



Guiding Light

MARCH 2016



Cover artwork is etegami done by the children of Kids Sangha

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Events marked with an asterisk * are private and <u>NOT</u> open to the general public		1 7:00 pm Website Mtg	2 1:00 pm Ohara School 7 pm Taiko	3 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	4 8 pm Buyo	5
6 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE & WINTER WARM UP 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12 noon Dana Mtg (Eko)	7 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	8 7:00 pm TBC Management Committee & Board Mtg	9 11:30 am Momiji Community Mtg 7 pm Taiko	10 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm *Momiji 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 4:00 pm * Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	11 8 pm Buyo	12
13 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Bazaar Wrap up Meeting (Eko) 11:00 am Service 12:30 Sangha Meeting 4:00 Isshin	14 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	15 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Minyo Teachers Workshop	16 1:00 pm Ohara School 7 pm Taiko	17 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00pm *Castlevie 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	18 8 pm Buyo	19 12:00 pm Isshin
20 HIGAN & KEIRO KAI 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 Keirokai Celebration	21 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	22 10:00 am Fujinotomo	23 1:00 pm Ohara School 7 pm Taiko	24 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	25 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	26
27 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Dharma Café 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma (Mezzanine) * Service in Montreal (Bishop Aoki)	28 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	29 10:00 am Fujinotomo	30 1:00 pm Ohara School 7 pm Taiko	31 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation		

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

APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please Note: Events marked with an * are private and are NOT open to the general public Thank you					1	2 1:00 pm *Hiroshima Kenjinkai
3 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE & Buyo Group Bento Sale 9:30 am Picnic Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko)	4 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	5 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm * Minyo Teachers Workshop	6 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	7 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	8 * 8:00 pm Buyo	9
10 ESHINNI DAY SERVICE 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Shin Fujinkai Meeting (Eko) 12:30 pm *Sangha Meeting (Mezz)	11 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke 11:30 am & 1:00 pm * School Visitations	12 10:00 am Fujinotomo * 7:00 pm TBC Management Committee & Board Mtg	13 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	14 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikebana 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	15	16 5:30 pm Hana Matsuri Family Banquet
17 HANA MATSURI SERVICE 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Hana Matsuri Service	18 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	19 10:00 am Fujinotomo	20 7:00 pm Taiko	21 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castlevew 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	22 8:00 pm Buyo 8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	23
12:30 pm SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING		8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	Annual General Meetings of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (Board, Minister's and Women's Federation) will be held in Winnipeg hosted by the Manitoba Buddhist Temple from April 21st to 24th , 2016			
24 REGULAR SERVICE with Dennis Madokoro 9:30 am Dharma Café 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma (Hondo)	25 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	26 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	27 1:00 pm Ohara School	28 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana	29 8:00 pm Buyo 8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	30 TBC Sangha Bowling Banquet

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

“Life is dukkha”

or,

“I beg your pardon; I never promised you a rose garden.”

By: John Skelton, February, 2016

As I write this, we are well on our way into a new year, and 2015 is fading into the rear-view mirror. For many, the transition period from one year to the next is happy and exciting – a time for parties, shopping, gift-giving, and uniting with family and loved ones over sumptuous dinners.

But for some, December greets them with sadness or even depression. One’s family might live far away, making it impractical to connect. The month may mark the passing of a partner, friend or close family member. The chaotic busy-ness of the time may have become overwhelming. A financial crisis might mean that children go without presents, or worse, the little ones might endure hunger. Whatever the cause, not everyone looks forward to the holidays with the good humour of Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Most Buddhists will know that one of the fundamental truisms of our teachings is that being human means that we will suffer. We are taught that the First Noble Truth, revealed by Shakyamuni Buddha, is that “Life is dukkha.” Most of us have understood that to mean that life as a human is inescapably bound to pain and suffering, and that we are locked in to a cycle of *samsara*. That can be a very disconcerting thought.

I am not at all sure that a message this dark is exactly what the Buddha would have liked to convey.

Many scholars have argued that the translation of the Sanskrit word “*duhkha*” (Pali: *dukkha*) as “suffering” in English is awkward and problematic. It certainly has a very negative connotation to it. In fact, the concept of *dukkha* is so central to our faith that newcomers might turn away from the teachings because of that perceived negativity.

Some have proposed that a better translation for “*dukkha*” might be “discomfort” or even “dis-ease.” Sensei Fredrick Ulrich of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple once described *dukkha* as the feeling one might get from riding in a carriage that has one wheel out of alignment. It wobbles, and makes for quite a bumpy ride!

So, perhaps rather than trying to translate *dukkha* into English, we should conjure up a vision of riding along in the Ox Cart of Life along a cobblestone path to get the feeling that “life is a bumpy ride.” And I am sure that we can all relate to that.

The First Noble Truth reminds me a little of an old song from 1973, warbled by Country and Western songstress Lynn Anderson, named “*Rose Garden*.” It’s opening lines are:

I beg your pardon,

I never promised you a rose garden,

Along with the sunshine,

There’s got to be a little rain sometime,

Acceptance

Many of us who have encountered Buddhism have heard or read about the First Noble Truth, but have we really accepted it? I know that at first, I did not. While I might have understood this Truth intellectually, I hesitated to embrace it. Some might misunderstand it, and consequently fear it. Some will try to find ways to cover up the reality of *dukkha*, just as young Siddhartha Gautama’s father tried, with love, to do for him. I discovered, as did Siddhartha, that it is precisely that denial that increased my anxieties, and stood in the way of living a happy and contented life.

Continued on page 5

“Life is dukkha”. Continued

For me, acceptance was an important first step to spiritual growth. After acceptance came three more important life lessons: gratitude, meditation, and compassion. I will write about these three lessons in future submissions.

I had to come to realize the simple reality that, as the song says, no one ever promised me that life would be a rose garden, and “along with the sunshine, there’s got to be a little rain sometimes.”

It is by embracing that rain that we can grow into truly fulfilled human beings, filled with gratitude that simply by virtue of being born into this world, we have truly been blessed.

Things never seem to progress in our lives in exactly the way that we would like. When we are young, we want to be older. When we are old, we want to be younger. Blondes want to be redheads, and redheads want to be brunettes. We want a fatter paycheck, and when we get it, we complain about the taxes. We are never satisfied

Would we not be a lot happier if we simply accepted who we are?

Acceptance means developing the ability to embrace life on life’s terms. Sometimes karma deals us a really bad hand. A family member dies suddenly. The stock market crashes and our life savings disintegrate. Our marriage breaks up. What are we to do?

In September of 2015, my dear friend Fred died suddenly and unexpectedly. I met him when I was 17 years old, and we were friends for over 40 years. I was shocked and speechless. I was hurt and saddened by the loss. But in time, I realized that there was nothing that I could do about it now. So, I came to accept this sad and painful event. I also contrasted my own sadness with that of his wife and children, and understood that my sadness could never reach their level of pain, and that to be of any help to them, I had to accept the reality that Fred was gone, at least as a physical manifestation here on Planet Earth.

Strangely, once I accepted that Fred had actually died, I was able to see more clearly that his life is eternal. He lives on through the good work that he did, through the very real impact that he had on hundreds, if not thousands of lives, and through the love and compassion that he encouraged. He died. But he lives on. When I think of him (and I do every day) I still feel a pang of sadness, but I remember that he lives on, just in a different form.

We all know, I think, in our rational minds, that uncomfortable things will happen to us in our life. But when those painful things actually do happen, our intellectual understanding of acceptance is put to the test. We often fail to accept, even though we know intellectually that we must accept. This causes pain.

How do we move from this intellectual understanding of acceptance to a heart-felt understanding of acceptance? Faith offers that path for me. I trust in the reality of the compassion of Amida Buddha. I must trust the teachings. That complete trust is, one might say, *shinjin*.

There is a wonderful prayer that is Christian in origin. I have taken the liberty to modify it a bit for my Dharma friends. As Buddhists, we do not practice petitionary prayer. But if you are suffering, and you are struggling to find a way to accept, reciting this might offer some comfort:

With the Compassion of Amida Buddha as my Guiding Light

May I find the serenity

to accept the things I cannot change

May I find the courage to change the things I can change

and may I gain the wisdom to know the difference.

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“Life is dukkha”, continued

So, if there is something that you can do to change a bad hand that has been dealt to you in the Big Card Game of Life, make that change. But, if the issue is beyond your control, you need to find a way to accept. The delusion of wishing change upon an event that cannot be changed can only lead to suffering.

Buddha did not stop his teachings with the revelation of the First Noble Truth. And there are millions of us who are grateful for that.

Stay tuned ...



TBC Kansho Bell: A Brief Background & History



Gong Gong Gong

Those are the deep resonating sounds from our temple kansho bell which reverberates when struck to call ministers, congregants and visitors to our temple Hondo (Worship Hall) to signify that a service is about to begin.

The kansho bell at our temple is situated in the northeast corner of our Hondo. Have you ever wondered where this beautiful large bell came from? Was it purchased? If it was purchased, how much did it cost? Where did we get it from and when did we get it? What is the history of the bell? It's not something that you can go to the local Lowes, Home Depot, WalMart or any other common retailer to purchase.

One of the familiar customs which I have personally come to appreciate at services is the Gong Gong Gong resulting from the striking of the kansho bell. For me, it initiates an automatic meditative state in which I begin to relax, concentrate and focus on the service which is about to begin. While intently listening to the ringing of the kansho bell sometime last year and being a little on the inquisitive side, I asked some elder statesmen at our temple about some information on our temple kansho bell. Most did not remember too much about the history of our bell. However, I struck a gold mine of information when I asked Mrs. May AkiyeTakahashi if she remembered or knew anything about our kansho bell.

It turns out that Mrs. Takahashi's parents, Suekichi and Masa Kodama were the wonderful, thoughtful and very generous benefactors of our temple kansho bell. Mrs. Takahashi reluctantly informed me of the history of the bell. She was reluctant to say much because her parents always wanted to keep their donation quiet as they did not donate the bell for any personal recognition but purely as their quiet contribution to help spread the Dharma.

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TBC Kansho Bell: A Brief Background & History.

continued



*Masa and Suekichi Kodama,
benefactors of our kansho
bell*

Mr. Suekichi Kodama's main reason for having the bell custom manufactured in Japan and shipped to Canada was that he always said "Come, come, let's all listen to the Dharma." Mrs. Takahashi vividly remembers to this day her father's constant phrase to the children and everyone else of "Come, come, let's all listen to the Dharma" and "Everyone, come and listen to the Dharma and then you will be able to experience gratitude." He genuinely felt that the kansho bell would be the perfect way to continue to call people to listen to the Dharma teachings if he could arrange to get the bell manufactured and shipped to Canada for Toronto Buddhist Church.

The Late Rev. Kenryu Tsuji was instrumental in helping Mr. & Mrs. Kodama in arranging to manufacture and purchase the kansho bell as a donation to Toronto Buddhist Church. One of the things which Rev. Tsuji insisted on was having the family name/mon on the kansho bell. He explained that it was a custom to have this identification on the bell. Mr. Kodama apparently finally reluctantly agreed to this as Rev. Tsuji was insistent on this identification. The Kodama Family name is on the bell and is identified in Japanese characters.

In the summer of 1957, the kansho bell finally arrived in Toronto from Japan. It was huge and heavy. Mrs. Takahashi, laughing, recalls the excitement when the bell was delivered to their family home. Can you imagine the sight this would have been! Her brothers had a tow truck which was used to carefully transport the bell to Toronto Buddhist Church at 918 Bathurst Street. Since then, the bell has been relocated to its current home at 1011 Sheppard Avenue West.

The next time you are in attendance at our temple and you hear the Gong Gong Gong, please try to concentrate on and revel in the truly wonderful deep sound and resonance which our beautiful kansho bell creates and fondly remember with gratitude Mr. Kodama's heartfelt and genuine wishes of "Come, come, let's all listen to the Dharma."

With gratitude and in Gassho,
Larry Wakisaka



Mrs. May Takahashi and our kansho bell

Sangha Day 2016

For 67 years, the TBC Sangha has had the privilege of supporting the Temple with volunteers. This year, the Coordinating Committee of Volunteers will be taking over much of the organization and deployment of volunteer support for the Temple. The TBC Sangha looks forward to continuing to positively contribute to the Temple community by hosting and sponsoring events to enrich the Temple experience for all Temple members and their extended families.

Towards this effort, I am thankful for the guidance and support of new members Masanori Shimozato, Koichi Hayakawa and Bryan Day. Masanori (middle) is Koichi's brother in law and both have children in the Kid's Sangha program. Bryan Day is the husband of Dana Ishiura.

Following the introduction of our new Sangha members, the 2016 Sangha Board Members were recognized – their names follow below.



To mark the occasion, the Sangha hosted a free luncheon following service. Many thanks to:

- ◆ Marie Ikeda for the Sunamono Salad
- ◆ Ron Shimizu and Nobby Shiraishi for the rice and fruit salad
- ◆ Joanne and Rachel Kataoka for the Terriyaki Chicken and Tofu
- ◆ Abigail Kataoka for the custard strawberry tarts

Thanks also to members of CCOV Team One who helped support the event.

The luncheon was attended by over 120 Temple members, families and friends.

Following the luncheon we were entertained with Karaoke by Angela Shintani-Sandrowicz and her two daughters followed with a couple of Simon and Garfunkel covers from yours truly.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka
President, TBC Sangha



2016 SANGA BOARD MEMBERS AND PORTFOLIOS

PRESIDENT CARY KATAOKA
DIRECTOR RICHARD GOTO
TREASURER DENNIS MADOKORO
SECRETARY RON SHIMIZU
PAST PRESIDENT NOBBY SHIRAISHI
MEMBERSHIP MAS MATSUYAMA AND NELSON LUI
PUBLICITY SID IKEDA AND PHIL MILLER
RELIGION GEORGE NAKANO
SPECIAL PROJECTS AKI IKEBATA AND MARTIN CARTLEDGE
WELFARE FRED KOTANI

DANA NEWS

FOODFEST A SUCCESS!

The Dana and Shin Fujinkai held their annual Foodfest on Sunday, February 7th, 2016. Thank you to all the donors for your generous contributions of bento, baking, preserves, tostitos, manjus and other delicious food items that were put into the bentos and to everyone who supported this annual event with your purchases. Proceeds will be used for the JSBTC Women's Federation Outreach Programs.

FOREIGN COINS

Please bring in any foreign currencies from your travel and place them in the box provided in the temple lobby. The Women's Federation collects foreign coins for UNICEF who has raised millions of dollars through this program.

PENNIES

If anybody has unwanted pennies or small change, please bring them to the temple and place them in the box provided in the lobby.

THANK YOU EISHIRO



The staff of the Guiding Light would like to extend a huge thank you to Eishiro Higo for volunteering his time to translate for our newsletter. Eishiro has made it possible for us to publish the Dharma talks each month in Japanese as well as English.

We are still looking for translators (English to Japanese) so that more of the English articles can be translated for the Japanese section. If you are interested please contact me by e-mail darlene.rieger28@gmail.com or phone 416 419 8842

Meditation and Mindfulness

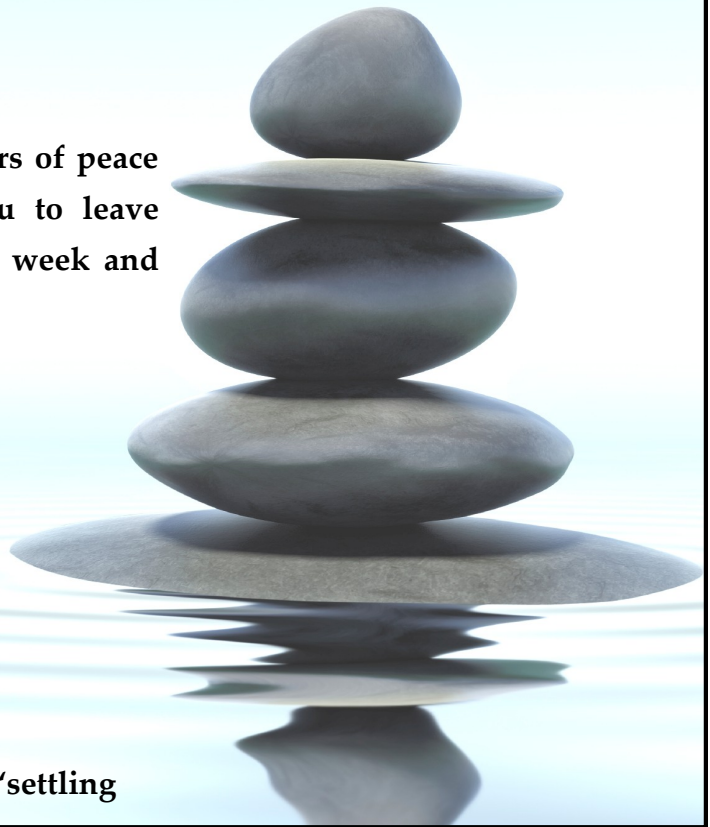
Thursday's from 7pm—9pm

Please join us on Thursday's at 7pm for 2 hours of peace and serenity. This is an opportunity for you to leave behind the stress accumulated throughout the week and focus on the moment.

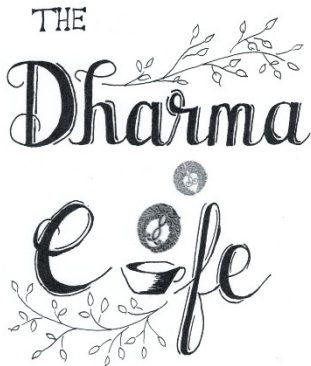
The 2 hour session includes:

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

Please arrive 20 minutes early to allow time for "settling



On the last Sunday of every month come a little bit early and join us upstairs on the mezzanine for coffee and discussions about the Buddhist Teachings.



This is a great opportunity to interact with others, share your experiences, and ask the minister any questions you might have about Buddhism.

Who? Everyone is welcome.

What? Buddhist Coffee Group

Where? Upstairs on the mezzanine

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

Cost? Free! The coffee is on us!

OBITUARIES

The Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families, relatives and friends of the following individual who have passed away during the past month.

Mr. Tadashi Muromoto

97 yrs

January 30, 2016

Mrs. Tsuneko Ochiai

81 yrs

March 1, 2015



Stories from the President

The Kitchen Faucet

My kitchen faucet dripped for months, maybe it was years. My dear spouse tolerated this with a grim smile for the longest time. I was finally shamed into acting when our esteemed Bishop accepted my invitation to stay overnight, and after pouring himself a glass of Toronto's finest tap water, he spent way too much of his precious time in the kitchen trying to jiggle the tap handle to stop the dripping.

So, as Lord of the Kusano Kastle, I finally resolved to tackle the problem once and for all. After all, I was very confident of my handyman skills, and I had all those tools in the basement that I had bought my dear spouse over so many years. I was also comforted by the fact that my faucet was made by a famous faucet manufacturer who guaranteed its products for life. It had to be an easy job. And so here for all my fellow Buddhist DIYers, is my Step-by-Step No-Brainer Guide to fixing a leaky kitchen faucet.

1. Take photos of your leaky faucet (with lifetime guarantee) with smart phone and drive to national big-box hardware store.
2. Shanghai aproned clerk away from other impatient customers at national big-box hardware store and show dozens of photos of leaky faucet, pleading that broken cartridge is stuck in the faucet and can't be returned.
3. Drive home with new cartridge home and proudly announce to dear spouse that problem soon to be fixed.
4. Do not get depressed when dear spouse informs you that cartridge is the wrong part.
5. Let wrong cartridge sit on kitchen counter for a couple of months.
6. Research Google for proper cartridge and print results of research.
7. Drive to national big-box hardware store with wrong cartridge and show aproned clerk a picture of the correct cartridge from Google research.
8. Drive home with correct cartridge with high level of self-satisfaction.
9. Let sit on kitchen counter for a couple of months.
10. Turn off water.
11. Spend three hours trying unsuccessfully to remove old cartridge from faucet with every wrench in tool box.
12. After finally removing old cartridge, spend two hours unsuccessfully trying to install new cartridge.
13. Finally unsuccessfully try to bang new cartridge with hammer and bend new cartridge out of shape.
14. Drive to national big-box hardware store and buy brand new brand-name faucet set.
15. Drive home with new faucet and open box with much *tanoshimi*.
16. Crawl under kitchen cabinet on my back and try to install new faucet. For two hours endure Asian water torture as water drips constantly and mercilessly on my forehead.
17. Finally discover that new brand-name faucet is defective and also missing an essential part.
18. Drive to national big-box hardware store to return new faucet and buy new, new brand-name faucet.
19. Drive home with new, new faucet and install within an hour. Almost faint with tremendous sense of achievement.
20. Turn on water only to discover that new faucet has a small leak.
21. Leak slowly disappears. Total investment: 11.5 hours not counting sweat, stress, water torture and gas for trips to national big-box hardware store.

The Kitchen Faucet, continued

So what? There were lessons. Yes, indeed, life is Suffering. And Imperfection too. Maybe I should have hired a plumber. But I needed to suffer and I needed to experience my imperfection. If we weren't humiliated, we would become complacent with our well-being and we would be smirking all the time, no? And Inter-connectedness? For sure, I learned that everything is inter-connected but it helps when all the parts fit together properly. Compassion? Absolutely. I couldn't have done it without the patience and understanding of my spouse (and all the tools I bought her over the years). Always encouraging, she handed me the various pieces and tools like a nurse in the O.R. Seriously, though, the whole exercise proved to be a form of meditation. While it was a mundane job, I was me, my mind totally in the moment, the whole time. Unbelievably, no swearing. Try it some time – you will feel a strange, happy peace, and you may stop a leak while you're at it.

NIRVANA DAY WITH REV. IKUTA

WHAT A WONDERFUL AND ENJOYABLE DAY



This year for Nirvana Day we were happy to have Rev. Grant Ikuta from Steveston Buddhist Temple join us as our guest speaker. As always, Rev. Ikuta gave a wonderful talk that reminded us of the importance of Nirvana Day and how our perspective deepens and changes through our lives and through our interactions with others. It was a real treat to have him at our temple again and to share in the Light of the Buddha Dharma with him. We look forward to seeing him again soon!



Toronto Buddhist Church Sangha Presents:

Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Join us at our annual event filled
with entertainment, bingo and
prizes your entire family will enjoy.

Feast on our famous Roast
Beef* dinner with your family
and friends.

Saturday April 16 @ 5:00pm

Toronto Buddhist Church

1011 Sheppard Ave. West

416.534.4302 www.tbc.on.ca

Donations for Door Prizes are appreciated

Toronto Buddhist Church Sangha Presents:

Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Adults - \$12 Youth - \$6 (13 to 17)

Kids Sangha (under 12) - Free

Tickets available from Sangha members or TBC office

*Vegetarian or any other dietary needs are available upon request

Third Invitation to Let's Talk Dharma

Hello my Dharma Friends,

Let's talk Dharma continues Sunday March 27, 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 again with the Loving-Kindness meditation. The group wanted to keep this as part of our session. 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 this second session on February 28th.

One of the interesting questions last month was "How would you explain the unique characteristics of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism to a newcomer to our Temple?"

I will have a reading available this Sunday that does just that.

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

We started in January and will end in April.

Let's talk Dharma my Dharma friends.

Gassho, Dennis Madokoro,

Minister Assistant.



Obon Odori 2016

Spring is almost here and with it, the start of Obon odori practices at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Come out and learn dances to both traditional and modern Japanese songs. Beginners are welcome as step-by-step instructions are given, and veterans will recognise dances from years past.

Tuesday practices begin at 8:00pm and Friday practices begin at 7:30. We hope that this earlier start time will attract parents and their young children. It would also be wonderful to see more TBC members participating in this significant Buddhist celebration.

Obon odori is for all ages, any gender, the young and the young at heart. So come out to the TBC to learn odori, see old friends, make new ones, and have some fun!

Practices start on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 8:00pm.



Toronto Buddhist Church Keirokai and Spring Higan

Sunday, March 20, 2016

On March 20th 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

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 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).

KIDS SANGHA

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2016

KIDS CRAFTS

Various craft stations will be set up for boys and girls of all ages (downstairs in the classroom).

This is a good way to get the creative juices going by trying different activities with your friends



March 20th is the Spring Higan and Keirokai service.

Keirokai is a long tradition where we honour our seniors who will reach 77 years (KIJU), 88 years (BEIJU) and 99 years (HAKUJU) or more during this calendar year. On this day the Temple will hold a special

continued on page 16

KIDS SANGHA, continued

MARCH 20, 2016, continued

service, luncheon and entertainment.

We have a few kids performing on this day, if anyone else is interested in doing a performance (i.e. sing, dance, play an instrument etc.) please let me know.

We plan to order pizza for the kids so if you can, stay after class and join us for lunch and entertainment. If you prefer Bento boxes they will be available for purchase before and after service.

APRIL 3, 2016 MINDFULL MEDITATION WITH RAY NAKANO

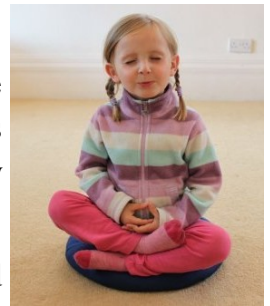
According to Shambalakids.com....

‘Mediation 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.



APRIL 17, 2016 FLOWER ARRANGING WITH LILI YOSHIDA

Lili will be leading a workshop on flower arranging. This activity is good for kids 5+. For kids under 5 years of age we will have other craft activities available for them.

This is a perfect time to make your own flower arrangement in celebration of Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival).

In order to purchase the supplies needed for this activity we are asking parents to RSVP by responding back to me via email—dcrofton@rogers.com. Please let me know by Monday April 4th if you plan to attend. Thank you

HOLD THE DATE:

KIDS SANGHA 2ND ANNUAL SLEEP OVER

SATURDAY JUNE 4TH (TO SUNDAY JUNE 5TH)

An email will be sent out shortly with more information



KIDS SANGHA, continued

KIDS SANGHA'S VISION

Our vision is to bring together young children of all ethnic backgrounds and help them learn and experience the Buddha Dharma in a way that is relevant to their everyday lives.

Our Kids Sangha program is run in a safe and fun environment by a team of volunteers who are passionate about teaching children. Our hope is that children aged 4 to 13 years of age will build new friendships, have fun and feel good about time spent at the Temple as they participate in activity-based programs geared towards this age group.

Kids Sangha meets every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

The program is open to all families so please feel free to drop in anytime.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

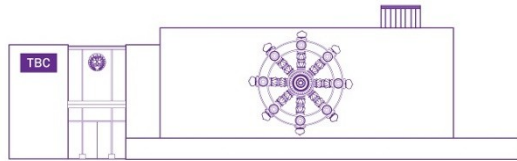
We are always looking for volunteers who are passionate about teaching young children. We currently have opportunities open in our classroom or daycare.

If you are interested, please contact Denise Crofton at dcrofton@rogers.com

Please note: Volunteers must pass a background check and agree to TBC's policies and procedures as it relates to childcare.



COLOUR ME



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.*

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.*

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 or Diane Mark.

Gassho

TBC Board of Directors

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temple of Canada Japan Tour 2016

第25代専如門主 伝灯奉告法要 団体参拝と
親鸞聖人ゆかりの地を訪ねる14日間の旅

TOUR WEBSITE : www.kiecan.com/toronto/jsbt/

As space is limited for participation in the Accession Service and since the airfare and hotel accommodations are in very high demand at this time of year in Japan due to it being a favourable travel season, please register now and secure your space before it is all gone.



DEPARTURE **OCT.10, 2016**
RETURN **OCT.23, 2016**
12 nights - 14 days

TOUR PRICE * - minimum 15 participants required -

THE FINAL TOUR PRICE WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY JUNE 30, 2016.

(30 or more participants) **\$6,000** per person / tax included based on double occupancy **

(25 ~ 29 participants) **\$6,100** per person / tax included based on double occupancy **

(20 ~ 24 participants) **\$6,200** per person / tax included based on double occupancy **

(15 ~ 19 participants) **\$6,300** per person / tax included based on double occupancy **

* Check payment price. Subject to 3% handling fee for credit card payment.

** Single occupancy supplement \$1,180 will be required if you cannot find room-share participant.

< Included >

- return air fare between Canada and Japan (economy class)
- 12 nights hotel accommodation (superior class)
- meals breakfast : daily lunch : 9 times dinner : 8 times
- all the transportations listed in the tour itinerary (private and/or public)
- sightseeing tours with English speaking guide listed in the tour itinerary
- special joint dinner with U.S. group on Oct. 21
- admission for all sightseeing places and temples
- English speaking tour escort

< NOT included >

- meals other than stated on itinerary
- portage and gratuities at hotel
- personal incidental charges
- travel insurance - Purchase recommended. Ask our travel consultant.

< Payments >

- No deposit required at the time of tour registration
- \$500 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of air ticket arrangements (air ticket arrangement due will be advised later)
- Full payment is due by June 10, 2016

< Cancellation Policy >

- \$500 cancellation penalty if cancelled after air ticket arrangements
- 50% cancellation penalty if cancelled by July 10, 2016
- 100% cancellation penalty if cancelled after August 10, 2016



*** TOUR ITINERARY ***

- Day 1 Oct. 10 (Mon)
Leave Canada for Japan
- Day 2 Oct. 11 (Tue) TOKYO (東京)
Arrive at Tokyo
- Day 3 Oct. 12 (Wed) TOKYO (東京)
TSUKIJI HONGWANJI, Tokyo sightseeing
- Day 4 Oct. 13 (Thur) TOKYO (東京)
Free at leisure
- Day 5 Oct. 14 (Fri) TOKYO (東京)
Nikko sightseeing, SAINENJI TEMPLE, JIUNJI TEMPLE
- Day 6 Oct. 15 (Sat) YUDANAKA (湯田中温泉)
ZENKOJI TEMPLE, famous "snow monkeys"
- Day 7 Oct. 16 (Sun) UNAZUKI (宇奈月温泉)
KOKUFU BETSUIN, Kurobe Gorge sightseeing
- Day 8 Oct. 17 (Mon) KANAZAWA (金沢)
Kanazawa sightseeing
- Day 9 Oct. 18 (Tue) KAGA (加賀温泉)
EIHEIJI TEMPLE
- Day 10 Oct. 19 (Wed) KYOTO (京都)
Free at leisure
- Day 11 Oct. 20 (Thur) KYOTO (京都)
MT. HIEI, HINO TANJO-IN, SUMINOBO, OTANI HONBYO
- Day 12 Oct. 21 (Fri) KYOTO (京都)
HONGWANJI ACCESSION SERVICE, Joint dinner
- Day 13 Oct. 22 (Sat) KYOTO (京都)
Free at leisure
- Day 14 Oct. 23 (Sun)
Back to Canada

Check out our dedicated tour website www.kiecan.com/toronto/jsbt/ for details, or feel free to contact KINTETSU, appointed travel agency.



近畿日本ツーリスト カナダ

KINTETSU INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS (CANADA) INC. Toronto Branch

1450 Meyerside Drive, Suite 305, Mississauga, ON L5T 2N5 Email : outbound@kiecan.com Website : www.kiecan.com

Toll Free : 1-800-463-7723

TICO Reg #424509

COPY OF DETAILED ITINERARY AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE

ADDENDUM TO
TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH GUIDING LIGHT

March, 2016

LATE-BREAKING NEWS

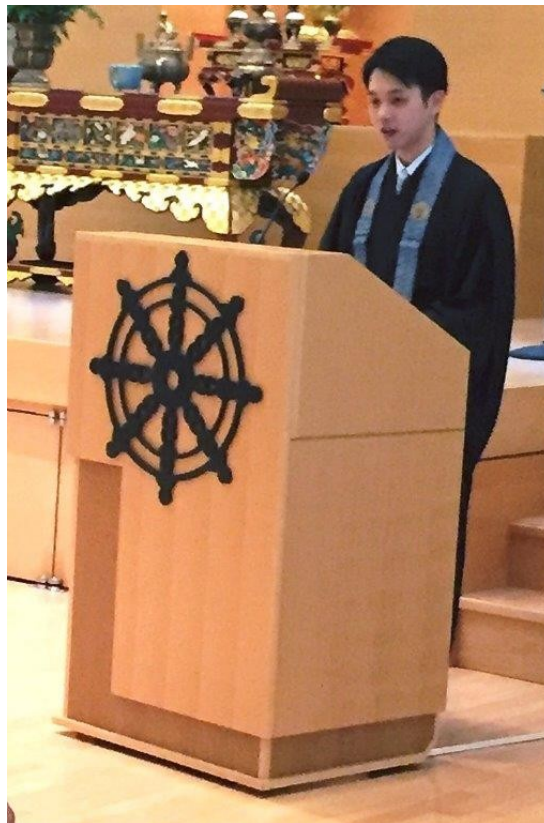
We have just received very happy news from the Office of the Bishop. Provided we can complete all of the necessary paperwork and other arrangements on time, our new minister, Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi, will arrive in Toronto from Japan on or about April 15. He will work for approximately a year towards achieving Kaikyoshi status under Rev. Christina at our Temple. He will also complete some studies at Hongwanji in Kyoto and at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. During this period of time, he will help Rev. Christina in propagating the Dharma at our Temple and the Eastern Region. After achieving Kaikyoshi status, Rev. Ouchi will remain at our Temple as one of our two resident ministers. Our Temple, members and friends extend their deepest gratitude to Bishop Tatsuya Aoki for his confidence in us and for all his support and efforts in securing a promising new minister for us on such short notice. Further details will be available in the April Guiding Light. In Gassho,

Reverend Christina Yanko

Roy Kusano

Resident Minister

President



カナダ開教区、青木総長より喜ばしいお知らせが、受け取れました。

必要な書類、その他の手続きの用意が出来次第、新会教師、大内義道氏は日本よりトロント市へ4月15日頃到着される予定です。彼は一年間我がお寺でクリスチナ会教師の元にて会教師の資格取得の修行をされます。また、京都の本願寺及びバ-クレ浄土真宗センターにて修行されます。また、この時期にもダ-マの教えを我がお寺と東地区にクリスチナ会教師のお手伝いをされます。

会教師の資格取得後、大内氏は我がお寺の二人の駐在会教師の一人として留まられます。

青木総長の我がお寺への偉大なる信頼を戴き、短時間にて新会教師を用意して戴き、我がお寺のメンバ、知人始め心より喜ばしく感謝するのみです。

次期4月号にて詳細をお知らせします。

合掌

駐在会教師 クリスチナ ヤンコ

President. 草野 ロイ

