



September 2017

A Peaceful Religion



I visit the Lethbridge Correctional Centre twice each month. I began visiting there after a Christian chaplain approached me one day and asked if I would be interested in visiting the Centre regularly. I was told that the Centre needed someone who could come and talk about Buddha's teaching. This was about five years ago. Since then, whenever I have time, I visit there. Usually when I visit inmates there, I try to listen to them first and then talk with them. Whether male or female they are always friendly to me and listen to me well. At the last meeting during the summer, there were seven females waiting for me in a small room. I was a bit surprised with the number because there are normally only a couple of inmates. I thought, Buddhism must be getting popular even in institutions such as this.

On that day, I began by asking them what made them attend the Buddhist session. One of them said, "Buddhism is interesting." The other said, "Buddhism is very peaceful." Still others said, "Buddhism is not judgmental." One woman cheerfully said, "The Buddha accepts everyone equally including us! I love the Buddha!" We all had a good laugh. I said, "Yes, I totally agree with you. We, Buddhists, always talk about

Buddha's compassion and the spirit of oneness which embrace us equally without discrimination and judgment. Buddha's teaching is really peaceful. I also love the Buddha!" We all laughed.

Saying this, I remembered about my trip many years ago, before I became a Buddhist minister. I was 22 years old and travelling, or rather wandering without any particular purpose. I visited places in North America and Europe including Vatican City in Italy. The Vatican, as you know, is the smallest independent Catholic country. I still vividly recall an image of Jesus physically suffering on the cross. I saw blood streaming from his hands and his feet nailed to the cross. It was so real that I felt sick. I know now that crucifixion has an important religious meaning; Jesus sacrificed himself for sinners and it is said that three days later he was resurrected. However, to be honest, I do not like this kind of religious presentation which makes people who do not believe its doctrine feel fear and discomfort. Although I like Jesus who lived and died in unconditional love toward people, I am not comfortable with the image of Jesus on the cross.

On the other hand, Buddhists understand and appreciate the last scene of the death of the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, which was very peaceful surrounded by his followers, and even animals as I am told. People do not feel fear when they see the picture of the last moment of Sakyamuni's life. Furthermore, I think it is interesting that Jesus died upright on the cross and the Buddha died lying down. I do not know if these inmates knew this kind of superficial difference between the last moments of Jesus and the Buddha. Even still, they felt peace in Buddha's teaching. So do I.

大きな願い

8月中は日曜礼拝はお休みでしたが、私の方は相変わらずお寺に行っていましたので結構忙しく、あっという間に9月になってしまいました。私たちのお寺もインターネットのおかげで遠方まで知られているらしく、各方面から訪問客がありました。休暇の途中で立ち寄った方がほとんどであったようです。訪問客は日系人だけではありませんでした。親子三人で訪れた方は、ベトナム人でした。本堂に案内すると、靴を脱いで入ってこられたので、「このお寺はカナダ式です」と言ったのですが、ベトナムでの仏教徒の習慣が急にとれるわけもなく、そのまま仏前で参りされました。国や習慣、言葉が違っても、目覚めた方である大悲の仏さまを敬う心は同じです。それは、仏様の「差別や争いの中にあっても、仏道を歩みながら力強く生きておくれ」という「大きな願い」がどこにでも働き、私たちに届いているという事でありましょう。いよいよ、聞法を続け、仏さまを敬う生活をいたしましょう。 合掌

南アルバータ仏教会開教使 泉康雄



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403.327.1260 • www.theBTSA.com

Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

BTSA Notes

The month of September beckons members and Dharma friends back to the temple for regular Sunday services after a month-and-a-half respite after Obon.

The hot summer weather is expected to moderate as the calendar moves toward ohigan and the autumnal equinox when day and night are close to equal in length and we observe a sense of equanimity.

Activities at the temple will pick up as noted in this Hikari and the events scheduled. A sangha appreciation day is planned for Sept. 10, and a mein-making session of Sept. 23 in preparation for the fall chow mein supper on Oct. 15.

Despite the relaxed summer days, members were nonetheless busy on Aug. 4 and 5, manning the casino a few metres from the temple. Thanks to Roland for coordinating the involved planning for this fund-raiser that the temple has been assigned every other year. And, thanks to all those who signed up to help, especially wearied-eyed helpers who had the closing shift that wound up about 4 a.m. Sunday morning.

Please look over the Hikari accounts of the many activities during the last few months--the Buddhism in the Bay in June, bon odori and Obon services in July, and the associated celebrations of the Nikka Yuko Garden's 50th and Canada's 150th anniversaries.

Akira Ichikawa

Higan Observance - Sept 24



BTSA will observe the autumn Ohigan at the Sept. 24 Sunday service. Coming as it does about the time of the fall equinox, when day and night are about equal in length, it reminds us to reflect "on the harmony of nature and devote (ourselves) to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives" as described by the Toronto Buddhist Temple website

The Nishi Hongwanji characterizes it as follows: "Higan is an abbreviation of 'To-Higan; which literally meaning 'to reach the other shore.' In Buddhism, the world of suffering is referred to as 'this shore' and the world of Enlightenment is called the 'other shore.'

"The term Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita, 'gone to other shore,' and suggests the Six Paramitas of charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. Various sutras teach that six paramitas or perfections of practice are the way of reaching the other shore from this shore."

CHAIR SCHEDULE September & October 2017

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

Sept 03

Chair: Jeff Haines
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 10 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Kynan Gordon
Audio: Akira Ichikawa

Sept 17

Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

Sept 24 OHIGAN

Chair: Sylvia Oishi
Audio: Ross Jacobs

Oct 01 SHOTSUKI

Chair: Val Boras
Audio: Tak Okamura

Oct 08

Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: John Dubbelboer

Oct 15 No Service

Fall Chow Mein Supper
1-5 p.m.

Oct 22

Chair: Robert Takaguchi
Audio: Sway Nishimura

Oct 29

Chair: Ross Jacobs
Audio: Brenda Ikuta

FOR CHILDREN ONLY

A Foolish Frog



Once there was a big frog in a small town. He was so big, in fact, that all the frogs from near and far admired him and he soon became their leader. One day, the frogs took a short trip. On their way, they met a cow. The frogs had never seen such a big creature. "Wow, look! That guy is very big! He is much bigger than our leader! He is gigantic!" The leader of the frogs was not happy to hear this because he thought of himself as the biggest and greatest creature in the entire world. So, the leader said to the other frogs, "Hey, I can be just as big as him. Just you watch!" Saying this, the leader took a deep breath. His body grew, getting bigger and bigger. The leader told the other frogs, "See, am I now as big as that guy?"

"Oh, no, not yet. That guy is still much bigger than you." So, again the leader took another deep breath. "Now, I am bigger than that guy, right?" All the frogs said in unison, "No, no, no! That guy is still much bigger than you."

The leader was not happy to hear this. He was far too proud of himself. "Oh, well, that is because I am barely trying! Watch now, I will really try this time. Look!" He took a huge breath, using all his might. His cheeks quickly grew bigger and bigger and his face turned red, and then blue, and then... "BANG!"

Well, you know what happened.

Sometimes we must really know ourselves. We should not become like that foolish frog.
(Y. I.)



Translation 8

The Ordinary Man's Birth

This is a continuation of translations of Kudensho (Notes On Oral Transmission) begun in the September, 2016, Hikari. Kudensho is a Jodo Shinshu historic text believed to have been written by Kakunyo (1270-1351), a great-grandson of Shinran, and translated by Rev. Phillip Eidmann and Rev. Yasuo Izumi.

In general, it is not admitted by the various schools of Buddhism that ordinary man is able to enter the Recompensed Land of Amida. In Jodo Shinshu, however, the essence of the teaching of Zendo (613-681) is to fix the Pure Land of tranquil sustenance as the Recompensed Buddha and Recompensed Land¹, and to talk enthusiastically of those who are able to enter as being ordinary man. This fact is a surprise to the ears of those monks of the Path of Sages. Being caught up by the Path of Sages, the minds of many monks go astray and have doubt in the tendency of ordinary man entering the Pure Land.

Although the reason that doubt sprouts is not always due to their doubting of Amida's compassion which transcends the world, with "Such a thing couldn't be", there are seldom those who humble themselves and discern the principles of the Jodo Shinshu; they imagine reasons for not entering the Recompensed Land; there are few monks who would compare and then doubt the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Because in this world they most certainly attune their ears to the predominant teaching of the Path of Sages. Many are disturbed by the teaching of the Path of Sages and doubt the Other Power of the Jodo Shinshu because they are hindered by the fetters of ignorance, and they have not met a good teacher. The essence of the Jodo Shinshu of the Pure Land is originally for the sake of the ordinary man and is not for the sake of the sages, it is said. (To be continued)

1. The Recompensed Buddha and the Recompensed Land: the Fulfilled Buddha (Amida Buddha) and the Fulfilled Land (the Pure Land of Amida Buddha)

TOBAN UPDATE

Thanks to Jan Okamura and **Toban 4** for the delicious supper following Obon service as the well as the tea-times in early July. **Toban 3** had a rather quiet August, although members were called in for the monthly clean up after the summer break. **Toban 2** will oversee September starting with the first service on the 2nd. We will have a toban-break for the September 10 Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) as we join in the Sangha appreciation lunch, however we still need to do the najin before and after service.

Toban Schedule: Each Toban serves four separate months during the year, which includes one of our three major service suppers. Upcoming dates: October-Toban 4; November-Toban 3; December Toban 2; January-Toban 3.

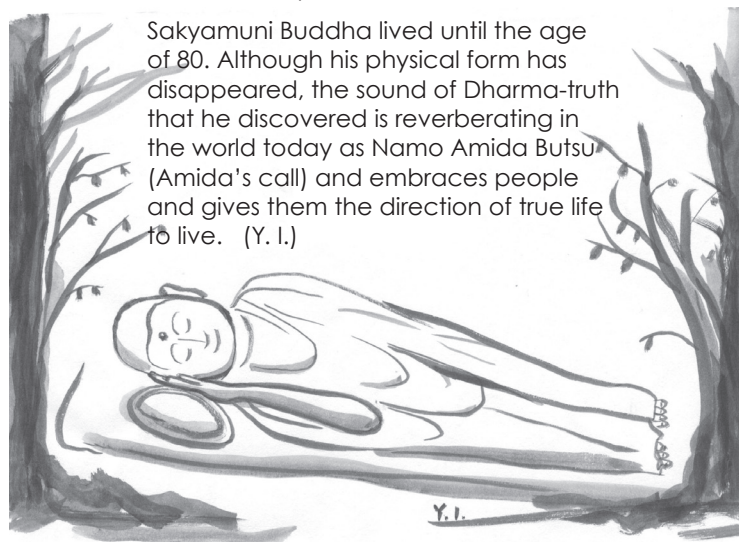
Bon Odori thanks especially to Brenda/Roland Ikuta, Roy/Pat Sassa, Totsy/Sway Nishimura, Sheila Oishi, David Tanaka, Kai Ichikawa, Kynan Gordon, Maya Ichikawa/Marko/Sam/Lily Hilgersom, Kiyomi Coffman, Ross Jacobs, Michelle Day and Akira. Appreciation to all the participants and helpers who made the odori and bazaar another great success!

Contact 403.327.1668 or lorita.ichikawa@gmail.com

BUDDHIST Q & A

Q. During Obon service, you talked about the meaning of a standing Buddha and a sitting Buddha. There is another statue of the Buddha, lying Buddha. What does it mean?

A. A lying Buddha shows the moment when the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, was going to enter the final and perfect Nirvana (the Pure Land of Amida). The legend tells us the last scene as follows: Worn out by age and fatigue, the Buddha became ill. Lying between the twin Sala trees he went through long series of meditative states and, like a flame which goes out through the lack of fuel, reached the peace of Nirvana.



Sakyamuni Buddha lived until the age of 80. Although his physical form has disappeared, the sound of Dharma-truth that he discovered is reverberating in the world today as Namu Amida Butsu (Amida's call) and embraces people and gives them the direction of true life to live. (Y. I.)

**Mein Noodle-making on September 23
For the BTSA Oct 15 Chow Mein Supper
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Sangha Appreciation Lunch - Sept 10

In honour of ALL OF YOU and in happy recognition of our interdependence, we will be providing a special "Sangha Appreciation Lunch" after Sunday shotsuki service on Sept. 10.

We wish to show our appreciation for all members of our Sangha (Temple community) who contribute to the vitality of our Temple in a myriad of ways. Our Buddhist friends care, share and cook for us; teach and inspire us; organize events, make them happen, and clean up afterward; provide monetarily; or simply and cheerfully attend Dharma School :)

This will be an entirely catered event to ensure that our usual volunteers get a break!

Please RSVP to Sylvia Oishi at 403.892.2318 (phone or text) or email sylvia.oishi@gmail.com as soon as possible, but no later than Sept. 8.

Sensei at Heritage Day

Izumi sensei and Lilly and Sheila Oishi looked after the Japanese Heritage (Bunka) Society booth at the Heritage Day celebration at the Exhibition Pavilion on August 7. Sensei wrote out people's names in Japanese characters (calligraphy).



2017 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: 203

Obon Donations

July/Aug 2017

Jane Adachi
Joyce Adachi
Yuki Adachi
Yosh & Sue Aimoto
Darren Aoki
John & Rita Aoki
Stan Bandura
Liane Burdikin
Jennifer Catt
Eietsu Chiba
Malcolm & Mary Clewes
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Ken & April Fleury
Bonnie Fujimoto
C Fujimoto
Debbie Fujimoto
Mitsuyo Fujimoto
Teresa Fujimoto
Yoshio Fujimoto
Marg Fujita
Judy Fukushima
Dorene Gordon
Chiduka Hamabata
Nadine Hamabata

Toshiko Hase
Jonathan Healey
Shinako (Sheila) or Randy Higa
Shirley Higa
Marie Hirashima
Tsuuyoshi & Mariko Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira & Lorita Ichikawa
Dr Roland & Brenda Ikuta
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
Ray & Donna Journoud
Tom & Lily Kaga
Sab & Kiyomi Kamitakahara
Esther Kanegawa
Stanley & Audrey Kanegawa
Stuart Kanegawa
Lily Y Kamachi
Eleanor Katakami
Michie Kawasaki
Aiko Kimura
Chizuko Kimura
Howard or Daryl Kimura
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Marvin & Sharon Koizumi
Dave & Val Kunimoto
Monty & Angie Kunimoto
Yosh & Kathleen Kunimoto
Yasue Maruyama

Mineo Masuda
Kay K. Matsuda
May S. Matsumiya
Kinuko Matsuno
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Chiyoko May
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Douglas & Susie Mikado
John & Jean Miyanaga
Robert & Toshi Miyanaga
Joyce Miyashita
Judy S. Miyauchi
Joe & Marion Mori
Kay Kimie Moriyama
Ken & Sharon Moriyama
Thomas & Mariko Mura
Ayako Murakami
Mark & Shelly Murakami
William T & Setsuko Nagai
T. Nagata
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Jim & Joan Nakagawa
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
Ken & Mary Nishi
Kimino Nishi
Mitsuko Nishi
Sharon Nishi

Hideo & Jennifer Nishida
Kei & Margo Nishida
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Norreen Nishiyama
Noriko Oga
Kaz or Setsuko Ohno
Ken Ohno or Nancy Eng
Kimiko Ohno
May Ohno
Randy Ohno
Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Sheila Oishi
Sut & Neva Oishi
Sylvia Oishi
David & Wanda Okamura
Tak & Jan Okamura
Evelyn Osaka
Larry Osaka
Yumiko Osaka
Duke & Aki Oshiro
Evan Oshiro or Marcie Jaedicke
Ayako Otsuka
Joanne Planidin
Darcee Richardson
Chiyeko Robinson
Tomomi Saka
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Irene Sakamoto
Shig Sakamoto
Tobie Sakamoto
Roy & Pat Sassa
Ayumi Sawada
Craig & Sachi Scharf
Bob & Eiko Shigehiro
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Takaaki & Hajime Shigemi
Toshino Shigemi
Tomiko Shono
Emily Stitt
Harry Sugimoto
Kazuko Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris & Sachiko Taguchi
Yosh Taguchi
June Tajiri
Kazuko Takaguchi
Dell S Takahashi
Fugi Takeda
Barbara Takeda
Cathy Takeda
Toshiko Takeda
Lloyd Takeyasu
Tomiko Takeyasu
Irene Takigawa
David & Linda Tanaka
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Tammy Tanaka
Betty Taniguchi
Cathy Taniguchi
David Taniguchi
Masaru & Ayako Taniguchi
Shirley Taniguchi
Masae Taniwa
Amy Tashiro
Jean H. Tatebe
Bill & June Terakita
Carolyn Terakita & Dr Leigh J. Morris
Tami Terakita
Akira Terashima
Bill Teshima
Raymond & Sue Thibodeau
Margaret & Bob Thole
George Tokuda

Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz & Marjory Tomomitsu
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Eiji & Irene Tsukijima
Judy Tsukijima
Brenda Tsukishima
David & Hoa L. Tsukishima
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keiko Tsukishima
Lloyd Tsukishima
Mutsuko Tsukishima
Toshiko or Keith Tsukishima
Wayne & Amy Tsukishima
Keith & Kathleen Turnbull
Chris & Kaz Van Tuyl
Marlene Wiest
Ken & Ruby Yamamoto
Roy & Joyce Yokoyama
Lori Yokoyama-Redgun
Minoru Yoshida
Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara
Total - \$14,219.56

Shotsuki Donations

July/Aug 2017

John & Rita Aoki
Shirley Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Tomi Hisaoka
Rumiko Ibuki
Toshimi & Marian Ibuki
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Judy S. Miyauchi
Jack & Rie Nagai
Yoshiye Nakata
Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru
Mitsuko Nishi
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Noriko Oga
May Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Irene Sakamoto
Roy & Pat Sassa
Toshino Shigemi
Tom & Fumi Shimozawa
Emily Stitt
Fugi Takeda
Irene Takigawa
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Betty Taniguchi
Bill & June Terakita
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita
Fujio & Yoshiko Tsukishima
Sumie Tsukishima

Total - \$2,260

Other Donations

July/Aug 2017

CanadaHelps.org
Ayako Endo
Rumiko Ibuki
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
Howard or Daryl Kimura
Ted Koyata
Mac & Reyko Nishiyama
Hisae Price
Kenneth Brent Takeda
& Lila Ho -Takeda
Yukiko Yoshizumi

Total - \$1,620.87

REGULAR EVENTS

Tonari Gumi Tuesdays @ 1pm
Will resume on Sept. 5

The Lethbridge Karaoke Club Wednesdays @ 1:30pm
Will resume on Sept. 13
Contact Nao 403.327.7357 or Tad 403.942.7783

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm
Contact: David Tanaka 403.330.1548, david@albrio.com

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30pm Sept. 18 thru Oct. 9
Contact: Pat Sassa, sas7@telus.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences Kazuaki Ohno, 86, passed away on August 23, 2017

The Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary is happy to announce the return of the **Japan Film Festival**. The festival will take place on Saturday, September 2nd at Globe Cinema in Calgary. Entrance is free and viewers are welcome to enjoy as much as their schedule permits. The films are in their original Japanese and have English subtitles.

The films being shown this year are:

The Vancouver Asahi @ 2:15 pm

Yoko the Cherry Blossom @ 5:00 pm

Being Good @7:15 pm

A new address sign for the temple has been mounted on the east facade, next to the southeast corner. The address plate is in compliance with a new city ordinance requiring that all buildings clearly indicate their street address by 2019. Thanks to Tak Okamura for looking after this job.



Buddhism in the Bay Tour

As part of a BTSA-organized tour, June 17-24, 18 travellers from Lethbridge, Taber, Calgary, and Edmonton were fortunate to experience the highlights of the San Francisco Bay area including four Jodo Shinshu Temples and a wonderful week-long stay at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley. We will never forget the warmth and generosity extended to us by the Temple Sanghas and the representatives of the Buddhist Churches of America who assisted us in the organization of our tour and saw to our comfort at the JSC.

Upon our arrival in Berkeley at the JSC we were met by a welcoming committee and effectively “given the keys” to the beautiful and spacious building. Kind members of the Berkeley temple not only greeted us and assisted with our luggage, but then led us by subway for supper at the annual Oakland temple food bazaar. In that festive atmosphere we were faced with choices of BBQ chicken and steak, udon, sushi and other Japanese treats too numerous to mention. Rev. Harry Bridge was on hand to explain the Hondo and provide a fascinating history of the Temple and its relationship to the Japanese American Buddhists of the area.

We attended a Sunday service at the Berkeley Temple and listened not only to a Dharma talk from Rev. Candace Shibata but also the musical stylings of Dii Lewis, instrumentals and the Temple choir. Temple members had planned a potluck lunch for us afterward and among other delicious selections we enjoyed such rare treats as fresh abalone sashimi and blueberry and strawberry filled mochi! Joyce Oishi (originally

from Lethbridge) then provided us with a traditional Japanese tea ceremony presentation.

In the days that followed we had the privilege of many beautiful iconic views of the Bay area. The JSC is situated near the University of California campus and downtown center. For most of the week we toured under the energetic, cheerful and knowledgeable guidance of Suzy Abbott (also a jazz singer who occasionally favoured us with a tune). From San Francisco’s grand City Hall to the seals lounging on the wharf, from the vineyards to the medieval Castle Amarosa in the Napa Valley, from the largest shopping mall in the Bay area to the vast mysterious historic home of the heiress of the Winchester rifle fortune, from the Japantowns to the Chinatowns, from the steepest street we’d ever seen to our motorcoach driver brave enough to drive down it, from the serenity of the Japanese Tea Garden to earthquake preparation at the Academy of Science, from the deserted island prison of Alcatraz to the picturesque fog surrounding the Golden Gate Bridge, from one really FABULOUS meal to the next (including a full crab each) ... we loved it all!

In the midst of our week travelled to San Jose to visit the Temple/Betsuin that services 1000 families in the surrounding area and we met the resident head minister Rev. Kenshin Fujimoto. At the end of our week we visited the San Francisco Buddhist Church, first established in 1898, where we met both Rev. Ron Kobata and Assistant Minister Elaine Donlin. There, Dharma school children attending a summer program gifted us with their craft creations. We were also taken to the stupa atop the Temple that houses relics said to be some of the bone and ash remains of Sakyamuni Buddha and two of his disciples, Maudgalayana and Sariputra.

Our group of 18 travellers melded together perfectly as we shared new experiences, stories and laughs, particularly as we prepared breakfasts together each morning and discussed the highlights of the day each evening. We felt our Sangha extend to include those we visited in the Bay area. We will always remain grateful for this wonderful opportunity and the many people who made it possible.

Our many thanks to Karen Gay of Flair Travel whose expertise and efficiency were crucial to the success of this tour.

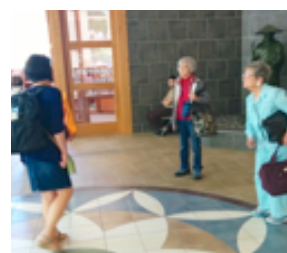
In Gassho,
Sylvia Oishi



Leaving BTSA



Berkeley Temple



JS Center



San Francisco Temple

BTSA Helps Celebrate Garden's 50th



Jeff Coffman introduces the dignitaries.



Izumi sensei was among official guests



Dancers ready to perform



A large number of dancers took part in "Wonderful Canada"

BTSA members played key roles in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Nikka Yuko Garden on July 14, a day before its own bon odori in the same garden area.

Minyo Dancers with Pat Sassa as coordinator, along with helpers Hisae Price, Betty Tanaka, Rita Aoki and others, danced to "Wonderful Canada" which was originally created for the 1977 Japanese-Canadian centennial celebration.

Master of Ceremonies for the day's events was Jeffrey Coffman, city council member.

Garden Dance Thank You

On behalf of the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area Minyo Dancers, I wish to extend sincere thanks to all those who volunteered their time to learn and practice "Wonderful Canada" for the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden's 50 Anniversary and Canada 150. The success of the performance could not have happened without your tireless hours of practice starting as far back as March. For some - that totalled 14 weeks. Thank you all for your commitment.

I am certain that the honoured guests including Princess Ayako of Takamado were impressed with the dance and the numbers of dancers that participated.

You also returned the next evening to participate in the annual Bon Festival. This was a bonus for the countless numbers of people that showed to view and partake in the many dances that we performed.

Thank you to Lorita Ichikawa; Candace Dueck and John Dubbelboer for arranging candid shots of the Bon Festival and Friday's performance that appeared in the 'Centre Fold' of City Seen.

Pat Sassa
For the Minyo Dancers



Large Turnout For Obon

People turned out July 16 in great numbers for the 2017 Obon services at Mountain View cemetery and the BTSA. Obon is one of three major holidays on the Jodo Shinshu calendar, and emphasizes the debt owing to all those who have become Buddhas before us. The summer day was expectedly hot, but members and Dharma friends enjoyed the camaraderie following the service and the supper prepared by Toban 4.

The occasion also was the shotsuki for the months of July and August.



Izumi sensei shaded during the Mountain View service where many attended.



Sensei spoke to a large congregation during the Obon service.



Attendees enjoying the tasty meal prepared by Toban 4.

photos: Akira Ichikawa

Area Obon Cemetery Visitations

Izumi sensei had a busy Obon season during July with gravesite visitations to Brooks, Temple Hill in Raymond, Magrath and Taber. Look over photos from several of the sites; apologies for not having photos from Magrath cemetery.



Brooks - July 2



Raymond - July 9



Taber - July 9

Bon Odori at Garden

The 2017 bon odori was held July 15 at the Nikka Yuko Garden in conjunction with the Garden's 50th anniversary celebrations. For this year only, the venue was moved from the Galt Garden setting to be part of the golden anniversary of Nikka Yuko.

A large turnout of dancers and spectators enlivened the annual Buddhist holiday with its traditional "dance of joy". As in past years, throngs joined in the last dance--Tankobushi--to mark a rousing finish to the event.

A mid-afternoon thunderstorm drenched the yagura (stage on which the drum was set) and the decorations, as well as the grass of the dancing area, but unrelenting July sunshine that returned helped to dry out things before the beginning at 6 p.m.

Izumi sensei began the odori with a brief Buddhist chant, followed by a general welcome to the crowd. Thereafter, MC Ross Jacob introduced Mayor Chris Spearman who welcomed all on behalf of the city.

Bleachers set out for the dance were filled with onlookers, many of whom left their seats to join in the last dance.

Tables set up by the Garden kiosk sold items made by temple members and shaved ice and ice cream treats. The latter were much in demand and volunteers rushed to look after all those looking for cooler refreshment to fight the heat.

Please look over some of the photos from the 16th annual bon odori.



Sensei chanting to begin



Mayor Spearman welcome



Ross Jacobs MC



Dancers circle the stage ...



in rhythm to the taiko on the yagura



Intermission drum entertainment



Refreshment sales staff



Tankobushi - last dance - brings out many ...while others watch in the setting sun





SEPTEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						10:30am Explore Buddhism
					1	2
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*		1pm Tonari Gumi				10:30am Explore Buddhism*
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service*/ Sangha Appreciation		1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
10	11	12	7pm Board Mtg*	13	14	15
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*	6:30pm Minyo	1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke			10:30am Explore Buddhism* Mein-making
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:30am Ohigan Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*	6:30pm Minyo	1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Monthly Memorial Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*	6:30pm Minyo	1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30am Sangha (JSBTC) Day Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*	6:30pm Minyo	1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Chow Mein Supper Drive-thru 1 - 5pm		Ministers' mtg (Toronto) 1pm Tonari Gumi	Ministers' mtg (Toronto) 1:30pm Karaoke	Ministers' mtg (Toronto)	Ministers' mtg (Toronto)	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*		1pm Tonari Gumi	1:30pm Karaoke 2:30pm Correctional Centre Visit*			10:30am Explore Buddhism*
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30am Regular Service* 1:30pm Service at Garden View*		1pm Tonari Gumi				
29	30	31				