



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

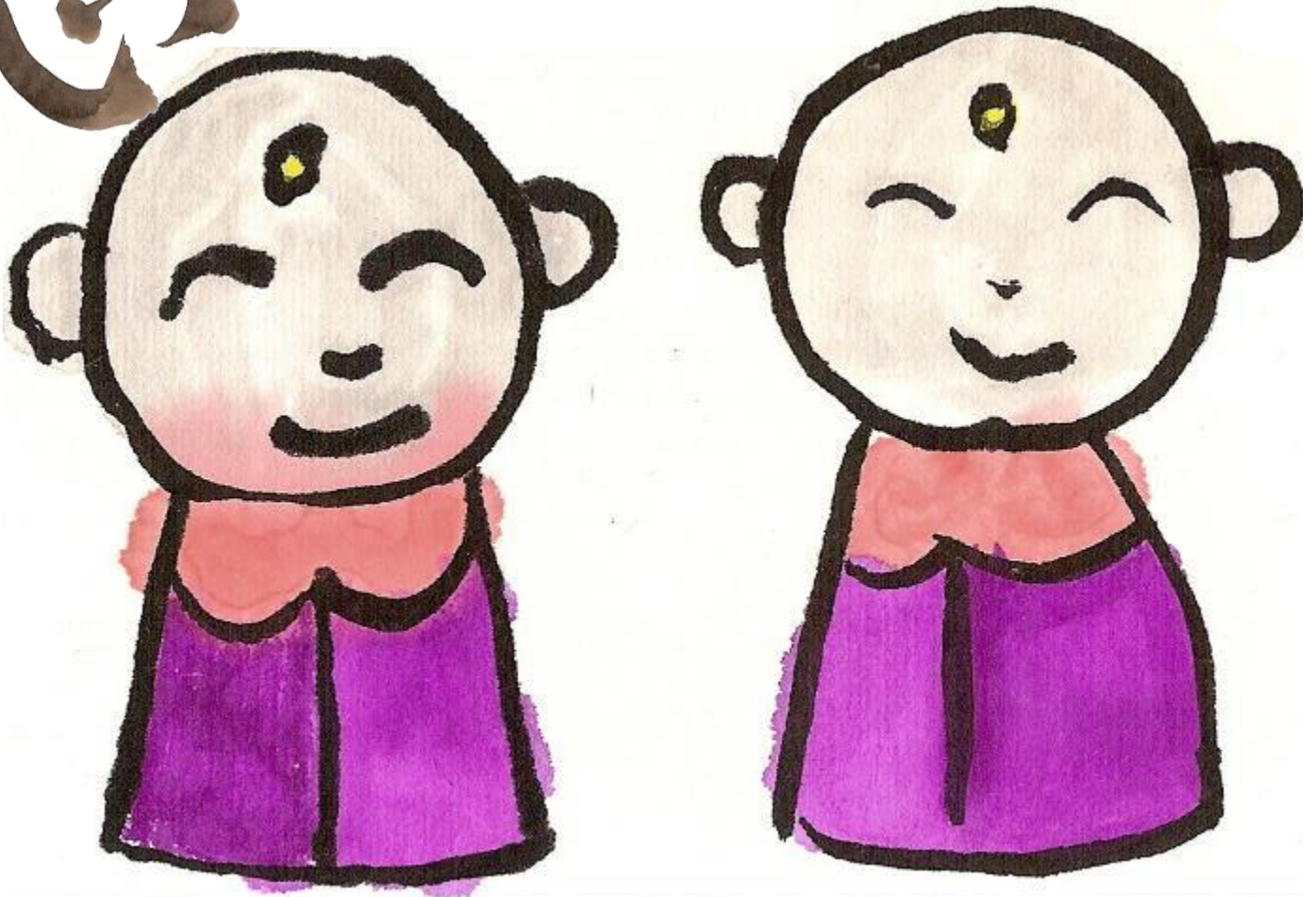
a Jodo Shinshu Temple



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Guiding Light

November 2014



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For the past year we have been featuring images created by our talented Kid's Sangha. There will only be one more Issue featuring the children's designs. Thank you very much to our kids for contributing!



Canadian Oneness

As Canadians we are fortunate to live somewhere we can go to sleep at night without worrying our homes will be destroyed by missiles, and rest relatively well assured that our loved ones will not be injured by opposing militant action. We walk freely down the street in whatever fashion we choose and day to day actions are typically performed with trivialities. Generally speaking we are comfortable. In this position it is easy to take for granted our freedoms, that our needs are being fulfilled, and our loved ones are safe.

In the past month we saw a couple of incidents that jostled our national sense of security and had everyone holding their breath. On October 20th Martin Couture-Rouleau drove his car into 2 Canadian Armed Forces soldiers, killing one. On October 22 Michael Zehaf-Bibeau shot and killed one Canadian soldier on guard duty at the Canadian National War Memorial, and then ran into the Parliament of Canada and engaged in a gunfight with security personnel, until he personally was shot and killed. Both event was totally unexpected and each were some form of tribute to religious extremist groups. It had nothing to do with the victims who lost their lives, and everything to do with making a political statement against Canada. That made it shockingly personal. We aren't used to that.

This past Tuesday I attended an Interfaith Vigil for Peace. It was largely ministers, monks, priests, Imams, Rabbis...the leaders of the various religious communities. Each of us went up and said a few words on behalf of our tradition, and then lit a candle. As I sat in the pew watching this variety of people openly sharing and listening intently, I became very aware of my environment. Beside me sat one of the leaders of the Toronto Church of Scientology. Behind me was a leading scholar of Hinduism and beside him were 3 Sri Lankan Buddhist monks. Further down was a Catholic priest, Zoroastrians, Sufis, Imams, Christian ministers, and various others. When I stood at the front looking over the crowd before I spoke, I was really touched.

We are all so different. We look different. We sound different. We speak in different languages and we express our religious beliefs differently. But here we all were together hoping to bond together for the same thing: peace. We all stood there in our varied robes and head adornments, but all under the same flag (quite literally in fact because it was on the altar area).

When the news broke about what happened in Montreal and Ottawa there was a lot of uneasiness and sadness, but why? The loss of life certainly, but there was a reaction we felt on a different level. I wasn't entirely sure what it was until I sat there looking at the diversity of religious traditions and cultures around me. Here we are allowed to all be different, all be ourselves, and still get together and pray for peace without criticizing the others. The ability for us to have the Interfaith community was one of the reasons behind the aggression. Rather than be scared and hide, or do nothing at all, we all got together and reminded each other that we are here to help the other's communities because each of us belong under the heading of one very special community: Canada.

Canada is Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Bahai, and countless other religious traditions. When these freedoms are threatened, we link together and strengthen our bonds. It is a shame it takes a tragedy for us to see our great fortune. When times are difficult and the events around us seem grim, it is often when we become aware of the value of what we have that we can feel the deepest gratitude.

As Shinran said, "The realization attained in the Pure Land way is the wondrous fruition attained through Amida's perfect benefiting of others."



Welcome Fall in Canada

Today, my mother was in a great mood when she talked to me through skype. She is in Japan Nagano prefecture, at a mountain house. In this area fall comes the same as in Canada. Cherry tree branches stretch into the very edge of the Ryujin pond surface and the leaves that remain on the branches sparkle vermilion in the sunlight in the clear air. She does not know how long the leaves will remain before the wind blows them away, but right now it is very beautiful and she is grateful to witness it.

It has been almost three month since I came to Toronto. It passed very quickly. Big events occurred such as Eastern Buddhist league, ministers meeting, a lecture and meeting with Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, the equinoctial day service, Shotuki services and so on. Often I was asked from members “Are you getting used to it yet?” I said “yes, I think so” but only with the help of Christina Sensei, Darlene, Roy, Pamela, Dianne, the other Kaikyoshi Senseis and temple members ,, and barely breathing. I still require more time before I am able to do things smoothly, but I hopefully will be guided by the members and Amida Buddha will light my way.

From September until now I have attended and given several funerals. For me, it was a repeat reminder that because we are born, we shall surely pass away.

Every person who passed away was close to 90 years of age or over, but from the family’s words I thought and felt they were loved and their life was so brilliant.

It occurred to me that one possibility for them having such a brilliant life was due to their life in Canada. Canada has so much more nature than Tokyo. But even in good circumstances you need the heart and wisdom to feel it. They got over the difficult times when their original country, Japan, went to war with their new country. During that time they kept the Jodo Shinshu teachings even though their lives were such a struggle. They supported each other and shared in this struggle together. They tried to not discuss their hardships often with their children so the next generations would not cultivate resentment and be able to live happy and prosperous lives. Hearing about these people’s lives and how they were able to develop such strength and wisdom despite their situation really helped me reflect on life

What will we be thinking about when we too reach our own time of death.

We shouldn’t think about how much more money we want to earn. It is nonsense. The most important things are revealed when you talk to the people close to death. They see the world as more beautiful than when they were healthy. The sky, trees, the flutter of birds...everything seems beautiful, lovely, and wonderful. When people pass away they notice the preciousness all around them, and we realize the preciousness in them.

All of us who are bothered by worldly desires and don’t realize what is important...what we should do in our lives...Amida Buddha is calling us. By reciting Namo Amida Butsu we can wake up, take refuge in Amida Buddha, and appreciate our blessed life and the lives of those around us. We are led to a place where worldly desires cannot harm us.

My mother was born Christian but she said she lost her faith. Hearing her comment I thought “She’s become Buddhist, it must be my influence.”

I am happy using my time sharing Buddhism with wonderful members.

Gassho

EITAIKYO

This year, the Eitaikyo service will be held on Sunday, November 16. This is one of the most important memorial services of the year as we will pay tribute to mothers, fathers and other loved ones whose dedication and devotion contributed so greatly to the Dharma and Sangha at Toronto Buddhist Church.

“Eitai” means “forever” and “Kyo” means “teaching”. Those who have devoted so much of their lives to the well-being of the Temple have taught us about living a Buddhist life and their example will continue to teach generations to come.

Since the early days of Toronto Buddhist Church, in order to honour those who have given so much to the Temple, the Temple created an Eitaikyo Register in which their names could be inscribed as a permanent record of their service. The individuals themselves or their families or friends on their behalf could apply to have their names recorded in the Eitaikyo Register. Since the beginning the Temple has asked for a recommended donation for this service. While many families applied for registration after the passing of their loved ones, it has become more common for an individual or his or her family to apply for the registration while the honoured individual is living. In this way, the individual will have the assurance and comfort that he or she will be remembered and honored for as long as the Temple exists.

In addition to the annual Eitaikyo service in November, at which the Eitaikyo Register will be brought before the congregation and at which the ministers will offer a special chant, those recorded in the Eitaikyo Register will receive a generally unknown but special honour. Behind the Naijin (altar) is another smaller O-Butsudan that holds the Eitaikyo Register. Almost every day of the week when a minister is at the Temple, a short, special service is held there to pay tribute to those whose names are recorded in the Register.

Times are changing and our way of life has become less manageable because of geography, careers, family and personal commitments. Some may not have anyone left in their family to observe a Buddhist memorial service or other families may for whatever reason find it difficult or impossible to attend a memorial service for their loved ones.

At the same time none of us wants to forget our loved ones. The Temple does invite and encourage everyone to attend the traditional memorial services and the monthly (Oshotsuki) services for his or her loved one. But if this is difficult, and even if it is not, one powerful way to ensure that a loved one is well remembered is to register his or her name in the Eitaikyo Register.

To register or for further information, please contact our ministers at
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>Mrs. Nobuko Shibata (Hamilton)</i>	<i>95 yrs</i>	<i>October 3, 2014</i>
<i>Mr. Fujio Inamoto</i>	<i>91 yrs</i>	<i>October 15, 2014</i>
<i>Mr. Noboru Nobby Fujimoto</i>	<i>84 yrs</i>	<i>October, 23 2014</i>



Lecture Series With Rev. Christina Yanko

Introduction to Buddhism/Jodo Shinshu. This is specifically meant to help new members and people interested in coming to the Temple feel comfortable with what we do here, why we do it, and to ask any questions without feeling awkward.

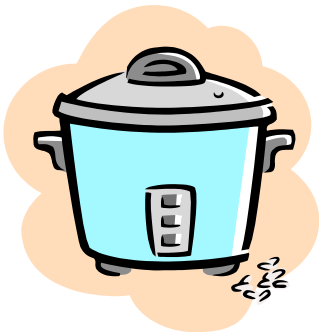
On the 13th we will go through an entire service program (shortened version) so people can see what happens at a typical service, with time afterwards for “Why did you do that?”

Thursday November 13 , 27th from 7—8:30 pm.

2014 BAZAAR WORK SCHEDULE

schedule listed is tentative and subject to change

Wednesday, October 29.....	Wash azuki beans
Saturday, November 1.....	Make Anko
Sunday, November 2.....	after service..... Put up bazaar banners - main entrance & side fence
	after service..... Take apart Social Hall stage
Tuesday, November 4	
Wednesday, November 5.....	8.00 am..... Prepare ingredients for sushi: Soak shiitake and kampyo, flavour vinegar Set up for Thursday manju making
	7.00 pm..... Move chairs from Hondo Bring tables up to Hondo
Thursday, November 6.....	7.30 am..... Make manju Fold Oribako boxes Wash 250 lbs. Of rice & 30 lbs. Mochi gome for Ohagi
	7.00 pm..... Close najin Set up tables in Hondo & Social Hall (for food packaging)
Friday, November 7.....	7.00 am..... Make sushi, ohagi, udon, udon dashi, toppings for udon Cut, skewer and marinate beef for kushi sashi Cut pork for chow mein Cut vegetables for chow mein and tempura Prepare broccoli and carrots Prepare shrimp for tempura Wash rice for inarizushi
	Evening..... Set up tables in Social Hall for food packaging Bring down brown trays for oribako Wash rice for Saturday's bazaar meals Rearrange tables in kitchen Set up kitchen for Saturday - cooking chow mein Ready kitchen for udon, tempura, teishoku dinner
Saturday, November 8.....	7.00 am..... Make chow mein, udon, tempura Package sushi, chow mein, ohagi, inari, bento, chirashizushi Set up tables in dining room Move oribako goods up to Hondo
	4.30 pm..... Clean up in Social Hall, Kitchen Clean up Hondo



2014 TBC ANNUAL BAZAAR November 8, 2014 - 12.30pm to 4.30pm

The Annual Bazaar continues to be one of the Temple's biggest fundraisers. Each year it counts on a huge number of volunteers to ensure its success. The Bazaar Committee thanks you for your contributions to previous bazaars and asks for your continued support this year.



Please refer to the Bazaar Work Schedule on the next page if you are able to come out to help. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Although donations have been declining, there is always a big demand for home-baked pies. If you love to bake, please consider baking some pies for the bazaar. Other baked goods are also popular and will be sold at the Baked Goods table.
For persons with allergies, it would be appreciated if a list of ingredients could be given with your baked goods.

Please note that donated items should be in good condition. Valuable items whether new or gently used, may be used in the Silent Auction or Lucky Draw.

We regret that clothing, furniture and children's toys will not be accepted.

Donations will be accepted at the temple from November 3rd to November 7th.



Thank you for your continued support!
TBC Bazaar Committee

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

Date: Sunday, November 30, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm following the morning service and a light lunch
Place: Temple Social Hall

The Board of Directors of Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to notify all members of the Annual General Meeting of Members which will be held at the time, date and place set out above, and cordially invites all members to attend and vote on the matters raised at the Meeting. The following matters will be raised at the Meeting:

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, 2013;
3. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2015
4. Election of President and Director
5. Election of Directors

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 2014.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

JOYA NO KANE - NEW YEAR'S EVE BELL RINGING



Once again the Temple has asked the Ontario Government for permission to celebrate our annual *Joya no Kane* ceremony. We are presently awaiting a reply from the Provincial Ministry in charge of Ontario Place. As we all know Ontario Place is closed to the public and if we are given permission to access the bell there, we will need the assistance of the Government in ensuring that pathways are clear of snow, that there is adequate lighting and parking, and that washroom facilities will be available.

If permission is not granted to conduct the ceremony at Ontario Place, the Temple will host the bell ringing ceremony at the Temple building. Regardless of the venue, we plan to start the ceremony at 11:00 pm on December 31, 2014. Everyone is invited to join us in ringing in the New Year.

For updates, please check the Temple's website (www.tbc.on.ca), or call the Temple Office at 416-534-4302 during weekday business hours.

.....In the News.....



Shin Fujinkai News

Shin Fujinkai will be holding their Annual General Meeting on November 23, 2014. The meeting will take place after Sunday Service in the classroom downstairs. Please hold the date in your calendars.



Dana News

The Annual Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 8th. We hope we can count on everyone for your contributions and support. Hope to see you at the Bazaar.

The Dana will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 16th following the morning service. Please mark this date on your calendar. Hope to see you at the AGM.



Sangha News

The TBC Sangha Group will be holding its 63rd Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 17 in the EKO room at the Temple. All members are invited to a lunch which will be served at 12:15 pm, following which the Meeting will start at 1:00 pm.

Key items on the Meeting Agenda include the election of the 2014 Board of Directors and a review by each Committee of the past year's activities.

All Sangha Members are invited and encouraged to attend.

***Pancake Breakfast - Sunday,
December 7, 2014***

The TBC Sangha is proud once again to host the Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 7, 2014 in the Temple Social Hall.

Sangha members and volunteers will prepare a delicious breakfast of home-made pancakes, sides, fresh coffee and juice.

The breakfast costs only \$5.00 and kids 12 and under will eat free. Tickets will be sold in the Lobby prior to the 11:00 am Service as well as in the Social Hall after the service.



DAILY BREAD FOOD DRIVE

Food Food and more Food. More than a full trunkload of food was dropped off at the Daily Bread Food Bank as a result of the temple member's bountiful contributions. Temple contributions weighed in at 300 lbs which was just short of last years 365 lbs. WAY TO GO!!!

Shin Fujinkai greatly appreciates the support from everyone who generously brought in their food donations for the Food Drive. In addition, thank you to everyone who purchased \$5 plastic food containers for their leftovers from the potluck luncheon in September. We collected \$170 for Daily Bread that day.

Many, many thanks to all for a very successful food drive.



A Sad Farewell to the Fujii Family

Saying goodbye is always difficult, and this was no exception. After years of dedicated service Rev. Tomofumi Fujii returned to Japan. Reflecting on our time with him, it was truly amazing to watch him grow from a young man who could barely speak English, marry his beautiful wife Naoko, touch our hearts with the birth of his son Harufumi, and become such a strong, confident Jodo Shinshu teacher.

The TBC will always cherish it's years with the Fujii's and wish him all the best in Japan. Tomofumi Sensei, Naokosan and Harukun will always be part of our family and hold a place in our hearts.



Kid's Sangha Halloween Party



Vintage Jewellery Sale

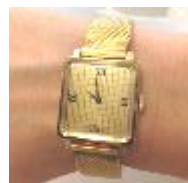
Visit the Women's Federation table at the Temple Bazaar on Nov. 8, 2014.



Find one of a kind treasures!

Lots of bargains and so much more!

Necklaces, brooches, bracelets, earrings, rings +





2015 WBWC / Post Convention Trip Plan for Canadian Delegates

Duration (Post Convention Trip Only) : 3 Days / 2 Nights Package
From (Post Convention Trip Only) : June 1, 2015
Destination : Canadian Rockies

Tour Price

Tour Price : (tax included)

Table with columns for participant counts (20-29, 30-39), room types (Twin Room, 1 Bedroom Suite, 2 Bedroom Suite), and group sizes (single, double, triple, quad, quintuplet) with corresponding prices.

* The final tour price will be fixed by December 1st, 2014 depending on the total number of participants

Accommodation : FOX HOTEL AND SUITES ★★★★★ * 1 or 2 Bedroom Suite will be request basis, not confirmed at this time
461 Banff Avenue, Banff, AB



Twin Room (230 sq ft.) 1 or 2 Mountain Luxury Beds, 1 full bathroom
1 Bedroom Suite (640 sq ft. Bedroom with 1 or 2 beds, 1 full bathroom, pullout sofa bed
2 Bedroom Suite (750 sq ft. 2 Bedrooms with 2 to 4 beds, 2 full bathrooms, pullout sofa bed

- Included :
* 2 nights hotel accommodation (superior class)
* daily continental breakfast at hotel
* round trip PRIVATE motor coach transfer between Calgary (International Hotel/ airport) and Banff
* PRIVATE sightseeing tours for Banff and the Columbia Icefield
* lunch at the icefield chalet during the Columbia Icefield sightseeing
* English speaking guide for sightseeing tours
* gratuities for coach driver and tour guide
* National Park entrance fee
* admission of Banff gondola, ice explorer snow coach, and glacier skywalk
* English speaking tour escort

- NOT included :
* meals other than stated on itinerary
* portorage and gratuities at hotel
* personal incidental charges
* air ticket to/from Calgary
* accommodation at Calgary
* 2015 WBWC Registration Fee

- Cancel policy :
* No cancellation penalty if cancelled by November 30, 2014
* 50% cancellation penalty if cancelled by March 31, 2015
* 100% cancellation penalty if cancelled after April 1, 2015