



November 2023

Thoughts on *Hikari-Light*



How are you, everyone? We read our newsletter, *Hikari-Light*, every month. I believe our newsletter is an important tool not only to communicate with all members and friends, but also to share the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin with others. When I was assigned to Alberta for the second time in 2002, the first thing I wanted to

do was to continue to publish our newsletter. The title of our newsletter was, of course, “Hikari-Light” because when I came to Canada in 1970, I started a newsletter named “Hikari”, since it symbolises Amida’s wisdom. In those days, there were no computers yet. (The first personal computer was built in 1971) So, I wrote Japanese by hand and English by my old typewriter. My wife wrote addresses on envelopes for each member, pasted, stamped and mailed them. Back then, it was not an easy job for us. We had three small children. However, we continued.

I remember one time we visited an elderly woman who had been a Buddhist for a long time. I saw the newsletter, *Hikari*, piled up beside the family butsudan-shrine. I asked her, “What are you going to do with these old newsletters?” She said, “I am so happy to read this newsletter every month. I read them again and again. I am not able to throw them away.” I thought our efforts were fulfilled just by her words. This lasted for five years or so until I was assigned to another temple.

We now enjoy the convenience of computer. We can see everything we want just by one click! However, I think, ideally, the newsletter should be sent to each of our members and friends in the mail rather than by computer. The reason is that when we send it by mail, it goes to each family, so that even children there might read it and a Buddhist connection might be born there. And like that elderly woman said, you can read it again and again, although we need a lot of help and time to mail to each member.

During the 21 years of sending out our newsletter here at our temple, David Major helped me first for a couple years and then David Tanaka, and now, since around the year of 2005 or so, Maya Ichikawa has been working hard. I express my deep gratitude to them. I wish this publication will continue on and on for the readers to enjoy.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister

人間の愚かさ

寒くなってきました。皆様にはいかがお過ごしでしょうか。毎朝、犬の「太郎」と歩いていますと、落ち葉が、公園の所々に風に吹かれて積もっています。冬がすぐそこにやってきたことを感じます。アルバータの冬は、大変厳しい冬です。しかし、ここには、憩いも、静けさもあります。人間同士のみにくい戦いはありません。

ロシアとウクライナの戦いがまだ終わらぬうちに、今度はイスラエルと、ハマス（イスラム抵抗運動）の戦争です。ハマスは、イスラエルを国として認めていないそうです。宗教を交えた複雑な問題をかかえています。戦争は、お互いを認めず、お互いを非難しあい、罪のない市民を巻き添えにします。すでに、双方に多くの死者を出しています。家屋や、大きな建物が壊されていきます。外から眺めている私たちには、実に「おろか」に見えます。しかし、人間は誰でもこのような「おろか」な「ところ」を持っているのではないのでしょうか。親鸞聖人が言われるごとく、「縁あらば、人を1000人をも殺すべし」という、恐ろしい心を持っているのです。人間のこの恐ろしい心を破るものは、人間の中から生まれてこないのでしょうか。人間を超え、しかも、人間を包む知恵を、一人一人が頂くことの必要を、つくづく思います。

合掌 泉康雄

秋風や 風の持て来る 落ち葉かな (Y.I.)



UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

Greetings from the Board.

The November Shotosuki service will be held on November 19, 2023. Roland Ikuta Sensei will be in Toronto on ministerial business from November 7 to 12, 2023 and Chow Mein Supper is to be held on Nov 5th. Here is the live stream link:

<https://youtube.com/live/oitZSLIfgw?feature=share>

The Audio-Visual committee has been working on The BTSA website to make it easier to navigate. Online forms are now available for Temple rental and for membership application/renewals.

Toban 1 has a leader, Sara Takeyasu. Many of the members of Toban 1 are Ikigomi (= Enthusiastic) members. The Ikigomi group is a youth-led volunteer group (age 16+) promoting Japanese Canadian culture in Lethbridge by Hosting community events. They have been active and are looking for new members and participants for their events. Their email address is ikigomincs@gmail.com. They will be looking after the November Toban duties. Please encourage and support them in their efforts.

Kynan Ono presented the idea of a Mini-Ikigomi group for children aged 4 to 15 years. An organizing group has been formed and they are moving from concept to initial event, Kokomo no hi (Children's Day). Stay tuned for more information.

Donations for the Lahaina Hongwanji will be accepted until the end of December 2023. The temple will match the amount that is raised up to a total of \$3000. If writing a cheque, please specify in the memo line that it is for the Hawaii wild fire. Members can also donate directly if they do not wish to contribute via the BTSA.

Bill Ormandy has resigned from the BTSA Board due to health reasons. The Board would like to express our gratitude to Bill for his thoughtful and wise counsel.

If you have any comments or concerns about events at the temple, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kynan Ono, one of the board members, or Roland Sensei.

NOVEMBER

霜月(しもつき) According to the old calendar, November is called *shimotsuki* (しもつき) in Japanese, meaning "month of frost." November 7th or 8th is called 立冬(りっとう/*rittou*, meaning "reaching winter." Air becomes very cold. Nov. 5 (Sun) according to the new calendar, is when daylight time ends. Around this time, at our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji, a wide variety of chrysanthemums are displayed in the courtyard for visitors. Please keep warm and stay healthy. (Y.I.)

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE November & December

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

Nov 12
Connie Trang
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Nov 19
SHOTSUKI
Sheila Oishi
AV TBA

Nov 26
Maya Ichikawa
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Dec 03
SHOTSUKI
Andrew Ichikawa
Kynan Ono, AV

Dec 10
BODHI DAY
David Major
Brenda Ikuta, AV



Mayah and James emcee the Oct. 8th BTSA service.

THANK YOUS & FAREWELLS

The BTSA would like to recognize the work of Pat Sassa and David Tanaka, and their temple contributions over many years.

Pat has retired as leader of the Minyo Dance group, and David will be moving to Edmonton and leaving the NCS Taiko group that he started. Both groups will carry on in their absence as leaders, the Minyo under Brenda Ikuta, and Taiko TBD. The drums are housed at the temple and both groups practice regularly there.

Pat and David are exemplary in their volunteerism and commitment to the temple and its members. We are deeply grateful for all they have given.

Fall Chow Mein Supper

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Take-out only

Meals are **\$20.00 each**

Available for pickup at the temple **1:00-5:00 p.m.**

Saturday, November 4: Food Preparation

- **Open call-out for help** for temple members, family, friends, and long-time Chow Mein Supper enthusiasts.
- Volunteers can begin arriving at 8:00 a.m.
- Duties primarily include washing, chopping and packing vegetables, preparing the ground pork, preparing the garnishes, making the sweet and sour pork ribs, and ongoing cooking clean-up.
- Bring your favorite knife / board / apron – we often run short on this day!
- Save on plastic and bring a reusable bottle – we have water cooler

Friday, November 3 / Sunday, November 5

- **Designated work teams of experienced and novice volunteers**
- For these two days, volunteers are primarily solicited through phone calls by Team Leaders
- Arrival times will be provided by the Team Leaders
- If you would like to be a part of the Friday Set-Up team please Sign Up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A9A723A2FE3-chow1>

Lunch will be provided for volunteers on Saturday and Sunday

Looking for 10 volunteers to provide baking for the weekend: contact debriesen@yahoo.com, 403-345-4767

Clean-Up Crew (Sunday, November 5)

- Includes cleaning the stove, woks, large containers and floors.
- This extra group of 6 people arrives at 3:30 p.m. and works through to closing up the temple around 6:30 p.m.
- They will bring vital energy to end this highly desired event quickly and completely.
- If you can help us in this capacity please Sign Up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A9A723A2FE3-mein1>

There are still tickets available. Please contact:

Sachi Scharf (403) 915-6776 scharf1@shaw.ca



TEA Ceremony Presentation



Tea Ceremony by Mizuno Toshikata

Would you like to share a bowl of Matcha with Sheila and Joyce?

Joyce is a student in the Urasenke tradition of chado (Japanese tea ceremony) and enjoys introducing others in an intimate setting to the world in which savoring matcha and sweets continues to thrive. Following a presentation on chado, Joyce will perform a tea ceremony and attendees will be able to sip a bowl of tea, and also enjoy a wagashi sweet, made by Sheila.

The presentations will occur on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. Plans are to hold more than one session that day, but times are still being confirmed. Seating will be limited at each session.

If you are interested in attending, please email Sheila, o.sheila2011@gmail.com Once times are confirmed, Sheila will let you know.

Food Safety Online Course UPDATE

To date, 21 temple volunteers have registered for this BTSA sponsored course. There is representation from every Toban and food event coordination at a cost of \$992.00 (\$45/person + GST). Two group sessions have been held in the temple boardroom: September 21 (9 attendees) and October 21 (5 attendees). The sessions were scheduled for 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. with a lunch break in between.

Train Food Safety is an online course approved by AHS. It can be completed individually or as a group. Copies of the certification each person receives will be kept in the temple kitchen. Minimum AHS standards is one person on shift with certification at all times and certification is good for 5 years. If you are a temple volunteer and would like to get Food Safety certification (individual or group format) please inquire further at btsaboard@gmail.com

Thank you everyone for your support of this important temple endeavour to keep our people healthy and happy!

Brenda

Temple Clean-up... then put our feet up!

After a summer and fall chock full of joyous celebrations, food events and sombre services, the temple needs a good, deep cleaning. Everyone, please make the effort to come out and connect with this beautiful space that serves us so well. Make a commitment to maintain the temple with attention and care for many important gatherings ahead.

Sunday, November 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(Before/After service)

Recharge together with a pizza lunch.

*Note that many of the jobs can be done at other times. If you would like to be involved but this date and/or time is inconvenient for you, just sign up and let the organizers know in the comment section.

Use this link to sign up (or just show up):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A45A9A723A2FE3-45639087-temple>

Thanks so much for your involvement in this important activity!

Brenda



Donations for the LAHAINA WILDFIRE

The wildfire disaster that occurred on August 8th on the island of Maui destroyed Lahaina Hongwanji Mission temple.

Any BTSA Sangha member can donate an amount to the BTSA and specify it is for the Hawaii wildfire. The temple will match the amount that is raised up to a total of \$3000. If writing a cheque, please specify in the memo line that it is for the Hawaii wild fire.

Members can also donate directly if they do not wish to contribute via the BTSA:

- Online at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com>- click on "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" under the "Donate" tab
- Through GoFundMe: <https://gofundme/ff77a520>
- Cheque (payable to HHMH, memo line "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief") and cash donations mailed to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813 USA

Mein Making

In preparation for the upcoming Chow Mein Supper, a mein-making session was held on October 14.

Volunteers arranged for donations of flour and oil, which they then picked up and delivered. Friday saw members mixing dough and servicing machines.

50 volunteers came out on Saturday, many travelling from out of town, to prepare the mein. All enjoyed a delicious ham lunch.

Thank you to everyone for donating your time, help and baking. A huge thank you to the clean-up crew who stayed afterward, putting in a long day.

There is mein available for purchase.



photos: John Dubbelboer, Maya Ichikawa

2023 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THEBTSA.COM

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

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Home#: _____ Cell#: _____

Email: _____

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 20 – 139

Shotsuki Donations October 2023

Anonymus
 John & Donna Dubbelboer
 Ken & April Fleury
 Judy Fukushima
 Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
 Neil Hinatsu
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
 Gary & Beverly McIlroy
 Yoko Nishimura
 Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng
 Setsuko Ohno
 Heidi Oishi
 Doreen G. Osaka
 Doug Osaka
 Larry Osaka
 Hisae Price
 Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
 Joe & Mary Shigehiro
 Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
 Harry Sugimoto
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Robert & Judy Takaguchi
 Fugi Takeda
 KB Takeda & Lila Ho-Takeda
 Ward & Susan Takeda
 Alan & Margaret Tanaka
 Glen & Pamela Tanaka
 Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
 Marjory Tomomitsu
 Tak & Yoko Tsujita
 Lori Yokoyama
 Roy & Joyce Yokoyama

Other Donations

October 2023
 Anonymus
 CanadaHelps.Org
 Shinako (Sheila) Higa
 Rumiko Ibuki
 Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
 Kinuko Matsuno
 Lisa Nakamura
 Kimino Nishi
 Sachi Scharf
 Tomiko Sugimoto
 Clifford Thomas

Funeral Donations

October 2023
 Cheryl Matsugi
 Heidi Oishi
 Frank & Mary Ann Paulter
 Harry Sugimoto

Please inform us if your name has been omitted, misspelled, or if you wish for your name not to be published. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30 - 8pm

Fall session runs October 2 through November 27

Contact Brenda Ikuta brenda.ikuta63@gmail.com 403.317.0078

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm

Contact TBD

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am

Please join. Everyone welcome with no fee. Study about the teaching of the Nembutsu. Confirm date availability before coming.

Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation Wednesdays @ 9:30am Nov. 8 start, in-person and online

To register contact Vickie Macarther spirityoga@shaw.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Izumi's most recent booklet, **Dharma: My Guiding Light, No. 17** is available now at the temple.

He hopes to write more in his retirement.

TOBAN UPDATE

Welcoming Toban 1 into our rotations there is an adjustment to our original schedule. Please note that November was originally assigned to Toban 3 but will now be Toban 1.

2023

Nov Toban 1
 Dec Toban 3

2024

Jan Toban 4
 Feb Toban 2
 March Toban 1
 April Toban 3
 May Toban 4
 June Toban 2
 July Toban 1
 Sept Toban 3
 Oct Toban 4



Rev. Izumi delivered his final dharma message at the October 22 BTSA service:

My memory and...

In 1970, 53 years ago, I was sent as a minister to the foreign country, Canada, from the Hongwanji, our mother temple in Kyoto. The head of the Hongwanji, Monshu, then Koshin Ohtani, who was one year younger than me, gave me kind words: "I understand Canada is very cold during winter. Please look after your health and share the Shinran Shonin's teaching with the people in Canada." I remember his words just like yesterday.

For me, Canada was actually not a strange country. Right after finishing school, I went to Los Angeles by cargo. As soon as I arrived in Los Angeles, I started to work at a restaurant. Since my visa was a visitor's visa, I was not allowed to work. But in those days, the rules were not that strict. Then I went to New York and again worked at a restaurant. Then I wanted to see Canada. While living in Canada for a couple of weeks, I wanted to see Europe. So, I travelled some countries such as England, France, Italy and Switzerland. Back in Canada, I went to visit the Toronto Buddhist Church. I helped with their bazaar and Bon Odori. One day, Rev. Ishiura, then the Bishop of Canada, asked me, "Do you want to become a minister?" I was a bit hesitant. Then he said, "If you want to become a minister, we will give you a scholarship." I said, "Yes."

When I returned to Japan, I again studied, especially Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu teaching. In 1970, I flew back to Canada and was assigned to Lethbridge. As soon as I settled in Lethbridge, I had two Issei-visitors one after another. The first gentleman told me, "You'd better go back to Japan soon. The future of Buddhism in Canada is very slim. Perhaps ten or 20 years, Buddhist temples in Canada will be gone. So, just do our funerals and go home." I was shocked. I had just arrived in Canada all the way from Japan. His words made me really disappointed. But I thought, there are many people like this gentleman who do not care about the teaching but want a funeral service for themselves. Then, another elderly woman visited me. She said, "Sensei, please stay in Canada as long as you can and share Shinran Shonin's teaching with us and with our children, please." It was really encouraging. I decided to follow the elderly woman's plea. Since then, 53 years in Canada have passed. A young handsome man of 26 years, with a head full of black hair, became an old man with gray hair. But I have no regret about staying in Canada for the Jodo Shinshu teaching. I have been supported and nurtured by so many members and friends. This is my personal treasure in my life.

Speaking of treasure, Prince Shotoku, 7th century in Japan, whose image-scroll you can see on the far right in the naijin/shrine, said, "Respect three treasures. The three treasures are Buddha, Dharma and Sangha." He was the one who introduced Buddhism to Japanese people. So, Shinran Shonin deeply respected Prince Shotoku. Buddhist temples, any Buddhist temple, should stand on the three treasures and Buddhists should respect them.

Buddha refers to Shakyamuni Buddha who was born almost 2600 years ago in India and left us numerous teachings. The word "Buddha" actually means the one who "benefit oneself and

benefit others." Benefit oneself means developing "wisdom." Benefit others means "compassion." Dharma, which is the most important among three treasures means, according to Shinran Shonin, Amida Buddha / Namo Amida Butsu, which Shakyamuni Buddha taught for those who are in suffering. Shinran Shonin said in Shoshin-ge: "The reason Shakyamuni Buddha was born in this world is to introduce Amida Buddha's great compassion." Sangha means a harmonious group reciting Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude. Amida Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion who is constantly and always calling us with Namo Amida Butsu, "Your home to return to is always ready. Please be born in my home. So that, you will have a true peace and joy in this world of change."

In order to find these three treasures, we have our temple. The Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temple is the place to listen to and hear Amida's compassionate call, Namo Amida Butsu. Without listening and hearing Namo Amida Butsu, the heart of Amida, there is no true peace in this temple and in our lives. It is my sincere wish that the three treasure are always the center and the foundation of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Rev. Yaso Izumi



Rev. and Mrs. Izumi with their visiting daughters from Oregon and Toronto.
photo: John Dubbelboer





NOVEMBER: TOBAN 1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY					Chow Mein Supper prep through team leader	8am Chow Mein Supper prep
			1	2	3	4
No Service 1-5 pm Chow Mein Supper 5	6:30pm Minyo Dance 6	7pm Taiko 7	9:30am Meditation 8	9	10	10:30am Study Class* 11
10:30 am Regular Service 12	6:30pm Minyo Dance 13	7pm Taiko 14	9:30am Meditation 15	16	17	10:30am Study Class* 18
10:30 am Shotsuki Memorial Service 19	6:30pm Minyo Dance 20	7pm Taiko 21	9:30am Meditation 22	23	24	10:30am Study Class* 25
10:30 am Regular Service Temple Clean-up 26	6:30pm Minyo Dance 27	7pm Taiko 28	9:30am Meditation 29	30		

DECEMBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						10:30am Study Class* 1
						2
10:30 am Bodhi Day & Shotsuki Memorial Service 3	6:30pm Minyo Dance 4	7pm Taiko 5	9:30am Meditation 6	7	8	10:30am Study Class* 9
10:30 am Regular Service 10	6:30pm Minyo Dance 11	7pm Taiko 12	9:30am Meditation 13	14	15	10:30am Study Class* 16
No Service 17	6:30pm Minyo Dance 18	7pm Taiko 19	9:30am Meditation 20	21	22	23
24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30