



# *Guiding Light*

December, 2024



## **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**

		Kids' Sangha 10:30 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person & Zoom	
DECEMBER 8, 2024	REGULAR SERICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	DENNIS MADOKORO
DECEMBER 15, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	BODHI DAY
DECEMBER 22, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE	
DECEMBER 29, 2024	REGULAR SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE	
DECEMBER 31, 2024	N.Y.E. BELL RINGING	NONE	11:30 PM	NONE	
JANUARY 1, 2025	NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES	NONE	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	TEMPLE WILL BE OPEN FROM 10:00 am-3:00pm
JANUARY 5, 2025	MONTHLY MEMORIAL, SHOTSUKI	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	

**BODHI DAY****DECEMBER 15, 2024**

Bodhi Day or Jodo e is usually celebrated on Dec. 8th. It is said that Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in 528 BCE in the present day Bodhgaya, India.

This was his awakening to the true nature of reality of impermanence and self ego. This realization brought on the awareness of infinite light beyond the self.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BELL RINGING****DECEMBER 31, 2024, 11:30 P.M.**

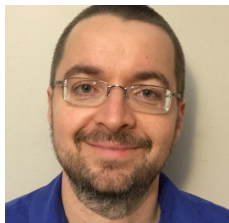
The custom of the ringing of the Temple bell 108 times at the yearend originated in the Chinese Zen monasteries of the Song dynasty. There are said to be 108 transgressions (bonnou in Japanese). This was introduced to the Japanese Zen monasteries during the Kamakura period. The custom of the bell ringing was adopted by other Buddhist sects but sporadically waned and then gained in popularity during the ensuing centuries

**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**



This month, I would like to talk about missionary activities. Normally, we have a tendency not to think of Buddhism as a missionary religion. After all, we've all met missionaries for other religions and they are far pushier than Buddhists. Plus, Buddhism in Canada has often not been especially active with outreach. This is partly out of taking care of our own community, partly out of trying to be a good neighbour and not upset others, and partly because Buddhists encountered serious prejudice in the past. So it is understandable that we haven't always been as outgoing toward the general public as we could have been.

That said, as a historian I have to note that Buddhism has very much been a missionary religion. After all, how do you think Buddhism spread so far from northern India: how did it get south to Sri Lanka, east to Persia, north to Siberia, and west to Japan? They didn't even have the internet and bullet trains back then! It was through the dedicated efforts of countless generations of monks, nuns, and committed laypeople that Buddhism was able to spread across Asia (and now, around the world).

The problem arises when we conceptualize missionary activities as being about pushing our religion on others and trying to replace their beloved beliefs and practices. That is what some Christian and other missionaries have tried to do to us (thankfully, there are many lovely, non-pushy Christians as well). But Buddhist missionaries don't use a self-aggrandizing replacement model. We need to conduct missionary activities, not in order to prove how great our religion is, but because it is the fulfillment of Buddhism itself.

What do I mean when I say that missionary activities are the fulfillment of Buddhism? The spirit of Buddhism is about helping others. That is the bodhisattva path, the way of spirituality through service to others and trying to help reduce the suffering of the world. Dharmakara Bodhisattva practiced on behalf of others for five eons, that is how he was able to

become Amida Buddha. Now, none of us is able to work that hard (I certainly can't!), but we can take the example of the numerous bodhisattvas of the past and apply it today. The reason that we should be sharing Buddhism with other people is that Buddhism may be helpful to them. After all, I hope you who are reading this newsletter have found Buddhism helpful to you. If you have, then it would be appropriate to repay that debt by offering Buddhism to others who may need it as well.

I can recall a time in my life before I became involved in Buddhism. I was a young university student with many questions and confusions about life. If no one had offered Buddhism to me, I'm not sure what my life would be like now. What I do know is that because Buddhism was made available to me, it helped me to settle my spiritual life and become a person oriented toward gratitude and insight. It would be hard to list all the ways I've benefitted from my encounter with the Dharma. I wasn't missionized in the sense that someone pressured me or brainwashed me into joining Buddhism. Rather, kind people caringly made it available to me as a gift, which I chose to accept. I'm deeply thankful that they took the time and effort, and risked rejection or disappointment, in order to give me this gift.

Many people are working hard to offer the gift of Buddhism to those who may benefit from it and are interested in accepting it. I hope that even more of us will get involved in such activities, for the sake of suffering people in our society. And if others decide that Buddhism itself won't be helpful to them at this time (perhaps they already have a perfectly good form of spirituality that nourishes them), then we can look for other ways that we can be helpful and express the bodhisattva spirit. Because it is always offered in the spirit of generosity—not divisiveness—we don't need to fear the effects of missionary activities on Buddhism. There is no need to convert the world to Buddhism. But many people could benefit from exposure to Buddhism—either a little taste or full immersion—and they will never have the opportunity unless we are brave enough to assist them.

In Gassho

Jeff Wilson Sensei

**TEMPLE AND OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS**

December 24	Closed from noon
December 25	Closed
December 26	Closed
December 27	Office is open till December 31
December 31	Closed from noon
December 31	Re-opens at 11:00 pm for Joya no Kane

January 1	Open at 10:30 am 11:00 am Service (E) 1:00 pm Service (J)
TEMPLE WILL REMAIN OPEN TILL 3:00 PM	
January 2	Regular hours, open from 8:30 am—4:30 pm



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

Our monthly memorial services (shotsuki) are usually held on the first Sunday of each month to remember and honour those who have passed away in that month regardless of year.

Usually, mail reminders are sent out to the next of kin but due to changing circumstances we have not always been able to reach families and hope that by publishing the names of those who have passed, we can still reach and remind families and dear friends of the month of their loved ones honouring.

Below is our listing of our members and supporters who have passed away during the month of **December**. All are invited and welcome to attend.

AKAYE, Jeanne Ayako	KAMINO, Tsuneo Roy	MIYAMOTO, Kazuko	NISHIMURA, Robert Toji
BABA, Hatsu	KAMINO, Robert Yasuo	MORI, Kenzo	NISHIMURA, Toshiko
BANDO, Toshio	KARATSU, Rennie Akira	MORI, Kanichi George	NISHIZEKI, Hisakazu
CARROLL, John	KATSURA, Isamu	MORI, Kisa	ODA, Kikue
DMYTRYSHYN, Nicholas	KATSURA, Mosaburo	MORI, Maw Massme	ODA, Kiyozo
DOI, Hajime	KATSURA, Toshiko	MORI, Isao	OGINO, Sumiye
EBATA, Chiyoko	KAWAGUCHI, Mariko	MORIMOTO, Isae	OGURA, Tomie
EBATA, Genya	KAWAHARA, Kazumi	MORISHITA, Nao	OHASHI, Robert Seizo
EDAMURA, Masakazu George	KAWAHARA, Sumano	MORITA, Toshio	OHASHI, Tamio
EDAMURA, Toki	KAWASAKI, Mohachi	MURABAYASHI, Masa	OKASHIMO, Kamezo
FUJIMOTO, Shuzo George	KAWASAKI, Uta	MURAKAMI, Toshio	OKAWA, Kiyoshi
FUJIMOTO, Teruko	KISHIMOTO, Yoshiko	MURAMOTO, Miyoko	OKUDA, Hiroshi
FUKUSAKA, Emiko	KISHIMOTO, Mutsuo	MURATA, Magoji	OMORI, Tamako
FURUYA, Yaeko	KISHIMOTO, Saichiro Sam	MUROMOTO, Miyoko	ONO, Sadano
HAKODA, Aiko	KITAGAWA, Susumu	MUROMOTO, Tadashi	OSATO, Ben
HAMA, Fujie	KITAMURA, Shotaro	NAGANO, Kiyono	OTANI, Saichi
HAMADE, Matsunosuke	KIYONAGA, Hide	NAKAGAWA, Connie Kane	OTSU, Tsune
HAMASAKI, Ichitaro	KOBAYAKAWA, Hisa	NAKAGAWA, Kumakichi	SAKAI, Iwakazu
HAMILTON, Doreen	KODAMA, George	NAKAGAWA, Nobu	SAKATA, Shizue
HAYASHI, Sumi	KOJIMA, Jiro	NAKAGAWA, Masajiro	SATO, Hikotaro
HIGASHI, Gene Yoshiteru	KONDO, Take	NAKAGAWA, Kanako	SATO, Roland Atsumu
HIRAI, Hatsuye	KONO, Misayo	NAKAHARA, Aiko	SATO, Hikotaro
HIRAMORI, Yukiko	KOYANAGI, Kazue	NAKAHARA- MACLACHLAN, Phillip	SEKIYA, Matsue
HUANG, Mei Lin	KOZAI, Tomisaburo	NAKAMURA, Kiseko Jean	SHIBATA, Hatsu
ICHIKAWA, Jiro	KUBOTA, Saenosuke	NAKAMURA, Mikio	SHIBATA, Suteya
IKEDA, Carole Mia Allison	KUMAGAI, Sutezo	NAKAMURA, Mikio	SHIKATANI, Masajiro
INAMOTO, Richard Masayoshi	KUMAGAWA, Akemi	NAKAMURA, Shigeo Fred	SHIMANO, Kiyoko
INOUE, Hideharu Harry	KUMAMOTO, Hisano	NAKAMURA, Tome	SHIMIZU, Hayley Elizabeth Hisaye
ISEKI, Yoshiko	KUSANO, Tokiyoshi Fred	NAKAMURA, Yukiye Rose	SHIMIZU, Kazuo Thomas
ISHII, Kanaye Bessie	MACLACHLAN, Marjorie Ethel	NAKATA, Akira Victor	SHIMIZU, Kichiji
ISOZAKI, Soichi Jimmy	MAEHARA, Masumi	NAKATSU, Tsuruyo	SHINMOTO, Tokiye
ITO, Tsutau Lefty	MAIKAWA, Misao	NATSUHARA, Mie Nora	SUGIMAN, Iwazo
ITO, Tayoko	MATSUBAYASHI, Kanayo	NEKODA, Ann Tsuyako	TAKAHASHI, Deanna
IZUKAWA, Sakuhei	MATSUMOTO, Tatsuyo Jean	NISHIHATA, Kishi	
KAGETSU, Eikichi	MATSUMOTO, Akira Sam	NISHIKAWA, Kimi	
	MIIKE, Uhei	NISHIKAWA, Shoichiro	
		NISHIMURA, Eiko	

Continued on page 5

**JANUARY SHOTSUKI,**  
continued  
TAKAHASHI, Koichi  
TAKAHASHI, Mika  
TAKASAKI, Masaru  
TAKATA, Chiyoko  
TAKEMURA, Sozo  
TAKEMURA, Takeo  
TANAKA, Satsuki Sally  
TANAKA, Yoshie

TEHARA, John Shiro  
TOJI, Shuken  
TSUJI, Rose  
TSUJIUCHI, Masayo  
TSUKADA, Haruye  
UCHIDA, George  
UCHIMARU, Kesaguma  
URA, Ine  
USAMI, Fumiko

UYESUGI, Tamotsu Tom  
WAKABAYASHI, Hideo  
WAKABAYASHI, Kazuko  
WAKABAYASHI, Tadato  
WAKISAKA, Yasujiro  
WANI, Fred Mitsunori  
WARNER, Roger Harley  
WATANABE, Misao  
WATANABE, Ronald Satoru

YAMAMOTO, Tamotsu  
YAMASAKI, Tsutomu  
YAMASHITA, Yori  
YAMASHITA, Yoshitaro  
YAMAUCHI, Yasu  
YASUDA, Yukimori  
YOKOYAMA, Toshie  
YOSHIDA, Bruce Yuji  
YOSHIDA, Masako

**OBITUARIES**

*The Toronto Buddhist Church wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the families, relatives and friends of the following individuals who have passed away.*

*If we have missed any names, please notify the Temple office so that we may update our records. Thank You*

*In Gassho*

*Toronto Buddhist Church*

<i>Mrs. Satoko Hama</i>	<i>94 yrs</i>	<i>October 24, 2024</i>
<i>Rev. Yasuo Izumi</i>	<i>80 yrs</i>	<i>October 29, 2024</i>
<i>Miss Fumi Kono</i>	<i>102 yrs</i>	<i>November 19, 2024</i>
<i>Mrs. Mary Shiraishi</i>	<i>91 yrs</i>	<i>November 21, 2024</i>



トロント本願寺  
除夜の鐘

**New Year's Eve Bell Event**

**Dec. 31st 2024**  
**11:30PM~**

Everyone rings the bell one time each.  
どなた様も1度ずつ鐘をついていただけます

Just off Sheppard West station!!  
A Jodo Shinshu Temple

**Toronto Buddhist Church**

1011 Sheppard Avenue W.  
Toronto, ON M3H 2T7




トロント本願寺  
元旦法要

**New Year's Day Service**

**Jan. 1st 2025**  
**11:00AM~ (E)**  
**1:00PM~ (J)**

You are free to enter the temple until 3:00PM  
15時まではご自由に参拝していただけます

Just off Sheppard West station!!  
A Jodo Shinshu Temple

**Toronto Buddhist Church**

1011 Sheppard Avenue W.  
Toronto, ON M3H 2T7



**CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS****DECEMBER'S THEME: REMEMBERING – ESHIN-NI and KAKUSHIN-NI****A SPECIAL QUOTE.....**

“It is too easy for us to take for granted that we are able to attend services or make manjus for fundraisers. We should not forget that we are able to continue gathering at our temple and listen to the Buddha-Dharma because of the efforts and sacrifices of pioneers.”

**JANUARY'S THEME: SHINRAN SHONIN'S MEMORIAL DAY – HO-ONKO**

This special observance marks the death of Shinran Shonin. Ho-onko literally means, “Dharma gathering for acknowledging indebtedness”. On this day, many Buddhists around the world will reflect on Shinran Shonin's teachings.

**WE START EACH SUNDAY.....**

Each Sunday morning, the Kids Service begins at 10:30 a.m. Please arrive a few minutes early to get settled in. After the service, the kids go downstairs to the classroom with their teacher to participate in the Dharma School program. Dharma School ends at 12:00 p.m.

EVERYONE is welcome to come join us.

COME....LET'S MEET AT THE TEMPLE.

With gratitude,

The Kids Sangha Team



## Camp Lumbini @ Bazaar

This year I had the pleasure of coordinating the Camp Lumbini youth in crafting various items for sale at our annual bazaar. Over the course of several weekend sessions, we managed to make bracelets, various phone charms, nenjus and necklaces. Not only that, but our Camp Lumbini parents contributed homemade knitted goods as well!

Why are we doing this, you may ask. This year during Camp Lumbini it had occurred to us coordinators that our beloved temple cottages need some renovations. There is regular maintenance that goes on through the year, and we are thankful for everyone who helps upkeep the cottages. We thought that we should contribute to the cause by raising funds.

Over those few weekends, it was a great way for the youth to get together outside of camp, and have some coordinated activities at the temple. Some were unable to join us, but that didn't stop the other youth from including them. They made bead kits to deliver to the ones who weren't able to join us, so that they could still participate in the beading activity.

This was only one of many future planned fundraisers for Camp Lumbini. We hope to hold more in the new year, so please keep an eye out for what our next fundraiser will be!

Thank you  
Abigail Kataoka



## *NEW YEARS GREETINGS 2025*

In the next issue, January, 2025, the Guiding Light will be inserting a special "HAPPY NEW YEAR" page.

If you would like your name included in the special New Year's greeting page, please complete the form below and submit it with your donation to the Temple office by **December 18, 2024**.

**Please print my/our name(s) under 'New Year Greetings' in the upcoming January 2025 issue of the GUIDING LIGHT.**

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GREETING:** \_\_\_\_\_



**TBC 2024 ANNUAL BAZAAR**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2024**



***WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY  
THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR MAKING OUR ANNUAL BAZAAR  
A SUCCESS FOR ANOTHER YEAR!***





**Where:** Toronto Buddhist Church Social Hall  
1011 Sheppard Avenue W.  
Toronto, ON M3H 2T7

**When:** Sunday December 29, 2024, 8:30am

**Lunch:** Lunch will be provided

**Please Contact:** Joanne@Kataoka.ca

I invite you back to our annual TBC Sangha Group Mochi Tsuki. At this volunteer driven event, we process mochigome (glutinous rice) into mochi (rice cake) which is a traditional food for the Japanese New Year.

To those of you who have generously volunteered your time in the past, I hope you will be able to assist us again. For those of you who have not previously attended Mochi Tsuki, I invite you to take part and hope that you will consider making this event a part of your annual calendar of events.

As we are being mindful of everyone's health:

Please email Joanne@Kataoka.ca

Your name and family members attending

Lunch preference (regular or vegan)

**Masking is mandatory**

Recommended age range for participation is 10 – 70 years of age

For ordering:

Please email Joanne@Kataoka.ca or phone 416-819-7618

Hope to see you there!

In Gassho,

Joanne Kataoka

VP, TBC Sangha Group

# TBC Sangha Mochi Tsuki

**Pick Up (No Pick Ups Before 2pm)**

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**Sale Hours 2:00 - 4:30 pm**

**To ensure availability, please place your order**

**By December 20 2024**

**Orders placed after this date are subject to availability**

**Osonae (Okagami) \$ 8.50 / SetKomochi \$ 8.00 / Bag**

**Anko Mochi \$ 12.00 / Box (\*\*Quantities are Limited\*\*)**

**Cut and Send the Form Below to:**

**Toronto Buddhist Church**

**1011 Sheppard Ave. W., Toronto, ON M3H 2T7**

**Phone (416) 819-7618**

**E-Mail: [Joanne@Kataoka.ca](mailto:Joanne@Kataoka.ca)**

## 2024 Mochi Order

**Please send by December 20, 2024**

<b>Name:</b>		<b>Phone/ Email:</b>		
<b>Address:</b>				
( )	<b>Bag(s) Komochi</b>	<b>@\$8.00/ea</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>.</b>
( )	<b>Set(s) Osonae</b>	<b>@\$8.50/ea</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>.</b>
( )	<b>Anko Mochi</b>	<b>@\$12.00/ea</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>.</b>
	<b>(6 piece/box)</b>			
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>		

## Pancake Day December 1, 2024 Following Shoutski Service



As we work towards returning to our regular slate of social events, please join us for our traditional TBC Sangha Pancake Day. As this is a *pay what you can* event just come on down to the Social Hall after service and help yourself to:

**Regular pancakes**

**Buckwheat pancakes**

**(gluten free & vegan)**

**Peameal bacon**

**Vegan sausage**

**Fresh Fruit**

**Sausage**

**Juice and Coffee**

Suggested donation is \$10.00.

In Gassho,

Cary Kataoka ([Cary@Kataoka.ca](mailto:Cary@Kataoka.ca))

President, TBC Sangha Group

### TBC DANA PROJECT

We are requesting referrals from Family and Friends of the TBC to submit names of seniors who need social friendly calls from trained volunteers to cope with Social isolation and delivering of bentos to vulnerable seniors.

Our main goal is to:

Provide a variety of support services guided by the principles of Dana, selfless giving of time, energy and compassion in contributing towards the wellbeing of the elderly.

No compensation is needed, we will be raising funds to support this effort through donations and fundraising.

Please email Myra Takasaki

[takasaki@rogers.com](mailto:takasaki@rogers.com) OR phone 226-792-6800 for answers or referrals to this project or volunteer opportunities to support this effort.

In gassho,

Myra



### Momiji West Activity Days at the TBC!

*Happy Holidays from the Momiji SALC Team!*



Come join the growing group of seniors at the TBC for a variety of engaging activities, crafts and educational seminars!

We meet 2 Tuesdays a month on the 2nd floor mezzanine of the TBC from 12:00 - 2:00!

Snacks and Refreshments will be served!

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 - Cookie Decorating Workshop!**

Please feel free to contact the Momiji West Coordinator, Ben, at 416-407-0142 or by email at [momijiwest@momiji.on.ca](mailto:momijiwest@momiji.on.ca) for more information, or if you have any questions!



***YEAR END  
KARAOKE PARTY***

Every one Welcome !!  
Enjoy a half day with us !!  
Saturday, December 7, 2024

TBC Social Hall Starts at 12:00 Noon  
\$10.00 Incl. Bento, Bingo, J. Song  
and more

For Tickets : Please contact  
George 416-513-0999  
Jessica 416-733-1894

**TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH KARAOKE CLUB**

**NOVEMBER THANK YOU'S**

- ◆ TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Our annual bazaar was a great success thanks to all your hard work! We hope to see you all again
- ◆ Naomi Knude for helping with Obuppan
- ◆ Myra Takasaki for doing the flower arranging for the Naijin
- ◆ Susan Ebisuzaki for tirelessly being the refreshment toban every Sunday and for those who volunteered to help her .
- ◆ Ross Yoshida and Brian Huynh for making sure we have a zoom service.
- ◆ Michael Tamaki, Eyad Boukli for closing Camp Lumbini
- ◆ 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](mailto: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](mailto:ilovelucy3d@yahoo.com) with your questions or to join the group.**

## How to donate to Toronto Buddhist Church

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 to the temple and continue to provide Zoom to those who cannot attend in person.

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](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

**.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**



## Project Dana TBC – Connecting with our Seniors

**Paramitas – Dana To give of our time and love to all. To share. To be helpful in every way.**

To provide a variety of support services

Telephone visits, Friendly Home visits

Family Caregiver's support, Bento boxes

We are requesting referrals from Family and Friends of the TBC to submit names of seniors who need social friendly calls from trained volunteers to cope with Social isolation and delivering of bentos to vulnerable seniors.

No compensation is needed, we will be raising funds to support this effort through donations and fundraising.

Please email *Myra Takasaki* at [takasaki@rogers.com](mailto:takasaki@rogers.com) for answers or referrals to this project or volunteer opportunities to support this effort.

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Do you still have volunteer hours you need to use up? Toronto Buddhist Church may be able to help you to finish your quota.

Call the Temple and leave your name and a contact information and someone will be in touch with you.



## ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS

Fees for membership and GL subscription (for non members) will increase in 2025.

MEMBERSHIP (GL SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDED)	\$160.00
GL SUBSCRIPTION(NON MEMBERS ONLY)	\$ 60.00 (Fee must be received by Dec. 18)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE IN THE JANUARY GUIDING LIGHT



## October, 2024 Update for the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund

The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness team is hard at work processing applications. While there are grant cheques being mailed on a regular basis, we know many Survivors are waiting and frustrated at the length of time to receive a cheque. Due to the volume of applications received to date the wait time has increased. We thank you for your ongoing patience. There is a detailed process to confirm eligibility and due diligence to ensure that the money is being awarded to appropriately qualified Survivors.

Since February 1, 2024, we have received approximately 5000 applications from Japanese Canadian Survivors living around the world. To date, we have awarded over 3500 grants to over 2000 Survivors.

We follow a strategy to process applications by prioritizing age and health and the wellness needs of living Survivors. High priority status is due to physical and / or mental health, or financial need. We started with those aged 100+ years and dropped each group by 5 years (100+ then 95+, 90+ and 85+). We are now serving those born pre-1942 (82+ years) and continue to include priority applications.

Please note:

You can make an online application until March 31, 2025  
Confirmation of your application is sent by email.

A reference number (SR-XXXXX) is issued. Please keep this number.

If you have a SR number, please **do not** re-apply.

Duplicate applications require more time to process

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants for both Grants 1 and 2 must meet **ALL** of the following requirements:

- ◆ be of Japanese descent
- ◆ be born **before April 1, 1949**
- ◆ **have 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

In addition, for Grant 2:

- ◆ On or after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the Survivor must be **alive** at the time of submitting the application (online or through an Outreach Worker)

To validate your application please locate the following documents:

- ◆ Personal identification (e.g. birth certificate, passport, a picture ID)
- ◆ Birthdate before April 1, 1949
- ◆ Proof of current mailing address (e.g. Driver's License, recent credit card statement, utility bill)

**DO NOT** send the Society any personal documents by email or mail. This is for your protection.

### **Validation**

Once the file is assigned to an Outreach Worker, they will contact you by phone or email and arrange to either meet with you in person or virtually (by Zoom).

- ◆ The first step is confirmation of date of birth prior to April 1, 1949.
- ◆ The next step is validation of Roots in British Columbia (B.C.), which confirms the Survivor's ties to BC prior to April 1, 1949.

Research is conducted by staff. However, the onus is on the Survivor/Representative to provide sufficient information to confirm that the Survivor has Roots in BC.

Many have already met with an Outreach Worker for step 1. There is a delay to process step 2, research confirmation of Roots in BC from official documents or recognized databases/sources. Please understand that it is more difficult to find the Roots in B.C. for those born post uprooting (after 1942) and born outside of B.C. Linkage is required of the Survivor to the parent or grandparent with the permanent residence in B.C prior to April 1, 1949.

As all ship arrivals from Japan to Canada at that time went through the Port of Vancouver, this is not sufficient to qualify as having Roots in B.C. especially if the family's destination was outside of B.C.

Survivors may not be aware of the onerous validation process. This is a requirement of the B.C. Government to ensure that fraud is not committed in the issuance of these grants. It is a criminal offence to make a false application.

Failure to meet the eligibility requirements will result in a denied application. A denial letter will be sent to the Survivor/Representative. An adjudication process is available if a Survivor requests to have the decision reviewed by the objective Adjudication Committee.

As living Survivor applications are a priority, please note that the following circumstances will encounter a delay to be processed:

- ◆ The applicant died after applying
- ◆ The applicant is deceased, and the estate is applying for Grant 1 only
- ◆ Lost or stolen cheques, incorrect address and deposit errors to an incorrect bank account
- ◆ The applicant is living outside of North America

Continued on page 12

**October, 2024 Update for the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund,**continued

For enquiries, please contact our JCSHWF General Phone/Toll-free phone or email:

JCSHWF General phone 250.797.6300

JCSHWF North American toll-free phone 1.833.368.6462

JCSHWF Email: [help@jcwellness.org](mailto:help@jcwellness.org)

**The list of Outreach Workers is available on our website:** <https://jcwellness.org/outreachworkers>

**We thank all Survivors for their patience and understanding as we proceed through the validation process for 5000 applications.**

**The Japanese Canadian Survivor Health & Wellness Fund is open for applications until March 31, 2025.**

**ATTENTION TBC MEMBERS!**

WE ARE THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT REV. SUGIURA HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS TBC'S ASSISTANT MINISTER TO REV. HASHIMOTO, STARTING IN EARLY APRIL!

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURNITURE OR KITCHEN ACCESSORIES FOR HIS APARTMENT IT WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AND IF YOU NEED THE ITEMS TO BE PICKED UP.

IN GASSHO

TBC, BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 26, 2025**

Special business will be presented to the Members for discussion and approval at the TBC in-person Annual Meeting on Sunday, January. 25, 2025 at 1:00 pm. There will be no Zoom. A more detailed Notice of Annual Meeting will be published in the January edition of the Guiding Light and pertinent information will be given before the meeting or e-mailed to all Members in early January 2025. A light lunch will be provided after the service and before the meeting. The meeting will give all Members the opportunity to learn about the past year's activities and results of operations of the Temple and vote on important matters affecting the Temple. Your attendance is encouraged and will be appreciated.

TBC Board of Directors





## **TBC NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL RETURNS!**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025**

following the morning service

**SHARE & DISCOVER NEW FLAVOURS!**

Bring your favourite dish for the potluck luncheon.

**FEELING LUCKY?** There will be door prizes & bingo.

DONATIONS ARE **APPRECIATED!**