



Guiding Light

October 2021



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

Service Schedule

		English 11:00 am		Japanese 1:00 pm	
		In Per-	Zoom	In Person	Zoom
October 3, 2021	Monthly Memorial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
October 10, 2021	Regular Service	Yes	Yes	No	No
October 17, 2021	JSBTC Day	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
October 24, 2021	Regular Service	Yes	Yes	No	No
October 31, 2021	Regular Service	Yes	Yes	No	No
November 7, 2021	Monthly Memorial	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

We are Open!

We are pleased to announce that the Toronto Buddhist Church (TBC) opened on September 12th with three services. The Kids' Sangha service was held at 10:30 a.m., followed by the English Shotsuki Memorial service at 11 am and the Japanese Shotsuki Service at 1:00 pm. We will continue our on-line services through Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Even though the capacity in the hondo is limited, and face masks and physical distancing is still required, it was so nice to see kids and adults in the temple again. We continue to have safety protocols in place as our utmost concern is the health and safety of our staff and members.

We have taken great care to create safety protocols in accordance with local and federal regulations and international recommendations. Please take the time to read all of the information and protocols and do your best to adhere to the requirements; including getting fully vaccinated.

HIGHLIGHTS of our Safety Protocols

Please see website or previous Guiding Light for more details.

You will be required to pre-register your attendance as capacity is limited.

Each attendee (including children) must self-screen and sign in and out of the temple.

You will be required to wear a face mask indoors, sanitize your hands and observe physical distancing practices.

The temple will be fully cleaned after each service with all high touch areas sanitized/disinfected.

Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available.

If an attendee chooses not to abide by TBC's protocols they will be asked to leave for the safety of others. You will be able to attend our live-streamed services on Zoom.

HIGHLIGHTS of In-Person Service Protocols

There will be no group singing or chanting out loud in the hondo .

There will be limited shared items.

Please leave your offertory in the offertory box as baskets will not be passed.

There will be no refreshments or socializing inside the temple, but feel free to meet your friends in the parking lot.

The on-line Zoom services will continue.

Even a carefully measured reopening carries a risk, so please carefully consider your own risk category, your ability to abide by our safety protocols and getting vaccinated.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope you are well and we look forward to seeing you soon.

In Gassho,

TBC Board of Directors


General Requirements/Protocols for Service Attendees

To help reduce and minimize exposure to and to control the spread of COVID-19, the following protocols will be implemented for those attending in-person services.

1. Anyone who wishes to attend a service on Sunday, will be required to pre-register through email, our website or telephone, before Friday at noon. *The preferred method is through email or our website so as not to overwhelm the office.* All attendees (including children) must be registered.
2. Walk-ins will be allowed as space allows. It is highly recommended that you pre-register.
3. Each individual will be required to self-screen (see revised form), sanitize their hands and sign in with contact information. This information will be used for contact tracing purposes and will be destroyed after 30 days.
4. **Please arrive early** to allow for physical distancing and entry protocols.
5. Anyone who is not feeling well, suspects they have been exposed to COVID-19, or is not vaccinated and has travelled outside the country within the previous 2 weeks should stay home. Services will be live-streamed via Zoom.
6. Everyone will be required to wear a proper face covering while they are inside the temple. Any individual who cannot or refuses to wear a face covering will be asked to leave. Please consider not only your own personal safety but the safety of those who are more vulnerable.
7. **PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE IN THE FOYER.** Everyone will be asked to go directly into the Hondo and find a seat. **PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE CHAIRS.**
8. Everyone is asked to bring their own nenju, montoshikisho and service books, if you have them. There will be none to borrow. Headsets will no longer be available.
9. There will be no group singing or chanting out loud. Only the Minister/leader will chant.
10. No offertory baskets will be passed. Please leave your offering in the offertory box.
11. At the end of the service, everyone will be directed to leave the building as there will be no refreshments in the social hall until restrictions are lifted. **PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE IN THE FOYER.** Cleaning and disinfecting of the temple will take place.
12. The elevator will be limited to one person unless you are in the same household.

To Register for Services:

Visit our Website at <https://tbc.on.ca/>
Email us at: tbc@tbc.on.ca
Call us at: 416-534-4302





COVID-19 Patron Screening Poster


All patrons must self-screen before entering this location.


Updated July 28, 2021


1. Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?



Fever or chills



Cough



Trouble breathing



Sore throat or trouble swallowing



Runny or stuffy nose


Decrease or loss of taste or smell


Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea


Pink eye (adults only)


Headache


Very tired, sore muscles or joints

If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms, select "No," unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse.

*If mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, select "No" and continue to follow all public health measures. If symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, select "Yes".


2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)? Yes ☐
No ☐
 • This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing

3. Do you live with someone who has been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating? Yes ☐
No ☐
 • If you are fully vaccinated*, select "No."

If "YES" to any questions above: Do not enter this location & follow Toronto Public Health advice.

Developed in accordance with recommendations and instructions issued by the [Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#)

*Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19


TO PROTECT OUR CONGREGATION,
PLEASE READ AND REMEMBER, IF
YOU ANSWER 'YES' TO ANY OF THE
ABOVE SYMPTOMS PLEASE DO NOT
ATTEND THE IN-PERSON SERVICES.

Message on

“Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching”



This year we will once again have the opportunity to observe the Commemorative Service of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching together. This service’s name, ‘Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching,’ refers to Shinran Shonin’s systematical presentation of the Jodo Shinshu teaching through his main writing, *Kyōgyōshinshō*, or *The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way*. In this work, he clarified how Amida Buddha’s compassionate working, or Other Power, reaches and guides each of us. This annual observance is a great opportunity for us to deepen our gratitude for the teaching.

The founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha revealed the reality of this world as “everything is changing” and “all things are without self.” However, ordinary beings like us are not able to accept this reality, and that is why we struggle constantly. Typical examples are the four difficulties expounded by Sakyamuni Buddha, that is, birth, aging, illness, and death. We, who possess blind passions of greed, anger, and ignorance, cannot escape from suffering until the moment that life ends.

Shinran Shonin used the expression ‘foolish beings filled with blind passions’ to describe us, those who are not able to accept this reality. Amida Tathagata wishes to save us, who are drowning in the darkness of blind passions, and continues to work with compassion in the Nembutsu, “Namo Amida Butsu.” As Shinran Shonin wrote in a hymn,

Karmic evil is from the beginning without real form;

It is the result of delusional thought and invertedness.

(Hymns of the Dharma-Age, Verse 107)

The compassion of the Tathagata is grounded in true reality, which begins to work prior to human cognition, and thus embraces all life equally and takes it as it is without abandoning anyone.

Shinran Shonin described his understanding in another verse as “attaining Buddhahood through the nembutsu is the true essence of the Pure Land way.”

Since shinjin [entrusting heart] arises from the Vow,

We attain Buddhahood through the nembutsu by the [Vow’s] spontaneous working.

The spontaneous working is itself the fulfilled land;

Our realization of supreme nirvana is beyond doubt. *(Hymn of the Pure Land Masters, Verse 82)*

Jodo Shinshu is the teaching that we will attain enlightenment beyond form and become buddhas in the “Pure Land of naturalness” through shinjin alone. In shinjin we accept without doubt the heart of Amida Tathagata’s Vow of “Namo Amida Butsu” – “Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are”

When we are touched by this warm compassion and learn of Amida Tathagata’s wish for our life, we are empowered to live at ease, share joy and sadness with people, and a world of mutual respect and support opens up. With ease and joy, Shinran Shonin walked the path of gratitude for being saved by Tathagata’s compassion. Aspiring to learn from his way of living and transmit his teaching to the next generations, I would like to express the essentials of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching in the following passage.

Continued on page 5

“Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching”, continued

Namo Amida Butsu.

“Entrust yourself to me. I will liberate you just as you are.” This is the calling voice of Amida.

My blind passions are embraced in the Buddha’s awakening,

So the Buddha calls to me “I will liberate you just as you are.”

Gratefully responding to the Buddha’s call,

I find that I am already on the path that leads to the Pure Land.

And the Nembutsu flows freely from my thankful heart.

Living with the Dharma as my guide

Softens my rigid heart and mind.

Gratitude for the gift of life I have received

Frees me from becoming lost in greed and anger,

And allows me to share a warm smile and speak gentle words.

Sharing in the joy and sadness of others,

I shall strive to live each day to its fullest.

In 2023 we are going to conduct a Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. In gratefulness for the birth of Shinran Shonin and his expounding of the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, let’s recite “Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching” together, work together, and live a life of Nembutsu together to spread his teaching. As for “Our Pledge,” delivered in my Dharma message at the 2018 Perpetual Memorial and Autumn Service, it is my hope that it will continue to be recited by everyone on various occasions, particularly by young people and those who are not familiar with Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu, and that it will lead to closer connections with the teaching.

April 15, 2021

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS AND GUIDING LIGHT SUBSCRIBERS

Covid-19 has affected everyone in many ways and that includes the Temple. With no in-person services and total lockdowns in the early months of the epidemic, donations and memberships fell short in 2021. Unfortunately, though there were no in-person services, the Temple still had bills to pay. Membership and Guiding Light subscription fees have remained the same since 2018. Fees should have been increased in 2020 but due to Covid-19 it was decided to forego the increase.

With costs of everything increasing, the Temple feels it cannot forego the increases to the membership and subscription fees for 2022. We hope that you understand and will continue to support the Temple so we can continue to spread the Dharma during these difficult times. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Board of Directors, Toronto Buddhist Church

2022 MEMBERSHIP FEE \$140.00

SUBSCRIPTION FEE 2022

\$40.00

FALL OHIGAN "EQUINOX" SERVICE

The Toronto Buddhist Church held Fall Ohigan service in September. Ohigan services are held twice a year around the spring and fall equinox when the daylight and nighttime are equal. In many ancient cultures, it was a time of celebration to remind us of our deep connection with people who have passed away.

“彼岸HIGAN” means “the other shore.” It is short for “渡彼岸TO HIGAN,” meaning “reaching the other shore of nirvana.” There is a metaphor for crossing from this shore of ignorance, anger, and greed to the other shore of nirvana.

Today, I would like to introduce you to one poem, which was written by Rev. Shinsui Haraguchi who was a Kangaku Ryoto in Japan.

“I say Nenbutsu and I hear it. The Nembutsu guides me to Amida Buddha’s Pure Land.
The Nembutsu is like my parents’ voice.”

When we recite Nembutsu “Namo Amida Butsu” we hear the Nembutsu at the same time. But Rev. Haraguchi’s poem lets us know that the Nembutsu doesn’t come from our mouths, but it’s from Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow, because Amida Buddha embodied the Primal Vow in Nembutsu.



His poem tells us that we encounter Amida’s great compassion when we hear the Nembutsu. He also said even though he was saying Nembutsu, he felt like he was being called by his mother and father "Don't worry. I am here." When he recited the Nembutsu, he relied on the Amida’s great compassion and felt relieved. When I read this poem, I feel that Amitabha Buddha is not an absolutely powerful Buddha, but rather a very kind Buddha who is always with me whether I am sad or happy.

To return to the topic a little further, Higan means the Pure Land. Ohigan Day is the day when daylight and nighttime are equal. In Japan, people used to look at the sunset and they think of the Pure Land of Amida Buddha, and put their palms together in remembrance of the deceased who had passed on to the Pure Land.

I believe that each person has his or her own background in which they place their hands together to Buddha. Even so, I think that most people naturally put their palms together when they are saddened by the loss of a loved one. When I was a child, I saw my parents, grandparents and siblings always placed their hands together. So it was no surprise to me to do Gassho and recite the Nembutsu. However, when I attended the Makuragyo service of my grandmother, I recited the Nembutsu from the bottom of my heart and I really relied on Amida Buddha’s Primal Vows.

When I arrived at the hospital, my grandmother was in a critical condition and I did not know what I should say to her. When my grandfather arrived at the hospital a little late, he held my grandmother’s hand and said, “Thank you for being in my life.” Then he recited Nembutsu. My family asked him, "Is that all you want to say to Ba-chan?" But he said, "I'll leave the rest to Amida Buddha" and recited Namo Amida Butsu again. His words told me that he had peace of mind because he was relying on Amida Buddha and entrusting everything to Amida.

His back was getting rounder and smaller as he got older, but I still remember how he seemed to be firmly supported by Amida Buddha's compassion. I think that there are many people who encounter Nembutsu as a result of losing someone. However, I have recently come to realize that it is not only the deceased who give us an opportunity to encounter Amida Buddha.

For example, when I place my hands together in the Hondo, I am reminded of my family who lives in Japan. I haven't been back to Japan to see my family for four years now. I'm not a good son for my parents, but when I call them once in a while, they always ask me, "How are you doing?" or "Are you eating well?"

When I talk with my parents, I sometimes remember my childhood. My family always chanted Shoshin-ge, Jusei-ge and Sambutsu-ge together at 6 am and 6pm everyday. But when I was still too young to read a chanting book, I used to nap on my mother's lap. My mother's Nembutsu must have been a pleasant lullaby. I think the reason why I am still able to recite the Nembutsu now is because even though I took a nap, I was watching my father's behavior to hold a Buddhist service.

Continued on page 8

FALL OHIGAN "EQUINOX" SERVICE

When I think of my family, I really appreciate them because the memory of them reminds me of the many things they have done for me. At the same time, I worry about how they are doing now because of COVID19 and I hope that they will be safe and healthy. Therefore, when I put my palms together, I sometimes think of my family who lives far away from me.

When I told this story to my sensei, he said, "Ouchi-kun, the important thing is to realize that you were thought of before you thought of. I think he wanted to tell me that before we wished for our family to be happy or healthy, our parents had already wished for us to be happy or healthy. Even before we were born, they had already wished for us that we would live a long and happy life without any serious injuries or illnesses.

In my case, when I call my parents, they still ask me "How are you doing?" or "Do you eat well?" to check if I'm okay. One person said that no matter how old we get, children are still children to their parents. Parents are the ones who worry about their children and wish them well.

The poem by Rev. Shinsui Haraguchi, which I introduced at the beginning of this Dharma message, expresses this in a very meaningful way. "I say Nenbutsu and I hear it. The Nembutsu guides me to Amida Buddha's Pure Land. The Nenbutsu is like my parents' voice."

When you put your palms together and recite Nembutsu, you may not only show gratitude to Amida's virtues, but also to your loved ones who connected you with Buddha. Because both the nembutsu that came out of my mouth and the nembutsu that reached my ears were the Amida Buddha's Primal Vow.

The Primal vows tell us that we don't have to worry about anything, because Amida will take care of everything. Amida will surely welcome us to the Pure Land. Or we could say that the Nembutsu is like a parent wishing for his or her child's well being.

If you go to a local temple in Japan, you may find that the temple members call Amida Buddha "親様Oya-sama". "親Oya" means a parent. "様sama" means dear. They call Amida "Oyasama" with gratitude to the Buddha for always caring for them, so that we could feel closeness, that they are children of Amida Buddha.

When we recite Nembutsu, we feel Amida's great compassion because Amida Buddha embodied the Primal Vow in Nembutsu. The Nembutsu is compassionate to our sadness and joy, and is always there for us. I believe that Amida Buddha is like the setting sun, shining brightly but warmly on us and embracing us.

In Gassho

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi



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

In Gassho . Toronto Buddhist Church

<i>Mrs. Bella Rumi Davis</i>	<i>50 yrs</i>	<i>June 4, 2021</i>
<i>Mr. Masatoshi Albert Nishimura</i>	<i>85 yrs</i>	<i>August 12 2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Augusta Takeda</i>	<i>73 yrs</i>	<i>August 26, 2021</i>
<i>Mr. Richard Masayoshi Inamoto</i>	<i>70 yrs</i>	<i>January 25, 2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Kimiko Miyai</i>	<i>101 yrs</i>	<i>September 8, 2021</i>
<i>Mrs. Toshiko Matsumura</i>	<i>93 yrs</i>	<i>September 16, 2021</i>
<i>Mr. Shigeo Seko</i>	<i>104 yrs</i>	<i>September 24, 2021</i>

**“Every Being is Nurtured”**

The cloud of light is unhindered, like open sky;
 There is nothing that impedes it
 Every being is nurtured by this light,
 So take refuge in Amida, the one beyond conception.
 (From Nembutsu Wasan “Verses in Praise of Amida”)



This verse is from the Nembutsu Wasan (“Verses in Praise of Amida”). In North America, we chant the Nembutsu Wasan in major services after the chanting of Shoshin-ge (“The Gatha of True Faith in the Nembutsu”). These are considered some of the most important writings of Shinran Shonin as they are his unique interpretations of “The Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life” (which we usually refer to as the “Larger Sutra”) one of the 3 Pure Land Sutras of Jodo Shinshu. Shinran Shonin’s appreciation for the Nembutsu - saying Namo Amida Butsu - is rooted in the immeasurable compassion and wisdom of Amida Buddha that embraces everyone. It is represented as light that is not bound or limited by anything, its illumination reaching everyone.

As someone who works with people from many faith traditions, I have noticed that the vast majority of our attention when it comes to religion, its understandings and practices is focused on adults; we don’t often think about how children engage with religious thought or practice. When it comes to the Buddha Dharma, books, programs, lectures, retreats, services, are mostly designed for adults. In Jodo Shin-shu, we have programming for children because there is an understanding, as expressed in the verse from the Wasan above, that “every being is nurtured” by the light of Amida. This of course includes children. TBC and other Jodo Shinshu temples around the world do not have Kids Sangha and Dharma School because it is cute to have children-sized nenju and montoshikisho or as a babysitting service while parents go to the “real” service. Jodo Shinshu teaches that children are also individuals who are in the compassion of Amida Buddha and will be reborn in the Pure Land and eventual Buddhahood.

Do the children know, care or aspire to become Buddha’s? Most likely not. So why do we have Kids Sangha and Dharma School? Because the adults who care for them value the path of the Nembutsu teachings and want the children to be on the same path. They may not be able to read or understand the sutras, and may not even be able to pronounce

Continued on page 10

Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of November

Our monthly memorial services (shotsuki) are usually held on the first Sunday of each month 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 November. All are invited and welcome to attend.

ABO , Tazuko	KAMADA , Mary Mariko	MATSUMURA , Fumiko	OHYAMA , Murae
AZUMA , Kay Kikue	KAMINO , Hana	MATSUSHITA , Mineko	OKAWA , Fumi
BABA , George Seiichi	KAMINO , Tamio Tom	MATSUYAMA , Soyo	OMORO , Frank Kiyoshi
EBISUZAKI , Kojiro	KANDA , Yoshio George	MINAKATA , Kiyokazu	ONISHI , Emiko Amy
FUJIMOTO , Shigetaro	KASHINO , Tetsuji	MITSUKI , Kotaro	OTSU , Mikiko
FUJIMOTO , Noboru Nick	KASHINO , Keiko	MIWA , Tami	OYAMA , George Shigeki
FUKAKUSA , Katsuya	KAWABATA , Bunjiro	MIYAUCHI , Tsuruko	OYAMA , Iwao William
FUKAKUSA , Sakae	KAWABATA , Fumio Ross	MIYAZAKI , Katsumi Joe	SAMESHIMA , Tomio
FUKUZAWA , Okujiro	KAWAGUCHI , Stanley Mamoru	MIYAZAKI , Namiye	SAWADA , Tome
GYOTOKU , Mary Fumie	KAWANO , Katsumi & Matsuyo	MORISHITA , Matsutaro	SAWADA , John Minoru
HAKODA , Yutaka Richard	KAWASAKI , Allen	MURABAYASHI , Lloyd Eikichi	SEKO , Hatsuko
HARADA , Osamu	KAWASAKI , Shigeo	MURAI , Masazo	SERA , Toyojiro
HARADA , Yoshiko	KAYAMA , Yotaro	NAGAMATSU , Joan Shimako	SHIBATA , Magoji
HARUTA , Toshi	KIKUTA , Miyako	NAGAO , Kanezo	SHIKATANI , Tasajiro
HASHIMOTO , Koto	KISHIMOTO , Ko	NAGAO , Tadashi	SHIMIZU , Mary
HASHIMOTO , Naojiro	KISHIMOTO , Sydney Seichi	NAKAGAWA , Phyllis	SHINYA , Kitayo
HAYASHI , Doug	KISHIMOTO , Yuichi	NAKAGAWA , Shigeo	SHISHIDO , Akira
HAYASHI , Mitsuko	KITAMURA , Shinzo	NAKAGAWA , Sute	SPRATLEY , Sheila Jane Mary
HAYASHI , Yosoya	KIYONAGA , Aki	NAKAGAWA , Toshie	SUGAMORI , Yae
HEIKE , Muneharu	KOBAYASHI , Shige	NAKAGAWA , Ruby Ayako	SUZUKI , Osamu
HIGASHI , Natsuyo	KODAMA , Fumiye June	NAKAMURA , Minoru	TABATA , Denbei
HIRANO , Harue	KOHARA , Wakajiro	NAKAMURA , Yukio	TABATA , Yoshio
HIZAKA , Kazukiyo	KONDO , Alice Ayako	NAKATA , Soichi	TAHARA , Moichi
HORI , Fusae Ann	KONDO , Shizue	NAKATSU , Eiichi Ronald	TAHATA , Dorothy Toshiko
HORI , George	KONO , Kosetsu	NAKATSU , Mitsue	TAKAHASHI , Sae
IBUKI , Masaji	KOYANAGI , Harry Yukio	NISHI , Aiko	TAKAHASHI , Shoji
ICHII , Masa	KOYATA , Betty Setsuko	NISHI , Kazuo	TAKASAKI , Wataru
IIDA , Kii	KUSANO , Tsuyo	NISHIKAWA , Jisaburo	TAKENAKA , Toni Isamu
IKEDA , Masao	KUMABE , Shina	NISHIKAWA , Koma	TAKENO , Peggy Chitose
IKEDA , Michiyo	MASUDA , Ryohei	NISHIKAWA , Takashi	TANAKA , Miki
ISEKI , Mitsugu	MATSUBA , Seiichi	NISHIMURA , Hatsue Hatty	TANAKA , Nobuaki
ISHII , Kazuo	MATSUBA , Shizuo Samuel	NISHINO , Yoshio	TANOUE , Kazumi
ISOKI , Shunichi William	MATSUBAYASHI , Heijiro	NODA , Kikuno	TATEBE , Yae
ITO , Denjiro Denjiro	MATSUHARA , Yaku	NODA , Sumie	TERADA , Yoshio
ITO , Junji George	MATSUMOTO , Hidekazu	ODA , Tome	TERASHITA , Kiyoshi
IZUKAWA , Kumiko Joyce	MATSUMOTO , Hidezo	OHASHI , Leslie Anne Kiyoko	TESHIMA , Sashiro
	MATSUMOTO , Kazuo		

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

TOKI , Yoshiaki Rick	UYEDE , Akiko	WALSH , Teagan Carroll	YONEYAMA , Sumi
TSUJI , Ichijiro	UYENO , Kinu	YAMADA , Shieko	YOSHIDA , Jack Masao
TSUKADA , Roy Iwao	UYENO , Shigeko	YAMAMOTO , Kyoko	
TSUSHIMA , Chuzo	WAKIDA , Iwamatsu	YAMASHITA , Mitoru	

“Every Being is Nurtured”, Continued

Namo Amida Butsu, but that’s OK because that is where they are on their Nembutsu path. This is how Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies) describes the Nembutsu path in a guide for Dharma School teachers:

“Shin Buddhism is a path of living our lives with a growing and deepening sense of awareness, authenticity and appreciation. Shinran Shonin teaches us that, as we continue to say the nembutsu within our daily lives, we gradually hear it voicing the basic wish of life - that life may become itself and give itself freely to others so that we might live. As we walk the path of the nembutsu our ears open up, little by little, and we begin to hear within our hearts the great sound of enlightenment reverberating throughout the universe.” (Matsumoto, D. & Bay District Dharma School Teachers (2009) *The Heart of Jodo Shinshu: Living a Triple A Life*. pg 8)

I think Matsumoto Sensei is describing the experiences of the variety of individuals on the Nembutsu path, whether young or elderly; new or experienced. Everyone’s Nembutsu path has to start somewhere, and for some, it starts in childhood but on the path, we are all in the light of Amida’s compassion and wisdom.

(At TBC, we have Kids Sangha services twice a month which Yoshi Sensei and I take turns leading. Services start in the Hondo at 10:30 AM and last about 20 minutes after which the students are led in crafts and activities by volunteer Dharma School teachers in the classroom downstairs. Please look for more information in this and future issues of The Guiding Light.)

In Gassho , Joanne Yuasa Sensei

TO ALL SHIN FUJINKAI AND TEMPLE MEMBERS

Please join the Shin Fujinkai in their Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. We missed the physical food drive last year so we are hoping that you will support our efforts this year. Can you imagine living on just over \$800 a month? After paying rent and utilities, on average, a person who comes to a food bank is left with about \$7 a day to pay for food and other expenses. When the choice is to pay rent or buy groceries, many households simply go hungry.

We still cannot have a physical food drive so we are asking you to take what you would be donating to your local Food Bank or fire hall, purchase the pre packaged kits from the grocery store or donate to monetarily to the Food Bank.

All items should be non-perishable and should not be expired. Most needed items are: baby food and formula, canned fish, meat, fruit, vegetables, soup, stews, pasta sauce, canned, powdered and tetra pak milk, rice, grains, lentils, pasta, beans, peanut butter.

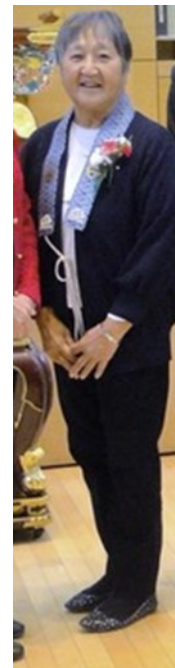
PLEASE DONATE TO HELP FEED THE LESS FORTUNATE!!

THANK YOU DIANNE

Congratulations on your retirement!! We will miss your helpful ways and friendly demeanor. Take care, we'll have to get together and talk about dancing in the 50's
Myra

Congratulations, Dianne, on your retirement. Thank you for your assistance over the years. Your kindness is very much appreciated.
Marie Baba

Thank you Dianne for all the support you gave us throughout our Shin Fujinkai events, in our kitchen and our meetings. We appreciated your kindness & care. Have a wonderful retirement and enjoy. In gassho Shin Fujinkai.



Special Projects would like to wish Dianne all the best on her retirement and thank her for her help over the years. Many times, she assisted us in preparing for the Temple's special events - the Bazaar, picnic, New Year's Social, Keirokai, Volunteer Appreciation luncheon to name a few. Often, this was done after hours or on her day off.

Dianne was an important source of information. If Dianne didn't have the answer, she quickly found it.

Although we will miss her, we hope Dianne enjoys her well deserved retirement.

Special Projects

Dianne, thank you for your kind support throughout the years. You will be missed. Happy Retirement!

Kids Sangha Team

Dear Dianne

It has been quite the ride off and on over the past 15 years or so, of working together on TBC matters in the office. Many emails were exchanged, phone calls made etc. all to make sure things were done correctly. Seems like only yesterday that you started working at TBC, you will be missed. Have a fun retirement. In Gassho Debbie Katsumi

Bachis up to you Dianne! Thank you for your continued support and kindness and always willingness to help. We will miss your face in the audience at Temple functions. We cannot say enough to express our gratitude so, DON DON DON DON!!!!

Isshin Daiko

Congratulations on your retirement, Dianne, We wish you good health and happiness for the future. Thank you for all your help to Dana over the years. We will miss you very much. Best Wishes, Jessie

As many of you know, Dianne Ishida has retired from her position as Office Administrator at the Temple. For over 15 years Dianne has been such an integral part of the TBC; she has helped keep us running smoothly through the ups (and a few downs) and it's indeed hard to imagine the Temple without her.

As a Board member, Dianne was invaluable in her role as the 1st Vice President, providing deep insight and sound advice concerning key activities and happenings for members, the office, the TBC and JSBTC as well. Her knowledge, hard work, foresight and camaraderie will be deeply missed.

We are all truly grateful for the innumerable contributions that 'Di' has made to the Temple and we all wish her the very best in her retirement. But we also know that she won't be a stranger to the TBC, so we will always look forward to hearing from and seeing Dianne.

To Dianne, thank you again for your interest, passion and concern for the well-being of the TBC and our best wishes to you.
Sincerely, Board of Directors

JSBTC DAY 2021**Sunday, October 17, 2021**

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) Day is a special memorial service traditionally held in either October or November to observe and honour our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist founders and followers from across Canada.

JSBTC Day allows us to gather together at our local temples to express our gratitude to all those who have spread the Dharma Teachings before us. It is a time to direct any special JSBTC Day donations towards helping our hardworking Ministers to further their education and provide supplemental retirement benefits. Funding is also allocated towards supporting the many activities of our Bishop. The National Board of JSBTC is responsible to help provide meaningful programs and assistance to local temples but the financial challenge is becoming increasingly difficult, especially these past 18 months, so any contribution you can make will help JSBTC.

Thank you and hope to see you either in-person or on Zoom!

JOIN OUR THURSDAY AFTERNOON BUYO CLASSES

Have you ever wanted to learn Japanese Traditional Dancing (Nihon Buyo) or how to wear a yukata or kimono or tie an obi? Come join our afternoon Buyo classes to learn. No experience needed. Every Thursday at 1:00 pm till 2:00 pm (12:30-1:00 to dress).

Please contact Dawn Anzai at canzai@sympatico.ca or the Temple 416-534-4302 if interested.

***KIDS SANGHA & OHIGAN, September 19, 2021***

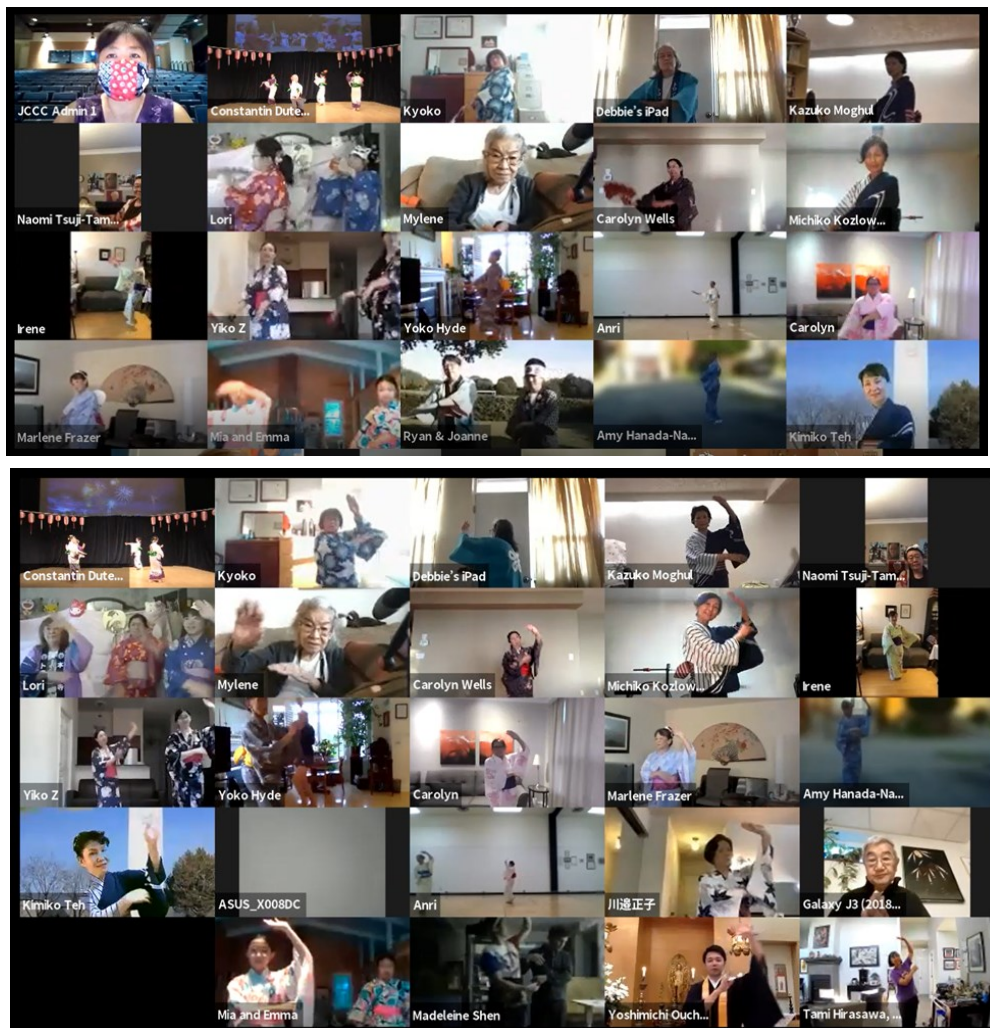
Bon Odori 2021

What a year 2021 has been. Toronto has gone from full lockdown to cautious reopening, but the 4th wave and the Delta variant are on everyone's minds. In the early spring, the TBC Minyo decided to have virtual bon odori lessons and if necessary, a virtual Bon Odori festival. We had about 40 people joining our weekly Friday night practices including several newcomers.

The TBC virtual Bon Odori was held on Saturday, July 10. It was a beautiful evening. Some technical issues delayed the start but soon enough, Rev. Ouchi was able to start the festivities. Four TBC instructors danced in Kobayashi Hall at the JCCC, and the other dancers and participants joined in via Zoom. People danced inside and outside their homes, alone or in pairs, in yukata and happi coats, and they all were having a great time. Rev. Ouchi did double duty as emcee and leading the Obon service. He also gets bonus points for joining in with the participation dances! All in all, we had almost 100 dancers and people joining in to watch. The evening ended after Hanabi Ondo and a recording of a fireworks display in Japan.

Thank you to Christine and Constantine for handling the technical aspects of the virtual Bon Odori and the use of the JCCC. Thank you to Crystal and Laura for their technical assistance during the virtual odori practices; Aja, Crystal, Joyce and Eleanor for leading the practices and dancing at the JCCC; and to Joanne, Dawn and Gayle for their guidance during the planning of this event. Thank you to Rev. Ouchi for his enthusiastic participation. And finally, thank you to all of the dancers and participants who made our virtual Bon Odori 2021 a success.

Screen shots of the virtual Bon Odori 2021 are below.



CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS



October's Theme: "Giving"

October 17, 2021 – "Something Smells Good"

Kids Service begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp and ends at 11:00 a.m.

Kids Program takes place in the classroom from 11 – 12 p.m.

- A baking activity
- Story time "Pass It On"...a story about giving, sharing and joy.

November's Theme: "Meditation and Mindfulness"

November 7, 2021 – "Meditation"

The Kids Service begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp and ends at 11:00 a.m.

The Kids Program takes place in the classroom from 11 – 12 p.m.

- Let's Learn How to Meditate
- Meditation Activities
- "I am Yoga".....an interactive story

November 21, 2021 – "Mindfulness"

Kids Service begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp and ends at 11:00 a.m.

Kids Program takes place in the classroom from 11 – 12 p.m.

- Let's talk about mindfulness
- Meditation Activities
- Make "mindful jars"
- The tale of the "Moody Cow"



Due to Covid, in order to maintain physical distancing requirements, and limit the number of people in the classroom, we are asking all parents to remain in the Hondo for the adult service. At the end of the Kids Service, the children will proceed to the classroom for the planned activity of the day. At 12:00 p.m., the kids will be brought upstairs to the main lobby where parents can then pick up their children.

IMPORTANT NEWS.....please arrive at the temple early, so that you have enough time to complete the Covid questionnaire and sanitize your hands before entering the Hondo.

If you plan to attend the Kids Sangha program, you will need to pre-register. To register, please go to the Temple website at

<https://tbc.on.ca/about-us/events-calendar/>

We are offering an online option. Please email kids.sanghatbc@gmail.com. A link will be sent to you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jessica or Yumi at kids.sanghatbc@gmail.com

With gratitude,

Jessica and Yumi

Calgary B.T. Sangha Engagement Workshop

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ELDERLY

Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 at 7pm MDT

It is important to talk about elder abuse, how unacceptable it is and to let people know help is available. If someone discloses abuse to you, you see signs or if you suspect abuse, it is your responsibility to do something about it. Please join this informative presentation by Katharina Zacharias of the Calgary Kerby Centre who is passionate about raising awareness of elder abuse because it is seriously lacking in our society. Let's advocate for seniors and learn about facts, signs, prevention and resources.

Register online at: https://bit.ly/Advocate_10Nov21



Temple Takeout TWO

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday November 13th 2021

The unique Takeout Experience is back by popular demand! Stay tuned to see what the Temple Takeout Team has cooked up for you this year :)

All updates will be posted to:

www.tbc.on.ca

facebook.com/groups/torontobuddhisttemple



22nd Annual Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lecture

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Annex Temple

A Gift from Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom

Guest Lecturer: Chenxing Han



BE THE REFUGE

Challenges and Aspirations of Young Adult
Asian American Buddhists

8:30 Registration

9:00 Lecture One:

**Be the Refuge: Challenges and Aspirations of
Young Adult Asian American Buddhists**

10:30 Discussion & Dr. George Tanabe comments

11:00 Break

11:30 Lecture Two:

**May We Gather: Roots and Connection in
Buddhist Asian America**

12:30 Discussion & Dr. George Tanabe comments

1:00 Closing

Free Registration Advised: <https://forms.gle/kjSAZ3bCugc29ih97>

Lectures will be held in-person at Hongwanji Betsuin and livestreamed on Zoom
(register for the Zoom link)

The Futaba Lecture Series is endowed by Dr. Alfred Bloom to honor the memory of his friend and mentor, Professor Kenko Futaba. Dr. Futaba, a noted Shin Buddhist scholar, served as President of Kyoto's Ryukoku University from 1983 to 1995 and then became Chancellor of Kyoto Women's University.

Dr. Bloom fervently hopes that this lecture series will be a continuing inspiration for the nurturing of American Buddhism and for the social participation of Buddhists in the quest of social justice and peace.

Author Chenxing Han Chenxing Han is a Bay Area-based writer whose publications have appeared in Buddhadharma, Journal of Global Buddhism, Lion's Roar, Pacific World, Tricycle, Wheel of Dharma, and elsewhere. She holds a BA from Stanford University and an MA in Buddhist Studies from the Graduate Theological Union. After studying chaplaincy at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California, she worked in spiritual care at a nearby community hospital in Oakland. Her first book, *Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists*, was published by North Atlantic Books in January 2021. Along with Duncan Ryuken Williams and Funie Hsu, Chenxing co-organized *May We Gather: A National Buddhist Memorial for Asian American Ancestors*.

For reminders, updates, and Zoom link:

Free Registration Advised <https://forms.gle/kjSAZ3bCugc29ih97>

No program fees

Donations Appreciated

How to donate to Toronto Buddhist Church

While TBC has had to have its doors closed to visitors for most of the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, the business of spreading the Shin Buddhist teachings to our sangha and beyond continues. Forwarding a financial donation will help prepare TBC to welcome everyone back to temple.

There are 3 ways to donate to TBC from home:

- **cheque:** mail to 1011 Sheppard Ave. West, Toronto, ON, M3H 2T7
- **E-transfer:** use email address darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca
- **online donation via Paypal:** follow directions on www.TBC.ca "Make a Donation" page

Please include the purpose of your donation, as well as your **full name, mailing address, email address, and phone number. This is particularly important if you're donating by cheque or e-transfer.** This helps ensure you will receive a donation receipt for tax purposes. Detailed information can also be found on the TBC website: www.tbc.on.ca.

Your donations are always greatly appreciated.



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Faith & Science

Awakening Compassion for the Future

Saturday, October 30, 11am - 1pm PST on Zoom

We use energy everyday in many forms, usually without thinking, but it is important for us to consider the effects this has on us now and in the future. This event is meant to bring together the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #7, affordable and clean energy, with perspectives from science and various religions. By looking at this issue through the lenses of faith and science we can consider responsible and compassionate ways to create a viable future for everyone.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Miriam Hinojosa

Head of the Global Climate Action Unit, in the Energy and Climate Branch at the Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Program

PANELISTS

Dr. Palitha Kohona

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to China and former Permanent Representative to the UN

Dr. Zachary Markwith

Education Director at Islamic Networks Group (ING)

Rev. Don Castro

Founder of EgoSangha and retired Buddhist Churches of America minister

Dr. George E. Griener, S.J., Th.D.

Professor Emeritus of Historical and Systematic Theology

Presented by the Jodo Shinshu International Office



To register, use QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/3rcqm49>