



The
Buddhist
Temple
of
Chicago

October
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IN THIS ISSUE

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



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An Ohigan Message from Rev. Victor Ogundipe

Dear Sangha,

Ohigan is a time when we reflect on the idea of crossing to the Other Shore.

We reflect on the Buddha's journey from the shore of greed, hatred, and delusion to the shore of liberation, and the virtues that the Buddha cultivated that make Enlightenment possible (the six paramitas: (dana) giving, (sila) ethics, (kṣānti) patience, (vīrya) diligence, (dhyāna) meditation, (prajñā) wisdom).

For me, dana is the foundation of the six paramitas, and there is a deep connection between giving and receiving.

Whenever I think of the six paramitas, I think of Rev. Itsuzo Kyogoku, who lived from 1887-1953.

Rev. Kyogoku believed that the process of attempting and failing to live 'the way of the six paramitas' provides us with the opportunity to realize our limitations, and see the truth of the Buddha's teaching through direct experience. Through this experience he believed that we gained true faith. In coming to truly receive and entrust in Amida, we also open the door to the true giving.

My family and I recently moved back to Toledo, OH, from Berkeley, CA.

On one of our first weekends back in Toledo, we woke up on a Saturday morning and just wanted to shake off the rust and stress of moving and just reconnect with the city.

So, I took a look at a newsletter that I'm subscribed to called: *This Week In Toledo*.

It shares the city's top stories and events for the week, and while I was looking at it, I came across an event later that afternoon called the Toledo Repair Cafe, and the event description read: anyone can bring items for repair, at no cost!

This struck a chord because we had bags in need of repair, and because it was an open call to help others.

When we arrived at the Repair Cafe it was buzzing! It was filled with people, bikes, computers, sewing machines, and almost any kind of tool that you can think of.

And, there were community members from all walks of life that had come together to share whatever skills they had to help others.

And, it was all free, they helped whoever walked through the door.

As they gently and patiently repaired our items I recalled the verse: "When beings have a turning of heart, and say the Nembutsu, it is as if bits of rubble were turned to gold."

In the Repair Cafe, there were all people from different walks of life and the room was filled with broken items. Some might say that it was a room filled with bits of rubble, but I saw flashes of gold.

The Buddhist sutras are very specific when they talk about giving, and the key takeaway is that it is not so much about what we give, but rather, how we give.

And, the sutras describe what true giving looks like. They say that before giving a true giver is glad. They say while they are giving a true giver's mind is bright and clear.

And, they say that after giving the mind of a true giver is filled with gratitude.

They go on to say that when true giving is taking place, the giver is not giving for profit, or to get credit, or even because they think that giving is good.

The true giver does not look down on others, or give out of habit, or obligation, or because they are seeking to be a savior.

The bar is so high that it might make us want to give up on giving for fear we will never get it right, but this is only something to fear if our idea of giving is something that begins and ends with us.

True giving and true receiving are inseparable. When we attempt and fail to walk the Way of the Six Paramitas, as Rev. Kyogoku said, we come to understand

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I'm not a mind reader and I don't have the power to see into people's hearts and minds like the Buddha, but, what I do know is that in the Toledo Repair Cafe I smelled the aroma of the Pure Land.

We are human, we are imperfect, and there are limits to our compassion. And, any wisdom that we may claim is questionable at best.

But, when we have truly become aware of all that we receive and turn towards each overflowing with gratitude in community and give, we can smell the aroma of the Pure Land.

Namu Amida Butsu.

Gassho,
Victor

Visit to Jerome Rohwer

By Tracy Ito

In May of this year, I attended the Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage in Little Rock, Arkansas. Although this event has been held on multiple occasions, this was my first time participating. My late father, Henry Ito, and his entire family, were removed from their home in Stockton California and falsely imprisoned by the US government at a site in Rohwer Arkansas.

The theme of this conference was "Yuzuru," or "pass it on," so that is my intent with sharing this experience with you. These wartime incarceration sites were in operation from 1942-1945, so the number of living survivors is dwindling. My father, the second youngest of eight Ito children, was only a young boy then. I can't recall any of my relatives speaking about the ordeals they personally endured, but it is a part of our collective history that we should never forget.

The conference began with a bus trip to the locales in Rohwer and Jerome where the facilities stood, although there is not much physically there. Chanting was led by our own Rev. Patti Nakai, but to my surprise, Buddhists were a minority within the minority. Perhaps this was due to a sort of post-war overcorrection, in a need to assimilate to new communities in new towns. In any case, we received a warm welcome from the mayor of McGehee, Arkansas where we visited the WWII Japanese American Internment Museum. They house a truly fascinating collection of archival material including newspapers, photos, artwork, and objects.

There were over fifteen different topics and activities offered during the course of the conference. They included a talk from internees who remained in Arkansas after the war; an interactive workshop with the Central Arkansas Taiko Group; and intergenerational group discussions with attendees. One presentation in particular really stood out for me: "The Incredible History of Nikkei Farmers" by Amanda Kim of the Kansha project, where I discovered my grandfather was an onion farmer.

This was an emotional and educational journey that I wish I knew about sooner. There are many pilgrimages for the other sites as well. You can check out Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages on Facebook, or www.densho.org for more information.

DON'T FORGET!

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO!

**Our temple will be part of the Open House Chicago walk
A chance for our city to come and get to know and see us!**

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, Oct. 18, 12 pm – 4 pm

Please come!

If you would like to volunteer to help in any way please step up, as Chicago steps in!

No Expectations

Bill Bohlman, Temple President

Disappointment, frustration, anger; these are a few of the emotions we feel when people and events do not meet our expectations. Our ego driven outlook on the world causes us think that everything should turn out according to our desires. Buddhism teaches that this type of outlook is a result of our ignorance. Only when we overcome our ignorance will we be able to overcome our suffering.

One of the first steps in overcoming our ignorance is to realize the idea of karma. A common misconception is that there is “good karma” and “bad karma.” Karma is neither good nor bad. Karma is simply the effect on life today of everything that has gone before. Karma is universal; it is not limited to any one person or event. Because of this universal nature of karma, we can never know all aspects of any issue. However, we continue to base our expectations on our limited viewpoint. This, too often, leads to our suffering.

Another cause of suffering is the belief that we know what is right for others. We expect others to believe as we do. Morally, socially, economically, if only others would accept our truth they would be saved. When they resist, or fail to respond to our self-proclaimed help, we experience negative emotions. Again, we are the cause of our suffering.

A third cause of suffering is the perceived insults we receive from others. We expect others to treat us with courtesy and respect, yet we are sometimes criticized and demeaned. As a result, we become hurt or angry and often lash out with anger or insults of our own. In his book *The Center Within*, Rev. Gyomay Kubose expresses a Buddhist approach to insults. He says, “Abuse and criticism are not bad in themselves. You can profit by them if you learn from them by taking a serious look into yourself. If the criticism is true, accept it as fertilizer for growth. If the criticism is false, then it has nothing to do with you.”

Shakyamuni Buddha taught that we must look at ourselves rather than judge the actions of others. During the six years between when he left the castle and his attaining enlightenment, he tried various practices. However, having mastered these practices he did not overcome the cause of his suffering. Abandoning these practices, he vowed to sit beneath the pippal tree until he either discovered the cause of his suffering or he died. On the seventh day, as the sun rose, he realized the cause of his suffering lay within. The world is perfect as it is. The failure of his expectations was the cause of his suffering.

A life of no expectations is not a life without hopes or dreams. It is a life of striving to attain these goals while constantly remaining aware that for all we think we know there is far more that we don't.

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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 – 7:15 pm

Asoka Society (social gathering) - October Meeting Canceled

Open House Chicago – Oct. 17, 10 am – 4 pm / Oct. 18, 12 pm – 4 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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October 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 Meditation 7:15 pm	2	3
4 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial	5 Iaido 7 pm	6 Qigong 10:30 am	6	7 Meditation 7:15 pm	9	10
11 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular service Temple Anniversary	12 Iaido* 7 pm	13 Qigong 10:30 am	14	15 Meditation 7:15 pm	16	17 Asoka- Canceled Open House Chicago 10 am - 4 pm
18 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular service Open House Chicago 12 pm-4 pm	19 Iaido* 7 pm	20 Qigong 10:30 am	21	22 Meditation 7:15 pm	23	24
25 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service	26 Iaido 7 pm	27 Qigong 10:30 am	28	29 Meditation 7:15 pm	30	31