



Guiding Light

May, 2022



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

Upcoming Services English and Japanese

We are open for in-person services. The following is a list of the upcoming services. Please register for either in-person or the Zoom services on the website tbc.on.ca or by emailing tbc@tbc.on.ca.

		Kids' Sangha 10:30 am	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
		Zoom & In Per-	In Person & Zoom	In Person & Zoom
May 1, 2022	Monthly Memorial	English	English	Japanese
May 8, 2022	Regular Service	None	English	None
May 15, 2022	Gotanye Service	English	English/Japanese	None
May 22, 2022	Regular Service	None	English	None
May 29, 2022	Regular Service	None	English	None
June 5, 2022	Monthly Memorial	English	English	Japanese

While the government no longer mandates the wearing of masks in indoor settings, the Toronto Buddhist Church Board of Directors has decided to continue to require that people visiting the temple wear masks. We take the health and safety of our members seriously and have considered the risk to our seniors as well as others who may be in a more vulnerable situation.

Please wear your mask correctly throughout the entire time you are in the temple.



GOTANYE SERVICE

MAY 15, 2022

English in person service 11:00 am

Japanese in person service 1:00 pm

Gotanye is the observance of the birth of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, who was born on May 21, 1173. It is an opportunity to reflect upon the influence and contributions that Shinran Shonin has made upon our lives.





“Sounds of C and D”

For the past two months, I visited Montreal and Winnipeg to hold their Buddhist memorial services. It was a great opportunity for me to do Gassho and recite Nembutsu with them again, because I was not able to visit there for a long time due to Covid.

When I took an airplane, I got stopped at the security check because they found a machine in my bag. They took out my YAMAHA tuner. I always bring the tuner when I visit other temples, because I want to check my sound and the pitch of my voice before chanting Sutra. They also found my kimono in my bag. They asked me what my occupation is. I answered them I am a Buddhist minister and explained to them I need the tuner for changing. They said “Wow, I have never seen Buddhist minister. Could you please show me how to use this tuner?” I chanted a part of Shoshinge to show them the tuner was working. It was a little bit embarrassing because other passengers looked at me and what I was doing at the security checkpoint.

It was tiring to go through the security check, so I bought a coffee and took a seat because I wanted to relax. When I read a book at a café, a couple asked me to lend them my cell phone charger. I said “Sure.” Couple of minutes later the couple asked me “Are you from Japan?” because I think they saw my book that was written in the Japanese language. They asked me what do I do in Toronto. I answered them “I am a Buddhist minister” again.

After telling them who I am, they were so excited to ask me many questions about Buddhism. I wanted to use this time to read a book, but we had a great time talking about Buddhism. They were curious about Buddhism, but they didn't know about its principles of Buddhism. So I explained to them about “Three Treasures” and “Four Noble Truths.” When I talked to them, it reminded me of something I learned in the Hongwanji School a long time ago.

We call Buddhism “Bukkyo 仏教” which (literally) translates as “The teaching of the Buddha.” In this word Bukkyo, there are 2 more concepts: the understanding that “The teaching is the Buddha 仏即教”, and “The teachings that guide us to become a Buddha 成仏教.”

I think many people have heard the first translation but the second and third translations are also very important, because every Buddhist sect has different practices and style of meditation, but the purpose and goal of all Buddhists are

the same. It is to become a Buddha, or to be accepted to become a Buddha.

For example, when someone wants to go to the top of a mountain. Some people walk and climb to the top of the mountain, but some people ride a car to the middle of the mountain and walk to the top, or some people take a cable car to the top and never climb or walk. Everyone has different ways, but they reach the Top of the Mountain in their own way. However, it's easy to get lost if we rely only on our own ideas or practices. So, we need a guide to walk in the mountain to go to the top of the mountain.

The same is true in Buddhism. The Top of the mountain is to become a Buddha. So, each Buddhist school has different ways, and we need guidance to walk on Buddhist path to become a Buddha. The guidance is sutras for us because they are Sakyamuni Buddha's words.

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we have three sutras they are called the three Pure Land Sutras. They explain to us not only Buddhas' names and Amida Buddha's 48 vows but also shows us what Amida's Pure Land is like.

The larger sutra which is the most important sutra in Jodo Shinshu that says that in Amida's Pure Land, there are beautiful trees blowing in the cool breeze, there are lakes of clear water, and it is filled with voices that tell us the truth. There, we are emancipated from our desire and blind passion, and give us true liberation from the cycle of suffering. When we hear that, we imagine that Amida Buddha's Pure Land is a good place, not only a beautiful and comfortable place. Shinran Shonin who is a founder of our Buddhism sect wrote about the Pure Land in his wasan that “清風宝樹をふくときは いくつかの音声いだしつつ 宮商和して自然なり 清浄勲を礼すべし.” It says, “Pure wind blows in the jewel-trees, the trees produce the five tones for the scales. The two kinds of tone of “kyu 宮” and “sho 商” from five tones sounds are harmonious and spontaneous. The harmonized sound pays homage to Amida with respect and purity.”

Eastern Asian musical scales have 5 sounds Kyu, Sho, Kaku, Chi, and U. Kyu sound represents the C sound, and the Sho sound represents D sound (Kyu=C, Sho=D). When we hear the sounds of C & D together, we feel uncomfortable, because it is not in harmony. However, the wasan said “自然なり Jinennari”, which means the disharmonized sound becomes beautiful sound in the Pure Land.

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“Sounds of C and D”, cont;d

When I read this wasan, I thought that the sounds of Kyu(C) and Sho(D) in the wasan are referring to us who have a bonno. We live our lives thinking we are right. We even try to make others right by putting forth what we think is justice. In a world where everyone believes they are right, there is constant fighting. It is not that Kyu is wrong or Sho is wrong. But when Kyu and Sho are put together, they cannot be in harmony with each other.

Amida Buddha was sad about our situation and vowed to open a pure land where Kyu and Sho would naturally harmonize with each other. This is what we can read from his wasan.

At some local temples in Japan, Amida Buddha is sometimes called “oya-sama親様” which means “honored parent.” It is easy to see Amida Buddha as a parent because Amida Buddha’s compassion and wisdom are like the care of a parent..

For example, two siblings, child C and child D fight a lot. Of course, the parent does not want them to fight so

the parent acts as peacekeeper to stop the fighting. The parent as a peacekeeper does not take sides and gives affection to both children. When the children feel the embrace and acceptance of their parent, the children calm down. When they are calm, it is an opportunity to self-reflect and step back and see their role in the situation.

I think we tend to judge others’ behaviors as right or wrong without reflecting on ourselves. In Buddhism, it is the most important to practice self-reflection. The more we learn about Buddhism, the more we realize that we are living with bonno that keeps us ignorant so we need to listen to the Buddha Dharma.

In Jodo Shinshu, it is said that listening to Buddha Dharma is very important, because that lets us know that Amida Buddha established the Pure Land to accept us just as we are. Moreover, Amida has wished for us to be reborn into the Pure Land as a Buddha before we wished for it. When I realized that, I cannot help saying Namu Amida Butsu.

Gassho Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi

Mothers and Birthdays

Sakyamuni and Amida are our father and our mother,

Full of love and compassion for us;

Guiding us through various skillful means,

They bring us to awaken the supreme shinjin.

(“Hymns of the Pure Land Masters, #74” CWS. pp380)

This verse is written by Shinran Shonin, making up one of many verses he wrote for his “Hymns of the Pure Land Masters”. He wrote over 100 4-line verses that all together are a poetic encapsulation of his appreciation of the Pure Land and Amida Buddha that come from the writings of the Seven Pure Land Masters and ultimately, the Three Pure Land Sutra, the recorded words of the Buddha. This particular verse is from the portion based on the teachings of Master Shan-tao, who expressed that recitation of the *nembutsu* - Namu Amida Butsu - is the most important practice for those who aspire to Buddhahood. In this verse, Sakyamuni Buddha is likened to a father, and Amida Buddha is likened to a mother.

Mother’s Day this year will be marked on Sunday, May 8. Happy Mother’s Day to all who identify as moms! May is also the month in which we in Shin Buddhism mark the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our school of Buddhism.

Shinran Shonin was born May 21, 1173 near Kyoto,

Japan. He was ordained at the young age of 9, by which time he had already been orphaned by the death of both his parents. The times in which he lived as a child were troubled by war, natural disasters, and famine. I know living standards and the concept of “childhood” were different 800 years ago, but I wonder how it might have been for him as a child of 9, already experiencing the death of both his parents, living as a monk, in such troubled times. No matter where or what time in history you are born into, I can imagine that being a child without a mother could be frightening. I wonder how being a child without his mother and father influenced his appreciation of Buddhist teachings. He is recorded to have been an exceptionally sensitive and wise child who was easily impressed by the suffering in the world around him. Perhaps this stemmed from his own personal experiences of loss and pain.



Throughout his monastic life, he strived to find a practice for himself and others to escape the suffering of this world. By all accounts, he was a diligent and hard-working monk, but he never did find anything that worked for him on the path of monasticism. No matter how hard he tried, he could not escape his feelings of inadequacy and doubt that

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Mothers and Birthdays, continued

he would achieve enlightenment. After 20 years, he left the monastic life.

Shinran Shonin soon encountered the man who would become his greatest influence and master, Honen Shonin. From his teaching, Shinran Shonin came to entrust himself to the compassion of Amida Buddha, the life-sustaining workings of the universe, towards his rebirth in the Pure Land. For the rest of his life, in deep gratitude for encountering the profound teachings, Shinran Shonin worked to spread the teachings of his master. We often say Shinran Shonin is the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, but he never did start out to be a founder of a specific Buddhist tradition. He constantly directed attention to his teacher Honen Shonin, who shared with him the path of nembutsu - saying Namu Amida Butsu. He knew that without his teacher, his appreciation of the *nembutsu* would be completely different.

I once went to a friend's birthday dinner and was lucky enough to be seated next to his grandmother. As we sat together, enjoying some very nice sushi, celebrating her grandson (my friend), she leaned over and said to me, "Birthdays are really our mother's days. People should not be celebrating us, we should be thanking our mothers." Grandmothers sure are wise!

Of course, on an intellectual level, I know I would not be here were it not for my mom. Yet for me, it is embarrassingly easy to take her and her care for granted. I am too quick to be annoyed every time she can't find her keys or her cell phone. She gave me life:

the least I can do is help her find her keys without rolling my eyes. She gave me life: I should be doing everything for her, because without her, I would not be. She gave me life, and she keeps on giving without asking for anything in return. I am not a mother, and I cannot imagine what that level of love, compassion, and care feels like. I only know what it is like to receive it.

Today we recognise that mothers, fathers, and parents come in all different forms. The love, compassion, and care of a mother is not limited to a female body, or even bodies that carry babies and give birth. The paralleling of Sakyamuni Buddha as a father and Amida Buddha as a mother is not gendering Amida Buddha; Amida Buddha is genderless. But the parallel is still meaningful. Childhood and motherhood are different now than it was in Shinran Shonin's time, but we can still imagine what it might have been like to live without the security of living parents. I've always felt it rather poignant that he would write of the compassion of Amida Buddha and compare it to the love of a mother, given that from a young age, he had to live without one of his own. Perhaps it was because of it that he found such meaning in the unconditional and immeasurable compassion of Amida Buddha.

May we all do our best to show gratitude to those in whose care and compassion we are nurtured.

In gassho - Joanne Yuasa

OBITUARIES

The Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families, relatives and friends of the following individual 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>Mr. James Kazuo Ebata</i>	<i>80 yrs</i>	<i>April 4, 2022</i>
<i>Mr. Noritsugu Hayashi</i>	<i>90 yrs</i>	<i>April 5, 2022</i>
<i>Mrs. Mary Aoki</i>	<i>88 yrs</i>	<i>April 5, 2022</i>
<i>Mrs. Sakae Ogaki</i>	<i>90 yrs</i>	<i>April 10, 2022</i>

Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of June

Our monthly memorial services 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 June . All are invited and welcome to come.

AIHOSHI , Hisaji John	KAWAI , Sachiko	NISHIDA , Harry Eiji
AKADA , Sadajiro	KAWASAKI , Yoso	NISHIHATA , Jesse Hideo
AKADA , Sadajiro	KIKUTA , Mitsuye	NISHIKAWA , Seitaro
AKIYAMA , Namiko	KISHIMOTO , Lidia	NISHIJIMA , Aya Dorothy
AMANO , Kikuye Kay	KITAGAWA , Yae	NISHIKAWA , Seitaro
AOKI , Toichiro	KITAMURA , George Ayao	NISHIMURA , Yaeko Denise
BANDO , Haruko	KITAMURA , Misako	NISHIMURA , Sannosuke
EBATA , Izo	KITAZAKI , Chiyo	NOSE , Sato
EBATA , Yoshiye	KIYONAGA , Shokichi	NOZUYE , Hideharu
FUDEMOTO , Toshie	KOBAYASHI , Betty Kumiko	NOZUYE , Noboru
FUJII , Toji	KOJIMA , Fumio	OHARA , Jack Masaru
FUKAKUSA , Lynn Joseph Joe	KONO , Hayato	OHASHI , Fusae
FURUYA , Tomegoro	KOYAMA , Kiri	OHASHI , Mitsuru Rick
HAMADE , Hisae	KOZAI , Kiyoshi John	OHASHI , Sumi
HAMASAKI , Sengame	KUMAGAI , Hideko Helen	OIKAWA , Yoemon
HANABUSA , Hanako	KUMAGAI , Shizu	OKAZAKI , Masatoshi
HASHIZUME , Masujiro	KURAHASHI , Kenetaro	OIKAWA , Yoemon
HAYASHI , Genji	KUWAHARA , Tomeko Tomi	OMOTO , Fumi
HIZAKA , Fujie	MAEDA , Kimie	ONISHI , Otokichi
IDENOUE , Kimiko	MAKIMOTO Takaharu	OTANI , Kikuko
IIDA , Yoneichi	MARUBASHI , Hanshichi	RUEHLE , Giulia
KAIBARA , Imao	MATSUI , Shinzo	SAITO , Lily Yuriko
KUMAGAI , Shizu	MATSUMURA , Kazuo	SAKAMOTO , Shigeru
INAMOTO , Toshiko	MATSUSHITA , Jinmatsu	SATO , Hifumi Evelyn
INAMOTO , James Tsugio	MINAKATA , Kiyoko	TANAKA , Tsuruye
INAMOTO , Kazuo	MITSUBATA , Yasuno	SHIGA , Mitsuzo
ISHIMURA , Akiko	MIYAGAWA , George Kiichiro	SHIMIZU , Jack Tsugio
ITO , Heizo	MIYAGAWA , Yoshiko	SHIMIZU , Shizuko
ITO , Yoshimi	MORI , Dick Yoshio	SHIRAISHI , Shizue
IWASHITA , Yasuro	MORI , Hachizo	SHIRAKAWA , Sakiye
IZUKAWA , Teruo Ted	MORI , Matsuye	SHITAMI , Entaro
KADOHAMA , Torayo	MORI , Sho	SUGIMAN , Betty Kiyoye
KAIBARA , Imao	MURAKAMI , Itsushi	TABUCHI , Aya
KANAYA , Phyllis Miyoko	NAGAMATSU , Katsue	TAKAHASHI , George Genshichi
KATO , Shigecko	NAGATA , Kaneo	TAKAOKA , Joe Masao
KATSURA , Hannah	NAKAMURA , Toichi	TAKASAKI , Miyuki
KAWAGUCHI , Shigeo	NAKAMURA , Genmatsu	
KAWAGUCHI , Tsugino	NAKATA , Takejiro	
KAWAGUCHI , Shizaburo	NARUSE , Tokiko	
KAWAHARA , Noboru	NEKODA , Nick Shunso	

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**Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for
the Month of June ,continued**

TAKENAKA, Nancy Ayako
TAKENAKA, Niichi
TAKENAKA, Haru
TAKEUCHI, Yuriko
TAMAKI, Albert Wataru
TANAKA, Nami Dorothy
TANAKA, Jitaro Charlie
TANAKA, Kitty Kinue
TANAKA, Pauline Toyoko

TANAKA, Shozaburo
TANAKA, Tatsuya
TATEISHI, Seizo
TEHARA, Jack Gentaro
TERAMURA, Masa
TOHANA, Toshiko
TSUJI, Kitaro
TSUJI, Mabel Fusaye
UEDA, George Takeshi
UJIHARA, Miko Mike
UYEDA, Kathryn Kiyo
UYENO, Suyeki

WAKABAYASHI, Yokichi
WATADA, Hideki Dick
WAKIDA, Frank Tadashi
WATANABE, Hatsue
YAMAMOTO, Fukusaburo
YAMAMOTO, Harumi
YONEKURA, Harry Hiroshi
YOSHIDA, Kazuo Jake
YOSHIDA, Naoe Nellie
YOSHIDA, Sam Susumu

Many hands and many hours go into keeping the temple a place for encountering the Dharma. As well as the board of directors and members of the management committees, we are fortunate to have volunteers answer the call for help often in ways that are unseen. We would like to acknowledge the help received in the month of April.

A great big Thank You to:

Grace Taguchi for arranging the najjin (altar) flowers

Joanne Sensei for the o-buppan (rice offering) for the Sunday services

Michael Tamaki and Yoshi Sensei for fixing lights in the najjin (see picture)

Joanne and Cary Kataoka for Tech during services



Neju holders and Butsudans

Display your neju safely and respectfully using these neju stands, handcrafted by TBC member Gerry Tsuji.

Available for sale at TBC for \$30.00.

Handmade Butsudans are also available for \$50.00.



Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate every encounter

Shinran Shonin's Birth

Jodo Shinshu Teaching

2023

Session 1 March 29 - April 3

Session 2 April 10 - 15

Session 3 April 24 - 29

Session 4 May 6 - 11

Session 5 May 16 - 21

Watch the 850th/800th Joint Celebration in 2023 promotional video with English subtitles from Honpa Hongwanji HQ at

<https://youtu.be/UCfCEJxLIHl>

CAF VISIT TO TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

On March 15, 2022, TBC hosted a group of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Chaplain students, instructors and staff from the CF Chaplains School and Centre at CFB Borden, about an hour north of Toronto. The group of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish CAF members were on a field-trip to “houses of worship” around Toronto.

I was contacted several weeks ago by the head instructor, Lt(N) Shiya Janzen (pictured to my right), who explained that they wanted to take advantage of my current training as ministerial intern at TBC to get an introduction to Buddhism in a “real Buddhist space.” They asked for a tour of the temple and a presentation on “Spiritual Care for Buddhist CAF Members.” CAF chaplains are mandated to support all CAF members, no matter their religious or spiritual identity, so must be aware that people of different faith traditions have different ways they understand and experience concepts. To this end, I was asked to address things such as “What is the goal of Buddhism/Buddhists?”, “Where do Buddhists believe we come from and go to (after life)?” and “Where do Buddhist find moral authority?” The answer to these (and other questions) help chaplains create a foundational sense of ways to engage respectfully and sensitively with CAF members and their spiritual/religious identities.

In the short tour of the temple with Ouchi Sensei, the group were very impressed with TBC’s kitchen and social hall, and enjoyed hearing about the importance we place in gathering as a community. Following this, I gave the presentation in the hondo, starting with the basic history of Buddhism, and Buddhist beliefs and worldviews, to address some of the things CAF chaplains should keep in mind when engaging with Buddhist CAF members. Concepts such as Buddhist Modernism, as well as the complex history of Shin Buddhism in Canadian history were also discussed. The entire group was very appreciative - and excited! - for the opportunity to visit TBC and learn a little about Buddhism.

I am just about coming to the end of the first of two years of the ministerial internship that is a required part of the CAF chaplaincy training program. After the internship, I will go to officers’ training and then move on to the CF Chaplains School and Centre myself. The centre is the “home station” for all CAF chaplains as they train to serve the religious and spiritual needs of all CAF members and their families.

Thank you to Ouchi Sensei and TBC for allowing this visit to happen and helping to expand the knowledge base and experiences of CAF chaplains.

~Joanne Yuasa,

TBC Minister’s Assistant and Intern Lt., RCChS SEELM Chaplain



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.

CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS**May's Theme: "Gratitude"**

May 15, 2022 : Parent's Day

Celebrating Parent's Day

A special craft

A story

**June's Theme: "End of Year Celebration"**

June 5, 2022 - End of year party

June 12, 2022 – to be announced

Pre-registration is required to attend the in person service. The virtual service is also an option. No registration is required for this.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jessica or Yumi at

kids.sanghatbc@gmail.com

With gratitude,

Yumi and Jessica

TBC DANA SCHOLARSHIP INVITES APPLICATIONS

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

Eligibility:

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

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

The selection criteria will be as follows:

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

**** DEADLINE for the scholarship application is Saturday, May 28, 2022 ****

Academic results	50%
Church activities	30%
School and Community Involvement	10%
Essay (min 300 words)	10%
Total	100%

SERVICE MARCH 27, 2022**WELCOME**
WE ARE ONE!

The Dana would like to extend a welcome to all Shin Fujinkai members who would like to join our group. Together we can become a stronger and better group to help the Temple with activities and outreach to the community. “We are One!” We hope to see some, if not all of you when things get back to “normal”.

Please leave your name and email address with the Temple (tbc@tbc.on.ca) so we can contact you when the Dana get together again.

Dana Executive

OUR GRATITUDE TO BREATH
HOSTED BY CALGARY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

***Sunday, May 15th,
2022 @ 1pm Mountain***

Join the Sangha for this 90 minute online workshop with Sensei Tanis Moore. Breath: Our connection to life -

Breathing in, breathing out, this repeated about 25,000 times per day, and yet we most often take it for granted. It's only when an illness causes us to realize the preciousness of breath, that we realize this connection to all living beings. Every breath we take has been shared with other people, animals, and birds and trees. Our gratitude to breath.

We will discuss the anatomy of breathing, do some breathing exercises and become aware of the movement of breath through our bodies, and how it can bring awareness, relaxation and healing to various parts of our bodies.

Register online: <https://bit.ly/breath-15May22>

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 ongoing 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



Bon Odori 2022

Spring is here, covid restrictions are lifting, and Bon odori practices will be held at the Toronto Buddhist Church again!

Obon is a Buddhist custom to honour one's ancestors. After 2 years of isolation, lockdown and perhaps limited exercise, come out to learn Japanese folk dances. Everyone is welcome and step-by-step instructions are given. No experience is necessary.

Practices are every Tuesday and Friday night starting Tuesday, April 19, 2022, from 8:00 – 9:30pm at the Toronto Buddhist Church and continue until the Bon Festival on Saturday, July 9, 2022. The practices will not be available online. **Please note that masks will be required.**

For more information, please contact the Toronto Buddhist Church or tbcminyogmail.com.



Butsudan Adoption program



Behind the TBC naijin (altar) in the hondo (main hall), there are unused butsudan (Buddhist home altars) that have come to TBC for a variety of reasons. Some butsudan are homemade here in Canada, because they were difficult to come by in the past. Others were brought very carefully from Japan. Despite the great care people have given to these very important items, some butsudan come to us showing signs of long and good “use”.

When the unused butsudan came to the attention of Gerry Tsuji, he offered to use his skills as a woodwork hobbyist to restore them. Gerry replaced hinges and doors, re-papered screens, and painted the butsudan. Thanks to Gerry's skills and efforts, the butsudan are back to a condition where they can proudly be placed in the centre of a home; where people can place their palms together in gassho and turn their attention to the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

Gerry has generously offered to restore butsudan in a variety of sizes which we will be selling as a fundraiser. We will continue to share details of butsudan that Gerry has restored, and we hope that you will find one that fits your home and budget.

The butsudan pictured below are currently available; please contact the TBC office for details.



Butsudan 1 Dimensions:

- W 33cm x D 33cm x H 55cm
- 64 cm wide with doors open
- Black exterior with gold interior
- One drawer



Butsudan 2 Dimensions:

- 48cm x 38cm x 72cm.
- 86 cm wide with doors open
- Black exterior with gold and red interior
- Two drawers



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

A Jodo Shinshu Temple

2022 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

In the case of couples, please complete information for each applicant individually.

Applicant 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 the balance 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:

1. Recognize and accept that our Temple is based on the Jodo Shinshu Pure Land Teachings;
2. Vow to strive to live a life of gratitude and to do my best to care for the welfare of society; and
3. 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。

- 1、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。
- 2、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。
- 3、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.