



I Humbly Receive!



I go to the Lethbridge Correctional Centre once a month, usually on the second Friday. There is a particular individual among several inmates with whom I meet regularly. The maximum sentence there is usually two years but in his case he has already been there for over two years.

When I met him one-to-one for the first time over a year ago, I introduced to him the Japanese term “itadakimasu” literally means “(I) humbly receive.” I explained that we are able to live every day by receiving not only food but also countless other things including material things as well as water, air, people’s kindness and so on.

I told him that Buddhists receive these things with gassho in our humble attitude of gratitude and appreciation. I told him when I first met him, “I came here to share Buddha’s teachings with you.” He immediately said, “Oh, in this case I humbly receive Buddha’s teaching” and with a smile he put his hands together. It seems to me that many inmates there are docile and obedient. It is hard to imagine that they have committed something wrong to others in society. Since then every time I visit him, he puts his hands together, says “Itadakimasu” and then bows to me.

One day, I thought to myself that it was not he who receives the teaching from me but that it was I who receive something

from him. I thought that he was a giving me an opportunity to reflect on myself. Am I saying “itadakimasu” to other people’s kindness? Am I expressing my gratitude to others? Am I expressing my gratitude to the person closest to me, my wife? Honestly speaking, no. I take everything that she is doing for me for granted. Of course, I say “itadakimasu” before each meal she prepares. But that is not everything that she is doing for me. Such a self-centered man I am! I am the one who needs Buddha’s teachings. After that kind of reflection, has my mind changed? Have my attitudes been changed? Not much, or rather I have been the same as before. It is sad. My self-centered mind is deep. However, one thing I can say is that I rely on Buddha’s compassion more deeply than before. I feel and increasingly realize that Buddha’s compassion is working on such a selfish being like me.

In Junirai (Twelve Adorations), we chant “koga-chorai-midason” ten times. It means “Thus I bow my head and humbly receive the Buddha of great compassion, Amida.” The more deeply, I examine my inner self, the more I rely on Buddha’s heart of compassion. And, the more I listen to Buddha’s compassion, the more deeply I see myself. Master Shinran said “Obstructions of blind passions turn into virtues; it is like the relation of ice and water: the more the ice, the more the water; the more the obstructions, the more the virtues.”

With deep gratitude to the working of the Buddha expressed in Namo Amida Butsu, we do whatever we can do in our society.

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

カナダ教団開教 110 年

長い冬がやっと終わったようです。木の枝も、草も葉も生き返ったように、々と光り輝いています。最近、教団会議でBC州リッチモンドへ5日間ほど行ってきました。連日、曇り空で時折小雨が降り、うとうとい毎日でした。海に近く、空気が湿っているせいか、レスブリッジに比べ、意外に寒い思いをしました。土曜日の閉会に引き続き、翌日の日曜日は、教団先亡者の追悼法要があり、法話をさせて頂きました。今年はカナダ開教110年目にあたります。この間、多くの方々が、苦難にもまげず「法の灯」を護ってこられました。私が40数年前に渡加した時、ある一世のご夫人から「どうかカナダにとどまって、み教えを私たちの子供や孫にも伝えてください」と哀願されたことを思い出します。自信教人信(自ら信じることを、人にも信じせしめる)の実践こそ、み仏のお慈悲に報いていく道であると思わされる今日この頃です。 合掌 泉康雄

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470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

BTSA Notes

With a scant four weeks away, the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary is closing in on us after so many years of planning and organizing. For BTSA members who will be attending, please check over the latest release included in this Hikari for scheduled activities and instructions.

There also is an article regarding transportation and cost for those who signed up to ride to and back from Calgary. One note of caution for those who are taking their own vehicles: we've been informed that the Scotiabank Calgary Marathon is scheduled for May 31 (Sunday) and that street closures within the city have been announced. You can go to the following website to see what streets will be affected to help you navigate: <http://calgarymarathon.com/closures.html>

A number of BTSA women members have been busy over the years preparing various items and fund-raising, and now are practicing for the Canadian portion of the entertainment at the convention. It should be a great time to see old friends from across the country and to make new ones from the other major Jodo Shinshu districts--the United States, Hawai'i, Japan and Brazil.

There also will be an opportunity to tour the Calgary Buddhist Temple, remodeled and renovated in time for the convention.

Even before the convention, however, a parents' day luncheon is planned for May 24, following the regular Sunday service. The event, organized by the Dharma class children, their parents and teachers, will be honoring parents and grandparents. Please plan on attending and help celebrate.

By the time most members read this month's Hikari, the spring chow mein supper may be history, since it was scheduled for the first weekend of the month. A full account of this important fund-raiser will be available in the June issue of the Hikari.

April was a busy month, with Hanamatsuri service setting the stage for the return of spring to southern Alberta. Our guest's Dharma messages--reported elsewhere in this Hikari--were humorous and instructional. Thanks to Joshin Dennis Fujimoto sensei for helping BTSA commemorate the birth of the Buddha.

It also was a month of the annual general meeting of the Jodo Shinsu Buddhist Temples of Canada, this year at the Steveston Buddhist Temple and of which BTSA is a member. Roland and Brenda Ikuta were our delegates. Sylvia Oishi is a national board member. Donna Dubbelboer and Katie Nakagawa represented the BTSA at the parallel JSBTC Women's Federation AGM. Izumi sensei attended the ministerial association meetings held before the AGM.

There were several items of note considered in late March and early April. The funeral committee deleted the after-funeral reception option of a full-course meal of chow mein, fish or meat dish, and trimmings, leaving only the sandwich-and-vegetable/fruit tray choice. This was decided to help

reduce the work load of the toban groups. Rice, takuwan, and beverages will still be provided if a family decides to order food from an external caterer.

Meetings also were held to review the existing toban system and to seek ways to reorganize it where needed. This matter is a continuing one and will require adjustments on an ongoing basis. Any suggestions from the membership is welcomed.

Thanks to everyone's support to keep the temple operating smoothly to meet the needs of members and friends who turn to it for a variety of reasons.

Akira Ichikawa

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. What do you think of "pride"?

A. In the west, I often hear, "I am proud of such and such..." I think that a sense of "pride" is like a two edged-sword. Usually, it is viewed as positive, sense of accomplishment and high opinion of oneself, family and society etc. However, it is also viewed as negative, sense of attachment and arrogance.

When Siddhartha Gautama discovered enlightenment (truth of life), it is symbolically depicted that he declared with his right hand up and left hand down "I am the most honored one". "I am the most honored one" is "self-respect" and "pride". "Pride" here means a pride as a discoverer of life which is true, real and sincere. It does not mean self-conceited false pride. I think that the light of truth expressed in Namu Amida Butsu always and constantly crushes our attachment and egocentricity and nurtures us to become a humble individual. (Y. I.)

CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2015

May 03 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Tak Okamura

May 10
Chair: Pat Sassa
Audio: John Dubbelboer

May 17
Chair: Val Boras
Audio: Sway Nishimura

May 24
Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

May 31
WBWC Convention, Calgary (BTSA service TBA)

Jun 07 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Brenda Oishi

Jun 14
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 21 BTSA PICNIC
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Jun 28
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Sway Nishimura

MC designates: if you are unable to chair on your assigned date or have made other arrangements on your own, please inform Sway Nishimura. Thank you.

Peanut Butter Analogy Lightens Hanamatsuri Talk

Guest speaker Joshin Dennis Fujimoto sensei's life-long love of peanut butter in all its varieties elicited chuckles from those attending the BTSA Hanamatsuri service on Apr. 5. Sensei, resident minister of the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple in Ontario, OR, in his talk to the children left everyone in the audience smiling as he compared doing oshoko to the art of spreading peanut butter.

Fujimoto sensei said that while Shinran Shonin was eight years old when he began studying Buddhism, he, Fujimoto sensei, at the same age became a master of studying peanut butter but was unable to do oshoko correctly. That is, until he realized that "oshoko is a lot like spreading peanut butter." In Jodo Shinshu, he said "everything we do is saying 'Thank you'."

He concluded his humorous comparison by saying, "Mindfully, we oshoko. Mindfully, we say Thank You. Mindfully, we live our lives. This is the way." He might have added, mindfully we spread and eat our peanut butter.

Sensei's dharma message to the adults focused on another comparison, that of Shakyamuni's birth which Hanamatsuri celebrates and Amida, as understood in Jodo Shinshu. He emphasized that Shakyamuni did not create the Dharma, but awakened to Amida, "the truth and realities that surround us,...the connection of all things" which he shared with his followers.

Amida, sensei noted, is about all the causes and conditions surrounding us which "are the movement of compassion that create possibility for each one of us to live". Giving several examples of what is called Amida's grace, he explained their meanings in everyday language summarizing with "Everything is Amida. . . there is really nothing that is not Namo-amida-butsu." The foregoing is about Amida; Hanamatsuri is about Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. The difference is important in understanding how Early or General Buddhism eventually developed to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The monthly memorial service for April also was commemorated with Hanamatsuri. Gifts were presented to the children who attended, and a program that followed featured musical numbers by several youngsters. Later, they sang Happy Birthday to the Buddha around a decorated sheet cake. A supper, prepared by Toban Four members, rounded out the day's activities.



The weather outside was frightful, but the gathering inside was delightful. That might describe our Hanamatsuri and monthly memorial service on Apr. 5, with Joshin Dennis Fujimoto sensei as the guest speaker. A good turnout helped celebrate the birth of the Buddha, complete with the choir presenting two selections and leading the congregation in the traditional gatha, In Lumbini's Garden. Dharma children and friends poured sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha to recreate the gentle rain that is reputed to have fallen on the newborn.



Joshin Dennis Fujimoto sensei and Izumi sensei tossing paper flowers petals while chanting Sanbujo.



The choir, led by Pat Sassa, sang during the service.



Children at the hanamido, pouring sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha



Sam helping Izumi sensei and Fujimoto sensei present gifts to children.

Those observing the monthly memorial service offering gassho during the sutra chanting.



Sophie playing cello during the program.



Children singing Happy Birthday to the Buddha.

2015 Membership to April 25 - 172

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2015

Eiko Aoki
John & Rita Aoki
Eietsu Chiba
J & E Cozac
Mitsuyo Fujimoto
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Chiduka Hamabata
Kenneth Hamabata
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Neil HInatsu
Marie Hirashima
Tsuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka
Tomi HIsaoka
Violet Horii
Rumiko Ibuki
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Y. Ann Johnson
Tom & Lily Kaga
Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara
Akiko Kimoto
HIroshi Kitagawa
Ted Koyata
Dave & Val Kunimoto
Eileen Kunimoto
Ken & Amy Kurio
Kay K. Matsuda
Kinuko Matsuno
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Joyce Miyashita
Joe & Marion Mori
William T & Setsuko Nagai
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
May NISHIKAWA
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Mitsuko Oga
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
Kimiko Ohno
Mae Ohno
Randy Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Yumiko Osaka
Irene Sakamoto
Tobie Sakamoto
Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
Roy & Pat Sassa
Craig & Sachi Scharf
Florence Senda
Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Takaaki & Hajime Shigemi
Toshino Shigemi
Tomiko Shono
Emily Stitt
Fumi Sugimoto

Norobu & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachi Taguchi
Kazuko Takaguchi
Fuji Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Reiko Takeyasu
David & Linda Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Shirley Taniguchi
Jean H. Tatebe
Akira Terashima
George Tokuda
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima

Total \$6,495

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

April 2015

J & E Cozac
Ayako Endo
Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Shirley Higa
Michie Kawasaki
Alana Leavens
Allan & Lillian Leavens
Chris & Terra Liska
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Mitsuko Oga
Ken Ohno
KImino Ohno
Mae Ohno
Arlene Oishi & Jeffrey Coffman
Joyce Oishi
Lilly Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Hisae Price
Irene Sakamoto
Tobie Sakamoto
Roy & Pat Sassa
Emily Stitt
Fumi Sugimoto
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Toshiko Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Toshiko Tanaka
Shirley Taniguchi
Jean H. Tatebe
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Marlene Wiest

Total \$2,150

Other Donations

April 2015

John & Rita Aoki
Rachael Crowder
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Karen Dunsmore & Dennis Wilford
Dale & Carol Fujita
Judy Fukushima
Jim & Atsuko Hagihara
Kunihiro Harguchi
Keiko HIga
Tomoe HIronaka
Violet Horii
N.G. & J.A. Horlacher
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Maya Ichikawa
Gail Ikebuchi
Molly H. Ito
Sue S. Kado
John & Alice Kanashiro
Esther Kanegawa
Stanley & Audrey Kanegawa
Eleanor Katakami
Yoshio & Chiyoko Kawai
Michie Kawasaki
Carolyn Kemp
Catherine Koyanagi
Alan & Carla Koyata
Matt & Clara Kurio
Ken & Amy Kurio
Yas Maruyama
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
Gerry Miyashiro
Joyce Miyashita
Joe & Marion Mori
William T & Setsuko Nagai
Jean N. Nagata
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Jim & Joan Nakagawa
Amy Nakamura
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
Saburo & Kimino Nishi
Hideo & Jennifer Nishida
Kei & Margo Nishida
Kiyoto & Toki Nishijima
Mary & Ayako Nishima
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Sonny Ohama
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Yumiko Osaka
George & Grace Oshiro
Jim & Daisy Oshiro
Ayako Otsuka
Jaglit S. (Jack) Panesar
Shig Sakamoto
Mary Saruwatari
Janice Sasaki & Rob Luck
Florence Senda
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
Harumi & Michi Takaguchi
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
J.H. & May Takahashi
Fuji Takeda

Alan & Margaret Tanaka
Tammy Tanaka
Masaru & Ayako Taniguchi
Sam & Betty Taniguchi
Bill & June Terakita
Teruko Tokitsu
Blake & Carole Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Sumie Tsukishima
Yasuo & Lil Yamashita
Minoru Yoshida
Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara
United Way Calgary on behalf
of Rodney Nishiyama

Total \$4,856.07

JSBTC Women's Federation AGM April 24-26, 2015

On a fairly sunny weekend we attended the annual AGM in Richmond, B.C. The meeting began with reports from temple representatives across Canada. This was a time to share ideas with others, e.g. well over 1,000 maple leaf luggage tags were made by our hard-working crew at BTSA, & the Toronto members crocheted hearts which will be included in the Convention package.

There will be assigned seating for those who attend the banquet on Saturday evening. Canadian members are asked to stay a while on Sunday to bid farewell to our guests. The key word is to ENJOY the weekend!

Dana Day Funds of \$1,500 each from 2014 were directed to the Ronald MacDonald House & the Tibetan Resettlement Project to Canada. For 2015 a donation of \$1,500 each will be forwarded to 1) Food Bank of Canada 2) Global Medic 3) Breakfast for Learning.

With the used stamp collection, a total of \$240 was raised for the Save the Children Fund. We are reminded to leave the postmark on & also to leave a nice border around the stamp.

The 2015 Foreign coins went to Children's Miracle Network. Many thanks for your wonderful support.

We will continue selling Wisteria cards as a fund raiser for the JSBTCWF.

Everyone expressed gratitude to Susan Huntley for the excellent job she has done.

Report by
Donna Dubbelboer & Katie Nakagawa

We try to be as thorough as possible but occasionally make errors. Please inform us if your name has been omitted from or misspelled in the donation lists. Anyone wishing his/her name not be acknowledged in print, please let us know so it won't be published. Thank you.

JSBTC AGM in Steveston

The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches of Canada (JSBTC) AGM was held Apr. 27 in Steveston (Richmond), BC. The BTSA is entitled to two voting delegates based upon the relative size of its membership and this year Brenda and Roland Ikuta volunteered to attend to exercise our votes. The following are some of the highlights of the business portion of the AGM:

- Temple Assessments remain at \$70/member (\$15/student members)
- A formal welcome was made to our newest minister, Rev. Ryuhei Endo, currently assigned to Toronto.
- Resolutions were passed to bring JSBTC into line with financial reporting requirements of the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.
- The revised 2015 JSBTC Director's Handbook was approved as the guideline for the conduct of JSBTC business.
- JSBTC invested funds showed an annual return of 10% and the Headquarters building continues to generate residential rental revenue. The Investment Committee has established guidelines for investment decisions and management of income through the investment firm of Hollis Wealth (a division of Scotiabank).

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Pat Sassa 403.329.3105
or Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

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

Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548
or david@eyesquared.com

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Wednesdays, 1:30pm

Summer break: from May 27 - Sept 9, will resume Sept 16
Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

Minyo dancers Tuesdays, 4-6pm

May 12-26 & Jun 2. NO practice May 5

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

Obon Practice begins June 8

Every Monday, 6:30 - 7:30

PROGRAMS

Gentle Beginning Yoga for Seniors

Thursdays 9 - 10 am

Restorative Yoga for Seniors

Thursdays 10:30 - 11:30

Both yoga classes run to May 28

Contact: lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

- The Living Dharma Centre (LDC) is active with many ongoing projects and more in the making. Brenda Ikuta is one of the volunteers.
- Ministers Retirement Fund: This year disbursements were made to Sensei Fujikawa and Sensei Ulrich. There are four trustees who manage this fund independent of other JSBTC funds.

At present we utilize a "Shared Part-time Bishop" model, but due to concerns expressed regarding this model, a workshop was held prior to the AGM with all delegates, ministers and JSBTC Board members in attendance. The objective was to determine what alternative model if any, was preferred by the membership. There was an overwhelming consensus that a "Full-time Bishop" model should be adopted subject to viability. A resolution was passed at the AGM that a feasibility review would be conducted by the JSBTC Board and they would provide a report by the next AGM. The primary difference between the two models is one of cost, so the report should outline the total cost of a full-time Bishop and discuss funding options.

The new JSBTC Board are: David Otori, President (Vancouver); Larry Wakisaka, Vice President (Toronto); Greg Chor, Treasurer (Vancouver); Arnie Hayashi, Secretary (Vernon); Roland Ikuta (BTSA); Terence Beresford (Steveston); Harvey Kaita (Winnipeg); Trudy Gahlinger (Calgary); Laura Sugimoto (Calgary); and Amy Wakisaka (Toronto)

Board Advisors: Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, and Rev. Michael Hayashi, Ministerial Assoc. Chair

For further details regarding the AGM, please speak to Roland Ikuta, Brenda Ikuta, or Sylvia Oishi.

The 2016 AGM will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 23.

Submitted by

Sylvia Oishi, outgoing JSBTC Board Director

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 4** for covering the April activities and another wonderful Hanamatsuri meal. Deep appreciation goes to Toban 4 for providing and serving lunch for the funeral service of Mrs. Mae Sasaki.

Toban 3 ably led by Emily Stitt made spaghetti and the trimmings at the Soup Kitchen on April 1. Many thanks to all who helped. Thanks to the **Dharma Kids** (Kyomi, Kai, Taiga, Asha, Lily, Akeo and Seiji) for the preparation and serving of tea and refreshments on April 19. Assisting in the kitchen were Maya, Brenda, Roland, Sheila, Jeff and Arlene. The freshly baked cookies, warm from the oven, were yummy.

Toban 2 is up for the Month of May which includes the **Soup Kitchen**, May 22. Lorita Ichikawa is the contact person for Toban 2 in May.

Parent's Day Lunch on May 24 will be coordinated and served by the Dharma kids and teachers.

Toban 2015 Schedule

MAY Toban 2 • JUNE Toban 3 • JULY Toban 2

Never mind likes and dislikes; they are of no consequence. Just do what must be done. This may not be happiness, but it is greatness.

– George Bernard Shaw



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA
children & youth dharma classes

On April 19 the Dharma class provided tea and snacks after service. This month they will host the Parents Day Lunch on May 24.



UPCOMING ACTIVITY: Taiko with Kynan Gordon
 After service (11:30), Multi-purpose room
 May 10, 17, tentatively 31 & Jun 14, 28

**BTSA Transportation to
 WBWC**

The California Dream Limousine Service, Lethbridge, has been retained by BTSA for \$2,100 to provide transportation to the World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary. Departure is May 29, with return on May 31.

The BTSA board set an assessment of \$100 for each of the 19 persons who have signed up. Riders may make out cheques to the temple. The temple will contribute \$400 to cover the difference and the gratuity.

Tentatively, the 30-seat vehicle is scheduled to depart from the temple at 1 p.m. on May 29, and travel to the International Hotel in downtown Calgary. The convention site is about five blocks away, and the delegates are on their own to get to the site.

The limousine will leave Calgary on May 31 from the convention site about 3:30 p.m. or thereabouts. There is a 4 p.m. deadline to clear the convention centre.

Detailed information will be available before the departure from the temple.

Please check the following names to make certain those who have signed up know they are confirmed.

Eiko Aoki, Keiko Gordon, Akira and Lorita Ichikawa, Miki Inaba, Yasuo Izumi sensei, Sue Kado, Chiyomi Matsuno, Shig and Katie Nakagawa, Sway and Totsy Nishimura, Mac and Reiko Nishiyama, Pat Sassa, Florence Senda, Reiko Takeyasu, Tak and Yoko Tsujita, and Sumie Tsukishima.

(Note: There are 20 names, but only 19 will be travelling in each direction.)

Toban 3 and friends at the Lethbridge Soup Kitchen. Emily Stitt, standing second from right, took the lead on Apr. 1 for another BTSA stint at the Soup Kitchen. Taking a break for coffee and tea are (seated) Izumi Sensei and wife, Sachi; Debbie Friesen, and Marian Tomiyama. Standing from left, Katie Nakagawa, Marion Pashkowich, Akira Ichikawa, Sumi Tomiyama, Emily, and Joe Tomiyama.



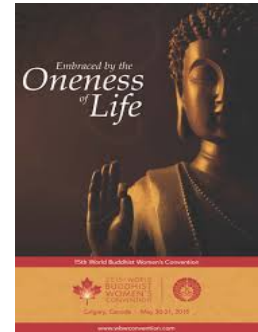


2015
WORLD
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
CONVENTION

WBWC UPDATE May 2015

Canadian Pre-Convention Information – May 29-31

- Name tag and participant bag pick up: **Friday 2 - 7 pm** in the pre-function area of the Convention Centre - North Building Hall CDE.
- For both days, the Calgary Telus Convention Center area for the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention will open its doors at 8:00am. Registration Desk opens at **8:00am** on Saturday. Please wear your name tag throughout the convention.
- **Convention program begins at 9:30am on both Saturday and Sunday.**
- **Seating** in the primary meeting space Saturday am and Sunday will be by district and will be indicated in the program. Please sit in the designated area throughout the convention, not leaving empty spaces between seats.
- **The lunch** on both days is boxed with no designated eating area. People are welcome to eat in the primary meeting space, at the tables set up, or in and around the convention area. Primary meeting space must be vacated by 1:00pm on Saturday.
- **Saturday Workshops** will be offered simultaneously at 1-2:15pm and 2:45-4:00pm in various locations within the Convention Centre. A complete list of the workshops is available on the website. There is no pre-registration; attendance is limited based on the room size.
- **Canadian Temples Displays** will be set up, Saturday, 12:30-5pm in the pre-function area, Macleod Hall.
- Coordinated tours to the renovated **Calgary Buddhist Temple** will be available during the afternoon on Saturday only. For times and to sign up, stop by the Calgary Buddhist Temple display table.
- Participant bags will contain a coupon to visit the **Glenbow Museum**, located in the Convention Centre (main floor, South Building). Admission is \$5 CAD and exhibits include the ornate shrine that resided at the Raymond Buddhist Church, the first Buddhist temple in Southern Alberta.
- **Convention MarketPlace** will be located in the North Building (Glen Rooms – 201 & 202) with a variety of items including: jewelry, Montoshiki sho, Nenju, bags, crafts and other mementos of the Convention. Canadian dollars (US dollars at par), VISA, American Express and MasterCard will be accepted. Hours are Saturday: 12:00-5:30pm; 8:00-9:30pm and Sunday: 8:00- 9:30am; 12:00-4:00pm
- **Saturday Banquet:** Please sit at designated table (on name tag). There will be 10 people per table.
 - Omiyage (small gift exchange) will be done at the banquet tables after everyone has been seated. Gifts should be under \$5 with a minimum quantity of 6 per banquet attendee.
 - The Banquet Hall doors will open at 5:30 pm. Dinner and events will begin at 6:00pm. The evening is scheduled to finish around 9:00 pm at which time we ask you to exit the hall in an orderly manner by District: Japan, Hawaii, Brazil, BCA and then Canada.
- **Sunday Convention Program** will conclude at 3 pm. Refreshments will be available in the pre-function area.
 - At the finish of the program, to promote orderly departure, please allow the District of Japan to leave the room first followed by Hawaii, Brazil, BCA and then Canada.
 - Hall CDE must be vacated by 4:00pm.
- Registration, Lost and Found, and Information tables will be set up in the pre-function area of the North Building Hall CDE on both days. There will also be building security and first aid onsite.



Please respect the privacy of the Gomonshu.



MAY: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					7pm Youth Taiko 1	Chow Mein Supper 2
9:30am Zumba Rehearsal 10:30am Shotsuki Service 3		12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6	9am Gentle Yoga 10:30am Restorative Yoga 7	1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit 7pm Youth Taiko 8	
9:30am Zumba Rehearsal 10:30am Regular Service 10		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 12	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSA Board Meeting 13	9am Gentle Yoga 10:30am Restorative Yoga 14	7pm Youth Taiko 15	10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 16
9:30am Zumba Rehearsal 10:30am Gotan-e Shinran Shonin's Birthday 17		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 19	1:30pm Karaoke 20	9am Gentle Yoga 10:30am Restorative Yoga 21	7pm Youth Taiko 22	10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 23
9:30am Zumba 10:30am Regular Service WBWC 31		12pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 26	1:30pm Karaoke 27	9am Gentle Yoga 10:30am Restorative Yoga 28	7pm Youth Taiko 29	WBWC 30

JUNE: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo 7pm Taiko 1			7pm Youth Taiko 5	
10:30am Shotsuki Service 7	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 8	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 9	7pm BTSA Board Meeting 10		7pm Youth Taiko 12	10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 13
10:30am Regular Service 14	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 15	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 16			7pm Youth Taiko 19	
10:30am Annual BTSA picnic 21	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 22	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 23			7pm Youth Taiko 26	10:30am Exploring Buddha Dharma 27
10:30am Regular Service 28	6:30pm Obon Dance Practice 29	12pm Tonari Gumi 7pm Taiko 30				