



Guiding Light

September, 2026



TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH *a Jodo Shinshu Temple*

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

		<u>UPCOMING SERVICES</u>		10:45 AM DHARMA TALK (JAPANESE)	
		KIDS SANGHA 10:30 AM	11:00 AM		
		In Person	In Person & Zoom	In Person, ONLY	
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026	SUMMER SERVICE	NONE	ENGLISH	NONE	
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026	MONTHLY MEMORIAL	ENGLISH (MEZZANINE)	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	SHOTSUKI RALLY SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026	OHIGAN SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
SEPTEMBER 27, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
OCTOBER 4, 2026	MONTHLY MEMORIAL	ENGLISH (MEZZANINE)	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	SHOTSUKI
OCTOBER 11, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
OCTOBER 18, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	JSBTC DAY, OVSA PRESENTA- TIONS
OCTOBER 25, 2026	REGULAR SERVICE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	NONE	
NOVEMBER 1, 2026	MONTHLY MEMORIAL	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	JAPANESE	SHOTSUKI

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



This Month's *Shoshinge* The Assurance of *Shojoju*

Hon gan myō gō shō jō gō

*Shi shin shin gyō gan ni in
Jō tō gaku shō dai ne han*

His-shi metsu do gan jō ju

【English Translation】

The Name embodying the Primal Vow is the act of true settlement,

The Vow of entrusting with sincere mind is the cause of birth;

We realize the equality of enlightenment and supreme nirvana

Through the fulfillment of the Vow of attaining nirvana without fail.

As we look ahead to September, we are beginning to feel the first signs of autumn here in Toronto. As the days go by, the temperature will gradually begin to drop, especially in the mornings and evenings. It is the time of year when the lively atmosphere of summer slowly gives way to the quieter season of fall.

A little while ago, at the end of July, Rev. Sugiura and I were kindly invited by the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto to have dinner at the official residence of Consul-General Matsunaga. During the evening, we had the opportunity to exchange thoughts from a variety of perspectives about the Japanese Canadian and Japanese community, which will increasingly face the realities of an aging population in the years ahead. It was a very meaningful opportunity for us.

For more than eighty years, our temple has walked together with the community through Sunday Services, memorial services, funerals, and many other activities. Of course, it remains important for us to continue preserving what has been carefully passed down over the generations. At the same time, as society and our community continue to change, I feel we also need to find new ways to be present in people's lives and to support the wider community alongside with those around us.

This dinner gave me a valuable opportunity to reflect once again on the role our temple may be called to play in the years ahead. In connection with this, I hope that we can begin a new project as we look toward the 85th anniversary of our temple in 2030. I hope you will look forward to an announcement in the near future.

In my previous article, I introduced the section of the *Shoshinge* that refers to the twelve kinds of light of Amida Buddha taught in the *Larger Sutra*. These lights express the working of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion—the working that illuminates us, guides us, embraces us, and never abandons us.

At the end of that article, I wrote that this working reaches us here and now as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu. This month's passage of the *Shoshinge* teaches us about the working of that Name and about those who receive the Entrusting heart (*Shinjin*) entering *Shojoju*, the stage of the truly settled.

When we hear the words “birth in the Pure Land,” we may naturally think about what happens after death. Shinran Shonin, however, teaches that our birth in the Pure Land and our attainment of Buddhahood become settled not at the moment of death, but during this present life. Put simply, *Shojoju* refers to the company of those whose birth in the Pure Land and attainment of Buddhahood are assured.

However, entering the stage of the truly settled does not mean that all confusion and anxiety disappear from our lives. Every day we worry about our families, our health, our work, our relationships, and our future.

“Did I really make the right decision?” “What is going to happen from here?”

As soon as one worry disappears, another seems to take its place. When we think about it, our own minds are rarely very “settled.”

I spend most of my daily life around North York, where the temple is located, so I do not go downtown Toronto very often. When I do go downtown, perhaps to watch a Blue Jays game or to have dinner with friends, a map app is essential for me. When I am walking through an unfamiliar area, I find myself checking it again and again.

“Am I really going the right way?” “Did I already pass the street where I was supposed to turn?” Even when we know our destination, we can still become confused or uncertain along the way.

Our lives are similar in some ways. We do not know what will happen tomorrow, and there are times when we cannot be sure whether the choices we make are the right ones.

So, what does it mean to be established in *Shojoju*?

It does not mean that our minds will never again become confused or uncertain. Rather, it means that even though I continue to live with confusion, my ultimate destination has already been settled through Amida Buddha's Primal Vow.

This is not because we have become particularly good people. It is not because we have acquired profound wisdom or completed some special spiritual practice. On the contrary, Amida Buddha's Primal Vow was established precisely for people like us - people who live with greed, anger, and ignorance, and who continue to struggle through a life that does not always unfold according to our wishes.

The fulfillment of that Vow reaches us as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu is not something we accumulate through our own effort in order

(continued on page 4)

This Month's *Shoshinge* – The Assurance of *Shojoju*, continued

to earn birth in the Pure Land. Rather, it is Amida Buddha's compassionate call reaching us: "I will never abandon you."

Even when we hear that call of the Primal Vow and receive the Entrusting heart (*Shinjin*), we still worry. We still become angry. We still become anxious. We still find ourselves caught in self-centred thoughts. Yet there is one very important difference. Even though our minds are unsettled, Amida Buddha's working is never unsettled.

Our birth in the Pure Land does not depend upon the condition of our minds. Today we may feel peaceful and secure, and tomorrow we may once again be filled with anxiety. That is simply who we are. If our birth depended upon the strength or certainty of our own minds, we could never find true assurance.

Instead, Amida Buddha's Primal Vow has already been fulfilled, and its working reaches us as *Namo Amida Butsu*. This is why we are established in *Shojoju* here and now.

The assurance of *Shojoju* does not mean that we know everything that will happen in the future. Rather, it is the assurance that even as I live a life in which I do not know what tomorrow may bring, I am never abandoned and have already been placed on the path that leads to Buddhahood.

There is, however, an important distinction we must keep in mind. Being established in *Shojoju* does not mean that we attain Buddhahood here and now in this present life.

Receiving the Entrusting heart (*Shinjin*) does not cause

our blind passions to disappear. We do not suddenly become people who are never shaken by anything, nor do we become free from anger, desire, or ignorance. Until the end of this life, we continue to live as ordinary beings filled with blind passions and confusion.

We remain ordinary beings to the very end. Yet there is the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which never abandons such beings as ourselves, but continues to work with the promise to bring us unfailingly to Buddhahood.

What changes is not that we suddenly become people without confusion. Rather, in the midst of our confusion, it becomes clear what sustains us and where our lives are ultimately headed. As we continue through this uncertain life, our hearts and minds will surely continue to waver. Yet the working of Amida Buddha that embraces us never wavers.

Last month, we reflected on the light of Amida Buddha. This month, we hear how that same compassionate working reaches us as the Name, *Namo Amida Butsu*. As we hear this compassionate call, may we appreciate together, as we look ahead to September, that even as ordinary beings filled with confusion, we have already been settled on the path that leads to Buddhahood.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Kensho Hashimoto

Resident Minister

OBITUARIES

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

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

Thank You. In Gassho Toronto Buddhist Church

Mr. Wayne Takahashi 66 yrs

July 27, 2026

Mr. Hiroshi Sekiguchi 69 yrs

July 27, 2026



Memorial (Shotsuki) Listing for the Month of October

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 October. All are invited and welcome to attend.

ABE , Tomo	KAINO , Fumiyo	NISHIMURA , Shige	TOHANA , Sachiko Ruby
ADACHI , Ogen	KAJI , Matsuyo	NISHIMURA , Yutaka Glenn	TOYONAGA , Atsuko
AKADA , Asa	KAWABATA , Kazuo Mike	NISHINO , Terrie Tsuruye	TSUBOUCHI , Kiyoshi Thomas
AKADA , Sadajiro	KAWAGUCHI , Kiyoko	NITTA , Jean Yuri	TSUJI , Shizue
AMEMORI , Suye	KAWAI , Tetsutaro	NOMA , Michiko	URA , Jim Iwao
ARIZA , Nancy Chiyo	KISHIBE , Masayuki	NOSE , Seizo	URABE , Emiko Gertrude
ASA , Yasuko	KITAGAWA , Tsuneya	NOSE , Mitsuko	WAKABAYASHI , Fusae
ASADA , Kiyomi	KITAMURA , Frank Osamu	OHARA , Noye	WAKABAYASHI , Koto
AZUMA , Momoyo Jane	KITAURA , Ryotaro	OHASHI , Hirokichi	WAKABAYASHI , Mitsuko
BABA , Donna May	KIYONAGA , Kikuye Kay	OHASHI , Take	WAKABAYASHI , Takeo
BELAIR , Keiko	KOBAYASHI , Osamu	OKIHIRO , Hisa	WAKABAYASHI , Tokuzo
BRATHUHIN , Tamiko	KOBYASHI , Patrick Mitsuharu	OHATA , Masayuki	WAKIDA , Ei
DOBSON , John Charles	KOBAYASHI , Shigezo	OMATSU , Kinu	WAKISAKA , Tsugi
EDAMURA , Ken Edward	KODAMA , Sukeichi	SAITO , Shiro	WANI , Juichi
FUJII , Mary	KONDO , Roy Iwao	SAKAMOTO , Kimi	WATANABE , Molly Nobuko
FUJIMOTO , Noboru	KOZAI , Susumu	SATO , Teruko Terrie	YAMAGUCHI , Masako
FUJINO , Dorothy Shizuko	KUBOTA , Shigeo	SHIGEISHI , Sally Shizue	YAMAMOTO , Hatsue
FUJINO , Sude	KUMABE , Jinzo	SHIMIZU , Kaide	YAMAMOTO , Makino
FUJIOKA , Toshio	MATSUI , Kane	SHINMOTO , Saichi	YAMAMOTO , Nobby
FUJIOKA , Teruko Terri	MATSUSHITA , Chieko	SHINTANI , Sueno	YAMAMOTO , Nobby
FUKAKUSA , Tamotsu	MICHIBATA , Suyeko	SHITAMI , Yone	YAMASHITA , Haruyo
FUKAKUSA , Kameki	MIYADA , Takashi	SMITH , Dr. Prof. Kenneth Carless	YAMASHITA , Shigeiko
FUKAKUSA , Yasutaro	MORI , Charles "Chuck" Kazuhiko	SUGAMORI , Seitaro	YOSHIDA , Tomoko
FUKUMOTO , Toyemon	MUKAI , Hikojiro	TAGUCHI , Moto	YOSHIDA , Yasuyoshi
FUKUSHIMA , Kazuo "Charlie"	MURAI , Kofuji	TAKAGI , Chiyoko	
GOTO , Teruji Tin	MURAKAMI , Katsuji	TAKAHASHI , Hideta	
HAMADE , Shingo	MURANAKA , Kaoru Kay	TAKAHASHI , Yoshi	
HAMAWAKI , Margaret Fujiye	NAGANO , Kumao	TAKASAKI , Kaoru	
HANAZAWA , Toku	NAGATA , Kaneichi	TAKASAKI , Shizue	
HATANAKA , Kenichi Ken	NAKAGAWA , Masaru	TAKATA , Moriyuki	
HOBZA , Patricia Akemi	NAKAGAWA , Sasuke	TAKEMURA , Masa	
HORII , Kiyoshi	NAKAMURA , Ted Teiji	TAKEUCHI , Terry Teruo	
HORII , Teru	NAKANO , Chiye Joan	TAMAKI , Glen Atsushi	
IBUKI , Kiku	NAKAO , Haru	TANABE , Yoshiko Mary	
ICHIYEN , Seiichi	NARUSE , Tadayoshi	TANAKA , Arataro	
ICHIYEN , Shozo	NISHIJIMA , Toshio	TANAKA , Hisao	
IIZUKA , Kotsuru	NISHIKAWA , Misao	TANAKA , Juhei	
INAMOTO , Dorothy Tomie	NISHIKAWA , Misao Mae	TANAKA , Thomas Sanya	
INAMOTO , Fujio	NISHIKAWA , Toshie	TANAKA , Yaye	
INAMOTO , Kenneth Kenji	NISHIMOTO , Kenneth Kenji	TANINO , Eikichi	
ISHII , Mitsuye	NISHIMURA , Chiyoji	TANINO , Kenneth Susumu	
ISHIKAWA , Hiroko	NISHIMURA , George Gengo	TATEBE , Yoko Joyce	
IWASAKI , Tokino	NISHIMURA , Jutaro	TESHIMA , George Yukio	
KAGAYAMA , Shizuyo			

THE HOPE OF MEETING AGAIN



Hello everyone. I hope you are all doing well.

July has passed by so quickly, and August is already coming to an end. Compared to Japan, I have to say that the summer heat here in Canada feels much more manageable. I hear that temperatures in Japan have been approaching 40°C, along with the high humidity.

For Buddhist ministers, August is one of the busiest times of the year. At my family temple in Japan, we have what we call *Obon-mairi* every August. During Obon-mairi, we visit members' homes and recite sutras together with their families. We usually visit around 50 households.

At the same time, we also visit graves. We visit around 50 to 70 graves, going from one grave to another and reciting sutras. Of course, the graves are outdoors, so we recite sutras under the blazing summer sun. By the end of the day, I sometimes wonder whether I am reciting sutras or simply trying to survive. I imagine Buddhist ministers across Japan can relate to this.

And yet, there is a reason why we continue to make these visits every year.

For many people, Obon is a time to remember those who have passed away. In Japan, it is common for families to gather and visit the graves of their loved ones together.

The same is true here in Toronto. We visit the graves and remember those who have passed away. It is a time to look back on the moments we shared with them, the memories we made, and the words they once shared with us.

As Buddhist ministers, we have the privilege of being present with families during these precious moments. We recite sutras together and put our hands together in *gassho*.

Through this time together, we can reflect once again on our connection with those who have passed away, and through that connection, listen to the teachings of Amida Buddha.

This past July, the Toronto Buddhist Church held its Obon Festival. One of the songs we danced to during the Bon Odori was “*Nada Sōsō*.”

I feel that this is a particularly fitting song for Obon “*Nada*

Sōsō” is an Okinawan expression that means “tears falling freely.”

The first verse describes someone looking through an album and remembering a beloved person who is no longer there.

The second verse expresses the strong feeling of wanting to see that person again, even though they can no longer see each other. Yet the song is not simply about sadness. It also expresses gratitude toward that person and the feeling that they continue to watch over us.

Throughout the song, we hear about an enduring love for someone who has passed away. One part of the second verse especially stays with me.

It expresses the wish that, from wherever that person may be, they might be able to see us, and the hope that someday we will meet again.

Even though we can no longer see the person we love, the song expresses a desire to carry our sadness and loneliness with us, cherish the memories we have, and continue moving forward with the hope of meeting again someday.

This sentiment resonates deeply with the teachings of Jōdo Shinshū.

Those who are born in Amida Buddha's Pure Land attain Buddhahood. We, too, are taught that we will eventually be born in the Pure Land, where we can meet our loved ones again.

Remembering those who have passed away is not simply about looking back on the past. As we listen to the teaching that we will meet again in the Pure Land, we continue to live our lives today.

Eventually, the visits to the graves come to an end, the Bon Odori comes to an end, and we return to our everyday lives.

But our connections with those who have passed away do not come to an end.

When we happen to see an old photograph, hear a familiar song, or remember something they once said, the moments we shared with them come alive again within us.

Perhaps this, too, is one of the important meanings that Obon gives to our lives.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Hikaru Sugiura

Assistant Minister

**Toronto Buddhist Church &
Hamilton Buddhist Temple**
2026 schedule

• September

- 6 (Sun) Summer Service
- 12 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
- 13 (Sun) **Shotsuki Memorial Service**
(Rally Sunday)
- 16 (Wed) -19 (Sat)
JSBTC Ministerial Association Meeting
in Winnipeg (Ministers away)
- 20 (Sun) **Autumn Equinox Service** (Higan-e)
- 27 (Sun) Regular Service

• October

- 4 (Sun) Shotsuki Memorial Service
- 10 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
- 11 (Sun) Regular Service
- 18 (Sun) JSBTC Day Service
(OVSA Presentations)
- 25 (Sun) Regular Service

• November

- 1 (Sun) **Shotsuki Memorial Service**
- 8 (Sun) Regular Service
- 14 (Sat) TBC Annual Bazaar
- 15 (Sun) **Eitaikyo Service**
- 21 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
- 22 (Sun) Regular Service
- 29 (Sun) Regular Service

• December

- 6 (Sun) **Shotsuki Memorial Service**
- 12 (Sat) Hamilton Monthly Service
- 13 (Sun) Regular Service
- 20 (Sun) **Bodhi Day Service** (Jodo-e)
- 27 (Sun) Regular Service
- 30 (Wed) Mochitsuki
- 31 (Thu) New Year's Eve Bell Ringing
(Joya no Kane)

WELCOME TO KID'S SANGHA AND DHARMA SCHOOL
SUMMER TIME FUN!

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer months. We've experienced intense heat, humidity and smoke. Mother nature teaches us that impermanence occurs everyday in our precious environment.

RALLY SUNDAY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Kid's Service – 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. – 2nd floor mezzanine

Dharma School – 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. – classroom

SEE YOU AT TEMPLE!





WE ARE SO SORRY, GRETA

Good morning, how are you doing? The title of this article is an apology to Greta Thunberg, the teenage climate activist who challenged the world's leaders with the compelling statement "How dare you!" several years ago. Given the smoke from the forest fires and the increasingly hot days, it has been hard to breathe, let alone lead a "normal" life.

We are the inhabitants of that smoky, hot world and especially as Buddhists, we realize that everything is connected, causes and conditions. Each of us has contributed to the present situation through our reliance on trying to lead a quote 'normal' life. Through practices like driving our vehicles, gas or electric (the energy must come from somewhere!), we are heating this small blue planet that we call Earth. Through our reliance on all things electric and electronic, we are consuming incredible amounts of energy. Did you know that the data centres that provide us with those wonderful kernels of knowledge like Google search, those data centres consume vast amounts of energy and also water to cool those super computers? That leads to a hotter atmosphere, drier forests, and more forest fires.

If we continue down this path, our small blue planet will become more hostile to human habitation. What about our grandchildren? What kind of life are we leaving them?

In times like now, we all feel overwhelmed. These circumstances were also familiar to the generations of our Jodo Shinshu founder Shinran Shonin. Rather than just forest fires and high temperatures, they faced earthquakes, floods, famine,

and epidemics. The vast majority of that Japanese population were illiterate so how did they find out about a reason to persist and survive? They put their hopes in the Nembutsu which was taught orally by Shinran and his followers. What was a remedy to those Jodo Shinshu followers is still available to us today. There is hope that as a collective world society we can mitigate those causes of climate change and enable our future families to lead a fruitful and enjoyable life.

Did you know that our first Nations people carried out controlled burns around their villages? These burns protected their living habitat and furthermore after the burn miraculously crops of huckleberries, raspberries and strawberries would flourish in those burnt-out grounds. The earth regenerated, what wisdom, what a legacy! This was a wisdom that was passed down generation to generation thorough the first Nations practice of oral history. Does that sound familiar?

Similarly, the wisdom for the Nembutsu has been passed down to us Jodo Shinshu followers like those flourishing huckleberries, raspberries and strawberries. We can endure these present-day calamities. Hopefully through our collective efforts of government and world societal changes this will lead to a more sustainable and friendly earth. We must change our wasteful ways and learn to live sustainably as our first Nations people did in the past. We must change!

Namo Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Dennis Madokoro,

TBC Minister Assistant

WOMEN'S FEDERATION

BAKE GOODS FUNDRAISER,

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

Shout-Out to Our Wonderful Bakers A heartfelt thank-you to all our amazing bakers whose generosity and talent continue to brighten our Temple events. The Women's Federation will be holding a **Bake Sale on October 4, 2026**, with proceeds supporting participation in the 2027 Convention in Japan.

We hope you will be able to support this effort by contributing baked goods or by purchasing items at the Bake Sale on October 4. Every contribution helps, and we are deeply grateful for your continued kindness and enthusiasm.





YOU ARE INVITED TO

RALLY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

DOWNSTAIRS IN THE SOCIAL HALL
AFTER SERVICE

We miss you!

Join in celebrating with friends, displays, photos, and refreshments.

Everyone is welcome!

MINISTERS' APPRECIATION MONTH—SEPTEMBER

Our Ministers

Vancouver & Fraser Valley Buddhist Temples



Socho Tatsuya Aoki
Minister



Robert Akune Sensei
Assistant Minister

Steveston & Fraser Valley Buddhist Temples



Grant Ikuta Sensei
Minister



Roy Akune Sensei
Assistant Minister

Kamloops, Kelowna & Vernon Buddhist Temples



Naoki Hirano Sensei
Minister

Calgary Buddhist Temple



Robert Gubenco Sensei
Minister

Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta



Roland Ikuta Sensei
Minister

Manitoba Buddhist Temple



Tanis Moore Sensei
Assistant Minister

Toronto Buddhist Church, Hamilton Buddhist Temple & Montreal



Kensho Hashimoto Sensei
Minister



Hikaru Sugiura Sensei
Associate Minister



Jeff Wilson Sensei
Assistant Minister

Toronto, Hamilton & Montreal Chaplain Canadian Armed Forces - Kingston



Captain Joanne Yuasa Sensei
Assistant Minister

September is Minister Appreciation Month, a time for us to express our gratitude to all who guide, support, and nurture our Temple community. Please take a moment to thank our Ministers, Assistant Ministers, and Minister Assistants for everything they do to sustain the Temple and share Jodo Shinshu Buddhism with both long-time members and those newly joining us.

Their dedication helps welcome new members, deepen understanding of the Buddha's teachings, and strengthen the spirit of our Sangha.

Although Rev. Usami is not mentioned in the poster, we want to acknowledge his tremendous support to Rev. Hashimoto and Rev. Sugiura in managing their many responsibilities. His efforts have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful.

Please watch **The Guiding Light** for details on how we will be celebrating our ministers.



SAVE THE DATE

TORONTO BUDDHIST CHURCH

BAZAAR

Sat. Nov. 14, 2026 | 12pm - 4pm

1011 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto

tbc.on.ca | (416) 534-4302

Dine in, Japanese packaged goods, Preserves & Baked goods!

Looking for volunteers!

Interested? Please contact tbc.bazaar@tbc.on.ca

Watch the TBC website, Facebook group, Instagram or the Guiding Light for more info to come!

PRESERVES WANTED!



Help us fill the Bazaar take-home table with the flavors and love of our Sangha's kitchens.

Calling on all Sangha who are busy CANNING & PRESERVING this summer's crop of fruit and vegetables. We want to expand our preserve section at the TBC Bazaar this year, and would gratefully accept any contributions of pickles, jams, sauces and tsukemono to sell.

Bring your finished items to the temple by Friday, November 13, 2026

Please provide your own jars and label each item with contents and allergens.

Interested? Please contact - tbc.bazaar@tbc.on.ca

Toronto Buddhist Church - Bazaar Committee
1011 Sheppard Avenue West, North York, Ontario M3H 2T7

Mark your calendars — our annual bazaar is back on **Saturday, November 14th**, and we can't wait to welcome our sangha and the wider community back to the temple.

This year, we're excited to bring more of your favourites to the table. After selling out early last year, we're increasing our manju and sushi offerings so more of you can enjoy them. We're also introducing some new food items alongside the classics you look forward to every year.

We're also refreshing the flow of the day, spreading activities across more areas of the temple so the experience feels open and welcoming from the moment you arrive — right from the parking lot, through the doors, and into the bazaar itself.

Mark your calendars, gather your family and friends, and get ready for a wonderful day together. Watch for more information over the next couple of months — we can't wait to see you there!

OHAKAMAIRI

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026



Rev. Usami at Sanctuary



OBON CELEBRATION AT JCCC JULY 11, 2026



THANK YOU !! ARIGATOU !! MERCI !!

The Temple is grateful to all the hardworking volunteers, dancers and musicians who made Obon at Natsu Matsuri a great success. A special shoutout goes to Rev. Hashimoto for his informative and inspirational messages about the significance and history of Obon. Rev. Hashimoto personally provided the much appreciated fans (uchiwa) for the crowd.



Obon Guest Speaker, Rev. Roland Ikuta

Thank you to Dr. Rev. Roland Ikuta of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta for joining us during our Obon Weekend as the Guest Speaker.

He spoke on the importance of Obon and reminded us all that we must remember, respect and thank our ancestors for sharing the Buddhist teachings which continue to support and guide us.

We hope that you will visit us again soon!



Reverends Usami, Sugiura, Ikuta and Hashimoto

TBC Supporting Peace at the 81th Anniversary of the Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition (HNDC)

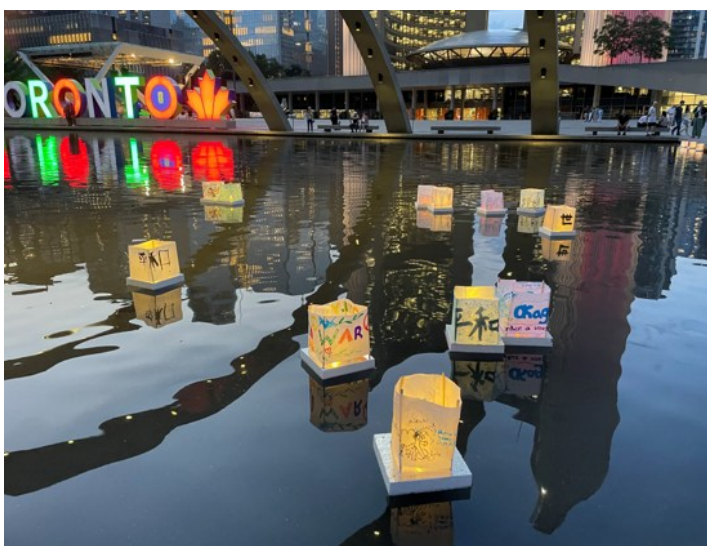
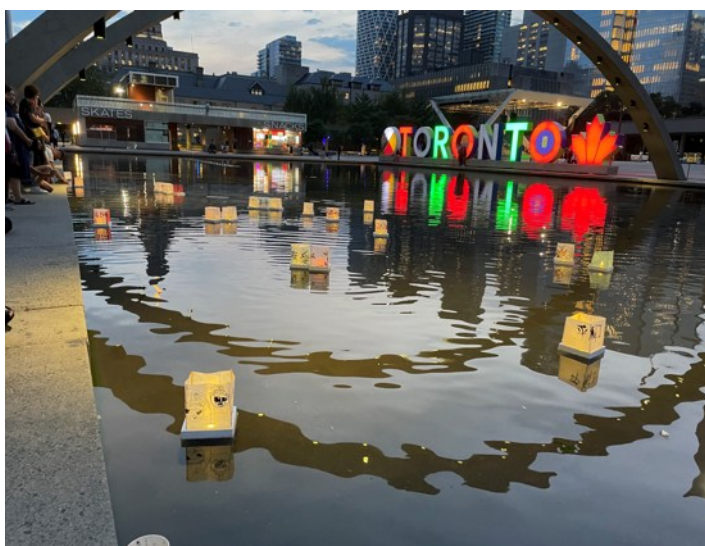
This annual commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is held each August at Nathan Phillips Square (Toronto City Hall) to honour the victims and underscore the ongoing dangers of nuclear proliferation and war. This year's gathering featured a beautiful performance by the Japanese Canadian Youth Choral Group Ganbare, as well as a moving recitation of *Sadako's Story* by Yui Ugai, a Hiroshima-born Canadian dancer and actor.

We were once again honoured by the presence of Setsuko Thurlow, who survived the Hiroshima bombing as a 13-year-old girl on August 6, 1945. Drawing upon her experiences as a survivor, she became one of the world's leading advocates for nuclear disarmament and represented the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) when it received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

As in previous years, TBC supported the commemoration through the creation of lanterns, origami cranes, and calligraphy. The children of Camp Lumbini crafted dozens of lanterns, which were complemented by contributions from volunteers and passers by who wished to share messages of peace through beautifully decorated lanterns and origami cranes.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their support. Special thanks go to Joanne and Abigail Kataoka for leading the children's crafts at Camp Lumbini, and to Kozue Sawahara, who coordinated a wonderful team of volunteers at the lantern-making, origami and calligraphy tables.

Les Tanaka



Camp Lumbini 2026

Sunday, July 26th – Saturday August 1st was a wonderful week at our annual Camp Lumbini, held at the temple cottages in Wasaga Beach. We had 9 new campers join us this year, totaling 14 campers! We also had 8 counselors who did very well leading the campers through the various activities through the week.

We were very fortunate that Hashimoto Sensei, Sugiura Sensei, Chizui Sensei, and Risa were able to join us for some fun at camp, and lead us through Buddhism 101. Our Buddhist theme this year was Okagesama, or “unseen gratitude.” After a short lecture introducing the theme, the Senseis put together a fun and interactive Sanzaru (three wise monkeys) activity. From the activity and discussion, campers and counselors explored how we see, hear, and speak about others, and how these actions can help us recognize the people and support around us. It was a fun way for everyone to gain a deeper understanding of Okagesama and think about how we can practice gratitude in our everyday lives

This year we have collaborated again with the Hiroshima Nagasaki Coalition Day group. Campers and counselors made peace lanterns, and folded many cranes, which were later presented at Nathan Philip Square during the event.

Throughout the year, Camp Lumbini raised funds through various temple events. These funds will go toward maintaining the Lumbini cabins and potentially supporting a future washroom renovation project.

Looking back on this year's camp, I think our theme of Okagesama was especially fitting. There are so many people working behind the scenes to make Camp Lumbini possible, from our parent volunteers and cooks to our counselors, coordinators, Senseis, and everyone who helped throughout the year. Camp wouldn't be the same without all of their support, and we are very grateful for everything they do.

To our wonderful parent volunteers/cooks, Joanne K (Head chef/parent coordinator), Joanne M (Sous chef), Grace, Cary, Masanori M, Ted, Yoshi, and Michelle. Thank you for keeping everyone well-fed and helping make camp feel like a second home.

To our coordinators, Rachel, Koji, and Stephen. Also to our Sr. and Jr. Counselors, Joaquin, Shohei, Mai, Mika, Kiyo, Mizuki, Alex, and Ryan M. Thank you for bringing so much energy, and for looking after the campers throughout the week. It was wonderful to see everyone work together to help make camp such a fun experience. A special thank you to Mizuki for designing this year's T-shirts, and to Rachel who made the screen print.

With that, we have successfully wrapped up another year of Camp Lumbini! We hope to see you all again next year for Camp Lumbini 2027!

In gassho,

Abigail Kataoka



PRIDE, JUNE 26-28, 2026



Thank you to everyone who helped make our participation in Pride a success once again this year. Your energy, support, and commitment truly made a difference.

A special thank-you to **John Sheldon** and **Jeff Wilson Sensei** for their enthusiasm, guidance, and the time they dedicated to ensuring our involvement was both successful and enjoyable. Your leadership set the tone for a fantastic experience.

We hope you will join us again next year — and we warmly encourage others to take part as well. Your presence and support help strengthen our community and make this event even more meaningful.



Kids Sangha — Join Us Next Year at Camp Lumbini Week



If you're **8 years old or older**, we encourage you to join us for **Camp Lumbini Week** next year. It's a wonderful week filled with learning, adventure, good food, and plenty of fun.

For those who attended this year, we hope you'll come back and help lead the way — your enthusiasm and experience make Camp Lumbini even better.

If you're **under 8**, we look forward to welcoming you at our **Kids Sangha Day**, where you can enjoy a special day designed just for you.

Thank you for supporting us!



MOMIJI HEALTH CARE SOCIETY'S
BOWLATHON

Thank you so very much to the Toronto Buddhist Church for being a Gold Maple Sponsor and for entering two teams at our 18th Fundraising Bowlathon that was held on June 20, 2026. We cannot tell you how much your support was appreciated and we are so pleased that we have such a great partner.

Thanks to sponsors like you, and our bowlers, \$90,000 was raised. This was by far a new record and we are so thankful to everyone who helped raised this.

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

August THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Donna Nakano and Sandra Izukawa for playing the organ at this month's service
- ◆ To all those who took part in the Pride Parade and the booth
- ◆ To all those who came early and left later to help Susan with tea toban after service
- ◆ Naomi Tsuji-Tamaki for the Obuppan for the naijin
- ◆ Grace Taguchi for the Naijin flower arrangements
- ◆ 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 the volunteers who helped with the many funeral and memorial receptions
- ◆ All those who helped with flower making for Hakumairi and took part and helped with the Obon celebration

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.

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

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND FEE?**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.