage drinking water, the temple is renting a water cooler and getting water delivered from Water Pure and Simple until the end of July. It is located in the multipurpose room and is available to all temple users.

Although a supply of cups will be available by the cooler, users are encouraged to bring their own water bottles and drink, drink, drink! Over the next few months, we will be adjusting our water order to fit the needs of the temple users.

At the end of the trial period, we will determine whether to continue this service in September when temple activities start up again. We welcome all feedback on this ecosangha project!

Lethbridge Soup Kitchen

A work crew under Lilly Oishi's direction looked after lunch Apr. 23 at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. From left, front, Terry Hanna, Akira Ichikawa and Doug Higo. Rear, from left, Lilly, Joyce Adachi, Melody Crittenden, Dorene Gordon, Emily Stitt and Liz Higo. Menu included turkey soup, egg salad and tuna salad sandwiches, veggie plate and dessert.



Library Acquisitions

Several new titles in the temple library are available for circulation. See the covers below and on opposite page for interested borrowers.



Hanamatsuri

Hanamatsuri observance Apr. 14 was a joyous and well-attended commemoration of the birth of the historic Buddha, Shakyamuni, with Candice Shibata sensei as guest minister. The traditional hanamido gave children and those observing the monthly memorial service an opportunity to pour sweet tea over the statute of the baby Buddha, re-enacting the myth that sweet rain fell on the baby as he took his first steps.

Shibata sensei, a 14th generation Jodo Shinshu minister from the Buddhist Temple of Florin (CA) gave the dharma message during the service as well as a guest lecture a day earlier.

The youth program emceed by Kai featured piano selections given by Akeo, Mayah, Seiji and Kailey. Singing sisters Kennedy, Robyn and Brenna provided show tunes.

Following that, children were presented with gifts. They also continued working on a Lumbini Garden mural they had begun weeks in advance, displayed in the multipurpose room. The days' festivities concluded with a sit-down supper catered and prepared by Toban 2.



Nice Hanamatsuri Turnout



MC Roland and Naijin



Guest Shibata Sensei



Chanting Amida-kyo



Hanamido



Taiko Entertainment Call



Brenna, Robyn and Kennedy



Gifts for Children



Pianists Akeo, Mayah, Seiji and Kailey





Cake for the Occasion



Happy Birthday to Buddha



Making centre pieces



Children's Hanamatsuri Art Murals



Supper Preparation



Supper Lineup



Sit down for supper

Shibata sensei's talk on Grief



The process of overcoming grief, in keeping with Shinran's view, was central to Candice Shibata sensei's BTSA talk Apr. 13 in the guest speaker's series. In citing a Shinran scholar on grief, she noted "when you are sad, you don't have to hold back your tears."

She added, however, not to allow oneself to wallow in sadness in her Power Point presentation entitled "Attachment, Love & Loss: A Shin Perspective of Grief." Grief "provides the path to reflect upon the wounds in your heart and to heal them."

Shibata sensei began on a personal note about having to deal with her mother's death when sensei was young. The process of overcoming her grief took time as she noted that it is a gradual process, however different the process may be for individuals.

Sensei cited Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, acceptance—in dealing with death, and related them to Buddhist notions of attachment in the Four Noble Truths

as well as what other psychologists have had to say, all contributing the process.

Quoting a haiku by Prof. Naoki Nabeshima of Ryukoku University, Kyoto, she concluded her presentation: "Tears of sadness/Themselves naturally turn/Into compassion."

Shibata sensei was the guest speaker at the Hanamatsuri service (see previous article) the following day. She is the minister at the Buddhist Church of Florin, CA. She has a master's degree in counseling psychology as well as in Buddhist Studies. She is of the 14th generation to be a Buddhist minister in her family.



MAY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY			9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga		12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH	
			1	2	3	4
Chow Mein Supper	6pm Minyo II	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I	9:30am Beg. Yoga 11am Res. Yoga 7pm Board Mtg*			10:30am Shin Buddhism and Nihongo*
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service*	6pm Minyo II	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I	2pm LCC visit*			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30am Gotan-E Shinran Shonin's Birthday*	6pm Minyo II	Soup Kitchen Toban 2* 1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I	2pm LCC visit*			9am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Explore Buddhism*
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30am Regular Service*	6pm Minyo II	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I				
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service*		1pm Tonari Gumi			12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH	10:30am Explore Buddhism*
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Bon Practice	1pm Tonari Gumi	2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg*			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30am Service & Annual Picnic*	6:30pm Bon Practice	1pm Tonari Gumi	2pm LCC visit*			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Bon Practice	1pm Tonari Gumi				10:30am Explore Buddhism*
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30am Regular Service*						
30						

Upcoming dates: August 4 (Sun) Sutra chanting for "Day of Peace and Serenity" at Nikka Yuko
August 11 (Sun) Obon at Japanese Cultural Center in Edmonton