

Hikari the Light



September 2022

OBON

Sensei delivered this dharma message July 17 at the BTSA obon service.

Obon is a time to think of our loved ones and departed friends. We express our appreciation and gratitude to them. When we put our palms together in one and think of them, they think of us. Our departed loved ones are not people of the past, but they are always people of the present.

One of Shinran's poems says: *Those who reach the Pure Land, Amida's home of peace and serenity, return to this world where, like Shakyamuni Buddha they benefit all sentient beings without limit.* "Benefit all sentient beings" means our loved ones who are a Buddha now, are guiding us right here and right now to be born in Amida's home. They are constantly with us, teaching us to be born in Amida's home.

One day, a middle-aged man came to me after the service and said: "I am from Japan. I worked hard in my life here in Canada, but I think when I die that is it." I said, "You really think so? When you die, your body will be cremated and only white bones will remain. You worked hard in Canada to become just white bones?" He said, "Un..." I continued: "If we live just to become white bones, our life is sad and in vain; don't you think so?" He became silent.

We are not just physical beings. One scientist in Japan publicly said, "Human beings will become just waste after they die." I wanted to say to him, "If your child is going to die and ask you, 'What will happen to me after I die?', would you say the same thing? Will your loving child become just waste?" We are physical beings but are we also not spiritual beings?

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Albert Einstein (1879-1955) once said, Science without religion is imperfect. Religion without science is blind faith. I agree. I think science and religion should help with each other because science without religion is dangerous and religion without science is also dangerous.

At any rate, if we become just white bones or waste at the end of our precious life, is it not in vain? Are we not sad? I do not want to live such a life. Shinran said: "Of those who encounter the working of Amida's vow, no one passes in vain/ They are filled with the treasure ocean of namo amida butsu".

Many people think that a temple or a shrine is the place to fulfill their wishes and desires. So, they pray to Buddha or God.

The idea of Shinran is completely reversed. There is no petitionary prayer in Jodo Shinshu. Instead, we hear Amida's wish, Amida's prayer. We hear Truth calling in this life. The Buddha called Amida--infinite wisdom and compassion--is asking us to be born in Amida's home which is true and real. For this sake, Amida is calling us with namo amida butsu and to become one with us. In our life, those who hear Amida's sincere call, namo amida butsu will find joy and peace in this present life, and upon our death we will be born in Amida's home.

The sutra says: *All beings, upon hearing namo amida butsu, dancing with joy, they will all be born in the Pure Land of true happiness.* In this life we find joy and will be born in the Pure Land of peace and serenity, beyond this world which is mired in selfishness and delusion. Amida never allows (let) us to die in vain. Amida grasps us and never forsakes us, we who are wondering in this changing and limited life.

In gassho,

Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



July 17
Obon Service

「お盆を終えて」
皆様、お元気ででしょうか。7月、8月もあっという間に過ぎました。お盆中は、暑いにもかかわらず、5ヶ所でのお墓参り、そしてお盆法要にも多くの方々がお参りされました。そのような中で、Mさんの姿が見えないのに気づきました。Mさんは、いつもみ教えを聞いている方で、5ヶ月ほど前にご主人を亡くされたのです。ですから、Mさんが見えないのは、どうしたことなのだろうか、と思ったのです。Mさんの友達に訊ねると、ご主人を亡くした後、癌になって病院に入院中とのこと。

お墓参りをすませて、Mさんを病院に訪ねました。さほど衰弱もされていませんでした。ご出身地の山口県のことや、御主人のことなどを話してくれましたが、急につぶやくように、「向こうから呼んでいてくれるから。」と言われたのです。「ああ、Mさんは、もうこの世を去ることの用意が出来ているのだな」と思いました。私は、「何事もナモアミダブツですね。だから大丈夫ですね。心配ありませんね」と言いました。Mさんは「そう、そう」とうなずいて、「ありがとうございます」と言われました。

そして、5日後、Mさんの子供さんから「お母さんが亡くなりました」と連絡があったのです。私は、すぐに、蓮如上人の「われや先、人や先、今日とも知らず、明日とも知らず。。。のお言葉を思い起こし、全くこの世は無上迅速だな、としみじみ思わされました。だからこそ、変わらぬ仏様の呼び声、「ナモアミダブツ」を人生のより所に頂き、お念仏申しながら、毎日を安心し、力強く生かして頂こうと思いました。 合掌 泉康雄

UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

I hope this message finds all the Sangha members well. We have had a great summer and I can't believe we are heading into the fall already. With the short break away from temple services we should be refreshed and looking forward to being with the Sangha members again.

The Bon Odori and service on July 16th and 17th were a big success. The attendance at the dancing was estimated to be around 250 people. Despite the very hot temperatures everybody seemed to have a lot of fun. Thanks to our vendors Lighthouse, Koko, Hisaei Price, Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens and the Dharma students who sold shaved ice. MC Harry Sugimoto did a great job of leading the festivities and Andrew Ichikawa and his daughter Asha helped lead a sing along session. The NCS taiko group also had an energetic performance. There were a lot of people who made this event possible including all who helped set up and take down and of course, the dancers who did a great job.

The Obon service was held the next day with the graveside service seeing around 250 people attend at the Mountain View cemetery. Obon service was followed by a catered lunch from the LA Chef. The food was excellent. Thanks to Toban 3 who did a lot of the preparation work for the weekend. Please see the photos and accompanying articles from Akira Ichikawa. There are pictures and comments about the graveside services in Brooks, Taber, Magrath and Raymond in this issue of the Hikari.

Moving on to our future plans for the fall. The first service will be our September Shotosuki service on September the 11th. This will be live streamed, and the link is listed below.

<https://youtu.be/er8QlEvXx-I>

On September 10th we will have a general clean-up of the temple. We will start at 9 am and everybody is asked to help. We have removed the responsibility of monthly clean-up from the Toban groups and plan to do a general clean up three times per year.

The *All-Things Japanese Sale* (garage sale) will be held on Sept. 24th from 10 am to 4 pm. We will have a sign up for this event as there is a large accumulation of items now in the dharma classroom. The setup will occur on the Friday prior to the sale.

We are also tentatively planning a Mein making session for October 14th and 15th in hopes of having a smaller (1000 meal) Chow Mein supper at the end of October or early November.

Please remember about our final soup kitchen lunch to be held on Sept. 13th. Emily Stitt reported she already has an adequate number of volunteers.



CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE

September & October 2022

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

Sept 11
SHOTSUKI
Sheila Oishi
Roland Ikuta, AV

Sept 18
Maya Ichikawa
Kynan Gordon, AV

Sept 25
Roland Ikuta
Bob Muskovich, AV

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

BTSA 2022 Obon

The annual BTSA Obon memorial began the morning of July 17 with a sizeable turnout at the Mountain View Cemetery.



Roland Ikuta and Izumi sensei by the obutsudan.
Below, attendees line up for oshoko.



Southern Alberta OBON

The obon cemetery services in southern Alberta centres began July 3 with Rev. Izumi holding service at Rosemary/Brooks. Services were held the following Sunday at Magrath, Temple Hill in Raymond, and Taber.



July 3 - Rosemary/Brooks



July 10 - Magrath



July 10 - Raymond, Temple Hill



July 10 - Taber

Ministers' Appreciation Month

September, 2022

The month of September, 2022 is the inaugural Ministers' Appreciation Month. This is a joint initiative of the JSBTC and the JSBTC Women's Federation to show appreciation to the ministers and assistant ministers for their dedication and commitment to their sangha and to the communities they serve.

Each temple will be coordinating an event/activity to mark the occasion for their own minister(s), so be on the look out for more information from your temple.



Socho Tatsuya Aoki
Vancouver &
Fraser Valley Temples



Grant Ikuta Sensei
Steveston & Fraser Valley
Temples



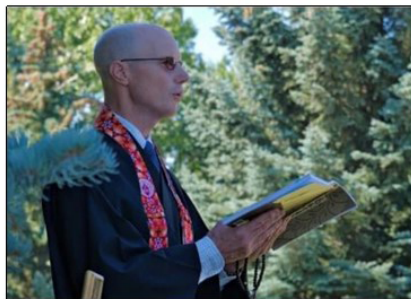
Naoki Hirano Sensei
Kamloops, Kelowna &
Vernon Temples



Yasuo Izumi Sensei
Buddhist Temple of
Southern Alberta



Yoshimichi Ouchi Sensei
Toronto, Hamilton &
Montreal Temples



Robert Gubenco Sensei
Calgary Temple

Assistant Ministers

Vancouver

Robert Akune Sensei

Steveston

Roy Akune Sensei

Lethbridge

Roland Ikuta Sensei
Jeff Haines Sensei

Winnipeg

Tanis Moore Sensei

Toronto

Jeff Wilson Sensei
Joanne Yuasa Sensei

BTSA BON ODORI

Under cloudless, clear blue and sunny summer skies, the BTSA held its annual bon odori July 16 at the temple parking lot, complete with a colorful yagura (stage) around which dancers circled before hundred of onlookers sitting in an area shaded by the building.

Although limited by the temple board to the parking lot due to the continuing pandemic, the event still included the sale of food items, trinkets and Buddhist memorabilia. Included were taiko demonstration and group singing during a break.



Onlookers comfortable in shaded area



David Tanaka beats the taiko on the yagura



Andrew and Asha Ichikawa sing at break

TEMPLE FALL ACTIVITIES & REGULAR EVENTS

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

Study Class will replace "Exploring Buddhism" and resume Sept 17. Saturdays @ 10:30am focusing on the wasans (poems) of Shinran
Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation with Vickie Macarther will begin Sept 29. Thursdays @ 7pm in-person and via zoom
Further info upcoming or contact vickie@spiritinmotionyoga.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Mariko Hironaka (79) July 9, 2022

Lilly Mutsuko Oish (93) July 29, 2022



BTSA parking lot became bon odori space



Doreen Gordon and Roland Ikuta on taiko during break



Membership at August 22: 143

Obon Donations July 2022

Anonymous Cash Donation
Eiko Aoki
Ken and April Fleury
Brian Fujimoto
Deborah K. Fujimoto
Karen Fujimoto
Teresa Fujimoto
Yoshio Fujimoto
Marg Fujita
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Nadine Hamabata
Harold and Louise Harrison
Randy Higa
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Lois Hinz
Terry Horii
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira Ichikawa
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahrih Rempel
Dr. Roland and Brenda Ikuta
Rev. Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
Ray and Donna Journoud
Mona Kado
Lily Kaga
Kiyomi Kamitakahara
Michie Kawasaki
Harold and Daryl Kimura
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Dave and Val Kunimoto
Yutaka and Chiyomi Matsuno
Gerry Miyashiro
Joyce Miyashita
Kiyoshi (Joe) and Marion Mori
Ken and Sharon Moriyama
Ken and Vickie Nakagawa
Jim and Joan Nakagawa
Shig and Katie Nakagawa
Hideo and Jennifer Nishida
May Nishikawa
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Mitsuko Oga
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
David and Wanda Okamura
Tak and Jan Okamura
Doug Osaka
Evelyn Osaka
Larry Osaka
Hisae Price
Darcee Richardson
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson
Tadanori and Chieko Sakaguchi
Carolyn Sakamoto
Shig Sakamoto
Roy and Pat Sassa
Sachi Scharf
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Joyce Shigehiro & Trevor Van Sluys
Shari Shigehiro & Craig McMahon
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris and Sachiko Taguchi
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Blake Takeda
Wendy Takeda
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Glenn and Pamela Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Mitsuru Keith & Midori Jane Tanaka
Tammy Tanaka

Ayako Taniguchi
Betty Taniguchi
Cathy Taniguchi
David Taniguchi
Bill and June Terakita
Carolyn Terakita
and Dr. Leigh J. Morris
Bill Teshima
Clifford Thomas
Shizuo and Dorothy Tomita
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama
Tak and Yoko Tsujita
Wayne and Amy Tsukishima
Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keith & Kathleen Kaoru Turnbull
Ken and Ruby Yamamoto
Lori Yokoyama
Roy and Joyce Yokoyama
Ken and Hiroko Yoshihara
\$14,009.81

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations July 2022

Anonymous Cash Donation
Rumiko Ibuki
Lily Kaga
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Kei and Margo Nishida
May Nishikawa
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Emily Stitt
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Glen and Pamela Tanaka
Bill and June Terakita
\$1,130

Other Donations

Akira Ichikawa
Anonymous Cash Donation
CanadaHelps.Org
Rumiko Ibuki
Rev. Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
Ken and Amy Kurio
Sut and Neva Oishi
Kynan Ono
Fugi Takeda
David and Linda Tanaka
\$2,987.90

Funeral Donations

Fumiko Adachi
Roy Adachi
Roy and Sherry Adachi
Anonymous Cash Donation
Eiko Aoki
Richard and Valerie Boras
Lewis Coffman
Michelle Day
John and Donna Dubbelboer
Mitsuyo Fujimoto
Nob and Yoko Fujimoto
Marg Fujita
Patricia Fukuda
Judy Fukushima
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Kazunari and Kiyoto Hamabata
Seiji Hamabata
Art and Pat Hironaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Marlene Hobbs
Rumiko Ibuki
Toshimi and Marian Ibuki
Akira Ichikawa

Andrew Ichikawa & Tahrih Rempel
Stanley and Audrey Kanegawa
Yoshio and Chiyoko Kawai
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Todd and Sandra Lloyd
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Robert & Toshiya Miyanaga
Joyce Miyashita
Kiyoshi (Joe) Mori
and Marion Mori
Isao and Miyo Morinaga
Rie Nagai
Luri Nagata
Ken and Vickie Nakagawa
Shig and Katie Nakagawa
Teiji Nakamura
Hideo and Jennifer Nishida
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Karen Nishiyama & Ron Wegner
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Brian Oishi
Cheryl Oishi & Ian Hawkins
Gerrad Oishi
Jean Oishi
June Oishi
Kevin Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Shelley Oishi
Tadanori & Chieko Sakaguchi
Kenneth and Keiko Sampson
Ellen Sameshima Saskiw
Roy and Pat Sassa
Sachi Scharf
Bob and Eiko Shigehiro
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Toshiaki and Takumi Shinzato
Emily Stitt
Harry Hajime Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Noris and Sachiko Taguchi
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
K.B.Takeda & Lila Ho-Takeda
Wendy Takeda
David and Linda Tanaka
Eichi and Betty Tanaka
Glen and Pamela Tanaka
Ayako Taniguchi
Betty Taniguchi
Cathy Taniguchi
Dr. Frances Tatebe
and Ralph Arnold
Bill and June Terakita
Bill Teshima
Clifford Thomas
Jim, Marion and Shannon
Tomiyama
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama
Kaz and Marjory Tomomitsu
Tak and Yoko Tsujita
Theresa and Ken Uchikura
Esther Urano
Janet Urano
\$6,328.72

Fundraising Income - Obon, etc. Donations/ Bldg&Kitchen Rental

Anonymous Cash Donation
Sut and Neva Oishi
\$726

Total Donations - \$25,182.43

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

The BTSA cemetery ceremony on July 17 (see pg. 2) was followed in the afternoon with the combined obon and shotsuki service for July at the temple. The Obon memorial day concluded with an otoki or sit-down meal in the multipurpose room, catered by L.A. Chefs and desserts prepared by temple members, headed up by Toban 3.



Join the BTSA sangha!
Please visit our membership
page at thebtsa.com



**“Building Healthy
Sanghas
Connecting With
Others”**

**HONPA HONGWANJI
MISSION OF HAWAII**

**Bishop Eric Matsumoto
Rev. Daido Baba
Executive Secretary
Kyodan Board Pres.
Warren Tamamoto**

**2022
PEACE DAY COMMITTEE**

Oahu

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Carolyn Uchiyama

Honolulu

Dave Atcheson

Big Island

Miles Okamura

Maui

Kallie Keith-Agaran
Marilyn Morikawa

Kauai

Roberta Yanagawa
Pacific Buddhist Academy
Joshua Hernandez Morse
Liane Vilorio

United Nations Hawaii

Joanne Tachibana
KTUH - Ari Eisenstat

MISSION

- To promote Peace Day in Hawaii - September 21st



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

2022 PEACE DAY IN HAWAII

International Day of Peace

You're Invited!

“RINGING BELLS for PEACE DAY”

Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022 - 9:01 AM

Register here: bit.ly/PeaceDay2022

In the spirit of promoting Peace Day in Hawaii and throughout the world, we invite the world to join us in ringing bells for PEACE DAY,

Wednesday, September 21st at 9:01 AM.

At 9:00 AM , we will have a minute of silence to honor all those who sacrificed for us to achieve peace.

Immediately following the minute of silence, bells will be rung by representatives at all the respective temples, churches, schools, and community organizations and individuals. They're our future in ensuring peace throughout the world.

We are also planning to capture the program and all participants on a Zoom Screen, simultaneously, so get your computers ready when you are sent the link to join the event.

Please RSVP by Sept. 12, 2022

You may request a Participation Form to

**Rene Mansho - ph: 808-291-6151
renemansho@hawaii.rr.com**



SEPTEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	9am Temple* Clean-up 10
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) 11	12	Soup Kitchen 13	14	15	16	10:30am Study Class* 17
10:30am Regular Service* 18	19	20	21	22	23	10am-4pm All Things Japanese Sale 24
10:30am Ohigan Service* 25	26	27	28	7pm Meditation Practice 29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) 2	3	4	5	7pm Meditation 6	7	1 10:30am Study Class* 8
10:30am Regular Service* 9	10	11	12	7pm Meditation 13	Mein-Making (tentative) 14	10:30am Study Class* Mein-Making (tentative) 15
10:30am Regular Service* 16	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 17	18	19	7pm Meditation 20	21	10:30am Study Class* 22
10:30am Regular Service* 23	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 24	25	26	7pm Meditation 27	28	10:30am Study Class* 29
10:30am Regular Service* 30	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice 31					