



# *Guiding Light*

*April, 2026*



## **TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH** *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

**UPCOMING SERVICES**

		<b>KIDS SANGHA (10:30 AM)</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>10:45 AM DHARMA TALK (JAPANESE)</b>	
		<b>In Person</b>	<b>In Person &amp; Zoom</b>	<b>In Person, ONLY</b>	
<b>APRIL 12, 2026</b>	<b>REGULAR SERVICE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>APRIL 19, 2026</b>	<b>HANAMATSURI SERVICE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>APRIL 26, 2026</b>	<b>REGULAR SERVICE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>MAY 3, 2026</b>	<b>MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE (SHOTSUKI)</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>JAPANESE</b>	<b>SHOTSUKI</b>
<b>MAY 10, 2026</b>	<b>REGULAR SERVICE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>MAY 17, 2026</b>	<b>GOTAN-E SERVICE</b>	<b>ENGLISH MEZZANINE</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>KEIROKAI</b>

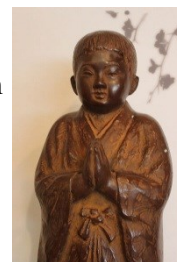
**HANAMATSURI—APRIL 19, 2026**

Hanamatsuri, celebrated on April 8, marks the birth of Sakyamuni Buddha (the historical founder of Buddhism). Temples decorate a small flower-covered pavilion called a Hanamido, where people pour sweet tea over a statue of the infant Buddha. This gentle ritual honors the legend of flowers and heavenly rain at his birth and invites reflection on compassion and peace.



**GOTAN-E—MAY 17, 2026**

Gotan-e celebrates the birthday of **Shinran Shonin** (the founder of Jodo Shinshu, True Pureland—which focuses on salvation through faith in Amida Buddha) on May 21st. Gotan-e Day honors the arrival of a teacher whose wisdom shaped the spiritual lives of millions



**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.



**This Month's *Shoshinge* – The Vow That Reaches Me**

*Hō zō bo satsu in ni ji  
Zai se ji zai ō bus-sho  
To ken sho bu-tsu jō do in  
Koku do nin den shi zen maku  
Kon ryu mu jō shu shō gan  
Chō hotsu ke u dai gu ze  
Go ko-u shi yu-i shi sho-u ju  
Ju sei myō shō mon jip-pō*

[English Translation]

**Bodhisattva Dharmakara,**

**in his causal stage,**

**Under the guidance of Lokeshvararaja Buddha,**

**Searched into the origins of the Buddhas' pure lands,**

**And the qualities of those lands and their men and devas;**

**He then established the supreme, incomparable Vow;**

**He made the great Vow rare and all-encompassing.**

**In five kalpas of profound thought, he embraced this Vow,**

**Then resolved again that his Name be heard throughout the ten quarters.**

In Japan, April marks the beginning of a new chapter for many people. It is the season of school entrance ceremonies and company orientations, when new environments and new lives begin. Students put on new uniforms and start attending school, while adults take their first steps into new workplaces. Each person begins this new stage of life accompanied by new encounters and connections.

Time truly passes in the blink of an eye. This April marks my third year since coming to Toronto, and Rev. Sugiura's second year. It feels as though we arrived only yesterday, but looking back, we realize that we have come this far supported by countless connections and relationships.

When starting a new life, many people set goals for themselves. "This year, I will study harder." "I will try something new." "I will take better care of my health." In this way, each of us begins the year with our own wishes and resolutions. In the portion of the *Shoshinge* that we will be reading, we also encounter a great "wish" and "vow"—the profound aspiration of Amida Buddha.

In the *Shoshinge*, the 42 verses beginning from the section we are reading today—on Dharmakara Bodhisattva in his causal stage—are based on the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life, one of the most important sutras cherished by *Shinran Shonin*. Through these verses, the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha is praised and revealed.

Before becoming Amida Buddha, he was known as

Dharmakara Bodhisattva. The first half of the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life explains how Dharmakara established his vows and attained Buddhahood.

Dharmakara Bodhisattva made his vow under the guidance of his teacher, Lokeshvararaja Buddha. The chant we often recite in Jodo Shinshu, the *Sanbutsuge* (Hymn in Praise of the Buddha), is in fact a song in which Dharmakara praises his teacher. The "Buddha" referred to in this hymn is neither Amida Buddha nor Shakyamuni Buddha, but Lokeshvararaja Buddha.

After being shown countless Buddha lands—their structures, and the qualities of the beings and devas who dwell within them—Dharmakara established his vow. Why was this necessary? Although each of these lands was an ideal realm carefully established by different Buddhas, it may be that they still had limitations in truly bringing all beings to liberation.

According to the traditional understanding of the Buddhist path, one becomes a Buddha by accumulating good acts and eliminating blind passions. The vows of many Buddhas were based on this principle—that those who cultivate good and eliminate ignorance become Buddhas. However, this path inevitably leaves behind those who are unable to fulfill such conditions.

Dharmakara Bodhisattva was different. Witnessing this reality, his vow was not self-centered. Rather, it arose from a profound question: "How can those who are suffering truly be liberated?" and "How can a world be realized in which all people can live in peace?" His vow was the most supreme and unprecedented aspiration—a great vow unlike any before.

He established a vow that even those who cannot abandon blind passions or accumulate good acts would be brought to Buddhahood just as they are. His aspiration to become a Buddha and his wish to bring all beings to Buddhahood were not separate—they were one and the same vow. These vows are expressed as the Forty-Eight Vows.

Dharmakara Bodhisattva contemplated deeply over an immeasurably long period—five kalpas—before selecting these vows.

In our daily lives, we often wish, "I want to live this way," yet we repeatedly encounter the reality that we cannot live up to our own ideals. When we reflect on ourselves, we may feel discouraged, thinking, "I am not good enough," or we may choose to look away from that reality.

If the Buddhist path is truly about performing good and eliminating blind passions, then we are precisely the ones who fall short of that path. And yet, it is for such beings as ourselves that Dharmakara Bodhisattva established his vow.

Continued on page 4

**This Month's Shoshinge – The Vow That Reaches Me, continued**

“As long as beings like this exist, there is meaning in my becoming a Buddha.”

“It is for the sake of such beings that I will attain Buddhahood.”

These were the thoughts that were selected over the course of five kalpas. And this vow did not remain merely a wish—it became a firm vow, fulfilled without fail, and now reaches us as the Name: Namo Amida Butsu.

Namo Amida Butsu is not a phrase we create through our own effort. It is the manifestation of Dharmakara's fulfilled vow—the working of Amida Buddha that has reached us here and now.

In this season of new beginnings, we each set our own goals and aspirations. Yet, it is also true that these resolutions do not always last. That is our reality as human beings.

Precisely because of this, I would like us to listen once

again, through the words of the *Shoshinge*, to the vow that never abandons us—a vow that has already been fulfilled and continues to work even now.

Even if we are unable to accomplish things through our own efforts, we are already embraced within a vow that has been established, fulfilled, and completed. When we come to realize this, our life may begin to shift—from a life in which we feel we must constantly strive, to a life in which we recognize that we are already being supported.

A life in which we believed we were the only ones who made wishes becomes a life in which we realize we are the ones who are being wished for. This is the teaching of Nembutsu.

Today as well, as we recite Namo Amida Butsu, may we listen together and awaken to the fact that we are beings already embraced within Amida Buddha's Vow.

Namo Amida Butsu  
 Rev. Kensho Hashimoto  
 Resident Minister

**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](mailto: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**

**WELCOME TO KIDS' SANGHA and DHARMA SCHOOL**

A glance back at March's theme: "Balance and Spring Higan"

During the time of Spring equinox, "ohigan", the day and night are almost the same length. A long time ago, because of this, people thought that our world and the "other shore" – the Pure Land, get very close. Monks would practice extra hard during this time to reach the Pure Land. Many people also believed that their family members who had passed away would return.

**APRIL'S THEME: SAKYAMUNI BUDDHA and HANAMATSURI**

What is Hanamatsuri?

Why do we pour sweet tea over the Buddha statue?

**HERE'S A LOOK AT APRIL'S SCHEDULE FOR KID'S SERVICE'S AND DHARMA SCHOOL**

April 12 – Kid's Service – TBD – 10:30 a.m.

Dharma School – with Naomi – 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

April 19 – Kid's Service – Sugiura Sensei – Hanamatsuri – 10:30 a.m.

Workshop – 11:00 a.m. with Dana – decorating Sakura flower cookies

April 26 – practice singing gathas – in classroom – 10:30 a.m.

Join Family Service – 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



Here's a riddle for you.....I am small and filled with flowers,

A special place for a statue in spring.

During Hanamatsuri, I am decorated,

What am I?

Answer: The flower shrine called a "Hanamido".

Hope to see you at Temple.....EVERYONE is WELCOME.

With gratitude,

Kid's Sangha / Dharma School



**MARCH 15, 2026**

**KIDS SANGHA SERVICE AND DHARMA SCHOOL**

### 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.

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

## THOUGHTS ON BUDDHA NATURE



How are you doing? How are you coping? What keeps you in one piece during this chaotic world experience? Perhaps, perhaps, this is where our religious foundation in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism may help.

Today, I would like to share some of my thoughts on Buddha Nature. So, what and where is this Buddha Nature found? How is it different from our everyday self?

First, let me tell you how I am coping. I have been studying and reflecting. Hopefully, in my senior years as I approach my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, I have absorbed some maturity from my studying and reflecting.

In Buddhism, this study is called “kuyo.” Shinran Shonin practiced “kuyo” his whole life. He always thought of himself as a humble student. He said ‘I do not have even a single disciple.’ He took the name of “Gutoku” which means an ignorant bald headed foolish being.

So back to my coping in this chaotic world, I found some solace in studying various Buddhist books. Here is a tale from that delightful little book “The Teachings of Buddha,” which we at TBC give out to newcomers to our Temple. These books are donated to TBC by BDK (Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai), a Buddhist charitable organization.

“There is a story of a wrestler who used to wear an ornament on his forehead of a precious stone. One time when he was wrestling, the stone was crushed into the flesh of his forehead. He thought he had lost the gem and went to a surgeon to have the wound dressed. When the surgeon came to dress the wound, he found the gem embedded in the flesh and covered with blood and dirt. He held up a mirror and showed the stone to the wrestler. “

Buddha Nature is like the precious stone of this story: it becomes covered over by the dirt and dust of other interests, and people think they have lost it, but a good teacher recovers it for them.

Buddha nature exists in everyone, no matter how deeply it may be covered over by greed, anger and foolishness, or buried by his own deeds and retribution. Buddha nature cannot be lost or destroyed, and when all defilements are removed, sooner or later it will reappear.

Likewise, the wrestler in the story who was shown the gem buried deep in his flesh and blood by means of a mirror, so people are shown their Buddha nature, buried deep beneath

their worldly desires and passions, by means of the light of the Buddha.

So again, what and where is this Buddha nature? How is it different from our ordinary self?

Our ordinary self is limited by our five senses, what we can see or hear, taste or feel or what we think. But as Shakespeare wrote long ago, “There are more things in this world, Horatio, than are dreamt about in your philosophy.

Speaking of things beyond our world and our philosophy, I also read “December Fan” by Nobuo Haneda, which covers the essays of Manshi Kiyokawa. Kiyozawa poses the question, “What is most important to improve ourselves? “He partially answered by saying, “First, reflect upon yourself.” But what self was he referring to? The ordinary selfed by our five senses, or the self that he later refers to as the independent self of a person who is prepared for and unafraid of death? This independent self is the self of “Basic Desire”, sometimes called “True Self”, sometimes called our Buddha nature. As I approach my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, I believe that I am trending toward that independent self who is prepared for and unafraid of death.

So, at this stage of my life, this is where Buddhism has really become fascinating to me. We all have this “Basic Desire”, this “True Self”, this Buddha nature that has the ability to connect directly with Amida Buddha. I believe no, I can see in the mirror of my good teachers my Buddha nature.

In Jodo Shinshu, this is referred to as “Shinjin”, that one thought moment of joy. And when we receive that one thought moment of joy from Amida Buddha, then we can look beyond our ordinary self and become aware of our “True Self” or our Buddha nature.

My wish for all of you is that you may experience that one thought moment of joy as we discover, like the wrestler, that precious jewel buried deep within us.

As the last lines of Jodo No Tabiji (Journey to the Pure Land) taught to us by our good teacher Makino sensei during his short time at TBC states “There wells up the deepest joy that I can smile about”. May all of us during these chaotic times experience this deepest joy that we can smile about.

In Gassho,

Dennis G Madokoro,

TBC Minister Assistant

COPY AND PASTE LINK <https://forms.gle/s56Jfawq4GtPQKyA6>

TOA BROWSER TO PLACE YOUR BENTO ORDERS OR CALL THE OFFICE AT 416-534-4302



**Sunday, May 17, 2026**

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

Honorary TBC members (77+) will receive a complimentary bento.

***(Please make sure you have  
a current signed membership form on file with the office.)***

Everyone else will be able to purchase a bento for \$20.

**The deadline for ordering ALL bentos is May 3, 2026.**

***No bento order can be taken after the deadline.***

***Please see the Guiding Light for details.***

An entertainment programme will follow the luncheon

**SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO JOIN US AND OUR KEIROKAI HONOREES**

**MAY 17, 2026, 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 17 2026 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, 2026. 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](mailto: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 3th**. You can order on line at <https://forms.gle/s56Jfawq4GtPQKyA6>

**2026 KEIROKAI HONOUREE**

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



Last Name in Kanji (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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 17th? Yes No

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

Email to send Zoom invitation \_\_\_\_\_

## **Camp Lumbini Bake Sale**



### **ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

Camp Lumbini will be holding a bake sale **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 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](mailto: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)

**Deadline to notify the Temple is June 30, 2026.**

### Toronto Buddhist Church & Hamilton Buddhist Temple

#### 2026 schedule

- 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

#### Bon Odori 2026

After a long, cold, snowy winter, it's time for a spring fling. Come out to the Toronto Buddhist Church to learn Bon Odori, Japanese folk dances.

Obon is an important Buddhist observance to honour our ancestors and dancing is part of the festival. Traditional Japanese folk dances (odori) are made up of short sequences of steps that are repeated throughout the song. Dances have also been created for modern songs. The Bon Odori festival will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, following Natsu Matsuri.

In preparation, bon odori practices will be held on Tuesday and Friday evenings, 8:00 – 9:30 pm, at the Toronto Buddhist Church. 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. It is not necessary to attend both the Tuesday and Friday sessions.

The dances may require the use of a sensu (folding fan), uchiwa (round fan), tenugui (towel), and kachi kachi or naruko (Japanese castanets). Participants will be required to provide their own, and these will be available for purchase.

The first practices will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 and Friday, April 24, 2026.

For more information, please contact the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Toronto Buddhist Church  
1011 Sheppard Ave. West  
North York, ON  
416-534-4302

416-534-4302  
tbc@tbc.on.ca

# 2026 Hanamatsuri Family Banquet

Sunday April 19, 2026 after Hanamatsuri Service

Downstairs in the Social Hall

**Grandparents eat \*\*\*Free\*\*\***

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



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

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



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

Tickets will be on sale Starting March 15, 2026.

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



# Let's Ondo Again!



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

**All ages, newcomers welcome**

Only 50 cents per practice  
Starts Tuesday, April 21, 2026

**Every Tuesday and Friday  
prior to Obon (July 11, 2026)**

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

**Step by step instructions given**

**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

## 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

## MARCH THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Donna Nakano and Sandra Izukawa for playing the organ at this month's service
- ◆ Naomi Knude, Myra Takasaki, Joanne Kataoka and Bev Kato for helping Susan with tea toban after service
- ◆ Debbie Katsumi for preparing the Obuppan for the naijin
- ◆ Grace Taguchi for the flower arrangements for the naijin
- ◆ 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](mailto:tbc@tbc.on.ca). Let's have some new people to thank.

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

## LET'S GO BLUE JAYS!



We have reserved another 50 tickets for the **June 23rd** game against the Houston Astros.

These tickets are in sections 519, rows 7 to 10

The cost is **\$23.00** 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **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](http://www.TBC.ca) “Make a Donation” page



Please include the purpose of your donation, as well as, your **full name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.**

**This is particularly important if you're donating by cheque or e-transfer.** This helps ensure you will receive a donation receipt for tax purposes. Detailed information can also be found on the TBC website: [www.tbc.on.ca](http://www.tbc.on.ca).

Your donations are always greatly appreciated.

Gassho

Toronto Buddhist Church

## **Toronto Buddhist Church Women's Federation Group**

The Toronto Buddhist Church Women's Federation Group is being reorganized. All are welcome to join. If you are interested in joining the new Leadership Committee, please contact Joanne Miyazaki at [tbc.wf@tbc.on.ca](mailto:tbc.wf@tbc.on.ca). Membership is \$15. A combined membership of \$20 is available (WF \$15 and Sangha \$5).

We appreciate your support and welcome input as we plan future activities.

## **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](mailto: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.**