



Guiding Light

FebruARY, 2026



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 SANG-HA (10:30 AM)	11:00 AM	10:45 AM DHARMA TALK (JAPANESE)	
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person, ONLY	
FEBRUARY 8, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
FEBRUARY 15, 2026	NEHANYE SERVICE & PET MEMORIAL DAY	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
FEBRUARY 22, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
MARCH 1, 2026	MONTHLY MEMORIAL (SHOTSUKI)	ENGLISH (MEZZANINE)	ENGLISH	JAPANESE DHARMA TALK	
MARCH 8, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
MARCH 15, 2026	OHIGAN SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	

**Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) & Pet Memorial Services
February 15**

Nirvana Day, or Nehan-e, commemorates the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha from this world. In Jodo Shinshu, this day is a time to listen to the teaching of Amida Buddha that was revealed through Shakyamuni Buddha and continues to reach us today. This year, we will also hold a Pet Memorial Service. Pets are cherished members of our families, and through remembering their passing, we listen to the teaching that embraces all beings without exception. You are welcome

to bring a photo of your departed pet and remember them together in gratitude.



Makuragyō (Pillow-side) Service

When families consider having a Pillow-side service (Makuragyō) 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

Shoshinge - What Is the *Shōshinge*?

With the Ho-onko services now behind us in January, all that remains is to wait for the gentle signs of spring. But, as we all know, waiting can feel quite long. In this quiet time as we wait for spring to arrive, we may find ourselves naturally turning our attention once again to the moments we share at the temple and to what has long been cherished within our services. Within that shared time, Jodo Shinshu services have one distinctive and important characteristic.

It is that everyone chants together. Ministers, members, people attending for the first time, and those who grew up in this temple all chant the same sutras side by side. There is no special chanting reserved only for ministers; everyone is invited to join. For those who were raised in Jodo Shinshu families, the *Shōshinge* may be the most familiar chant of all. Its opening words—“*Kimyō-u muryō-u ju nyorai*”—are often heard long before their meaning is fully understood.

Starting this month, I will be writing this Dharma article as we take time to gently encounter the *Shōshinge* together. We will move slowly, pausing with each line and listening carefully—at this pace, it may take us many years to reach the end, and that is perfectly fine. What I hope to share here is not Buddhist knowledge, but an opportunity to encounter the heart of the Buddha through the words of the *Shōshinge*.

The *Shōshinge* is formally titled *Shōshin Nembutsu Ge*, which is translated into English as “Verses on True Shinjin and the Nembutsu.” It is often chanted in Jodo Shinshu temples, and many people naturally assume that it is a sutra—in fact, even in our regular Sunday services, we commonly refer to it as “Chanting Sutra *Shōshinge*.” Strictly speaking, however, it is not a sutra. In Buddhism, a sutra refers to teachings that were directly spoken by Shakyamuni Buddha. The *Shōshinge*, on the other hand, is a hymn written by *Shinran Shonin*, and because it was composed by him, it cannot be called a sutra in the traditional sense.

This leads us to an important question: with what intention did *Shinran Shonin* write the *Shōshinge*? Just before the verses begin, he writes, “**Thus, taking refuge in the true words of the Great Sage and turning to the commentaries of the revered patriarchs, I realize the depth and vastness of the Buddha’s benevolence and compose the following hymn.**” Here, “the Great Sage” refers to Shakyamuni Buddha, and “the true words” point to the teaching found in the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life, especially Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow. In other words, the *Shōshinge* is not an opinion or original doctrine, but *Shinran*’s response, born from deep listening to the Buddha’s vow and compassion.

The *Shōshinge* is composed of 120 lines, each consisting of seven Chinese characters. The first two lines summarize the entire *Shōshinge* and reveal *Shinran*’s own *Shinjin*, or

entrusting heart. The following forty-two lines praise Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow based on the Larger Sutra, and the remaining seventy-six lines praise Amida Buddha through the teachings clarified by the Seven Pure Land Masters. Seen in this way, the *Shōshinge* is a hymn of gratitude—a hymn of praise to Amida Buddha.

When did the *Shōshinge* come to be recited as a regular service? The *Shōshinge* began to be widely recited in the 15th century, during the time of Rennyō Shonin, the 8th head of Hongwanji. Emphasizing the importance of hearing the teaching together, he established the *Shōshinge* as a form of congregational chanting in which ministers and lay followers chant side by side.

It is often said that “if you understand the *Shōshinge*, you understand Jodo Shinshu.” This does not mean gaining information, but rather gradually coming to see how the Buddha looks upon us, and how deeply we are embraced just as we are. I hope we can come to sense the Buddha’s heart together, little by little. If, through this sharing, the Nembutsu comes to be heard—quietly and naturally—then this has meaning. May this become a place where the *Shōshinge* is not merely recited, but truly heard, and where Toronto Buddhist Church grows into a place where the Nembutsu is heard ever more deeply.

This month has been an introduction to the *Shōshinge*. From next month, we will begin to listen more closely, entering the verses themselves.

Namo Amida Butsu
Rev. Kensho Hashimoto
Resident Minister
Toronto Buddhist Church



WELCOME TO KIDS' SANGHA and DHARMA SCHOOL

Looking back at January 2026.....The Theme was Ho-onko

In Dharma School, the children discussed Shinran Shonin and his use of a walking stick to support him as he walked miles spreading the Dharma. The children created their own wooden walking stick. On it, they wrote and drew images of what they felt supported them in their own personal journey.

FEBRUARY'S THEME : "IMPERMANENCE"

Q....what does impermanence mean and why do we learn about it in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism?

Now, here's a look at February's Kids' Sangha and Dharma School Schedule

February 1 - Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m. (upstairs in the mezzanine)

Dharma School – Impermanence Wall Art and Parachute Fun

February 8 - Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m.

Dharma School with Jessica

February 15 - Kids' Service at 10:30 a.m.

Baking and Decorating Buddha Cookies with Dana

February 22 - NEW !10:30-11:00 practise singing our gathas (in classroom)

Everyone join the Family Service at 11:00 a.m.

Here's a riddle for you.....Question..."What is missing from S_NDAY?"

Answer....."U"

Hope to see you on Sunday. Everyone is welcome to join us.

With gratitude, Kids' Sangha/Dharma School



**ACTIVITIES IN
DECEMBER AND
JANUARY**

December—Calligraphy

January—Decorating a walking stick

Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of March

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

AKADA, Kinyemon	IIDA, Hideo	KUROKAWA, Mejiro	NISHIMURA, Tsuya
AKADA, Shigeru	IJIMA, Matazo	MAIKAWA, Kiyō	NISHIMURA, Yoshiye
AMEMORI, Asa	IKEDA, Haruo	MAKIMOTO, Shizuko	NISHIMURA, Yosojiro
AMEMORI, Mitsuo	INAMOTO, Tojuro	MARK, Yasuko	NISHIMURA, Chiyo Frances
AMEMORI, Rinji	INATA, Shigeru	MATSUMOTO, Fumiko	NISHIMURA, Constance Yumi
AMEMORI, Torao	IRIZAWA, Shizuka	MATSUMOTO, Joyce Sachiko	NISHIZAKI, Jack Hideo
AOKI, Masaru	ISHIDA, Tsuru	MATSUMOTO, Tetsu	NISHIZAKI, Joe Yoshio
AOYAMA, Koshiro	ISHIKAWA, Shozo	MATSUMOTO, Yuki	NOSE, Shigezayemon
BABA, Masao	ISOGAI, Isao	MAYUMI, Ichiro	NOSE, Stuart Eijiro
CHENG, Norma Masaye	ISOSHIMA, Mas	MENDE, Ronald Masaichi	ODA, Kimiko
DATE, Kenzaburo	ITO, Chusaburo	MINEMOTO, Mitsuo	OHARA, Ritsuko
EBATA, Jeannie	IWATA, Hideko Hedy	MIYASAKI, Herbie Masao	OHARA, Thomas Shunichi
EDAMURA, Fumi	JACKSON, John Joseph	MIZUYABU, Carl Kazumi	OHASHI, Tomekichi
ELLIS, Emi	KADOHAMA, George Katsuyuki	MORI, Ben	OKAZAKI, Marie Yoshiko
ENDO, Masatomo	KAMATA, Yoko	MORI, Hikobei	OKIHIRO, Koichiro
FUJIBAYASHI, Chiyo	KAMINO, Michael	MORI, Sachiko Nancy	OKU, Haruko
FUJIBAYASHI, Eizo Ace	KAWAGUCHI, Itsuno	MORI, Shige	OMOTO, Tokujiro
FUKAKUSA, Shigeru	KESHIKAWA, Gisaburo	MORI, Sukegoro	ONAMI, Tomiji
FUKUZAWA, Sada	KIKUCHI, Kiju	MORITA, Sumi	ONISHI, Kazuo Jack
HAMADE, Hana	KINOSHITA, Kiyoshi	MOTOMURA, Hiromu Robert	PETGRAVE, Shirley Toshiko
HASHIMOTO, Fusae	KITAMURA, Miyo	MURAKAMI, Roy Tsuneyuki	SAKAI, Kahei
HASHIZUME, Kane	KITAMURA, Shinichi	NAGAHARA, Kayo	SAKAUYE, Shigeo
HAYASHI, Miwa	KITAMURA, Yoshiye	NAKAGAWA, Akira	SAMESHIMA, Yoneko
HAYASHI, Tsunekichi	KITAZAKI, Ronald Yoshisumi	NAKAGAWA, George Kiyokazu	SANO, Yuwa
HAYASHI, Toshio George	KOBAYASHI, Isojiro	NAKAGAWA, Tojiro	SASAKI, Minato
HIRAKI, Chikai	KONDO, Tome	NAKAGAWA, Yoshiko	SASAKI, Lisa Miyumi
HIRAKI, Sawa	KONDO, Tsune	NAKAGAWA, Seiji	SATO, Shingo
HIRANO, Tomisaburo	KONISHI, Masaharu	NAKAI, Mr. Seiji	SATO, Takeko
HIRASAWA, George Herbert	KONO, Kyonosuke	NAKAMICHI, Sugi	SEIRIKI, Fukutaro
HIRASAWA, John Oliver	KOTANI, Fred Tatsuo	NAKAMURA, Dick Ichizo Joe	SEKO, Chiyo
HIRASAWA, Takeo	KOZAI, Eiko	NAKATA, Shige	SHIBATA, Tome
HIRATA, Shizuo	KOZAI, Minoru	NISHI, Toshinami Ted	SHIBATA, Toshihiro
HORI, Toshio	KUMABE, Kazuo Gerry	NISHIDERA, Yuki	SHIGA, Shizuko
HUANG, James	KUMAGAI, Misa	NISHIHAMA, Takashi	
IDENOUE, Hanako	KUMAGAI, Yasuyuki	NISHIMURA, Mitsuo	
IDENOUE, Kuyemon	KUMAGAWA, Fumiko		

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Memorial (Shotsuki)
Listing for the Month of
March

SHIKATANI, Julie Hisaye
 SHIMODA, Masakazu
 SHINMOTO, Yoshiyuki
 SHISHIDO, Shiu
 SHISHIDO, Toshiko
 SHOJI, Yaeko Elsie
 SUEFUJI, Akie
 SUEFUJI, Toshiaki
 SUGIYAMA, Takeshi
 TAGUCHI, Shigeru
 TAHARA, Sadaichi
 TAJIRI, Torao

TAJIRI, Misuye
 TAJIRI, Ronald Akira
 TAKATA, Misuyo
 TAKATA, Toyoaki
 TAKAYAMA, Kimiye
 TANABE, George
 TANABE, Iya
 TANAKA, Eizo
 TANAKA, Fujimatsu
 TANAKA, Sataro
 TANAKA, Takayuki
 TANAKA, Chisato
 TANAKA, Herbert Haruyoshi
 TANAKA, Roger Hideo

TANIISHI, Rosemary Shigeke
 TANIISHI, Shizue
 TANINO, Masuye
 TANINO, Ruth
 TEHARA, Tetsuko
 TETAKA, Hatsumi
 TSUBOUCHI, Fumiko
 TSUJI, Kimi
 TSUJI, Tami
 TSUJI, Nancy Yaeko
 TSUJIMOTO, Otozo
 UYEDA, Mike Masahiro
 UYESUGI, Juichi
 UYESUGI, Tomoichi

WAKABAYASHI, Kino
 WALL, Donald George
 WARNER, Mitsuye Mitzi
 WATADA, Matsujiro
 WATANABE, John Isao
 WATANABE, Larry Masato
 YAKO, Kiri
 YAMAMOTO, Haruko
 YAMASHITA, Jihei
 YAMASHITA, Masayuki
 YANO, Sally Sakaye
 YOKOTA, Don Yasuo
 YOSHIDA, Takeo
 YOSHIKAWA, Yukiyooshi



Beneath the Clouds and Mist
There is Brightness

In January, I went out to Richmond, BC, to give the Ho-onko lecture at the Steveston Buddhist Temple. It was a nice opportunity to catch up with their sangha, whom I hadn't visited with since before the pandemic. My host was Rev. Grant Ikuta, who of course served our Toronto temple for many

years.

Here in Ontario, we were having lots of snow. Meanwhile, in Richmond, I was amazed by the thick fog. In some cases it lasted all day, and Grant Sensei had to drive carefully because you could only see a few cars lengths ahead on the road. When I went for a walk on the waterfront, you couldn't see Vancouver Island—in fact, you couldn't see boats that were just a short distance offshore, and people would emerge suddenly from the fog as I walked along. It was really amazing to experience.

Reflecting on that experience, it made me think about some important lines from Shinran Shonin's *Shoshinge*:

The light of compassion that grasps us illumines and protects us always;
 The darkness of our ignorance is already broken through;
 Still the clouds and mists of greed and desire, anger and hatred,
 Cover, as always, the sky of true and real shinjin.

But though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists,
 Beneath the clouds and mists, there is brightness, not dark.
 When one realizes shinjin, seeing and revering and attaining great joy,
 One immediately leaps crosswise, closing off the five evil courses.

Although the world still existed as it is at all times, I couldn't

perceive most of it through the fog. Thus, my understanding of what Richmond looked like was severely limited, and the sun was only a brighter patch in the fog, not something I could actually directly see. Yet at the same time, during the day, I could see my immediate surroundings even though there was some mist between them and me. It was neither light, nor dark, and as long as I was careful then I wasn't in serious danger of injuring myself. So I felt safe, even as I could tell my perception was very limited.

Shinran says this is what our experience is like in life. Amida Buddha's light of wisdom is shining into our lives at all times, illuminating us. Because of that wisdom-light we can have a basic awareness of ourselves and can sometimes notice when anger, greed, and other poisonous effects of our self-centredness begin to arise. But our minds are still cloudy enough that we don't yet perceive things as they truly are, the way the Buddha does. We can dimly perceive that the Buddha is there enlightening us, that the Dharma is operating to ensure our liberation, but we don't manage to see reality in a direct and full manner.

Nonetheless, this is a far better state than the true darkness of the deep night. Already we are enabled to see ourselves and those around us in a better way than if we walked around with our eyes pressed shut. We can see (to a degree) the basic goodness in ourselves and others, and even more importantly, we can see the fog (three poisons) and remain aware of how much further we have to go to achieve genuine Buddhahood. Empowered by the light that shines through the fog of our continuing ignorance, we can make better choices and avoid some of the harm that we would walk right into at night. Dr. Taitetsu Unno used to say this is like turning on the light in the living room: if you walked around in the dark, you would bang into the furniture, but with the light turned on you can see the coffee table and take pains to avoid it.

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Beneath the Clouds and Mist There is Brightness

That experience with the fog really drove home the aptness of Shinran's metaphor for me. Illuminated by the Buddha, I'm grateful that I can see how I and my life operate in a basic way. And since that very light also reveals the lingering presence of so much "fog", I'm grateful that Amida Buddha

always grasps me and ensures that I will nevertheless be freed from ignorance in due time.

Namu Amida Butsu

Jeff Wilson, Sensei

Assistant Minister

Camp Lumbini 2026

Calling All Youth Ages 8-15!

Join us this summer, Sunday, July 26th - Saturday, August 1st, 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, July 31st for a one day camp experience.

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

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)

Toronto Buddhist Church & Hamilton Buddhist Temple 2026 schedule

- **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
- 22(Wed)-26(Sun) JSBTC AGM
- 26 Regular 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 Service
- 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



JSBTC Women's Federation
2026 Special Online Dharma Session

“Jodo Shinshu - Buddhism for our Modern Times”
Guest Lecturer: Rev. Patricia Kanaya
Date: February 21st, 2026, 1:00 pm (PST)



The JSBTC Women's Federation is honored to sponsor a special online Dharma Session with Rev. Patricia Kanaya on Saturday, February 21st, 2026, at 1:00 pm (PST).

In a turbulent and rapidly changing world that we live in, Rev. Kanaya will be giving a Dharma Talk on why, more than ever, is Jodo Shinshu the Buddhism for our modern times.

Born and raised in Toronto, Pat Sensei has led a fascinating life working first for the Government of Canada as a Public Servant and eventually finding her way to Japan where she was teaching English. It is there that she encountered the teachings of Shinran Shonin and started her studies to become a Kaikyoshi minister. Upon completion of her studies, Pat Sensei served as a Kaikyoshi minister in the Buddhist Churches of America, where she served for 16 years as the resident minister at the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. From 2018 – 2020, she also served as the Chair of the BCA Ministers' Association. In 2015, Rev. Kanaya was the keynote speaker for the World Buddhist Women's Convention which was hosted in Calgary by our own JSBTC Women's Federation. In 2023, Rev. Kanaya retired from the BCA and moved back to Canada and is currently residing in Ottawa, Ontario.

Please join us for what will surely be an insightful afternoon of the Buddha Dharma. Registration for the zoom link can be done through your local WF representative or through your temple office.

To register directly with JSBTCWF please e-mail:
jsbtcwf@gmail.com

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



"Reverend Tsuji is lit from within"

By Richard Reoch

"Reverend Tsuji is lit from within," my mother exclaimed. She and my father had met him the night before at the Toronto Buddhist Church. She was now walking around our home repeating this phrase, like a joyful

mantra, over and over again.

It was 1955 and I was barely six years old.

The following Sunday, I was seated in a large beautiful hall fashioned from hand-cut redwood, surrounded by generations of Japanese people chanting Buddhist verses.

"That's Reverend Tsuji," my mother whispered to me, nodding in the direction of a large gentleman in robes, striking a huge reverberating gong. I remember his smile. There was an invisible energy you could feel all around him.

Even after all these years, I have kept this greeting card from Reverend Tsuji with his wife, Sakaye, and their extended family.

Born in Canada in 1919 and having received a degree from the University of British Columbia, the young Kenryu Takashi



Tsuji travelled to Japan to undertake religious studies.

Just before the outbreak of World War Two, he returned to British Columbia. But like so

many other Canadians of Japanese origin, he was among the many thousands stripped of their rights, forced into internment camps and deprived of all family property. When, in his late 20s, he was released the young Reverend Tsuji took up the challenge of establishing a Buddhist temple in Toronto.

There was a profound lesson I learned from him and from my years among the Japanese Buddhist community in Toronto. It was something that transmitted itself silently through the manner in which the community members held themselves and related to each other – and the way they welcomed our family. The catastrophes they had endured were not the bleak opposite of what we might imagine a Pure Land to be. Their ordeals were, in reality, a perfect training ground for the deep practice of compassion.

It was a worldview that seized my imagination, all those years ago, in the verse we recited at the end of each Sunday service:

To the Lord Buddha, who promised to be present in His Teachings, we pledge our loyalty and devotion. We consecrate our lives to the Way of Life He laid down for us to walk. We resolve to follow His example and labour earnestly for the welfare of all humanity.

These words had a deep impact on my young mind. What followed was a lifetime dedicated to global service in the fields of human rights, peace and environmental protection.

I think back to my mother exclaiming, "Reverend Tsuji is lit from within!" For all that has flowed from that moment over the years until now, I bow in deep gratitude.

For Richard's full article, please visit his website: <https://richardreoch.info/2016/01/05/reverend-tsuji-is-lit-from-within/>

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada
Buddhist Youth Tour to Japan
2026 Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)



Dates of Trip: **Jun28 – July9, 2026**

Cost of Trip: **CAD \$1,000 + Airfare (approx. \$2,000-3,000 as of Jan.27)**

Candidate Qualifications:

- ✓ **Jodo Shinshu Buddhist**
- ✓ **High School Graduates~24 years old**
- ✓ **In good health**

Application Deadline: **March 20, 2026**



This special educational trip, sponsored by our mother temple Hongwanji, offers young Jodo Shinshu followers from North America, Hawaii, Canada and South America district a unique opportunity to experience Japanese culture while deepening their spiritual connection. We will visit Hongwanji and other historic sites associated with Shinran Shonin, engage in peace programs in Hiroshima, and connect with young Dharma friends from around the world. If there are any questions regarding the tour, please contact this year's tour leader **Rev. Kensho Hashimoto (Toronto)**

rev.hashimoto@tbc.on.ca



Online Registration:
(there is no paper registration form)



Tour itinerary is available from your Sensei or temple office.

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.

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.

**** DEADLINE ****
for the scholarship application is

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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,
Abigail Kataoka

JANUARY 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 toban after service
- ◆ Naomi Knude for preparing the Obuppan
- ◆ 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 toban group. Call the office or email Naomi Tsuji Tamaki at ilovelucy3d@yahoo.com with your questions or to join the group.

It's that time again! LET'S GO BLUE JAYS!



We have accessed a block of 50 seats for the Los Angeles game on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 3:07 pm.

The seats are better than last year in Section 238, rows 6,7 & 8 - along the third base line.

Time to support the team and our new Japanese player, "Kazuma Okamoto" along with a day with friends and/or family.

The cost is **\$70.00** per ticket, and a maximum of five (5) tickets per purchase. (TBC will subsidize the price again)

Please note that the seats are **not** handicap accessible.

We expect tickets to go fast so if you want to attend then book your ticket(s) by contacting Dave at: TBC.Events@tbc.on.ca. Please include your cell number and an email address.

Payment is due at time of reservation by e-transfer send to darlene.rieger@tbc.on.ca, cheque made out to Toronto Buddhist Church or credit card. Please indicate what your payment is for in comments.

The tickets are electronic and will be delivered to you by email or text to your phone.

You must have a cell phone with you at time of entry into Rogers Centre with your E-ticket available on your phone.

Questions? Please contact Dave at 416-452-5939

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

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

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.