

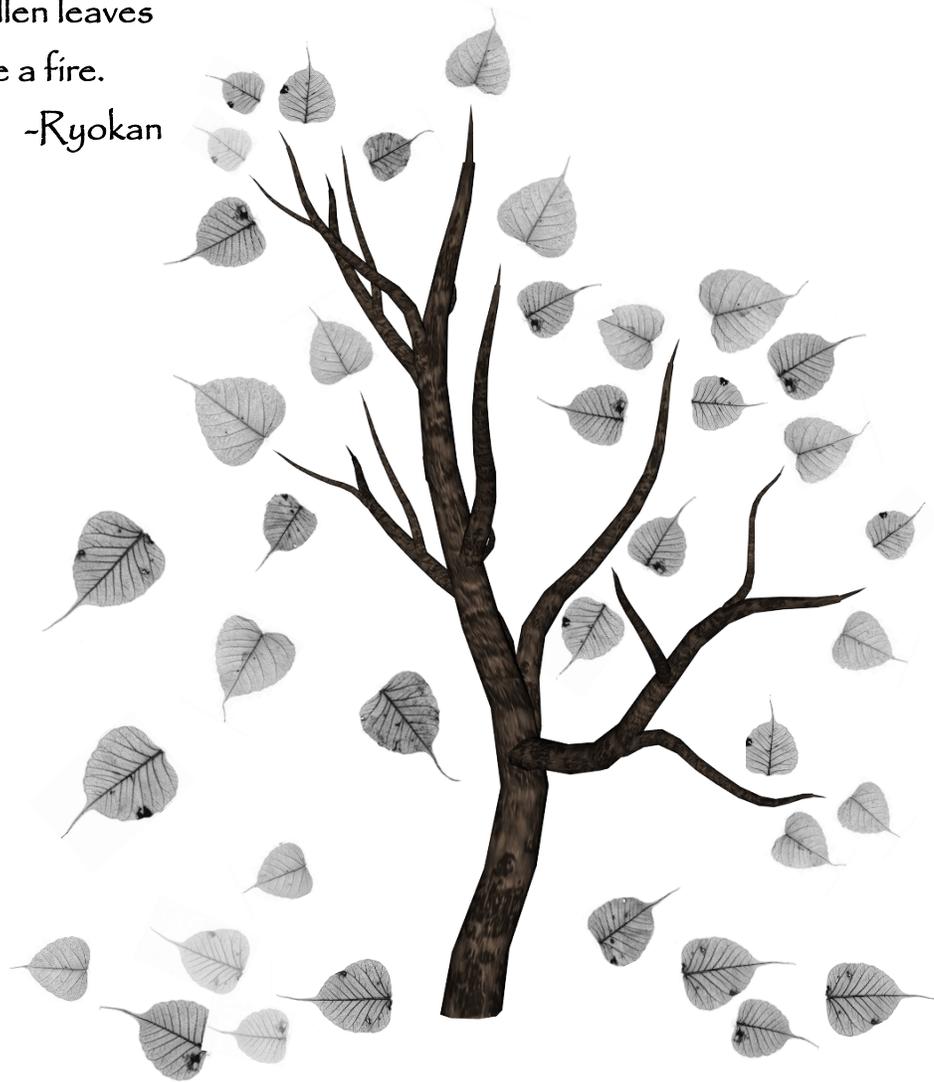


Guiding Light

October 2015

The wind gives me
enough fallen leaves
to make a fire.

-Ryokan



焚くほどは風もて来る落ち葉かな

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

1011 Sheppard Ave West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3H 2T7
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Morality and Survival

Like a lot of folks, Kristen and I like to watch TV in the evenings after the kids have gone to bed. One thing we watch are survival shows, such as “Survivorman” and “Man vs. Wild.” These are reality programs where a person or small group of people intentionally maroon themselves in difficult environments in order to demonstrate wilderness skills and test their mettle against the elements. Part of the appeal of these programs is seeing whether they’re up to the challenge, and imagining what you might do in their place. I always like to think I’d do a great job at it, but realistically, I’d probably be eaten by a bear. Or even a squirrel.

One thing that these shows demonstrate is the contextual nature of our moral behaviours. For instance, stranded people often have to choose whether they will act just like they would in regular society, or whether they will adjust their actions so that they survive. The biggest example is around eating. Vegetarianism is easy enough to support in Toronto—but alone on the Arctic tundra, not so much. We just watched a program where a group of regular British women were stranded on a desert island, and happened to befriend a couple of wild piglets. When the women failed to find any substantial food after many days, they were faced with the question of whether they would kill and eat their pets. It was very emotional for them, but after they’d resisted as long as they could, pork chops ended up on the menu.

I’m a vegetarian myself, and don’t want to cause other living things to suffer just to feed my belly. But that’s a decision I’m enabled to make because of the comfortable situation in which I live. Pushed to the brink, I would probably be looking around for some barbeque sauce. This is just the fact of human existence, a fact that Shinran Shonin recognized 800 years ago in Japan. While he urged us to be good and moral people as much as possible, he also comforted his followers with the acknowledgement that we are not total masters of our lives, and life can push us do to things we abhor yet are powerless to avoid. In these times, we are embraced by the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha, which never abandons anyone, no matter what mistakes they make or what difficult choices they come to. I’ve long appreciated that caring pragmatism of Shinran: do your best, but when you fall short, the Buddha is always there supporting you.

Gassho

Jeff Wilson Sensei



What the Flowers Teach Me (A Dharma Talk) By: John Skelton

“When we look deeply at a flower, we can see the whole cosmos contained within it.”

(Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh)

One of my hobbies, a lifelong passion, is gardening.

When I was a teenager aged 16 years, my first summer job was working in a garden centre in Mississauga. It was a family-owned business, and I started out as a simple labourer. I frequently encountered the owner, a Mr. Bud Crozier, who helped me to learn about various plants, conditions that favoured certain plants, soils, and fertilizers.

I learned about the difference between annuals and perennials, plants that loved the sun and plants that rejoiced in the shade. I learned about how to plant seedlings, and how to care for everything from daisies to roses. I learned that some plants like acidic soil, and some plants like alkaline soil. Some plants like water, and some prefer to be dry.

I learned how to create an optimal set of causes and conditions that would help young plants grow to adulthood, and put on a wonderful show of colour and form.

I also learned that no matter how good the gardener, sometimes the conditions are not sufficient, and that sometimes plants die before their time.

While I am quite comfortable wandering through a garden centre, I am very aware of my limitations. I make many mistakes. There are many gardeners in my neighborhood who are far more skilled than me. I try to learn what I can from the many experts that provide advice through books, on-line, or in person. I do my best, with the limited knowledge that I have been able to accumulate over the years.

My garden is not just a place of peace for me, but it is also a place where the plants teach me things.

Some time ago, I encountered a story about The Flower Sermon.

One day, Sakyamuni Buddha transmitted direct *prajna* (wisdom) to the disciple Mahakasyapa.

In the original Sino-Japanese, the story is called *nengemisho*, or “pick up flower, subtle smile.”

In the story, Sakyamuni gives a wordless sermon to his disciples by gently holding up a most beautiful pure white flower.

No one in the assembly understands, except Mahakasyapa, who simply smiles.

Within Zen, this story communicates the ineffable nature of *tahata*, or “suchness.” Mahakasyapa’s smile signifies the direct transmission of wisdom, without words.

Indeed, it is said that the Buddha once held aloft a lotus flower, muddy roots and all. This action was to teach us – among other things - that an enlightened mind can spring from the ego-centred and defiled mind, just as the beautiful lotus flower springs from pond muck, and how the simple yet lovely daisies in my garden draw life-sustaining nutrients from manure and peat moss.

These lovely messages are both simple and profound. The sermon conveys that there is an aspect to communication that surpasses intellect and verbalization. They stress experience over doctrine. Perhaps the deepest truths that we hold in our hearts are too great to be limited by words. How can we not be grateful that light energy is able to pass through our eyes and be recognized by our brains as describing a flower, and we become moved by its form and colour?

We must learn to communicate simply through our presence, and we must learn to listen deeply, not just with our ears, but also with our eyes and our entire being.

My garden reminds me of the transient nature of things. There comes a time each fall season that I have to put my garden to bed. I am reminded that conditions in Canada are insufficient to sustain the flowers in their glorious summer manifestations. In the fall, they start to wither, and “die.”

I suffer because I know that I will lose the beautiful blooms that have greeted me every day throughout the summer. This is suffering caused by the denial of the transient nature of things. I attach myself to my garden. But I also know in my heart and mind that spring will come again, and there will be another explosion of life as there has been every year.

My garden reminds me of interconnectedness. I realize that much of the joy of gardening is rooted in my ability to get closer to nature, and to take time out of my busy week to contemplate the beauty of a flower. My flowers depend on me, to provide the right soil and water, and to plant them in the right places. They depend on each other, and insects and bees, to pollinate each other. And the birds depend on the seeds that are produced to feed their little ones. We are all connected.



Insofar as my garden attracts a variety of birds and butterflies, it allows me to enjoy even more of what nature has to offer, and to enjoy the colour, life and sounds that the birds bring with them, as they give selflessly.

And my garden reminds me that it is alright to be imperfect. As skilled as some horticulturalists are, they are never able to guarantee that they can create the perfect causes and conditions to assure that each and every plant will succeed.

My garden teaches me patience, to be focused on the moment, and mindfulness. As I work in the garden, my worries and concerns about life in the 21st century simply fade away. This provides a similar effect to that which I experience when chanting, or when I am in a deep meditation.

In June of 2011, photographer Louis Schwartzberg delivered a wonderful Ted Talk, titled “Nature, Beauty, Gratitude.” In his presentation, which included samples of his beautiful time-lapse photography of flowers, he comments:

I've been shooting time-lapse flowers continuously, non-stop, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for over 30 years, and to see them move is a dance I'll never get tired of. Their beauty immerses us with color, taste, touch. It also provides a third of the food we eat. Beauty and seduction are nature's tools for survival, because we protect what we fall in love with. It opens our hearts, and makes us realize we are a part of nature and we're not separate from it. When we see ourselves in nature, it also connects us to every one of us, because it's clear that it's all connected in one.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Did you know that 80 percent of the information we receive comes through our eyes? And if you compare light energy to musical scales, it would only be one octave that the naked eye could see, which is right in the middle? And aren't we grateful for our brains that can, you know, take this electrical impulse that comes from light energy to create images in order for us to explore our world? And aren't we grateful that we have hearts that can feel these vibrations in order for us to allow ourselves to feel the pleasure and the beauty of nature?

As I tour my garden each morning, and listen to the all birds singing, I feel that I am getting a glimpse into the Pure Land.

In the Smaller Sutra, *Amida-Kyo*, Sakyamuni Buddha describes Sukhavati (The Pure Land) to an assembly of monks and arhats, and in particular to a disciple named Sariptura:

The lotus flowers in the lakes, large as chariot wheels, are blue-coloured with blue splendour, yellow-coloured with yellow-splendour, red-coloured with red splendour, white-coloured with white splendour, and they are most exquisite and purely fragrant. Sariputra, the land Sukhavati is arrayed with such excellent qualities and adornments.

Again, Sariputra, in the Buddha Land heavenly music is played at all times; gold is spread on the ground; and six times each day and night it showers Mandarava blossoms. Usually in the serene morning all those who live in that land fill their plates with those wonderful blossoms; make offerings to a hundred thousand kotis of Buddhas of other regions; and at the feast time, they return to their own land, and have their feast and stroll. Sariputra, the land Sukhavati is arrayed with such excellent qualities and adornments....”

How lovely my garden is. I am grateful for its presence, and for what the flowers teach me every day.

Namo Amida Butsu.



Message by the Governor General
On the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in hope for peace

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Asia-Pacific War, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to all across the world who perished during the war. The sorrow of those who lost their loved ones in the war can never be alleviated, and thus, deep agony from the war will continue to be felt by generations to come.

Approximately 2,500 years ago, Sakyamuni Buddha expounded, "Putting yourself in others' place, do not kill and do not make them kill others." However, being the innately ego-centered beings that we are, we have a tendency to feel affectionate to those who are convenient to us, while feeling hatred to those who are not. Even though we know in theory that every life is equally precious, we cannot accept others as they are and cannot help but fight with one another. Many lives are lost in any war. There is no act that is more foolish and reckless than humans killing one another.

Peace and renunciation of war is the path that human beings must take.

Monshu Emeritus Ohtani Koshin presented a message following the *Service for Promoting the Core Program and Pursuing a Society of Fellow Nembutsu Practicers* conducted at the Hongwanji in Kyoto, on March 20, 1997. In his message Monshu Emeritus stated, "Today, protection of the dignity of life, or preservation of fundamental human rights, is not an issue only within Japanese society but should be a concern shared by all humankind. Besides, it is the path to follow to actualize world peace." Now is the time for us to be aware that "dignity of life" is a keyword to bring peace and harmony to the world.

His successor, Monshu Ohtani Kojun, during the *Memorial Service Wishing for Peace* conducted at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on July 3, 2015 also stated, "Although seventy years may have elapsed following the experiences of brutal warfare at an unprecedented global scale, have we really been alleviated from the deep sorrow and pain? As a result, has our aspiration for world peace and awareness really been deepened?"

Currently in Japan, debates are taking place concerning the peace and security of our nation, not only within the national Parliament, but nationwide in general. It is my hope that adequate discussion will result in detailed explanation that will satisfy everyone. As a Buddhist organization, we have been trying to figure out in what way we can contribute to eternal world peace while facing up to the regrettable, historical fact that our religious institute once supported the war campaign promoted by the then militarized regime. As a result of this effort, an interim report, "Summary of the Discussion on Peace" will be publicized shortly. Through the report, if we could deepen our understanding of the issue with various parties and individuals both within and outside of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha organization, it would be more than wonderful.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II, let us be guided by the Buddha's wisdom and strive for realizing a society in which all life is respected and everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

Iwagami Chiko
Governor General
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

After the Labour Day weekend, we all returned to our regular activities - including those at the temple. Rally Sunday was a time to renew acquaintances and see the many displays assembled by temple groups. In the Kids Sangha classroom, there were many children eager to join in the parachute activity while parents were registering them for this year's Kids Sangha classes. Thank you to the many groups for their colourful and interesting displays.



Workshop in Ottawa



discussion with the people in Ottawa.

For some time now our ministers have been visiting Ottawa and conducting services at the Japanese Cultural Centre there 3 times a year. These services are well attended, but because of the minister's schedule (we usually have to drive to Montreal for service after Ottawa) there has been little time to engage in

On September 19th we were finally able to organize a workshop in Ottawa! Diane Mark and I drove there and spent the afternoon. There were about 17 people in attendance and they had many great and interesting questions to ask. People seemed to really enjoy the day and it was fun to spend more time with everyone. Everyone was so happy with the result that we are already in the process of planning our next workshop! The Living Dharma Centre was kind enough to sponsor the event by supplying delicious food and paying for the gas to drive to Ottawa. Everyone was very appreciative.

Special thanks to Diane Mark who helped organize the drinks and snacks, kept me company on the drive, and for making sure I didn't fall asleep at the wheel! Special thanks also to Richard Takahara for helping organize the event and for once again providing us with a place to share in the Dharma together!



Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Christina Yanko

**2015 Eastern Buddhist League Conference
Hosted by Cleveland Buddhist Temple**

**“I Go to the Sangha for Guidance”
September 4 -7, 2015**

We can unequivocally state that the Cleveland Conference was a success from beginning to end. Next year will be held at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple and people are already planning to attend.

I am getting ahead of myself already - after my first EBL Conference - but I know many regular attendees are looking forward to Labour Day Weekend 2016!

The bulk of attendees from Toronto set off by Greyhound motor coach on the morning of September 4th at 7:00 a.m. Hooray – we departed exactly on time. There was a short stopover in Stoney Creek to pick some additional passengers and then it was off to the border at Fort Erie and an approximately two hour wait for clearance – it was a time for silent meditation and practicing “patience”. After a short stop at the Buffalo bus terminal to dispense with morning coffee and tea it was off again and, including a stop for lunch where folks indulged themselves in a variety of bento boxes and sushi, we arrived in Cleveland on time. Our hosts met us as we disembarked at the Westin Hotel where all of us checked in, registered and enjoyed a snack of sushi and desserts provided. It was also a time to renew friendships for many and for others, like myself, to build new ones. I must note that some of the Toronto contingent arrived by car and stayed with friends in Cleveland – it was great to have them and it included two of our young adults – Adam and Stephen Tamaki.

The speakers throughout the weekend were excellent and provided for lively discussion. Our keynote speaker Dr. Jeff Wilson, along with Reverends Ron Miyamura and Earl Ikeda, were excellent and enjoyed by all. The presentations were thought provoking for all and a catalyst to work towards carrying the message of the Dharma and Jodo Shinshu teachings to a wider audience. Attendees were also able to enjoy attractions such as The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Air Show at the waterfront, and the casino, while others embarked on a tour of the Cleveland Art Museum during free time Saturday and Sunday.

On Sunday attendees went to the Cleveland Temple for a continental breakfast to be followed by a panel discussion and service. To everyone’s surprise, and delight, the members had a delicious full breakfast waiting for us. The discussion panel afterwards was lively and the included “non-traditional” members, which again included yours truly. This was followed by service and an excellent Dharma Talk by Bishop Kodo Umezu. An excellent box lunch was provided by the organizing committee post service. Following an afternoon of free time, and for some, a tour of the Cleveland Art Museum everyone met at Café Sausalito for the closing dinner. Once again it was excellent and during the meal we were entertained by an acoustic reggae band.

The next morning those of us travelling by bus were sent off by members of the Cleveland temple who provided us with a box lunch for the trip home. The trip home was uneventful but did include an opportunity to shop at a large mall and stretch our legs and lighten our wallets. As with our departure, we arrived back at TBC exactly as planned time wise!

I believe I can speak for all those who attended this year’s conference that the Cleveland Temple put on a great conference that included excellent speakers, bountiful meals and an opportunity to discuss how best to bring forward the Jodo Shinshu teachings. For those who travelled by bus many thanks to Jessie for the arrangements and a big thank you to Bernice, our driver, whose good nature and sense of humour made the long drive enjoyable and the wait time crossing into the U.S. pass more quickly.

**Gassho,
David Saxby**

2015 OVSA Recipients

On September 20 at our Ohigan Equinox Service, TBC honoured the following eight recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award (OVSA):

Rose Baba 30+ years
Kay Asada 15+
Denise Crofton 5 years
Joanne Omori 5 years
Amy Wakisaka 5 years
Larry Wakisaka 5 years
Abigail Kataoka youth
Adam Taguchi youth

Thank you to Sakae Ogaki for making the corsages and boutonnieres and the Board of Directors and Management Committee for preparing the luncheon.



TBC 10th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, September 26th, 2015, the Toronto Buddhist Church celebrated the 10th anniversary of the move to its current 1011 Sheppard Avenue West location with a celebration, emceed by Terry Watada. Following a welcome address by president, Roy Kusano, over 150 TBC members and friends of the Temple enjoyed a sit-down dinner catered by Ginko Restaurant.

Following the dinner, honourees Dr. Ted Izukawa, Mr. David Azuma, the late Mr. Tom Allen, architect Mr. Daniel Teramura, Mr. Mits Sumiya, the late Mr. Hik Koyata, Mr. Sam Koyata, Mr. Emilio Incerto, the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai and its treasurer, Mr. Yasuo Honjo, Mr. Ross Durant of the Nelson Arthur Hyland Foundation, and Mr. Mitsuyoshi Ito of the Salden Foundation, were awarded plaques in recognition of their significant efforts, support and contributions to the building of this temple. Following the presentations, attendees were treated to video messages from Bishop Aoki and all TBC ministers from the past 10 years.

The Committee wishes to thank the volunteers and friends who helped to make the evening such a great success, and especially those who assisted with clean up following the celebration. The hondo and naijin were restored to their original state and ready for Sunday morning's service in no time!!



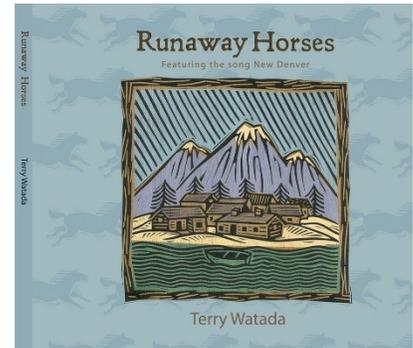
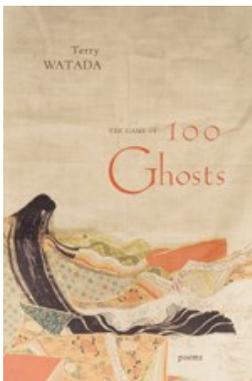
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MOVED TO JANUARY

At the most recent meeting of the Board of Directors it was decided to move the date of the Annual General Meeting from the last Sunday in November of each year to the last Sunday of January of the following year. The reason for this move is to allow time for a more thorough preparation of the annual Budget and Financial Statements of the Temple. With a financial year end of October 31, it has been extremely difficult to close the books and complete statements by the end of November in time for the AGM. The burden was exacerbated by the preparation for the annual Bazaar which exhausted all of our executives and volunteers right up to the second Saturday in November. Accordingly the AGM for the year ended October 31, 2015 will be held on January 31, 2016. A more formal notice of the meeting will be published in the December 2015 and January 2016 editions of the Guiding Light.

Terry Watada Book Launch

Please join us Sunday, November 1 in the social hall, following the service to hear Terry talk about his books and give readings from his book of poetry, "Game of 100 Ghosts."

Plus his book of Manga and his CD "Runaway Horses" will be available. Light refreshments will be served.



OBITUARIES



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

<i>Mrs. Tatsumi Dorothy Ishihara (Montreal)</i>	<i>77 yrs</i>	<i>August 18, 2015</i>
<i>Mr. Darrell Ariza</i>	<i>56 yrs</i>	<i>August 22, 2015</i>
<i>Mr. Shozo Mori</i>	<i>87 yrs</i>	<i>August 29, 2015</i>
<i>Mrs. Lucy Nomura</i>	<i>74 yrs</i>	<i>September 17, 2015</i>

Pet Appreciation Day
October 18th at 11:00 am
With Special Guest Rev. Yasuo Izumi of the
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



This year we added a new service to our calendar, which is one we think many of you will appreciate.

We refer to them as our pets, but in truth they're members of our family. They play with us, they give us love, and keep every one of our secrets. This year we would like to dedicate a service to all of our pets, past and present. They are integral parts of our family and bring us joy every single day.

On October 18th please bring a photograph of your pets, past or present, and we will display their pictures and show our appreciation for their lives together in the light of the Buddha.



For this special occasion we are happy to announce that Rev. Yasuo Izumi from Lethbridge, Alberta will join us as our Guest Speaker.

Rev. Yasuo Izumi came to Canada from Japan, as an ordained Minister of Jodo Shinshu in Nov. 1970. His first ministerial assignment was in Lethbridge and he later served in Vancouver, Toronto and Richmond. He continued his religious study at the Vancouver School of Theology and later received his Master's degree in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California. In November of 2002, 27 years later he was reassigned to temples in southern Alberta where he is now the minister of Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta. Rev. Izumi is married to his wife, Sachi, and is the father of five children and grandfather of eight grandchildren.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Izumi to our temple, and don't forget to bring a picture of your beloved pets!

CAMP LUMBINI RECEIVES IMPROVEMENTS

As we mentioned in the previous edition of Guiding Light, Camp Lumbini has for decades benefitted from generous donations of furniture and appliances from the members of the Temple. Just recently, in response to a plea from the Temple, a generous and thoughtful Temple member has donated a refrigerator for Cabin 2 plus a brand new shower stall. We are very grateful for the donation. The fridge and shower will be enjoyed by all the members and their families who use Camp Lumbini every year.

Gassho
Camp Lumbini

GOING MY WAY? Part 2

**“So on we go,
His welfare is my concern,
No burden is he to bear,
We’ll get there...”**

Also from “He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother” by the Hollies

How meaningful this song is. Following up our article about locating senior members who need rides to the Temple from time to time, we have been contacted by at least two members in Scarborough West and in Etobicoke who have asked for consideration. We would welcome more inquiries. At the same time, we want to create a roster of individuals who would be willing to serve as volunteer drivers. If you are a senior member who is unable to come to the Temple on your own because of age and/or physical disability, and would like to come to services at the Temple, please send an email or a letter to the Temple, or call the Temple, and provide your name, address, phone number and email, if any, and the nature of your request.

If you are a member or friend who would be willing to volunteer to pick up a senior member and drive him/her/them home after service, please provide your name, address, phone number and email, if any and the times when you would be available to help and the geographic area in which you would be willing to pick up passengers.

We emphasize that this remains a very important initiative, and so we are repeating our request so we can try to get this service off and running as soon as possible.

In Gassho
TBC

TRANSLATION HELP WANTED!!

How’s your *Nihongo* and English? Would you like to practice your translation skills? The Guiding Light is looking for help translating English articles into Japanese and Japanese articles into English. The ministers need help with this task every month to free up their time to concentrate on their ministerial duties. We are also trying to ensure that both the English and Japanese sections of the Guiding Light contain as many of the same articles as possible so everyone is kept informed about what is happening at the Temple.

If you are interested in helping us please email darlene.rieger28@gmail.com or leave a message with the office with your name and a contact details.

Eitaikyo Service – Sunday November 15, 2015

Please join us at 11:00am for this annual service where we pay special consideration for the people whose names have been entered into our special temple Eitaikyo Book. This book holds a special place in the temple and only contains names of people who have been submitted by request. Each day the ministers conduct a service for the names in the Eitaikyo Book, and once a year we hold this special service for them.

If you have someone you would like to have added to our Temple Eitaikyo Book please notify the office and we will make arrangements with you to have the names entered.

KIDS SANGHA



Sunday October 18th 2015

Join for an hour of fun making necklaces and bracelets - BEADING.

We still have an abundance of good quality beads donated to the temple so join us on Oct 18th for an hour of beading.

Kids Service: 10:30 am - 11:00 am

Kids Activity: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Coming in November...save the date!

November 1st 2015 Ray Nakano will be guiding the kids through a session on mindful meditation and November 15th 2015 the Isshin Daiko group will be here to do taiko with the kids.

Hope to see you soon!

Gassho,

Denise Crofton
Program Director
Kids Sangha

2015 TBC ANNUAL BAZAAR November 14, 2015 - 12.30pm to 4.30pm

The Annual Bazaar continues to be one of the Temple's biggest fundraisers. Each year it counts on a huge number of volunteers to ensure its success. The Bazaar Committee thanks you for your contributions in previous years and asks for your continued support this year.

Please refer to the Bazaar Work Schedule on the next page if you are able to come out to help. Your help is greatly appreciated.

There is always a big demand for home-baked pies. If you love to bake, please consider baking some pies for the bazaar. Other baked goods are also popular and will be sold at the Baked Goods table.

****For persons with allergies, it would be appreciated if a list of ingredients could be given with your baked goods.****

Please note that donated items should be in good condition. Valuable items whether new or gently used, may be used in the Silent Auction or Lucky Draw.

We regret that clothing, furniture and children's toys will not be accepted.

This year we will also be featuring a table with a collection of many types of dolls.

Donations will be accepted at the temple from Sunday, November 8th to Friday, November 13th.

Thank you for your continued support!

2015 BAZAAR WORK SCHEDULE****schedule listed is tentative and subject to change****

Date	Time	Task
Wednesday, November 4	1:00pm	Wash azuki beans
Saturday, November 7	9:30am	Make Anko
Sunday, November 8	after service	Put up bazaar banners - main entrance and side fence
	after service	Take apart Social Hall stage
Tuesday, November 10	9:00am	Mochi manju making
Wednesday, November 11		Prepare ingredients for sushi:
		Soak shiitake and kampyo, flavour vinegar
		Set up for Thursday manju making
	6:30pm	Move chairs from Hondo
		Bring tables up to Hondo
Thursday, November 12	7:00am	Yaki manju making
	10:00am	Mushi manju making
		Fold Oribako boxes
		Wash 250 lbs. Of rice and 30 lbs. Mochi gome for Ohagi.
	6:30pm	Close naijin
		Set up tables in Hondo and Social Hall (for food
Friday, November 13	7:00am	Make sushi, ohagi, udon, udon dashi, toppings for udon
		Cut, skewer and marinate beef for kushi sashi
		Cut pork for chow mein
		Cut vegetables for chow mein and tempura
		Prepare broccoli and carrots
		Prepare shrimp for tempura
		Wash rice for inarizushi
	evening	Set up tables in Social Hall for food packaging
		Bring down brown trays for oribako
		Wash rice for Saturday's bazaar meals
		Rearrange tables in kitchen
		Set up kitchen for Saturday - cooking chow mein
		Ready kitchen for udon, tempura, teishoku dinner
Saturday, November 14	6:00am	Make chow mein, udon, tempura
		Package sushi, chow mein, ohagi, inari, bento, chirashizushi
		Set up tables in dining room
		Move oribako goods up to Hondo
	4.30pm	Clean up in Social Hall, Kitchen
		Clean up Hondo
		Clean up Mezzanine

The Nature of Shinjin - Shinran Shonin

In reflecting on the ocean of great shinjin, I realize that there is no discrimination between noble and humble or black-robed monks and white-clothed laity, no differentiation between man and woman, old and young. The amount of evil one has committed is not considered, the duration of any performance of religious practices is of no concern. It is a matter of neither practice nor good acts, neither sudden attainment nor gradual attainment, neither meditative practice nor nonmeditative practice, neither right contemplation nor wrong contemplation, neither thought nor no-thought, neither daily life nor the moment of death, neither many-calling nor once-calling. It is simply shinjin that is inconceivable, inexplicable, and indescribable. It is like the medicine that eradicates all poisons. The medicine of the Tathagata's Vow destroys the poisons of our wisdom and foolishness.

JSBTC DAY – November 1, 2015

At our Shotsuki service on Sunday, November 1 the Temple will pay special tribute to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches of Canada (JSBTC). JSBTC is a national organization representing all of the Jodo Shinshu Temples across Canada. Bishop Tatsuya Aoki, our national spiritual leader, and JSBTC are our links to Nishi Hongwanji. Together they direct all religious and administrative matters which may affect member Temples in Canada beyond the local level. In addition JSBTC is investing time and money in projects which individual local Temples do not have the resources to take on themselves, not the least of which is the development of a respectable welfare program for our Ministers across Canada. Both Larry and Amy Wakisaka, prominent Toronto Temple members, continue as Directors on the National Board, Larry as First Vice President and Amy as Director of Living Dharma Centre.

On November 1, members and friends of our Temple will have the opportunity to appreciate what JSBTC means to each of our Canadian Temples and to each of us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. It's a sad reality that like many worthy charitable organizations JSBTC never has enough funding to pursue its projects and programs, even after taking into account what many may think are sizeable assessments from local Temples and their members. For this reason, JSBTC must make an annual appeal for additional voluntary support.

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

Gassho,

Roy Kusano
President

2015 Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada Day Message

Living Life to its Fullest

**Those who reach the Pure Land of Happiness
Return to the evil world of the five defilements,
Where like Buddha Sakyamuni
They benefit sentient beings without limit.
(*Jodo Wasan*, Collected Works of Shinran, Vol. I, p. 329)**

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the members of the JSBTC for helping to host the 15th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary this past May. In addition to attending the convention Monshu Kojun Otani visited our temples in Hamilton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Steveston, Fraser Valley, Vancouver, and the national headquarters. Because of the hard work and dedication of so many people, both the convention and the temple visitations turned out to be a great success.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with some students about understanding the difficulties we encounter in life and in our discussions came up with an analogy that proved quite helpful. Consider a photograph. A photograph is developed by various lighting textures and filtered through the lens of a camera. There are bright hues, but there are dark hues as well. It is the balance and contrast of these lighting textures that create a photo: because of the dark hues we are also able to recognize the bright hues. These contrasting hues add depth and feeling to the image. I believe that life is quite similar to the principles of a photograph. When life is "bright," in other words, filled only with enjoyment, it has no depth. Life gains meaning and depth when we are aware of the "shadows" or more difficult times we experience. The lens of the camera is our perception of our life experience.

Amida Buddha, who has eternal and infinite life, teaches us that everyone's life has limitations. It is only when we become one with Amida Buddha that we learn to accept life's limits.

Not only do we experience things in our daily lives that we feel constrain us, but our actual lives are inherently limited. Every morning we wake up and thoughtlessly continue on with the day without realizing that the very act of waking is in itself something to treasure. In fact for many of us the concept of not waking up is something unimaginable. However, once we realize "day after day we are receiving life," each day becomes precious.

We often think about the limitations we personally experience in life, but what about the limitations we create for others? For example, our very survival depends on taking the life of other living things. In order to live, we must eat. I cannot think of any living things that *should* have their life taken away...after all, every living thing receives the aspiration of Amida Buddha. However, unfortunately we must take the life of other living things if we are going to survive. This is what it means to be a human being. We often forget, and further, refuse even to acknowledge that we live (exist) due to the help of other living things, allowing our vanity and conceitedness to make us think that we live because of our own will. We must always try to be mindful that we live because of the support of so many other living things. We must endeavor to appreciate the lives of all things that enable us to maintain our own lives. Realizing that we have the opportunity to live this life because of the loss of another teaches us to be humble, to be respectful, and to cherish each moment.

Even though we may not realize and embrace our limits, we can continue to live. If you think of your life as a photograph it will still have many bright and dark hues. However, without the ability to sit back and recognize the importance of each variation of colour, of light and dark, of easy and difficult, of loss and gain, the picture of our lives remains two dimensional and we are denying ourselves the ability to live in a deep and meaningful way.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop



JSBTC Day Message from JSBTC President Dave Ohori:

Warm greetings are extended to all temple members and friends across our wonderful Canadian Kyodan.

I have noticed that we are starting to experience some cooler crisp temperatures and this means that the Fall season is upon us. The children and older students are now back in school and this means that JSBTC Day in Canada is just around the corner. In Canada, we typically celebrate JSBTC Day annually in either October or early November.

This year is special as we are celebrating 110 years since the first Jodo Shinshu minister (Rev. Senju Sasaki) arrived in Vancouver to serve a congregation. JSBTC Day allows us to gather together at our local temples to collectively express our gratitude to all those who have spread the Dharma Teachings before us. It is also a time to direct any special JSBTC Day donations towards the further education of our hard working Ministers and to their continued health. Funding is also allocated to help support all the important efforts of our Bishop. Our Board is tasked with trying to help provide meaningful programs and assistance to local temples but this challenge is becoming increasingly difficult financially so any contribution which you can make helps us in this worthwhile effort.

This year, many of us were fortunate to experience a spiritually uplifting and wonderful gathering of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists from Japan, U.S., Brazil, Hawaii and Canada who gathered to celebrate a theme of "Embraced by the Oneness of Life". This wildly successful 15th World Buddhist Women's Federation Convention was hosted with open arms and professionally managed by our fellow sangha members at Calgary Buddhist Temple and presented by JSBTC Women's Federation. Let us strive to build even further on this wonderful momentum.

Let us continue to listen with joy to the Dharma and to continue to walk the path of the Nembutsu together, side by side and shoulder to shoulder.

With gratitude and in Gassho,

Dave Ohori
JSBTC President

DANA NEWS

ONTARIO VOLUNTEERS SERVICE AWARDS LUNCHEON

A sincere thank you to all the ladies involved for arranging a delicious luncheon for the congregation including the recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. There were 2 Dana ladies honored, Mrs. Rose Baba for 30 years of service and Mrs. Kay Asada for 15 years of service.

Thank you to the Toronto Buddhist Church for their thoughtful gifts!

2015 Toronto Buddhist Church Bazaar

This year the annual bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 14th. We hope that we can count on everyone for your contributions and support. Please mark this date on your calendar

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

HELP US DONATE 400 LBS OF FOOD BY
SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2015!



Pasta & noodles



Canned vegetables & fruits



Canned soup & stews



Rice, beans and lentils



Baby food



Peanut Butter



DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK ONLY ACCEPTS NON-PERISHABLE AND NON-EXPIRED PRODUCTS.

Thank you for your support!



Meditation and Mindfulness with Ray Nakano



We are happy to announce that through the months of October and November we will have a meditation instructor joining us every Thursday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Many of you already know Ray Nakano, as he has been a very active member of Hamilton Buddhist Temple and continues to offer his assistance to the kids and youth every year at Camp Lumbini. Since retiring from the Ontario Government, he has spent a lot of his time volunteering for various organizations such as the United Way, Youthlink, Habitat for Humanity and presently spends a lot of time focusing on energy conservation and supporting a greener environment with the Toronto Green Community. In addition, Ray is also an active participant and facilitator with the Mindfulness Practice Community of Toronto.

These 2 hour sessions will include:

- Guided Sitting Meditation
- Silent Walking Meditation
- Silent Sitting Meditation
- Dharma Sharing
- Sangha Sharing

October 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th from 7pm—9pm

November 5th, 19th, and 26th from 7pm—9pm

**please note there will be no session on November 12th as the temple will be preparing for Bazaar*

Please arrive at least 20 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 Rev. Christina Yanko at 416-534-4302.



Dharma Cafe

Do you like talking and learning about Buddhism? Do you have things that you find puzzling or are their aspects of Buddhism you always wondered about but were too shy to ask? Do you enjoy sharing your thoughts and feelings about Buddhism with others?

Please join Rev. Christina Yanko at 9:30 am the last Sunday of each month on the mezzanine for coffee and discussions about Buddhism.

Do you have books you want to recommend to others? Bring them. Have a story you want to share? Come share it. Rev. Christina will bring the coffee and you bring the most important component...YOU!

Who? Everyone is invited

What? Buddhist coffee group

When? Last Sunday of every month at 9:30 am

Where? Upstairs on the mezzanine

Why? Because we are all on this path together. Because spending time with others helps make our lives meaningful. And because coffee is delicious!



THE HONOBONO CLUB**PRESENTS:****INTRODUCTORY TAIKO CLASS FOR BEGINNERS****SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2015 2PM TO 3:30PM**

Interested participants should register by contacting Rev. Ryuhei Endo at rev.endo@tbc.on.ca or call the temple at 416 534-4302. Registration must be received by October 20th. Registration is limited to 20 participants. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Instructor: Member of Toronto Buddhist Church Isshin Daiko

** Please wear comfortable clothing. Bachi and taiko will be supplied.

Taiko...a feeling you will never forget...

**FUJINOTOMO CRAFT CLASSES**

Interested in making crafts? Whether you are an experienced crafter or a beginner, please come out and join the group. You'll enjoy learning something new or you can share some of your crafting ideas. (knitting, crocheting, papercrafts, cardmaking etc...)

The group meets regularly every Tuesday from 10am till 2pm

Reminder to bring a brown bag lunch and your creativity.



2015 TBC Annual Bazaar
Saturday, November 14, 2015
12:30 pm—4:30 pm

Fall is fast approaching and with it our Annual Bazaar. This is the Temple's biggest annual fundraising event and we need your help.



Donations are needed for sale at the various venues:

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



(please note that we are unable to sell clothing, furniture
 or children's toys)

If you are able to come out to help during the week before the bazaar,
 please check the posted work schedule or
 email canzai@sympatico.ca

We will be able to begin accepting donations from
 Sunday, November 8, 2015.

Please contact the TBC office if other arrangements are needed.

Your support is much appreciated!

TBC Bazaar Committee

