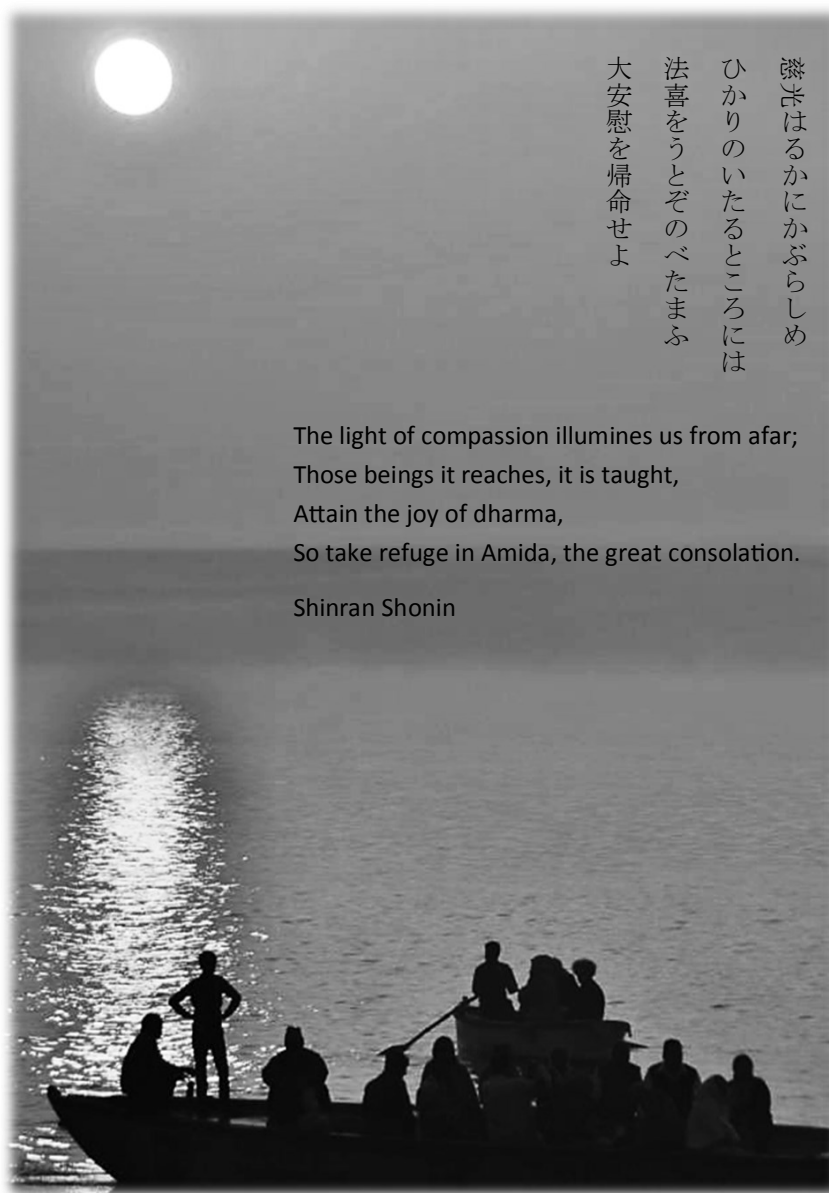




Guiding Light

MARCH 2017



彌陀はるかにかぶらしめ
 ひかりのいたるところには
 法喜をうとぞのべたまふ
 大安慰を帰命せよ

The light of compassion illumines us from afar;
 Those beings it reaches, it is taught,
 Attain the joy of dharma,
 So take refuge in Amida, the great consolation.

Shinran Shonin

Photography by Rev Yoshi

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PLEASE NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk * are private and <u>NOT</u> open to the general public			1 7:00 pm Taiko	2 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	3 7:30 pm Buyo	4
5 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE & SF WINTER WARMUP Fundraiser 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 *Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm *Sangha Mtg (LDC)	6 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	7 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm Buddhism Class	8 7:00 pm Taiko	9 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Momiji 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	10 7:30 pm Buyo <div>Rev. Yanko away 10th -12th</div>	11
12 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service (O) Service in Hamilton (JW) 3:00 pm Japanese Garden Club Meeting	13 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	14 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm TBC Mgmt & BOD Meetings 7:30 pm Minyo Teachers Workshop	15 1:00 pm Ohara Ikebana 7:00 pm Taiko	16 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castleview 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	17 7:30 pm Buyo	18 9:00 am CHURCH CLEAN UP
19 HIGAN & KEIRO KAI 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	20 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	21 10:00 am Fujinotomo 7:00 pm Buddhism Class 7:00 pm JSBTC Mtg	22 1:00 pm Ohara Ikebana 7:00 pm Taiko	23 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	24 7:30 pm Buyo	25 Service in Ottawa
26 REGULAR SRVC BOD Installation 9:30 am Picnic Mtg (Eko) 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm CCOV Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma (Mezzanine) Higan Service in Mtl	27 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	28 10:00 am Fujinotomo	29 7:00 pm Taiko	30 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	31 7:30 pm Buyo	

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 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please Note: Events marked with an * asterisk are private and <u>NOT</u> open to the general public Thank you						1
2 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE & Buyo Group Bento Sale 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm *Shin Fujinkai Meeting (Mezz) 12:30 pm *Sangha Mtg (LDC)	3 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	4 10:00 am Fujinotomo	5 7:00 pm Taiko	6 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	7 * 7:30 pm Buyo	8 11:00 am *Family Memorial Service
9 ESHINNI DAY SERVICE 9:15 am *Management Committee Meeting 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm * Board Meeting	10 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	11 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm * Minyo Teachers Workshop	12 7:00 pm Taiko	13 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	14 <div>TEMPLE CLOSED</div>	15 5:00 pm Hana Matsuri Family Banquet
16 HANA MATSURI SERVICE 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Hana Matsuri Service	17 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	18 10:00 am Fujinotomo	19	20	21	22
<div>JSBTC Annual General Meetings of Board, Minister's Association and Women's Federation will be held in Toronto hosted by us</div>						
23 JSBTC TSUITO HOYO SERVICE 10:00 am Service	24 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	25 10:00 am Fujinotomo 8:00 pm Bon Odori	26 11:30 am Momiji Community Mtg 7:00 pm Taiko	27 10:00 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikebana 7:00 pm Meditation	28 7:30 pm Bon Odori 7:30 pm Buyo	29
<div>Rev. Ouchi will be away ten weeks to complete his Kaikyoshi studies in Berkeley</div>						
30 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Resume Writing Workshop (Mezz) Montreal						

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

伝灯奉告法要ご親教

A Way of Living as a Nembutsu Follower

Buddhism began when Sakyamuni attained enlightenment and became a Buddha about 2500 years ago. In Japan, Buddhism was originally referred to as the Buddha Dharma. The Dharma here refers to the true reality of how the world is and the nature of humanity itself. It is the universal truth that transcends both space and time. The one who awakens to this truth is called a Buddha, and the teaching of the Buddha is the wisdom that teaches us how we can live, while dealing with many anxieties and sufferings we may experience in life.

Buddhism describes the true reality of this world and humanity using such phrases as ‘impermanence’ and ‘dependent origination.’ ‘Impermanence’ refers to the fact that everything changes moment by moment. On the other hand, ‘dependent origination’ explains that all things and phenomena are interconnected with one another, which bring about various causes and conditions that then give another set of causes and conditions and so on and so forth. Therefore, in this world we cannot find an unchanging and fixed ‘self.’

However, we are unaware of this reality and thus we try to find some unchanging and fixed entity we call the self. This mindset is the basis of our egocentric way of thinking in which we judge things whether they are beneficial to us or not, or whether we like something or not. As a result, we suffer when things do not turn out as we like and we become hostile to each other, thus confining ourselves to a bitter reality where we cannot truly be free. In Buddhism, this self-oriented tendency is expressed as ‘ignorance and blind passions,’ which are the very reason we are deprived of our liberty and bound to this world of suffering. Ignorance and blind passions are represented as greed, anger, and foolishness also known as the ‘three poisons.’

Shinran Shonin pursued religious practices for 20 years on Mount Hiei with the hope to attain enlightenment by conquering his blind passions. However, being aware of the depth of human desires which are irremovable by religious austerities, he descended Mount Hiei and under the guidance of Honen Shonin, finally encountered the salvific working of Amida Tathagata. Amida is the Buddha who not only wishes for but is actually working in accordance with the wish to save and guide to supreme enlightenment, all living beings who are in the midst of constant worries and distress. The Buddha’s Wish, or the Primal Vow, declares that Amida’s Great Compassion embraces us all as we are, as beings filled with selfish attachments and blind passions. However, even in encountering such all-inclusive salvific working, because of our own fathomlessly deep egocentric mindset and desires, we still cannot wholeheartedly entrust ourselves to the Buddha’s Great Compassion. How sad this truly is.

By listening to the Primal Vow and how it was established by Amida Tathagata, we are enabled to become conscious of our own ignorance and self-oriented inclinations, and through such awareness, we naturally become gentle in word and deed in our efforts of minimizing our egoistic way of thinking. For example, with regard to how we live our lives, we “learn to be content without wanting too much” and with regard to how we may treat others we “associate with people using gentle expressions and kind words.” Even though our efforts may pale in comparison to the Buddha’s Compassion, we are at least guided in the proper direction by the Buddha Dharma. Shinran Shonin clarifies this in his letters addressed to his followers, one of which states, “There was a time for each of you when you knew nothing of Amida’s Vow and did not say the Name of Amida Buddha, but now, guided by the compassionate means of Sakyamuni and Amida, you have begun to hear the Vow. Formerly you were intoxicated with thoughts of greed, anger, and foolishness, but since you have begun to hear the Buddha’s Vow you have gradually awakened from the drunkenness of ignorance, rejected the three poisons, and have come to prefer the medicine of Amida Buddha at all times.” This is a stern admonition we should humbly receive.

Continued on page 5

伝灯奉告法要ご親教

In today's world, there is an endless list of difficult global issues that are directly related to the existence of humanity such as terrorist attacks, armed conflicts, widening economic gap, global warming, mishandling of nuclear waste, and violation of human rights through discrimination. Such are the result of our ignorance and blind passions in which we fail to see the true nature of ourselves. It is indeed true that we are imperfect with our selfish desires and cannot act in complete purity like the Buddha can. However, by trying to live according to the Buddha Dharma, let us make an effort to consider other peoples' joy as our own, as well as other peoples' suffering as our own. In this way, we can live to the best of our ability, aspiring to live up to the Buddha's Wish.

I will endeavor to share Amida Tathagata's Wisdom and Compassion through simple and clear language with as many people as possible regardless of nationality and ethnic background. Let us encourage everyone to act in accordance with the Buddha's Wish in an effort to create a society in which everyone can live a spiritually fulfilled life. In the hopes of creating a joyous world, let us continue moving forward by putting these words into action and together walk on our path to the truth.

October 1, 2016

Monshu OHTANI Kojun

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH gratefully appreciates all donations received.

Due to the strict guidelines set out by the banks, we have been advised that they will be closely monitoring all cheques to be deposited to the church account to ensure that they are made out correctly. They can and will refuse any cheque(s) that are improperly written.

All cheques are to be made out as follows:

Toronto Buddhist Church

Please do not use any short forms such as TBC, T.B.C and especially please **do not use** Toronto Buddhist Temple or TBT.

If you are making a donation to either Dana or Sangha, Guiding Light, Altar Flower Fund, etc. they should be made out to Toronto Buddhist Church with a notation in the memo section as to which organization or fund the donation is to be directed.

We appreciate and thank everyone's co-operation in this matter.

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY.

The Guiding Light is seeking artists, whether hobbyist or professional, who are willing to show their work on the cover of our monthly newsletter. We have in the past received contributions from many of our Temple members, and most recently Rev. Yoshi. We would love to see pieces of sumie, calligraphy, drawings, photographs etc. which would be suitable for our Buddhist publication.

If you have artwork you'd like to share with the readers of the Guiding Light please send a digital reproduction to:

darlene.rieger28@gmail.com

Guiding Light

Last night I read a news report that hundreds of people have illegally fled across the border into Canada, seeking refuge from the increasing discrimination and uncertainty of life on the margins in the United States. In the dead of winter, young children and their parents are trekking through snow and wind to reach us. Young men are losing all of their fingers to frostbite, are facing arrest and detention, desperate to achieve some sort of security in a chaotic world.



Meanwhile, we're all aware of the terrible refugee crisis stemming from war and violence in the Middle East. Millions of children, women, and men have been forced from their homes and homelands, scattered across the world into situations of deprivation and disorder. They have been met with hospitality and hate as they seek shelter in new lands. Ironically, many are slandered as terrorists or security risks when they are actually victims of violence, ethnocentrism, and religious fanaticism.

Paranoia around Muslims fleeing turmoil has been a fruitful resource for some politicians and media networks to exploit. It contributed directly to the election of Donald Trump in the United States, and he has tried to implement blatantly racist and religiously discriminatory policies. This is the context that has sent families into the snow, fearing America so much that they risk death and disfigurement to come to Canada.

I could just sit by and watch, or even turn away. I have a home, a healthy family, a good job, plenty of food, protection from crime, and I'm not a target of the government. No one can tell from looking at me that I'm an immigrant and a religious minority, and my skin tone, accent, choice of life partner, and other personal aspects aren't issues for anyone in Canada. Right now, at least, life is giving me a pass.

But I'm not able to actually stay on the sidelines. I'm a Buddhist, and the Buddha will not let me ignore suffering. And there is something particularly poignant for me in encountering those displaced by war, often at the hands of dark-minded forces of their own country. Because we who practice Jodo Shinshu in North America all belong to a refugee church.

The Toronto Buddhist Church, like many in Canada and the United States, was literally founded by refugees. Torn from their homes by racist, paranoid attitudes during WWII, they were kept as prisoners by their own government in concentration camps and slave labour gangs. When the war ended the British Columbia government refused to readmit them, and people were forced East as internal refugees, amongst strangers thousands of kilometers from their homes, in a state of poverty and trauma. It is in this context that the temples in Toronto, Montreal, Chicago, and many other places were born. Here the profound impulse to seek refuge with the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha took on an achingly literal reality.

For the past year and a half, Kristen and I have been sponsoring Syrian refugees through the local Unitarian church. Kristen is one of the primary organizers of the task force, in fact. We can't help the millions of people in need, but we have been able to directly improve the lives of eight people, children and adults, with a new, welcoming home in Canada.

Shinran, in his hymns, counseled us all to "take refuge in Amida, the ultimate shelter." As I place my foolish heart in the hands of the buddha, so too I seek to turn and do what I can to help others find refuge, in whatever form they need it. May our nation, temple, and neighbourhoods fulfill their original purposes and be places of shelter for all in need.

Gassho

Professor Jeff Wilson,

Sangha Day 2017

For 67 years, the TBC Sangha has had the privilege of providing volunteer support and hosting events at our Temple. Each year on Nirvana day, we take a moment to recognize new members and lifetime members (those members who have achieved 65 years of age).

This year, I had the privilege of welcoming our newest member Jordan Freedman with a gift of a Nenju. We honoured life time member Glen Kawaguchi for his many contributions with a gift of

a Montoshikisho. Unable to attend were new lifetime members Ross Yoshida and Howie Yoshida.



Following the recognition of new and lifetime members, the 2017 Sangha Executive Board Members took the oath of office. To mark the occasion, the Sangha hosted a free luncheon following service. Surprising, despite the long weekend, the luncheon was attended by over 100 Temple members, families and friends.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible: Anne and Fred Kotani, Aki Ikebata, Joyce Matsumoto, Joanne, Rachel, Abigail and

Joaquin Kataoka, Nobby Shiraishi, Koji Goto, Ron and Aja Shimizu, Sid and Marie Ikeda.

Following the luncheon we were treated to a demonstration by members of the Thursday morning Tai-Chi class held weekly at the Temple led by Joanne Kataoka.

Angela Shintani-Sandrowicz graced the stage with some classic folk rock tunes supported by yours truly on guitar.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka

President, TBC Sangha

FOODFEST A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all the Dana and Shin Fujinkai members for all your generous contributions of delicious food items that were put into the bentos and other donations of sekihan, oden, baking, preserves, manjus, and snacks such as tostitos and peanut brittle. We thank everyone who supported this annual event with your purchases. Proceeds will be used for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches of Canada Women's Federation Outreach Program.

DANA Membership Dues Reminder

A reminder that the 2017 Dana membership fee of \$15 per member is now due.

Please mail a cheque for **\$15** made payable to the Toronto Buddhist Church Dana to the temple, give it to any of the Dana executive or place your membership fee in the Dana mail slot in the temple office. Also, if you are turning 80 years of age in 2017, please let us know as you will become an honorary member and not be required to

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I would like to commend John Skelton for his timely and relevant article titled Fragile in the February issue of Guiding Light. Hope to read more of his insights in future editions.

Carol Howell

Quebec City Moment of Silence and Reflection

(Editor's Note: The following is the text of our brief moment of silence and reflection as observed at our temple Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service of February 5, 2017)

Sadly, one week ago, we started to hear word of a shooting in Quebec City. The result so far: 6 dead and many more injured, some critically.

Our Ministers and leaders of your temple decided that we would like to show our respect to those who died, were injured or otherwise affected. What struck to the core was the fact that those killed or wounded were in a Mosque praying ... just as we are gathered here today to remember our loved ones in this Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service ... here in our own temple sanctuary.

The fact that people praying and meditating in their sanctuaries are not immune from tragedies like this made an impression. In fact, one of our Benedictions which we hear when we sing Nembutsu II reads in part:

“May the entire congregation sharing in this service cherish the highest aspirations, to attain enlightenment, and this without too much difficulty.

May this temple keep on its peaceful life free from disturbances and the congregation grow not only in faith but in wisdom and bliss.”

Prophetic words and hopes. At this time, I would like to ask that if you are easily able to stand, that you now rise to silently reflect with respect on the loss of those six fellow persons and those who were wounded and affected by this tragedy as Rev. Christina and Rev. Yoshi light the six candles on our Naijin which will remain lit for the duration of our service today.

No longer with us are the following:

Ibrahima Barry (age 39)
 Azzeddine Soufiane (age 57)
 Mamadou Tanou Barry (age 42)
 Khaled Belkacomi (age 60)
 Aboubaker Thabta (age 44)
 Abdelkrim Hassane (age 41)



Six dead; six widowed women, 17 children left fatherless (children as young as 15 months).

Please join in Gassho.

Namu Amida Butsu - Namu Amida Butsu - Namu Amida Butsu.

OBITUARIES

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

Mrs. Namiko Ebata 91 yrs February 20, 2017

Mr. Donald Tsuji 83 yrs February 19, 2017



Coordinating Committee of Volunteers (CCOV) Update

Hopefully, Old Man Winter is ready to move on as the Temple is going to be a "hive of activity".

February 19	Sangha Day	assisted by CCOV Team 1
March 19	Keirokai	assisted by CCOV Team 5
April 15	Hanamatsuri Family Banquet	assisted by CCOV Team 2
April 16	Hanamatsuri	assisted by CCOV Team 3

This year the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Annual General Meeting will be held at our Temple from April 20 to April 23. All CCOV Teams are needed over the four days. Even if you are not on a CCOV team, help is needed with transportation, baking, light meals and more. Come out to see old friends and make new friends.

Please contact Dawn at canzai@sympatico.ca or Darlene at darlene.rieger28@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you.

TBC Sangha Requests the Honour of your Presence at 2017 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet 5pm Saturday April 15th in the Social Hall

Our Program.

Full Course Meal:

Appetizers

Choice of Roast Beef / Salmon / Vegan Entrée

Fruit Salad

Cake

Juice / Water / Green Tea / Coffee

Entertainment

Bingo

Adults - \$12

Youth - \$6 (17 and Under)

TBC Kids Sangha Members - Free

Donations for Door Prizes are appreciated

Tickets available from Sangha members or TBC office

Résumé Writing Workshop: "Get Noticed, Get Hired, Get The Job You Want"

It's increasingly difficult for Canadians to find work these days. Permanent jobs are disappearing, youth unemployment is rising, and even older workers are having to re-enter the workforce to supplement their income. Competition for jobs is fierce.

So how do you stand out among hundreds of job seekers? and how do you elevate your résumé so that it makes a compelling impact?

Join us in the temple's Mezzanine on **Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 12:30pm** for a practical and hands-on workshop to learn tips and best practices to boost your chances of getting noticed, and ultimately, getting hired.

Everyone is welcome, and the workshop is free of charge. Register today through Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/tbcworkshop>

Please bring a copy of your résumé with you so that you can participate fully in the workshop.

About the Facilitator:

Glenn Nishimura is the Principal and Chief People Strategist at Nishimura Consulting. As a 20 year HR veteran and former business lead in corporate HR at TD Bank Financial Group, he now acts as an advisor and consultant to entrepreneurs, startups and small business owners across North America and Europe, where he helps to build strong company cultures and smart people practices.

He is a frequent keynote speaker, sits on the advisory board for Venture for Canada and the Board of Directors at the Toronto Buddhist Church, and mentors young entrepreneurs through Futurpreneur and the Ontario College of Art & Design. He also writes about HR and performance management as a columnist for PROFIT-guide & Canadian Business.

Volunteers Needed to Arrange the Naijin/Altar Flowers

No Experience Necessary (Training Provided)

A group of five ladies takes turns arranging the altar flowers for the church every week. We are looking for more people to join this group of volunteers to share this responsibility.

Requirements

Available 4 to 12 Friday afternoons a year for 1.5-2 hours between 12:00pm-5:00pm

(We can arrange after work hours if you are only available after 5:00pm)

Job Description

Remove last weeks' flowers from a large vase and two small vases

Wash vases

Arrange new flowers in the vases in an attractive fashion



Please contact **Pamela Yoshida** at 416-534-4302 or tbc@tbc.on.ca if you are interested in volunteering.



FOOD AND BENTO SALE



**Sunday, April 2, 2017
in the Social Hall**

KIDS SERVICE: 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM IN THE HONDO**March 5, 2017 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm****Mindful Meditation and Creating Artful Mandala's**

Last year we started our first mindful sitting, walking and eating meditation for kids. On this day we will do a short walking and eating meditation at the beginning of class and then the kids will have a chance to make their own artful Mandala's.



Image courtesy of artful parent.com

March 19, 2017 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**Games: Buddhist Word Finds, Charades & Bingo**

On March 19th we will be observing our Spring Higan or Ohigan Service. 'Higan' literally means the 'The Other Shore'. On this day we reflect on how we are practicing the Buddhist teachings, leading us to the 'Other Shore' of enlightenment.

After the service a special luncheon will be held for our members who will reach 77 years, 88 years and 99 years or older during this calendar year. A bento lunch will be served for \$10 followed by an entertainment programme.

A complimentary pizza lunch will be provided for the kids.

Looking forward to seeing you in March!

In Gassho,

Denise, Naomi, Rachel, Koji, Abigail and Leanne

**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 10th.

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.

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 (300 words)	10%

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 9, 2017 ****

All scholarship winners will be honoured at the scholarship presentation and luncheon which will take place on Sunday, September 24, 2017 (during the 11:00 am service).

Update From The Living Dharma Centre (LDC)

A Ministerial Assistants Workshop was held in Vancouver on January 5th-8th, 2017. This was organized by the Office of the Bishop and the Living Dharma Centre (LDC). It was a great success and brought together many of the lay leaders from our temples. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the current Ministerial Assistants to get together and meet each other and to share a common bond in their path to deepen their understanding of the Dharma.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to learn about many essential topics in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It also provided a valuable practice in chanting and various aspects of conducting a service. It was a great venue for the participants to come together and meet people who are on a similar path of study. The bond that has developed will encourage the participants to continue their studies. Most felt that this workshop was important in the future development of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada.

Many thanks are extended to all who helped contribute to make this workshop a success and making it the stepping stone for many followers to strengthen and spread the Dharma in Canada.



Back Row: Jeff Haines (BTSA), Naoki Hirano (SBT), Steve Prime (Saskatchewan), Robert Brown (MBT), Ken Madden (CBT), Bob Gubenko (CBT), Kyle Rathgaber (MBT)

Middle Row: Joanne Yuasa (VBT), Amy Wakisaka (LDC, TBC), Mari Cameron (Vernon), Tanis Moore (MBT), Trudy Gahlinger (Victoria), Roland Ikuta (JSBTC, LDC, BTSA), Kynan Gordon (BTSA), Shinobu Fukakusa (SBT)

Seated: Rev. Marvin Harada (Orange County Buddhist Church, BCA), Bishop Tatsuya Aoki (JSBTC, VBT), Rev. Grant Ikuta (SBT), Terry Beresford (Victoria)

Absent: Bob Akune (VBT), Roy Akune (SBT), Greg Chor (JSBTC, VBT)

Toronto Buddhist Church Spring Higan and Keirokai

Sunday, March 19, 2017

On Sunday March 19th we will be observing our Spring Higan or Ohigan Service. "Higan" literally means "The other shore" and this term is used in our tradition to reflect and reaffirm our practice of the Buddhist teachings that lead us to "the other shore" of enlightenment on the equinox days when there is an equal amount of day and night. The balance of day and night is also a reminder to walk "the Middle Path" of Buddhism.

Keirokai is a Japanese term that we use for the event where we celebrate, honour and show our gratitude to our temple elders. 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 11:00 am. 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 5th, 2017.**

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 (lunch box). Everyone else may purchase a bento for \$10.

PLEASE NOTE: Honourees and honorary members must be on our list of Temple Members to receive their complimentary bento.

Bento tickets will be available for purchase in the lobby prior to the 11:00 am morning service. Tickets will be sold on a **first come, first served basis**. Regretfully the numbers of bentos available for purchase 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 and Religious Committees

2017 KEIROKAI HONOREE APPLICATION FORM

Name (English): Mr./Mrs./Miss _____

Last Name in Kanji (if known): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Province: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Please circle: **77 88 99 100+**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE BY SUNDAY MARCH 5, 2017 TO ENSURE INCLUSION IN THE CEREMONIES.

Let's Talk Dharma March 26

Last month we talked about the second of “four friends” which is compassion.

“Its far-enemy is cruelty. Its near-enemy is pity....Pity arises when we are sorry for someone. Compassion is when we are sorry with someone.”

What do you think? Come join our pleasant group discussion.

Let's talk Dharma continues this Sunday March 26, 2017, 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 hope to see you for LTD,

Gassho, Dennis Madokoro,

Minister Assistant.



Meditation and Mindfulness with Ray Nakano

Are you suffering from stress?

Have you tried meditation on your own but it hasn't worked?

Would you like to be more mindful in what you say and do every day?

Then, you may want to attend our meditation and mindfulness sessions.

Ray Nakano has facilitated meditation sessions for over 5 years and is leading 2 hour meditation sessions at the Toronto Buddhist Church. You can sit on a chair or a cushion.

Come out and join us!

When: Every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 pm.

Where: Toronto Buddhist Church

A typical 2 hour session includes:

Guided sitting meditation (30 minutes)

Silent walking meditation (10 minutes)

Silent sitting meditation (20 minutes)

Dharma talk

Sangha sharing

Dharma talks are basic Buddhist teachings. Some talks that we have had: the 4 Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, the 5 Awarenesses.

Sangha sharing is an opportunity for the group to share regarding their mindfulness practice and talk about their experience and any problems or concerns they are having.

If you would like to attend:

Please arrive at least 10 minutes early in order to allow time to “settle in”, so the session can begin promptly at 7 pm.

Please turn off your smartphone upon entering the meditation room (the Hondo).

If you have any questions, please contact Reverend Christina Yanko at 416-534-4302 or you can email Ray Nakano at mindfulnesspracticesangha@hotmail.com.



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

a Jodo Shinshu Temple

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)

**Cordially invites you to the following events related to our
JSBTC AGM 2017 which will be hosted by TBC
April 21-23, 2017**

As an Observer of our Annual General Meeting on the following dates:

Friday April 21, 2017 at 7 pm

Saturday April 22, 2017 at 9:30 am

(please register as an Observer with our TBC Office as seating is limited)

Limited quantities of AGM Banquet Tickets are available through our TBC office

Dinner will be at Casa Imperial Fine Chinese Cuisine (Warden & Steeles) on Saturday April 22nd at 6:30 pm and tickets are \$50 each for a wonderful dinner

Meet old friends from across Canada at this dinner!

All are welcome to join us for a Special JSBTC Tsuito Hoyo Service on

Sunday April 23rd at 10 am (please note the earlier start time) followed by a potluck lunch

No registration is required for this service

This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to see and experience chanting by all our JSBTC Ministers and to share in the Dharma with all. Our Bishop of Canada for the next two years will be announced and introduced at this service.

Bon Odori 2017:

It feels like spring is in the air, and with spring comes Bon Odori. Join us at the Toronto Buddhist Church to practice Japanese folk dances in preparation for the Obon festival on July 8. Women, men and children are all welcome and step-by-step instructions are given. Practices will be held every Tuesday and Friday, 8:00-9:30, beginning April 25.

Obon is an important Buddhist festival. It would be great to see more TBC members participating in the odori this year as we also celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Bon odori practices, Toronto Buddhist Church

Tuesday and Friday nights, starting April 25, 2017

Evening of Buddhism

Tuesday March 7th at 7 pm

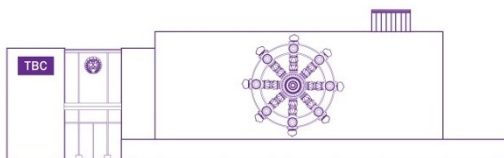
Jodo Shinshu Seven Masters—Vasubandhu

We will be doing a series of sessions focusing on the seven people Shinran Shonin named as the great teachers that contributed to the teachings of Pure Land Buddhism. This time we will be focusing on Vasubandhu, the great philosopher from India who contributed to Buddhism all over the world, and Pure Land Buddhism in particular.

Tuesday March 21st at 7 pm

Jodo Shinshu Seven Masters—T'an-luan

We will discuss the great teacher from China T'an-luan. He started out studying Taoism, and then after encountering the great monk named Bodhiruci became a devoted expounder of the Pure Land tradition.



MEMBERSHIP
Join/Renew

WE NEED YOU

***Join or Renew
Online***

2016 is done and gone, and we must now approach you to renew or apply for your membership for 2017. This past year our membership continued to climb to over 300. This is most encouraging and this steady upward trend bodes well for the future of our Temple. But we know there are still some who have not applied for membership or have forgotten to submit the membership application with your membership fee.

Needless to say the future of the Temple depends on our members 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 a membership is valuable:

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 you are subscribing to the Jodo Shinshu 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 premium-level CAA memberships.
5. As a member you will be entitled to attend special Temple activities free of charge or at rates not available to non-members.
6. As a member you will be entitled to a free mailed subscription to the Temple newsletter, the Guiding Light, so long as your membership is up to date. Due to increased postage costs, non-members will be charged a subscription fee (\$25.00) if they wish to receive a hard copy of the Guiding Light. This change will be implemented in June 2017.

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 (Note increase in 2017 from minimum \$100 to minimum \$125 per year) or your promise to pay the total fee by May 31 have been received, your membership card will be sent to you.

Honorary Membership Cards will be issued to all members 77 years of age and over who sign up for the year 2017, or if already an Honorary Member, he or she confirms in each year his or her wish to continue Honorary Membership. Honorary Members do not need to pay any annual membership fees, although all donations are welcome.



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*a Jodo Shinshu Temple***2017 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 2017 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, 2017. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on the reverse side of this Application.</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 2017 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, 2017. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on the reverse side of this Application.</p>		

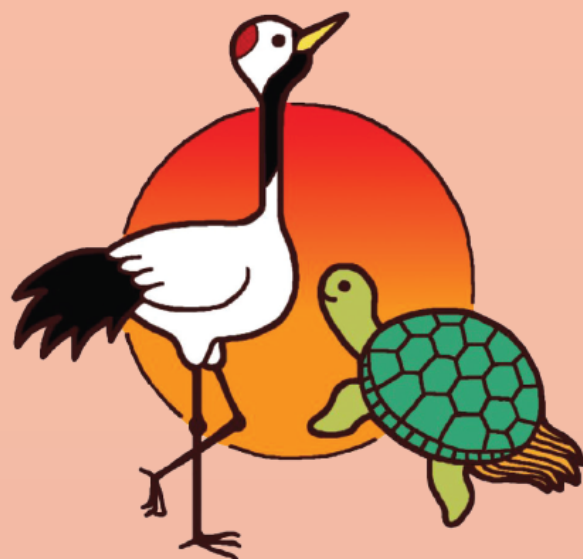
Please note that this application is for membership from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. The Individual Membership Fee for 2017 is a minimum of \$125. However, the Temple welcomes and will be grateful for any amount over and above this minimum fee.

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

Please note that \$80 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.**

KEIROKAI



敬老会

Celebrating our young at heart!

Sunday, March 19, 2017
we will be honouring Temple members
who are celebrating their
77th (kiju)
88th (beiju)
or 99th (hakuju) year

**Complimentary bento for Temple members
77 years of age or older**

Subject to availability,
everyone else will be able to purchase a bento for \$10

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

Were you ever a DANA SCHOLARSHIP recipient
(or know someone who was)?
If so, we want YOU!

When: Sunday, September 24th, 2017

Where: Toronto Buddhist Church
1011 Sheppard Avenue West
Toronto, ON

Why: To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of
the Dana Scholarship!

Please email TBC.scholarship.1967@gmail.com
with your mailing address so we can send you more details!