

# The Buddhist Temple of Thicago JLLET





Volume 71, Number 1 October 2014 (2558 B.E.)

# **Girls Are Our Future: Eastern Buddhist League Conference 2014**

At the annual gathering of the Eastern Buddhist League Conference (or convention or retreat) the opening service usually has an announcement of incense offering by representatives of the attending

groups. It is a nice "roll call" of the temples and sanghas of the Midwest, east coast, and Canada. At this year's conference in Washington, D.C., our temple was called first and the person we chose to represent us was Bea, a Dharma School student. In many represented ways she the conference's theme of



Rev. Patti Nakai Resident Minister

"Flourishing Through Difference," but also she represented the hope of all our organizations for spreading the Dharma to future generations.

It was definitely an EBL gathering of the 21st century. At the banquet all the ministers and their spouses were introduced and Rev. Kurt Rye, the

minister of the hosting temple, Ekoji, stood up with his partner Daniel. An energetic presenter at two workshops, Tammy from the Seabrook (New Jersey) temple introduced her partner Jennifer to people with the giddy announcement of their upcoming wedding. It was the first time in a few years that we saw our friend Hoshina Seki from the New York Buddhist Church. She had undergone gender transition surgery. The last time we saw Hoshina, she was a man with the name Hoshin. It was like when you meet an old friend who had a drastic change of weight or hairstyle – after the initial surprise, you realize she is a continuation of the person you knew back then.

There were various workshops to choose from on Saturday morning and afternoon. The most memorable for me was the outreach workshop which had four panelists present specific approaches used to bring people to their temples. When we broke up into small groups, I chose to be in the group with Kim-Oahn Nguyen who spoke about her involvement in Girl Scouts.

(Continued on page 6)

#### The Dharma of the Bill

In the August Bulletin, I wrote about my old dog, Mr. Bigsby, the blind, earless Labrador retriever. I titled it, "Dharma of the Dog," as a reminder of the core theme of our annual pet memorials – that Dharma lessons are all around us.

This month I'd like to introduce the "Dharma of the Bill," as in Bill Bohlman, our Vice-President of Religious Affairs. Those regularly attending services are familiar with Bill's location behind the book cases before and after services. That's where he greets



Glenn T. Fuijura Temple President

visitors, introduces them to the BTC, and answers questions about Buddhism. Most of you are unaware that Bill also handles many of the email inquiries to the Temple. Many wonderful insights are generated by Bill on a regular basis and I suspect more than few

members would find them helpful. I have. I'd like to share some with you.

#### About our Temple

Q: What are the deities at this temple? Is this a Japanese temple? - 2/28/2013

Bill: By deities, I assume you mean which Buddha or Bodhisattva is central to our practice. Our temple is of the Jodo Shinshu This is a form of Pure Land Buddhism, originating in 13th century Japan. The central figure is the Amida Buddha. However, our temple takes an approach to the teachings that begin with a re-evaluation of teachings at the end of the 19th century. We try to find relevance to our everyday life in the Dharma teachings. Although our temple was founded 68 years ago primarily by Japanese Americans, our current membership is probably the most racially and ethnically diverse of any temple in Chicago, perhaps the country.

(Continued on page 5, at bottom)

# **Temple News** August 2014

8/01 Kokyo Taiko hosted public open house

8/02 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Mrs. Rose Sakai at the temple. Mrs. Sakai passed away on July 3 and is survived by son Ron. \*\*\* Rev. Nakai attended memorial service (conducted by Rev. Sunnan Koyo Kubose) at Lakeview Funeral Home for the late Mr. Calvin Manshio (former temple president). Mr. Manshio passed away on July 24 and is survived by wife Peggy Wallace, daughters Catherine Neuses and Michelle Inskeep and son Christopher. \*\*\* Bon Odori (Japanese folk dance celebration) at temple

8/03 Obon service held, including Hatsubon (first Obon) observance for 22 loved ones.

₱ 8/10 August monthly memorial service. \*\*\*
Shoshinge class met.

8/12 Treasures of Uptown interfaith coalition monthly meeting held at temple.

8/13 Rev. Nakai attended Monthly Uptown Clergy lunch meeting.

♦ 8/16-17 Kokyo Taiko performed at the Chicago

Botanical Gardens in Glencoe for the Malott Japanese Garden Festival.

8/16 Asoka
 Society met. \*\*\*
 Rev. Nakai attended memorial reception for the late Mr.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Calvin Manshio Rose Sakai Brooke Whitted

Brooke Whitted at Westmoreland Country Club in Wilmette. Mr. Whitted passed away on July 27 and is survived by wife Linda (former temple president), son Ross and daughter Layne. (Preceding the reception was a private service conducted by Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa of the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Temple.)

8/17 Elaine Siegel was lay speaker at Sunday service.

₱ 8/20 Rev. Nakai attended Buddhist Council of the Midwest meeting at Shambhala Center in West Loop.

₱ 8/22 September bulletin assembled by volunteers (actual mailing on 8/25).

8/22-26 Volunteers from Asoka and others assisted with storage room re-shelving. See article on page 4.

8/24 Koso-ki (Haya Akegarasu memorial) service. \*\*\* Board of Directors met.

- 8/26 Rev. Nakai attended Chicago Nikkei Forum's community calendar meeting at Japanese American Service Committee.
- 8/28 Rev. Nakai attended Multi Faith Veteran Support Initiative meeting at DePaul University downtown.
- 8/29-31 Rev. Nakai and BTC delegates attended Eastern Buddhist League convention in Washington D.C. hosted by Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

#### THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Understanding the Nembutsu through recognizing the Paramitas in others.

Send in your recognitions!

- Sunday Service Participants: Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Glenn T. Fujiura, Anna Idol, Tom Lane, Henry Minis, Peter Mizuki, Elaine Siegel, Miriam Solon.
- Accompanists: Ruth Abbinanti, Mia Blixt-Shehan, John Marino.
- Audio Controls: Jacob and Wendy Fawcett, Craig Widby.
- Sunday Service Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, Amy & Morris Kawamoto, Mike Kudo, Fumi Kuwada, Jane Morishige, Tom Omachi, Mary and Yone Shimomura, Ruby Tsuji, Upaya Group, O-Bon special luncheon: Asoka Society under directon of Chef Yasuo Mizuuchi.
- Bulletin Mailing: Sue Balsam, Dennis Chan, Antoinette D'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Masa Nakata, Ruby Tsuji.

Cleaning Temple washrooms: Jun Park.

- Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto.
- © Cleaning Nokotsudo and Hondo: Kate Warpeha & son Don.
- 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: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Ruby Tsuji.

#### The BTC Mission Statement

Founded in 1944 as an administratively independent temple, The Buddhist Temple of Chicago aspires to the following:

- To present and explore the Three Treasures of Buddhism the Buddha (teacher), the Dharma (teachings), and the Sangha (community).
- To be guided and inspired by the historical Buddha, Gautama Shakyamuni, and the teachers who have followed Shinran Shonin, Manshi Kiyozawa, and Haya Akegarasu.
- To present the Buddha-Dharma in a language and manner relevant and understandable in contemporary America.
- To welcome all who seek the Dharma without any exceptions.
- To be a positive presence in our local community working to enhance the vitality of our neighborhood.
- To honor and continue the traditions of our founding members.
- To always live the Nembutsu Namu Amida Butsu.

**3** W October 2014

# **ATTENTION BTC Members** 80 Years Old and Over

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago invites you to the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & special Keiro-kai celebration in your honor.

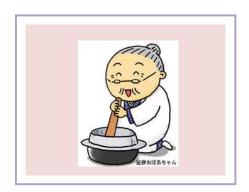
Date: Sunday, October 12, 2014

Time: 11:00 am Service

**Location:** The Buddhist Temple of Chicago What: Bento lunch following service will be provided to all Keiro-kai (temple members 80 years old+). All other attendees are invited to enjoy the informal buffet lunch provided by the

Dharma School.

# Please call Debbie at (708) 923-0321 to RSVP.



# **Buddhist Council of the Midwest's International Buddhism Festival**

Date: Saturday, October 18, 2014

**Time:** 10 am - 6 pm

Location: The Buddhist Temple of Chicago and co-host

Wat Phrasriratanamahadhatu

What: Buddhist education and representatives from various Buddhist groups. There will also be Japanese cultural presentations such as origami, taiko, calligraphy,

tea ceremony etc.

# **BTC Halloween Party Hosted by the BTC Dharma School**



Date: Sunday, October 26,

**Time:** 11:45 – 1:00 pm

**Location:** The Buddhist

Temple of Chicago

What: Lunch will be served. There will be games, prizes, piñata, treats and lots of fun!

To help with the party or to suggest games, contact Diana Schoendorff at

billandi@sbcglobal.net or call 773.540.1505.

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# THE **BUDDHIST** TEMPLE OF

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## BTC BULLETIN

#### Team

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#### Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, & suggestions welcome. Submissions of articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc., strongly encouraged. Submissions 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.

#### **Contact**

E-mail BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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# Can You Believe It? More Storage Space! By Gary T. Nakai

Ever since the design of our new temple building was revealed to us, we knew that in terms of storage space, we will have more general storage and point-of-use storage space than we ever had in the old buildings. So it is all the more gratifying to having improved on the efficiency of use of all this "more" storage space. Such is the case of the recent modifications to the storage shelving in our Central Storage room.

From the onset we had additional shelving material on hand for when the need arose and recently it was decided the time had come to make use of them. Thus, six additional levels of shelves to the existing bays plus a mobile section of five levels was fabricated and assembled offering increased storage density and better accessibility to the stored items. See photos.

Many thanks to the tireless crew who hauled items back and forth, lifted, pulled, pushed the stored items, material and equipment; cut, grinded, and

The Value of Sangha

. . . . . . . . . . .

By Bill Bohlman

[Originally published in *Action Magazine*, Kenosha, Wisconsin]

I go to the Buddha for guidance. I go to the Dharma for guidance. I go to the Sangha for guidance. These statements are the Three Treasures of Buddhism. The Buddha is the teacher, the Dharma is the teachings, and the Sangha is the community of seekers. To exclude any of the three dilutes the value of the others. For this reason, a solitary practice is not a complete Buddhist practice.

The need for an involvement with other seekers was best expressed by one of our ministers. He spoke of the Three Treasures, and said that in his opinion the Sangha was the most important. It was through the Sangha that the Buddha and the Dharma came to life; without the Sangha, the value of the teacher and the teachings would be lost. Unfortunately, too many people think they can be a solitary Buddhist.

Often, I encounter people who say they are a Buddhist. When I ask what group they practice with, they say they don't belong to a group, they practice on their own. They tell me about the books they have read, the videos they have watched, the CDs they have listened to, and how they sit zazen meditation at home. These are the "nightstand Buddhists," so-called because of the books they keep by their bed; the

welded steel frames and beams, assembled the structures high up, all over the grueling five days of work. This magnificent team effort was accomplished by Ed Horiuchi, Ken Kikuchi, Rev. Patti Nakai, Tom and Kiyo Omachi, Mary Ozaki, John Sagami, and Darryl Shishido. Everyone needs more space; we have more space.





Photos by Gary T. Nakai

people who think they can read their way to their awakening. They fail to see that the ego that makes them think they can do it on their own is the same ego that is the cause of their suffering. Only when our perceptions are challenged are we able to realize the depth of our ignorance. This challenge comes when we share our practice with others; we begin to realize that we might not know it all.

The Buddhadharma tells us that all people and all things are our teachers; we learn from every life experience. The Buddha also taught that we should respect all religious beliefs. We do not have to agree with them, but we must respect them. In a broader sense, these two teachings show us that all people seeking a way to overcome the suffering in their lives are members of the human Sangha. I was not born into Buddhism; I came to it in my adult life. Although I left the religion of my birth in my late teens, during the last 20+ years that I have practiced Buddhism I have come to more fully appreciate the universal teachings I learned as a child. To me, a true Buddhist accepts that others believe differently and tries to learn from this diversity. The Dalai Lama was once asked if his desire was that everyone be Buddhist. He replied, "Of course not, how boring that would be. It would be as if every restaurant served the same food."

Do not be afraid of the menu of different thought; share the feast with the human Sangha, and your own meal will be even more delicious.

# Sangha Snapshots



Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Beatrice Hawkins, Anna Nagata, and Diana Schoedorff from BTC were among the visitors to the annual EBL 2014 at Ekoji Temple in Fairfax, VA near Washington, D.C. See more photos from the conference on page 6.



Dharma School bulletin board. Dharma School Sunday, Buddhist study class, taiko, meditation, and many other temple activities resumed in September after summer hiatus. See pages 7 and 8 for a detailed list of temple activities.

# ... The Dharma of the Bill

(Continued from page 1)

#### Background

Q: I wish to give up worldly things. Where can I begin my studies? - 4/17/2013

Bill: Buddhism is not about giving up worldly things; it is about overcoming our attachment to things tangible and intangible. It is this attachment that is a cause of our suffering. Of course, some monastic traditions do have a life of mere subsistence, but this is not the path for everyone. To begin any path, you must take the first step.

Q: Hello, I am a comparative religions student and I am interested in learning more about your religion. What do you/your faith believe is the purpose of life? - 5/26/2014

Bill: Buddhism has no divine being, as such there is no deity to serve. In our tradition, we do not have a belief in an afterlife. The purpose of this life is to live it. To fully explore this one life we have; aware that we are part of the universal oneness. Our thoughts, words and deeds should be directed towards the overcoming of suffering in our lives and everything around us; always conscious of the ongoing impact of these thoughts words and deeds.

#### Miscellaneous Thoughts

**Q:** How do you/your faith believe the world was created? How did we get here? - 5/26/2014

Bill: Buddhism has no creation story. It doesn't matter how we got here, we are here now. The teaching of dependent origination says that all that exists now is the result of what has come before, and what will be is

the result of what occurs now. The past is how we remember it, the future is how we think it will be; the only time that truly exists is right now.

 $\mathbf{Q}$ : I visited the temple last month and received the pamphlet that gave information explaining Buddhism and the different symbols present in the service. The pamphlet told of how in the Four Noble Truths that ignorance was the cause of suffering. However in my studies, I have read that the Four Noble Truths say that desire is the cause of suffering. Since ignorance and desire are not synonymous, I was wondering if you could explain the difference in this interpretation. -2/28/2013

Bill: The answer is they are both correct. The root cause of suffering is our ignorance. This ignorance is our propensity to view the world thru our ego-filter; we see it as we want it to be, not as it is. Out of this ignorance arises our desire, our desire to have things our way. Yet, reality does not always respond to our desires, therefore we suffer. To sum up; desire is an immediate cause of suffering, but our ignorance is the root cause.

Q: I have been a very bad person. How does one serve penance in Buddhism? - 9/4/2014

Bill: Write out a very generous check payable to "Glenn Fujiura." Put it in the President's mailbox located along the north wall.

Okay, I made that last one up.

While Bill cannot match my old dog for drama (Bill can see and his ears are still attached), these are just a small sampling of Bill's exchanges with visitors and the curious over the past few years; I hope to do this again. From the Dharma of the Dog to the Dharma of the Bill. Lessons are all around us.

#### ... EBL 2014

(Continued from page 1)

Kim talked about designing the pilot program for Buddhist girls earning the "My Promise, My Faith" pin. The pin signifies that the scout has studied her own faith tradition in connection with the values of the Girl Scout promise. Unlike past Scouting programs sponsored by the Buddhist Churches of America, Kim wanted the Girl Scout program to be for girls of



various Buddhist traditions, not just Jodo Shinshu, so she focused on the Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path. She said one of the hardest parts of the program to work on was the requirement that the scouts study readings about their faith written

by women. She said it took her and the Ekoji Dharma School teachers several weeks to find enough material. (She will e-mail me what they found so I can share it with our Dharma School.) In the end she was glad to see that twenty Buddhist girls in her council earned the pin in the first year of the pilot program.

Even though I was a Girl Scout myself, I haven't thought much about the organization since it seemed like something out of place with today's children who

are busy with sports and technology. But listening to Kim, I realize there is a need now more than ever for groups to



give girls the encouragement to develop their skills (especially in management) instead of only working on looking pretty.

On Sunday the EBL attendees got to witness the confidence of a girl who received such encouragement. Leading the chanting and giving the Dharma talk was high schooler Anh-Thu Vo. She and her sister came to the service wearing the jacket-length black robes of minister assistants. Ekoji has the distinction among east coast temples of having the only members - those sisters and also another girl (also of Vietnamese ancestry) - who have received training and certification as youth minister assistants from the Buddhist Churches of America. To me that fact shows people have left behind the old stereotype of minister candidates have to be male and ethnic Japanese (in the

1980s I heard stories of several people who were discouraged from the ministry because they didn't fit that profile).

Of course boys should be encouraged along with girls, but I think girls still come up against the wall of "don't be too smart/take-charge/knowledgeable/skilled etc. because guys won't like you." You only have to look at magazines, television and the movies to see that women with strengths are only tolerated if they are young and pretty, otherwise if they are unglamorous and a little bit old, they are labeled "bossy" and other less printable adjectives.

The same voices of discouragement heard by young girls are heard also by of many us, regardless of gender or age. Those voices may have been channeled by our parents who were made to feel



inferior because of their race (most second-generation Japanese Americans), language ability, place of origin, kind of work they did, etc. Those voices still warn us against trying to do anything constructive, saying "your type" doesn't really matter in this world.

Buddhism reminds us that all beings are equal and deserving of respect, and that as each of us is the result of a web of myriad past causes and conditions, we are each free to participate in the causes and conditions of the present and future. In giving encouragement to the young people, we are also encouraging ourselves to go forth into the world, not buying into the old stereotypes of inferiority that the status quo tries to impose on us.

This month our temple will celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anni-

versary and as we always do, we look back with gratitude for all the work and donations of the past members and supporters. But let us also look at



ourselves and those around us, especially the children and youth, and discuss and work on what we can do to justify our temple's existence into the future. Are we doing what we can so we deeply hear <u>and</u> help others to hear the Buddha-Dharma of the equality of all beings?

# Buddha 'Bout Town: Buddhist & Cultural Happenings

- Through October 5, 2014: Onchi Koshiro: The Abstract Prints at the Art Institute, Gallery 107. Koshiro was a leader and innovator of the *sosaku hanga* (creative print) movement that revolutionized Japanese printmaking before and after WW II.
- Oct. 11-Jan. 4, 2015: Ghosts & Demons in Japanese Prints at the Art Institute. Includes Hokusai's series One Hundred Stories (Hyaku monogatari).
- Dec. 20 & 21, various times: Tsukasa Taiko at the Museum of Contemporary Art. Artists from Tokyo, San Francisco, and Chicago perform two different programs. *Taiko Legacy 11* includes Korean drum, taiko, bamboo flute, and kimono dance. *Reduction* explores taiko's more subtle beauty, drawing on Tokyo's new wave of performance art and dance. Box Office: 312.397.4010.

# **ONGOING**

- The Field Museum features Buddhist artifacts in permanent sections devoted to China and Tibet.
- The Art Institute features large collections of Buddhist statuary and art in its Alsdorf Galleries and in its collections of Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and Korean art. Additional Buddhist art in other galleries can be found using the search tool available at the Art Institute site: www.artic.edu/aic/collections/
- The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago features rotating works of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art, often with Buddhist themes. Visit smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/asian-art/ for current highlights.
- Submit information on other Buddhist and/or Japanese cultural events in the Chicago area to: BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com

# September Temple Events & Activities Guide



- See Calendar on page 8 for specific dates.
- Up-to-date details and last-minute changes are available on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/budtempchi
- All events are free, held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted), and open to the public.

### >>>> Special Services & Events <<<<

- October 5, Sunday, 11 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service (English), 1 pm Japanese
- October 12, Sunday, 11 am Keiro-kai celebration service for members 80 years old or older. See page 3 for more information and to RSVP.
- October 18, Saturday, 10 am to 6pm Buddhist Council of the Midwest's International Buddhism Festival. See page 3 for more information.
- October 26, Sunday, 11:45 am Halloween Party hosted by the Dharma School. See page 3 for more information and to volunteer.

#### **△** Regular Sunday Services **△**

- Religious Service (in English) Sundays, 11 am.
- Lay Speaker Sunday Third Sunday of month, 11 am.

#### **☼ Cultural Activities ☼**

- Chinese Movement (Qigong) Tuesday mornings, 11 am to noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- © Crafts Group First & third Saturdays, 10 am to noon.
- Japanese Language School (children or adults) Every Saturday, 10 am. Call Temple to register. On hiatus.
- Japanese Swordsmanship (Iaido) Mondays, 7 to 9 pm.
- Taiko (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe) Fridays, 7 to 9 pm.

# Meetings, Socials, Volunteering

- Asoka Society Generally third Saturday of the month.
  This month: October 11.
- Board Meeting Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. **This month: October 19.**
- BTC Bulletin mailing 2nd-to-last Friday of the month, 10 am, volunteers strongly encouraged. **This month:** October 24.
- BTC submissions See page 3 for details on submissions. Generally due 8 days prior to the mailing on Thursday, 6 pm. NOTE EARLY DUE DATE FOR THIS MONTH: October 9.
- BTC Young Adults Group Check bulletin for events scheduled throughout the year.

#### **Education & Meditation**

- Dharma Sunday School (for children) Second and fourth Sundays, 10:30 am
- Introduction to Buddhism This 4-week course is held periodically throughout the year. Visit budtempchi.org for the schedule or e-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.
- Buddhism Study Class Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome.
- Meditation Sundays at 9AM and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. Beginners should arrive 15 minutes early.
- Sutra Study Class Usually the second or third Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required study required. **This month: October 12.**







# The Buddhist Temple of Thicago

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Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Minister Emeritus

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

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# BTC CALENDAR



### OCTOBER 2014

日本語の 祥月法要 10月5日 午後1:00 時 See Temple Events & Activities Guide on page 7 for details on events. Events may be canceled or moved after press time due to unforeseen circumstances. Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2 11am Qigong	1	2	3 4 10am Crafts		
	7pm laido	pm laido	7 pm Buddhism Study	7:30 pm Meditation		
5 9 am Meditation	•	7 11am Qigong	8	9	10	11 10 am Asoka Society
11am Monthly Memorial Service (English) 1pm Shotsuki Hoyo (Japanese)	7pm laido		7 pm Buddhism Study	6pm Bulletin submissions due 7:30 pm Meditation		
12 9 am Meditation 10:30 am Dharma School 11am Keiro-kai Service 12:30pm Sutra Study Class	13 7pm laido	14 11am Qigong	15 7 pm Buddhism Study	7:30 pm Meditation	17	18 10am–6pm BTC co-hosts International Buddhism Festival
19 9 am Meditation 11am Service	20 7pm laido	21 11am Qigong	22	23	24 10am Bulletin mailing	25
1230 am Board Meeting			7 pm Buddhism Study	7:30 pm Meditation		
26 9 am Meditation 10:30 am Dharma School 11am Service 11:45 Halloween Party	27	11am Qigong	29	30	31	
	7pm laido	7 pm Buddhism Study	7:30 pm Meditation	Halloween		