



Guiding Light

APRIL, 2025



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

UPCOMING SERVICES

		Kids' Sangha 10:30 AM	11:00 AM	10:45 AM	
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person	
APRIL 13, 2025	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	ESSHIN-NI DAY
APRIL 20, 2025	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	HANAMATSURI
APRIL 27, 2025	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	TSUITO HOYO JSBTC 120TH ANNIVERSARY & MEMORIAL
MAY 4, 2025	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	SHOTSUKI
MAY 11, 2025	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	

ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS

THE 1:00 PM JAPANESE SHOTSUKI SERVICES WILL CHANGE ON APRIL 6TH.

CHANTING WILL BE DONE WITH THE KIDS SANGHA IN THE HONDO FROM 10:30—10:45 AM FOLLOWED BY A DHARMA TALK IN JAPANESE TILL 11:00 AM. ENGLISH SHOTSUKI SERVICE TO FOLLOW STARTING AT 11:00 AM

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 members 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, before 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 at 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

THE ARRIVAL OF REV. HIKARU SUGIURA AND THE UPCOMING JSBTC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.



With the start of Daylight-Saving Time, the days are feeling noticeably longer. On top of that, the temperature has gradually risen from -10°C to nearly 0°C, and we are beginning to sense the arrival of spring here in Toronto.

On March 25, Rev. Hikaru Sugiura arrived in Toronto. Beginning April 1, he will be working with me at the

Toronto Buddhist Church. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to those who generously donated furniture, dishes, and other essentials for his apartment, as well as to those who helped set things up. Your kindness and support have been truly appreciated.

Rev. Sugiura is 27 years old, two years younger than I am, and this will be his very first time living overseas. Like me, he completed the Master's Program in Practical Shin Buddhism at Ryukoku University in Kyoto. Within the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition, he holds specialized credentials in both Dharma talking and ritual chanting and etiquette.

Although he is unable to become a full-time Kaikyoshi Minister due to responsibilities at his home temple in Japan, he will be serving as an Assistant Minister here at the Temple for the next two to three years. During this time, he will walk the path of the Nembutsu together with all of you.

Rev. Sugiura will be sharing a Japanese Dharma talk once a month at the Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) Service and will also share English Dharma talks one to two times a month during our Sunday Services. As this is his first experience living abroad, he may encounter some challenges adjusting to different customs and ways of life. I hope you will warmly welcome him and kindly offer your support to him whenever needed. I am truly looking forward to seeing how he becomes part of our Sangha and how he walks the Nembutsu path here in Toronto.

As I enter my second year at the Toronto Buddhist Church this

April, I feel deeply encouraged to have another companion on the Nembutsu path. Above all, it is my greatest joy and support to be walking this path together with all of you—our Sangha members. Alongside Jeff Wilson Sensei (Assistant Minister), Dennis Madokoro (Minister's Assistant), and most importantly, with each and every one of you, I hope to continue working toward our shared aspiration of making the Toronto Buddhist Church the temple where the sound of the Nembutsu is heard more than anywhere else in the world.

From April 24 to 27, Toronto will host the JSBTC (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) Annual General Meeting. All the Ministers, board members, and representatives from the Women's Federation will gather from across Canada to meet and discuss the future of JSBTC.

Two years ago, while I was studying in Kamloops, I had the opportunity to attend the JSBTC AGM in Steveston as an observer. I was deeply moved by the warm and inclusive atmosphere of the gathering. That experience left a lasting impression on me, and it was one of the reasons I readily accepted Bishop Aoki's offer to intern at TBC.

On Saturday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m., following the AGM, there will be a special presentation in celebration of the 120th anniversary of JSBTC, with each temple in Canada offering a 10 to 15 minute presentation. Then, on Sunday at 11:00 a.m., we will hold the JSBTC 120th Anniversary and Memorial Service.

This year, we are blessed with multiple milestones: the 80th anniversary of Toronto Buddhist Church, the 20th anniversary since moving to our current location, and the 120th anniversary of JSBTC. We warmly invite you to join us for these meaningful events and celebrate together.

Namo Amida Butsu



MARCH 2, 2025 SHOTSUKI SERVICE



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.

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

GRATITUDE FOR TREES



Spring is here! (More or less). As I write this it's raining and 16 degrees. Last week we held the Spring Ohigan service for the Hamilton Buddhist Temple, and tomorrow it will be the Ohigan

service in Toronto. Not a moment too soon, I think. We certainly had a very snowy Winter in Waterloo.

The return of the birds and flowers always makes me happy, along with the increased ability to go outside. Now that I'm pursuing a Master of Environmental Studies, I'm more aware of how the natural world benefits us in ways we rarely realize. In Environmental Science there is a concept of ecosystem services, which refers to the myriad benefits that humans receive from their environment. For example, trees provide food, shade, and timber. Their roots help to prevent flooding and loss of soil. They offer homes to many creatures who have their own usefulness. Forests are a wonderful place to camp and explore.

Among the many things that ecologists study, there is one that receives less attention than the others: spiritual ecosystem services. This is something that appears on lists of ecosystem services, but isn't often the focus of scientists' research. However, I think it may actually be very important.

Studies have shown that time spent in nature has measurable health benefits, especially for mental health. After spending time in the woods people report less stress, anxiety, and negative thought loops. These in turn can lead to lower blood pressure, better immune responses, improved heart health, and other benefits. Since the 1980s people in Japan have

advocated for forest bathing, a practice of intentionally taking time to sit or walk among trees and plants in order to receive their benefits.

I can't help relating this to Buddhism. The Buddha was born while his mother held onto the branch of a tree. Then he completed the journey to Buddhahood while sitting under the Bodhi Tree. He preached the Dharma in parks and passed away between two sala trees. The Buddha was even a tree himself in past lives, according to the traditional Jataka tales.

Would we have Buddhism if northern India had been clear-cut during the Buddha's time period? The trees seem to have provided essential support, enabling the Buddha to carry out his work. It causes me to wonder whether awakening is easier in natural surroundings, or harder in the concrete and metal habitats that we've built for ourselves today. Maybe one reason for the seeming rarity of deeply wise and compassionate people is due to how we've become shut off from one of the factors of support for spiritual development.

The Pure Land Sutras teach that the trees of the Pure Land make beautiful music and preach the Dharma as the wind blows gently through their branches. Bodhisattvas who listen to all achieve profound awakening. Trees are so important that when Dharmakara made the vows which led to him becoming Amida Buddha, he proclaimed that if there weren't trees in the Pure Land he would refuse to achieve enlightenment.

So as we start spending more time outside in this new season, let's try to remember the many physical and spiritual gifts that trees offer us, and be thankful for their presence in our lives.

In Gassho

Jeff Wilson Sensei

MARCH THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Donna Nakano and Sandra Izukawa for playing the organ at this month's service
- ◆ Naomi Knude, Christine Yamada for helping with tea toban after service
- ◆ Debbie for ringing the Kansho bell
- ◆ Bryan Day for helping with the sound system
- ◆ Ross Yoshida for helping with the handyman jobs needed doing in the Temple
- ◆ Ross Yoshida and Brian Huynh for making sure we have a Zoom service.
- ◆ To all those who donated to the TBC JSBTC AGM bake sale fundraiser which helped to make it a success
- ◆ To those who have been delivering bentos to our seniors and to Myra for organizing everything
- ◆ To Elaine Takahashi for making all the bentos for the seniors in the program
- ◆ 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.

CALLING ALL SANGHA KIDS

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

APRIL'S THEME: Sakyamuni Buddha - Hanamatsuri



HANAMATSURI or "Flower Festival", is held to honour the birth of Siddhartha Gautama (Sakyamuni) Buddha in Lumbini Garden. A flower shrine known as a hanamido, is set up at the front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In the hanamido, stands a statue of the infant Buddha, with his right hand pointing toward the heavens and his left hand towards the earth. People pour sweet tea over the Buddha statue. The pouring of tea represents the gentle rain that was said to have fallen in Lumbini Garden when Siddhartha was born. This re-enactment of the Buddha's birth signifies the happiness that filled the world at this event.

April 6 - Kids Service with Kensho Sensei

13 - Eshinni Day - a memorial service for Shinran Shonin's wife

20 - Hanamatsuri Service WITH children participation

27 - Camping Indoors ??? - You won't want to miss this!



AT THE TEMPLE.....

Each Sunday morning, the Kids' Service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Please arrive a few minutes early to get settled.

After the service, the kids go downstairs with their teacher(s) to Dharma School. There, the kids participate in an interactive program focused on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and the monthly theme.

Dharma School ends with a healthy snack at 12:00 p.m.

SUMMER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.....

PARENTS - A SPECIAL NOTE : MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please join us on Sunday April 27 at 12:00 p.m., following Dharma School, for a short Camp Lumbini information session.

With Summer just around the corner, parents are already making summer camp plans for their children. We will be there to share photos of Camp Lumbini and to answer any questions you may have.

Everyone is welcome.

IF IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME TO TEMPLE.....NO WORRIES

Everyone is welcome to come join Kids Sangha.

Hope to see you there.

With gratitude,
the Kids Sangha Team



KIDS SANGHA MEDITATION WORKSHOP



POSTPONED

TBC Sangha's annual Hanamatsuri Family Banquet will be postponed till next year.

Due to the 2 AGM's scheduled this April - the TBC general meeting being held on April 13, 2025 and the JSBTC agm on the weekend of April 26 & 27, 2025 we have decided to postpone the family banquet.

Please come to the Hanamatsuri service on Sunday April 20, 2025: children's service is at 10:30am and English service at 11:00 am.

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:

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

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.



**Be part of the Japanese-Canadian tradition
Obon Odori – minyo (Japanese folk dance)**

All ages, newcomers welcome

Step by step instructions given

Only 50 cents per practice
Starts Tuesday, April 29, 2025

**Every Tuesday and Friday
prior to Obon (July 12, 2025)**

**8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
(Subject to cancellation)**

**Toronto Buddhist Church
Social Hall (basement)**

1011 Sheppard Ave W
North York, ON, M3H 2T7
(416) 534-4302
tbc@tbc.on.ca

Next to Sheppard West subway station
Parking available

Bon Odori 2025

Spring has arrived and it's time to get our dancing zori on! Bon odori practices will take place at the Toronto Buddhist Church on Tuesday and Friday evenings, 8:00 – 9:30 pm. Men, women and children are all welcome and no experience is necessary. Step-by-step instructions will be given and it is best to come from the beginning as new dances are introduced as the practices progress.

The first practice will be on Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Obon is an important Japanese Buddhist tradition to remember our ancestors and dancing is part of the celebration. Traditional Japanese folk dances (odori) are made up of short sequences of steps that are repeated throughout the song. Dances are also created for modern songs.

Bon odori will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre following Natsu Matsuri.

For more information, please contact the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Toronto Buddhist Church
1011 Sheppard Ave. West
North York, ON



Have you applied for your 2025 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 2025. 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 \$160.00

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**

2025 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: _____		
<p>I promise to pay \$_____ as my Membership Fee for 2025 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, 2025. By signing this Membership Application, I hereby adopt the vows below.</p>		
Signature _____ Date _____		
I would like a Guiding Light mailed to me - English Only _____ English/Japanese _____		

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

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, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The Individual Membership Fee for 2025 is a minimum of \$160. 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.

SHOSANSHIKI**MAY 4, 2024**

Shosanshiki or the First Visitation Ceremony to the Sangha has traditionally been for newborns, but now any child will be recognized. This ceremony is their formal welcome to the congregation and their path to the truth of Amida Buddha. Any young person who wishes to be presented will be included. Please fill out the attached form.

Child's Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: (dd/mm/yyyy) _____ **M** _____ **F** _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____



How to donate to the 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**
- **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



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

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.

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 for answers or referrals to this project or volunteer opportunities to support this effort.

Volunteer drivers needed! Mileage paid.

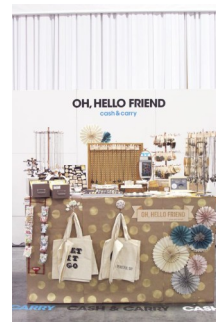
JSBTC AGM MARKET PLACE

CALLING ON ARTISTS, CRAFTERS

The TBC will host the JSBTC AGM April 24 - 27, 2025.

We intend to have a Market Place fund raising table and are asking for donations of items/crafts/preserves/chocolates/cookies etc.to sell. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Questions? Contact June Asano. asanojune@gmail.com



BRING JUST ONE THING

It's a new year and the rising prices of all foodstuffs continues to escalate and make family decisions difficult as to where their funds should be spent. 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



Camp Lumbini Bake Sale



Attention! Attention!

Camp Lumbini will be holding a bake sale **Sunday, May 4th** in the Social Hall.

Come out and enjoy some sweets and baked goods made by Camp Lumbini campers, and family! Your support will help with upkeep of the Lumbini cottages.

Camp Lumbini 2025

Calling All Youth Ages 8-15!

**Join us this summer, Sunday, July 27th - Saturday, August 2nd,
for an overnight Buddhist camp!**



- A fun, youth bonding experience!
- Buddhist themes implemented through the activities during the week.
- Buddhist camp held in the Temple cottages in Wasaga Beach.

Youth Ages 16+ are counselors and can receive volunteer hours.

Children under the age of 8 may join us on Friday August 1st for a one day camp experience.

For more information please contact Abigail Kataoka abigail-kataoka@hotmail.com

JAPANESE CANADIAN SURVIVORS HEALTH & WELLNESS FUND SOCIETY**March 2025 Newsletter**

The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund Society (JCSHWFS) Grant Program online application portal is open until **March 31, 2025, 5pm PST**. All applications received by this date will be processed. Unfortunately, we are unable to extend this deadline. Grant information, eligibility criteria and the online application form are available here: <https://jcwellness.org/apply/>.

Since our launch in February 2024, we have successfully contacted 4531 Survivors and processed 7634 Grants based on the work of Outreach Workers' team. As the project is approaching its natural conclusion, some members of our team have left or are leaving within March, and the JCSHWFS Board greatly appreciates their support and dedication to assist the Survivors. We thank Donald Watanabe, Holly Sakaki, Katherine Arima, Elissa Kunihiro, Erica Shin, Mark Uyeda, Roger Teshima, Beth Miyanaga and Yumi Deyell. Please note that there are regional Outreach Workers still available to provide assistance: <https://jcwellness.org/outreachworkers/>.

Several grant recipients have written to indicate how much they appreciated the funds and that it was a help to them in meeting some of their health and wellness needs. We thank Survivors for their enquiries regarding The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Grant Program. We provide answers below to the more common questions we have received.

Are the Grant 1 and Grant 2 monies considered taxable income in Canada?

No, our Auditors assure us that the Grant monies are not taxable and do not need to be reported to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Can JC Wellness prepare my 2024 income tax return?

We are unable to assist in any tax preparations.

Can I donate some of my Grant 1 and Grant 2 monies back to The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Grant Program to give to another Survivor?

We are unable to accept money as a donation to provide to other Survivors. The purpose of this grant is to support Survivor's health and wellness issues. We kindly suggest that you donate to an organization of your choice.

Why did The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Grant Program set the age eligibility as "born before April 1, 1949"?

April 1, 1949, is not an arbitrary date. It is defined as the day Japanese Canadians were given full voting rights and all legal restrictions used to control the movement of Japanese Canadians were removed by the Canadian government. The initial 1988 Federal Redress program also used this date and set a precedent for our program. For this reason, April 1, 1949 is used by the Japanese Canadian Legacy Society (JCLS) for all their programs. The Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Grant Program, as one of the six pillars of JCLS, also applied the same date for eligibility for health and wellness grants. Therefore, eligible applicants must be born before April 1, 1949.

What happens if I can't provide any documents to prove my roots in BC?

As we continue to validate eligibility based on age and confirm roots in BC, this is a reminder that the onus to provide proof is the responsibility of the Survivor and/or their representative. Confirmation is done internally, and this documentation can not be shared. The validation process is a requirement to ensure that fraud is not committed in the issuance of these grants. Failure to meet the eligibility requirements will result in a denied application. A denial letter will be sent to the Survivor/Representative.

My application was denied. Am I able to appeal the decision?

An adjudication process is available if a Survivor requests to have the decision reviewed by an independent Adjudication Committee. Please email any appeals to adjudication@jcwellness.org.

My cheque needs to be reissued. When will I receive my replacement cheque?

Some Survivors are awaiting a reissued cheque (for lost or undelivered/change/incorrect addresses). We appreciate your patience, and these will be issued by March 31, 2025.

With warm regards,

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

General Phone: 250-797-6300

Toll-Free phone: 1-833-368-6462

Email: help@jcwellness.org

List of Outreach Workers: [JC Wellness Outreach Workers](#)

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US AND OUR KEIROKAI HONOREES**MAY 25, 2025, 11:00 AM**

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. Please join us for the service at 11am followed by a bento box lunch with entertainment to follow. All registered members who are 77 years and over will receive a complimentary lunch. For those who are under 77 years bento will cost \$20.

We will be featuring our honourees on **May 25, 2025 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 11, 2025. Please include a picture of yourself that we can show during the service.

You can send your application via email to 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 4th. You can order on line at <https://forms.gle/irdLEGmokkV5jzcu6>

2025 KEIROKAI HONOREE

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 the Service in person ? Yes No

Will you be attending our Zoom Service on May 25th? Yes No

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

Email to send Zoom invitation _____





Buddhist Education Class

8week Intro to



Buddhism and Shin Buddhism

Hybrid Format: In-Person & Online
(In-Person Recommended for Week 5 & 8)

May Every Tuesday	6th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 1 – Life of the Buddha
	13th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 2 – Basic teachings
	20th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 3 – Basic teachings
	27th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 4 – Brief History of Buddhism
June Every Tuesday	3rd 6:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 5 – Life of Shinran Shonin (108 min DVD with English Subtitles)
	10th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 6 – Basics of Shin Buddhism
	17th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 7 – Basics of Shin Buddhism
	24th 7:00PM – 8:00PM	Week 8 – Shin Buddhist rituals

Fee: \$10~ for TBC members
\$15~ for non-TBC members



Just off Sheppard West station!!

A Jodo Shinshu Temple

Toronto Buddhist Church

1011 Sheppard Avenue W.
Toronto, ON M3H 2T7

Contact information : Rev. Hashimoto

☎ 416-534-4302

✉ tbc@tbc.on.ca



Pre-register here
(required)