



Guiding Light

FEBRUARY 2017



Cover by a Student of Kids' Sangha, Darius

Design for Wrapping paper

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3H 2T7
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FEBRUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Please Note:</u> All events marked with an asterisk * are private and not open to the general public			1 7:00 pm Taiko	2 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Meeting (O) 7:00 pm Meditation	3 7:30 pm Buyo	4
5 MONTHLY MEMORIAL Service & FOOD FEST 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 12:30 pm Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg (LDC) 1:00 pm Shin Fujinkai Mtg	6 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke 7:00 pm JSBTC AGM Food Comm	7 7:00 pm Buddhism Class Introduction to Buddhism	8 7:00 pm Taiko	9 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Momiji Service 4:00 pm *Yee Hong Service 7:00 pm Meditation	10	11
12 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Keirokai Mtg (Eko) 11:00 am Service Service in Hamilton (O)	13 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	14 7:00 pm TBC Mgmt Comm/BOD Mtgs	15 7:00 pm Taiko	16 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castleview 7:00 pm Meditation	17 12 noon *Family Memorial Service	18
19 NIRVANA DAY SERVICE & SANGHA DAY 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	20 FAMILY DAY 10:00 am * Buyo Group Workshop <div>TEMPLE CLOSED</div>	21 7:00 pm Buddhism Class Seven Masters	22 7:00 pm Taiko	23 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	24 7:30 pm Buyo	25
26 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Picnic Mtg 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma 1:00 pm * CPR / AED Course (Mezz)	27 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	28				

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

MARCH 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PLEASE NOTE: Events marked with an asterisk * are private and <u>NOT</u> open to the general public Thank You !			1 7:00 pm Taiko	2 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 7:00 pm Meditation	3 7:30 pm Buyo	4
5 MONTHLY MEMORIAL & WINTER WARMUP 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 Dana Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Sangha Mtg (LDC)	6 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	7 7:00 pm Bud- dhism Class	8 7:00 pm Taiko	9 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Momi- ji 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	10 7:30 pm Buyo	11 <div> Rev. Yanko away 10th -12th Winnipeg, Guest Speaker </div>
12 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service (O) Service in Hamilton (JW) 3:00 pm Japanese Garden Club Meeting	13 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	14 7:00 pm TBC Mgmt Comm/ BOD Mtg	15 7:00 pm Taiko	16 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castlevew 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	17 7:30 pm Buyo	18 CHURCH CEAN UP
19 HIGAN & KEIRO KAI 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service	20 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	21 7:00 pm Buddhism Class	22 7:00 pm Taiko	23 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ike- nobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	24 7:30 pm Buyo	25 Service in Ottawa
26 REGULAR SERVICE 9:30 am Picnic Mtg (Eko) 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm CCOV Mtg (Eko) 12:30 pm Let's Talk Dharma (Mezzanine) Higan Service in Montreal	27 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	28	29 7:00 pm Taiko	30 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikeno- bo School 7:00 pm Meditation	31 7:30 pm Buyo	

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Thank You

Fragile: Handle with Care**By: John Skelton***“Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?”*

As you are reading this article, perhaps you are holding something in your hand: a tea cup, your favorite coffee mug, or maybe even a lovely glass of wine. As you savour your beverage of choice, have you ever paused to consider the many causes and conditions that converged at just the right time, in just the right quantities, with just the right design, guided with just the right craftsmanship, in order to bring that cup or glass into your hand?

I teach industrial engineering at a private college here in Toronto. During their time with me, many students are amazed to discover just how complex that set of production activities is, mostly unseen and underappreciated, that works to bring that cup or glass into your hands.

Consider the wine glass. How is it made?

Craftsmen begin with a very pure type of sand, called “silica sand.” Adding a little nickel oxide helps the silica sand to melt. Other chemical compounds are added to the dry sand mixture, including lead oxide. These additives make the crystal soft and to help the finished crystal to sparkle in the light.

The dry compound is then compressed into pellets and sent into a furnace for 18 hours to melt. To the melt is added recycled broken glass called “cullet” to smooth the melted material. A craftsman called a blower then collects some of the melt onto a long tube made of tempered stainless steel.

The craftsman proceeds to engage in a lengthy, careful, repetitive sequence of rotating, blowing, and re-heating the molten crystal until it begins to take shape. Various wooden and steel tools and moulds are used to gradually refine the bowl’s shape.

Another craftsman called a “stemmer” affixes a separate blob of glass to the bowl, and shapes the stem without the benefit of a mould. These processes require great skill and patience. Eventually, the stem is strong enough to have a foot attached, which again is shaped through rotation and application of proper tools and techniques.

The semi-finished wine glass is then put into a kiln for further heat treatment, then cooled. It is now time for the stem to be cut. Another skilled craftsman called a “cutter” plans a pattern, etches the pattern into the glass, and finally polishes the wine stem. Cutters spend years in training and in apprenticeships to learn the skills necessary to adorn the smooth leaded crystal with designs.

The result of this long process, which needs to be seen to really appreciate it, is a beautiful drinking glass that anyone would be proud to own.

Now, imagine that as you are reading this article - wondering whatever this has to do with Buddhism – your attention is distracted. In a thoughtless moment, your finger slips off the glass, and it tumbles out of your hand. You see it, but it is too late to react. The glass falls, seemingly in slow motion, from your hand. You pray that it will somehow miraculously bounce from the floor unharmed. It happens sometimes. But this time, you watch helplessly as it smashes to bits on the floor.

It is understandable that you might be upset. After all, crystal of this quality is expensive. It might have been your favorite glass. You can try to repair it, but even if you are successful, the glass is never quite the same. And the condition of the glass might well be beyond repair. Perhaps it is a family heirloom, now lost to the sands of time because of a clumsy moment.

Buddha loved to tell stories. This story might illustrate the truth of impermanence: that no object lasts forever in its original form. The glass, one might say, was smashed into pieces before you ever touched it. It is in the glass’ nature to be broken. It is its karma. Just as the glass was formed from the sand, it returns to the sand. “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,” as a Christian Minister would say.

Fragile: Handle with Care, continued

The story might teach us about the problem of attachment. When we drop the glass, we are upset. We might be angry with ourselves. We might scold or lash out at the person who distracted us in the first place. We were attached to the object. We thought we owned it. It was pretty. It was a favorite. It was an heirloom. And yet, we need to acknowledge that we will be separated from those things that we treasure, eventually, one way or the other. We need to treat such events with equanimity. In truth, we own nothing. We are all part of an infinite, interconnected, ever-changing One.

Let me propose another theme.

In Buddha's Noble Eightfold Path, we encounter the third principle of "Right Speech." This is also one of the Five Precepts, so we know that he attached a very special urgency to this issue. Buddha defined Right Speech by saying:

"And what is right speech? Abstaining from lying, abstaining from divisive speech, abstaining from abusive speech, abstaining from idle chatter: This, monks, is called right speech." (Maggā-vibhanga Sutta),

Buddha advised that there are five keys to Right Speech:

It is spoken at the right time. It is spoken in truth. It is spoken affectionately. It is spoken beneficially. It is spoken with a mind of good-will." (Vacca Sutta)

He taught us as well about the dangers of lying:

"The person who lies, who transgress in this one thing, transcending concern for the world beyond: there is no evil he might not do." (Itivuttaka 1.25)

And he asked that we speak only words that do no harm:

One should speak only that word by which one would not torment oneself nor harm others. That word is indeed well spoken.

One should speak only pleasant words, words which are acceptable (to others). What one speaks without bringing evils to others is pleasant." (Vangisa)

Indeed, there is an old proverb which says, "The tongue is like a sharp knife that kills without drawing blood."

Most of us do not understand what was required to make the crystal wine stem. Only the glass itself knows what it took to make it. Its raw material was mixed up, burned, melted, and pounded, rotated and scratched, before it came to you in the form of a glass. Its purpose was only to serve you and to make you smile. And then, while in your custody and care, the glass was broken.

The glass, on the other hand, does not understand what it takes to make a human being. Only we humans truly appreciate that. Each of us has lived through the production process. Only we know the pain, suffering, struggle and pleasure that it took to bring each of us to this moment in our lives. Each of us has our own unique mosaic of life, which is our karma. Indeed, at Sunday services, we are often told,

"How rare and wondrous it is to be born into human life, and now I live it."

What damage, then, can thoughtless speech do to a human being? What if we accuse another person of doing something that they did not do? What if we shame another person in public? What if we scold another person in anger? Like the glass that is broken by the careless movement of a finger, might we not risk breaking a decent person with careless speech? And if we do, have we not undone much of that *rare and wondrous* craftsmanship that conspired to bring that person before us?

Harmful speech might be intentional, or simply the result of recklessness, carelessness, or it might even be utterly unintentional. Does the motive really matter?

Continued on page 6

Fragile: Handle with Care, continued

Once said, harmful speech cannot be un-said. Human beings can be a very resilient lot, and we can bounce back from a verbal attack just as a dropped glass can bounce off the floor. Others who are more sensitive can be hurt, or even broken. Sometimes, even the strong among us can suffer when the wrong words are used at the wrong time. We are fragile, and we need to be handled with care.

As humans, we are imperfect. So what are we to do if and when we stray from Right Speech? A sincere and prompt apology is a necessary first step to repairing the damage. It might be appropriate to make amends for damage done. We must take care not to repeat the same mistake again.

But it is always best to avoid making the mistake in the first place.

Before we speak, it is always wise to ask three fundamental questions about what we are about to say:

“Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it Kind?”

Because sometimes, the person who stands before you, who worked so hard, and endured so much pain, simply to make you smile – like the broken wine glass that has been repaired - might never have quite the same sparkle again.

Namu Amida Butsu.

A Message from Incoming TBC President Larry Wakisaka

(Guiding Light Editor's note: Larry Wakisaka was elected to be our next TBC President at the TBC AGM on Jan. 22, 2016)



First, I'd like to offer my personal thanks and gratitude to Roy Kusano for all his efforts and his generous care and concern of the Temple during his four years as TBC President. This feeling of gratitude and appreciation is also extended to our Ministers, to our Ministerial Assistants, our Dharma Lay Leaders, all the TBC Board Directors and Advisors, members of the Management Committee, Pamela and Dianne in our office and also to all our many volunteers ... all without whom our Temple would not be able to operate properly to serve our congregation, Temple and greater community so effectively. Thank you all so much!

As the incoming TBC President, I look forward to the opportunity to get to know so many more wonderful people ... to get to know each of you to discover what makes you tick, to find out what you want to achieve, to know what you are searching for and to see how we can help each other to grow and to attain our Temple and personal goals together with mutual respect, compassion, dignity, a sense of gratitude and with harmony and grace.

Our Temple is in a transitional period. Many of our dedicated Members have entered the Pure Land. Many of our Members are feeling the effects of age. However, please remember that we have an extremely rich legacy from which we can learn, draw and build from. We also still have many of our elder statesmen in our Temple still valuably with us to continue to assist us with their wisdom, guidance and rich experience. We also have the vibrant interest, curiosity and energy of many new Temple Members and Supporters who we can encourage to become more a part of the fabric of our Temple Family going forward into the future. Most importantly, as always, we will continue to have the Dharma.

A Message from Incoming TBC President Larry Wakisaka, continued

I have seen and experienced what makes our Temple such a special place and to be the wonderful sanctuary that it is for us today. I hope to continue to encourage everyone to work together as a cohesive team. I would like to promote the merits of everyone exhibiting a mutual respect for each other, a sense of gratitude for whatever we are fortunate to have, to share with compassion whatever we can offer to others and, above all else, to explore and to be proud to walk the Path of the Dharma Teachings together and to gladly share this with many others in the greater and worldwide communities. I will work earnestly together with our new temple administration team to achieve our Temple goals.

Thank you for your trust in me to lead and encourage our Temple Congregation to continue to make our Temple a wonderful place for all of us to be grateful for.

With Gratitude and in Gassho,
Larry Wakisaka

New Year's Bell Ringing Joya No Kane 2017

New Year/ New Hope. On a surprisingly mild New Year's Eve we joyously together struck the Japanese Canadian Centennial Bell at Ontario Place 108 times thus ridding ourselves of the 108 blind passions we are said to possess and start anew. Somehow, the forlorn setting in a ghostly Ontario Place with the Toronto skyline in the distance and the celebratory fireworks and made the ceremony more poignant. Everyone was given mochi to add to their New Year celebration.

Thank you to the ministers and the participants and especially Ontario Place



OBITUARIES

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



Mrs. Aiko Hakoda	90 yrs	January 4, 2017
Mrs. Yaeko Furuya	90 yrs	January 10, 2017
Mr. Mutsuo Kishimoto, St. Thomas	85 yrs	January 17, 2017
Mr. Masumi Maehara	90 yrs	January 19, 2017

Mochi Tsuki 2016 – Just About Right

There is something interesting almost every year at our annual TBC Sangha Mochi Tsuki event. As an event, Mochi Tsuki has a lot of moving parts that need to come together for success. There is the preparation the day before, there is the aged temperamental equipment, there is the home cooked lunches for volunteers – really it's like herding cats! With the challenges of this event, it will never be perfect, but this year, I am so very happy to report – things went just about as well as you could hope.

With the help of about 20 volunteers on Dec. 29, we managed to wash 800 lbs. of rice, prepare lunch for the next day, setup the Mochi machines and set up the Social Hall.



The following day we thankfully received the support of over 100 volunteers to cook, form, cool and package the Mochi.

We did have one of our senior volunteers cut his finger which required a visit to hospital for some stitches, but such was his enthusiasm that he insisted on returning to continue helping out; many thanks to Jessie Ebata who took the time to drive out to Emergency.



As always, there are just too many people to thank – in fact this event could not have been successful without the assistance of each and every volunteer, but I would be remiss if I didn't specifically give thanks to a few people who went above and beyond.

Many thanks to Aki Ikebata, Isao Yoshida and Lloyd Ito for their expertise and leadership. Ouchi Sensei who assisted us in reaching out to the newly arrived and visiting Japanese community. Angela Shintani-Sandrowicz who set up arts and crafts tables for children attending the event. My wife Joanne and my kids Rachel, Abigail and Joaquin who all helped in every aspect of this event.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka

President, TBC Sangha

2017 Odorizome

In Japan, the New Year is a time to renew. As such, the "first practice" of the year is a special one. The Kozakura Japanese Dance School has for many years, held a Japanese dance concert at Momiji Seniors Centre in January.

On January 8, the TBC Buyo Group, dressed in their beautiful furisode and kimono, was again part of Odorizome, entertaining the residents, their family and friends.



Coordinating Committee of Volunteers (CCOV) Update

Even though the winter days are still upon us, the Temple will be busy with many different events.

For the CCOV, the year started with Team 4 (co-captains Jessie Ebata and Susan Ebisuzaki) doing a wonderful job with the New Year's Social that was held on January 15. It was good to have people that we don't see too often, work together setting out the many dishes of food provided by the congregation.

There are many different upcoming events and we hope you will consider coming out. Keirokai is fast approaching on March 19 and Hanamatsuri on April 16. This year the JSBTC (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) will be holding their Annual General Meeting at our Temple from April 20 to 23 and all CCOV teams will be needed to help.

It is a good time to meet and make new friends.

For more information, please contact Darlene Rieger or Dawn Anzai.

Thank you.

DANA Membership Dues Reminder

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

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



Evening of Buddhism

Tuesday February 7th at 7pm

Introduction to Buddhism

For those just starting out and wanting to learn more about Buddhism, please come and join us to learn about some of the core aspects of Buddhism. All questions are welcome!

Tuesday February 21st at 7pm

Jodo Shinshu Seven Masters—Nagarjuna

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

Dharma Café Suspension

There will be a temporary suspension of the ongoing Dharma Café meetings. We apologize for any inconveniences this may cause.

Hoonko 2017

In honour of Shinran Shonin's life and teachings Hoonko is a week long commemoration and one of the most important in the Jodo Shinshu calendar. In Toronto Rev. Yanko and Rev. Yoshimichi chose to observe Hoonko with an intimate gatha/wasan service preceded by a vegetarian pot luck dinner and followed by a delicious zenzai provided by Hamako Yoshida and Kathy Wani. Many thanks to all those who participated.



2017 New Year's Social

On Sunday January 15th following the Hoonko Service, which is a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, a pot luck luncheon was held in the Social Hall with many delicious contributions from our congregation. The afternoon's festivities, MC'd by Roy Kusano, included an impromptu harmonica performance by Sid Ikeda followed by buyo and karaoke performances from temple members as well as bingo. This year the jackpot bingo of \$100.00 was split between **Crystal Anzai** and **Joanne Uyede**. Congratulations to all our other bingo winners and those people who were fortunate to win a door prize.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations, hard work and continued support and a special thank you to CCOV Team #4 for their assistance in holding this event; the Dana for providing the cake and oranges and the Sangha for providing the jackpot bingo prize money.

Namu Amida Butsu

Special Projects Committee





TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

a Jodo Shinshu Temple

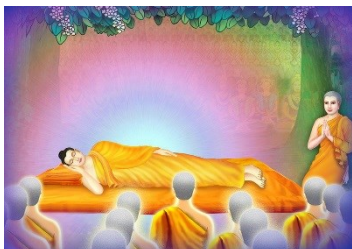
Board of Directors 2017

At the TBC Annual General Meeting which was held on January 22, 2017, the following Temple members were elected as Directors to form our TBC Board. Congratulations and thanks are extended to all Directors for their commitment to act in the best interests of our Temple!

President	Larry Wakisaka
Director, 1 st V.P.	Amy Wakisaka
Director, Treasurer	Larry Suyama
Director, Corporate Secretary	Dawn Anzai
Director	Darlene Rieger
Director	Susan Ebisuzaki
Director	Michael Tamaki
Director	Jessie Ebata
Director	Glenn Nishimura

Nirvana Day [Nehan e] Sun., Feb. 19th

What is Nirvana? Is it heaven, a good book, a delicious meal or an exhilarating adventure? This concept has been used loosely by western culture to describe all sorts of fulfillment of desires but its real meaning is the end of suffering. The Buddha taught that suffering is rooted in our desires and attachments which we all have. The Nirvana Day service is being held to commemorate the death and final enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha. We are reminded of the impermanence of life and hopefully live with compassion and gratitude for our lives and life.



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

Guiding Light

Let's Get Together for Lunch on February 19th!

Annual TBC Sangha Day Luncheon

It's always nice to have the opportunity to relax and have a bite to eat with friends. On February 19th, we invite all Temple members, family and friends to join us after the Nirvana Day service and enjoy a complimentary luncheon on us.

The TBC Sangha volunteer group has been an active supporter of our Temple and extended community for over 66 years. Once a year we recognize our group's leaders, welcome new members and give thanks to new lifetime members (members who have achieved 65 years of age).

2017 Sangha Executive Board

Martin Cartledge, Social	Aki Ikebata, Special Projects
Sid Ikeda, Publicity	Cary Kataoka, President
Fred Kotani, Welfare	Nelson Lui, Membership Assistant
Dennis Madokoro, Treasurer	Mas Matsuyama, Membership
Phil Miller, Publicity	George Nakano, Religion
Nobby Shiraishi, Past President	Ron Shimizu, Secretary
Mits Sumiya, Advisor	Kunio Suyama, Special Projects
Toku Suyama, Special Projects	

Our complimentary luncheon allows us the opportunity to give thanks to our Temple and extended community for the opportunity to continue to allow us to serve and contribute.

I very much hope that we can save you a seat at the table.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka
President, TBC Sangha



KIDS SANGHA

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

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.

Workshop will be lead by Marlene Frazer.



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

March 5, 2017 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Mindful Meditation and Creating Artful Mandalas

Last year we started our first mindful sitting, walking and eating meditation for kids. On this day we will meditate at the beginning of class (walking and eating meditation) and then the kids will have a chance to make their own artful Mandalas.



March 19, 2017 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Games : Buddhist Word Finds, Charades & Bingo

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

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

A complimentary pizza lunch will be provided for the kids.

In Gassho,

Denise Crofton, Program Director

KIDS SANGHA

KIDS SANGHA'S VISION

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

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

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

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

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

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

If you are interested, please contact Denise Crofton at dcrofton@rogers.com

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

TBC DANA SCHOLARSHIP INVITES APPLICATIONS

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

Eligibility:

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

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

The selection criteria will be as follows:

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

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

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

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

Toronto Buddhist Church Spring Higan and Keirokai

Sunday, March 19, 2017

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

Keirokai is a Japanese term that we use for the event where we celebrate, honour and show our gratitude to our temple elders. Members who will reach **77 years (KIJU)**, **88 years (BEIJU)** and **99 years (HAKUJU)** or older during this calendar year, will be honoured during the Joint Higan Service at 11:00am. During the service, each honouree will be recognized and presented with a gift from the temple. In order to be included in the service, each honouree **must be a temple member** and **must submit the application form** (below) to the Temple office by **Sunday, March 5th, 2017.**

After the service a special luncheon will be held for our honourees. All honourees and other Temple members who are 77 years old or more this year will each receive a complimentary bento (lunch box). Everyone else may purchase a bento for \$10.

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

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

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon in the Social Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you,

2017 KEIROKAI HONOREE APPLICATION FORM

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

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Province: _____

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

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

Let's Talk Dharma Feb 26

Last month we talked about the purpose of an adult heart. One reading suggested that our purpose as adults is to cultivate loving kindness. That is our "only" purpose as adults. What do you think?

Let's talk Dharma continues Sunday February 26, 2017, in the lounge area of the mezzanine. Time is 12:30 PM, so have a coffee or tea in the social hall and then climb the stairs to our LTD group.

We will open our sessions with the Loving-Kindness meditation.

This meditation comes from Rev Ulrich's Journey into Buddhism TV series.

It seems to generate a lot of discussion.

We hope to see you for LTD,

**Gassho, Dennis Madokoro,
Minister Assistant.**



Meditation and Mindfulness with Ray Nakano

Are you suffering from stress?

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

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

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

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

Come out and join us!

When: Every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 pm.

Where: Toronto Buddhist Church

A typical 2 hour session includes:

Guided sitting meditation (30 minutes)

Silent walking meditation (10 minutes)

Silent sitting meditation (20 minutes)

Dharma talk

Sangha sharing

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

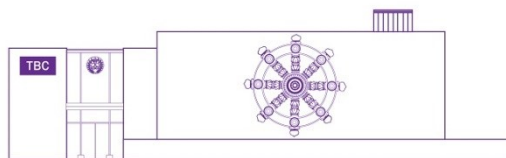
Sangha sharing is an opportunity for the group to share regarding their mindfulness practice and talk about their experience and any problems or concerns they are having.

If you would like to attend:

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

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

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



MEMBERSHIP
Join/Renew

WE NEED YOU

***Join or Renew
Online***

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

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

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

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

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

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



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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.**

Winter Warmup!



**Sunday
March 5, 2017**

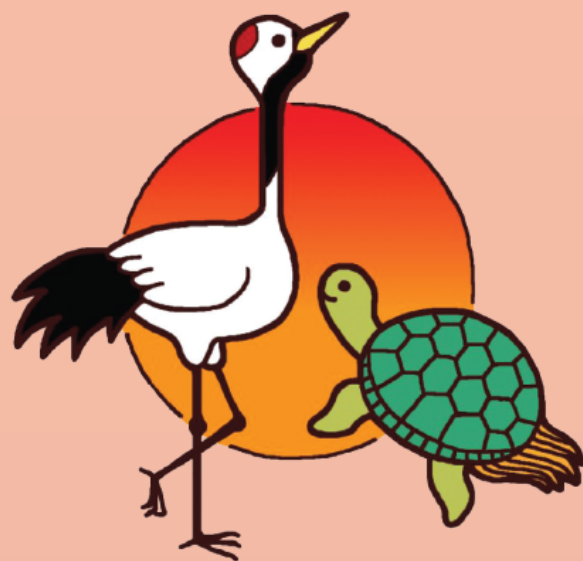
Shin Fujinkai's Yakisoba luncheon

**held in the Social Hall
after morning service**

\$7



KEIROKAI



敬老会

Celebrating our young at heart!

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

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

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

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon