



# *Guiding Light*

January 2022



## **TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH** *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

## New Year's Greeting



Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Over these past couple of years, we have had to adjust our lives in accordance with the scale of the spread of COVID-19. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are undergoing treatment. I would also like to express my respect and sincere gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and frontline medical professionals who have been engaging in the treatment of infected people, as well as all essential workers who have made it possible for us to continue with our lives.

This infectious disease has not only greatly affected the life of each one of us, but also revealed many issues that had been contained in our society. Sakyamuni Buddha, who passed on the Dharma to us, made clear of the fact that we cannot see the truth because we are too attached to our own thought. Therefore, it is only natural that conflicts and divisions come about in a society in which those who like us, fundamentally self-centered beings, act in accordance based on one's own thought.

In the following *wasan* poem, Shinran Shonin deeply reflected on himself and described what we humans are like,

Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land way,

It is hard to have a true and sincere mind.

This self is false and insincere;

I completely lack a pure mind. (*Hymns of the Dharma-ages*)

As the *wasan* shows, we are basically incapable of accepting the reality of this world, such as, dependent origination, impermanence, and no-self. And because of this we constantly suffer. Only through being aware of and appreciating Amida Buddha's compassionate and salvific working, are we enabled to accept our true self. Shinran Shonin clarified that such ignorance is the very reason why Amida Buddha's salvific working has reached every one of us. Keeping in mind that we are always embraced in Amida's compassionate Light, let us live each day to the fullest, even though we have yet to see the end of the tunnel.

I feel truly assured hearing that many of you have been making efforts to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching within the greater society through various and innovative ways despite the current situation. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and therefore, I humbly ask for your understanding and cooperation in support of your temples. I would like to conclude my new year's greeting with my heartfelt appreciation to you all.

January 1, 2022

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## Holiday Season: “Dana” Generosity



As Buddhists, we try to live respecting and admiring the truth and the goodness of people of all religious traditions. So please enjoy the winter holiday season of its many diverse cultural and religious backgrounds! We make a choice of a gift not knowing precisely what is desired by the receiver. In return we will be receiving gifts from others who do not know exactly what it is that we desire. The important thing to remember is the ‘spirit’ of the season which is to give with no conditions and to have a sense of gratitude and appreciation as the receiver. .

What better time is there to practice *dana*, the Pali word for generosity? *Dana* is about giving with no attachments or from any thought of receiving anything in return. It is a gift of gratitude and of letting go of the sense of self that feels the need to acquire more and more in our perpetual scavenger hunt for happiness. It is my wish that all the temples in Canada share the Buddhist practice of ‘giving’ with a hope that we can use this joyful time to expand our generous hearts and give to local charities of your choosing..

This is a time when we are able to express our appreciation to so many people who have helped us throughout the whole year. I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to your local Sanghas. I would like to express my appreciation to the senseis and temple directors for their dedication in maintaining and keeping our temples vital and moving ever forward. As we enjoy wonderful family time during the festive season, I would like to wish all of you a very happy holiday season and New Year!

In gassho,

Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop,

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

## “The Sounds of the Bells– Listening to Every Sound”



Happy New Year ! !

January in Toronto seems to be a month of cloudy skies with rain, snow and hail. However, if you look carefully at the cloudy sky, you will see that no two clouds have the same shape, and they all change their shape depending on the weather and temperature of the day. Therefore, when I am shoveling snow or cleaning up fallen leaves, I can feel the coming of the beautiful winter season again and again when I look up at the sky.

Last month, I watched a TED Talk called, Words: Your Most Powerful Weapon. In this talk, the speaker talked about the fundamental principle of communication. What do you think it is? Maybe you would guess it’s our words, or maybe our voice. But actually, it is listening.

The problem is many people don’t listen. Half the time when we are speaking with someone, we are not absorbing what the other person is saying, because we are too busy thinking about what we are going to say in

response, or we are wondering when our turn will be to speak. Sometimes, we don’t even let the other person finish.

When I heard her speak, I agreed with her. I realized that I am guilty of this, too. When I talk with a friend, or when I attend a class or workshop, I’m always thinking about how I should respond or about what I want to say in my turn. And if I don’t have to say anything, my brain stops thinking and I’m not absorbing what is being said to me. But LISTENING or HEARING is very important.

We listen to or hear many things, not only during a conversation, but everywhere. Think about the temple, even. For example, I’m sure you have noticed that when we start a Buddhist service, we sound the bell. A Buddhist temple has many kinds of bells. We normally have the...

Bonsho(the largest bell), Kansho(the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest bell), Daikin(the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest bell), Chukin(the medium-sized bell), Inkin(the smallest bell), Sawari(the flat bell) and Kei (the board bell).

Why does the temple have so many kinds of bells? Well, the bells have 2 main jobs.

Continued on page 4

## “The Sounds of the Bells– Listening to Every Sound”, continued

The first is to tell the time. A long time ago, people did not have a watch or a cell phone, but people could know what time it was when they heard the bell. Even to this day, when you walk outside, you may hear a bell sound from a church. So it is still telling us time. The biggest bell, which you cannot see it at a temple in Japan, tells us when it is 6 am, 6 pm.

Secondly, the bells in the temple also tell us what we have to do when we attend a service. You can hear them before a service, before we do silent meditation, before chanting, at the end of the chanting, and before we do Gassho by placing our hands together.

So we hear the sounds of the bells when we do ritual things. One of my Senseis told me that it is very important to listen to the sounds during the service. He also said visiting the temple helps us to hear many other kinds of sounds better, because the temple makes us feel calm.

Sometimes when I am in the temple, I hear birds chirping in the morning and sounds of insects, raining and snowing at night. My sensei also told me if I practised listening to a lot or if I listen to every sound carefully, I might be able to hear Buddha’s voice (Namo Amida Butsu) from the bottom of my heart.

He said that when he visited a temple, he could hear the voice in his heart. He had lost his wife and he had suffered pain, however, when he placed his hands together and recited Nembutsu, he felt calm and peaceful. Because of this, he could hear Amida Buddha’s voice.

The voice told him that he did not have to worry about his wife and himself, because Amida Buddha accepted them just as they were.

To practice listening is very important in Shin Buddhism. Hawaiian Hongwanji-ha Buddhist temple says; “While other schools of Buddhism seek to “attain” or “realize” enlightenment, the Shin Buddhist path is one of

simply listening and opening one’s heart to receiving it.

Trying to attain enlightenment can be like trying to grab a snowflake that falls. Once you grab it, you have crushed it. But if you open your hand and allow the snow to gently fall into your hand, the snowflake becomes yours, without any effort in grasping.

Simply Listening to and Receiving the Dharma. This is the Shin Buddhist path. Rather than pursuing enlightenment, we simply listen to the Dharma and receive it, and allow it to unfold into our hearts and minds.

This does not require any particular lifestyle. You don’t have to become a monk or sit for hours in meditation. You can listen to the Dharma in your everyday life, no matter what you do or where you are.

Listening to the Dharma can mean listening to sermons or lectures, but it can also mean listening or talking to anyone. You never know who might be your teacher of the Dharma, if you have the ears and heart to listen. A taxi driver could be a teacher, or a bartender, or your worst enemy.”

When we are with family or friends, we usually speak our own opinions to them but let’s try listening to their stories, too. I hope that attending the service is helping you to feel calm and to hear many kinds of sounds better.

And if you listen to everything carefully, you might be able to hear the Buddha’s voice from the bottom of your heart when you place your hands together.

In Gassho

Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi

## Ho’Onko Service, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022



We are pleased to welcome Reverend Grant Ikuta as our virtual guest Minister when we observe and honour the passing of our founder Shinran Shonin at our Ho-Onko Service. Ho-Onko or Founder’s Memorial is one of the most important occasions observed in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition. Shinran brought the Buddha’s Teachings out from the monastery to the common people during a time of great political turmoil, social unrest and violence. He introduced Buddhism to everyone, regardless of class or intellect as a way for anyone to attain peace and happiness.

Please join us in honouring our Founder.

Many of us are familiar with Grant Sensei as he served as our resident minister for 16 years from 1992 to 2008. We always look forward to seeing and hearing him speak.

### Year End Services

The following is a chart of the services until the end of 2021 and the start of 2022. We hope that the restrictions will soon be lifted and we can plan further ahead. We send our best wishes for your Health and Happiness throughout the holiday season and hope to see you soon at one of our services.

**\*\*Please note the following:**

the service on December 26<sup>th</sup> will be via **Zoom Only**

New Year's Eve Bell Ringing service will be held **in person at the temple** at 11:45 pm on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

New Year's Day services are **in person only**

there will be **no** service on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

January memorial/shotsuki will be held on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Bilingual services are held in English and Japanese

		Kids' Sangha 10:30 am	11:00 AM		1:00 PM	
		In Person and Zoom	In Person	Zoom	In Person	Zoom
January 1, 2022	New Year's Day	None	English	None	Japanese	None
January 2, 2022	NO SERVICE					
January 9, 2022	Monthly Memorial	English	English	English	Japanese	Japanese
January 16, 2022	Ho'Onko Service Guest Minister Rev Grant Ikuta	English	Bilingual	Bilingual	None	None
January 23, 2022	Regular Service	None	English	English	None	None
January 30, 2022	Regular Service	None	English	English	None	None
February 6, 2022	Monthly Memorial	English	English	English	Japanese	Japanese

#### **To Register for Services:**

Visit our Website at <https://tbc.on.ca/>

Email us at: [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca)

Call us at: 416-534-4302

#### **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. Please pre-register for services before Friday at noon.
2. Walk-ins will be admitted if space allows. It is highly recommended that you pre-register.
3. Upon entering the temple please sanitize your hands and sign in with contact information.
4. 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.

5. Everyone will be required to wear a proper face covering while they are inside the temple
6. **PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE CHAIRS** which are placed 6 feet apart.
7. Please leave your offering in the offertory box.
8. At the end of the service, **PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE IN THE FOYER.** There will be no refreshments in the social hall until restrictions are lifted.

**Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of February**

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 December. All are invited and welcome to attend.

<b>AMANO, Tojiro</b>	<b>IWASAKI, Kiyoshi Henry</b>	<b>MORI, Sumi</b>	<b>SUMIYA, Chikayoshi</b>
<b>AMANO-O'SHEA, Karen Akemi</b>	<b>KAMADA, Denroku</b>	<b>MURAKAMI, Yukimi</b>	<b>SUYAMA, Tei</b>
<b>ARIZA, Riku</b>	<b>KAMINO, Atsumu</b>	<b>MURANAKA, James Kin-suke</b>	<b>TABATA, Fumie</b>
<b>ARIZA, Takeru</b>	<b>KASHINO, Wai</b>	<b>NAGAO, Moyo</b>	<b>TAKAOKA, Hideo Donald</b>
<b>DOI, Terrie Teruya</b>	<b>KATO, Saju</b>	<b>NAKAMURA, Genroku</b>	<b>TAMAKI, Mitsuko</b>
<b>DRYGAS, Ronald Walter</b>	<b>KAWABATA, Sayono</b>	<b>NAKAMURA, Sumi</b>	<b>TANAKA, Itsuo</b>
<b>EBATA, Nami</b>	<b>KAWABATA, Tobei</b>	<b>NAKASHIMA, Haruko</b>	<b>TATEBE, Saemon</b>
<b>EDAMURA, Kane</b>	<b>KAWAGUCHI, Hanaye</b>	<b>NAKATA, Kimi</b>	<b>TANIISHI, Joyce Miyoko</b>
<b>FUJITA, Kano</b>	<b>KAWAGUCHI, Kanetaro</b>	<b>NAKATSU, Kimiko</b>	<b>TEHARA, Chiyo</b>
<b>FUJITA, Shigeo</b>	<b>KINOSHITA, Raisuke</b>	<b>NISHI, Hanae</b>	<b>TEHARA, Genya</b>
<b>FUJIWARA, Douglas Tetsumori</b>	<b>KISHIBE, Aki</b>	<b>NISHIKAWA, Shoji</b>	<b>TEHARA, Suye</b>
<b>FUKUSHIMA, Hanae</b>	<b>KOBO, Takayo</b>	<b>NISHIMURA, Harry Kan-shiro</b>	<b>TERAKITA, Mitsuo</b>
<b>FURUKAWA, George Goro</b>	<b>KOMATSU, Sakaye</b>	<b>NISHIMURA, Riyeko Frances</b>	<b>TSUCHIDA, Suejiro</b>
<b>FURUYA, Isamu</b>	<b>KONDO, Tohachiro</b>	<b>NISHIMURA, Seitaro</b>	<b>TSUJI, Donald Akira</b>
<b>HAMA, Hirokichi</b>	<b>KONDO, Tomekichi</b>	<b>NISHIMURA, Barry Jon Yoshio</b>	<b>TSUJI, Edward Sadamu</b>
<b>HAMA, Hugo</b>	<b>KONDO, Zenshiro</b>	<b>NISHIZAKI, Barry Jon Yoshio</b>	<b>TSUJI, Etsuko</b>
<b>HAMAMOTO, Tomoe</b>	<b>KONO, Itoyo</b>	<b>OGATA, Sakae</b>	<b>TSUJI, Toshiro Roy</b>
<b>HAO, Yoshitada</b>	<b>KOZAI, Sute</b>	<b>OHASHI, Mitsuo William</b>	<b>TSUKAMOTO, Masato</b>
<b>HAYASHI, Fumikazu Frank</b>	<b>KUBOTA, Hide</b>	<b>OMORI, Isamu</b>	<b>TSURUDA, Misae</b>
<b>HAYASHI, Genichiro George</b>	<b>KUSANO, Tsurukichi</b>	<b>OMOTO, Tatsuya</b>	<b>TSURUOKA, Mas Masaaki</b>
<b>HAYASHI, Yoshio</b>	<b>MAEMURA, Ritsu</b>	<b>ONISHI, Kazuo Jack</b>	<b>TSUKAMOTO, Masato</b>
<b>HIDAKA, Kathy Ling Fai</b>	<b>MASUDA, Yasuo</b>	<b>RYUJIN, Isamu</b>	<b>URA, Tsutomu</b>
<b>HIDAKA, Tsuyoshi</b>	<b>MATSUDA, Yoshimi</b>	<b>SAITO, Harry Hiromitsu</b>	<b>UYEDA, Toshihiro</b>
<b>HIKIDA, Toyoko</b>	<b>MATSUSHITA, Tatsumi</b>	<b>SAKAGUCHI, Shizue</b>	<b>WATANABE, Haruno</b>
<b>HIROSE, Masayuki</b>	<b>MENDE, Masuno</b>	<b>SARUYAMA, Lucy Masa-ko</b>	<b>WATANABE, Sumiye</b>
<b>HONKAWA, Kise</b>	<b>MINEMOTO, Hisako</b>	<b>SASAKI, Tokubei</b>	<b>YAHIRO, Kin</b>
<b>HORI, Mrs.</b>	<b>MIYAGAWA, Yoshiko</b>	<b>SHIMIZU, Asato</b>	<b>YAMAMOTO, Yasue</b>
<b>HOSAKI, Takeko Eileen</b>	<b>MIYANISHI, Toyozo</b>	<b>SHIMODA, Clara Shizue</b>	<b>YAMASHITA, Yoshiko</b>
<b>HYUGA, Hisatoshi</b>	<b>MIYASAKI, Harry Juichi</b>	<b>SHIOZAKI, Akira</b>	<b>YASUI, Toshie</b>
<b>IGARASHI, Shigeru</b>	<b>MIYAUCHI, Yahei</b>	<b>SHIMODA, Clara Shizue</b>	<b>YOSHIDA, Baby</b>
<b>INATA, Ei</b>	<b>MIYAUCHI, Kumakichi</b>	<b>SHIOZAKI, Akira</b>	<b>YOSHIDA, Chika</b>
<b>IWAMOTO, Yuri</b>	<b>MIZUNO, Fumiyo</b>	<b>SHISHIDO, George Tet-suo</b>	<b>YOSHIDA, Kanjiro</b>
	<b>MIZUTANI, Harold Tsu-neichi</b>	<b>SHOJI, Gin</b>	<b>YOSHIDA, Natsu</b>
	<b>MIZUYABU, Yonekichi</b>	<b>SUGIMOTO, Itsuno</b>	

## 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

Mrs. Virginia Yukiko Hayashi	79 yrs	December 7, 2021
Mr. Saburo Takata	96 yrs	December 15, 2021



### Ho-onko 2022

Eminent Pure Land teachers of India, China, and Japan!

Out of pity and compassion, embrace us,  
And guiding us to realization of true and real  
shinjin,

Bring us to enter the stage of the truly settled.

(Verse 57, From the Pure Land Hymns on the Right, Semblance, and Last Dharma-Ages, by Shinran)

This is one of many verses from Shinran's "Pure Land Hymns on the Right, Semblance, and Last Dharma-Ages". This collection describes the difficulty in attaining Buddhahood as we move in time and location away from Sakyamuni Buddha, the man who attained enlightenment to the true nature of reality. The time since Sakyamuni Buddha's death is divided into 3 eras - the Age of Right Dharma, the Age of Semblance Dharma, and finally, the Age of the Last Dharma. These eras explain that the closer one lives in time and place to the Buddha, the more "common" it was to attain enlightenment. Shinran - and we, his followers - live in the Last Dharma Age, in which it is believed the conditions of the world are such that we are unable to attain enlightenment using the methods and practices used by Sakyamuni Buddha.

For Shinran - and us - the path to enlightenment may look totally different to the one Sakyamuni took, but Sakyamuni taught the teaching of Amida's Pure Land and it was recorded as the *Three Pure Land Sutras* ("The Larger Sutra", "The Contemplation Sutra", and "The Smaller Sutra") for us who would be living so far into the future from him. As the sutras were transmitted from India to China and finally Japan, the Pure Land teachings developed into a form that deeply resonated with Shinran Shonin. It took around 1,700 years for the teachings to reach him from the time of Sakyamuni's death. As we approach Ho-onko in 2022, we should be mindful that it is the 759th anniversary

of his passing to the Pure Land.

I really love history, but with all of my education coming from the Canadian public school system, my understanding of history is largely through a European (and Christian) lens. It recently came to my attention that Shinran Shonin is contemporaries with Eleanor of Aquitaine, the mother of Richard the Lionheart. This means that Saladin, the first sultan of the Ayyubid dynasty was alive at the time as well. I find it surprising that all of the Crusades (except for the final one) began and ended within Shinran's lifetime! Other contemporaries of Shinran are Genghis, the Khan of the Mongol Empire; and Moses Maimonides, the Jewish scholar, physician, and philosopher. It was in Shinran's lifetime that the Magna Carta was signed by King John. While some Norse explorers had reached and briefly settled on the East coast, Turtle Island (what we call North America today) was populated only by First Nations and Inuit peoples. It is estimated that the global population at the time of Shinran's life was 350-400 million people; just over the current population of the United States. The world was a very different place then.

To me, the Crusades and the Mongol Empire seem like an incredibly long time ago - I can barely imagine a world without cars! Even though I know in my head that Shinran lived many centuries ago and his life circumstances were very different from mine in almost every way possible, he doesn't seem so distant. Maybe it's because he is a regular presence in my life at the temple where I see portraits and statues of him and read his words. It's particularly when I read his writings, I *feel* that he is not too far away and that we are alike in spirit - at least when it comes to the feeling of awe and gratitude for having encountered the Nembutsu

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1006502/global-population-ten-thousand-bc-to-2050/>

### Ho-onko 2022, continued

and the path to Amida's Pure Land. Shinran Shonin would not recognize much of our world today, so far away in time and location from his own, but I believe he would recognize and understand our appreciation of Amida Buddha's compassion and the Pure Land.

I did not grow up going to the temple, and I think a lot about the causes and conditions that led me to the Nembutsu path that gives so much meaning to my life. Shinran would undoubtedly point out that he is only one point of a long and vast network of causes and conditions through which each of us encounters the Nembutsu path. I imagine that for himself, he would point to his own teacher Honen Shonin, and the other Pure Land Masters from Japan, Chi-

na, and India, going back to Sakyamuni Buddha, and ultimately, that it is the compassionate work of Amida Buddha that moves us to - and on - this path.

Today, we can be grateful for the countless Nembutsu followers in the many generations since his time who relayed his teachings so that it could reach us. They too, observed Ho-onko to mark the passing of Shinran from this earthly realm to the Pure Land, grateful for his transmission of the teaching of the great compassion of Amida Buddha.

In Gassho

Joanne Yuasa Sensei

### **BODHI DAY SERVICE, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

A bonus at service today, we got to listen on Zoom to a Dharma talk from Rev. Grant's brother Roland Ikuta sensei from Steveston, B.C. He showed us some images from India where he visited the famous Bodhi tree.



### 2022 Toronto Buddhist Church

#### Annual General Meeting

Until the COVID 19 restrictions affected everyone and every organization, the TBC Annual General Meeting was held on the second last Sunday in January. With continuing restrictions, the AGM will be postponed with the hope that it can be held as soon as possible in the new year. In the meantime, the current Board of Directors will continue to serve in the best interest of the Temple and its members and friends.

Notice of the 2022 AGM will be placed in the Guiding Light in the new year.

Toronto Buddhist Church Board of Directors



## NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For so many of us, 2021 was another challenging year. I, like many, felt confident that we would almost certainly see the light at the end of the tunnel with the beginning of the end for the Covid-19 pandemic. Certainly, we all wanted to see that! The Delta variant has now given way to Omicron, and while we all wish we could be rid of this, the only thing that does seem certain is that uncertainty will continue. It reminds me of those stock market prognosticators, who most accurately predict with certainty: “The market will fluctuate!”



For me, one thing I am certain about is being thankful and grateful. As someone who is new to the management of the TBC, I am grateful for the support of our volunteers and staff. There’s a saying, made famous by former U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who talked about “known knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns”. In my relatively short time as President, I knew that our volunteers do a lot of work, and I knew that there were a lot of things done in which I may not know details about but have some idea, and then there are the things that you just don’t really think about and have no idea, but need to be done. Many members have little or no idea as to who does what at the TBC, that whatever needs to happen just gets done, day after day, week after week, just like magic. Paraphrasing Churchill, in talking about the heroics of the Royal Air Force in the Battle of Britain, said that never in history have so many depended on so few. Now Japanese are characteristically modest and don’t like the spotlight but our volunteers are absolutely amazing. So in true Japanese fashion, I won’t name specific volunteers but four, in particular should be called out, so instead let me use the pseudonyms “Paul”, “Donna”, “Cary” and “Michael” or just PDCM.

Now day in and day out, week after week, I have learned so much from PDCM. I don’t just mean the incredible volume of work these *volunteers* do, but doing so with a stoic sense of professionalism, expertise, efficiency and just plain hard work. I’m talking about work late into the night (Security system issues? Audiovisual system problems?) and into the early hours of the next day (Emails at 3 AM?). But even more importantly to me, they really exemplify to me – and they have taught me - the meaning of “with gratitude and in Gassho”, as they lead by example. And so I am truly grateful to PDCM.

I’m also grateful for the incredible office staff at the TBC. Anyone who has dealt with the professionalism of Pamela Yoshida and Darlene Rieger knows what I’m talking about. They work tirelessly on so many different things. It’s not easy running anything these days, let alone during a pandemic, and these individuals are just amazing.

We all have much to be grateful for and we are most fortunate to have the youthful and passionate leadership of Rev. Ouchi, and the tireless, generous support of ministerial assistant Joanne Yuasa sensei, as well as Dr. Jeff Wilson sensei (who are also youthful and passionate!)

Thank you for everyone’s support this year. Our challenges have been notable, but so is our resolve and determination. Finally, I would like to extend a most sincere thank you to our members for which we are so grateful for your continued support. Thank you all for teaching me “gratitude”.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe 2022!

With gratitude and in Gassho,

Les Tanaka

President, Toronto Buddhist Church

# HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022



Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi

Thank You For Your Help And Support!!!  
I Hope To See You Again In 2022!!



Ron Shimizu & Edy Goto

We Wish All Happiness And Safe Hblidays  
And a, Healthy And Better 2022

Darlene Rieger

All The Best To All My Family, Friends,  
Wishing You All A Healthy 2022



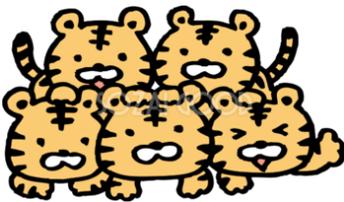
Dawn, Toshi, Crystal & Chibi Anzai

Wishing You Health And Happiness In 2022



Toivo & Pauline Knude

May Kindness, Compassion And Good Health Follow  
You Throughout 2022, Together In The Onembutsu



Donna, Yumi and Jessica Nakano

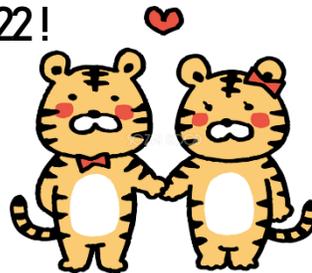
Happy 2022 !

Emi & George Nakano

Wishing Everyone A Healthy,  
Happy New Year

Pamela Yoshida

Happy New Year!!! Wishing You  
Good Health And Happiness



Guiding Light

Thank You To All Both Past & Present, Who Helped /  
Help Ensure Members Receive Their Guiding Light



**CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS****JANUARY'S THEME: New Year and Hoonko**

January 16, 2022 – Hoonko

What is Hoonko?

Let's get cooking

Read the "Jataka Tales"

Discuss plans for Keirokai

**FEBRUARY'S THEME: "Perseverance"**

February 6, 2022 – Olympic Day

Let's talk about "perseverance"

Let the Kids Sangha Olympic Games Begin!

Continue practising for Keirokai



February 20, 2022 – "Family"

Let's talk about Nirvana Day

A family craft

Read a special book

Practice for Keirokai

We will continue with following Covid 19 protocols by limiting the number of people in the classroom. Thus, we ask all parents to remain in the Hondo for the adult service, as the children proceed to the classroom. At 12 p.m., the kids will be brought upstairs to the main lobby where parents can then pick up their children.

If you plan to attend the Kids Sangha program in person, we ask that you 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](mailto: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](mailto:Kids.sanghatbc@gmail.com)

With gratitude,

Jessica and Yumi

## IT'S 2022 AND TIME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE TEMPLE

Many things have changed and things will continue to change, but one thing has stayed constant, and that is the Toronto Buddhist Church. For over seventy years, the TBC has been a fixture in the Greater Toronto Area providing a sense of stability and a foundation for the Jodo Shinshu community throughout the decades. Through most of 2020 and 2021 the TBC was impacted by Covid but persevered and continued with Sunday services, funeral services, memorial services, visitations and consultations. But spreading the Dharma and providing that stability during a time of continued uncertainty is an on going challenge for the Temple.

The TBC has been there for you and will be there for you but needs your assistance.

Some may say, "Well, what's in it for me?" One could remind us of the following entitlements.

You can:

1. Attend special Temple activities free of charge or at rates not available to non-members;
2. Take advantage of free notarial services offered by one of our Temple members; and,
3. Have a real say on important matters affecting the direction of the Temple, including the election of the President and the Directors, and the approval of budgets.

But more importantly, supporting the Temple provides you with something that you can't tangibly quantify and put a price on. It's actually something you do for yourself and for our community. That is, your support is your affirmation of the Jodo Shinshu way of life and to support and spread the Dharma. This is what it's really about.

Please make that commitment for 2022. The Temple needs your support to continue to thrive, and it will with your support.

**Regular memberships** are valid from January 1 to December 31 each year, so we ask that those wishing to be recognized as a Temple member complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year. Once your signed application and membership fee (minimum of \$140.00) or your promise to pay the total fee by May 31 have been received, your membership card will be sent to you.

**Honorary Membership** Cards will be issued to all members 77 years of age and over who sign up for the year 2022, or if already an Honorary Member, he or she must confirm in each year his or her wish to continue Honorary Membership. Honorary Members do not need to pay any annual membership fees, although all donations are most welcome and appreciated. **Membership card will be issued only once.**



PAST



PRESENT





## TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*A Jodo Shinshu Temple***2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION***In the case of couples, please complete information for each applicant individually.*

<b>Applicant</b>	Renewal ( )	New ( )	Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms. ( )
Last Name: _____			Birthdate: dd/mm/yy: _____
First Name: _____			Email: _____
Address: _____			Phone: _____
City: _____			Signature: _____
Prov: _____	Postal Code: _____		

I promise to pay \$\_\_\_\_\_ as my Membership Fee for 2022 and am enclosing the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on account of such fee. I will pay in advance of my Membership Fee, if any, by **May 31, 2022**. By signing this Membership Application I hereby adopt the vow below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a Guiding Light mailed to me - English Only \_\_\_\_\_ English/Japanese \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize Toronto Buddhist Church and Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) to send future mailings and e-mails. I understand I am able to opt out at any time by notifying the Temple. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

トロント仏教会の護持会員として、次の通り誓約いたします。

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

Please note that this application is for membership from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. The Individual Membership Fee for 2022 is a minimum of \$140. 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 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*.

**A SEPARATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL APPLYING. PLEASE SUBMIT A SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR 'MEMBERSHIP ONLY'. PLEASE DO NOT COMBINE WITH DONATIONS.**



## Volunteers Wanted

Our temple operates by volunteers who generously give their time to ensure its sustainability. It takes many people to keep the temple and its services running and we thank those who have continued to volunteer during the recent difficult times.

With the temple slowly opening up and in the anticipation of resuming our activities we will need people to help out in various areas.

Some areas where we will need people to help include (but not limited to):

Services - setting up, greeting and ushering people in and out, playing the organ

Technology – website and helping with services

Events – helping out at specific events

Operations – helping out with minor repairs and maintenance

If you are available to help out once a week, once a month or even once a year we would welcome your help. Or if you have other talents and/or ideas, please email us at [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca) with the subject line “volunteer”.

## TBC New Year's

### Social

Unfortunately, due to the high number of COVID-19 cases and government restrictions, this year's New Year's Social will be cancelled.

Keep safe. We hope that conditions will improve and we will be able to get together soon.

Special Projects  
Committee

## **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](mailto:darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca)
- **online donation via Paypal:** follow directions on [www.TBC.ca](http://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](http://www.tbc.on.ca).  
Your donations are always greatly appreciated.



## 2022 Eastern Buddhist League Conference

# **DHARMA FRIENDS STAYING CONNECTED**

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

## Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji



Rev. Miyaji is the H.E. Kosho Ohtani Professor of Shin Buddhist Studies professorial chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He completed his doctoral dissertation at Ryukoku University. In addition he serves as part time minister at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church in Union City, CA. He is also the host of the podcast “No Doubt: A Shin Buddhist Approach”.

## February 12-13, 2022

\*\*\* ON LINE \*\*\* FREE \*\*\*

For more information follow the Eastern Buddhist League on Facebook, or contact Tammy at [tswsmokey@msn.com](mailto:tswsmokey@msn.com).

**PLEASE JOIN JSBTC WOMEN'S FEDERATION'S FIRST PRESENTATION OF 2022**  
**“AWAKENING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE CRISIS a BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE”**  
**PRESENTED BY RAY NAKANO**

**Ray Nakano**

Ray is a retired third generation Japanese Canadian born and raised in Hamilton along with his 4 younger sisters. He resides in Toronto where he worked for the Ontario Government for 28 years. Ray currently practises in 2 Buddhist traditions: Jodo Shinshu and that of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Ray is passionate about climate action and very concerned about our Climate Crisis. He has been actively involved in the ClimateFast group (<https://climatefast.ca>) for the past 3 years. He works to bring awareness of our Climate Crisis to others.

He has created the [myclimatechange.home.blog](https://myclimatechange.home.blog) website, for tracking climate-related news articles, reports, and organizations. He is always looking for opportunities through the work of ClimateFast to reach out to communities, politicians, and governments to communicate about our Climate Crisis.

He is married and has 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. He says: “Our world is in dire straits. Doing nothing is not an option. We must do everything we can to create a liveable future for our children, our grandchildren, and all future generations.”

We hope many of our Temple members will have time to attend this very important and relevant presentation.

## Awakening to **the** Climate **Change** **Crisis:** a Buddhist Perspective

Join Ray Nakano on Saturday,  
February 5th, 2022 at 4 pm ET  
in a conversation about our  
Climate Crisis and what we can do  
about it as Buddhists. **Register by clicking here.**



**LINK TO REGISTER FOR PRESENTATION**

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/awakening-to-the-climate-crisis-a-buddhist-perspective-registration-226429596017>

## TBC “Find Your Treasure” Fundraising table

After two years of having to cancel the temple bazaar, we are starting a “Japan Wares corner” in the TBC lobby as an on-going fundraiser for the temple. We will have a couple of tables of antique and vintage housewares and decorative objects made in Japan; many unused and in their original packaging. If you’re looking for authentic Japanese dolls, ceramics, lacquerware, glassware and other items, please come take a look next time you’re at temple for a service! We will always have a different collection of items on sale.

Please note:

- All sales will take place *after services* at the temple
- All sales will be by cash or cheque
- Sales will not come with receipts for income tax purposes (as it is a sale of items)
- All sales will be final



## BEING BUDDHIST DURING CHALLENGING TIME

*Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 3pm Eastern Time*

Join the Sangha as we begin the New Year reflecting on challenges and perceptions. We are honored to have retired Sensei James Martin provide a Buddhist’s point-of-view on relatable current event matters such as living in the time of COVID and vaccination: Where does ‘your freedom’ end and ‘my freedom’ begin?

Register online at: <https://bit.ly/buddhist-16Jan22>



## JSBTC Japan Tour in 2023 *Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 3pm Eastern*

A must attend if you are planning on attending the Hongwanji Celebration and WBW Conference in Kyoto. Get the answers to all your questions regarding the tour.

Everyone is welcome to attend this presentation on the **JSBTC (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) Japan Tour in 2023** hosted by the Calgary Buddhist Temple Sangha Engagement. The tour will be from May 7 -12, 2023 and the occasion is to commemorate Shinran Shonin’s 850<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary as well as the Jodo Shinshu 800<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary Kyosan Hoyo in addition to the 17<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Women’s Convention – all in Kyoto, Japan!

We are honored to have Rev Yoshimichi Ouchi give a brief overview of the service and the convention as well as we are pleased to have Mr. Akihito Takemoto of KINTETSU INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS (CANADA) INC. Toronto Branch, give a presentation regarding travel for the Canadians. For planning purposes, Honwanji/ Japan needs to know the number of Canadians who have a strong interest in attending and our deadline is Monday, Feb 21/22. Attend this informative presentation to help you make your decision and have an opportunity to ask questions about the tour. Your attendance and input will be valued.

**Please register for this online Japan Tour presentation which will include time for questions and answers. Register at: <https://bit.ly/JSBTC-Japan2023>**



Visit <http://canada.kiecan.com/jsbtc/> for more information on the tour and note that some details are still being finalized and are subject to change.



**2022 SERVICES SCHEDULE****For: Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and Ottawa****JANUARY**

- 1 (Sat) New Year's Day Service 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 2 All Services cancelled  
 9 [Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am](#)  
 Monthly Memorial Services (Shotsuki) [11:00 am \(E\)](#) [1:00 pm \(J\)](#)  
 16 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
**Joint Hoonko Service** – Guest Rev. Grant Ikuta (E & J) 11:00 am  
 23 Regular Service 11:00 am  
 \*Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hoonko Service (TBA)  
 \*Steveston Buddhist Church: Hoonko Service Guest: Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi 1:00 pm  
 30 Regular Service 11:00 am  
 \*Montreal Buddhist Church Hoonko Service 2:30 pm

**FEBRUARY**

- 6 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
 Monthly Memorial Services (Shotsuki) 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 12 (Sat) Virtual EBL Convention 11:30 am – 8:00 pm  
 13 EBL Closing Service hosted by TBC (virtual) 11:00 am  
 \* Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Nirvana Day Service (TBA)  
 20 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
**Nehan-e Service** 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 27 Regular Service 11:00 am

**MARCH**

- 6 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
 Monthly Memorial Services (Shotsuki) 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 13 Regular Service 11:00 am  
 \* Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Shotsuki and Higan Service (TBA)  
 20 [Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am](#)  
**Joint Ohigan Service** (E & J) 11:00 am  
 27 Regular Service 11:00 am  
 \* Montreal Buddhist Church: Spring Higan Service 2:30 pm

**APRIL**

- 3 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
 Monthly Memorial Services (Shotsuki) 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 10 Eshinni Day; Wife of Shinran Shonin Service 11:00 am  
 \* Hamilton Buddhist Temple: Hanamatsuri Service (TBA)  
 \* Manitoba Buddhist Church Hanamatsuri Service Guest: Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi (TBA)  
 17 Kid's Sangha Service 10:30 am  
**Hanamatsuri Service** (E & J) 11:00 am (E) 1:00 pm (J)  
 22-24 JSBTC Annual General Meetings, Steveston BC/Women's Federation Annual Meeting  
 24 JSBTC Tsuito Hoyo Service (virtual) (TBA)

**BALANCE OF THE YEAR WILL BE IN FEBRUARY'S GUIDING LIGHT**