



November 2019

GRATEFULNESS

It is the everlasting and unchanging law of this world that everything is created by a series of causes and conditions and everything disappears by the same law; everything changes, nothing remains constant.



This is the truth of this world which the Buddha, Awakened One, discovered. I am not aware that major religions such as Christianity and Islam speak about this. When we hear

these words, we know and understand them intellectually and do not truly pay much attention. The words do not stay deep in our hearts and minds. When we are face to face with our own fragile nature of human life we, however, for the first time, pay attention to the words spoken by the Buddha. Yes, these words are for us, young and old alike who are actually living one day at a time.

There is a Japanese expression, *Fuu-zen-no-tomoshihi*, meaning our life is like a flame before winds. We do not know when and where the flame will be blown out. The great change we call death occurs anytime. It does not matter whether we are young or old. Our life is indeed fragile. And yet our life, a flame of life, is burning right here and now through many causes and conditions. Visible and invisible causes and conditions are supporting our life each moment and every day. This is something we should be aware of and grateful for and not be surprised or amazed. Nevertheless, we take it for granted. That is because of our self-centered view of life. Through the light of the Buddha we come to know that our life is indeed so unique and precious. Our self-centered view is transformed

like ice that is melted by the light of warm sunshine. We are thankful for our own life through the warmth of Buddha's wisdom and compassion.

Let me share my recent personal experience. A little over a month ago I was invited by the Manitoba Buddhist Temple in Winnipeg to speak. I had been tired with a poor appetite. After chanting Amida Sutra and reading a couple of passages I shared my Dharma talk. On that day I chose to speak at the floor standing right in front of the congregation. After about 20 minutes, I suddenly fainted. Luckily, a couple of members who were sitting in front of me rushed behind me to hold me. Of course, I don't remember this but was told later. I was unconscious for 3 or 4 seconds. When I regained consciousness, I was lying on the floor. It was an embarrassing moment for me. I borrowed a microphone and apologized about what happened and then finished my talk still lying on the floor. Paramedics came in and while they were treating me to take me to a nearby hospital, the congregation stood and started to sing *Ondokusan (Gratefulness)*, as they planned. Listening to their voices while lying on the floor with *gassho* I was so grateful. I was so thankful and grateful that Amida's Compassion always and constantly embraces me and never leaves me alone. In this world, as the Buddha said, everything changes and nothing remains unchanged. But, Amida's compassionate call—*namo amida butsu*—which is beyond time and space moves in this world for all self-centered sentient beings to constantly work, embrace and nurture us. The *nembutsu*, *namo amida butsu*, Amida's constant call in the world of change, enables us to live each day strongly and cheerfully in appreciation.

自分の思いを超えて

原稿を書いている今、10月の末に時速70キロの風が吹いています。南西の暖かい風がロッキーを超えて吹いているのです。これはシュヌックと呼ばれる風ですが、シュヌックは、もともと「雪を食う」という原住民の言葉です。ところがここ数日雪は全くありません。9月の末に60センチの雪が降りました。滅多にないことでした。シュヌックを期待しましたが、その時は吹きませんでした。普通、シュヌックが吹くと、かなりある雪も一晩で溶けるのです。この度のシュヌックは雪があるときに吹かず、雪のないときに吹いています。「アア。役立たない風だな」と思うのは自分勝手な思いです。人間が役立つ、役立たないという思いにかかわらず、吹く時には吹く、吹かないときには吹かない。自分の思いは役に立ちません。

お念仏(ナモアミダブツ)を自分の思いで動かそうとする人がいます。病気になってナモアミダブツ。困ったからナモアミダブツ。病気が治らないと、困ったままだつたりすると、お念仏など役に立たない、と決めてしまう人がいます。困ったままだろうが、病気が治るまいが、仏様の呼び声、ナモアミダブツは働いているのです。自分勝手な思いしか持てない私たちを超えて、しかも、いつでも、どこでも、どんなときにも私を包んでいて下さるのです。

合掌 泉康雄

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



SHOTSUKI DATE CHANGE

The December monthly memorial will be observed on the second Sunday—Dec. 8—in connection with Bodhi Day instead of the usual first Sunday.

CHAIR SCHEDULE November & December 2019

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

Nov 03 SHOTSUKI
Sheila Oishi

Nov 10
Kynan Gordon

Nov 17
John Dubbelboer

Nov 24
Jeff Haines

Dec 01
Akira Ichikawa

Dec 08 SHOTSUKI
Roland Ikuta

Dec 15
Seiji Hilgersom

Dec 22 & 29
No Service

Dec 31 (Tuesday) – Joya no Kane: 11:30 pm, New Year's Eve at Nikka Yuko Garden, weather permitting

October Shotsuki Lunch



About 80 members and friends attended the October shotsuki service and the lunch which followed, prepared by Toban 3. Thanks to them for the tasty foods they prepared the previous day and that morning.

Izumi sensei's dharma message likened our life to a flame before winds (Jpnese: fuu-zen no tomoshibi); we never know when it will be blown out. Unseen causes and conditions are supporting our life each moment, he said. He described his fainting during his dharma talk at the Manitoba Buddhist Temple where he had been invited as guest minister last month. Please check our his article on page one of this issue where he recounts his experience.

Fall Chow Mein SUPPER & PREP

A tremendous thanks to all the members and Dharma friends who helped out at the fall chow mein supper Oct. 20 (Sunday) and the previous preparation day. What a hectic, yet smooth, fundraiser by all those who turned out and handled so many different functions efficiently.

BTSA is truly fortunate, and grateful for everyone's cooperation and efforts to make the enterprise a pleasant and successful one.

Photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa



Preparing Lunch



Chow Mein Meat



Cutting Celery



Slicing Onions



Pot of Ribs

Preparation Day: Oct. 19 (Saturday)

Supper Day (Sunday)



Busy Kitchen



Chow Mein Supper



Sold Out



Three lines operating



Youth Meeting Customers



Cleaning

Brief Balance Sheet indicates as follows:

Total Receipts*	\$32,501
Total Expenses	\$7,367.70
Net	\$25,133.30

(*Includes tickets sold, monetary donations and sales of remaining dinners and foodstuff.)

BTSA thanks donors who donated money, foodstuff and services:

Fairfield Appliances – Glen Tanaka
 Gouw's Quality Onions – Casey and Kyle Gouw
 Hironaka Employees Benefits – Norris Hironaka
 Wayne and Rhoda Kwan
 R. Nakagama Co. – Ken and Vicky Nakagama
 South Country Co-op, Taber – Rod Yokoyama
 Taber Transport – Kei Nishida
 Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama – dill pickles
 Wesbridge Construction

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.: _____ Cell: _____

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 Oct. 18 – 187

Shotsuki Donations
 October 2019

- John & Rita Aoki
- Malcolm & Mary Clewes
- John & Donna Dubbelboer
- Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
- Shirley Higa
- Neil Hinatsu
- Lois Hinz
- Brian & Hisako Johnson
- Eleanor Katakami
- Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
- Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
- Ken & Vickie Nakagama
- Shig & Katie Nakagawa
- Setsuko Ohno
- Heidi Oishi
- Doreen G. Osaka
- Doug Osaka
- Evelyn Osaka
- Kay Osaka
- Larry Osaka
- Yumiko Osaka
- Hisae Price
- Ayumi Sawada
- Yoshiko Sawada
- Sachi Scharf
- Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
- Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro

- Tomiko Sugimoto
 - Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 - Fuji Takeda
 - Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 - Jim, Marion or Shannon Tomiyama
 - Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 - Tak & Yoko Tsujita
- Total – \$1,555**

Other Donations
 October 2019

- Choju Kai
- Rumiko Ibuki
- Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
- Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
- Richard & Suyeko Kanegawa
- Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
- Shig & Katie Nakagawa
- Kimino Nishi
- Heidi Oishi
- Ernest or Toshiko Quan
- Roy & Pat Sassa
- Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
- Harry Sugimoto
- Robert & Judy Takaguchi
- Masaye Tanaka
- Tammy Tanaka
- Margaret & Bob Thole
- Clifford Thomas
- Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
- Tak & Yoko Tsujita

- Brenda Tsukishima
 - Wayne & Amy Tsukishima
- Total - \$3,044.56**

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.

Snow Damage to Temple



The temple ductwork to heat and ventilate the hondo suffered damage during the ferocious early snowfall that paralyzed the city Sept. 30. It was discovered by the snow removal person who services the temple and relayed to temple authorities. Repairs are scheduled for the damaged ductwork and sections of the eaves that were affected. The damage is located at the back of the temple near the northeast corner.

Daylight Time Ends

Reminder: Please keep in mind that daylight saving time ends Nov. 3 at 2 a.m., the day of the November monthly memorial service. Make certain you set the clock back one hour when you go to sleep so you won't be early for the Shotsuki service at 10:30 a.m. You'll have extra time for a little shut-eye.



REGULAR EVENTS

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

Minyo Dance I Tuesdays @ 4pm

Minyo Dance II (Beginners Level) Mondays @ 6pm
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

Toshiko Takeda (96) passed away on Oct. 20
Alice Kanashiro (93) passed away on Oct. 26

Yoga classes will be extended through Wednesday November 27 to make-up for the snow day cancellation. Thanks again to Valerie Kunimoto, our excellent yoga Instructor. These classes benefit interested temple and community members and is a regular temple fundraiser. Contact Lorita: lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Next **mein-making** day is November 16. Bring a friend – Newcomers always welcome.
Contact Emily: emistitt@hotmail.com

Food Bank Donations

The annual BTSA Food Bank appeal for this year begins this month through February, 2020. As in the past, the box in the multipurpose room invites members and friends to have it filled with donated non-perishable goods. BTSA again will estimate the value of the amount collected next February, and match it with a cheque made out to the recipient organization; for this round. BTSA will turn over the donations to the Lethbridge Food Bank this time. Here is a list of most wanted items.

Most Wanted Items

Non-Perishable Food Items
Canned fruit/vegetables
Meat/salmon/tuna (canned)
Soup (cans & mixes)
Canned pasta/stew
Spaghetti sauce
Unsweetened juices
Baby food in jars
Boxed cereal
Infant cereal
Baby formula
Pork & beans (canned)
Peanut butter
Jam
Macaroni & cheese
Hamburger Helper



Non-Food items
Financial contributions
Grocery gift cards

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 cleanup.

Thanks so much to all who joined in for another successful Chow Mein Supper and the extensive prep for it. Special thanks to chair, Judy Takaguchi.

Appreciation to **Toban 3** for leading activities in a busy October. **Toban 2** is up for November.

Remember: You don't have to join a toban to volunteer! However if you do want to join or for further information, please contact lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

Tech Enthusiasts Wanted: AUDIO-VISUAL TRAINING



Interested in giving the temple a hand and learning a new skill?

We're looking for more volunteers to run the audiovisual system for Sunday Service, Weddings Special Events and Funerals. On Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. the A/V Committee will run an one-hour session on the basic operation of the upgraded A/V system. Please join us!

Mein-Making – Nov. 16

BTSA has scheduled another mein-making session this autumn on Nov. 16 (Saturday) in advance of the annual Bodhi Bake Sale on Nov. 30. Dharma members and friends are invited to help out at this fundraiser, always an opportunity to catch up on news and friendships. We look forward to a great turnout. The accompanying photo is from the session in September.



Japan Buddhist Youth Tour

Kai Ichikawa



At Nishi Hongwanji with the 2019 Canadian youth tour: From left in the back, Grant Ikuta sensei, Summer Hinada, Tomofumi Fujii sensei (one-time minister at Toronto Buddhist Temple), Josi Koerber, Kai, Joaquin Kataoka. In front, Erin Ikuta and Sora Aoki.

It wasn't until I stepped outside the glass doors of the Kansai airport that I was struck with the sudden realization that I had arrived in Japan. Everyone in our group was amazed by the lush, mountainous landscape and no one could contain his/her excitement as we made our way to our first destination: Shoji Ogata's Kisho Guest House in Wakayama. Located in a small village nestled in the vibrantly green mountains, the views around the guest house were simply stunning. That night we were treated to a charcoal barbecue prepared by Shoji-san. My first meal in Japan was one to remember. Accompanied by sashimi bought from a local fisherman and rice that had been traditionally cooked over an open fire, Shoji-san barbecued many succulent meats and vegetables.

This past July, I spent three weeks in Japan for the 2019 Young Buddhist International Study Exchange Program (YIBSCE). I traveled to Japan with five other Canadians, ages 14-19, along with our chaperone, Rev. Grant Ikuta from Steveston Buddhist Temple. We spent the first part of our trip in Wakayama before traveling to Kyoto for the youth program. I stayed in Japan for another week after the program to visit Tokyo and relatives in Osaka and Shimonoseki.

The group from Canada spent three days in Wakayama and highlights of this time included visiting the Awashima shrine, gorging on delicious food and visiting the Koyasan graveyard. Not only did I have the best ramen of my life, but the best udon too! The Awashima shrine was stunning, littered with hundreds of dolls that had been sent to the temple to be ceremoniously burned. The Koyasan graveyard stretched across vast swaths of land containing thousands of impressive gravesites ranging from modern to centuries old. After spending three jam-packed days in Wakayama, it was off to Kyoto where we spent several days visiting iconic spots such as the Ryouan-ji rock garden and Monkey Mountain among many others.

During the official youth program, which took place from July 17-24, we met Jodo Shinshu youth from Hawaii, the United States of America and Brazil. We toured the Nishi Hongwanji, attended lectures, and were lucky enough to receive an audience with Monshu Ohtani and take a group picture with him. On the first night of the program, we enjoyed an elaborate welcome meal at Nishi Hongwanji. There were all sorts of delicious foods. However the highlight of the meal was the horse sashimi. It was so flavourful and delicious! After we finished our meal, the youths from each country were invited to put on a short performance. Our group sang 'Oh Canada' in English and French. The Hawaii and United States groups also sang, and the Brazilians spelled out words using their posteriors, which made us all laugh.

On the first full day of the program, we visited various sites relating to Shinran Shonin in and around Kyoto, including his birthplace and the Shoren'in temple where he was ordained. We ate a vegetarian lunch atop Mt. Hiei, where Shinran studied for many years. We had a short service at the Ohtani Mausoleum where ashes from some members of the Vancouver and Toronto Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temples are kept. On the second day, we took a Shinkansen (bullet train) ride to Hiroshima, had a short service at the Hiroshima Betsuin and visited the Peace Memorial Museum. We learned about the impact of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima during the Second World War. We had the opportunity to listen to a presentation from a survivor of the bomb. Hearing this first-hand account of such atrocity was deeply saddening and offered a perspective that I had never had the privilege of hearing before. It was a deeply moving experience. That evening I spent time playing games and chatting with some of the youth from Hawaii and the United States late into the night. One of the best parts of the tour was being able to connect with so many youth from around the world.

During the program we attended morning service at Nishi Hongwanji, yet another unforgettable experience. One morning, the Hondo was filled with hundreds of children attending summer camps. Chanting in the Hondo with hundreds of others was a powerful and emotional experience, and really opened my eyes to the prevalence of Jodo Shinshu in Japan. I also participated in the Sarana Affirmation Ceremony and received my Dharma name from the Gomonsu.

Three days of the program were spent with homestay families. Joaquin (from Toronto) and I stayed in the Shiga Prefecture with the Fujii family. Rev. Fujii had previously lived in Toronto and had been Joaquin's minister. Homestay highlights included a trip to the Lake Biwa Museum, Hikone Castle and Chikubu Island. We ate tonkatsu, ramen, made our own sushi and fried our own kushikatsu. Eating delicious food, partaking in the Sunday Dharma school at Rev. Fujii's temple, and listening to his mother's morning singing service made homestay a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. It was the most memorable part of the trip. It was very sad when we had to go. It really felt like we had become part of the family.

On the last evening of the official program, all of the Canadians went out for dinner and we sang karaoke together, which was a fitting and fun end to our trip, (my voice was hoarse by the end of the night). The following morning was the closing ceremony

of the program. Our group parted ways, with Joaquin and I continuing our adventures in Japan while the rest of the group headed home to Canada.

This trip meant more to me than I could ever express. This experience has shaped me as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist and a person, such that simply writing about the trip evokes strong emotions. I hope to remain with friends with the people who I met during this trip, and I hope our bonds and memories created together stand the test of time. My deepest thanks go to all who make this program possible and I hope with all my heart that this program continues to give Jodo Shinshu youth like myself this important experience.



THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA children & youth dharma classes

Thank you to families of dharma students for your patience the past month trying to schedule pie-making. Although we did not have a one-time large gathering yet,ayah and James were able to make some pies together, and Brandon the following week.

We also made a nice connection to one of our books in the classroom about mindful eating, *No Ordinary Apple*, and practiced with one of the many apples stored in the kitchen.



Bodhi Bake and Craft Sale



Saturday
November 30, 2019
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Please consider donating...

1) Baking

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

2) Crafts

- Crafts can be dropped off in the Boardroom anytime before noon, November 30 to allow for pricing/setup.
- Please leave your name on the package and your contact information.

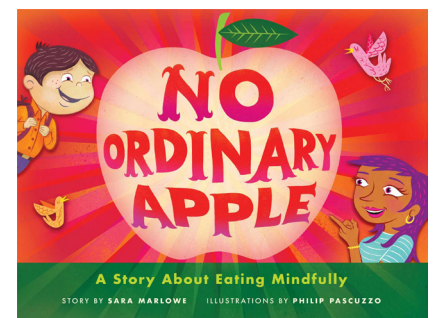
3) Your time

- Mein/manju 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
rolikuta@shaw.ca

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





NOVEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						12pm Spiritual Care Mtg. at CRH 1	10:30am Explore Buddhism 2
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* 3	6pm Minyo II 4	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 5	9:15am Beg. Yoga 10:45am Res. Yoga 6	6:30pm Audio-visual training session 7		10:30am Explore Buddhism* 9	
10:30am Regular Service* 10	6pm Minyo II 11	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 12	9:15am Beg. Yoga 10:45am Res. Yoga 2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 13	14	15	Mein-making* 10:30am Explore Buddhism* 16	
10:30am Regular Service* 17	6pm Minyo II 18	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 19	9:15am Beg. Yoga 10:45am Res. Yoga 20	21	21	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 23	
10:30am Regular Service* 24	6pm Minyo II 25	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 26	9:15am Beg. Yoga 10:45am Res. Yoga 2pm LCC visit* 27	28	29	1pm Bake Sale* 30	

DECEMBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Regular Service* 1	6pm Minyo II 2	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 3	4	5	6	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 7
10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service* 8	6pm Minyo II 9	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 10	2pm LCC visit* 7pm Board Mtg* 11	12	13	10:30am Explore Buddhism* 14
10:30am Regular Service* 15	6pm Minyo II 16	1pm Tonari Gumi 4pm Minyo I 7pm Taiko 17	18	19	20	21
NO SERVICE 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NO SERVICE 29	30	11pm Bell Ringing at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden* 31				