



# *Guiding Light*

FEBRUARY 2016

A drop of dew

Sits on a rock

Like a diamond.

-Kawabata Boshu



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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](http://www.tbc.on.ca)

# FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
All events marked with an * asterisk are <b>PRIVATE</b> functions and are not open to the general public Thank You	<b>1</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi  2:00 pm Buyo	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE &amp; FOOD FEST</b> 9:30 am Keirokai Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Joint Service 12 noon Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Shin Fujinkai Mtg (KSR)	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>9</b>  7:00 pm TBC Management Committee and BOD Mtgs	<b>10</b>  7:00 pm Taiko	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji Service 4:00 pm *Yee Hong Service  7:00 pm Meditation	<b>12</b>      No Buyo	<b>13</b> 11:00 am * Family Memorial
<b>14 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg (Eko) *Service in Hamilton	<b>15 FAMILY DAY</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> </div>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Castleview Srvc 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>19</b>   8:00 pm Buyo	<b>20</b> 10:30 am * Family Memorial Srvc 2:00 pm *Memorial Service
<b>21 NIRVANA DAY SERVICE &amp; SANGHA DAY</b> <b>Guest Speaker:</b> <b>Rev. Grant Ikuta</b> <b>Steveston Buddhist Temple</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm CCOV	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11:30 am * Momiji Community Mtg   7:00 pm Taiko	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi  2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>26</b>   8:00 pm Buyo	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Isshin
<b>28 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 9:30 am Dharma Café 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke					

**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

# MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>All events marked with an * asterisk are <b>PRIVATE</b> functions and are not open to the general public</p> <p>Thank You</p>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 1:00 pm Ohara School  7 pm Taiko	<b>3</b> 10:00am Tai Chi  2:00 pm Buyo	<b>4</b>  8 pm Buyo	<b>5</b>  1:00 pm *Shiga Kenjinkai Tsuito Hoyo
<b>6 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE &amp; WINTER WARM UP</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Joint Service	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>8</b>  7:00 pm TBC Management Committee & BOD Mtg	<b>9</b>  7 pm Taiko	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm *Momiji 2:00 pm Buyo 4:00 pm * Yee Hong	<b>11</b>  8 pm Buyo	<b>12</b>
<b>13 REGULAR SERVICE</b>  11:00 am English Service	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>15</b> 10:00 Fujinotomo	<b>16</b> 1:00 pm Ohara School  7 pm Taiko	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Castlevew 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School	<b>18</b>  8 pm Buyo	<b>19</b> Isshin
<b>20 HIGAN &amp; KEIRO KAI</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am English Service	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>22</b> 10:00 Fujinotomo	<b>23</b> 1:00 pm Ohara School  7 pm Taiko	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School	<b>25</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> </div> Buyo Cancelled	<b>26</b>  * Higan Service in Ottawa
<b>27 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 9:30 am Dharma Café 11:00 am English Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma (Mezzanine) * Service in Montreal (Bishop Aoki)	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>29</b> 10:00 Fujinotomo	<b>30</b> 1:00 pm Ohara School  7 pm Taiko	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School		

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“En 縁 (Interconnectedness / Interdependence)”

We are all born into this world because of our connection to our parents. Likewise, our parents share a connection with their own parents. If we were to go back twenty generations, those ancestors would number one million forty-eight thousand five hundred seventy-four people. It is said that twenty generations is about six hundred years in total. Therefore, six hundred years ago, our ancestral forebears numbered well over one million forty-eight thousand. If even one of those people had died in infancy, I would not be the person I am here today, or I may not have even been born into this world.

This is what Buddhism means when it encourages us to realize that our lives are not our own. It is for me to realize that my existence is not just mine alone.

From this point of view, we can see that being born into this world as a human being is indeed, a rare and difficult thing. Furthermore, encountering the Buddha-Dharma and attaining *shinjin* (the heart that entrusts to Amida Buddha), is even more difficult. Out of the joy that Shinran-shonin felt in encountering the teaching of Amida Buddha, he composed the following wasan (Hymns),

*Through countless kalpas and innumerable lives,*

*We did not know the strong cause of liberation;*

*Were it not for our teacher Genku,*

*This present life also would pass in vain.*

A transliteration of the above wasan is as follows; “No matter how many times I have traversed through the cycle of birth-and-death, I was not aware of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow, which is the cause that would free me from the world of delusion. If I had not encountered Master Genku (Honen-shonin), I would have lived my life in vain and remained in the world of delusion.

Just as these verses infer, Shinran-shonin felt that it was highly unlikely that he should meet someone like Honen-shonin, and moreover, it was equally unlikely that he would have come across the Nembutsu teaching. However, the underlying feeling that is also expressed, is his joy of having encountered them and having the path toward the Pure Land revealed to him.

I am working on inviting a Japanese speaking minister to Toronto Buddhist Church as early as this spring. Please support your minister and your board for this transition time.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki

Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada





I'm teaching a course on Buddhism in North America this term, and one of my students, who was also in my Introduction to Buddhism course, had a query ready for me right on the first day. When I asked the class what questions had about Buddhism before we started our scheduled material, she shot her hand up and said, "According to Buddhism, how were humans created?"

I'm always interested in the questions my students ask, because there's usually a story behind them. In this case, the student, who comes from a Buddhist background, was curious because she'd been exposed to Christian ideas about the book of Genesis in the Bible. Christianity considers the origins of humanity to be extremely important (as did the Jews, who created the story). In fact, this matter is so important that right there on the first page of the Bible there are two different stories about how human beings were created. In the first, men and women are the last thing God creates, on the sixth day of the world. In the second story, God creates a man from dust, then creates the animals, and finally creates a woman from one of the man's ribs. So what do Buddhists say, my student wondered.

I told her this is a natural question to ask since we're surrounded by a mostly Christian environment. However, when we look back into earlier history, we find that Buddhists didn't really bother about such matters. Scattered about the huge number of Buddhist sutras and commentaries one can find a few stories about how each world system comes into creation, is eventually peopled by humans and other beings, then falls apart due to natural processes and is replaced by a new cycle of creation and destruction. None of these accounts are in very important texts, and many Buddhists of the past were unaware of them. Belief in these stories wasn't considered a requirement for Buddhist practice. The truth is, Buddhists just haven't cared about where people came from—they've cared about what life is like for people and how to replace their suffering with happiness and peace.

Because Buddhism more or less lacks creation stories, it was relatively easy for Buddhists to accept modern theories of evolution once they appeared. Today, most Buddhists affirm evolution of species (though this doesn't mean that everyone is very clear on the details), and there aren't any conflicts between Buddhists over the origins of humanity. Given how much trouble has been caused in history over competing ideas of religious truth, I'm glad that this is an issue that Buddhists don't have to worry about.

Gassho

Jeff Wilson Sensei

## Loving Kindness Meditation

Recently I have been viewing “Journey into Buddhism”, TVO Saturdays at 8 PM. Actually I record them as I am usually up north on the weekends. Tim Smith is the host and the guest is Sensei Robert Ulrich, former head minister of the Winnipeg Jodo Shinshu Church. Reverend Ulrich embodies all the traits that I associate with a Buddhist minister. His warmth comes through in his humble demeanour, his gentle voice, and his smile and of course his simple way of describing Buddhism.

My favourite half-hour episode was on his version of the Karniya Metta Sutra, Shakyamuni’s words on Loving-Kindness. He distributes this version freely so I am sure he won’t mind my writing it here. It is recited in two parts, the leader, in this case Sensei Ulrich, and the responder, in this case, Tim Smith.

## Loving Kindness Meditation

To all causes and conditions that have given rise to my existence,

(I send forth waves of Loving Kindness)

To the first life forms that arose on earth,

(Loving Kindness)

To all those beings who have lived and died since those first days,

(Loving Kindness)

To all those causes and conditions before I was conceived, or even had a name, (Loving Kindness)

To all those who cared for me when I was small and helpless,

(Gratitude and Loving Kindness)

To all those who contributed to my growth and maturity,

(I send forth waves of Gratitude and Loving Kindness)

To all those people and forces that make up the life support network that sustains me. (Gratitude and Loving Kindness)

As my body and mind age and begin to fail me, to all who help me and are patient with me, (I send forth waves of gratitude and Loving Kindness)

As I approach the moment of death, I send Loving Kindness to all parts of my body for their years of service, and to all the beings in the seven directions that may face a future full of the karma of (Loving Kindness)

And I especially greet with gratitude all those who support me in the hour of my death, (Loving Kindness to you all !!!)

To all beings who support and nurture me, to all who guide and sustain me after my name is forgotten, to all who guide and sustain me after my face is forgotten, without hesitation, without resentment, without ill-will, I send to all the causes and conditions of my existence, from the first to the last,

(Gratitude, Peace, and Loving Kindness)

Namo Maha Metta Bodhi = mindful of the Great loving Kindness Awakening

Reverend Ulrich then bows in deep respect to the meditation.

I hope that this touches you as much as it touched me. Thank you Sensei Ulrich.

Gassho

Dennis Madokoro





### Mochi Tsuki 2015 – 120% Volunteer Effort and Lots of Problems!

As it turned out, Mochi Tsuki 2015 fell on the day (Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>) that winter returned to Toronto. Driving was hazardous and I could not blame anyone for not coming out that day. As it turned out, volunteer attendance was a little light, but we still had well in excess of 100 volunteers that made up in effort what we were missing in numbers – I have to say that each and every one of our volunteers gave 120%! Still some of the highlights of Mochi Tsuki 2015 were **problems!**

#### Problem #1 – Too Much Food

Okay – guilty as charged!

We wanted to make certain that our volunteers were aware of our appreciation for their efforts so Martin Cartledge, Jenny Choi, and Nobby Shiraishi with some assistance from my wife Joanne and I stayed late into the evening of Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> to make certain that everyone could enjoy a delicious bento. Perhaps we went a little overboard and we will moderate our appreciation a little next year.



#### Problem #2 – Too Many Kids!

I agree – there were too many kids...and they did get into places in the Temple they shouldn't have – tracking mochi flour wherever they went.

However, I was **very happy** to have had this problem. I hope to have **even more** of this problem next year.

I promise that we'll be better prepared next year and plan some supervision and activities for the little ones next year.

In all seriousness, we did have one unfortunate incident – Mrs. Yosh Suyama had a fainting spell and had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital where she underwent treatment for a suspected fractured collarbone. I understand that she was released the same day to recover at home.



Happily, we managed to process all 900 pounds of rice into mochi and we were able to donate mochi to be given away at Joyu no Kane on New Years eve.



My personal thanks to every single one of you who came out to help, but special thanks are in order to Aki Ikebata for his leadership and Isao Yoshida for his expertise.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka – President TBC Sangha



## New Year's Bell Ringing

This year we held our annual New Year's Bell Ringing at Ontario Place. The weather was very mild this year, which meant for a pleasant experience for everyone. Due to construction we were unable to access the footbridge this year. However, they allowed us all to drive inside Ontario Place and park close to the Japanese Bell. A number of people attended and we maintained the

tradition of ringing the bell 108 times to rid ourselves of the 108 blind passions.

Delicious mochi was distributed to everyone in celebration of the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



## HOONKO EVE SERVICE AND POT LUCK DINNER

On Sat., Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> we gathered together to commemorate Shinran Shonin's passing. Hoonko is considered one of the most important remembrances in the Jodo Shin Shu calendar. The evening started with a delicious vegetarian pot luck dinner followed by the a walking meditation service led by Rev. Yanko. This practice is not often experienced by our congregation and is yet another way to reflect on Shinran Shonin's life and the Dharma. Following the service we happily enjoyed the zenzai provided by Hamako Yoshida and Kathy Wani.

## 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.



## 2016 New Year's Social

Throughout the Social Hall you could see handshakes, hugs and Happy New Year greetings being exchanged as the afternoon started with a pot luck luncheon. The afternoon's entertainment included 3 karaoke performances and 2 buyo performances which were all enjoyable and we ended the afternoon with bingo games. Congratulations to all our winners of the numerous door prizes and bingo games. This year's cash bingo winners for \$50.00 each were **Joni Inouye** and **Samantha Mark** with the jackpot winner of \$100.00 to **Rachel Kataoka**.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, hard work, continued support and we value everyone's contribution.

Namu Amida Butsu

Special Projects Committee



### SORRY FOR THE OMISSION

Our sincerest apologies goes out to the Tamaki family Michael, Naomi and Mika for omitting them from the 'Staff of the Guiding Light' under 'New Years Greetings' in our January edition.

Your help every month is always appreciated and we are sorry for the oversight.

Guiding Light

### 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.

## A FAREWELL TO MICHAEL HAYASHI SENSEI

Written by Toivo Knude

Our dear friend and Minister has left us much too early.

At age 50 he should have had many more years to enjoy his family, friends and his temple, but unfortunately that was not the case. On Dec 4<sup>th</sup> of last year, he passed away in Winnipeg. He had his wife and children at his side.

Michael was born and raised in Thunder Bay, Ont. He was greatly influenced by his Grandfather who was the lay Minister in the local Temple. Michael lived with his grandfather for many years and attended school and went on to receive an Honours Bachelors of Arts in English and Education at Lakehead University. He was encouraged to continue his education in Japan where he received a Master of Arts in Jodo Shinshu Theology at Ryukoku University in 1997.

Michael was posted to Alberta in 1997 and then to British Columbia in 2000. He came to Toronto in 2010 and eventually to Winnipeg in 2014. Michael is survived by his wife, three sons, his mother, sister and numerous other relatives.

Now, a few personal thoughts and words.

When Michael first came to Toronto, being a country boy at heart, he had some reservations about driving in city traffic. The 400 series highways seem to unsettle him and occasionally when he would come for dinner, he would stay over so he could drive home in the daylight the next morning.

He was a minimalist at heart and it was a joy to watch him eat. Plain and simple was his style. He had some back pain so he would choose to sit seiza style or if outside in the morning after breakfast, he would crouch low with a coffee in one hand and a smoke in the other. He would enjoy the garden, his friends, the people at the Temple and the Buddha Dharma.

Issues of the modern world caused him great angst, like the government, big business and the social issues surrounding the haves and the have not's. Material things were of no interest to him. I used to tell him that I thought of him as Don Quixote as he decides to take up his lance and sword to defend the helpless and destroy the wicked.

He loved his family, and when his wife Kiyomi had to go to Japan to see an ailing relative, he rushed to Kamloops to be with his three boys. We can be sure he taught his boys all he could in the time he had with them. He was such a deep thinker and his Dharma talks reflected that. He kept us enthralled with every word. One friend told us that yes, he was different, but refreshingly so. Someone once said, after a particularly good Dharma talk, "he hit that one out of the park"

Sensei Michael was a true and trusted friend to many of our congregation.

Even near the end, he continued to teach us and show his compassion for others. In the hospital, he received emails and replied to them. He talked to people on the phone. His family was able to be with him during the last few days and those of us who couldn't be with him were able to relay our messages of love and concern to him.

When the doctors told him of his terminal illness, he and his good friend, Harvey hugged and cried. Michael said "I guess now I will really find out what this pure land is all about"

It sounds like the Michael we all remember. Now we have all cried, but to no avail. He has become white ashes as we are taught. He was told that his grandparents and uncle were waiting for him and that the pure land was waiting his arrival. It was to comfort him but we have found great solace in knowing that he has now reached that other shore and now waits for us. One of the last things Michael had to say to his close friends was, "Just carry on being the people I love and respect and everything else should flow naturally from that"

Cont'd on page 11

## A FAREWELL TO MICHAEL HAYASHI SENSEI, cont'd

We will never know why he didn't treat or at least seek out medical help for his illness. Surely, he must have known that something terribly wrong was going on in his body.

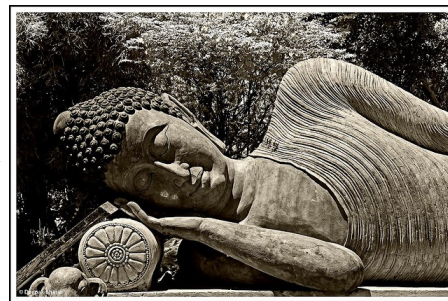
Our sincere gratitude goes out to all of you who have come today to show your caring and respect for Michael Hayashi, Sensei. To Michael, we say thank you and sayonara.....



## Nirvana Day Service: February 21, 2016

"My years are now full ripe, the life span left is short. Departing, I go hence from you, relying on myself alone. Be earnest, then, O bhikkhus, be mindful and of virtue pure! With firm resolve, guard your own mind! Whoso untiringly pursues the Dhamma and the Discipline Shall go beyond the round of births and make an end of suffering." -Mahaparinirvana Sutra

Please join us for service on February 21st to commemorate the death (final enlightenment) of Shakyamuni Buddha. The term "nirvana" means the end of suffering. As Buddhists we believe all people suffer. We suffer because we have desires. We forget how precious each moment is. On Nirvana Day we try to remind ourselves of the impermanence of life so that we might live each day with compassion and gratitude for what we already have.



For Nirvana Day we have a special guest speaker, Rev. Grant Ikuta of Steveston Buddhist Temple. Rev. Ikuta was the resident minister in Toronto for over 17 years, and we are delighted that he is able to join us again for our Nirvana Day Service.



Please join us in welcoming him back again to share the Dharma with us on this special occasion!



## Visit to Ottawa

On January 23rd Bishop Tatsuya Aoki visited our Ottawa Fellowship. It was a nice service and a great opportunity for the fellowship to meet him face to face! Special thanks to the Bishop for taking time out of his busy schedule to come out and meet our Ottawa group, and to all of the people who attended.

**Upcoming dates in Ottawa:**

**Workshop on May 21st**

**Service on September 24th**

**Service on November 26th**



## Burlington Library

On January 23rd Rev. Yanko discussed Buddhism with a group of about 50 interested individuals in Burlington Public Library. This event was a true pleasure as there was lively discussion and many questions.

Special thanks to Marlene Frazer, Ray Nakano, and Stony Nakano for being there to help with refreshments and to talk with the attendees after the presentation!



## CORRECTION NOTICE

In our December 2015 Guiding Light, an article was published in English by our Minister's Assistant, Dennis Madokoro. For some reason, the translation of that article into Japanese by Rev. Ryuhei Endo contained a reference to something which had nothing to do with Mr. Madokoro's article. We could not catch the mistake before publication and upon learning of it, we eliminated the reference from the translation as soon as possible. We apologize to our readers for this serious error.

Roy Kusano

President

## TORONTO BUDDHIST TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016/2017

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### Winter Warmup

Sunday, March 6, 2016

*get a little warmth this winter!*



Shin-Fujinkai will be holding its eighth annual Winter Warmup luncheon on

Sunday, March 6, 2016 after the morning service

Please join us for a steamy hot lunch

We look forward to seeing you!

For those wishing to take out, please bring two (2) containers with you

Thank you!

Shin Fujin-kai



# Toronto Buddhist Church Keirokai and Spring Higan

## Sunday, March 20, 2016

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we will be observing our Spring Higan or Ohigan Service. "Higan" literally means "The other shore". On this day we reflect on how we are practicing the Buddhist teachings, leading us to the "other shore" of enlightenment.

As is the tradition at the Toronto Buddhist Church, our members who will reach **77 years (KIJU)**, **88 years (BEIJU)** and **99 years (HAKUJU) or older** during this calendar year, will be honoured during the Joint Higan Service at 11:00am. During the service, each honouree will be recognized and presented with a gift from the temple. In order to be included in the service, each honouree **must be a temple member** and **must submit the application form** (below) to the Temple office by **Sunday, March 6, 2016**.

After the service a special luncheon will be held for our honourees. All **honourees** and other **Temple members** who are 77 years old or more this year, will each receive a complimentary bento. Everyone else may purchase a bento for \$10.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Honourees and honorary members must present their Honorary Membership card or be on our list of Temple Members to receive their complimentary bento (have you submitted your 2016 Membership Application or Confirmation?).

Bento tickets will be available for purchase in the lobby prior to the morning service. Tickets will be sold on a **first come, first served basis**. Regretfully the number of bentos will be limited.

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon in the Social Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you,  
Special Projects Committee

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### **KEIROKAI "MILESTONE BIRTHDAY" APPLICATION FORM**

Name: (English)

Mr./Mrs./Miss

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Please circle: 77      88      99      100+

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE BY SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2016 TO ENSURE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETED.**

## 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](mailto: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).

## TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH CARES!!

Many thanks to our members and friends for their generosity. We held a fundraising drive in support of Plan Canada's efforts to help Syrian refugee children. Plan Canada was selected by the children of our Kids Sangha as their charity of choice for Syrian relief efforts. In support of our Kids Sangha, the Temple started a fundraising drive which started on Bodhi day and ended in mid- January. During that time we were able to gather a total of \$3,137 to donate to Plan Canada. The Government of Canada matched our donation dollar-for-dollar so a total of \$6,274 will go towards alleviating the suffering of Syrian children. At a time when so many have needed our help, you have come through once again. Thank you so much for your compassion and caring.

## Second 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 topics of your choice. I really would love some input from you about topics prior to that first session on January 31.

Please forward your suggestions to my e-mail: dmadokoro@gmail.

We start in January and end in April. Let's talk Dharma my Dharma friends.

Gassho, Dennis Madokoro,  
Minister Assistant.

## Free Lunch!



Sorry – just wanted to get your attention...but really – **Free Lunch!**

As an added bonus: **Sangha Day.**

Please join us on February 21<sup>st</sup> for our annual **Sangha Day.**

The Sangha has been supporting our Temple as a volunteer service organization for 65 years. On our annual Sangha day, we welcome new members to our group and give thanks to our Temple, Temple members and extended families for the opportunity to continue to contribute to our community.

While the Sangha will be organizing, sponsoring and hosting the luncheon following service (did I mention free lunch?), we will be calling upon members of a new volunteer team to provide the volunteer manpower to run this event.

The CCOV – Coordinating Committee of Volunteers is a new organization which has been formed to modernize the organization of our Temple volunteers and make it easier for volunteers to support our Temple. The Sangha Day Luncheon will be staffed by volunteers from **Team One** (I know – it's a very creative name – maybe we'll come up with something really spectacular later).

So...Free Lunch, Sangha Day and the inauguration of our new volunteer team!

Please join us!

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka – President, TBC Sangha

## 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. Toshio Morita

90 years

January 1, 2016

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

## February 21, 2016

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

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Denise & Jess



## Coordinating Committee of Volunteers (CCOV) Update

As with any new major project, there have been many meetings, discussions, emails back and forth, and stops and starts. Finally we are on the way, and the CCOV thanks the many individuals who have agreed to sign up and help with this project. Many of you have been waiting patiently for updates.

To start with, the CCOV has set up 5 teams, each with 2 co-captains. There are at least 20 members on each team. As different events come up on the Temple calendar, one or more teams will be asked to help to support each event on a rotating basis. The team co-captains will determine what the jobs will be and how many volunteers will be needed for an event, and will contact their team members, who may also be recruited on a rotating basis. As the number of volunteers grow, we will all be able to share knowledge and to learn, while not overworking our volunteers.

The Calendar of Events (subject to change) and Team schedules for the next few months are as follows:

February 21, 2016	Team 1	Nirvana Day/Sangha Day/Installation Day
	Co-captains Aki Ikebata, Cary Kataoka	Rev. Grant Ikuta, guest speaker
March 20, 2016	Team 2	Ohigan Service/Keirokei
	Co-captains Diane Mark, Darlene Rieger	
April 17, 2016	Team 3	Hanamatsuri
	Co-captains Gayle Hayashi, Dawn Anzai	
May 29, 2016	Team 4	Neighbourhood Outdoor service and BBQ
	Co-captains Jessie Ebata, Susan Ebisuzaki	

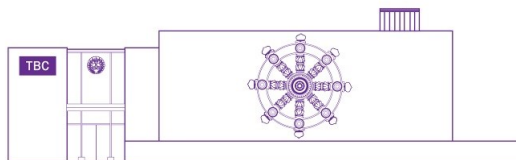
We are hoping that this new volunteer system will give rise to fresh ideas and attract new friends and family members.

For more information, please contact:

Diane Mark or Dawn Anzai

Thank you.





**MEMBERSHIP**  
Join/Renew

***Join or Renew  
Online***

## WE NEED YOU

The Temple needs your support. 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.*

<b>Applicant #1</b> 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: _____		
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 <b>May 31, 2016</b> . By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 21 of the January 2016 Guiding Light.		
-----		
<b>Applicant #2</b> 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: _____		
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 <b>May 31, 2016</b> . By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 21 of the January 2016 Guiding Light.		

**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.*

Dear Temple Members and Prospective Members:

The Temple's membership program has been in effect for five years now. However, from time to time even now, some of our congregation are still asking questions about the membership rules and why we made the change that we implemented five years ago.

Before the Temple implemented the new rules, the definition of "member" was far from clear. Some relied on "pledge membership". Others assumed that membership in one or more of the Temple service groups such as Sangha, Dana or Shin Fujinkai automatically meant membership in the Temple. Still others believed that any "konshi" donation entitled them to membership. No one was told that he or she was not a member. This led to confusion about who was entitled to vote on important matters at meetings of members, such as the Annual General meeting. In addition, the question of membership was always important to the Temple because it paid a hefty assessment each year to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada based on its membership.

But since then new provincial laws have been passed and will soon come into force. These new laws will govern how a not-for-profit organization like the Temple must be structured and managed. Included in these new laws is a requirement that the Temple must carefully define who its members are and specify the conditions of membership. Even without the new laws, this is important because members have rights which can affect the ownership and management of the Temple. It was in anticipation of these new laws that we established formal rules of membership for our Temple.

The following is a summary of the membership rules for the Temple.

For someone to be a **regular** member, he or she must submit annually a signed membership application which will be presented to the Board, and pay an annual membership fee by May 31. A membership card will be issued annually to each member in good standing.

An **honorary** member is an individual who has reached the age of 77 years, and has submitted a membership application. The membership application will be presented to the Board for approval. No annual membership fee is required although donations are gratefully accepted. Once an original membership application has been filed, the member will be a member for life, but the Temple is asking for annual written confirmation that he or she wishes to continue to be a member. New Honorary members will be issued a special lifetime membership card.

We hope this explanation helps you understand what membership means and why we established these simple rules. If you have any questions or doubts please do not hesitate to contact Roy Kusano, President; Darlene Rieger, 1st Vice President or Diane Mark, 2nd Vice President.

Gassho

TBC Board of Directors



# Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple of Canada Japan Tour 2016

**12 nights - 14 days**

- Stay in Tokyo (4), Yudanaka Onsen (1),  
Unazuki Onsen (1), Kanazawa (1), Kaga  
Onsen (1), Kyoto (4)  
- Sightseeing Tour for 8 days  
- Breakfast x 12, Lunch x 9, Dinner x 8

**30 guests (Max 35 guests)**

**\$6,000** per person  
tax included  
based on single occupancy

**Register Now!!**

Visit online registration

<http://canada.kiecan.com/jsbtc2016/>

## \*\*\* TOUR ITINERARY \*\*\*

**Day 1 Monday, Oct 10**

Leave Canada for Japan

**Day 2 Tuesday, Oct 11** ( B - No / L - No / D - Yes )

Arrive in Japan

**Day 3 Wednesday, Oct 12** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - No )

Tsukiji Hongwanji, Tokyo sightseeing, Sumida river cruise

**Day 4 Thursday, Oct 13** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - No )

Half day Tokyo sightseeing

**Day 5 Friday, Oct 14** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Sainenji, Nikko sightseeing, Jiunji

**Day 6 Saturday, Oct 15** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Zenkoji, Snow Monkey, Ryokan in Yudanaka Onsen

**Day 7 Sunday, Oct 16** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Kokufu Betsuin, Eshinni-sama, Kurobe Gorge, Unazuki

**Day 8 Monday, Oct 17** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Kanazawa sightseeing

**Day 9 Tuesday, Oct 18** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Eiheiji (syakyo or zen experience), Kaga Onsen

**Day 10 Wednesday, Oct 19** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - Yes )

Express train to Kyoto, free at leisure in Kyoto

**Day 11 Thursday, Oct 20** ( B - Yes / L - Yes / D - No )

Hinotanjoin, Mt.Hiei, Suminobo, Otanihonbyo

**Day 12 Friday, Oct 21** ( B - Yes / L - No / D - Yes )

Hongwanji Inauguration Service, Joint Dinner

**Day 13 Saturday, Oct 22** ( B - Yes / L - No / D - No )

Free at your leisure

**Day 14 Sunday, Oct 23** ( B - Yes / L - No / D - Inflight )

Go back to Canada

- \* 1 or 2 bedroom suite is also available upon request
- Contact us for your tour price as the cost depends on the number of the participants in your group.
- \* \$50 discount per person may be granted once the total number of the participant reaches 35.
- The final tour price will be announced by June 30, 2016.

### <Included>

- \* Round trip airfare to Japan
- \* All accommodations in Japan include Japanese style hotel (Ryokan)
- \* Daily continental breakfast at hotel
- \* Round trip PRIVATE motor coach transfer between hotel and airport
- \* PRIVATE sightseeing tours by PRIVATE motor coach
- \* Special joint dinner with U.S.A group and Canada group on Oct 21st
- \* English speaking guide for sightseeing tours
- \* Gratuities for coach driver and tour guide
- \* Admissions for all sightseeings and temples visit
- \* English speaking tour escort

### <NOT included>

- \* Meals other than stated on itinerary
- \* Porterage and gratuities at hotel
- \* Personal incidental charges
- \* Travel Insurance
- \* 2016 JSBTC Registration Fee

### <Payments>

- \* No deposit required at the time of booking
- \* Full payment is due by July 09, 2016

### <Cancellation Policy>

- \* No cancellation penalty if cancelled by May 10, 2016
- \* 50% cancellation penalty if cancelled by July 10, 2016
- \* 100% cancellation penalty if cancelled after August 10, 2016
- \* Minimum 30 participants required

\* Please visit JSBTC Japan tour web page for more detail > <http://www.kiecan.com/toronto/jsbt/>

近畿日本ツーリスト カナダ支店



**KINTETSU  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXPRESS (CANADA) INC.**

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Phone : 1-800-463-7723 / 905-670-8710

Email : [outbound@kiecan.com](mailto:outbound@kiecan.com)

Website : [www.kiecan.com](http://www.kiecan.com)



TICO Reg #4245809

A copy of a detailed itinerary is available in the lobby or in the office.