



# *Guiding Light*

April, 2023



## **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)

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

		<b>Kids' Sangha</b> <b>10:15 am</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
		<b>In Person</b>	<b>In Person &amp; Zoom</b>	<b>In Person &amp; Zoom</b>
APRIL 9, 2023	MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE (SHOTSUKI)	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE
APRIL 16, 2023	REGULAR SERVICE—HANAMATSURI	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE
APRIL 23, 2023	REGULAR SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	2:00 PM -ZOOM ONLY-TSUITO HOYO-STEVESTON, BC
APRIL 30, 2023	REGULAR SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE
MAY 7, 2023	MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE (SHOTSUK)	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	JAPANESE
MAY 14, 2023	REGULAR SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE

**HANAMATSURI, SUNDAY APRIL 16**

Please join us for the Hanamatsuri service, Sunday April 16 to celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism. Born into an aristocratic family in what is now Nepal, the legend goes that sweet tea rained on the day of his birth in Lumbini gardens. Thus, we pour sweet tea in homage over the baby Buddha. Hanamatsuri means flower festival in Japanese, a time of year which coincides with the Sakura season.



## THE BOUGHS THAT BEAR MOST, BOW LOWEST

To begin this Dharma talk, I would like to introduce my favorite saying. “実るほど頭を垂れる稲穂かな *minoru hodo koubeo tareru inaho kana.*” That means “The boughs that bear most, bow lowest.”

Just as rice plants droop as the seed ripens, so human beings also become more humble as they become more learned and virtuous. When I googled, that tells me that there is a similar saying in English that “The more you know, the more humble you become.”

I really like the Japanese version. The image of a bowing plant is less direct and makes it easy for me to understand. The other reason is because there was a rice field next to my house in Oita.

In March it was bad weather a couple of days. I was very worried about being able to get my car out of the parking lot due to the heavy snow, because there were memorial services. But when we were holding the memorial service, the sun came out, and it was a beautiful day. When I left the temple, I saw families playing in the park next to the temple. It looked like so fun. I wanted to play in the snow too, but I decided to go back home after the memorial service, because I was exhausted.

Even though I was feeling tired, the sun was still shining and giving us energy. I wrote it was bad weather, but it was beautiful and good weather too.

There was another funeral service in March in Hamilton. I knew the person who went to the Pure Land well, because she always attended the Hamilton Buddhist Temple's services. Even though she was a senior member, she came to the temple before anyone else to prepare tea and coffee for the refreshments. And she was sometimes the last person to leave the temple after cleaning up.

When I helped her collect dirty dishes, she always said to me, “Sensei, please leave them. You don't have to clean up!” But I loved talking to her while we did the dishes together.

She was honest and very humble. When I talked to her about Shin Buddhism, she said “I don't know all the doctrines of Shin Buddhism, but I heard that Amida Buddha settled all things to accept us to the Pure Land unconditionally.”

Many of us may know the Jodo Shinshu teachings that say we are accepted just as we are through Amida Buddha's other-centred power. But when I talked with her, I sensed that she understood that teaching with the heart-mind, not with her head.

I still remember that one day she said “I am not good Buddhist.” I thought she was a good person and a good Buddhist, because she always helped others without asking for anything in return. But she said No. I wondered why she would say that about herself.

Even though she was very kind and thoughtful, maybe she felt it was not very much. Maybe she understood that as humans, our kindness is limited compared to the

great benevolence of Amida Buddha. When we compare our own compassion with Amida's great benevolence, we might feel small, because our compassion is limited.

Amida Buddha is also called a Buddha of the immeasurable light and life. The light expresses Amida's great wisdom and the light expresses Amida's great compassion. When we encounter the Immeasurable light and life, it's hard to say out loud that I am a good person or Buddhist.

I think if I told her “You are so humble,” her answer would also be humble. She would give the credit to Amida Buddha and say “Amida Buddha grew my Buddha seed, and that is what makes me humble.”

I don't want all of you to say you are a bad Buddhist, like she said about herself. But we can learn something from her behavior.

Last year, I was invited to her house to do her own funeral consultation with her. I usually do funeral consultations with the family after someone has passed away, but she wanted to prepare and make sure everything is settled and let her family know they didn't need to worry. When I did her funeral consultation, I thought she already accepted her death. It's very difficult to consider our own death, because it makes us feel anxiety.

The death we can know is the death of others, but not our own. In other words, we can think about the experience of death of others through funerals. However, no one can experience their own death. Moreover, it is impossible to do your own funeral by yourself.

In my last (March) Guiding Light article, I introduced you to a book written by Erich Fromm. He said “The future is full of uncertainty. Nothing is certain in the future. The only thing that is certain to happen in the future is death.”

Thinking about death leads to isolation. That isolation creates a sense of loneliness. That loneliness creates great anxiety. Even though we wish to go to the Pure Land with others at the same time, it's impossible.

Therefore, there is a phrase “独生独死独去独来 *dokusho dokushi dokkyo dokurai*” in our larger sutra. That means all sentient beings are born alone and must die alone. No one can replace them. This is truth.

When we are anxious when faced with this difficult truth of death, this is when we can encounter the meaning of Nembutsu. This is when we can appreciate Amida Buddha because Amida Buddha has fulfilled the primal vow never to leave us alone. The Amida's activities embodied sound of Namo Amida Butsu reaches us whenever and wherever.



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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

**Date:** Sunday, April 30, 2023  
**Time:** 1:00 pm  
**Place:** Toronto Buddhist Church, Social Hall  
1011 Sheppard Ave. West, Toronto, Ontario

The Board of Directors of Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to notify all members about the Annual General Meeting of Members which will be held **in person** at the time, and date indicated above, and cordially invites all members to attend in person and vote on the matters raised at the Meeting. The following matters will be raised at the Meeting:

1. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday, March 20, 2022;
2. Presentation of Financial Statements of the Temple for the year ended October 31, 2022;
3. Consideration and approval of the Budget for the year ending October 31, 2023;
4. Election of Co-Presidents and Directors;
5. Election of Directors;

Such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

Please note that while attendance at the Meeting is open to all friends of the Temple, only members\* of the Temple will be entitled to speak and vote on any matters coming before the meeting. We ask all Members who are planning to attend, to please register with the office by email at [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca) or by phone (416) 534-4302. A light lunch will be served after the morning service.

If you are unable to attend the Meeting, you may nominate a Proxy to vote at the Meeting on your behalf by completing the form of Proxy attached to this Notice as Schedule A. You may nominate Darlene Rieger or another member of the Temple of your choice as your Proxy. To be valid, properly completed Proxies may be mailed or sent electronically to the Temple and must be received by the Temple on or before 4:00 pm on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

\*A member of the Temple is (a) one who has been designated by the Temple as an honorary member, or (b) an individual whose written application for membership has been accepted and who has paid his or her membership fee for 2022.

**SCHEDULE A****TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****April 30, 2023, 1:00 PM****PROXY****To: The Board of Directors of Toronto Buddhist Church**

I, the undersigned, am a member of Toronto Buddhist Church. By means of this Proxy, I hereby appoint (check one of the two boxes below):

☐ **Darlene Rieger**

☐ \_\_\_\_\_ (Print name of member you choose as Proxy),

as my nominee to attend at the Annual General Meeting of Toronto Buddhist Church to be held on April 30, 2023 with full power and authority to act and vote on my behalf on all matters coming before the Meeting to the same extent as I would be entitled to act and vote if I were personally present at such Meeting.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

**This Proxy must be returned to Toronto Buddhist Church by mail or electronically and received by the Temple on or before 10:00 am, April 26, 2023.**



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

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 **May**. All are invited and welcome to attend.

<b>AOKI</b> , Matsuye	<b>KAWAI</b> , Tetsuo Ted	<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Sagen	<b>SHIMODA</b> , Yasuko Helen
<b>BANDO</b> , Yoshio	<b>KISHITA</b> , Gunso	<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Tsugio	<b>SHIMODA</b> , Yoshio Joe
<b>DOI</b> , Pauline	<b>KITAMURA</b> , Inis Shimae	<b>NAKAHARA</b> , Yosanji	<b>SHIRAISHI</b> , Kiwano
<b>EBATA</b> , Miyoko Merle	<b>KITAMURA</b> , Teruko	<b>NAKAI</b> , Hisako	<b>SHOJI</b> , Tsunejiro
<b>ENDO</b> , Aiko	<b>KITAMURA</b> , Teruyo	<b>NAKAMOTO</b> , Nisuke	<b>SUMIOKA</b> , Tsuyako
<b>FUJIMOTO</b> , Gloria Hama-ko	<b>KITAZAKI</b> , Dianne Naomi	<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Kayo	<b>SUZUKI</b> , Setsu
<b>FUJIMOTO</b> , Kazuyo Kay	<b>KITAZAKI</b> , Frank Masaki	<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Mineko	<b>TABATA</b> , Tao
<b>FUJIMOTO</b> , Seki	<b>KITAMURA</b> , Zenichi	<b>NAKAMURA</b> , Yoshiyo	<b>TAKAHASHI</b> , Akiko
<b>FUJINO</b> , Tsuta	<b>KIYONAGA</b> , Kihei	<b>NAKANISHI</b> , Asako	<b>TAKAHASHI</b> , Chozo
<b>FUJINO</b> , Denzo	<b>KODAMA</b> , Masa	<b>NEKODA</b> , Tokuyo	<b>TAKAHASHI</b> , Suga
<b>FUKUDA</b> , Tsugiko	<b>KOHARA</b> , Akihei Joe	<b>NISHI</b> , Shizue	<b>TAKAHASHI</b> , Shigetoshi Michael
<b>FUKUMA</b> , Motoko	<b>KOJIMA</b> , Shigeno Ishii	<b>NISHI</b> , Shoichi	<b>TAKADA</b> , Morio
<b>FURUKAWA</b> , Ichi	<b>KOMATSU</b> , Nobuko Bessie	<b>NISHIHAMA</b> , Toshiharu	<b>TAKEDA</b> , Shun
<b>GOTO</b> , Kay Kinue	<b>KONDO</b> , Torazo Bob	<b>NISHIKAWA</b> , Tomio	<b>TAKENO</b> , Masao
<b>HAMA</b> , Fusako Mary	<b>KONDO</b> , Michie	<b>NISHIMURA</b> , Chiyeko Janet	<b>TANIISHI</b> , Tadayoshi Tad
<b>HASHIMOTO</b> , Matasaku	<b>KONO</b> , Nobu	<b>NISHIJIMA</b> , Uhei	<b>TANINO</b> , Chiyo
<b>HAYASHI</b> , Haruno	<b>KOZAI</b> , Tatsu	<b>NISHIMURA</b> , Genshichi	<b>TERAKITA</b> , Hiroshi
<b>HAYASHI</b> , Marge Mitsuko	<b>KOZAI</b> , William Toyonobu	<b>NISHIMURA</b> , Haru	<b>TERAKITA</b> , Imae
<b>HAYASHI</b> , Miye	<b>KUMAGAWA</b> , Morio	<b>NOZUYE</b> , Teo	<b>TERAKITA</b> , Tomiko
<b>HAYASHI</b> , Yei	<b>KUMANO</b> , Hatsue	<b>OHASHI</b> , Keiko Kay	<b>TOHANA</b> , Tamotsu Tony
<b>HIRAI</b> , Tom Fukutaro	<b>LABERGE</b> , Kyoko	<b>OHASHI</b> , Kiyotaro	<b>TSUJI</b> , George
<b>HISAKI</b> , Kanekichi Jack	<b>MARUYAMA</b> , Fusako	<b>OHASHI</b> , Takeo	<b>TSUJIMOTO</b> , Chieko Clare
<b>HOSAKI</b> , Lena Teruko	<b>MATSUBARA</b> , Chonosuke	<b>OHASHI</b> , Yosoya	<b>TSUJIUCHI</b> , Hiroshi
<b>ICHII</b> , Chiyomatsu	<b>MATSUMOTO</b> , Misao	<b>OHASHI</b> , Yosuke	<b>TSUJIUCHI</b> , Kay Kazue
<b>ICHIYEN</b> , Chiyoko	<b>MICHIBATA</b> , Shioge	<b>OHATA</b> , Eiji	<b>TSUSHIMA</b> , Iku
<b>IDENOUE</b> , Ichiro	<b>MITSUKI</b> , Matsue Mary	<b>OKUMA</b> , Wai	<b>UCHIDA</b> , John Tsutomu
<b>IKEBATA</b> , Hiroshi Roy	<b>MIZUYABU</b> , Carl Kazumi	<b>OMORI</b> , Toyokichi	<b>USAMI</b> , Mataichi
<b>IMAI</b> , Tomi	<b>MORI</b> , Diane Miyeko	<b>ONISHI</b> , Hatsuno	<b>UYEDA</b> , Miye Marie
<b>ISHIDA</b> , Yuriko	<b>MORI</b> , Sute	<b>OYAMA</b> , Fukujiro	<b>UYEDA</b> , Toyotaro
<b>ISOZAKI</b> , Michiko	<b>MOTOMURA</b> , Noboru	<b>OYAMA</b> , Shokichi	<b>UYEYAMA</b> , Kiyoshi
<b>ITO</b> , Cesar Massaro	<b>MUKAI</b> , Fumiye	<b>SAITO</b> , Jennifer Naomi	<b>WAKABAYASHI</b> , Shoichi
<b>IWAGASE</b> , Eiko	<b>MURAKAMI</b> , Hideo Bill	<b>SAKURA</b> , Fusako	<b>WAKABAYASHI</b> , Yaye
<b>KAGETSU</b> , Toyo	<b>MURAKAMI</b> , Kikutaro	<b>SANO</b> , Senji	
<b>KAWABATA</b> , Emiko Amy	<b>MURATA</b> , Eiko	<b>SATO</b> , Take	
<b>KAWAI</b> , Aiko Teresa	<b>MURATA</b> , Tome	<b>SAWADA</b> , Yoshiko	
<b>KAWAI</b> , Nobu	<b>NAKAGAWA</b> , Masao	<b>SAWAOKA</b> , Yoshimitsu	

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

WATANABE, Kana

YABU, Jitsukazu Jimmy

YABU, Masako

YAJIMA, Mieko

YAMASHIRO, Nagisa

YAMASHITA, Robert Ichizo

YAMASHITA, Sadako

YAMASHITA, Shintaro

Jonathan Yule is a friend and colleague. He and I met through the Master of Pastoral Studies program at Emmanuel College of the Univ. of Toronto and the Toronto School of Theology where we both studied Buddhist Psychospiritual Care (a.k.a Spiritually integrated Psychotherapy). As part of our training, students led rituals and services so we could all get a taste of the different expressions of faith traditions. Naturally, I used to conduct Shin Buddhist services. During the pandemic, these services also went online - which is just as well, because Jonathan was enrolled in the program from where he lives in Halifax, N.S.

Also during the pandemic, Greg Chor (Vancouver Buddhist Temple) and I started a once-monthly online gathering sponsored by Living Dharma Centre (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada). This group was called Living Dharma Sangha and was meant to be a virtual space where people who are new to Buddhism could come and experience a typical Shin Buddhist service format in the hopes that if the opportunity came, it would make their visit to our temples a little bit easier. We designed it so that there were explanations and descriptions, and we had lots of time for questions and discussion.

Jonathan came to these every month. After a couple of years, we started talking about how a once-monthly meeting was not enough, especially for him, living so far from a Shin Buddhist temple and sangha. I started thinking about being in the same kind of situation as Jonathan, recognizing that I would soon be posted (by the Canadian Armed Forces) to a place where I would not have easy and regular access to a temple the way I did in Vancouver or now in Toronto. We decided to start a weekly service for people who had the shared experience of not having easy access - for whatever reason - to a temple.

Shin Buddhism places a lot of emphasis on Sangha - the community of followers, walking alongside each other on the path to the Pure Land. We thought one way we could create this sense of

community in a virtual space was to have lay people share Dharma Messages; 3-5 minutes of sharing their personal appreciation of the Buddhadharma. Lay gatherers and I alternate giving Dharma Messages and Dharma Talks on a weekly basis. In this way, we have a variety of voices sharing their appreciation of the Buddhist teachings. We call this gathering the *Dharma Exchange*.



Jonathan is a reminder for me that we should never take for granted the access we have to a sangha and to a temple. We think it is so easy to “learn Buddhism” with so much information on the internet - “Just ask Google Sensei!” But what Google Sensei can never teach us is how to engage Buddhism in our hearts, because that requires a community.

The following is a transcript of one of Jonathan’s Dharma Messages from February. I hope his words are a reminder for you, as it is for me, to recognise the specialness of Shin Buddhism and having a temple where we can gather together to hear each other’s *nembutsu*.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Joanne Yuasa

For the last few years, I have read the Buddhist magazine Tricycle. It comes with a lot of articles about the dharma. Some of it is light, others are academic and deeper. This week I was reading an article about the concept *anatta*, which means no-self: an essential Buddhist teaching, that there is nothing intrinsic about the self. The article was debating whether this was an epistemological or metaphysical concept. This article was going back and forth, and looking at what teachers throughout the centuries have had to say about this subject. And if this is all going over your head, same

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here! I have taken many Buddhist studies courses throughout my degrees, but I was struggling to follow what this article was saying.

This is not to dismiss this argument, because it is important. There is a place for theory and academia, discussions, debates, and study. The intellect is a tool that helps us define our framework, and help us understand our actions and goals. In our age of rampant misinformation and conspiracy theories, I am skeptical of people who completely dismiss the intellect. But it is a tool, it is not the end goal. I do not believe that enlightenment comes from reading books or listening to lectures.

I think to a lot western Buddhists, the Pure Land traditions, and specifically Jodo Shin, come across as “religious” and “superstitious” because there is chanting instead of meditation, and it’s about devotion to Amida Buddha as opposed to working on your enlightenment. But that’s what has drawn me to Jodo Shin. It gets me out of my head, and into my heart and body. And that is truly radical for a society that lives in

its head, and is looking for satisfaction, control, certainty. There is a surrender that comes with suspending your disbelief and imagining that there is a being that has endless compassion for you and letting something else into your life. I don’t have a strong belief that when I die I for sure will wake up in the Pure Land as a bodhisattva, because that’s looking for certainty and that belongs to the intellectual realm. But rather, I trust that things will turn out how they are meant to be. Trust belongs to the heart realm.

Anyways, do read Tricycle magazine! It’s a very good magazine, and I’ve used it as a citation for many papers. The intellect is a good thing, but it is a tool and not the end goal. At its best, it can help us make sense of the world and refine our worldview, at its worst it disconnects us from reality, our emotions, and others. And like I mentioned in my last dharma message about the importance of sangha, enlightenment is not a solitary journey, but one that depends on and trusts in community and others.

~Jonathan Yule (printed with permission)



Toronto Buddhist Church  
Online Speakers Series

## "BUDDHISM AND..."



### Medical Assistance In Dying



**Rev. Dr. Roland Ikuta**  
BSc, MD, FRCP(C) ret.  
Former MAID Assessor  
Kyoshi minister,  
Buddhist Temples of  
Southern Alberta (JSBTC)

3 Apr., 2023 (Pt.1)  
and

1 May, 2023 (Pt.2)

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

Registration is FREE  
via this QR code or clicking  
on the underlined

Click to  
Register



HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND  
THE TWO 'MAID' WORKSHOPS.

PLEASE REGISTER WITH THE QR  
CODE. **DO NOT REGISTER ON THE  
TBC WEBSITE.**

Toronto Buddhist Church  
1011 Sheppard Avenue W., M3H 2T7  
tbc@tbc.on.ca  
416-534-4302



**THE BOUGHS THAT BEAR MOST, BOW LOWEST**

The Nembutsu is the great compassion of Amida Buddha that never overlooks any of us. That is why whenever we hear the Nembutsu, we feel a sense of relief. At the

same time, we cannot help but hang our heads in humility. It is like “**the boughs that bear most, bow lowest.**”

Gassho

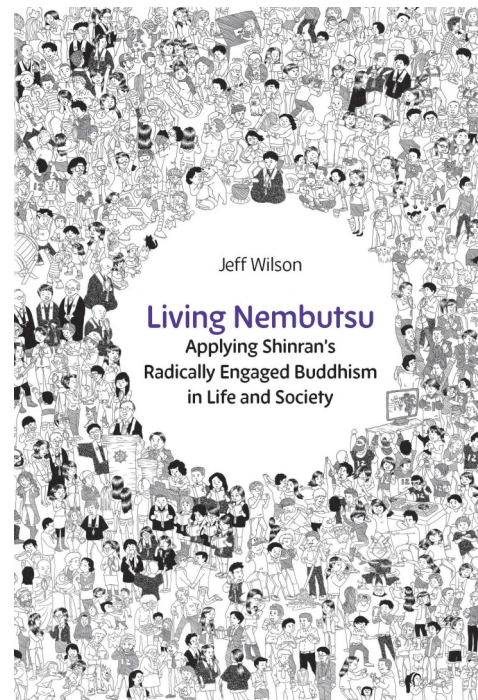
Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi

I'm pleased to announce the publication of my latest book, *Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran's Radically Engaged Buddhism in Life and Society*. Many times, I've encountered Jodo Shinshu Buddhists asking, “What is the relevance of Pure Land Buddhism today?” “How would Shinran respond to movements like Black Lives Matter or the fight for transgender inclusion?” “What is the Jodo Shinshu stance on this or that social issue (abortion, war, euthanasia, capitalism, the environment, policing, the death penalty—and many more)?” Wrestling with these sorts of questions is the goal of the book. To do so, I looked to the example of Shinran and considered what we might learn from his life and teachings. He was a fierce but humble proponent of the common person during a time of intense social chaos and natural disasters, who understood that the way forward could only be found through reliance on the Dharma and solidarity with other suffering people.

In the book, I start my exploration by considering the ways in which Shinran delivered a radical new approach to Buddhism that empowered people who had been left out of the elite Buddhism favoured by the rich and powerful of his day. We're so used to Jodo Shinshu in the temples that we often aren't really aware of just how revolutionary his teaching was in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. I explain how the Jodo Shinshu way of Buddhism arose from Shinran's own experiences of persecution, deprivation, and exclusion. I also discuss how Rennyo's own experiences of poverty and being a refugee affected his Dharma teaching. Then I examine what Shinran's story might teach us about LGBTQ+ inclusion and how to relate to the growing crisis of refugees around the world. From those two examples, I move on to delineate six principles that I think could guide Jodo Shinshu Buddhists as we engage with social and environmental concerns. Finally, I discuss how various concepts from the Pure Land tradition such as sangha,

bombu, mappo, and deep hearing relate to the issues I've raised.

*Living Nembutsu* doesn't have all the answers to the problems we face (sorry!), and it reflects my own personal positionality and politics, of course. But I hope that it serves to stimulate thought for all readers, as they explore what Shinran had to offer us and search for answers that make sense in their own lives. Shinran isn't just an old saint from long ago: he's a forceful example of compassion and source of wisdom that continues to provide crucial lessons for us in our mixed-up difficult times today.

**KEIROKAI, MARCH 19, 2023 SERVICE**

Congratulations to all the Keirokai honourees. What better occasion than Ohigan, the marking of the spring equinox, to celebrate our members who attained Kiju ( 77 years ), Beiju ( 88 years ), Hakuju ( 99 years ) and Hyakuju ( 100 years ) and over 100 years. It was also marked by a deli bento box luncheon with entertainment provided by Bob Nishikawa, Setsuko Koyata, Kim Nakagawa, the TBC Buyo Group and Kids Sangha.

**Kiju** - Carol Howell, June Lee, Carol Tabata, Roy Tanaka

**Beiju** - Roy Hama, Mishiko Ide, Sue Kobayashi, Setsuko Koyata, Setsuko Mukai, Cathy Tanaka, Eiko Terashita, May Tateishi, Mitsuko Wakabayashi

**Hakuju** - Mitsuyoshi Ito, Misako Kumabe

**Hyakuju** - Betty Ura, Yuki Kondo, Mary Rumble

**100 plus** - Asaye Amemori (101), Fumi Kono (101), Mits Sumiya (101), Misao Tehara (102), Masako Yoshida ( 103), Miyo Takata (103), Teruko Otani (104)



**SHOTSUKI, MARCH 5, 2023**



**OHIGAN SERVICE & KEIROKAI PRESENTATIONS**



**MARCH 19, 2023**





**KEIROKAI GATHERING & ENTERTAINMENT**



**MARCH 19, 2023**



**CELEBRATING JOANNE SENSEI WITH A HIGH TEA**



**MARCH 18, 2023**



## CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS



## APPLAUSE! APPLAUSE!



Kids Sangha did an awesome performance on stage for the audience and many recipients during the Keirokai celebration.

## APRIL'S THEME: SAKYAMUNI BUDDHA

**April 16, 2023** – Hanamatsuri – Buddha's Birth – Kanbutsu-e

The pouring of sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha represents the gentle rain perfumed by flower petals. It is said that the rain had fallen in Lumbini Garden when Siddhartha was born.

## MAY'S THEME : SHINRAN SHONIN

SHINRAN SHONIN'S BIRTH – GOTAN-E

**May 7th** – Who was Shinran Shonin?

Let's talk and learn about Shinran Shonin's childhood and youth

Let's talk about and share stories why our childhood is important.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** - continue our discussion and learning about Shinran Shonin

### **Please Note:**

The Kids Sangha service begins at 10:15 a.m. Please be mindful of arriving a few minutes earlier, so that the service can begin on time.

We would like to welcome our newest Kid Sangha member, Naz. He joined the service last week with his parents and we hope to see him again for Kids Sangha.

Everyone is welcome to come to the service and then participate in the classroom activities and program that follows the service from 10:45 to 12:00 p.m.

With gratitude,

The Kids Sangha Team



## **KIDS SANGHA**

We have some wonderful submissions from some of our Lumbini campers about their experiences at camp.

Our first submission is from Alexandra Uchida.

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My first experience with Lumbini was amazing! I made great friends and memories with my time there. One of my favourite memories was swimming at the lake as well as Canoeing/Kayaking. It was exhausting but still so much fun and I learned to steer a canoe! Aya and I drifted across the lakes, admiring the wildlife and saw many plants, dragonflies, and a frog or two. Afterwards we were exhausted but it was worth it.



Second submission is from Yuki Choi.

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Hi, my name is Yuki and I am 9 years old. Last summer I spent 6 nights at Camp Lumbini when I was 8 years old and had a great time. It was my first time being at sleepover camp, and I have so many great memories but my favourite one was meeting new friends and getting to know them and joking around. We played games, went to the beach, we did morning service and chores together, we also went to do fun stuff every night. The food was delicious and we ate desserts too! I really want to go again but my family might be going away this summer. I am sad about that but maybe next year. □







### **Calling all youth ages 8-15!**

We will be having Camp Lumbini Sunday, July 30th - Saturday, August 5th

You can earn volunteer hours for your support!

Jr. Counselors 16

Sr. Counselors 17+

For more details, contact Abigail Kataoka - [abigail-kataoka@hotmail.com](mailto:abigail-kataoka@hotmail.com)

Thank you to Mizuki for creating this wonderful poster!

### **FOREIGN COINS and USED STAMP COLLECTION**

#### **Attention Temple Members**

Now that the Temple is open again, the JSBTC Women's Federation would appreciate members collecting and donating any used stamps and foreign coins they may receive or have.

Please bring in any foreign coins/bills from your travels or stamps from correspondence. The Women's Federation collects for Air Canada charity. Any collection of stamps and coins/bills will be sent to Save The Children. The stamps will be taken to the Women's Federation Annual Meeting at the end of April, 2023 (or when in person meetings begin again). If you have any stamps or coins/bills, a box is provided in the lobby of the Temple. Thank you for your help and support.



JSBTC Women's Federation

### **Bon Odori 2023**

It has been a relatively mild winter and we are awaiting the arrival of spring. Celebrate spring's arrival by learning Bon odori, Japanese folk dances, at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Obon is a Buddhist custom to honour one's ancestors.

Everyone is welcome and step-by-step instructions are given. No experience is necessary but it's best to attend from the beginning as new dances are introduced throughout the course of the practices.

Practices are held every Tuesday and Friday night starting Tuesday, April 18, 2023, from 8:00 – 9:30pm at the Toronto Buddhist Church and will continue until the Bon Festival. It will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, 7:00pm at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

**Please note that masks will be required in the TBC.**

For more information, please contact the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Toronto Buddhist Church  
1011 Sheppard Avenue West  
416-534-4302  
[tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca)



# Seniors Eat \*\*\*Free\*\*\*

(When Accompanied by a Grandchild - Limit 1 Senior per Grandchild)

## TBC Sangha Volunteer Group Invites you to the 2023 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Sunday April 16, 2023 after Hanamatsuri service  
Downstairs in the Social Hall

Yes, that's right - **Seniors Eat Free**  
when accompanied by a grandchild!

Enjoy your choice of a scrumptious  
Roast Beef, succulent Salmon, or fabu-  
lous Falafel full course meal.  
**Roast Beef prepared by Chef Mitch  
Bates from Oji Seichi Ramen Restau-  
rant.**



Tickets are \$20.00 for Adults, \$10.00 for Youth (17 and under) Kids Sangha Free. Tickets will be on sale Sunday Starting March 26<sup>th</sup>. Complimentary tickets for seniors are restricted to one senior per grandchild. Tickets for unaccompanied seniors is \$10.00/each.

Grand kids! Please take advantage of this opportunity to bring your grand parents to enjoy a complimentary meal - and don't forget to bring your other family members too!

Hope to see you all there.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka (Cary@Kataoka.ca)  
President, TBC Sangha Volunteer  
Group



### Glossary:

Grandparent with grandchild : Any person who has a grandchild

Grandchild : Any person who has a grandparent

Youth : 17 and under

Kids Sangha: Any child registered for kids Sangha



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
*A Jodo Shinshu Temple*

1011 Sheppard Ave. W



# DONBURI DINE-IN

3-Course Fundraiser Dinner!

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023

ENJOY AN EVENING AT THE  
TEMPLE  
SINGLE 6:30PM SEATING

TICKETS

\$45 FOR 1 OR

\$250 FOR A TABLE OF 6

Door Prizes! Cash Bar! Music! FUN!

Contact

[fundraisertbc@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisertbc@gmail.com) to  
reserve your seat

Get your  
tickets by  
Sunday  
April 16th!

## DONBURI DINE-IN FUNDRAISER DINNER

### Your Support is needed!



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### We need your help:

- volunteers the week of April 23
- volunteers at the dinner, April 29
- door prize donations (\$10-20 range)

Email [fundraisertbc@gmail.com](mailto:fundraisertbc@gmail.com) if you can help!

### Japanese snack mix (Senbei) workshop

FREE! Led by Gail Ida of the Denver Buddhist Temple

Friday, April 28, 7pm at TBC in Social Hall







# HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR YOUR 2023 TBC MEMBERSHIP?

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.

## **TBC WILL BE THERE FOR YOU BUT NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

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 2023. The Temple needs your support to continue to thrive, and it will with your support.

## **REGULAR MEMBERSHIP** (valid Jan 1 - Dec 31)

- To be recognized as a Temple member, please complete the application form as early as possible at the start of each year
- Membership card will be sent once your signed application and membership fee or your promise to pay the total fee have been received
- Please note membership this year is a minimum of \$145.00

## **HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP**

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

Can't make it to the Temple? You can submit your application and membership fee online at **tbc.on.ca**





# TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*A Jodo Shinshu Temple*

## 2023 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 2023 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, 2023. 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, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The Individual Membership Fee for 2023 is a minimum of \$145. 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.**

### JSBTC WOMEN'S FEDERATION CARD FUNDRAISER

The JSBTC Women's Federation has produced blank cards for sale with images chosen from the many temple members across Canada who submitted designs to feature on the cards. The final artwork chosen for the cards are: Cherry Blossoms by Laurie Takeda of Calgary Buddhist Temple, Castle Two Trees by Y. Izumi of Buddhist Temples of Southern Calgary and Calla Lilies by Ted Ikuna of Steveston Buddhist Temple. The cards can be used for any occasion.

This Fund Raising Project will help offset the costs of supporting travel for 4 representatives to attend the 2023 World Women's Conference in Kyoto.

A pack of 6 blank cards (4.25" x 5.5") are \$10 a pack. Each pack has 2 cards of each of the three designs.

Please inquire in the office to purchase the cards.



### MARCH THANK YOU'S

A great big Thank You to:

- ◆ Joanne sensei for arranging the naijin (altar) flowers
- ◆ Emi Nakano for making the manju o-sonae (altar offerings)
- ◆ Donna Nakano (rice) offerings
- ◆ To all the volunteers who are always at the Temple to help out every day, week or month.

We are always in need of volunteers. Please let the office know if you are available to volunteer or fill out the volunteer application on our website, [tbc@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca). Let's have some new people to thank.

### **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.

Gassho



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