

Guiding Light

May 2015

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TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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Message From Rev. Endo

This year is the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Nazis camps of World War 2. People who had the experience of the camps are now really old. History flowed with no hesitation and washed away the footprints of the foolish war. And now, it is a sad matter; here and there in the world there are the sounds of bombing.

Have you ever read “Man’s search for Meaning” by Viktor E Frankl? He was born in Vienna and he was Jewish. He studied psychiatry; he was a medical doctor and a psychologist. He wrote about fundamental human nature through his experiences in Nazis concentration camps in his book. His experiences in the camp were one without parallel in history.

From this cruel experience, he found the answers to what is living for us. I’m sure it shares some underlying ideas of Buddha’s Dharma. The meaning of life that Frankl considered was the whole meaning of living including death, backed up with the meaning of suffering and dying. We should keep his words in our mind because it is so worth remembering.

“There is no hope for living.”—he saw many people who had no hope collapse. They lost their hope and denied themselves under cruel circumstances. However, even in the terrible concentration camp life, under excessive suffering of the human body, there are a few people who found the meaning of life existence without being caught up in a maelstrom of despair. Contrary, they found the thought reached to great humanity which could not be found in ordinary life.

What kind of people were they? Among the circumstances, not knowing when the deadlocked life of camp was over, what type of person was strong?

The answer didn’t depend on whether the body was strong or not. It is not so simple. He insisted that human collapsed not from body but from spirit. Many people endured the life hoping someday they could get out of the camp. But if their hopes were shattered, these people would lose their desire to live.

Poor things! In spite of their body still having power, they abandoned everything. Not eating, not going to the toilet, and not speaking. They just stopped moving and died. As the Nietzsche proverb says, “He who has a reason to live for can bear almost any how.”

This maxim meant exactly what he found out. Frankl said when we asked the meaning of life, our thoughts had to take a 180-degree turn, in other words, we shouldn’t expect anything from living but we respond from the expectation of our life. That is to say, to live is to receive the obligation to answer correctly the question of living assigned for everybody. Even in the camp, one accepted one’s cruel circumstances that there was no way to get out. In this assigned position, one tried to answer questions of one’s living, to perform their purpose of life. One wished other’s happiness and did what one could do.

Frankl understood such people could have a strong mentality and found the true happiness of life. We can say the same thing in our living life now. Whatever life is, it is important for us to seek and prove the meaning of our life. We can’t compare it to another person. In this world, I am the only one. Every person has a different life. Under the condition of one’s own life we have to find one’s own question of life. I’m the only one who can answer the question of my life.

“why do I live this life ? what is the meaning of my life? What is the purpose of my life? ”

One does not ask the meaning of life but answers the question of life. Everything in our life has meaning, and while finding the answer to the question of one’s own life, you’ll find the real value of life and true joy of life. Buddhism leads us to answer these questions. There were people who

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deeply prayed for god in Nazis camps. To speak to the invisible great power leading us is the way to answer the question of one's own life.

Gassho

Rev. Ryuhei Endo

HANAMATSURI 2015

On Sunday, April 19, our Temple celebrated Hanamatsuri, the birth of the Buddha. As always, it was a joyous occasion from beginning to end, and the day recalled the happy Hanamatsuris of decades past during Bathurst Street Days. Older members smiled and teared up as little children skipped to the front of the Hondo and presented a flower and poured sweet tea over the figure of the Buddha and then scampered away. It was a day to think happy thoughts. After the service, the Temple served a beautiful light lunch of salmon and inari sushi which the congregation was surprised and delighted to receive. The Temple really wants to restore the importance of Hanamatsuri to its glorious past at Bathurst Street and this year was a memorable start. Many, many thanks to the Kids Sangha leaders for engaging the children on this happy day, to our temple's excellent cooks for whipping up such a delicious lunch, the Fujinotomo ladies for their beautiful tree and all the people who made flowers or were involved in all the behind the scenes preparations. Without all your efforts the day would not have been such a success.



Thank you!

The TBC Buyo Group would like to thank the temple and its congregation for their support of our annual Food and Bento Sale that was held on April 5, 2015. Thank you to our generous benefactors and special thanks for the donations of delicious food items. This year's proceeds will go towards Buyokai 2016.



TBC Buyo Group



DANA THANK YOU

Toronto Buddhist Church donated 100 bentos to the JCCC bazaar. Thank you to everyone who contributed foods and helped with assembling the boxes. We appreciate your kindness. Special thanks to Hamako Yoshida for transporting the bentos to the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.



Hail to Our Chief

Toronto Buddhist Church is pleased to salute and congratulate our own David Ringle on his recent promotion to Chief Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard. He was awarded his Chief's pin after a long period of hard work and study, all the while being a great Dad to Atticus and supporting Rev. Christina's hectic schedule.

Best wishes to the Yanko-Ringle family for continuing success.



2015 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Many thanks to all who attended the Toronto Buddhist Church Family Banquet.

There is always something memorable about every banquet. Last year, we ran the event with a skeleton crew (volunteers were thin to begin with due to conflicting commitments for Easter then we lost two of our main volunteers to illness and injury). This year's event was particularly memorable for several reasons.



Toku Suyama – Our very own Iron Chef!



At work in the kitchen.



Most importantly – satisfied customers!

Completely opposite to the situation of last year, we had an abundance of volunteers helping out. I am particularly thankful for assistance from those who were unable to stay for dinner – Nobby Shiraishi prepared dessert for everyone, and my good friend Tim Love came by to set up tables and chairs - then both had to leave to attend to family matters.

Every single one of our volunteers deserves special mention, but I would be remiss if I didn't extend special thanks to our head chefs Toku Suyama (roast beef), Randy Sakauye (salmon), Joanne Kataoka (vegan) and Dennis Madokoro who had a hand in organizing every aspect of this event.

Last year, it was my hope that we would see an increase in representation of younger generations and members of different ethnic backgrounds and it was gratifying to see that reflected both in attendees and volunteers. Our volunteer ranks were bolstered by Jordan and his wife Devra as well as new Bingo callers Aja Shimzu and Clayton Madokoro.

The generosity of attendees donating prizes to the event added an extra dimension of enjoyment to the evening; thank you to all those who so very generously donated prizes. In an effort to streamline the event, all donations were given away as free Bingo prizes; this went fairly well. What didn't go quite so well was the paid bingo. 24/7 Systems and Networks Inc. had donated 10" Quad Core Tablet and the TBC Sangha had donated two 7" Dual Core Tablets as paid Bingo prizes. In a mathematical improbability, we had two good Bingos for one of the 7" tablets (we awarded two \$25 Tim Hortons gift cards to one of the winners). Then in a near mathematical impossibility, we had **three** good Bingos for the 10" tablet (we awarded \$50 cash prizes to the other two winners).

Thanks again to all those who volunteered and all those who attended. Look forward to seeing you next year!

In Gassho,
Cary Kataoka
President, TBC Sangha



Special Guest at Obon

Reverend Yuki Sugahara is from Shimane Prefecture located just north of Hiroshima. He is from a temple family called “Korinji” (father’s side) and “Gokurakuji” (mother’s side) in Shimane Prefecture. Because he was born a son of a temple family he was able to receive his Tokudo Ordination in 1996, he was only a freshman in high school at that time. During Reverend Yuki’s junior year in high school he came to the United States and lived in Rochester, New York for a year as a Rotary Club exchange student to pursue his dream of becoming a translator for the United Nations.

Reverend Yuki studied Political Science at the Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto. During that time his mother suddenly passed away and it was shortly after that Reverend Yuki decided to get his Kyoshi Certification which he then received in 2002. In 2009 Reverend Yuki came to the United States to attend the International Ministerial Orientation Program at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. Then in July 2011 he was assigned to the Buddhist Church of Florin.

One of Reverend Yuki’s hobbies is playing the bass guitar. After graduating from the university he played in a rock band called Jelly Belly. The members at the Florin Buddhist Church get to enjoy his bass guitar playing on the third Sunday of each month. Reverend Yuki and his wife Namiko have a two years old daughter Aoi, the cutest baby in the world!



Butsudan Adoption Program

Traditionally, inside each Buddhist home is an Obutsudan or “Home Altar”. It serves many purposes...you can do your chanting in front of it, meditation, Nembutsu recitation, but most importantly it is there to always remind you of the Buddhist teachings. We occasionally receive Obutsudans from people who donate them to the church because they inherited their family one, or relocated to a smaller location.

This month’s Obutsudan is in pristine condition, with a section that extends, and a convenient storage drawer. It stands about 32 inches tall and is 12 inches wide. It is fairly modern...in fact we have a brand new one here that is comparable in size and style that sells for \$550.

The suggested donation amount is \$75.

If you or someone you know is interested please call 416-534-4302.

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>Mr. Hideo Takahashi</i>	<i>95 yrs</i>	<i>April 5, 2015</i>
<i>Mrs. Masanobu Nakamura</i>	<i>102 yrs</i>	<i>April 26, 2015</i>
<i>Mrs. Aiko Nakagawa</i>	<i>87 yrs</i>	<i>April 27, 2015</i>
<i>Mr. Shoji Takahashi</i>	<i>90 yrs</i>	<i>Nov., 13, 2014</i>





The date of
the 2015 TBC Annual Picnic
has been changed to
Sunday, June 14, 2015
at Camp Green Acres

More news to come!

LECTURES AND CLASSES

May 31st = Let's Talk Dharma

“ On the long journey of human life, faith is the best of companions; it is the best refreshment on the journey; and it is the greatest of all possessions.”

Faith removes greed, fear and pride; it teaches courtesy and to respect others; it frees one from the bondage of circumstances; it gives one the courage to meet hardship; it gives one the power to overcome temptations...”

From “The Teachings of the Buddha” page 179.

If you would like to discuss this or another topic that interests you, please join our happy group.

We meet upstairs in the mezzanine @ 12:30 PM after the English service.

Please have your tea or coffee in the social hall and join us.

Gassho,
Dennis Madokoro, Minister Assistant

Come and meditate with Endo Sensei!

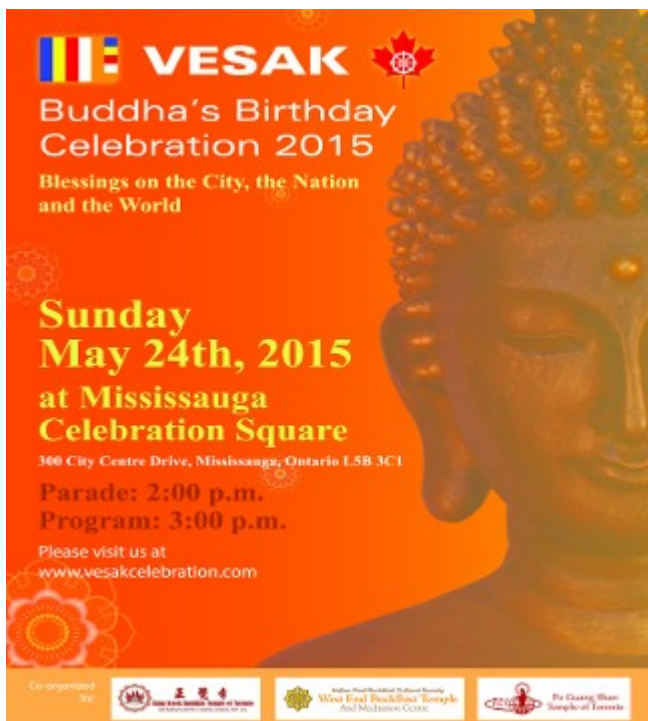
In our busy everyday life, we sometimes lose our peaceful inner self.

Join our walking meditation and seated meditation group at the temple to chant the sutra and recite Namu Amida Butsu.

Dates: Monday evenings May 11th and 25th June 15th and 29th

Time: 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Relax and feel refreshed. Let's feel the compassion of Amida together.



VESAK Buddha's Birthday Celebration 2015
Blessings on the City, the Nation and the World

Sunday May 24th, 2015
at Mississauga Celebration Square
360 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3C1

Parade: 2:00 p.m.
Program: 3:00 p.m.

Please visit us at
www.vesakcelebration.com

Co-organized by:
The Buddhist Church of Canada
The Buddhist Church of Ontario
The Buddhist Church of the United States
The Buddhist Church of the United Kingdom
The Buddhist Church of the United States
The Buddhist Church of the United Kingdom
The Buddhist Church of the United States
The Buddhist Church of the United Kingdom

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VESAK DAY

Sunday May 24, 2015

Celebration Square, Mississauga

We need volunteers to assist in the setup of our tent, give out literature and giveaways. This is a great opportunity to get out there and represent our temple, and it is a whole lot of fun.

Please contact Rev. Yanko at tbc@tbc.on.ca if you are interested.



Gotanye Celebration of Shinran Shonin's Birth

Every May we celebrate the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin. This year the main service will be held on May 17th, immediately following our Shosanshiki Infant Presentation. This is an excellent time to take part in the chanting, listen to the Dharma, and take note of the impact one person's life continues to have on countless others.

The official date for Shinran Shonin's birth is May 21st. That day at the temple we will be having a service at 10 am. Please make the time to join us if you can.



Eshinni Day

On Eshinni Day we were fortunate to be joined by our sister in the Dharma Bhikkhuni Thich nu Tinh Quang from Little Heron Zen Hermitage in Hamilton. In addition to running her lovely hermitage, Sister Tinh Quang is the Vice President of Sakhyadita Canada, a branch of Sakhyadita International. This is an International Association of Buddhist Women whose goal is to empower the Buddhist women of the world to work for social justice, and to aide them in advancing their spiritual and secular life.

We were honoured to have the opportunity to learn about such an important cause.



Infant Presentation Service Sunday, May 17, 2015 11:00 am

Infant Presentation is a ceremony in which ones child is formally presented to the Buddha and to the Sangha for the first time. It is open to any infant under three.

**** * Please submit your application before May 10, 2015 * * ***

Child's full name _____

Date of Birth: _____(dd) _____(mm) _____(yy)

Parent's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

Obon Odori

Obon odori practices have begun at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Learn some Japanese folk dances while meeting friends, new and old. Everyone is welcome...the young and not so young, beginners or those who haven't participated in a while.

Tuesday: 8:00 – 9:30 pm

Friday: 7:30 – 9:00 pm — notice the new time !



DON DON DON DON



CALLING ALL JUNIOR TAIKO PLAYERS. Have you ever wanted to play taiko but didn't know where to go? The Toronto Buddhist Temple would like to start up the junior taiko group Jyakurai again.

If you are 7 years or older and would be interested in learning taiko let us know. Lessons would be taught by Julia Cleveland of Isshin Daiko and would be an hour long. No experience necessary.

KIDS SANGHA ACTIVITY FOR MAY

Sunday May 17, 2015 - 11:00 - 12:00 pm

Yoga for Kids

Join us for an hour of active stretching, balancing and fun taught by Denise Crofton and Ruzica LeBlanc.

If you have a yoga mat please bring it with you...we will also have some available if needed.

Please dress the children in loose clothing - shorts/sweat pants and T-shirts.

Adults are welcome to join the class as well.

***KIDS SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30 AM
IN THE HONDO***

Looking forward to seeing you in May.



OBON 2015

The Toronto Buddhist Church Religious and Obon committees have begun preparations for Obon 2015. After several years of thoughtful consideration, we changed the format of previous Obon traditions. Many of you witnessed how six of our cemeteries transitioned from individual gravesite services, to just one central service. This included chanting led by one of our temple Senseis or the visiting guest minister, Rev. Brian Nagata Sensei, in 2014. Each Sensei visited two cemeteries. After the chanting of Ju Sei Ge, a short Dharma message was delivered. All the gathered families then had the opportunity to offer incense and to receive the familiar floral tributes, supplied for many years by the Toronto temple. It was our hope that the families would go to their individual family gravesites and place the flower. Please note that the incense is no longer burned due to very dry weather conditions in July.

The regular practice of visiting individual family plots still continues at the smaller cemeteries. This year our visiting guest speaker will be Rev. Yuki Sugahara Sensei.

We will work on the schedule, plus any changes and they will be published in the June edition of the Guiding Light.

We apologize to those families who did not receive adequate notice of this change last year, and realize that such changes are difficult the first few years. Through monthly announcements and the submission to the website and Guiding Light, we hope to eventually reach all our temple members. We have received very positive feedback from our membership with our changes and for this we are very grateful.

Gassho,
Religious and Obon Committees



Honobono Club

A group of 13 pasta lovers attended an Italian cooking class with Chef Taeko Lewis at the temple on April 19. It was a fun evening of cooking and taste testing of the various tomato sauces and spaghetti pastas.

We learned to shop for Italian brands and what these names represent, the parts of Italy where the products originated, how to make sauces and so much more. After separating into teams, we cooked our own sauces and shared in the final tasting of 4 delicious spaghetti dishes. Bravo! Bravo!

We'd like to extend many thanks to Bob Nishikawa and Rev. Endo for arranging this second event for the revival of Honobono activities. We can't wait for the next event in June.





WBWC UPDATE May 2015

Canadian Pre-Convention Information – May 29-31

- Name tag and participant bag pick up: Friday 2 - 7 pm in the pre-function area of the Convention Centre - North Building Hall CDE.
- For both days, the Calgary Telus Convention Center area for the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention will open its doors at 8:00am. Registration Desk opens at 8:00am on Saturday. Please wear your name tag throughout the convention.
- Convention program begins at 9:30am on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Seating in the primary meeting space Saturday am and Sunday will be by district and will be indicated in the program. Please sit in the designated area throughout the convention, not leaving empty spaces between seats.
- The lunch on both days is boxed with no designated eating area. People are welcome to eat in the primary meeting space, at the tables set up, or in and around the convention area. Primary meeting space must be vacated by 1:00pm on Saturday.
- Saturday Workshops will be offered simultaneously at 1-2:15pm and 2:45-4:00pm in various locations within the Convention Centre. A complete list of the workshops is available on the website. There is no pre-registration; attendance is limited based on the room size.
- Canadian Temples Displays will be set up, Saturday, 12:30-5pm in the pre-function area, Macleod Hall.
- Coordinated tours to the renovated Calgary Buddhist Temple will be available during the afternoon on Saturday only. For times and to sign up, stop by the Calgary Buddhist Temple display table.
- Participant bags will contain a coupon to visit the Glenbow Museum, located in the Convention Centre (main floor, South Building). Admission is \$5 CAD and exhibits include the ornate shrine that resided at the Raymond Buddhist Church, the first Buddhist temple in Southern Alberta.
- Convention MarketPlace will be located in the North Building (Glen Rooms – 201 & 202) with a variety of items including: jewelry, Montoshiki sho, Nenju, bags, crafts and other mementos of the Convention. Canadian dollars (US dollars at par), VISA, American Express and MasterCard will be accepted. Hours are Saturday: 12:00-5:30pm; 8:00-9:30pm and Sunday: 8:00- 9:30am; 12:00-4:00pm
- Saturday Banquet: Please sit at designated table (on name tag). There will be 10 people per table.
 - Omiyage (small gift exchange) will be done at the banquet tables after everyone has been seated. Gifts should be under \$5 with a minimum quantity of 6 per banquet attendee.
 - The Banquet Hall doors will open at 5:30 pm. Dinner and events will begin at 6:00pm. The evening is scheduled to finish around 9:00 pm at which time we ask you to exit the hall in an orderly manner by District: Japan, Hawaii, Brazil, BCA and then Canada.
- Sunday Convention Program will conclude at 3 pm. Refreshments will be available in the pre-function area.
 - At the finish of the program, to promote orderly departure, please allow the District of Japan to leave the room first followed by Hawaii, Brazil, BCA and then Canada.
 - Hall CDE must be vacated by 4:00pm.
- Registration, Lost and Found, and Information tables will be set up in the pre-function area of the North Building Hall CDE on both days. There will also be building security and first aid onsite.



Please respect the privacy of the Gomonsu.



Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

From start to finish those who helped with the crocheting, pressing, sewing, gluing, finishing, packaging and more of all the craft items worked very hard to complete our inventory for the Convention

Marketplace. A special thank you for your support of time and effort to this important project.

Together "We did it"



2015
WORLD
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
CONVENTION