

Hikari the Light



November 2015

UNSUNG Volunteers

The essential teachings of the Buddha dharma is non ego. There should be no egoistic attachment to "I". But it is hard to think that we are attached to ego. The Buddha thus urged us to entrust ourselves to Buddha Centered Life wherein no ego-self exists.

Our temple is supported by so many people, members and non-members, Buddhists and non-Buddhists. Some are never recognized but continue to come to support our temple. I call them "unsung volunteers". There is a similar Japanese expression "en-no-shita-no-chikaramochi". The expression is a bit longer than "unsung volunteers" but it conveys the similar meaning of people who are working in the background.

"En-no-shita" means "under the veranda". "Chikaramochi" means "great strength." Unlike the house structures of the West, many houses in Japan still have verandas, wooden corridors. The wooden and long corridor is attached to the living quarter. It is supported by short 4 by 4 pillars underneath. Without these pillars, the long corridor is functionally impossible. Being under the veranda, these pillars under the veranda are visible but difficult to see. They are often overlooked by the casual observer. Yet these pillars are the source of great strength.

Some people who come to help with temple activities are rarely noticed, are not recognized. Consequently, they may not be appreciated. Yet, they do not care about being appreciated by others. They just come, help and go. Actually, without them our temple would have difficulties functioning. Many people who come

to help are people of "En-no-shita-no-chikara-mochi", unsung volunteers.

Recently, a Japanese physicist Takaaki Kajita received the Nobel Prize in physics. He responded to reporters who congratulated him, saying "Thank you. I owe a lot to my senior teachers and my colleagues who worked and supported me. I also owe the people of a small town in Gifu prefecture where I was able to research. Without their understanding and support I would not have been able to receive this prize." He praised these people first rather than praising his own accomplishments. Listening to his remarks I was very impressed. He is a great physicist and humble man.

Some people in the West, in particular say that Jodo Shinshu followers are so passive. They say that the followers should be more aggressive. Jodo Shinshu followers are passive because they know nothing exists by itself or for itself in the light of Amida Buddha. Expression such as "I am allowed to live" instead of "I live" shows the passive attitude. Those who have insight to see the unseen and to make the invisible visible are truly grateful and humble people. For us, Buddhists, our insight is nurtured every day by the working of Buddha's wisdom and compassion by which our ego centered life is gradually and naturally transformed to Buddha Centered Life in which we become truly grateful and humble.

仏教東漸

トロント仏教会の第一回「ペット、アプリ シェーション」のお参りに招待を頂いた。同じお参りを、三年前私たちのお寺でも スタートしたからだそうだ。飛行場には、女性開教使のヤンコ先生と新鋭の遠藤先生お二人が、わざわざ出迎えてくれたのには恐縮した。トロントはカナダの東であるが、この地に約60年前、浄土真宗の種をしっかりと蒔いて開拓されたのは辻先生であった。広大な視野と見識を持った先生を指導者を持った我々は仕合わせである。お蔭で今は堂々とした仏教会々堂が建っている。仏教東漸(仏教は東に向かって少しずつ弘まる)を目の当たりにした。小生も、トロント仏教会には三年ほど駐在したが、当時活躍された会員の方々ともお会いした。その方たちのほとんどは、今90歳以上になっている。101歳になる方が、小生を憶えてくれていたのには驚いた。トロント仏教会が、益々仏法繁盛の地となることを念じつつ、楽しかった二日間を終え帰宅した。合掌

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Namo Amida Butsu
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

南アルバータ仏教会 開教使 泉康雄

BTSA Notes

November starts right off with a loss of an hour. And, not because of a Hallowe'en prank the night before. We're back to standard time on shotsuki Sunday on Nov. 1. Please make sure you don't arrive an hour early for the 10:30 a.m. service.

Later in that week, BTSA will have another mein-making session on Nov. 6, in preparation for the annual Bake and Craft Sale on Dec. 5. This mein-making date comes after a busy chow mein supper the previous Saturday on Oct. 24.

November also includes the first anniversary of BTSA's approval of a \$200,000 loan to the Calgary Buddhist Temple for its renovations, leading up the World Buddhist Women's Convention last May. It's been several months since the grand re-opening of the temple in August; the photo taken after the service and appearing in Calgary temple's newsletter is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

The Calgary temple also will be sponsoring a silent auction and dinner on Nov. 7, to which several BTSA members are planning to attend.

The month's Movie Night on Nov. 21 features a documentary that was nominated for the Academy Award in 2014. "Virunga" is about a national park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where park rangers have been warding off poachers, war and oil exploration threats to save the mountain gorillas who make their home there.

Prior to the movie, which begins at 7:30 p.m., there will be a rice curry supper at 6 p.m. Please refer to the item in this Hikari.

The BTSA fall chow mein supper drew many members and friends to help out. Please look over the photos. Receipts are still being counted, and a financial accounting should be available in the December Hikari.

A much-deserved thank you to all the member volunteers and friends who helped out with the preparations, cooking, filling of orders, counting, delivering, a variety of heavy-lifting and clean-up for this twice-annual fund-raiser. A round of applause to Pat Sassa and Jan Okamura who helped coordinate this major undertaking.

Make sure to look over the special insert in this Hikari since the survey will help the temple examine how it can be more meaningful to the membership for the next few years. It also will help when the temple holds its next retreat to consider the path ahead for the organization. Thanks to the Development Committee, chaired by Roland Ikuta, for looking after these important concerns.

Finally, a request to all temple members to consider nomination for board directorship. Look over the item in this Hikari detailing the nomination, in preparation for the annual general meeting next March.

Akira Ichikawa

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. Is Buddhism religion, science or philosophy?

A. I think that people are able to see Buddhism from various angles. But after all, Buddhism is Buddhism as it is. We can put a label on it according to our own understanding and judgment. An important thing is to humbly listen to the heart of the Buddha and appreciate it. Do you remember a story of the six blind men and an elephant? It is a story that one day a king invited six blind men to his palace. He asked them to describe what an elephant is. The first man touched elephant's nose said, "It is like a hose. The second man said it is like a pillar. The third one said it is like a rope. The other said it is like a fan and so on. Whatever they said is partially true. Conversely, they were all wrong. Our understanding and judgment are unreliable. We are not absolute. Buddhism always speaks to each of us based on who each of us is. Let's continue to listen to Buddha's heart and investigate and examine our own heart and mind. Because Buddhism is the teaching of realization and awakening of self in the light of true wisdom and compassion. It gives us direction in leading truly sound and positive way of life, the realm of pure land (nirvana). (Y.I.)

CHAIR SCHEDULE October & November 2015

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

Nov 01 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Sheila Oishi
Audio: Tak Okamura
(Daylight Time ends this Sunday)

Nov 08
Chair: Florence Senda
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Nov 15
Chair: John Dubbelboer
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Nov 22
Chair: Deanna Jones
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Nov 29
Chair: Joyce Shigehiro
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Dec 06 SHOTSUKI
Chair: Roland Ikuta
Audio: Tak Okamura

Dec 13
Chair: Katie Nakagawa
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Dec 20 & 27 No services

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

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.

SURVEY **November Hikari Insert**

The BTSA is conducting a new survey to see how the membership is feeling about current programs. The last survey was conducted in 2011 and led to several new programs for our temple. We hope everybody completes the survey and lets us know honestly how we are doing. The survey can be completed in paper and returned to the temple. There will be a collection envelope at the entrance to the Hondo if you complete it in paper form. There is also an electronic form of the survey that can be completed on your computer. The link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TT7HXM9>

For those people who receive the Hikari by email we will be sending out the electronic survey directly to you. We want to make positive changes for the Temple and the more responses we get the better informed these changes can be. Please take the time to complete the survey. It should only take 5 – 10 minutes. We appreciate your time and input.

If you have any questions please contact Roland Ikuta at 403-317-0078

Board Nominations

Once again, BTSA solicits nominees for the temple board, preparatory to the annual general meeting in March, 2016. An infusion of new people with new ideas is always welcome in administering temple affairs.

If you're interested, please inform any of the current directors to agree to be considered as a nominee.

The board has been operating with 10 directors the past two years. It would be great to restore the number to 12, if possible, but as many nominees as possible in excess of that would be welcomed.

Directors are elected to two-year staggered terms, renewable each term, and are considered for the executive at the first meeting of the board following the AGM. Please consider allowing your name to stand.

Food Donations

As in past Novembers, the BTSA will solicit food donations to give to a local charity in the new year. Earlier in March of this year, BTSA presented the Interfaith Food Bank Society of Lethbridge with items worth \$445 and a BTSA cheque matching that amount.

The collection box will be in the multipurpose room once the mein-making is over on Nov. 6, so feel free to drop off any items you wish to donate. It will be left there through January, with the proceeds being turned over to the charity sometime in February. The need is just as great after the holidays, and we hope to cover that period with our donations.

Grand Re-Opening of the Calgary Buddhist Temple

Members and friends attending the Obon service and the grand re-opening of the Calgary Buddhist Temple are pictured in this self-timed photo following the service. Restoration was completed in part with a \$200,000 loan from the BTSA.

(Photo courtesy of the Calgary Temple.)



Mein-Making on Nov. 6

After several date shifts, it was decided to hold the next mein-making session on Nov. 6, a Friday, so that people who want to could attend the silent auction supper at the Calgary Buddhist Temple on Nov. 7, the original date for the session.

The mein made that day will be for the Bake and Craft Sale on Dec. 5. As always, we look forward to a great turnout. If we can repeat the last session, we should be done early enough to enjoy the remainder of the day.



2015 Membership Form

Full Membership (\$100 for each member) Student Membership*

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Cellphone No.: _____

Email: _____

Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by Email only.

Please send this form and your remittance to:
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer
470 40th Street South
Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

***Note**

Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the BTSA and this category does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, the national organization.

LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

Membership to Oct 23, 2015: 221 Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

October 2015

John & Rita Aoki,
Grace Devaux (September)
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki,
Sue S. Kado
Eleanor Katakami
Chizuko Kimura
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno,
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
May Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Evelyn Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Barbara Takeda
Fuji Takeda,
David & Marie-Ann Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka,
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Jim Tsukishima
Keiko Kay Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima

Total \$2,120

Other Donations

October 2015

Mel & Mary Clewes
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Hideko Hori
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Gene & Shannon Kawade
Akiko Kimoto
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Kimino Nishi
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mitsuko Oga
Heidi Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Jagjit S. (Jack) Panesar
Roy & Pat Sassa
Florence Senda
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Tomiko Shono
Emily Stitt
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Sonoko Takasaki
Reiko Takeyasu
Shirley Taniguchi
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Jim Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima

Total \$3,120

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.

TOBAN UPDATE

Thank you to those in **Toban 2** who served October Shotsuki tea and helped with the monthly clean up. **Toban 4** is up for the month of November. Help from so many of the members and friends made another successful chow mein supper. If you wish to join a Toban group please contact Lorita at 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com We depend on everyone who is able to participate.

Toban Schedule

NOVEMBER Toban 4 DECEMBER Toban 3

Soup Kitchen 2016 Schedule: Volunteering has once again been arranged for BTSA by Lily Oishi. Dates in the new year are on Wednesdays: March 16, April 20, May 18 and June 22. Toban leaders, please e-mail Lorita if you have a preference for a specific date. Otherwise, dates will be assigned in the new year. Thank you!

“Life is so very difficult. How can we be anything but kind.”

– Attributed to Buddha

REGULAR EVENTS

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

November 5 & 26 @ 6:30pm

Contact: Katie Nakagawa 403.327.4296

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays, 12-3pm

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays, 1:30pm

New members welcome!

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

Junior Minyo Sundays, Nov. 1 @ 12:30pm & Nov. 8, 22 @ 11:30am

Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

The BTSA expresses heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones:

Mrs. Tsuyako Iwamoto (88) October 18, 2015

MOVIE NIGHT At the Temple

VIRUNGA

Saturday, November 21

Rice Curry Supper at 6 PM

Movie at 7:30 PM

***Please let Roland know if you want to attend the supper at 403-317-0078 or send him an email at rolikuta@shaw.ca**

Virunga is a 2014 British documentary film directed by Orlando von Einsiedel; it focuses on the conservation work of rangers within Virunga National Park, and the activity of a British company, Soco International, which began exploring for oil within the UNESCO World Heritage site[1] in April 2014.[2] The film premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival on April 17, 2014. Since airing on Netflix it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

The documentary tells the story of four characters fighting to protect Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, home to the world's last mountain gorillas, against war, poaching, and the threat of oil exploration. Following gorilla caregiver André Bauma, head park ranger Rodrigue Mugaruka Katembo, chief warden Emmanuel de Merode, and the French investigative journalist, Mélanie Gouby, the film focuses on the natural beauty and biodiversity of Virunga, as well as the complex political and economic issues surrounding oil exploration and armed conflict in the region.



Bodhi Bake and Craft Sale

plus...

Everything Japanese "Nearly New" Sale



**Saturday
December 5, 2015
1-3 p.m.**

Please consider donating...

- 1) Baking
- 2) Crafts
- 3) Unwanted *Japanese* items looking for a new home
 - Gently Used / Barely Used / New and Unused
 - Leave them on the Board Room Table with a note that it is intended for the Sale

Interested in participating in this event? **Contact:**
Brenda Ikuta at (403) 317-0078 or rolikuta@shaw.ca

**Thank you in advance for contributing to this important fundraiser!*



Fall Chow Mein Supper

Under a beautiful October sky, the annual fall chow mein supper ran its course. The drive-through went smoothly as members and friends put together more than 2,000 individual suppers for customers. Thanks to everyone who turned out to make the event another success. Financial results of the supper will be available in the next issue of the Hikari.



1. The calm before the drive-through rush...



2. Inside in the kitchen, rice is washed...



3. and, chow mein is being cooked in 3 woks.



4. Rice is being paddled out of coolers.



5. One of the three lines to complete the supper.



6. An example of the final product.



7. After being boxed, the suppers are placed in plastic bags for delivery.



8. One of the runners takes an order...



9. another runner delivers to a waiting customer.

photos: John Dubbelboer, Akira Ichikawa

Chow Mein Supper Donors

BTSA recognizes and thanks those who made donations to the fall chow mein supper. Our appreciation goes to:

Fairfield Appliance - Glen Tanaka
Harwood Distributors - Jim Wallace
Hironaka Employees Benefits - Norris Hironaka
Joe, Sumi & Wanda Tomiyama - pickles
R. Nakagama Co. - Ken and Vicky Nakagama
Wesbridge Construction - Frank Beekman

Gouw's Quality Onions - Casey and Kyle Gouw
Hiroba - Wayne Kwan
Jim Tsukishima
P&H Milling - Bob Grebinsky
Three donors of baking goods



TEMPLE SURVEY (see insert and page 3 for info):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TT7HXM9>



Volunteer Youth: Chow Mein Supper Runners

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

Youth Bento Class Curry Bowl

Ages 11 - 18

Friday, November 20

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Contact Brenda Ikuta for info/to register: rolikuta@shaw.ca

Youth Movie Night with Movie Night at the Temple

Saturday, November 21

7 pm in the Dharma Room

On the Way to School

A Netflix documentary that follows four stories of children travelling to school and the obstacles they face. Subtitles.



NOVEMBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial 12:30am Jr. Minyo 1	2	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 3	1:30pm Karaoke 4	6:30pm BTSa Choir 5	6	10:30am Exploring Buddhism* 7
10:30am Remembrance Day Service* 11:30am Jr. Minyo 8	9	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 10	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting* 11	12	8:30am Quiet-sitting (Seiza) and Reading* 13	14
10:30am Regular Service* 15	16	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 17	1:30pm Karaoke 18	19	8:30am Quiet-sitting (Seiza) and Reading* 1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit* 20	21
10:30am Regular Service* 11:30am Jr. Minyo 22	23	12pm Tonari Gumi 4:30pm Minyo Dance 7pm Taiko 24	1:30pm Karaoke 25	6:30pm BTSa Choir 26	8:30am Quiet-sitting (Seiza) and Reading* 27	28
10:30am Regular Service* 29	30					

DECEMBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12pm Tonari Gumi 1	1:30pm Karaoke 2	3	8:30am Quiet-sitting (Seiza) and Reading* 4	5
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* 2:30pm Annual Memorial Service at CRH* 6	7	12pm Tonari Gumi 8	1:30pm Karaoke 7pm BTSa Board Meeting* 9	10	8:30am Quiet-sitting (Seiza) and Reading* 1:30pm Correctional Centre Visit* 11	12
10:30am Bodhi Day Service* 13	14	12pm Tonari Gumi 15	1:30pm Karaoke 16	17	18	19
No Service 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
No Service 27	28	29	30	11:30pm Year End Bell Ringing (Joya-no Kane) @ Nikka Yuko* 31	JANUARY 1 10:30am New Year Day Service (Shusho-e)*	