

Hikari the Light



October 2022

Sensei's Message

Gassho: Sariputra, the people who hear of Amida's Home, the Pure Land of peace, should aspire to be born there. Why? It is because they will be able to meet together with such good friends and good teachers.

The quotation is from Amida Sutra which we chant together.

The historical Buddha, out of great concern about our life, left many teachings called sutras. The Buddha spoke these teachings according to abilities and circumstances of each listener. Amida sutra is not only one of the sutras left by Shakyamuni Buddha but is considered as the conclusive sutra of the historical Buddha. We can say Amida sutra contains Sakyamuni's last will. In short, the reason Sakyamuni Buddha was born and preached on this earth was solely to introduce 'Amida' or Amida's heart of compassion for us. "Please rely on Amida's compassion in your life." This means "Please hold namo amida butsu." This is what Sakyamuni Buddha wanted to say. In general, people think Sakyamuni Buddha taught the four noble truths and so on. But it is not what Buddha really wants to say. Listen to Amida's call 'namo amida butsu.' And live truly happy.

When this sutra was delivered, there were many monks, many Bodhisattvas and also lay people before the Buddha. However, the Buddha directly talked to only Sariputra who was known as the foremost wisdom among Buddha's followers. The Buddha says, "Please, Sariputra, rely on Amida." Sariputra did not say even one word while Sakyamuni Buddha was talking. Sariputra was just listening to the Buddha with a humble attitude. The Buddha wanted to say to Sariputra and all other listeners that they are unable to attain Amida's world with human wisdom. So, what do we need to be born in Amida's home? It is to listen and hear

Amida's heart of compassion. It is to live in Amida. This is what Sakyamuni is telling Sariputra, who is actually representing each of us.

Buddhism talks about wisdom, *prajna*, one of the eightfold paths and six paramitas. This wisdom is not human wisdom but Buddha's or Bodhisattva's wisdom. Human wisdom is gained by accumulation of human experiences and knowledge. Human wisdom is human wisdom by which we are not able to open up Amida's world. Buddha's wisdom is called a direct perception to see the truth of oneness. In other words, Buddha's wisdom of oneness always manifests itself in the form of compassion.

Buddha's compassion is called "Bakku-Yoraku", meaning to remove other's suffering and give peace and comfort. When we say "Buddha" it is not only the tangible form but it means "eternal compassionate working," meaning Amida who is leading us all with no discrimination to Amida's world. The historical Sakyamuni talked about Amida's heart of compassion, which is beyond us and yet always embracing us. We are not able to see Amida but Amida is seeing us. Though we are not able to see Amida... (Shoshinge) It is Amida's compassionate wish and vow that all sentient beings be born in Amida's realm through listening and hearing Amida's compassion (which will become our entrusting heart).

In the beginning I read a quotation from Amida sutra. Through the compassionate working of Amida we will be born in Amida's home, the Pure Land. We do not die in vain but will be born in Amida's home of peace and serenity and we will meet again with those who left before us. Shinran further

states that our loved ones are working right now to guide us to Amida's home every day and night.

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

「病床は仏の教えを聞く道場。」

以前このような言葉を聞いたことがあるが、この度、6日間の病院生活をして、しばらく、自分の過去と、現在と未来を振り返ることができた。現在は過去の果であり、そして、現在は、未来の因となる。この、三世をつらぬいて、如来大悲は、働いていて下さるのでしよう。

私たちは無常を無常ともせず、煩惱の火を燃やし、損した、もうかった、好きだ嫌いだ。。。と生きてきて、苦しみ、寂しさを、自ら造ってきた。このような私たちを、「摂取不捨」(抱きとって、決して捨てることがない)と南無阿弥陀仏の呼び声が、私たちを、いつも、導いてくださっている。それに応えて、昔の方たちは、お念仏申した。自分の口からでる、念仏に「お」の形容語を付けたのは、南無阿弥陀仏が、いつも、わたしたちを、目覚ませ、救う如来の召喚(よびこえ)だからでしょう。

どこにいても、どんなときにも、どのようになっても、仏の慈悲のみ手が、しっかりしているから、我々には、心配がない、ということでしょう。

妻にも心配かけたが、自分は、病の床にあって、しばらく、仏様のみ教えを、喜ばせていただいたことでありました。 合掌。

泉康雄



UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

Wow, we have had a hectic start to our fall at the temple. It feels like we are still in the middle of summer, but with the leaves starting to turn color, there are sure signs of fall. I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather we are having.

The first major event we had this fall was the clean-up of the temple that occurred on September 10th. There were over 40 people who came out to help. Please see the accompanying pictures and comments from Brenda about this event. As mentioned, people went above and beyond to make sure many areas of the temple were cleaned. There is a definite clean and fresh feeling to the temple. Thank you to all the members who came out and worked so hard.

We also held our last soup kitchen volunteer event on September 13th. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to make the lunch and to Emily Stitt, who coordinated the event (pg. 5). It is excellent that we can help those less fortunate in our community, and I believe this is a true reflection of dhana (selfless giving).

We are just concluding the “Everything Japanese” sale as I am writing this update. The multi-purpose room and the boardroom were filled with items. The setup and pricing took 6-7 hours on Thursday and Friday, and the sale was held on Saturday and Sunday (Sept 24-25). Over 75% of the items were sold, and over \$3000 was raised. Thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help and to all who donated. Seeing so many of the items that were clearly treasured and cared for by our seniors, finding a new home was rewarding.

We are moving on to our plans for the rest of the fall. The October Shotsuki service will be held on October 2 at 10:30 a.m. This will be live streamed, and the link is listed below.

<https://youtu.be/52DjRL3178g>

The Chow Mein Supper is set for Nov. 6th. Please see the related notices by Brenda in this edition of the Hikari (this page and pg. 6). As this is the first Chow Mein dinner in over three years, it may take a little extra effort to ensure we run a successful event.

Thanks to so many people who have helped get the temple back on its feet. There is a definite positive feeling to all that is happening, and we are grateful for our Sangha.

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE October & November 2022

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

Oct 02

SHOTSUKI
Wayne Tsukishima
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Oct 09

Bob Muskovich
Robbie Scharf, AV

Oct 16

Joyce Shigehiro
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Oct 23

John Dubbelboer
David Major, AV

Oct 30

Kynan Gordon
Bob Muskovich, AV

Nov 06

Harry Sugimoto
Roland Ikuta, AV

Nov 13

SHOTSUKI
Ross Jacobs
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Nov 20

Sheila Oishi
Robbie Scharf, AV

Nov 27

Maya Ichikawa
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Mein Making

Mein-making begins at 8 a.m. on Oct. 15, and is open to temple members, family and friends:

- Limit of 4 bags per volunteer, \$4.00 /bag.
- The event will last until late afternoon...whenever the dough is done, the last pan of noodles fried and the temple back to its tidy self.
- Lunch will be provided.

*This event will include making noodles for the Chow Mein Supper on November 6. Questions can be directed to Emily Stitt (403 380-6683) or Mary Shigehiro (403 394-3664). Please see the notice on page 5 for further information.

We are looking for designated volunteers for a clean-up crew which includes cleaning the stove, woks, large containers and floors. Traditionally, many volunteers stay to the end to help clean but after a long day and often advanced age the final clean-up is daunting and often left to a dwindling few.

This extra group of 6 people will arrive at 2:00 p.m. and work through to closing up the temple. (They are invited to come earlier for lunch!) 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-mein>

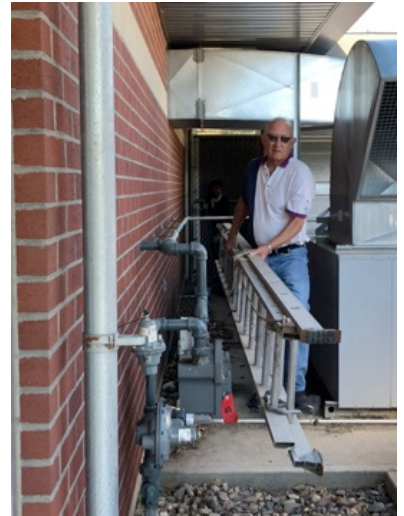
Thanks for participating in this much anticipated event! Please feel free to pass on this information to any other interested parties.

Palms pressed together,
Brenda Ikuta

Temple Clean-Up

BTSA members worked together Sept. 10 to clean the temple after essentially two years of closure during the pandemic. Among the targets were cluttered closets and rooms, dusty floors, carpets, shelves and najjin. And the kitchenware and stove outlets received a much-needed cleaning.

The day wrapped up with a pizza lunch that was ordered for the workers who spent so much time polishing and cleaning the temple. Photos: Akira Ichikawa



September Shotsuki

BTSA opened its doors Sept. 11 for its first service—a *shotsuki hoyo*—since the summer break, with hopes of no further interruptions, and a regular-running year. A relatively sizeable turnout of members and attendants were present in the hondo.

The occasion was joyous after having the temple shuttered for so long and a day after members joined together to give the facility a much-needed cleaning (see related article on page 3). After the service everyone was treated to a delicious lunch prepared by toban 2.



MC Sheila Oishi



Gassho by shotsuki observers



Homyo display on Najjin



Lunch



REGULAR EVENTS

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30pm
practice will resume October 17
Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 sas7@telus.net

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm
Practices will run Sept 20 - Dec 6
Contact tanako.david@gmail.com 403.330.1548,

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am
Study of the wasans (poems) of Shinran
Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation Thursdays @ 7pm in-person and via zoom
Contact Vickie Macarther vickie@spiritinmotionyoga.com

SOUP KITCHEN



On Sept. 13, the BTSA lent a hand at the Soup Kitchen where the helpers made spaghetti and meatballs for lunch. In attendance, from left, Sachi Izumi, Amy Tsukishima, Akira Ichikawa, Emily Stitt, Debi Friesen, Helen Hikita, Betty Tanaka, Judy Fukushima, Don Friesen, Eichi Tanaka, and Rev. Yasuo Izumi.




A serene study of shadow and light captured by Brenda Ikuta at the All Things Japanese Sale (see pg. 7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Izumi's Stories for Children & Adults will be available soon!

Dharma: My Guiding Light No. 15

Stories for children & adults



Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
南アルバータ仏教会
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta
470 40th St. S., Lethbridge, AB T1J 3Z5



Toronto Buddhist Church
Online Speakers Series

"BUDDHISM AND..." FAMILY



How do the teachings of Buddha come to life in families and relationships?

**3 Oct, 2022 (Pt.1)
and
7 Nov., 2022 (Pt.2)**
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

Registration is FREE
@ TBC website
Or via this QR code



Toronto Buddhist Church
1011 Sheppard Avenue W., M3H 2T7
tbc@tbc.on.ca
416-534-4302

2022 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
at Sept 26: **144**

Obon Donations

July 2022

Kinuko Matsuno
Tomiko Takeyasu

Total \$100

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

September 2022

Judy Fukushima
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Nadine Hamabata
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira Ichikawa
Kenneth Ito
Roy Ito
Hiroshi Kitagawa
John and Jean Miyanaga
Mark and Tamara Miyanaga
Robert and Toshiya Miyanaga
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Tod and Hollis Pickerell
Gord and Joy Saruwatari
Joe and Mary Shigehiro

Harry Hajime Sugimoto
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Alan and Margaret Tanaka
Jim and Irene Tanaka
Sue Thibodeau
George Tokuda
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak and Yoko Tsujita

Total \$1,980

Other Donations

Anonymous Cash Donation
Rumiko Ibuki
Rev Yasuo and Sachi Izumi

Total - \$324.10

Funeral Donations

Anonymous Cash Donation
Deb Friesen
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Roy and C Koizumi
Bill and Cheryl Mains
Bill and Diane Mikula
Shig or Katie Nakagawa
Heidi Oishi

Joyce H.Oishi
Lyle and Lorraine Pennington
Darcee Richardson
Gord and Joy Saruwatari
Roy and Pat Sassa
Tomiko Sugimoto
Kazuko Takaguchi
Masaye Tanaka
Stacy Uyeda

Total - \$909

Total Donations \$3,313.10

Please inform us if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Anyone wishing not to be acknowledged in print, let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

Chow Mein Supper Sunday, November 6

We will be selling 2000 meals at \$17.00* each. Meals will be available for take-out only on Sunday, November 6, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

*The increase in ticket price from \$15.00 in 2019 to \$17.00 is based on the increasing cost of basic food staples: Statistics Canada reported a 9.7% rise in the price of food from April 2021 – April 2022.

On Saturday, November 5 we will be doing the majority of the food preparation. For this day, we are making an **open call-out for help** from 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 a water cooler.

For Friday, November 4 and Sunday, November 6, we would like to form **work teams of experienced and novice volunteers**. Volunteers will be solicited through phone calls by Team Leaders and supplemented through sign ups. Volunteers can begin arriving at 8 a.m. Doors will be closed to customers at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.

We are looking for **designated volunteers for a clean-up crew** which includes cleaning the stove, woks, large containers and floors. Traditionally, many volunteers stay to the end to help clean but after a long day and often advanced age the final clean-up is daunting and often left to a dwindling few. This extra group of 6 people will arrive at 3:30 p.m. and work 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>

After a three-year hiatus, many people might be uncertain how to get their tickets! You can contact Terry Hanna who will be organizing the distribution of tickets after October 15:

terrymhanna@gmail.com
(403) 330-1981

Thanks for participating in this long-awaited event! Please feel free to pass on this information to any other interested parties.

Palms pressed together,
Brenda Ikuta

Reflections on the ALL THINGS JAPANESE SALE

The *All Things Japanese Sale* took place on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25, and the organizers were quite satisfied with the income generated of \$3,305.00.

The multipurpose room, boardroom and main foyer were filled overwhelmingly with treasures. Even if you worked from Thursday to Sunday there was always something new to be seen...and so many interesting stories and conversations to enjoy.

Thank you to the many who were involved in the success of this first, post-pandemic temple fundraiser. Even though most of us experience greater freedoms, the effects and cautions of the pandemic linger. This made organizing the sale more challenging and doubts pervaded as to who would be willing to volunteer and come out to buy.

The generosity of donors was extremely moving: these items were obviously lovingly collected over a lifetime. Many came from a time of losing everything, having very little of value, dreaming and saving carefully, taking care of what you had, not wasting, rarely using things because they were too precious. They came from a time of learning and making: cultivating and showcasing knowledge, precision and artistry. We needed to find new lives and new homes for these precious treasures so the organizers priced them to be extremely affordable. We hope this cultivated the overall happy atmosphere. Customers were quietly excited with their purchases at prices where they could afford many things...boxes full of things...and not have to choose their few favorites.

Thank you to the many volunteers who put up posters and signs, shared the event with excited anticipation through their customers, social media and word of mouth, researched items, fed, unpacked, sorted, set up tables, priced, cashiered, worked the floor, packed up and hauled away. As always there are innumerable unseen supports involved in any success for which our gratitude is endless.

With palms pressed together,
Brenda Ikuta





OCTOBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) 2	3	7pm Taiko 4	5	7pm Meditation 6	7	10:30am Study Class* 8
10:30am Regular Service* 9	10	7pm Taiko 11	12	7pm Meditation 13	Mein-Making 14	8 am Mein-Making 10:30am Study Class* 15
10:30am Regular Service* 16	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 17	7pm Taiko 18	19	7pm Meditation 20	21	10:30am Study Class* 22
10:30am Regular Service* 23	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 24	7pm Taiko 25	26	7pm Meditation 27	28	10:30am Study Class* 29
10:30am Regular Service* 30	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 31					

NOVEMBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7pm Taiko 1	2	7pm Meditation 3	Chow Mein Supper Prep 4	10:30am Study Class* Chow Mein Supper Prep 5
10:30am Regular Service* Chow Mein Supper Take-out 6	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 7	7pm Taiko 8	9	7pm Meditation 10	11	10:30am Study Class* 12
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) 13	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 14	7pm Taiko 15	16	7pm Meditation 17	18	10:30am Study Class* 19
10:30am Regular Service* 20	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 21	7pm Taiko 22	23	7pm Meditation 24	25	10:30am Study Class* 26
10:30am Regular Service* 27	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 28	7pm Taiko 29	30			