

Guiding Light

September 2015



There shall be
eternal summer in
the grateful heart.
-Celia Thaxter



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All events marked with an * are PRIVATE and are not open to the general public Thank You		1	2	3	4	5
					Rev. Endo will be at EBL Sept 4th- 7th (Cleveland)	
6 Summer Service 11:00 am Service	7 LABOUR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8	9 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	10	11	12
			Rev. Yanko and Rev. Endo will be in Kelowna, BC for the JSTBC Ministerial Meetings		8:00 pm Buyo	
13 RALLY SUNDAY & MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg (Eko) 10:30 am Kid's Sangha Programme 11:00 am English Srvc 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm *Sangha Mtg 1:00 pm Japanese Srvc	14 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	15 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm *TBC Management Committee & 8:00 pm *Board Meeting	16 7:00 pm Taiko	17 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	18 8 pm Buyo	19 Higan Service & Retreat in Ottawa
20 HIGAN SERVICE OVSA Presentations 10:30 am Kid's Sangha Programme 11:00 am Service 2:00 pm Honobono Tea Ceremony (SH)	21 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	22 10:00 am Fujinotomo	23 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	24 10 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	25 8:00 pm Buyo	26 TBC 10th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
27 Regular Service 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Legacy Mtg 4:00 pm * Family Memorial Srvc Ohigan Service in Montreal	28 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	29 10:00 am Fujinotomo	30 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko			

Morning Services are held on the week days 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

OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All events marked with an * are PRIVATE and are not open to the general public Thank You				1 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana	2 8:00 pm Buyo	3
4 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE 10:30 am Kid's Sangha Programme 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko) 1:00 pm Japanese Service	5 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	6 10:00 am Fujinotomo	7 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	8 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana	9 8:00 pm Buyo	10
11 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm *Sangha Mtg (Eko) Service in Hamilton	12  HAPPY THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	13 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm *TBC Mgmt Committee Mtg. 8:00 pm *BOD Mtg.	14 7:00 pm Taiko	15 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	16 8:00 pm Buyo	17 * 11:00 am Family Memorial Service
18 PET APPRECIATION DAY Guest Speaker: Rev. Yasuo Izumi, Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta 9:30 am *Picnic Meeting (Eko) 10:30 am Kid's Sangha Programme 11:00 am Service	19 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	20 10:00 am Fujinotomo	21 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	22 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	23 8:00 pm Buyo	24
25 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service Honobono Club event	26 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	27 10:00 am Fujinotomo	28 10:30 am *Momiji Community Mtg 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	29 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	30 8:00 pm Buyo	31

Morning Services are held on the week days 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

With Gratitude

On Wednesday, May 27, I had the privilege of participating in the Sarana Affirmation ceremony at the Temple. It was led by Gomonshu-sama – Nishi Hongwanji's head priest.

Prior to the Gomonshu's visit, I had some questions, such as, "Who is this person? What does he look like - is he young, old or maybe somewhere in the middle?" I wondered what would he be wearing – would he be wearing regular street clothes or Buddhist robes? Another question I had was, "Can I high five him when meeting him?" What was considered proper etiquette when meeting the Gomonshu?

I Googled to find out as much as I could about him, but I found that the information was limited, so I decided I would just have to go with the flow.

On the day of his arrival, a group of Temple members gathered at Pearson Airport to welcome him. After waiting for some time, the moment we had all been waiting for arrived, and a young man in a regular black suit emerged through the arrival doors. My first thought was, "Oh, he kind of looks like a skinnier version of my brother. Then again, he also looks like my dentist, Dr. Azuma."

As we formed a semi-circle around Gomonshu-sama, Bishop Aoki graciously introduced each one of us to him. And although there was no formal hand shake, I just knew that it was a honour to be in Gomonshu-sama's presence. Welcoming him at the airport, although brief, was well worth the wait.

The Sarana Affirmation ceremony took place at the Temple. Prior to the appearance of the Gomonshu in the hondo, we were quickly briefed on the procedures and protocol that were part of the affirmation service. I was suddenly nervous because I began thinking about when to bow and when not to bow – I wanted to get it right. The affirmation ceremony went smoothly and as we Canadians say, "without a hitch". Gomonshu-sama had a calming presence that made me feel calm and peaceful throughout the entire ceremony.

On that special day, I left the temple with a new Buddhist name and an incredible feeling of gratitude and pure joy. Being given the opportunity to participate in the affirmation ceremony instilled in me a sense of gratitude. I found myself reflecting and thinking about my dad, and I again felt blessed that he had raised us as Buddhists and instilled in us at an early age the wish to follow the teachings of the Nembutsu.

Thus, affirming my faith was very meaningful to me.

Thank you.
Naomi Tamaki



Shin Fujinkai News

SUMMERLICIOUS

On July 25th, 2015, a small group of Shin Fujinkai members met for their annual Summerlicious lunch. After much debate this year's choice of restaurant was Red's Midtown Tavern at Yonge and Gerrard. As always, the ladies enjoyed delicious food, great fellowship and a lot of fun!



Bon Odori 2015

The Bon Odori festival saw dancers, young and old, dance their way around the JCCC parking lot to the beat of taiko drums. Kunio Suyama and Bob Nishikawa were the MCs and a short Obon service was conducted by Reverends Yanko, Sugahara and Endo. There were stage performances by Sakura-Kai, Ayame-Kai, the TBC Buyo group and Isshin Daiko during the intermission. Many people joined in for the ever-popular audience participation dances.

We would like to express our many thanks to the odori groups, their dancers, the TBC Minyo, Taiko group, and all the helpers who made the Bon Odori festival a great success.



Camp Lumbini 2015

Every year at Camp Lumbini there are two themes that help shape the activities and teachings that the Youth engage in. The themes of this year's edition of Camp Lumbini were: Gonen and superheroes. "Gonen" is a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist term meaning "to protect and care for", which matches well with the superhero theme. Gonen is present in many activities that occur during Camp Lumbini. For example, volunteer cooks (Joanne Kataoka, Grace Taguchi, Ray Nakano, Dave Saxby) every year cook meals for the counsellors and campers three times a day and the counsellors are able to provide campers with a safe environment to have fun and learn various Buddhist teachings. Despite being split into three competing groups, the campers help each other with daily chores and demonstrate empathy when others are feeling down.

As for the superhero theme, teams competed against each other and created their own crime fighting teams and developed cheers, posters, sand castles and skits with both themes in mind. Each group produced creative results and two groups even worked together and performed in each other's skits.

This year, everybody welcomed Rev. Endo to Camp Lumbini for the first time. Rev. Endo arrived on Sunday and participated in daily activities with campers and delivered a Dharma talk about the importance of caring for our loved ones. In another Buddhism 101 session, Rev. Yanko delivered a Dharma talk about the connection that we share with everything and how it relates to Gonen.



Over the course of the week, the whole camp went on excursions. Unfortunately the Elmvale drive-in is no longer open so everybody drove to Collingwood to see "Minions". Other activities that everybody was able to participate in were bowling, mini-golf and a day-long rock climbing and caving trip led by Free Spirit Tours. Every year Camp Lumbini is a pleasure to attend and organize with the help of Rachel Kataoka and Koji Goto. Without the help of volunteers and the ministers, Camp Lumbini would not run as smoothly as it does. I look forward to attending Camp Lumbini next summer and welcoming new and returning campers and counsellors next year.

Stephen Taguchi

Dana News

Special thanks to those DANA ladies who helped with the making of the flowers for the cemetery visits, assisted in ushering at the Obon service and helped with refreshments and the cleanup after the two Obon services.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

As of August 9, 2015, we are officially back in our temple. We held our first service in our newly renovated space with over 50 members and new comers.

On behalf of our members I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of you across Canada who have helped and supported us. Without your help, our dream to renovate our temple would not have become a reality.

We look forward to hearing the Dharma in our new Temple for many more years, and if you are ever in Calgary and would like to see the temple, please call us and we would be more than happy to open the temple for you.

In gassho,
Lester Ikuta
Past President, Calgary Buddhist Temple



Membership 2015 Fall Update

The Board of Directors is very pleased to report that membership in the Temple now exceeds the total for 2014. This is truly encouraging not only for our Temple, but also for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. We would really like to keep the momentum going until the deadline for 2015 membership expires at the end of October.

Our new membership cards for regular and honorary members have been widely accepted and appreciated as symbols of gratitude from the Temple and our members' commitment to the Temple.

Our readers are definitely acknowledging and accepting the changes in our membership rules. They are now aware that memberships begin in January and end on December 31, and therefore applications should be completed and submitted at the start of the year, and payment of membership dues for regular members should be made or at least promised early in the year as well.

We urge all members who have not paid their minimum membership fees for 2015 to do so as soon as possible so we will be able to get a final fix on our membership count for 2015. To those who have already done so, thank you very much.

As we have stated before, the Temple itself is only bricks and mortar and the real lifeblood of the Temple is its members who provide physical, moral and financial support and take an active interest in the operation and future prospects of the Temple. Please join us.

In Gassho
The Board of Directors

Butsudan Adoption Program

This month we offer a beautiful Butsudan that is sure to inspire you to chant Shoshinge every morning. With incredible detail, elaborate hardware, a pullout shelf and three convenient storage areas for all of your extra incense and candles, this Butsudan would be a wonderful addition to any home. It is 71 cm high, 46 cm wide, and 34 cm deep. Although there is no set asking price, we are hoping for a minimum donation of \$75. Please contact the office at [416-534-4302](tel:416-534-4302) if you are interested. We have heard in the past that most people assume that Butsudans are no longer available. This is rarely the case. PLEASE do not hesitate to contact us. Let's work together to find these Butsudans a home.



Kids Sangha Activities



Sunday September 13, 2015 (Rally Sunday) 11:00 am—12:00 pm

- Round Circle—Meet and Greet and Discuss Buddhist themes for the year
- Sports team activity
- **KIDS SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30 AM IN THE HONDO**



Sunday September 20, 2015 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Outdoor Treasure Hunt - outside in the park behind the Temple

Please note: Due to the nature of this outdoor event, we will have extra volunteers on hand for the safety of the children.

KIDS SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30 AM IN THE HONDO

Honobono Club

A graceful demonstration of a Japanese Tea Ceremony performed by special guest Mrs. Shin!

Come out and learn about the cultural traditions of a proper tea ceremony.
Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



OBITUARIES

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 summer.



*Mr. Toji Fujii
Kathy Hidaka*

*85 yrs
70 yrs*

*June 23, 2015
August 15, 2015*

OVSA Service and Luncheon

Our volunteers are the backbone of the Temple.

Please come to celebrate this year's

Ontario Volunteer Service Award recipients.

Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 11:00 am.

- Mrs. Rose Baba (30 years)
- Mrs. Kay Asada (15 years)
- Mr. Larry Wakisaka (5 years)
- Mrs. Amy Wakisaka (5 years)
- Ms. Joanne Omori (5 years)
- Mrs. Denise Crofton (5 years)
- Ms. Abigail Kataoka (Youth)
- Mr. Adam Taguchi (Youth)



Following the service, there will be a light luncheon in the Social Hall.

Fall Higan

September 20th, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Twice a year we experience the equinox during which time the day and night are an equal number of hours. Many years ago, people used to take this time off work and use the time to re-examine their lives. They would examine how they were living their lives and if they were putting their best efforts towards practicing the 6 Paramitas or 6 Perfections:

Dāna: generosity, giving of oneself, virtue, morality, discipline, proper conduct

Kṣānti: patience, tolerance, forbearance, acceptance, endurance

Vīrya: energy, diligence, vigor, effort

Dhyāna: one-pointed concentration, contemplation

Prajñā: wisdom, insight



Please join us for this special service. We all need to take a minute once in a while to stop and think...am I acting the way that I would like to? Am I treating others the way I want to be treated? What can I do to improve?

RALLY SUNDAY!

Sunday, September 13, 2015

Time to put away the shorts and flip-flops and say good-bye to the "lazy, hazy days of summer". September always launches a busy schedule at the Temple and it starts off with Rally Sunday. It is a time for all Temple groups to show the congregation their interesting activities with colourful and informative displays and to invite new members.

Please be ready to set up your displays by 10:00 am on Sunday morning.

Sunday Special Speaker Series

October 4, 2015, 12:30 pm

Community Care Access Centres (CCAC)

Please be sure to diarize Sunday, October 4 immediately following the monthly Shotsuki service for an informative and timely presentation about the services offered by Community Care Access Centres. The talk will be presented by an experienced representative of CCAC. Many of us are at the stage in our lives where a loved one (or it may even be you) is unable to cope with personal well-being or health issues and we are at a loss to find relief or assistance in a new and difficult situation. CCACs are local agencies which were formed in 1996 by the Ontario Government to help us to access home and community support services. CCACs help people to live independently at home, to apply for support programs, assisted living programs or rehabilitation programs, and to apply for admission to a long-term care home. The CCAC representative will offer valuable information about how to access a CCAC and explain in greater detail the many services it can provide. You may have your own questions about this important topic – please bring them along and let's have a lively conversation.

Terry Watada Book Launch at TBC

TERRY WATADA – pass it on. TERRY WATADA -- pass it on.

Well known writer, artist and musician, Terry will be joining us at the Temple after service on Sunday, **November 1, 2015** to promote his **new book of poetry, " Game of 100 Ghosts."** Plus his book of manga and the re-release of his CD "Runaway Horses" will also be available.

Please join us at 12:30 in the social hall to hear Terry give a reading from his new book and have him sign your copy.

Light refreshments will be served.

Pet Appreciation Day
October 18th at 11:00 am
With Special Guest Rev. Yasuo Izumi of the
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



This year we added a new service to our calendar, which is one we think many of you will appreciate.

We refer to them as our pets, but in truth they're members of our family. They play with us, they give us love, and keep every one of our secrets. This year we would like to dedicate a service to all of our pets, past and present. They are integral parts of our family and bring us joy every single day.

On October 18th please bring a photograph of your pets, past or present, and we will display their pictures and show our appreciation for their lives together in the light of the Buddha.



For this special occasion we are happy to announce that Rev. Yasuo Izumi from Lethbridge, Alberta will join us as our Guest Speaker.

Rev. Yasuo Izumi came to Canada from Japan as an ordained Minister of Jodo Shinshu in November 1970. His first ministerial assignment was in Lethbridge and he later served in Vancouver, Toronto and Richmond. He continued his religious study at the Vancouver School of Theology and later received his Master's degree in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California. In November of 2002, 27 years later, he was reassigned to temples in southern Alberta where he is now the minister of Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. Rev. Izumi is married to his wife, Sachi, and is the father of five children and grandfather of eight grandchildren.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Izumi to our temple, and don't forget to bring a picture of your beloved pets!

Obon 2015

Over the many years that the Toronto Buddhist Temple has conducted Obon services, the Obon Committee has relied on the assistance of our dedicated volunteers.

Every year prior to Ohaka Mairi Saturday, we have a dedicated group who make calls, assemble information kits, purchase refreshments etc. This year was no exception. Without the helping and willing hands of our volunteers, we would be overworked and exhausted. We have never been without those smiling faces and willing hands.

The newer central services have been accepted as being necessary. People have welcomed the idea of offering incense at these services and are grateful for the shorter wait times in the hot July sun.

Our committee will continue to work alongside these volunteers and offer our sincere gratitude for their dedication once again.

Gassho, TBC Obon Committee

Going My Way? Part 2

**“So on we go,
His welfare is my concern,
No burden is he to bear,
We'll get there...”**

Also from “He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother” by the Hollies

How meaningful this song is. Following up our article about locating senior members who need rides to the Temple from time to time, we have been contacted by at least two members in Scarborough West and in Etobicoke who have asked for consideration. We would welcome more inquiries. At the same time, we want to create a roster of individuals who would be willing to serve as volunteer drivers. If you are a senior member who is unable to come to the Temple on your own because of age and/or physical disability, and would like to come to services at the Temple, please send an email or a letter to the Temple, or call the Temple, and provide your name, address, phone number and email, if any, and the nature of your request.

If you are a member or friend who would be willing to volunteer to pick up a senior member and drive him/her/them home after service, please provide your name, address, phone number and email, if any and the times when you would be available to help and the geographic area in which you would be willing to pick up passengers.

We emphasize that this remains a very important initiative, and so we are repeating our request so we can try to get this service off and running as soon as possible.

In Gassho,
Toronto Buddhist Church

Camp Lumbini Looking to Chill

Camp Lumbini is a recreational property in popular Wasaga Beach, Ontario. It has been owned by Toronto Buddhist Church for decades. Camp Lumbini is not available for public rental. It has been used as a camp facility for the Youth and Young Adults as well as the young children of the Temple. In addition, during the summer months of July and August, it has been offered for a very reasonable nightly fee and weekly rental of the cabins on the property to Temple members and their families. A more formal rental program is currently being developed for Temple families and hopefully will be in place for the next rental season in 2016.

There are three cabins at the camp. The cabins are, candidly, rustic, but each cabin is fully furnished with hydro, running water, toilet, shower and kitchen. The property is especially suited for families with young children. The lot outside the back door of each cabin is filled with sand. And within a five minute walk away lies a wonderful, endless, quiet beach with shallow water ideal for kids.

Most if not all of the furnishings and appliances have been donated by Temple members over the years. **At this time, one of the cabins is in dire need of a used refrigerator/freezer in good working condition, so if any of our readers have one that he or she would be willing to donate, please contact the Temple office, and the Temple will gratefully arrange to pick it up.**

Camp Lumbini closes for the season at the end of August and will re-open in July 2016. Temple members may make inquiries at the Temple office about rentals starting in the Spring.

TBC Annual Bazaar

Saturday, November 14, 2015

Fall is fast approaching and with it our Annual Bazaar. This is the Temple's biggest annual fundraising event and we need your help.



Donations are needed for sale at the various venues:

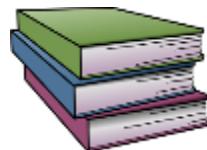
Japanese items

Baked goods and food items

Gently used items for the White Elephant Sale

Books and Plants

New items for the Silent Auction and Lucky Draw



(Please note that we are unable to sell used clothing.)

If you are able to help during the week before the bazaar, please check
the posted work schedule or
email canzai@sympatico.ca

We will be able to begin accepting donations from
Monday, November 9, 2015.

Please contact the TBC office if other arrangements are needed.

Your support is much appreciated!



TBC Bazaar Committee



INCREDIBLE INDIA

Following the Footsteps of the Buddha

Invitation to:

With the approval of the JSBTC, Roy and Itoko Akune have organized a tour to India "following the footsteps of the Buddha". This 14 day tour includes visits to the major Buddhist sites of Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Kushinagar, Lumbini and Sarnath and other key sites such as the Taj Mahal, Ganges River, Varanasi and Jaipur.

The tour begins February 1, 2016, in Delhi and returns February 14 to Delhi. The cost is \$1075 US /person/double occupancy with a single supplement of \$765 US.

This does include 3 star hotel accommodations, three meals/day, Welcome Dinner prior to departure, AC deluxe coach for all transfers and tours, entrance fees, elephant/jeep ride in Jaipur ascending Amer Fort, a boat ride on the Ganges River, airfare for domestic flights, accompanying tour guide, and applicable taxes.

This does not include international air fare from a city in Canada or other country, Nepal Visa fee (presently \$25 US/person), tips (hotels, guide, driver & helper) and other unstated personal expenses, e.g. phone calls, laundry, drinks etc.

Indeed, for some this will be a once in a lifetime visit to India and for others it may be another visit where the sights, sounds and customs have captured one's interest. For Roy and Itoko this will be their third visit to India having been there in 2002 and, as recently as, October 2014.

This tour will be accompanied by an English speaking guide, knowledgeable about the history of Buddhism and, of course, very familiar with the Indian culture.

This tour has a maximum capacity of 24. Those interested are encouraged to apply ASAP with applications to close November 30, 2015. Application form is attached to this notice.

**Please mail your applications form and a deposit of \$500 US (cheque payable to Itoko Akune) to : Roy and Itoko Akune
#320 – 4600 Westwater Drive, Richmond, B.C.
V7E 6S2**

For inquiries, please write to Roy at akune@telus.net or phone him at 604 244 7710.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Namaste, Roy and Itoko

For full details of itinerary inquire at the office for print out.