

Hikari the Light



September 2023



How have you been doing during the two month break from temple activities? We had a very warm summer. Whenever warm weather continues, wildfires start everywhere- Kelowna and Yellowknife for example. The earth is too hot. I heard that global warming is now called “global boiling.”

I think you all know by now that the wildfire in Maui in Hawaii has costs over 110 precious lives. The number will probably rise since there are still many missing people. Some have lost their parents, brothers and sisters, and children. Some children are crying and searching for their own parents. It is truly sad and painful.

One of our fellow Buddhist temples, Lahaina Hongwanji Temple, was engulfed in flames and burned down. I know a minister there. It is really a devastating incident. Our friends have lost their spiritual home. Our thoughts go to all members and friends there. I have heard that a fundraising campaign has already been started.

Confucius in China says: *All four seas are brothers.* Tanran (3rd of great teachers in Jodo Shinshu) also says: *In the distance, all four seas are brothers (sisters).* Agreeing Tanran’s words in heart, Shinran Shonin quoted Tanran’s words in his writing. We are indeed connecting one after another.

As we who walk on the same path of the Nembutsu, I firmly believe that we should help and support our friends who are in great sadness, pain and uncertainty both spiritually and financially.

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

先日、若い男女が、わざわざ車でバンクーバーからお寺を訪ねてくれました。二人とも顔なじみです。途中、山火事にあつて大変だったと言っていました。

暑くなると、いろいろなところで山火事が発生します。そのため、避難をさせられたり、ひどい時には、住まいが燃えたり、尊い人命がおびやかされ亡くなっていくこともあります。美しい、大切な木も、どんどん燃えていきます。動物たちも、小さな虫たちも逃げる場所がなく、安全な場所に逃げてきます。空気も汚染されます。地球が始まって以来、たぶん同じことが繰り返されてきたのでしょうか。この度は、ハワイのマウイ島にあるお寺も燃えました。ご住職は私の知り合いです。恐ろしかったことでしょうか。私には、今は「対岸の火事」ですが、いつ、同じことになるかわかりません。今更、自然には、恐ろしい面と、美しい面があることを思います。

人間も同じような二面を持っているのではないのでしょうか。だからこそ、今、正しい教え聞いて、わが身の心を見つめていくことが必要だと思えます。

合掌 泉康雄



AUTUMN HIGAN will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 10:30 am

What is O-higan?

O-higan (“O” is an honorific prefix) is a time of reflection of ourselves in the Light of Amida which is coming from Higan, the Other Shore or Amida’s home.

We are living everyday not knowing where we are going after our death. We actually, do not know where we are coming from and where we are going to. This is indeed a mystery of our life. This is called “delusion” or “mayoi” in Buddhist terms. We are deeply mired in the world of “mayoi” The goal of Buddhism is “to turn our delusion into true awakening.” Only through listening to the call of Amida Buddha, the Buddha of infinite wisdom and boundless compassion, will we be able to cross the ocean of delusion.

UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

This sure has been a hot, dry summer. It is perfect weather for grasshoppers, but perhaps too warm for those without air-conditioning. The weather cooperated for the Bon Odori Festival and for the Obon Services.

Here is a brief summary from the board meeting of July 12, 2023:

The BC Buddhist Federation Convention is scheduled for September 22 - 24, 2023 in Vernon, BC. The Calgary Buddhist Temple will be contacted by Sensei Roland to see if some of their members would be interested in sharing the cost of hiring a bus to take to the BC Buddhist Federation Convention. About forty travellers would be required to make the bus feasible (see opposite page).

The Toban Leaders are happy to be welcoming a new and improved Toban 1 which will be composed primarily of younger adults and youth from the Ikigomi group. The schedule for the Tobans' rotation is being adjusted to include this group and will be finalized next month.

The Ikigomi Youth Group had a number of summer activities including a BBQ for the Japanese students who attend the University of Lethbridge, and a workshop led by Sheila Oishi. Ikigomi will be hosting a cafe at Bunka Hashi this fall.

Three large, wedding size tents were generously donated to BTSA by Gord Saruwatari. The tents were used to provide shade and shelter at the Bon Odori.

Please find below the YouTube live stream link to the BTSA Obon Service on Sunday, September 10. The service will be followed by an appreciation luncheon for the temple's ministers.

<https://youtube.com/live/4aVDdpWvmtM?feature=share>

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 Izumi Sensei or Roland Sensei.



OBON

Cemetery visitations and Obon services occurred throughout the month of July in Brooks, Magrath, Taber, Raymond and Lethbridge, overseen by Rev. Izumi and Rev. Dr. Ikuta.



Above: Temple Hill Cemetery, Raymond, July 9
Left & below: Mountain View Cemetery, and
Obon service at BTSA, Lethbridge, July 16



photos: John Dubbelboer, Brenda Ikuta, Robert Takaguchi

BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
Temples Federation Convention

THE DHARMA OF PIE: MANY INGREDIENTS MAKE ONE

Guest Speaker

James Martin Sensei

SEPTEMBER 23TH & 24TH, 2023
VERNON JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER
4695 BELLA VISTA ROAD

Come for great Dharma talks on our Theme, Breakout sessions-
Mottainai dance, Ondokusan harmony, Tai-chi, lay speaker on The
Experience of becoming part of the ONE, fantastic Okanagan pies and
products, walks or drives along scenic trails or Vernon Vistas.

PLEASE CONTACT VERNONBUDDHISTTEMPLE@GMAIL.COM
FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Vernon, British Columbia

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is determining if there is enough interest from Southern Alberta to fill a bus to attend the BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Sanghas Conference. We would be gathering people from 2 stops, Lethbridge and Calgary.

Please let us know if you are interested by clicking on the link to sign up (before September 8). We will collect names and investigate whether this option is feasible or not.

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

September 23-24, 2023: The Vernon Buddhist Temple is hosting a gathering of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Sanghas for a week-end of learning and fun. James Martin Sensei is the Guest Speaker and he will be approaching the Theme, "The Dharma of Pie: Many ingredients make ONE" from a unique angle.

Optional activities have been planned that showcase the flavours and beauty of Vernon. There will be Okanagan Wine Tasting, and visits to The Davidson Orchards or a working Cidery, a walk on the Okanagan Rail Trail along the beautiful Kalamalka Lake, or a drive to the Rise Golf Course to see the spectacular views from there. Of course there will be lots of Okanagan fruit and home made pies.

CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE

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

Sept 10

SHOTSUKI
Sheila Oishi
Kynan Ono, AV

Sept 17

Maya Ichikawa
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Sept 24

Val Boras
Bob Muskovich, AV

Oct 01

SHOTSUKI
Wayne Tsukishima
David Major, AV

Sunday, Sept 10 at 10:30am is Shotsuki Service Ministers' Appreciation luncheon to follow PLEASE JOIN US!

Ministers' Appreciation Month September, 2023

The month of September, 2023 is 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

Roland Ikuta 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
Jeff Haines Sensei

Winnipeg
Tanis Moore Sensei

Toronto
Jeff Wilson Sensei
Joanne Yuasa Sensei

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

Restarting Sept 9 - It 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

Meditation will resume in November

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences

Amy Tashiro (89) June 26, 2023

Shirley Higa (90) June 28, 2023

Katsumi Tokuda (73) July 10, 2023

Ted Koyata (102) July 16, 2023

Norman Sakamoto (79) July 19, 2023

Toyomi Oshiki (84) August 27, 2023

Ikigomi Summer & Upcoming Activities

- Mochi Cake Workshop/Dharma Dog BBQ
- Japanese Style Pancake Breakfast: Meijo University Student Partnership
- Upcoming September Event: Bunka Hashi Festival, September 30th (Ikigomi will be running the canteen)



Soup Kitchen

BTSA hosted a lunch on August 4th, and a brunch on August 20th at the Soup Kitchen. Thank you to all the volunteers!



David Major, Dorene Gordon, Betty Tanaka, Pat Sassa, Mary Shigehiro, Darcie Richardson, Emily Stitt, Joyce Adachi, Joe Shigehiro (missing: Eichi Tanaka)



Eichi Tanaka, David Major, Joe Shigehiro, Betty Tanaka, Mary Shigehiro, Dorene Gordon, Emily Stitt, Margaret Tanaka, Marion Tomiyama, Yumi Johnson, Matthew Johnson

Obon Meal Prep



Tents donated to Festival

Prior to this year's Bon Odori festival, Gordon and Joy Saruwatari donated three large party tents to the temple. The temple had planned to rent two tents, and this donation saved the temple a substantial amount in rental fees. The tents were never used before. Each tent, if purchased, would cost the temple around \$750. Thanks to Gordon and Joy for this great donation. David Major, Bob Muskovich and Wayne Tsukishima made storage boxes for the tents which are now in our storage shed. They will be a great addition for our Bon Odori festival every year.



JULY BON ODORI SETUP

Volunteers set up the Yagura, Chairs, tent, and tables for BTSA's Bon Odori on July 15th. See more Odori pictures on page 7.



OBON MEAL



2023 Membership Form

ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THEBTA.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 August 23 – 135

Obon Donations

Anonymous
Stan & Linda Bandura
Lorne Bunney
& Mayumi Tanigami-Bunney
Eietsu Chiba
Malcolm & Mary Clewes
Tammy Dalton
John & Donna Dubbelboer
Ken & April Fleury
Bonnie Fujimoto
Brian & Jacauce Fujimoto
Debra K Fujimoto
George Fujimoto
Karen Fujimoto
Ken Fujimoto
Mark Fujimoto
Mitsuyo Fujimoto
Nob & Yoko Fujimoto
Rie Fujimoto
Teresa Fujimoto
Jack & Mitsuye Fujino
Judy Fukushima
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Michelle Hart
Gary Higa
Randy Higa
Shinako (Sheila) Higa
Neil Hinatsu
Lois Hinz
Julie Hironaka
Mark Hiranaka
Tomi Hisaoka
Gene or Hilda Horii

Terry Horii
Rumiko Ibuki
Andrew Ichikawa & Tahirih Rempel
Kim Ito
Roy Ito
Hugh Izumi
Ray & Donna Journoud
Mona Kado
Kiyomi Kamitakahara
Irene Karia
Michie Kawasaki
Aiko Kimura
Howard & Daryl Kimura
Sue Kitagawa
Susan M & Mike Kitagawa
Taxi & Doreen Kitagawa
Dave & Val Kunimoto
Tami Maclean
Toru (Tug) Maruno
Yasue Maruyama
Ray & Berniece Masuda
Kinuko Matsuno
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Gary E & Beverly S McIlroy
Milkman Milk Bar
Hollis Miyanaga
John & Jean Miyanaga
Mark & Tamara Miyanaga
Robert & Toshiya Miyanaga
Joyce Miyashita
Judy S. Miyauchi
Joe & Marion Mori
Mark & Shelly Murakami
Jim & Joan Nakagawa
Shig & Katie Nakagawa
Minie Nakatsuru
Hideo & Jennifer Nishida

Kei & Margo Nishida
Tokiko Nishijima
May Nishikawa
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Mitsuko Oga
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Heidi Oishi
Rose Oishi
Sheila Oishi
Sylvia Oishi & Terry Hanna
David & Wanda Okamura
Tak & Jan Okamura
Setsuko Okuma
Doreen G. Osaka
Doug Osaka
Evelyn Osaka
Larry Osaka
Akiko Oshiro
Evan Oshiro & Marcie Jaedicke
Joanne Planiidin
Hisae Price
Darcee Richardson
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson
Irene Sakamoto
Shig Sakamoto
Roy & Pat Sassa
Sachi Scharf
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Shari Shigehiro & Craig McMahon
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Harry Sugimoto
Tomiko Sugimoto
Karen Taguchi
Louise Taguchi

Patricia Taguchi
Sachiko Taguchi
Teresa Taguchi
Kazuko Takaguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Cathy Takeda
Wendy Takeda
Irene & Kenichi Takigawa
David & Linda Tanaka
Eichi & Betty Tanaka
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Keith & Jane Tanaka
Masaye Tanaka
Mitsuru Ken
& Midori Jane Tanaka
Ayako Taniguchi
Betty Taniguchi
Cathy Taniguchi
David Taniguchi
Carolyn Terakita &
Dr Leigh J. Morris
June Terakita
Kay Terakita
Clifford Thomas
Noel & Karen Thomas
George Tokuda
Florence Tomiyama
Jim, Marion & Shannon
Tomiyama
Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
Marjory Tomomitsu
Anh & Ich Trang
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Bryce Tsukishima
Yoshiko Tsukishima
Keith & Kathleen Kaoru
Turnbull
Gerry Unger
Doug Urano
Esther Urano
Janet Urano
Robert Urano
Ken & Marie Uyesugi
Ken & Ruby Yamamoto
Barry Yokoyama
Lori Yokoyama
Rod Yokoyama
Yoshisaka Family

Shotsuki Donations

July/August 2023
Nadine Hamabata
Rumiko Ibuki
Gerry Miyashiro
Rie Nagai
Ken & Vickie Nakagama
Minie Nakatsuru
Sway & Toshiko Nishimura
Ken Ohno & Nancy Eng
Setsuko Ohno
Arlene Oishi & Jeff Coffman
Heidi Oishi
Sheila Oish
Emily Stitt
Fugi Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
June Terakita
Clifford Thomas

Other Donations

July/August 2023
Roy Adachi
Anonymous
CanadaHelps.org
Coyote Wok & Grill
Fujino Family
Rev Yasuo & Sachi Izumi
Tom & Mitsuko Shigehiro
Alan & Margaret Tanaka
Shizuo & Dorothy Tomita

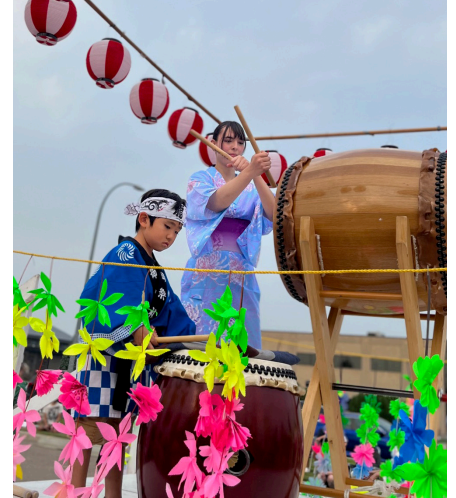
Funeral Donations

July/August 2023
Anonymous
Richard & Valerie Boras
Brenda Chiba & Calvin Hauserman
Dennis & Lorraine Ebata
Estate of Shirley Higa
Sherry Hurtubise
Stanley & Audrey Kanegawa
Richard & Donna LaPlace
Kinuko Matsuno
Yutaka & Chiyomi Matsuno
Joyce Miyashita
Calvin Moriyama
Lorie Naylor
Edward & Delaine Nedza
Mitsuko Oga
Setsuko Ohno
Heidi Oishi
Tak & Jan Okamura
Shig Sakamoto
Roy & Pat Sassa
Joe & Mary Shigehiro
Nobuko & Mary Shono
Emily Stitt
Tomiko Sugimoto
Sachiko Taguchi
Robert & Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Glen & Pamela Tanaka
Estate of Amy Tashiro
Clifford Thomas
George Tokuda
Jim, Marion and Shannon
Tomiyama
Tak & Yoko Tsujita
Ken & Marie Uyesugi
Estate of Aiko Yoshihara

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

BON ODORI

July 15, 2023





SEPTEMBER: TOBAN 4

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY						
					1	2
3	4	7pm Taiko	5	6	7	8
10:30 am Shotsuki Memorial Service Ministers' Luncheon	11	7pm Taiko	12	13	14	15
10:30 am Regular Service	18	7pm Taiko	19	20	21	22
10:30 am O-Higan Service	25	7pm Taiko	26	27	28	29
24	25	7pm Taiko	26	27	28	29
						10:30am Study Class*
						10:30am Study Class*
						10:30am Study Class*
						10:30am Study Class*

OCTOBER: TOBAN 2

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