



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN



Volume 71, Number 4  January 2015 (2559 B.E.)

Ring the Bell of Welcome

The standard explanation for the ringing of the temple bell 108 times at New Year's is to symbolize getting rid of our defilements from the previous year and starting the new year fresh. But my teacher Dr. Nobuo Haneda once joked that instead of getting rid of old defilements, we're welcoming in the new ones. In a way, that makes more sense in Shin Buddhism. We give up on the idealistic dream of making ourselves "pure," and just accept who we are, warts (i.e., defilements) and all.

For us as individuals, as a temple sangha and as a part of America and the world, each year seems to bring many tragic events and losses. Especially after losing both parents and my sister, I don't look forward to each new year with the optimistic sense of wonderfully happy things are in store ahead. But I take some inspiration from this poem brought to my attention when planning the memorial service in November for our temple member, Dorothy Chvatal. Her loved ones sent me a



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

photo of this poem which Dorothy had framed in her home, and we included it in the service program:

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
Some momentary awareness comes
As an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
Who violently sweep your house
Empty of its furniture,
Still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
For some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
Meet them at the door laughing and invite them in.

Be grateful for whatever comes,
Because each has been sent
As a guide from beyond.

- Jelaluddin Rumi (translated by Coleman Barks)

(Continued on page 6, at top)

Glancing Back Looking Forward

My wife and I host Thanksgiving every year and our annual preparation routine is to frantically go through the house just before guests arrive and hide – I mean clean – all the accumulated clutter. While clearing out some storage space in the basement I stumbled across a box of old photos taken by my father, Henry Fujiura, that were stored shortly after he passed away. On the top was an envelope with my dad's handwriting: "BTC Mochitsuki."

By the time this issue is distributed we will have just completed our 2014 mochitsuki. For those unfamiliar, mochitsuki literally means making mochi, the pounded rice cakes that are a traditional part of the celebration



Glenn T. Fujiura
Temple President

of the New Year in Japan.

Here is a picture from BTC's mochitsuki in December of 1965 (see page 6). Reverend Gyomay Kubose is wielding the mallet, pounding the hot rice in the stone usu. Now, in our Fujiura family lore, or at least in the recesses of my memory, I believe I was the first to try the very first mochi created at BTC's very first mochitsuki. I recall Rev. Kubose taking it off the assembly line and asking for a taste testing volunteer. My father volunteered me.

I am man of facts however, and understanding that my memory, like my house just before Thanksgiving, is cluttered and filled with lots of forgotten boxes, I thought I would double check with others in the Temple. Just before sitting down to write this article I sent out an email: "Does anyone know what year our very first mochitsuki was held?"

(Continued on page 6, at bottom)

Temple News 🌸 November 2014

- 🌸 11/02 November monthly memorial service and Japanese service in afternoon. *** Shoshinge class met.
- 🌸 11/04 Three leaders of DePaul’s Multi-Faith Veterans Outreach project came to the temple to discuss plans for serving the Uptown community
- 🌸 11/08 Volunteers from the Asoka Society made chirashi to donate to the Japanese American Service Committee to sell at their Holiday Delight bazaar. JASC’s CEO Mike Takada and board president John Sasaki came by to thank them and brought juice and pastries. *** Revs. Nakai and Ashikaga officiated the memorial service for the late Mrs. Nobuko Sasamoto at Lakeview Funeral Home. Mrs. Sasamoto is survived by husband George (brother of Tad) and daughters Kathy Lenthart, Nancy Sasamoto and Irene Witt. *** Rev. Ashikaga conducted one-year memorial service for Mr. Hatsuichi Munemoto at the temple.
- 🌸 11/09 Regular Dharma School Sunday service held. *** Treasures of Uptown Interfaith Coalition with Eco-Chavura of Temple Sholom hosted a showing and discussion of the film “Trashed” at the temple.
- 🌸 11/11 Rev. Nakai attended monthly Uptown Clergy lunch meeting.
- 🌸 11/14 Rev. Nakai at Higashi Honganji Honolulu Betsuin, conducted all-day training session for

Our deepest sympathy to
the family and friends of:

Dorothy Chvatal
Joe Korner
Nobuko Sasamoto

- ministers of the Hawaii district, also attended by Overseas Abbot Choyu Otani, cabinet member Bishop Fujito, international section staff Rev. Mine and Rev. Abe from Kyoto headquarters. Gave public lecture in evening, “People are Persons: Buddhism, LGBTQ and You.”
- 🌸 11/15 Asoka Society met and had a presentation on Social Security from ONE Northside. *** Several temple members attended the memorial service for the late Mr. Joseph Korner at Lakeview Funeral Home. He is survived by daughter Malysa Joeli and son Eli. Joe was widely known at the temple for his participation in many activities including Asoka and he often volunteered to be the parking lot monitor at temple events. He was hospitalized after being in a traffic accident on September 27 and passed away from his injuries on November 6. *** Rev. Nakai conducted Ho-on-ko seminar for the Hawaii district temples’ members.
- 🌸 11/16 Sunday service with lay speaker Darryl Shishido. *** Rev. Nakai gave Dharma talk at the Ho-on-ko service at the Honolulu Betsuin.
- 🌸 11/19 Revs. Nakai and Ashikaga attended Chicago Japanese American Council meeting.
- 🌸 11/21 December bulletin mailed out.
- 🌸 11/22 Volunteers helped with Ho-on-ko preparation of altar and Hondo clean-up. *** Rev. Nakai conducted eighth-year memorial service for Steve Yamauchi, Jodo-shu member, at Heiwa Terrace.
- 🌸 11/23 Ho-on-ko and Dharma School Sunday service followed by luncheon. *** Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Ms. Dorothy Chvatal at the temple. Ms. Chvatal is survived by partner Pat Davis and goddaughter Jenna Bernet.
- 🌸 11/30 Regular Sunday service. *** Board of Directors met.

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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, Lauren Bailey, Bill Bohlman, Glenn T. Fujiura, Anna Idol, Joel Inwood, Carlos Meza, Gary T. Nakai, Elaine Siegel, Darryl Shishido, Ruby Tsuji, Peggy Waters, Beth Windisch, Bea.
- 🌸 Accompanists: Mrs. Ashikaga, Mike Kudo, Jr.
- 🌸 Audio Controls: Jacob and Wendy Fawcett.
- 🌸 Sunday Service Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Gwen Kato, Alice Murata, Arlene Nozawa, Ruby Tsuji, Jennie Watanabe, Upaya Group.

- 🌸 Ho-on-ko Toban (Iaido & Japanese School): Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, Yoshie Fujiwara, Callie Goeke, Ken & Mika Hamada, Yasuo Ito, Hayako Kikuchi, Kenneth & Marites Kikuchi, Hoon Kim, Mike Kudo, Sr., Mike Kudo, Jr., Bill & Traci Lee, Jerry & Jane Morishige, Keiko Tanaka, Ayumi Tanaka.
- 🌸 Bulletin Mailing: Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Candy Minx, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura Helene Rom, Ruby Tsuji.
- 🌸 Cleaning Temple washrooms: Ian Esteban.
- 🌸 Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto.
- 🌸 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: Adam Kellman, Ruby Tsuji.

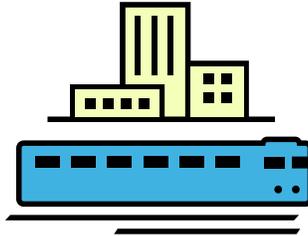
Craft Group Gives Thanks

The Craft Group wants to give a tremendous thanks to Joanne Tohei for washi papers and Pat Matsumoto for turkey wraps. We very much appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thanks to the Heiwa Terrace Holiday Luncheon and Mrs. Kikuchi for the onigiri (rice balls) for Memorial Sunday.

REMINDER: CTA Wilson Station Construction

The Red Line Wilson CTA Station will be undergoing major reconstruction starting in October 2014 and continuing for about three years. This will impact many of our members and friends who travel to the temple via the Red Line because the construction may cause significant delays. Also, there will be times when streets and intersections will have limited access or be closed, so drivers should be prepared for detours. The CTA says they will give the neighborhood advance notice of nighttime and weekend work, so we will try to keep our members and the groups who use the temple informed of the possible disruptions. For more information and ongoing updates, visit:



<http://www.transitchicago.com/wilson/>

The BTC Mission Statement

Founded in 1944 as an administratively independent temple,
The Buddhist Temple of Chicago
aspires to the following:

- ☸ To present and explore the Three Treasures of Buddhism – the Buddha (teacher), the Dharma (teachings), and the Sangha (community).
- ☸ To be guided and inspired by the historical Buddha, Gautama Shakyamuni, and the teachers who have followed – Shinran Shonin, Manshi Kiyozawa, and Haya Akegarasu.
- ☸ To present the Buddha-Dharma in a language and manner relevant and understandable in contemporary America.
- ☸ To welcome all who seek the Dharma without any exceptions.
- ☸ To be a positive presence in our local community working to enhance the vitality of our neighborhood.
- ☸ To honor and continue the traditions of our founding members.
- ☸ To always live the Nembutsu – Namu Amida Butsu.

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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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Awake-Aware-Accept-Alive

By Bill Bohlman

Originally published in *Action Magazine*,
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Sitting beneath the pipal tree, as the sun rose on the seventh day of his meditation, Gautama Shakyamuni attained his awakening and became the Buddha, the Awakened One. Was this the end of his journey, or the beginning? As practitioners of the Buddhadharma what path does our journey take?

The first step on our path is when we awaken to the cause of suffering, our ego-centered view of life. Like the Buddha, we begin to see that the cause of suffering lie within ourselves. Our greed, anger and ignorance prevent us from seeing reality as it truly is; we project our ego-centered view on life and become attached to that view. As an awakening being, we start to become aware of this attachment. This growing awareness helps us to overcome this attachment.

As our awareness deepens, the depth of our internal darkness becomes more apparent. Rather than being a cause for despair, this growing awareness brings a sense of joy. As awakened and aware beings, we realize that only through recognition of our faults are we able to overcome them. As humans, we are never able to completely eliminate these faults; rather, thru our awareness of their existence we are able to transform them. A light shines upon our darkness and it is illuminated. Our awakening and awareness show us that we suffer because we refuse to see reality as it is, not as we wish it to be. Accepting reality as it is eliminates the cause of suffering. Is acceptance of reality a surrendering to the inevitable, whatever that may be?

To accept reality as it is does not mean we resign ourselves to the status quo. Awake and aware, we more clearly see life as it truly is. Although the Buddhadharma teaches that all that exists now is the result of that which has come before, it is not fatalistic. Although this moment has been determined by that which came before, the next moment has yet to be shaped.

Rather than passively accepting whatever fate may be, the awake and aware being is dynamic. They understand that the power to shape the future lies within them.



The deadness of their inner darkness is transformed into a brilliant vitality. To what purpose is this dynamic vitality put to use?

The Buddhadharma tells us that having attained our personal enlightenment our journey is not complete. When Shakyamuni Buddha attained his awakening, he could have chosen to simply live the rest of his life, as others before him had done, in a state of individual contemplative bliss. However, he realized that as long as any sentient being was suffering, he too would never be freed from the world of samsara: the world of suffering. For this reason, he spent the next forty-five years of his life sharing the truth of life to which he had awakened. This is the culmination of the journey of the awakened, aware, accepting and alive being: to share this path with others so that they too may take this journey.



TURTLES HAVE IT FIGURED OUT, MAN.

By Randall Munroe at xkcd.com

BTC Nokotsudo

The BTC Nokotsudo continues to accept cremains. 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. Patti Nakai, 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.

Reminder: The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Online

BTC would appreciate your help in improving the content of any of the following online pages. Spread the word about BTC with your own Internet links, likes, and reviews.

Website: <http://www.budtempchi.org>

Our 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.

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

Visit the page to stay current on breaking 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>

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

Let Rev. Patti know of any published materials mentioning events in our temple's history.



BTC Nokotsudo
Dedicated October 4, 2009



Designed by
SCOTT NOBUYAMA ASSOCIATES,
Chicago



Photographs by Scott Nobuyama

... Ring the Bell of Welcome

(Continued from page 1)

It is poignant to think of Dorothy contemplating on this poem every day when in the past few years she was dealing with cancer and other ailments. Whenever I encountered her, she always had a cheerful demeanor and showed true concern to each person she spoke with. She donated several of her “finds” from estate sales to the temple and offered to help with any chore that needed to be done (dust balls have been growing in the corners without her around to do the sweeping). At her service we heard many stories of how she gave emotional support to people, especially in the LGBTQ community.

In that poem by the poet Rumi of the Sufi tradition of Islam is the clue to how nirvana (selflessness) is manifested. In our attachment to self, we want the world to be more predictable and less full of hassles and threats to our health and affluence. And in particular, we don't want situations which will make us look like the bad guy, exposing our viciousness and greed to public view. But all

... Glancing Back Looking Forward

(Continued from page 1)

No. No one knew exactly. But I received this recollection from Gary Nakai:

Comparing notes with Rev. Ashikaga through the years on the subject of how mochitsuki got started at BTC (then, the Chicago Buddhist Church) makes for some real interesting history with the names of those involved and chronology. Roy Miyata worked with my father in the kitchen at Binyon's Restaurant downtown. Harold Tsunehara and my father were good friends (Harold introduced Roy to my Dad). I remember my father telling Roy about the Nakai family's adventure with staging our own mochitsuki and how Roy would be intrigued and asked all these questions. This was around 1960, but the Nakai family had long been pounding mochi at home since around 1956, with an Usu made from the trunk of a tree from a family friends back yard. Dad also made the seiro and Mom steamed the rice.

Roy, Harold and Rev. Ashikaga contemplated having mochitsuki at BTC because the Nisei experienced mochitsuki from before the war, but the Sansei knew nothing about it. Thus the impetus to have a mochitsuki, but the main obstacle was not having an Usu. Harold's wife was Alice whose father, Mr. Fukui, lived in Tacoma and was in the mochi business, and located and shipped their Usu to BTC, which became our first and only Usu (until 3 years ago when we had to retire it). So now that we had the Usu, Mr. Tani and Mr. Nakamura made the first hammers.

These annual celebrations are wonderful opportunities to mark the passage of time, and especially appreciate how

the teachers we look to in our temple's lineage – Shakyamuni, Honen, Shinran, Kiyozawa, and Akegarasu – were exactly like the host described in Rumi's poem. Whatever came into being through myriad causes and conditions in one's own life and in the lives one interacted with – was welcomed and after the fact, was praised with gratitude.

The poem can also be a guide to our temple's outreach activities. Let us be more welcoming as a host to those who come to visit us, even when they appear to be unkempt and behaving unsociably. It's been a long bumpy road for us as a sangha to become more ethnically diverse, but we (including myself) still find it hard to treat our visitors from the neighborhood as respectfully as we do some well-dressed traveller from out-of-state or from abroad. The bell we ring not only for the new year's custom, but every Sunday morning is the *kansho*, “inviting-bell.” It's the bell of welcome – let's ring it loudly.

much of today is possible because of those before us. Names from the past but the memories remain fresh. My dad's handwriting on the envelope of photos was instantly recognizable to me even though so many years have gone by – like hearing his voice.



Photo by Henry Fujiura, taken December of 1965 in the basement of BTC's old temple building.

If my suspicions are correct, this is a photo of BTC's very first mochitsuki. If so, I hope to see you at our 50th mochitsuki next year. By the way, did you recognize that well-dressed lad standing behind Rev. Kubose? A future Temple President I think.

Buddha 'Bout Town: Buddhist & Cultural Happenings

❁ **CLOSING SOON:** Through Jan. 4, 2015: **Ghosts & Demons in Japanese Prints at the Art Institute.** Includes Hokusai's One Hundred Stories (Hyaku monogatari).

❁ **NEW! January 13 through April 19, 2015, *Collecting Paradise: Buddhist Art of Kashmir and Its Legacies*, Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.** Bringing together 44 works of art from major collections, this exhibition examines how Buddhist art from Kashmir has traveled across centuries and borders—from the Western Himalayas and later to the US and Europe—raising questions about cultural exchange and the varying motivations behind historical collecting practices. Featuring religious objects, including manuscripts, paintings, and sculptures in ivory, metal, and wood, dating from the 7th to 17th centuries, it explores how Kashmiri art was acquired, adapted and collected by Western Himalayans, and how those same artworks arrived in US and European museums in the 20th century. For more info, visit <http://tinyurl.com/oa5f2we>

❁ **NEW! February 28, Saturday, 32nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont.** Stanley Kurokawa will receive the 2015 AACC Community Service Award. Mr. Kurokawa is a 35-year member of the Chicago Nisei Post 1183 of the American Legion, serving as commander three times. He was a scout leader and scoutmaster for Cub Scout Pack 3515 and Boy Scout Troop 515 of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago, and received the prestigious Silver Beaver award for his contributions over 23 years of service. In addition, he coached basketball, baseball, track, and swimming for the Chicago Nisei Athletic Association. He also holds certificates in the Ikenobo and Ohara schools of Japanese flower arranging and still teaches ikebana. To purchase tickets or tables, contact the Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (773.728.7171 or chicago@jacl.org) or Ron Yoshino (708.784.0893 or yosh44@aol.com). For general information on the AACC and its Lunar New Year Celebration, visit www.aacchicago.org.

January Temple Events & Activities Guide



- ❁ See Calendar on page 8 for specific dates.
- ❁ Up-to-date details and last-minute changes are available on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/budtempchi
- ❁ All events are free, held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted), and open to the public.



January Temple Events & Activities Guide

➤➤➤➤ Special Services & Events ◀◀◀◀

- ❁ January 1, 2015 Thursday, 11 am – New Year's Day service followed by festive refreshments.
- ❁ January 4, Sunday, 11 am – Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service (English).
- ❁ January 25, Sunday 11 am – Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) Service followed by Temple General Meeting and Luncheon. This meeting includes election of new officers, so all members are encouraged to attend.

🔔 Regular Sunday Services 🔔

- ❁ Religious Service (in English) – Sundays, 11 am.
- ❁ Lay Speaker Sunday – Third Sunday of month, 11 am.

🏠 Meetings, Socials, Volunteering 🏠

- ❁ Asoka Society – Generally third Saturday of the month. **No meetings January and February**
- ❁ Board Meeting – Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. **This month: Jan. 18. Special General Meeting, Jan. 25.**
- ❁ Bulletin mailing – 2nd-to-last Friday of the month, 10 am, volunteers strongly encouraged. **This month: Jan. 23.**
- ❁ Bulletin submissions – See page 3 for details on submissions. Generally due 8 days prior to the mailing on Thursday, 6 pm. **Due date this month: Jan. 15.**
- ❁ Young Adults Group – Check bulletin for events scheduled throughout the year.

📖 Education & Meditation 📖

- ❁ Dharma Sunday School (for children) – Second and fourth Sundays, 11 am
- ❁ Buddhism Study Class – Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome. **Resumes Jan. 14.**
- ❁ Introduction to Buddhism – This 4-week course is held periodically throughout the year. Visit budtempchi.org for the schedule or e-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.
- ❁ Meditation – Sundays at 9 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm.
- ❁ Sutra Study Class – Usually the second or third Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required. **This month: Jan. 11.**

☀ Cultural Activities ☀

- ❁ Chinese Movement (Qigong) – Tuesday mornings, 11 am to noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- ❁ Crafts Group – First & third Saturdays, 10 am to noon.
- ❁ Japanese Fencing (Kendo) – Dojo sessions held every Tuesday from 8 to 10 pm at Bethany United Church. Call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for info.
- ❁ Japanese Language School (children or adults) – Every Saturday, 10 am. Call Temple to register.
- ❁ Japanese Swordsmanship (Iaido) – Mondays, 7 to 9 pm.
- ❁ Taiko (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe) – Fridays, 7 to 9 pm.

BTC CALENDAR  **JANUARY 2015**

日本語の 祥月法要
1月4日 午後1:00 時

See Temple Events & Activities Guide on page 7 for details on events.
Events may be canceled or moved after press time due to unforeseen circumstances.
Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11 am New Year's Day service & festive refreshments	2	3 10 am Crafts
4 9 am Meditation 11 am Service	5 7 pm laido	6 11 am Qigong	7	8 7:30 pm Meditation	9 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	10
11 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Dharma School 12:30 pm Sutra Study Class	12 7 pm laido	13 11 am Qigong	14 7 pm Buddhism study class	15 6pm Bulletin submissions due 7:30 pm Meditation	16 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	17 10 am Crafts
18 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 12: 30pm Board Meeting	19 7 pm laido	20 11 am Qigong	21 7 pm Buddhism study class	22 7:30 pm Meditation	23 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	24
25 9 am Meditation 11 am Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) Service 11 am Dharma School 12:30pm General Meeting	26 7 pm laido	27 11 am Qigong	28 7 pm Buddhism study class	29 7:30 pm Meditation	30 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	31