



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

June 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's message

By Rev. Patti Nakai.....1

President's message

By Bill Bohlman.....3

Acknowledgments.....4

Monthly Memorial.....5

Calendar.....6

Membership Reminder:

Please renew your 2022 membership, if you haven't already done so. Thanks!



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com



At the Tanjo-e (Shinran's birthday) service we honored longtime volunteers, Tom and Haru Ito, Tak and Noreen Enkoji, and Tom and Jane Watanabe. Receiving the Certificates of Appreciation were the Ito family: Scott Meyer, Alex Heidtke, Tom Heidtke and Gail Ito; granddaughter Maya Coyle with Noreen Enkoji; and Gwen, Alan and Eric Kato



The Power of Helpers by Rev. Patti Nakai

In Jodo Shinshu the term *tariki* is usually translated "Other Power" but I like to say it represents "others' power," that is, all the lives before and around us who affect our lives. For those of us who found this temple as the place to encounter the Dharma, we have to be grateful to the thousands of people who gave their help to BTC to keep it going and make it a welcoming space. The volunteers we've been recognizing at our special Sunday services are all representatives of Amida Buddha, the symbol of compassion in action. In saying "Namu Amida Butsu" we are expressing everyone's appreciation of the uncountable lives who have helped us to live and to hear the Teachings.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live only June 5 and 26
Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service - on Zoom and in person
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – on summer break until September
Sunday Meditation 9:30am – on summer break until September
Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only
Asoka Society (social gathering) – 1pm third Saturday June 18
Craft Class – To be announced

The above activities are open to the public and free (donations appreciated).

If you are interested in the two activities below, please leave your contact information and the group will set up an appointment for you to visit them.

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 7:00pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

RIDE SHARE AT BTC By Nancey Epperson

The pandemic is fading. People are returning to religious services. Recently, there have been more people at the Temple on Sunday mornings, and at events like Asoka meetings.

Wouldn't you like to be there too? Do you need a ride to get to the Temple?

OR

Can you give a ride?

Let us know! Please call the temple (773 – 334- 4661) and leave a message with your name & phone number.

I will collect the messages and call you back. (Not leaving my home phone # here so as to evade internet scammers)

OR, send me email: naepperson14@gmail.com

I'll put drivers in touch with riders. You then make arrangements together.

See you at the Temple!

Letter received from "name withheld"

To The Group Who Is Missing

For some time now I've been settling in my spiritual home that is BTC. So many have been welcoming and supportive, especially Rev. Nakai. Other places I tried left me with impressions of a hierarchy that I didn't feel was part of Buddhism. I appreciate having found this temple more each Sunday as I continue to learn.

I really appreciate Rev. Nakai. Her talks on Sunday and her classes resonate with me and I see things more clearly. She is skillful in diving deep into the sutras to make their meanings come alive, that often I feel she is speaking only to me! Everything I now contemplate about life, I am challenged to consider my delusions that keep me from seeing life's truths. I've come to realize being guided through such introspections, I can't help but see the buddhahood in others. These examples become affirmations to the journey along my chosen path.

Part of awakening to the unbounded volume of things to be grateful for is the realization of all there is to be grateful for at BTC. When I hear about this temple's history and Japanese culture, my mind is filled with images of hardship, struggle, sacrifice, and perseverance, from the Internment Camps to the new temple built in 2006, and through today. Viewing some old photographs in the program book of BTC's 50th Anniversary celebration, the Sangha back then looked quite different then what I see on Sundays.

Where are they who made all that's before me possible! Where are their offspring? I have begun to tie faces to names due to Rev. Nakai's recognition of families during special services. These families did so much in all ways to make our temple an enduring place so people like myself can hear the Dharma. But why don't they come to temple any more? Did they stop learning? Did they just assume being raised in the temple they are Buddhists and leave it at that? From all that I have learned of their dedication, as one who has benefitted, I'd like to know them.

And, to recognize the many challenges facing the temple, one I abruptly learned of is Rev. Nakai's expressed desire to retire in 2023. In response to this dilemma and related issues, I am told preparations have started. At the Ministerial Succession committee meetings, which are open to all members, I hear talk of additional factors that are yet to be resolved concerning finances, sangha needs, membership decline, etc. Again, I can't help but wonder, where are they? Where is this group who is missing, who I would expect would have been regularly involved with the temple all along?



Two Big Events

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



In the next two months, two distinctly different yet important events are on the schedule. The first of these is the ministerial succession committee meeting.

The ministerial succession committee meeting on Sunday, June 5 will focus on the following question: **What are the requirements of the next minister?** The answer to this question depends on the input from the members.

We all have specific requirements we feel are important in the next minister. Through the process of affinity diagramming the most important requirements, as determined by the members, will be determined. This is a dynamic process that works best when all members are involved. A letter has been sent to all 2021 members and those who are new in 2022. It is our sincere hope that a large number of members will attend the meeting in person. For those who cannot attend in person the meeting will also be on Zoom. If you cannot attend we still want to hear from you. Please e-mail your brief answers to the question to budtempchi@hotmail.com so that may be included in the discussion. The search for the next minister is the most important task for the future of the temple; we need everyone to be involved.

The next event is the return of Natsu Matsuri, or at least a reasonable facsimile. The year the festival will be on Sunday, July 10 from noon to 4 PM. It will be a food only event with presale for pickup. The menu this year is our world famous teriyaki chicken, inari and udon. A presale order form has been mailed to those on our mailing list within a reasonable distance from the temple. In addition, the presale form is on our website for easy online ordering. We are in need of volunteers to help with all aspects of the event; if you would like to help please contact the temple.

Both of the above activities depend on one important ingredient, the members. The strength of BTC for over 77 years has been the members. As we look to the future this strength is needed now more than ever.

Deepest Sympathy

Geraldine Harano May 14, 2022

Chote Benjakul May 24, 2022

☒

Events may be canceled or moved:
Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi
for the most up-to-date changes.

*Iaido and Taiko require appointments made in advance (see page 2)