

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

Hikari - The Light

July 2008

Minister: Rev. Yasuo Izumi (403) 382-7024 izumi_family@hotmail.com

Reminiscences of Lethbridge Buddhist Temple

"Although my body will pass away, Forever the Dharma of Amida shall live; As fresh as the green grass of Wakano-ura Bay So long as human being live."

— Shinran Shonin (1173 – 1263)

n the first day that I came to
Lethbridge as a Buddhist minister almost 40 years ago, two senior gentlemen, ojiichan, visited me and said, "Sensei, you don't need to think about the propagation of Buddhism here. Just conduct funeral services and memorial services for us and visit the hospital occasionally. That is good enough. You know why? Sooner or later, maybe within 15 or 20 years, Buddhist temples in southern Alberta will disappear and be gone. Don't overwork! Take your time — Maa bochi bochi yarinasai."

These were the first words spoken to me, the young Buddhist minister who came all the way from Japan to Canada full of hope and expectation for the future of Buddhism in Canada. I was somewhat at shocked and discouraged

Then a few days later, an issei senior lady, obaachan, came to me. She did not come to visit me asking for her own funeral. This time

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what she said was different from the two gentlemen. She said, "Sensei, please stay in Canada as long as you can and share the teaching of Shinran Shonin with us and with others." Then she

continued, "Whenever I attend Sunday services and sing Ondokusan*, I feel emotional. I feel like crying. Sometimes my tears drop. I appreciate Amida's great compassion which is embracing my life all the time. I have been given courage and hope by this song to live one day at a time no matter how difficult my life is in Canada."

These Issei ojiichan and obaachan have gone. I am sure that they will be surprised and delighted to see a new temple on the way, one temple with one congregation. I do not know how hard it will be to maintain the new temple after its completion but I do know that Buddhism - Jodo Shinshu will survive and even prosper in this area for the next generations, for our children and children's children as long as we listen to and appreciate the teaching together and work together in harmony with mutual respects. How can we survive? How can the teaching prosper? It is entirely up to us.

*Ondokusan: We sing Ondokusan at the end of every service. It was written by Shinran Shonin. Here is an English translation.

"My indebtedness to Amida's Great Compassion Must be repaid, Though my body be broken My indebtedness to the masters and teachers Must be repaid, Though my bones be crushed."

Namo Amida Butsu Yasuo Izumi, Minister-Kaikyoshi Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

不思議な因縁

「ある日、一世のおばあちゃんを お訪ねしました。戦前カナダに来られ た一世の方々は、南アルバータにはも うほとんどおられません。私の突然の 来訪を喜んで下さいました。友達はみ んな亡くなりました、とその方は言わ れました。大工さんであったご主人が 作られたお仏壇の前で短いお参いり をさせていただきました。その日が、 丁度ご主人のご命日であったことを 知らされ驚きました。しかも、今の私と 同じ歳で亡くなられたのです。不思議 な因縁、見えない「つながり」を思いま した。因縁と言えば、人と生まれ、み仏 のみ教えに出遇ったということは不思 議な因縁です。三帰依文の「人身受け がたし、今すでに受く。仏法聞きがた し、今すでに聞く。」のとおりです。この 御文には、何ものにも代えがたき、大 きな喜びが表現されています。「人間 の世界は苦しみの世界でしょう。その 様な世界に生まれたことが、そんなに 喜びですか?」といわれるかも知れま せん。そうなのです。「苦しみの世界」 が、聴聞をとおして「喜び」に転ぜられ ていくのです。自分の思いどおりにい かぬ人生だからこそ、仏法は、いつも、 「今」働いて下さり、私達の人生に意 味を与え、人間の苦しみ、悩みを解決 して下さるのです。人間に生まれたか らこそ、この教えに遇い、この教えを聴 くことが出来るのです。いよいよ聴聞 させていただきましょう。合掌

南アルバータ仏教会開教使 泉康雄

BTSA President's notebook

During the past two weeks our BTSA members worked diligently to move all of the furniture and appliances out of the north temple. This was a huge job and many people worked for many days to accomplish the task. Some items, two dumpsters full, were disposed of and the rest was taken to our storage facility at Stor-Edge near the new Temple. The north Temple will be vacated by June 30th and the new owner--the Bridges of Hope, a Christian international development organization doing work among children in Africa--will take possession on July 1. All mail to the 13th Street north address should be cancelled and sent to the BTSA South Temple (3611 Forestry Av, T1K 3L5) for the time being. The South Temple will be vacated by the end of September; the new owner takes possession on October 1. Thereafter, all mail for the BTSA should be sent in care of Robert Takaguchi, P.O. Box 1249, Raymond, AB T0K 2S0. During construction of the new temple, there is no postal delivery although there is a street address (440 40th Street). We will let you know when postal delivery begins at the new temple.

The building is progressing pretty much

on schedule, although we did experience some delays due to the rainy weather. Recently, we have been advised that the glulam beams fabrication is behind schedule and we now do not expect delivery until late July, so this will delay completion of the roof in the Hondo & Multipurpose room. Everything else is on schedule.

We have been asked to remind everyone that no one is allowed on site without proper safety equipment and prior approval to enter by the contractor. The inspectors can completely shutdown the construction for violation of the safety codes if any unauthorized persons enter the site during construction.

At the time of this writing we have not yet had our Strategic Planning Workshop at the end of June so there should be plenty of news from that for our next Hikari. There is plenty of activity scheduled for the summer such as the picnic, the community Obon Odori, our BTSA Obon Service and several cemetery visitations. Please feel welcome to join in any of the out-of-town visitations, including the Rosemary Obon service in Brooks on July 20. This will make a nice day trip.

—David Major

GIC Investment Opportunity

As we proceed with the construction of our new BTSA building, one of the glaring financial problems we face is that the BTSA holds \$500,000 in non-cashable GIC investments. As we cannot access these funds until the GICs mature, we are faced with a cash flow concern that has forced us to take out additional bridge financing to cover our immediate costs.

A solution to increase our cash flow is to sell these non-cashable investments to anyone interested in purchasing GICs. The BTSA is proposing to sell each or portions of each of our 7 GICs that range in maturity from October 2009 to September 2012. At maturity you will receive your principal plus the guaranteed interest back when the GIC matures. The interest rates on these GICs is at least one percent higher than the current quoted rates for GICs so anyone purchasing one of these will earn more money than if they purchase a GIC from their bank.

For more information on this investment opportunity, please contact Robert Takaguchi: 403.752.4012 or Gordon Saruwatari: 403.752.4079

Update from the Office of Bishop Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

ay this Update find you in good health and spirits in the Light of Compassion of Amida Buddha. I am sure all the temple leaders are busy in the preparation of Obon Service and Bon Odori which has been a main summer feature and attraction in our tradition.

The date of May 30 was the celebration of the Cumberland Japanese Cemetery officially designated as Heritage Landmark. On behalf of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada I had the honour to officiate the ceremony together with many honourable guests, such as MP, the Mayor, Consul General of Japan, members from BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches Federation, JCCA and the present and former residents of the area.

I wish to commend the good work of BCJSBCF with the leadership of Mr& Mrs Roy Inouye and Mr & Mrs Yoshio Yagi with great patience and concern for many years. I am sure all the pioneers and ancestors are in peace and joy.

May I take this opportunity to promote the annual Obon Tour which visits several

cemeteries including Cumberland in Vancouver Island from August 8-10. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mr Roy Inouye at 250 376 3506 or Iwata Travel at 604 684 5101 or 1 800 311 9211 or travelbyhans@iwata-travel.ca.

A new temple by the name of Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta is now under construction, which will amalgamate and unite all Buddhists in Southern Alberta. I would like to ask all Jodo Shinshu Buddhists across Canada to send their generous support to defray the rising cost of construction. Cheque can be payable to BTSA P. O. Box 1249 Raymond, AB T0K 2S0.

A sad news that I recently received is that Rev. Toshio Murakami passed away on May 26, 2008 at the age of 76 in Hawaii. He will be remembered as the Bishop who had helped 1990 World Buddhist Women's Convention in Vancouver, Canada. His wife is Mrs Yoko Murakami Box 264 Pearl City, HI 96782.

去る5月30日、バンクーバー島のカンバーランド日系人墓地が歴史的遺産に制定されたことを受けて記念式典が行われました。州

議員、市長、日本国総領事、BC州浄土真宗仏教連盟代表者を始め、遠方はトロントよりご縁のある方々が合計100名近く集まり、三奉請で参加者全員が散華し、現在判明している200名の先亡者の名簿の前で、日系人すべての先輩に敬意と感謝の思いで読経させていただきました。これまで永年にわたり各地の日系人墓地の修復、整備に尽力されましたBC浄土真宗連盟の方々の努力が報われたわけであり、先輩方はもちろん私たちも安堵の情でいっぱいです。

今夏8月8-10日の三日間、例年のごとく、バンクーバー島お盆墓参りが計画されています。参加ご希望の方は岩田旅行社、又は井上ロイ氏まで連絡してください。

戦後南アルバタには七つのお寺がありましたが、最近過疎化が進み、信徒が協議していよいよ統一したお寺を建設することになり、昨年11月に起工式を終え、現在建築中であります。しかしながらその工事費用が当初予算を上回ることなどもあり、募金運動をしています。アルバタにご縁のある方はもちろん、カナダ教団信徒の皆様のご支援をよろしくお願い申し上げます。

元カナダ仏教団の総長でありました村上 利夫先生がハワイにて急逝されました。享年 76才。村上先生には1990年バンクーバー での世界仏教婦人大会でご苦労していただき ました。葬儀は去る6月6日ハワイ別院で営 まれました。

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BTSA Fundraising Drive: Please support our new Temple



Artist's rendering of new temple

	12.50	
Province/State:	_ Postal /Zip Code:	
	\$ for years f)	
	Province/State:	

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Raymond, Alberta T0K 2S0

BTSA Fundraising Update to mid-June, 2008

The BTSA now has an official status as a charitable organization. Official tax receipts can now be issued by the BTSA for any charitable donations. Any one wishing to donate to the building fund can make a one time donation or pledge their donation over the next 3-5 years. A plaque with the donors name will be included in our donor wall. The target for the fund raising committee is around \$1,00,000. The donor levels are as follows:

Diamond = \$25,000 or greater Emerald = \$17,500 to \$24,999 Platinum = \$10,000 to \$17,499 Gold = \$5,000 to \$9,999 Silver = \$2,500 to \$4,999 Bronze = \$1,000 to \$2,499 (New donors indicated in italic)

Diamond Level Donors

- · Rev. & Mrs. Yasuo Izumi
- Richard & Sue Kanegawa In memory of Mr & Mrs Sakuji Kanegawa & Mr Stan Kanegawa
- Mrs Aiko Yoshihara & Family In memory of Motoharu Yoshihara.
- · Family of Muneo & Toshiko Takeda
- · Noris & Sachiko Taguchi & daughters Louise, Patricia, Teresa & Karen (Additional donation in memory of Kohei and Hashime Taguchi and Tayeko Taguchi)

Emerald Level Donors

- · Hideko Oishi & family in memory of Yoichi Oishi
- Sumi, Ken & Jim Tsukishima In memory of Mitsugi (Father), Sagami & Hisataro Tsukishima (Gr&parents), Kaisuke & Yoshino Hironaka (Gr&parents)
- Saburo & Kimino Nishi In memory of Taichiro & Eda Nishi & Bonnie Masako Nishi.
- + Louise Nishiyama, Jackie & Barrie Robb, Brian J. Nishiyama & Rod Nishiyama - In memory of Jack
- Rocky & Jean Oishi, Sut & Neva Oishi, Jitsuya & Rae Oishi, Mistuko Oishi, Gilbert & Rose Oishi, Hideko Oishi, Yoshiyuki & Lily Oishi, Roy & Luri Nagata, Osami & June Oishi. - In memory of Sanevoshi & Chika Oishi
- Lethbridge Bukkyo Fujinkai

Platinum Level Donors

- + D.J. Major & the Hamabata family in memory of Kamasuke Hamabata & Cheryl Prins
- · S.K. Ikuta & Family
- Tak & Jan Okamura
- · Fujiye Kariatsumari & Family in memory of Tokiyoshi & Katsuo Kariatsumari
- Mas & Miyo Sunada
- · Mrs Sadae Kanegawa in memory of Stan Kanegawa
- Akira & Lorita Ichikawa In memory of Michael Tatsuya Ichikawa
- Tak & Mitsuko Oga
- · Yuichi (Posthumous) & Shizuka Akune & family in memory of Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka
- Tom & Tsuyako Tajiri
- John & Alice Kanashiro
- Floyd & Yuki Okubo Bountiful Utah
- · Shigeru Kounosu Lethbridge In memory of Heidi Kounosu.
- Fujiko Okamura & Family in memory of Masaru
- Kinji & Fuji Takeda

- Generations Funeral Home
- · Mas Terakita In memory of Jane Terakita
- Makoto Ikuta
- · Children of the Fujita Family in memory of Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita
- · Akira & Lorita Ichikawa In memory of Miachael Tatsuya Ichikawa
- · Jack & Rie Nagai family In memory of Masako Nagai
- Morison Tanaka, Glen & Pam Tanaka, May & Cliff Thomas - In memory of Asako Tanaka
- · Tashiro & Okuma Families in memory of Kaz, Hatsue & Yoichi Okuma, Yasu & Eiji Tashiro
- · Roy Takeda, Barbara Takeda, Gary and Beverly McLroy in memory of Nancy Takeda, our parents, grandparents great grandparents, great great grandparents
- Fusajiro & Yoshi Takeda

Gold Level Donors

- · Pat & Roy Sassa in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Tomomi C. Okutake & Mr. & Mrs. Tsuneki Sassa
- · Kaz & Setsuko Ohno
- Tomiko Kobayashi
- Calgary Buddhist Temple
- Mr & Mrs Mas Fukushima In memory of Kiyomi
- Koji & Sumiye Itaya in memory of Shizue & Shunji
- Ken & Hiroko Yoshihara in memory of Shintaro & Hisa Fujita, Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita & Harumi
- Šam & Betty Taniguchi In memory of Mr & Mrs Yoshiharu Miyada - Mr & Mrs Kizo Taniguchi
- Hirano & Heaton Architects Ltd.
- Tak & Yoko Tsujita
- Jim & Joan Nakagawa
- Jiro & Mae Sasaki
- · Ayako Imahashi In memory of Tanekichi Imahashi
- Joe & Sumiko Tomiyama
- Hajime (Harry) Sugimoto
- · Jim & Daisy Oshiro In memory of our deceased family & friends
- · Chizuko Kimura in memory of Toyoichi & Haru Matsuno and James T. Kimura
- Roy & Minnie Nakatsuru in memory of Osamu & Mayuno Kakatsuru
- · Shirley N. Higa & Robert Miyagawa In memory of Hikojiro & Hisae Miyagawa and Jiro Miyagawa

Silver Level Donors

• F. Okamura & Family in memory of Ichirohe & Kin Hisaoka

Bronze Level Donors

- Mitsuyo Ohno
- + Tom Ohno (Carp, Ontario)
- Mrs Toshiko Hase
- · Mrs Kay Higa In memory of George K. Higa
- Dr. Valerie Boras
- · Shinako (Sheila) Higa in memory of Nori Higa
- · Gr&children of Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita in memory of Harutaro & Tamiko Fujita & Uncle Harumi Fujita
- Les Higa
- * Kaz & Nobs Sugimoto
- · K. B. Lila, Carly and Stephanie Takeda
- · Kimiyo Furukawa in memory of Suey Furukawa
- Lethbridge Karaoke Club

Other Donors

- + Duane & Karen Yoshihara in Memory of Harumi
- Tosh & Joyce Saruwatari Gordon & Joy Saruwatari In memory of Juzo & Aiko Saruwatari -Kohei & Hashime Taguchi
- Tucker Hironaka
- Joanne Tomiyama & Allard Everdingen Calgary
- Yoshiko Imahashi & Carolyn MacDonald Calgary
- Ted & Sue Koyata
- · Miyauchi Family In memory of Shizuo & Tomiko Miyauchi
- Reverend Tomofumi Fujii
- · Natsuko Sawada
- Dr. Bruce Todd In memory of Lorraine Aiko Hinatsu-Todd
- · Robert & Judy Takaguchi In appreciation of the Raymond Pioneer Members
- + George & Sharon Nyhoff
- Martha Katsuta In memory of Yoichi Oishi
- · Yuse & Chiyomi Matsuno
- · Tanaka family in memory of Gene Tanaka
- Keiko Tsukishima in memory of Tsutomu (Tom) Tsukishima & Emiko Catt
- Yosh & Martha Akune
- · Setsuko Matsugi
- Fukushima Family in memory of Hiroshi (Harry)
- Tosh & Marian Ibuki in memory of Saichi & Shizuo Ibuki
- Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
- + Janet & Neil Hinatsu In memory of Roy Hinatsu and Lorraine Hinatsu-Todd
- Haruko Ikeda
- · Ron Kanashiro
- · Bishop Orai Fujikawa
- + Hiroshi Kitagawa
- Doug Mikado
- Kaz Takaguchi, Michael Takaguchi, Leanne & Earl Fisher In memory of Yoshifumi Takaguchi, Kichizo & Kimi Takaguchi, & Kohei & Hashime Taguchi
- Hiroaki Öhmae In memory of Heidi Kounosu
- Peter Oka In memory of Asako Tanaka
- · Hiro & Yoshiko Okishita
- Mary Osaka
- + Tomomi Saka Edmonton
- Seville Land Corporation
- Kaz & Nobs Sugimoto
- Trimark Engineering
 Guek-Yang Tan & MS Guek-Chwee Tan
- · Moriguma & Kiyoko Tokunaga
- · Hisashi Shimozawa
- · Kinuko Matsuno in memory of Hisashi Matsuno
- · Kim and Mits Tsuji in memory of Asakichi & Kimi Tsuji and Torazo& Hisako Fukushima

The BTSA greatly appreciates the contribution from the above in starting the fund raising drive. To date we have raised \$650,000 in donations or pledges. To make a contribution or pledge please contact Jim Tsukishima (327-1279) mtsfarm@telus.net, Rol& Ikuta (317-0078) Rolikuta@shaw.ca or send cheques to Robert Takaguchi (P.O. Box 1249 Raymond, Alberta T0K-2S0).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC
July 6, 2008 . Elk's Kitchen, Indian Battle Park



Service is at 10:30am, but feel free to come earlier. Besides food and good company, the dharma class is hosting relay games (sack race, 3-legged race, egg & spoon race and more!). Don't forget a hat, sunscreen and mosquito repellent.









BON ODORI July 25, 2008 . 7pm . Galt Gardens

For this year's festival, the dharma class applied for grant money from the City of Lethbridge. The money received went toward a new sno-cone machine. This is also the first year T-shirts will be sold, and there will be Japanese-themed activties for kids. The dharma class hopes to add some new attractions every year and build toward a bigger Bon Odori festival. Please come out and enjoy the evening.



If you would like to be added to the Dharma Class email list or need further information, please contact Brenda at 317-0078 or Maya at 380-4330.

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July, August & Sept. Schedule 7月と8月と9月の予定表

lide	
July 06 (Sun)	10:30am BTSA Picnic & Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service at Elks
	Community Kitchen (The picnic site is reserved for the BTSA from 9:00am- 5:00pm)
13 (Sun)	10:00am Cemetery Visitation (Magrath)
	11:00am Cemetery Visitation (Temple Hill)
20 (Sun)	11:30am Cemetery Visitation at Brooks
	12:00 Noon Obon Service at Brooks Heritage Motel
25 (Fri)	7:00pm Bon Odori at Galt Gardens
27 (Sun)	1:00pm Cemetery Visitation at Mt.View
	2:30pm BTSA Obon Service together with August Shotsuki
	Monthly Memorial Service at ST
August	
03 (Sun)	10:30am Bowlsland Cemetery Visitation
	1:00pm Taber Cemetery Visitation
10 (Sun)	10:30am Cemetery Visitation at Mt.View
	2:00pm Coaldale Obon Service
Sept	
07(Sun)	10:30am Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Serivce at ST
10(5)	2:00pm Coaldale
13(Sat)	Yard Sale at ST

Study/Discussion Group

Please feel welcome to join in the BTSA study/discussion group on Sundays right after the morning service. The purpose of meeting is to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Buddha's teachings, study the Dharma and facilitate discussion. Each study/discussion group session will be preceded by a brief chanting lesson.. Plese contact Renae Barlow (renaeb@telus.net) or Rev. Izumi (382-7024)

Thank-you for the Donations

Memorial Donations

Katie Nakagawa, Noboru & Kazuko Sugimoto, Kinuko Matsuno, Chizuko Kimura

Total: \$520.00

Shotsuki Hoyo

Keiko Tsukishima, Norris & Sachiko Taguchi, May Nishikawa, Mary Takeda, Tsuyako Tajiri, Kay Maruno, Frank & Kimi Ohno, Reiko Takeyasu, Fujiko Okamura

Total: \$55.00

To Hikari

Mrs. Chizuko Kimura (Edmonton) \$200.00 in memory of 13th year for Mr. Tadao Kimura

Buddhist Memorial Service 仏教徒の年忌 Year of Death (死亡年)

real of Death ()[L-T)
2007 First annual memorial 1 year from death
2006 3rd anniversary memorial full years from death
2002 7th anniversary memorial 6 full years from death
1996
199217th anniversary memorial16 full years from death
198425th anniversary memorial24 full years from death
1976
1959

A memorial rite marking the death of the deceased not only calls for the adornment of the shrine and the reading of the sutra but also is a precious occasion for recalling the cherished memories of the beloved and the most of all to realize the blessings of the Light of Wisdom and Life of Compassion which embrace us all. (from Jodo Shinshu Handbook for laymen)

Obon Schedule

July 13 (Sun)

10:00am Magrath Cemetery11:00am Temple Hill Cemetery

July 20 (Sun)

11:30am Brooks Cemetery

12:00 Noon Obon Service at Heritage

Motel in Brooks

July 25 (Fri)

7:00pm 5th Annual Bon Odori at

Galt Gardens

July 27 (Sun)

1:00pm Mt. View Cemetery Visitation

2:00pm BTSA Obon Service

August 03 (Sun)

10:30am Bowl Island Cemetery Visitation1:00pm Taber Cemetery Visitation

August 10 (Sun)

2:00pm Coaldale Obon Service

Regular Events

Taiko Class

Thursday 6:30-8:30pm at ST. (note - starting July 29, practice returns to Wednesdays)

Southern Alberta Buddhist Choir

Thursday, 7:00pm-8:30pm at ST.

Bon Odori Practice

Starts on June 10 at 7:00pm at ST Every Tuesday at 7:00pm at ST until July 22

Learn to make manju.

Come out and learn to make mochi manju and in addition please give us a hand to make yaki manju for the Obon Service dinner.

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2008

Time: 1-4PM

Place: South Temple

3611 Forestry Avenue South Fee: \$10 per person; pay at the door.

Instructor: Mary Thomas

Please bring to the class a food container and an apron (optional)

If you're interested please register early--space is limited to 30

participants. No Drop-Ins please.

Contact: Denise @ 381-1187 or de-

takao@telus.net

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