



Guiding Light

JUNE 2017

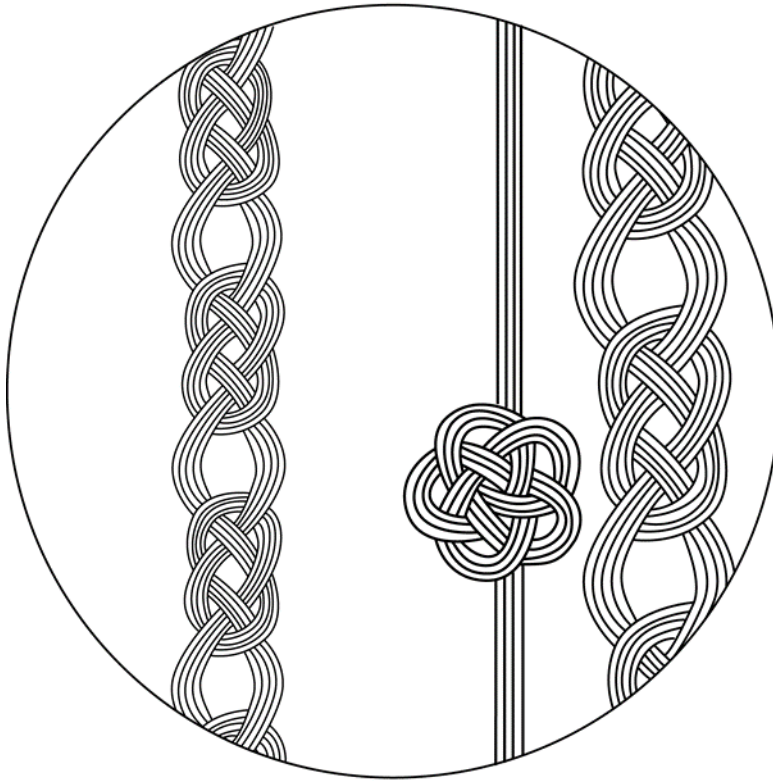


Illustration by Nanako Iwata

み だ え こ う じ ょ う じ ゅ
 弥陀の回向 成就して

お う そ う げ ん そ う
 往相還相 ふたつなり

え こ う
 これらの回向に よりてこそ

し ん ぎ ょ う
 心行ともに えしむなれ

*Amida has fulfilled the directing of virtue, Which has two aspects:
 that for our going forth and that for our return.*

*Through these aspects of the Buddha's directing of virtue, We are brought to realize
 both mind and practice.*

Shinran Shonin

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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


JUNE 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PLEASE NOTE Events marked with an “*” are private and NOT open to the general public Thank You				1 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	2 8:00 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	3 12:00 pm * Family Service *Kid's Sangha Sleepover
4 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE 9:30 am Bazaar Mtg 10:30 am Kid's Sangha 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Dana Mtg Sangha Mtg Shin Fujinkai Mtg	5 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	6 8:00 pm Bon Odori	7 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Isshin	8 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm *Momiji 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 4:00 pm *Yee Hong 7:00 pm Meditation	9 8:00 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	10
11 TBC CHURCH PICNIC at Camp Green Acres <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> CHURCH CLOSED </div>	12 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	13 8:00 pm Bon Odori	14 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Isshin	15 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 pm * Castleview 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation 7:00 pm MC Mtg/ BOD Mtg	16 8:00 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	17
18 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service Service in Hamilton	19 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	20 8:00 pm Bon Odori	21 1:00 pm Ohara School 7:00 pm Isshin	22 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	23 8:00 pm Bon Odori 8:00 pm Buyo	24 * 10:00 am TBC Sr. Karaoke Party * 11:00 am Private Memorial Service
25 REGULAR SERVICE 11:00 am Service	26 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	27 8:00 pm Bon Odori	28 11:30am *Momiji Community mtg 7:00 pm Isshin	29 10:00 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Buyo 3:00 pm Ikenobo School 7:00 pm Meditation	30 8:00 pm NO Bon Odori 8:00 pm NO Buyo	

Morning Services are held on the week days on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am-10:30 am when a Minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur

Thank you !

JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Events marked with an * asterisk are PRIVATE and are not open to the general public						1 HAPPY CANADA DAY 
2 Monthly Memorial Service 11:00 am Service 12:30 pm Sangha Exec Brd Mtg (Eko)	3 CHURCH CLOSED	4 8 pm Bon Odori	5 7 pm Isshin	6 1:00 pm Buyo 3 pm Ikebana 8:00 pm Last Bon Odori	7 Morning Cemetery Flower prep	8 Cemetery Visitations 7:00 pm Service Bon Odori
9 OBON SERVICES 9:00 am Hatsubon Families Service 11:00 am Obon Service (E) 2:00 pm Obon Service (J) <u>Guest Speaker:</u> Bishop Kodo Umezu Buddhist Churches of America	10 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	11	12 7 pm Isshin	13 1:00 pm Buyo 2:00 * Momiji Service 4:00 * Yee Hong Service	14 8:00 pm Buyo	15
16 SUMMER SERVICE 11:00 am Service OBON SERVICE in Hamilton	17 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	18	19 7 pm Isshin	20 1:00pm Buyo	21 8:00 pm Buyo	22 Obon Service in Ottawa
23 SUMMER SERVICE 11:00 am Service OBON Service in Montreal	24 10:00 am Sr. Karaoke	25	26 7 pm Isshin	27 1:00 pm Buyo	28 8:00 pm Buyo	29
30 SUMMER SERVICE 11:00 am Service	31					
<div> KIDS CAMP LUMBINI in WASAGA BEACH JULY 30 - AUG 5 Rev. Ouchi (Mon – Wed) Rev. Yanko (Thurs – Sat) </div>						

Morning Services are held on the week days on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am-10:30 am when a Minister is available. As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur

Thank you !

Just One Breath

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi



We have finally made it to summer season!!! The past winter season was my first winter in Canada and it was so freezing! I had times where I worried if I would be able to last or not. However, despite the frigid temperatures, the Canadian people showed so much kindness that it made me feel warm inside.

It may sound like I am exaggerating, but in fact I am being honest. For example, there was one occasion that I had the day to myself and I decided to go explore downtown Toronto. It did not take very long before I discovered I was lost. I must have looked confused because a lady I had never met before approached me and asked if she could be of assistance. I explained to her I was lost and she pulled out a map and carefully explained to me the best way to reach my destination. On this particular day the weather was so cold, but the kindness of a total stranger filled my heart with warmth.

It is actually fairly easy to get lost when you are in unfamiliar surroundings and trying to find your way around, and on these occasions we have the ability to ask someone “Where am I?” or “Please help me!” However, when we feel like our direction in life is lost, it is not so easy to find the right directions or answers. We don’t know who the right people are to ask for help.

I would like to share with you a story about the life of the Buddha.

One day Shakyamuni Buddha and one of his disciples were walking along a path when suddenly the Buddha asked his disciple “How long is our life?” The disciple thought for a moment and recalled his grandmother and grandfather. He responded “Our lives last around 50 years.” After hearing this answer the Buddha smiled and said, “No.” The disciple tried to answer again, “Oh I guess that was too long. Then perhaps our life is around 40 years.” To this the Buddha smiled again and responded, “No.” Quickly the disciple said “Oh I made a mistake! I meant to say it is around 30 years!” However, the Buddha again smiled and said “No.”

Finally the disciple gave up trying and said “I am so sorry but I don’t think I know the answer.” The Buddha smiled affectionately at the disciple’s honesty. Then he raised his finger and said “Just breathe in and out.”

It sounds very simple, “Just breathe in and out,” and in fact it is. But in truth our whole life depends on this simplicity. If we did not breathe in and out, our life would end.

The first time I heard this story was when I was in University studying Buddhism. At that time I thought it was too obvious. Of course. If I stop breathing I will pass away. However, I met one family at a memorial service in Japan that totally made me rethink my position.

The memorial service was for a baby who had passed away at 2 years of age. After the service the parents shared with me the sweet memories they had of their baby. How cute it was when she smiled. How special it was when their daughter would touch their cheek. How happy they were when she stood for the first time. The parents told me that every moment they spent with their daughter was beautiful. They knew she would not live long because she was born with a terminal illness, so they valued whatever time they could.

Just One Breath, continued

After the service I remembered the story of the Buddha and the words he said “Just breathe in and out.” It gave new meaning to the story for me and instead of being reflective of scientific reality reminded me that within each breath is a full life. Each moment has a life of its own. We live in and for those moments.

Most of us think our life begins when we are born and ends when we pass away (hopefully at a very old age). However, Shakyamuni Buddha taught us that we are alive in each moment. Each moment is complete, each breath in and out measures these moments, and each carries the same degree of significance. The Buddha teaches us that we are living a very important time right now. Right now you can meet your family or friends. Right now you can share your life. Right now you can experience beauty and love. Right now you are embraced. You have already reached your destination.

By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else. By virtue of True Compassion, let us realize the unexcelled value of our human existence; and let us live with the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, in our hearts.

-Renny Shonin

Serving Many Masters

I read a book recently called *Evangelical Zen*. The main author is a fundamentalist Protestant Christian, who describes his journeys in Japan and how they provoke him to discover himself through encounters with those who are different from himself.

One of the things that this book helped clarify for me is the strange mixture of love and anxiety that characterizes this form of fundamentalist Christianity. It isn't something that occurs in all forms of Christianity, nor something that all Christians feel. But it is strong in conservative circles, and the contrast with Buddhism is so clear, that I wanted to explore it further.

The author goes out of his way many times in the book to affirm his love for and commitment to God alone. He is clearly concerned that conservative Christian readers will reject him because he deigns to talk with Buddhists. But there is more going on as well. He fears that God will reject him if he shows respect to others' deities. And even deeper, he fears that he himself will reject God if he allows himself to become emotionally attached to any other religious figure. So while his love for God is also a source of deep-seated fear and anxiety. Thus he repeats Jesus's words in the Gospels, saying that a man cannot serve two masters.

These feelings are a natural result of this particular Christian theology. It envisions a God who is jealous and doesn't want any competitors for his followers' affection. A God who claims to love everyone, but who rejects any who fail to return that love, and punishes them with eternal horror and pain. In this theology,



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Serving Many Masters, continued

It makes sense to say that you cannot serve two masters, because the essential relationship is imagined as between a master and a slave. The master has absolute power over the slave, and the slave must show absolute obedience and devotion. It's impossible to show absolute obedience and devotion to more than one slave-master.

Conservative Christians say "you cannot serve two masters" because that is how their theology has taught them to think. But for me, it is clear that we can serve many different masters, and do so faithfully. The difference is in not envisioning one's spirituality as based on a master-slave relationship. I serve many masters, and in different ways. I serve my wife in particular ways and care for her needs. I serve my children in other ways and take care of them. I serve my students. I serve my colleagues. I serve the temple. All of these are my masters, the ones who receive my attention, efforts, and affection. But I can serve so many masters because my spirituality conceives of essential relationships through the lens of responsibility, indebtedness, and interconnection. In such a view, serving only one master is the true impossibility, because I am aware of all that I owe to so many, and of all whom I am connected to through the very fact of my living.

People sometimes compare the Pure Land Buddhist way to Christianity. I think there are some parallels, but the comparison can be deeply distorting, especially if our Buddhism is compared to conservative forms of Christianity. As I experience it, there is no anxiety or fear in Buddhism. I don't fear that Amida Buddha will reject me; I don't even fear that I will reject Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha is not a jealous God who wants all of my love. Amida Buddha is a source of never-abandoning support and compassion. Amida Buddha accepts me just as I am, whether in this moment I am a faithful Buddhist, a bad Buddhist, a Christian, or an atheist.

OBITUARIES

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

Mrs. Yasuko Helen Shimoda

102 yrs

May 8, 2017

Mrs. Mitsuye Marge Hayashi

94 yrs

May 11, 2017



Bon Odori 2017

It feels like spring is in the air, and with spring comes Bon Odori. Join us at the Toronto Buddhist Church to practice Japanese folk dances in preparation for the Obon festival on July 8. Women, men and children are all welcome and step-by-step instructions are given. Practices will be held every Tuesday and Friday, 8:00-9:30 pm.

Obon is an important Buddhist festival. It would be great to see more TBC members participating in the odori this year as we also celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Bon odori practices, Toronto Buddhist Church

Tuesday and Friday nights

8:00 – 9:30pm *please note the time of Friday practices

Share the Wealth



\$2 each or 3 for \$5

**The more money raised,
the bigger the prize!**

**To be drawn on
*June 11, 2017***

at the TBC Annual Picnic

See you at Camp Green Acres!

TBC Observations: ‘Temple Keys Returned’

**With Gratitude and in Gassho,
Larry Wakisaka**

On December 15, 2016, I was emailed a poignant photo which was fortunately captured by Toivo Knude when he was at the otera doing volunteer maintenance for our temple. It was apparently a rather quiet day in which the only people at the temple office were Toivo, Pamela Yoshida and Mits Sumiya. Mits had come to the office to return his temple keys ... but these were not just any keys.

These keys were labeled #1. These were the first set of keys to our current temple when it was being built. Mits was outfitted with the first set of keys and the Late Tom Allen had the second set of keys. Both of these temple giants conducted daily supervision of the building of our temple ... Mits took care of the interior details while Tom took responsibility of our exterior building considerations. Together, they made a great team amazingly bringing the entire building project in on time and on budget! They spent countless personal hours each on this building project and labour of love.

After the temple was built, both Tom and Mits continued caring for our temple. Mits would often be found wandering around the temple and taking notes as to which light bulbs needed replacing among many other duties. He did his volunteer work meticulously. He once told me of the importance of maintaining our building during one of his walk arounds. This impression and care and concern was etched in my mind and it helped me to form a lasting impression of Mits and his dedication to our temple and sangha community.

On December 15, 2016, Mits came into the temple office to hand his keys to Pamela. He was turning them in because he felt that he wasn't using his temple keys anymore for any other reason than to enter through the back doors at times. He felt that the temple keys which he had since our new temple building would be of better use in someone else's hands. The photo taken that day is a poignant one of Mits. When I first saw the photo, tears welled in my eyes.

At the moment of receiving the photo, the only thing which I could think of was that these temple keys could only belong to Mits and that the temple could not accept them back. The keys were initially entrusted to Mits and they should deservedly forever belong to him.

Flash forward to May 14, 2017. Various things had conspired to prevent our temple from giving these keys back to Mits but the time finally came when, during a Management Committee meeting on a Sunday morning, Mits arrived for the meeting (with his wonderful wife Gloria coming to the temple with Mits) when we could properly return the temple keys back to its rightful keeper. Mits and Gloria received a rousing standing ovation from our entire Management Committee as a plaque with the #1 keys attached to it was presented to Mits for his dedicated service to the temple.

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The plaque awarded to Mits Sumiya reads:

**Presented to
Mr. Mits Sumiya
For distinguished and unfailing service
and for care and concern of
Toronto Buddhist Church
With Gratitude and in Gassho
Feb. 2017**

Mits Sumiya was surprised by this acknowledgement but this recognition and message of gratitude was a fitting way to let one of our wise temple elders know exactly what he has meant to our temple. Mits Sumiya and keys #01 simply belong together.



Mits returning his #1 keys



Mits receiving his plaque with #1 keys attached

***THANK YOU TO OUR CHOIR FOR THEIR YEARS OF ENTERTAINING THE
TEMPLE. YOU WILL BE MISSED. WE HOPE YOU WILL RETURN***



Infant Presentation May 21st, 2017

We were pleased to welcome to our temple sangha community five infants and toddlers on Sunday May 21st, 2017 during the Gotanye and Infant Presentation service.

Gotanye is the service where we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our sect of Buddhism. Shinran was born on May 21st, 1173. It is only fitting that on the Sunday that we celebrate Shinran's birth we also celebrate the presentation of infants and toddlers to our sangha by their parents who affirm their intention of raising their children with Buddhist values.

We were fortunate to have been introduced to:

Rome Banavage (parents: Billy Joe and Adam Banavage)

Zoe Meeks (parents: Christine Iwashita-Meeks and Omar Meeks)

Quinten Meeks (parents: Christine Iwashita-Meeks and Omar Meeks)

Aiden Peddle (parents: Jessica Rootes-Peddle and Matthew Peddle)

Willow Sandrowicz (parents: Angela Shintani – Sandrowicz and Brandon Sandrowicz)



REMINDER TO GUIDING LIGHT SUBSCRIBERS

As mentioned in our membership articles the rising cost of postage has forced us to implement a subscription fee for all those who are not members of the Temple. The subscription fee charged will apply to those receiving the Guiding Light by mail. If you were not a member in 2016 or have not applied for or renewed your membership for 2017 you will no longer receive your Guiding Light after the July/August issue (this has been extended from June as mentioned in the article). The subscription fee will be \$25.00.

If you do not wish to apply for membership but wish to continue to receive a copy of the Guiding Light by mail please submit your subscription fee to the Toronto Buddhist Church (indicating it's for the Guiding Light).

The Guiding Light is also posted on the Toronto Buddhist Church website tbc.on.ca

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)

Annual General Meeting 2017

April 21-23

This year, Toronto Buddhist Church was the host to all Women's Federation and Temple Delegates from across the country, all of our Ministers, the Bishop, the National Board and special guests President Ken Tanimoto from the Buddhist Churches of America and his wife Alice.

Some of the highlights from the business of the JSBTC AGM:

- Member Temple assessments remain at \$80 per temple member.
- The JSBTC provided a 5-year financial plan showing the need for an increase in assessments if the membership continues to decline. All temples were encouraged to make a 5 year plan to help with their own planning.
- Bishop Tatsuya Aoki was re-elected to serve as Bishop of Canada for a two year term.
- The National Board Directors for the 2017-2018 year will be:
 - President: Dave Otori (Vancouver)
 - Vice-President: Larry Wakisaka (Toronto)
 - Secretary: Debra Campbell Hayashi (Vernon)
 - Treasurer: Greg Chor (Vancouver)
 - LDC Program Director: Amy Wakisaka (Toronto)
 - Director: Harvey Kaita (Manitoba)
 - Director: Laura Sugimoto (Calgary)
 - Director: Trudy Gahlinger (Victoria/Vancouver)
 - Director: Kent MacCarl (Kelowna)
- The Ministers Retirement Fund (MRF) is a supplemental fund for retired JSBTC Ministers and their families which was established by the late Rev. Susumu Ikuta. It has recently been active in distributing funds to some of our retired ministers. With legal changes recently completed to the structure of the fund, it is now able to receive donations through local temples to the JSBTC. A generous donation of \$120,000 was made to the MRF by the JSBTC Women's Federation from the proceeds of their surplus from their 2015 World Convention. TBC also made a generous donation at the Saturday Banquet in support of the MRF
- TBC presented a Resolution requesting that a Committee be formed to work on recognizing the Office of the Bishop and the Ministerial Association in the JSBTC By-Law for presentation at the JSBTC AGM in 2018. This was passed unanimously by all Member Temples present
- Member Temples each presented a topic to share with other temples on "Temple Successes". TBC's presentation was made by Rev. Christina Yanko on how TBC Ministers are making efforts to explain more on the rituals and traditions of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism with respect to pillow services, funeral and memorial services and to enable attendees to feel more comfortable and to understand elements of these services.

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Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC)

Annual General Meeting 2017

- All Temple Ministers participated in a fun question and answer session whereby questions from those in attendance at the AGM were answered by the Ministers in a game format. Wise, humorous and eloquent answers were the result!
- The next JSBTC AGM in 2018 will kindly be hosted by Calgary Buddhist Temple
- The JSBTC AGM in 2019 will kindly be hosted by Vancouver Buddhist Temple

A lovely banquet at the Casa Imperial Fine Chinese Cuisine Restaurant capped a wonderful evening of food and celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the JSBTC Women's Federation. JSBTC Commendation Awards were presented to all nine Past Presidents of the WF including Terrie Komori, Jean Furukawa and Jessie Ebata from TBC.

The weekend ended with the Tsuito Hoyo closing service and a delicious pot luck lunch which was prepared by many TBC volunteers.

Thank you to the TBC JSBTC AGM 2017 Planning Committee and all the many volunteers who pitched in to plan, greet, feed, welcome, drive and help to provide visitors and guests from across the country a home away from home at TBC!



Report from the JSBTC AGM Planning Committee

I would like to report on the JSBTC AGM 2017 hosted by our Temple, April 19 - 23. Here are a few comments emailed to our temple:

"Please extend sincere appreciation to all the volunteers of your Sangha"

"Thank you for your warm hospitality and for being such gracious hosts and hostesses."

"Everything was so well organized and the hospitality outstanding. Excellent job!!!"

"One small drawback...I think that I am going to have to go shopping after partaking in all the incredible food and goodies that were provided so generously."

First, a big thank you to the JSBTC AGM planning committee for their commitment to handling each and every situation with grace, ensuring that the AGMs ran smoothly and virtually everyone felt welcome. A huge thank you to this very special team: to Denise, Darlene, Roy, Susan, Donna Nakano, Michael, Donna Davis, Rev Christina, Rev Yoshi, Larry, Amy and Dawn who all worked tirelessly Together we did it!

Thank you to the entire Temple of volunteers who helped wherever and whenever there was a need. So many members played the role of ambassadors welcoming our visitors to our Temple. There was so much delicious baking donated, mouth-watering plates and bowls filled to the brim with potluck contributions. Smiles were visible, laughter was heard, all was good.

Thank you so much Rev. Christina and Rev. Yoshi for your gracious hosting of the visiting Ministers and masterful handling all the religious aspects of the meetings and services. Job well done!!!

The closing banquet was also a huge success. The food was delicious, the ambiance elegant and a fun time was had by all. Commendation plaques were presented to past WF presidents as the JSBTC WF celebrated a 35th Anniversary. A celebratory cake was enjoyed by all. \$565.00 was raised by Share the Wealth. \$375 was won by Shirley Tanemura of Kelowna.

Silk scarves, silk bags, custom made nenju, tea cozies, micro mitts and chocolate bark were sold on the Temple Boutique Table Saturday and Sunday.

Sales totaled an amazing \$1627.00

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you June



The Living Dharma Centre Virtual Book Club

Our current selection is "**Man's Search for Meaning**" by Viktor Frankl.

This little book which was published in 1959 has been wonderful to read....and re-read. It clearly shows truly how having "bad things happen is inevitable, but suffering is optional". Although one could think that reading about Dr. Frankl having been a successful psychiatrist with a loving family and pregnant wife entering the concentration camps of WWII and immediately losing his entire family to the gas chambers would be depressing, it strangely isn't. Rather than giving up, he finds meaning to his life and goes on to inspire multiple generations and countless people.

A few quotes from the book:

"Another time we were at work in a trench. The dawn was gray around us; gray was the sky above; gray the snow in the pale light of dawn; gray the rags in which my fellow prisoners were clad, and gray their faces. I was again conversing silently with my wife, or perhaps I was struggling to find the reason for my sufferings, my slow dying. In a last violent protest against the hopelessness of imminent death, I sensed my spirit piercing through the enveloping gloom. I felt it transcend that hopeless, meaningless world, and from somewhere I heard a victorious "Yes" in answer to my question of the existence of an ultimate purpose."

"And there were always choices to make. Everyday, every hour, offered the opportunity to make a decision, a decision which determined whether you would or would not submit to those powers which threatened to rob you of your very self, your inner freedom; which determined whether or not you would become the plaything of circumstance, renouncing freedom and dignity to become molded into the form of the typical inmate.....in the final analysis it becomes clear that the sort of person the prisoner became was the result of an inner decision, and not the result of camp influences alone. Fundamentally, therefore, any man can, even under such circumstances, decide what shall become of him -- mentally and spiritually."

Our **next Virtual Book Club Offerings** will be two books to choose from.

Firstly, for those serious students of the teachings, we will be looking at "**Sermons of a Buddhist Abbot**" by Soyen Shaku, translated by D.T. Suzuki. Unless you are extremely lucky enough to find a copy of this old book, it is available for free as a PDF file.

Secondly, we have a book that has been suggested by one of our original book club members as a beautiful read: "**Birds Art Life**" by Kyo Maclear. Here is a quote about the book by Barbara Gowdy "Every now and then you read a book that changes the way you see the world. For me, *Birds Art Life* is one such book. The writing is marvelously pure and honest and light. At the same time, magically, it is erudite, generous and brimming with meaning and event. *Birds Art Life* is a book I know I will return to again and again for inspiration and solace". This book is available at Chapters both in-store and on-line for less than \$30.

There is no better time for a great read than summertime!! If you are interested in joining our discussions at any time, please email Barb MacCarl at: bm.livingdharmacentre@gmail.com

Gassho,
The Living Dharma Centre

2017 EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE



The Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) conference will be hosted this year by Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago, Illinois on Labour Day weekend September 1-3, 2017. The conference theme is North American Buddhism: A Path Forward. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Kurt Rye from Placer Buddhist Temple in California. Also to be in attendance will be Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Registration fee for the EBL is \$100 US if paid by July 31, 2017. After that date the fee will be \$125 US. All conference events will take place at Midwest Buddhist Temple including services, seminars, Obon and Taiko workshops, Dharma School activities, TED talks. The final day Sunday will end with a Barbeque dinner and the chance to taste MBT's famous Chicken Teriyaki which is always served at their annual Ginza Holiday Festival.

All hotel accommodations and transportation arrangements must be made individually. There is no centrally booked hotel and Toronto Buddhist Church will not be sponsoring any chartered bus, so there is the flexibility to make a customized vacation to Chicago including the EBL.

EBL conferences are a time for recreation and renewing acquaintances, with time for fun and fellowship. As the EBL is under the BCA's Eastern District Council (EDC), other attendees are expected from Cleveland Buddhist Temple, Ekoji Buddhist Temple, New York Buddhist Church, Seabrook Buddhist Temple, Twin Cities Buddhist Association and Buddhist Temple of Chicago as well as the host Midwest Buddhist Temple.

For much more detailed information on EBL 2017, please see MBT's website and the conference section: <http://mbtchicago.org/eb1-2017/>. Limited registration forms will be available in the TBC information area in the lobby.

FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES NEEDED FOR CAMP LUMBINI AND THE TEMPLE

The Temple and Camp Lumbini are looking for donations of gently used furniture and appliances to replace items that are old, worn and inefficient.

At the Temple the sofa in the mezzanine is beginning to show it's age and is due to be replaced.

Camp Lumbini is looking to replace sofas, kitchen chairs, beds, refrigerators and stoves.

If you are downsizing or replacing items and think you have items that may be suitable for the Temple or Camp Lumbini please contact the Temple at 416 534 4302 with details of what you have, a contact number and someone will be in touch with you. Thank you.

SHARE YOUR CREATIVITY.

The Guiding Light is seeking artists, whether hobbyist or professional, who are willing to show their work on the cover of our monthly newsletter. We have in the past received contributions from many of our Temple members, and most recently Rev. Yoshi. We would love to see pieces of sumie, calligraphy, drawings, photographs etc. which would be suitable for our Buddhist publication. If you have artwork you'd like to share with the readers of the Guiding Light please send a digital reproduction to: darlene.rieger28@gmail.com

KIDS SANGHA

Sunday June 11th - 11:00 am

IMPORTANT NOTE: Kids Sangha will be held at Camp Green Acres in Markham to celebrate TBC Annual Picnic.

Join us at 11:00 am for a fun craft with Yumi and Jess!

Gates open at 10:00 am and closes at 6:30 pm.

Camp Green Acres is a great place for the family with many amenities:

picnic tables (large sheltered area in case of inclement weather)

baseball diamond, biking and hiking trails, soccer fields, mini golf and so much more!

Camp Green Acres

11123 Kennedy Road, Markham

(between Elgin Mills Rd and 19th Avenue)

Lunch will be served after - hot dogs are available or you can bring your own lunch and dinner.

For those who haven't been to our Annual Picnic and want more information please see the event poster at the Temple or Guiding Light for more details

Please Note:

Kids Sangha will take a short break for the Summer...

June 11^h will be our last kids Sangha until September. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Denise, Naomi, Rachel, Koji, Abigail and Leanne

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 they relate to childcare.

OBON 2017

SATURDAY JULY 8 & SUNDAY JULY 9 , 2017

The Obon Committee and the Religious Committee have worked together to prepare the 2017 Obon programme, this year being held on the 8th and 9th of July. We try hard to bring a large measure of respect to this very important date in the Buddhist calendar. Let us gather at our respective cemeteries to lay flowers and chant in memory of all our loved ones.

Please join us at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in the evening at 7:00 p.m. for a short service followed by Obon dancing. On Sunday morning there will be a 9am service for the Hatsubon families, the regular English service at 11 am and the Japanese service at 2pm. Please bring your homyos and lanterns and remember to pick them up after the services. Homyos for the Hatsubon families will be picked up in the social hall.

Following is the cemetery schedule and please note there have been some time changes this year.

With respect,

Obon and Religious
Committees



OBON GUEST SPEAKER 2017

Obon services will be held on Sunday, July 9 and we are pleased to announce that Bishop Kodo Umezu of the Buddhist Churches of America will be our guest speaker.

Bishop Kodo Umezu was born in Fukuoka, Japan. He graduated from Ryukoku University in 1973 and immediately made his voyage to the United States to become a BCA minister. He was first assigned to the Fresno Betsuin and at that time continued his studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies where he received his Master's Degree in 1976.



Later that year, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and after serving for four years, he returned to the BCA ministry and was assigned to the Los Angeles Betsuin in 1980. In 1987 Rev. Umezu was assigned to the Buddhist Church of Oakland and in 1996 he was appointed as the Executive Assistant to the Bishop under Bishop Hakubun Watanabe. He was then appointed Director of the Center for Buddhist Education in 2006 by Ogui Socho and on April 1, 2012, he assumed the position as the 14th Bishop of the BCA sangha.

Bishop Umezu is married to the former Janet Teraoka, and together they have three daughters, Amy, Stacy and Michelle.

OBON 2017

SATURDAY, JULY 8TH

CEMETERY VISITATION SCHEDULE

With winter now just a memory, we welcome Spring and the promise of a warm summer. The Obon Committee has been preparing for this most respectful weekend. Saturday we will make our annual visits to the many cemeteries in the Toronto area and beyond. Sunday we gather at the Temple for Hatsubon Service, as well as English and Japanese Obon Services. Please bring Homyos and Obon Memory Lanterns for the service. They will be returned to you immediately afterwards.

There have been several time changes this year to the schedule. We are also happy to inform you that Rev. Tomofumi Fujii will be in attendance at Necropolis, St. James, and Mount Pleasant Cemeteries this year as Bishop Umezu's schedule is fairly busy.

The following is a list of Central Services:

Rev. Tomofumi Fujii:

Toronto Necropolis	9 AM*
St. James	9:30 AM*
Mount Pleasant	10:30 AM

Rev. Christina Yanko:

Prospect	9:30 AM
Parklawn	10:30 AM*

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi:

Pine Hills	9:30 AM
Rest Haven	10:30 AM

Jeff Wilson Sensei:

Glen Oaks	9:15 AM*
Spring Creek	10:00 AM*

Dennis Madokoro:

Highland Memory Gardens	9:30 AM
Elgin Mills	11 AM

*****PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGES*****

The following is a list of Individual Graveside Services:

Martin Cartledge:

York	9:30 AM
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Jessie Ebata:

Sanctuary, North	9:00 AM
Riverside and St. Philips	9:30 AM

George Nakano:

Sanctuary, South	9:00AM
Meadowvale	1 PM

(or time to be arranged)

John Nishikawa:

Glendale	9:30 AM
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Pauline Knude:

Salem ... Time to be arranged

The Obon committee is grateful for the continuing dedication of all volunteers to ensure the success of the Obon tradition. We ask families for their patience while waiting for the arrival of the Senseis and choshos. *Namo Amida Butsu*

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH gratefully appreciates all donations received.

Due to the strict guidelines set out by the banks, we have been advised that they will be closely monitoring all cheques to be deposited to the church account to ensure that they are made out correctly. They can and will refuse any cheque(s) that are improperly written.

All cheques are to be made out as follows:

Toronto Buddhist Church

Please do not use any short forms such as TBC, T.B.C and especially please **do not use** Toronto Buddhist Temple or TBT.

If you are making a donation to either Dana or Sangha, Guiding Light, Altar Flower Fund, etc. they should be made out to Toronto Buddhist Church with a notation in the memo section as to which organization or fund the donation is to be directed.

We appreciate everyone's co-operation in this matter.

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.

Camp Lumbini 2017 (July 30th – Aug 5th)

Camp Lumbini is once again fast approaching – join us for a whole week of fun and Buddhist related activities. Every year Camp Lumbini revolves around two themes: one associated with Buddhist teachings and another based on popular culture. This year the themes will be the Noble Eightfold Path and the Olympics. The Noble Eightfold Path is a principal teaching in Buddhism that is represented by the dharma wheel, whose eight spokes represent the eight paths. The Noble Eightfold Path is used to understand the nature of life and phenomena in order to achieve enlightenment. At Camp Lumbini the staff will strive to teach the attending youth about the Noble Eightfold Path and how it may apply to daily activities performed during the week.

Daily activities at Camp Lumbini include trips to the beach, various arts and crafts, fun team building activities and daily evening activities including, mini golf, campfires, movie night and bowling. Additionally, the day trip will either be a canoe/kayak trip with Free Spirit Tours or Tree Top Trekking at Horseshoe Valley Resort depending on age and size of participants. Every year it is our goal to provide a safe environment that fosters leadership and teamwork development, acceptance of individual differences and values and provide an opportunity for all individuals to participate in recreational activities regardless of individual skill in addition to imparting some understanding of Buddhist teachings.

For more information regarding Camp Lumbini please contact Stephen Taguchi or Rachel Kataoka at stephen.taguchi@utoronto.ca and rachelkataoka@hotmail.com respectively.

Hope to see you this summer.



ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS

CABIN RENTALS AVAILABLE AT CAMP LUMBINI, WASAGA BEACH

Were you wondering where you could go this summer? Temple members are eligible to rent the cabins at Camp Lumbini, Wasaga Beach. There are 3 cabins available.

Contact the Temple office at 416 534 4302 for more information and availability of the cabins. (Your membership must be up to date to be eligible to rent the cabins)

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- Those wishing to become a Temple member please complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year
- Membership card will be sent once your signed application and membership fee or your promise to pay the total fee by May 31 have been accepted
- Please note increase in minimum fee in 2017, from \$100 to \$125 per year

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- Issued to all members 77 years of age & over
- If already an Honorary Member, simply confirm each year your wish to continue Honorary Membership
- Honorary Members do not need to pay any annual membership fees, although donations are always welcome

Valid from January 1 to December 31 each year

Can't make it to the Temple?

You can submit your application and membership fee online at tbc.on.ca



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 (<input type="checkbox"/>) New (<input type="checkbox"/>)		Mr. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Mrs. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Ms. (<input type="checkbox"/>)
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 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.</p> <p>-----</p>		
Applicant #2 Renewal (<input type="checkbox"/>) New (<input type="checkbox"/>)		Mr. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Mrs. (<input type="checkbox"/>) Ms. (<input type="checkbox"/>)
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 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.</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 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.**

SAVE THE DATE

Were you ever a DANA SCHOLARSHIP recipient
(or know someone who was)?
If so, we want YOU!

When: Sunday, September 24th, 2017

Where: Toronto Buddhist Church
1011 Sheppard Avenue West
Toronto, ON

Why: To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of
the Dana Scholarship!

Please email TBC.scholarship.1967@gmail.com
with your mailing address so we can send you more details!



ANNUAL TBC

PICNIC

JUNE 11 @ 10AM - 6:30 PM

Located at

CAMP GREEN ACRES

11123 Kennedy Road, Markham

(between Elgin Mills Road and 19th Avenue)

ADMISSION

Car and Driver	\$5	Seniors (65+)	Free
Adults (16+)	\$3	Children (15 and under)	Free



**LARGE ACREAGE!
NUMEROUS
FACILITIES!**

Among the amenities are:

- ▶ Picnic tables
- ▶ Baseball diamonds
- ▶ Volleyball areas
- ▶ Biking and hiking trails
- ▶ Large sheltered areas in case of inclement weather
- ▶ Basketball/Tennis courts
- ▶ Soccer fields
- ▶ Mini-golf
- ▶ Large number of bathroom facilities

As this is a Children's Day Camp, there are...

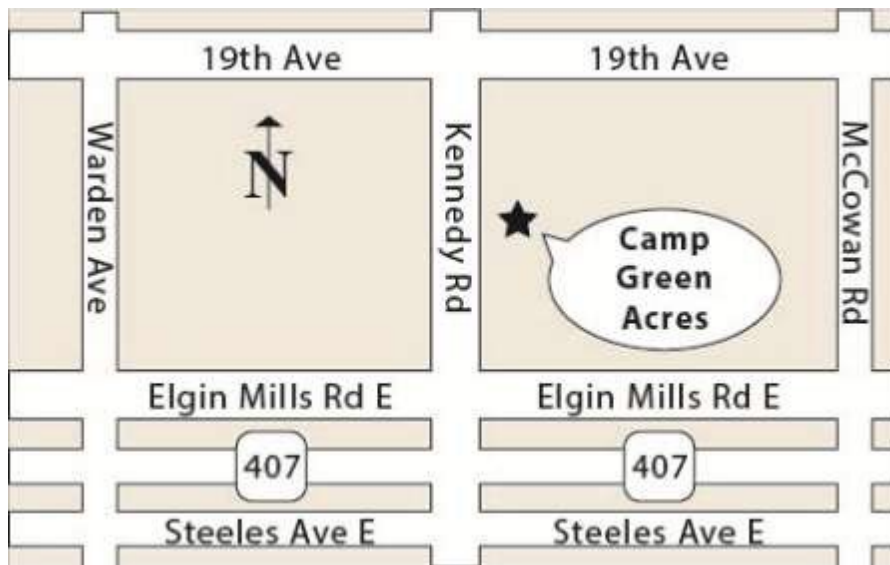
- ▶ NO PETS ALLOWED
- ▶ NO BARBECUES
- ▶ NO INSERTION OF STAKES OR POLES IN THE GROUND
- ▶ NO BALLOONS (FOR THE SAFETY OF THE FARM ANIMALS)
- ▶ NO TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual TBC Picnic!

TBC Annual Picnic
Sunday, June 11, 2017
at Camp Green Acres
11123 Kennedy Road, Markham, ON

Admission fee:	Car and driver	\$5.00
	Adults (16 yrs+)	\$3.00
	Seniors (65 yrs+)	free
	Children (15 yrs and under)	free

10.00am	Gates open
10.30am – 11.30am	Free Time
11.45am – 12 noon	Open Air Service
12 noon – 12.30pm	Free hot dogs
12 noon – 1.00 pm	Lunch
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Races and games
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Yoga session with Denise Crofton
3.15pm – 4.15pm	Bingo
4.15pm	Fukubiki
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Supper
6.30pm	Clean up and load truck



HELP WANTED

Following the picnic, around 7.30pm, the Picnic Committee is seeking volunteers to help unload the van and put everything away at the Temple.

涼しきうたごえ
夏のカラオケパーティー
Sugushiki Utageo
Natsu no Karaoke Party

**Saturday June 24, 2017
12:00 - 5:00PM
at TBC Social Hall
EVERY ONE WELCOME !!**

**ENKA SONGS ODORI
JACKPOT BINGO
FUN GAMES
MINYO SO- ODORI
OISHII BENTO**

**for tickets please call:
Jessica Nakamura (416) 733-1894
Setsuko Lambeau (416) 225-4747
Kazuko Tsuyuki (905) 897-7942**

**TBC Senior Karaoke Club
Kanagawa Kenjinkai in Support**