



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

願慧

Volume 68 Number 9 June 2012 (2556 B.E.)

Calendar of June Events

Call 773-334-4661

Also visit www.budtempchi.org

Regular Sunday Services

Dharma Sunday School

Sundays 11am, final class June 10, will resume in September

Religious Services

Sundays at 11am – Noon, in English

Monthly Memorial Service

Shotsuki Hoyo, Sunday, June 3, 11am in English, 1pm in Japanese

Special Observances & Events

Rosen-ki – Memorial service for Manshi Kiyozawa, Sunday the 3rd (see article)

Natsu Matsuri – Sunday the 24th (see article, insert), no meditation or regular service this day

Introduction to Buddhism – Call temple to confirm dates and time

Meditation Sessions – 9am Sundays and 7:30pm Thurs – use parking lot entrance

Sutra Study Class – Open to All, 3rd Sundays, 12:30pm to 2pm

Study Class – Open to All, Wednesdays, 7pm, on break June through August, starts back in September

Activities & Meetings

Asoka Society – 3rd Saturdays, 1pm

Calligraphy – Japanese brush writing class, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

Crafts Class – 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon, open to all (call temple to confirm)

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 – 1st Sundays, noon

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

The Virtue of Not Fitting In

By Rev. Patti Nakai

In June our temple commemorates Rosen-ki, the memorial of Manshi Kiyozawa (1863-1903). In some circles, a person's insider status is touted as an advantage. But for me personally and for our temple's development, it was crucial that we received a presentation of Buddhism from someone who was an outsider to the established institutions. Being free of the obligation to uphold custom and convention was an essential element of Kiyozawa's exploration and expression of Jodo Shinshu.

Kiyozawa's father was a low-ranking samurai who received a stipend under the shogunate system, but in 1868, the imperial government was restored and the samurais lost their benefits. Kiyozawa's father had to scrape for whatever work came his way, such as peddling tea door-to-door. The family's economic struggles made it difficult for Kiyozawa to afford a formal education, so he jumped at the chance to apply to a Higashi Honganji scholarship program that was recruiting boys to learn about Western thought and culture in order to defend Buddhism against claims by missionaries that Christianity was more modern and scientific. Kiyozawa had already proven himself fluent in English when he worked as an interpreter for the foreign doctors at a nearby hospital (which unfortunately had to relocate before he got the chance to enter medical training). By joining the Higashi Honganji program, Kiyozawa as a teenager first had to attend the priest-training school in Kyoto. There he found himself a dummy among the sons of priests who since childhood had been conducting services with their fathers. They gave him the teasing nickname "Bishop" because he was trying so hard to learn the chants and rituals that were already well-worn routines for them.

At Tokyo Imperial University, Kiyozawa could finally shine as the brainy nerd. With his advanced command of English, he helped his fellow students write term papers for the classes taught by Westerners. Unlike many of the priests' sons brought up with feudal-age outlooks, Kiyozawa easily caught on to modern scientific thought and its relevance to the Buddhist teachings. Upon graduation it would have been easy for him to remain in the world of academia, but he felt compelled to fulfill the obligations of his scholarship and start working for Higashi Honganji in Kyoto.

As the well-compensated principal of the sect-sponsored high school, he at first delved into the luxurious lifestyle of high-ranking priests, riding around in a carriage and wearing the latest Western-style

(Continued on page 7)

THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF CHICAGO

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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: btculedtr@hotmail.com

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

Temple News, April 2012

- ☸ 04/01 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message in the morning English service and afternoon Japanese Service.
- ☸ 04/06 Rev. Ashikaga and Michio Iwao picked up donated flowers at Wall's Flower Shop, which were used for the Hanamido (Flower Shrine) decoration.
- ☸ 04/07 Hana Matsuri preparation day. Hanamido was decorated by former Dharma School parents and Asoka Society members.
- ☸ 04/08 Hana Matsuri special service was observed. Jennie Watanabe, Gwen Kato, and Alice Murata dressed Dharma school students in Ochigo costumes. Rev. Ashikaga gave the Dharma school message and Rev. Patti Nakai delivered Dharma message for general congregation.
- ☸ 04/14 Spring quarter of the Japanese Language School began.
- ☸ 04/15 Regular Sunday service was observed. The lay speaker was William Shehan. * * * Natsu Matsuri meeting was held.
- ☸ 04/20 The May issue of the Temple Bulletin was mailed.
- ☸ 04/21 Asoka meeting was held.
- ☸ 04/22 Dharma School Sunday Service was observed. All of the students of Dharma School took the roles of chairperson, reader of the Dharmmapada selection, Dharma school message, and playing and singing of Gathas. Rev. Patti Nakai delivered Dharma message for general congregation.
- ☸ 04/29 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message. * * * Temple board of directors met.

More Important Dates

- ☸ June 2: International Buddhism Festival (Visakha), see page 3.
- ☸ June 10: "Faith & Social Service" panel discussion with Treasures of Uptown: An Interfaith Coalition, at BTC, 2 p.m., see page 4.
- ☸ June 24: 66th Annual Natsu Matsuri, see page 3 and blue food pre-sale order form insert.
- ☸ Mid-July (to be scheduled): Help Wanted Meeting, see page 4.
- ☸ Aug 1: Deadline to register for the EBL Conference in Minneapolis, see page 3.
- ☸ Aug 31–Sept 2: EBL Conference in Minneapolis.

Also see the *Calendar of June Events* on page 1

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

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

- ☸ Sunday Service Participants: Ruth Abbinanti; Susan Balsam; Bill Bohlman; Glenn Fujiura; Anna Idol; Neil Kanemoto; Kiyo Omachi; Jerry Morishige; Alice Murata; William Shehan; Leroy Wiley; Dharma School students Alyssa, Anna, Ava, Aunesty, Bea, Ian, Maya, Wen Qing, and Yulian; and Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist
- ☸ Sunday Service Refreshments: Rodel de Ocampo, Noreen Enkoji, Anna Idol, Haru Ito, Karen Kanemoto, Hide Kikuchi, Wendy Lua, Janet Lipner, Jane Morishige, Anna Nagata, Dennie Okuhara, Betty Segal, Mary Shimomura
- ☸ Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Evelyn Inamine, Haru Ito, Joe Korner, Rev. Patti Nakai, Mary Shimomura, Tommi and Tak Tomiyama
- ☸ Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto
- ☸ Cleaning the entire Temple every week: Justin Woodward
- ☸ For manning the Temple office every Thursday: Tak Tomiyama
- ☸ Maintaining and updating the temple website and computer: Shawn Lyte, Ann Yi
- ☸ For emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Adam Kellman, April Kellman, Shawn Lyte, Rev. Patti Nakai

International Buddhism Festival

On Saturday, June 2, the Buddhist Council of the Midwest will hold its annual gathering of various Chicago-area Buddhist groups to celebrate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and pari-nirvana (called "Visakha" in the southern Asian tradition). This year the event is co-hosted by BTC and our nearby neighbor, Thai Temple Wat Phrasri-ratana-maha-dhatu (Wat Phrasri) at 4740 North Racine, just south of the Riviera Theatre.

Morning service and lectures will be held at Wat Phrasri. Some afternoon workshops – including meditation, Rev. Ashikaga's calligraphy class, and Michio Iwao's woodcarving demonstrations – will be at BTC. In the evening at the Thai temple there will be cultural performances and food will be available for sale.

Please come to meet with fellow Buddhists and learn about the wide variety of practices and customs among the different traditions represented in the Chicago-area. The event is free and open to the public. Detailed information will be posted on the BTC website and Facebook page as soon as it is available.

Natsu Matsuri 2012

Summertime, and the livin' is easy, unless you are working on Team Teriyaki. On Sunday, June 24, the 66th Natsu Matsuri will take place at BTC. Once again, we will have an all-star lineup of food and fun.

The food will be spectacular, with our world-famous teriyaki chicken, inari, chirashi, udon, ohagi, and other fan favorites available. Don't miss out! Be sure to send in your food pre-order, which is enclosed in this issue of the bulletin.

Both Taiko groups will perform, and there will be displays of Japanese dolls and flowers. For the young and young at heart, we will have origami and woodcarving classes open to everyone at no charge. Silent auctions of special items, many great gift items, T-shirts and your name in Japanese on a bookmark add to the fun. Rev. Patti Nakai will once again offer her informative "Taste of Chicago Buddhism" talks throughout the day.

As usual, we will have a raffle for cash and a separate raffle for a quilt, lovely and painstakingly designed and sewn by the BTC Craft Group. This year's cash prizes are Grand Prize - \$1,000, 1st Prize - \$500, 2nd Prize - \$250, and 3rd Prize - \$100. Watch your mail for entry forms. You have to be in it to win it!

How does all this happen? By magic? No, it happens through the hard work of many volunteers. If you would like to help, contact me at budtempchi@aol.com or speak to me at Sunday service. Be sure to join us for all the fun at Natsu Matsuri 2012.

Gassho, Bill Bohlman
1st Vice President, Religious Affairs
Natsu Matsuri Chair

EBL Conference Bus

Last month we announced details on the 2012 Eastern Buddhist League Conference. As BTC will be hosting the event in 2013, we strongly encourage temple members and friends to attend the event to learn as much as possible so that we can host a successful event next year.

Our sister temple, the Midwest Buddhist Temple, is chartering a bus to the conference. The cost per person is \$100. We will depart MBT (435 W. Menomonee) on Friday, August 31 at 8:00 a.m. Please arrive by 7:30 a.m. Cars may be parked in the MBT lot. The bus will also be used to travel to Mystic Lake Casino on Saturday evening. After the closing luncheon on Sunday, the bus will be used for sightseeing. That night, people will have a choice of returning to the casino on this bus or being dropped off at Mall of America. On Monday morning, the bus will leave the Hilton Hotel at 8:00 a.m for the drive back to Chicago, with sightseeing on the way. The bus should arrive back at MBT at around 4:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat on the bus, send your name, address, phone number (this information is required by the bus company), and a check for \$100 made out to Midwest Buddhist Temple to:

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago
ATTN: EBL BUS
1151 W Leland Ave
Chicago IL 60640-5043

Detailed information on registering for the conference itself and securing a hotel room are available at www.tcbuddhist.org or see the forms provided on the glass bookcase at BTC. The registration deadline is August 1. See you there!

2012 Natsu Matsuri Quilt

The BTC Craft Group is happy to again have a colorful, beautiful quilt to raffle at the 2012 Natsu Matsuri festivities. It is completely hand quilted with Japanese patterned fabrics. You can win this treasure by supporting the temple and craft group by purchasing raffle tickets which will be mailed in a separate mailing. Please watch for it. A single ticket is \$5.00 and three tickets are \$12.00. Thank you for your support!



The Middle Way's Shedd Trip

The Middle Way group decided to visit Shedd Aquarium, which was hosting a special Earth Day Picnic for the Planet. It was a tough trip to organize because we were all carless and the wind was strong, but it was worth it.

What a beautiful place the Aquarium has become! It was great to tour the Amazon and watch the river at low levels and then when it flooded. There were all kinds of critters: fish, snakes, even monkeys. One fish came close to kiss Paula, who made kissy faces right back at it. We viewed the Caribbean Reef while a diver fed the fishes, surrounded by eager mouths. We looked for the oldest aquarium fish in the world – the Australian Lungfish – which has gills *and* lungs. It has lived the longest of any fish in any aquarium in the world.

Picnic for the Planet was outside in the cold, but we managed to eat some spinach, fruit, and salmon while the lecturer told us about sustainable seafood. The organizers also gave us some herb seeds to plant. The picnic was an attempt to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest outdoor picnic in a 24-hour period.

There were fees that you could pay for different areas of the event, but we didn't have enough time to see all of them anyway, and we found the general admission was fine. (Seniors paid \$5.) It was well worth putting my "to-do" list aside for a fun afternoon.

Please join the The Middle Way group to plan future field trips. We meet at the temple on the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Janet Lipner
President, The Middle Way

Reflection On a Sunrise at the Lake On Earth Day

By Lisa Oda

Oh! Sunrise!
Such clouded beauty!
Such wind and waves!
Such Sound!

Treasures of Uptown Panel Discussion

On June 10, at 2 p.m., a panel discussion entitled "Faith & Social Service," hosted by the Treasures of Uptown: An Interfaith Action Coalition, will be conducted at BTC. The public is welcome to attend. The photo shows Rev. Patti of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago and Rev. Jean Darling of The Peoples Church of Chicago with two quilted banners made with fabric art squares created at a previous



meeting of the coalition on January 22. The temple hopes to display the banners at the June 10 panel. For more details on the panel, visit: <http://www.treasuresofuptown.org/> or <http://goo.gl/QmWkd> (Facebook page).

Photo by Seth Fisher

Help Wanted Meeting, Part 2

Last month I stated the notion of satisfying the needs of the temple by proactively soliciting help from our greater Sangha. This was based on years of observing willing and able Sangha members out there. We have a talent pool rich with desire to help the temple in a way that is meaningful to each volunteer. This resource is a nice blend of talent and desire waiting to be harnessed into motion, resulting in a stronger, more representative and sustainable temple.

With such an assembly of inquisitive minds, having various temple projects presented to them will make for a lively exchange of perspectives and ideas. This information exchange might never resemble the activity on the trading floor of the stock exchange, but it will, nevertheless, be just as sincere, and I might add, just as blunt. Because in order to effectively sort out solutions offered to the presented needs, a matter-of-fact approach would serve the cause best.

For this initial meeting, a general call for volunteer help will be made to examine strategies for fundraising, enhance temple experience through cultural/community events, and creatively manage our operating budget. If you are the least bit curious as to how any of these goals might sway you to get involved, then by all means please attend. At this first meeting it is hoped that specific interests get paired with specific needs, resulting in people feeling empowered. Follow-up meetings will be more detail-oriented planning/workshops as specific tasks are identified.

(Continued on the next page, right column)

Dharma School Flower-Planting May 13, 2012



Photos by Dave Leshuk
and William Shehan

*They help the temple, and so can you!
Read the Help Wanted article for details.*

A Question Answered

One day after a Ho-on-ko memorial service and meal, the temple floors were dirty. I and Yauso-san, a tenured professor in Physics, grabbed mops and cleaned the floor without hesitation. Our mops worked in unison, and the job was quickly done. My daughter watched in wonder.

“Why?” I asked upon seeing her expression.

“Why are you mopping?” she asked.

I told her that the floor was not going to mop itself and that I was happy to clean up, just like the people who cooked were happy to provide the food for us.

I hope that she remembers this lesson.

*Mopping Temple floor
small price to pay for dinner
a teaching moment*

Gassho,
William Shehan

... Help Wanted Meeting, Part 2

(Continued from previous page)

So far, I envision the meeting will start out with a brief background and then get right into specifics. The specifics will describe the functional aspects of what is needed, and questions will be entertained all along the proceedings. So when is the best date and time for the meeting?

For starters, judging from our temple calendar, the dates available in the month of July are Sunday the 8th, Tuesday the 10th, Sunday the 15th, Tuesday the 17th, Wednesday the 18th, and Thursday the 19th. For the Sundays, the meeting will commence after service at 1:00 p.m. followed by food served at 3:00 p.m. For the weekdays above, food will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will commence immediately after the meal. The foregoing dates and times take into account what has been expressed in the past: no one wants to return to the temple on a Sunday evening, and precious weekend hours are reserved for family/personal “quality” time.

Please respond with the date choices above that you prefer by June 10. “The needs of the many will outweigh the needs of the few” in arriving at the actual date to have the meeting. The chosen meeting date will be published in the next month’s bulletin, along with a proposed meeting outline/agenda.

Come learn what needs to get done and discover a fit for your skills and interests. At meeting’s end, I believe there will be attendees who will be highly motivated into action. Please respond with your meeting date preferences at 847-676-9309 or at budtempchi@hotmail.com.

Gassho,
Gary T. Nakai
President

BTC Nokotsudo

The BTC Nokotsudo continues to accept cremains storage. It is configured to accept urns in various sizes and varied presentations for storage periods that fit each family's need. The Nokotsudo will be open for regular inspection each Sunday immediately after service and by appointment made with Rev. Ashikaga, Gary Nakai, or Kiyō Omachi.

To inter cremains in the Nokotsudo, fill out the application form attached to the Nokotsudo Policy. These documents are available from the temple office or they can be mailed to you by contacting any of the above persons.

Whether you have a definite length of time in mind for interment in the Nokotsudo, or whether the period of time is indeterminate while ultimate plans are being worked out, rest assured that the beautiful design of the BTC Nokotsudo presents each applicant with flexible, dignified storage accommodation. As a further service, the BTC Nokotsudo policy permits the holding of burial certificates when accompanying the admitted cremains.

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Online

If you use the temple website often, you may have noticed a new look to the site starting in May. We have redesigned the site to make it easier to navigate and update. As always, the site contains information on temple events and general information on Buddhism. There is also an archive of the bulletins, fully downloadable and in vibrant color, starting with the October 2011 issue. Visit our website at www.budtempchi.org and click on "Bulletins" to see the past issues as you've never seen them before. Please visit the site and feel free to send us suggestions at btcbuledtr@hotmail.com or on our Facebook page.

If you have an account on Facebook, you may have already found our Facebook page. If not, visit <http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi> to stay current on temple news and to view photos of recent events. Click the "Like" button to see the temple's updates on your news feed.

The word "blog" is an abbreviation of "web log," that is, a journal kept on the Internet instead of in a bound volume. Read Rev. Patti Nakai's blog "Taste of Chicago Buddhism," started in October of 2011. In it, she discusses some of her activities, people at the temple, and other issues related to the temple and to Buddhism. You can find her blog at <http://www.tasteofchicagobuddhism.blogspot.com>.



BTC Nokotsudo
Dedicated October 4, 2009



Designed by
SCOTT NOBUYAMA ASSOCIATES,
Chicago



Photographs by Scott Nobuyama

... The Virtue of Not Fitting In

(Continued from page 1)

fashions. But he began to see the incongruity of high-consumption living with the teachings and the life of the Buddha. When he took on the regimen of “minimum possible,” he was seen as a nutcase by the priestly community who saw nothing wrong with living it up with the rich and powerful. Even now some Jodo Shinshu writers still label Kiyozawa as mentally unbalanced because he refused to live a “normal” life of pleasures and comfort. For Kiyozawa it was necessary to experience the ascetic life in order to challenge the attachment to his own desires and abilities.

He not only couldn't “go along” with the extravagant way that priests lived, he couldn't passively assent to the policies of Higashi Honganji. Kiyozawa persuaded his educated fellow priests to join him in a reform movement protesting Higashi Honganji's use of funds. For their involvement in the public protests, Kiyozawa and his colleagues were excommunicated.

Unemployed and suffering from bouts of tuberculosis (a result of physical weakening from his ascetic regimen), Kiyozawa felt banished from society. This time of his life, when he saw himself as useless as a folding fan in winter (*ro-sen* “December fan”), became his most productively creative. Free from having Higashi Honganji as his boss, he could explore Buddhism to its fundamentals, digging deeper than the officially accepted interpretations – hearing Shinran's voice speaking directly to him instead of through the filters of Rennyō and generations of defenders of the Honganji organization.

When Higashi Honganji realized it had to hire back Kiyozawa and all his learned colleagues in order to have a faculty for the new Shinshu University (later called Otani), Kiyozawa was in a position to negotiate. He had the school established in Tokyo to lessen the influence of the Kyoto headquarters. A group of young students were drawn to Kiyozawa and lived with him at the Kokodo dormitory where Kiyozawa gave weekly public lectures and published a widely-read journal. The boy who was considered a dummy by the priests' sons was now urging a new generation of priests' sons (Haya Akegarasu, Ryojin Soga, Daiei Kaneko, et al) to question what they'd been taught by their fathers and to test the Buddha's teachings in their own lives.

In 1902 Kiyozawa resigned as the president of the university when students went on strike, demanding a more secular focus for the school, such as granting teaching certificates so priests' sons could get jobs at non-religious schools before having to take over their fathers' temples. It wasn't that Kiyozawa was opposed

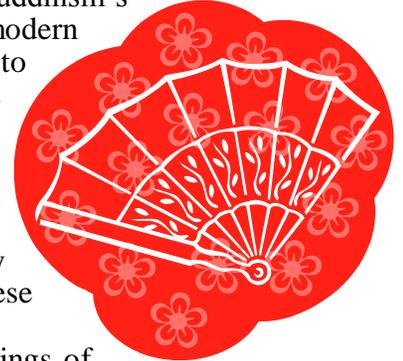
to religious organizations, but he hated to see them getting involved with activities that drew their resources away from their spiritual mission. It often takes an outsider to restore a movement to its original purpose because the insiders have become too entrenched in long-standing peripheral activities.

For me it was important to encounter the Jodo Shinshu teachings through the presentations of Kiyozawa, Akegarasu and Shuichi Maida. At our temple I could learn about Shinran through those who could speak of Buddhism's relevance to their own modern lives. Before coming to our temple I had read the materials from the Buddhist Churches of America which made little sense to me as they were mostly translations of Japanese feudal-age viewpoints.

In the life and writings of Kiyozawa, we see that it is not necessary to feel like we “fit in” a religious organization in terms of our appearance and behavior. The important thing is for all the members to recognize each other as spiritual seekers. Although in his essay “The Real Friend,” Kiyozawa is addressing the friendship between two individuals, his words could also apply to us as members of this temple – a collection of Dharma-friends. He reminds us that the essential thing we have in common is seeing the basis of our spirituality in the unbounded Life (*tariki* “Power Beyond Self”) that is deeper than our shallow ego-concerns.

Two friends in religion share the same trust in the Infinite [unbounded Light and Life=Amida]. As both friends trust in what is unique and immutable [indivisible, *i.e.*, Oneness], so too is their friendship unique and immutable. No division will appear between them. They are content because they trust in the Infinite. They have no need to hurt or control each other. On the other hand, because a friendship based on relative and finite grounds is mutable [divisible, *i.e.*, dualistic, ego-based] and inconsistent, it often results in conflict, jealousy, anger, and hate. Although there is no harm in friendships based on social grounds, such friendships are quite unreliable. The parties involved could become enemies at any moment. Hence, a real friend – an eternal, unchanging friend – must be one who trusts in the infinite Power Beyond Self.

P. 48 of *December Fan: The Buddhist Essays of Manshi Kiyozawa*, translated by Nobuo Haneda (Kyoto: Higashi Honganji, 1984).





The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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