



Guiding Light

December 2020

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Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi. Toronto Buddhist Church

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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

COVID-19 UPDATE

Our Services

With continuing changes to the permitted activities in Toronto, we once again need to reduce the number of people who will be allowed to attend in-person services. We will continue to have two in-person services per month (1st and 3rd Sunday), and weekly virtual services. Please register for in person services on our website (tbc.on.ca).



December is when we move our live stream to Zoom. We have an unlimited number of participants who can access our Zoom Services, so please email tbc@tbc.on.ca to get added to our guest list. We will open the services 15 minutes before and after the service in order to give attendees an opportunity to “see” each other and give a little shout out.

We do not know what will happen in January, but we will keep you advised of the changes on our website and through the Guiding Light and our Facebook page.

Year End Bell Ringing & Service

While this has been a tradition for many years, due to our current restrictions we will not be holding the Joya no Kane service this year. There will be a Zoom service only on January 1, 2021. Please contact the Temple or visit our website to register if you wish to attend the Zoom service and receive an invitation.

Upcoming Services

		In Person	Virtual
December 6	Monthly Memorial Service	Filled	Yes - Zoom
13	Regular Service	No	Yes - Zoom
20	Bodhi Day Service	Yes	Yes - Zoom
	Guest Speaker- Jeff Wilson		
27	No Service	No	No
January 1, 2021	New Year's Day Service	Yes	Yes - Zoom
3	Monthly Memorial	Yes	Yes- Zoom
10	Regular Service	No	Yes- Zoom
17	Ho Onko Service	Yes	Yes - Zoom



Coming Back to Toronto Buddhist Church



As you know, I was absent from the Temple, because I had a visa issue since last year, but I finally got my new visa. I am so happy to be in the Temple and able to see you again.

First of all, I'd like to apologize to the Temple members who lost their loved ones while I wasn't in the Temple. If you allow me, I'd like to visit the resting place of your loved ones and place my hands together.

I would especially like to say how much I sincerely appreciate the Temple Board members for working to solve the problem. And thank you very much to the religious committee, minister's assistants and other Temple ministers for working very hard to help the Temple and spread Dharma in Canada.

During my absence, I received many emails and letters from the Temple members. They encouraged me a lot, and when I was reading them I felt that I seriously wanted to do my best again for the Temple. I'd like to thank you all and place my hands together from the bottom of my heart.

October 25th (Sunday service), I'm back in the Toronto Buddhist Church Naijin and have chanted Amida-kyo for the first time in almost one year. When I was chanting, I thought back to one year ago. There were many members in the Hondo, and after the service we had tea and snacks in the social hall. Then we talked about Amida-Buddha's compassion and wisdom. It was such a precious day.

However, as you know COVID-19 has made it difficult for us to visit the Temple. Unfortunately, we cannot gather as before, but luckily many people are using the Internet today. And they can attend the service to listen to the Jodo Shinshu teachings in their homes. I hope I will be able to meet you and talk with you in the Temple soon, but please be safe, stay well and keep smiling.

While I was absent from the Temple, I mostly stayed in my apartment. I read Buddhist books as many as possible. The time off helps me to learn and reconfirm the teachings of the Buddha. When I read the book, I understood how very important it is to keep reading and studying Buddhism throughout my life.

When I was a student, my father told me to read books about Buddhism and Shinran Shonin as much as possible. I didn't like reading books. I especially didn't have an interest in Buddhism at the time. I asked him when I could finish reading and studying. He responded with just one word. He said "Forever".

I came to understand his message while I was absent from the Temple, because, I reached for the Shin-Buddhist books without thinking about it. In those books, there was so much knowledge and wisdom, but I realized that without life experience, I was only getting one piece of a much larger puzzle, that is Buddhism.

Shin-Buddhism should not be as just a piece of knowledge. It must be a part of our life or our behavior. Because of that, I realized how much I had received opportunity to learn the teachings of the Buddha from the Temple members, not only from the book.

In the past, I have talked about the Buddha Dharma at Sunday services. However my Dharma talks were mostly from a Buddhist Book. Of course Jodo Shinshu Buddhist ministers must read and learn the Sutras and the teachings of the Buddha. But we also need to have experience and contact with the wonderful stories of not only Buddhist ministers but also the Buddhist members.

When I became a Tokudo minister, which is the first stage of becoming a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist minister, one of my senseis told me that I wasn't a Buddhist minister yet even though I had received the Tokudo license from Nishi-Hongwanji. Actually, I didn't understand what he meant at that time.

A couple of years later, I received my Kyoshi license, which is the second stage of becoming a Jodo Shinshu minister. The sensei told the new kyoshi ministers that we shouldn't proudly call ourselves "sensei" even though the Temple members call us "Sensei".

4 years ago, I finally became a Kaikyoshi (Oversea Buddhist) minister in Canada, and the Temple members called me "Sensei". But whenever I heard that title, I remembered my sensei's words. Eventually, I came to understand what he had been trying to say.

Continued on Page 4

Coming Back to Toronto Buddhist Church, continued

His message was that a minister is nurtured by the Buddhist members. It's difficult for me to call myself a sensei, when in my mind, the members are *my* sensei. It is the members who make a Buddhist minister. We call it “お育てに預かる (Osodateni Azukaru)” in Jodo Shinshu

Let me give you an example. When I meet Temple members, they kindly share their good memories and happy stories with me. And we sometimes talk for hours about the teachings of the Buddha. It is such a great time for me.

At the same time, I sometimes have to meet families who have lost their loved ones. Of course, those families often feel suffering and have deep sadness. However, I have met some families who were already prepared and accepted to lose someone in their life, because they had understood that our life is uncontrollable and nothing in our life lasts forever. That is part of the teachings of the Buddha.

Moreover, most of them have received Amida Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion. The Wisdom reminds us of our selfish ego, and Compassion tells us that Amida accepts us just as we are, even if we cannot remove the self-centered ego.

When I hear that from the family, I am sure that the family is nurtured by the light of Amida Buddha's wisdom. And they naturally place their hands together to Amida-Buddha's compassion, because they know that Amida Buddha says, “Your happiness is my happiness. And your suffering is my suffering..” in Nenbutsu.

In this way, my hands are placed together by their stories. They nurture me as a Buddhist minister.

Lastly I would like to write Shinran Shonin's words.

Reverently entrusting myself to the teaching, practice, and realization that are the true essence of the Pure Land way, I am especially aware of the profundity of the Tathagata's benevolence. Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have received.

I am so happy to be back in the Temple. We still have to keep social and physical distance because of COVID-19, but I believe our hearts can stay connected because we feel Amida Buddha's compassion and we know Buddha Dharma. Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho

Yoshimichi Ouchi



Image of Rev. Yoshi's first service after his long absence.



Thank You to the Temple Takeout Team (TTT)

As a fallout of the pandemic, we have been unable to hold any of our regular fundraising events including the annual Bazaar - our main fundraiser for the Temple. A group of young adults from our Temple saw a need to raise some much-needed funds and proceeded to organize the **Temple Takeout** event. While complying with the many constraints that a pandemic requires, such as limited numbers of people inside the Temple to prepare, cook and package the orders, this first-time event was well executed. It was wonderful to see the collaboration of the novices working with the experienced; leading to a successful day.

Thank you to all who supported the event through orders or donations of money, time and / or goods.

Please remember to renew your membership and/or donate to the Temple during this difficult time



Jessica Peddle



Eric Mark



Kathryn Ida

TEMPLE TAKE OUT PIES AND DESSERTS



Thank you to all the bakers who so generously gave of their time and donations for the Temple Takeout desserts. We received overwhelming results with all the pies and assortment of squares and tarts and muffins.

It was a huge success, we made close to \$1,800 on our baked goods section. In total, we made 138 apple and lemon pies and assembled 70 Surprise grab boxes with all the assorted squares and tarts and manju. The support from the Sangha was outstanding. Kudos to the Youth group who organized the event.

All was possible because of the volunteers who so willingly supported and donated their time and donations.

In gassho, Myra Takasaki

Flower Toban 2021 Volunteers Needed!

Are you interested in flower arranging? No experience needed. We will teach you everything you need to know. Volunteers needed for approximately an hour on any given Friday to arrange flowers for the Najjin. If you are interested, please contact Grace Taguchi by email: grace.tamaki@gmail.com or contact Pam Yoshida at the temple office, 416-534-4302.



Toronto Buddhist Temple Hondo
Hondo Hall (Worship Hall) & Amida Buddha Statue

TEMPLE TAKEOUT

On Saturday, November 14, 2020 the Toronto Buddhist Church held its Inaugural Temple Takeout fundraiser! The event was a great success, serving pre-ordered hot noodle and rice bowls to many patrons in the community. Temple Takeout hosted over 100 families, served almost 400 main dishes, 120 pies and 80 goodie bags. All orders were served in under 5 hours, with only 10 volunteers, all while adhering to proper COVID safety regulations and protocols!

The Temple Takeout Team would like to thank all the volunteers who worked extremely hard both leading up to the event as well as during. To all the pie and goodie bakers, the food preppers and seasoning packers, and of course to the Board, Management and Special Projects Committees, Temple Takeout would not have been successful without all of your help!

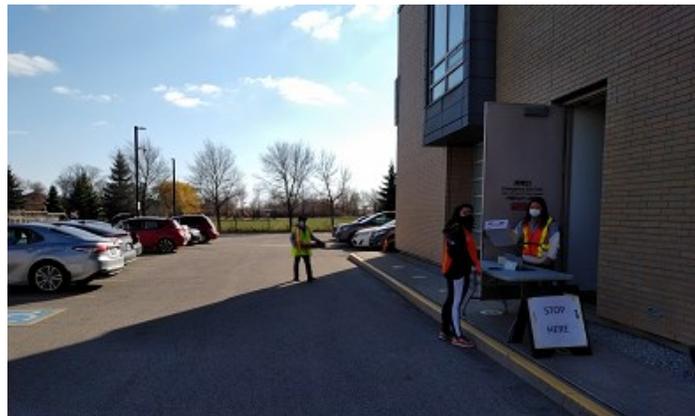
Lastly, the Team would like to thank all those who ordered from Temple Takeout and who offered kind words of encouragement and ideas for future events. The Temple Takeout Team saw not only a financial need during these unprecedented times, but also the need to bring the TBC community back together in a way that was safe, but also enjoyable, so THANK YOU for coming together and for supporting the Temple and a community that means so much to so many people.

Please keep an eye out in the coming months for Temple Takeout II... U-Don want to miss it!

In Gassho,
Your Temple Takeout Team
(Eric, Jessica & Kathryn)



MORE IMAGES FROM TBC TEMPLE TAKE OUT, NOV. 8, 2020



****CORRECTION ****

Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the month of December

To the following families, please accept our sincerest apologies for the omission of your loved one's name in the November newsletter on page # 4.

Mr. Manabu Doi and Mr. Kunio Suyama

Thank You, Toronto Buddhist Church

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. If we have missed any names, please notify the Temple office so that we may update our records.
Thank You and take care .

Mrs. Teruko Terri Fujioka	94 Years	October 22, 2020
Mr. Kazuo Mike Kawabata	100 Years	October 26, 2020
Mrs. Chieko Matsushita	79 Years	October 28, 2020
Mrs. Shieko Yamada	85 Years	November 7, 2020
Mr. Kenneth Kunio Yamada	88 years	November 11, 2020
Mr. Nobuaki Tanaka	79 years	November 21, 2020



Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of January

Our monthly memorial services (shotsuki) are usually held on the first Sunday of each month (please check our temple calendars to confirm the day of the monthly memorial service) to remember and honour those who have passed away in that month regardless of year.

Usually, mail reminders are sent out to the next of kin but due to changing circumstances we have not always been able to reach families and hope that by publishing the names of those who have passed, we can still reach and remind families and dear friends of the month of their loved ones honouring.

Below is our listing of our members and supporters who have passed away during the month of January . All are invited and welcome to attend.

AKAYE , Jeanne Ayako	KATSURA , Toshiko	MORITA , Toshio	SAKAI , Iwakazu
BABA , Hatsu	KAWABATA , Fumio	MURABAYASHI , Masa	SAKATA , Shizue
BANDO , Toshio	KAWAHARA , Kazumi	MURAKAMI , Toshio	SATO , Hikotaro
CARROLL , John	KAWAHARA , Sumano	MURATA , Magoji	SATO , Roland Atsumu
DMYTRYSHYN , Nicholas	KAWASAKI , Mohachi	MUROMOTO , Miyoko	SATO , Hikotaro
DOI , Hajime	KAWASAKI , Uta	NAGANO , Kiyono	SEKIYA , Matsue
EBATA , Chiyoko	KISHIMOTO , Yoshiko	NAKAGAWA , Connie Kane	SHIBATA , Hatsu
EBATA , Genya	KISHIMOTO , Mutsuo	NAKAGAWA , Kumakichi	SHIBATA , Suteya
EDAMURA , Toki	KITAGAWA , Susumu	NAKAGAWA , Nobu	SHIKATANI , Masajiro
EDAMURA , Masakazu George	KITAMURA , Shotaro	NAKAGAWA , Masajiro	SHIMANO , Kiyoko
FUJIMOTO , Shuzo George	KIYONAGA , Hide	NAKAGAWA , Kanako	SHIMIZU , Hayley Elizabeth Hisaye
FUJIMOTO , Teruko	KOBAYAKAWA , Hisa	NAKAHARA , Aiko	SHIMIZU , Kazuo Thomas
FUKAKUSA , Emiko Amy	KODAMA , George	NAKAHARA MACLACHLAN , Phillip	SHIMIZU , Kichiji
FURUYA , Yaeko	KODAMA , Minoru	NAKAMURA , Mikio	SUGIMAN , Iwazo
HAKODA , Aiko	KOJIMA , Jiro	NAKAMURA , Shigeo Fred	TAKAHASHI , Deanna Takako
HAMA , Fujie	KONDO , Take	NAKAMURA , Tome	TAKAHASHI , Koichi
HAMADE , Matsunosuke	KONO , Misayo	NAKAMURA , Yukiye Rose	TAKAHASHI , Mika
HAMASAKI , Ichitaro	KOYANAGI , Kazue	NAKASHIMA , Haruko	TAKASAKI , Masaru
HAMILTON , Doreen	KOZAI , Tomisaburo	NAKATA , Akira Victor	TAKATA , Chiyoko
HAYASHI , Sumi	KUBOTA , Saenosuke	NAKATSU , Tsuruyo	TAKEMURA , Sozo
HIGASHI , Gene Yoshiteru	KUMAGAI , Sutezo	NATSUHARA , Mie Nora	TAKEMURA , Takeo
HIRAI , Hatsuye	KUMAGAWA , Akemi	NEKODA , Ann Tsuyako	TANAKA , Satsuki Sally
HIRAMORI , Yukiko	KUMAMOTO , Hisano	NISHIHATA , Kishi	TANAKA , Yoshie
HUANG , Mei Lin	KUSANO , Tokiyoshi Fred	NISHIKAWA , Kimi	TEHARA , John Shiro
ICHIKAWA , Jiro	MACLACHLAN , Marjorie Ethel	NISHIMURA , Robert Toji	TOJI , Shuken
IKEDA , Carole Mia Allison	MAEHARA , Masumi	NISHIMURA , Eiko	TSUJI , Rose
INOUE , Hideharu Harry	MAIKAWA , Misao	NISHIZEKI , Hisakazu	TSUJIUCHI , Masayo
ISEKI , Yoshiko	MATSUBAYASHI , Kanayo	ODA , Kikue	TSUKADA , Haruye
ISHII , Kanaye Bessie	MATSUMOTO , Tatsuyo Jean	ODA , Kiyozo	UCHIMARU , Kesaguma
ISOKI Hanaye Hana	MATSUMOTO , Akira Sam	OGINO , Sumiye	URA , Ine
ISOZAKI , Soichi Jimmy	MIIKE , Uhei	OGURA , Tomie	USAMI , Fumiko
ITO , Tsutau Lefty	MIYAMOTO , Kazuko	OHASHI , Robert Seizo	UYESUGI , Tamotsu Tom
ITO , Tayoko	MORI , Kenzo	OHASHI , Tamio	
IZUKAWA , Sakuhei	MORI , Kanichi George	OKASHIMO , Kamezo	
KAGETSU , Eikichi	MORI , Kisa	OKAWA , Kiyoshi	
KAMINO , Tsuneo Roy	MORI , Maw Massme	OKUDA , Hiroshi	
KAMINO , Robert Yasuo	MORI , Isao	OMORI , Tamako	
KARATSU , Rennie Akira	MORIMOTO , Isae	ONO , Sadano	
KATSURA , Isamu	MORISHITA , Nao	OTANI , Saichi	
KATSURA , Mosaburo		OTSU , Tsune	



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Taking a Rest for 2020

Many thanks to those who have previously volunteered for the annual TBC Sangha's Mochi Tsuki event at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Rather than saying that we are canceling Mochi Tsuki, let's just say that we are putting it on hold at this time. After all if the NHL and the NBA can modify their annual schedule – so can we!

So, please stay safe, enjoy the coming holiday season and rest up! We will see you all in the coming year – hopefully sooner than later!

In Gassho, Cary Kataoka (Cary@247Systems.ca), TBC Sangha Group President

JSBTC President's Diary, November 2020



Even though several COVID vaccines are nearing the approval stage, our infection rates are terrible, and it is likely that the next month will be a dire time for Canadians. Several provinces are back in lock-down, which means that most of the Temples are once again closed. I know that we are all tired and frustrated, wishing that life was “normal” again. But it is not, and instead we have to work towards what will be our new “normal”. The JSBTC Board, the Ministerial Association, and the Women’s Federation held their interim fall meetings via Zoom, necessitating limited agendas. As well, we have decided that the AGM in April, 2021 will also be held via Zoom.

As was mentioned in the last edition of the *Nenju News*, the JSBTC urgently requires more board members. The JSBTC bylaws state that there must be at least six directors, but as of January 1st, there will only be five, and another director will retiring at the AGM. The Board and the Temple presidents are meeting (Zoom of course) on December 1st to discuss this; if you want more information or can help in any way, please contact me or your Temple president.

On a positive note, good things are happening. The new JSBTC website has launched, thanks to the dedicated work of Robert Miyai and Harvey Kaita. Check it out: www.jsbtc.ca. Thank you Robert and Harvey.

Also, we continue to build the national sangha through national events. Socho has arranged for Rev. Henry Adams of San Mateo Buddhist Temple in California to speak to us, via Zoom, on December 19th, entitled “Waking up to Peace of Mind in the Age of Conflict and Distorted Views”. This talk is open to everyone (not just temple members), but pre-registration is required.

This is the pre-registration link which can also be found under “Events” on the JSBTC website: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqduGhqz4oGtyCGO7fAou6u8XTX2i4nZxR>.

In addition to our regular services via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube, Buddhist Churches of America has shared its Dial the Dharma program. This program works through telephone and is especially meant for people who do not have access to a computer or internet. The program has 5-minute Dharma messages, one in English and one in Japanese, and they are changed every week on Wednesday. **The toll-free number is 1-800-817-7918, press “1” for English and “2” for Japanese.** Please make use of this service which BCA has so kindly shared with us.

Personally, November has been a month of reflection for me. On November 1st, I was at the Calgary Buddhist Temple for Sunday service. When I arrived, Grace, our Dharma School student (greeter and COVID enforcer), reminded me to “Chant with your heart, not with your mouth”. What good advice! Robert Sensei chanted Shoshinge in Gyo-fu style; it was so peaceful to sit in the Temple and just let the beautiful sound of the chant and Sensei’s voice wash over me. Then Sensei’s dharma talk was on pandemic fatigue, which was appropriately followed that afternoon with a Calgary Buddhist Temple Zoom lecture by Dr. Ken Tanaka (from Tokyo) on “Living with the Pandemic from a Buddhist Perspective”.

Remembrance Day is of course truly a day of contemplation. This year it marked the 100th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian war memorial in Stanley Park, and the speakers at the event spoke of the commitment Japanese Canadians made fighting on behalf of Canada and of their families’ experiences after the wars and during internment. It was especially meaningful in the context of the racial inequalities and issues which still affect so many different people today. I am grateful that Ted Akune, President of the BC JSBTC Federation, laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the BBCJSBTCF. This period of remembrance concluded with Sensei Roy Akune’s moving Dharma talk the following Sunday at Steveston Buddhist Temple.

And finally November 22nd was the Eitaikyo or Perpetual Memorial service at the Calgary Buddhist Temple. Robert Sensei spoke of the meditative and connecting roles of chanting, which made me think again of the first service this month and how moving I found his chanting of the Shoshinge Gyo-fu style. He concluded the service by reading Rev. Tsuji’s Eternal Now, which was very fitting for this month.

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JSBTC President's Diary, November 2020

Looking back at the month, I realized that I attended five temple services, four meetings, a BCA webinar, and a seminar, and I was only physically present at one event. The rest were all thanks to Zoom. The new normal indeed!

I hope that you are all well and staying safe. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me. I like to hear from you!

With gratitude and in Gassho,

Laura

Laura.a.sugimoto@gmail.com

Kampai – Uniting People with Sake

On **Saturday, December 12th at 2:00 pm** Mountain Time, come join the members of the Calgary Buddhist Temple for a fascinating look into the world of Japan's national drink with Yasuhiro Washiyama, Co-Managing Director of Sake Gami in Calgary. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE online workshop and you need not be a consumer of alcohol to be able to enjoy an intriguing look into sake!



Topics covered will be: what is sake, sake from different regions, pairing ideas, how to keep it in-house, best glassware for sake, how to enjoy sake and more.

It is suggested that participants purchase these 2 types of sake, prior to the workshop, so that we are able to do online taste testing together! For Ontario participants

Takatenjin Sword of the Sun Sake 300ml

Masumi Karakuchi Kiippon Sake 300ml

This is going to be an interesting workshop and a great way to engage and unite people with sake! Register in advance for this online, Zoom workshop by going to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcyqjkhvHtxYUT63-ZaB6BG4Cqx6QFwk> (link is also available on the Calgary Temple website and the Calgary Facebook group)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of January, continued

WAKABAYASHI, Tadato

WAKABAYASHI, Hideo

WAKABAYASHI, Kazuko

WAKISAKA, Yasujiro

WANI, Fred Mitsunori

WARNER, Roger Harley

WATANABE, Misao

WATANABE, Ronald Satoru

YAMAMOTO, Tamotsu

YAMASAKI, Tsutomu

YAMASHITA, Yori

YAMASHITA, Yoshitaro

YAMAUCHI, Yasu

YASUDA, Yukimori

YOKOYAMA, Toshie

YOSHIDA, Bruce Yuji





CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS

G O L D E N C H A I N A E I F H K O T P W A B O
 A D G F J I U H S N I H S O D O J N S U V Y X C
 G B E G A S S H O C J B D G H L P A M R A H D G
 N C S H I N R A N S H O N I N Q M R O E F A C S
 I H M K Q L B C G H F J G A P E T S N L I N D H
 T E M P L E P Y D E I A C B O F O R T A S A B T
 N E S N R O Z A S A N G H A D E I N O N X M S U
 A E U T K W L J H A N A V R I N H G S D V A E R
 H R L V M N X K I F G E D P R S T F H U V T W T
 C T N P O E I G H T F O L D P A T H I A Y S X E
 A I O S T P Q R C O M P A S S I O N K B C U O L
 V H H U S A H T A G R T S W X U V E I D G R N B
 B D O I J K N A O I M F Q O P K A N S H O I A O
 A O N E N J U B X B U D D H A N M O H K H Q I N
 E B D F O S W A X E G I H O K O H S O J L P J Y
 G C O L M P U T B Y D J L K M A K G F M R S I T
 B H D N Q R V Z C U S T U B A D I M A U M A N O
 J I K M E D I T A T I O N D C B H E J V N T W Z

LIST OF WORDS:

ONENJU	CHANTING	PURELAND
HANAMATSURI	GASSHO	EIGHTFOLD PATH
DHARMA	HONDO	MONTOSHIKISHO
JODO SHINSHU	KANSHO	NIRVANA
BUDDHA	OSHOKO	
NOBLE TRUTHS	ONAIJIN	
GOLDEN CHAIN	SHINRAN SHONIN	
MEDITATION	COMPASSION	

Until we meet again, stay healthy and safe.

With Gratitude,

Jessica, Yumi, Abigail, Rachel, Koji, Denise, Cynthia, and Naomi

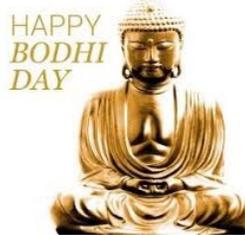
Bodhi Day Service

December 20th at 11:00 am.



We are pleased to have Jeff Wilson Sensei as our guest speaker for the Bodhi Day Service on **December 20th** at 11:00 am. In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, this is one of our more significant services as it is the celebration of the day that Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment as he sat under the bodhi tree.

Please join us for this important service either in person or via Zoom. (email tbc@tbc.on.ca to receive access to our Zoom service.) Hope to see you there!



GUIDING LIGHT

Toronto Buddhist Church continues to work towards having a balance between English and Japanese. This includes not only translating English into Japanese but also translating news from Japanese Temples into English.

Toronto Buddhist Church Guiding Light is looking for volunteers who can understand and write in both English and Japanese. The main activities would be the translation of articles and announcements from English to Japanese once a month and occasionally from Japanese to English.

Please contact the Temple or Darlene Rieger if you are interested and are able to spare some time.

E-mail: tbc@tbc.on.ca

darlene.rieger28@gmail.com

2021 Toronto Buddhist Church

Annual General Meeting

For the past several years, the Annual General Meeting was held on the third Sunday in January. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place, the AGM will need to be postponed with the hope that it can be held in April 2021. During this time, the current Board of Directors will continue to serve.

Notice of the 2021 AGM will be placed in the Guiding Light in the new year.

Toronto Buddhist Church Board of Directors



NEED A MASK FOR THE OCCASION?

\$10.00 EA. OR 3 FOR \$25.00

We have a variety of Japanese Print Cotton Masks for sale at the Temple.



NEW YEARS GREETINGS 2021



In the next issue, January, 2021 , the Guiding Light will be inserting a special “HAPPY NEW YEAR” page.

If you would like your name included in the special New Year’s greeting page, please complete the form below and submit it with your donation to the Temple office by **December 23, 2020**.

Please print my/our name(s) under ‘New Year Greetings’ in the upcoming January 2021 issue of the GUIDING LIGHT.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

GREETING: _____

(N.B. Phone requests will NOT be accepted.)

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

2020-2021 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE TEMPLE OFFICE

The office will be closed on the following days:

December 24, 2020 to January 3, 2021 inclusive

The office staff will be monitoring emails and phone messages on the answering service at regular intervals during this time. Please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

If you have an EMERGENCY – please contact Reverend Ouchi at 647-704-8481 or rev.ouchi@tbc.on.ca.

*****NEW OFFICE HOURS*****



Effective December 1, 2020, the new **office** hours will be 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday.

We thank you for your continued well wishes and support during these difficult times.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season. Hoping to see you in the New Year!



Keeping Our Distance

We have been open since September and the safety of all our Temple members and guests continues to be a top priority in order to keep the Temple open. As such we would like to remind everyone to “**Keep Your Distance**” at all times while in the Temple. It is so great to see everyone after a very long time, but we want to ensure that we are not hosting a “**Super Spreader Event**” in light of the increasing numbers of people infected with COVID -19 in our service area.

We thank everyone for adhering to the new protocols that we have put in place, however at this time we are still not open for other activities or Children’s Services at the Temple.

Please ensure that you read the many signs and posters meant to keep everyone safe.

Please read “General Protocols for Service Attendees” in the September Guiding Light or the TBC website for details.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS of the new Safety Protocols

Please register your attendance in advance

All attendees (including children) must complete and submit a health questionnaire for every service

You will be required to wear a face covering at all times while on TBC property, sanitize your hands and observe physical distancing practices.

The Temple will be fully cleaned after each service with all high touch areas sanitized frequently.

The office will not be accessible on Sunday. Please speak with a volunteer for your requests.

The upper and lower levels are closed. Lower level washrooms are reserved for emergencies only.

If an attendee chooses not to abide by TBC’s protocols they will be asked to leave for the safety of others, but they will be able to attend our live-streaming services.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS of Changes

In-person services will be held twice per month on the first and third Sundays at 11:00 am

There will be no group singing or chanting out loud. Minister/leader only.

There will be no books, nenju, headsets, or montoshikisho to borrow

Please leave your offertory in the box as no baskets will be passed

There will be no refreshments or socializing inside the Temple.

Virtual services are held weekly on Zoom.

Please register with the office or by email: tbc@tbc.on.ca to get your Zoom invitation.

Even a carefully measured reopening carries the risk of contagion, so please carefully consider your own risk category (eg. over the age of 70; with compromised immune systems; living with or caring for someone with a compromised immune system) and your willingness and ability to abide by our carefully considered safety protocols.

TO REGISTER FOR SERVICE

PLEASE CONTACT BY:

VISIT THE WEBSITE AT: <https://tbc.on.ca/>

EMAIL: tbc@tbc.on.ca

PHONE: 416-534-4302

PLEASE FILL OUT AND BRING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WITH YOU TO EACH SERVICE

COVID-19

Please complete the following questions

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Date: _____ Time: _____
 Email: _____

Do you have any of the following:

Yes
 No

Fever

Yes
 No

Cough

Yes
 No

Difficulty breathing

Yes
 No

Sore throat, trouble swallowing

Yes
 No

Runny nose

Yes
 No

Loss of taste or smell

Yes
 No

Not feeling well

Yes
 No

Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Yes Have you been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
 No

Yes Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?
 No

If you answered YES to any of these questions, go home & self-isolate right away. Call Telehealth or your health care provider, to find out if you need a test.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

 **TORONTO** Public Health