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Rev. Patti Nakai

President

Bill Bohlman

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

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Doing Things Differently

During this year, we have been celebrating the temple's 75th anniversary by looking back on our history and noting the people and groups that helped make our temple a lively gathering place for those many years. And on our website that celebration of our legacy continues as an ongoing project.

Based on current trends, some of us wonder if the temple will survive into the future. Donations have decreased from previous years mainly due to the passing away of many generous longtime members and friends. The attendance at Sunday services has been sparse and even at monthly memorials and major holidays, there are plenty of empty rows. Now is the time for us to try doing things differently in order to reach out to our members and potential members.

Starting this fall there will be more Sundays with speakers from within and outside of our temple membership giving the main talks and also the talks for the Dharma School children. We will see if offering a greater variety of speakers will entice people to attend Sunday services more often.

Services don't have to follow the Christian custom of being on Sunday mornings. Many people, especially young adults, work



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

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Anniversary Thoughts

As mentioned in last month's *Bulletin*, Ann Yi resigned the position of board president for personal reasons. As per the bylaws, at the August meeting, the board selected a replacement to fill the position. As no one stepped forward seeking the position, I offered to return as president. Also as per the bylaws, I resigned as VP of Religious Affairs; this position is now filled by Wendy Fawcett. The board also decided that since the remaining terms of these positions extend to January 2021 it would be best if a vote were held at the 2020 general membership meeting to fill the final year of these terms.

This month we are celebrating our 75th anniversary. From a dedicated group of mostly Japanese Americans, to the ethnically and racially diverse Sangha of today, BTC has led in presenting the teachings in an accessible, yet meaningful, way. We have been fortunate to have had ministers such as Rev. Gyomay Kubose, Rev. Gyoko Saito, Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Rev. Sunnan Kubose and now Rev. Patti Nakai to lead us on our dharma path. They personified the first two of the Three Treasures the Buddha and the Dharma. However, the third of the Three Treasures is just as important: the Sangha.



Bill Bohlman
BTC President

Contact Bill at
budtempchi@aol.com
or find him most
Sundays after
service at the
information desk
and bookstore

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OCTOBER 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 <<<

- October 13—**75th Anniversary Lunch**
- October 19 – 20—**Open House Chicago**

Regular Temple Services

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

Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—usually 2nd to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: October 25 (the last Friday).
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: October 10.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: October 27.
- **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

- **Dharma School (for school-age children)**—Sundays, 11 am. This month: October 13, October 27.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next session starts October 30, 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.

Social & Cultural Activities

- **Aikido** (“cooperation, not competition”)—Sundays, 5-7 pm. E-mail DJ Lortie djaikibudo@gmail.com.
- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3rd Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: **October 19 Cancelled**
- **Iaido** (Japanese Swordsmanship)—Mondays, 7-9 pm.
- **Qigong** (Chinese Movement)—Tuesdays, 11-12:30 pm. 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 to confirm.
- **Ukulele Group**—On hiatus. E-mail 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

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 or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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Temple News August 2019

- ✿ 8/03 Rev. Nakai participated in memorial service for Nobuko “Nobi” Matsumoto at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church. Mrs. Matsumoto is survived by husband Frank, son Alan and daughter Janet Kramer. *** Dharma School had summer meditation and potluck dinner at BTC.
- ✿ 8/04 Monthly memorial service
- ✿ 8/11 Regular Sunday service. *** Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Fujiko Okada at N.H. Scott Funeral Home in Glenview. Mrs. Okada is survived by son Steve.
- ✿ 8/12 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Reo Ansai at Lakeview Funeral Home. Mr. Ansai is survived by son Steven.
- ✿ 8/13 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for Reo Ansai at Montrose Cemetery.
- ✿ 8/17 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Yone Tsurusaki at BTC. Mrs. Tsurusaki is survived by daughters Pat Arizo, Janice Shigihara, Debbie Miyashiro and sons Calvin, David and Kenneth. *** Bon Odori (dance festival).
- ✿ 8/18 Obon service *** Sutra study class met.
- ✿ 8/21 Rev. Nakai conducted 49th day memorial service for Barbara Shimashita at BTC.
- ✿ 8/22 Buddhist Catholic Dialogue group met at BTC.
- ✿ 8/23 September bulletin mailed.
- ✿ 8/25 Koso-ki (Haya Akegarasu memorial) service
*** Board of directors met.

Our deepest sympathy to
the family and friends of:

Reo Ansai
Nobi Matsumoto
Fujiko Okada
Yone Tsurusaki

THANK YOU!

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

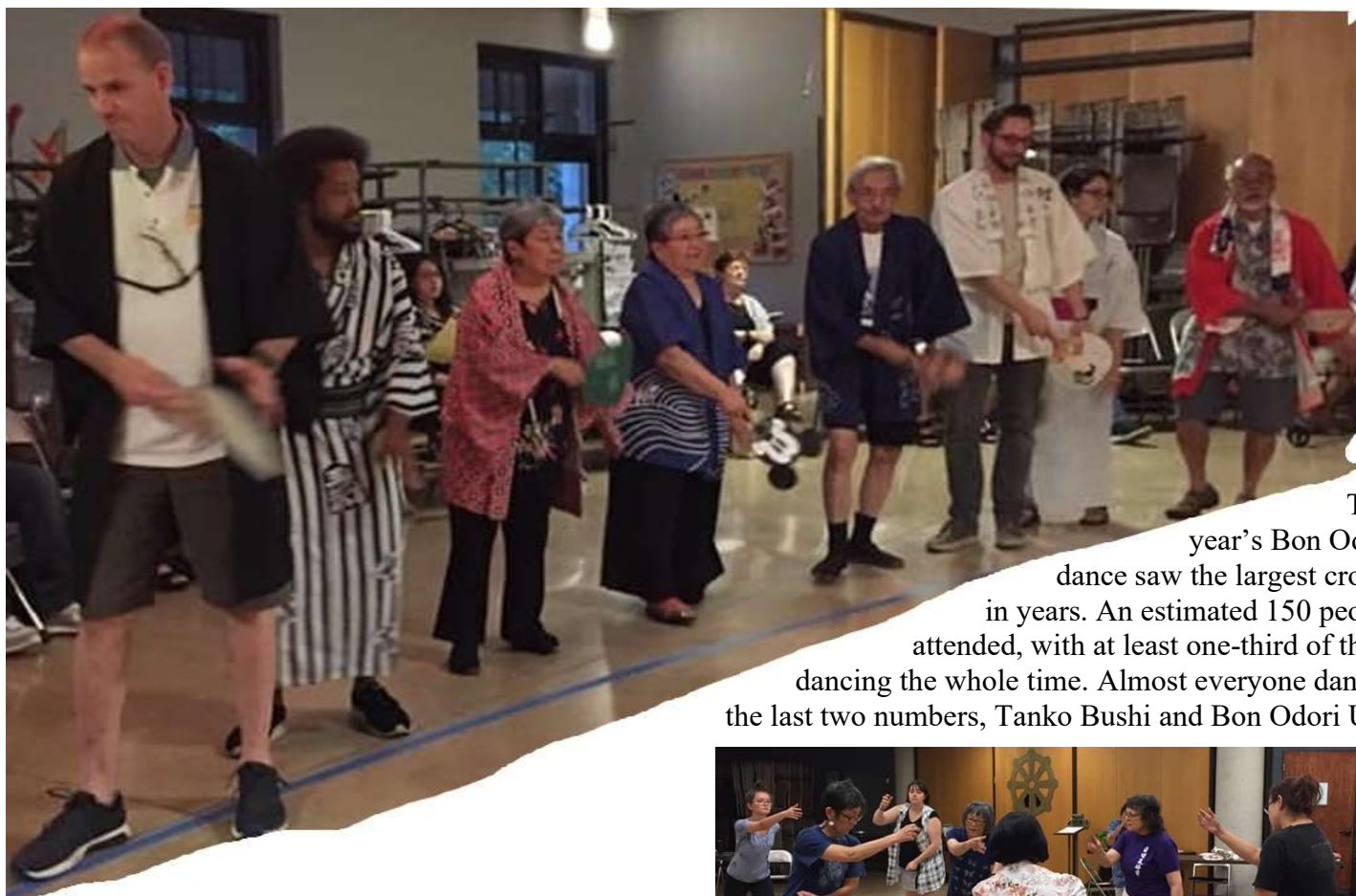
Service & Hospitality

- ✿ **Sunday Service Participants** Karen Baier, Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Peter Mizuki, Alice Murata, Mary Ozaki, Myra Shiozaki
- ✿ **Lay Leaders:** Karen Baier, Sue Balsam, Nancey Epperson, Lynnell Long, Gary Nakai, Miriam Solon
- ✿ **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga
- ✿ **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- ✿ **Bulletin Mailing:** Dennis Chan, Haru Ito, April Kellman, Alice Murata, Mary Ozaki, Ruby Tsuji, Antoinette D’Vencets, Sadae Kasamoto
- ✿ **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Dharma School, Haru Ito, Mona Kambol, Karen Kanemoto, April Kellman, Mary Ozaki, Kiyo Omachi, Linda Mounce, Alice Murata, Ruby Tsuji

✿ Temple Keepers

- ✿ **Maintaining Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tademoto, Jacob Fawcett
- ✿ **Cleaning Hondo and Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- ✿ **Extensive landscape maintenance:** Tomio Tademoto
- ✿ **Cleaning washrooms:** DJ and family
- ✿ **Emptying trash, putting it out for disposal:** Adam Kellman
- ✿ **Sweeping, mopping, vacuuming:** Mary Harvey, Michael Yasukawa
- ✿ **Restocking paper towels and toilet paper:** Miriam Solon
- ✿ **Watering plants, laundering kitchen towels and aprons:** Alice Murata, Ruth Abbinanti
- ✿ **Clearing trash from Temple exterior:** Jacob Fawcett, Mary Harvey
- ✿ **Cleaning minister’s residence:** Miriam Solon
- ✿ **Administrative Office Volunteers:** April Kellman
- ✿ **Maintaining and updating Temple website:** Wendy Fawcett, Glenn Fujiura
- ✿ **Maintaining and updating Temple computer:** Gary T. Nakai
- ✿ **Setting up and taking down chairs and tables:**
Too many to thank—thanks to all!

Celebrating Bon Odori



This year's Bon Odori dance saw the largest crowd in years. An estimated 150 people attended, with at least one-third of them dancing the whole time. Almost everyone danced the last two numbers, Tanko Bushi and Bon Odori Uta.

Thanks to all who helped make this possible:

Set-up and clean-up crew

Pete Izui, Chuck and Jason Izui, Alan, Eric and Mitchell Kato, Michael Kudo Sr. and Jr., Gary Nakai, Gary Shimomura, Tomio Tademoto, Tsurusaki Family



Refreshments

Jerry and Jane Morishige, Mary Ozaki, April Kellman

Kimono Dressers

Joan Ambo, Christy Fell, Janet Fujii, Karen Kanemoto, Gwen Kato, Sadie Kasamoto, Mary Ozaki

Announcer and Music CD

Adam Kellman

Taiko Players

Christy Fell, Tiffany Freedman, Mary Harvey, Hiromi Ishikawa, Miriam Solon, Linda Tademoto

Dance Instructors

Janet Fujii, Karen Kanemoto, Gwen Kato, Naomi Mounce, Rev. Patti Nakai, Miriam Solon, Linda Tademoto



Photos: Top and middle--Rev. Patti Nakai;
Above--Patsy McEnroe; Right--Ron Yoshioka

New Year for Dharma School

We had a great first day of Dharma School. The middle group had a great time with a Four Noble Truths / Eightfold Path treasure hunt. The older group worked on a bulletin board for the temple and ideas for the coming year. The youngest group planted their own plants from one larger plant.

Photos by Diana Schoendorff



Open Up to Open House

This year we are again opening our temple to the public the weekend of October 19-20 for Open House Chicago. We hope you can come to help as you've done in the past. We need volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up; to serve a guide or greeter; to provide in-depth explanations of history and architecture; and to serve as informal security. To volunteer for a specific day / time, contact the temple's office coordinator Jenae Somerville officedirect.btc.jenae19@gmail.com

Gary Nakai is serving as the point person for the event and is looking for a chairperson. Please contact him at budtempchi@hotmail.com with questions, or to volunteer to be the chairperson.



**Anniversary Luncheon
Sunday, October 13
Get your tickets now!
(see the insert)**

Doing Things Differently

(continued from page 1)

on Sundays. And for some people, Sunday is the only day to spend with their families or to meet up with friends for brunch and for playing and watching sports together. So I will be trying out “pop-up” services at different days and times. The format will be briefer than a Sunday morning service and with time for discussion. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) will be used to announce these pop-up services a few days in advance.

The weekly and monthly study classes are suspended while I reconsider how to study together with our members. Throughout this year the number of attendees was dwindling down to barely a handful and the few who did show up seemed unable to relate to the material. However, we will continue to have guest speakers giving lectures and workshops. Later this year we will be participating online in the Maida Center classes on Saturdays and there will be opportunities for us to watch videos from other temples, such as the Orange County Buddhist Church, to learn together and be inspired.

Recently one third-generation member told me our temple’s \$200 annual dues was way more than what she pays for a fitness center membership. “And I can go there any time, as often as I want, and get some benefit for what I paid,” she said. For her, attending the Sunday service once a year for her grandmother’s memorial was the only time she came to the temple – all our other activities and services were not appealing enough to make her come even though she lives close by.

That one person was concerned that there wasn’t much benefit in supporting our temple, but I believe that over the past seventy-five years there were hundreds of people who felt the temple was critical to developing their spirituality. That happened to me and many others at a time when there were passionate and knowledgeable teachers such as Dr. Nobuo Haneda and Rev. Gyoko Saito and many devoted listeners who showed up week after week. I had hoped to continue that legacy of our temple as a place to hear Shinran’s teachings of examining the self and being liberated into true appreciation of life. I wanted the temple to be as Christian writer Richard Rohr said of churches – they should be places of transformation and not just

(continued in next column)

Anniversary Thoughts

(continued from page 1)

For 75 years the success of BTC has relied on the hard work of the members. When I first came to BTC in 1990, many of the people who had been at the temple from almost the beginning shared the stories of the early days. I learned how while raising their families and working full time they still found the time to help with all the work needed to make the temple prosper. No matter what their trade or area of expertise, they volunteered whenever the need arose. Although they were not wealthy, the financial needs of the temple were met and funds for the future began to grow. The Sangha embodied the first paramita: Dana. These early members gave of themselves with no expectation of reward; receiving the dharma and a sense of Sangha was their reward. But now we find ourselves at a crossroads.

While celebrating our past, we must look to the future. Who will be the temple leaders and who will support the temple financially? Unfortunately, our membership continues to decline. There are many factors for this decline, but mostly it is the falling away of the families of the early members. As people moved out of the city into the suburbs the temple became less of their lives; this is understandable. However, it is important to remember what the temple meant to their parents and grandparents who worked so hard to make this temple exist. I and others who have come to BTC have eternal gratitude to the members who built this temple. The future of BTC relies on the support of those for whom so much was done so that they would always have a place to hear the dharma and reflect upon the lives that were. The future is up to you. Namu Amida Butsu.

(continued from previous column)

places for the comfort of belonging.

But over the past couple years temple members have told me in various ways that what the temple really should be offering is “peace.” It’s understandable that with all the stress around us, it is nice to go someplace quiet where people openly show affection to each other. But does this enjoyment of calmness and camaraderie help us in our inner spiritual struggle or only provide a distraction from it? What benefit do you hope to receive for coming to the temple?

August 27, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, it is with deep appreciation to all of you when I reflect on my 57 years at the Temple. Any contribution which I may have been able to make has been due to your great patience and generosity.

Above all, I am indebted to Rev. Gyomay Kubase whose encouragement and guidance had an immeasurable inspiration to me. Through my fortunate meeting and association with Rev. Kubase, I have been able to see a wider and deeper range in life. He surely personified the life of a true Buddhist. Through his life, I now realize that Buddhas have been surrounding me at all times, awakening me to the teachings and giving me strength to grow. The history of the BTC is also the history of my spiritual growth.

Only when you and I pursue the way of Kenrobae humbly and sincerely will there be progress in our Temple in the years to come. Happy Anniversary!

Sincerely in gassho
Rev. Yukio Ashikaga

Greetings from Rev. Ashikaga



Rev. Patti's introduction:

Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga responded to my personal invitation to attend BTC's 75th Anniversary luncheon with regrets. He explained that during his doctor's visit the previous day he was advised against making long trips due to his physical condition. Therefore, he finally decided not to attend the celebration and feels really sorry for not being able to give me a favorable reply. He wanted me to extend his feelings to the members and friends of BTC in the handwritten letter shown at left.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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OCTOBER 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 11 am Qi Gong	2	3 7:30pm Meditation	4 7 pm Taiko	5
6 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial 5 pm Aikido	7 7 pm Iaido	8 11 am Qi Gong	9	10 Bulletin submission deadline 7:30pm Meditation	11 7 pm Taiko	12
13 75th ANNIVERSARY 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service / Dharma School 5 pm Aikido	14 7 pm Iaido	15 11 am Qi Gong	16	17 7:30 pm Meditation	18 7 pm Taiko	19 OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO 1:00 pm Aseka Society CANCELLED
20 OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular service 5 pm Aikido	21 7 pm Iaido	22 11 am Qi Gong	23	24 7:30 pm Meditation	25 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Taiko	26
27 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service / Dharma School Board Meeting 5 pm Aikido	28 7 pm Iaido	29 11 am Qi Gong	30 7:00 pm Introduction to Buddhism	31 HALLOWEEN 7:30 pm Meditation		