



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

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Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

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Bill Bohlman

Eitaikyo: Teachings Conveyed Through the Temple

When someone who was active at our temple stops coming for a while, I usually think, "They'll come back when they need us." But will the temple be the place they need if and when they return after a long absence?

From its beginning in 1944 our temple served as a safe place for Japanese Americans away from the harsh discrimination they suffered during the war and for years afterward. At places such as BTC, first, second and third generation Japanese Americans could feel comfortable participating in their cultural heritage. Young men came to do martial arts such as judo and kendo and young women dressed in kimono and displayed their skills in tea ceremony and flower arranging. Almost everyone spoke and understood the Japanese language to some degree.

Now you are more likely to hear temple members speaking to each other in Spanish or Chinese rather than Japanese. Our cultural activities such as qigong (gentle exercise) or ukulele attract those middle-aged or older, not the young people seeking their roots. Among the two dozen or so Dharma School students hardly any of them are ethnically Japanese.

If someone really needs a sanctuary for "being Japanese," I

Happy New Year

Nichi nichi kore ko jitsu; every day is a good day. This saying was a favorite of Rev. Gyomay Kubose and has become almost synonymous with our temple. As we begin 2017, it is important to reflect upon this saying and realize that we are the ones who determine what kind of day we will have.

BTC is a place that welcomes people of all backgrounds and opinions. As a Sangha, we respectfully voice our feelings and, in an equally respectful manner, listen to the opinions of others. The Buddhistharma does not demand that we walk in lockstep with one set of beliefs; rather, it encourages us to constantly question and seek those answers that are true for us. As such, The Buddhist Temple of Chicago has a policy of not taking a position as an organization on many of the "hot button" issues of the day. However, BTC does provide a venue for members to express topics of personal concern to them and ask if those who are like minded would like to join them or assist in some way.

From a greater role of lay leaders in the Sunday services, to an ever growing Dharma school, 2017 will be a year of deeper involvement of the Sangha. Our Sangha is becoming ever more diverse; with this diversity comes new enthusiasm and insights.



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

For more writings
by Rev. Nakai,
visit her blog,
*Taste of Chicago
Buddhism*, at:
tinyurl.com/chibud

This article
continued page 7,
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Bill Bohlman
BTC President

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or find him most
Sundays after
service at the
information desk
& bookstore.

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JANUARY 2017 BTC 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 Temple Services and Events* <<<

- Jan. 29—**Eitaikyo Service/Temple General Meeting**

Regular Temple Services

- **Religious Service** (in English)—Sundays, 11 am.
- **Lay Speaker Sunday**—Usually 3rd Sunday every month, 11 am.

Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—2nd to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: Friday, Jan. 20.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: January 12.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. January 22.
- **Upaya Helpers** (refreshment service, community outreach, ping pong, etc.) Call Candy Minx for info: 312-618-0880.
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding the homeless)—Mary Harvey <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm. No previous Buddhism study required. On break until January 18.
- **Dharma School** (children's Sunday school)—2nd and 4th Sundays, 11 am. This month: Jan. 8 and Jan. 22.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. E-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.
- **Meditation**—Sundays, 8:45 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. No meditation Sunday, January 1.
- **Sutra Study Class**—2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.

Social & Cultural Activities

- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3rd Saturday every month, 1 pm. No meetings January and February.
- **Book Club** – One night a month. This month: January 31, 6:30 pm. Title: TBD.
- **Iaido** (Japanese Swordsmanship)—Mondays, 7-9 pm.
- **Kumihimo** (Japanese braiding). Will return in March. Email Nancey Epperson: naepperson14@gmail.com.
- **Movie Night**—One Tuesday night a month. This month: Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 pm, *The Theory of Everything* (see preview, page 6).
- **Qigong** (Chinese Movement)—Tuesdays, 11-12:30pm. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- **Taiko** (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe)—**Adults**, Fridays, 7-9 pm. Email kokyotaiko@yahoo.com to confirm. **Children**, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 11. Email sanghacomod@yahoo.com for appointments.
- **Ukulele Group**—Tuesdays, 1-3 pm.

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.

BTC BULLETIN

Team Rev. Patti Nakai, Darryl Shishido (Editor), Nancey Epperson, Ann Yi, Ruth Abbinanti.

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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- ❁ 11/01 Book Club met.
- ❁ 11/02 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for the late Mrs. Tomiko Motomura at Montrose Cemetery. Mrs. Motomura is survived by nephew Stan Mitome and nieces Wendy Mitome and Susan Loveland.
- ❁ 11/05 Joseph Korner Memorial Lecture, "Buddhism and Brain Science" presented by Stephen T. Asma of Columbia College.
- ❁ 11/06 November memorial service. *** Shoshinge class met. *** Rev. Nakai conducted 3rd year memorial service for Joseph Korner at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside.
- ❁ 11/10 Rev. Nakai conducted nokotsu (storing ashes) service for the late Mr. Dave Mineo Fujii. Mr. Fujii is survived by his sisters Kathy Davis, Nancy McQuirk and Janet Yamaoka. A private memorial service is planned for next year.
- ❁ 11/12 Volunteers at BTC made chirashi for the Japanese American Service Committee's fundraiser Holiday Delight. *** Rev. Nakai led discussion for the Twin Cities Buddhist Association in Minneapolis.
- ❁ 11/13 Lay leaders conducted Dharma School service. Elaine Siegel gave the Dharma School talk and Miriam Solon gave the lay speaker talk. *** Rev. Nakai spoke at Twin Cities Buddhist Association service in Minneapolis.
- ❁ 11/15 Rev. Nakai attended monthly Uptown clergy luncheon. *** Rev. Nakai attended the Chicago Japanese American Council meeting. *** Movie Night held.
- ❁ 11/17 Rev. Nakai and Nancey Epperson attended Buddhist Council of the Midwest meeting at BTC.
- ❁ 11/19 Asoka Society met.
- ❁ 11/20 Ho-on-ko Service followed by luncheon provided by the Iaido Dojo and Japanese Language Class. *** Sutra Study class met. *** Hatsu Mairi ceremony for Owen Yuen.
- ❁ 11/25 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for Betty Fukuda at Rosehill Cemetery. *** December bulletin mailed.
- 11/27 Dharma School service. *** Board of Directors met.

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Tomiko Motomura
Dave Mineo Fujii

THANK YOU!

Understanding the Nembutsu through recognizing the Paramitas in others. Send in your recognitions!

- Sunday Service Participants: Ruth Abbinanti, Sue Balsam, Karen Baier, Nancey Epperson, Glenn T. Fujiura, Anna Idol, John Kelly, Candy Minx, Alice Murata, Helene Rom, Elaine Siegel, Miriam Solon, Anthony Stagg
- Music/Accompanists: Drea Gallaga, Justin Woodward, Ann Yi
- Audio Controls: Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- Sunday Service Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Anna Idol, Gwen Kato, Jane & Jerry Morishige, Alice Murata, Arlene Nozawa, Elaine Siegel, Ruby Tsuji, Iaido Dojo, Japanese Language Class, Upaya
- Bulletin Mailing: Sue Balsam, Antoinette d'Vencets, Nancey Epperson, Mike Gallaga, Haru Ito, Lane Kometani, Candy Minx, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Cynthia & Seichi Shiraiwa
- 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, Wendy Fawcett
- Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Candy Minx, Nancey Epperson
- Cleaning Hondo and Nokotsudo: Michael Yasukawa
- Administrative Office Volunteers: Ruth Abbinanti, Darryl Shishido, Helene Rom

Our apologies to anyone we have failed to include.

Attendees peruse **Spaghetti Night**
Silent Auction bid sheets.
(photo courtesy Ann Yi)



New Website Feature: Sign up for Updates!

Sign up to be notified by email when the BTC Bulletin and temple calendar are uploaded to the temple website. Simply go to any page on the site and enter your e-mail address on the right side of the page above the "Subscribe" button (see photo below). This button will be at the bottom of the page on mobile devices.

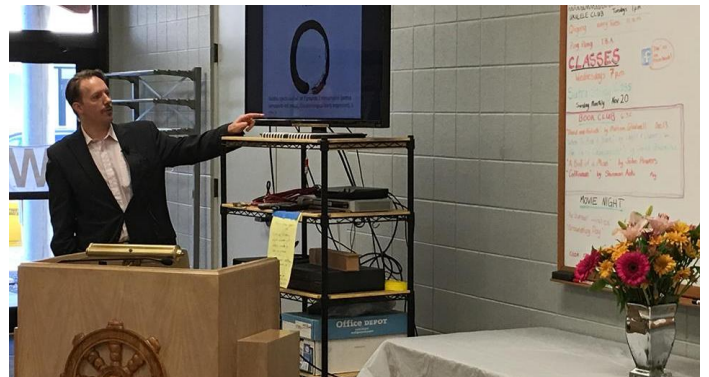
You will get an email asking you to confirm your subscription. This confirmation email ensures that you aren't added to the list without your permission. Check your spam folder if you do not get a confirmation e-mail. Those of you with overly aggressive filters at ISPs like Earthlink may find that you never get a confirmation email because it has been filtered by your ISP automatically. If that's the case, this service will not work for you until you disable this filtering service or switch to a less walled email provider.

Contact webmaster Ann Yi if you have any problems or, for that matter, wish to provide any feedback on the website.

www.BuddhistTempleChicago.org



November 5: Dr. Steven Asma lectures on “Buddhism and Brain Science” (photos courtesy Rev. Nakai)



Living As Non-Self in a Suffering World

by Candy Minx

"To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him."
Buddha

BTC MOVIE NIGHT: *The Theory of Everything* January 24, 6:30 p.m.

When someone asks me what enlightenment is...my short answer is "peace of mind." My long answer is "peace of mind even through suffering and loss." A yardstick to measure functioning enlightenment is found in our sense and awareness of peace of mind despite life's ups and downs. People who have suffered a great deal of emotional or physical pain and have compassion with a good sense of humor have always fascinated me. My mother grew up with chronic health problems and although she never had peace of mind, she did model having a good sense of humor despite her physical challenges. When I was diagnosed with arthritis as a teenager, the doctor said I would likely be in a wheel chair by the time I was thirty. I thought, well how can I let that suffering stop me from living? I saw my mother living a vibrant life despite pain, by leaning on her spiritual life as well as her social life, and I think that was her best quality. Living positively with chronic pain means one must not give it much attention, keep their weight down and exercise. I also believe in having a good attitude through a rigorous philosophical regimen like Buddhism. I have found that almost everything I learned in Buddhism has helped me in life, especially with not defining myself by my body, history or emotions.

To watch the biographic drama of Stephen Hawking's life in the movie *The Theory of Everything* shows a real mystery about character. The story begins as Hawking is in grad school at Cambridge. He is young and has a group of friends and we watch him fall in love. He begins to show signs of physical challenges and when he is diagnosed with ALS he falls into a funk. His girlfriend exhibits an intense

stoicism reminiscent of my parents and orders him outside to play croquet to shake off his depression. Throughout the rest of the movie we do not see a firm explanatory answer to the extraordinary focus of Hawking but he seems to apply his focus on something other than himself, applying his focus to his practice of math and astrophysics. In this way, Hawking is possibly more remarkable for his inner resolve than his scientific or teaching accomplishments. For Stephen Hawking, studying the nature of reality is practiced through astrophysics.

Filmmaking has had a recent glut of films about an individual overcoming suffering within an oppressive environment (including *All Is Lost*, *The Revenant*, *Citizenfour*, and almost all of the Marvel Comic movie franchises) which suggests to me we need or want motifs about grit. But why? I think because more and more people are losing faith with control systems like police, ideologies, corporations and politics.

The Theory of Everything is one of the most pleasurable portrayals of the human spirit yet the film makers don't hammer us over the head with explanations. Trying to film an astrophysicist story arc could really become a boring film if all we see is someone sitting around writing equations. The director and cinematographer provide thoughtful images helping us follow an intellectual journey. Hawking is on a train with a cup of coffee and as he pours cream into his cup the cream swirls into a spiral and the rocking of the train seems to uncurl the spiral. This incident with the cream and coffee helps Hawking articulate his theory about the universe expanding and shrinking. The scene helps us see Hawking's relationship to the world as one which feeds his imagination, which then feeds his theoretical astrophysics. Later as he becomes more physically limited he gets a sweater stuck on his head. This scene is at first terribly uncomfortable for the viewer and I wished I could have reached into the movie and helped him pull it over his head but then he looks through the wool on his sweater to see his fireplace and has a realization about black holes. These two scenes demonstrate the potential for looking at the world as a way to see answers to problems and to connect with our ideas. It is the portrayal of Hawking's limited mobility combined with his imagination that creates an artistic achievement in this movie. Hawking is not defined by his body or his desire for material goods.

(continued on page 6)

Living as Non-Self in a Suffering World

(continued from page 5)

Hawking is unique in our society because he places representing the nature of reality and relationships as more important than his mobility. Hawking's practice is internal and invisible, within ritual and repetitive attempts, just like the Buddhist path!

My father died of ALS and if you know anyone in your life who has had this disease the longevity of Stephen Hawking seems significant: it is as if he is a living miracle. My father had a stoicism like my mother but his seemed to be from part Canadian grit and part being a military guy. Sadly, neither of my parents was able to extend their grit into peace of mind and so that experience enhances my interest in Stephen Hawking. What makes one person live beyond their body and another to be the victim of their body? I was on Skype recently with a friend in England and I told him I had just watched this movie and I was struck by the two scenes I describe above. My friend said he and his wife had seen the movie and he never noticed either the coffee and cream scene or the fireplace sweater scene or their meaning. However, he did have a real life memory of Hawking. My friend attended Cambridge at the same time as Hawking and both doing their PhDs. My friend said he saw him around campus all the time. Once, his mother was visiting campus and she was very upset when she saw Hawking and he was vulnerable and barely able to walk. That was fifty years ago and at this writing Hawking is still beating the odds even though he was hospitalized recently. Stephen Hawking's personal and professional narrative defines transcendence. *The Theory of Everything* portrays a non-self and is a perfect metaphor for being a Buddhist and living with peace of mind.

Dr. Stephen Hawking



October 22: B.T.C. |Spaghetti Night



(photo courtesy Rev. Patti Nakai, artwork by Anthony Stagg)

Our New Tables



(photo courtesy Candy Minx)

2017: Year of the Rooster



refer them to the nearby Japanese American Service Committee or to other Buddhist and religious groups with primarily ethnic Japanese members. So if our temple no longer fills that need as an ethnic sanctuary, what need are we addressing? As in the past, now and into the future, that need is for listening to the Dharma, to receive inspiration and guidance for overcoming difficulties and living a spiritually rich life. It is a need felt by many people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and all of them should feel welcome in coming to our temple seeking to fulfill that need.

That is the real meaning of Eitaikyo – conveying the teachings (*kyo*) to future generations (*ei-tai*). Those who make special donations to the Eitaikyo Fund in memory of their loved ones and those who contribute to the temple in various ways with money, goods and/or volunteer service – all want the temple to continue as a place for people of the future to encounter the teachings.

Although at our temple we feel there is much to learn from various Buddhist traditions, particularly Zen, the core essence of the teachings conveyed by Rev. Gyomay Kubose and all the ministers succeeding him is the nembutsu. Although the nembutsu teachings remind us that all individuals are to be honored for their uniqueness and that each of us has absolute equality and freedom, the teachings challenge the prevailing American sentiment of “get yours quick.” By pointing to the reality of our interconnectedness, the nembutsu teachings teach us that no one individual or particular group is justified in looking down on and mistreating others.

It’s not a complicated teaching but difficult to grasp in our society where we’re told to get ahead at the expense of others and that we are hopeless losers if we don’t claw and scratch our way to the top of the mountain of material wealth. If you can’t help but think there’s something more to living than that, then you are the one our temple exists for – the place for you come to for listening to the Dharma, learning from those who live the nembutsu in their lives.

As we welcome the new year, I hope all of you will continue to support the temple and actively make it the place for people to encounter the Dharma. Greet the newcomers, interact with each other, keep learning from Shinran and all the great teachers and implement those teachings in your lives. The conveyance of the teachings doesn’t depend solely on the minister of the

temple, but on each of you as embodiments of the Dharma in action.

Happy New Year (continued from page 1)

With gratitude and respect for the traditions of those who were the foundation of BTC, we constantly strive to adapt to the ever-changing world in which we live. The Sangha is the body through which the teachings come alive; without the Sangha the teachings are just words.

As with any organization there is the administrative side. On the last Sunday of January, the annual general membership meeting occurs. This year, will be the biannual election of board officers. Although the current officers are willing to serve another term, any member in good standing may choose to run for an office. If you wish to do so, please contact me at budtempchi@aol.com and I will refer you to the nominating committee. Even if you don’t want to be an officer, you can serve the temple by joining one of the many service groups or simply by volunteering to assist at Sunday service or at any of the events.

You are the strength of BTC. Only with your support is BTC able to provide a place where the Dharma comes alive. Sunday services, Rev Patti’s insightful messages and classes, and thought provoking guest speakers are all possible because of your support. As president of the temple, I want to thank all our members and friends for your continued support in 2017 and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year. Namu Amida Butsu.

Nov. 9: Reverend Yukei Ashikaga’s Farewell Luncheon



(photo courtesy Rev. Patti Nakai)



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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BTC CALENDAR JANUARY 2017

See Temple Events & Activities Guide on page 2 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 9 am Meditation 11 am New Year's Day Service	2 NO laido	3 11 am Qigong	4	5 7:30 pm Meditation	6 7 pm Taiko	7
8 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial Dharma School	9 7 pm laido	10 11 am Qigong	11	12 10 am Bulletin Submissions Due 7:30pm Meditation	13 7 pm Taiko	14
15 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service	16 7 pm laido	17 11 am Qigong	18 7 pm Study Class	19 7:30 pm Meditation	20 7 pm Taiko	21
22 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service Dharma School 12:30 pm Board Meeting	23 7 pm laido	24 11 am Qigong	25 7 pm Study Class	26 7:30 pm meditation	27 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Taiko	28
29 9 am Meditation 11 am Eitaikyo Service 12:30 pm General Meeting	30 7 pm laido	31 11 am Qigong				