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Address:

1151 W Leland Ave.
Chicago, IL
60640-5043

Telephone:

773-334-4661

Online:

BuddhistTemple
Chicago.org

Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

President

Ann Yi

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

願慧

Summer Fundraiser Festival

Next month marks the 75th anniversary of the Midwest Buddhist Temple and we send our congratulations to Rev. Ron Miyamura and the members on this significant milestone. One of the things Midwest's founding minister, Rev. Gyodo Kono, felt strongly about is that Obon should be purely an occasion to honor and celebrate our deceased loved one and not a time to sell food and wares as many temples on the West Coast and Hawaii do. BTC's founding minister, Rev. Gyomay Kubose, agreed and the schedule was set so that early July would be our temple's summer fundraiser and mid-July would be Midwest's Obon and in early August our temple would have Obon and they would have their fundraiser called "Ginza Holiday" in mid-August.

Our summer festival "Natsu Matsuri" was moved from July to late June but continued as a two-day event. Leland Avenue was closed off to traffic so that a stage could be set up for martial arts demonstrations and musical and dance performances. The hondo was used for exhibits and tea ceremony demonstrations. There were games and crafts for children and beer for adults, along with all the different kinds of food and cultural displays.

The summer festival was on hiatus when the old temple building was demolished in 2005 and we held Sunday services at the Japanese American Service Committee. But in the new building

Past's Present

To steal, I mean, to get ideas for new articles, I dug into the Bulletin's online archive and reread older articles from 2009 on. That spans the presidencies of Gary T. Nakai, Glenn T. Fujiura, and Bill Bohlman, three presidents with three unique personalities and three distinct writing styles.

The more I read, the more I realized that everything I hoped to eventually write about had already been written about before: temple business, traditions, fundraising, board updates, dharma lessons learned and relearned, gains, personal stories, thoughts on current events, losses, tears, laughter, and all the news that's fit to print. What can I do that's not redundant?

So let's just pretend that never happened.

But before I wipe my memory, I want to share some gems that I rediscovered. I selected two articles from each president below, plus a bonus Letter to the Editor by Ruby Izui in response to one of Gary's articles. If you are reading the online version of this newsletter, clicking the date will take you directly to the issue.



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

This article
continues
on page 6
column 1.



Ann Yi
BTC President

This article
continues
on page 6
column 2.

Contact Ann at
annyiBTC@
gmail.com

JUNE 2019 Temple Events & Activities Guide

- See Calendar (page 8) for specific dates.
- Up-to-date details/last-minute changes are available on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/budtempchi
- **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, and held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted).**

➤➤➤ Special Temple Services and Events <<<

- June 2—**Rosen-ki (Manshi Kiyozawa memorial)**
- June 9—**Dharma School ends for the summer**
- June 23—**Natsu Matsuri / Dharmathon**
- June 30—**Pride Sunday**

Regular Temple Services

- **Religious Service** (in English)—Sundays, 11 am.

Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—2nd to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: June 21.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: June 6.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: June 30.
- **Upaya Helpers** (refreshment service, community outreach, ping pong, etc.) Albert Gonzalez: albertgbtc@gmail.com
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding unhoused persons)—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:00 pm. On break for the summer. Resumes mid-September.

- **Dharma School (for school-age children)**—Sundays, 11 am. This month: June 9. Then, on break until September.
- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next session starts in August 2019. E-mail Nancey Epperson at naepperson14@gmail.com
- **Meditation**—Sundays, 9:00 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. First-timers: come 10 minutes early for instruction. Sunday meditation is on break starting in June. Thursday meditation starts summer break after June 13. Both resume in September.
- **Sutra Study Class**—2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.

Social & Cultural Activities

- **Aikido** (“cooperation, not competition”)—Sundays, 5-7 pm. Email DJ Lortie djaikibudo@gmail.com.
- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3rd Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: June 15 – kitchen clean-up for Natsu Matsuri.
- **Iaido** (Japanese Swordsmanship)—Mondays, 7-9 pm.
- **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. **Children**, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 11. Email kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org to confirm.
- **Ukulele Group**—On hiatus in June. Email Ruth Abbinanti: fabbianti@sbcglobal.net.

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, Nancey Epperson, April Kellman, Ann Yi

Feedback & Submissions Questions, comments, corrections & suggestions are welcome. Submissions are encouraged—articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc. 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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- ✿ 4/06 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Koji Tsurusaki in Woodridge, IL. Mr. Tsurusaki is survived by nephews and nieces, including Janice Shigihara and Debbie Miyashiro.
- ✿ 4/07 Monthly memorial service. *** Chanting class met.
- ✿ 4/09 Rev. Nakai spoke to the seminary students at North Park University.
- ✿ 4/10 Rev. Nakai and Albert Gonzalez attended ONE-Northside fundraiser.
- ✿ 4/11 Omigaki (polishing altar ornaments) at BTC.
- ✿ 4/13 Hanamido (flower shrine) preparation at BTC. Flowers were donated by Wall's Flower Shop.
- ✿ 4/14 Hanamatsuri and Dharma School service.
- ✿ 4/20 Asoka Society met. *** Movie matinee "Elvis: That's the Way It Is."
- ✿ 4/21 Lay speaker service. Bill Bohlman was the lay speaker. *** Sutra study class met.
- ✿ 4/24 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Asako Matsumoto at Lakeview Funeral Home. Mrs. Matsumoto is survived by son George and daughter Keiko Yamanaka.
- ✿ 4/25 Rev. Nakai attended Chicago Japanese American Council meeting at the Japanese American Service Committee
- ✿ 4/26 May bulletin mailed.
- ✿ 4/28 Dharma School service with lay speakers Miriam Solon and Mary Harvey giving the Dharma School talk. *** Board of directors met.

Our deepest sympathy to
the family and friends of:

**Asako Matsumoto
Koji Tsurusaki**

Join us for Rosen-ki on
June 2 as we honor the
memory of Manshi
Kiyozawa



THANK YOU!

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

Service & Hospitality

- ✿ **Sunday Service Participants:** Ruth Abbinanti, Anita Basiri, Bill Bohlman, Glenn Fujiura, Mary Harvey, Anna Idol, Eric Kato, Mitchell Kato, Dennis Lai, Miriam Solon, Will
- ✿ **Lay Leaders:** Karen Baier, Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Mary Harvey, Candy Minx
- ✿ **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga, Ann Yi
- ✿ **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- ✿ **Bulletin Mailing:** Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, April Kellman, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Ruby Tsuji, Antoinette d'Vencets
- ✿ **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Karen Kanemoto, Dharma School Parents, Noreen Enkoji, Anna Idol, Haru Ito, Gwen Kato, Jim Kikuchi, Mona Kambol, Jane & Jerry Morishige, Alice Murata, Arlene Nozawa, Ruby Tsuji

Temple Keepers

- ✿ **Maintaining Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tadamoto
- ✿ **Cleaning Hondo & Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- ✿ **Extensive landscape maintenance:** Tomio Tadamoto
- ✿ **Cleaning washrooms:** DJ and family
- ✿ **Emptying trash, putting it out for disposal:** Karen Baier, Adam Kellman, Candy Minx
- ✿ **Sweeping, mopping, vacuuming:** Mary Harvey, Candy Minx, Michael Yasukawa, Ann Yi
- ✿ **Restocking paper towels and toilet paper:** Miriam Solon
- ✿ **Watering plants, laundering kitchen towels and aprons:** Alice Murata
- ✿ **Clearing trash from Temple exterior:** Mary Harvey
- ✿ **Cleaning minister's residence:** Dharma School
- ✿ **Administrative Office Volunteers:** Ruth Abbinanti, Nancey Epperson, Candy Minx
- ✿ **Maintaining and updating Temple website:** Ann Yi
- ✿ **Maintaining and updating Temple computer:** John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai
- ✿ **Setting up and taking down chairs & tables:** Too many to thank—thanks to all!

Hanamatsuri Helpers

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this year's Hanamatsuri. Special thanks to Dharma School and Upaya for the delicious luncheon!

Omigaki – polishing altar ornaments

Karen Baier
Merrily Engelmann
Nancey Epperson
Wendy Fawcett
John Kelly
Candy Minx
Stan Oda
Ann Yi



Hanamido – flower shrine

Noreen Enkoji
Gwen Kato
Jerry and Jane Morishige
Alice Murata
Arlene Nozawa



Ochigo (children's procession) dressers

Gwen Kato
Alice Murata
Jan Saiki



Putting things away for next year

Ruth Abbinanti
Gary Nakai
Ben Tompkins



Photos by:

Stan Oda
Wendy Fawcett
Rev. Patti Nakai



Reflecting on the Self

by Wendy Fawcett

[Editor's note: This article is based on a Dharma Talk given by the author in March 2019.]

I had a lot of reservations about what I wanted to talk about today. I want to talk about what I learned from what happened within the temple last year. I don't know what to call it other than the Safe Sangha complaint. I had reservations because at first, I thought I shouldn't drag that topic back out. It's a new year, perhaps we should move on. But looking back at the other lay talks I've given, I've always found myself opening up to you, my Sangha. Lay talks are supposed to be about how Buddhism has impacted one's life, what Buddhism has taught a person. So here I am with that in mind.

As many of you know, when the community meetings were taking place, to discuss the Safe Sangha policy, one of the things I said was that I felt the meetings, the emails, the side discussions, caused a split in our Sangha. Even before meetings started to take place, I felt a split.

I felt it in my own heart.

I *caused* a split, in my mind. I started to seriously question whether I wanted to be a part of this Sangha. I started to question whether I wanted to continue to be a lay leader.

I spoke with many of you one-on-one. I told you that I wanted our temple to go back to the way I felt it was when I first started coming. To me, the temple was a refuge. It was a place where I could come and recharge so I could take on the everyday stress I dealt with Monday through Friday. I didn't want to come to the temple and feel stress here, too. Many of you

reassured me that our temple has gone through similar rifts in the past. We survived those; we'll survive this one. Thank you for those reassurances.

At home, one of the ways I deal with stress is by writing in a journal. Preparing for today's talk, I looked back at what I was writing over those months. I was reminded that in October I went to the Dharma Seeds retreat in L.A. Mixed in with my notes was a rather large quote from the essay, Non-Attachment, from Rev. Kubose's book, Everyday Suchness. His book is a collection of essays. I like to read an essay in the morning when it is quiet. I'll think about it and I'll usually read the same essay again over a couple of days. Certain things will jump out at me. What I wrote in big letters that took up the whole page, "All things in life - Let things come and Let things go."

When I saw that in big letters I decided to go back to the essay. I also underlined this, "If you have any trouble or worry, investigate yourself, and you will find the cause is attachment." I could share many more golden nuggets of wisdom from his essays, but I will let you find them.

Going back to my notes from the Dharma Seeds retreat, Rev. Ken Yamada presented that day. I really like his style. He presents in a manner that is a bit grittier and really makes Shinran's life story relatable to us today. These are a few of the notes I wrote down from Rev. Ken:

-Shinran is encouraging us to be honest and sincere with OURSELVES...to examine our thoughts, our emotions, *brutally honestly*.

(continued on page 7, col 1)

CELEBRATE 75!



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago
75th Anniversary • 1944-2019

75th Anniversary Luncheon
Sunday, October 13, 2019 at BTC

Good friends, good food, and 7+ decades of memories! Join your fellow Temple members for a special after-service luncheon on October 13.

All this for just \$10 per person aged 12 and older, and \$5 per child 3–11 years old. Kids younger than 3 attend free.

To reserve now, go to our web link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BTC13/Celebrate75>

Watch for more details as the date grows closer.

Summer Fundraiser Festival

(continued from page 1)

we began having Natsu Matsuri as a one-day event, using the flexible indoor and front and back outdoor spaces.

The annual festival is a time for members and friends to get together as volunteer workers and as generous donors who come for the food and raffle contest. But the event serves as a setting for witnessing the principles of Buddhism in action. The expression of gratitude is foremost: the ministers and board members are obligated to say to as many volunteers and customers as possible, "Thank you for coming." This obligation is based in the realization that the total sum of the dollars donated make up the bulk of the income needed to keep our temple running. Those involved with the running of the temple can't help but feel grateful to all of you who keep it in existence. The annual festival is an opportunity to say thanks to you face-to-face.

You will also witness other aspects of Buddhism in action at the festival: the calm manner and resourcefulness of the kitchen crew when they suddenly run out of an essential ingredient, the patience and compassion shown by the experienced workers in teaching new volunteers what to do, the harmonious cooperation between the scheduled performers and speakers. Even though there's the series of mini-Dharma talks going on during the festival, you can receive lessons in Buddhism just by coming to help and/or donate.

Gelatin 3D Flower Art

Craft Day! June 15, 10am-12 noon

Practice and learn to make decorative gelatin desserts as shown in accompanying photo. Making these nutritious treats is super fun. All supplies provided and the feeling of mindfulness is a strong possibility.

Please RSVP to

candyminx@hotmail.com



If you would like to investigate videos of this craft you

Past's Present

(continued from page 1)

If you are reading the print version, fetch the June 2019 digital issue online at <http://buddhisttemplechicago.org/publications/bulletin/> and open it on your computer to click on the links directly.

Romancing the Point, by Gary T. Nakai – [February 2010, p.2](#)
"The Yak is a cloven-hoofed beast and a member of the Ox family. It sports a magnificent dense coat, which disguises the powerful creature within."

(Bonus) **The "Yaks": A Tale That Needs to be Told**, by Ruby Izui – [March 2010, p. 2](#)
"Dear Gary, Nothing begs rebuttal more than your recent article in the February Bulletin."

The Unsung Legacy of the Fujin-Kai, by Gary T. Nakai – [March 2010, p. 4](#)

"Through the years that Rev. Patti has been conducting classes, women, some younger, some older, have steadily come to listen. Men come to talk, but women come to listen."

GPS & the BTC, by Glenn T. Fujiura – [June 2013, p. 5](#)
"Boorstein made an off-handed comment about how her car's GPS was a good Buddhist teacher."

Dharma of the Dog, by Glenn T. Fujiura – [July 2014, p. 1](#)
"He must have just escaped from his tormenters because the wounds around his ears were still fresh and bleeding profusely. Even then, he was calmly walking up to people on the sidewalk offering to 'shake hands.' About a week later my family encountered him as we were looking to adopt a dog."

An Awakening, by Bill Bohlman – [September 2015, p. 1](#)
"[M]y condition became so bad that I was no longer thinking rationally and my neighbor, who came to check on me, called the ambulance. Thus, began a week that showed me the true meaning of compassion."

Failure Is An Option, by Bill Bohlman – [April 2016, p. 1](#)
"One of the problems I had encountered with other forms of Buddhism was the need to somehow become almost perfect. ... Our humanness seemed to work to our detriment."

(continued from previous column)

can find some examples at these YouTube addresses:

<https://youtu.be/wWcO27wDzeo>

<https://youtu.be/KpeqzSFhvwv>

Reflecting on the Self

(continued from page 5)

-Self-reflection is basic Buddhism. Our path is a path of self-reflection, to examine ourselves and who we are.

-Beware not to use Buddhism to go to war with others. It is for self-reflection. It is about changing *ourselves*.

Despite all of that wonderful knowledge about self-reflection, I was still coming to the temple and looking at others, and wondering how do we fix this?

When Dr. Conway came to the temple at the end of the year, he asked me how I was and I told him I was struggling with the events at the temple. I told him I didn't know what my role was in the Sangha. I'm a lay leader but I don't know what that means when it comes to problems in the Sangha. He then dropped a truth bomb that exploded in my face. He told me I must let go of my preconceived notions on how our Sangha must be. To desire the Sangha "to be" a certain way is selfish.

So here I am standing in front of my Sangha. What did I learn about us? We *are* a community of oneness. Just because we disagree does not mean we are not a Sangha. We are humans. We will experience the three poisons-greed, anger, and ignorance. That is human nature. But we are all here because we are on our own path.

The Nembutsu is a path of self-reflection. What Namu Amida Butsu means to me is, Namu means to look at yourself. We must first look at ourselves. When we do that we open ourselves up to the vastness of life. Amida represents that vastness of life, when we are open, we will experience the unbounded, immeasurable light and life. Butsu represents that oneness we are seeking.

So, what I learned is that the Sangha is here to keep me in check. We *are* responsible to each other, but we must first keep ourselves in check. If I perceive trouble or problems, I must first ask myself what have I done to cause this problem?

I do not want to hold on to problems of the past. I *do* want to learn from them. I will let things come. I will experience troubles and problems. But I will let things go.

Thank you for being my Sangha. I am who I am today because of you and those that came before us to make this temple what it is today. Thank you. Namu Amida Butsu.



Dharma School students and parents help keep the minister's residence building clean and tidy. Here, Ann Naumes straightens up the supply closet.

(photo by Diana Schoendorff)

Pre-festival Prep

Natsu Matsuri is upon us! Which means our sangha has the opportunity to work closely together on a fun and rewarding project. The Asoka Society invites everyone who has ever enjoyed Chicago's BTC (Best Teriyaki Chicken) to help with preparations for the festival. Saturday June 15 starting at around 1 PM, help give the kitchen a deep clean. Then on Saturday June 22 starting around 9 AM help chop vegetables as well as other food prep for Natsu Matsuri.



Why is this man crying?
He needs help chopping vegetables!



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

1151 W Leland Ave
CHICAGO, IL 60640-5043 USA
www.buddhisttemplechicago.org
Phone: (773) 334-4661

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JUNE 2019 CALENDAR

See page 2 for details on specific events. Events may be canceled or moved.
Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Rosen-ki 11 am Monthly Memorial 5 pm Aikido	3 7 pm Iaido	4 11 am Qi Gong	5	6 6 pm Bulletin Submissions Deadline 7:30 pm Meditation	7 7 pm Taiko	8
9 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service / Dharma School 5 pm Aikido	10 7 pm Iaido	11 11 am Qi Gong	12	13 7:30pm Meditation	14 7 pm Taiko	15 1 pm Asoka Society Kitchen Clean Up
16 11 am Regular Service	17 7 pm Iaido	18 11 am Qi Gong	19	20	21 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Taiko	22 9 am Festival Preparation
23 NATSU MATSURI (summer festival)	24 7 pm Iaido	25 11 am Qi Gong	26	27	28 7 pm Taiko	29
30 11 am Regular Service 12:30 pm Board Meeting 5 pm Aikido	29 7 pm Iaido	30 11 am Qi Gong				