



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

November 2024

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Ministerial Update Bill Bohlman, Temple President

It has been a little over one year since Rev. Patti retired. During this time, the ministerial duties have been filled by Rev. Fred Brenion, who offered to act as supervisory minister until we get a new resident minister. Rev. Fred has officiated Sunday services and has provided thoughtful and engaging Dharma talks. Recently, Rev. Fred and his wife, Antoinette, visited for a weekend. On Saturday, Rev. Fred gave a seminar that dealt with his path to the Dharma and his becoming a minister. Attended by thirty people, the seminar was enlightening and relatable.

With regard to our next resident minister, Victor Ogundipe, Jr. is currently training for his Kyoshi ordination. Victor recently went to Japan where he received his Tokudo ordination at Higashi Honganji. Victor is currently living in Berkeley, California with his wife and daughter while he attends the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS). While he is in Berkeley, he is also assisting at the Berkeley Higashi temple. The current timetable is for Victor to receive Kyoshi ordination within the next year. Sometime in mid 2026, Victor will finish his studies at IBS and will be qualified to be resident minister.

In preparation for Victor's possibly becoming our next resident minister, he will give Dharma talks and visit during the interim period. Currently the plan is for him to speak sometime in January and visit us along with his family in May 2025. Through these talks and visits we will get to know Victor and he will get to know our sangha. The hope is that all parties will find a compatibility and mutual desire to learn and live the Dharma.

We recently celebrated the temple's 80th anniversary. During that time, we have had outstanding ministers who have skillfully shared the Dharma with us. Together with whoever is our next resident minister BTC will continue to be a place for all to share the wisdom of the teachings.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11 am - in-person, Facebook Live
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Saturdays 10 am - Except November 16
Sunday Meditation – 9:00 am
Thursday Meditation – 7:15 pm – Except November 28
Asoka Society (social gathering) – 3rd Saturday 1 pm – November 16

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 7:00 pm
Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

If you have a question, or would like to chat with our minister,
please feel free to contact Rev. Frederick Brenion at:

fbrenion@gmail.com

Remember, he's two-hours behind us!

With Gratitude and Grateful Heart
Rev. Frederick Brenion

Friends! I am so happy to use that word now that I've been able to meet so many of you in person! On behalf of my good wife, Antoinette, and myself, we just want to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the joyous welcome we received in coming to your temple. I am so proud now to say our temple! Feeling more that we are part of this wonderful and amazing Sangha. There's a sutra that says that when Ananda told Buddha that "Friendship is half of the spiritual life" that Buddha replied, "Oh, no, Ananda! Friendship is the whole of the spiritual life." Even though I've met so many of you through streaming into the temple, there is nothing like meeting you and embracing each of you. I laughed the other day when our Treasurer, Glenn, told me he was so amazed in seeing how gigantic I was compared to other ministers! That's why at large events in California I have to change into my robes in another room so I won't be in the way. I'm like dressing a circus elephant! Anyway, he called me a 'gentle giant'! I smile. I know I'm going to have to live up and into that. But yes, I am part of BTC and I love it and all of you!

I do want to say how amazing Chicago is. Antoinette and I are native Angelenos (don't hold that against us!). We were struck how comfortable Chicago felt. A lot like L.A. but done right! Sitting in front of the Field Museum, waiting for Alexa to bring her car, there was a grove of trees, and behind them that mighty big lake that looks so much like an ocean! I felt strongly in the air a sense of Santa Monica where I was born, San Diego, another city I love visiting, and a bit of the San Franciscan Bay. It wasn't nostalgia but that the reality I've grown up with was there. I really feel a connection with this Windy City!

I really enjoyed sharing with you all, and you with me, during the seminar while I did this unbuddhist thing of talking about myself and Buddhism! I felt so open. I was glad that we sat in a round-about arrangement of tables so that we could see each other, not me in front lecturing – that would be a bore! And the service! It is rare for me to be fully in charge and be responsible for the altar, the chanting, and sharing a talk. It was astonishing to see the temple filled! I'd like to think it was because of me, but it was for our 80th anniversary as The Buddhist Temple of Chicago! That IS something to celebrate. It was so wonderful. And wonderful to see visitors, students coming to our temple to ask questions and explore. That's how to grow!

I am so glad and grateful to be a part of our Temple Family. I am glad that you all are part of it.

I want to give a special shout out to Bill Bohlman and the Board for inviting us and going out of the way to make it possible. I want to say thank you for the amazing dinner at the Venezuelan restaurant. Gosh, that was great food! And a very special thanks to Alexa Karczmar for picking us up and driving us about the city. We got the grand tour. She herded us like cats along the waterfront for the River Architectural Tour! Wow! You guys have such an amazing city! And she got us through the Field Museum to see Sue the T-Rex, and for pushing Antoinette about on a wheelchair through it! And we got to see, thanks to Rev. Patti and her husband Gary, the wondrously beautiful Bahá'í temple! We've got to come back to see more and more!

Well, I hope we'll be able to return again in the future and share more our Sangha life together!

Thank you all!

And here is a picture of all us Seminar Attendees!





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 2024 Calendar

Events may be canceled or moved:

Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi
for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Taiko* 7 pm	2 Qigong 10:00 am
3 9:00 am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial service	4 Iaido 7:00 pm	5	6	7 Meditation 7:15 pm	8 Taiko* 7 pm	9 Qigong 10:00 am
10 9:00 am Meditation 11am Regular service	11 Iaido* 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Meditation 7:15 pm	15 Taiko* 7 pm	16 Asoka 1 pm
17 9:00 am Meditation 11am Ho-on-ko service	18 Iaido* 7:00 pm	19	20	21 Meditation 7:15 pm	22 Taiko* 7 pm	23 Qigong 10:00 am
24 9:00 am Meditation 11am Regular Service	25 Iaido* 7:00 pm	26	27	28	29 Taiko* 7 pm	30 Qigong 10:00 am

*Iaido and Taiko require appointments made in advance