

Hikari the Light



October 2023

A THOUGHT



Looking back at 53 years of ministry in Canada, what I have been saying is that it is indeed important to put our palms together in front of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha is not idle, but what I call, “truth working” or “truth calling” itself. Our life is based on “I” or “ego” which creates a long night of

ignorance. To this kind of life, Amida Buddha, the Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion is constantly calling and guiding us to the realm of truly bright and broad. In other words, Amida Buddha is constantly crushing our ignorance and bringing us to the realm of truth, the world of non-ego, Amida. The recitation of the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu”, is our spontaneous gratitude and appreciation to Amida.

Someone once visited a well-known Shinshu minister. It was already dark. However, the minister carefully listened to the visitor’s question. The visitor was struggling to try to understand what Jodo Shinshu followers often recite, *Namo Amida Butsu*. He asked the minister, “Please explain what is the meaning of the Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*?” The minister replied, after a pause, “Well, I’ll show you the ocean.” The minister’s temple was close to the ocean. “Ocean? But it is very dark,” said the visitor. “Oh, I will guide you.” After walking some distance, the minister asked, “Now can you hear the sound of the waves?” “Yes, I can hear it,” said the visitor.

The minister then explained, “You see, we are living in the long night of ignorance because of our blind passions. Amida’s wish is to bring such beings like us to Amida’s home of peace and serenity. Amida is constantly calling us from time in memorial, “Please rely on Amida. I am thinking of you always!” Can you hear the sound of waves, heavy and loud? Well, it’s getting cold. Let’s return.” Listen to the constant sound of waves in the dark, the visitor bowed deeply to the minister in gratitude.

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

限りない「いのち」

厳しい暑さも終わり、しのぎやすい気候となりました。

皆様には、いかがお過ごしでしょうか。

さて、

私たちは、自分の体は、自分のものである、と思って生きているのではないのでしょうか。ところが、実際は「息」をするのも「心臓」を動かしているのも、「自分のもの」ということを超えています。つまり、自分の思いにかかわらず、「息」は口から出入りしているのです。「心臓」は毎日、忘れることなく、コトン、コトンと動いているのです。不思議ですね。息をするのも心臓を動かすのも、「自分」を超えているところで営まれているのです。考えると、不思議なことです。そして、「ありがたい」ことであると言わざるを得ません。

度々いただいています正信偈の最初は「帰命無量寿如来」(きみょうむりょうじゅ によらい)です。「むりょうじゅ」とは、「限りないいのち」ということです。それは

「われ」とか「じぶん」を超えている「いのち」のことです。そして、「如来」あるいは「仏さま」とは、実は、形ではなく「智慧のはたらき」なのです。私(自分)を超えて、いつでも、どこでも、どんな時でも、働いて、私をめざまさせて下さるのが、仏様、如来様です。このいのちは「自分のもの」と思って生きていますが、本当は、仏様、如来様の働きの中で「自分は」生きている、いや、毎日「生かされている」ということに気づかされるのが、実は、本当に大切なことであります。 合掌 泉康雄



UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

Fall is in the air. Hope everyone is enjoying the mild weather.

October 1, 2023 will be the Shotsuki service as well as Socho Aoki's visit to our Temple. Please find below the YouTube live stream link to the BTSA Service on that date.
<https://youtube.com/live/wft1Mf9AJKg?feature=share>

Izumi Sensei will be out of town from September 17 to October 15, 2023. Izumi Sensei will be retiring at the end of October 2023. In appreciation for all his years of dedicated service to the Jodo Shinshu Temples and especially to BTSA, a lunch will be held in his honour on October 29, 2023 after Sunday service.

Mein making will take place on October 13 and 14 in preparation for the Chow Mein Supper which will take place on November 5th, 2023.

The November Shotsuki service will be held on November 19th, 2023. Roland Sensei will be in Toronto on ministerial business from November 7 to 12, 2023 necessitating the rescheduling of the Shotsuki service.

A new Toban group, Toban 1, has been formed. Many of the members of Toban 1 are Ikigomi members (aka Youth Group).

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has an online food safety course consisting of 10 online modules, an online exam, followed by certification which is valid for 5 years. AHS recommends a minimum of 1 person per cooking/food preparation shift have the certification. Toban Leaders and other interested members are welcome to participate in this certification program.

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.

KOROMO-GAE

In Japan, there is a time to change clothes called "Koromogae." It happens June 1st and October 1st. June 1st is a time to change clothes from winter to Summer. October 1st is a time from summer to winter. But, many people and many working places have a cooler or a heater these days. So, the word "koromogae" will become a dying word. Like this, many things will change according to the time.

However, Buddha's teachings, Shinran's words, in particular will never change. May the Dharma spread and may people listen to these important teachings.

Y.I.

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE October & November

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

Oct 01

SHOTSUKI
Wayne Tsukishima
David Major, AV

Oct 08

Bob Muskovich
AV TBA

Oct 15

Joyce Shigehiro
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Oct 22

John Dubbelboer
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Oct 29

Kynan Ono
Bob Muskovich, AV

Nov 05

Connie Trang
Kynan Ono, AV

Nov 12

TBA
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Nov 19

SHOTSUKI
Sheila Oishi
AV TBA

Nov 26

Maya Ichikawa
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

The following message was delivered to the BTSA membership via email on September 8th:

Dear BTSA Members and Friends,

We would like to inform you that Reverend Izumi will be retiring from active minister duties at the BTSA at the end of October. Izumi Sensei came to Lethbridge for his first ministerial assignment in Canada in 1970. After serving in Vancouver, Toronto, and Richmond, he returned to Southern Alberta in 2002. He became the first minister of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in 2009 when the five temples merged. In 2018 he received a commendation of Consulate General of Japan and 2021, he received a fifty years certificate as a minister from Hongwanji in Kyoto.

We would like to thank Sensei for his years of service and dedication to spreading the teaching of the Buddha and caring for the needs of our temple community.

In Sensei's words, " although I will retire, I will still be a priest of the Hongwanji in Kyoto. I'll continue to share the Dharma with others."

In Gassho,
The BTSA Board

Minister Appreciation Luncheon September Shotsuki Service



photos: John Dubbelboer, Maya Ichikawa, Rev. Roland Ikuta,

Food Safety Online Course

As the temple moves into a full slate of food events for 2023-24, the leadership discussed the benefits of updating their knowledge of safe food handling. The Board approved this endeavour and supported the training of any temple volunteer who gets certification. 16 people registered for the AHS approved *Train Food Safety* which is an online course and can be completed individually or as a group. There was representation from every Toban and major food event at a cost of \$756.00 (\$45/person + GST).

On September 21, nine volunteers completed the training modules and practice exams in the boardroom. The common sentiment was that it was important information, a timely endeavor and fun to do 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



In preparation for the upcoming Chow Mein Supper, there will be a mein making-session on Saturday, October 14, starting at 8:00 A.M. Lunch will be served and bags of mein will be available for purchase, at \$5.00 a piece, limit of four. Everyone is welcome to come out and help.



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 David Tanaka tanaka.david@gmail.com 403.330.1548,

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am on hold while Rev. Izumi is away. This is a small, yet enjoyable class. Please join. Everyone welcome with no fee. (If there is a funeral or memorial service, it will be cancelled.) Let's study about the teaching of the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, taught by Shinran Shonin.

Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi to check dates before coming.

Meditation Wednesdays @ 9:30am, in-person and online

There will be one class in October - Oct. 18th

Weekly schedule will resume starting in November

To register contact Vickie Macarther spirituality@shaw.ca

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 debfriesen@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>

HOW TO GET TICKETS*: Call or email the person you have contacted in the past to get tickets

CONTACT	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
Betty Tanaka	(403) 329-0548	bmitstana@gmail.com
Mary Shigehiro	(403) 394-3664	jmaryp@shaw.ca
Glen Tanaka	(403) 394-1952 / Cell (403) 382-8058	glentnk@gmail.com
Joyce Adachi	(403) 381-6995 / (403) 331-9495	orrie13@outlook.com
Sachi Scharf *If you are a new customer or no longer have a contact	(403) 915-6776	scharf1@shaw.ca

Looking forward to enjoying this event together!

Brenda Ikuta

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 Sept 20 – 136

Obon Donations

Anonymous
Gerry Miyashiro
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Brian & Marjane Turnbull

Shotsuki Donations

September 2023
Anonymous
Ken & April Fleury
Judy Fukushima
Nadine Hamabata
Neil Hinatsu
Rumiko Ibuki
Kenneth Ito
Roy & Joyce Ito
Hollis Miyanaga
Robert & Toshiya Miyanaga
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Harry Sugimoto
Jim & Irene Tanaka
Sue Thibodeau
Noel & Karen Thomas
Jim, Marion
& Shannon Tomiyama
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Lori Yokoyama

Other Donations

September 2023
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
Estate of Takeshi Ted Koyata
Gordon & Joy Saruwatari
Sachi Scharf
Alan & Margaret Tanaka

Funeral Donations

September 2023
Anonymous
Bob & Molly Akune
Roy & Itoko Akune
Ted or Rose Akune
Sachiyo Araki
Richard & Valerie Boras
Allan & Edna Barya
Valerie Deveau
Judy Fukushima
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Misaye Hamamura
Lois Hattori
W Scott & Karen Hindle
Kaz & Yori Hiraga
Tomi Hisaoka
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
Gail Ikebuchi
Etsuko Karaki
Michael & Setsuko Koyata
Shayne Kukulowicz
Ken Kurio
Estate of Kasumi Matsuda
Gary & Beverly McIlroy
Eileen Miyanaga
Gerry Miyashiro
Joyce Miyashita

Joe & Marion Mori
Jim Nakagawa
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Hideo & Jennifer Nishida
Kei & Margo Nishida
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Karen Nishiyama & Ron Wenger
Kiyomi Nishiyama & Daniel McGee
Chiduko Nowak
Mitsuko Oga
Dennis Oikawa
Heidi Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Carolyn Sakamoto
Irene Sakamoto
Kenneth & Keiko Sampson
Roy & Pat Sassa
Sachi Scharf
Dennis Setoguchi
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Dawn Sugimoto
Harry Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Yvonne B Sugimoto
Marc & Beth Sunada
Sachiko Taguchi
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fuji Takeda
Wendy Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Ken & Midori Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Tammy Tanaka
Ayako Taniguchi
Clifford Thomas

Donations for the LAHAINA WILDFIRE

The board of directors for the BTSA have decided to try to raise donations for the Wildfire disaster that occurred on August 8th on the island of Maui. We are hoping that temple members will consider a donation for this cause. The fire has 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. Please see the accompanying letter from Bishop Aoki. We will be collecting donations until the end of December for this cause.



A belated thank you to Nancy Eng for providing the dharma classroom with copies of *The Golden Chain of Love* published by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, which she picked up on a recent trip there.

Corey Thompson
Jim, Marion
and Shannon Tomiyama
Joanne Tomiyama & Allard Van Everdingen
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Ron & Amy Yakimchuk

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



JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA

11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, BC, V7E 6M6 Canada
Tel: 604-272-3330 • Fax: 604-272-6865
www.livingdharmacentre.ca

August 15, 2023

Statement on the Wildfires and Relief Effort in Maui

On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, we are deeply saddened and concerned about the deadly wildfire that struck the Hawaiian island of Maui. The fire destroyed most of the town of Lahaina - including Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and the resident minister's residence. The wildfire caused immeasurable damage to the entire community.

One of the core practices in Buddhism is *Dana* – Giving or Generosity. I would like to humbly ask and encourage all the Jodo Shinshu Temples and their members to contribute to the wildfire relief, if you can.

1. Online at <https://hongwanjihawaii.com/> by clicking on the “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” button under the “Donate” tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Cheque and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make cheques payable to: HHMH and in the memo line designate “Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief” to ensure proper credit.

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

** All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and Maui relief efforts.*

ハワイ・マウイ島での火災で、ラハイナ本願寺が全焼しました。開教使住宅も焼け落ち、廣中先生とご家族、メンバーの方も避難生活をしています。援助が必要です。皆さまのご支援をお願い申し上げます。

(主にクレジットカード利用での義援金支援となります。分からない方はご所属開教使へご相談ください。)

In gassho,
Tatsuya Aoki

Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

BEFORE



Lahaina Hongwanji Temple

August 8, 2023



Satellite image © 2023 Maxar Technologies
<https://apnews.com/>

AFTER



Lahaina Hongwanji Temple



OCTOBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30 am Shotsuki Memorial 1	6:30pm Minyo Dance 2	7pm Taiko 3	4	5	6	7
10:30 am Regular Service 8	6:30pm Minyo Dance 9	7pm Taiko 10	11	12	Mein-making 13	8am Mein-making 14
10:30 am Regular Service 15	6:30pm Minyo Dance 16	7pm Taiko 17	9:30am Meditation 18	19	20	10:30am Study Class* 21
10:30 am Regular Service 22	6:30pm Minyo Dance 23	7pm Taiko 24	25	26	27	10:30am Study Class* 28
10:30 am Regular Service Appreciation Lunch for Rev. Izumi 29	6:30pm Minyo Dance 30	7pm Taiko 31			*OFFICIAL BTSА ACTIVITY	

NOVEMBER: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			9:30am Meditation 1	2	Chow Mein Supper prep through team leader 3	8am Chow Mein Supper prep 4
10:30 am Regular 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		