



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN



Volume 69, Number 5  February 2013 (2557 B.E.)

February Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661

Also visit www.budtempchi.org

Regular Sunday Services

Dharma Sunday School –Sundays (Feb 10 & 24), 11am

Religious Service (English) – Sundays, 11am

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service – Sunday, Feb 3, 11am (English), 1pm (Japanese)

Special Services & Events

Nirvana Day – Sunday, Feb 10, 11am

Pet Memorial – Sunday, Feb 17, 11am, Bring photo of your pet.

Brotherhood Sunday Service – Sunday, Feb 24

Education & Meditation

Intro to Buddhism – Call 773-334-4661 or visit 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, 3rd Sundays (call temple to verify), 12:30 to 2pm

Meetings & Socials

Asoka Society – 3rd Saturdays, 1pm

BTC Board – Sun, Feb 24, 12:30pm

Culture

Calligraphy – Brush writing, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

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

Crafts – 1st & 3rd 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, 7pm to 9pm

Buddha as the Teacher to Go Through, Not To

By Rev. Patti Nakai

In February we observe Nirvana Day, the commemoration of the historical Buddha's physical death. In his words to his disciples, Shakyamuni pointed out that they must rely on the teachings and not any particular human being. With himself as the example, he showed them that all individual lives are subject to change, including the loss of physical life. So how can we look to any one person for constant support when that life can and will change?

Yet so easily we become dependent – for emotional, financial and other means of support – on another person, in the delusion that they will be there for us forever. What is even more delusional is when someone believes his or her existence is absolutely necessary for the support of one or many other people. In the religious realm this becomes troublesome when the faith of the followers is placed entirely on a leader. When the leader passes away, what becomes of that religious group? Or in another case of impermanence, what happens when that leader becomes or is revealed to be a much different personality than the one his followers believed in?

Recently on Facebook, one of our young temple members posted a link to a YouTube video of her performing a song from the 1969 rock album “Tommy” by The Who. What struck me was that someone her age was actually interested in such ancient music from my teenage years. Besides a feeling of nostalgia, the music brought back the questioning that echoed throughout my spiritual searching. Those questions were along the lines of: “What is the true path to spiritual liberation? Just because a certain way worked for one guy or one group, can it really work for everyone? Do I have to follow exactly what they did?”

As some of you baby boomers will recall, the album “Tommy” by the British group The Who was called a rock opera because the songs told the story of a boy who suffers an emotional trauma and becomes deaf, blind, and mute. As an adult, he works his way to fame as the Pinball Wizard and is revered not just for his skill in the sport but for the aura of spiritual power he seems to possess. He becomes the leader of a new religion where people are promised the

(Continued on page 7, right column)

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Toshiko Saito

Please see Temple News for details

More Important Dates

- ❁ February 17: The Day of Remembrance event at the Chicago History Museum , see Buddha 'Bout Town, p. 8.
- ❁ May 8-10: Dobo Conference in Kyoto, see p. 6.

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

Temple News December 2013

- ❁ 12/01 The first year memorial service of the late Tom Ito was conducted by Rev. Ashikaga at the Temple. * * * The 49th day memorial service of the late Akiko Sugano was conducted by Rev. Ashikaga at the Temple.
- ❁ 12/02 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma message. Gary Nakai was the service chairman. * * * The Funeral/Memorial for Toshiko Saito, wife of BTC minister Rev. Gyoko Saito, was conducted by Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga at the Temple. The late Mrs. Saito, 82, passed away on October 31, 2012. She is survived by son Shin (Renee) Saito, and daughters Dawn (Jonathan) Rosenberg and Maya (Ron) Chin.
- ❁ 12/09 Bodhi Day Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga gave the Dhama School talk and Rev. Nakai delivered the Dharma message. Bill Bohlman was the service chairman.
- ❁ 12/11 Rev. Nakai attended Organization of the Northeast (ONE) meeting at the C4 Counseling Center.
- ❁ 12/12 Rev. Nakai conducted makura-gyo ("pillow service") at Smith Corcoran Funeral Home for the late Dorothy Kuse who passed away early that morning. Met with the family to plan the public memorial service.
- ❁ 12/15 Japanese School fall quarter ended. * * * Asoka Society met. Election of new officers was held, followed by installation ceremony conducted by Rev. Ashikaga.
- ❁ 12/16 Regular Sunday Service was observed. The lay speaker was Janet Lipner. Bill Bohlman was service chairman. * * * Temple board of directors met. * * * Rev. Nakai conducted the private cremation service for the late Dorothy Kuse at Smith Corcoran Funeral Home.
- ❁ 12/21 January issue of the Temple Bulletin and the new Temple calendar were mailed.
- ❁ 12/23 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message, Bill Bohlman was chairman. * * * Annual Mochitsuki was held. All who attended the traditional event enjoyed participating and partaking of the O-mochi (rice cakes).
- ❁ 12/29 BTC Iaido Dojo had the Bonenkai (year-end party) at the Temple.
- ❁ 12/30 The Year-end Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma message. Gary Nakai was chairman. * * * Rev. Nakai conducted ceremony to renew marriage vows for William Shehan and his wife Renee Blixt at BTC.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

- ❁ Sunday Service Participants: Bill Bohlman, Mieke Fujiura, Anna Idol, Gary Nakai, Janet Lipner, Kiyoko Omachi, Karen Baier, William Shehan, Michael Sugano, Leroy Wiley, & Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist.
- ❁ Sunday Service Refreshments: Rodel de Ocampo, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Janet Lipner, Amy Kawamoto, William Shehan, Harky Tademoto, Yone Tsurusaki and family, Lauren Woodel.
- ❁ Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Rev. Patti Nakai, Susan Balsam, Antoinette d'Vencets, Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Wendy Fawcett, Haru Ito, Chuck Izui, Joe Korner, Michele Mulcahy, Masa Nakata, & Tak Tomiyama.
- ❁ Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto.
- ❁ 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.



Rev. Ashikaga installs the new 2013 Asoka officers. From left to right: Rev. Ashikaga; Jerry Morishige, President; Jane Morishige standing in for Noreen Enkoji, Vice President; Kiyoko Omachi, Treasurer; Peggy Waters, Corresponding Secretary; and Dennis Chan, Recording Secretary.

Brotherhood Sunday, February 24: Guest Speaker, K. Rizwan Kadir “American Muslims – The New Kids on the Block”

Since the days when Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Peoples Church’s Rev. Preston Bradley did a “pulpit exchange,” our temple has observed the last Sunday in February as “Brotherhood Sunday,” a time to hear from clergy and leaders from various faiths. This year our speaker is Mr. K. Rizwan Kadir, Director of the Islamic Schools League of America, and a recent former Chairman of the MCC Full Time School in Morton Grove.

The Muslim Community Center (MCC) serves as a religious and educational center in the northern suburbs of Chicago. Last year in the evening of August 10, a residential neighbor fired a high-powered pellet rifle at the center when more than five hundred people were participating in Ramadan prayers. One pellet narrowly missed the security guard and the building sustained some exterior damage. Mr. Kadir, whose family attends MCC, will talk about the reaction to the incident and how the younger generations of Muslims in America, the “new kids on the block” are learning to develop self-confidence and tolerance for living and working in a society where much hostility is directed at them.

Some of our temple members have already heard Mr. Kadir speak at two gatherings of the Treasures of Uptown interfaith coalition. At the



most recent one hosted by our temple in November, he said the Muslim community is grateful for the many Japanese-Americans who spoke up for their civil rights after 9/11 when there was talk of rounding up masses of Muslims in the U.S. and detaining them in concentration camps.

Mr. Kadir has a business career working in the field of financial risk management but since 9/11 he has put much of his time and energy into promoting to the general public a better understanding of their Muslim American neighbors, speaking at many interfaith forums throughout the Chicago area and nationally. We look forward to hearing him at our temple so that we can learn more about the many people - our neighbors, friends and co-workers - who follow the major world religion of Islam.

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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 or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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Dharma School 2013

By Dave Leshuk

We've had a long break since our last Children's Dharma School class in early December. Thanks to all our parent-teachers and others who made the first half of the school year great! Launching into 2013, we have a great line-up planned. We'll continue our focus on "The Six Paramitas in Action" and some related (or unrelated) fun. The tentative schedule is below.

For those of you with children who are interested in Dharma School, there is no requirement to participate, though we strongly encourage at least one parent to accompany their child/children. Children attend Sunday services with parents starting at 11 am on designated Dharma School days. At 11:30 or so, the students and parents leave service to go to class in the first floor of the ministers' residence. We try to finish class by shortly after the end of service (usually around 12:10 or 12:15) and then join everyone back in the temple for refreshments.

Parents considering having their children join us are welcome to join any class (with or without their children) just to check it out without committing to being a regular part of the class. At the moment, the Dharma School has about six regular students, ages 3 to 11. Contact Dave Leshuk (847-656-5071) or Diana Schoendorff (773-262-7080) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you all!

Dharma School Sundays

Jan. 27: Our third session on Kshanti (forebearance). Diana Schoendorff has arranged for Richard Brandon to lead a kid-oriented meditation session. (Thanks very much to Diana and Richard.)

Feb. 10: Nirvana Day and the start of our focus on the fourth paramita, Virya (perseverance). Gary Nakai plans to treat us to a demonstration of a mysterious science experiment.

Feb. 24: TBD.

Mar. 10: The Dharma School students will lead service under the direction of Diana Schoendorff.

Mar. 24: TBD.

Apr. 14 & 28, May 12 & 26: Specifics to be determined, but likely activities include participation in Hana Matsuri, flower planting, Hatsu Mairi, and visiting/playing music for the elderly at a nursing home or retirement community.

June 9: The Dharma School students will lead service under the direction of Diana Schoendorff.

*There may also be additional Dharma School events on special Buddhist holidays.



Rev. Patti officiates the renewal of wedding vows for William Shehan and Renee Blixt for their tenth anniversary on January 30. A traditional archery demonstration and lotus wedding cake followed. Photos by the families & friends of the happy couple.



*what a view from here
the beauty is far-reaching
sing a joyful song*

- Michele Mulcahy

Right: Dharma School students decorate the now-traditional annual New Year's Day cookies on January 13.

Photos by Dave Leshuk



Below: Arts & crafts during a Bodhi Day class on December 9, 2012.



Mochitsuki 2012

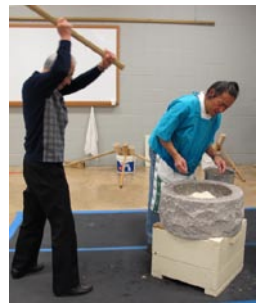
A Helper's Guide to BTC Mochi Tsuki 2012
Read, Observe, Ask Questions and Join the Fun!

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activity around USU with **SAFETY** in
set the children!

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critical! (up to 4 m



Memories & Great Expectations

While being tossed about, traversing the ocean of birth and death, it is indeed gratifying to have moments, although very, very brief, of understanding that this moment is exactly where we should be. In contemplation, we realize that we couldn't have planned it any more better or precisely to suit us even if we had consciously tried. So it is with living in the moment. Yesterday is but a memory, tomorrow is not a promise but merely a wish, and we have only today. But speaking of memories, I am thankful for all those who have enriched my experience at the helm with their humanity and patience. This gives me cause to expect great things of our leadership knowing that this broad-skilled, bountiful resource is alive and well within our dear Sangha. So future, bring it on!

I believe the board of directors has followed an orderly course of doing business. I am most satisfied with how we managed our fiscal responsibilities, were organized and disciplined in our new minister search, supported and enjoined our Dharma School's role in temple services, encouraged our ministers, and realized an increased cooperation with other Higashi and BCA North American temples. Along the path to these achievements, the board's actions displayed preparation, rational assessment, courage, and deliberate action, all with a heightened degree of transparency for the record. The synergistic result of taking care of business with our mission in mind has served the temple's reputation as a Dharma learning center well.

With changes a comin' and with one in particular which you'll hear about in detail later, I must take on a different role in service to our temple. I will be self-imposed or otherwise relegated to coordinate the many unfinished temple-wide projects that have been put on hold for too long now and must be resumed. They deal with the appearance of the temple and operation of the facilities, whose details are too cumbersome to explain here. But if you are handy with tools and wish to help, please see me. I look forward to working with you.

By the time this article is published in the bulletin, I will have left office with the temple leadership vested in good and capable hands. And I will have assumed the role of cheerleader/supporter to the many dedicated volunteers who carry on the work on the front lines that make The Buddhist Temple of Chicago such an attractive beacon to those seeking the truth via the Buddha Dharma. To all, I extend my best wishes for great expectations to come.

Gassho,
Gary T. Nakai
BTC President, 2009 – 2013



*blanket of silence
street lights cast warm glow
midnight snowfall
safe inside snow fort
stockpiles of ammunition
winter wonderland.*

- William Shehan, fiercebuddhist.org

World Dobo Convention in Kyoto

This year, Higashi Honganji will be having their World Dobo Convention in Kyoto, Japan, from Wednesday, May 8 through Friday, May 10. This was the gathering originally planned for 2011 as part of the Go-enki (Shinran's 750th memorial) observance, but it was cancelled after the tragic March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the continuing problem of the damaged nuclear reactors in northeastern Japan.

"Dobo" is a term that can be translated as "fellow traveler on the Path," and it became significant in the post-war era with the Dobo Movement, a grass-roots revitalization of Higashi Honganji inspired by Manshi Kiyozawa, Haya Akegarasu, and other progressive-minded teachers. The gatherings at the district and international levels are called Dobo gatherings to remind us of Shinran's use of the term. Even though people looked up to Shinran as their teacher, he never thought of them as his students but always addressed them as his equals, fellow travelers sharing the Dharma with each other.

The three-day gathering will be held at the Kyoto Rihga Royal Hotel a few blocks west of the main train station (just south of Nishi Honganji). We are still in the process of finding out the costs of the hotel and conference. There is an optional tour package available through the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji.

If you are interested, please let the ministers know. We hope some young people and those from various ethnic backgrounds are able to attend this convention. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Shinran and his teachings from outstanding speakers and from fellow attendees who follow Jodo Shinshu in Japan, California, Hawaii, and South America.

Buddha ‘Bout Town: Buddhist & Japanese Cultural Happenings

❁ The Chicago History Museum is hosting The Day of Remembrance program from 2 to 4 pm on Sunday, February 17. This special event will reveal newly discovered information on the Kooskia Internment Camp – a unique, obscure, and now virtually forgotten World War II detention and road building facility located in a remote area of north central Idaho. Historian Priscilla Wegars, PhD, will tell the fascinating and little known story of the camp and the Issei men who labored there from 1943 to 1945.

Despite having committed no crimes, but suspected of being potential saboteurs, the 265 Japanese alien internees who volunteered to transfer to Kooskia had been confined elsewhere in the US as an immediate result of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor. At Kooskia they received wages for helping construct the Lewis-Clark Highway, now Highway 12. This work, together with knowledge of their rights under the 1929 Geneva Convention, empowered the Kooskia internees to successfully challenge administrative mistreatment, thereby regaining much of the self-respect they had lost by being so unjustly interned. Several of the Kooskia internees have ties to residents of the Chicago area, and Dr. Wegars’ presentation will include images of them as well as of materials recovered during the 2010 archaeological excavations at the Kooskia Internment Camp site.

The Day of Remembrance commemorates the 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II. This event is sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese American Citizens League – Chicago Chapter, the Japanese American Service Committee, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago.

The program is free and open to the public. The Chicago History Museum is located at 1601 N. Clark Street in Chicago. Validated parking is available in the lot one block north of the Museum, on Stockton Drive and LaSalle Street. For further information, call 773.275.0097, ext. 222, or e-mail legacy@jasc-chicago.org.

❁ The Field Museum’s primary collections exhibit Buddhist art and artifacts in its sections devoted to China and Tibet.

❁ The Art Institute features a large collection of Buddhist statuary and art in its Alsdorf Galleries and in its collections of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art. Additional Buddhist art in other galleries can be found using the search tool available at the Art Institute site: <http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/>

❁ Please send information on other Buddhist and/or Japanese cultural events in the Chicago area to:
BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com

. . . Buddha as the Teacher

(Continued from page 1)

attainment of higher consciousness if they live in his commune and artificially close off their sight, hearing, and speech. The followers become restless when this discipline fails to bring them to any spiritual height or pinball wizardry and they rebel with the shout of “We’re not gonna take it!”

The historical Buddha throughout his forty-five years of sharing the Dharma was careful to not insist everyone had to be exactly like him in order to have his same awakening experience. In many sutras such as the Larger Sutra, he makes it a point to bring up past Buddhas (awakened beings), to talk of his contemporaries who succeeded in breaking through their ego-selves and to predict that many in future generations will find their way to enlightenment. He seems to be saying, “It’s not about me and ‘my’ way. I’m sharing a variety of perspectives and techniques that may work for you now or later or may be more appropriate for someone else.”

In his own emphasis on flexibility, the Buddha sowed the seeds for subsequent developments in Buddhism. Even though many early Buddhists felt they had to copy the Buddha’s outward lifestyle as closely as possible, later generations of Buddhist teachers realized it was important to manifest the spirit of the teachings to their students in ways that made sense for their own place and time.

There is much for us to learn from the historical Buddha – the stories about him and the texts based on his discussions with a wide variety of people, but the Buddha himself would expect the legacy of his teachings would grow and develop to include the wisdom passed on by those born years and centuries after him. Nirvana Day reminds us that Buddhism is not just about a particular teacher named Shakyamuni who lived 2,500 years ago, but it is an ever-evolving spiritual transmission that he helped to set in motion. Rather than the guru we want as our eternal teacher, the Buddha shows us in his finitude that the path we take goes *through* him, not to him.



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Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose (1905–2000), Founding Minister

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