



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN



Volume 69, Number 1  October 2012 (2556 B.E.)

October Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661

Also visit www.budtempchi.org

Regular Sunday Services

Dharma Sunday School – 2nd & 4th Sundays (Oct. 14 & 28), 11am

Religious Service (in English) – Sundays, 11am

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service – Sunday, Oct 7, 2012 11am (English), 1pm (Japanese)

❁ Special Services & Events ❁

Temple Anniversary Service & Luncheon – Sunday, Oct. 14, 11am

Dharma School Halloween Party – Sunday, Oct. 28, noon

Education & Meditation

Intro to Buddhism – Call 773-334-4661 or visit budtempchi.org for schedule

Buddhism Study Class – Open to all, Wednesdays, 7pm

Meditation Sessions – Thurs evenings 7:30pm, Sun mornings 9am

Sutra Study Class – Open to all, 3rd Sundays, 12:30 to 2pm

Meetings & Socials

Asoka Society – 3rd Saturdays, 1pm

BTC Board – Sun, Oct. 21, 12:30pm

The Middle Way – 1st Sundays, noon

☀ Culture ☀

Calligraphy – Brush writing, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

Chinese Movement – Qigong, Tuesdays, 11am to noon, call Dennis Chan 773-465-6422 for information & to register

Crafts – 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon

Japanese Fencing – Intro to Kendo, Dojo sessions, Tuesdays, 8 to 10pm at Bethany United Church, call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for information

Japanese Language (children or adults) – Saturdays, 10am, call temple to register

Japanese Swordsmanship – Iaido, Mondays 7 to 9pm

Taiko Drums – BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe, Fridays, 7pm to 9pm

Sharing the Treasure of Dharma: English Spoken Here

By Rev. Patti Nakai

Our temple began its 68-year history when it was founded by Rev. Gyomay Kubose and a group of first and second generation Japanese-Americans. Although all of the Issei (first generation) and some of the Nisei (second generation) members were primarily Japanese-speaking, there were many involved in our temple's founding and early development who felt that English was their mother tongue. In Rev. Kubose they had one of the very few Jodo Shinshu ministers at the time who spoke fluent English. But Rev. Kubose was not only an English speaker, he was inspired by the movement in Japan to present Buddhism in everyday expressions instead of the technical terms that ministers didn't bother to define to their audiences.

We owe a lot to the inquiring spirit of those early members who were eager to listen to Rev. Kubose try out different ways to explain the Jodo Shinshu teachings with stories and anecdotes based in contemporary life in America. When non-Japanese Americans began coming to our temple, Rev. Kubose could understand and answer their questions. He facilitated lively discussions in the American Buddhist Association meetings and the Buddhist Educational Center classes.

Although Rev. Gyoko Saito arrived in Chicago with very little English-speaking ability, his desire to share the Dharma motivated him to learn the language as quickly as he could. While Rev. Kubose worked to have our temple's texts for Sunday services to sound more up-to-date and less "hocus pocus" than what the Buddhist Churches of America temples were using, Rev. Saito worked with Joan Sweany and other members of the study classes to translate works of Manshi Kiyozawa, Haya Akegarasu, and other modern Buddhist teachers. By reading these English translations, we can appreciate how Rev. Kubose carried on in America the revitalization movement of Jodo Shinshu that started in late 19th century Japan.

At our temple it is easy to take for granted that our ministers and the members who assisted them put much time and effort into presenting the Buddhist teachings in wording that makes sense instead of using a lot of Japanese terms and centuries-old church English. I appreciated that when Rev. Sunnan Kubose was working on the 1984 revision of the service book, he asked for input from the Dharma School teachers (of whom I was one at the time) so that the texts could better communicate to young people. Later when I returned to BTC as a minister, it was Fred Babbin who gathered various longtime and newer members together to work on another revision of the service book that we finally completed in 2009.

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THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF CHICAGO

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Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, and suggestions are encouraged. Submitted material will be reviewed for suitability and space availability. Anonymous submissions will not be published, but author's names may be withheld from publication upon request. E-mail Ann Yi at btculedtr@hotmail.com for deadlines and more information.

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The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin, except where otherwise noted.

Temple News August 2012

8/03 Rev. Ashikaga and Jerry Morishige attended the Funeral Service for the late Fred Frantz at Montclair Funeral Home in Chicago. The late Mr. Frantz, 86, passed away on July 31, 2012, and is survived by sons Ric (Linda) and Mic (Peggy) Frantz who are members of BTC Iaido Dojo.

8/05 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma Message both in English and Japanese. Jerry Morishige was Service Chairperson. * * * The 49th Day Memorial Service of the late Mary Kimura was conducted at the Temple.

8/11 The 49th day Memorial Service of the late Yutaka Oshita was conducted at the Temple followed by the Ashes Burial Service at Montrose Cemetery. * * * Bon Odori was enjoyed by all who attended. This year again, the dance was held inside the Temple. All enjoyed refreshments donated by the Morishige family.

8/12 Obon Special Service was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai delivered Obon message in English and Rev. Ashikaga in Japanese. Refreshments were served by Asoka Members.

8/19 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Masafumi Nakata was lay speaker. Bill Bohlman was Service Chairperson.

8/20 Rev. Ashikaga and Rev. Patti visited Haruko Tademoto at Evanston Hospital.

8/21 The 3rd Memorial Service of the late Tamako Akune was conducted at the Temple.

8/24 September issue of Temple Bulletin mailed.

8/25 Rev. Ashikaga attended and Rev. Patti Nakai participated in the Memorial Service of the late Yoshifumi William Kato at Smith Corcoran Funeral Home in Chicago. The late Mr. Kato is survived by wife Rosalie, Susan (late Roy) Kuse, Amy Kato, Karen (Kyle) Schmidt, and June Kato.

8/26 Ko-So-Ki (Rev. Haya Akegarasu's Memorial Service) observed. Rev. Patti Nakai was speaker. * * * Special Ti-Sarana ceremony for Dennis Chan and Hatsumairi ceremony for Brayden Joseph Thul and Everett Dennyson Thul, grandsons of Dennis Chan, were conducted at the Service. * * * Board of Directors met.

8/28 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga attended the farewell reception for the Consul General of Japan, Yoshifumi Okamura, at his residence in Evanston.

8/30 Mr. and Mrs. Kazuaki Tamura visited Temple for funeral arrangements of their son Yuji Tamura, who passed away on August 29, 2012. Rev. Ashikaga conducted the wake service for the family.

**THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!**

**Understanding the
Nembutsu through
recognizing the Paramitas
in others.**

Send in your recognitions!

Sunday Service
Participants: Ruth Abbinanti,
Rev. Ashikaga, Bill Bohlman, Glenn Fujiura, Anna Idol, Rev. Patti Nakai, Jerry Morishige, Masafumi Nakata, Leroy Wiley, and Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist

Sunday Service
Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Hanamoto-san, Amy Kawamoto, Peggy Sasamoto, the Shehan family, Asoka group and many others who helped
Temple Bulletin Mailing:
Rev. Ashikaga, Antoinette d'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Joe Korner, Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti and Gary Nakai, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Tommi and Tak Tomiyama

Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto
Cleaning the entire Temple every week: Justin & Alison Woodward
Manning the Temple office every Thursday: Tak Tomiyama
Maintaining and updating the temple website and computer: Shawn Lyte
Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Adam Kellman, April Kellman, Rev. Patti Nakai

The Satisfying Milestones of 68 Years

It is with a great deal of satisfaction (while avoiding the pitfalls of adapting foolish pride) that we can look back upon our past to see how we got to this day, our 68th anniversary!

In BTC's ever-evolving and ever-changing sangha, the saying that the more things change, the more things stay the same, is often expressed. For example, we are often reminded of our debt to those who came before us and made all of this possible. Not just at the start, but contributions made by each generation. In the beginning, a mere dream by a few in the Internment Camps during World War II coalesced into a uniform effort to make our temple a reality. Then, think about the struggles we endured to make ends meet starting with our humble beginnings in Hyde Park, to our present Uptown location, to building our new temple building. In the day-to-day arena, sometimes it feels like "That's the way it goes at BTC" when the same problems are repeatedly addressed or the same volunteers come forward. Luckily, every now and then we are reassured we are not unique in that all organizations – especially religious organizations – run on a spiritual pace that by its very nature proceeds in a very deliberate way. The outcomes are a result of tried and true methods we imperfect humans unconsciously employ to resolve things.

But it is this sangha of BTC – the smiling faces recorded in all of the temple photos past and present – that has been the basic ingredient to our achievements. Whether it is our outward friendliness, inviting presence, or our inclusive approach to the Dharma, many talents make this possible. The diminishing number of faces in the Keiro-kai photos as the years pass is an undeniable reality check confirming our impermanence, despite what each of us may feel in our prime. Amongst our sangha were not petty minds but giants of creativity that ensured our stability and growth. Some are no longer with us, yet they kept us well and handled the unmanageable for our benefit. And so life goes on. Each year in the din of everyday tasks, this torch of responsibility is unnoticeably passed along. The unfortunate outcome here is to not recognize this transference as our undeniable legacy to maintain for posterity. Just as we have benefited, we must carry on; we must, and we shall.

(Continued on page 6, right column)

BTC Flower Power Fundraiser Ends October 26! Order soon!

Fall has arrived and the spring bulb-planting season will begin. The Middle Way group has partnered with Flower Power to bring you top-quality bulbs. Place an order for yourself or a garden lover for flower bulbs and 50% of the purchase price will go directly to BTC. Each order comes with a 100% money-back guarantee and will ship directly to your home. There are several ways that you can purchase these bulbs and help spread the word:



- 1) Visit the dedicated Flower Power page at <http://tinyurl.com/8ckuqy8> to place your order.
- 2) At our flower Power Page, use the Email Tool to invite friends and family members to purchase bulbs. You can personalize your invitations and add e-mail addresses to the fundraising drive. Flower Power will do the rest.
- 3) Share your fundraising message with your Facebook friends. Set up your personal fundraising homepage within the campaign. Once complete, Flower Power will ask you if you want to "Share Now." Click "yes" and a small posting sharing our group's goals and results to date will appear on your Wall.
- 4) We also have several print catalogs. If you wish to see one, ask one of our members and place an order. (Unfortunately, due to the limited number of print catalogs, we cannot distribute them.)

The Dancers' Thanks

The O-Bon dance participants in the Outer Circle wish to thank the ever-patient and graceful Inner Circle Instructors. Thank you for preparing us for this beautiful tradition. Thank you for countless moments of "No, not that right foot, the other right foot."



Photo by William Shehan

BTC Delegation Attends EBL 2012

Over Labor Day weekend, a delegation from BTC attended the Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) conference which was held in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. This annual gathering of temples in the Eastern District of Buddhist Churches of America saw representatives from Chicago, Cleveland, Maryland, Manitoba, New York, Seabrook, and Toronto. Also attending were representatives from Berkeley and Oxnard, California, and White River, Washington. Those attending from BTC were Bill Bohlman, Debra Levie, Shawn Lyte, Alice Murata, Gary & Rev. Patti Nakai, Kay Schroeter, Miriam Solon, and Ruby Tsuji. Most of our delegation traveled there and back on the bus arranged by our sister temple, Midwest Buddhist Temple.

This year's conference theme was *Many Paths ~ One Path*, depicting the singularly unique paths we take as individuals as we study the Dharma, yet it is the same path for all. To that theme the conference opened with a panel discussion by Buddhist, Catholic, Islamic, Jewish, and Lutheran representatives which expanded our perspectives. Later in the conference were outstanding presentations made by Rev. Henry Adams of Oxnard, our own Rev. Patti Nakai, and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto of Berkeley. All three ministers hailed from Minnesota. Matsumoto Sensei, who is Professor of Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley was also the keynote speaker for the conference. Rev. Patti's presentation may become a series of articles for our bulletin in the future.

The opening service was traditional, and the closing service was a cooperative effort by ministers' assistants and the Twin Cities Buddhist Association Youth Group. It was a learning weekend interspersed with casual discussions and all-important networking among lifelong friends in the Dharma. It was a joy to reunite with old friends and meet new ones too. The local sightseeing trips balanced out the Dharma intensity, and the taiko performance by the conglomerate of delegates at the closing luncheon banquet was magnificent. All in all, the planning committee of Brian Tsuchiya, Cheral Tsuchiya, Connie Tsuchiya, Dr. Todd Tsuchiya, and Wayne Takeshita and the entire sangha of the Twin Cities Buddhist Association did a wonderful job as host, and the hospitality suite was outstanding with great food enhancing great camaraderie.

As a reminder, it is BTC's turn to host EBL 2013. Serious planning will commence soon while the call for volunteers to serve on the committee continues. Anyone interested in serving should contact Rev. Nakai or co-chairs Bill Bohlman or Gary Nakai.

*trustingly sailing
the seas of life –
Namu Amida Butsu
– William Shehan*



Rev. Patti Nakai



From left to right:
Miriam Solon, Connie Tsuchiya, Debbie Katsumi, Chiemi Onijura Bly & son perform at the closing luncheon banquet



From left to right:
Rev. Patti of Chicago (IL), Rev. Henry Adams of Oxnard (CA), Rev. Dr. David Ryo Matsumoto of Berkeley (CA)

Photos by Shawn Lyte

Comfort Zones & Life Living You

By Peggy Waters

Note: This is a version of a lay talk delivered on July 12, 2012. A previous (but different) write-up of the Japan trip entitled "Higashi Honganji Hoshidan 2011 Tour Retreat" along with photographs can be found in the March 2012 issue of the BTC Bulletin, available online at our archives at budtempchi.org/bulletins.

Last year Rev. Ashikaga asked me if I would go to Japan to represent BTC at the Higashi Honganji Hoonko Honzan Hoshidan Retreat. I was excited and honored at the invitation but also nervous. I have been an Asoka member since 2008, holding positions as corresponding and recording secretary. I have also been the secretary for BTC's Board of Directors since 2009. My parents have been BTC members for a long time but did not attend BTC's services or festivals. I wasn't sure if I should go because I hadn't been a temple member for very long and was sure that others who had been members longer were interested in going. I was also committed to watching my daughter's children every day after school, and this would be over Thanksgiving, which I was hosting for my family.

I was born in Chicago, and Japanese was not really spoken at home, even though Japanese was my father's first language. Watching Japanese movies in my teen years was my first and only real exposure to Japanese culture. I was nervous about taking an international trip with a language barrier, especially alone. But I still have family in Japan whom I look forward to meeting for the first time someday. I began to re-think Rev. Ashikaga's offer and thought that maybe this trip would be interesting and that it would be worth going out of my comfort zone.

After I informed Rev. Ashikaga of my decision to go to Japan, I contact Rev. Hasegawa in California, who was very helpful. Eventually I was sent information: schedules, places, dates, helpful hints of what to pack and what to expect. The only reservations I had to make were my plane reservations from Chicago to Los Angeles and back. The remainder of the trip to Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto and back to Los Angeles was taken care of by the people at Higashi Honganji, North American District Office.

To prepare for the trip, I took a conversational Japanese class at Harper College for a semester. Being older, I found that trying to learn Japanese was very hard. My Mother said Japanese was a difficult language. She was right! I would study and study and still not remember anything. I talked to my Mom

(Continued on page 7, left column)

Wood Carvings Installation 60th Anniversary Retrospective: Buddha's Birth & Leaving Home

Last month we announced the 60th anniversary of the beautiful wood carvings that hang in the temple hondo. In 1952, during fall O-Higan, BTC installed and dedicated carvings depicting the life of the historical Buddha.

There are six carvings in all. The following two carvings are the first in chronological order in the biographical life of the Buddha. The accompanying text was taken directly off the metal plates that adorn each carving. We encourage you to take a closer look at these carvings next time you are in the hondo.



THE NEW BORN PRINCE SIDDHARTHA AND THE
HERMIT, ASITA, MAKING HIS PROPHECY.
(FROM PAINTING BY NOSU, JAPAN)

THE PRINCE ABANDONS
THE ROYAL PALACE
TO SEEK MANKIND'S
SALVATION.
(FROM PAINTING
BY NOSU, JAPAN)



Carvings by
Harry Koizumi



BTC Nokotsudo

The BTC Nokotsudo continues to accept cremains. It is configured to hold urns of various sizes and presentations for storage periods that fit each family's need. The Nokotsudo will be open for regular inspection each Sunday immediately after service and by appointment made with either Rev. Ashikaga, Gary Nakai, or Kiyo Omachi.

To inter cremains in the Nokotsudo, fill out the application form attached to the Nokotsudo Policy. These documents are available from the temple office or they can be mailed to you by contacting any of the above persons.

Whether you have a definite length of time in mind for interment in the Nokotsudo or whether the period of time is indeterminate while ultimate plans are being worked out, rest assured that the beautiful design of the BTC Nokotsudo presents each applicant with flexible, dignified storage accommodation. As a further service, the BTC Nokotsudo policy permits the holding of burial certificates when accompanying the admitted cremains.

The Satisfying Milestones of 68 Years

(Continued from page 3)

As we contemplate on the above on this anniversary moment in time, to all of our Members & Friends past and present, to all of our new members and newly made friends, to all of the many visitors and inquiring minds who have graced our temple with your truth-seeking that keeps us reexamining our understanding of the Nembutsu, I wish to extend a most congratulatory anniversary greeting for your contributions to BTC's achievements. And I wholeheartedly rally your support in the coming year to sustain BTC, whose existence you have hopefully come to treasure as a reliable source for the Teachings, a shared nurturing, guiding environment for living, and a place to be among some of the most incredibly sincere and warm-hearted people you'll ever come across in life.

Gassho, gassho, gassho,
Gary T. Nakai
President



BTC Nokotsudo
Dedicated October 4, 2009



Designed by
SCOTT NOBUYAMA ASSOCIATES,
Chicago



Photographs by Scott Nobuyama

... Comfort Zones & Life Living You

(Continued from page 5)

about what she remembered from her trips to Japan with my Father. I talked to Jane and Jerry Morishige, who have visited Japan several times, and they gave me many books, CDs and other information about Japan. They gave me hints on what to do and what to expect. I also talked to Rev. Ashikaga, Gary and Rev. Patti Nakai, Bill Bohlman, Adam Kellman, and other temple members about their trips to Japan.

At the Los Angeles Airport, I met up with most of the Higashi Honganji, North American District group. Since I was the only person not from California or Hawaii, everyone was new to me. But, it did not take long for everyone to introduce themselves and become comfortable with each other. I found out during my trip to Japan that many of us have similar backgrounds. We are Japanese-Americans, Sansei generation, and many of us do not speak much Japanese. Our parents, for the most part, wanted to be assimilated into the American Community, to be "American."

Our first days in Japan were spent sightseeing and enjoying the beautiful fall colors of the Japanese maple trees. We were treated as honored guests with beautiful and delicious vegetarian meals. We toured the Higashi Honganji Complex, which includes the Founder's Hall (Goei-do), the Amida Hall (Amida-do), and the Hair-rope/Wooden Sledge which has one of the ropes used during the construction of the halls to transport massive wooden beams from the mountains to the construction site of Higashi Honganji. It was inspiring to be told this temple was built so long ago with no power tools or nails.

The Retreat Center experience lasted three days. Remembering my talks with those who have been to Japan, I looked forward with trepidation to the chanting during the services, the vegetarian food, the community baths and sitting "seiza" style at the services. I remember events now only as a blur, as everything happened in a dream.

One service that stands out is the one Abbot Otani officiated. I did not understand what was going on but I felt the reverence of the service. The fast-paced chanting during the service with hundreds of people was most impressive. I could "feel" the chanting, which was very moving. I also remember the service that was held at night. The only light in the hall was from the candles on the altar. The chanting of the sutras and the priests in their colorful robes was unforgettable.

The Retreat Theme was – *Now, Life is living you.* Let life live you; don't try to control how your

life is lived. Some events in your life cannot be controlled. If you try to control it then you will encounter suffering. By learning to be accepting you will endure less suffering. During the retreat I did not understand this, but since returning home and re-reading and re-thinking it, I think I understand it a little more.

Representing BTC at the retreat gave me a totally unique inside experience and fresh view of Buddhism. I feel that I truly have meet fellow seekers who happen to meet on the same path. I did not realize that I had so much in common with others and that there were so many nice people. I have learned much about Japan, Buddhism, and myself.

I am now taking another Japanese conversation class here at BTC and hope to visit Japan again. If an opportunity comes up again to represent BTC at a retreat, I strongly encourage you to go! You will enjoy your visit as well as learn a lot about yourself.

... Sharing the Treasure of Dharma

(Continued from page 1)

Often, only when our members attend services at other temples do they realize how far ahead our temple has been in presenting Buddhism in modern English. In the Chicago area, most Buddhist groups are either Asian immigrant-based (no English spoken) or highly educated elites attracted to the non-English (and sometimes non-verbal) expressions in Buddhism.

There is still much work to be done, and all of you who come to our temple services and classes are participating in the process of conveying the Dharma to the English-speaking world. Let us know what clearly speaks to you in what you read or hear from the ministers and members – and what doesn't. What alternative ways are there to express the Dharma, especially to young people?

The teachings of the historical Buddha are much deeper and wider than touchy feely sound bites. It is easy to call yourself "Buddhist" because meditation and/or chanting makes you feel peaceful. But true Buddhism is about challenging our ego-centered thinking and pointing out concrete ways of living with all beings in Oneness. That is what can be conveyed only with words – with stories and examples, and with commentaries from generations of seekers who struggled on the path of awakening.

The revisions of our service book, the calendar, and the monthly bulletin that we publish are all manifestation of BTC's continuing legacy of words. Let's keep the conversation going among ourselves and with potential new members so that we can celebrate many more temple anniversaries.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose (1905–2000), Founding Minister

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