

Guiding Light

April 2015

佛心



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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



Jodo Shinshu Buddhism & Daily Practices

Today, I would like to talk about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (JSB) & daily practices. What do I mean by daily practices? Saying the Nembutsu, offering fresh fruit or cooked rice, lighting candles, chanting sutras, studying Jodo Shinshu texts, reading or hearing Dharma talks, these are all JSB practices.

So, why do we practice these things? What is the benefit? How often should we do them? When should we do them?

It depends on our circumstances. If we are working and raising a family, there is little time. When our children have grown, there is a little more time. When we are finished our working careers, there is more time.

So, what practices do you do every day? And if you do them, what are the benefits?

I can only speak of my own practices and I can only speak of my own benefits. Let us see if you find something in my practices and my benefits that will resonate with you.

My day begins early in the morning, as I am an early riser. I love the mornings, especially since I retired almost 8 years ago. I light a candle and incense, and I offer fresh fruit or nuts to Amida in my Obutsudan. I sing a song that my Teacher, Makino Sensei, taught me during his brief stay in Toronto and that is “Jodo no Tabiji” or “Journey to the Pure Land”. I read from “The Collected Works of Shinran, Volume 1”. Then I chant a sutra, one of Junirai, Sanbutsuge or Juseige. If I do Shoshinge, I only do portions, as it is very long. Finally, I close with either “Ryogemon” or “Shonin Ichiryu”. This morning practice takes me about 30 minutes.

So, why do I follow such practices? For me (and again, I can only speak for myself), because it helps me get through my days with the spirit of Nembutsu. I feel immense gratitude for Shinran Shonin, the founder of JSB, and to all his successors. I sometimes experience brief moments of “shinjin”, that golden moment of sheer entrusting in Amida Buddha. This spirit of Nembutsu has helped me through some difficult times concerning death of loved ones, divorce and job terminations. This spirit of Nembutsu has made me truly grateful for the happy times such as births of loved ones, marriage and new employment beginnings.

So, because of my daily practices I mostly go through my days with the spirit of Nembutsu. Of course there are days when even that spirit faces severe testing. Even then, in difficult times, I find when I just bow my head and put my hands together in gassho, I say the Nembutsu and simply receive Amida’s unlimited compassion, I feel much better. Namo Amida Butsu when I am sad. Namo Amida Butsu when I am happy. His compassion covers me always.

Please join me in Gassho,
Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu, Namo Amida Butsu

Dennis Madokoro



STORIES FROM THE PRESIDENT: BELONGING

I read Reverend Christina's recent message about feeling different from most of the others at our Temple. Initially she thought about trying to "fit", but she couldn't deny what she was, which was, umm, quite white.

This got me thinking about belonging, in the sense of being accepted by others with whom you can share values and interests.

It's as if belonging doesn't have to be taught at all. From the moment of birth a baby develops a sense of belonging to a loving mother. Then comes the dad. We've even seen a sibling's initial jealousy fade and develop into a loving and protective bond. The baby then belongs to the most powerful union of all – the

family. Developmental psychologists know all about this.

The need to belong seems to grow all by itself. From family it moves to the neighbourhood and school. In my public school days, after leaving the warm cocoon which was Joe's home (see Guiding Light, October 2014) I was adopted by a gang of neighbourhood delinquents. We committed every petty juvenile crime imaginable in my post-war rough-and-tumble neighbourhood. The foolhardy thrill of getting away with it gave us a huge brotherly high and an unspoken loyalty to one another. Most were eventually caught and punished. It's not hard to see how some can be drawn to criminal gang life, and these days even "radicalized" into terrorist organizations. A loving teacher pulled me out early and saved me. And from there it was all the school stuff – clubs, sports, student government. A life in pursuit of belonging to one thing or another. A mate, the workplace, society, the country. Now tired out, maybe from too much belonging, it's golf for me, certainly not because I like the game or am good at it but because I look forward to the camaraderie of sharing crude jokes, bad manners, cringe-worthy swings and cheap early bird special dinners with my buddies.

We have needed to belong all our life and we still need it now. Why? Maybe because most of us can't stand the opposite of belonging – loneliness. When we really get down on ourselves, we may see it as exclusion or even rejection. As a young man I was privately crushed when nobody asked me to dance during a Snowball or a Ladies' Choice at Junior YBA dances. I was even the odd-man out in the occasional Paul Jones. It was hard on my ego when in my freshman year at university I was ignored by the fraternities. Years later as a mature student, I walked along the paths at our sprawling university campus in the City and I encountered a young student sobbing uncontrollably and banging her head repeatedly against the stone wall of one of the university's stately buildings. I tried to comfort her for a while as she bawled "I'm so lonely!" She managed to compose herself after a little while and hurried off. I never forgot her. Most of us can't stand to be alone. We have to belong to someone, some organization, or some thing to be happy, or at least to avoid the wretched feeling of loneliness.

There are exceptions. Didn't Gautama leave his family and the comfort of his palace at the age of 29 to become an ascetic? The famous swordsman and serious student of Buddhism Miyamoto Musashi retreated as a hermit to a cave at the age of 59, and there in solitude completed his classic *Book of Five Rings (Go Rin No Sho)*. But as for you and me, I suspect we wouldn't be able to survive alone in a cave for long, never mind do anything meaningful there.

In our Temple, we have the Sangha. We share together the Teachings of the Buddha. Together we share chanting and meditation. We share food and we laugh with friends and family. All of this is belonging. Is this kind of belonging good or is it just another form of that no-no "A" word - Attachment? Can belonging be like cholesterol – good and bad?

Worried, I did some reading on the internet. Mind you, at my age, I tend to read material that is easy on my eyes and my brain. I found with much relief that belonging is not just about being accepted, but it is also about accepting others. So belonging to the Sangha and feeling good about it is actually like the good cholesterol because it gives us the opportunity to love and care about and for one another. That's what we do week in and week out at the Temple and that's what makes us happy. Reverend Christina, however different she may have thought she was, obviously was aware of this a long time ago, and that's why we see her always with a big smile.

Namo Amida Butsu
Roy Kusano

KIDS SANGHA EVENTS

Sunday April 19th 2015

KIDS SANGHA PAN AM GAMES

In celebration of the upcoming Pan Am games in Toronto, we will be holding various sporting events for the kids to participate in.

We hope the weather is good so we can spend time outside, if not, we will hold the events inside downstairs in the Social Hall. Please dress the kids in appropriate sporting attire for outdoor and indoor events (running shoes, sweat pants, jacket etc.)

Sunday April 19th is also Hana Matsuri Service.

KIDS SERVICE BEGINS AT 10:30 AM IN THE HONDO

Looking forward to seeing you in April!



HOLD THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 2 - SUNDAY MAY 3, 2015

CELEBRATION: CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's day (May 5th) is a time when families celebrate the healthy growth and happiness of children. It became a national holiday in Japan in 1948.

The Toronto Buddhist Church wants to celebrate Children's Day by hosting a Kids Sangha Sleepover on Saturday May 2nd. The sleepover will be held at the Toronto Buddhist Church.

More details will be provided in early April, but for now, please mark your calendars.

In the past we have hosted sleepovers for the kids, but it has been a while since we had our last one. Can you please indicate your level of interest as this will help us in the planning phase.

Gassho,
Denise & the Camp Lumbini Counsellors

Thank you for your support!

Shin-Fujinkai would like to thank the congregation for making this year's "Winter Warmup" another success. Thank you also to our members who came to help prepare and serve our "sukiyaki-don" lunch.

We hope to see you again next year!



DANA NEWS

USED STAMPS

A reminder that we are continuing to collect used stamps for "Save the Children Fund". Please leave 1/4"-1/2" of envelope around the stamp. This charity sells the stamps to dealers. Money raised helps provide a better future and brighter future for children from impoverished countries. If you have used stamps, please drop them in the box on the table in the temple lobby.

FOREIGN COINS

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

PENNIES

If anybody has unwanted pennies or small change, please bring them to the temple and place them in the box provided in the lobby. Donations will be used for the upcoming World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary, May 30-31st, 2015.

Stamps and Coin drop off is: **Sunday, April 19th, 2015**

WF KOKORO HEART PACKAGING BEE

Please join us on Tuesday April 7th at 11:00 a.m. to help package all the kokoro hearts many of you have crocheted for the convention. These will be given as gifts from the Toronto Buddhist Temple to all who attend the convention. Bring a brown bag lunch. Hope to see you Tuesday.

MOMIJI BAZAAR 2015

TBC donated 100 bentos to the Momiji Bazaar held on March 28th. Thank you to the ladies who contributed the foods toward the making of the bentos. We appreciate your kindness.

Special thanks to Mr. George Nakano for transporting the bentos to Momiji.

TBC DANA SCHOLARSHIP INVITES APPLICATIONS

The Toronto Buddhist Church Dana Scholarship Committee invites all qualified, graduating students to apply for a scholarship.

Eligibility: Students who are first time applicants and who are members or who are children or grandchildren of members of a temple/church in the Eastern District of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada and who will be attending their first year of post-secondary education at a recognized institution such as a university, college, institute of technology, etc.

All applications must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a Letter of Reference. The amount of the scholarship is dependent on monies available each year end and is at the discretion of the Committee.

The selection criteria will be as follows:

Academic results	50%
Church activities	30%
School and Community Involvement	10%
Essay (min 300 words)	10%
Total	100%

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact the office at tbc@tbc.on.ca or 416-534-4302 and an application form will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

**** DEADLINE for the scholarship application is Sunday, April 12, 2015 ****

All scholarship winners will be honoured at the scholarship presentation and luncheon which will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2015 (at the Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Service at 11:00 am).



Butsudan Adoption Program

Traditionally, inside each Buddhist home is a Obutsudan or “Home Altar”. It serves many purposes...you can do your chanting in front of it, meditation, Nembutsu recitation, but most importantly it is there to always remind you of the Buddhist teachings. When someone moves into a smaller location or care facility, occasionally they bring their Obutsudan to us and ask us to find it a new home. Each month we will feature a different one up for adoption.

This month we are featuring this beautiful handmade Obutsudan including everything you see here. Made in 1957, this vintage beauty stands 43 cm high, is 36.5 cm wide, and 20 cm deep. It was made with a lot of love and is still in excellent condition. There is a good sized drawer to store all of your Buddhist needs! We are asking for a minimum donation of \$75.

If you or someone you know is interested please call 416-534-4302



ESHINNI DAY
APRIL 12 11:00 AM
Guest Speaker: Thich nu Tinh Quang

Please join us on Eshinni Day in welcoming our guest speaker, Venerable Thich nu Tinh Quang. She is a Zen teacher ordained in Vietnam by her Master, Most Venerable Thich Nhat Lien. She teaches at Little Heron Zen Hermitage in Hamilton and is the Vice-President of Sakyadhita Canada, a branch of Sakyadhita International. Sakyadhita translates as “Daughters of Buddha,” and their goal is to empower the world’s 300 million Buddhist women to work for peace and social justice and to advance their spiritual and secular life.



Hanamatsuri Service
Buddha’s Birthday Service

Please join us on April 19th 2015 for a very special day. Hanamatsuri means “Flower Festival” and it is on this day that we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha.

It is said that when the Buddha was born the skies opened up and rained sweet tea. On this occasion we will bring out a special statue of the baby Buddha and we each take a turn pouring sweet tea on him with a special ladle.

Pouring sweet tea over the baby Buddha is a tradition for Buddhists all over the world, and a particular favourite for young children.

We look forward to seeing you at service
April 19th!!!

April Honobono Is A Cooking Class!!!

April 19, 2015 6:00 pm

The Honobono Club was originally created to give newcomers from Japan a place where they can relax, meet new people, and have fun. It has since been expanded and all people are welcome.

This time we have invited chef Taeko Lewis who has trained in Italy for 7 years. She stayed in southern Sicily to northern Tirol of Italy and learned Italian home cooking, foodstuff and lifestyle. She will be teaching us how to prepare a delicious tomato spaghetti. Italians think tomato spaghetti is like Miso soup and steamed rice for Japanese. You might think tomato spaghetti is too simple to make but it is quite complex. She will teach us that the differences in taste comes from the material quality; you will enjoy different ways of cooking and compare the taste. After the class, you will be like an Italian mother. Class is limited to 20 people. Please contact Rev. Endo at the temple to reserve a place. There will be a 5 dollar charge.

Correction: We would like to recognize Akiko Nishimura who also helps organizing the events for Honobono and was omitted from last month’s article. Our apologies for this oversight.



Shoshanshiki: Infant Presentation Service

Sunday, May 17, 2015 11:00 am

Shoshanshiki is a ceremony in which one's child is formally presented to the Buddha and to the Sangha for the first time. It is open to any infant under three.

**** * Please submit your application before May 11, 2015 * * ***

Child's full name _____

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

Parent's Names: _____
 \ _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

Membership 2015 Quarterly Update

The Toronto Buddhist Church membership drive for 2015 is very promising so far, with an even better subscription rate in February. But we really need to keep the momentum going over the next couple of months.

We have been sending membership cards to our 2015 members and the word on the street is that members, both regular and honorary members, really appreciate their new symbols of acknowledgment from and commitment to the Temple.

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. It appears though, that some readers are still unaware of the difference between membership dues and donations. Membership dues for Regular Members (minimum \$100) must be remitted in envelopes specially marked "Membership" and should not be inserted in the Offering envelopes in the Hondo. Cash or cheques inserted in the Offering envelopes, however marked, will be applied to donations and not to membership dues. We are seeking cooperation in this simple matter in order to reduce our administrative burden.

We really urge all members who have not paid their minimum membership fees to do so by the end of May so we will be able to get a fix on our membership count for 2015 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 join us.

The Board of Directors

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Toronto Buddhist Church Sangha Presents:
Hanamatsuri Family Banquet
 Join us at our annual event filled with entertainment, bingo and prizes your entire family will enjoy.
 Feast on our famous Roast Beef* dinner with your family and friends.

Saturday April 18 @ 5:30pm
 Toronto Buddhist Church
 1011 Sheppard Ave. West
 416.534.4302 www.tbc.on.ca

Donations for Door Prizes are appreciated
 Adults ~\$12 Youth (13 to 17) ~\$6
 Kids Sangha (12 and under) ~ Free

Tickets available from Sangha members or TBC office
 *Vegetarian or any other dietary needs are available upon request

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VESAK DAY

Sunday May 24, 2015
Celebration Square
Mississauga

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

Please contact Rev. Yanko at tbc@tbc.on.ca if you are interested.



The date of
 the 2015 TBC Annual Picnic
 has been changed to
Sunday, June 14, 2015
 at Camp Green Acres

More news to come!



WBWC UPDATE April 2015

One month to go before the big event! The World Buddhist Women's Convention will be on May 30 & 31 in Calgary and it's so exciting to see people working together as "One".

In addition to the workshops described in the WBWC Update for March, here are the other diverse workshops to be held at the Convention:

- Rev. Miyakawa leading a workshop on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada
- Gagaku-kai of Hiroshima performance (Japanese Court Musicians)
- Dr. Gail Chin will do two workshops on Using Visual Arts to Study the History of Women in Japan
- Dr. Reg Crowshoe will be presenting two workshops on Oneness from a First Nations Perspective
- Lila Ho-Takeda leading a workshop on QI GONG: Moving Meditation
- Line Dance with the Japanese Centre Line Dance Group will be a workshop
- Rod Burylo will be doing a workshop on The Power of Oneness - Success and Fulfillment Through Interdependence

Answers to Questions You May Have About the Convention

1. There is an airport shuttle to the International Hotel (link provided) however, depending on the number of people traveling together, a taxi may be more economical.

http://www.airportshuttlecalgary.ca/downtown_locations

<http://www.yyc.com/en-us/travellerinfo/groundtransportation/taxis,sedans.aspx>

2. There will not be shuttle service available between the International Hotel and CTCC (Calgary Telus Convention Center).
3. Attendees have been asked to bring 6 omiyage because each banquet table will have 5/6 people from another district sitting with them (tables of 10), it was thought that it would be a nice way of sharing and making new acquaintances. The exchange of omiyage will be done at the tables after everyone is seated for dinner.
4. For the Canadians, ideally, look for something Canadian or that represents Canada which would be nice for a man or woman – suggestions, something maple like candy, chocolate, craft, ice wine tea, key chain
5. There is no pre-registration to attend workshops. It is first come first serviced/general seating and each workshop will have a maximum number that can attend based on room space.
6. Canadians are not required to purchase the custom montoshiki-sho. Attendees can wear existing or already owned montoshiki-sho for the services - it is not a requirement however, it is quite nice and a wonderful momento that can be worn after the convention is over too!

For more information, please visit our website at **www.wbwconvention.com**

As proud Jodo Shinshu Buddhists and Canadians, let's come together as 'one' and be
"Embraced by the Oneness of Life"

LECTURES AND CLASSES

Cancelling Evening Services

As of April 1, 2015 Toronto Buddhist Church will no longer be holding Thursday evening services. Attendance was very small, but hopefully there will be enough interest that they can resume in the future.

Please remember to recite Nembutsu. Look forward to seeing you at Sunday Service!

April 26th = Let's Talk Dharma

"Thousands of people may live in a community but it is not one of true fellowship until they know each other and have sympathy for one another. A true community has faith and wisdom that illuminate it. It is a place where the people know and trust one another and where there is social harmony. In fact, harmony is the life and real meaning of a true community or organization."

This quote is from "The Teachings of the Buddha".

If you want to participate in an interactive discussion group that will explore some or all of these topics, please join us @ 12:30 PM after the English service. We will meet upstairs in the mezzanine. Come on in, we are a friendly group.

Come Join us for Buddhist Meditation Class

What is Buddhist meditation?

In Buddhism the person meditating is not trying to get into a hypnotic state or contact angels or any other supernatural entity.

Meditation involves the body and the mind.

In the most general definition, meditation is a way of taking control of the mind so that it becomes peaceful and focused, and the meditator becomes more aware.

The purpose of meditation is to stop the mind rushing about in an aimless (or even a purposeful) stream of thoughts. People often say that the aim of meditation is to still the mind and find peace by reciting Namu Amida Butsu. (Excerpts from BBC web page)

Come join our meditation classes and experience an hour of peace, tranquility and relaxation on Monday April 6th and 20th and attain a peaceful mind through the Nembutsu.

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.



Mr. Toshihide Uyeda 80 yrs February 26, 2015

Mr. Tamio Ohashi 87 yrs March 14, 2015

Bon Odori 2015

Cold enough for you? Maybe the thought of Japanese folk dancing and Obon in July will warm you up. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays at the TBC. Newcomers are welcome as step-by-step instructions are given. Those who haven't done odori in years will recognize and remember many of the dances. Bon Odori is for all ages and genders.



This year, Friday practices will start at 7:30 pm. We are hoping that this earlier time will be more convenient for new participants.

Tuesday nights, 8:00 – 9:30 pm, starting April 21, 2015

Friday nights, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, starting April 24, 2015

Hope to see you there!

Interfaith Youth Forum 2015: 16 to 30 years old
Saturday, May 2, 2015, 1:30 pm until 5:00 pm
Fo Guang Shan Temple of Toronto
6525 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga, ON, L5N 7K6

Registration deadline: April 15, 2015

This is an initiative to have youth and young adults from different faith traditions and faith groups come together, forming a network of friendship and support.

Register online at: <http://www.interfaithyouthforum.ca/>



DON DON DON DON

CALLING ALL JUNIOR TAIKO PLAYERS. Have you enjoyed the Kids Sangha Taiko Workshops? Have you ever wanted to play taiko but didn't know where to go? The Toronto Buddhist Temple would like to start up the junior taiko group Jyakurai again. If you are 7 years or older and would be interested in learning taiko let us know. Lessons would be taught by Julia Cleveland of Isshin Daiko and would be an hour long. We would like to hold practices once a week, probably on Sunday, depending on the use of the social hall or classroom. Classes would start in September. No experience needed. If you are interested e-mail darlene.rieger28@gmail.com or inform Denise Crofton of the Kids Sangha.



**2015 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)
Buddhist Youth Tour**

Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)

For many years, the Hongwanji has been sponsoring the YBICSE program. The basic purpose of this program is to expose young Buddhists to ideas about sharing Nembutsu teaching with others by visiting Hongwanji (mother temple), experiencing a homestay, touring historical Jodo Shinshu sites, and meeting people and YBAs from different countries. The main portion of the trip will be organized through the Hongwanji (July 15 – July 23), with a day or so on either end for some sightseeing etc. Opportunity will be afforded for those youths who wish to receive confirmation rites by our head minister (Gomonshu-sama). Please keep in mind that the participated youth will be the ambassadors representing your local temple and the JSBTC.

Youths who wish to visit with relatives or friends at the conclusion of the group tour may do so; however, please notify Rev. Hayashi so that the return flight to Canada can be coordinated. We will be in Tokyo on the last day (July 25).

Candidate Qualifications:

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
Between the age of 15 and 25
In good health



Dates of Trip: July 12 – July 25, 2015

Cost of Trip: CDN \$2,000.00 (plus Travel Insurance arranged for by the participant)

Application and Selection Process:

Fill out the application and waiver form(s), write an essay, and ask your resident minister and lay member (preferably a local temple Dharma School Teacher or a temple president) to fill out the reference forms.

Application forms must be submitted to:

Rev. Michael Hayashi
YBICSE Registration
Manitoba Buddhist Temple
39 Tecumseh Street
Winnipeg, MB, R3E 0J8



Application Deadline: **May 3, 2015**

Ten [10] Participants (new or past applicants) will be chosen from Canada. Priority of the selection will be given to those who have never participated in the past tours.

Canada Delegates will be announced by May 10, 2015

Application form is available from your local temple and your minister.

If there are any questions regarding 2015 YBICSE, please contact Rev. Michael Hayashi (JSBTC Group Leader). Manitoba Buddhist Temple: (204) 774-9267 E-mail: michaelhayashi@hotmail.com

2015 Keiro Kai Celebration

On Sunday March 15th, the Spring Higan Service was held to honour those temple members who have reached Kiju (age 77); Beiju (age 88) and Kakuju (over 99).

The honorees this year were:

KIKUJU (77 YEARS) – Mrs. Yasuko Kawahara, Mrs. Jane Koyata, Mrs. Kathy Wani, Mr Fred Kotani

BEIJU (88 YEARS) – Mrs. Kimiko Gekko, Mrs. Mary Kawasaki, Mrs. Teruyo Kitamura, Mrs. Masako Sato, Mrs. Kazuko Shimizu, Mr. Teruji Goto, Mr. Joe Hakkaku, Mr. Kunio Suyama, Mr. Minoru Kodama, Mr. Jack Onishi, Mr Robert Hikida

POSTHUMOUS BEIJU – Mr. Shoji Nishikawa, Mr. Edward Tsuji

KAKUJU (OVER 99 YEARS) – Mrs. Yasuko Shimoda, Mr. Masanobu Nakamura, Mr. Shozo Ishikawa



In the afternoon the honorees and congregation gathered in the Social Hall to enjoy a delicious bento lunch that was prepared by Tori Ichii. Our Kakuju recipients, Mrs. Yasuko Shimoda and Mr. Shozo Ishikawa did the ceremonial cake cutting. Following lunch, the entertainment programme was co-MC'd by Yukari Ikebata and Bob Nishikawa and we were treated to performances by many of the temple groups. The Kid's Sangha put on a play based on a Japanese folk story, Peach Boy (Momo Taro) as well as joined the TBC Choir in a rendition of Homeward Bound. Two of our recipients performed: Shozo Ishikawa (Kakuju) sang Kitaguni no Haru and Kunio Suyama (Beiju) sang Tawaraboshi Genba. Some of the WF Delegates gave us a sneak peak at the Zumba performance to 'The Best Days of our Lives' they will be doing at the Convention this year. The highlights to the afternoon was a song performed by Rev. Christina accompanied by Dare Daro on guitar and Rev. Ryuhei and the TBG06 performing a J-Pop Koi suru Fortune Cookie. To end the afternoon's festivities Sachiko Hata-Pereklita sang Hana wa Saku.

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