



November 2017

Strive to enter through the narrow door. (Luke 13-24)



There are at least two major differences between a Christian Church and a Buddhist Temple in terms of building structures. The first difference is the roof. Traditionally speaking, the roof of a Christian Church is very high and a steeple points upward toward the sky or the direction of where heaven is believed to be. The Christian god is called the Heavenly God. God is always above. Christians seem to wish to be born in heaven, above them, where their god resides. So, the idea of Christianity is vertical.

On the other hand, the idea of Buddhism is horizontal. The roof of a Buddhist temple gently stretches outward to four corners meaning that the compassion of all Buddhas embraces all sentient beings. Buddha is everywhere in ten directions which we call "jippo". We chant Sanbujo, three invitations to Amida Buddha, to the historical Buddha and then to all Buddhas, all Tathagatas of the Ten Directions to enter this Dojo, the main hall of the temple.

The second difference is the entrance. The entrance of a Christian church is usually narrow. The Bible says: Strive to enter through the narrow door. A narrow door suggests that a firm and strong belief in God or Jesus as savior is required of all Christians. In other words, not everyone

will be able to be born in heaven, the entrance to heaven is opened only to those who strive to pass through the narrow door, only to those who knock on the narrow door.

By contrast, the entrance to a Buddhist temple is wide. This indicates that the Buddha's compassion welcomes and accepts all beings with no discrimination. The door is always open for us before we ask and knock on it. It is the nature of Buddha's compassion. Buddha's compassion is unconditional.

There is no "If". "If you knock, I will open the door. If you seek, I will respond." No! In Buddha's compassion there is no "Ifs". Thus, the Buddha does not expect our self-power to open the door of the Pure Land. Master Shinran said: self power characterizes those who have full confidence in themselves, trusting in their own hearts and minds, striving with their own powers, and relying on their own various roots of good. To open Buddha's world we do not need to strive because it has been always opened for us and accepted us as we are.

What is important for us is to listen and hear deeply Amida's heart, Amida's unconditional compassionate Vow. We hear that the door of the Pure Land is always opened for us. Amida Buddha does not require anything of or from us. Amida Buddha does not say, "You must do this or that, otherwise the door of the Pure Land does not open". We hear that the realm of Buddha has been ready for us. We naturally respond in the nembutsu, namo amida butsu in gratitude.

Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

晩秋

一日が急に短くなった感じがです。同じ一日ですが、朝七時ごろでもまだ薄暗く、午後五時には暗くなります。それでデイトライティングというシステムが生まれました。時間を人間が便利のように調節するわけです。ところが、一部の人には、それは便利でない、という意見もあります。今のところ、大部分の人には便利である、ということでアルバータ州ではこのシステムが、「今のところ」受け入れられています。人間の都合ですることは、人間の都合で変わります。人間には、先を見通し、判断する知恵はありません。原子炉、ガソリンで走る車、コンピューター、プラスチックバッグも便利です。しかし弊害もどンドン出ています。人間の便利と都合で動いている社会は、まことに不完全です。

親鸞聖人は、この不完全性を、ご自身の中に見られました。そして、時と場所を超えて変わる事のない、「智慧の念仏」という光を、ご自分の人生の支えとして、強く、明るく、心豊かに生きられたのであります。

合掌。 南アルバータ仏教会開教使 泉康雄



BTSA Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi
403.382.7024 • yasuo123@shaw.ca
470-40 St S • Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5
403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

Nov 11 Temple Ground-Breaking 10 Years Ago

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the 2007 temple ground-breaking ceremony, we're reminded of the Buddhist teaching that everything changes and nothing remains unchanged. Observing the temple neighborhood today truly exemplifies that simple lesson, although the external changes over the years seem only to reinforce changes in each of us.

Most of the empty space when we broke ground has filled in so much so that we no longer have a direct view of 43rd Street or unobstructed ones of the casino and the few other structures that predated the temple.

The ground-breaking was held on a crisp, bright Remembrance Day morning, the wind-up event of the Alberta Buddhist Conference that year. Those shovelling into the hard November earth were then-MLA Bridget Pastoor of Lethbridge East; then-Socho Rev. Orai Fujikawa of JSBTC; Izumi sensei, BTSA minister; BTSA President David Major; architect Robert Hirano; and Kingo Sakamoto of Wesbridge Construction, the builders.

Look over some of the comparative photos of the area to get a sense of the life of change close at hand. The most recent nearby example of impermanence is the construction going on in the last open space in the area just to the west in front of the temple.



Aug. 2, 2007 - Temple site on 40th Street. The white building is McDonald Nissan, a point of reference.



Nov 11, 2007 - Ground Breaking; McDonald Nissan partially circled. Good view of the west end of the casino building. (David Tanaka photo)



Oct. 12, 2017 photo of approximate ground-breaking site (McDonald Nissan circled). No sign of the casino.



Apr. 30, 2008 looking northeast with Quality Inn in sight; Sept 23, 2017 - similar view with new building on the corner of 40th Street that obscures the Inn.

In May, 2008, 43rd Street is clearly visible; by Oct. 14, 2017, eastside of 40th Street is fully filled.



On Aug 8, 2008 the casino is visible to the north; but by Oct. 23, 2017, the AMA building that opened in 2014 hides the casino so only the high point of the roof is slightly noticeable.



Oct. 12, 2017 - Most recent development west of temple (visible between sign and shovel). Among the last open spaces in the temple area.

CHAIR SCHEDULE November & December 2017

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

Nov 05 SHOTSUKI
Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeff Wilson
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Ross Jacobs

Dec 03 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Nov 12
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: Tak Okamura

Dec 10
Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Dec 17 & 24 No Service

Nov 19
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Dec 31 JOYA NO KANE
11:30 p.m.
New Year's Eve at
Nikka Yuko Garden
(weather permitting)

Nov 26
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Sway Nishimura

BTSA at Life Balance Fair



Izumi sensei drew many visitors to the BTSA exhibit table by writing their names in Japanese katakana characters in sumi ink during the University of Lethbridge Life Balance Fair Oct. 25.

BTSA--which appeared to be the only religious organization--participated for the second year in a row at the Fair which was held in conjunction with Canada's Healthy Workplace Month of October. It was aimed at University staff and students to "explore ways to finding balance in their personal and professional lives."

Roland and Akira joined sensei at the table and helped distribute information about BTSA.

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. Is there any connection between the daruma doll and Buddhism?

A. Yes, there is. The daruma doll represents a real person whose name was Bodhidharma. He was a Buddhist monk in India, who lived in the 5th or 6th century.

There is an interesting story about the monk. Bodhidharma is said to travel to Shaolin monastery in China. The monastery is now known for the Shaolin martial arts. At any rate, after he was refused entry to the monastery, he lived in a nearby cave, where he faced a wall sitting for nine years for his awakening.

One day, a man in the village came to the cave and happened to see Bodhidharma from behind and misunderstood that his hands and legs had fallen from his long sitting. This is why Daruma dolls have no legs and no hands. Daruma doll symbolizes patience and constant endeavor.

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

Different. Same. Connected. Temporary.

You and I live on the prairies. We are not able to see the ocean from where we live. In order to see the ocean, we must drive 13 hours west to reach the Pacific Ocean. Or, if we drive east for 35 hours, we could reach the Atlantic Ocean. It's a long way to drive, isn't it?

This summer, a boy named Tom and his parents drove west and Tom saw the ocean for the first time. Yes, the Pacific Ocean! It was so vast, beautiful and shiny. The wind was blowing a little while Tom stood at the edge of the water. He stood there for a long time watching and enjoying the ocean. He saw many waves coming and going. While watching the waves, he learned five things. First, he learned that all waves are different – big, small, tall, short. Then he tasted the water, it was salty. So, the second thing he learned was that all ocean waves are made of the same thing. He again stood and watched the waves. He noticed the waves never separated. The third thing he learned was that all waves are interconnected. What Tom found was that all waves are different, but the same, and they're all connected. After awhile the wind stopped. There were no more waves. The fourth thing Tom learned was that waves are temporary. Tom stood at the edge of the Pacific Ocean and the fifth thing he realized was that waves are just like human beings. Different. Same. Connected. Temporary. Tom learned a lot on his trip and thought, "What a great trip!" (Y. I.)

ILLUSTRATION: DEBBI BING

Guest Speaker Series: *Jeff Wilson*

"Refugee Shinran"

Saturday, November 4, 2017
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
 (470 - 40th Street South)

Open to the Public. Free admission. Refreshments after.

An exploration of how the specific events in the lives of Shinran and Rennyo led them to fashion Buddhist principles of radical welcome, and how this relates to the present world situation of refugees, homelessness, and social instability.

Dr. Jeff Wilson is a Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College, University of Waterloo. He is the author of "Mindful America" and "Buddhism of the Heart."

2017 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: 212

Shotsuki Hoyo

October 2017

John & Rita Aoki
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Lois Hinz
Rumiko Ibuki
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Setsuko Ohno
Sut & Neva Oishi
Doreen G. Osaka
Doug Osaka
Evelyn Osaka
Larry Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Harry Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Yoshio Taguchi

Barbara Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Cathy Taniguchi
David Taniguchi
Shirley Taniguchi
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Total - \$2,485.00

Other Donations

October 2017

CanadaHelps.Org
Choju Kai
Rachael Crowder
Chuta or Dennis Ebata
Norris Hironaka
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Eleanor Katakami
Wayne & Rhonda Kwan
David & Elizabeth Machida
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Yoko Nishimura
Setsuko Ohno

Heidi Oishi
Jagjit S. (Jack) & Jeet Panesar
Kazuko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Henry & Patricia Tanaka
Noel & Karen Thomas
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Total - \$3,598.02

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.

JSBTC Day Appeal

Just a reminder that we're still inviting donations for JSBTC Day that was officially on Oct. 11, memorializing its founding 112 years ago.

JSBTC requests BTSA donors to write cheques to BTSA in the first instance and to comply with the effective Canada Not-for-Profit Act by first counting the donations received and to receipt donors, then forwarding the proceeds with the list of names and addresses of the donors and the amounts donated.

BTSA will credit the donors and issue receipts at the end of the year that include the donations made to JSBTC on JSBTC Day. Please indicate "JSBTC Day" in the memo area of the cheque. JSBTC thanks all donors in advance for observing this procedure.

Chow Mein Supper Account

The fall chow mein supper on Oct. 15 grossed \$26,496.25 based on the sale of 2,100 tickets each at \$12, donations, and the sales of left-over suppers and foods. With total expenses at \$6,486.15, the net came to \$20,010.10, reported by Pat Sassa who coordinated the supper.

Our thanks to Pat and all the helpers for a fantastic undertaking. Everyone's help was deeply appreciated. Please see photos of the supper in a related article. A copy of the report will be posted at the temple bulletin board.

Thanks, too, for the kind donations from the following:

Fairfield Appliance - Glen Tanaka
Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw
Harwood Distributors - Jim Wallace
Hironaka Employees Benefits - Norris Hironaka
Wayne & Rhonda Kwan
Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama - pickles
R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama
Wesbridge Construction - Frank Beekman

Bodhi Bake and Craft Sale



**Saturday, December 2, 2017
1-3 p.m.**

Please consider donating...

BAKING

- It is greatly appreciated when items are brought between 9 am and noon to allow for pricing and setup.

CRAFTS

- Crafts can be dropped off in the Boardroom anytime before noon, December 2 to allow for pricing/setup.
- Please leave your name on the package and your contact information

YOUR TIME

- Mein making and other cooking and craft projects, Saturday sales, Bake Sale Committee

Interested in participating in this event?

**Contact: Brenda Ikuta at 403.317.0078
or rolikuti@shaw.ca**

**Thank you in advance for working together
to make this a successful FUNdraiser!*

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to **Toban 4** for overseeing October, to Pat Sassa for coordinating the Chow Mein supper and to all the hard working volunteers fulfilling the tasks to make it a success. **Toban 3** is up for November and **Toban 2** in December. A new cycle begins in January with **Toban 3**. The toban schedule is rotated differently yearly to assure that each toban does one of the three special services, held in January, April and July.

Soup Kitchen 2018

Friday, March 23	Toban 2
Monday, April 23	Toban 4
Wednesday, May 23	Toban 3
Wednesday, June 6	Lily's crew

Contact 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

REGULAR EVENTS

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays @ 1:30pm

Contact Nao 403.327.7357

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

Minyo Dance

Adult Beginners: Mondays @ 6-8 pm

Regular Minyo: Tuesdays @ 4-6 pm

Contact Pat Sassa for info: sas7@telus.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be making two different recipes of kaki-mochi for the Dec. 2 bake sale. We will have two shifts on Nov. 11th: 9am to noon and 1pm to 3. Anyone who is interested in helping and learning how to make this Japanese snack, please call me to sign up for one or both shifts. You will be given a batch to take home to dry in the oven and returned to the Temple so that we can weigh and bag it. You will be given a portion to keep. Please call Jan at 327-0464 to sign up for this project on Nov. 11, 2017. Thank you.

- Jan Okamura

Yoga classes to begin in January

We are extremely pleased to have Val Kunimoto back and leading yoga classes commencing on Tuesday, January 9th at the temple. Two one-hour classes will be offered, Gentle Beginning Yoga at 9:30 am and Gentle Restorative Yoga at 11 am, on Tuesdays January 9 - March 6 (excluding one Tues. in February TBA). Each class ends with a guided relaxation to counter the effects of stress and create stillness in the mind and body. Suggested donation for each 8 week session is \$40 for BTSA members and \$60 for the general community payable to BTSA the first day of class.

Gentle Restorative Yoga (11 am) This relaxation-focused class begins with simple breathing practices to develop a deeper awareness of the breath. It then moves from gentle warm-up stretches into the stillness of restorative yoga postures supported by props which release deeply held tension in the body's muscles and joints. All participants should be comfortable moving from sitting on the floor to standing to supine positions.

Gentle Beginning Yoga - "taking the next step" (9:30 am)

This class will guide students through the basics of yoga - simple breathing practices, gentle warm-up stretches, standing and balancing poses, gentle backbends, and various forward bends and twists. There will also be a few restorative poses introduced throughout the session. Each participant should work at their own pace, so modifications will be taught as needed.

Please contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com or 403-327-1668 to register.

Fall Chow Mein Supper Prep & Supper

Gearing up for the fall chow mein supper involved washing, cooking, and chopping, among other activities, a full day before in preparation for the event. Here's a selected crop of photos by John Dubbelboer and Akira Ichikawa.



Busy kitchen with numerous duties



Braising meat



Readying ribs



Chopping celery



Slicing onions



Preparing garnish



Time for a break

The day of the supper required final preparations to insure everything was in order to operate smoothly. Three assembly lines of workers put together the take-out dinners which were carefully place in plastic bags. As the customers lined up in their vehicles for the drive-thru, young runners carried bags of suppers out to the waiting motorists.



Wayne checking on the ribs



Val, Lisa and Deanna preparing rice



Tak getting ingredients for chow mein



Three lines filling suppers



Waiting to bag suppers



Glen and Ken by bagged suppers



Trent directing traffic



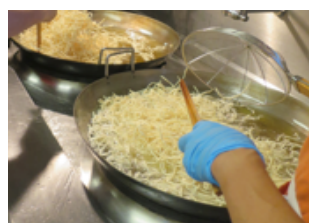
Runners: Myles (inset), Akeo, Asha, Lily, Devyn and Sam

Making Mein Noodles

A great turnout of members and Dharma friends enlivened the mein-making party Oct. 28 to produce bags of noodles for sale at the forthcoming Bodhi Bake and craft Sale on Dec. 2.

Thanks to everyone who put in hours of volunteer labor to make and bag the noodles, from cutting cakes of dough through several rounds of pressing dough, cutters them into noodles, deep-frying, cooling, bagging and weighing.

BTSA is deeply grateful to all those who gave up their Saturday to help the cause.





NOVEMBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY			1:30pm Karaoke		12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH	1pm Public lecture by Dr. Wilson*
			1	2	3	4
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 5	6pm Beginner Minyo 6	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 7	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 8	9	10	9am & 1pm Kakimochi Making* 11
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 12	6pm Beginner Minyo 13	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 14	1:30pm Karaoke 15	16	17	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 18
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 19	6pm Beginner Minyo 20	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 21	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 22	23	24	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 25
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 26	6pm Beginner Minyo 27	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo 28	1:30pm Karaoke 29	30		

DECEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					12pm Spiritual Care meeting at CRH* 1	1pm Bake & Craft Sale* 2
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* 2:30pm Memorial Service at CRH* 3	4	1pm Tonari Gumi 5	1:30pm Karaoke 6	7	8	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 9
10:30am Bodhi Day Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View* 10	11	1pm Tonari Gumi 12	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13	14	15	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 16
No Service 17	18	1pm Tonari Gumi 19	1:30pm Karaoke 20	21	22	23
No Service 24	MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018 10:30am New Year Service					11:30pm JOYA NO KANE Nikka Yuko Garden (weather permitting) 31
	25	26	27	28	30	