



The
Buddhist
Temple
of
Chicago

June
2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message
Special Guest Message
President's Message
Acknowledgments
Monthly Memorial
Calendar



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Limitations
Rev. Gyomay Kubose

I found this wonderful story by our founder, Rev. Gyomay Kubose. I would like to share it with all of you.

Here is another old story told in Japan—about a devout churchgoer, a very conscientious, religious man, and his son who had been graduated from the university and knew all about modern science. To this young son, going to church was nonsense. He was always against his father going to church and constantly asked why he went to church, especially when the minister did not seem to practice what he preached. The young son practically insisted that his father should not go to church. The father said, “Son, you don’t understand what spiritual life is.” But he could not convince his son, so he came up with a new idea—that of an agreement, and he said, “I will quit going to church if you will promise to do these things for me: For the next two weeks, I want you to keep a diary of all the things you have said, all the things you have thought, and all the things you have done. At the end of the two weeks, please show me the diary. If you can write these things very honestly and sincerely for two weeks and I can see the diary, I will quit going to church.

“Oh, Dad, that’s easy enough. I will do exactly as you ask,” The son, kept the diary honestly and sincerely, and put down all the things his father had mentioned. But after one week when he read his own diary, he immediately realized that he was ashamed to show it to other people. Everything of his private life was in the diary. Because of his shame, he came to his father and said, “Dad, I am going to quit keeping the diary. I cannot do it anymore. All the things that I had put down I am ashamed to show to others—even to you. You know, I thought I was good, that I was doing everything fine, but when I became frankly honest with myself—writing down all the things I have done privately, have said privately, and have thought to myself—I found that just could not show it to you or anyone else.”

“Well, you see, son, we all think we are good and that there is nothing to be ashamed of, but if we strip ourselves and look into our own ego self, we are very selfish and we do a lot of things we do not want other people to know about. That is the very reason I go to church. I go in order to look into myself, for that true inner peace that comes from self-introspection, and, as for myself, for the first time I am able to forgive or understand other people’s faults and shortcomings. It is so easy to accuse others, blame others, but when we inspect ourselves, we are the same—we are not angels, either.”

For the first time, the young son realized why his father went to church—not to show religiousness or to listen to the sermons, but for his own introspections and to make his inner peace.

That is a good story. A good reminder of why we come to temple. Rev. Kubose later sums up this way, that going to temple “is not learning what Buddha said or what is said in books, but being able to see what we are and living our own life according to its own limitations.”

Thank you, Rev. Kubose, for reminding us of the heart of our Dharma. This story can be found in his “*Everyday Suchness*” in the chapter called “*Limitations*”, pages 13-20.

Thank you, Rev. Kubose, for teaching me as well.

Natsu Matsuri 2026
Bill Bohlman, Temple President

Summer is here and that means it is time for Natsu Matsuri. This year, the festival is Sunday, July 19. It was originally scheduled for July 12, but we discovered Japan Fest is scheduled for that weekend. As always, there will be great food, performances and a cultural exhibit.

The food is highlighted by our world-famous teriyaki chicken. Marinated in our secret recipe and grilled to perfection by Team Teriyaki, this dish is guaranteed to delight your taste buds. To complete this delicious lineup, we also have inari, udon and a selection of baked goods. Preorder of food is available until Sunday, July 12 using the form on our website.

Performances include taiko, iaido, and kyudo. This year we will have a children's book reading by the author Kristi Nishimura. Relax in air-conditioned comfort as you marvel at the skills on display.

The cultural exhibit this year is Japanese toys. Various individuals will share their personal collection. Come and see some of your favorites

We will also have a silent auction of items donated by members and friends. This is your opportunity to get great deals on things you will treasure. We also have our usual group of vendors displaying artwork, jewelry, garments and other special items

Natsu Matsuri is our largest fundraiser. More importantly, it is an exercise in sangha. We need lots of helpers. If you can help, please arrive on Saturday at 9 AM and throughout the day on Sunday starting at 7:30 AM. Everyone who helps, or simply attends, is shaping the future of BTC. We look forward to joining with you to have a great festival.

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NATSU MATSURI
SUNDAY, JULY 19
SILENT AUCTION

Donations needed for the Silent Auction.

Collectibles, artwork, craft items, jewelry and more.

Please bring donations to the temple before July 15, 2026

for inclusion in the Silent Auction.

All donations are tax deductible.

Deepest Sympathies

To the family and friends of

Richard Rudberg – April 21, 2026

Michael Kudo, Sr – May 18, 2026

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Scheduled Activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11 am - in-person, Facebook Live

Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays, 10:30 am

Sunday Meditation – 9 am

Thursday Meditation – On Summer break. Will Resume on September 10.

Asoka Society (social gathering) – June 20 – 1 PM

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

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

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays, 7 pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2026 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	2 Qigong 10:30 am	3	4	5	6
7 11 am Monthly Memorial 9 am Meditation	8 Iaido 7 pm	9 Qigong 10:30 am	10	11	12	13
14 11 am Regular service 9 am Meditation	15 Iaido* 7 pm	16 Qigong 10:30 am	17	18	19	20 1 pm Asoka
21 11 am Pride Day 9 am Meditation	22 Iaido* 7 pm	23 Qigong 10:30 am	24	25	26	27
28 11 am Regular Service 9 am Meditation	29 Iaido 7 pm	30 Qigong 10:30 am				