



May 2016

From the narrow path to the great path of Amida's Compassion



There are many paths in

Buddhism (Buddha Dharma). The path of Jodo Shinshu is to listen to the spirit of the Buddha, not really to follow the path the historical Buddha walked.

Many years ago, I read a book entitled "Siddhartha" written by Herman Hesse. His grandparents went to India as Christian missionaries. Because of their influence, Hesse was always interested in eastern philosophy, especially Buddhism. Subsequently, he wrote a well-known book, entitled *Siddhartha*. Of course, the book is a work of fiction influenced by the life of the Buddha, but I was very impressed by the last chapter of the book. It describes how after searching the Dharma, meeting various people and listening to the sound of the river, Siddhartha, a main character of the book, becomes a ferryman. A ferryman transports people from one place to another place. This is symbolical. Siddhartha abandons all his intellectual learning about the Dharma as well as difficult practices for enlightenment but finds peace by becoming a ferry man to carry people to other shore, just to live for the sake of other people.

What does it mean to become a Buddha? To become a Buddha means to carry all living beings from this shore of delusion and suffering to the other shore of enlightenment of peace without taking even a moment of rest. The novel teaches us that the Buddha is the one who abandons all ego and lives for the sake of suffering of others. This is the spirit of the Buddha. I believe that this is the heart of Buddha's teaching, the Dharma which we Buddhists appreciate and follow.

The spirit of the Buddha is nothing but great compassion; suffering and pain together, happiness and joy together. In this sense, the Buddha is beyond tangible form. Buddha's heart and mind are not bound by time and place. We call this Buddha Amida Buddha - Amida (immeasurable) means infinite in terms of wisdom and compassion, light and life. In other words, the spirit of Amida is what the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, wanted to share with all living beings on this earth. Therefore, Master Shinran said "Sakyamuni Buddha appeared in this world solely to teach Amida's compassion: We, the people of blind passions, should entrust ourselves to Sakyamuni Buddha's words of truth."

This was how Master Shinran viewed Buddhism after 20 years of traditional Buddhist practices and learning which he abandoned. Or I should say that he was able to abandon them when he encountered the great compassion of Amida. Like Siddhartha, Master Shinran was first a seeker of enlightenment but later he became a "humble listener" of Amida's compassion expressed in Namo Amida Butsu. We appreciate Sakyamuni Buddha and Master Shinran who brought Amida's compassion out of the life of oneness.

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

5月は親鸞聖人のご誕生日をお祝いする降誕会が厳修されます。「降誕」とは少し難しい言葉であります、「誕生」ということです。「わざわざ私のために生まれ降りて下さった」という深い宗教的な意味を持って「降誕」(ごうたん)と言っているのです。つまり、尊い真実の世界を私に知らせるために、わざわざ生まれて下さった、ということです。考えてみますと、私たちの毎日は、自分を中心にして見たり、聞いたり、話したり、あるいは思ったりしている毎日です。自分の尺度で他と接触しているわけです。この自分の尺度が必ずしも正しいものではない、と知らせてくださる方を真実の仏様と呼んでいます。真実の仏様は、日常生活の中で鏡の役をして下さいます。仏様の心の鏡を持って生活することを親鸞聖人は教えて下さいました。仏様の心の鏡は、私たちの不完全で、間違いだらけの心をいつも包み込んでいてくださるのです。とかく私たちは外観(そとみ)だけを繕って生きているのですが、聖人はそのような生活に、仏様の心を頂いて強く、明るく、安心して生活していく道を開いて下さいました。私たちは、そのような生活を「お念仏の生活」と呼び、親しませて頂いています。親鸞聖人のご誕生をお念仏と共に祝いさせて頂きましょう。 合掌 泉康雄

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Message On the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition

January 16, 2015

On June 6, 2014, I came to inherit the legacy of the Jodo Shinshu tradition through receiving the transmission from the Monshu Emeritus Ohtani Koshin, succeeding to the posts of the resident priest of Hongwanji and the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Monshu. Today, I would like to announce that the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition (Dento Hokoku Hoyo) shall be scheduled for the years 2016 and 2017. My succession of the Jodo Shinshu tradition will be officially proclaimed to the Buddha and Masters, and through its observance, it is anticipated that the teaching of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow shall gain prosperity and Hongwanji in its entirety shall achieve further growth.

Amida Buddha's Primal Vow is directed without discrimination to every life and saves them just as they are. Despite our being filled with delusions and suffering, we are enabled to entrust ourselves wholeheartedly to Amida Tathagata's great compassion and be born in the Pure Land, the manifestation of the Buddha's true enlightenment. Although everything in this world, including ourselves, is unreliable, which Shinran Shonin expressed as "empty and false," we are always able to realize the assuredness in the working of the Primal Vow.

Modern scientific and technological sophistication urges us to pursue convenient and luxurious lifestyles, thereby making our desires swell boundlessly. However, I feel that people have begun to realize the futility of these efforts. In addition, such factors as the nuclear family unit and demographic shift from rural to urban areas have forced the conventional social structure to change greatly. As a result, the bonds between people have become weak, causing new anxieties and feelings of uneasiness to arise. On the global scale as well, we can see that there are a number of issues that threaten humanity's existence, such as armed conflict, economic imbalance, climate change, and the proliferation of nuclear materials, and it is anticipated that the situation will likely intensify.

Therefore, I believe it is important for us to listen to the Dharma. Listening to the Dharma clarifies for us the compassionate working of Amida Tathagata that always embraces us as just as we are and never abandons us. Hence, we should share our appreciation and gratitude for it with as many people as possible. As Nembutsu followers who are guided by the Buddha's wisdom, it is important for us to take the initiative and actively carry out programs to cope with the numerous problems and issues in contemporary society. I feel that such efforts will contribute to the actualization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

It is my hope that this upcoming Commemoration of Accession shall become a significant event as the first major step of our organization. May this occasion serve as the impetus for the Hongwanji to effectively cope with the changing times while upholding the traditional religious values based on Amida Tathagata's unconditional compassion. The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha administration is currently formulating new long-term plans in anticipation of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. We kindly request your active cooperation and participation.

Shaku Sennyō
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

伝灯奉告法要についての消息

去る平成26年6月6日、前門主の跡を承けて法統を継承し、本願寺住職ならびに浄土真宗本願寺派門主として務めてまいりました。ここに法統継承を仏祖の御前に奉告いたしますとともに、あわせて本願念仏のご法義の隆盛と宗門の充実発展とを期して、平成28年および29年に、伝灯奉告法要をお勤めすることになりました。

阿弥陀如来のご本願は、あらゆる存在を分け隔てなくそのまま救おうとはたらきかけていただきます。迷いと苦悩をかかえる私たちは、阿弥陀如来のお慈悲ひとすじにこの身を任せ、真実のさとりの世界であるお浄土にうまれていくべき身にならせていただきます。宗祖親鸞聖人が「そらごとたわごと」とお示くださった私たち自身を含む迷いの世界は、何一つとしてたよりになるものはありませんが、ご本願のはたらきの中に生きる私たちは、確かな依りどころを持つことができます。

科学技術の発達による便利で豊かな生活の追及や欲望の肥大化はとどまることを知りませんが、人々は、そのような豊かさのみを追求することの虚しさに気づきはじめていたのではないのでしょうか。しかも、核家族化・人口の流動化などによって社会構造は大きく変化し、人間関係は希薄となり新たな悩みや不安を生み出しています。さらに世界に眼を移せば、武力紛争、経済格差、気候変動、核物質の拡散など、人類の生存に関わる課題が露呈しています。これらの傾向は今後一層強くなっていくことと思います。

私たちは、凡愚のまま摂め取って捨てないと働き続けていくくださる阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を聞信させていただき、その有り難さ尊さを一人でも多くの方に伝えることが大切です。それとともに仏智に教え導かれて生きる念仏者として、山積する現代社会の多くの課題に積極的に取り組んでいく必要があります。まさにこのような営みの先にこそ、「自他共に心豊かに生きることのできる社会の実現に貢献する」道が拓かれていくのでありましょう。

このたびのご法要が、親鸞聖人によって明らかにされた阿弥陀如来の救いのはたらきに依りながら、時代の変化に対応する宗門の新たな第一歩として意義を持つものでありたいと思います。宗門では、親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年に向けて新たな長期計画が策定されます。皆様の積極的なご協力とご参画を心からお願いいたします。

平成27年

2015年1月16日

龍谷門主 釈専如

BTSA Notes

The spring chow mein supper may be history by the time you are reading this, but if the past is any indicator, it would have been another sellout that helps mightily to underwrite the operation of the temple. Full details will be noted in the next Hikari, but for now, thanks to everyone who volunteered for this major undertaking.

Thanks to Judy Takaguchi who took on the coordinating, with Jan Okamura's assistance, and to all the members for giving up their Saturday to assure a smooth-operation on May Day. Incidentally, it was the first time BTSA held this event on a Sunday.

It's always a lot of grunt work, we all know, but the demanding labor is often tempered by good-natured joshing, prattle and gossip. It does, in my mind, reflect much of the spirit of the Six Paramitas we're so used to reciting at our Sunday services. Thanks very much everyone.

May continues the theme of India with the scheduled showing of the award-winning film, "Gandhi", as the feature of our Movie Night. Please check out the ad for the showing on May 7 at 10 a.m. at the Movie Mill elsewhere, along with a report of the India night presentation on Apr. 14. A rewarding number of people turned out for that event.

The major celebration of April, of course, was Hanamatsuri on Apr. 3. It was heart-warming to see such a large turnout for the commemoration of the birth of the Buddha. Please look over some of the photos from that key Jodo Shinshu holiday, one of three in our year.

April also was the month for the annual general meeting of our parent organization, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and the Woman's Federation. The meetings were held Apr. 23 and 24 in Winnipeg, with the Manitoba Buddhist Temple as host. We have reports in this Hikari; please check them out to see what the national organizations discussed.

Some maintenance items to report include repainting of the parking lot auto lines to make sure drivers know where to park, and a continuing board consideration of a restored temple sign east of the building. Both were fresh in 2009 when we dedicated the temple, but had gotten worn in the intervening years. The line painting has been completed, but the board is still considering a quote for a new sign.

The board also agreed to an honoraria guideline for guest speakers. Based upon past events and allowing for flexibility, honoraria will be in Canadian or American funds depending on the location from where the speaker originates: Obon, which includes graveside service and a short talk and Sunday service and talk with two days of travel, \$300; three-day weekend commitments, e.g., Alberta Buddhist Conference, \$500; University of Lethbridge-related visitor, such as a Numata Chair speaker, \$200 Cdn; speaker with no ministerial duties, \$200; community speakers, \$100; and sessional speakers at events such as the Genki Desu-ka program, \$20 gift certificates and chocolates or similar items.

The foregoing will be helpful, but will be revisited occasionally to insure their appropriateness.

Akira Ichikawa

Report from 2016 JSBTC-WF AGM

It is always nice to renew acquaintances from across Canada, exchange ideas, enjoy good food and reinvigorate ourselves. That's what the JSBTC-WF AGM is all about.

Activities since the last AGM:

We sent a unique quilt (with red maple leaves, sheep (for the year of the sheep) and ladybugs (symbolizing luck and abundance)) to Akiko-sama (the Gomonshu and his wife's new daughter). A picture of the quilt will be displayed in the multi-purpose room.

2015 - Dana day funds, in the amount of \$1,500 each, were distributed as follows: Global Medic (medical support for disaster events), Food Banks Canada and Breakfast Club of Canada. Thank you notes were received from all of the recipients.

2016 - Dana day funds for next year will be in the amount of \$2,000 each to the Children's Wish Foundation and Food Banks of Canada.

The used stamps collected across Canada were valued at \$200, increased by a federal government grant to \$800. The proceeds were forwarded to the Save the Children Fund which provided education assistance for four girls and four orphans as well as supplying baby chicks and pigs to their families to provide a source of protein and income.

2015 Sustaining fund proceeds were used for Rev Endo's English Class (\$590) and Robert Gubenko's Kaikyoshi training (\$4,000).

Youth Funds - \$3,341 is available. Temples should encourage their youth to apply for these funds to attend the Japan youth tour and other youth activities.

The WF membership dues going forward will be \$15 (including the fundraising component).

JSBTC-WF Board for 2016

Chair - Lori North

Vice Chair - Phyllis Ohashi

Treasurer - Myra Takasaki

Recording Secretary - Adara Kaita

Corresponding Secretary - Sara Clark

Board Member without portfolio - Lucy Yoshioka

The 2017 AGM will be held in Toronto. This will also be the 35th anniversary of the JSBTC Women's Federation.

Submitted by Donna Dubbelboer

SPRING CHOW MEIN SUPPER & SHOTSUKI

The spring chow mein supper will likely have occurred by the time you are reading the May Hikari as it was scheduled for the first day of the month.

Since the supper was on a Sunday, the regular monthly memorial for May was pushed back a week to May 8. If you are observing shotsuki for the month, please visit the temple then.

A report on the supper will appear in the June issue.

BTSA Hosts Numata Speaker



David Loy, the Numata chair designate at the University of Calgary from January to April of this year, addressed a special BTSA lecture on Mar. 30 entitled "Why the Modern World and Buddhism Need Each Other."

In his talk, Dr. Loy referred to the desirability of a blending of the West's primary contribution of social transformation and the Buddhist idea of individual self-awakening and dukka (suffering) to address various problems in economics and ecology facing the modern world.

He was in Lethbridge as a guest of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Lethbridge where he gave several talks. His presence at our temple was a courtesy extended by Prof. John Harding of the Department.

For those interested in the gist of his presentation, a transcript of his original article--slightly different from the temple talk--may be seen at: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/buddhistethics/files/2013/09/Loy-Why-Buddhism-final.pdf>

There also are several You Tube versions of his talk on the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-V30oc2SA4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1e7Zysfkj0>

Remembrances of India Slideshow

About 60 persons turned out Apr. 14 for a slideshow at the temple of a recent tour of India. The evening was hosted by the temple members who were part of a two-week tour from late January through mid-February.

Roland Ikuta, John Dubbelboer, Sylvia Oishi and Jim Tsukishima narrated as slides were shown in the hondo, along with a video produced by Jerry Takeda who went on the tour from the Kelowna Buddhist Temple. Other BTSA tourists were Joyce Adachi and her sister, Jayne; Brenda Ikuta; Donna Dubbelboer, and Sumie Tsukishima.

Following the presentation, everyone was treated to samosa, an Indian pastry, Indian tea and other snacks.

Thanks to all who put together this pleasant evening, and for offering such an insightful view of India, including prominent landmarks associated with the historic Buddha.



CHAIR SCHEDULE May & June 2016

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

May 01

Spring Chow Mein Supper
(Formal service suspended)

May 08 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

May 15

Chair: Val Boras
Audio: Ross Jacobs

May 22

Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Tak Okamura

May 29

Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Jun 05 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Sway Nishimura
Audio: Tak Okamura

Jun 12

Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Jun 19 ANNUAL PICNIC,

John Martin Centre
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Jun 26

Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Ross Jacobs

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.

Dharma class MCs may assist or take the place of those assigned. This will be prearranged.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. Do I have to become a member of the BTSA to join its various activities?

A. I am often asked this question especially by new visitors to our temple. My response to them is "not necessarily." I do not think that any member will force new visitors to join the BTSA membership. But usually, I add, telling them that to become a member means to show directly or indirectly your willingness to support the dharma, the teachings of the Buddha. The BTSA is a group of the Sangha, a harmonious and friendly community to support the dharma of the nembutsu teaching. Therefore, I am sure that our members will be pleased and appreciate it if you join the Sangha. I recently attended the meeting of our national organization called Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada which was held in Winnipeg. We were told that our total number of membership across Canada is now less than 1450 which is a decrease of almost a half from 20 years ago. We need your support for the sake of the dharma. The wish of Master Shinran, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, the nembutsu Sangha, was "**May there be peace in the world, and Buddha's teaching spread!**" Please join our Sangha! We welcome you with open arms. (Y.I.)

The BTSA Dharma class will be hosting a light lunch after service on May 29 to celebrate and thank all parents and guardians on Parents Day. Please join us!

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays, 1:30pm

Our last gathering for the spring session will be May 11.

We will resume in the fall on Sept 7. Thank you!

Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

Taiko Class

Adult taiko, Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548 or david@albrio.com

Minyo dancers Tuesdays, 4:30pm

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

PROGRAMS

Spring Yoga runs April 6 through May 11 led by Val Kunimoto.

BTSA Children's Taiko continues every Sunday except when there are monthly memorial or special services. Taiko is after regular services, Dharma class and tea, usually at noon. Kynan Gordon leads these sessions which are open to the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bon Odori Practice

While still a month away, keep in mind that bon odori practice begins on June 6--a Monday--at 6:30pm and will continue for six weeks leading up to the event that will be held July 16 this year. Further details will be available in the June Hikari.

Dr. Aoki Public Lecture - May 26

Dr. Darren Aoki, whose parents John and Rita are BTSA members, will be speaking on his current research, entitled *Mukashi, Mukashi: Nikkei History in Southern Alberta After the War* at the **Galt Museum on May 26 at 7 p.m.**

His talk is based upon findings from a pilot project of oral history interviews assisted by the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area. It is a continuation of a talk he gave at the BTSA in 2013 that asked to imagine Nikkei history beyond the wartime persecution.

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 2** and special appreciation to Jim Tsukushima for coordinating and sharing his cooking skills for the Soup Kitchen lunch, along with the volunteers who came out to help in April. Hanamatsuri supper with the bingo following was deliciously enjoyed by everyone. As our numbers are few, we are fortunate to have those that always come out when they can, whether to organize, prepare and serve special meals. care for the monthly tasks and/or serve cookies and tea. Thank you!

Toban Schedule:

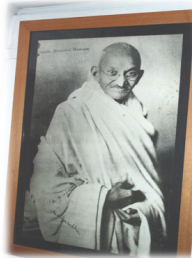
May Toban 3 July Toban 3

June Toban 4 Aug Toban 2

Soup Kitchen: May 18, Lilly Oishi & June 22, Toban 3

Contact 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail

Movie Night at the Temple GHANDI



Directed by Richard Attenborough
Starring Ben Kingsley
Winner of 8 Academy Awards in 1982
Running time 188 minutes

- Saturday, May 7
- 10:00 AM
- The Movie Mill, 1710 Mayor Magrath Dr South
- Concession will be open

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Do you like birds? Have you ever seen a woodpecker? I'd like to tell you a story about a woodpecker.

There was a woodpecker who pecked away at the top of one of the largest and tallest trees in the forest. How large was the tree? It took five children, holding hands, with outstretched arms, to surround the trunk of the tree! How tall was it? The tree was as tall as five tall men standing on another's shoulders! Everyday, the woodpecker pecked at that tree. That was his job. He actually wanted to take down the tree. One day, the large tree he was pecking suddenly fell. He cried out telling all the other birds and animals in the forest, "Look every one, I fell the tree! I did it all by myself! I am the greatest and strongest in the forest. No one can beat me!" He was not aware, however, that on that day the woodcutter was far, far down, working at the base of the tree. On that day, the woodcutter had been working hard, from early in the morning, chopping away, dripping with sweat, in order to cut down the tree. When we accomplish something, let's remember this story. No one accomplishes anything by themselves. There is always someone who has helped us in some way. We shouldn't be like the foolish woodpecker, right? (Y.I.)



Toban 2 looked after Lethbridge Soup Kitchen duties Apr. 6, preparing a casserole under Jim Tsukushima's supervision. Nearly 100 lunches were served with the ground beef, potatoes, yogurt and tomato sauce casserole drawing a number of patrons returning for refills.

Turning out to help were, from left, Akira Ichikawa, Totsy Nishimura, Irene Sakamoto, Judy Takaguchi, Betty Tanaka, Sway Nishimura, Mitsuko Shigehiro, Robert Takaguchi, Mary Shigehiro, Eichi Tanaka, Jim Tsukushima, Joe Shigehiro, and Tom Shigehiro.

2016 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 BSA 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 27: 180

Hanamatsuri Donations

April 2016

Eiko Aoki
 Rita Ritsuko & John Aoki
 Eietsu Chiba
 J & E Cozac
 John & Donna Dubbelboer
 Ayako Endo
 Judy Fukushima
 Jim & Atsuko Hagihara
 Chiduka Hamabata
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Shirley Higa
 Neil Hinatsu
 Marie Hirashima
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Toshimi & Marian Ibuki

Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
 Roland & Brenda Ikuta
 Christopher & Yumi Johnson
 S. Sue Kado
 Tom & Lily Kaga
 Eleanor Katakami
 Akiko Kimoto
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Marvin & Sharon Koizumi
 Dave & Val Kunimoto
 Eileen Kunimoto
 Allan & Lillian Leavens
 Kay or Don Matsuda
 Kinuko Matsuno
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Abigail McMeekin
 Kiyoshi & Marion Mori
 William T. & Setsuko Nagai

Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 May Nishikawa
 Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
 Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
 Mitsuko Oga
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
 Ken Ohno
 Kimiko Ohno
 Randy Ohno
 Arlene Oishi
 Heidi Oishi
 Lilly Oishi
 Sheila Oishi
 Sylvia Oishi & Terry Hanna
 Tak & Jan Okamura
 Setsuko Okuma
 Evelyn Osaka

Yumiko Osaka
 Jagjit & Jeet Panesar
 Hisae Price
 Darcee Richardson
 Tadanori & Chieko
 Sakaguchi
 Irene Sakamoto
 Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Craig & Sachi Scharf
 Florence Senda
 Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro
 Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor
 Van Sluys
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Tomiko Shono
 Emily Stitt
 Fumi Sugimoto
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
 Kazuko Takaguchi
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
 Toshiko Takeda
 David & Linda Tanaka
 Eichi & Betty Tanaka
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Keith & Jane Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Tammy Tanaka
 Toshiko Tanaka
 Masaru & Ayako Taniguchi
 Sam & Betty Taniguchi
 Shirley Taniguchi
 Bill & June Terakita
 Akira Terashima
 Clifford & Mary Thomas
 George Tokuda
 Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
 Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
 Jim Tsukishima
 Wayne & Amy Tsukishima
 Marlene Wiest
 Minoru Yoshida
Total \$6,835

Shotsuki Donations

April 2016
 Dorene Gordon
 Nadine Hamabata
 Tomi Hisaoka
 Esther Kanegawa
 Stan & Audrey Kanegawa
 Stuart Kanegawa
 Marvin & Sharon Koizumi

Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Jim & Joan Nakagawa
 Teiji Nakamura
 Mitsuko Oga
 Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
 Ken Ohno
 May Ohno
 Joyce Oishi
 Sheila Oishi
 Sut & Neva Oishi
 Irene Sakamoto
 Janice Sasaki and Rob Luck
 Roy & Pat Sassa
 Craig & Sachi Scharf
 Fumi Sugimoto
 Harry Sugimoto
 Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
 Kazuko Takaguchi
 Glen & Pam Tanaka
 Masaye Tanaka
 Clifford & Mary Thomas
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
 Keiko Tsukishima
 Marlene Wiest
Total \$1,700

Other Donations

April 2016
 Anonymous Cash Donor
 Rachael Crowder
 Chiduka Hamabata
 Shirley Higa
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Gene & Shannon Kawade
 Michie Kawasaki
 Hiroshi Kitagawa
 Takeshi Koyata
 Lethbridge Karaoke Club
 Lethbridge Oldtimer's Sports Assn.
 Shig & Katie Nakagawa
 Tsutomu Stony Nakano
 Arlene Oishi
 Yumiko Osaka
 Jaglit S. & Jeet Panesar
 Ken & Nancy Setoguchi
 Tomiko Shono
 Reiko Takeyasu
 Sumie Tsukishima
Total \$2,855

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.

HANAMATSURI 2016

The temple hondo was crowded Apr. 3 during BTSA's annual hanamatsuri service, held in conjunction with the monthly memorial service for April. An estimated 200 persons were in attendance on a beautiful spring afternoon to commemorate the birth of the historic Buddha.

An infant presentation ceremony preceded the actual service, with two youngsters and their parents welcomed officially by Izumi sensei. Following the kanbutsu (bathing the statue of the baby Buddha with sweet tea), the BTSA choir performed three pieces--"Hana", "Reflection" and "Sakura." Izumi sensei gave dharma talks to the children, then to those in the hondo after the children were excused.

Following the service, Dharma class children and others provided various performances on the piano, violin, cello and a dialog. Thereafter, gifts were presented to all the children in attendance, concluding the joyous birthday memorial.

The day's festivities were capped with a reception/meal at which time "Happy Birthday" was sung by a cake prepared for the occasion.



Infant presentation ceremony



Children at the hanamido.



The choir performs three numbers



Listening to the choir



Sensei speaks to the children



Sophie playing Bach



Birthday cake for Buddha



Attendees enjoying supper

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada AGM

April 21-24, 2016

SUMMARY

The 2016 AGM was hosted by Manitoba Buddhist Temple in their newly renovated building. The AGM was observed by special invited guests, the Vice President of Buddhist Churches of America, Gary and Karen Mukai. Kent McCarl, Kelowna Buddhist Temple, joined the Board. Highlights of the AGM are included below. Delegates had the opportunity to tour the amazing Canadian Museum for Human Rights. They were also privileged to hear Dharma talks by Miyakawa Sensei and Martin Sensei. Newest minister, Yoshimichi Ouchi Sensei, assigned to Toronto Buddhist Church, demonstrated his skills with a gagaku instrument, the hichiriki. Delegates of the JSBTC AGM joined the congregation in commemorating Manitoba Buddhist Temple's 70th Anniversary. We enjoyed a wonderful banquet at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Center showcasing local cuisine. Sunday Service included a Shotsuki (memorial) Service with special reflections on the recently deceased resident minister, Sensei Michael Hayashi. Aoki Socho provided a Japanese sermon and Ikuta Sensei gave an English sermon. This was a productive and enlightening weekend. Many thanks to the Manitoba Buddhist Temple for their fantastic hospitality! Toronto Buddhist Church is confirmed as the site of the 2017 AGM; Calgary Buddhist Temple is confirmed for the 2018 AGM.

BISHOP'S REPORT

- Hongwanji intends to develop an international office outside of Japan probably in the US.
- Ouchi Sensei, has been assigned to Toronto Buddhist Church; he will be completing kaikyoshi this summer.
- Socho has negotiated with BCA to reserve 2 spots in their correspondence course for Canadian candidates.
- Socho will be emphasizing spreading the Dharma. He would like to offer workshops in conjunction with visits to the various Temples.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- 2015 was the first time JSBTC submitted under the new CRA criteria
- WF Convention moved us out of the criteria (donations under \$10,000, after which you become a soliciting agency, and revenue under \$250,000, after which you need an audit)
- 2016 is anticipated to be below the criteria
- WF and Ministers Retirement Fund will be amalgamated but remain on discrete lines
- The Board called a special meeting of temple delegates by teleconference to approve the audited financial statements as soon as they are available: June 22, 6 pm BC time; request that the 2016 AGM delegates attend to simplify the process
- The Temple Assessments increased from \$70 to \$80 for regular members, and from \$15 to \$25 for student members for the year 2016.
- Board asked to make a 5 year plan to allow individual temples to make better forecasts
- Change in Investment Advisors: Alec Pelletier has changed positions: Omar Duric and Paul Shipton of Hollis Wealth will be providing JSBTC with investment advice.
- Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF)
- In 2015 the income the trust earned from its investment in Mawer

was \$17,004.40.

- Distribution of 85% of the income: \$14,453.74 was divided equally between Rev. Fujikawa and Rev. Ulrich.
- Working with the JSBTC board to bring the trust in compliance with Canadian Revenue Agency.
- Board is trying to find ways of raising more funds for the MRF

MA REPORT

- The MA is moving into a time of healing.
- With the loss of Rev. Michael Hayashi to cancer, Rev. Ikuta was asked by to take over as the Ministerial Association Chairperson on an interim basis until the 2016 AGM
- Dismissal of Rev. Ryuhei Endo by the Toronto Buddhist Church has been very difficult for the membership of the temple and has created a rift within the ministerial association.
- Rev. Christina Yanko has been greatly affected and had to take a six week medical leave of absence from the middle of March.

Full time Bishop Report was accepted:

- At the 2015 JSBTC AGM, participants at the Shared Bishop Alternatives Workshop unanimously agreed in principle in favour of a Full-Time Bishop and to evaluate the feasibility of a full-time Bishop position. A national committee with representatives from the Ministerial Association, the JSBTC Board and all of temples except for Montreal and Kamloops was formed to evaluate the feasibility of a full-time Bishop for the JSBTC and held monthly teleconferences from July, 2015 through to March, 2016

The committee:

- o Reviewed the workload for a bishop to determine whether a full time bishop position was warranted,
- o Studied the cost estimate for a full-time bishop and compared it to the cost of a part-time bishop, and
- o Examined the funding options to support a full-time bishop.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The committee was able to determine that the workload associated with Bishop's office warranted a Full-Time Bishop and the cost of supporting of Full-Time Bishop would be approximately \$160,000 annually plus inflation.
2. The committee identified a range of funding options that should be further examined in sufficient detail to recommend a realistic funding strategy that could be implemented by all parts of the organization.
3. At this juncture, the committee recommends that JSBTC delegates take the opportunity at the 2016 AGM to reconfirm their desire for a Full-Time bishop given the additional information which was not available at the 2015 workshop on the validity of the workload and the estimated cost to support the position.
4. During the course of the study, the committee became aware of important and unanticipated changes to the JSBTC. First, Reverend Hayashi, a committee member and resident minister of Manitoba passed away. Secondly, Reverend Endo of Japan vacated his position at the Toronto Buddhist Temple. These unfortunate actions left the JSBTC with two unplanned ministerial vacancies. The committee recognizes that seeking replacement ministers for these vacancies as well as planning for future ministerial departure must take priority.

5. The Committee recommends that the position of the Part-Time Bishop continue as long as necessary (Reverend Aoki's term as Bishop ends April 30, 2017) subject to the decision of the AGM until such time as a sound method to fund Full-Time Bishop position is determined, and a resolution is passed at an AGM to approve and implement it.

Living Dharma Center

- Dharma School Resources
 - o Dharma School Leaders closed Facebook group has been running for over a year
 - o Focus on sharing learning materials for preschool through young adulthood.
- 110th Anniversary Essay Project on "Gratitude"
 - o Essays are posted on the national website from lay leaders, ministers and past ministers of the JSBTC
 - o Links to the Facebook site (Living Dharma Centre), Twitter (@livingthedharma) and various JSBTC temple Facebook pages
 - o Have seen an increase in visits to the website and more national and international followers on the Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - o Because of its success the project will continue into 2016
 - o If you are interested in writing an article on Gratitude please contact Amy Wakisaka (wakisaka.a@gmail.com)
- NorthWest Conference Subsidy
 - o Encouraging members (or child of members) of the JSBTC to attend Jodo Shinshu conferences where they may learn more about the Dharma, become more engaged and enthused with the Dharma and to return to their home temples to help spread the teachings and invigorate their local Sangha
 - o LDC would like to encourage participation with travel subsidies to qualified applicants
- Ottawa Fellowship
 - o Recently there has been encouraging growth in attendance in Ottawa and the LDC subsidized some of the costs to send a minister to Ottawa to teach their Sangha about Jodo Shinshu rituals and practices as well as presenting an introductory Buddhism lecture.
- Kelowna Buddhist Temple's Dharma Door
 - o LDC subsidized the purchase of much of the initial stock of books for the Dharma Door.
 - o Kelowna bookstore has over 100 titles which are about different traditions of Buddhism as well as specific books on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.
 - o The bookstore is advertised publicly and is successful as a non-threatening introduction to the temple.
 - o It has drawn in many people from the greater community and is staffed by wonderful volunteers.
- The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC)
 - o Extremely popular two year on-line course taught through the Center for Buddhist Education and the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California.
 - o It's the main starting point for many who are interested in lay leadership, Dharma School leaders and Minister's Assistants.
 - o Enrollment is restricted to 15 – 20 people per year; registration is on a first come, first served basis; fills up almost immediately when registration opens.
 - o Bishop Aoki has successfully negotiated for two or three spots for qualified Canadian lay leaders
 - o Currently LDC is subsidizing five individuals in different stages of the two year study (subsidy is approximately half the cost of tuition)

o Applicants must complete a questionnaire, secure a letter of recommendation from their local minister or temple president and write an essay based on one of several topics.

"Sharing Temples Resources and Successes"

Kelowna:

o Shared successes with their Dharma Door and Introduction to Buddhism classes

Manitoba:

o Highlighted how their congregation has rallied despite their loss of Sensei Hayashi. Although they have reduced their services to once a month Shotsuki Service, they have 70-90 people attending these services and their members are much more active in participating in the service and finding creative ways of hearing the Dharma.

Steveston:

o Talked about the effects of a congregation working together to organize a significant event

Vancouver:

o Outlined a new 5 week introduction to Buddhism course they have started with successful outcomes

o Described their weekly evening gatherings "Dharma Circle" which includes a short service, walking meditation, chanting and discussion

Vernon:

o Discussed the importance of providing a consistent opportunity to be a part of the Sangha: their New Years Day service was started 15 years ago with just a few families and has grown to 70 people with the last celebration.

Fraser Valley:

o Has begun to offer a series of programs to anyone interested based on religious programming commercially available (e.g. DVDs on comparative religion)

Hamilton:

o Have sold their Temple but continue to meet at the Japanese Culture Center

o Discussed the importance of opportunities to interact after service and engage newcomers

o Offer Meditation and Mindfulness workshops/weekly evening Sangha gatherings based on "Heart of the Buddha's Teachings"

Toronto:

o Introduced their updated website: TBC.ON.CA

o Newcomers can request to be greeted on the website and a member of the welcoming committee will meet them at the Temple on the date arranged, provide a tour, an introduction to service, and introduction to Temple members

o The welcome video was done professionally and has been well received

BTSA:

o Described work on the Member Survey and Board Retreat

Submitted in gratitude,
Brenda Ikuta



MAY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY 1-5pm Chow Mein Supper 1	2	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 3	9 & 10:30am Spring Yoga 1:30pm Karaoke 4	5	6	10am "Gandhi" at Movie Mill* 7
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* Open Discussion group 8	9	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 10	9 & 10:30am Spring Yoga 1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board 11	12	1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit* 13	9am Mindfulness Meditation 14
10:30am Gotan-e Service* (Master Shinran Birthday) 12pm Child & Youth Taiko 15	16	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 17	9am Soup Kitchen Toban 2* 18	19	20	21
10:30am Regular Service* 12pm Child/Youth Taiko 22	23	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 24	25	26	27	10am Exploring Buddhism* 28
10:30am Parents Day Service* 29	30	31				

JUNE: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						10am Exploring Buddhism* 4
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* 5	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 6	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 7	7pm BTSa Board* 8	9	1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit* 10	10am Exploring Buddhism* 11
10:30am Regular Service* 12pm Child/Youth Taiko 12	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 13	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 14	15	16	17	10am Exploring Buddhism* 18
10:30am Annual BTSa Picnic* 19	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 20	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 21	22	23	24	10am Exploring Buddhism* 25
10:30am Regular Service* 12pm Child/Youth Taiko 26	6:30pm Bon Odori Practice 27	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 28	29	30		