



COMMENTS

We want to hear from you. Please let us know if you have comments or questions about the Calgary Buddhist Temple. Contact us at calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com or drop off comments at the Temple

Mailing Address:
Calgary Buddhist Temple
207 - 6 St N.E., Calgary, AB T2E 3Y1,
Telephone: (403) 263-5723.

participate in these activities provided building leadership skills and life-long friendships. In Buddhist terminology, this is called creating Go-En. Go is an honorific referring to the Buddha or the Buddha's Teachings. En refers to the infinite karmic connections that tie us to one another.

If you or your parents were able to attend a Dharma School or join the YBA, and felt your experience was worthwhile such that you would like your kids to be able to have that same opportunity of fun and learning leadership. You have received a benefit. That is why you should become a member. If you were married at the temple, you received a benefit hopefully of a lasting relationship with a partner and soul mate. That is why you should become a member. If you have had a loved one who passed away and their funeral or memorial services were conducted under the supervision of the temple, you have received a benefit of the rights of passage during one of the most emotional periods in any life. If you have been able to see your own child presented to the Sangha for Hatsumairi, you have received a benefit.

That is why you should become a member. All of this and more are the result of the members past and present who have said, "Having a Buddhist Temple in the area is important." And now I need to do what I can to help insure that others in the future have the same if not more opportunities that will benefit and enhance their lives. That is why I should be or become a member.

People do not become members of a temple with the thought or idea that they will then get some benefit out of it. Rather, it is because they have already received the benefits of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha and are moved to repay that great debt of gratitude that they become a member of a temple. In this way, by their support, they will help to ensure that others in the present and future generations have that same opportunity to hear the Dharma of the Buddha enriching and deepening the meaning of their own lives. Then becoming a member of the temple is not Self-benefiting but Benefiting Others. This is the true heart of compassion.

In Gassho, Rev. Dean Koyama
Buddhist Churches of America



2017 MEMBERSHIP



CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE
www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca



2017 MEMBERSHIP

We would like to use this opportunity to refresh and update our Sangha list. Please take a few moments to complete the attached contact information and return it to the temple. Please make cheques out to *The Calgary Buddhist Temple*. Cheques or cash can also be dropped off at the temple during services - Mailing address: 207-6th St N.E. Calgary, Alberta T2E 3Y1. Telephone: (403) 263-5723.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2016 was our first full year in our completely renovated temple. After years of making do with the old building, we are enjoying the improvements and making use of all the space.

We have had several fun volunteer sessions of making mein noodles, mochi, and gyoza, a successful second annual fundraising dinner, and a to-be-annual Grey Cup party. As well, we had our regular potluck lunches after special services, including a special first anniversary dinner at Obon which was attended by members of the Lethbridge Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. We have had ikebana classes, regular Buddhist discussion groups, and Buddhism 101 classes during the week in addition to our Sunday services. We were excited to have an infant presentation (Hatsu mairi) in November, as our Dharma School keeps growing.

Running a temple is not an easy job. A successful temple requires effort from many people, and events take a lot of time to plan and organize. Thank you to the organizing committees and the small army of volunteers (the tobans) for all their hard work and dedication: organizing events, teaching Dharma School, cooking, and cleaning the temple.

We continued to raise funds to pay for the costs of renovation as well as operating costs. Thanks to the generosity of our members, our capital campaign has raised approximately \$1.82 million of our \$2 million goal. Regular fundraising and our capital campaign will

continue in 2017. As well, the building is being rented by several groups on an ongoing basis, which helps cover operating costs.

Please be sure to check our website and newsletter for upcoming events, classes and volunteer opportunities. Thank you once again for your continued support of our temple.

Please subscribe

Please note that of the \$100 Membership fee, \$80 goes towards supporting our national organization, the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. The JSBTC provides funding for the Bishop (Socho), the Ministerial Association Group Benefit Plan, and support for ministerial assistants' training. That only leaves \$20 to cover the cost of operating the Calgary Temple.

Monthly contributions

Monthly contributions provide stability by allowing the Board to prepare more accurate budgets and forecasts for the future.

Donate online

Donations can conveniently be made via our online donation system. It allows for a single donation or an option for ongoing monthly contributions by credit card. To make an online donation, check our website at www.calgary-buddhist.ab.ca and click on the Make a Donation button.

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A TEMPLE MEMBER?

The full essay written by Rev Dean Koyama from the BCA is available on our website's blog (June 6, 2016)

Recently I had a conversation that centered on the issue of "Why should I join the temple and become a member?" This person pointed out that they could take advantage of our Dharma School program, our YBA and other affiliated organizations without being a member. And if they ever need to, they can still have a funeral, memorial or even a wedding conducted here at the temple. So there really is no incentive for them to become a member. They can reap all the benefits without paying their annual dues or making an annual pledge (of which approximately \$110 per person is taken from the top and sent to our BCA Headquarters in San Francisco). I can see this person's point, if we just base this from a cost – benefit perspective.

Why pay for something if you can get it for free? It is very hard to argue this question from just a business perspective. But the temple is not an ordinary business. And the logic to justify becoming a member is not a simple linear cost-benefit formula. In fact my response to this person was, "Because you can and perhaps already have taken advantage of all the programs, organizations, and services that this temple provides without being a member, is the very reason to become a member." Huh?! That doesn't make sense.

Let me try to explain.

The Three Jewels of Buddhism consist of taking refuge and relying upon the Buddha, the teacher of Life's Realities; the Dharma-the Teachings of those Realities, and Sangha, the community that helps one to practice wisdom and compassion on an everyday level. So it is already inherent that the community is part and parcel of one's foundation in Buddhism. The Sangha provides a network to help during difficult times and to share in the happiness during joyful times. For those who are part of this community, many have found memorable experiences in YBA or working at the Obon. Many can see the wonderful cooperative spirit of multi generations working for the same goal. These opportunities to

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Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: Line 1 _____

Address: Line 2 _____

City, Province, _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

- Full Membership (\$100 per member)
- Student (Under 18) Membership -No Charge
- Honorary Senior (65 & over) Membership - Complimentary

Check to receive the CBT newsletter if you do not already receive it

___ by email

___ by mail

___ Please contact me regarding volunteering

We also want to hear from you! How are we doing? The comment box on the back of this form is for your feedback! You can also email comments to calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com