



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

# BULLETIN

願慧

Volume 68 Number 6 March 2012 (2556 B.E.)

## Scheduled Events

Call 773-334-4661 or visit  
www.budtempchi.org

## Regular Sunday Services

### **Dharma Sunday School**

Sundays 11am – noon, Mar. 11 & 25

### **Religious Services**

Sundays at 11am – noon, in English

### **Monthly Memorial Service**

Shotsuki Hoyo, Sunday, Mar. 4, 11am  
in English, 1pm in Japanese

## Special Observances & Events

### **Rev. Gyoko Saito Memorial**

Service – Sunday, Mar. 11

**Spring O-Higan** – Service &  
luncheon on Sunday, Mar. 18, a time  
to reflect on crossing over to the  
Other Shore

**Founder's Day** – Sunday, Mar. 25,  
observance of Rev. Gyomay  
Kubose's Memorial

**Introduction to Buddhism** – Call  
temple to confirm dates and time

**Meditation Sessions** – 9am Sundays  
& 7:30pm Thursdays – use parking  
lot entrance

**Sutra Study Class** – Open to All, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sundays, 12:30pm to 2pm

**Study Class** – Open to All,  
Wednesdays, 7pm

## Activities & Meetings

**Asoka Society** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 1pm

**Calligraphy** – Japanese brush writing  
class 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 7pm

**Crafts Class** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays,  
10am to noon, open to All (call  
temple for confirmation)

**Fencing** – Introduction to Kendo,  
Dojo sessions, Tuesdays, 8pm to  
10pm at Bethany United Church (call  
Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187)

**Japanese Language Class** –  
Saturdays, 10am to noon, children or  
adults, call 773-334-4661 to register

**Japanese Swordsmanship** – Iaido,  
Mondays 7pm to 9pm

**Middle Way** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays, noon

**Taiko Drums** – BTC Kokyo Taiko  
Drum Troupe, Fridays, 7pm to 9pm

## **Courtesy and Kindness**

By Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

March is the month of spring O-Higan. Winter in Chicago is generally very cold, but this year has been unusually warm. We are thankful for this warm mid-winter weather. As O-Higan approaches, I think of the teaching of the six paramitas, particularly the teaching of Dana – giving or sharing.

In May of this year, the city of Chicago will be hosting the international G-8 and NATO summits. Dozens of world leaders will gather together here in Chicago. The security will be very tight to protect the dignitaries and officials of foreign countries. I think that every citizen of Chicago should feel proud to host them as the guests of the city, and I hope that each of them will welcome them with courtesy and kindness.

I love to travel. My wife and I have made several trips to foreign countries. Fortunately, wherever we visit, we have always received that same courtesy and kindness. We often come home with a satisfied feeling because of it. Once, we visited a museum in Amsterdam, Netherlands. On the way back to Amsterdam station we took a street car. I wanted pay the fare with paper money, but the driver-conductor said, "Coins, coins." Since I didn't have any coins, I kept showing him paper money. He kept repeating, "Coins, coins." Finally, after he learned that I had no coins, he said, "Next time." I thanked him, though I felt sorry because I knew there might not be a next time.

On the next trip, after getting off the train at the Zurich station, we were walking on the way to the hotel. A young man passed by on his bicycle. I asked him how to get to the hotel. He got off his bicycle and walked us to the front of the hotel. He, too, was so courteous and kind.

On a trip to Milan, a young lady came into our train compartment and sat next to me. Soon she started to work on her computer. I believed she was a businesswoman going to Milan. After a little while she asked me, "Are you from Chicago?" in English. I was quite puzzled as to how she knew that I was from Chicago. When I replied, "Yes," she said, "I am from Chicago too. My mother is still in Park Forest in Illinois."

"What a coincidence!" I thought. What is the chance of two people with a Chicago connection meeting in the same compartment of a train headed to Milan? Then, she asked me what I did in Chicago. I answered that I was a minister at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago. She thought a few seconds and said, "I attended the Catholic high school in Chicago, and

*(Continued on page 6, bottom right column)*

**Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:**

**Mr. Masao Horibe | Mrs. Fusako Nitahara | Mr. Masato Tanaka**

**Please see Temple News for details**

## THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF CHICAGO

1151 W Leland Ave  
Chicago, IL 60640  
Tel: 773-334-4661  
Fax: 773-334-4726  
www.budtempchi.org  
and  
www.facebook.com/  
budtempchi

Rev. Yukei Ashikaga  
*Head Minister*

Rev. Patti Nakai  
*Associate Minister*

Gary T. Nakai  
*President*

### Editorial Team

Rev. Patti Nakai  
Gary T. Nakai  
Ruby Tsuji  
Ann Yi, Editor

### Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, and suggestions are encouraged. Submitted material 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. The deadline is the first Friday of the month. E-mail: [btcbuledtr@hotmail.com](mailto:btcbuledtr@hotmail.com)

© **Copyright**  
**2012**

*The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin*, except where otherwise noted.

## Temple News, January 2012

❖ 01/01 Shu-Sho-e (New Year's Day Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga and Rev. Patti Nakai delivered New Year messages. After the service, volunteers rang the bell 108 times. The New Year's Day special food was prepared by Mrs. Ashikaga with the assistance of Akiko Sugano, Misato Sato, April Kellman, Dennie Okuhara, Ruby Tsuji, Fumi Kuwada, Shizuko Akitomo, Kazuyo Kambara, Alice Murata, and Michio Iwao.

❖ 01/07 Japanese Language School winter term began. \* \* \* Iaido Dojo's New Year Party was held.

❖ 01/08 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai gave the Dharma School talk. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma message for the morning service in English and for the afternoon service in Japanese. \* \* \* The 49<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service of the late Florence Koga, 101, who passed away on December 9, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawaii, was conducted at the Temple. \* \* \* Reverends Ashikaga and Patti Nakai visited the Horibe family for the late Masao Horibe's Memorial Service

at Lakeview Funeral Home.

❖ 01/10 Rev. Ashikaga went to the Tri-C Church to make funeral arrangements for the late Fusako Nitahara.

❖ 01/12 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga left for Los Angeles to attend the memorial service of the late Mr. Masato Tanaka.

❖ 01/13 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga attended the memorial service of the late Masato Tanaka, 100, who passed away on December 18, 2011. He is survived by wife Haruko Tanaka, sons Warren, Keith, Randy and Lance, and daughter Marjean. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the eulogy and Mrs. Ashikaga offered incense representing BTC. The service was conducted by Rev. Marvin Harada of Orange County Buddhist Church.

❖ 01/14 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga return home.

❖ 01/15 Regular Sunday Service observed. Lay speaker was Glenn Fujiura. \* \* \* Rev. Patti Nakai

delivered the Ho-On-Ko message at Midwest Buddhist Temple. \* \* \* The 49<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service for the late Fusako Nitahara was conducted by Rev. Ashikaga at the Tri-C Church. The late Mrs. Nitahara, 88, passed away on January 2, 2012. She is survived by sons Scott, Steve, Keith and Ken Nitahara.



Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and Baha'i members of the Treasures of Uptown interfaith group, including Rev. Patti Nakai (left front) and Rodel DeOcampo (front center) at the group's Jan. 22 event. More photos available at <http://www.interfaithillinois.org/blog.html>

Photo by Dan Godston

❖ 01/20 February issue of the Temple Bulletin mailed.

❖ 01/21 The 1<sup>st</sup> year Memorial Service of the late Mr. Kinji Sugano was conducted at the Temple. \* \* \* The 49<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial Service of the late Mr. Fred Babbins was conducted at the Temple.

❖ 01/22 Regular Sunday Service conducted. Rev. Ashikaga gave Dharma School message and Rev. Patti Nakai gave Dharma message. \* \* \* Board of Directors met.

❖ 01/25 Mr. and Mrs. Ashikaga were invited to attend the monthly Birthday party of Bethany Retirement Home. Ben Enta was the host.

❖ 01/29 Eitaikyo Special Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga gave the welcome words and explanation of the BTC Eitaikyo Fund. Rev. Patti Nakai gave the Dharma talk. After the service, BTC Kokyo Taiko Group served a delicious luncheon. The Annual General Membership Meeting was held.

## Dr. Haneda Seminar Rescheduled for May

Maida Center director, Dr. Nobuo Haneda, was scheduled to be our speaker for the Ho-on-ko Seminar in November but canceled his trip at the last minute due to sudden illness. Fortunately, he recovered quickly, but with his busy schedule on the West Coast his earliest availability for coming to Chicago was late May. Our temple decided that travelling would be too hectic if he came during the G8 Summit, so we asked him to come during the Memorial Day weekend.

His seminar titled "The Truth of Conditional Arising: The Teaching of Nagarjuna, the Father of Mahayana Buddhism" will be held on Saturday, May 26, at 10:30am to 4:00pm, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant (to be announced). Dr. Haneda will also be the guest speaker at the May 27 Sunday service to commemorate Tanjo-e, Shinran Shonin's birthday in conjunction with the Hatsu Mairi (official "first visit") ceremony for children.

Look for more details to come in the May issue of the Bulletin.



Parent Diana Schoendorff led the BTC Dharma School students in the now-traditional decorating of the "Happy New Year to BTC" cookies during the Jan. 8 class. Thanks, Diana! And thanks for baking the delicious cookies!  
Photos by Dave Leshuk



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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

- ❖ Sunday Service Participants: Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Rodel De Ocampo, Glenn Fujiura, Anna Idol, Neil Kanemoto, Lynn Maruyama, William Sheehan, Amy Williams, Justin Woodward, and Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist
- ❖ Sunday Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Izui, Mrs. Ruby Izui, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kanemoto, Amy Kawamoto, Laura Muraoka, Kiyo Omachi, Jenny Watanabe, Dharma School Class Parents, and the Kokyo Taiko Group
- ❖ New Year's Day refreshments: Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, Shizue Akitomo, Michio Iwao, Kazuyo Kambara, April Kellman, Fumi Kuwada, Dennie Okuhara, Misato Sato, and Akiko Sugano
- ❖ Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Chuck Izui, Morris and Amy Kawamoto, Rev. Patti Nakai, Mary Shimomura, Tommi and Tak Tomiyama
- ❖ Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto
- ❖ Cleaning the Temple every week: Justin Woodward
- ❖ Manning the Temple office every Thursday: Tak Tomiyama
- ❖ Maintaining and updating the temple website and computer: Shawn Lyte
- ❖ Emptying trash bins, filling them with new bags, and putting them out for disposal: Adam Kellman, April Kellman, Shawn Lyte, and Rev. Patti Nakai

## Asoka Luncheon Jan. 21, 2012

By Dennis Chan

We began the year celebrating both Japanese New Year and Chinese New Year (Jan. 23, Year of the Dragon) with a wonderful combination lunch that 27 people enjoyed. Our starter was traditional Ozoni followed by Chinese chicken congee soup, vegetable chow mein, BBQ pork, and zensai (mochi and red beans) for desert. Each place setting received an origami box with candy.

After lunch, four members from the Tai Chi Society's Chicago Branch demonstrated and taught the first 18 moves of Tai Chi (both standing and sitting), along with several foundation moves for good health and wellness.

Please join us in spring on Saturday, March 17, for our Spring O-Higan and St. Patrick's Day meeting.

## Notes from the 2012 Annual General Membership Meeting

Many thanks to Kokyo Taiko for again hosting the Annual General Membership Meeting luncheon, and also thanks to Isshin Daiko, who did the setup the night before. The attendees were thanked for making the effort to hear first-hand the reports of officers and affiliated units. The



Outstanding volunteer award to Mr. Michio Iwao.  
Photo by Patsy McEnroe

meeting was called to order after the luncheon. The previous meeting's minutes were summarized by the board secretary and approved by majority vote. As reported, our member count for 2011 was down slightly from the previous year, but it was reported that attendance by first-time visitors at Sunday service had increased. Perhaps this is due to our fine website, the popularity of the Buddhism introduction classes, OR the friendly, welcoming Sangha of BTC. This bodes well with the religious aspects of BTC presenting the Dharma.

The Annual Operating Budget was presented with explanations of line items both on the income side and expense side. The magnitude of this year's budget is identical to last year's, most notably due to the ongoing search for the next Resident Minister. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented, and the question carried by majority vote. As always, all interested members were encourage to participate in formulating next year's budget.



Outstanding volunteer award to Mrs. Harkyo Tadamoto (via son, Kenji Tadamoto). Photo by Patsy McEnroe.

The affiliated units of the temple presented their respective reports, and it was reported that each of the groups are doing well and are ever-conscious of

*(Continued on page 6, left column)*

## Call For Photos of Nikkei World War II Veterans

All Japanese American men and women, whether living or deceased, who served in the US military during World War II, deserve proper recognition. A group of Chicago-area organizations is planning a community-wide celebration to do just that. The Nikkei World War II Veterans Tribute will be held in Chicago on Sunday, April 22, 2012, and all such veterans and surviving family members are invited to attend.

If you know a Japanese-American who served in World War II, and if you want to include his or her portrait in the April 22 Tribute, please submit a photograph to the event planning committee. The photo 1) should be either a studio or candid shot, 2) should be of World War II vintage, and 3) show the service member in uniform. Service members' images will be reproduced in the commemorative program book and possibly in the video presentation that will be screened at the Tribute event.

Original photographs can be directed either to the Chicago Japanese American Citizens League (5415 N. Clark Street, Chicago IL 60640) or to the Japanese American Service Committee (4427 N. Clark Street, Chicago IL 60640). Please include the name of the service member pictured along with the name and address of the party to whom the photograph should be returned. Digital files of portraits should be sized at 5x7 inches minimum and 300 dpi minimum, and should be directed to [ptamada@tamadabrown.com](mailto:ptamada@tamadabrown.com). Digital files on CD-ROM also can be mailed to the JAACL and JASC offices. Again, please include the name of the service member pictured. Photos and scans must be received by Monday, March 5, 2012, to be included in the Tribute.

For details on the April 22 event or to register veterans and surviving families, visit the Nikkei WWII Veterans Tribute website at [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or contact the committee at 773.728.7170 or [nikkeivets@gmail.com](mailto:nikkeivets@gmail.com).

The Nikkei World War II Veterans Tribute is a collaboration of the Chicago Nisei Post #1183 of the American Legion, Japanese American Citizens League - Chicago Chapter, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American Service Committee, Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago, and Chicago Japanese American Council.

## Walk, and the Way Shall Open Up

by Rev. Gyoko Saito

Note: On March 11, we will be observing *Koshu-ki*, the memorial for Rev. Gyoko Saito, who served as a minister at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago from 1956 to 1981. From *Meditations on Death and Birth* (privately published by Joan Sweany, 1983), I chose this article because it speaks of the dynamic spirit of *mujo*, continual change. Despite the personal difficulties Rev. Saito encountered throughout his life, he kept on going, constantly evolving in his presentation of Shinran's teachings. This whole article expresses the calling of "Namu Amida Butsu" – the voice telling us to stop destroying our lives and to go forward on the path of awakening. –Rev. Patti Nakai

Experience is most important in Buddhism. Rev. Kiyozawa, the teacher of Rev. Akegarasu, particularly stressed the importance of experience and called Buddhism the religion of experience. Rev. Akegarasu, too, whenever he was in a gathering of people, always asked for everyone's real feelings. No matter how famous a person was or how distinguished a scholar, as soon as he started to explain or tried to think *about* something and talk *about* it, Rev. Akegarasu would scold him: "Let me hear your real feeling! Don't preach." But when someone who had no education started to speak his real feeling, then Rev. Akegarasu quietly bowed his head and listened to him deeply. It is because what such a person felt is the world of experience.

We all are different from each other, so there are different worlds of experience, and different feelings about them. And there is no "same" experience that repeats itself. This is true not only from one person to another, but also within the life of any one person. For instance, in my case I have eaten 50,000 meals in my life, but not one has been exactly like another!

Some years ago, Seiichi Tokuyama walked all the way from the West to the East Coast, pushing a handcart in front of him which contained fifty thousand paper cranes made by Japanese school children to offer at the grave of the John F. Kennedy after his assassination. From the newspaper articles I read about Mr. Tokuyama as he was approaching Chicago, my impression was that he could be a phony. But I changed my feeling when he visited the temple and I heard him say, "Gee, America is such a big country!"

He told us of his struggles such as trying to find water while walking through the Nevada desert. Even though I didn't think much about the purpose of his trip, his experiences and his real feeling struck me very deeply. It wasn't because of his adventures or the unusual quality of his experience that I was moved. I felt the life in Mr. Tokuyama's feeling when he said,

(Continued on page 6, right column)

## Higashi Honganji Hoshidan

### 2011 Tour Retreat

By Peggy Waters

Last November 2011, I experienced the trip of a lifetime. I had the opportunity to travel to Kyoto, Japan and represent The Buddhist Temple of Chicago at the 2011 Ho-on-ko Hoshidan Tour Retreat at Higashi Honganji, which included the special observance of Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial. The trip was very exciting for me since I had never been to Japan, and I was looking forward to experiencing Higashi Honganji as well as seeing Osaka and Kyoto.

My trip began by flying to Los Angeles to meet most of the group from the North America and Hawaii Districts. This group included Janet Ito and Wayne Itoga from Los Angeles Betsuin, Merry Jitoshio from West Covina, Chico Kodama from Newport Beach, Irving Yamashita from Berkeley, CharlAnn Nakamoto from Kaneohe, Hawaii, Noko and Steve Yoshida from Hilo, and Minako Ito-Song from Honolulu. Bishop Noriaki Ito, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, and Rev. Ryoko Osa were the ministers that took us from the airport to the trains, to the hotels, and on the tours. Rev. Miyoshi in particular made sure we all knew what was going on and where to go, and she made sure we got to our destinations in time.



Peggy Waters among the autumn leaves

After arriving in Tokyo, we transferred to Osaka where we spent the night. The next morning we took a train to Kyoto for sightseeing and to see the famous fall colors of the Japanese maple trees. The Hawaii members joined the group at Rokuon-ji, the Golden Pavilion. We then walked to Ryoanji Temple, home of the world-famous rock garden. We arrived at the Dobo Kaikan, the retreat center at Higashi Honganji. The grounds were large and the buildings were amazing. The buildings were originally built hundreds of years

(Continued on page 7, left column)

## ... 2012 General Membership Meeting

*(Continued from Page 4)*

maintaining an active, interested membership. It was also commented that between the first-time visitor increase, the very active and growing children's Dharma School, and the return of previous active members, the promise of sustaining a healthy Sangha looks very bright.

Special appreciation gifts were presented by the Board of Directors to two elders who "retired" from their extraordinary volunteer service at BTC. They are Michio Iwao, for his landscaping work, and Harky Tademoto, for her clean-up and fix-up work. Both volunteers have been carrying out their work since the new temple building was built. They made it known, however, that they intend to continue to be around, just not in charge of these areas. Congratulations and thank you both for your outstanding service! Accepting the gift for his mother was Kenji Tademoto. See the photos on page 4 and below.

And finally, Orei were presented to the Reverends Ashikaga and Nakai and to our service pianist, Mrs. Ashikaga. The new year is when our sense of appreciation is most heightened as we look forward to a prosperous year together in the Dharma under the guidance of our ministers.

A copy of the minutes and/or the reports given is available to members. If you are interested in obtaining them, please Board Secretary, Peggy Waters at [btcbdsctry@hotmail.com](mailto:btcbdsctry@hotmail.com).

Gassho,  
Gary T. Nakai  
President



From left to right: Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Kenji Tademoto (accepting award on behalf of Mrs. Harky Tademoto), Michio Iwao, and Rev. Patti Nakai.

Photo by Patsy McEnroe

## ... Walk, and the Way Shall Open Up

*(Continued from Page 5)*

"Gee, America is such a big country!" If a person's feeling is genuine, then it is contagious and will move others.

So life is very interesting. But so often we stand still in this known world and think about what we should do next; or we feel we understand everything about life and say, "Life is thus and so;" or we affirm ourselves, "I am it!" and fall into the kind of difficulty described in the Buddhist parable of "the river of water and the river of fire." The raging river of water is the endless desire that cannot be satisfied; the river of fire is uncontrollable anger. Faced with the sight of both rivers, we tend to stop walking.

When I fall into this state, and stop developing the new life of mine, then I always hear the teacher's voice: "Walk, and the way shall open up." When I stop walking, when I get self-satisfied about my achievements, or when I feel self-pity as a result of my mistakes, or when in the world of criticism I say of others, "He is no good, she is no good," or when because of anger I stop taking steps, stop moving – then I am killing myself. But when I start to walk, listening to the voice of life - "Walk, and the way shall open up" – then my life continuously develops and a new world opens up, no matter what I did previously.

Mr. Tokuyama's real feeling expressed in his "Gee, America is such a big country!" gave me a deep insight and helped me touch the real teaching of my teacher.

## ... Courtesy and Kindness

*(Continued from page 1)*

we once visited a Buddhist temple for the field trip. A minister gave us a talk on Buddhism."

"That must be me," I said. We laughed together at the rare coincidence. But how did she know that I was from Chicago? She saw the name tag attached to my luggage. After saying our farewells, we got off at the Milan station.

We often welcome groups of visitors at our temple. The people of each group are different – young and old, men and women. Meeting the young lady in the train in Italy taught me a good lesson – that I should welcome all visitors with courtesy and kindness. This is the great lesson of Dana, the teaching of O-Higan.

I hope the G-8 and NATO meetings will conclude peacefully and successfully without any incidents. Let us welcome our visitors with the same courtesy and kindness I have received on my own travels.

*Namu Amidabutsu.*

## ... 2011 Tour Retreat

(Continued from Page 5)

ago with basic tools and later rebuilt due to fire. This rebuilding has been accomplished with much human effort.

Rev. Peter Lait, the lecturer of our discussion group, provided us with opportunities to learn more about the Dharma from him and from each other. The theme of this 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Ho-on-ko was "Now, Life is living you." Let life live you; don't try to control how your life is lived. Some events in your life cannot be controlled. If you try to control it, then you will encounter suffering. By learning to accept the impermanence of life, you will endure less suffering. By decreasing one's strong attachments and strong ego, the mind will allow for acceptance of life as it is. Rev. Miyoshi shared her personal experience of this. A few others also shared their experiences. Merry Jitoshō gave the *kanwa* (impromptu talk) representing the North American group. She shared her life story with the sangha. It was touching, as a few aspects of her life are mirrored in my own. Three new ministers who are awaiting assignments joined our group. They were Hiroko Maeda, Marcos Sawada, and Makoto Honda.



After raking leaves and sweeping at Higashi Honganji

The retreat experience was interesting, especially after hearing about it from others before leaving Chicago. Rev. Miyoshi kept us informed of the schedule and made sure we were on time for the services, lectures, meals, shopping, etc. The vegetarian meals were delicious. The community baths were an experience! We were assigned chores of bathroom cleanup, dining room meal assignment and raking leaves outside. The days of the retreat were filled with both morning and evening services with fast-paced chanting, communal vegetarian meals, lectures, and tours of much of Higashi Honganji. The weather during our stay was cool, so we bundled up with heating pads for the services. We walked through the Shosei-en Garden at Higashi Honganji, enjoying the beautiful fall colors, the koi fish, and the bridge.

(Continued in next column)

I felt honored to be able to attend the ceremonial rituals and services in the Founder's Hall and the Amida Hall right in front of the altars and be a part of



At mausoleum for Shinran's ashes

the hundreds of followers. One service that stands out for me is the one the Abbot Otani officiated. I did not understand exactly what was going on, but I felt the reverence of the service. The fast-paced chanting was most impressive. I also felt honored to be present at the ceremony when three of our group received their Dharma names. They were Janet Ito, Merry Jitoshō, and Irv Yamashita.

Bishop Ito and the Reverends Miyoshi and Osa kept our interest with their knowledge of Japanese history at Higashi Honganji and during the sightseeing and shopping at Kiyomizu and Teramachi. They provided translations, interpretations, and wonderful hospitality. I learned much about Higashi Honganji and its history and have a reason to go back to Japan. The tours of Kyoto included the inspiring historic landmarks, temples, and Shinran's mausoleum. Everyone in our group was so friendly. We shared our experiences with each other, and in doing this we all became friends with whom I hope to keep in touch.

I want to thank the North America District of Higashi Honganji for the opportunity to participate in the 2011 Ho-on-ko Hoshidan Tour. Thank you Bishop Ito, Rev. Miyoshi, and Rev. Osa for your hospitality and all your help in making my trip so enjoyable. Thank you Rev. Ashikaga, Rev. Nakai, and our Board of Directors for this opportunity.



Shinran statue at Rokkakudo



## The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

1151 W. LELAND AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640-5043 USA  
[www.budtempchi.org](http://www.budtempchi.org)  
phone: 773-334-4661-2  
fax: 773-334-4726

Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Head Minister  
Rev. Patti Nakai, Associate Minister  
Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose (1905–2000), Founding Minister

NOT FOR PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
PERMIT NO. 7329