



# *Guiding Light*

JANUARY 2017

## **YEAR OF THE ROOSTER**



## **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)

# JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES</b> 11:00 am and 1:00 pm New Year's Day Services in English and Japanese	<b>2</b> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE</b> 9:00 am *Sangha Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *Dana Mtg	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm * TBC Mgmt Comm and BOD Mtgs	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>12</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>13</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>14</b> 5:00 pm Vegetarian Potluck Dinner 7:00 pm Hoonko Eve Service
<b>15 HOONKO SERVICE &amp; NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL</b> 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>19</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm Castleview 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>21</b>
<b>22 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11:00 am Service <div>* TBC AGM</div>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Isshin	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>27</b> 8:00 pm Buyo	<b>28</b>
<b>29 REGULAR SERVICE</b> 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm *CCOV Mtg	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>31</b>		<b>Please Note:</b> All events marked with an asterisk * are private and not open to the general public Thank You		

**Morning Services** are held on the weekdays on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am – 10:30 am when a minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur.

Thank You

# FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>Please Note:</u></b> All events marked with an asterisk * are private and not open to the general public			<b>1</b>  7:00 pm Taiko	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi  1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>3</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>4</b>
<b>5 MONTHLY MEMORIAL Service &amp; FOODFEST</b> 9:00 am Sangha Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 12:30 pm Dana mtg 12:30 pm Shin Fujinkai Mtg	<b>6</b>  10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  7:00 pm Taiko	<b>9</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>10</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>11</b>
<b>12 REGULAR SERVICE</b>  11:00 am Service  Service in Hamilton	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>14</b>  7:00 pm TBC *Mgmt Comm and *BOD Mtgs	<b>15</b>  7:00 pm Taiko	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi  1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castlevieview 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>17</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>18</b>
<b>19 NIRVANA DAY SERVICE &amp; SANGHA DAY</b>  10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  7:00 pm Taiko	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Tai Chi  1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	<b>24</b>  8:00 pm Buyo	<b>25</b>
<b>26 REGULAR SERVICE</b>  11:00 am Service	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	<b>28</b>				

**Morning Services** are held on the weekdays on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 am –10:30 am when a minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur.

Thank You



## New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

This past year, we have been observing the ceremony known as The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition since last October. This service will be continuing until the end of May over 10 sessions and a total of 80 days. The participation of the many delegates from both domestic and overseas districts has revitalized the atmosphere of all of our temple activities, and for that I am truly happy and grateful to each and every one of you.

Through holding the service together with you fellow Nembutsu followers, I am able to personally experience how the Jodo Shinshu teaching has not only been passed down to us over the span of nearly 800 years, but also how it has been delivered to many regions of the world beyond national borders. I believe that we have the Jodo Shinshu teaching today precisely because it served as the spiritual foundation for all of the preceding Nembutsu followers.

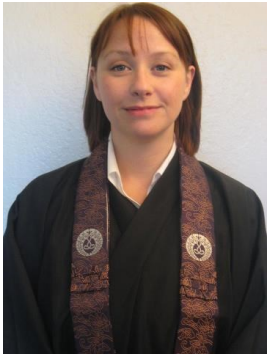
Shinran Shonin revealed his understanding of the Dharma known today as Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. It is a teaching for those of us who constantly struggle with various worries and hardships in life. Let us continue to listen to the teaching and share our own appreciation of the Dharma with family and friends in the hope that we can follow the Nembutsu path together with them.

January 1, 2017

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



Happy New Year everyone! Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! I hope you have all enjoyed your December holidays and were able to bring in the New Year with peace and joy!

Every year comes with new experiences, and each with their unique challenges. These challenges are sometimes fun, sometimes unpleasant, but always an opportunity for us to reflect and learn. Each moment carries something we can consider and use to move forward. So whether 2016 was difficult for you or if it was a complete joy, please give yourself the gift of reflection. It will help you in the upcoming year to appreciate all of the things to be faced in 2017.

I recently had a discussion with someone about how strongly our words can impact others. It only takes one negative statement and the right circumstances to cause others to feel upset. Think through your own memories and remember how deeply one statement another person said to you affected you for the rest of your life. The power our words have is very profound.

How often do you carefully think through what you are going to say before you speak? So often we speak without giving any thought at all, never realizing how our words might influence the individual we are speaking to. In all likelihood no harm was intended. Have you ever received a Text Message or Email that initially you took as negative, but then later found out it was not meant to be that way? This is a common occurrence in type-written material because the words lack inflection and emphasis. However, it can also occur in everyday conversation.

The other day my husband cleaned the house and he did such a lovely job. I was so happy! However, I was busy with an urgent work matter and had to go rushing out the door. As I was rushing out I said “Oh and thank you for cleaning up.” I said “thank you” but I said it when I was thinking of something else so it lacked the enthusiasm that I felt. As a result he felt like I did not really care too much about the time and effort he put in to make everything look nice and neat. Why would he feel compelled to clean if it is not appreciated?

Our words can hurt, but our words can also elevate. Koshi Ohtani Sama wrote “...a word of greeting has the role of gently pushing open the gate surrounding your heart.” If that is the strength a kind greeting has, think of the strength a supportive and gracious word has on others.

I want to wish all of you a beautiful and joyous New Year. I look forward to walking the Nembutsu path together with you in 2017, and I hope everyone gives and receives the kind words they deserve.

Lastly, but most importantly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone for all of your hard work and dedication for the past year. 2016 began with me having tremendous difficulties, but ended better than I could have imagined. This is due to all of your kindness, consideration, and for helping me and the temple through trying times. May the strength of our community continue to flourish and grow in the upcoming years.

In Gassho,

Rev. Christina Yanko

## 灯TŌ – Light



It is always a great joy to welcome the New Year.

Thank you very much for supporting our Temple this past year and for continuing to support the Temple in 2017. In April we are hosting the Annual General Meeting for all of the various temples of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, so once again we will be required to rely on your assistance.

This past year our main temple Nishi-Hongwanji has been holding “DENTO HOKOKU services (伝灯奉告法要)” in Kyoto Japan. The service is only done when there is a generational change for the head of our sect of Buddhism, the Gomonsu.

Dento(伝灯) means handing down orally or inheriting the true teaching of Shinran Shonin and Shakyamuni Buddha.

Hokoku(奉告) means informing Shinran and Shakyamuni about the inheritance.

In other words, the service is not just to announce this change to the members of the Jodo Shinshu sect. It also announces the change to Shinran and Shakyamuni.

Today I chose to use the Kanji character “灯(TŌ)” from “Dento Hokoku” as the title for this article. 灯(TŌ)’s original meaning is “light”. The light that shines from Buddha illuminates the Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion.

The light dispels the darkness of ignorance;

Thus Amida is called “Buddha of the Light of Wisdom.”

All the Buddha and stages of the three vehicles

Together offer their praise.

(Hymns of the Pure Land, Shinran Shonin)

The “darkness of ignorance” is when we are mistrustful of Amida-Buddha’s Wisdom. According to the above wasan written by Shinran Shonin, Amida’s light of wisdom breaks through our ignorance and worldly desires.

The Tannisho states:

Our master once said “I do not know what the two, good and evil, really mean. I could say that I know what good is, if I knew good as thoroughly and completely as the Tathagata. And I could say I know what evil is, if I knew evil as thoroughly and completely as the Tathagata.

But in this impermanent world, like a burning, all things are empty and vain, therefore untrue. Only the Nembutsu is true, real and sincere”.

(Tannisho, Rennyo Shonin)

Most people create distinctions in their own minds and then believe them to be true, untrue, good or bad. We make these distinctions even though we do not possess the Tathagata’s or Buddha’s Wisdom of Compassion.

Teaching of Shinran tells us only the Nembutsu is true, real and sincere. The Nembutsu is “Namo-Amida-Butsu” that shows respect and appreciation to Amida-Buddha. Amida-Buddha accepts us just as we are. There is no distinction in Amida’s Compassion, because Amida’s light(灯) dispels the darkness of ignorance; Thus Amida is called “Buddha of the Light of Wisdom.”

The DENTO HOKOKU Service (伝灯奉告法要) does not just announce to us the change of the Gomonsu. It informs Shinran and Shakyamuni that the teachings about Amida-Buddha are being passed to a new generation. Amida Buddha’s Wisdom and Compassion was so profound that it was passed down through many different periods in history. Let’s all work together to ensure we make it available for many more to come.

In Gassho

YOSHIMICHI OUCHI

## STORIES FROM THE PRESIDENT



This is it. I've been informed by our Esteemed Editor that this will be my last story for the Guiding Light. So I have to make my final words count. No more rambling to fill space. No more silly stuff. Oh, what to say...?

2016 was memorable to be sure. We lost a minister, we gained a minister. We said goodbye to some precious members and friends. Some became older and more frail.

Others were felled by illness. Yet our Temple calendar was busier than ever, and the volunteers, veterans and newbies, delivered better than ever.

Then, at the end of the year, something happened to me at the Temple service last Sunday December 18. The second last service of 2016. It turned out to be Bodhi Day, the service to observe the day when Shakyamuni Buddha became enlightened. I'm sure there is a lot more to the story than that, and most of you know it. I didn't know that when I went to Otera that day but it turned out to be one of my best Sundays of 2016.

Rev. Yoshi, more irrepressible by the week, declared that it was a Special Day. Why was it a Special Day? "Because" he said, "Rev. Christina and I (Rev. Yoshi) are both here!" Well, that in itself is a very Special Day, for sure. But there was more. For a Bodhi Day, the Hondo was hardly packed. Maybe a couple of dozen in the congregation. Most times I prefer it like that. In a selfish way, it feels as if the Hondo is my private sanctuary; the ministers are talking to me and not to an audience.

But Bodhi Day was much more special than that. With so few in the Hondo, for the first time I picked a seat in the row right in front of a couple of l-o-n-g-time members. Brother (89) and sister (88) sitting side-by-side. I listened to them chant. I listened to them sing the gatha. I listened to them recite the Nembutsu. I could not bring myself to utter a word for the duration of the service because I wanted to absorb every sensation. I was completely enveloped by their sibling presence. They were totally embracing the Buddha and the Dharma that morning. How absolutely beautiful and innocent and pure this was. As a wretched *bonbu*, I have no hope that I will ever get to the Pure Land, but that morning, I came as close to the brilliant light as I ever will. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

It was the best ending to my four years here that I could possibly have wished for. Those two members represented all that is good and hopeful about the Temple and its members and supporters. Feeling the strength of their devotion I feel most assured about the future of the Temple, its ministers and its members. I wish all of our readers the very best of health and happiness for the New Year and many, many years beyond. At the same time, I ask you to continue to help our Toronto Buddhist Church and our ministers grow the Dharma throughout our community. I'll be seeing you...



# NEW YEARS GREETINGS FROM

DAWN, TOSHI AND CRYSTAL ANZAI  
BEST WISHES FOR 2017

TERUJI GOTO

FUKUE YANASE  
TOMOKO YOSHIDA

DIANNE ISHIDA AND MOCHI  
ALL THE BEST FOR 2017

GEORGE AND AMY NAKANO

KUNIO AND YOSH SUYAMA

TAKEO YOSHIDA

PAMELA YOSHIDA

LARRY AND AMY WAKISAKA

THE MINISTERS

REV. CHRISTINA AND REV. YOSHI

AND

THE STAFF OF THE GUIDING LIGHT

TIN GOTO

EISHIRO HIGO

PAMELA YOSHIDA

MICHAEL TAMAKI

DIANNE ISHIDA

MIKA TAMAKI

HARRY TETAKA

DIANE MARK

HELEN TETAKA

DARLENE RIEGER

NAOMI TAMAKI

# 2017





**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2017 SCHEDULE****JANUARY**

- 1 New Year's Day Service  
 8 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hoonko Service*  
 14 Vegetarian Pot Luck Dinner & Hoonko Eve Service  
 15 Hoonko Founder's Memorial Service  
 New Year's Social (Shinnen kai)  
 22 Regular Service  
 TBC Annual General Meeting  
 29 Regular Service  
*Montreal Buddhist Church: Hoonko Service*

**FEBRUARY**

- 5 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
 12 Regular Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Nirvana Day Service*  
 19 Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) & Sangha Day  
 26 Regular Service

**MARCH**

- 5 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
 12 Regular Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Spring Higan Service*  
 19 Spring Equinox Service (Higan-e) & Keirokai  
 25 *Ottawa Spring Higan Service*  
 26 Regular Service  
*Montreal Buddhist Church: Spring Higan Service*

**APRIL**

- 2 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
 9 Eshinni Day; Wife of Shinran Shonin Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hanamatsuri Service*  
 15 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet  
 16 Celebration of Sakyamuni's birth Service (Hanamatsuri)  
 21-23 ***JSBTC AGM (hosted by TBC)***  
 29 *Ottawa Hanamatsuri Service and Work Shop*  
 30 Regular Service  
*Montreal Buddhist Church: Hanamatsuri*

**MAY**

- 7 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
 14 Parents' Day Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Gotan-e Service*  
 21 Celebration of Shinran's birth Service (Gotan-e) &  
 Infant Presentation (Shosan shiki)  
 28 Regular Service  
*Montreal Buddhist Church: Gotan-e Service*

**JUNE**

- 4 Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)  
 11 Picnic Open Air Service (No Service at the Temple)  
 18 Regular Service  
*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Shotsuki*  
 25 Regular Service

**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE, MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH, OTTAWA FELLOWSHIP****2017 SCHEDULE**

<b><u>JULY</u></b>	2	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	8	Obon Cemetery Visit; Haka mairi
		Obon Service & Bon Odori Dance at JCCC
	9	Obon Service (Bishop Umezu)
<b><u>JULY</u></b>	16	Summer Services begin <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Obon Service</i>
	22	<i>Ottawa Obon Service</i>
	23	Summer Service <i>Montreal Buddhist Church: Obon Service</i>
	30	Summer Service
<b><u>AUGUST</u></b>	6	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	13	Summer Service
	20	Summer Service
	27	Summer Service
<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>	3	Summer Service
	10	Shotsuki Service and Rally Sunday <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Fall Higan Service</i>
	17	Fall Equinox Service (Higan-e)
	24	Regular Service <i>Montreal Buddhist Church: Fall Higan Service</i>
<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	1	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	8	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: JSBTC Day Service</i>
	15	Pet Appreciation Service
	22	Regular Service
	28	<i>Ottawa Workshop</i>
	29	Regular Service
<b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b>	5	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki) & JSBTC Day
	11	Temple Bazaar
	12	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Regular Service</i>
	19	Perpetual Memorial Service (Eitaikyo)
	26	Regular Service <i>Montreal Buddhist Church: Eitaikyo</i>
<b><u>DECEMBER</u></b>	3	Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)
	10	Regular Service <i>Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Bodhi Day Service</i>
	17	Bodhi Day Service (Jodo-e)
	24	Closed
	31	Year-End Day Service (Joya-e)

## **TBC Sangha – Turning Ideas to Action**

### **2017 New Year's Greeting**

On behalf of all the members of the TBC Sangha, I wish all of our Temple Members, family and friends the very best for 2017.

Last year was a very exciting year where we saw the inauguration of the CCOV and a shift of the TBC Sangha organization away from the physical support of Temple activities. This year I would like to see the TBC Sangha continue in its role as a support organization to the Temple in other ways.

Within the Temple many excellent ideas have been percolating for quite some time. In 2017 it is my sincere hope and intention that we will commit the resources of the TBC Sangha to bringing some of these ideas involving outreach to fruition.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka, President

TBC Sangha

## **CONGRATULATIONS HAMILTON BUDDHIST TEMPLE ON YOUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

On December 11th I (Darlene Rieger) attended service at the Hamilton Buddhist Temple with Rev. Yoshi. We found out earlier that the Hamilton Temple was quietly celebrating their 70th Anniversary that day so Rev. Yoshi and I had the happy privilege of joining their celebration. Reverend Yoshi's Dharma talk was appropriately about Bodhi Day and we were treated to a lovely lunch and fellowship after.

The Toronto Buddhist Temple congratulates its Hamilton neighbor for your many successful years spreading the Teachings in the Eastern District,



# Hamilton Buddhist Temple

45 Hempstead Drive  
Hamilton, On L8W 2Y6

December 29, 2016

Toronto Buddhist Church  
1011 Shepherd Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M3H 2T7

Toronto Buddhist Church Board and members,

On behalf of the Hamilton Buddhist Temple Board and members, I would like to thank the Toronto Buddhist Church for their very generous donation.

Thank you to the Toronto Buddhist Temple Board, members and ministers, Christina Sensei and Yoshi sensei for their dedication and support.

We are very grateful to our members who have supported and sustained our temple over these 70 years, many of whom have passed on to Nirvana. Our board and members; with the guidance and support of the ministers and members of the Toronto Buddhist Church, shall continue to strive to provide Jodo Shinshu tradition to the general public in Hamilton, for future generations.

*Jishin kyo ninshin, "secure our own entrusting heart to the Dharma,  
guiding others to the same path"*

*Ohtani Kojun  
Monshu*

In gassho,



Marlene Frazer  
President  
Hamilton Buddhist Temple

## TBC COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF VOLUNTEERS (CCOV)

CCOV remember? That's our newly intergenerational group of volunteers to help service the needs of temple events through the year.

We're off to a fresh start for the New Year as we welcome 2017. We are also very happy to welcome any new volunteers who wish to join us at our temple events and join a team to help out. The more, the merrier.

The next CCOV scheduled meeting is on January 29, 2017. The team captains will be getting together to discuss events, update team member lists and continue to fine tune any problems which have been encountered. We're always looking for ways to improve.

On Sunday, January 15, we will be observing Hoonko (Shinran Shonin's Memorial day). Following the service, there will be the New Year's pot luck social on the lower level.

Team 4 will be helping out with this event. In our last issue, we incorrectly stated that Team 5 would be assisting. We apologize for the error.

Any inquiries can be directed to: Dawn Anzai - [canzai@sympatico.ca](mailto:canzai@sympatico.ca) or call 416-593-5857

Or call the temple office and leave a message for CCOV and Dawn can respond to your inquiry.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

## DANA NEWS

### FOODFEST- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

The Dana and Shin Fujinkai will be holding their annual Foodfest on **Sunday, February 5th, 2017**. The proceeds will be used for the JSBTC Women's Federation Outreach Programs.

Donations of any food items such as homemade preserves, jams, fukujinzuke, pickles, homemade senbei, rice dishes (sushi, inarizushi, chirashizushi) pastries and of course, any items that can be used in our bento boxes would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring items for the Foodfest to the temple before 9:00 am on February 5th, so that they can be packed and sold following the service

Thank You!

### Membership Dues Reminder

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

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

## 2016-2017 TORONTO DANA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Jessie Ebata

Co-Vice-President: Mary Aoki

Secretary: Judy Nishi

Treasurer: Aja Shimizu

Bazaar: Jessie Ebata, Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani

Castlevew: Hedy Iwata

Membership /Communication: Marie Baba

Program: Executive

Religious: Kay Uchida, Assistant- Emi Nakano

Social: Hamako Yoshida, Kathy Wani

TBC Dana Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs: Susan Takahashi / Miyo Nakamura

Welfare: Lily Motomura, Assistant -Hedy Iwata

JSBTCWF : June Asano

Special Projects: Jane Koyata, Kay Asada, Akiko Nishimura

## TBC DANA SCHOLARSHIP INVITES APPLICATIONS

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

### Eligibility:

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

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

The selection criteria will be as follows:

Academic Results	50%
Church Activities	30%
School and Community Involvement	10%
Essay (300 words)	10%

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

**\*\* DEADLINE for the scholarship application is Sunday, April 9, 2017 \*\***

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

## **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. Minoru Kodama</i>	<i>89 yrs</i>	<i>December 17, 2016</i>
<i>Mr. Robert Noboru Hikida</i>	<i>89 yrs</i>	<i>December 17, 2016</i>
<i>Mrs. Tatsue Yokota, Montreal</i>	<i>100 yrs</i>	<i>December 18, 2016</i>
<i>Mrs Hanaye Isoki</i>	<i>98 yrs</i>	<i>December 31, 2016</i>



## **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 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)

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

Earlier in 2016, the Board decided to pay heed to the gradual but significant transformation in the demographic makeup of our congregation. Our Temple saw the emergence of a diverse congregation representing various ethnic origins alongside its loyal base of Nisei and younger Japanese Canadian members. With this very exciting and welcome development, the Board decided that it was time for all Jodo Shinshu Buddhists of all backgrounds to come together to chant and learn the Dharma as one congregation and not as separate congregations. Therefore the Temple moved to have one combined English and Japanese service for Shutsuki (the memorial service on the first Sunday of each month) and also for the third Sunday of each month. This will continue into 2017 and the foreseeable future. Both ministers (Rev. Yanko and Rev. Ouchi) will preside at both of these services so long as they are able to attend. Dharma talks will be delivered in both English and Japanese. While both ministers will strive to attend all other weekly Sunday services if they are able, those services will be conducted primarily in English. We sincerely hope that this will encourage all of us to embrace the Dharma as one and to strengthen and grow our Sangha.

In Gassho,

The Board of Directors



# KIDS SANGHA

**KIDS SERVICE: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM IN THE HONDO.**

**January 15, 2017 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Yoga for Kids – 11:00 – 12:00 (Mezzanine Level, 2)**

Join us for an hour of gratitude! This year Yoga's sequence will incorporate a way for the kids to express gratitude. We will do a mix of yoga poses and craft activity.



Image courtesy of Yogafrog14

**February 5, 2017 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

## Arts & Crafts

Various craft stations will be available for the different age ranges so the kids can choose what they would like to do that day - a great indoor activity on a cold winter day.



**February 19, 2017 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

## Origami Workshop

Origami is the Japanese art of folding paper into shapes and figures. In this workshop the kids will learn about the history of origami and how to make animals, toys and other shapes just by folding paper.



## KIDS SANGHA'S VISION

Our vision is to bring together young children of all ethnic backgrounds and help them learn and experience the Buddha Dharma in a way that is relevant to their everyday lives.

Our Kids Sangha program is run in a safe and fun environment by a team of volunteers who are passionate about teaching children. Our hope is that children aged 4 to 13 yrs of age will build new friendships, have fun and feel good about time spent at the Temple as they participate in activity-based programs geared towards this age group.

Kids Sangha meets every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. No classes during the summer. Classes resume Rally Sunday September 10th.

The program is open to all families so please feel free to drop in anytime.

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

We are always looking for volunteers who are passionate about teaching young children. We currently have opportunities open in our classroom or daycare.

If you are interested, please contact Denise Crofton at [dcrofton@rogers.com](mailto:dcrofton@rogers.com)

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

## Living Dharma Centre Virtual Book Club

**Our next book that we will be reading beginning the last week of January is:**

### **Buddhism of the Heart: Reflections on Shin Buddhism and Inner Togetherness**

by Jeff Wilson, Foreword by Taitetsu Unno

"A major new voice in Western Buddhism, Wilson evokes the warmth of Robert Fulghum and the nonjudgmental spiritual struggling of Anne Lamott in this accessible, affirming work for the modern seeker

This is a very easy to read book filled with humour and thought provoking stories. Having read this book in a group setting, the stories always led to wonderful discussions that were applicable to everyday life. Although many of you may have already read it, we would encourage you to take another look at it through many different viewpoints. Anyone, at any level of understanding will enjoy." Barb MacCarl.

Jeff Wilson is an associate professor of Religious and East Asian Studies and the Chair of the department of Culture and Languages for Renison University College, at the University of Waterloo. Jeff is also a Shin Buddhist and has attained the 'monk' or Tokudo level in the Jodo Shinshu tradition. Jeff is the author of many books including Dixie Dharma: Inside a Buddhist Temple in the American South and Mindful America: The Mutual Transformation of Buddhist Meditation and American Culture as well as many papers and articles.

Buddhism of the Heart is available from Wisdom Publications, Chapters-Indigo, Amazon and from some temple bookstores.

*Those of you who are already in the book club will receive an email asking you if you would like to partake again. For those of you who are new to the club and would like to sign up, please send your request to: [bemaccarl@gmail.com](mailto:bemaccarl@gmail.com) with a copy to [dorothy.gigliotti@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.gigliotti@gmail.com).*

Together in the Dharma,

Amy Wakisaka

LDC Program Director

Brenda Ikuta

Dharma School

Barb MacCarl

Books and Education

### **Successful Pie Sale Fundraiser**

A very special Thank You to all the pie bakers who responded to our call for fresh home made pies. Our table was full of delicious, mouth watering fresh pies.  
Thank you

### **Volunteers Needed to Arrange the Naijin/Altar Flowers**

#### **No Experience Necessary (Training Provided)**

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

**Requirements:** Available 4 to 12 Friday afternoons a year for 1.5-2 hours between 12:00pm-5:00pm (We can arrange after work hours if you are only available after 5:00pm)

**Job Description:** Remove previous weeks' flowers from a large vase and two small vases. Wash vases. Arrange new flowers in the vases in an attractive fashion

Please contact **Pamela Yoshida** at 416-534-4302 or [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca) if you are interested in volunteering.

## 2017 CLASSES

### Meditation and Mindfulness with Ray Nakano

Are you suffering from stress?

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

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

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

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

Come out and join us!

**When: Every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 pm.**

**Where: Toronto Buddhist Church**

A typical 2 hour session includes:

Guided sitting meditation (30 minutes)

Silent walking meditation (10 minutes)

Silent sitting meditation (20 minutes)

Dharma talk

Sangha sharing

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

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

If you would like to attend:

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

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

**If you have any questions, please contact Reverend Christina Yanko at 416-534-4302 or you can email Ray Nakano at [mindfulnesspracticesangha@hotmail.com](mailto:mindfulnesspracticesangha@hotmail.com).**

### Let's Talk Dharma January 29, 2017

"We are just bits of energy temporarily inhabiting a human form"

Buddhism and science have often been linked, hand in hand, in the search for the "Truth".

So, if you are interested in talking about this and other thoughts, please join us in the cozy armchairs up on the second floor mezzanine.

We start the first of four monthly sessions January 29, 2017 at 12:30 PM.

Talk to you then,

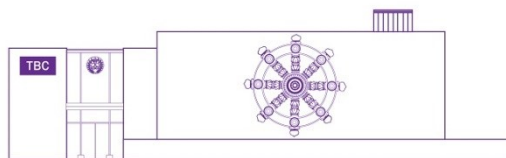
**Dennis, Minister Assistant**

### Dharma Café Suspension

There is going to be a temporary suspension of our monthly Dharma Café. With the upcoming AGM, Rev. Ouchi being away at school, and managing all of the temples in the Eastern District I will not be able to continue holding our Dharma Café sessions until after summer.

I apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused.





**MEMBERSHIP**  
Join/Renew

**WE NEED YOU**

***Join or Renew  
Online***

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

Needless to say the future of the Temple depends on our members so we need you to take the time or remember to submit your application and fee.

We continue trying to improve the benefits of being a member of the Temple, here are a few reasons why a membership is valuable:

1. Most importantly, as a member you will have the right to vote on all important matters affecting the Temple, such as the election of the President and the Directors, the approval of budgets and all significant matters affecting the future of the Temple.
2. As a member you are subscribing to the Jodo Shinshu values of the Temple.
3. As a member you are entitled to free notarial services offered by one of our Temple members.
4. As a member you are entitled to a discount on premium-level CAA memberships.
5. As a member you will be entitled to attend special Temple activities free of charge or at rates not available to non-members.
6. As a member you will be entitled to a free mailed subscription to the Temple newsletter, the Guiding Light, so long as your membership is up to date. Due to increased postage costs, non-members will be charged a subscription fee (\$25.00) if they wish to receive a hard copy of the Guiding Light. This change will be implemented in June 2017.

**Regular memberships** are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year, so we ask that those wishing to be recognized as a Temple member complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year. Once your signed application and membership fee (Note increase in 2017 from minimum \$100 to minimum \$125 per year) or your promise to pay the total fee by May 31 have been received, your membership card will be sent to you.

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



## TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*a Jodo Shinshu Temple***2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION***In the case of couples, please complete information for each applicant individually.*

<b>Applicant #1</b> Renewal ( ) New ( )		Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms. ( )
Last Name: _____		Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____
First Name: _____		Email: _____
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____		Signature: _____
Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____		
<p>I promise to pay \$_____ as my Membership Fee for 2016 and am enclosing the amount of \$_____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by <b>May 31, 2017</b>. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on the reverse side of this Application.</p> <p>-----</p>		
<b>Applicant #2</b> Renewal ( ) New ( )		Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms. ( )
Last Name: _____		Birthdate: dd/mm/year: _____
First Name: _____		Email: _____
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____		Signature: _____
Prov. _____ Postal Code: _____		
<p>I promise to pay \$_____ as my Membership Fee for 2016 and am enclosing the amount of \$_____ on account of such fee. I will pay the balance of my Membership Fee, if any, by <b>May 31, 2017</b>. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow printed on the reverse side of this Application.</p>		

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

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

*Please note that \$80 of your Individual Membership Fee is paid to Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) as an assessment for each member of our Temple.*

Membership Fees may be paid in one lump sum or in monthly or quarterly installments. **Please do not use Offering envelopes to pay membership fees. Instead, please insert them in separate plain envelopes clearly marked "For Membership". Please make any cheques payable to Toronto Buddhist Church.**

**As a member of Toronto Buddhist Church, I:**

1. Recognize and accept that our Temple is based on the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Teachings;
2. Vow to strive to live a life of gratitude and to do my best to care for the welfare of society; and
3. Vow to observe and uphold the Charter and By-laws of the Temple.

トロント仏教会の護持会員として、次の通り誓約いたします。

- 1、お寺を浄土真宗のみ教えに従う人々が集うところとします。
- 2、報恩感謝の生活を送り、自他ともに心豊かに生きることのできる社会の実現に貢献します。
- 3、会則を厳守します。

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

**Date:** Sunday, January 22, 2017

**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 24, 2016;
2. Approval of the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Sunday April, 17, 2016;
3. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2016;
4. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2017
5. Approval of a Special Resolution changing the General By-law of the Temple, approved by the Board of Directors on October 11, 2016, to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors from eight to nine;
6. Election of President and Director;
7. Election of Directors;

Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Please note that while attendance at the Meeting is open to all friends of the Temple, only members of the Temple 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 2016.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



# TBC New Year's Social

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**  
**following the morning service**

Bring your favourite dish for the potluck luncheon.  
(Dana is providing oranges & cake)

There will be a short entertainment programme,  
door prizes & bingo.



***Donations are  
welcome!***