



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

# BULLETIN



Volume 69, Number 3  December 2012 (2556 B.E.)

## December Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661

Also visit [www.budtempchi.org](http://www.budtempchi.org)

### Regular Sunday Services

Dharma Sunday School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
(Dec. 9), 11am

Religious Service (in English) – Sundays,  
11am

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial  
Service – Sunday, Dec 2, 2012 11am  
(English)

### Special Services & Events

Bodhi Day – Commemoration of  
Buddha's Enlightenment - Sunday, Dec. 9,  
11am

Mochi Tsuki – Sunday, Dec. 23

Year-End Service – Sunday, Dec. 30

### Education & Meditation

Intro to Buddhism – Call 773-334-4661  
or visit [budtempchi.org](http://budtempchi.org) for schedule

Buddhism Study Class – Open to all,  
Wednesdays, 7pm

Meditation Sessions – Thurs evenings  
7:30pm, Sun mornings 9am

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

### Meetings & Socials

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

BTC Board – Sun, Dec. 16, 12:30pm

### Culture

Calligraphy – Brush writing, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Tuesdays, 7pm

Chinese Movement – Qigong, Tuesdays,  
11am to noon, call Dennis Chan 773-465-  
6422 for information & to register

Crafts – 1<sup>st</sup>&3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10am to noon

Japanese Fencing – Intro to Kendo, Dojo  
sessions, Tuesdays, 8 to 10pm at Bethany  
United Church, call Bob Kumaki, 847-  
853-1187 for information

Japanese Language (children or adults) –  
Saturdays, 10am, call temple to register

Japanese Swordsmanship – Iaido,  
Mondays 7 to 9pm

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

## Renunciation: The End of the World (As We Know It)

By Rev. Patti Nakai

In December we observe Bodhi Day, the commemoration of the historical Buddha's awakening according to the Eastern tradition of Buddhism. As part of the story leading up to his awakening, there are two turning points, both of which are characterized as renunciations.

The first renunciation is when the 29-year-old prince left the palace, leaving behind his family, his material possessions, and political power. This renunciation puts an end to the world almost all of us know or have known – the world where people are constantly in conflict to gain, retain, and take material goods from others. With his confrontation with old age, sickness, and death, Shakyamuni as a young prince saw the futility of warfare for the sake of hanging on to the comforts and pleasures of the world.

After he left the palace, he sought the non-material rewards that come from striving for connection to the spiritual realm. For six years the world he knew was one of deliberately living in physical discomfort, denying oneself all sensual pleasure, and living on as little nourishment and sleep as possible. He went from one guru to another and engaged in the practices that each one promoted as sure-fire techniques for gaining the ultimate state of spirituality. However, Shakyamuni didn't feel he had attained the "ultimate" anything. After he encountered the depressing sights of the aged person, the sick person, and a corpse, he had seen the state of pure joy and freedom on the face of the beggar outside the palace. He felt he was nowhere near that state no matter how far he progressed in the regimen prescribed by each guru.

Shakyamuni found that the world of spirituality was just as competitive as the materialistic world. Although there was little physical violence between the guru-groups, there was much ill will, as each group claimed to be the "only way" and derided the others as wrong-headed. In the same way the palace provided material comfort and pleasure, within each guru-group one could find the smug satisfaction of being with the spiritually "right" crowd.

*(Continued on page 6, bottom right)*

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

**Mrs. Akiko Sugano**

**Mrs. Haruko Tanaka**

**Please see Temple News for details**

## Temple News October 2012

- ❁ 10/05 BTC Iaido began Special Seminar at the Temple Dojo. Special guests were Mr. Hirokazu Matsuura and Mr. Shinhachi Toyama from Iaido Federation of Japan.
- ❁ 10/06 Rev. Patti Nakai participated in "Harvest Fest," an interfaith arts celebration at Peoples Church.
- ❁ 10/07 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message both in English and Japanese. Service chairman was Gary T. Nakai. \* \* \* Examination of advancement for Iaido students was held at the Temple dojo.
- ❁ 10/08 Makoto Sugano and Michael Wataru Sugano visited the Temple to make funeral arrangements for their mother, Akiko Sugano, who passed away on October 4, 2012. \* \* \* Advancement Ceremony for Iaido students was held in the Temple Hondo.
- ❁ 10/09 Rev. Patti Nakai spoke to students from Glenbrook High School on field trip to the Temple.
- ❁ 10/11 The wedding rehearsal for Katie Reid and Philip Erickson was held at Promontory Point on the South Side of Chicago.
- ❁ 10/13 The Wedding Ceremony for Katie Reid and Philip Erickson was conducted by Rev. Ashikaga at Promontory Point.
- ❁ 10/14 The 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of BTC was observed at the Temple . The service Chairman was Neil Kanemoto. Rev. Patti Nakai gave a talk to Dharma School students, and Gary Nakai, Temple president, delivered congratulatory message. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message in English and Japanese. The representatives of various Temple organizations offered incense. After the service, a special anniversary luncheon was enjoyed by all.
- ❁ 10/14 Rev. Nakai conducted non-denominational memorial service for Mr. Quentin Chihiro Ikezoe at Lake View Funeral Home.
- ❁ 10/18-19 Rev. Nakai at Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin for training and rehearsal for the November Goenki Service.
- ❁ 10/19 November issue Temple Bulletin was mailed.
- ❁ 10/20 Asoka Society met.
- ❁ 10/20 Rev. Patti Nakai conducted the ashes burial service for Midwest Buddhist Temple member, Mr. Jimmie S. Watanuki (as a substitute for Rev. Ron Miyamura who was unavailable) at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights.
- ❁ 10/21 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Guest speaker was Rev. Steve Stanley of ONE. Bill Bohlman was service chairman.
- ❁ 10/25 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga left for Los Angeles, California to attend Haruko Tanaka's Memorial Service.
- ❁ 10/26 Rev. Ashikaga participated in the Memorial Service of the late Haruko Tanaka at the Orange County Buddhist Church. The Late Haruko Tanaka, 93 , passed away on September 29, 2012. She is survived by sons Wallen, Keith, Randy, Lance, and daughter Marjean.
- ❁ 10/27 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga return from Los Angeles.
- ❁ 10/28 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Elaine Siegel gave a talk to Dharma School students and Rev. Patti Nakai delivered the Dharma message. \* \* \* Temple Board of Directors met.
- ❁ 10/30 Rev. Masanori Takeuchi visited the Temple for memorial service program arrangements for the late Akiko Sugano.
- ❁ 10/31 Danny Liu and Kazumi Kawamoto visited the Temple to make arrangements for the late Yoko Kenmotsu's ashes burial.

**THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!  
THANK YOU!**

**Understanding the  
Nembutsu through  
recognizing  
the Paramitas  
in others.**

**Send in your recognitions!**

- ❁ Sunday Service  
Participants: Anna Idol, Neil Kanemoto, Peter Mizuki, Jerry Morishige, Alice Murata, Gary Nakai, Leroy Wiley, Mia Blixt-Shehan, and Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist.
- ❁ Sunday Service  
Refreshments: Rodel de Ocampo, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Mitch Iwao, Matsue Momohara, Jane Morishige, and Anna Nagata.
- ❁ Temple Bulletin Mailing:  
Rev. Ashikaga, Antoinette d'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Chuck Izui, Joe Korner, Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti and Gary Nakai, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, and Tak Tomiyama.
- ❁ Taking care of the Temple inside and out:  
Tomio Tadamoto.
- ❁ Cleaning the entire Temple every week: Justin & Alison Woodward.
- ❁ Manning the Temple office every Thursday: Tak Tomiyama.
- ❁ Maintaining and updating the temple website and computer: Shawn Lyte.
- ❁ Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti Nakai.

## Iaido Seminar Visit

This past October, The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Iaido was honored by the visit of Toyama Sensei and Matsuura Sensei from the Nippon Iaido Renmei, Kagoshima, Japan in Muso Jikiren Eishin Ryu. BTC Iaido participated in intensive practices.



Several of our students tested to gain rank: Michael Kudo, Sr., Shodan; Michael Kudo, Jr., Nidan; Ric Frantz, Nidan; Dominick Butler, Nidan; Peggy Ho, Sandan; Andy Sjordal, Godan; Yasuo Ito, Sandan; Yoshie Fujiwara, Shodan; and George Philosophous, Godan. We will study hard to be prepared for the next visit by the Muso Jikiren Eishin Ryu masters.

BTC Iaido practices every Monday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Temple. For examples of some concepts students can expect to learn in Iaido, please see the selected student essays on *Zanshin* on page 5.



From left to right: Jerry Morishige, Toyama Sensei, Matsuura Sensei, Rev. Ashikaga.

Photos by Jane Morishige

## Rummage Sale Returns in the Spring!

Now is the time to keep BTC's rummage sale in mind as you go about clearing up the clutter in your basement, garage, and attic from now through the spring of next year. The rummage sale sponsored by BTC not only is an opportunity for our Sangha to work together but is a viable fundraiser. Besides, it is a down-home way that our members can donate to the temple to "exchange" treasures of one family to another. And, to a greater degree, this popular event benefits the bargain-hunting members of our community in a very practical way.

What will be needed at the sale are household items in usable condition such as: small appliances, tools of all kinds, clothing of all sorts, small furniture pieces, books, utensils, etc. What we cannot accept are TVs, computers, and similar electronics.

For more information or to volunteer to help in various capacities, contact Lynn Maruyama at [Lmaruyama114@earthlink.net](mailto:Lmaruyama114@earthlink.net). The exact dates of the sale will be announced at a later date.

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Rev. Patti Nakai

#### President

Gary T. Nakai

### BTC BULLETIN

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#### Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, & suggestions welcome. Submissions of articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc., strongly encouraged. Submissions 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.

#### Contact

E-mail [BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com](mailto:BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com) or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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## Something Old, Something New

An old, year-end tradition is Mochitsuki. Late in the month of December traditionally sees earnest preparations for New Year's celebrations/observances. At BTC it is no different. One of our longest running cultural traditions in the Japanese communities is the event of Mochitsuki – pounding steamed sweet rice into a sticky mass, then separating it into formed cakes that are served on New Year's Day.

This event is like an intense one-day festival that offers something for just about anyone. Do you like fun? Mochitsuki will make you happy while you enjoy the experience. Do you want excitement? Mochitsuki will get your pulse rate up! Wish to try the challenges of a physical workout? Grab a wooden mallet and join in on the pounding. Are you a daredevil used to “living on the edge?” We need you to flip and turn the hot sticky rice in the Usu (mortar) in between the rapid mallet blows! Ooooooh! How about being immersed in friendly chatter while doing your part performing busy piecework at the mochi-forming tables laden with cornstarch that gets all over you? Just the messiness will make you feel like a kid again! Perhaps you'd rather quietly work behind the scenes away from the scrutiny of spectators? The kitchen regimen where the rice is portioned and cooked is for you. Or washing and soaking the rice on the day before. Attention all you young parents, bring your small ones for a memorable experience that will fascinate and bring them back for years to come, not to mention provide you with many photo ops.

So save the date: Sunday, December 23. Setup begins days prior to the main event, but serious work starts at 7:00 a.m. on the day of. For further information, contact Tomio Tademoto or Gary Nakai via the temple office. See you there!

“Out with the old and in with the new” has a particular connotation come this January. Every other year in January, elections of officers for The Buddhist Temple of Chicago are held at the annual General Membership meeting. At this time this opportunity opens for those members in good standing who wish to serve BTC in a stewardship capacity. All temple officer positions are due for renewal: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Religious, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Temple Relations, Treasurer, Auditor, Corporate Secretary, and Dharma School Superintendent.

*(Continued on page 7, right column)*

## Wood Carvings Installation 60th Anniversary Retrospective: The Students, The Teacher

September marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the wood carvings that hang in the temple hondo. The six carvings were crafted by Harry Koizumi. These carvings are the fourth and fifth in the chronological life of the Buddha.

The accompanying texts were taken directly off the metal plates that adorn the carvings. We encourage you to take a closer look at all of Mr. Koizumi's carvings.



Photo above:  
AWAITING  
BUDDHA'S FIRST  
SERMON IN DEER  
PARK NEAR  
KUSINAGARA.  
(FROM PAINTING  
BY KIRITANI,



Photo above, left:

THE TEACHING BUDDHA SYMBOLIZING  
TRUTH, LOVE, PEACE, BOTHERHOOD.  
(FROM ANCIENT GANDHARA STATUE, INDIA)

*The following essays were selected by Rev. Ashikaga as excellent examples of Iaido exam answers. Definitions of Japanese terms were inserted by the editors in [brackets].*

## **Explain Zanshin & Its Application to Your Daily Life**

By Andrew Sjordal

Zanshin is usually translated as “remaining spirit.” It is a spiritual awareness of being always ready to strike or deal with an attack. Zanshin should be natural, and one should strive always to have zanshin, whether in a match, doing a kata [movements of a technique], or in one’s daily life.

In Iaido, zanshin should not only be present from the moment one begins a kata to the point where the kata is finished but from the moment one enters the dojo [practice hall] for keiko [practice]. Zanshin can mean things like not rushing from one movement to the other. For example, you should particularly have zanshin after cutting down/finishing the opponent. It is natural after the cut for people to want to do the next step robotically, but one should be aware and ready to strike just in case, holding a proper and ready kamae [posture], not forgetting about the aite [immediate threat posed by opponent] or any other possible dangers.

As for application of zanshin to daily life, I was humbled and taught another lesson when I received this question from Sensei about zanshin. Ironically, moments before, as I entered the dojo followed by my okasan [mother], I presumed that I had held the door long enough for her. Unfortunately, I was not practicing zanshin by assuming she had made it through the door in a normal period of time, as she had stopped to take off her shoes without my noticing. As the door closed on her I realized that this was very poor zanshin and that I need lots of work in applying zanshin into my daily life.

## **What Is Zanshin?**

By Peggy Ho

My interpretation of zanshin is a type of awareness with your surroundings and your opponents and a relaxed readiness to engage and strike at any time. This awareness should be automatic at all times, but especially when we enter the dojo and put on our sword, when this awareness needs to be heightened.

In an actual battle, zanshin would be the same as combat awareness and readiness. A person would enter a potentially dangerous area, evaluate the landscape and obstacles, determine the locations of potential attackers, and stay alert to any potential threat from multiple angles. In Iaido, there are only imaginary opponents, so zanshin has to come from within, but the concept remains the same. One must be aware of all potential threats at all times, even while performing simple tasks as walking, sitting down, or bowing. The proper metsuke [visual forms] is a part of it. One’s eyes should not focus on a small area but be relaxed so that the peripheral areas can be observed.

In conjunction with awareness, readiness is the other half of zanshin. One must be aware and be able to react to any situation. Awareness without readiness is not proper zanshin; readiness without awareness is not proper zanshin. To be ready at all times, relaxed and proper posture is a must. Tension in the body makes reaction slow and stiff. Proper posture is also critical to a quick reaction. If one is leaning or off-balance, one cannot move or change direction quickly.

While engaging an opponent, zanshin is of utmost importance. One must stay engaged with the opponent, but at the same time remain engaged with the surroundings and other potential threats. Being too focused on only the opponent in front is not proper zanshin. Even when an opponent is down, one must still be aware and ready in case there is any last-gasp attack from the downed opponent, but at the same time one must be aware if there are other hidden enemies wanting to take advantage and attack from behind.

As a part of the readiness, when you draw your sword and cut, one must never do it in a way to put oneself out of position to continue a second attack or perform a block. A large dramatic cut might look good in a movie, but it will put the sword out of position for a quick second strike. Even when one executes a proper strike, it is also important to stay relaxed in the grip so that another strike can be executed quickly.

During chiburi [flinging blood from the blade] and noto [cleaning the blade and sheathing the sword], even though the opponent is supposed to be dead, one cannot relax one’s guard. The sword must be held in a way that it can be redrawn and strike if necessary. One must stay engaged until the end of the kata.

## The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Online

BTC would appreciate your help in improving the content of any of the following online pages. Please make comments online, contact us directly with feedback, and spread the word about the Buddhist Temple of Chicago with your own Internet links, likes, and reviews.

### Website:

<http://www.budtempchi.org>

The BTC website contains updated information on temple events and general information on Buddhism. There is also an archive of downloadable issues of *The BTC Bulletin*, with the October 2011 issues and on in vibrant color. The color issues look more like the original bulletin before they go to print – with sharp text and full-color photos and graphics. Visit our website at and click on “Bulletins” to view past issues.

### Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi>

If you have an account on Facebook, you may have already found our Facebook page. If not, visit the page to stay current on temple news and to view photographs of recent events. Click the “Like” button to see the temple’s updates on your news feed.

### Taste of Chicago Buddhism blog:

<http://www.tasteofchicagobuddhism.blogspot.com>

The word “blog” is an abbreviation of “web log” – a journal kept on the Internet instead of in a bound volume. Read Rev. Patti’s blog “Taste of Chicago Buddhism” started in October of 2011. In it she discusses her activities, summarizes classes, and writes about issues related to Buddhism and the temple.

### Wikipedia:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist\\_Temple\\_of\\_Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_Temple_of_Chicago)

In 2011, Rev. Patti Nakai helped add a new Wikipedia entry on BTC. Wikipedia is an on-line encyclopedia that is continually written and revised by the public. Anyone is free to edit the content, but Wikipedia prefers that all information have a cited source (book, article etc.). To expand the Wikipedia entry for The Buddhist Temple of Chicago, please let Rev. Patti know of any published materials mentioning events in our temple’s history.

echoing in my ears  
the sound of no sound –  
temple bell

*William Shehan*

[www.fiercebuddhist.org](http://www.fiercebuddhist.org)

young wind blows  
through the old tree’s branches –  
bells ring anew



tree bent  
by unforgiving wind  
old man

## ... Renunciation: The End of the World

*(Continued from page 1)*

To renounce this world meant an end to the known and a step into what was unknowable or possibly non-existent. Yet Shakyamuni felt compelled to give up on this world of competing religions because he felt running around doing ascetic practices with all the guru-followers was only wearing him out and not bringing him closer to a sense of true peace.

If Shakyamuni had not renounced these two worlds – the materialistic world and the religious world, he would not have broken through to spiritual awakening. In both worlds it wasn’t the objects of clinging that were holding him captive – it was the clinging itself, the ego grabbing at worldly or religious status to feel established and justified in demanding others’ obedience. The world “as we know it” really is our deluded idea of a place where we have and/or think we deserve more power and importance than others. That is a world we hate to see end, and so we shy away from even thinking about renunciation.

In Jodo Shinshu we are fortunate to be frequently reminded of renunciation, of letting go of our ego-clinging. In “Namu” the world as we knew it comes to an end and in “Amida Butsu” a new world beyond our limited conceptualization appears before us. As we’re learning from Shakyamuni in the Larger Sutra, the essence of his awakening that we celebrate on Bodhi Day is heard in the nembutsu.

## BTC Nokotsudo

The BTC Nokotsudo continues to accept cremains storage. It is configured to hold urns of various sizes and 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 either Rev. Ashikaga, Gary Nakai, or Kiyoko 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.

## ... Something Old, Something New

*(Continued from page 4)*

To help sort out the resultant field of possible candidates, a Nominating Committee has been formed whose job is to present a slate of candidates it recommends for each office. This slate of candidates is presented as a recommendation before the attending membership for consideration at the January meeting. The existence of this slate does not of course preclude any other person(s) from running for any of the offices so long as they are otherwise deemed qualified by the Nominating Committee. Therefore, any interested member wishing to run for office, please submit your name to the Nominating Committee c/o the temple. The committee will be able to explain what the job(s) entail or direct you to someone who can.

But more important though is that you attend the General Membership meeting on January 27, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. to partake in the selection of new leaders for the next two years. Whether your choice is a candidate or not, get involved. Listen to the positive aspirations of the future leaders of our beloved temple. Share their commitment for a most prosperous time in BTC's history!

Gary T. Nakai,  
President  
Chairman, Board of Directors



BTC Nokotsudo  
Dedicated October 4, 2009



Designed by  
SCOTT NOBUYAMA ASSOCIATES,  
Chicago



Photographs by Scott Nobuyama



## The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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

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