



Guiding Light

December 2015

"Tis the first snow!
Who is likely to stay
indoors?

-Kikaku



Bachan by Mika Tamaki

初雪や内に居そうな人は
其角

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, M3H 2T7

DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE events marked with an asterisk * are PRIVATE and not open to the general public Thank You		1	2	3	4	5
			7:00 pm Taiko	10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	7 pm Buyo	11:00 am *Funeral Srvc 3:00 pm * Family Memorial Service
6 SHOTSUKI MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE SANGHA PANCAKE SUNDAY 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Srvc 12 noon *Dana Mtg 1:00 pm Japanese Srvc	7	8	9	10	11	12
	10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	7:00 pm *Management Committee & BoD Mtgs	7:00 pm Taiko	10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm *Momiji Service 2:00 pm Buyo 4:00 pm *Yee Hong Service 7:00pm Meditation	7 pm Buyo	10:00 am TBC Senior Karaoke Party 11:00am * Family Memorial Srvc
13 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm *Sangha Meeting Honobono Club event Osechi Ryori	14	15	16	17	18	19
	10:00 am Sr. Karaoke		7:00 pm Taiko	2:00 pm *Castlevew Service 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	7 pmBuyo	11:00 am * Family Memorial Service 4:00pm *Buyo Group Year End Party
20 JODOYE BODHI DAY SERVICE 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
			10:30 am *Momiji Community Meeting	<div> OFFICE CLOSED at Noon 事務所は </div>	<div> OFFICE CLOSED 事務所は お休みです If you have an emergency please contact: Rev. Yanko 416-602-4849 </div>	
27 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 pm Dharma Cafe 11:00 am English Service	28 1:00 pm Set Social Hall and Wash rice <div> OFFICE CLOSED 事務所は </div>	29 9:00 am MOCHI TSUKI 12:00– 3:30 pm Pick Up	30	31 2:00 pm Joya E Day Service 11:15 pm Joya No Kane @ Ontario Place		

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

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PLEASE NOTE events marked with an asterisk * are PRIVATE and not open to the general public Thank You !					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! 10:00 am New Year's Day Service 11:00 am New Years Srvc 1:00 pm New Year Srvc	2
3 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Srvc 12:00 Dana Mtg 1:00 pm Japanese Srvc	4	5	6 7:00 pm Taiko	7 7:00 Meditation	8 7:00 pm Buyo	9
10 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service	11	12 7:00 pm MC and BOD meeting	13 7:00 pm Taiko	14 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Momiji Service 4:00 pm * Yee Hong Service 7:00 Meditation	15 7:00 PM Buyo	16 12:00 pm *Family Memorial Service 5:00 pm Hoonko Vegetarian Potluck 7:00 pm Hoonko Eve Service
17 HOONKO SERVICE & NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	18 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	19	20 7:00 pm Taiko	21 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm * Castlevew 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 Meditation	22 7:00 pm Buyo	23
24 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service <div>TBC AGM</div>	25 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	26	27 7:00 pm Taiko	28 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo	29 7:00 Buyo	30
31 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Dharma Cafe 11:00 am Service						

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WHAT IS TEMPLE

The annual bazaar is over. It is always a big event on our calendar. Thank you very much for your co-operation. For many days, from early morning, many members came to the temple to prepare. I helped at the raffle draw, I stirred the pot of azuki, and with a fan I cooled down hot rice and chow mein and so on. Because of so many people's hard work, this event was successful once again. I wondered how many volunteers took part including our own staff?

I came to be fully aware of how great the existence of our temple was! I'm a minster, so my life centers around matters of the temple, of course. But for you, what is the temple? I guess it is a place for you to come, where you want get some teachings, and also you want to give or share something with someone, even though you have to spend your valuable time. I know that everyone here, are different ages but also have different circumstances and backgrounds. Some people hold fervent religious beliefs, some want to have shinjin, some believe they have shinjin, and some have little interest in shinjin. We are here in various reasons. Some are here from one's childhood, some are here because they happened to find interesting activities here, and so on, for various reasons and by various motivation.

I would now like to mention my conclusion today so that you might more easily understand what I want to explain.

It is very important for us to be related to the temple.

I consider the temple to be a place where people come listen to the Dharma as the most important matter. The temple is not a school or company. Of course, Dharma is not morality (ethic). Dharma is not the rules for our life nor a law. Dharma is Buddha's teaching for us to be awakened. We are unenlightened persons, Bombu. He tried to let us know what the truth is and what is life. Don't confuse religion and morality. Morality is principles concerning right and wrong or good and bad behavior for human society. Human beings made principles, and ethics. Ethics is only for the secular world. Listening to the Dharma is listening to the content of Buddha's awakened wisdom.

Do you know of FERDINAND TONNIES (1855-1936), in Germany? His major was sociology. He classified society into two groups. In German, GEMEINSHAFT and GESELLSHAFT. The former, GEMEINSHAFT is a community organization, for example, blood relationship. A typical one is family. The latter GESELLSHAFT is organization for profit. A typical one is a company. Which type is the temple? I can say for sure that it is the former GEMEINSHAFT. Toronto Buddhist Church is here---this fact is entirely due to many people's shinjin. To have shinjin in Buddhism is for one to wish to accept Buddha's awakened wisdom.

Personally, I'm eager to have shinjin. I admit my understanding is limited because I'm only a Bombu living in an unenlightened world, so I would like to know the truth that Shakyamuni Buddha showed, that everything is impermanent and everything is interconnected. The members at the temple who have real shinjin also want to understand the Dharma that Shakamuni Buddha taught us and so they are thankful for their lives and they respect all life around them.

Shinran Shounin said

"all beings have been fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the timeless process of birth-and-death."

Continued on Page 5

WHAT IS TEMPLE, cont'd

Buddhists at the temple are a group who try to understand life's interconnectedness. The temple is, so to speak, a society, a blood relationship, a family. I say that it is a group of *Gemeinschaft*. It is a group, caring for each other filled with compassion.

「不妄語戒」 is a Buddhist precepts "don't tell a lie"

If one wants to have sincere relationship, it has to be built on honesty.

If the temple is a group, like a family, the people at the temple should be honest. If someone at the temple, knows the Dharma, and pretends to have shinjin, but hurts others, one will go to the world like hell as written in the sutras.

Listening to the Dharma from the awakened world, we should walk together thorough the unenlightened world, having grateful minds.

Last month, my mother came from Japan to see me again. This time, I believed she had a great time, not only cleaning my room, but she enjoyed going to Niagara Falls, tinged with red and yellow leaves.

On the way to Toronto in the airplane, she met a couple sitting next to her. They also were going to see their son who was a student at a private English school. Because their son was a teenager, they worried about him living alone in Toronto. My mother suggested that he should visit our temple. She told them I was a minister although I was still green, but said there were so many warm-hearted people there that he was sure to have a chance to make nice a friendship. Hearing their chattering from the rear seat, a man also wanted to join their conversation. He was going to take part in a marathon race in Toronto. But actually, he wanted to come to Toronto to see his daughter who was married to a Canadian. He was also worried about his daughter living far from him. There are many people who want to encounter warm hearts.

Let's accept newcomers with compassion. In any case, it is very important for everybody to be related to the temple where they are able to listen to the Dharma. Our Temple is a society of *gemeinschaft*.

gassho

Journey to the Pure Land



One of my favourite Shin Buddhist songs is “Journey to the Pure Land”, or “Jodo no Tabiji”. I first heard it sung by Makino Sensei before each of his evening lectures during his short stay here at Toronto. Now, I sing it as part of my daily service, first in Japanese, then I read aloud the English translation.

Within this short song there are amazing images, which I would like to share my personal interpretations. You may have a totally different interpretation but that is fine as each of us is on his or her own personal journey to the “Pure Land”.

It starts off gently: First I ring the gong twice and let it fade into nothingness. Then I begin the song.

“By the sound of the gong which reminds us of the impermanent nature of all Life”

(For me, the gradually fading sound of the gong is a aural reminder that we are all here ONLY for a short time.)

“Being awakened from this long dream of transient life”

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JOURNEY TO THE PURE LAND, cont'd

(This is for me the experience of “Shinjin”, that one thought moment when one entrusts oneself to the compassion of Amida Buddha. It SOMETIMES happens to me in the middle of the night when after tossing and turning trying to get back to sleep, I just let go, I say the Nembutsu and give up trying, then I feel this warm glow and I fall into a wonder restful sleep. In the Gobunshu, Shonin Ichiryu Sho, this is described as “with awakening of a single thought of entrusting.”)

“ To the chest where both hands are placed in gassho”

(I remember when I sang this first in Japanese, then English at a “Unity of Faith Conference” in October 2014. There were about 500 attendees, mostly members of the “Sri Sathya Sai Baba” congregation where the convention was held and eight of us speakers representing different faiths. When I put my hands together in gassho, I was astonished to see all of the 500 members also put their hands together in gassho. Gasshos everywhere, wow!)

“ Is heard the voice of the eternal Buddha”

(Of course for me, this is Amida Buddha.)

“Rain or storm what does it matter”

(Amida Buddha embraces us at all times, in sorrow, in happy times, his compassion covers us wherever and whenever we are. In Ryogemon, this is stated as” We know that at the time of the one thought moment of entrusting, birth in the Pure Land is assured, it is settled that we are saved. Once we have realized this, we say the Name joyfully, in gratitude for Amida’s graciousness.”)

“ Though I cry because of the deep rooted “Karma” each of us to bear”

(This is an acknowledgement that we carry traits, experiences that have shaped us into the imperfect being that we are. We all carry baggage that limits our actions with others. We sometimes say and do things that are hurtful to those with whom we live and work.)

“There wells up the deepest joy that I can smile”.

(Here is for me the miraculous character of being a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. Having experienced “Shinjin” and acknowledging oneself as an imperfect human being, we know that Amida Buddha accepts us just as we are. Of course, we try to be the best human beings that we can, but even if we stumble and make mistakes, we are still accepted just as we are. And all the while, we are gradually changing so that we are less likely to say and do things that are hurtful to those with whom we live and work. Wow!

In the BDK calendar for the 31st are these words: A gentle face and a kind word, words to live by, yes indeed.)

Namo Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu.



STORIES FROM THE PRESIDENT

BAZAAR 2015

It started many months ago. There were meetings, then more meetings and emails then more meetings and emails; checking off endless checklists. More jobs than the Civil Service. Ever since my rookie year a few years ago, I have been numbed by the humungous amount of organization and effort needed to pull off THE BAZAAR, the Temple's biggest fundraiser of the year, legions of volunteers, endless pages of schedules and chores.

Incredibly, the Bazaar Committee appeared to remain blithely unfazed, at least for the most part, from start to finish. Every member of that Committee executed his/her assignments with marvellous military precision. I won't name them – they know who they are; wonderful, amazing men and women. Come Bazaar Saturday, almost everything unfolded the way it was orchestrated by that beautiful Committee.

I've wondered every year if all the effort was worth it. Yes, it's the year's biggest fundraiser. But I have asked myself if we were to divide the money raised by the total number of man/woman hours invested, would the Bazaar even remotely pass a Harvard Business Model assignment? Most likely not, but to many the question is irrelevant. Many would insist that the real meaning and purpose of the Bazaar is to give everyone the opportunity to come together at the Temple, to work together, and to contribute to a common cause, and that in itself is justification enough. I can't disagree. I saw young and old working day and night, day after day, veterans working side by side with newcomers, the skilled imparting their tricks to the novices, everyone getting acquainted or re-acquainted. It was a beautiful Sangha at work.

Yes, there were omissions and mishaps (I myself screwed up more than once). Once in a while tempers flared and frustrations boiled over. Could it be that we momentarily forgot the Dharma in the frantic rush to the goal? Maybe we forgot that stuff happens (could it have been Shinran who coined that phrase?) no matter what and that we should forgive, laugh, hug and keep moving forward, which we did in the end anyway. We can try to remember better next year.

And so Bazaar 2015 has come and now gone. A huge success once again. Thank you very, very much to everyone!!!

TBC Sangha – Looking to Future

TBC Sangha President's 2015 AGM Report

It is surprising to me how often situations we encounter in everyday life mirror themselves in different ways. Most of you reading this are licensed drivers and we have all encountered situations where other drivers will react differently to unexpected situations.

With light rain, most of us will slow to at least the speed limit and turn on our headlights; this is an expected reaction to a situation which commonly arises. This uniform behaviour usually results in a safer environment for all drivers.

However, when that light rain turns to a torrential downpour, reaction by different drivers will typically become less uniform and the overall result becomes less certain.

Often the one driver – who, him or herself is absolutely convinced that they are in the right – will, as a result of their reaction to the circumstance – be the root cause of some chain of events resulting in an accident.

It is unfortunate that auto accidents don't benefit from the same rigorous investigations afforded accidents in the airline industry since there are more people who drive on a regular basis than fly. Such an investigation if conducted would thoroughly examine the causes and circumstances that may have resulted in the accident.

Such an investigation might reveal factors other than those immediately obvious.

- Perhaps the one driver found to have been root cause of accident was actually the one single driver who was correctly responding to the change in circumstance

- Perhaps it was because all of the other drivers who failed to yield to the behaviour of the one single driver who correctly identified and appropriately reacted to the change in environment that was the cause of the accident

- Perhaps it might be found that the root cause was a larger systemic failure which resulted in the lack of uniform reaction to such an unexpected circumstance

On the other hand, it might be found that the root cause was the most obvious – a driver reacting incorrectly to an unexpected event. Or perhaps that the real cause was because there was no opportunity to communicate with other drivers.

Sometimes, airline accident investigations result in profound changes in the industry which enforces a significant material change in the behaviour of all those involved.

For many years, the Sangha has dutifully provided support for Toronto Buddhist Church. At times, the requirement for support was higher than others, but the support required of the Sangha has remained largely constant for quite some time.

In addition to specific events hosted by the Sangha, the main area of participation requested of the Sangha has been to be to provide “the muscle”; move chairs, move tables, provide general physical support.

Today, we must address a systemic change within our temple. It has been decided that the Sangha will be relieved of the requirement to provide physical support for Temple events.

It is my hope that the Sangha will have the opportunity to effectively communicate with the other service groups in our Temple – the Dana and the Shin Fujinkai – to respond positively to this material change and find ways to continue to support our Temple.

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TBC Sangha – Looking to Future

TBC Sangha President's 2015 AGM Report, Cont'd

Perhaps a future review of our actions starting from today will demonstrate that as group, we all responded appropriately to this new found circumstance for the best benefit and prosperity of our Temple.

For myself, I ask the support of all TBC Sangha members to provide me with guidance to react positively to this material change so that we may continue to contribute to our temple in the most meaningful way.

In Gassho,

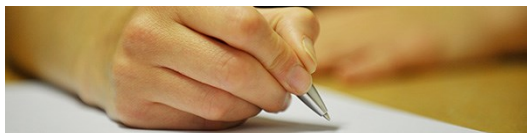
Cary Kataoka, President

TBC Sangha

WANTED: NOTES TO THE EDITOR

We have been trying hard to keep our readers informed of everything that is happening in and around the Temple. And hopefully our Ministers and contributors have been offering you food for thought about our Jodo Shinshu faith and how we live our lives as Buddhists.

We have decided that we would like to seek some feedback suggestions from you, our readers, whether we have been doing our job, and whether we could do more for you. So, starting in January 2016, we will be creating a "Notes to the Editor" column, and we are inviting you to share your constructive comments or thoughts about our Temple or our newsletter with our readers. While we hope for many Notes, we will reserve the right to exercise our Editorial discretion in selecting as many interesting Notes as we can for publication.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I am reaching out to the readership of the Temple's newsletter for articles for the Guiding Light. We think that it would add a bit more of a personal touch and be more of a Temple newsletter if some of our readers submitted articles to share with other members of the Temple. We are not looking for professionals; we are looking for articles from the heart.

I'm sure many of you think, wouldn't it be nice to see an article on Or I wish I could share this experience with my fellow Temple members. This is what we would like to see submitted. I currently have some members who have agreed to write an article. Take a chance and submit it.

We are also looking for ideas or material for the cover of the Guiding Light. We have in the past used the artwork of some of our members and the Kids Sangha. If you have any suggestions or any artwork you feel would be suitable for the cover of the Guiding Light please submit it.

Articles and cover suggestions can be submitted to Darlene at darlene.rieger28@gmail.com or to the office at tbc@tbc.on.ca. I hope our mailboxes will be crammed with articles and suggestions.

TBC Bazaar

Fall skies welcomed the annual bazaar held this year on November 14th and thankfully no rain was forecasted.

All the hard work leading up to the bazaar would soon come to fruition with generations of temple families and friends working together towards a common goal. Sounds of laughter could be heard throughout and the feeling of Sangha was more than apparent.

We were treated again this year with the Kids Sangha selling lemonade in the Social Hall and the Youth Group were busy waitressing and bussing the tables.

Many thanks to James Tetaka and crew manning the deep fryers in the parking lot to assist the ladies in the kitchen to keep the tempura waiting time to a minimum.

It goes without saying that without our volunteers and generous donors the success of the annual bazaar could not be achieved.

From the TBC Bazaar Committee **THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered, donated and attended the bazaar.

In gassho,

TBC Bazaar Committee



2015



Toronto Buddhist Church**Annual Benefit Raffle****Saturday November, 14, 2015****Winners****1st Prize, \$3,000.00**

Carolyn Wells, Pickering - Ticket # 002294

2nd Prize, Sony 42" LED Internet TV

Meiko Bando, Etobicoke - Ticket #000131

3rd Prize, Panasonic CD/Radio Mini System

Betty Tsuji, Toronto - Ticket # 001918

4th Prize, Bose Solo 15 TV Sound System

Alice Uyeda, Toronto - Ticket # 002048

**5th Prize, Bose Quiet Comfort 25 Acoustic
Noise Cancelling Headphones**

Harry Yamada, Mississauga - Ticket # 002199

Congratulations to all our winners!**Thank you to everyone for supporting the TBC
Bazaar and the Annual Benefit Draw.**

JOYA NO KANE (NEW YEAR'S EVE BELL RINGING)

It's hard to believe, but New Year's Eve is fast approaching. We are getting ready to say goodbye to 2015 and welcome 2016, the year of the Fire Monkey!

Everyone is invited to join us on December 31st at the Japanese Bell in Ontario Place for our Annual New Year's Bell Ringing. We will hold a small ceremony and we will all strike the bell in unison as a symbol of community and friendship. Then each individual will have an opportunity to take their turn striking the bell! In Buddhist tradition the bell is hit 108 times New Years eve to symbolize ridding ourselves from the 108 blind passions humans suffer from and starting the New Year with a 'clean slate.'

Every year it is cold. Every year there is some new kind of adventure that arises. But for some reason this makes the moment more meaningful and everyone steps away feeling exhilarated and happy.

Please plan to start arriving at 11:15; barring any unforeseen circumstances we will gather for service at 11:30 pm. Please dress warmly, it's a long time to midnight in the cold!



If you are unable to attend the service at Ontario Place please come and join us at the Temple on December 31st at 2:00 pm. We will be holding an earlier New Years service for those who cannot make it in the evening at Ontario Place.

Please consult the Toronto Buddhist Church website at www.tbc.on.ca or phone the Temple (416-534-4302) closer to December 31 for any changes

Hoonko Weekend

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

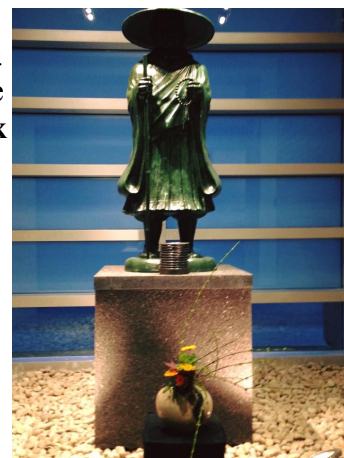
We will begin the Hoonko weekend on Saturday, January 16, 2016 with a **vegetarian potluck dinner** at 5:00pm followed by the Hoonko Eve Service at 7.00pm.

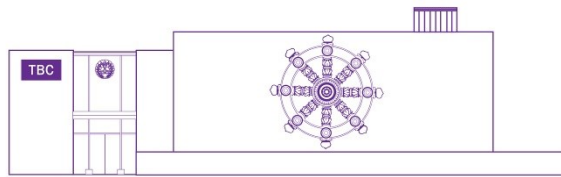
On Sunday, January 17, 2016, a joint service will be held at 11:00am. Following the service, we will be holding our annual New Year's Social in the Social Hall. We ask everyone to bring their favourite dish for a **potluck luncheon** and an afternoon of entertainment and fellowship.

Hope to see you there!

Please note: we rely on donations for the potluck luncheon, bingo and door prizes. Please consider bringing a contribution to make the afternoon a success.

Thank you.





MEMBERSHIP
Join/Renew

***Join or Renew
Online***

WE NEED YOU

2015 is quickly coming to a close and we are counting on all of you to renew or apply for your membership for 2016. This year our membership was up slightly but we know there are still some of you who have not applied for membership or have forgotten to submit the membership application with your membership fee.

The future of the Temple depends on our membership so we need you to take the time or remember to submit your application and fee.

We continue trying to improve the benefits of being a member of the Temple, here are a few reasons why you should be a member of the Temple

1. Most importantly, as a member you will have the right to vote on all important matters affecting the Temple, such as the election of the President and the Directors, the approval of budgets and all significant matters affecting the future of the Temple.
2. As a member your membership means that you subscribe to the values of the Temple
3. As a member you are entitled to free notarial services offered by one of our Temple members
4. As a member you are entitled to a discount on CAA memberships
5. As a member you will be entitled to a free mailed subscription to the Temple newsletter, Guiding Light so long as your membership is up to date. Due to increased postage costs non Temple members will be charged a subscription fee if they wish to receive a hard copy of the Guiding Light. This change will be implemented in 2017.
6. As a member you will be entitled to attend special Temple activities at rates not available to non-members. Also as a member you will be entitled to special rates for bentos served at special Temple activities

Regular Memberships are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year, so we ask that those wishing to be recognized as a Temple member complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year. Once your signed application and membership fee (minimum \$100 per year) or your promise to pay the fee have been received, your membership card will be sent to you.

Honorary Membership Cards will be issued to all new members 77 years of age and over who sign up for the year 2016. The card will remain valid as long as you indicate that you wish to continue your Honorary Membership each year. We ask Honorary members to submit a membership application yearly(Special Honorary cards will be issued only once). Honorary Members do not need to pay any annual membership fees, although all donations are welcome.



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT www.tbc.on.ca

We are so excited to share our new website with you... not only has the design and navigation changed, but we have added more information on Buddhism, photos, videos and updates on the Temple news and events. A very new feature that has been added, 'Online Donations'. Hopefully this is an added convenience for all.

GOING MY WAY? Part 3

With winter soon at our door, we cannot give up on this initiative. We have more than a few senior members in Scarborough and Etobicoke who have expressed a desire to catch a ride to the Temple from time to time. We would welcome more inquiries. 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.

Meanwhile we have been struggling to recruit volunteer drivers. If you are a member or friend who would be willing even if occasionally 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.

TRANSLATION HELP WANTED!!

How's your *Nihongo* and English? Would you like to practice your translation skills? The Guiding Light is looking for help translating English articles into Japanese and Japanese articles into English. The ministers need help with this task every month to free up their time to concentrate on their ministerial duties. We are also trying to ensure that both the English and Japanese sections of the Guiding Light contain as many of the same articles as possible so everyone is kept informed about what is happening at the Temple.

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. Peggy Takeno</i>	<i>85 yrs</i>	<i>November 10, 2015</i>
<i>Mrs. Tazuko Abo</i>	<i>98 yrs</i>	<i>November 15, 2015</i>
<i>Mr. Osamu Suzuki</i>	<i>71 yrs</i>	<i>November 22, 2015</i>

REFUGEE CHILDREN RELIEF DRIVE

Inspired by Kids' Sangha

Please join the Kid's Sangha and the Temple in supporting this worthy cause and helping the children of Syria see a sliver of light at the end of their very long tunnel.

Since the crisis in Syria began our Temple Board has been discussing how to help the Syrian people forced to flee their homes in the middle of a terrible war zone. Last month we were humbled when our very own Kid's Sangha took the initiative and held a delicious bake sale in order to raise funds for the Syrian refugee children. It turned out to be a great success. We decided we should follow the leadership of our compassionate and thoughtful children and contribute as much as we can to their chosen relief organization, Plan Canada.

Plan Canada was founded in 1937 and is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies, working in partnership with millions of people around the world to end global poverty. It is not-for-profit, independent and inclusive of all faiths and cultures. It has one agenda: to improve the lives of children. For the crisis in Syria, Plan Canada is creating safe spaces for injured or ailing children to recover, providing mental health care and emotional support for children and their caregivers, trying to improve access to formal and non-formal education in a protective learning environment for school-aged children, and advocating for greater support for these vulnerable children and families.

On **Bodhi Day, December 20** we have decided to celebrate the Enlightenment of the Buddha by helping children in need. On that day the Temple will keep track of the donations it receives. The amount of general donations we receive on that day will be the amount we will donate to Plan Canada. What's more, the Canadian Government will match all donations to help the Syrian refugees, so whatever we donate to Plan Canada up to December 31, 2015 will be doubled.

We will do a second fundraising on **Shotsuki Sunday, January 3, 2016**, donating all general donations received that day to Plan Canada. We also plan to collect donations in the lobby on the other Sundays prior to the January Shotsuki to increase the total as much as we can.

All donations over \$20.00 with the donor's name and address will be issued a donation receipt in due course.

Our Kid's Sangha have set a proud example and they are teaching us the way to live a life of compassion. They are an inspiration. Many children in desperate need will benefit from your kindness.



Meditation and Mindfulness

with Ray Nakano

Meditation and mindfulness sessions with Ray Nakano have been held over the last two months with great success. Ray has agreed to extend the classes through December and January. There are a number of returning students and we always welcome new participants. It is 2 hours of peace and serenity where you can leave the turmoil of the day behind and focus on letting go of the pent-up stress of the day. It is also a time to meet new people with the same interest as you.

We hope you will join us and Thursday evenings at the temple to practice two hours of calm.

The 2 hour sessions will include:

- Guided Sitting Meditation
- Silent Walking Meditation
- Silent Sitting Meditation
- Dharma Sharing
- Sangha Sharing



Please arrive at least 20 minutes early in order to allow time for “settling in” so the session can begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Please note that December 24th and 31st the sessions will not be taking place, but will begin again on January 7th in the New Year!

If you have any questions please contact Rev. Christina Yanko at 416-534-4302.

Dharma Cafe

Do you like talking and learning about Buddhism? Do you have things that you find puzzling or are their aspects of Buddhism you always wondered about but were too shy to ask? Do you enjoy sharing your thoughts and feelings about Buddhism with others?

Please join Rev. Christina Yanko at 9:30 am the last Sunday of each month on the mezzanine for coffee and discussions about Buddhism.

Do you have books you want to recommend to others? Bring them. Have a story you want to share? Come share it. Rev. Christina will bring the coffee and you bring the most important component...YOU!

Who? Everyone is invited

What? Buddhist coffee group

When? Last Sunday of every month at 9:30 am



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

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2016
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 January 25, 2015;
2. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2015;
3. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2016
4. Election of Directors
5. Establishment of a Reserve Fund for Building Maintenance and Repairs
6. Report on the JSBTC Study re Viability of a Full-Time Bishop
7. Consideration of expenditure from the Eitaikyo Fund for Temple office improvements

Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

A second Notice of the Meeting with further details will be posted in the Guiding Light for January. 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 2015.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

DANA NEWS

BAZAAR THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped all week prior to the bazaar and to those who worked so hard on Bazaar day. Your contributions and hard work are very much appreciated by the Committee.

2015 DANA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Sunday, November 22nd, 2015, 19 Dana ladies attended the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Rev. Christina Yanko joined the meeting. Before the meeting, the Dana ladies and Sangha members jointly enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch and cake. We had a good meeting followed by entertainment, “tanko bushi”, a coal miner’s dance.

Mochi Tsuki 2015 – Call for Volunteers!

--- Reminder ---

With gratitude for all those who have assisted us over the past years, the TBC Sangha once again requests your assistance for Mochi Tsuki 2015.

Mochi Tsuki will start in earnest at 9am on Tuesday December 29th.

All volunteers are welcome – no experience is necessary!

For further information, please contact Cary Kataoka (caryk@247systems.ca) or Aki Ikebata (aikabata@hotmail.com).



TBC Sangha Mochi Tsuki

Pick Up

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

Sale Hours 12:00 - 3:30 pm

To ensure availability, please place order with the Temple

No later than December 21 2015

Phone (416) 534-4302 Fax (416) 534-0575

E-Mail: tbc@tbc.on.ca

or with Sangha Executives

Osonae (Okagami) \$ 4.50 /Set Komochi \$ 4.00 / Doz.

Cut and Send the Form Below to:

Toronto Buddhist Church

1011 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M3H 2T7

2015 Mochi Order Please send no later than December 21, 2015							
Name:				Phone:			
Address:							
# of Bags							
()		Bag(s) Komochi		@\$4.00/ea		\$.
()		Set(s) Osonae		@\$4.50/ea		\$.
Total:						\$.
Signed:				Date:			
Pick Up							
Tuesday, December 29		Sale Hours			12:00 – 3:30pm		



KIDS SANGHA

December 20, 2015 (Bodhi Day - Awakening of Shakyamani Buddha)

Holiday Celebration

Join us for our annual Gingerbread decoration workshop.

This year we also plan to incorporate some holiday cheer with music, song, and holiday snacks.

I can't think of a better way to close the year....come out and join the festivities!



January 3, 2016

Animation Art with John Allen

John is a regular participant in our kids program sharing his expertise as a graphic artist and illustrator.

He has 25 years of design expertise and enjoys showing kids how to express themselves through art.

Develop your creative side with John



NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Let's welcome 2016 together at the Temple! It is a great time to reflect upon the past and future, your hopes and resolutions and share in the Light of the Dharma together!

Unlike previous years, this year we will only be holding 3 services. We unfortunately do not have the ability to maintain having a service every hour. Apologies to anyone this inconveniences.

10:00 am—Early Service for those of you preparing for afternoon guests

11:00 am—New Year's Day service

1:00 pm—Afternoon service to accommodate those who stayed out too late!

Come to the Temple on New Year's Day and say Happy New Year to Amida Buddha.

Saturday December 12th, 2015
 Showtime: 12:00 noon
 at TBC Social Hall



TBC SENIOR KARAOKE CLUB シニアカラオケクラブ YEAR END CONCERT 2015

Every one welcome
 Admission: \$15.00
 Includes oishii obento,
 Horii the magician,
 Enka songs, odori
 Good times,
 Grand finale

TBC シニアカラオケクラブ
 年終コンサート
 十二月十二日(土)
 正午開演

for tickets and information please call:
 Jessica Nakamura (416) 733-1894
 Setsuko Lambeau (416) 225-4747

TBC SENIOR KARAOKE CLUB

NEW YEARS GREETING 2016



In the next issue, January 3, 2016, the Guiding Light will be inserting a special “HAPPY NEW YEAR” page.

If you would like your name included in the special New Year’s greeting page, please complete the form below and submit it with your donation to the Temple office by **December 23, 2015**.

Please print my/our name(s) under ‘New Year Greetings’ in the upcoming January 2016 issue of the GUIDING LIGHT.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

(N.B. Phone requests will NOT be accepted.)

HONOBONO

December Honobono is Osechi Making. Do you Know Osechi?

Osechi-ryori are specially-prepared New Year’s dishes to be eaten during the first three days of January. Most dishes are cooked in order to be preserved for at least three days so people don’t have to cook during that period. Various kinds of beautifully-prepared dishes are set in four-tiered lacquer boxes.

Each of the dishes has some auspicious meaning which reflects people’s wishes. For example, Kazunoko, herring roe, represents fertility, Kuromame, cooked black beans, are for health (mame means healthy), and lobsters are for longevity because their bodies are bent like an old man’s.

We make 2 or 3 kinds of Osechi in this class. It is December 13th 14:00 at TBC kitchen. Please join us and have a delicious start of New year 2016!!



REVEREND MICHAEL HAYASHI

Rev. Michael Hayashi is a well-travelled, warm and free spirited minister who has touched members and friends of several of our Temples across Canada. He served as a resident minister of our Temple from 2010 to 2013. Michael-sensei has been diagnosed only within the past couple of weeks with untreatable cancer of the colon and stomach. At the time of this writing he has only days to live and rests in palliative care at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. Bishop Aoki has already administered *makurakyo* (pillow service). His family and close relatives have come together from across Canada to be with him. Remarkably, Rev. Michael and Kiyomi were remarried in his hospital room last night. The members of the Winnipeg Temple have embraced the family and have done everything possible to make Rev. Michael and his family as comfortable as possible.

Meanwhile, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) has taken the initiative to organize financial assistance for the family's immediate expenses confronting them. The Secretary of JSBTC has now issued a guidance memo about how each of the Temples may participate in this undertaking. While JSBTC has suggested various alternatives, our Temple believes that the simplest method for many will be to write a card or message and a cheque **payable to Kiyomi Hayashi**, and to send or deliver it in a **sealed** envelope addressed to Kiyomi Hayashi care of either:

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple of Canada

220 Jackson Avenue

Vancouver, B.C.

V6A 3B3

or

Toronto Buddhist Church

1011 Sheppard Avenue West

Toronto, ON

M3H 2T7

In either case, each donor should indicate his or her full name, postal address and, optionally, email address. Donors may also choose to donate through the TBC website at www.tbc.on.ca. JSBTC has informed us that donations directed to assist the family are not eligible for charitable receipts. All donations received by JSBTC or our Temple will be regularly forwarded to Mrs. Hayashi.

JSBTC and the Winnipeg Temple have also mentioned earlier that one or more Education Funds may be established to help with the education costs which Rev. Michael's children will face in the near future. We will inform you as soon as we receive any further details.

Word Search: Temple Terminology!

S	I	S	S	X	B	E	S	N	D	N	A	L	E	R	U	P	U	Z	M	Y	B	F
K	R	I	S	T	O	D	N	O	H	Y	S	R	C	N	E	M	B	U	T	S	U	K
V	O	K	O	H	S	O	R	E	N	N	Y	O	S	H	O	N	I	N	R	N	I	B
S	Z	O	S	S	O	N	T	P	R	I	K	A	K	U	S	H	I	N	N	I	J	I
A	H	B	K	M	O	S	I	A	B	U	D	D	H	A	N	A	T	U	R	E	U	H
E	C	I	O	U	H	E	H	R	N	H	A	T	S	U	B	O	N	R	J	D	S	G
S	E	I	N	U	S	E	J	I	V	N	T	M	R	O	I	S	A	M	U	H	E	O
H	I	A	L	R	S	R	F	A	N	A	I	C	E	Z	M	N	Y	C	N	A	I	L
I	T	N	P	K	A	K	M	A	H	G	N	S	U	M	D	I	H	S	I	R	G	D
N	A	U	E	M	G	N	N	O	B	O	E	A	H	C	V	J	O	H	R	M	E	E
N	I	L	L	S	D	D	S	A	O	S	R	Y	C	O	O	I	N	I	A	A	R	N
I	K	O	H	S	I	K	I	H	S	O	T	N	O	M	J	A	G	N	I	A	A	C
O	Y	O	H	I	K	U	S	T	O	H	S	Q	E	F	U	N	W	J	X	H	F	H
C	O	W	D	A	C	K	T	A	R	N	R	H	O	O	B	O	A	I	K	G	Y	A
G	M	S	L	N	I	Y	M	R	B	E	I	O	C	T	M	C	N	N	A	N	N	I
P	F	B	E	X	P	R	B	O	O	A	E	N	N	V	A	O	J	C	N	A	O	N
O	N	E	N	J	U	T	U	I	O	U	X	L	O	D	S	H	I	D	S	S	B	X
P	Y	A	M	I	D	A	B	U	D	D	H	A	R	A	H	Q	I	A	H	U	O	S
W	U	M	L	P	C	O	V	I	G	K	I	F	Y	E	T	T	C	Y	O	T	T	Y
Z	U	V	U	H	D	Q	Q	M	M	Y	K	N	L	D	M	E	I	R	K	A	R	O

KAKUSHINNI SHOTSUKI HOYO AMIDA BUDDHA GOLDEN CHAIN HONGWANJI
 NIRVANA EITAIKYO HATSUBON NEMBUTSU SHOSHINGE TANNISHO PURE LAND
 ONENJU KANSHO GASSHO ESHINNI SANGHA DHARMA OSHOKO JUSEIGE
 MONTOSHIKISHO SHINRAN SHONIN SAMBUJO BUDDHA NATURE RENNYO SHONIN
 ONAIJIN JUNIRAI OBON OBON HONDO SHINJIN

How well do you know your Temple Terminology? We created this fun Word Search for you. It has many of the words that we use or hear at the Temple, but do you know what it means or who that person might be?

When we have new people come in, we often forget that they don't know what the words we are so comfortable using actually mean...or maybe we don't know ourselves but are too shy to ask.

As you find each word on the list, please think to yourself...do I know what this means? How could I explain it to someone new if they were to ask me?

If you don't know, please feel comfortable asking your minister! That is what they are here for!