



Guiding Light

佛心

Toronto Buddhist Temple

February 2012



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FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 REGULAR SRVC 9:30 Keirokai Mtg 11 AM English Service 12:30 PM Shin Fujinkai Mtg 12:30 PM Sangha Mtg 1 PM Japanese Svc 常例法座	13 10 AM Morning Service 10:30 AM Sr. Karaoke	14 7 PM Management Comm & BOD Meetings	15 10 AM Morning Service 11 AM Macassa Lodge 6:30 PM Isshin Daiko	16 10 AM Morning Service 10 AM Tai Chi 2:00 PM Castlevew Svc 2:30 PM Buyo 7:30 PM Chanting Workshop	17 10 AM Morning Service 7:00 PM Buyo	18 2:00 PM Private Family Memorial 4:00 PM Private Family Memorial
19 NEHAN-E & SANGHA DAY 10:30 AM Kid's Sangha 11:00 AM Joint Service 合同法座	20 FAMILY DAY OFFICE CLOSED 事務所はお休みです	21	22 10 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM Isshin Daiko	23 10 AM Morning Service 10 AM Tai Chi 2:30 PM Buyo	24 10 AM Morning Service 7:00 PM Buyo	25 4:00 PM Private Family Memorial 7:00 PM Honobono
26 REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30 AM Scholarship Mtg 11AM English Service 12:30 PM Nihongo Class (KSR) 1 PM Japanese Svc 常例法座 1PM Meditation & Discussion Group	27 10 AM Morning Service 10:30 AM Sr. Karaoke 7:30 PM PreObon Odori Practice	28	29 10 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM Isshin Daiko	1 MARCH 10 AM Morning Service 10 AM Tai Chi 2:30 PM Buyo	2 10 AM Morning Service 7:00 PM Buyo	3 1:00-3:00 PM Ohara School Meeting
4 MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE Shin Fujinkai Winter Warm Up 10:30 AM Kid's Sangha 11:00 AM English Service 1:00 PM Japanese Service 祥月法要	5 10 AM Morning Service 10:30 AM Sr. Karaoke	6	7 10 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM Isshin Daiko	8 10 AM Morning Service 10 AM Tai Chi 2 PM Momiji Service 2:30 PM Buyo 4:00 PM Yee Hong Service	9 10 AM Morning Service 7:00 PM Buyo	10 Kumamoto Kenjinkai Memorial Service

Morning Services are held on the week days on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 AM—10:30 AM when a Minister is available As emergencies do come up, last minute cancellations may occur Thank You !

We are in the Zone of Coverage



It has been an unusually warm this winter so far here in Toronto. If the temperature is around 0 degrees, I normally feel warm. This winter I complained about cold weather even in the same 0 degree temperature. We had only one snow dump a few days ago around the temple, but it was almost all gone the next day. However, in Japan this year, they have been experiencing an extremely severe, cold winter with lots of snow. It actually brought my attention back to the environmental changes and global warming once again. I hope all Guiding Light readers are doing fine.

Recently at our temple, we had a couple of power failures in a row, and it left some troubles in our internet system and our internal, local network system, so for a while, we couldn't print off anything, and we had no email access, no web browsing and no scanner working in the office. Until we had this problem, I didn't realize how much my work relied on the technology and computers. In fact, I could not have done much of my work until these problems got fixed. One of the few things I could do without my computer was sweeping the Hondo floor with a broom!!

Finally, we had to call our computer technician to come in and solve the problems. Besides fixing the main problem, they suggested us to upgrade the wireless router for the internet because the previous system was not strong enough. Now, a new wireless router was installed, so the wireless coverage is ten times better than before. Basically, anywhere in the temple building, I can catch an internet signal.

I'm very sure that many of us have used the internet today, and we received great benefits from it. When I want to do some research, I no longer needed to open up huge thick books and go through whole essays. I don't need to go to visit many different stores to find the best deal in town. I just simply boot up my computer, and type in some information. I can order merchandise from my office. Also, even though my friend lives a thousand miles away from here, when I click my mouse to send off an email, he will received my message within seconds.

Actually, this internet access through a wireless signal reminds me of Amida Buddha's Light of Wisdom and Compassion. His guidance is boundless, so it doesn't matter where we go, we are always in his coverage. His work is constant, whether we pay attention to his guidance or not, he has been sending the signal to us all the time. However, his light is inconceivable, so we basically cannot see his existence; the same as a radio wave, but we can certainly listen to his voice, Namo Amida Butsu.

On our end, each person is different and unique, just like each computer, tablet device or smart phone is different in shape, specifications or age, but we all share the same signal from Amida Buddha. When we access this network, we can download his Wisdom and Compassion regardless our location and time. We can possibly even upgrade ourselves with his teachings. Through his network, all Jodo Shinshu followers are connected including ones who have previously passed away. We truly appreciate Amida Buddha's works and guidance, so we are able to enjoy this World Wide Dharma Web each and every day!!

Gassho

Rev. Tomofumi Fujii



“Down among the reeds and rushes, a baby boy was found.
His eyes as clear as the centuries. His silky hair was brown.
Never been lonely, never been lied to.
Never had to scuffle in fear, nothing denied to.
Born at the instant the church bells chime
And the whole world whispering, born at the right time.

Too many people on the bus from the airport, too many holes in the crust of the earth.
The planet groans every time it registers another birth.
But down among the reeds and rushes, a baby girl was found.
Her eyes as clear as the centuries. Her silky hair was brown.
Never been lonely, never been lied to ...”
 (“Born at the Right Time”, Paul Simon from The Rhythm of the Saints, 1990.)

Dear Members,

The teaching is all around us. It permeates our very being and any situation in which we find ourselves. Every act we perform on the face of the earth should, if at all possible, be grounded in the teaching. Unfortunately, the teaching will not always tell us what we wish to hear.

This particular incident/situation popped up on the occasion of the birth of our second son, Justin. We were living in Southern Alberta and had been kindly adopted by a couple who were mainstays of the Lethbridge Honpa Buddhist Temple. We were so close that, as the day approached, we asked the lady of the couple to be the person to look after our eldest son when Kiyomi and I made the mad dash to the hospital.

At that time, the minister assigned to the Southern Alberta District covered two temples each Sunday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Barring a funeral, Sunday was by far the busiest day for the minister placed in this area. Kiyomi went into labour on a Saturday night and Justin made his grand entrance at about four the next morning. I barely made it to the first temple by 10:00 am. I was really beat by two o'clock, the time I was to arrive at the Lethbridge Honpa Buddhist Temple.

There was a cooking work party scheduled at the Honpa temple that morning and, when our friend did not come out to cook, everyone there knew that our baby was either already born, or was being born. When they saw me come in, they all started beaming because they knew our new child was here. I barely made it to the temple for the two o'clock start so I did not have a chance to talk to anyone about the birth. When I came out of the change room to greet them, their faces were all beaming. I remember thinking, “Oh my goodness! They are sitting there fully expecting a sweetness and light Dharma message, full of references to new life, glorious potential and a fresh start ... And I don't have one!”

I was so tired and they were so happy for us that I truly wished I could give the members what they seemed to want to hear. I did not have the confidence to “wing it” that day, so I went with a message that came to me in the car as I was driving back from the morning temple. It was about as far from sweetness and light as I could have gotten but, the timing for it seemed good and the feelings were genuine.

The message had to do with a University of Toronto professor who was almost fired because he said something like, “Over the course of a lifetime, one baby born in North America will cause more environmental damage than ten thousand babies born in a Third World country like India.” This was considered to be a pretty shocking statement in the 1960s, as this was before the strong environmental movement made these kinds of concepts generally known.

His observation took into account infant mortality rates at the time and the fact that in poorer countries people made things they needed from the raw materials at hand. Rather than making things from these “first generation” materials, we, on the other hand, tend to make things from materials often processed three, or four times before we even start to make anything out of them. By the time we harvest the tree, ship it to a lumber yard, cut it into pieces, kiln dry the pieces, ship them to a store, heat the store, (so we can shop in comfort), transport the wood home, assemble and paint it, even a simple thing like a picnic table winds up doing more damage to the world, than maybe even a hundred people living in a less modernized situation could do over the course of a hundred long, full lives.

My slant on all this was - it is fine to have my children fully enjoy the marvellous birth in which they have found themselves, but it is my responsibility both as a world citizen, and as a parent to inform my kids our way of life is incredibly damaging to the natural world around us. I fervently hope my kids will be able to accurately assess the relative importance of the things they want to do versus the amount of damage that choice will engender. A simple example would be recognizing we do not have to drive to a park downtown, when we could walk to a park reasonably

close to our home.

This is not to say that we were fanatics about it. We took the kids to many parks over the course of a long, hot summer, it is the thought process I am more concerned with. What do I want to do, or eat, or on what will I spend my money? How much damage to the environment will be caused by my going there, or buying it? And lastly, do I really need this, or is it a silly want that popped up simply because it is an available and possible thing to do in North America?

To the temple members' credit, once the initial shock wore off and their faces had visibly fallen, they were able to get the gist of what I was saying. It is not enough to simply make our children and then just sit there revelling in their beauty; although I admit it is incredibly tempting to do so. It is our responsibility to at least attempt to offer our children coping skills and methods to problem solve and make sense of what it is that we are really doing any time we do anything on the face of this earth.

In Gassho,
M. Hayashi



NIRVANA DAY SERVICE & TBT SANGHA DAY
Sunday, February 19, 2012
Joint service at 11:00 AM

The Toronto Buddhist Temple and the TBT Sangha wish to extend an invitation to everyone to please join them on Sunday, February 19, 2012 for the Nehan-e Nirvana Day Service and TBT Sangha Day.

Nirvana Day (February 15th) is the solemn day in which we observe the passing of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni into Parinirvana.

In conjunction with this special Buddhist observance, we will be also be observing Sangha Day. New members will be introduced and new Life-Time members will be recognized during the service.

Following the service everyone is invited to the Social Hall for a luncheon hosted by the Sangha.

Hope to see you there!
TBT Sangha

OBITUARIES:

The Toronto Buddhist Temple wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families, relatives and friends of the following person who has passed away:

Mr. Ronald Satoru Watanabe 68 yrs January 10, 2012

Mr. Iwakazu Sakai 95 yrs January 26, 2012



President's Message

“A Reminder Learned at the TBT Bazaar”



We recently held our annual Toronto Buddhist Temple Bazaar. For one week prior to our bazaar, volunteers came out in force once again to rally together to prepare for our one day extravaganza. Very often the preparation days started at 6am to 7am in the morning and some members of our congregation were still to be found at 11pm at the temple. The temple certainly was a beehive of activity all week. As the preparation week advanced and the actual bazaar date grew closer, the intensity seemed to rise. Day by day, things became more important and there was a definite sense of urgency and exciting determination in the air.

Bazaar day arrived and it was a beautiful fall day in Toronto. We were grateful for the sunshine, clear skies and moderate temperatures. Our temple officially opened the doors at 12:30pm to allow people in who had been waiting in line. At opening time and until mid afternoon the line-ups to get in continued. The line-up extended from the front doors to the side of the temple and along the building well into the back parking lot. Amazing!



Inside our temple, once the Hondo (Worship Hall) was filled to capacity, crowd control came into play so that as 20 people left the Hondo, 20 more people were allowed in to join others in the main floor selling area. As people were allowed past our crowd control staff the typical route taken was to make a quick right turn into our Hondo. I watched as each group allowed in surged towards the right to discover the bazaar delights which awaited them in the Hondo.



I noticed one exception. There was one woman (probably an issei/first generation Japanese Canadian) who seemed to march to her own drummer as she turned left instead of to the right like everyone else. This intrigued me so I continued to watch closely. As she turned to the left she calmly headed straight to the statue of Shinran Shonin which we have in our lobby. She then put her hands together and slowly and purposefully bowed in Gassho in gratitude to Shinran Shonin.

What I witnessed and experienced was quite profound to me. Despite the sense of hurriedness and hectic activity displayed by everyone all around her on that day, she had the calm demeanor and strength to know what she was there for. First and foremost, she was there at the temple to express her gratitude towards those who were, in part, responsible for the Buddhist teachings which we currently have to guide us through our daily lives. To her, all the manju, sushi, chow mein, baked goods and other items available at the bazaar could wait. For this moment, her heart and mind were with Shinran Shonin. To her, this was her priority.



What I witnessed and experienced was a simple act of faith. Simple, but pure and from the heart. Profound in that it reminded me that the bazaar was actually only a means to raise funds in order that we could continue to offer religious services and fellowship so that we could all continue to walk the path of the Dharma together as one.

To me, this was one of those wonderful life lessons to remind me of my priorities and how I should live my life. I was fortunate because my great take home package from the bazaar was not just the sushi and other food delights but also “A Reminder Learned at the TBT Bazaar.”

With gratitude and in Gassho,

Larry Wakisaka

1st Year Memorial Service for the Victims and Survivors of Last Year's Earthquake and Tsunami In Japan

The Toronto Buddhist Temple will be holding a 1st Year Memorial Service for the victims and survivors of last year's devastating tragedy in Japan on March 11. The 11:00 am service in English will be held in memory of those who lost their lives, livelihoods and friends and relatives, during the earthquake and subsequent tsunami. There will be no Japanese service at 1:00 pm, as we would like as many people as possible to attend the Remembrance Event at the Cultural Centre.

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre will also be hosting an event to mark the anniversary of the tragedy. The event is coming together as we speak, so you may want to check <http://www.jccc.on.ca/calendar/week.php?date=20120311> to see a more exact schedule as the day approaches.



The most current information is as follows:

Remembering March 11

The JCCC will be holding a March 11 Remembrance Event at the Kobayashi Hall on March 11, 2012, in order to be reminded of the people who are still suffering from the devastation caused by the tsunami and earthquake in Tohoku last year.

There will be a short film presentation of Yuki Nakamura's recent documentary film and a report by Koko Kikuchi, who has delivered origami cranes, letters, and "Yosegaki" (collected messages to families in affected areas) to five prefectures and local schools in the Tohoku region. There will also be a report on the JCCC Origami Crane Project, as well as an update on the JCCC Foundation's Japan Earthquake Relief Fund.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday March 11, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, to participate in this important event and to keep in mind the people whose lives have been forever changed by last year's disaster. A display of letters from children in Japan and letters from the affected prefectures open at 1:00pm, and the presentation starts at 2:00pm.

Hoonko Weekend

Hoonko Eve Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, members of the congregation and their friends attended the Hoonko Eve Vegetarian Potluck Dinner. There were approximately 60 attendees and the variety of vegetarian dishes was amazing – from Pad Thai to curry to pasta to sushi (just to name a few).



In the past, Dharma School families honoured Hoonko Eve by sharing a simple meal together. Over the years other members of the congregation have joined in.

It is a very relaxed, informal meal followed by a very special service.



This year during the service, we did a walking meditation.



Following the service, we were fortunate to be served a delicious bowl of zenzai prepared by Mrs. Kikumi Yoshida and Mrs. Gloria Sumiya. Thank you ladies!



Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, we were also able to join in on one of the 750th Memorial Services taking place in Japan via a live stream.



Hoonko Service



The next day, our Hoonko Service was very well attended. It was great hearing all the hearts in the worship hall chanting a full version of Shoshinge in honour of our founder, Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service.



Included in the service was the formal swearing in of this year's Board of Directors, board advisors, and the executive of the three main groups at our temple; the Dana, Sangha and Shin Fujinkai. The people acknowledged are as follows:

Toronto Buddhist Temple Board of Directors: President: Larry Wakisaka, 1st Vice President and Treasurer: Larry Suyama, 2nd Vice President: Amy Wakisaka, Corporate Secretary: Denise Crofton, Directors: Joanne Omori, Dawn Anzai, Susan Ebisuzaki and Darlene Rieger, Advisors: Rev. Fujii, Rev. Hayashi, Debbie Katsumi, Susan Takahashi and John Skelton.

TBT Sangha: President: Nobby Shiraiishi, Vice President: Cary Kataoka, Secretary: Ron Shimizu, Treasurer: Dennis Madokoro, Advisor: Mits Sumiya.

TBT Dana: President: Jessie Ebata, Co-Vice Presidents: Mary Aoki and Emi Nakano, Secretary: Judy Nishi, Treasurer: Hedy Iwata.

Shinfujinkai: Coordinator: Dawn Anzai, Coordinator: Diane Mark, Treasurer (and TBT Director): Joanne Omori, Secretary: Pamela Yoshida.



We give thankful appreciation to the above for taking on yet more responsibilities over and above their already extensive volunteer hours at the temple. **Namoamidabutsu**

TBT NEW YEAR'S SOCIAL

On January 15, we observed Shinran Shonin's memorial with the Hoonko Service which was followed by the New Year's Social. The luncheon was hosted by the Dana ladies and there were a variety of delicious dishes. Thank you!

After the luncheon, to start the afternoon's festivities, there were table games led by Dennis Madokoro.



The MC's for the afternoon's entertainment were Satsuki Irie and Kunio Suyama.

There were karaoke singers, buyo dancers and this year, we were treated to two numbers by the Sakura Mai group.



The afternoon ended with bingo games, jackpot bingo and the drawing of door prizes. Many thanks to Eric Mark for calling out the bingo numbers. The jackpot bingo winner this year was Kathy Wani. **Congratulations on your big win!**

Many thanks to everyone who donated their time, bingo and door prizes.



JSBTCWF SHOP & SUPPORT REMINDER

Remember to stock up and buy your retail GIFT cards from a representative after Sunday service. By purchasing your grocery and gas cards from the temple, every sale helps gain credit towards the JSBTCWF conference..... Please support our fundraising efforts through the SHOP & SUPPORT Pro-



Thank you!

Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
Temples of Canada
Women's Federation

JAPANESE CLASS FOR ADULT BEGINNERS

WHERE: Downstairs Classroom

WHEN: February 26th
March 25th (4th Sundays)

TIME: 12:30 PM

COST: FREE !



Chanting: Making Room in Your Mind for Joy

DATE: February 16th
March 15th

TIME: 7:30 PM

For the next little while, we will be looking at some of the shorter chants including Sanbutsuge, Juseige and Junirai.

Meditation Anyone?



In the New Year, we will be having a combination meditation and discussion gathering on the fourth Sundays of the month. The meditation basically follows the instructions given at www.bcc.ca/meditation.html.

The discussion will consist of one participant offering a quote, or reading and their feelings about it and then a discussion arising from the quote.

The next gatherings will take place on February 26th and March 25th at 1:00 pm. Each gathering should run for approximately one hour.

Anyone interested please contact Rev. Michael at rev.hayashi@tbc.on.ca.



KIDS SANGHA PROGRAM



As part of the Kids Sangha Activity on February 19th, the youngsters will be reading “Moody Cow Meditates” by Kerry Lee MacLean. It is a story that introduces children to the practice of meditation and helps them become aware of their feelings.

The youngsters will be making a “mind jar”. In the story, Moody Cow makes a mind jar, puts all of the negative things that happened recently in there, shakes it up and lets her mind settle as all her annoyances drift down to the bottom of the jar.



Some of the youngsters and volunteers making Tostito Kaki Mochi; a recipe they found in the “Itadakimasu II” cookbook on page 21.



TBT Sangha News

Happy to report Cary Kataoka has accepted the Vice President position to assist our President Nobby Shirashi. We are happy to welcome in younger enthusiastic members who eagerly joined to take a position on our Board.

We had a busy month in December organizing the Pancake Breakfast in which all of our members took part to make the breakfast a great success. We enjoyed working together with countless of volunteers making Mochi. We did have some complaints but will make amends next year. Overall it was a most enjoyable day for everyone who took part in the annual Mochi Tsuki day at our Temple!

Sangha took part in the New Year's Social donating funds towards the event and asking Sangha members to donate Door Prizes.

Our Sangha Day will be held on Sunday February 19th in which we will acknowledge our new Members and honour our lifetime members, so please attend.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Publicity committee
Phil Miller Sid Ikeda*

SHIN FUJINKAI NEWS

WINTER WARMUP
Sunday, March 4, 2012

Get a little warmth this winter!

The Shin-Fujinkai will be holding its fourth annual Winter Warmup luncheon on Sunday, March 4, 2012 after the morning service. On the menu is **Sukiyaki Donburi** which will be available at the cost of **\$6.00**

We look forward to seeing you!

* for those wishing take out please bring two (2) containers with you *

Thank you
Shin Fujinkai

**DANA NEWS**

On behalf of Toronto Dana, we thank all the Dana ladies for their food contributions for the New Year's Social.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch provided by Dana.

Thank you for your continued support!

TBC Dana Committee

TORONTO DANA**Membership Dues Reminder**

Thank you to those who have paid their 2012 Dana membership fee.

Just a reminder that the Dana membership fee from 2012 to 2015 has been raised to \$15 per year to cover the additional assessment for the upcoming 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention to be held in Calgary.

We would appreciate your mailing a cheque made payable to the Toronto Buddhist Church Dana to the temple or placing your membership fee in the Dana mail slot in the temple office.

Also, if you are turning 80 years of age this year, please let us know as you will become an honorary member and not be required to pay the membership fee.

JOINT SPRING HIGAN-E & KEIROKAI March 18, 2012



On March 18th, we will be observing Spring Higan Service or Ohigan Service. "Higan" literally means "The other shore". It is an abbreviated form of "reaching the other shore (of enlightenment)". It is a service of reflection. Our forefathers thought it was so important, that they held this service twice annually at the spring and autumn equinox.

Appropriately, the younger executives of TBT, some fifty years ago, chose this important Higan Service to hold our annual Keirokai or the day to honour and thank the elderly members, the Gohokai and the Fujinkai (the Issei groups, which are now both defunct).

Invitation is open to every one to attend the Higan Service and Keirokai. It will be a day for all to have a moment of reflection, special honours, gifts, luncheon and entertainment and especially to honour and thank the elderly.

Significantly, following some of the old Japanese custom, we give special commendation to those reaching certain age brackets during the year, those reaching 77(Kiju), 88 (Beiju), 99 (Hakuju) and 100 and over (Kakuju) Each age bracket is indeed a milestone in any language, but here is a little lesson in Japanese language and its unique application.

77 (Kiju) 喜寿 comprises of two characters 喜寿 but the first character meaning be happy, in old kanji it is written with three 七 stacked in a pyramid shape. Of course 七 is 7 and 7 is regarded as good lucky number even in North American custom.

88 (Beiju) 米寿 88 is hachijuhachi 八十八 which if stacked graphically would become the first character of Beiju. The first character is also read KOME, rice which is very close to the heart of all Japanese people.

99 (Hakuju) 白寿 This is a little trickier. One is ichi 一. 100 is Hyaku 百. 99 is 100 minus 一(ichi)=白(haku)= 9 9

100 and over (Kakuju) 鹤寿 the first character is also read tsuru (crane) Tsuru is revered not only as majestic , beautiful bird but as a symbol of long life. For example, "Tsuru sennnen" is a crane which lives for 1,000 years. In fact Kakuju 鹤寿 congratulates, honours, and wishes a long and healthy life to all the elderly.

HAPPY KEIROKAI!

KEIRO KAI "SPECIAL" RECIPIENTS APPLICATION FORM

Name: (English) Mr / Mrs / Miss _____

If you know the Japanese characters for your name, please write below

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code _____

Date of Birth: _____

To ensure that preparations for the special honourees is completed on a timely basis
Please return this form to the TBT office by Wednesday, February 29th, 2012 deadline.

**TORONTO KUMAMOTO KENJINKAI
CELEBRATES 61st ANNUAL SHINBOKUKAI - HERITAGE & FRIENDSHIP PARTY
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012,**

PLACE: TORONTO BUDDHIST TEMPLE
TIME 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Program includes Memorial Service, Annual General Meeting, awards from Kumamoto, bingo, music, song, odori, (GRAND OTEMOYAN MUSIC FESTIVAL!), door prizes, obento dinner.

For reservations please call: **MARTHA SATO** 416-466-9096
ARTHUR IKEDA 416-444-3702

Fee \$ 15.00 FREE for those 80 yrs and over



**TORONTO SHIGA
KENJINKAI**

**You are invited to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
&
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

SATURDAY, March 31, 2012 at 1:00 PM

At Toronto Buddhist Temple

**Membership can be renewed at the Annual
General Meeting**

**Bento tickets are available at \$15.00 each
Please contact one of the following for
tickets:**

Mrs. Fumie Ohashi 416-461-2375
Mrs. Yasuko Horii 416-513-0999
Mrs. Kathy Wani 416-498-1772
Mrs. Midori Ushirode 905-856-2513

**For further information, please contact:
Bob Nishikawa, President at 416-438-8919**



MEET OLD AND NEW FRIENDS
AND JOIN IN THE FUN AT THE:

**HIROSHIMA KENJINKAI
SHINBOKUKAI**

WHERE? Toronto Buddhist Temple

WHEN? Saturday, March 17, 2012

Obento is free for Seniors over 80 years

Obento is \$15.00 per person

Membership is \$5.00 per person

Registration and Reception starts at 12:30 pm

Buddhist Memorial Service starts at 1:00 pm

Short business meeting followed by bingo, karaoke,
group sing song, obento and door prizes.

Please place orders before March 10, 2012 by contact-
ing:

Kay Yaguchi (416) 757-4306
George Nakano (905) 785-9381
Mike Honda (905) 385-6325 (Hamilton)
Lily Motomura (905) 881-1076

Volunteers Wanted: We will need a few volunteers to
help set up the tables and chairs at 11:00 am as well as
a few volunteers to supply dessert.

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ほの

HonoBonoMovie



2月25日(土)午後7時より

のんちゃんのリ弁

※日本語音声のみ

事前にお席をご予約下さい

あらすじ

永井小巻は下町育ちの31歳。ある日、夫・範朋のダメ亭主ぶりに愛想を尽かした小巻は、娘ののんちゃんを連れて実家に出戻った。まずは仕事を見つけねば、と面接を受けるもうまくいかず、生活は苦しくなるばかり。得意の弁当作りで新境地を開こうと決意した小巻は、おいしい弁当屋さんを持つことを決意し、小料理屋「ととや」の門を叩く。そんな時、カメラ店を営む高校時代の同級生・健夫と再会する。



トロント広島県人会

先没者追悼法要

3月17日(土)午後1時

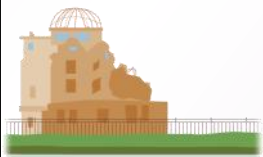
親睦会:参加費15ドル

*ただし80歳以上は無料

年会費 5ドル

問い合わせ先:

中野ジョージ
(905)785-9381
元村リ一
(905)881-1076



トロント熊本県人会

先没者追悼法要および
親睦会

3月10日(土)午後12時

参加費:15ドル

(80歳以上の会員は無料)

年会費:5ドル

連絡先:

池田アーサー
(416)444-3702
佐藤マーサ
(416)466-9096

トロント 滋賀県人会

物故者追悼法要

3月31日(土)午後1時

親睦会:参加費15ドル

*ただし80歳以上は無料

年会費 5ドル

お問い合わせ:

西川ボブ
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東日本大震災一周忌法要

3月11日 午前11時より

すべての被災された方々のところに寄り添って
お勤めさせていただきます

今月の法語

慈光はるかにかぶらしめ
ひかりのいたるところには
法喜をうとぞのべたまふ
大安慰を帰命せよ

浄土和讃(十) 讃阿弥陀仏偈和讃

3.11 私たちは忘れません

3月11日午後1時～4時
日系文化会館にて



東北関東大震災に遭われ、現在も苦しんでおられる方々を忘れないためのイベントを小林ホールにて開催致します。ドキュメンタリー映画の紹介や被災5県の子供達からの手紙の展示、仏教・キリスト教によるサービス、JCCC日本地震救済基金からの近況報告などが予定されておりますので、ぜひご参加ください。

年忌(年回)法要

次の年にご往生された方は年忌法要が回ってまいります
個別での法事をご希望の場合はお寺までご連絡下さい

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 一周忌 (二〇一一年) | 三回忌 (二〇一〇年) |
| 七回忌 (二〇〇六年) | 十三回忌 (二〇〇〇年) |
| 十七回忌 (一九九六年) | 二十三回忌 (一九九〇年) |
| 二十五回忌 (一九八八年) | 二十七回忌 (一九八六年) |
| 三十三回忌 (一九八〇年) | 五十回忌 (一九六三年) |

敬 弔

次の方々が御往生されました

生前のご苦勞を偲び、謹んで敬弔の意を表します

- | | | |
|--------------|------|----------|
| 渡辺 サトル・ロナルド様 | 六十八歳 | 一月十日往生 |
| 酒井 岩一様 | 九十五歳 | 一月二十六日往生 |



バザーでの教え



私どものトロント仏教会では、去年の秋にバザーを無事に開催することが出来ました。これはその一週間ほど前の話です。バザーは一日だけですが、それに先立って一週間以上も前から、多くのボランティアの方々はその準備に協力して下さいました。朝早六時か七時ごろから始められ、夜の十一時になってもまだお寺に残っておられる方も少なくありませんでした。その一週間と言ったら、まるでお寺が働き蜂の巣のような様子でした。準備が着々と進み、バザーの日が近づくと、ボランティアの皆さんの緊張と興奮がどんどん高まってゆくの肌で感じられました。

そしてついにバザー当日がやってきました。トロントは秋日和に恵まれてカラリと晴れ、暑くも寒くもなく、ほどよい気候であったことは有難いことでした。お寺のドアが午後十二時半に一斉に開き、列をなして待たれていたお客さんの中へと招き入れられました。人の波は開店から午後三時ごろまでずっと途絶えることなく、正面の玄関から建物に沿って駐車場まで延々と長蛇の列が伸びており、自分の目を疑うほどでした。

お寺の中が一時、一杯になってしまふこともあり、そのため入場制限をかけないといけないほどでした。二十人が出ると、次の二十人に入っていただき、多くの人が入場整理係の前を通り過ぎるとすぐ右に曲がって、メイン会場である本堂へと一団となって進まれ、それぞれにお目当ての商品を探されます。

そうこうしているうちに、ちょっと変わった光景がふと目に止まりました。一人のご婦人、おそらく一世の方だったと思いますが、他の人たちのようにすぐに右へと曲がらず、逆に左の方へと進まれました。私にとってちょっと思いがけない事だったので、その後もその方を目で追っております。するとその女性は左へ曲がった後、ロビーに立って

おられる親鸞聖人の銅像の方へと静かに進まれ、聖人に向って両手を合わせ、感謝の気持ちをごこめて、ゆっくりとかつ深々と頭を下げられました。

私はこの光景に深く心を打たれました。バザー当日、周りの全ての人たちはあたたかく動き回り、買い物に力を注いでいたわけですが、この女性はお寺に来ることの本当の目的をはっきりと心にとどめておられたのです。いつでも私たちをお導き下さる阿弥陀様のみ教えに対して、何よりもまず感謝の気持ちを示されたのです。バザーで売られているお饅頭やお寿司、チャーマンなどの商品を手にすることよりも、まず手を合わせて親鸞聖人にお礼申し上げるこのほうが大切であったわけです。

私が目にしたのは、信仰のほんの一コマであり、わずかな行動でしたが、それは報恩感謝の心のこもったものでした。それは深い信仰心に根ざしたものであり、今回のバザーは、私たちがお寺を維持・運営していくための手段に過ぎないことを思い知らされました。しかしそのおかげ様によって、私たちは共に念仏の大道を歩み続ける事が出来るのです。

この体験によって教えられたのは、私がこの先の人生の歩みを続けて行くうえで、本当に何が大切な事なのかということです。バザーから家に持ち帰ったのが、寿司や他の食べ物だけでなく、このようなお育てが含まれていたことは、本当に有り難いことでした。

合掌

会長 脇坂 ラリー

よしよし、大丈夫だよ

このたび五十年に一度の親鸞さまのご法要のご勝縁にお参りすることができました。特に新しく制定されました。「宗祖讃仰作法」の音楽法要の、あのご和讃とお念仏のリズム、そしてメロディーは、今でも耳に心地よく残っております。そのご和讃の一つ

十方微塵世界の

念仏の衆生をみそなはし

摂取して捨てざれば

阿弥陀となすけたてまつる

(註釈版聖典五七一ページ)

摂取不捨、如来さまの慈悲の光の中に摂め取って絶対捨てることはい、だから「阿弥陀さま」と申し上げるのだよ、とお聞かせいただきながら、昔の出来事を思い出しておりました。

今から二十数年前、長女が二歳の頃のことです。その娘が遊びの最中、私の母に大けがをさせかねない過ちをしてしまったことがありました。その時、私はまだ幼い娘を「どれだけおばあちゃんが痛かったと思うの！ごめんなさいと言いなさい！」と、大声でしかりつけました。きつと恐ろしい形相だったのでしよう。娘は驚きと恐怖からか、ただ泣きじゃくるばかりで「ごめんなさい」がどうしても言えません。だから私はさらに大きな声になりました。「はやく言ってくれたら許してあげられるのに」と私も悲しい気持ちでしたが、「これもしつけ」と思って、しかり続けました。

母は娘をしかるそんな私の姿をじつと見つめながら、とても悲しそうな表情をしていました。そのうちにたまらなくなつたのでしようか、母は私をそっと押しつけ、娘を優しく抱きしめました。そして「よしよし、大丈夫だよ、よしよし大丈夫」と笑い顔で、しかし、涙を流しながら何度もそう言うのです。すると娘は大泣きしながら母の胸に抱きついていました。そして震える声で「おばあちゃん、ごめんね、ごめんね」と、その胸にすがり、絞り出すようにやっとな言えたのです。

思えばこの時、幼い娘の胸の中には、逃げ場のない深い悲しみ、どうしようもない思いが、渦巻いていたことでしょう。そのことを見抜き、今一番つらいのは、自分に痛い思いをさせたこの孫なんだ、だからこそ愛おしいと、ただ「よしよし」と抱きしめずにはいられなかったのが私の母でした。

そして、しつけと言いながら恐ろしい顔で、泣きじゃくるわが子をしかりつける息子を母はどのような思いで見送っていたのでしよう。どれほど悲しかったでしょう。私には見抜けませんでした。「ごめんなさい」と言わせることが先ではなかったのです。悲しみにしかりと寄り添い、あたたかく包まれたからこそ、娘は「ごめんなさい」と言わずにおれなかったのです。そして、その母の大きな慈愛に、実は私も包まれていたのだと、知らされました。

多くの世界に、さまざまな苦悩や悲しみを抱えたいのちが存在します。その中には、怒りや憎しみに打ち震えているのちもあるでしょう。そのひとつひとつの姿をしかりと見抜いて寄り添い、お念仏する身へと育てて下さるのが、阿弥陀さまのハタラクでした。それが「十方微塵世界の 念仏の衆生をみそなはし」ということであり、そして「摂取して捨てざれば 阿弥陀となすけたてまつる」と、その光明の中に摂め取って決して捨てない。だからこそ無量寿・無量光の仏さま、阿弥陀さまと名のられるのです、と教えてくださいます。

「宗祖讃仰作法」ではこの後、

煩惱にまなこさへられて

摂取の光明みざれども

大悲ものうきことなくて

つねにわが身をてらすなり

のご和讃が続きます。

(同五九五ページ)

煩惱によって阿弥陀さまの光明が見えないとは、まさしく怒りによって母の悲しみも娘の苦しみも見えなかった私の姿だったと思います。けれどその私を、阿弥陀さまの慈悲の光は常に照らし包んでくださっていた。私がお念仏申す身となすつと前から、阿弥陀さまは「必ず救う絶対に捨てぬ。どうかお念仏しておくれ」と願い続け、よび続けておられたのです。私は阿弥陀さまの大いなる慈悲の願いの中にいたのです。

母が往生して十七年になります。大きな気付きをいただいた、私の大切な思い出です。

宮崎・浄光寺住職 岩尾 秀紀

(本願寺新報十一月二十日号掲載)

佛心

二〇一二年二月号
浄土真宗本願寺派
トロント仏教会

アマダネットによって繋がる私達



今年の冬は大変に不安定な天候が続いて
おりますが、皆様いかがお過ごしでしょう
か。通常であれば冬の寒さが厳しいはずの力
ナダではまったくと言っていいほど降雪が少な
く、逆に日本では全国各地で記録的な寒さ
と大雪に見舞われているようで、これもまた地球温暖化のもた
らす影響の一つなのかと懸念されます。

しかしこうした遠く離れた場所のニュースであっても、インター
ネットをはじめとした情報技術の発達した現代社会において
は、時を待たずしてすぐさまに情報を共有することが可能に
なり、時間的・空間的な限界がますます取り払われたように
感じさせられます。偶然にも今年はトロントでの報恩講が一月
十四〜十五日であったので、十四時間の時差も幸いして、京都
の本願寺でちょうどお勤まりになっていた親鸞聖人七五〇回大
遠忌の報恩講の様子をライブストーリーミングで皆さんと見させ
ていただく事が出来ました。私が初めてインターネットを使う
ようになったのがかれこれ十五年ほど前の話ですから、それから
考えても大変便利な時代になったものだと思っております。

もちろん時としてそれがいつも上手くはたらくとは限りませ
ん。先日、お寺で一週間のうちに何度も短い停電があり、それ
によっていくつかのインターネットに接続するための機械が故障

してしまったようでした。メールは見られない、ネットにはつなが
らない、印刷は出来ない、スキャンは出来ないで、数日にわたって
オフィスは大騒ぎでした。

そんな時にふと考えさせられたことは、阿弥陀様のおはたら
きとインターネットというのは、繋がるといった面で似たような点
が数多くあるのではないかとということです。阿弥陀様のみ教えは
まるでどのコンピューターやスマートフォンからウェブサイトにアク
セスしても、まったく同じ情報が同時に見られるのと同じよう
に、阿弥陀様のみ教えはいつでもどこでも等しく我々のために開
かれています。そして阿弥陀様と私たちとを繋げて下さってい
るシグナルがお念仏なのではないでしょうか。このシグナルは私
がそのはたらきに気付かせていただくずっと前より、常に絶える
ことなく送り続けられていたのです。

アマダというネットワークを通して、私たちはお互いに繋がり
あっているという事に気が付かされます。そこには時間的・空
間的な限界はなく、何千キロと距離を隔てた者同士であって
も、また先にお浄土へと還っていかれた人々や親鸞聖人とも繋
がる事が出来るのです。その阿弥陀様のおはたらきのことを光
に喩え、無辺光(限りのない光)、無碍光(遮られる事のない光)
とも申し上げます。阿弥陀様からのシグナル・お念仏は限りな
く遮られる事なく、時代や場所が移り変わろうとも、必ず
我々一人ひとりのところへと至り届いて下さるのです。

合 掌

駐在開教使 藤井 朋文