



Guiding Light

APRIL 2016



Emily

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

APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATUR-
Please Note: Events marked with an * are private and NOT open to the general public Thank you					1 * 8:00 pm Buyo	2
3 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE & Buyo Group Bento Sale 9:30 am Picnic Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 Joint Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko) Shin Fujinkai Mtg(Mezz)	4 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	5 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00pm *Website Mtg 8:00 pm * Minyo Teachers Work-shop	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 9:00 am *Isshin
10 ESHINNI DAY SERVICE 9:00 am CCOV Meeting 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Sangha Meeting (Mezz)	11 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	12 10:00 am Fujinotomo * 7:00 pm TBC Mgmnt Committee & Board Mtg	13 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	14 10:00 am Tai Chi 10:30 am Japanese Garden Club 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikebana 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	15 * 8:00 pm Buyo	16 5:00 pm Hana Matsuri Family Banquet
17 HANA MATSURI SERVICE 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Hana Matsuri Service 12:00 pm KS & Youth Mtg <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> 1:00 pm SPECIAL GENERAL MTG </div>	18 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	19 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	20 7:00 pm Taiko 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 *** PLEASE NOTE: *Rev. Yanko and Rev. Ouchi will be away during this time **	21 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo *Castleview 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	22 7:30 pm Bon Odori Practice 8:00 pm Buyo	23 TEMPLE CLOSED
24 REGULAR SERVICE with Dennis Madokoro 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma	25 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	26 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori Practice	27 11:30 am Momiji Community Mtg 1:00 pm Ohara School	28 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	29 7:30 pm Bon Odori Practice 8:00 pm Buyo	30

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

May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SVC Kid's Sangha Fundraiser 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am <u>JOINT</u> Service 12:30 pm Dana Mtg (Eko)	2 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	3 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori	4 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	5 10:00 m Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	6 7:30 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	7 1:00 pm Hiroshima Kenjinkai Tsuito Hoyo
8 PARENTS' DAY SERVICE 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg (Eko) Service in Hamilton	9 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	10 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm TBC MC & Board Mtg. 8:00 pm Bon Odori	11 7:00 pm Taiko	12 10:00 am Tai Chi 10:30 am Japanese Garden Club AGM 2:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikebana 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	13 7:30 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	14 11:00 am *Family Memorial Service
15 GOTANYE & SHOSAN-SHIKI (Infant Presentation) 9:15 am Obon Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	16 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	17 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori	18 7:00 pm Taiko	19 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo Castlview 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	20 7:30 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	21 Ottawa Workshop
22 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service Service in Montreal	23 Victoria Day <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> OFFICE CLOSED </div>	24 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori	25 7:00 pm Taiko	26 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	27 7:30 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	28
29 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg. 11:00 am Service	30 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	31 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori				

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



Stories from the President

WHY I GO

Almost 68 years ago my Dad forced me into Sunday clothes and dragged me off kicking and screaming to the little Church on Huron Street. There poor, frazzled Mrs. Tsuji could only watch in despair as our little gang of *yancha bouzu* trampled her cramped house, which she tried so vainly to keep so tidy. My beloved Grand Lady still remembers those days, thankfully fondly now. From there it was on to Bathurst Street where young adult members, gritting their teeth, dedicated all of their effort and time on Sunday mornings trying to tame us and instill in us the Teachings of the Buddha. Today I hope they believe that it was not in vain.

I wasn't sure what my Issei parents got out of the Church. I do recall that in the late 40s and the 50s Toronto Buddhist Church was one of the main sanctuaries for all of the Japanese Canadians, many of them freshly arrived from the West. Maybe it was as much a clubhouse or gathering place as it was a house of Buddhist prayer for the Issei and Nissei? My most vivid memories of kid-hood are not just of my Sunday School teachers struggling to control us, their frustration barely concealed. It was really the life-long bond created among all the kids from every part of the city - the Yoshidas, Matsuyamas, Nakamuras, Shimodas, Otanis, Hashimotos, Tsurudas, Kishidas, Amemoris. The list goes on and on. Going to the picnics on a big bus. The summer camps supervised by Rev. Tsuji and a crew of young men and women volunteers - the smell of fried cabbage is still in my nose. If not for the adults, the Church was a year-round club for the kids, for sure.

Growing up a bit, and being allowed by then by our parents to attend Church on Sundays without their dragging us there by our ears, most of us did everything possible to avoid services, getting back to Church from the restaurant barely in time to receive a "Thank you for coming" handshake from Rev. Ishiura. Then on to Junior YBA. In my wholly biased opinion it was the most successful social organization among the young Nisei and Sansei of the 60s. They included Club Recso, Japanese United Church Club, Japanese Anglican Church Club, and Nisei Students Club. Dances almost weekly in the darkened basement of the Church or at other club venues. So many opportunities to run into ripe young girls and awkward boys within the community. (But even then Nikkei girls were beginning to shun Nikkei boys and *vice versa*.) It's hard to get your head around this now, but the highlight of the social year in those days was the Miss Valentine Contest, a contest to pick the most, ahem, vivacious young Nikkei woman among all the community organizations. It was a time when the Japanese Canadian community was at its beautiful best, if "Japanese Canadian community" meant anything. But sadly, having a place to hang together and chasing girls and boys, none of that was enough to keep us at the Church. And so, without absorbing the real meaning or purpose of the Church which had allowed and encouraged all of us to be together, many of that generation drifted away from the Church and never returned.

I was one of those, though I returned once in a while over the following decades, only to disappear again and again. It was only a few years ago, a septuagenarian by then, that I felt obligated by circumstance to attend services regularly. I re-united with the mentors of my youth.

It took a while but it finally dawned on me what the real meaning of the Church was. All during my youth, I had treated the Church as a social club, a place to meet and greet my old Nikkei friends. When my friends drifted away, so did I. Career (try to exhaustion to be successful), family (make sure your kids are brag-worthy), buy good stuff (European cars, Bloor Street), money (make sure you have a well-known financial planner), have

WHY I GO, continued

FUN (fun restaurants, fun vacations, fun cottages, fun clubs), keep up with the Tanakas, these were our pre-occupations. I did not see or hear the sensei back then. I see and hear and feel it so much better now. I do still see remnants of the social clubs, which maybe partly explain all the social and non-religious activities that still occupy our Church building. This is all good.

I do realize now that the social stuff is not really why our pioneers built our new Temple (we call it a Temple now - another story) in 2005. The end game at our Temple really is learning and embracing how to live a Buddhist life. Our social life is necessary or desirable not just for the fellowship but more to enable us all to learn and contemplate and live together the Teaching of the Buddha in what is still our sanctuary. But today it is a different kind of sanctuary. We are seeing a new generation of members and friends from all walks of life who are embracing the Temple as their own. The new and the old are coming together in a sanctuary of peace and quiet, a place to listen and learn. A place to meditate and accept ourselves and each other no matter where we come from or what we look like or what language we speak. A place to respect ourselves and each other with our many imperfections and failings and show compassion (so long as our compassion is not abused (my training still reacts to this)). A place to see the good that others do and not dwell too long on their failings; after all, who are we to criticize? I see this so much more clearly now, and for this I thank our Temple, Bishop Aoki, Reverend Yanko, our religious leaders, my old teachers, and all the members who have taught me by their example.

Namo Amida Butsu.



“ IF ”

There is a wonderful gift we possess that has the ability to both harm and, help others and oneself. This gift, is our ability to communicate, or more specifically our words.

Words are very powerful. They have the ability to both inspire, destroy, transform and influence. In saying that words have power, I curiously started pondering to myself; what could be considered to be one of the most powerful, or influential words if you will, that is most commonly used every day? I think it is the word, if.

I think it is interesting, that with the thousands of words we have at our disposal to use in the English language, 'if' seems to be one of the most utilized in both thought and speech. Usually when we use the word 'if', it is in some scenario of a regret or desire. 'If I had only done that differently' or 'If this, or, that were to happen'.

The 'if', in my mind, is what Shinran Shonin was referring to when he used the term “ Calculating mind ”, in Japanese it is called “ Hakarai ”. Hakarai is to deliberate, analyze and take a course of action. Hakarai, can, be the action of self-power (Jiriki). So when we use the word 'if' it is usually directed towards and through the action (Hakarai) of Self power (Jiriki) to be used towards our own calculations (desires).

When our self-desires are directed towards ourselves, we may think such things as “if this were to happen, or, if I were to get that thing I want, then I would be happy”. When our self-desires are directed towards others, we may think such things as “if they would only make this choice or act a certain way, then I would be happy”.

Desire leads to attachment. Attachment is one of the sufferings the Buddha has taught us we must condition our minds to resist in order to alleviate suffering. Therefore, to rely on our own self calculations / the mind of self-power (Kiriki) to lead oneself to the cessation of suffering and enlightenment, is a futile act that will only lead

Continued on page 6

IF, continued

constant suffering and rebirth. It may be, that we sometimes see ourselves as needing to be good enough, or at a certain ' place ' in our lives in order to be ' worthy ' of the salvation of Amida Buddha, or to receive enlightenment. It's in our human nature we always want to put forward, what we see as, our best self. However, this futile exercise is not necessary when we look at the Eighteenth Vow. Dharmakara's vow to save all sentient beings before attaining his own Buddhahood, and the fact that he became Amida Buddha through the fulfilment of the Primal Vow, is the assurance of our place in the Pure Land.

“ If, when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the lands of the ten quarters who sincerely and joyfully entrust themselves to me, desire to be born in my land, and call my Name, even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment ” - Primal Vow

The assurance of our place in the Pure Land, guaranteed by the fulfilment of Dharmakara's vow gives us the freedom from the mind of calculation, or the mind of ' if '. Dharmakara's liberating, fulfilled vow, is the action (Hakarai) of Amida which transcends self (Jiriki) and other power (Tariki)

Shinran Shonin knew that for him, the calculating mind was not possible to be rid of. At the same time, he also accepted that his calculating thinking, and the workings of Amida Buddha, were mutually exclusive.

“No working (practitioner hakarai) is true working (Amida's hakarai).” - Shinran Shonin.

As with Shinran Shonin, we as foolish beings may never be able to free ourselves of our calculating mind. The word ' if ' will always be in the forefront of our mind. However, this does not mean that we should not strive for enlightenment. It is this striving and the workings of and through, that are the vessel of the workings (Hakarai) of Amida Buddha. This is what Shinran is referring to when he states that the practitioners and Amida Buddha's workings (Hakarai) are of the same.

“I have read your letter very carefully.

I fail to understand why your question should arise, for although we speak of Vow and of Name, these are not two different things. There is no Name separate from the Vow; there is no Vow separate from the Name. Even to say this, however, is to impose one's own calculation. Once you simply realize that the Vow surpasses conceptual understanding and with singleness of heart realize that the Name surpasses conceptual understanding and pronounce it, why should you labour in your own calculation?

It seems to me that with all your attempts to understand by reasoning and by learning you have fallen into confusion. It is completely in error. Once you have simply come to realize that Vow and Name surpass conceptual understanding, you should not calculate in this way or that. There must be nothing of your calculation in the act that leads to birth.

Respectfully, you must entrust yourself to Tathagata. (Amida Buddha)

Respectfully.

Shinran Shonin.” - Letters of Shinran (9 The Vow and the name are one)

Continued on page 7

IF, continued

We are the vessels of the workings and compassion of Amida Buddha. Being the vessel of Amida, it is, in my mind, our goal in life to act with wisdom and compassion and in doing so, work towards the cessation of suffering for all.

It is possible.....if we allow ourselves.

In Gassho,

Martin.

Thank you for taking the time to read my essay. I appreciate your time and consideration. Additionally, I would like to thank the TBC Guiding Light for allowing me the opportunity to submit this essay.

We all walk the path of Nembutsu together.

Namo Amida Butsu

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

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016

Time: 1:00 pm following the morning service and a light lunch

Place: Temple Social Hall

The Board of Directors of Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to notify all members of the Special General Meeting of Members which will be held at the time, date and place set out above, and cordially invites all members to attend and vote on the matters raised at the Meeting. The following matters will be raised at the Meeting:

1. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2015
2. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2016
3. Approval of Amendments to the General By-law of the Temple as follows:
 - a. Permitting a Jodo Shinshu minister recognized by JSBTC to be a minister of the Temple, provided that he or she is a Kaikyoushi or approved for training to become a Kaikyoushi;
 - b. Defining an Honorary Member as an individual over the age of 77 years who has applied one time to the Temple for membership;
 - c. Setting the default date for the Annual General Meeting as the second last Sunday in January;
 - d. Permitting a member to appoint a proxyholder at meetings of members provided that the proxyholder is a member;
 - e. Permitting the election of two Co-Presidents and the appointment of two Co-Secretaries

Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Please note that while attendance at the Meeting is open to all friends of the Temple, only members of the Temple will be entitled to speak and vote on any matters coming before the meeting. A member of the Temple is (a) one who has been designated by the Temple as an honorary member, or (b) an individual whose written application for membership has been accepted and whose membership fee is in good standing.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

2016 Keirokai Celebration

Sunday March 20th was the first official day of spring and the Toronto Buddhist Church celebrated with the Spring Higan Service and Keirokai celebration.

The Keirokai celebration gives us the opportunity to recognize those temple members who have reached 77 years of age (Kiju); 88 years of age (Beiju) and 99 years of age (Hakuju).

The honorees for this year were:

Kiju – Mrs. Kay Fujino and her husband Mr. Nobby Fujino

Beiju – Mrs. Harue Baba; Mrs. Terrie Inouye; Mrs. Keiko Ohashi; Mrs. Nobu Wakabayashi; Mr. Manabu Doi; Mr. Shiro John Fujimoto, Mr. Yoshifumi Kitaura; Mr. Hiroshi Richard Tanaka and Mr. Dick Tsuruda

Hakuju – Mrs. Aiko Murakami

Honourable Centenarians (Over 100 years of age) – Mrs. Yasuko Shimoda (102), Mr. Shozo Ishikawa (101), Mrs. Tsuyo Kusano (101) and Mr. Richard Nishino (100)

After the morning service, the honorees and congregation gathered in the Social Hall to enjoy a delicious bento lunch that had been prepared by Tori Ichii. Our Honourable Centenarians, Mrs. Yasuko Shimoda and Mr. Shozo Ishikawa were asked to do the ceremonial cake cutting. Following the lunch, the entertainment programme co-MC'd by Yukari Ikebata and Bob Nishikawa gave us the opportunity to enjoy taiko drumming by the Isshin Daiko; a performance from Shozo Ishikawa; buyo from the TBC Buyo Group; several performances from the Kids Sangha members; a performance by the TBC Choir; an audience participation number by some of the members of the TBC Buyo Group; a performance from Bob Nishikawa and to end the afternoon's festivities a performance by Sachiko Hata-Perekhita.

Thank you to all our performers, special guests, temple members and volunteers who helped make the day a memorable one and we hope to see all of you at next year's celebration!

TBC Special Projects, Religious and CCOV Team 2



KEIROKAI 2016



Meditation and Mindfulness

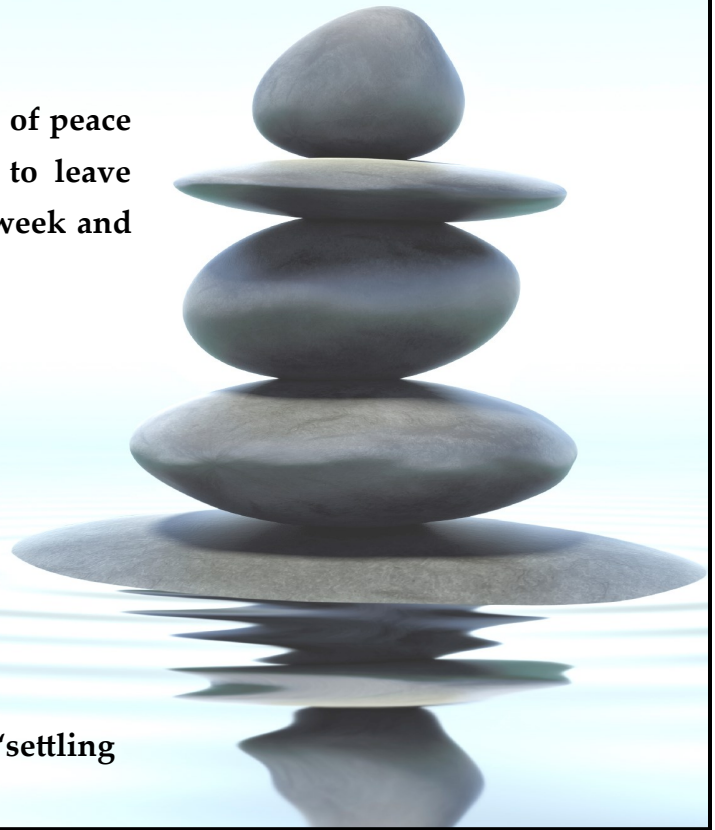
Thursday's from 7pm – 9pm

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



NOTICE

The Dharma Café has temporarily been cancelled. We will keep you informed as to when they will begin again. Please watch in the Guiding Light or check our website, tbc.on.ca for notification. Thank You

WANTED

Do you have any unused or broken onenjus and you don't know what to do with them? Lori North of the Frasier Valley Temple has asked that we put this request out to our congregation. Lori is looking for the set of beads by the tassle (the 3 holed bead and the one below it) for some onenju designs she is working on.

If you have any onenjus that you would like to donate please leave them with the office and we will take them to the JSBTC Annual meeting April 22, 2016.

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. Mitsuo Nishimura 92 years March 18, 2016

Mrs. Yoko Kamata 65 years March 22, 2016



DANA NEWS

USED STAMPS



A reminder that we continue to collect used stamps for Leprosy Mission Canada. They prefer stamps to be trimmed, leaving a 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch paper border. Do not send the 'flag' or meter stamps, dealers do not want them. They welcome all foreign stamps and in special commemorative issues of Canadian and American postage stamps.

We can help them cure leprosy patients with used postage stamps! Last year donors helped cure over 30 people. If you have used stamps, please drop them in the box on the table in the temple lobby.

Please join us for the Eshinni Day Service on Sun., Apr. 10th at 11am

ESHINNI'S LETTERS

In 1920, Prof. Washio Kyodo discovered in the archives of Nishi Honganji 10 letters by Eshinni., Shinran Shonin's wife to their youngest daughter, Kakushinni. These are very important in filling in the blanks of the Mt. Hiei years and Shinran's stay in Sanuki. One of the letters told of the 20 years of Shinran Shonin as a Tendai monk on Mt. Hiei and his departure in a search for a more meaningful path to enlightenment. Another letter describes Shinran Shonin's lapse in his devotion to the other power. His attempt to recite the 3 Pure Land Sutra a thousand times was abandoned after only 3 or 4 days. He once again embraced other power of Amida Buddha and his Vow of Compassion. This lapse shows the Shinran's human side and the doubt reflects the process of awakening.



For further reading: The Life of Eshinni – wife of Shinran Shonin by Yoshiko Ohtani

HANA MATSURI SERVICE

This special service is held on April 17, 2016 to celebrate the birth of Gautama in Lumbini's Garden.

HANAMATSURI means "Flower Festival" and we setup the Hanamido at the front of the Hondo to symbolize Lumbini Garden. We offer fresh flowers and pour sweet tea over the Baby Buddha statue on this joyous occasion.

Please join us for this celebration.



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

Fourth Invitation to Let's Talk Dharma

Hello my Dharma Friends,

Let's talk Dharma ends Sunday April, 24, 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 your topics prior to this session.

One of the interesting questions last month was "How does one seek enlightenment in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism?" We will explore one explanation by looking at "Shoshinge".

I suggest you print a copy from : <http://web.mit.edu/stclair/www/shoshinge.html>

This printout shows the Japanese and English side by side. I believe this will be a very good explanation of enlightenment and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Please forward your suggestions if any, 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 recognize 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.



SHOSANSHIKI - INFANT PRESENTATION

Do you know of any families with a new baby or a new addition to the family in the last year?

Let us know, so they can **register** to participate in “**Shosanshiki**” or a Baby presentation to the Buddha. We **welcome** the new babies to the temple in a special service **on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 11am**. If your toddler has never filed their name and missed a previous presentation, it’s never too late. The ceremony is open to any infants and children under three years of age.

We all love babies – so let us join you in embracing your new little one.

Please complete our application form and submit to our temple office.

Shosanshiki: Infant Presentation Service

Sunday, May 15, 2016

11:00 am



Shosanshiki is a ceremony in which ones child is formally presented to the Buddha and to the Sangha for the first time. It is open to any infant under three.

**** * Please submit your application before May 8, 2016 * * ***

Child's full name _____

Date of Birth: _____(dd) _____(mm) _____(yy) M____ F____

Mother's Names: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

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).

THANK YOU FROM THE SHIN FUJINKAI

Thank you for your support! Shin Fujinkai would like to thank the congregation for making this year's 'Winter Warm Up' another success. Thank you also to our members who came to help prepare and serve our 'yakisoba' lunch.

We hope to see you next year.



KIDS SANGHA

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 Activity for May 1, 2016

On May 1st the Kids will bake cookies, squares and make tea & coffee to sell after service for donations that will be sent to Plan Canada to help support children in developing countries.



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 yrs 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.

VESAK 2016
 BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY
 CELEBRATION

*"Blessings on the City,
 the Nation, and the World."*

**MAY 28
 SATURDAY**

**Mississauga
 Celebration Square**

300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3C1

**Parade: 2:00 pm
 Program: 3:00 pm**

For more information visit www.vesakcelebration.com

Co-organized by:



Haitian Buddhist Cultural Society
 West End Buddhist Temple
 And Meditation Centre



Fo Guang Shan
 Temple of Toronto

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR

VESAK DAY

Saturday May 28, 2016

Celebration Square

Mississauga

We need volunteers to assist in the setup of our tent, give out literature and giveaways. This is a great opportunity to get out there and represent our temple, and it is a whole lot of fun.

Please contact Susan Ebisuzaki at tbc@tbc.on.ca if you are interested.





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>		

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 #4245909

COPY OF DETAILED ITINERARY AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE