



# *Guiding Light*

DECEMBER 2017

## *Joya No Kane*



*December 31, 2017 has moved to the Temple*

**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)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Events marked with an asterisk are PRIVATE and not open to the general public      Thank You !						
					1 8:00 pm Buyo	2 9:30 am EBL Comm Mtg 10:30 am & 4:00 pm * Family Memorial Srv
3 SHOTSUKI MONTHLY SANGHA PANCAKE SUNDAY 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg (Eko)	4 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke 10:00 am Japanese Service	5	6 7:00 pm Taiko Workshop	7 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	8 8:00 pm Buyo	9 10:00 am *Sr. Karaoke Club Year End Party
10 REGULAR SERVICE 9:15 am *MC Meeting (Mezz) 11:00 am Service 12:30 *Board Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm *Sangha Mtg (LDC) Service in Hamilton	11 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke 10:00 am Japanese Service	12	13 10:30 am * Momiji Group  7:00 pm Taiko	14 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00pm *Momiji Service 4:00 pm *Yee Hong Service 7:00 pm Meditation	15 8:00 pm Buyo	16 11:00 am * Family Memorial Srv 4:00 pm *Buyo Group Year End Party
17 JODOYE BODHI DAY SRV * Farewell Potluck Luncheon for Rev. Yanko and family * 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	18 10:00 am Japanese Service	19	20	21 2:00 pm *Castlevie 7:00 pm Meditation	22	23   OFFICE CLOSED 事務所は
24 NO SERVICE	25	26	27	28 1:00 pmMochi Tsuki Prep	29 9:00 am- MOCHI TSUKI	30
<div> OFFICE CLOSED 事務所は お休みです  If you have an emergency please contact:  Rev. Yanko 416-602-4849 Rev. Ouchi 647-704-8481  Larry Wakisaka 416-606-7745 </div>						
31 JOYAE YEAR END DAY SERVICE 11:00 am Service 11:00 pm Bell Ringing Ceremony at TBC	<div> *****  Wishing you and your family a safe, happy and memorable  holiday season !!  ***** </div>					

Thank You

# JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Please Note:</b> All events marked with an asterisk * are private and <u>not</u> open to the general public Thank You						
	<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY SRV</b> 11:00 am and 1:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo	<b>5</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>6</b> 11:00 am * Family Memorial Srv
<b>7 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg  Pie Sale	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Momiji Service 4:00 pm * Yee Hong Service 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>12</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>13</b>
<b>14 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 9:15 am * Management Committee Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm * Board Mtg 12:30 pm * Sangha Mtg	<b>15</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm Castlevew 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>19</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>20</b> 5:00 pm <b>Vegetarian Potluck Dinner</b> 6:30 pm <b>Hoonko Eve Service</b>
<b>21 HOONKO SERVICE</b> 11:00 am Service <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>* TBC AGM 1:00 pm</b> </div>	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>26</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>27</b>
<b>28 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm <b>TBC New Year's Social (Shinnenkai)</b>	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Isshin			

**Morning Services** are held on the weekdays on Mondays, 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

## Who is Amida Buddha? Who am I?

I trust many of you have encountered life changing situations that give you cause to reevaluate your identity and/or the identity of the people around you. It really brings to the front of our mind some of the deeper philosophical questions. How can I personally find peace amidst all of this dysfunction? How can I handle all of these changes? And who am I in relation to all of these things going on?



It is during difficult periods like this that we often find the deepest insights. When we look at our founder Shinran, for example, it is while he was going through a difficult time that he had a moment of deep realization. This was when he gained the most valuable insights.

Have you ever heard of the story of Shoma?

*Shoma was an uneducated labourer, but despite his lack of education Shoma was known all over for his deep insight into the Buddhist teachings. One day a man living in a far-off village decided to make the journey to meet Shoma and learn about Amida Buddha. The man walked hundreds of miles until he finally came to where Shoma was working. At the time Shoma was pounding some rice and the traveller approached him and asked "Please Shoma, how can I be born into the Pure Land? How will Amida Buddha be gracious enough to look after me?" Shoma did not answer, but continued to pound his rice. The people who employed Shoma watched all of this happening and they felt bad for the traveller. He begged Shoma over and over again to answer his questions, but Shoma never responded. He just kept on pounding his rice. The employers brought the man in and offered him some refreshments and comfort. Feeling refreshed the traveller decided to approach Shoma one last time. Sadly he said "Please Shoma. I have travelled such a far distance. I wish you would answer my questions. But if you won't I guess I have no choice but to return home." Just as he was about to leave Shoma turned to him and said "If you are so desperate to know these things, why are you asking me? Why don't you go to Amida-sama himself? It is none of my business." The traveller left deeply touched by this thought.*

Who is Amida Buddha? And who is that in relation to me? To answer this question we first need to look at things on a simpler scale. Who am I in relation to you? But wait. First I need to figure out...who am I? Think for a minute. Who are you? Are you your name? are you your relationships with others? Are you biological phenomena? In fact we are all of these things and more. We are siblings. Parents, friends, ministers, hair, skin, self-awareness. Part of how we define ourselves has to do with our relationships with others. We are not separate from others, but all interconnected. All over the world.

So back to the question...who is Amida? We have many different sutras and stories that include Amida, so who is that? Shoma says "I don't know. Ask him." Simple. Your relationship with Amida Buddha is distinctly yours. I can't tell you what it should or should not be. Only you can figure that out.

Does Amida Buddha exist? Certainly. But now you need to stop and ask yourself, what does existence mean? Do things have to become manifest to exist?

Shinran Shonin lists many of the different ways that we refer to Amida Buddha: Immeasurable Light, Boundless Light, Inconceivable Light, Inexpressible Buddha. These descriptions are all beyond conception and limitless.

When life is difficult and we don't know what to do, stop. Remind yourself. Somethings are infinite. Some things are beyond my conception. Some things are inconceivable. And there are many things that I simply cannot control. But I can reconsider how I think about it, and that is certainly one thing I can always be gracious for.

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## Who is Amida Buddha? Who am I?, continued

Who am I? I am just me. And Amida Buddha, accepts me just the way I am. Warts and all. All of these things we encounter change us and these changes make us beautiful and unique.

Ask yourself this question. If Amida Buddha accepts you just the way you are, why is it so difficult for us to accept ourselves?

Life is a bumpy road, but if it wasn't bumpy, we would not have much cause for deep thought. Sometimes the world seems cruel and the world of birth and death makes so many people undergo unbelievable suffering. But nothing awakens consciousness like suffering.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Christina

## ISOGASHII (忙しい) ?



Welcome to December! It means the 2017 year will end soon and New Year is just around the corner.

December is called Hyougetsu (氷ice月 month), Harumachizuki (春spring待waiting月 month) or Umehatsuzuki (梅plum初 first月 month) in Japanese. These are just three of the names for December in Japanese. Actually, we have around 20 different ways to refer to it.

One additional name that is known by most Japanese people is Shiwasu (師走). Shi (師) means Sensei or Master. Wasu (走) means running. Traditionally, the month of December is one that Buddhist ministers are super busy. They have to prepare and do services for New Year Eve and New Year Day. And usually during this time there are many things going on at the temple. That is why Japanese people have been calling December Shiwasu for such a long time. However, I think this time is not only busy for Buddhist ministers, but also many people are preparing for New Year Day and other holidays in December. And of course most of us always have busy day-to-day lives.

We use the word "Isogashii (忙しい)" as "to be busy" in Japanese. One part of the kanji (忙) is from heart (心) and another part is death (亡). Therefore "Isogashii (忙しい)" means "to lose your heart". For example, often times when we are so busy we are unable to recognize some of our family or friends that may be suffering. Furthermore, we can overlook someone's kindness, and forget to appreciate the acts of others when we have tonnes of our own things to do. The point is that if we are busy, we cannot look around and notice our friends and family issues or their kindness because we lose our heart "Isogashii (忙)"

*Continued on Page 6*

## ISOGASHII (忙しい) ? , *Continued*

When I was a student, I worked at a temple in Osaka prefecture. One day, one of my senseis and I did a big Buddhist service. After the service I said to the Sensei “Sensei, today was so busy, wasn’t it?” But he said “Yes, today there was a lot to do and it was a hard task. However, it was not busy and we were still able to have a good service”.

To prepare, arrange and do service for Buddha did not make him feel “Isogashii” because he was deeply indebted to Amida-Buddha for the Buddha’s vows. He just put his hands together “Gassho” with Buddhist members without feeling busy “Isogashii”.

When we are living in this society our lives are pressed by our jobs, housework, school and so on... and it is difficult to avoid feeling “Isogashii” in our life. However, I would like us to have no Isogashii (losing our heart) time front of Buddha and hope we are able to put our hands together as much as possible.

In Gassho

Yoshimichi Ouchi

## **Farewell to Rev. Christina Yanko, Dave Ringle and Son Atticus**

Four and a half months pass so quickly. In mid August, Rev. Christina reluctantly advised the Bishop and TBC that her husband was unexpectedly recalled to active duty with the United States Coast Guard and that he had to report in short order to a base in the USA. Dave Ringle, as an American, had no choice because it was mandatory that he report for duty. In order to keep their family together, Rev. Christina had to make a very difficult decision to tender her resignation from TBC and JSBTC as a minister effective December 31, 2017. We fully understand and respect her decision to keep her family together.



There are many things which we will soon miss. Rev. Christina had a keen sense of how to demystify many elements of Buddhism. Where Buddhist funeral services once carried traditions which were not clearly understood by many, Rev. Christina helped people understand what they were all about. With mixed marriages and with many funerals not necessarily involving Buddhists or people familiar with the Jodo Shinshu elements of the funeral service, Rev. Christina clearly unraveled these mysteries in an easy manner which made people feel at ease with the services. The act of oshoko was clearly not only described but also demonstrated by her. As things like “Ingo” or other elements were explained, it was not unusual to hear temple members whisper to each other “I didn’t know that.” Thank you Rev. Christina!

When Rev. Christina arrived almost five years ago, she was just freshly minted as a Kaikyoshi Minister and TBC was her first official posting as a Canadian Jodo Shinshu minister. She was initially mentored by then Resident Minister Rev. Tomofumi Fujii but his father unexpectedly took ill and he suddenly passed away. Rev. Fujii had to return home to Japan to continue his father’s temple. This left Rev. Christina alone as the minister in charge of a church with a heavy schedule and not that much experience. She nonetheless accepted the responsibility and persevered. Thank you Rev. Christina!

*Continued on Page 7*

**Farewell to Rev. Christina Yanko, Dave Ringle and Son Atticus**, *Continued*

Inclusiveness and desiring to be inclusive was a hallmark of Rev. Christina. She welcomed and accepted newcomers during her ministry with us. She unabashedly accepted and welcomed many people, personifying the “come as you are” welcome attitude which we work hard at and are proud of as a temple. Many of these newcomers have now become woven into the fabric of our temple and are important to our temple and sense of sangha community. Thank you Rev. Christina!

Rev. Christina’s sense of charity and care and concern towards people was something which I have respected. While I cannot divulge much due to confidentiality and privacy issues, please know that Rev. Christina has touched and massaged the hearts of many people. Thank you Rev. Christina!

Were all things and all challenges and matters always rosy and smooth? Not likely with such a large temple and so many diverse projects, challenges and individual personalities involved. It has been, however, a wonderful laboratory where we can all, as bonbu or foolish human beings, learn to work together and to try to row in the same direction in the best interests of our temple. These challenges and differences in opinion, I believe, act to test us as well as to provide opportunities to teach us and to strengthen all of us and to urge us to work together towards a common consensus and a safe harbour. It has been an opportunity for all of us to learn lessons of mutual respect and being allowed the opportunity to figure out how we can all work together in the best interests of our wonderful temple.

We will also miss the ever smiling face and wonderful nature of Dave Ringle. Atticus was just a baby when he arrived in Toronto so he has grown up with us and our temple. Our temple has been a second home to Atticus. He has now grown and developed so much. We will certainly miss him.

However, we must remember that not all is sad by this necessary farewell as we have been touched by the Yanko-Ringle Family and left with many fond memories and new legacies which we can try to continue and to add to the mix for upcoming years. Namo Amida Butsu. Please join me in once again saying “Thank you Rev. Christina!”

On behalf of our temple congregation and temple supporters, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Yanko-Ringle Family all the best in their exciting new future and new life adventures.

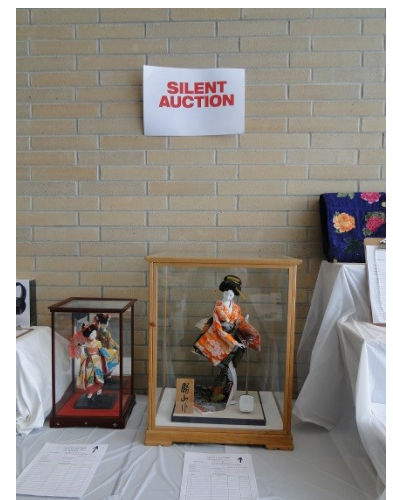
With Gratitude and in Gassho,  
Larry Wakisaka  
Toronto Buddhist Church  
President



## TBC 2017 BAZAAR

2017 Fall Bazaar Saturday November 11th marked not only the day for the Fall Bazaar but it was also a day when we remember those whose lives were lost in past wars. So, it was a day full of appreciation for what had been lost and for what we have. Fall blustery weather greeted all those volunteers who came out to help and we even had a short snow fall in the late morning. Due to the single digit temperatures, it was decided to allow shoppers into the temple prior to the bazaar opening to make it more comfortable for them. At every nook and cranny throughout the church you could see the various groups busily working – Kids Sangha; Youth; Shin Fujinkai; Dana; Sangha and Fujinkai as well as friends and family. The Bazaar Committee wishes to convey our heartfelt appreciation to all those who volunteered their time during the week leading up to the bazaar as well as those who volunteered on the day of. We would also like to thank the many donors to the bazaar - individuals as well as businesses. There are too many individuals to name so we hope that they see this article and know that without their help it would be difficult to hold our annual bazaar.

In gassho, TBC Bazaar Committee





## It's always hard to say goodbye....

The time has come to say goodbye to Rev. Christina, Dave and Atticus.

We will be holding a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, December 17 after the morning service.

Come share stories and wish the Yanko-Ringle family all the best for the future.

If you are coming, there will be a sign up sheet in the Temple lobby. Please indicate what type of dish you will be bringing.

Thank you!



## **TBC Coordinating Committee of Volunteers (CCOV)**

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our 5 CCOV teams. There will be plenty of events at the Temple this coming year. Come meet everyone!

Upcoming schedule:

December 17    Rev. Christina's Farewell Potluck Luncheon  
**Team 4**

January 28      New Year's Social  
**Team 5**

For more information, please contact Darlene Rieger, Dawn Anzai or leave a message at the office.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have come out to help. Wishing you all the best for 2018!

## **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](mailto:darlene.rieger28@gmail.com)

**Thank you to all who so generously donated Baking for the Bazaar Bake Table. Our success depends on your donations.**

**Thank you, Myra Takasaki**



## **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.*

<i>Mr. John Dobson</i>	<i>71 years</i>	<i>October 25, 2017</i>
<i>Miss Teagan Walsh</i>	<i>10 years</i>	<i>November 10, 2017</i>
<i>Mrs. June Fumiye Kodama</i>	<i>89 years</i>	<i>November 12, 2017</i>



### **2017 – 2018 Holiday Schedule**

**\*\*Please note for the Holiday Season and mark your calendar\*\***

Saturday December 23, 2017	<b>CLOSED</b>
Sunday December 24, 2017	<b>CLOSED</b>
Monday December 25, 2017	<b>CLOSED</b>
Tuesday December 26, 2017	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wednesday December 27, 2017	<b>OPEN</b>
Thursday December 28, 2017	<b>OPEN</b>
Friday December 29, 2017	<b>OPEN</b>
Saturday December 30, 2017	<b>OPEN</b>
Sunday December 31, 2017	<b>11:00 am Regular Service</b> <b>11:00 pm Bell Ringing Service at TBC</b>
Monday January 1, 2018	<b>11:00 am New Year's Day Service</b> <b>1:00 pm New Year's Day Service</b>
Sunday January 7, 2018	<b>11:00 am Shotsuki Memorial Service</b> <b>(Bilingual Service)</b>



### **FIRST PIE SALE of the Year!** **Delicious! Homemade!** **JANUARY 7, 2018**

**Proceeds to help TBC Host Eastern Buddhist League Conference, Labour Day weekend 2018**

**Donations are welcome and will be greatly appreciated**



## **\*\*NEW\*\* Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of January**

Our monthly memorial services (shotsuki) are usually held on the first Sunday of each month (please check our temple calendars to confirm the day of the monthly memorial service) to remember and honour those who have passed away in that month regardless of year.

Usually, mail reminders are sent out to the next of kin but due to changing circumstances we have not always been able to reach families and hope that by publishing the names of those who have passed, we can still reach and remind families and dear friends of the month of their loved ones honouring.

**Below is our listing of our members and supporters who have passed away during the month of January. All are invited and welcome to attend.**

<b>AKAYE</b> , Jeanne Ayako	<b>BABA</b> , Hatsu	<b>BANDO</b> , Toshio
<b>CARROLL</b> , John	<b>DOI</b> , Hajime	<b>EBATA</b> , Chiyoko
<b>EBATA</b> , Genya	<b>EDAMURA</b> , Toki	<b>FUJIMOTO</b> , Shuzo George
<b>FUJIMOTO</b> , Teruko	<b>FURUYA</b> , Yaeko	<b>HAKODA</b> , Aiko
<b>HAMA</b> , Fujie	<b>HAMADE</b> , Matsunosuke	<b>HAMASAKI</b> , Ichitaro
<b>HAYASHI</b> , Sumi	<b>HIGASHI</b> , Gene Yoshiteru	<b>HIRAI</b> , Hatsuye
<b>HIRAMORI</b> , Yukiko	<b>HUANG</b> , Mei Lin	<b>ICHIKAWA</b> , Jiro
<b>IKEDA</b> , Carole Mia Allison	<b>INOUE</b> , Hideharu Harry	<b>ISEKI</b> , Yoshiko
<b>ISHII</b> , Kanaye Bessie	<b>ITO</b> , Tsutau Lefty	<b>IZUKAWA</b> , Sakuhei
<b>KAGETSU</b> , Eikichi	<b>KAMINO</b> , Tsuneo Roy	<b>KARATSU</b> , Rennie Akira
<b>KATSURA</b> , Mosaburo	<b>KAWAHARA</b> , Kazumi	<b>KAWASAKI</b> , Mohachi
<b>KAWASAKI</b> , Uta	<b>KISHIMIOTO</b> , Mutsuo	<b>KITAGAWA</b> , Susumu
<b>KITAMURA</b> , Shotaro	<b>KIYONAGA</b> , Hide	<b>KOBAYAKAWA</b> , Hisa
<b>KODAMA</b> , George	<b>KOJIMA</b> , Jiro	<b>KONDO</b> , Take
<b>KONO</b> , Misayo	<b>KOYANAGI</b> , Kazue	<b>KOZAI</b> , Tomisaburo
<b>KUBOTA</b> , Saenosuke	<b>KUMAGAI</b> , Sutezo	<b>KUMAMOTO</b> , Hisano
<b>KUSANO</b> , Tokiyoshi Fred	<b>MACLACHLAN</b> , Marjorie Ethel	<b>MAEHARA</b> , Masumi
<b>MAIKAWA</b> , Misao	<b>MATSUBAYASHI</b> , Kanayo	<b>MATSUMOTO</b> , Tatsuyo Jean
<b>MIYAMOTO</b> , Kazuko	<b>MORI</b> , Kanichi George	<b>MORI</b> , Kisa
<b>MORI</b> , Maw Massme	<b>MORIMOTO</b> , Isae	<b>MORISHITA</b> , Nao
<b>MURABAYASHI</b> , Masa	<b>MURAKAMI</b> , Toshio	<b>MURATA</b> , Magoji
<b>MUROMOTO</b> , Miyoko	<b>NAKAHARA</b> , Aiko	<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Connie Kane
<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Kumakichi	<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Nobu	<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Mikio
<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Shigeo Fred	<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Tome	<b>NAKATA</b> , Akira Victor
<b>NAKATSU</b> , Tsuruyo	<b>NAKATSU</b> , Tsuruyo	<b>NATSUHARA</b> , Mie Nora
<b>NEKODA</b> , Ann Tsuyako	<b>NISHIHATA</b> , Kishi	<b>NISHIMURA</b> , Robert Toji
<b>NISHIMURA</b> , Eiko	<b>NISHIZEKI</b> , Hisakazu	<b>ODA</b> , Kikue
<b>OGINO</b> , Sumiye	<b>OHASHI</b> , Robert Seizo	<b>OHASHI</b> , Tamio

**OKASHIMO**, Kamezo**OMORI**, Tamako**OTSU**, Tsune**SATO**, Hikotaro**SHIBATA**, Hatsu**SHIMANO**, Kiyoko**SHIMIZU**, Hayley Elizabeth Hisaye**SUGIMAN**, Sugiman**TAKAHASHI**, Mika**TAKEMURA**, Sozo**TEHARA**, John Shiro**TSUKADA**, Haruye**USAMI**, Fumiko**WAKISAKA**, Yasujiro**WATANABE**, Misao**YAMASHITA**, Yori**YOSHIDA**, Bruce Yuji**OKAWA**, Kiyoshi**ONO**, Sadano**SAKAI**, Iwakazu**SATO**, Roland Atsumu**SHIBATA**, Suteya**SHIMIZU**, Kichiji**TAKAHASHI**, Deanna Takako**TAKASAKI**, Masaru**TANAKA**, Satsuki Sally**TOJI**, Shuken**UCHIMARU**, Kesaguma**UYESUGI**, Tamotsu Tom**WANI**, Fred Mitsunori**WATANABE**, Ronald Satoru**YASUDA**, Yukimori**OKUDA**, Hiroshi**OTANI**, Saichi**SAKATA**, Shizue**SEKIYA**, Matsue**SHIKATANI**, Masajiro**TAKAHASHI**, Koichi**TAKATA**, Chiyoko**TANAKA**, Yoshie**TSUJI**, Rose**URA**, Ine**WAKABAYASHI**, Hideo**WARNER**, Roger Harley**YAMAMOTO**, Tamotsu**YAMAUCHI**, Yasu

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO JSBTC DAY!

On behalf of our temple and our ministers, we thank you for donating to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) which is our national organization on JSBTC Day. The JSBTC provides for the office of the Bishop of Canada, many national programs for all our temples and for the further education, health and supplemental retirement income of all our ministers. At Toronto Buddhist Church, we have benefitted greatly over the past year as Bishop Aoki worked very hard in the accreditation of our Rev. Yoshi to become a fully ordained Overseas Minister (Kaikyoshi). Although Rev. Yoshi was already an ordained minister (Kyoshi), in order to serve outside of Japan as a full minister, further study and examinations were required to attain the Overseas status or Kaikyoshi which Rev. Yoshi has now earned.

Your continued support of our national organization is greatly appreciated.

## Bodhi Day (Jodo-e) Service

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am

Bodhi Day (Jodo – e) is the service at which we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's attainment of Enlightenment. This is a time to celebrate the beginnings of Buddhism as we know it today.

The attainment of Enlightenment was achieved after Prince Siddhartha of the Shakya clan sought to find the truth of life, leaving his material comfort of the regal life. He subjected himself to extreme physical discomfort in the ascetic practice, almost to the point of death but rejected this method as Shakyamuni found that a clear mind was not possible without a healthy body. After this realization he found a Middle Path of practice and meditation which lead to his ultimate Enlightenment. In our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, this is one of our more important services.

Please come to this service to show our collective gratitude and to remind ourselves of our Buddha-nature.



## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**

**Date:**           **Sunday, January 21, 2018**

**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 Annual 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. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, January 22, 2017;
2. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2017;
3. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2018;
4. Election of Directors;

Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

A second Notice of the Meeting with further details will be posted in the Guiding Light for January, 2018. Please note that while attendance at the Meeting is open to all friends of the Temple, **only members of the Temple will receive a package of reports and 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 who has paid his or her membership fee for 2017.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS YEAR'S NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL**

Please note the date for this year's New Year's Social will be on

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**  
**following the morning service**

It will be a Potluck luncheon with bingo and entertainment.

Door prize donations appreciated.

## Year End and New Year's Day Services

### Year End Day Service – Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00AM at TBC

This is an opportunity to observe the end of the year by giving thanks for all that we have received and reflect upon our actions of the past year. We also resolve to renew our efforts to follow the Buddhist Path for the next year by being mindful and grateful for the Teachings and the many causes and conditions which surround us.

### Year End Bell Ringing Service – Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00PM at TBC

This is our Year End Temple Bell Ringing service. **Please note that we are holding the bell ringing at our church and NOT at Ontario Place due to safety concerns.** Everyone present will have an opportunity to strike our temple kansho bell to ring in the New Year.

### New Year's Day Services – Monday January 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am and 1:00PM at TBC

These two services are offered to celebrate the New Year. Is there a more wonderful way to rededicate ourselves to be more aware of the Buddha's Teachings than to attend the first service of the New Year?

There will be two services (11:00am and 1:00pm) where we have the opportunity to hear and embrace the Teachings as if it was our first time. Services will be offered in both English and Japanese.

## Year End Bell Ringing Service at Toronto Buddhist Church

Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 at 11:00pm

### In the Worship Hall (Hondo)

In Japan, it is a Buddhist tradition to ring the temple bell 108 times at or around midnight on New Year's Eve. Why 108 times? The 108 represent the number of blind passions that we humans suffer from which prevent us from realizing the joy of the Buddha Dharma and enlightenment.

Mathematically this is from:  $6 \times 3 \times 2 \times 3 = 108$

**6** = The Buddhist number of senses: (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell and the unconscious of the unenlightened mind)

**3** = The states of experience (pleasant, unpleasant or neither pleasant or unpleasant/neutral)

**2** = The dimensions of attachment (attached or unattached)

**3** = The time frame (past, present or the future)

By ringing the bell 108 times, we symbolically acknowledge these 108 passions and bring ourselves into a greater awareness so that we can start the New Year with a more conscious mind of the Buddha's workings in our lives.

Please come to our Bell Ringing Service at the Toronto Buddhist Church to help strike our temple bell (Kansho) 108 times. **We welcome all ages and families!** We are gathering at 11:00pm so we have time to settle in and have a warm drink before the start of our service at 11:30pm, followed by the invitation to take a turn to strike our temple bell at midnight.

**PLEASE NOTE THE BELL RINGING IS AT TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
AND NOT AT ONTARIO PLACE THIS YEAR**



Saturday, December 9th, 2017  
Showtime: 12:00 noon

**TBC SENIOR KARAOKE CLUB  
YEAR END CONCERT 2017**  
at TBC Social Hall

EVERY ONE WELCOME!!  
Admission: \$15.00  
includes:  
Oishii obento  
Enka songs  
Odori  
Good times  
Grand finale

TBC シニアカラオケクラブ  
年末コンサート 開催日時  
十二月九日(土) 正午開演

for tickets and information please call:  
Jessica Nakamura (416)733-1894  
Setsuko Lambeau (416) 225-4747  
**TBC SENIOR KARAOKE CLUB**

**DANA NEWS****BAZAAR THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped out during the prep week and to those who worked hard on Bazaar day. Your contributions, especially to the 100 bentos sold at the bazaar and the hard work are very much appreciated by the Bazaar Committee.

**Zen Meditation and Mindfulness**

When: Every Thursday Evening from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

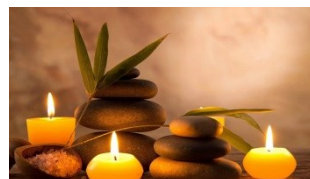
Where: Toronto Buddhist Church – Hondo.

**The two-hour session will include:**

- Guided Sitting Meditation
- Silent Walking Meditation
- Silent Sitting Meditation
- Dharma Talk

Please arrive at least 15 minutes early in order to allow time for “settling in” so the session can begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions please contact the Temple at 416-534-4302 or you can email Denise Crofton at [dcrofton@rogers.com](mailto:dcrofton@rogers.com)



**NOTE: LAST CLASS BEFORE HOLIDAYS IS DECEMBER 21ST. WE WILL RESUME CLASSES JANUARY 11, 2018**

## Founder's Memorial (Ho-Onko) Weekend

January 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Ho-Onko or Founder's Memorial is one of the most important occasions observed in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition where we observe and honour the memorial of the passing of our founder Shinran Shonin.

We celebrate throughout the weekend of January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

**On Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup>** we have a vegetarian potluck dinner in which everyone brings a vegetarian dish to share. Please come for 4:30pm so we have time to set up your contribution for dinner at 5:00pm, followed by a special Ho-Onko Eve Service at 6:30pm and a celebratory bowl of zenzai (sweet red bean soup).

**On Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am** we have the regular Ho-Onko or Founder's Memorial Service. Shinran was a rebel monk in the sense that he brought the Dharma (Buddha's Teachings) out of the monastery to the common people during a time of great political turmoil, social unrest and violence. He introduced Buddhism to everyone regardless of class or intellect as a way for all to attain peace and happiness. Please join us in honouring our Founder and his struggle to deliver Buddha's Teachings to all of us.



2018. 01. 01 New Year Day  
11:30am to 9pm

@ Toronto Buddhist Church  
1101 Sheppard Ave. W.

初詣

## 2018 Japanese New Year's Hatsumode Event

This coming New Year's Day (2018.01.01), the Toronto Buddhist Church has an event called "Hatsumode" that is a Japanese New Year's Event with TSR (Team Samurai Resurrection).

The team was made by young Japanese business and restaurant owners in Toronto.

On January 1st, they will have real Japanese food for sale, Japanese traditional games and so on... Please join us at the Temple !!!!! (\$5 entrance fee for non temple members)





## Calling all Sangha Kids.....

You won't want to miss

**December 17, 2017** - make your own gingerbread house  
learn about Bodhi Day (Dec. 8)



## Let's begin the New Year with January's Theme: Prajna - Wisdom

**January 7, 2018** – The beautiful sounds of the Taiko are calling all Sangha Kids to come out on this day and learn how to play the Taiko. Isshin Daiko is holding a workshop, so please come out and let's have fun together while we learn how to play these special drums.



## **January 21, 2018** – Cooking Activity

Learn about special Jodo Shinshu traditions like New Year's and Hoonko.

We hope to see you all there. Everyone is welcome.

Jess, Yumi, Abigail, Rachel, Koji, Denise and Naomi



### TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

### HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP

### 2018 SCHEDULE

#### JANUARY

1	New Year's Day Service
7	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
14	Regular Service
	<i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hoonko Service</i>
20	Vegetarian Pot Luck Dinner & Hoonko Eve Service

*Continued on page 18*

**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2018 SCHEDULE****JANUARY**

- 21 Founder's Memorial *Hoonko* Service  
TBC Annual General Meeting
- 28 Regular Service  
New Year's Celebration (Shinenkai)  
*Montreal Buddhist Church Hoonko Service*

**FEBRUARY**

- 4 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
TBC Board Installation
- 11 Regular Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Nirvana Day Service*
- 18 Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) & Sangha Day
- 25 Regular Service

**MARCH**

- 4 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
- 11 Regular Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Spring Higan Service*
- 18 Spring Equinox Service (Higan-e) & Keirokai
- 25 Regular Service

**APRIL**

- 1 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
- 8 Eshinni Day; Wife of Shinran Shonin Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hanamatsuri Service*
- 15 Hanamatsuri
- 22 Regular Service  
*Montreal Buddhist Church Hanamatsuri*
- 25 – 29 JSBTC AGM at Calgary
- 28 *Ottawa Fellowship Hanamatsuri\**
- 29 Regular Service

**MAY**

- 6 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
- 13 Parents' Day Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Gotan-e Service*
- 20 Celebration of Shinran's birth Service (Gotan-e) &
- 21 Infant Presentation (Shosan shiki)
- 27 Regular Service

*Continued on page 19*

**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2018 SCHEDULE**

<b><u>JUNE</u></b>	3	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	10	TBC Picnic
	17	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Shotsuki Service (afternoon)</i>
	24	Regular Service
	30	<i>Ottawa Fellowship Obon</i> <i>Montreal Buddhist Church Obon</i>
<b><u>JULY</u></b>	1	TBC Closed <i>Montreal Buddhist Church: Obon Service</i>
	8	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	14	Obon Cemetery Visit; Haka mairi Obon Service & Bon Odori Dance at JCCC
	15	Obon Service <i>Hatsubon, Eng and Jpn</i>
	22	Summer Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Obon Service</i>
	28	<i>Ottawa Fellowship*</i>
	29	Summer Service
<b><u>AUGUST</u></b>	5	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	12	Summer Service
	19	Summer Service
	26	Summer Service
	30 – Sep.3	EBL at Toronto Buddhist Church
<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>	Aug.30 – 3	EBL at Toronto Buddhist Church
	9	Shotsuki Service and Rally Sunday <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Fall Higan Service</i>
	16	Fall Equinox Service (Higan-e)
	23	Regular Service
	29	<i>Ottawa Buddhist Temple Fall Higan</i> <i>Montreal Buddhist Church Fall Higan</i>
	30	Regular Service

*Continued on page 20*

**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2018 SCHEDULE****OCTOBER**

7	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
14	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: JSBTC Day Service</i>
21	Pet Appreciation Service
27	<i>Ottawa Fellowship Service</i>
28	Regular Service

**NOVEMBER**

4	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki) & JSBTC Day
10	Temple Bazaar
11	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Regular Service</i>
18	Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)
24	<i>Montreal Buddhist Church: Eitaikyo</i>
25	Regular Service

**DECEMBER**

2	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
9	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Bodhi Day Service</i>
16	Bodhi Day Service (Jodo-e)
23	Regular Service
30	Regular Service
31	Year-End Day Service (Joya-e) Year-End bell ringing

*\*Please note that the two services marked by asterisk above will be led by the Ottawa Fellowship as a minister is currently unable to attend.*

## NOTICE FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIP

The year 2017 is quickly coming to a close and it will soon be time to renew or apply for your 2018 Membership. The Board has decided to raise the membership fee for 2018 minimally from \$125.00 to \$130.00 to avoid having to impose substantial fee increases in any particular year. We are also looking into introducing a Student Membership in the near future.

Thank you for your understanding and supporting Toronto Buddhist Church by being a member in 2017. We hope that you will renew or become a member in 2018..



# Thank You Mochi Tsuki Test Pilots! ...and Please Join Us on December 29<sup>th</sup> for Mochi Tsuki!

Test pilots are a breed apart – they fear nothing and perform extraordinary tasks in challenging environments.



**Steaming the Mochi Gome!**



**Forming Mochi!**

We are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of twenty brave volunteers who helped process 100 pounds of mochi gome into delicious mochi on November 4<sup>th</sup> during a Mochi Tsuki Readiness check.



**Taking a well earned break and dinner!**



**Cooling and Inspection!**

Thanks to their efforts, we were able to determine what repairs are required of our equipment to be fully prepared for Mochi Tsuki.

Please join us for Mochi Tsuki – all volunteers are welcome and appreciated. Volunteers are provided lunch and 1 dozen free mochi (half dozen for kids).

## **Mochi Tsuki Schedule**

**Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm – wash 800lbs of mochi gome.**

**Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> 9am – Mochi Tsuki!**

Happy Holidays and see you for Mochi Tsuki!

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka (Cary@247Systems.ca)  
President TBC Sangha

# TBC Sangha Mochi Tsuki

## Pick Up

**Friday, December 29, 2017**  
**Sale Hours 12:00 - 3:30 pm**

**To ensure availability, please place order with the Temple**  
**No later than December 21 2017**

**Phone (416) 534-4302 Fax (416) 534-0575**  
**E-Mail: [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca)**  
**or with Sangha Executives**

**Osonae (Okagami) \$ 4.50 / Set Komochi \$ 4.00 / Doz.**  
**Anko Mochi \$ 6.00 / Doz. (\*\*Quantities are Limited\*\*)**

**Cut and Send the Form Below to:**

**Toronto Buddhist Church**  
**1011 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M3H 2T7**

## 2017 Mochi Order

**Please send no later than December 21, 2017**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone/Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

(        ) **Bag(s) Komochi    @\$4.00/ea**                      \$                      .

(        ) **Set(s) Osonae        @\$4.50/ea**                      \$                      .

(        ) **Anko Mochi            @\$6.00/ea**                      \$                      .

**Total:** \$                      .

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## NEW YEARS GREETINGS 2018

In the next issue, January 7, 2018, the Guiding Light will be inserting a special "HAPPY NEW YEAR" page. If you would like your name included in the special New Year's greeting page, please complete the form below and submit it with your donation to the Temple office by **December 27, 2017**.

**Please print my/our name(s) under 'New Year Greetings' in the upcoming January 2018 issue of the GUIDING LIGHT.**

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GREETING:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(N.B. Phone requests will NOT be accepted.)**

Kaikyoushi

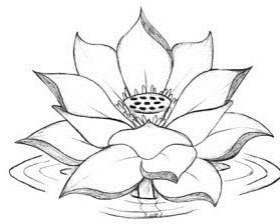




### Tannisho Chapter 3

“Even a virtuous person can attain rebirth in the Pure Land, how much more easily a wicked person!” But ordinary people usually say: ‘Even a wicked person can attain rebirth in the Pure Land, how much more easily a virtuous person.’ At first sight, this view may appear more reasonable, but it really is quite contrary to the intention of the other-power of the Original Vow. The reason is that since a person who does deeds of merit by his own effort lacks total reliance on the other-power, he is self-excluded from Amida’s Original Vow. But as soon as his attitude of self-effort is redirected and he dedicates himself exclusively to the other-power, his rebirth in the True Land of Reward is at once assured.

It was solely to enable the wicked to attain buddhahood that Amida took his vows, out of compassion for those like us who, defiled to the core, have no hope of liberating ourselves from the cycle of birth and death through any other discipline. And so an evil person who dedicates himself to the other-power is above all endowed with the right cause for rebirth. Hence Shinran’s saying: ‘Even a virtuous person can attain rebirth in the Pure Land, how much more easily a wicked person!’”



### Buddhist Word Search

U	N	I	D	Y	E	D	U	T	I	T	A	R	G	R
S	C	J	P	A	J	M	O	G	N	M	M	D	N	O
T	F	S	S	H	M	V	A	I	A	E	I	S	E	H
U	T	R	T	D	O	Z	H	U	R	P	D	N	N	S
B	N	L	V	D	N	F	G	P	N	S	A	J	J	S
M	A	S	C	U	T	Q	N	D	I	A	Z	L	U	A
E	G	H	O	B	O	T	A	T	H	N	R	F	U	G
N	A	O	M	I	S	L	S	Q	S	B	S	Q	O	D
I	R	S	P	U	H	D	N	A	B	U	S	A	V	Z
J	J	H	A	J	I	T	M	S	Z	J	B	Y	O	V
N	U	I	S	V	K	M	G	R	Z	O	S	X	U	Y
I	N	N	S	Y	I	P	R	I	A	R	I	N	U	J
H	A	G	I	M	S	G	O	M	O	N	S	H	U	U
S	E	E	O	J	H	Q	D	H	A	R	M	A	T	K
W	Y	T	N	V	O	X	U	K	O	H	K	S	A	C

AMIDA  
GOMONSHU  
GRATITUDE  
COMPASSION  
NEMBUTSU  
SHINJIN  
NENJU  
BUDDHA  
DHARMA  
SANGHA  
SHINRAN  
NAGARJUNA  
VASUBANDHU  
MONTOSHIKISHO  
GASSHO

JUNIRAI  
SHOSHINGE  
SANBUJO