



Guiding Light

JANUARY, 2026



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
a Jodo Shinshu Temple

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

New Year's Greeting

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you all.

In recent years, starting with Japan, but also throughout the world there have been a rash of natural disasters such as typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, and large-scale forest fires which has created enormous damage. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through natural disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. My wish is for all who are affected to be able to return to peaceful daily lives as soon as possible.

Last year, we marked a milestone as it was 80 years since the end of WWII. In July, I had the opportunity to join memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, areas that were deeply affected by the war. I was grateful to have been able to meet with some of the survivors of the war and to hear their stories. In 1995, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the end of WWII and the memorial to remember those who lost their lives during the war, Sokunyo Monshu stated, "Prior to the beginning of the war, going against the teachings of Shinran Shonin, the Hongwanji using the name of the Buddha Dharma, took an active role in promoting Japan's war efforts. This is a fact we cannot deny, and in the presence of Amida Buddha, I cannot but to express my regret and shame." With these words, Sokunyo Monshu took responsibility for actions done by the Hongwanji organization prior to WWII. Keeping these sentiments firmly in my heart, I would like to go forward by rededicating our pursuit for peace.

Following the conclusion of WWII, the Hongwanji Organization did not shy away from admitting their active role in promoting the war effort. With humility and repentance, it has strived to create a society where all beings can live in peace. With sincerity in our hearts, we must continue to strive for peace and not repeat the errors that were committed in WWII. Presently, there are wars and conflicts ongoing in various regions throughout the world, where countless precious lives are being threatened. In such a world, let us be mindful of the words of Shinran Shonin, "Let there be Peace in the world, and let the Buddha Dharma grow". Together, let us move forward day by day.

January 1, 2026

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



UPCOMING SERVICES

		KIDS SANGHA (10:30 AM)	11:00 AM	DHARMA TALK (JAPANESE) 10:45 AM	
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person, ONLY	
JANUARY 11, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
JANUARY 18, 2026	HO ONKO SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH & JAPANESE	NONE	NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL
JANUARY 25, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
FEBRUARY 1, 2026	MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE	ENGLISH (MEZZANINE)	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	SHOTSUKI
FEBRUARY 8, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	

HO ONKO EVE POT LUCK AND HOONKO SERVICES JANUARY 17 & 18

Ho onko is the most important event of the Jodo Shinshu calendar. It is the commemoration of Shinran Shonin's death in 1263. Ho onko or the "return of gratitude" is for his teachings emphasizing the absolute trust in Amida Buddha's primal vow.

Ho Onko Eve Vegetarian Pot Luck:

Saturday January 17, 5:00 pm.

Ho Onko Eve Service:

Saturday January 17, 6:00 pm

Ho Onko Service:

Sunday January 18, 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 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 cooperation.

Board of Directors

New Year's Greeting from the Office of the Bishop

As we step into 2026, I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to you and to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community in Canada. May this year be filled with peace, harmony, and the radiant light of Amida Buddha's compassion.

In these times of challenge and change, the teachings of Jodo Shinshu continue to guide and inspire us, reminding us of the impermanence of all things and the boundless compassion of the Buddha's vow. May we walk together on the path of wisdom and mindfulness, finding solace in the *Nembutsu* and deepen our understanding of interconnectedness.

I am deeply grateful for your support of your Senseis and the dedication you show to nurturing spiritual growth and fostering unity within the Sangha. May our efforts continue to bring comfort, joy, and gratitude to all those you serve. Wishing you a fulfilling New Year, filled with peace, health, and compassion.

In gassho,

Rev. Tatsuya Aoki

Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

旧年中は大変お世話になりました。カナダ開教区を代表して、謹んで御礼と新春のお慶び申し上げます。

今年も阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を感じ、お智慧に照らされ、みなさまと一緒に仏道を歩ませていただきます。今年も開教使の先生と仏教会のサポートをよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

合掌 青木龍也



JSBTC AGM in Toronto—April 2025



New Year's Message 2026

Happy New Year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support you have given to Toronto Buddhist Church throughout the past year. As I begin working at this temple, I am increasingly aware that this work is made possible through the cooperation

and support of many people. I am deeply grateful to the TBC members and all those who support the temple in visible and invisible ways. Through services, temple events, and everyday encounters, we have been given many opportunities to listen to the teaching of the Nembutsu together.

Our lives do not always unfold as we expect. We struggle, pause, and sometimes find ourselves unable to move forward. Yet, within this very reality, the working of Amida Buddha is already reaching us. The teaching of Jodo Shinshu does not

ask us to become better or stronger versions of ourselves. Rather, it is directed to this very self, just as it is—unable to do anything by its own power.

As a Jodo Shinshu temple, Toronto Buddhist Church has continued to be a place where the voice of the Nembutsu is heard across generations, cultures, and languages. I, too, hope to walk alongside each person who comes to this temple—not as someone who provides answers, but as a companion who pauses and listens together.

Let us continue to walk together, treasuring the opportunity to hear the teaching.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Kensho Hashimoto

Resident Minister

Toronto Buddhist Church



New Year's Message

Happy New Year.

Thank you all very much for your support throughout the past year.

This year, I came to Canada and began a new chapter here at the Toronto Buddhist Church. Although each day brought unfamiliar experiences, Thanks to your kind words and thoughtfulness,

I have been able to move forward step by step.

Even during the snowy Canadian winter, your warmth has brought a sense of ease to my heart.

I had two goals for last year.

One was to improve my English communication skills. The other was to help people to remember my name.

In the end, what improved more quickly than my English was my ability to nod—and my smile.

And the pronunciation of my name remains a challenge.

Joking aside, over the past year, I have come to deeply realize that I am not walking this path alone, but am always being supported and guided.

This year as well, I intend to continue my activities with energy and dedication.

I sincerely appreciate your continued support.

In Gassho

Rev. Hikaru Sugiura

Assistant Minister

Soup Packing for the Less Fortunate

Through TBC's partnership with Sharing Sacred Spaces (SSS)—a multi-faith organization that brings together diverse religious communities in Toronto for meaningful, community-driven projects—TBC recently hosted a soup-packing event to support those in need.

The initiative involved assembling dried, ready-to-cook soup mixes in an efficient assembly-line style, combining ingredients like lentils, rice, and seasonings into easy-to-prepare containers for individuals facing food insecurity.

With the incredible efforts of about a dozen TBC volunteers, alongside representatives from Gursikh Sabha Gurdwara, the Church of Latter-Day Saints, the Church of Scientology, and the nearby Darchei Noam synagogue, we successfully packed 299 soup containers. These were donated to the Good Shep-

herd homeless shelter on Queen Street East, helping provide warm meals during a season of great need.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers for making this a fast-paced, fun, and impactful evening. And a special shout-out to Joanne K. and Susan E. for their behind-the-scenes support—and for that last-minute spice run that saved the day!



Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of February

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

AMANO , Tojiro	IWASHITA , Shaly	NAGAO , Moyo	TAKATA , Kazuko
AMANO-O'SHEA , Karen	KAMADA , Denroku	NAKAMURA , Genroku	TAKEDA , Yumiko Mickey
Akemi	KAMINO , Atsumu	NAKAMURA , Sumi	TAMAKI , Mitsuko
ARIZA , Riku	KASHINO , Wai	NAKASHIMA , Haruko	TANAKA , Itsuo
ARIZA , Takeru	KATO , Saju	NAKATA , Kimi	TATEBE , Saemon
DOI , Terrie Teruya	KAWABATA , Sayono	NAKATSU , Kimiko	TANIISHI , Joyce Miyoko
DRYGAS , Ronald Walter	KAWABATA , Tobei	NASU , Yurko Lily	TEHARA , Chiyo
EBATA , Nami	KAWAGUCHI , Hanaye	NISHI , Hanae	TEHARA , Genya
EDAMURA , Kane	KAWAGUCHI , Kanetaro	NISHI , Mamoru	TEHARA , Suye
FUJIMOTO , Tamae	KAWANO , Chizuko	NISHIKAWA , Shoji	TERAKITA , Mitsuo
FUJITA , Kano	KINOSHITA , Raisuke	NISHIMURA , Harry	TOKI , Emiko
FUJITA , Shigeo	KISHIBE , Aki	Kanshiro	TSUCHIDA , Suejiro
FUJIWARA , Douglas	KOBO , Takayo	NISHIMURA , Riyeko	TSUJI , Donald Akira
Tetsumori	KOMATSU , Sakaye	Frances	TSUJI , Edward Sadamu
FUKUSHIMA , Hanae	KONDO , Tohachiro	NISHIMURA , Seitaro	TSUJI , Etsuko
FURUKAWA , George Goro	KONDO , Tomekichi	NISHIZAKI , Barry Jon	TSUJI , Toshiro Roy
FURUYA , Isamu	KONDO , Zenshiro	Yoshio	TSUJI , Sakaye
GEKKO , Kimiko	KONO , Itoyo	OGATA , Sakae	TSUKAMOTO , Masato
HAMA , Hirokichi	KOZAI , Sute	OHASHI , Irene Setsuko	TSURUDA , Misae
HAMA , Hugo	KUBOTA , Hide	OHASHI , Mitsuo William	TSURUOKA , Mas Masaaki
HAMAMOTO , Tomoe	KUSANO , Tsurukichi	OMORI , Isamu	TSUKAMOTO , Masato
HAO , Yoshitada	MAEMURA , Ritsu	OMOTO , Tatsuya	URA , Tsutomu
HAYASHI , Fumikazu Frank	MASUDA , Yasuo	ONISHI , Kazuo Jack	URA , Betty Masaye
HAYASHI , Genichiro	MATSUDA , Yoshimi	RYUJIN , Isamu	UYEDA , Toshihiro
George	MATSUSHITA , Tatsumi	SAITO , Harry Hiromitsu	WATANABE , Haruno
HAYASHI , Yoshie	MENDE , Masuno	SAKAGUCHI , Shizue	WATANABE , Sumiye
HAYASHI , Yoshio	MINEMOTO , Hisako	SARUYAMA , Lucy Masako	YAHIRO , Kin
HIDAKA , Kathy Ling Fai	MIYAGAWA , Yoshiko	SASAKI , Tokubei	YAMAMOTO , Yasue
HIDAKA , Tsuyoshi	MIYANISHI , Toyozo	SHIMIZU , Asato	YAMASHITA , Yoshiko
HIKIDA , Toyoko	MIYASAKI , Harry Juichi	SHIMIZU , Evan Hiromitsu	YASUI , Toshie
HIROSE , Masayuki	MIYAUCHI , Yahei	John	YOSHIDA , Baby
HONKAWA , Kise	MIYAUCHI , Kumakichi	SHIMODA , Clara Shizue	YOSHIDA , Kanjiro
HORI , Mrs.	MIZUNO , Fumiyo	SHIOZAKI , Akira	YOSHIDA , Chika
HORIBE , Raymond K.	MIZUTANI , Harold	SHISHIDO , George Tetsuo	YOSHIDA , Natsu
HOSAKI , Takeko Eileen	Tsuneichi	SHOJI , Gin	
HYUGA , Hisatoshi	MIZUYABU , Yonekichi	SUGA , Kiyoshi	
IGARASHI , Shigeru	MORI , Sumi	SUGIMOTO , Itsuno	
INATA , Ei	MURAKAMI , Yukimi	SUMIYA , Chikayoshi	
ISHII , Kiichi Ken	MURANAKA , James	SUYAMA , Tei	
IWAMOTO , Yuri	Kinsuke	TABATA , Fumie	
IWASAKI , Kiyoshi Henry		TAKAOKA , Hideo Donald	

WELCOME TO KIDS' SANGHA and DHARMA SCHOOL**HAPPY NEW YEAR****A GLANCE BACK AT... December 2025...The Theme: "Bodhi Day"**

December 8 is known as Bodhi Day. After many years of searching, Siddhartha decided to sit under a Bodhi tree until he discovered the way to end suffering. He sat in deep meditation until he attained enlightenment. On December 8, Siddhartha experienced awakening. He realized the nature of suffering and the path to end it. This realization is expressed in the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path.

JANUARYS THEME: HO-ONKO – A Memorial for Shinran Shonin

Ho-onko means... "coming together to reflect on and express gratitude for Shinran Shonin's teachings and compassion".

This is a special day in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. We say, "thank you" to Shinran Shonin, who helped us understand Amida Buddha's great compassion.

Here's a look at January's Kids' Sangha Services and Dharma School Schedule

January 4 – Kids' Service (up in Mezzanine) at 10:30 a.m.

Meditation Workshop with Ray Nakano

January 11 – Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dharma School with Jessica

January 18 – Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dharma School – make your own Shinran Shonin Walking Stick with Naomi

January 25 – Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m.

All kids are to join the Family Service at 11:00 a.m.



A short quick Q AND A...

Q. I have never been to Sunday Service or Sunday School before. Can I still come?

A Yes. We welcome you to join us anytime throughout the year.



With gratitude, Kids' Sangha / Dharma School

MESSAGES FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

2025 Year End Reports

2025 has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding year for our temple. We were fortunate to receive several grants that have allowed us to make meaningful improvements to our facilities and expand our community programs.

Funding from the **Japanese Canadian Legacy Fund** supported three major projects:

- Installation of rooftop solar panels
- Replacement of flooring throughout the temple
- Restoration of the temple roof



This grant also enabled the **Dana Project**, which provides meaningful outreach to individuals experiencing social isolation through friendly visits and the delivery of Japanese bento boxes. In addition, we offered caregiver support workshops focused on stress management, self-care, and navigating specific conditions such as dementia or chronic illness.

We also received support from the **Ontario Hate Crime Prevention Security Grant**, which made it possible to install new glass sliding doors at our entrance, enhancing safety and accessibility for all who visit.

This year has reminded us that none of us walk this path alone. Through shared effort and mutual care, our community continues to embody the Dharma in everyday life. May we move forward together with wisdom, kindness, and gratitude.

Michael Tamaki

The most significant event for the Toronto Buddhist Church in April 2025 was the arrival of Rev. Hikaru Sugiura. With his presence, Rev. Kensho Hashimoto no longer has to shoulder the responsibilities of being our sole minister. Coordinating support for the Hamilton congregation—together with Jeff Wilson Sensei—as well as the Montreal sangha has become far easier.

We were also delighted to learn that Rev. Patti Kanaya, who served as our guest minister at this year's Obon, is now leading the Ottawa congregation. In addition, Rev. Hashimoto offered two well-received courses on Buddhism and Shin Buddhism, further enriching our community's understanding of the teachings.

One especially welcome development has been the resumption of weekly Kids' Sangha and Dharma School, bringing renewed energy and joy to our temple.



All of these positive changes were made possible, in part, by the addition of Rev. Sugiura. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Hashimoto, Rev. Sugiura, Jeff Wilson Sensei, Rev. Patti Kanaya, and Dennis Madokoro for their ongoing dedication to sharing the Dharma. We also offer deep thanks to Bishop Aoki for his tireless efforts in seeking ministers and ministerial candidates for the JSBTC.

Susan Ebisuzaki

Important Notice for Families

The Temple is seeking to contact family members regarding administrative matters.

If you are a family member of any of the individuals listed below, or know someone who may be, we would appreciate hearing from you.

- Takino Iwashita (passed away in 1935)
- Koto Nishimura (passed away in 1936)
- Sukeiku Mori (passed away in 1937)
- Yoshiko Iwashita (passed away in 1940)

- Yoshio Iwashita (passed away in 1941)
- Kumazaburo Miyamura (passed away in 1945)
- Keita Kimura (passed away in 1948)
- Zenpachi Eto (passed away in 1962)
- Suekichi Nishimura (passed away in 1968)
- Jinshiro Inamoto (passed away in 1979)
- Fukutaro Seiriki (passed away in 1987)
- Yone Inamoto (passed away in 1990)
- Kazuko Tanaka (passed away in 1990)
- John Shigeru Nishimura (passed away in 1998)

2026 Service schedule Toronto & Hamilton

January to August

- **January**
 - 1 (Thu) New Years Service
 - 4 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 10 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 11 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 17 (Sat) Hoonko Eve Service & Vegetarian potluck
 - 18 (Sun) Hoonko Service, New Year's Social
 - 25 (Sun) Regular Service,
TBC Annual General Meeting
- **February**
 - 1 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 8 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 14 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 15 (Sun) Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e) & Pet Memorial Service
 - 22 (Sun) Regular Service
- **March**
 - 1 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 8 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 14 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 15 (Sun) Spring Equinox Service (Higan-e)
 - 22 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 29 (Sun) Regular Service
- **April**
 - 5 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 11 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 12 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 19 (Sun) Hanamatsuri Service
- **May**
 - 3 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 9 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 10 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 17 (Sun) Gotan-e Service, Keirokai
 - 24 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 31 (Sun) Regular Service
- **June**
 - 7 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 13 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
 - 14 (Sun) Regular Service
 - 21 (Sun) Shosanshiki Service, Backyard BBQ
 - 28 (Sun) Regular Service (Pride Festival)
- **July**
 - 5 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 11 (Sat) Ohakamairi & Bon Odori
 - 12 (Sun) Bon Services
 - 18 (Sat) Hamilton Ohakamairi & Bon Service
 - 19 (Sun) Summer Service
 - 26 (Sun) Summer Service
- **August**
 - 2 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
 - 9 (Sun) Summer Service
 - 16 (Sun) Summer Service
 - 23 (Sun) Summer Service
 - 30 (Sun) Summer Service

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026

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 that the Annual Meeting of Members 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.

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 or by phone (416) 534-4302. A light lunch will be served after the morning service and before the Meeting.

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 following this notice. 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 January 7, 2026.

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



SCHEDULE A

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2026

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 Meeting of Toronto Buddhist Church to be held on January 25, 2026 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 _____, 2026.

(Signature)

(Print Name)

This Proxy must be returned to Toronto Buddhist Church by mail or electronically and received by the Temple on or before January 16, 2026.

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
Toronto Buddhist Church

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



WISHING YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN 2026
Dawn, Toshi, Crystal and Chibi.

WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL 2026
TBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Let us travel the Dharma path together in the New Year 2026!
Toivo and Naomi

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST
IN 2026
GEORGE AND AMY NAKANO

ALL THE BEST TO EVERYONE IN 2026
DARLENE

Thank you for your support. May our journey in the Dharma continue to unfold with clarity and joy
Reverends Hashimoto and Sugiura





TBC NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

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!

Recycle Your Chopsticks!



What do you do with your take-out chopsticks after you're done with them? Throw them away? Wash and keep them at home, even though you probably have nicer chopsticks to use daily?

Why not recycle your chopsticks?

The temple has enrolled in a

recycling program through Chop Value. This company brings new life to disposable chopsticks. We are given a bin to fill with chopsticks, and once it is full, the team comes to pick it up. To find out the different things they do, please check out their website! <https://chopvalue.com/en-ca>

If you have disposable chopsticks (waribashi) at home that you want to get rid of, please feel free to bring them to the temple for recycling! The bin can be found in the Social Hall by the other garbage bins!

In gassho,

Abagail Kataoka

DECEMBER THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Donna Nakano and Sandra Izukawa for playing the organ at this month's service
- ◆ Naomi Knude, Christine Yamada, Myra Takasaki, Joanne Kataoka and Bev Kato for helping Susan with tea tobans after service
- ◆ Grace Taguchi for arranging the altar flowers
- ◆ Ross Yoshida, Brian Huynh, and Bryan Day for making sure we have a Zoom service.
- ◆ 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 tobans group. Call the office or email Naomi Tsuji Tamaki at ilovelucy3d@yahoo.com with your questions or to join the group.

SHOTSUKI SERVICE AND SANGHA'S PANCAKE SUNDAY

DECEMBER 7, 2026



ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS

Membership Appeal

As we look ahead to 2026, we want to share a few important updates with our Sangha. Attendance and fundraising are slowly recovering, but donations and memberships fell short again this past year. At the same time, we've taken on the joyful but significant responsibility of welcoming both Reverend Hashimoto and our new assistant minister, Reverend Hikaru Sugiura. Their guidance is a true blessing, though it has added to our expenses.

The JSBTC has also increased its annual assessment fee more than usual this year, reflecting the rising costs they face as well.

Because of these combined pressures, we find it necessary to adjust our fees for 2026: Membership will be \$180.00, and the Guiding Light subscription will be \$75.00. We make this change with care, and with deep gratitude for your continued support. Your generosity keeps the Temple running and allows us to continue sharing the Dharma with our community.

Please complete the application on the next page and return it to the Temple office. Honorary Members are also asked to submit an application each year so we can keep our records current. While no fee is required for Honorary Members, donations—if you are able—are always appreciated.

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

(please mark “Membership”)

Email: darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca

Payments may be made by cheque, e-transfer (direct deposit), or PayPal/credit card through our website.

With gratitude,

Board of Directors, Toronto Buddhist Church

Buddhist Heritage Month – E-Petition e-6893

House of Commons, Parliament of Canada

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Please help support the official petition to recognize May as Buddhist Heritage Month in Canada. Adding your e-signature takes only a minute and helps highlight the cultural and spiritual contributions of Buddhists across the country.

How to Sign (4 quick steps):

1. Open the petition: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-6893>
2. Click “Sign this e-petition.”
3. Enter your name and email.
4. Check your inbox and confirm your signature.

Who can sign: Canadian citizens or residents.

For help, watch this short tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqXkwX3qp14>

Thank you for supporting this important national initiative and for helping us spread the word.

With metta,

Visita Sirin Leelaratna

Chair, Buddhist Heritage Month Team

VesakInOttawa@gmail.com | buddhistheritagemonth@gmail.com

Facebook: Buddhist Heritage Month | Buddhism in Canada

2026 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 2026 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, 2026**. 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 _____

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, 2026 to December 31, 2026. The Individual Membership Fee for 2026 is a minimum of \$180. 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*.

We also ask that all Honorary Members complete a membership application each year so that we can keep our records current. While no membership fee is required for Honorary Members, donations—if you are able—are always appreciated and help support the ongoing work of the Temple.

PLEASE SUBMIT A SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR 'MEMBERSHIP ONLY'. PLEASE DO NOT COMBINE WITH DONATIONS.

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