



Guiding Light

JANUARY 2016

*This dewdrop world
Is a dewdrop
world,
And yet, and yet . . .*



Artwork by Naomi Tamaki

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TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service (E) 12:00 Dana Mtg	4	5	6	7 7:00 pm Meditation	8 7:00 PM Buyo	9
10 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service	11 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	12 7 pm Management Committee Meeting & 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 pm Meditation	15 7:00 PM Buyo	16 12:00 am *Family Memorial Service 5:00 pm Hoonko Vegetarian Potluck 7:00 pm Hoonko Eve
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 * Castleview 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	22 7:00 PM Buyo	23
24 SPECIAL SERVICE 11:00 am Rev. Hayashi's Memorial Service with Bishop Aoki <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> TBC AGM 12:30 pm </div>	25 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	26	27	28 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	29 7:00 PM	30
31 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm CCOV Mtg						

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

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>** All events marked with an asterisk are PRIVATE functions and are not open to the general public</p> <p>Thank You</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00 am Sr. Karaoke</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm Buyo</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SVC & FOOD FEST</p> <p>10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Service 12 noon Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Shin Fujinkai</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 am Sr. Karaoke</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 pm TBC Management Committee and BOD Mtgs</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji Service 4:00 pm *Yee Hong Service 7:00 pm Meditation</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 pm Buyo</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 REGULAR SERVICE</p> <p>11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg (Eko)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 am Sr. Karaoke</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castlevue Service 7:00 pm Meditation</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm Buyo</p>	<p>20</p> <p>2:00 pm * Funeral Service</p>
<p>21 NIRVANA DAY SERVICE & SANGHA DAY</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Rev. Grant Ikuta</p> <p>10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FAMILY DAY</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> OFFICE CLOSED </div>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 pm Buyo</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 REGULAR SERVICE</p> <p>9:30 am Dharma Café 11:00 am English Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am Sr. Karaoke</p>					

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New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to extend my greeting to you.

On June 6, 2014, receiving the Jodo Shinshu tradition from Monshu Emeritus, I was inaugurated as the Hongwanji Resident Head Priest and Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha 25th Monshu. To commemorate the occasion together with all of you in front of Amida Buddha and the Founder Shinran Shonin, *Dento Hokoku Hoyo*, or the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition will be observed at Hongwanji, Kyoto, Japan from this coming October 1. With this observance as an opportunity, it is my hope that the Jodo Shinshu teaching will spread to as many as possible.

The Jodo Shinshu teaching was set forth by Shinran Shonin nearly eight hundred years ago and it has been carefully transmitted to us today. Be it Shinran Shonin's time or the present day, the Jodo Shinshu teaching remains unchanged and continues to serve as our spiritual foundation. This is because in this world of impermanence we live our lives never knowing when it may end. No one can guarantee that tomorrow I will not be involved in an incident or accident that will bring about the end of my life.

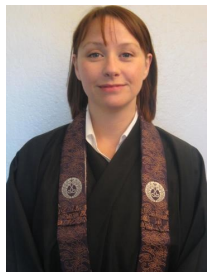
In closing, let us continue our journey along the Nembutsu path by going to the temple to hear more of Amida Buddha's constant working for our benefit. In doing so, throughout this year, let us reflect on our true selves, come to appreciate all the encounters of our everyday lives, and in gratitude, recite the Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu.

January 1, 2016
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!



This past year has been a doozy, hasn't it? All of the things going on in our Kyoudan and at our Temple...it has been busy to say the least. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to all of our extremely hardworking volunteers who dedicate countless hours of their lives to help the Temple. This Temple exists because of you and your tireless efforts and understanding do not go unnoticed. I look forward to your continued support and advice through 2016.

We live in a very busy world. There are always so many things we have to get done. For myself, I often become encumbered by the responsibilities I place on myself. Generally speaking, I enjoy being busy; I enjoy the satisfaction when a task feels completed. However, often times my task list becomes so overwhelming that I feel like I am being swallowed by it. Instead of altering my expectations, my standard reaction is to push myself to work harder. If I can't get it done I will stay up all night until it is done. Forget about suffering the consequences because there is time to think about that later...and there are always consequences. For example, coffee might keep you awake but it doesn't keep you healthy.

I know I am not the only person with this "busy" mindset, as I can see the members of our Temple are also always busy. In fact, I understand from some of our retired members that they are busier now than they have ever been. There is always so much to do. I know at our Temple alone there are a million things that need to get done.

We all have a lot of responsibilities in our lives and that is natural, but never allow yourself to become so busy that you lose sight of the enjoyment you gain from doing what you do. Don't let the task outweigh the purpose.

I would like to relay to you a "joke" told to me once by the late Rev. Leslie Kawamura.

There was once a blind man who was walking along and slipped off the side of a cliff. He was able to grab the edge so rather than falling to the ground he was suspended on the side of the cliff hanging on for dear life. "HELP!!!! SOMEONE HELP ME!!!" he shouted. After some time a passerby came by to see what all the shouting was about. "Can I help you?" he asked the dangling blind man. "Of course you can! I am falling! You must pull me up!!" The passerby replied fairly passively "Just let go." and went on his way. The poor dangling man was so distraught. How come this person did not help him? He called for help again: "HELP ME!!!!"

Eventually another passerby came to see what the problem was. He asked the blind man "What is the problem?" The blind man was so frustrated. He responded "What do you mean what is the problem? I have fallen off a cliff! You must help pull me up!" The passerby called to the distraught man "Stop struggling and just let go," and the passerby went on his way.

The blind man's grip was getting strained and he was starting to feel himself slip. He was screaming and yelling as his fingers lost their strength and he fell. Plop! Two feet to the ground and totally safe.

We always struggle so hard in life to accomplish what we think we need to do, but sometimes we become so focused on the struggle that we forget...sometimes the best answer is to just let go. Sometimes the best answer is to stop trying so hard.

This year, I hope all of you once in a while take the opportunity to busy yourself with not being busy. Allow yourselves the time to relax so you can see the beauty around you. This moment is not as trivial as it may seem, but helps you to realize your true self and feel the working of Amida Buddha's great compassion.



STORIES FROM THE PRESIDENT

ISM

I love words. I loved words so much that (maybe too geeky) I studied Latin, Greek, German and French in high school and well into university. Today I have numerous dictionaries in my office and the *Merriam-Webster* and *Shorter Oxford* apps in my iPhone. I use them all the time. I love words more than, well, ...words can say.

And speaking of *Merriam-Webster*, the famous American publisher recently announced its word of the year for 2015. Then again, it's an un-word. It is "-ism". Grammatically it is known as a "suffix". The reason for what may seem to be an odd choice is that seven words ending with "-ism" were looked up in the dictionary this past year more than any other word. The seven words? "Socialism"; "Fascism"; "Racism"; "Feminism"; "Communism"; "Capitalism"; and finally, "Terrorism". We all have been bombarded by these words over the past year and we can easily relate each of them to some event of global importance. They have dominated the news and have forced us to contemplate our sedate lives.

As un-words go, "-ism" can do all kinds of useful things. According to the publisher it can turn a verb into a noun. For example "criticize" can become "criticism", which sad to say is an "-ism" I have been hearing quite a bit about. Or as the publisher goes on to explain it can be used to describe a human condition which needs to be addressed, such as "sexism" or "alcoholism" or "absenteeism", none of which is an issue at our Temple (although as far as absenteeism is concerned it sure would be good to see more people at services). While there are many other interesting applications of "-ism", the one that particularly caught my attention is its application in describing a religion. And so we come to the "-ism" most important to most of us - "Buddhism". It did not make Merriam-Webster's top seven list for 2015 but it surely is at the top of our list - as Jodo Shin Buddhists we have thought about Buddhism and have lived a Buddhist life every day this past year. We put our palms together and recited Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude. We tried to live a life of compassion and understanding and respect and we were grateful when we were treated the same way by others, and we bowed our heads quietly when we were not.

2015 was even more challenging than the year before and so many were visibly exhausted but they forged bravely ahead. Volunteerism (another "-ism") is alive and doing very well at Toronto Buddhist Church and will thrive even better next year. Thanks so much to all of you. Next time we meet let's laugh and hug one another and look forward with enthusiasm and hope to the New Year.

In gassho.

*In Memoriam***REVEREND MICHAEL HAYASHI**

You allowed me the great privilege of attending the funeral service of Reverend Michael Hayashi at the Winnipeg Buddhist Temple on December 8, 2015. It was a beautiful, moving service with an overflow gathering of mourners. Bishop Tatsuya Aoki travelled from Vancouver to officiate the service, while Reverend Grant Ikuta (Steveston), Reverend James Martin (Calgary), Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara (San Francisco), and Reverend Fredrich Ulrich also came to pay their respects. The members and friends of the Winnipeg Temple clearly loved Michael-sensei and appreciated his devotion to the life of the Temple. Reverend Michael would have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of affection and respect that night.

Reverend Michael was born on April 26, 1965 and he died only a couple of weeks after being diagnosed with untreatable abdominal cancer on December 4, 2015. His family rushed to his side. Just days before the end he and his wife Kiyomi re-united and re-married. Harvey Kaita and the Winnipeg Sangha went beyond the call to comfort Reverend Michael and his family during those final days.

As most of you will recall, Reverend Michael came to our Temple in the summer of 2010, and then moved on to the Manitoba Temple in April 2013. During that short time in Toronto he built a devoted following. Yes, there were some who did not share some of his views. But he was to the core a blithe spirit and that is what endeared him to so many. He was a deep thinker but not one to be swayed by what others thought of him. He laughed and hugged and so many did the same with him. He rocked to his own drummer.

As suggested by Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, our Temple together with the TBC Sangha, Dana and Shin Fujinkai have sent *koden* to Kiyomi Hayashi and her family to assist them with their financial needs. Other individuals in and around Toronto have done the same. On Sunday, January 24, 2016, at the regular 11:00 service time, the Temple will hold a special Memorial Service for the late Reverend Michael. In attendance at the service will be special guest Bishop Aoki. You are all invited to attend. If desired, those attending may give *koden* in a sealed envelope addressed to Mrs. Kiyomi Hayashi and Family along with the donor's name and address. As *koden*, regretfully no charitable receipts will be issued.

With deep gratitude to Reverend Michael,

Roy Kusano



2016

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM

Dawn, Toshi, Crystal and Emi 2

Hiroshi and Mary Aoki

Teruji Goto

Dennis, Sandra, Sean, Grant, Nicole and Timothy Izukawa

George and Amy Nakano

Joanne Omori

Yosh and Kunio Suyama

Ken Phan and Susan Takahashi

Toshio and Akiye Takahashi

Yoshiko Tanaka

Tomoko Yoshida

AND THE

STAFF OF THE GUIDING LIGHT

Rev. Christina Yanko

Rev. Ryuhei Endo

Pamela Yoshida

Dianne Ishida

Tin Goto

Kunio Suyama

Harry Tetaka

Helen Tetaka

Mika Fukuma

Diane Mark

Darlene Rieger

YEAR OF THE MONKEY



*News about the new...***COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF VOLUNTEERS (CCOV)**

Until now, the non-ministerial needs of the Temple have been served by three service groups, namely Sangha, Dana and Shin Fujinkai. There is no questioning the extraordinary support that each of these groups has contributed to the success and well-being of our Temple. But over the years, these service groups have been suffering a decline with the passing of many of their members, and fatigue and burnout overtaking the remaining core of volunteers.

The Temple formed a Legacy Committee a couple of years ago to examine what could be done to try to revive and energize the volunteer base at the Temple. After numerous meetings and consultations with the existing service groups, there arose a Coordinating Committee of Volunteers (CCOV) consisting of representatives from the Board and representatives from each service group. The CCOV is governed by formally adopted Rules and its mandate is derived from the Rules. Its principal mandate is to supervise and manage the volunteer services required by the Temple all under one roof. The Committee has decided to form five Teams of volunteers with Co-Captains for each Team. Each Team will be formed from the available pool of volunteers based on certain criteria including leadership ability, skills, physical agility, inter-generational composition, non-gender specific, geography, availability, compatibility and personal or family relationships. It is hoped that each Team will have at least 12 members on the understanding that not every member will be able to help every time that he/she is called.

The Teams will take turns in providing the services needed to carry out a designated Temple activity or event during the year. Some events may well require the help of more than one Team.

The overall objective of this new system, scheduled for implementation in early 2016, is to promote more interest in volunteerism by allowing Teams to bond inter-generationally and enjoy contributing together all the different skills necessary to perform all of the tasks related to a particular activity or event. In addition, we truly hope that with these new Teams, the skills and experiences retained in the memories of our senior volunteers will be more easily transferred to a new generation of volunteers. In due course, there will be a comprehensive and detailed manual or guide for all of our volunteers.

This is an exciting break-through venture for our Temple. It was momentous when each of our service groups agreed to buy into the project. We want each of our readers, if you are able, to join us. If you receive a call or if you are approached to join a Team, please give our Temple representative an earnest listen. We do believe you will not regret it.

UPDATE RE JAPANESE-LANGUAGE SHOTSUKI SERVICES

With apologies from the Board of Directors, we will temporarily have to suspend our afternoon Japanese-language Shotsuki service. Instead we will be holding a combined service the first Sunday of every month. We are trying to ensure that this will be only a temporary inconvenience, hopefully only a few months, and we will inform you as soon as we have arranged a solution. In the meantime, depending on who will be our speaker, the Dharma talk at most combined services will likely be in English.

We will sincerely appreciate your understanding in the meantime and we hope that you will be able to attend the joint service at 11:00 a.m.

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2016 SCHEDULE****JANUARY**

- 1 New Year's Day Service
 3 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
 10 Regular Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hoonko Service
 16 Vegetarian Pot Luck Dinner & Hoonko Eve Service
 17 Hoonko Founder's Memorial Service
 New Year's Social (Shinnen kai)
 23 Ottawa Fellowship with Bishop Aoki
 24 Memorial Service for Rev. Hayashi
 TBC Annual General Meeting
 31 Regular Service
Montreal Buddhist Church: Hoonko Service

FEBRUARY

- 7 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
 14 Regular Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Nirvana Day Service
 21 Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) & Sangha Day
 28 Regular Service

MARCH

- 6 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
 13 Regular Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Spring Higan Service
 20 Spring Equinox Service (Higan-e) & Keirokai
 27 Regular Service
Montreal Buddhist Church: Spring Higan Service

APRIL

- 3 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
 10 Eshinni Day; Wife of Shinran Shonin Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hanamatsuri Service
 16 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet
 17 Celebration of Sakyamuni's birth Service (Hanamatsuri)
Montreal Buddhist Church: Hanamatsuri Service
 24 Regular Service (No Ministers)
JSBTC AGM (hosted by Winnipeg Buddhist Temple April 22-24)

MAY

- 1 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
 8 Parents' Day Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Gotan-e Service
 15 Celebration of Shinran's birth Service (Gotan-e) &
 Infant Presentation (Shosan shiki)
 22 Regular Service
Montreal Buddhist Church: Gotan-e Service
 29 Neighbourhood Outdoor Service

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2016 SCHEDULE****JUNE**

- 5 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki) & TBC Dana Scholarship Presentation
- 12 Picnic Open Air Service (No Service at the Temple)
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Regular Service
- 19 Regular Service
- 26 Regular Service

JULY

- 3 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
Montreal Buddhist Church: Obon Service
- 9 Obon Cemetery Visit; Haka mairi
Obon Service & Bon Odori Dance at JCCC
- 10 Obon Service (Rev. Grant Ikuta)
- 17 Summer Services begin
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Obon Service
- 24 Summer Service
- 31 Summer Service

AUGUST

- 7 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
- 14 Summer Service
- 21 Summer Service
- 28 Summer Service

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Summer Service
- 11 Shotsuki Service and Rally Sunday
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Fall Higan Service
- 18 Fall Equinox Service (Higan-e)
- 25 Regular Service
Montreal Buddhist Church: Fall Higan Service

OCTOBER

- 2 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki) & JSBTC Day
- 9 Regular Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: JSBTC Day Service
- 16 Pet Memorial Service
- 23 Regular Service
- 30 Regular Service

NOVEMBER

- 6 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
- 13 Regular Service
Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Regular Service
- 12 Temple Bazaar
- 20 Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)
- 27 Regular Service
Montreal Buddhist Church: Eitaikyo Service
Regular Service

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2016 SCHEDULE****DECEMBER**

4	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
11	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Bodhi Day Service</i>
18	Bodhi Day Service (Jodo-e)
25	Regular Service
31	Year-End Day Service (Joya-e) Year-End bell ringing at Ontario Place

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.

We are doing a second fundraising on **Shotsuki Sunday, January 3, 2016**, donating an amount totalling all general donations received that day to Plan Canada. We will continue to collect individual donations in the lobby on Sundays to the end of January to increase the total as much as we can.

All donations over \$25.00 with the donor's name and address will be issued a donation receipt from Plan Canada 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.





How Do You Measure Freedom?

I have been following the plight and trials and tribulations of the Syrian refugees with much interest as I am sure that many of you have. There isn't a day which goes by when we aren't exposed to some news or further enlightened about this human crisis. Newly elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's recent efforts to accelerate the acceptance of Syrian refugees has intensified media coverage even more.

The raw suffering and anguish experienced by the Syrian refugees and toll on humanity as a whole is so wide in scope. I often try to put my feet in the shoes of those in suffering and sorrow and wonder how I would help my family, myself and others if we were in similar shoes. I wonder how the newly landed refugees, now Canadian citizens, will fare in our country and also hope that they can contribute to our country soon and become well integrated members in the fabric of our society and accomplish that without too much difficulty.

While driving home from my office late one night recently I listened intently to a very interesting CBC Radio interview with a Syrian refugee who had just arrived in one of the first planes carrying refugees to their new country. This woman was being asked how she felt now that she was on Canadian soil and had new found freedom as a Canadian citizen. As part of her answer, she said that it was wonderful to hear birds as this was the first time in about five years that she had finally heard birds again. In war torn Syria, the bombing and gunfire either masked the sounds of birds or the birds themselves were shell shocked into silence. To me, that simple observation by the woman was quite profound. She had measured her freedom by the sounds of birds.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists we are taught to cherish each day as in our life of impermanence we do not know how long we will be living this earthly life as we know it. "White Ashes" expounds on this impermanence "Though in the morning we may have radiant health, in the evening we may be white ashes." This new Syrian refugee, now a new Canadian citizen, also reminded me to live and treasure each day as if it is my last.

I had been sitting in my car in the driveway at home waiting for the riveting interview to end. As the interview came to a close, I opened my car door to go inside my home. Coincidentally, as I opened my car door, I could hear the loud honking of a flock of Canadian Geese flying above me in formation as they headed to warmer climes for the winter. The timing and reminder by the Canadian Geese through their loud honking could not have sounded better. I heard them loud and clear. It was a joy to hear and it reminded me of the freedom which has been afforded to our sangha at Toronto Buddhist Church.

If this new Canadian citizen was any indication and representative of the many Syrian refugees who will soon be our neighbours and friends, we will all benefit from their status as new Canadian citizens. In so many respects, the observant, simple and pure reply by this new Canadian saying that she welcomed the sounds of birds, we will all experience and benefit from their contributions. I was also grateful, that once again, Jodo Shinshu Teachings and the Dharma, have prepared me to notice many of the simpler things in life which can bring us so much joy.

With Gratitude and in Gassho

Larry Wakisaka

DANA NEWS

Membership Dues Reminder

A reminder that the 2016 Dana membership fee of \$15 per member is now due.

Please mail a cheque for **\$15** made payable to the Toronto Buddhist Church Dana to the temple, give it to any of the Dana executive or place your membership fee in the Dana mail slot in the temple office.

Also, if you are turning 80 years of age in 2016, please let us know as you will become an honorary member and not be required to pay the membership fee.

FOODFEST - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 2016

The Dana and Shin Fujinkai will be holding their Annual Foodfest on Sunday, February 7th, 2016, the proceeds from which will be used to support the JSBTC Women's Federation Outreach Program.

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

Please bring items for the Foodfest to the temple before 9 am on February 7th so that they can be packaged and sold following the service.

THANK YOU!

2015-2016 TORONTO DANA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President:	<u>Jessie Ebata</u>
Co-Vice-Presidents:	<u>Marv Aoki / Emi Nakano</u>
Secretary:	<u>Judy Nishi</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Aja Shimizu</u>
Bazaar:	<u>Jessie Ebata, Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani</u>
Castlevew:	<u>Hedy Iwata</u>
Membership /Communication:	<u>Marie Baba</u>
Program:	<u>Executive</u>
Religious:	<u>Kay Uchida</u>
Social:	<u>Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani</u>
TBC Dana Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs:	<u>Susan Takahashi / Miyo Nakamura</u>
Welfare:	<u>Lily Motomura, Assistant -Hedy Iwata</u>
JSBTCWF :	<u>June Asano</u>
Special Projects:	<u>Jane Kovata, Kay Asada, Akiko Nishimura</u>

TBC DANA SCHOLARSHIP INVITES APPLICATIONS

The Toronto Buddhist Church Dana Scholarship Committee invites all qualified, graduating students to apply for a scholarship.

Eligibility:

Students who are first time applicants and who are members or who are children or grandchildren of members of a temple/church in the Eastern District of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and who will be attending their first year of post-secondary education at a recognized institution such as a university, college, institute of technology, etc.

All applications must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a Letter of Reference. The amount of the scholarship is dependent on monies available each year end and is at the discretion of the Committee.

The selection criteria will be as follows:

Academic results	50%
Church activities	30%
School and Community Involvement	10%
Essay (min 300 words)	10%
Total	100%

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact the office at tbc@tbc.on.ca or 416-534-4302 and an application form will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

**** DEADLINE for the scholarship application is Sunday, April 10, 2016 ****

All scholarship winners will be honoured at the scholarship presentation and luncheon which will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2016 (at the Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Service at 11:00 am).



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.

Mr. Roy Iwao Tsukada	95 yrs	November 8, 2015
Mr. Mitsuki Iseki	80 yrs	November 27, 2015
Mrs. Karen Yamamoto-Chan	64 yrs	December 5, 2015

Upcoming Guest Speakers in January

This month we are happy to announce we that a couple of guest ministers will join us!

Sunday January 10th—Jeff Wilson Sensei

While Rev. Yanko is in Hamilton, Jeff Wilson Sensei will be officiating the service, as well as delivering the Dharma Message. Wilson Sensei is a respected Buddhist scholar from Rennison University College in Waterloo and we are proud to have him assist at our Temple.

Sunday January 24th—Bishop Tatsuya Aoki

We are honoured to have Bishop Tatsuya Aoki come and officiate a special memorial service we are holding on January 24th in memory of Rev. Michael Hayashi. Bishop Aoki is the resident minister of Vancouver Buddhist Temple and the Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. We are pleased he has agreed to join us to officiate this very important service.

Sunday January 31st—Rev. Ryo Imamura

While Rev. Yanko is in Montreal, Toronto is pleased to have Rev. Ryo Imamura as a guest minister. Rev. Imamura comes from a very strong Buddhist lineage, and his familie's contributions to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in North America were instrumental in the development of our tradition. Many of you undoubtedly still remember his uncle Rev. Newton Ishiura. Along with being a Minister for 21 years, Rev. Imamura was a licensed psychotherapist and retired last year from many years as a professor in Washington. We are happy Rev. Imamura chose Toronto for his retirement, and we look forward to having many insightful Dharma discussions with him.



Nirvana Day—February 21, 2016

You are all invited to join us at 11:00am on February 21st for our annual observance of Nirvana Day. This is the day we commemorate the pari-nirvana, or ultimate state of cessation of suffering, of Shakyamuni Buddha.

We are happy to announce that for this service we have Rev. Grant Ikuta as our guest speaker. Rev. Ikuta is the resident minister of Steveston Buddhist Temple and was resident minister in Toronto for over 15 years so we are very happy to have him back for a visit, especially on this auspicious occasion.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Ikuta and commemorating this special occasion.



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 January and February. 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 on 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 classes 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 us 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. We 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

Where? Upstairs on the mezzanine



KIDS SANGHA

January 17, 2016

Mindful Meditation with Ray Nakano

According to Shambalakids.com...

‘Meditation helps children in a variety of ways. It helps reduce stress, strengthens the immune system, can improve relationships at home and at school, decreases aggressiveness and anxieties, improves behavior and attitude, improves focus, memory and concentration and promotes inner peace.’

During this workshop Ray will teach both sitting and walking meditation and will end with a demonstration of mindful eating!

It will be a relaxing and calming experience so come out and find your inner peace. Parents are welcome to join in.



February , 2016

Etegami with Sachiko Pereklita

Please join us on February 7 for a fun-filled hour with Sachiko.

Etegami is a combination of a painting with a few words. You don't have to be skilled in painting, just bring your imagination and creativity to make your own picture postcard.

Adults are welcome to join the workshop at a cost of \$5.00 (to cover supplies). Kids are free.

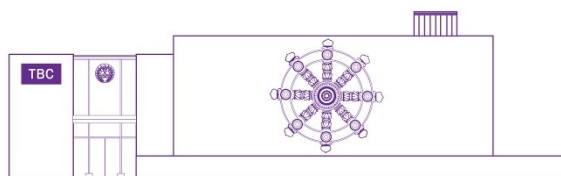


February 21, 2016

On February 21 we will begin rehearsals for Keirokai. More information on this will follow.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Denise & Jess



MEMBERSHIP
Join/Renew

***Join or Renew
Online***

WE NEED YOU

Happy 2016, the year of the Monkey. We are counting on all of you to renew or apply for your membership for 2016. Last 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-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.



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*a Jodo Shinshu Temple***2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION***In the case of couples, please complete information for each applicant individually.*

Applicant #1 Renewal (<input type="checkbox"/>) New (<input type="checkbox"/>)		Mr. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Mrs. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Ms. (<input type="checkbox"/>)
Last Name: _____		Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____
First Name: _____		Email: _____
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____		Signature: _____
Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____		
<p>I promise to pay \$_____ as my Membership Fee for 2016 and am enclosing the amount of \$_____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by May 31, 2016. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 21 of the January 2016 Guiding Light.</p> <p>-----</p>		
Applicant #2 Renewal (<input type="checkbox"/>) New (<input type="checkbox"/>)		Mr. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Mrs. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Ms. (<input type="checkbox"/>)
Last Name: _____		Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____
First Name: _____		Email: _____
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____		Signature: _____
Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____		
<p>I promise to pay \$_____ as my Membership Fee for 2016 and am enclosing the amount of \$_____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by May 31, 2016. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 21 of the January 2016 Guiding Light.</p>		

Please note that this application is for membership from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. The Individual Membership Fee for 2016 is a minimum of \$100. However, the Temple welcomes and will be grateful for any amount over and above this minimum fee.

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP VOW

As a member of the Toronto Buddhist Church, I:

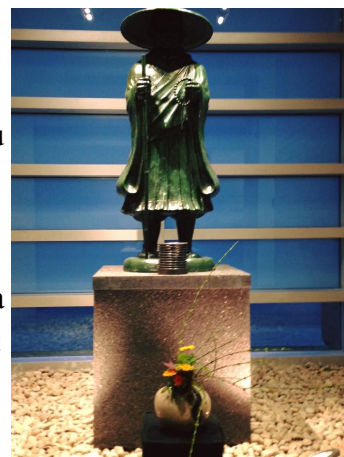
- ◆ *Recognize and accept that our Temple is based on the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Teachings*
- ◆ *Vow to strive to live a life of gratitude and to do my best to care for the welfare of society: and*
- ◆ *Vow to observe and uphold the Charter and By-laws of the Temple.*



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 5:00 pm followed by the Hoonko Eve Service at 7:00 pm.



On Sunday, January 17, 2016, a joint service will be held at 11:00 am. 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** (dessert is being provided by the Dana) 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.

Invitation to Let's Talk Dharma

Hello my Dharma Friends,

Let's Talk Dharma begins Sunday January 31, 2016, in the lounge area of the mezzanine. Time is 12:30 PM, so have a coffee or tea in the social hall and then climb the stairs to our LTD group.

We will open our sessions with the Loving-Kindness meditation.

This meditation comes from Rev Ulrich's Journey into Buddhism TV series.

After that meditation, we can discuss your topics. I have some possibilities that came from last year's four sessions. They include;

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, How does it relate to my everyday life?

Amida Buddha, who is he/she, what is the meaning of Amida Buddha?

What is Sangha?

What is Dharma?

I also have some possible topics.

These are:

"The Monk Who Dared", a fictional novel by Ruth Tabrah written in the first person about Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

"The Monk's Wife", by the same author about Eshini, Shinran's wife.

Shoshinge, the all encompassing sutra written by Shinran Shonin. This is chanted by all Shin ministers each weekday.

Note: If we do any of these 3, you will need to do some reading.

So, what do you think my Dharma friends? Where do you want these four "Let's Talk Dharma" sessions to go?

We start in January and end in April.

Gassho, Dennis Madokoro,

Minister's Assistant.

Renny Shonin's *Gobunsho* Letters

Teaching: Attaining the "entrusting heart"—awakening to the compassion of Amida Tathagata (Buddha) through the working of the Primal Vow—we shall walk the path of life reciting Amida's Name (Nembutsu). At the end of life, we will be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, returning at once to this delusional world to guide people to awakening.

Way of Life: Guided by the teaching of Shinran Shonin, we shall listen to the compassionate calling of Amida Tathagata and recite the Nembutsu. While always reflecting on ourselves, amidst our feelings of regret and joy, we shall live expressing our gratitude without depending on petitionary prayer and superstition.

Purpose: The Hongwanji is a community of people joined together in revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin and saying the Nembutsu. We seek to share with others the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata. By doing so, we shall work toward the realization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.