

The Buddhist Temple of Thicago





Volume 71, Number 7 April 2015 (2558 B.E.)

Hana Matsuri - Celebration of Renewal

When I first attended this temple in the late 1970s, Hana Matsuri, the commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, was probably the most important service in the year. It was like Easter at the Christian churches - a time to dress up in your best clothes. The men all wore suits and women all wore dresses with either floral print or pastel colors. The hondo was filled to capacity and after the service the various Dharma School classes performed songs and plays on stage.

Now you can "come as you are" in the clothes you find comfortable and you can dress up by pinning on one of our hand-made flower ornaments before service (don't forget to give it back before you leave the temple). In the past few years, the hondo is less filled than at one of the monthly memorial services – it only looks full if a large class of students from a school or church group happens to come that Sunday. Although Hana Matsuri has become less of a special event at our temple, it still is observed with more fanfare than the other commemorations of the Buddha's life – his awakening (Bodhi Day in December) and his passing (Nirvana Day in February).

Richard's Zen of the Can

How many lives can one person touch? In the case of Richard Brandon, a former BTC president and longtime leader of the Harmony Zen Group at BTC, the number was myriad. Richard was a father and grandfather, active in the Unitarian church and the Heartland Sangha, head of the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, and deeply involved with BTC. I was lucky to be one of the people who gained new insights because of Richard.

In the 1950's, Richard became interested in meditation. This interest led him to attend a talk by Rev. Gyomay Kubose at the Unitarian church. Born was a deep student/teacher relationship. Richard learned more than just Buddhism and meditation; he learned an appreciation of all that he encountered. Richard often spoke of how Rev. Kubose would exclaim "WOW" at the sight of a flower, bird, even an interesting insect. This deep appreciation became part of Richard's life. When Richard would speak of the trees, flowers, and all the life that abounded at the Bright Dawn Home Spread, this "WOW" was evident. I am a city boy and nature doesn't usually impress me,

Hana Matsuri reminds us of the significance of the historical Buddha, born 2,500 years ago in what is now Nepal. But of course, the teachings of Buddhism did not start with a baby's birth but with a 35-year-old man who traveled and talked to people until age 80. But because a birthday in our Western culture is an

occasion to celebrate, we honor the whole of the Buddha's life in commemorating his birth.

Each time we celebrate the Buddha's birthday we are also renewing our connection with the treasures of three Buddha. Dharma, and Sangha, When Buddhism came to China, the date of his birth was moved to the fourth month, earlier than the time



Rev. Patti Nakai Resident Minister

of Visakha (aka Wesak), the month of early summer, when Buddhists of the southern ("Theravada") tradition celebrate the Buddha's birth. The eastern tradition ("Mahayana") has the Buddha's birth occurring in springtime, the time of nature's renewal after the chill of winter.

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however, when I was with Richard at Bright Dawn his enthusiasm made even me look more closely at the life around me. Last summer, prior to his becoming ill, Richard stopped at my warehouse in Kenosha on his way to Bright Dawn. Other friends of ours were visiting for the weekend and we all went to dinner.



Bill Bohlman Temple President

The food was good, but to Richard everything was perfect; he fully savored every bite. This was his expression of gratitude mindfulness of the moment.

Richard was a true example of perseverance. From the time I first came to BTC in 1990, I was aware of Richard's dream: to have a meditation retreat center. His plan to finance this center was to

pay for it by recycling aluminum cans. I thought this was rather strange; it sure was going to take a lot of cans. I noticed that bags of cans would show up at BTC marked, "For Richard." Soon, I was also bringing cans. Maryann, Richard's wife, jokingly complained

(Continued on page 5, bottom section)

Temple News February 2015

₱ 2/01 February monthly memorial service. *** Abbreviated Shoshinge class and no Japanese service in afternoon due to severe weather (total 19 inches of snow).

2/05 Start of "Brief Introduction to Buddhism" classes for four weeks.

2/07 Rev. Ashikaga conducted one-year memorial service for Mr. Naotaka Kamiya at BTC. *** Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Giichi Moriwaki Haruko Tademoto

for the late Mr. Giichi Moriwaki at Columbus Centre in Lake Zurich. He is survived by wife Yvonne, daughter Lisa Hacker and sons Keith and Kurt.

- 2/08 Nirvana Day and Dharma School Sunday service.
- ₱ 2/11 Rev. Nakai attended monthly Uptown clergy luncheon.
- 2/14 Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga conducted memorial service for the late Mrs. Haruko "Harky" Tademoto at BTC. She is survived by son Tomio, daughter Jan (Kevin) Saiki, and daughter-in-law Linda.

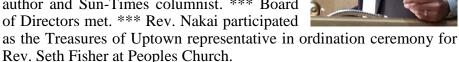
₱ 2/15 Pet Memorial service. *** BTC hosted Treasures of Uptown Interfaith Coalition event, showing, and discussion of the film

"Unlikely Friends" about victims of crime befriending the perpetrators, affirming each other's humanity.

4 2/19 Rev. Nakai conducted third-year memorial service for Mr. Shigeo Suga at Heiwa Terrace.

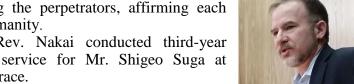
2/20 March bulletin mailing.

₱ 2/22 Brotherhood Sunday Service with guest speaker Neil Steinberg (pictured), author and Sun-Times columnist. *** Board



2/26 Buddhist Council of the Midwest meeting at Wat Phrasri

attended by Nancey Epperson.





Note Changes to BTC's Published Calendar

May 17 & 24: Tanjo-e (Shinran Shonin's birthday) and Dharma School are scheduled for May 24, not May 17.

May 17 & 31: "Hatsu Mairi" (children's official "first visit") has been re-scheduled from May 31 to May 17. If you would like to include your children in the ceremony to welcome them to the sangha, please inform Rev. Patti Nakai or pick up a registration form (will be available starting April at the temple and online). The ceremony is for children of any age, from newborns to teens, regardless of whether they have been attending or have yet to attend Sunday services.

May 24: Guest speaker for the May 24 event is Rev. Ron Miyamura of the Midwest 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, Jackie Denofrio, Tracy Ito, Rachel Jacome, Carlos Meza, Marc Perez, Hector Rivera, Kate Warpeha

Accompanists: Mrs. Ashikaga, Drea Gallaga, Joe Phillips

Audio Controls: Jacob and Wendy Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai

Sunday Service Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Susan Kuse, Alice Murata, Hector Rivera, Helene Rom, Mary Shimomura, Ruby Tsuji, Upaya Group

Bulletin Mailing: Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Candy Minx, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Anthony Stagg, Ruby Tsuji

Cleaning Temple washrooms: Anonymous

Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto

Maintaining and updating the Temple computer: John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai

Maintaining and updating the Temple website: Ann Yi

District Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Ruby Tsuji

EBL 2015 Save the Date: September 4-7

The 2015 Eastern Buddhist League Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio over Labor Day weekend, Friday September 4 to Monday September 7 (Labor Day). Cleveland Buddhist Temple has negotiated a great group rate at the new Westin Cleveland Downtown hotel. The Midwest Buddhist Temple is planning to get a bus and hopes BTC delegates will join them. The featured speaker is Shin Buddhist author Jeff Wilson, who wrote Dixie Dharma and Buddhism of the Heart and several articles on current topics such as same-sex marriages and mindfulness. We should have registration packets available starting in May.

April 2015 ## 3 ##

Helpers Needed for Hana Matsuri

On Sunday, April 12 our temple will celebrate Hana Matsuri ("flower festival"), the birth of the historical Buddha. Traditionally it has been the most attended service of the year but it requires the help of many volunteers. Even if you've never participated before, we welcome your help and hope you'll be a part of continuing this traditional celebration.

O-chigo: The children dressed as the lords and ladies of ancient Japan who start the service with a procession. As some of our Dharma School students have already outgrown the costumes, we hope to add new boys and girls to the line up. Please arrive by 10:45am and have your cameras ready for the colorful photo-ops.

O-migaki: The cleaning and polishing of the brass altar decorations in preparation of this event. Please come Friday, April 10 and join the camaraderie of the Upaya group.

Hanamido: The "flower shrine" with its roof decorated with blossoms of various colors and shapes. Under the direction of veteran hanamido decorators, the Craft Group welcomes any volunteers to join them Saturday morning, April 11.

If you can help out with these and other tasks in the preparation and conduct of the Hana Matsuri service, please talk with members of the above mentioned groups or contact the temple office.

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.

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BTC BULLETIN

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Ruth Abbinanti, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Helene Rom, Darryl Shishido, Ruby Tsuji, Ann Yi (Editor)

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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Arigato from Crafts Group

By Alice Murata

We are grateful to Julie Sakoda who came on Saturday, February 21, to teach craft members jewelry making. Participants made lovely bracelets and necklaces.

Thanks to Jerry Morishige for delightful rolls of wide elastic. Some are printed and others glow in the dark. If you would like a piece of glow in the dark elastic to place on bicycles, children's clothing, or pet belongings let us know. It is good for people and animals to be visible, especially on dark and snowy days. We are trying to thinks of articles we can make with these gifts.

Gwen Kato donated very nice yarns from the late Heidi Kato. The Craft Group has been sharing yarns with people who would like them. It is our preference if you made things for Natsu Matsuri or people in need but it is fine if you use them for other purposes.

Many thanks to the Tademoto family for the nice donation in memory of craft member, Harky. We miss her and her talents a lot.

UPDATES:CTA Wilson Station Construction

Major construction has begun at the Wilson CTA Station. Demolition has started on the Purple line tracks, meaning Red and Purple line trains will be sharing the same track and resulting in delays. The Purple Line will be making extra stops at Wilson, Sheridan, and Addison for the time being (usually the Purple Line runs express from Belmont to Howard). Temporary exits and platforms may be constructed during the course of the rebuilding. There may be times when streets and intersections will have limited access or be closed, so drivers also should be prepared for detours. The CTA says they will give the neighborhood advance notice of nighttime and weekend work, so we will try to keep our members and the groups who use the temple informed of the possible disruptions at our Facebook page. For more information and ongoing updates from the CTA, visit:

http://www.transitchicago.com/wilson/

Mr. Brandon, We Will Always Remember Your Happy Smile

There are five adjectives to describe how nice, funny, caring, generous you always were:

- **H** Happy, always waved good morning or good afternoon
- A Active, always ready to go on an adventure whether its Bright Dawn or even at BTC
- **P** Perfect, he was perfect, always super nice and friendly, and that's what matters
- **P** Passionate, always passionate about showing up at temple, we always got to see his happy face
- Y Yay, always tried to do what other people wanted, and very generous

Mr. Brandon, when I got out of the car when I was tired or my stomach hurt from car sickness, I loved to see you getting out of your car always with a smile on your face. You waved at us with so much energy that it would brighten up my day. "Good Morning" you said and then you would sing a happy song. I had so much fun with you even when we were doing our night time meditations. You had a great voice while you sang all types of songs. When I heard you had brain cancer, that immediately brought my day down. I am in Health class right now studying about the brain. So I did a little research and found this walk for brain cancer awareness. I heard about your death and I knew that in the world right now there are other people suffering the exact same cancer. I will have the link to the site below. It would be great if BTC helped in honor of the Happy Mr. Brandon I know.

http://braintumor.org/join-the-fight/

Wen QingDharma School Student



Richard Brandon (at right above, in center below) at his Bright Dawn Home Spread meditation center with the BTC Dharma School, 2011. Photos by a Dharma School parent.



April 2015

The 2015 BTC Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY – Applicant must be a high school senior or an undergraduate senior who has attended The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Dharma School and/or participated in one of the youth activities of BTC and is a paid member or listed on a family membership two years prior to the scholarship year according to BTC membership records.

SELECTION – The BTC Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic merit and personal dedication to the Temple with consideration given to individual need.

PROCEDURE – An applicant must complete the Scholarship Application, obtain one recommendation, and write a 200-word essay. All applications must be accompanied by a certified transcript of the student's high school grades and ACT/SAT scores (if available, or a letter given as to the reason why this was

. . . Hana Matsuri – Celebration of Renewal

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The Japanese named the occasion Hana Matsuri, "flower festival," to play up the blossoming of spring flowers and the fact that Siddhartha was born in a garden.

As Easter in European culture celebrated the rebirth of life in the spring, so Hana Matsuri for us in Chicago is a celebration of finally seeing green grass and leaves, hearing birds chirping and smelling the scent of opening buds as the piles of snow start to melt away and there's warm sunshine instead of wind-chill temperatures. It's the time to venture out of our insulated homes and rededicate ourselves to the temple and its mission of making the Buddha-Dharma accessible to those (including us) who need its guidance and inspiration.

The Hana Matsuri story of the Buddha's birth-cry gives us that source of guidance and inspiration: "Above the heavens, below the heavens, in aloneness, I am noble!" Probably from our temple's beginnings in 1944, everyone, led by the ministers, knew the

... Richard's Zen of the Can

(Continued from page 1)

that the basement was always filled with cans. When Richard retired as the head of the Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club, he devoted even more time to his dream. I used to joke with Richard that he had his own Zen koan, "What is the sound of one can crushing?" Finally, in June 2002, the Bright Dawn Home Spread became reality. Over the past thirteen years it has hosted many retreats by various groups including BTC Asoka and Dharma School.

Richard had a profound impact on BTC. He

omitted). The responsibility for a completed application and submission by the time of the deadline rests solely with the applicant.

OBTAIN the SCHOLARSHIP FORM – Contact Rev. Patti Nakai at 773- 334-4661 for an application packet.

DEADLINE – Applications must be received by midnight May 30, 2015. All correspondence, forms, inquiries and applications should be sent to:

The BTC Scholarship Committee c/o The Buddhist Temple of Chicago 1151 W Leland Avenue Chicago, IL 60640

PRESENTATION – The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Scholarships will be awarded during the BTC Graduation Service on June 14th at 11 am. Recipients will be notified by e-mail or telephone during the first week in June.

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Buddha as a baby could not articulate such words but that the phrase points out that each new life coming into this world is crying out, "I am unique and to be respected." The "aloneness" is the key concept as our great teachers, Haya Akegarasu and Shuichi Maida, have emphasized. It doesn't mean "me and no one else is noble." But rather it was a radical statement for the Buddha's time to say that each person is to be respected for who they are, by themselves, not because of their family or tribe or caste etc. "In aloneness" each life is dignified – regardless of gender, race, what "good" or "evil" they have done, their job or where they live.

In that phrase alone, we hear the Buddha's teaching of respecting our own precious life and recognizing the dignity of all other lives, transcending any judgments based on arbitrary criteria. If we can hear that birth-cry at Hana Matsuri and whenever we hear Namu Amida Butsu, then we've renewed our connection with the living essence of Buddhism and we are enabled to go forward with courage and kindness.

was the first non-Japanese-American to be BTC president. He was the dedicated person behind continuing the practice of meditation at BTC. Most importantly, he would greet everyone he knew with a booming "Hello." You always felt he was truly glad to see you.

As the Dhammapada says, "Do not belittle your good deeds. A bucket is filled drop by drop. So a wise person becomes full of virtue."

Richard's Zen of the can shows us that dreams can be achieved can by can. We just have to believe in "WOW." He will be missed, but never forgotten.

BTC Nokotsudo

The BTC Nokotsudo continues to accept cremains. It is configured to hold urns of various sizes and presentations for storage periods to suit each family's needs. The Nokotsudo is open for visits each Sunday immediately after service and by appointment with either Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary Nakai, or Kiyo Omachi.

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, the beautiful design of the BTC Nokotsudo offers each applicant a flexible, dignified storage accommodation. As a further service, the BTC Nokotsudo policy permits the holding of burial certificates when accompanying the admitted cremains.

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.

Buddha 'Bout Town: Buddhist & Cultural Happenings

NEW April 4 to June 21, Art Institute, Gallery 107: Spreading Devotion: Japanese and European Religious **Prints.** This exhibition, a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the departments of Prints and Drawings and Asian Art, brings together works to demonstrate how religious images and texts were made readily accessible and understandable to wider audiences through the medium of print. Printing revolutionized Western religious customs, with broadsides and pamphlets flourishing by the thousands. In Japan, prints were used in a parallel fashion to spread Buddhist teachings. Among the works featured in the exhibition are one of a million small eighth-century wood pagodas containing a printed prayer for peace, a set of large-scale woodblock-printed and hand-painted images of deities for use in temple ceremonies, and examples of charms acquired by pilgrims at various temple sites. The latter exemplifies how Christianity and Buddhism brought about similar social practices, despite their many differences in thought. For more information: http://www.artic.edu/node/4657

April and May, Art Institute, Encounters with Asia: Korean lecture series. This four-part lecture series will take a deeper look at Korean art. See the following link for topics, fees, and schedule: http://bit.ly/1BiK9LO

(Continued on next page)







BTC Nokotsudo designed by Scott Nobuyama Associates, Chicago, and dedicated October 4, 2009.

Photos by Rev. Patti Nakai and Ann Yi.

April 2015

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... Buddha 'Bout Town

(Continued from previous page)

Through April 19, 2015, Collecting Paradise: Buddhist Art of Kashmir and Its Legacies, Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Dr, Evanston. Bringing together 44 manuscripts, paintings, and sculptures from the 7th to 17th centuries, this exhibition examines how Buddhist art from Kashmir has traveled across centuries and borders—first to the Western Himalayas and later to the US and Europe—raising questions about cultural exchange and the varying motivations behind historical collecting practices. For more info, visit: http://tinyurl.com/oa5f2we

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:

http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/asian-art/

Submit information on other Buddhist and/or Japanese cultural events in the Chicago area to: BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com

April 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 <<<<

- April 5, 2015, Sunday 11 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service (English).
- April 12, 2015, Sunday, 11 am Hana Matsuri

△ Regular Sunday Services **△**

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

Meetings, Socials, Volunteering

- Asoka Society Generally the third Saturday of the month. This month: April 18.
- Board Meeting Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: April 26.
- BTC Bulletin mailing Generally 2nd-to-last Friday of the month, 10 am, as many volunteers as possible is much appreciated. **This month:** April 24.
- BTC submissions See page 3 for details on submissions. Generally due 8 days prior to the mailing, Thursday, 6 pm. This month April 16.
- BTC Young Adults Group Check the Bulletin for events scheduled throughout the year.

Education & Meditation

- Dharma Sunday School (for children) Second and fourth Sundays, 11 am.
- Introduction to Buddhism This 4-week course is held periodically throughout the year. E-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.
- Buddhism Study Class Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.
- Meditation Sundays at 9 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm.
- Sutra Study Class Generally 2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required. **This month: April 19.**

☼ Cultural Activities ☼

- Chinese Movement (Qigong) Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- Crafts Group First & third Saturdays, 10 am to noon.
- Japanese Fencing (Kendo) Dojo sessions held every Tuesday from 8 to 10 pm at Bethany United Church. Call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for info.
- Japanese Language School (children or adults) Every Saturday, 10 am. Call Temple to register.
- Japanese Swordsmanship (Iaido) Mondays, 7 to 9 pm.
- Taiko (Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe) Adults, Fridays, 7 to 9 pm. Children, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays at 11 am.







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



APRIL 2015

日本語の 祥月法要 4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 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	2 7:30 pm Meditation	3 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	4 10 am Crafts 10 am Japanese Language School
5 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial Service 11 am Children's Taiko 1 pm Shotsuki Hoyo Service (Japanese)	6 7 pm laido	7 11 am Qigong	8 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	9 7:30 pm Mediation	10 Hana Matsuri prep 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	11 Hana Matsuri prep 10 am Japanese Language School 12:30 Kumihimo crafts class
12 9 am Meditation 11 am Service - Hana Matsuri 11 am Dharma School	13 7 pm laido	14 11 am Qigong	15 (No study class)	16 6 pm Bulletin Submissions Due 7:30 pm Meditation	17 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	18 10 am Crafts 10 am Japanese Language School 1 pm Asoka Society
19 9 am Meditation 11 am Children's Taiko 12:30 pm Sutra Study Class	20 7 pm laido	21 11 am Qigong	7 pm Buddhism Study Class	23 7:30 pm Meditation	24 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	25 10 am Japanese Language School
9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Dharma School 12: 30 pm Board Meeting	27 7 pm laido	28 11 am Qigong	29 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	7:30 pm Meditation		