



Guiding Light

April , 2024



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

		Kids' Sangha 10:30 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person & Zoom
APRIL 14, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE REV. HASHIMO- TO	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE
APRIL 21, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE HANAMATSURI	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE
APRIL 28, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE JEFF WILSON SENSEI	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE
MAY 5, 2024	MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE (SHOTSUKI)	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	JAPANESE
MAY 12, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE

Makuragyo (Pillow-side) Service

When families consider having a Pillow-side service (Makuragyo), they are encouraged to notify the Temple with advance notice. This offers the Temple member time to adjust their schedule accordingly. Depending on the wishes of the family, the Temple member is quite prepared to conduct the service immediately following the passing away of the loved one. The family may prefer to have the service at an earlier time so that more family members can attend the service. Providing information, prior

to a passing away, is important for the Temple member too, not only to adjust their schedule, but to prepare for the service. The early contact with the Temple member also provides an opportunity for them to offer information and answer questions the family may have. Please call the Temple 416-534-4302 and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as someone is available. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation. Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 21-Hanamatsuri Family Banquet(pg 9)**
- April 23 Bon Odori practice starts (pg 7)**
- May 26—Keirokai (NEW DATE)**
- June 2—Shosanshiki**

HANAMATSURI**APRIL 21, 2024**

The Flower Festival celebrates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who became Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha born circa 563BCE. The more proper name is Kanbtsu-e (bathe-Buddha-gathering). This refers to the ritual of pouring sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha. It is said that a gentle rain perfumed with flower petals fell in Lumbini Garden when Siddhartha was born.

GOTAN-E**MAY 26, 2024**

May 21st, 1173 is the date of Shinran Shonin's birth. The founder our Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism brought the teachings of the Buddha to the common people all over Japan. His unique vision of the other power of Amida Buddha rather self power proved much more inclusive than what was essentially learned by the educated.

Happy News**MAY 25TH & 26TH, 2024**

Rev. Grant Ikuta will be visiting Toronto for Keirokai on Sun., May 26th. We'll also have the pleasure of hearing his talk on Sat., May 25th at 11am. The topic is "There and Back Again" - Jodo Shinshu, the Gate of Listening.

WELCOME REV. KENSHO HASHIMOTO

Our eagerly awaited new resident minister Rev. Kensho Hashimoto has arrived in Toronto April 1st. After graduating from Doishisha University in Kyoto with a history degree, he studied at Ryukoku University to take a master's degree in practical Shin Buddhism. During a six month sojourn in Kamloops studying English as a Second Language, he assisted Rev. Hirano at the Kamloops Buddhist Temple and learned how to curl. Rev. Hashimoto has yet to be officially trained to be a Kaikyoshi (overseas) minister. His 10 week training will take place in Berkeley, California from September until mid November 2024.

Shosanshiki or Hatsumairi**JUNE 2, 2024**

Both referred to as, the infant presentation by the parents to the Sangha. However, any new young members may be included in Shosanshiki.

Please contact the office 416-534-4302 or email tbc@tbc.on.ca with your child's information by May 20, 2024

Bon Odori 2024

Spring is coming, spring is coming! Celebrate spring's arrival by learning Bon odori, Japanese folk dances, at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Obon is a Buddhist tradition 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 23, 2024, from 8:00 – 9:30 pm at the Toronto Buddhist Church and will continue until the Bon Festival. It will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

For more information, please contact the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Toronto Buddhist Church
1011 Sheppard Avenue West
416-534-4302
tbc@tbc.on.ca

**NEEDING HELP**

We are looking for people to help with the after service tea and clean up. Susan Ebisuzaki has tirelessly been doing it, but now needs help. Volunteer, so members can continue to socialize after service. Please submit your name to the office. The more volunteers the easier the task.

Hoping you will consider helping.



Reflections on the International Transgender Day of Visibility

This past weekend I had the great pleasure of taking part in the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America (BSCENA) working meeting at Berkeley University in California. Among the many highlights of my trip, was attending, along with my colleagues, the Berkeley Jodo Shinshu Temple's Sunday service on March 31st, which is also the International Transgender Day of Visibility. Given the significance of the day, the Rev. CJ Sokugan Dunford (they/them/theirs) who identifies as non-binary and non-gender conforming, offered a powerful and deeply moving Dharma Talk on their personal experiences of social rejection and bullying because of their gender expression, which had taken a tremendous toll on their mental and spiritual health. I was deeply impressed by Rev. CJ's resilience in the face of such adversity. They credit their Japanese friends for their caring for, and taking them in during their darkest times. Today, Rev. CJ is a Jodo Shinshu assistant minister, caring for the well-being of others, which includes making safe Buddhist spaces for transgender folk in the Berkeley community.



In their Dharma talk, Rev. CJ reflected upon the social construction of 'good,' 'bad,' 'normal,' and 'abnormal,' and how such dualistic thinking causes great harm and indeed can 'kill' transgender people. They told the story of Nex Benedict, a young non-binary teen who loved cats, video games and reading, who was loved and cared for by their grandmother, Sue Benedict. Nex was increasingly bullied by other kids because of their gender expression. On one occasion Nex was attacked and badly beaten by three girls in the school washroom. The next day, at the tender age of 16 Nex, a precious human being, took their own life. As I listened to Rev. CJ's talk about Nex's life and how the social constructions of what is good, bad, normal and abnormal, caused them such suffering, I felt such sadness as tears flowed down my cheeks. I looked around me and saw that others were crying as well. Reflecting on the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, CJ reminded us that good and bad, wholesome and evil lurk in every one of us – or as Carl Jung says, we all have a shadow side. Given that each moment in our lives is produced by causes and conditions, including socialization, each one of us, given the circumstances, is capable of thinking, speaking, or doing something that is harmful to others. Hence it is important for us to ask not why so-and-so is so 'bad' or 'evil', but rather, how am I capable of acting in ways that are unwholesome and unkind to others, and to commit to wholesome actions. Rev. CJ's Dharma message was a powerful reminder that given the causes and conditions of social messaging, each one of us is capable of being one of the children who bullied Nex.

I reflected on my own Dharma message on March 3, 2024, where I spoke about how the things that we do at Temple are a lived expression of putting into practice Jodo Shinshu principles and values. I used the example of the Toronto Buddhist Church's entry in this year's Pride events as a concrete action of our faith in Amida Buddha's Primal Vow of love and compassion for all living beings. Amida Buddha does not discriminate based on gender expression, wealth, social status, ethnic or cultural background. Amida Buddha accepts all of us, and all parts of us – the good and the bad – just the way we are. In the same way, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we must work within our own hearts and as a compassionate community towards accepting others just the way they are, rather than how we think they ought to be. May we all hold one another in love and compassion, especially those among us who are marginalized and experience violence and bullying because of our gender expression. Let us always remember in our hearts and in our saying of the Nembutsu, that Amida Buddha loves and accepts all of us just the way we are.

In Gassho,

Jenny Bright, PhD, RP

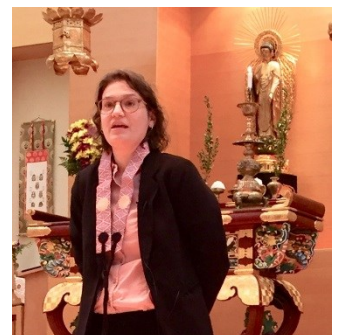
MARCH 3, 2024 SHOTSUKI

DHARMA TALK BY DR. JENNIFER BRIGHT

Members enjoyed a wonderful Dharma talk presented by Board and Temple member

Dr. Jennifer Bright.

Thank you Dr. Bright



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.

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

CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS

APRIL'S THEME: Hanamatsuri / Spring / Growth



The Kid's Service and Dharma School runs every Sunday.

The Kid's Service begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Hondo.

Please be mindful and arrive a few minutes early to get settled so that the service can begin on time.

Following the service, the kids will go downstairs to Dharma School where the theme for the month and other activities will be explored further in a fun and interactive way.

EVERYONE is welcome to join us.



With gratitude,

The Kids Sangha Team

BRING JUST ONE THING

Everyone is aware of the rising prices of all foodstuffs. In lieu of a food drive, we encourage everyone who comes to the temple for either services or classes, to bring one non perishable item from their cupboard; once or every time you attend Temple or whenever you think of it. This will be a year long project. Hopefully this is less burdensome than donating a bag of food occasionally. Of course we will also welcome bags of food if that is better for you. There will be a box in the lobby for donations. Food banks and neighborhood pantries will benefit from your donations year round.

Please do not include food that is close to or past its 'best before date'.

Thank you for your generosity and thinking of the less fortunate.

TBC



March THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Bev Kato for helping with after service tea
- ◆ Nina YoshidaMika Shimozato for leading the Kids Sangha service
- ◆ Emi Nakano for making the manju o-sonae (altar offerings).
- ◆ Donna Nakano and Pamela Yoshida for playing the organ during service
- ◆ Pauline Knude for Obuppan
- ◆ Susan Ebisuzaki for tirelessly being the refreshment toban every Sunday.
- ◆ Cary Kataoka and Ken Shigeishi for making sure we have a zoom service.
- ◆ Naomi Tsuji Tamaki and Susan Ebisuzaki for ringing the

Konsho for service

- ◆ Les Tanaka and Ross Yoshida for installing the cork board for the Dhama school
- ◆ To all the volunteers who are always at the Temple to help out every day, week or month.
- ◆ To all those who have been volunteering at the funerals and memorials that have occurred.

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. Let's have some new people to thank.

We hope that you will join our new format toban group. Call the office or email Naomi Tsuji Tamaki at ilovelucy3d@yahoo.com with your questions or to join the group.

2024 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Sunday April 21, 2024 after Hanamatsuri Service

Downstairs in the Social Hall

Grandparents eat ***Free***

(When accompanied by a grandchild - Limit 1 Grandparent per Grandchild)



Yes, that's right - Grandparents eat free when accompanied by a grandchild!
Enjoy your choice of scrumptious Roast Beef, Succulent Salmon, or Fabulous Falafel full course meal.

Roast Beef prepared by Chef Mitch Bates from Oji Seichi Ramen Restaurant



Tickets are Adults \$20.00, Youth (17 and under) \$10.00, Kids (12 and under) Free, Seniors (65 and over) \$10.00

Tickets will be on sale Starting March 24, 2024.

Complimentary tickets for Grandparents are restricted to one grandparent per grandchild.

NEW DATE!

KEIROKAI

Celebrating our young at heart!



敬老会

Sunday, May 26, 2024
we will be honouring Temple members
who are celebrating their
77th (kiju)
88th (beiju)
or 99th (hakuju) year

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon

MORE INFORMATION TO COME!

KEIROKAI 2024

Keirokai is a celebration to show our gratitude and honour those temple members who turn 77 years (Kiju), 88 years (Beiju), 99 years (Hakuju) 100 years (Kakuju) and over 100, . Keirokai honourees please fill out and submit the form to the office by May 13th. Please join us for the service at 11am followed by a bento box lunch with entertainment to follow. All members who are 77 years and over will receive a complimentary lunch. \$15 will be the cost for those who are under 77 years.

We will be featuring our honourees during our Gotane Service on **May 26, 2024 at 11:00 am** in person and via Zoom. Please fill out the form below or send the information via email with the subject line “Keirokai” by May 13, 2024. Please include a picture of yourself that we can show during the service.

You can send your application via email to tbc@tbc.on.ca or darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca ,mail or call into the office at 416-534-4302.

If your family wishes to purchase bentos, extra bentos will be available for purchase for \$20.00. Orders **MUST** be submitted by Sunday May 17th

Remember to fill out your honorary membership form and send it to the office by May 13, 2024!

2024 KEIROKAI HONOUREE

Name (English): Mr./Mrs/Miss.

Last Name in Kanji (if known): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____ ***Please circle: 77 88 99 100 100+***

Will you be attending our Zoom Service on May 26th? Yes No

Would you attend the service in-person if that is an option? Yes No

Did you include a picture of yourself (honouree). Yes No

Email to send Zoom invitation _____

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 (is now auto deposit):** 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.

Gassho

Note: Please use only blue or black ink when writing a cheque. The bank's cheque reader cannot read coloured ink.

Thank you for your co-operation



ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS

Covid-19 has and is still affecting everyone in many ways and that includes the Temple. In-person services attendance is way down; fundraisers are just beginning to get back to 'normal'; donations and memberships again fell short in 2024, our funds are becoming strained. Unfortunately, despite these issues, the Temple still have bills to pay. We find it necessary to raise the Membership and Guiding Light subscription fees for the coming year. With the costs of everything increasing, the Temple feels it cannot forego the increases to the membership (\$155.00) and subscription fees (\$55.00) for 2024. We hope that you understand and will continue to support the Temple so we can continue to spread the Dharma during these difficult times. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Please complete the application on page 12 and return it to the Temple office with your membership fee if applicable. Honorary member **must** also fill out the application for CRA purposes. There is no fee for Honorary member but donations are always appreciated.

Mail: 1011 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, M3H 2T7

Email: darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca

Membership fees can be made by cheque made out to Toronto Buddhist Church; e-transfer (now auto deposit), send to darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca or Paypal (credit card, please check website under 'donation')

Board of Directors

Toronto Buddhist Church



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

*A Jodo Shinshu Temple***2024 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 2024 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, 2024**. 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, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The Individual Membership Fee for 2024 is a minimum of \$155. 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.

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF.

THANK YOU

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APPROACHING**DATES JC WELLNESS COMMITTEE WILL BE AT TBC TO HELP SUBMIT YOUR GRANT**

SUNDAY, MAY 5

SUNDAY, JUNE 2



Japanese Canadian Survivors Health & Wellness Fund

**Are you a Japanese Canadian born
before April 1, 1949, with roots in
British Columbia?**

GRANTS AVAILABLE: ELIGIBILITY:

- **GRANT 1: \$650**
 - For Survivors who did not receive the 2021 Grant that was offered between September 1 to October 31, 2021
 - **GRANT 2: \$4,500**
 - A new grant for living Survivors to support their individual health and wellness needs
- Must be of Japanese descent
 - Born before April 1, 1949
 - Lived in BC before April 1, 1949 OR had parents or grandparents who lived in BC before April 1, 1949
 - Have been directly impacted by the actions of the BC government before April 1, 1949

GRANTS OPEN UNTIL MARCH 31, 2025

HOW TO APPLY

- Apply Online at www.jcwellness.org
- Work with a Regional Outreach Worker
 - Email: help@jcwellness.org Phone: 250-797-6300
- Attend Regional Events



FOR MORE INFORMATION

01/19/2024 V.1



www.jcwellness.org

We are grateful to be doing this work on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples.