



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

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Volume 69, Number 6  March 2013 (2557 B.E.)

## March Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661

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

### Regular Sunday Services

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

Religious Service (English) – Sundays, 11am

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

### Special Services & Events

Rev. Gyoko Saito Memorial, Sunday, March 10, 11am

Spring O-Higan, Sunday, March 17, 11am

Founder's Day (Rev. Gyomay Kubose Memorial), Sunday, March 24, 11am

### 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 (call temple to verify), 12:30 to 2pm

### Meetings & Socials

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

BTC Board – Sun, March 31st, 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, 7pm to 9pm

## Mono no Awaré

By Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

Years ago, I had an opportunity to hear a lecture on Japanese movies by Roger Ebert, movie critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Mr. Ebert was explaining the contrast of motion in American movies with the quietude in Japanese movies by taking an example from Yasujiro Ozu's films. All of a sudden he said "mono no aware" in Japanese. I never expected such a phrase to come out of him. He went on to say that in order to appreciate a Japanese movie you must understand the particular sentiment called "mono no aware" that is the undercurrent of Japanese literature. Meaning literally "a sensitivity to things," "mono no aware" is a concept describing the essence of Japanese culture. The phrase is derived from the word "aware" meaning sensitivity or sadness, and the word "mono" meaning things. The phrase describes beauty as an awareness of the transience of all things and gentle sadness at their passing. According to "mono no aware," a falling or wilting autumn flower is more beautiful than one in full bloom; a fading sound more beautiful than one clearly heard; the moon partially clouded more appealing than full.

The *sakura* (cherry blossom) tree is the epitome of this conception of beauty. The flowers of the most famous variety *somei yoshino* are nearly pure white, tinged with a subtle pale pink; they bloom then fall within a week. The subject of a thousand poems, the cherry blossom tree embodies beauty as a transient experience.

The fleeting nature of beauty described by "mono no aware" derives from the basic teaching of Buddhism called the three Dharma Seals: impermanence, non-self, and Nirvana, and importantly in this context, impermanence. We often hear and wonder that the teaching of nembutsu is very difficult to comprehend. I think the reason is because this particular sentiment called "mono no aware" is missing in our hearts and minds. I thought, "What if we reread the Tannisho with this 'mono no aware' in our minds?"

The Tannisho was compiled several decades after Shinran's death by a disciple named Yuien. In chapter nine we read that Yuien

(Continued on page 7, left column)

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

**Kikuko Fujimura**

**Dorothy Kuse**

**Please see Temple News for details**

## Temple News January 2013

❁ 1/01 Shu-Sho-E (New Year's Day Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga and Rev. 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 Misato Sato, April Kellman, Ruby Tsuji, Dennie Okuhara, Ed Horiuchi, Yoshie Fujihara, Anna Idol Sugano, and Amy Kawamoto.

❁ 1/05 Japanese School Winter Term Began. \* \* \* The Funeral/ Memorial Service for Dorothy Kuse was conducted by Rev. Ashikaga and Rev. Nakai at the Temple. The late Mrs. Kuse, age 86, passed away on December 12, 2012. She is survived by daughters Janice (William) Hamilton and Doreen (Scott) Thompson and daughter-in-law Susan Kuse (wife of the late Roy Kuse).

❁ 1/06 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Nakai delivered the Dharma Message for the morning service. Neil Kanemoto was Service Chairman. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma Message for the afternoon Service in Japanese.

❁ 1/12 Chicago Kendo Dojo's New Year Party was held.

❁ 1/13 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Elaine Siegel gave a talk for the Dharma School. Rev. Ashikaga delivered the Dharma Message. Bill Bohlman was Service Chairman. \* \* \* Rev. Nakai was guest speaker for the Midwest Buddhist Temple's Ho-on-ko Service.

❁ 1/17 Rev. Nakai attended the ONE (Organization of the Northeast) meeting on affordable housing with Michele Mulcahy.

❁ 1/19 Asoka Meeting was held. \* \* \* The Funeral/Memorial Service for the late Kikuko Fujimura was conducted at Temple. The Late Kikuko Fujimura, 95, passed away on January 14, 2013. She had no survivors.

❁ 1/20 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Nakai delivered the Dharma Message. Bill Bohlman was the Service Chairman. \*\*\* The 3rd Year Memorial Service of the Late Mr. Kinji Sugano was conducted at the Temple. \*\*\* Board of Directors met.

❁ 1/25 The February Issue of the Temple Bulletin was mailed.

❁ 1/27 Eitaikyo Special Service was observed. Rev. Ashikaga gave the Welcome Words and Explanation of the BTC Eitaikyo Fund and the Dharma Message. Rev. Nakai gave a talk to the Dharma School. After the Service, BTC Kokyo Taiko Group served a delicious luncheon. \* \* \* The Annual General Membership meeting was held (see additional details on pages 3 and 4).

❁ 1/30 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga and Rev. Nakai were invited by Ben Enta to attend the monthly birthday party at Bethany Retirement Home.

## More Important Dates

- ❁ Now through summer 2013: The spring issue of quarterly Buddhist magazine *Tricycle* featuring BTC's Rev. Patti Nakai is available for sale or online (for a fee) at [www.tricycle.com/living-dharma/get-real](http://www.tricycle.com/living-dharma/get-real)
- ❁ May 8-10: Dobo Conference in Kyoto. Contact Rev. Ashikaga or Rev. Patti for more information.
- ❁ Sept. 28: BTC Rummage Sale. See page 3 for more details.

Also see the *March Calendar of Events*, p. 1

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## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

- ❁ Sunday Service Participants: Karen Baier, Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Wendy Fawcett, Glenn T. Fujiura, Mieko Fujiura, Anna Idol, Tracy Ito, Neil Kanemoto, Robin Kanemoto, Joe Korner, Janet Lipner, Lynn Maruyama, Alice Murata, Gary Nakai, Kiyoko Omachi, William Shehan, Michael Sugano, Leroy Wiley, & Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist.
- ❁ Sunday Service Refreshments: Chris Becker, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Izui family, Wendy Lua, William Shehan, Ruby Tsuji, Kokyo Taiko Group.
- ❁ Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Antoinette d'Vencets, Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Wendy Fawcett, Haru Ito, Chuck Izui, Joe Korner, Michele Mulcahy, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Tak Tomiyama, Tommi Tomiyama, Ruby Tsuji.
- ❁ 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. Nakai.

## President's Message for February

By Glenn T. Fujiura

A hearty thank you to Temple members and guests who braved the icy weather and attended the Buddhist Temple of Chicago's annual general membership meeting on January 27th.

Rather than revisiting all the details of the meeting, let me give you a quick summary of BTC at the close of 2012. Our finances are healthy; income has kept pace with expenses and the net cash assets of the temple have managed modest growth. Total membership increased over 2011 levels, with 436 members and friends of the temple on our membership rolls at the close of the calendar year.

The Temple is the "go to" place in Chicago for those interested in exploring Buddhism. We continue to have weekly visits by students from colleges and universities in the Chicago area (and beyond), as well as those persons simply curious about the Dharma. Over the course of the year, we had the opportunity to welcome and personally introduce 360 visitors during the Sunday services (with many dozens more incognito visitors not introduced). The number of "newbies" returning regularly to our Sunday services, meditation classes, and study groups continues to grow.

Dharma School continues its modest expansion with two new families this year. I especially enjoy hearing children making way too much noise and seeing a toddler occasionally wandering about during services. School activities have been varied and dynamic, with five different parent volunteers leading classes. Services led by the students where the children serve as chairperson, musical accompaniment and Dharma talk speakers have been hugely popular. We will continue the series into next year.

*(Continued on page 6, right column)*

## Fall Rummage Sale

**Date change:** The date of the rummage sale is Saturday, September 28, 2013, rain or shine.

### Items accepted:

- Clean, gently used clothing and accessories
- Small appliances in good working condition

### Items not accepted:

- TV's, mattresses, furniture, humidifiers, electronics
- Items that are stained, torn, or broken

### Vendor tables:

In addition to the general sale, a limited number of tables are available to individual temple members who wish to sell their own items. \$30 donation per table.

### Contact:

Please contact Lynn Maruyama at Lmaruyama114@earthlink.net if you would like to help out or if you wish to reserve an individual vendor table.

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**Resident Minister**  
 Rev. Patti Nakai

**President**  
 Glenn T. Fujiura

## BTC BULLETIN

### Team

Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Ruby Tsuji, Ann Yi (Editor)

### 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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## 2013 General Membership Meeting: Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister Glenn T. Fujiura, President

On January 27, BTC conducted its annual general membership meeting. Highlights included the approval of associate minister Rev. Patti Nakai as the new resident minister and the election of Glenn T. Fujiura as board president. Please see his President's Message on page 3 for many more important details and a look at what is to come.

Next month, in the April issue of the BTC Bulletin, we will feature a Q&A with Rev. Patti Nakai so that the Sangha can learn more about her and what to expect from her in her new role. In the meantime, please read a profile of Rev. Nakai in the spring issue of *Tricycle*, a Buddhist magazine sold at Barnes & Noble, Women & Children First, and other bookstores across the country. It is also available online (for a fee) at: [www.tricycle.com/living-dharma/get-real](http://www.tricycle.com/living-dharma/get-real)

The magazine is issued quarterly, so the spring issue should be available for the next month or so. The profile also features lovely photos of the new resident minister in the temple along with the interview.



Temple president Gary Nakai conducts his final meeting as temple president after four years of service.



Dennis Chan gathers the ballots for the vote to endorse Rev. Patti Nakai as the new resident minister.



Glenn T. Fujiura presents a summary of the year as BTC treasurer and is also elected as the new president.



Glenn T. Fujiura presents a gift to Rev. Ashikaga (above) on behalf of the temple in appreciation of his services as head minister and to Rev. Patti (below) in appreciation of her services as associate minister.



Rev. Patti Nakai ends the meeting with gassho.

Photos by Ann Yi

## Board of Directors: Serving from February 2013 to January 2015

### MINISTERS

Rev. Yukei Ashikaga -  
Head Minister,  
Superintendent  
Japanese Language  
School

Rev. Patti Nakai - Resident  
Minister, Director  
Education Center

### OFFICERS

Glenn T. Fujiura - Temple  
President/Chairman,  
Board of Directors

Bill Bohlman - 1st Vice  
President, Religious  
Affairs

Kiyo Omachi - 2nd Vice  
President, Membership

William Shehan - 3rd Vice  
President, Temple  
Relations

Glenn T. Fujiura -  
Treasurer

Margaret Waters -  
Corporate Secretary,  
Recording Secretary

Elaine Siegel - Auditor

Dave Leshuk - Dharma  
School Superintendent

Tomio Tadamoto -  
Director, Building &  
Grounds

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Tracy Ito

Jerry Morishige

Lynn Maruyama

Debbie Miyashiro

Adam Kellman

Janet Lipner

## Memorial Address

By Rev. Gyoko Saito

**Note:** On March 10, we will be observing *Koshu-ki*, the memorial for Rev. Gyoko Saito, who served as head minister at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 1956-1981. In our 2013 temple calendar there is a quote from this article, which is a monthly memorial service talk given in 1968, published in *Meditations on Death and Birth* (privately published by Joan Sweany, 1983).

Besides eulogizing Gyosei Ono, the minister in Japan who introduced the teachings of Haya Akegarasu to Rev. Saito, he also talks about Taigan Hata, the minister at the Buddhist Church of Oakland who influenced Rev. Gyomay Kubose (whose memorial we are observing on March 24). The third teacher mentioned in the article is Taiko Furukawa, the abbot of Myoshin-ji, a major Zen temple in Japan. The fact that Rev. Furukawa wanted to visit our temple shows how well-respected our temple was by Zen teachers, thanks to the open-mindedness of Rev. Kubose and Rev. Saito towards other Buddhist sects.

– Rev. Patti Nakai

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Oh, old pond!  
A frog jumps in:  
The sound of a splash.

This haiku poem was written by the famous poet Basho. If I express my understanding of this poem at this particular time, I will explain it as follows:

The old pond represents what? For you there is maybe a different interpretation, but to me, right now, here, the old pond represents my deepest consciousness, what is called the world of the unconscious or world of no-consciousness. It is the deepest part of our life. Basho was not only a great poet, but also a Zen master. At one particular moment, he was meditating near an old pond. His meditation was so deep that there was no distinction between the old pond and his life. A frog jumped in. He became the frog and he himself jumped into the deepest part of his life. There was the world of nothing but the sound of the splash.

You may feel I am being rather mystical this morning, but there is a reason why I am so. In October I lost three unforgettable teachers – all passing away within a week of each other. One was my immediate teacher Rev. Ono. Without him, I would not be here. I would not be as I am.

A couple days later, Rev. Kubose's teacher, Rev. Hata, passed away. It was at Rev. Kubose's grandmother's memorial at Rev. Hata's temple, that sitting like you are now, having no expectation, Rev. Kubose was deeply impressed by Rev. Hata and his life changed completely. As a result of meeting him, Rev. Kubose went to the temple of Rev. Hata's teacher, Rev. Haya Akegarasu for five years. Because of this, he became the Rev. Kubose you know today.

The third teacher who passed away was another unforgettable person, Rev. Furukawa, the most distinguished Zen master I ever met, who visited our temple about ten years ago. He was about 88 years old when I met him. He came to Chicago with his disciples, one of whom told me he was with Rev. Furukawa for 57 years. In married life, continually struggling, 50 years means a lot, even more so is being a teacher and student together for over 50 years. While Rev. Furukawa is a great teacher, his disciple I think is great as well because he stayed with him as a student for so long.

Why are they unforgettable people? This old pond, the world of no-consciousness is so deep, containing the unlimited possibility of humanity. Living in this deep world, two people who meet for only a couple of minutes, or even one moment, will never forget each other. In fact, like Rev. Furukawa and his disciple, they may be so deeply impressed that they will remain together for 57 years. Of course, people who do not live in this deep world can be together for years and years and never make a real connection with each other. Just as Basho's poem was a puzzle to me even after I read it thousands of times, I would not have understood at first why a teacher and student would be together so long. But in losing these three unforgettable teachers, I find that relationship of teacher and student and Basho's poem explain each other.

By meeting my teacher, Rev. Gyosei Ono 23 years ago, I met Rev. Haya Akegarasu. It was the same when I met other teachers – meeting once, he becomes I, I become him. Just like the old pond - Oh, I! Rev. Ono jumps in. Sound of life! For Basho, it was the sound of a splash, but he himself was the frog. He himself was the sound of the water. Once we understand this secret then the world is really living. Otherwise our life is nothing but judgments of good and bad, right and wrong, and useless discussions and struggles that not only hurts one's own being, but hurts others.

(Continued on page 7, right column)

## **Buddha 'Bout Town: Buddhist & Japanese Cultural Happenings**

❁ JASC is hosting a free program entitled *Reconstructing Your Roots: Researching Japanese American History at the National Archives* on Tuesday, March 19 at 7 pm at their headquarters on 4427 N. Clark Street, Chicago. RSVP to [legacy@jasc-chicago.org](mailto:legacy@jasc-chicago.org), or call 773.275.0097, ext. 222. The program description:

How do you define yourself? What is it that makes you the person you are? The answer, in part, lies in your family history. Uncovering that history is not an easy task. But one important gateway to the past is available to all of us.

The National Archives, the government agency responsible for America's national record keeping, contains a wealth of information in a vast array of categories. Although you will not find complete biographies of family members there, you may find significant, often moving, guideposts in their life journeys.

Douglas Bicknese, Regional Archives Director for the National Archives at Chicago, will present an overview of the agency, the types of resources that can be found there, and the records that should be of particular interest to Japanese American researchers. Join us and find out what you can learn about your family and yourself through the National Archives.

❁ 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](mailto:BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com)

## **... President's Message for February**

*(Continued from page 3)*

With two exceptions, the board remains stable. We look forward to the addition of William Shehan to the board as our vice president of Temple relations. William has been very active with Chicago-area Buddhist organizations and is positioned to serve us exceptionally well in his new role. Other matters of policy and procedure were addressed during the meeting, but I will defer to other times to communicate these. If interested in the details, please contact Peggy Waters, Board Secretary, for the minutes of the meeting.

Most significantly, the Board of Directors made the recommendation to the membership to support the hiring of Rev. Patti Nakai as the new Resident Minister. The search for a new Resident Minister has been a long and winding journey for the Board of Directors, initiated over ten years ago. I am not surprised that the search traveled a path that led us back home. The membership endorsed the proposal, and so it gives me great pleasure to announce that Reverend Patti Nakai has been confirmed as BTC's Resident Minister effective February 1st, 2013. The ideal candidate for the Temple was before us all along. Acting upon the opportunity was merely a matter of timing and circumstances.

For those of you not able to attend the annual meeting, let me introduce myself. My name is Glenn T. Fujiura, and I have served as the Temple's Treasurer for the past four years. I appreciate the Nominating Committee's support of my candidacy (perhaps more accurately described as "lack of opposition," as I was the only candidate). I am a former Dharma School kid who wandered away from the Temple after childhood and returned some forty years later after the passing of my parents. Some of you may recall my parents, Henry and Gladys Fujiura, members of BTC from the early days. My father especially loved this Temple and was deeply committed to it. I did not quite understand it then, but do now. I think he would be pleased.

I see a number of daunting challenges before us, not unlike those faced by other temples, churches, and volunteer organizations. These are things we need to be cognizant of but not paralyzed by. On Sundays at the Temple I see curious visitors exploring religion, seekers eager to learn, kids running about, genuine devotion, lots of wonderful people, and Dharma teachings that bring me back each Sunday ... even when the roads are icy. BTC's future is unknown to us, of course, but its present has so many important strengths. These are our building blocks.

Finally, no introduction can be complete without expressing deep gratitude to Gary Nakai, who has selflessly served as the BTC President and Board Chairman for the past four years. He has pushed, prodded, cajoled, and inspired all of us into improving and strengthening the Temple, including this new president. We will miss his steady hand and good counsel in the board.

**... Mono no Awaré***(Continued from page 1)*

asked the teacher the following question: “Although I say the nembutsu, I rarely experience joyful happiness nor do I have the desire to immediately go to the Pure Land. What should be done about this?” Shinran then responded, “I, Shinran, have been having the same question also, and now you, Yuien, have the same thought. Impossible it seems to leave this old house of agitation where we have wandered aimlessly since the beginning of time, nor can we long for the Pure Land of peace which we have yet to know. This is due to blind passion so truly powerful and overwhelming. But no matter how reluctant we may be, when our life in this world comes to an end, beyond our control, then for the first time we go to the land of Fulfillment.” [Taitetsu Unno translation]

The expressions “how reluctant we may be” and “beyond our control” sound very weak and pessimistic. However my teacher Daiei Kaneko explained this passage in his book *Tannisho kowa* [“Lectures on the Tannisho”] referring to the sadness of transience. When we think of our own death, the day is not far away. Today may be the day of departure from the world. If it is so, then we feel sad to part from things surrounding us. We are sad to part from our spouse and children. Even to part with the trees and flowers in our yard makes us feel sad. This feeling of sadness is the sentiment called “mono no aware.” Those who have this sentiment of “mono no aware” are the special concern of the true compassion of Namu Amidabutsu. Regardless of who we are, we are all recipients of the working of boundless compassion. How do the ordinary persons like us full of blind passion understand this working of compassion? With the sentiment of “mono no aware” we call the Name of Namu Amidabutsu and we hear the response, as this old poem describes:

Although the voice that calls Namu Amidabutsu  
Is mine  
It is the call of my dear parent saying,  
“Come as you are! Come home just as you are!”

Namu Amidabutsu.

**... Memorial Address***(Continued from page 5)*

I had heard about Rev. Hata from my teacher Rev. Ono but did not meet him until 1964 when he came for our temple’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Meeting him for the first time at O’Hare airport, I understood him completely – I became a part of him and he became a part of me. During his talk at the anniversary service, he often paused. The pauses became longer and longer so that the pauses became longer than his talking. Finally he just stopped talking altogether. He just stood there and did not say a word. I don’t know how those of you who were here at the time understood that, but for Rev. Hata, it seemed talking and explaining through words became so useless. He felt such a deep communication that he stopped trying to explain it and just stopped and stood there silently. I’ll never forget that. The old pond, the silence of Rev. Hata – world of nirvana!

When Rev. Furukawa came to visit our temple, Rev. Kubose mentioned D.T. Suzuki and Rev. Furukawa quickly said, “Gee! Suzuki and I are brother disciples of Shaku Soen!” Rev. Kubose told him D.T. Suzuki had lived with Paul Carus in LaSalle, Illinois and Rev. Furukawa then asked us to take him there so he could pay his respects at Mr. Carus’ gravesite. Since it would be at least a three-hour drive, the two disciples tried to talk him out of it saying, “Master, we just met them. We have no right to ask for such a favor. It is asking too much.” Rev. Furukawa shouted at them, “You two came on this trip to help me. But if you don’t agree with my wishes you’d better travel by yourselves. I will go on in my own way!” The old Zen master was so furiously mad – “the frog jumps in” – that I was burned up by his raging fire. Rev. Kubose and I quickly decided we would take him to LaSalle the next day. So early in the morning we went to his hotel and up to his room. We saw Rev. Furukawa lying in bed. “I have arthritis,” he said. “Pain came to me, so I will stay in bed all day.” That’s all. So we cancelled the trip. No apologies, no excuses – just the sound of the splash. It was something that touched the deepest part of my life, something that I will never forget.

Rev. Ono, Rev. Hata and Rev. Furukawa – today I am thinking about those three teachers who passed away within one week. But I know today this monthly memorial service is for your beloved one – husband, wife, brother, whoever – who has touched such a depth of *your* life. They are not just a memory for you. By them you are touched in the deepest part of your life. And Basho manifested such a deep thought in such a simple way when he said: “Oh, old pond! A frog jumps in. The sound of a splash.”



## The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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

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