



# *Guiding Light*

SEPTEMBER 2016



*Cover by Ann Kotani*

## **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)

# SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Please Note:</b> Events marked with an asterisk * are private and are not open to the general public Thank You				<b>1</b> 10:30 am * Japanese Garden Club Mtg	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 SUMMER SERVICE</b> 11:00 am Service 4:00 pm *Family Memorial Service	<b>5 OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>HAPPY LABOUR DAY</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>8</b> 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikebana 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>9</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>10</b> 9:30 am *Pie Bee
<b>11 RALLY SUNDAY &amp; Monthly Memorial Service</b> <b>Pie Sale</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Dana Mtg 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg * Higan Service in Hamilton (O)	<b>12</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm TBC Management Committee & 8:00 pm Board Meeting	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Castlevie 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>16</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>17</b>
<b>18 HIGAN SERVICE</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 4:00 pm Isshin	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Fujinotomo	<b>21</b> 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 10:00 am *Momiji Community Mtg 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>23</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>24</b> 9:00 am *Food Handlers Course 4:00 pm * Family Memorial Srvc * Service in Ottawa (O)
<b>25 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg 11:00 Service Blue Jays Game Higan Srvc in Mtl (O)	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Fujinotomo	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>30</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	

Morning Services are held on the week days 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.

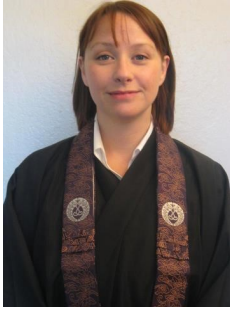
Thank you

# October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Please Note:</b> Events marked with an asterisk * are private and are not open to the general public Thank You						1
<b>2 Monthly Memorial &amp; JSBTC Day Service</b> 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Dana Mtg	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>7</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Regular Sunday</b> 11:00 am Service  JSBTC Service in Hamilton	<b>10</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Management Committee 8:00 pm BOD Mtg 5:00 pm *Shiga students visit	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikebana 4:00 pm * Yee Hong 7:00 Meditation	<b>14</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>15</b>
<b>16 PET APPRECIATION DAY</b> 9:30 am Picnic Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castlevew 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>21</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Regular Service</b> <b>OVSA Presentations</b> 11:00 am Service	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>28</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Regular Service</b> 11:00 am Service	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke <b>Hallowe'en</b>					

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Thank you



## Outward Focus

When new people visit our temple I often give them a tour of the building. I explain some of the more subtle details of its construction such as the glass above the front door and the framing of the door and how it is representative of the traditional Japanese gates or *torii*, the way the tiles are laid in a way that leads you “in,” and how the glass wall in the lobby was built in a way that your eyes are drawn upwards to see the hanging scroll. There are so many beautiful aspects in our temple. We are truly fortunate to have such a precious space to gather.

One element our visitors often find compelling is inside our Hondo. Inside the Hondo every natural line leads towards Amida Buddha. The hardwood is laid pointing towards the Buddha. The grains on the walls all lead towards the Buddha. Everything is constructed in a way that brings it all together at this point. The statue of Amida Buddha is the focal point. This has always been the way I perceived it, and this was how I described it. That is, until recently.

Focusing on the statue in our Naijin (altar area) has been a regular practice for me. I would bring myself to sit in the Hondo when I felt sad, scared, inadequate etc. I would look up at Amida Buddha and talk to him like a friend. It was very comforting. However, I came to realize that I was not noticing his response. His response was all around me, but I was too focused on my own perspective to notice.

One day it occurred to me that rather than thinking about how everything leads towards the Buddha, perhaps everything is emanating from the Buddha. It is a fairly simple consideration, but philosophically it created some major adjustments for me. I always saw the rays of light emanating from the Buddha, but still there was something inside I was hanging on to that was bringing my focus in rather than out. The woodgrain can also be seen as an extension of these rays of light.

The Buddhist teachings are meant to help us manage our lives. They are meant to teach us to treat ourselves with compassion and share that compassion with others, and there is always something to have gratitude for. These teachings can leave the Hondo with every person who enters once we realize there is more than just our own perspective that are influential.

The next time you are inside our Hondo, please look around you and notice the small detail of the lines in the grains of wood. It is a small detail, but within this detail you can almost feel the embrace. The embrace reminds you to take this comfort and share it with others to the best of your ability.

The previous Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani said, “When Amida Buddha shines upon me and all the rest of life, we are linked together as lives saved by that light. All things on earth, all things in the universe, are in the fold of this great life-force linking us all together.”

Gassho

Rev. Christina



## **The Strength of Our Temple**

When thinking about our Temple's strengths, one of our integral assets is our volunteers. Over the past seventy years, members have tirelessly taken care of the Temple. They freely give of their time maintaining the temple, preparing meals and entertaining us.

Away from the Temple, members built Camp Lumbini to provide a retreat from the city for Temple families and to provide a home for a children's camp. Annually, volunteers go to Camp Lumbini to prepare the cabins for the summer season, cleaning and making upgrades. Each year, Kids Sangha benefits by making lasting friendships and sharing fun times at the camp.

Our annual bazaar is the Temple's major fundraising event of the year. Many members and Temple friends come out to support this event. We are fortunate to have ladies teach us how to make anko (red bean paste), roll makizushi, make tsukemono and so many other Japanese-Canadian food items. Where else can you learn this for free? Please join us by volunteering during bazaar prep week and on the day of the bazaar.

The Sangha's mochitsuki event is another annual Japanese New Year tradition which brings out many new faces. Kudos and appreciation to the many members of the Wakayama-kenjinkai who take leadership roles with this event. Everyone is welcome to come out for this event where you will learn to make mochi as well as meet and make new friends.

The Dharma teaches us that life is impermanent. There are constant changes in our lives and at the Temple. Typically both parents work full-time and it is not unusual to see a single parent working hard to raise their family. The work week is no longer Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Weekends are now used to catch up on personal responsibilities. Yet, despite the increased demands that we face, our members and Temple friends still find the time to volunteer at the Temple, helping our ministers and running different programmes and events.

Our Temple must change and adapt to the times. One of our recent initiatives was to form the "Coordinating Council of Volunteers" (CCOV). The purpose of the CCOV was to grow our volunteer base enabling us to preserve and share information and introduce new and diverse activities. It is hoped that we can enlist the help from people who may not have volunteered at the Temple yet. For those who help once a year, hopefully they would come to assist a second time.

Our need for additional volunteers will grow as TBC is hosting many important events in the years to come. In April 2017, we will be hosting the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Annual General Meeting where delegates from every temple across Canada will meet. In 2018, we will be hosting the Eastern Buddhist League convention on the Labour Day weekend where temples from the eastern U.S. and Canada will meet. Following those major events, we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary in 2020. Help will be needed preparing and serving meals, greeting and welcoming guests, driving guests around and many other volunteer jobs. These events are a wonderful opportunity to meet and work with members of our congregation as well as meet friends and members from other Jodo Shinshu temples.

If you would like to help at any of our Temple events or would like further information, please contact the TBC office and we will be happy to respond!

Dawn Anzai

Director, Special Projects and Culture



## 2016 JSBTC DAY – “What is DANA?”

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC) ministers, ministers’ assistants, national board of directors, and all temple members and non-members for keeping our organization active and accessible.

In the early days, the temple was financed largely by donations called ‘*dana*’. In Japanese, this is known as *ofuse* or *orei*. Over the years, temple members established the tradition of donating money to the temple treasury for various occasions such as Buddhist holidays, family weddings, funerals, and memorial services. As well, donations were offered for monthly memorial services (Shotsuki) as well as for a wide variety of occasions such as a return to good health, birth of children and grandchildren, graduation of children and grandchildren and for joyous events including return from trips abroad, etc. In other words, the Issei tended to make donations to the temple on any occasion which they felt was meaningful to them. The idea of a membership due or fee was not a consideration.

At all major events at a temple, there was always an *uketsuke* or reception table where donation envelopes were received and duly recorded. Relying entirely on personal donations meant no fixed fees for services rendered. As a member became more active and involved, the more the member understood the ofuse/orei system. The prevailing attitude was, therefore, one of offering a donation as a token of one’s appreciation and gratitude, rather than one of paying a fee for specific services rendered.

As the nisei and sansei generation gradually took responsibility in managing the temple, the idea of membership dues became more popular. There was growing frustration in not knowing how much one should donate for weddings, memorial services, etc. Thus, today we are torn between two ways of thinking; between the dana/ofuse system and a set price system for services rendered. There has been reluctance in abandoning the ofuse system. To do so would reduce the temple to a place of business with set fees for individual services. The consequence of this would eliminate the spirit of dana, a fundamental component of Buddhist practice. In short, the difference between ofuse and set fees is attitude. For buddhists, in particular Japanese buddhists, a person’s attitude in society has always been considered very meaningful and significant. There is a prevailing view that it is not the amount that is significant, but rather the spirit in which it is given. Therefore, a donation has no fixed amount but rather depends on what the giver wishes or can afford to give. This can be confusing to someone who is unfamiliar with the ways of the temple. And while it is not as efficient as a so-called “price list” it is in keeping with the spirit of dana.

*Ofuse* in Japanese consists of two Chinese characters. *O-fu* means “to spread”, and *se* means “giving charity”. Dana or ofuse gives one an opportunity to practice gratitude, which arises from the awareness of the inter-relationship of all sentient beings.

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**2016 JSBTC DAY – “What is DANA?”, continued**

The temple, after all, is not a gas station where one fills up with spirituality for the rest of the week at so many cents per liter. It is a living organization, not a mechanical machine. For this reason, temple life is to be valued not because it is ‘business-like’, efficient or even useful. We need not make perfect manju to sell, because we are not in the manju business. Every helper, whether they are experienced or not, is able to help make manju. They donate their time for the sake of the temple. The temple is involved in the business of getting human beings to be more ‘truly human’, to get them to see who they truly are, what their true nature is and to be transformed by that Truth. To bend religion to suit our own needs is to miss the point of religion. Religion essentially transforms us to see the Truth. We are not here to transform religion to suit our needs.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Tatsuya Aoki,

Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

**JSBTC DAY – October 2, 2016**

At our Shotsuki service on Sunday, October 2 the Temple will honour Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches of Canada (JSBTC). JSBTC is our national umbrella organization representing all Jodo Shinshu Temples in Canada. Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, our national spiritual leader, and JSBTC are our links to Nishi Hongwanji. Together they direct all religious and administrative matters which may affect member Temples in Canada beyond the local level. In addition JSBTC is investing in projects which individual local Temples do not have the resources to take on themselves, not the least of which is the development of a respectable welfare program for our Ministers across Canada. Both Larry and Amy Wakisaka, prominent Toronto Temple members, continue as Directors on the National Board, Larry as First Vice President and Amy as Director of Living Dharma Centre. Under Amy, the Living Dharma Centre has shown an increasingly active interest in important local projects, and in the case of our Temple, the LDC has financially supported our outreach effort in Ottawa, formal advanced Buddhist studies, and also our new audio system in the Hondo. In addition to all this, our Temple must be particularly grateful to JSBTC and the Bishop for their unwavering support of our Temple and Rev. Christina in coping with our ministerial issues over the past couple of years.

On October 2, members and friends of our Temple will have the opportunity to show their appreciation to JSBTC and the Office of the Bishop.

Special envelopes for donations to JSBTC will be available at the Shotsuki service. Donations may be made in cash or by cheque. **Please note that all donations by cheque must be made payable to “Toronto Buddhist Church”.** The Temple will receive all donations and make a donation for the same amount to JSBTC. The Temple will then issue a receipt to the donors for their donations. JSBTC cannot receive donations from donors other than direct members of JSBTC. I ask each of you to give generously on JSBTC Day.

Gassho,

Roy Kusano

President





### **JSBTC Day Message from JSBTC President Dave Ohori**

Our Directors on the JSBTC Board as well as Bishop Aoki and Rev. Grant Ikuta (MA Chair) have been working very hard on the strategic planning for the future as well as on the day to day operations of the JSBTC. One of the major expenses is the medical, health and dental costs to ensure that our Ministers have adequate coverage. As each year passes, we seem to experience significant cost increases for this important coverage. As a Board, we have sent this coverage out for tender and also negotiated for better rates. The Board is always looking for cost reductions and wants to keep temple assessments to a minimum, however, this is becoming more difficult each year.

Our other option is to increase our revenues. JSBTC Day occurs only once each year. This is a day in which local temples designate a special day in their temple calendar for JSBTC Day where all donations from that day are sent to the JSBTC to be used for costs like benefits for our Ministers as well as to support the important and significant work for the kyodan by the Office of the Bishop.

Please remember that the JSBTC is a central organization which supports all Jodo Shinshu Temples across Canada. The organization works closely with the Office of the Bishop to help find and support new ministers for our kyodan which is ultimately a benefit to all member temples. Please take the time to consider donating to the JSBTC for the future of our kyodan and for the much needed and proper support for Ministers.

In Gassho,

Dave Ohori, JSBTC President

### **JSBTC Day Reminder on Procedures:**

As in recent years, JSBTC is requesting local temples to collect donations for JSBTC Day in either October or early November. In order to comply with the new Canada Not for Profit Act, we are asking local temples to count the donations received, to receipt their members/donors and forward the proceeds with a list of the names and addresses of the donors as well as the amounts donated to JSBTC.

**Donors should write their cheques payable to their local temple** indicating “JSBTC Day” in the memo area of the cheque.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important procedural matter.



## TBC Dana Scholarship

Congratulations to Mika Tamaki for being the 2016 TBC Dana Scholarship Recipient!

Mika is the daughter of Michael and Naomi Tamaki and the granddaughter of Kimi and the late Fred Tsuji. Mika is a talented musician and performer. She often plays her guitar version of Nembutsu II during Shotsuki services and dances with her school dance troupe and the TBC Buyo Odori Group. Mika has attended Camp Lumbini as a camper or counsellor since 2010. As an active member of the TBC Youth Group, she volunteers with Kid's Sangha, the Bazaar and Mochitsuki. She has also led the chanting at service and has given a Dharma talk during Sunday service. She will be attending Ryerson University in the fall.

The TBC Dana Scholarship Committee would like to thank the Shin Fujinkai for preparing the wonderful Graduates luncheon. In addition, the Committee would also like to thank the Dana, Sangha and Shin Fujinkai for their continued support.

Almost Time to Party!!!

It's been almost 50 years since the first TBC Dana Scholarship awards were presented in 1967. Past and future recipients, watch for more information on this golden anniversary.



## DANA NEWS

On behalf of the Dana, we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the the Obon flowers for the cemetery visits. As always we could not have done it without all of you.

We truly appreciate the time you volunteer.



## 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 month.

Mr. Peter Ito

August 9, 2016

87 years





## Be the light

I got a call from a friend asking if I would go with her to deliver food to a needy family with three children. So I met her at the family's home, they were living in a basement apartment. The couple was very appreciative.

After we delivered the food, I asked her how she found this family was in need? She said she was going to buy her son a new toy, then decided to look on Kijiji.ca to see what was available for free. This is where she saw an ad, asking for free food.

She thought, instead of buying her son a new toy, she would use the money to buy some food for this family who was suffering.

Through her actions she reminded me of,

The Buddhist teaching of interconnectivity.

Six Paramitas:

- 1 **generosity**
- 2 ethics
- 3 acceptance, patience, forgiveness
- 4 joyful endeavour, diligence, zeal, enthusiasm
- 5 meditative concentration
- 6 discriminating wisdom/awareness, insight

Six of the Eightfold path:

- Right view/True understanding.
- Right intention
- Right speech
- Right discipline
- Right livelihood
- Right effort
- Right mindfulness
- Right concentration

It's amazing how one action can teach us so much about Buddhism.

I have to thank Rev. Christina for allowing me to walk the path of **enlightenment** with her.

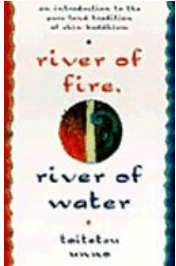
Living in the Dharma.

Michael Tamaki

## LDC Update

The LDC (Living Dharma Centre) is starting a Virtual Book Club this fall. We invite interested people to read a specific book chosen every three months and sign up for email participation and discussion. To start up our Virtual Book Club, our first title(s) for the month of September, October and November are:

1) River of Fire, River of Water By Taitetsu Unno



2) Call of the Infinite By John Paraskevopoulos



For our first selection of our new book club, we have chosen two titles. Both are excellent introductions to Shin Buddhism and are easily understandable. These books are available through Chapters Indigo and Amazon.

**River of Fire, River of Water** was published in 1998 and speaks for itself as being a classic in Shin Buddhism literature. Written by the wonderful teacher and Shin Scholar, Tai Unno, if you have not already read it, we encourage you to!

**Call of the Infinite** was first published in 2009 and the following are a few comments made by people who have read it:

“Call of the Infinite is a rare and lovely thing: a succinct treatment in 96 pages of the major concerns of Shin faith and life which manages to be compelling for all its brevity. Author John Paraskevopoulos is an Australian convert who is also a Shin priest. He has the marvellous ability to anticipate a reader's questions and answer them in straightforward fashion in a clear, lively prose.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend CALL OF THE INFINITE to one who has no previous background in Shin Buddhism. I feel confident that such a reader could then go on to the more fully-orbed works of such established writers as Alfred Bloom, Dennis Hirota, Kenneth Tanaka, and Taitetsu Unno.

-Peter M. Schogol

Continued on page 12

### LDC Update, continued

“This is a deeply thoughtful work and is a mature and useful guide for the spiritually hungry or perplexed. It is brief, but not epigramic; each paragraph gives the reader plenty to contemplate, but the meaning is always clear. The book is written in beautifully constructed English - not something one can take for granted in any published work. It is also cleverly and clearly structured.”

- M.F. Healsmith

**If you have any question or to sign up for discussion emails please contact Barb MacCarl at: [bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com](mailto:bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com)**

Please watch for the next title we will be highlighting for our LDC Virtual Book Club in the month of November!

Every now and then we come across a book that we feel is not only simply a good read but is enriching as well. When this happens, a copy of this book will be distributed to all temples to share with your Sangha. We are currently in the process of securing a book to be distributed to all temples in October or November of this year. Please watch for an announcement of the title and the appearance of the books at your local temple!

As Program Director of the LDC, I am grateful for the efforts of my fellow LDC committee members: Brenda Ikuta (Dharma School Project), Barb MacCarl (Book Club and Buddhist Studies) and especially to Bishop Tatsuya Aoki for his guidance and leadership.

May we all remember that *“Each and every one of us is a Living Dharma Centre.”*

In Gratitude and In Gassho,  
Amy Wakisaka  
LDC Program Director

### ***SHIN FUJINKAI'S SUMMERLICIOUS DAY—JULY 23, 2016 A LA CARTE AT THE GARDINER MUSEUM AND KIMONO DISPLAY AT THE TEXTILE MUSEUM***



## OBON 2016

The Obon committee is grateful for the many volunteers who aid in the ohaka mairi tradition. This year we engaged the Religious Committee to assume some duties such as the purchasing and plating of all the refreshments for the three Sunday services. The chochin assembly and installation were capably done by a team within their committee.

Services at the many cemeteries ran smoothly for the most part. The wind was a force to reckon with and that brought about the suggestion for tape or twine to secure the scrolls at the cemeteries.

Calls went out for additional help with the floral assembly and we were not disappointed in the numbers of smiling ladies who came out on the Friday before our cemetery visitations. Some of these ladies were family outside of the temple community and for their help, we send thanks.

It was and is always a pleasure to see Reverent Grant Ikuta who was our guest speaker. He was happy to re-acquaint and chat with so many familiar faces and to spend some time with others. It was wonderful to hear him share the Dharma at the three services. He is always a welcome visitor to TBC.

Our two Senseis were very helpful and are always willing to do a little extra such as preparing the essential supplies needed for their central services and set up. Arigato Senseis.

Our wrap up meeting brought forth some suggestions for next year and we will address those next spring.

Our sincere gratitude to the TBC membership for their unwavering support and guidance at this time of reverence and respect.

Obon Committee



## CALL FOR JEWELLERY

Do you have any jewellery ( costume or special pieces) that you have not worn in a long time?

The plan is to have a table at the Bazaar selling jewellery and crafts to raise money for the up coming JSBTC AGM that will be held at our temple in April 2017

Your donations can be brought to the temple office.





## Obon Odori 2016

Saturday, July 9, 2016...it was a warm, sunny morning. At 5pm it was pouring rain but then the skies cleared and thanks to the staff at the JCCC, the parking lot was soon cleared of puddles. At 6:30 the decision was made that the Obon Odori would be held outside, to the relief of many. It turned out to be a beautiful evening, perfect for odori; the dancers in their colourful yukatas and happi coats circling the taiko drummers. A new audience participation dance, Home Run Ondo, was quite a hit, pun intended. After a night of dancing, the popsicles are always a much-anticipated treat.

Thank you to the organizers at the TBC and JCCC, the MCs, Kunio Suyama and Akiko Nishimura, the drummers from the TBC Minyo Taiko and Isshin Daiko, and of course, all of the dancers who participated from Ayame-kai, Sakura-kai, Hamilton Suzuran kai, Momiji Odori no kai, Urara Minbu-kai, Himawari-kai and TBC Bukkyo-kai.



## Japan Festival Mississauga 2016

On July 10, 2016, Mississauga celebrated the 35th anniversary of the twinning of their city with Kariya, Japan. It was a hot, sunny day at Celebration Square but that didn't deter the large crowds that attended. TBC's Isshin Daiko delivered an energetic show while the TBC Buyo Group performed two numbers and joined in the minyo odori. It was the inaugural Japanese festival for Mississauga featuring food and beverage booths, entertainment and exhibits.



## Camp Lumbini 2016 – Everyday camp life and the Eightfold Path

A day at Camp Lumbini starts with some minor exercise quickly followed by a service run by a counsellor with the help of some youth aged 8-12. The youth are introduced to etiquette during service and some basic instruction on how to conduct service. Following service the youth participate in team building and competitive games and some less strenuous activity such as arts and crafts, all relating to the Buddhist theme of the week (Eightfold Noble Path). Although Camp Lumbini is filled with fun, the youth and counsellors all help clean the camp after every meal. Every year each group creates their own cheer, poster and skit relating to the theme of camp. At the end of the week, the skits are presented. This year, the skits demonstrated the youth's understanding of the Eightfold Noble Path mixed in with a lot of hilarity. Every other day, there are larger activities organized for all attendees of Camp Lumbini that includes: bowling, a movie screening, canoeing/kayaking and mini golf. Camp Lumbini provides youth the opportunity to create bonds with other youth while engaging in and reflecting on the Dharma. Although some youth do not always attend regular service, Camp Lumbini provides way for attendees to participate in their own way and even return as counsellors to positively influence the next generation of our youth.

Unfortunately, we were unable to expose Ouchi-sensei to camp life and formally introduce him to the youth attending camp this year. In his stead, we welcomed Joanne Yuasa-sensei from Vancouver. Yuasa-sensei had previously made connections with some counsellors and quickly became very popular among the youth and young adults attending Camp Lumbini. Yuasa-sensei held workshops teaching the youth about perception and oneself and others and another on how your own good conduct can resonate with the people surrounding you. Both workshops explored the relation to some tenets of the Eightfold Noble Path (view, thought, speech, conduct, livelihood, endeavour, meditation and mindfulness). In addition to the workshops, Yuasa-sensei engaged in daily activity with enthusiasm whether it was arts and crafts or everyday chores and was able to quickly bond with all attendees of Camp Lumbini very easily. Thanks to Yuasa-sensei's workshops, I noticed that the youth were more mindful of their actions and speech and embodied the Eightfold Noble Path in their daily lives without noticing. There are countless of examples of youth assisting each other when other are in need, working closely in teams and always putting forth their strongest effort in any activity. Thank you Yuasa-sensei for coming to Camp Lumbini and sharing your knowledge of the Dharma and helping make the week a success. In addition to Yuasa-sensei, we had a team of volunteer parents who prepared every meal during the week to which we owe our deepest gratitude. Finally, I would also like to thank the counsellors and my two co-directors (Koji Goto and Rachel Kataoka) for helping provide a fun and safe environment to the youth attending Camp Lumbini. Without the help of all the volunteers, Camp Lumbini would not run as smoothly as it does every year.

Stephen Taguchi





## 2016 Camp Lumbini Volunteers

This was my first time at Camp Lumbini as an adult volunteer, and I was surprised to see how much work was involved in running the Kids Sangha camp.

I would like to thank Grace Tamaki, Joanne Kataoka, Masa and Michelle Shimosato, Chris and Asako Yoshida for doing a wonderful job cooking nutritious, delicious, food for the kids Sangha and volunteers.

Also, thank you Denise Crofton for conducting an outdoor yoga class for the volunteers.

I would also like to thank the counselors, Rachel, Abigail, Koji, Stephen, Adam, and Mika for their generosity in taking time off of their busy work schedule to conduct a creative, engaging Buddhist camp program. It's the dedication of these young adults who nurture another generation of our youngest Buddhist, to connect with our temple. This connection to our younger generation will strengthen our temple's ability to survive the Impermanence of life.

In Gratitude,

Michael Tamaki



## Buyokai 2016

On Saturday, August 6, 2016 our Hondo was transformed into a theatre seating 200 persons. Toronto Buddhist Church hosted the Kozakura Japanese Dance School's "Buyokai 2016".

There were performances by the students of the Kozakura Dance School - Toronto chapter, Himawari Buyokai and our TBC Buyo Group. The audience was privileged to watch performances by Headmaster Sumako Kozakura and our Sensei, Sensui Kozakura. In addition, there were special guests from Japan - dancers from the Kozakura and the Fujiumi Dance Schools.

As a special treat, Mr. Hiroshi Tayama, an enka singer with Crown records in Japan, entertained the audience with several songs.

Ticket proceeds from the concert will be going to Toronto Buddhist Church.



## **TBC Annual Bazaar**

### **Saturday, November 12, 2016**

Fall is fast approaching and with it the Temple's biggest annual fundraising event.

We need your help!

Donations are needed for sale at the various venues:

Japanese items  
Baked goods and Food items  
Gently used items for the White Elephant Sale  
Plants  
New items for the Silent Auction and Lucky Draw

(Please note that we are unable to sell used clothing, children's toys and books.)

If you are able to help during the week before the bazaar, please check the posted work schedule or email [canzai@sympatico.ca](mailto:canzai@sympatico.ca)

We will be able to begin accepting donations from Sunday, November 6, 2016.  
Please contact the TBC office if other arrangements are needed.

Your support is much appreciated!

TBC Bazaar Committee

### **2017 Membership Fee Increase**

I wish to inform all of our Regular Members of an increase in the membership fees to be introduced starting January 1, 2017. At that time, the annual fee for Regular Members will increase from \$100 to \$125. As always, Honorary Members (individuals 77 years and over) will not have to pay any membership fees.

Our membership fee has remained static for many years now while the cost of providing virtually every service at the Temple, from administrative to operating to maintenance costs, has increased substantially from year to year. In fact, Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC) has also raised its annual assessment for each Temple in 2016 from \$70 to \$80. It is true that the Temple will always depend primarily on the generosity of its donors, and will always be grateful for this source of financial support, but it cannot just rely on a steady flow of donations.

I recognize that an increase of \$25 may be significant to you. I sincerely hope that it will not be an intolerable burden, and that you will believe that it will be a small price to pay for the joy and peace you feel in being part of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

Roy Kusano

On behalf of the Board of Directors

## Membership 2016 Fall Update

The Board of Directors is very pleased to report that membership in the Temple now exceeds the total for 2015. This is truly encouraging not only for our Temple but for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada too. We would really like to keep the momentum going.

Our readers are definitely acknowledging and accepting the changes in our membership rules. They are now aware that memberships begin in January and end on December 31, and therefore, applications should be completed and submitted at the start of the year, and payment of membership dues for regular members should be made or at least promised early in the year as well.

We urge all members who have not paid their minimum membership fees for 2016 to do so as soon as possible so we will be able to get a fix on our membership count for 2016 as soon as possible. For those who have already done so, thank you very much.

As we have stated before, the Temple itself is only bricks and mortar and the real heart of the Temple is its members who provide physical, moral and financial support and take an active interest in the operation and future prospects of the Temple. Please show your support of the Temple by completing and submitting your membership application and fee (if applicable).

The Board of Directors



## 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.*



## 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 ( ☐ ) New ( ☐ )Mr. ( ☐ ) Mrs. ( ☐ ) Ms. ( ☐ )

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.  
By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 18 of the Guiding Light.

**Applicant #2** Renewal ( ☐ ) New ( ☐ )Mr. ( ☐ ) Mrs. ( ☐ ) Ms. ( ☐ )

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.  
By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on page 18 of the 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.**

## Pet Appreciation Service

Please join us on October 16th at 11:00am to pay special tribute to those family members who are a little furrier, feathery, or scaly than the rest. They show us unconditional love and affection, they keep every secret, are happy to eat dinner with you on any occasion, love to go on long walks with you, and never try to take over the remote control!

Our pets are our best friends and at this service we are going to focus specifically on them.

Please bring a photograph of your beloved pets (current or passed).



## Higan Service

**Sunday, September 18, 2016**

**11:00 am**

On September 18th we will be holding our Fall Higan or Equinox Service.

Twice a year (once in the Spring and once in the Fall) there is a perfect balance between night and day. During this time of balance it is considered the perfect time to reflect on your life and the Buddhist teachings.

Please join us for Fall Higan and take the time to consider how you are practicing Buddhism in your daily life.



## CCOV

If you have thought about finding a way to get together with old friends or meet new friends, come and join the CCOV. (Coordinating Committee of Volunteers)

The CCOV is an informal organization through which all our volunteers get the opportunity to get involved and help out at various functions and events held at the Temple.

We've got all our Temple activities and events lined up for the rest of the year, beginning with Rally Sunday,

**September 11, 2016** which is our Kickoff for the Fall and Winter Season. Team 3 will be looking after this event. The following **Sunday, September 18, 11:00 am** will be our Indoor Neighborhood Service. We'll share the Dharma with some of our close neighbours and serve up some hot dogs too. Team 2 will be looking after this event

If you are interested in helping out at either of these two events or would like further volunteer information, please contact our CCOV Co-Chairs:

Diane Mark [dianeymark@gmail.com](mailto:dianeymark@gmail.com) or Dawn Anzai [canzai@sympatico.ca](mailto:canzai@sympatico.ca)

No access to technology? Please call the Temple office (416-534-4302) and leave a message and we'll be sure to get back to you.

The CCOV presently consists of five teams of volunteers from which the Temple draws help to staff each event or function whenever physical help is needed. If you would like to join a team or are keen on helping at an event, we would be happy to add your name to our roster of volunteers. Note that there is no commitment or obligation to volunteer for any minimum number of events. We are hoping that you will enjoy your first experience and may consider coming back for more.

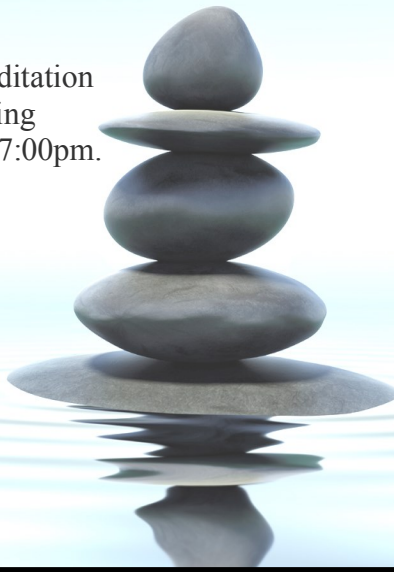


## MEDITATION

We will be continuing our meditation sessions every Thursday evening starting September 8, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Namaste.

Ray



## WE'RE HAVING A PIE BEE

**Saturday September 10 at 9:30 am**

**This is a shout out to all the Temple Pie Makers**

We are hoping to make enough fresh fruit pies to sell at a Temple fundraising Event on Sunday, September 11, 2016.

Can you help? No experience needed, there is a job for everyone.



## Rally Sunday!

**Sunday, September 11, 2016**

Remember the song "See you in September", well September is here. At the Temple, Rally Sunday is the start of a busy Temple Schedule. It is a time for all Temple groups to show the congregation and friends all the interesting activities they can look forward to.

Please be ready to set up your displays by 10:00 am on Sunday morning.



# LET'S GO BLUE JAYS!



VS



**Sunday, September 25**  
*In the Social Hall after Service*

Join us in the Social Hall to watch our Blue Jays play the New York Yankees.



Get into the spirit  
by wearing your  
Blue Jay jerseys and hats.



Hot dogs, popcorn and more will be available for sale.

## Kids Sangha September Activities

**Kids Service will begin at 10:30 am – 11:00 am in the Hondo**

### ACTIVITIES:

**September 11, 2016: 11:00 – 12:00 pm**

### Rally Sunday

Meet & Greet

Team Game – if the weather is good we will go outside in the park behind the Temple

Registration will take place at 12 pm after service downstairs in the kids classroom



Image courtesy of [www.extension.iastate.edu](http://www.extension.iastate.edu)

**September 18, 2016 – 11:00 – 12:00 pm**

### Nature Walk & Scavenger Hunt

If weather permits this will be an outside event. Otherwise we will hold it downstairs in the social hall.



image courtesy of [www.jumpintoabook.com](http://www.jumpintoabook.com)

**October 2, 2016 – 11:00 – 12:00 pm**

### Pizza and Dirt Pudding Cups

Join us for an hour of fun in the kitchen making pizza bagels and pudding cups.



image courtesy of [www.uacch.edu](http://www.uacch.edu)



## Kids Sangha September Activities, continued

October 16, 2016 – 11:00 – 12:00



Amazing Mindful Kids

image courtesy of [www.amazingmindfulkids.com](http://www.amazingmindfulkids.com)

### Mindful Meditation for Kids

Last year we started our first mindful sitting, walking and eating meditation for kids.

According to [Shambalakids.com](http://Shambalakids.com)...

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

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

It will be a relaxing and calming experience so come out and find your inner peace.

Parents are welcome to join in.

### 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. No classes during the summer. Classes resume Rally Sunday September 11th.

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](mailto:dcrofton@rogers.com)

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

# SAIKAI

## 再会 COME TOGETHER

For tickets or more information:

**ISSHINDAIKO.CA**

or call Darlene at 416-423-2374  
(please leave a message)

# 再会

## ISSHIN DAIKO

### JAPANESE DRUMMERS

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Special guests includes Nagata Shachu and Jyakurai

general admission \$20

October 1, 2016 2pm and 8pm

the Al Green Theatre, 750 Spadina Ave (at Bloor)

*Tickets are also available in the office of the Toronto Buddhist Church*

## OUTDOOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICE MOVING INDOORS

In our July/August edition of the Guiding Light, we announced with anticipation our first Outdoor Neighbourhood Service at the Temple. It had been re-scheduled for the morning of September 18. This time, however, we have been hit with bureaucratic delays, with the result that we have been forced to change the venue of the Neighbourhood Service from outside in Banting Park to indoors at the Temple. We will still invite our Banting neighbours to join our service in the Hondo and to enjoy a hotdog and refreshments with us in the Social Hall. Please come on September 18 for this special day.

### Fresh Fruit Pies for Sale Sunday September 11, 2016

We are holding a fundraising "Homemade Fresh Pie Sale" On Sunday September 11, 2016. Enjoy a delicious, fresh piece of pie and coffee/tea down stairs in the social hall or take a whole pie home to enjoy.



### BECOME A MEMBER OF FUJINOTOMO

Are your Tuesdays free and you don't know what to do? The Fujinotomo Club needs members with new ideas for crafts, workshops, demos or just to socialize. Get togethers are held every Tuesday from 10:00 am. If interested please come and join in, everyone is welcome.

Tuesdays from  
10 am in the social  
hall starting  
Sept 13

