



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

# BULLETIN

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## Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

## President

Ann Yi

## BTC 75th Anniversary Reflections

### *Bon Odori: Dancing for Joy*

In August our temple will have the annual Bon Odori, the festival of Japanese dances performed in a circle. I used to say “Japanese folk dances” but I’ve learned that many of the songs we dance to are not so ancient, such as “Tanko Bushi – a “coal miner’s song” has to date from the industrial revolution. But overall the dances are an expression of community – everyone is invited to join in the circle and it doesn’t matter if you know the steps well or not.

The custom of summer dance gatherings in Japan predates the introduction of Buddhism but with the association of the *Ura-bon* Sutra story, the gatherings came to be known as Bon Odori. For Japanese immigrants and their descendants in North and South America, the occasion of Bon Odori is a time to celebrate our cultural heritage regardless of religious affiliation.

At BTC, the Bon Odori dances in the early days (1960s) were taught by Ms. Shizuko Inbe, a master teacher of Japanese classical dance. Evidence of her devoted following is found in our temple’s hondo. Her students donated the podium in her memory along with altar tapestries that probably cost much more than the podium. After her passing in 1972, her students learned some dances at the Midwest Buddhist Temple when master folk dance teacher, Mr. Tsutomu Matsuda, would visit from Japan.

## Mid-Year Report

It’s halfway through the year, give or take a month. In case you haven’t been visiting our board meetings, let’s review what we’ve been up to.

### Hello to Jenae!

You may have met Jenae, our friendly administrator. Rev. Patti will be scaling back to part-time soon, and Jenae is already proving a wonderful resource, taking over many day-to-day operations of the temple. Please give her a warm welcome.

### Safe Sangha Review Committee

The committee is chaired by our able Auditor, Stan Oda, and has an excellent mix of veteran board members (including two professors emeritus who have ample policy experience outside the temple), new board members, and non-board members. They are diligently meeting and discussing. See Stan if you have any questions.

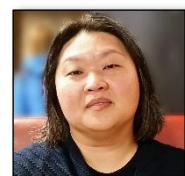
### Violence

The Christchurch shootings re-triggered concern by some temple members about safety. While Muslim organizations are most at risk for hate crime, crime against non-white organizations



Rev. Patti Nakai  
Resident Minister

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Ann Yi  
BTC President

Contact Ann at  
annyiBTC@  
gmail.com

This article  
continues  
on page 6  
column 1.

## JULY 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](http://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 <<<

- July 28—**Temple Picnic**

#### Regular Temple Services

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

#### Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—2<sup>nd</sup> to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: July 19.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: July 3.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: July 21.
- **Upaya Helpers** (refreshment service, community outreach, ping pong, etc.) Albert Gonzalez: [albertgbtc@gmail.com](mailto:albertgbtc@gmail.com)
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding unhoused persons)—  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

#### Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Buddhism Study Class**—On break for the summer. Resumes in the fall. No previous Buddhism study required.
- **Dharma School (for school-age children)**—On break for the summer. Resumes September 8.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next session starts in August 2019. E-mail Nancey Epperson at [naepperson14@gmail.com](mailto:naepperson14@gmail.com)
- **Meditation**—On break for the summer. Resumes 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. E-mail DJ Lortie [djaikibudo@gmail.com](mailto:djaikibudo@gmail.com).
- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: July 20.
- **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. E-mail [kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org](mailto:kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org) to confirm.
- **Ukulele Group**—On hiatus in July. E-mail Ruth Abbinanti: [fabbianti@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 and 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](mailto:BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com) or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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- ✿ 5/02 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for Asako Matsumoto at Montrose Cemetery.
- ✿ 5/04 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for Thelma Emiko Uchida at Montrose Cemetery. Mrs. Uchida is survived by husband Shoji “Watts” Uchida and sons Jeffrey and Michael.
- ✿ 5/05 Monthly memorial service. \*\*\* Chanting class met.
- ✿ 5/09-12 Rev. Nakai participated in Buddhist Peace Fellowship retreat at Highland Center in New Market TN
- ✿ 5/12 Nancey Epperson was lay speaker at Sunday service.
- ✿ 5/14 Rev. Nakai attended Chicago Japanese American Council meeting at the Japanese American Service Committee.
- ✿ 5/18 Asoka Society met.
- ✿ 5/19 Hatsu Mairi and Dharma School service.
- ✿ 5/23 Rev. Nakai attended Chicago Japanese Buddhist Federation meeting.
- ✿ 5/24 June bulletin mailed.
- ✿ 5/25 Chanting workshop for temple members in morning and in the afternoon public seminar conducted by Rev. Peter Hata of the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin.
- ✿ 5/26 Tanjo-e and Dharma School service with guest speaker Rev. Peter Hata. \*\*\* Board of Directors met.
- ✿ 5/27 Rev. Nakai participated in the Japanese community Memorial Day gathering at Montrose Cemetery. \*\*\* Rev. Nakai conducted funeral service for Taketo “Tak” Tomiyama at BTC. Mr. Tomiyama is survived by wife Tomoko “Tommi” Tomiyama and daughter Lisa Philibert.
- ✿ 5/28 Bon Odori teachers met to plan 2019 program.

Our deepest sympathy to  
the family and friends of:  
**Tak Tomiyama**  
**Thelma Uchida**

## 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 Tademoto
- ✿ **Cleaning Hondo & Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- ✿ **Extensive landscape maintenance:** Tomio Tademoto
- ✿ **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!



## Quang Minh Monks Visit

On June 13, the monks from Chùa Quang Minh, a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in Uptown, made their annual pilgrimage to the various Buddhist organizations in the neighborhood. They have been making this walk-of-summer for the past 5 years, and BTC has been fortunate to be graced with their presence. This year, the monks were welcomed by Rev. Patti Nakai and Sangha members Carlos Meza, Dr. Thomas Shimoda, and Tommy Shimoda.



Worshipping in the Hondo  
Photo: Rev. Patti Nakai



(left) The monks approaching the Temple.  
Photo: Dr. Thomas Shimoda

(below) Rev. Patti and Carlos Meza greet the leaders of the delegation.  
Photo: Dr. Thomas Shimoda



## Celebrating in May

### Music: A Path to Awakening

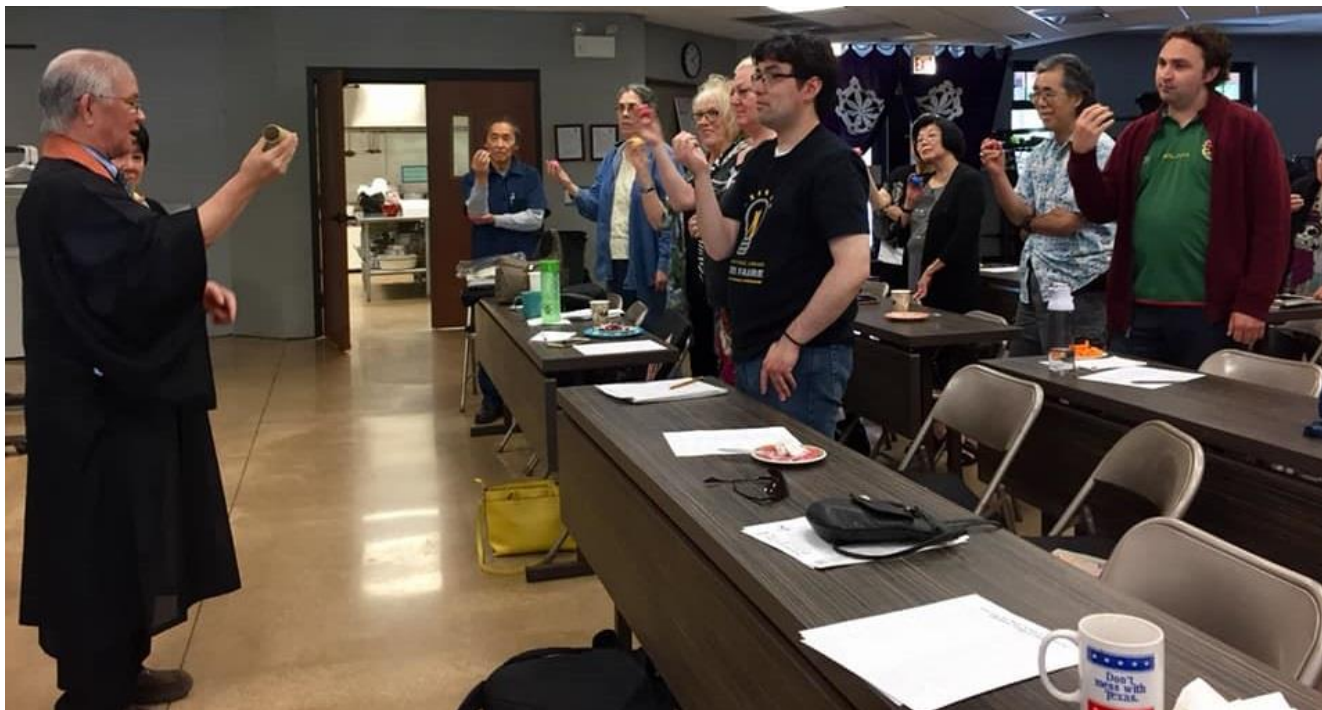


Photo: Rev. Patti Nakai



Rev. Peter Hata's seminar, held in conjunction with the Tanjo-e observances in May, was one of the best-attended seminars in recent memory. More than 25 Sangha members, friends, and folks from the general public were on hand to hear how Buddhist themes are reflected in popular music. Rev. Hata also led us in an exercise of keeping the beat using a rhythm (shaker) egg to "Oye Como Va."

### Tanjo-e



Tanjo-e May 26: Rev. Peter Hata delivered the Dharma Talk. He also gave the lay leaders some pointers on chanting and breath control.

Photo by Lynnell S. Long

### Hatsu Mairi



Hatsu Mairi May 19: the McCartney family with Rev. Patti.

Photo by Lynnell S. Long



## Mid-Year Report

(continued from page 1)

and synagogues have also been in the news. In addition, general crime in Uptown is an ongoing concern.

What do we do? We want to be safe, but we also want to remain a welcoming Dharma center. It's a difficult question with which all religious institutions are struggling.

For now, we are working to increase knowledge and build ties. Several board members are attending various Uptown community meetings, which have led to other community organizations with whom we may pursue ties. In addition, the head of security of four mosques (including my landlord, which happens to be a mosque, long story), gave us scads of useful information and promptly introduced me to the Department of Homeland Security houses of worship liaison, who sent me more than a dozen useful documents on how to handle crises and reduce our risks. Closer to home, Carlos Meza, one of our meditation leaders, drew on his firefighter background to provide extensive feedback on emergency preparedness.

This is a major topic. As we sort through this information and look for some easy solutions to implement immediately, there may be calls for suggestions on more complicated things to do in the future. You are welcome to send suggestions, especially if you have expertise in a relevant area. This is an ongoing discussion.

### Conflict of Interest Policy

Boards of donor-supported not-for-profit organizations have a fiduciary duty to ensure that your money is used properly. Conflict of interest policies are so elementary and so strongly recommended now that an application for 501(c)(3) status can be rejected without one. To make it easy, the IRS has included a template policy in their Form 1023 instructions. We adopted it, nearly verbatim. If you wish to see it, do a web search for "IRS conflict of interest policy." The new policy forces board members to do periodic reviews in order to make them ever mindful of the risk of conflict, and it includes specific procedures on how to review conflicts and handle them once found. For more info, see the following links. The second link includes a training video.

(continued in next column)

## Mid-Year Report

(continued from previous column)

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/form-1023-purpose-of-conflict-of-interest-policy>

<https://www.illinoislegalsaid.org/legal-information/nonprofit-board-conflicts-interest>

### Board Member Orientation

In the old days, I've been told, BTC board members used to go through a swearing-in ceremony. That fell by the wayside, along with other traditions, and new board members are left to their own devices. To address this problem, a Board Member Orientation document containing an overview of board liabilities and duties has been circulated to board members. The main document was generously provided at no cost by Diana Schoendorff, whose law firm does extensive non-profit work. It was edited to suit a board of a small religious organization such as ours. It is not a policy – it is a summary of the basic laws on board governance and is subject to change as the law changes. But it's a little easier than reading a dozen books on the topic.\* The orientation document, our By-Laws, our Articles of Incorporation, and all of our Policies will be gathered into a tidy binder that can be distributed to new board members as a welcome present as well as fun bedtime reading.

### Budget Review

The budget continues to be a challenge. To look at long-term plans and brainstorm ideas, there will be a special mid-year board meeting September 22nd at 12:45. Like all board meetings, this is open to temple members.

### The 75th Anniversary Committee

And finally, though this is not a board committee (though many board members are on it), I mention this so that nobody thinks we forgot. Luncheon planning is well underway along with other exciting projects. If you want to join and somehow missed all the e-mails and invites from earlier this year, contact Glenn T. Fujiura.

\* If you are interested, e-mail me for the orientation document. Of the dozen books I reviewed, I found the most useful to be *The Little Book of Boards: A Board Member's Handbook for Small (and Very Small) Nonprofits*, by Eric Hanberg, and *Nonprofit Boards: What to Do and How to Do It*, by John E. Tropman, et al. There are others, but those were quite readable and useful to an organization the size of ours.

## Bon Odori: Dancing for Joy

(continued from page 1)

Then Mrs. Kimiyo Enta volunteered to teach the Bon Odori dances at BTC. Mrs. Enta was a certified teacher (*natori*) of the classical dance style of Fujima-ryu. Besides the annual event at BTC, she taught folk dancing to senior citizens at the Japanese American Service Committee while she continued her own study of classical dance under the grandmaster, Mr. Shunojo Fujima.

Mrs. Enta was a tireless promoter of preserving Japanese culture among the temple members and the wider community. She readied the core group of Bon Odori dancers to do demonstrations at various city events such as the celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage month at the Sulzer Library in Lincoln Square.

She taught and learned dances at the Bon Odori workshops whenever our temple or the Midwest Buddhist Temple hosted the Eastern Buddhist League conferences. One poignant memory of her is when she taught at the 2005 EBL that our temple hosted. At that time, she had been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer and was undergoing treatment, but with much strength and perseverance she demonstrated some complex steps to the workshop attendees. She passed away in 2006, just a few months later and I remember

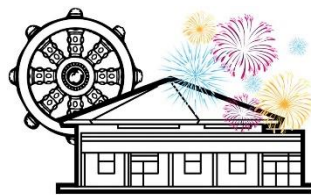


the Midwest Buddhist Temple at their Bon Odori (held every year in mid-July) honored her by performing "Arigataya," one of the dances she taught at EBL.

Mrs. Kimiyo Enta performing at Heiwa Terrace (1996).  
Courtesy of the Mary and James Numata Photograph Collection,  
Japanese American Service Committee Legacy Center

After Mrs. Enta's passing, our core group of Bon Odori teachers has been planning programs based on the dances she taught us. We've included a few dances that were introduced at recent EBL workshops and dances that we learned from videos of Bon Odori performances in California, but the majority of dances that we do year after year which our members have grown familiar with are the ones that Mrs. Enta taught in her three decades of devotion to our temple.

The observance of Obon, which the Saturday night Bon Odori is a part of along with the Sunday morning service, is for honoring those who've passed away but are still influential in our lives. Please join in our Bon Odori practices (starting August 6) and be a part of the circle that dances in joyful celebration of many, many lives.



### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt Design Competition

Calling all artists!

Submit your design for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative T-shirt.

Entry fee: \$35, \* includes one t-shirt

Entry deadline: August 1, 2019

Size: 10" x 12" maximum

Shirt color: White, Black, Grey, or Navy

Requirements:

Should include "Buddhist Temple of Chicago" and "75th Anniversary"

Entries must be in keeping with the Temple's mission and beliefs.

Limit one entry per person.

\*The entry fee is waived if you submit a design but do not require a t-shirt.

For more particulars, look for the posting at the Temple or visit our website:

<https://buddhisttemplechicago.org/btc-75th-anniversary-t-shirt-competition/>

Questions? E-mail [stuffatBTC@gmail.com](mailto:stuffatBTC@gmail.com).



## The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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### JULY 2019 CALENDAR

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 7 pm Iaido	<b>2</b> 11 am Qi Gong	<b>3</b> 6 pm <b>Bulletin Submissions Deadline</b>	<b>4</b> <b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b>	<b>5</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 11 am Monthly Memorial 5 pm Aikido	<b>8</b> 7 pm Iaido	<b>9</b> 11 am Qi Gong	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 11 am Regular Service 5 pm Aikido	<b>15</b> 7 pm Iaido	<b>16</b> 11 am Qi Gong	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10 am <b>Bulletin Mailing</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>20</b> 1:00 pm Asoka Society
<b>21</b> 11 am Regular Service 12:30 pm <b>Board Meeting</b> 5 pm Aikido	<b>22</b> 7 pm Iaido	<b>23</b> 11 am Qi Gong	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7 pm Taiko	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 11 am Regular Service 12:00 pm Temple Picnic 5 pm Aikido	<b>29</b> 7 pm Iaido	<b>30</b> 11 am Qi Gong	<b>31</b>			