

# Guiding Light

January 2015

佛心



**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**  
*a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

1011 Sheppard Ave West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3H 2T7  
(416) 534-4302      [www.tbc.on.ca](http://www.tbc.on.ca)

# JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Events marked with an asterisk * are <b><u>PRIVATE</u></b> and not open to the general public Thank You !				<b>1</b> 10 am - 4 pm Open House 11 am New Year's Day Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  4 pm * Family Memorial Service
<b>4 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SVC</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11 am English Service 1 pm Japanese Service	<b>5</b> NO Karaoke  11am Buyo	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  7 pm Taiko	<b>8</b> 10 am Tai Chi 2 pm Momiji Service 2:30 pm Buyo 4 pm Yee Hong Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  4 pm * Family Memorial Service
<b>11 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11 am English Service  <b>Hamilton Hoonko</b>	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm TBC Management Committee and Board of Directors Mtgs	<b>14</b>  7 pm Taiko	<b>15</b>  10 am Tai Chi 2 pm Castlevue 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>16</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>17</b> 1 pm * Family Memorial Service  5 pm Hoonko Vegetarian <u>Potluck</u> Dinner 7 pm Hoonko
<b>18 HOONKO SVC &amp; NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11 am English Service	<b>19</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke  7 pm Meditation Seminar	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7 pm Taiko	<b>22</b>  10 am Tai Chi 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>23</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>24</b>  4 pm * Family Memorial Service
<b>25 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11 am English Service  <b>12:30 pm TBC AGM</b>	<b>26</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  10 am Tai Chi 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

**Morning Services** are held on the weekdays on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am –10:30 am when a minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur. Thank You

# FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 MONTHLY MEMORIAL Service &amp; FOODFEST</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11 am English Service 12 noon Dana Mtg 1 pm Japanese Service	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>5</b> 10 am Tai Chi 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>6</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>7</b>
<b>8 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11 am English Service 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg 12:30 pm Shin Fujinkai Mtg	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm TBC Management Committee and Board of Directors Mtgs	<b>11</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>12</b> 10 am Tai Chi 2 pm Momiji Service 2:30 pm Buyo 4 pm Yee Hong Service	<b>13</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>14</b>
<b>15 NIRVANA DAY SERVICE &amp; SANGHA DAY</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11 am English Service 1pm	<b>16</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>19</b> 10 am Tai Chi 2 pm Castlevieview 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>21</b>
<b>22 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11 am English Service 12:30 pm JSBTCWF Workshop (SH)	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>26</b> 10 am Tai Chi 2:30 pm Buyo	<b>27</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>28</b>

**Morning Services** are held on the weekdays on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am –10:30 am when a minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur. Thank You

## Gomonshu's New Year's Greeting

As we mark the beginning of a new year, I extend to you my greetings.

Last year, since having succeeded the Jodo Shinshu tradition in June, I have taken on the posts as the resident *jushoku* minister of Hongwanji and the Monshu of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Living among today's society in which the conditions are quickly changing, I shall help share the Jodo Shinshu teaching with as many people as possible, so that it will become a principle religious foundation for daily living. To do so, I humbly ask for your support.

The Jodo Shinshu teaching was expounded by Shinran Shonin. Since then, the teaching has been transmitted for well over 790 years, reaching us here today in this present day and age. This is because regardless of time and location, the Nembutsu teaching has always been able to serve any persons as a spiritual guidance to their life. Buddhism detaches from self-absorption and encourages living a life based on the Dharma. However, due to our own limitations being unable to put this into practice, we are faced with sadness and suffering.



Shinran Shonin has taught us that it has been predetermined that we will be led to the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood through the working of Amida Buddha. With the working of Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion, we are enabled to realize one's true self through the Truth.

In closing, let us live a life reciting the Nembutsu as we receive the Dharma.

January 1, 2015

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



## HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

It is the beginning of a New Year...that time when you go through your previous year and think about what you have done, and what you will do...or at least what you will *try* to do. For a while I would tell people I did not believe in New Year's Resolutions because they never worked anyhow. Either I did not lose the weight I wanted to, or I still drank way too much coffee...why bother?

I have since changed my position. Not because I missed the disappointment I would feel from not losing the weight I wanted or limiting my coffee intake, but because I missed having the goal. I missed thinking that things could be different, and different is exciting. Working towards something is fun. We might not always reach our desired outcome, but we still learn something in the process.

Last year I decided I would try to be more gentle to myself and others. Did I achieve this? Sometimes yes and sometimes no. I am still a work in progress. Even so, I learned a lot about myself, and especially about others.

One thing that became even more clear for me was the amount of dedication and strong work ethic that so many of our members have for the temple. Every single time our temple had a special event, or even just regular Sunday service, our volunteers would work tirelessly cleaning, cooking, arranging, creating...anything you can think of that our temple needs done, we have volunteers who do that and more without hardly a word of complaint...at least not complaint about their own discomfort. There *is* a proper way to chop vegetables for chowmein and you *can* put too much rice in the inari sushi. Thank goodness there are skilled people to instruct me (yes, I was the one who overstuffed the inari sushi for Bazaar. Sorry!).

This year for Mochi Tsuki there were times that I was almost moved to tears at the amount of effort these people were putting in. I had to argue one person out of her spot of mochi making because she had been standing there for literally 5 hours without a break or a bite to eat. She wanted to keep going!! And one of our volunteers was directing the making of anko, washing dishes, directing how to package things, checking on the rolling of mochi...I actually cannot think of anything she did not do. Oh wait. Yes I can. She never complained. So do you know what that motivated me to do? Keep quiet and keep working.

It was this interaction that lead me to my 2015 New Year's resolution. Stop complaining. Don't get me wrong. I am a very hard worker. I will go home, look after my son and after he is in bed I will stay up working all night if I have to, but I will certainly complain about it the next day. Monkutare.

Do you want to know how many times Atticus woke me up last night? No? Let me tell you anyways. Do you want to know about how my husband drank the last of the coffee and didn't replace it? No? Too bad. Do you know how many times the printer jammed? My friends, let me pour you a cup of tea and tell you all about it. Complain complain complain.

When I saw our volunteers working away in their hairnets and gloves, covered from head to toe in mochi flour and still laughing and talking with each other, I felt inspired. I want to be like that person 50 years older than me who works as hard as she can, and never loses the ability to smile.

Thank you to all the members who worked so hard this past year at keeping things running smoothly, and doing it all with grace. You inspire me to be a better person.



## Message from Rev. Endo

Happy New Year!!!

I welcome my first New Year in Toronto. Thank you very much to everyone who supported me to live in Canada as a Kaikyoshi Minister. Last year was a big change for me. I came from Japan! In June I departed from Japan and came to Steveston. I spent this summer in Steveston, Vancouver, Seattle and Kelowna as orientation. I gained so much and this summer will be unforgettable as part of my life as a minister. In August I came to Toronto. Since then I have been taken care of by members of the Toronto Buddhist Church. Thank you so much everyone. This year I would like to recite Nembutsu and spend a wonderful year with you all.

New Years in Japan we look forward to seeing New Year's cards from friends every year; speaking of New Year's cards I recall the twelve zodiac signs (in the Chinese astrology). This New Year is the year of the sheep. There is a story about this.

In the old days, God wrote a letter saying "January 1st morning I will choose as General, animals who comes to my place from the 1st till the 12th in order." Animals in the whole country who received the letter raced towards God's place in order to be first the next morning. All animals except the cat started the journey because she heard "it is January 2" from the mouse. Dog and monkey were running happily forming a line but soon their relationship became bad and they started fighting on a log bridge. At last as the New Year's sun rose, the cow appeared first of those who started the evening before. But, the mouse on the cow's back jumped off and finished the race first. This is the way the animals finished the race one after another, the order is mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, boar. The frog came in 13th so he went back. There are different characters such as fast ones, fighting ones, cheating ones like the mouse, ones who make use of others. We humans also when trying hard to get something, fight and sometimes cheat.

At a certain age, looking back at life, we notice how fleeting the life is. It's sure for a 2 years old baby; one year is 1/2 of his life. But for someone 70 years old, one year is 1/70 of his life. That's why when compared to the young one feels that the time does not pass at the same speed as the time when one is young.

We humans, how do we think about time?

If we recite Namo Amida Butsu and stare at the salvation of Buddha intently, we can overcome the concept of time, regardless of winning or losing the race we can spend life with full satisfaction. Like the twelve signs of the Chinese and Japanese zodiac, there are various years, we have various personalities and we should spend a faithful year happily at our own speed.

Gassho





## **President's Message**

### **What a Year**

Who could have predicted last January that 2014 would turn out the way it did? What foreboding was there when Rev. Tomo was forced to decide to return to Japan after losing his father so suddenly and so early in the year? Since then, our Temple had a year of turmoil even though our wonderful members and volunteers met every challenge and carried on marvellously throughout the year, finishing exhausted and relieved.

During the year we saw Rev. Christina “promoted” to the front lines, way, way sooner than she or anyone else should have expected. We didn’t consult her opinion if it was okay. Then Rev. Ryu was thrust out there, barely unpacked and brand new driver’s licence in his wallet. The pressure surely must have been unbearable, and it still is, but our ministers have refused to buckle. Thank you so much. You might thank them too. The heat also got to our Office Staff, to the Board and the Management Committee, who all had to make adjustments to cope with unexpected adversities. This all filtered down to members who may have winced at our occasional missteps, and then mercifully forgave us.

When I came back, one of my primary goals was to re-bond with the beloved generations of Isseis and Niseis, many of whom looked out for me in the 50s and 60s. But now, too many of them have said goodbye this past year. They were mostly an uncomplicated generation of heroes, friends, mentors. They were the heart and lifeblood of the Temple over so many decades. Yes, I’ve learned some things about suffering and impermanence, but to be honest, the lessons haven’t helped me as much as I hoped in trying to cope with all these losses. It still hurts. I know I’ll have to keep learning.

Then as I was still trying to make the deadline for this little piece, my own mother-in-law passed away at the age of 94. I loved that great lady almost as much as I love my wife. My wife understands.

If you are able to read this piece, then I am happy because hopefully it means that you are well. And if you are well enough to stride bravely (sadly I am starting to hobble) into another year, I want to invite you all to smile at one another and, as Reverend James Martin suggested, to hug one another, including me. And then I invite each of you to say to one another, and to me: “In the New Year, for your sake as well as for my sake, let’s respect each other, let’s stay well, and together let’s say the Nembutsu lots and lots of times.”

In Gassho,

Roy Kusano

# Happy New Year 2015

DAWN, TOSHI & CRYSTAL ANZAI

HIROSHI & MARY AOKI

DAVID AZUMA

TERUJI GOTO

MITSU ITO

DENNIS, SANDRA, SEAN, GRANT, NICOLE & TIMOTHY IZUKAWA

TOIVO & PAULINE KNUDE

JOE & MIYO NAKAMURA

GEORGE & EMI NAKANO

JIM HOOBKAMP & JOANNE OMORI

KUNIO & YOSH SUYAMA

TOMOKO YOSHIDA

REV. CHRISTINA YANKO, DAVE AND ATTICUS

Guiding Light Staff:

Rev. Christina Yanko

Rev. Ryuhei Endo

Pamela Yoshida

Dianne Ishida

Tin Goto

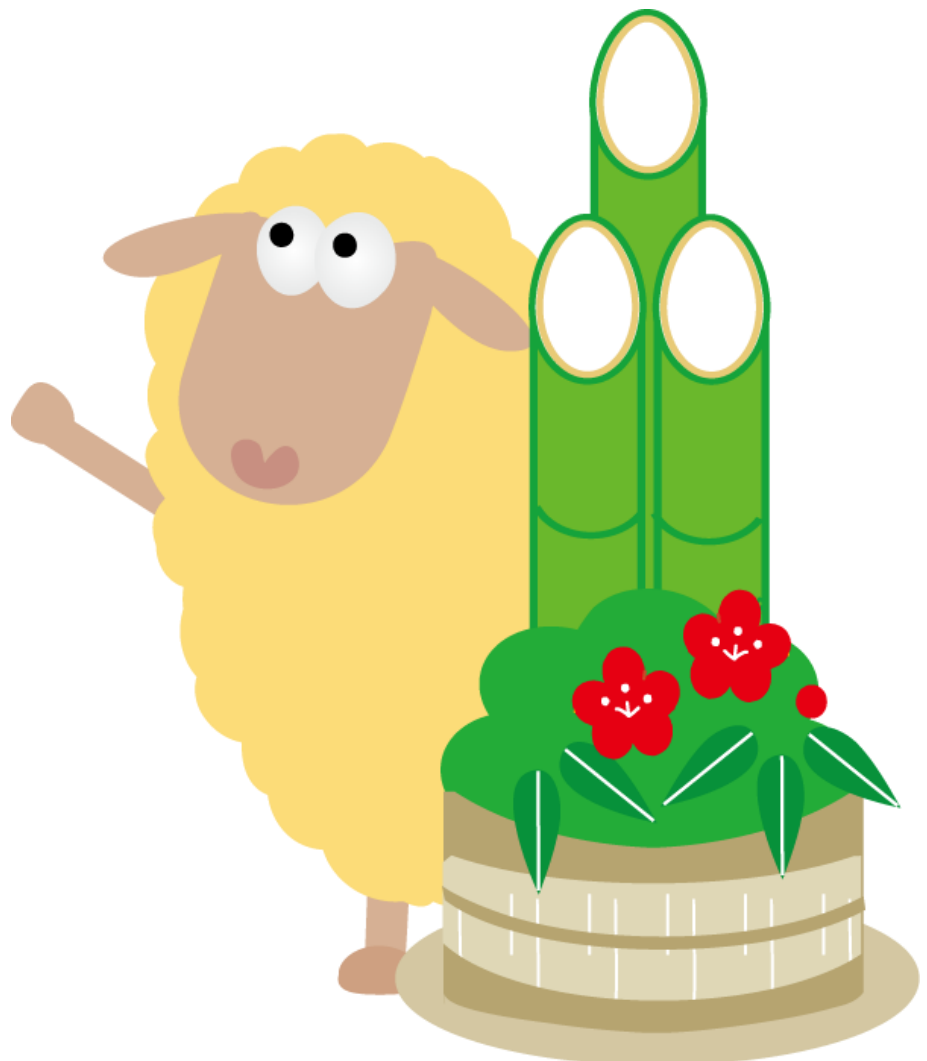
Joe & Fumi Otori

Kunio Suyama

Diane Mark

Mika Fukuma

Darlene Rieger





## Hoonko Weekend

Hoonko is one of the most important occasions observed in the Jodo Shinshu tradition, where we observe the memorial of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

As per our TBC tradition, our Hoonko weekend will begin on Saturday, January 17th, with a **vegetarian potluck dinner** at 5:00 p.m. - please bring your favourite vegetarian dish, then attend the Hoonko Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

The Hoonko Joint Service will take place on Sunday January 18th at 11:00 a.m, The Toronto Buddhist Church's New Year's Social in the Social Hall will take place immediately afterwards in the Social Hall. Please join us for a **pot luck luncheon** and an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

**Please note:** We rely on donations for the pot luck luncheon, bingo and door prizes. Please consider bringing a contribution(s) to make the afternoon a success.

Thank you.

Shinjin is the mind that is single;  
The mind that is single is the diamondlike mind.  
The diamondlike mind is the mind aspiring for enlightenment;  
This mind is itself Other Power.  
*Hymns of the Pure Land Masters, 19, by Shinran Shonin*



### Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) February 15, 2015

Nirvana Day is the day we commemorate the passing of the Historical Buddha Siddhartha Gautama. Nirvana means the cessation of suffering, and it is at this time that we say he reached ultimate enlightenment. On this date we are reminded of the impermanence of all things, the beauty of change, and the strength of the Dharma (Buddhist teachings). Please join us on February 15th to commemorate this historic occasion.



## TBC Senior Karaoke Year End Party

Over 100 people enjoyed the annual TBC Senior Karaoke Club Year End Concert, held on December 6th. Seniors young at heart sang, danced and entertained the audience with surprising talent, despite their age.

The first half of the program was capably emceed by Kiyoshi Tsuyuki colourfully introducing each selection. Japan's NHK ever popular KOHAKU UTA GASSEN (TBC Senior Karaoke Club version) was the highlight before the half-time break. The Red (Women's) Team was captained and emceed by Akiko Nishimura. Kyo Houei, 96 years young, who sang an appropriate Otome Juuku (19 year old Maiden), Mary Imai, Kumiko Ishii, Jessica Nakamura, and Satoko Date comprised the Red Team.

Not to be outdone was the White (men's) Team, captained and MC'd by George Horii. Shozo Ishikawa started off boasting his 100 year old vocal cords (sorry, he forgot to bring his music so he had to be relegated to a later slot). Giichi Ohashi, Roy Sato, Fujio Maede, and Sho Michibata did their best to upstage the Red Team. Well, to keep peace among friends, the competition was declared a tie.

After the break, the second half of the program opened with Sue Michibata leading the Harmonica Band on her keyboard. All clad in white sailor outfits, they played familiar old time songs, such as GUNKAN MARCH, to every one's delight.

Emceed by Evelyn Sato, the songs and odori continued until the feature presentation of Karaoke Dorama Gekijo (Karaoke Drama Theatre). In GANPEKI NO HAHA, Sayoh Yabu took part of the mother who waited in vain at port for the return of her beloved son from the Siberian front after the War was long over. This was a true story dramatised.

Setsuko Koyata took part in TSUBOSAKA JYOWA as Osato, who lead her blind husband to journey through mountainous trails to find happiness for both.

The last of the theatre was NINJO MATSU NO ROUKA sang and performed by Kunio Suyama. This is the tragic historic story of FORTY SEVEN SAMURAI who were convicted and sentenced to Hara Kiri, the ultimate and honourable samurai code. Ninjo Matsu no Rouka is the beginning and the cause for the tragic story.

For the FINALE, everyone capable took part in the merry old TANKO BUSHI and CHOWA ONDO, followed by a nostalgic rendition of White Christmas by Rick Toki on stage in spotlight and to highlight the entire afternoon and adding to the year's end mood, everyone present sang HOTARU NO HIKARI (Auld Lang Syne) in darkness lit only by rows and rows of candle lights. It was an emotional and fitting finale to the TBC SENIOR KARAOKE YEAR END CONCERT.

Mrs. Sue Michibata also added:

"Mr. Kunio Suyama, the ultimate performer himself, did an excellent job of putting the program together. The lady who sat next to me, whose name I did not get, made the best remark by saying: 'There is no religious connection to any one religion. We are all music lovers.' Especially as to the Uta Gassen, the performers in it were at ease and performed like pros.

"Thanks Kunio for your excellent guidance."

## TBC Senior Karaoke Year End Party



**2014-2015 TORONTO DANA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President: Jessie Ebata  
Co-Vice-Presidents: Mary Aoki / Emi Nakano  
Secretary: Judy Nishi  
Treasurer: Aja Shimizu  
Bazaar: Jessie Ebata, Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani  
Bon Odori: Kathy Wani  
Castlevew: Hedy Iwata  
Membership /Communication: Marie Baba  
Program: Executive  
Religious: Kay Uchida  
Social: Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani  
TBC Dana Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs: Susan Takahashi / Miyo Nakamura  
Welfare: Lily Motomura, Assistant -Hedy Iwata  
JSBTCWF Liason Rep: June Asano  
Advisors: Gloria Sumiya, Jean Furukawa



## **FOODFEST – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2015**

The Dana and Shin Fujinkai will be holding their Annual Foodfest on Sunday, February 1st, 2015, the proceeds from which will be used to support the JSBTC Outreach Program.

Donations of any food items, such as homemade preserves, jams, fukujinzuke, pickles, homemade senbei, makisushi, inari sushi, chirashi sushi, pastries and of course, any items that can be used in our bento boxes would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring items for the Foodfest to the temple before 9 am on February 1st so that they can be packaged and sold following the service.

THANK YOU!



## Mochi Tsuki 2014 - Arigato Gozaimasu! Gokurosama Deshita!

To all the volunteers who came out to help with Mochi Tsuki 2014 – Thank You Very Much! I am deeply indebted to you for taking time out over the holiday season to assist us.

On Saturday Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, our usual complement of veteran Mochi Tsuki masters Aki Ikebata, Lloyd Ito and others were buoyed by the assistance of some new faces to prepare for the main event on Sunday. The afternoon was consumed with Mochi machinery maintenance, preparing rice steamers and washing 800 pounds of rice.

Just when we thought we were done, Kunio Suyama informed me that we had taken more orders than initially anticipated and I had to drive downtown to Sanko to pick up an extra 100 pounds of rice. So, all told we prepared 900 pounds of rice!



On Sunday, we were fortunate to welcome at 112 signed in volunteers (again – including many new faces) to assist with the task of making and filling

the extraordinarily large number of mochi orders. I am happy to say that we had young and old volunteers working side by side making this a happy event for the entire family.

Thanks to Nobby Shiraishi, Martin Cartledge, Jenny Choi and Joanne Kataoka, we were all spoiled with a delicious bento box or vegan curry for lunch.

Many many thanks to Yanko-Sensei who not only pitched in with the Mochi making but provided us with a service in the social hall so that we wouldn't miss out on Sunday service.



See you next year!

Cary Kataoka,  
President TBC Sangha

## Joya No Kane



Despite the winter's chill many people showed up to strike the large Japanese bell. It was a beautiful setting with the moon shining in the sky, the willow trees hanging in the background, the water from Lake Ontario, and people laughing and spending time together.



This year we said goodbye to 2014 by each of us taking a turn, and brought in 2015 with a bang as each person held on to a rope attached to the striker and hit the bell together.

This bell was brought to Ontario Place in 1977 by the Japanese Canadians to commemorate the arrival of the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese person coming to Canada. Kunio Suyama, who was part of the committee in 1977 to make this happen, presented Rev. Yanko and Rev. Endo with special tea cup that was made in 1977 in honour of this great event.

Following the bell ringing all of the people in attendance were presented with some delicious mochi and a Buddhist calendar to start of the New Year.



Special thanks to Kunio Suyama and Aki Ikebata for helping the event run smoothly. Also a special thank you to the Kataoka family for helping hand out mochi and calendars, and Mika Fukuma for taking such great pictures and talking to the Japanese radio station about our event.

Happy New Year everyone and we will see you all there again next year!



## NOTICE OF ADJOURNED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please be advised that the Adjourned Annual General Meeting of Members will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 12:30 pm**. Matters to be considered at the adjourned meeting will include:

1. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday November 24, 2013;
  2. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2014;
  3. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2015;
  4. Election of President and Director;
  5. Election of Directors;
  6. Consideration of a request by Calgary Buddhist Temple to Toronto Buddhist Church for a loan to help finance Calgary's Temple renovations;
- Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Please note that while attendance at the Meeting is open to all friends of the Temple, only members of the Temple will be entitled to speak and vote on any matters coming before the meeting. A member of the Temple is (a) one who has been designated by the Temple as an honorary member, or (b) an individual whose written application for membership has been accepted and who has paid his or her membership fee for the year 2014 and/or 2015. We will look forward to your attendance at our meeting in the Social Hall on January 25, 2015 at 12:30 pm.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## OBITUARIES

*The Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families, relatives and friends of the following individuals who have passed away during the past month.*

<i>Miss Yoshie Kosaka</i>	<i>89 yrs</i>	<i>November 30, 2014</i>
<i>Mr. Toshio Mori</i>	<i>99 yrs</i>	<i>December 2, 2014</i>



## MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR 2015

The Temple now has beautiful membership cards ready for issuance to both regular members and honorary members.

**Regular memberships** are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year, so those wishing to be a Temple member must complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year. Late memberships will create a number of administrative, financial and operational issues for the Temple. Once we receive and process your signed application and membership fee (minimum \$100 per year) or your promise to pay the fee before October 31, your membership card will be sent to you. We also remind you of the distinction between membership fees and donations. Donations made in Offering envelopes used at services (such as “konshi” or “in memoriam” or special occasion donations) will be received as donations and not such as membership fees. Any cash payments on account of membership fees should be inserted in a separate envelope clearly and specifically marked “Membership”. You may use your own envelope, or if you wish the Temple will make available some envelopes marked “Membership” in the Hondo. If the membership payment is made by cheque, the cheque should be marked “Membership”.

**Honorary Membership Cards** will be issued to all members 77 years of age and over who sign up for the year 2015. The card will remain valid as long as you indicate that you wish to continue your Honorary Membership each year. Honorary Members do not need to pay any annual membership fees, although all donations are welcome.

We are always seeking members who subscribe to our belief in Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings and embrace our Sangha. We want our members to have a stake in the future of the Temple. At the same time, we want our members to enjoy their membership in other ways too. For example, some of our Temple members have already taken advantage of free notarial services offered by a Temple member to fellow members. Further, we have now arranged with Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) to offer high-level emergency roadside services to our ministers, employees and members of the Temple. Details to follow.

Toronto Buddhist Church invites you to be part of us.

In Gassho,  
Darlene Rieger  
Director and First Vice President

## Toronto Buddhist Church

### 2015 Membership Application

*In the case of couples, please complete information for each applicant individually.*

<b>Applicant #1</b> Renewal (    )    New (    ) Last Name: _____ _____ First Name: _____ _____ Address: _____ _____ City: _____ _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ I promise to pay \$ _____ as my Membership Fee for 2015 and am enclosing the amount of \$ _____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by <b>May 31, 2015</b> . By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on the reverse side of this Application.	Mr. (    ) Mrs. (    ) Ms. (    ) Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____
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<b>Applicant #2</b> Renewal (    )    New (    ) Last Name: _____ _____ First Name: _____ _____ Address: _____ _____ City: _____ _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____ I promise to pay \$ _____ as my Membership Fee for 2015 and am enclosing the amount of \$ _____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by <b>May 31</b> ,	Mr. (    ) Mrs. (    ) Ms. (    ) Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____ Signature: _____

**Please note that this application is for membership from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. The Individual Membership Fee for 2015 is a minimum of \$100. However, the Temple welcomes and will be grateful for any amount over and above this minimum fee.**

A tax receipt will be issued for the total Membership amount paid.

***Please note that \$70 of your Individual Membership Fee is paid to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) as an assessment for each member of our Temple.***

Membership Fees may be paid in one lump sum or in monthly or quarterly installments. **Please do not use Offering envelopes to pay membership fees. Instead, please insert them in separate plain envelopes clearly marked "For Membership". Please make any cheques payable to *Toronto Buddhist Church*.**



## UPDATE

### REGISTRATION

There are still a few spots remaining for Canadian delegates. Visit the convention website at [www.wbwconvention.com](http://www.wbwconvention.com) to register now.

There is still lots to do before the Convention. Visit the WBWC website for **What You Can Do!**

Book your **hotel** and **travel arrangements**.

Purchase a **Montoshiki-sho** or **Wagesa**. These are available at the Temple at a cost of \$50.00.  
Contact June Asano.

Order additional **Banquet Tickets** (online) - registration for the full Convention includes one ticket.

**Volunteer** by completing the “Volunteer Application”.

**Donate** - Be a part of the Sangha (community) in support of the Convention.

Register for the three-day post-convention **Canadian Rockies Trip for Canadian Delegates** which includes Banff and the Columbia Ice Fields. Please contact Jessie Ebata.

### CANADIN ENTERTAINMENT

The Canadian entertainment piece for the Saturday evening of the convention (May 30, 2015) is **Zumba!** We encourage all of the Canadians attending the Convention to practice and be ready for our big performance! For those who may be physically unable to do the dance, plan to be onstage with us to get the crowd clapping in time to our music.

Link to the dance instruction video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWIOjFWN5xk> Link to the dance video is [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnZHaGrws\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnZHaGrws_s) **Practice, Practice, Practice!**

### WORKSHOPS

The fourth Sunday of the month Workshop in January has been cancelled due to the rescheduling of the Temple AGM.

We have reached our goal of over 5,000 Kokoro hearts. No need to make more but if you still have any at home, please bring them to the temple to be packaged. Thank you to everyone.

### QUESTIONS?

Please contact June Asano if you have any questions or concerns about the Convention.  
[asanojune@gmail.com](mailto:asanojune@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Discussions and Presentations...

We have many exciting things planned for this year at the temple!

Monday January 19th and 26th Rev. Endo will be leading a meditation session from 7 - 8 PM.

Thursday January 22nd Rev. Yanko will lead a discussion on Buddhism and Gay Marriage from 7 - 8 PM.

Thursday January 29th Rev. Yanko will lead a discussion on Buddhism and Women from 7 - 8 PM.

Thursday February 5th Rev. Yanko will lead a discussion on Buddhism and War from 7 - 8 PM.

Thursday February 12th Rev. Yanko will lead a discussion on Buddhism and Politics from 7 - 8 PM.

### Guest Presentation Sunday February 15th at 1 PM

#### Learning about other traditions: What is Islam?

Many people have expressed a desire to learn about other religious traditions, so for some time now we have been working towards bringing in speakers from different faith traditions to visit and share their knowledge with us.

Mahammad Afzal Mirza has kindly agreed to come in and give our Temple Members an informative presentation on Islam. He is a learned scholar of world religions with a keen interest in youth welfare. He



regularly hosts a live phone-in radio program explaining contemporary Islamic issues in Toronto. He graduated from the Islamic University in 1976, worked as an Islamic Missionary in various cities in Pakistan and the United States. He is a Missionary in Canada and represented Islam in the United Nations Habitat forum in British Columbia in 2005. He is currently the Vice President of the Institute of Islamic Studies in Mississauga and is Missionary appointed to the Peel region. Please join us in welcoming this esteemed speaker for what will undoubtedly be an educational and enjoyable

### Kids Sangha Program for January.

## Kids Service will begin at 10:30 am in the Hondo.

### Activities

#### January 4, 2015

#### Onigiri Making - 11:00 - 12:00 pm



We've done this in the past, and I know all the kids have fun making Onigiri.

We will have different ideas on how we can make all kinds of rice balls - shiso furikake, umeboshi, nori, sesame etc...time to get creative, have fun and what a great snack to have when we're all done!

#### January 18, 2015

#### Fire Hall Tour - 11:00 - 12:00 pm

Join us on a tour of our local Fire Hall (next door to the Temple).



Arts and crafts will be available for after the tour or for the older kids who have been to the fire hall, and may not want to go again.

Please meet in the front hall, just outside the Hondo at 11:00 am. and we will walk over together

**Save the Date!**

***Eastern Buddhist League***

Hosted by the Cleveland Buddhist Temple  
Labor Day Weekend  
September 4-5-6, 2015



- Fantastic room rate for the new **Westin Hotel** in the heart of downtown
- U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the Cleveland Airshow
- Home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- Walk to the Horseshoe Casino
- And our keynote speaker:  
Renowned Shin Buddhist author **Jeff Wilson**

