



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN



Volume 71, Number 6  March 2015 (2558 B.E.)

Compassionate Fellow – Fellow Mourner, Fellow Seeker

By Rev. Patti Nakai

During my stay in Kyoto in December, I enjoyed listening to various speakers giving Dharma talks at the daily 7 am services at Higashi Honganji. One minister started off his talk quoting a Christian writer, “Jesus Christ is the one who cries together with us.” And without quibbling about similarities and differences between Christianity and Buddhism, the speaker immediately said, “I feel the same way. The Tathagata is the one who cries together with us.”

Rev. Gyoko Saito comes to my mind as that tathagata (one who comes as suchness) who illustrated that literal meaning of “compassion,” that is, to suffer (“-passion”) with (“com-”) others. Our usual idea of compassion deviates from that original meaning – the word has come to mean showing pity and acting with charity towards those in misery, but being unable or unwilling to share in the bitter taste of that misery. It seems many Western Buddhists see “Buddha’s compassion” as indicating the awakened person is a problem-solving fix-it expert, transforming people’s

despair into happiness. But the Asian Buddhists of history have always described “compassion” as the “great sadness” (Japanese, *dai-hi*) felt by the truly awakened ones.

From the eight years I spent in Los Angeles being trained and mentored by Rev. Saito, I saw he was the one who cried along with those in pain. In his Sunday service talks whenever he spoke of a member who recently passed away, he would get choked up with tears and have to pause to regain his composure. Those of you who knew him during his twenty-five years at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago would know him as that man who mourned with you, not as some enlightened being floating high above you sending down advice on how to get over your tears.

In this bulletin for nearly twenty years, I’ve been excerpting some of Rev. Saito’s writings that are only available in the little pamphlets produced by his student, Joan Sweany. For the upcoming memorial, Koshu-ki, for Rev. Saito on March 8, I will have photocopies of the pamphlet *The Life of the Temple* available to anyone who wants to read it.

(Continued on page 6)

Recycled President

By Bill Bohlman

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago is environmentally friendly. We recycle everything we can: plastic, paper, glass, even old presidents. So, once again, I am temple president. Now that I am president again, what are the issues that are the most pressing?

When I was president from 2003–2007, the overriding issue was our building. From the time I first joined the temple in 1991, all we seemed to talk about was whether we would move, renovate, or build new. A number of plans had been proposed, only to fall by the wayside. I was determined as president to finally resolve this issue. With the cooperation of the board, and the dedicated work of a group of temple members, we moved ahead. Chaired by Gary T. Nakai, the building committee moved steadily ahead from

planning to demolition to construction, until finally in May 2006 our new building was officially dedicated. The building project alone would have been enough to do, but we were also dealing with another issue: ministerial succession.

During the time of my presidency, Rev. Hashimoto was at BTC for a period of two years. The thought was that he would become our next resident minister and remain for at least ten years. Unfortunately, due to the specific needs of BTC, it became obvious that the fit was not right. At the end of my term, Rev. Hashimoto returned to Japan. The presidents who followed kept this search alive, finally culminating in Rev. Patti Nakai becoming our resident minister in June 2013. It would be an understatement to say that I am thrilled I won’t have this issue to deal with.

(Continued on page 5, at bottom left)

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

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

- ☸ Sunday Service Participants: Lauren Bailey, Bill Bohlman, Tom Corbett, Wendy Fawcett, Anna Idol, Rachel Jacome, Neil Kanemoto, Lynn Maruyama, Alice Murata, Linda Triplett.
- ☸ Accompanists: Mrs. Ashikaga, Michael Kudo, Jr., Joe Phillips.
- ☸ Audio Controls: Jacob and Wendy Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai.
- ☸ Sunday Service Refreshments: Jackie Denofrio, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Izui Family, Kanemoto Family, Kokyo Taiko, Ruby Tsuji, Beth Windisch, Victor and Wendy Lua Zeng, Upaya Group.
- ☸ Bulletin Mailing: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Candy Minx, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Ruby Tsuji.
- ☸ Cleaning Temple washrooms: Anonymous.
- ☸ Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto.
- ☸ Maintaining and updating the Temple computer: John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai.
- ☸ Maintaining and updating the Temple website: Ann Yi. Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Ruby Tsuji.

Temple News  January 2015

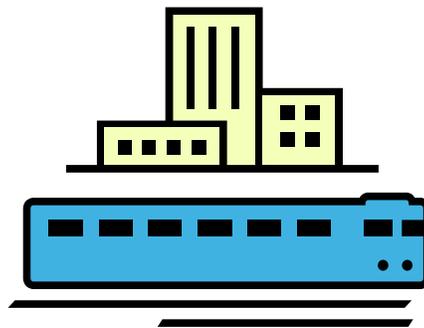
- ☸ 1/01 New Year's Day service followed by tolling of bell 108 times, toast and pot-luck lunch.
- ☸ 1/03 Rev. Nakai participated in memorial service for Dr. Taitetsu Unno at Berkeley Buddhist Church.
- ☸ 1/04 January monthly memorial service and Japanese service in afternoon.*** Shoshinge class
- ☸ 1/11 Dharma School Sunday service
- ☸ 1/16 Rev. Nakai hosted visitors from Lutheran School of Theology
- ☸ 1/18 Rev. Nakai was guest speaker for Hon-ko at Midwest Buddhist Temple.*** Wendy Fawcett spoke for Lay Speaker Sunday. *** Board of Directors met.
- ☸ 1/21 Rev. Nakai attended Chicago Japanese American Council Meeting
- ☸ 1/23 February bulletin mailing.
- ☸ 1/25 Eitaikyo and Dharma School Sunday service. *** General membership meeting and luncheon.
- ☸ 1/30 Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga conducted cremation service for the late Mrs. Haruko Tademoto at Lake View Funeral Home.
- ☸ 1/31 Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga conducted one-year memorial service for Kenji Tademoto. *** Both ministers conducted one-year memorial service for Kasumi Yamanaka.



**REMINDER:
EBL 2015
Save the Date
September 4-6**

The 2015 Eastern Buddhist League Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio over Labor Day weekend, September 4-6. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Westin Hotel in downtown Cleveland. The keynote speaker will be Shin Buddhist author Jeff Wilson. Stay tuned for more information.

**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/>

NEW

**Safe Sangha Policy:
Oneness – The Way of Non-Discrimination**

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago is an open, inclusive, and affirming Sangha. We welcome all, without distinction as to race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. We recognize that in such a community, misunderstandings and conflict may arise, and call for immediate response.

Persons who feel that they may be experiencing discrimination, harassment, exploitation, retaliation, or intimidation, including sexual harassment of any sort, are encouraged to bring forward their allegations, so that the Sangha may address, and resolved, these important issues. **You may bring such allegations to the attention of our Resident Minister, Rev. Patti Nakai, or to any member our Board of Directors.** We will respect your confidentiality and your privacy.

The Sangha commits itself to refrain from retaliation, in any form, against persons who come forward with such allegations. These are opportunities for spiritual growth, in a safe and welcoming Sangha.

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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Minister Emeritus
Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

President
Bill Bohlman

BTC BULLETIN

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Ruth Abbinanti, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Darryl Shishido, 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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2015 General Meeting

THE BTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Temple President – Bill Bohlman
(also Board Chairman)

1st Vice President, Religious Affairs –
Bill Bohlman

2nd Vice President, Membership – Kiyō Omachi

3rd Vice President, Temple Relations – Vacant
Treasurer – Glenn T. Fujiura

Corporate Secretary – Margaret Waters
Auditor – Elaine Siegel

Dharma School Superintendent –
Diana Schoendorff

GENERAL MEMBERS

Rev. Patti Nakai

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Recording Secretary – Margaret Waters
Director of Building and Grounds –
Tomio Tademoto

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Tracy Ito
Adam Kellman
Lynn Maruyama
Debbie Miyashiro
Jerry Morishige

MEMBERS REPRESENTING

AFFILIATED UNITS

Asoka Society – Haru Ito
Crafts – Vacant
Education Center Director – Rev. Patti Nakai
Iaido – Jerry Morishige
Japanese Language School Superintendent –
Rev. Yukei Ashikaga
Kokyo Taiko – Miriam Solon
Young Adults Group – Wendy Fawcett

This year’s annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, January 25, 2015. The usual housekeeping matters were presented and reviewed. The Temple presented a gift to Resident Minister Patti Nakai for her dedicated service and to Minister Emeritus Rev. Yukei Ashikaga for his ongoing service despite his retirement. Glenn T. Fujiura chose not to run as Temple president; Bill Bohlman was elected to serve for the next term.

Various board members and members representing affiliated units presented updates and reports on 2014. Temple highlights included implementation of the Safe Sangha policy (see page 3), the addition of a children’s taiko class, a generous monetary donation from Japanese television celebrity Dave Spector, a successful Natsu Matsuri Festival that raised more than \$11,000, the new landscaping installation at the Temple, a visit from professor and Asian art expert Dr. Gail Chin, increased focus on lay participation in Sunday service, and the Temple’s rapidly growing role as the “go-to” place for Buddhism in Chicago.

Rev. Patti Nakai completed her first full year as Resident Minister, taking over a large array of duties that include many memorial services and weddings in addition to her daily Temple duties. She continued to travel and speak at various other temples and conferences, representing BTC and increasing her own knowledge of the Dharma to share with the Sangha. She also implemented increased training for potential lay leaders to assist with Temple duties.

Goals for 2015 include inviting more additional ministers as guest speakers, modernization and improvement of the Temple website, continuation of the lay leader training, renovation and improvement of the minister’s residence, and, as always, a stronger Sangha and Temple.



From left to right: Rev. Ashikaga accepts a gift from the temple (presented by outgoing President Glenn T. Fujiura), Haru Ito reports on the Asoka Society, Diana Schoendorff reports on Dharma School, and Rev. Patti Nakai reflects on her first full year as Resident Minister. Photos by Ann Yi.

Kumihimo Again!

Let's get crafty with a new Kumihimo project. This time, we'll make a 20-inch necklace that you can hang a pendant on (similar to the picture below). We'll use 1 mm or 1.5 mm cord in two or three colors. As members of the previous class can tell you, the braid works up quite quickly. You'll have a pretty addition to your wardrobe by the end of the session.



The class kit includes a pendant, satin cord, and findings. The supplies kit includes a Kumihimo disk, 8 bobbins, and glue. (If you were at the previous class, you don't need the supplies kit.)

Details:

Saturday April 11, 2015 12:30 - 3:00 PM.

Facilitator:

Nancey Epperson

Class size:

Maximum 10 participants

Registration:

Deadline is March 28. to register, contact Alice Murata at:

alicemurata@hotmail.com.



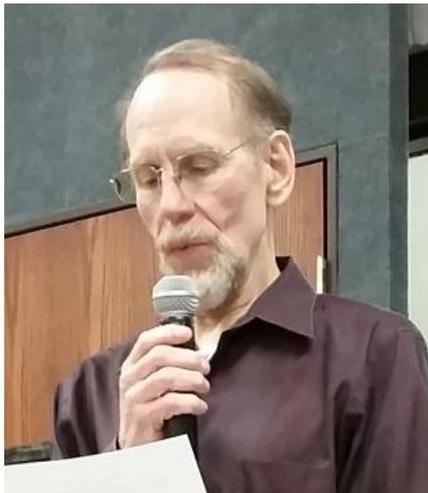
Cost & Payment:

Make arrangements with Alice when you register. Class kit is \$14 (includes satin cord, pendant, findings, refreshments). Supplies kit is \$11 (includes Kumihimo disk, bobbins, glue).

... Recycled President

(Continued from page 1)

What are the issues we now face? A major project is the renovation of the three-flat building containing the minister's residence. Years of neglect and stop gap repairs have brought us to the point where something major must be done. Once again, we will study the problem and move to a resolution.



However, there are more subtle issues we must confront. Foremost is getting more people involved in the temple administration. From board members, to committee members, to office volunteers, more help is needed. A strong group of lay leaders is needed to assist Rev. Patti. How do we attract new members, and how do we retain current members? These are questions that need answers.

Anyone who has worked with me knows I hate to waste time. Problems need to be addressed promptly

and solutions implemented. I want to hear from you about any problems or concerns you feel are important. Please speak to me at temple on Sundays or contact me at wmbohlman@aol.com. Working together, we can continue to make BTC the temple we have all been proud of for the last 70 years.

Photo: Bill Bohlman presents his annual report as 1st Vice President. Bill was subsequently elected to serve as President as well. He will serve a two-year term.

Dharma Corner: Interfaith Junction

No man is an Island, intire of it selfe; every man is a peece of the continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as well as if a Mannor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

- John Donne, Meditation XVII from *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions*, 1624.

... Fellow Mourner, Fellow Seeker

(Continued from page 1)

This pamphlet isn't as dense with Dharma teachings as the first pamphlet, *Reflections on Death and Birth* that Joan Sweany compiled, but it gives us scenes from our temple's history through the appreciative eyes of Rev. Saito. Our founding minister, Rev. Gyomay Kubose, was a noteworthy person, significant as a pioneer and innovator in spreading Buddhism in America, and much has been written about him in print and on-line. But Rev. Saito wanted not to be noticed but to be the noticer. His articles in *The Life of the Temple* show by example how we can open up and humbly receive help and inspiration from others instead of imposing our so-called wisdom on them. It is the concrete expression of Namu Amida Butsu in our ordinary dealings with people.

Three of the people he especially praises in the pamphlet sound so exemplary – Mr. Ryozo Ogura, Mrs. Masako Sameshima, and Mr. Chico Minaga. But I can imagine that at our temple today there are such hidden gems disguised as plain-looking men and women quietly going about their volunteer work. In the first two cases, Rev. Saito is praising those who just passed away, and in the case of Mr. Minaga, he talks about him on the occasion of being recognized with an award from the Boy Scouts but also in a separate article. In all cases and others noted in the pamphlet, Rev. Saito feels he wouldn't be functioning as the minister or even be a more fully rounded human being if it wasn't for those people's patience with him and their willingness to teach him about life.



For me it's poignant to read his description of the energetic "young people" working on the summer festival fundraiser knowing that some of them have already passed away, people such as Kenny Shindo and Calvin Manshio. It is a reminder that the young, strong men and women who help out now with our

temple events are to be appreciated while they're still with us and able to help.

The people of the temple are the ones conveying the Dharma to Rev. Saito through their experiences and interactions – he doesn't see himself as their teacher. In one article "My 21st Mother's Day in America," he said he struggled to describe his relationship with his mother, but then the occasion of conducting the funeral for Mike Fujimoto's mother made things clearer for him. In learning about Mr. Fujimoto's mother, Rev. Saito realizes the word "mother" is not just a noun, "a fixed and static form," but a verb – that one's mother manifests her essence in what she does, say, and think, and it's that mother as verb that we continue to be guided by.

*I can imagine that at our temple today
there are ... hidden gems disguised
as plain-looking men and women quietly
going about their volunteer work.*

The pamphlet concludes with Rev. Saito adapting a poem by Stephen Vincent Benet to describe the temple:

BTC is but a small temple
In the great universe
Yet of it we can make, if we choose
A *Yumedomo* for all people
In the universe – unvexed by anger,
Untroubled by greed, ignorance, or fear,
Undivided by senseless distinctions
Of individuality, race, color or theory.

The *Yumedomo* was an eight-sided hall built by Prince Shotoku (572-622, first great patron of Buddhism in Japan). Rev. Saito describes it as the place of meditation where Shotoku went whenever he came up against an insoluble problem. There Shotoku had the "Dialogue of Nothingness" with a veiled Buddha image. Rev. Saito compared that to how he felt about his Dharma friends at the temple – he could have that dialogue that went deeper than mere words and topics, the exchange in the depths of no-thingness. It is a reminder to me to cherish my time together with all of you – we don't have to be discussing anything in particular, but just be together sharing tears, listening to the calling of the life beyond boundaries, *Kimyo muryoju nyorai*.

Buddha 'Bout Town: Buddhist & Cultural Happenings

❁ Through April 19, 2015, *Collecting Paradise: Buddhist Art of Kashmir and Its Legacies*, Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Dr, Evanston. Bringing together 44 manuscripts, paintings, and sculptures from the 7th to 17th centuries, this exhibition examines how Buddhist art from Kashmir has traveled across centuries and borders—first to the Western Himalayas and later to the US and Europe—raising questions about cultural exchange and the varying motivations behind historical collecting practices. For more info, visit <http://tinyurl.com/oa5f2we>

ONGOING

- ❁ **The Field Museum** features Buddhist artifacts in permanent sections devoted to China and Tibet.
- ❁ **The Art Institute** features large collections of Buddhist statuary and art in its Alsdorf Galleries and in its collections of Chinese, Japanese, Indian, and Korean art. Additional Buddhist art in other galleries can be found using the search tool available at the Art Institute site: www.artic.edu/aic/collections/
- ❁ **The Smart Museum of Art** at the University of Chicago features rotating works of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean art, often with Buddhist themes. Visit smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/asian-art/ for current highlights.
- ❁ **Submit information** on other Buddhist and/or Japanese cultural events in the Chicago area to: BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com

March 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.



➤➤➤➤ Special Services & Events ◀◀◀◀

- ❁ March 1, 2015, Sunday 11 am – Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service (English).
- ❁ March 8, Sunday, 11 am – Rev. Gyoko Saito Memorial.
- ❁ March 22, Sunday, 11 am – Spring O-higan.
- ❁ March 29, Sunday, 11 am – Founder's Day.

🔔 Regular Sunday Services 🔔

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

☀ Cultural Activities ☀

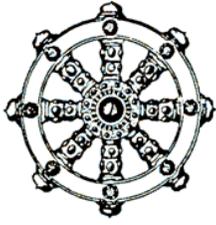
- ❁ Chinese Movement (Qigong) – Tuesday mornings, 11 am to noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- ❁ Crafts Group – 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10 to noon.
- ❁ Japanese Fencing (Kendo) – Dojo sessions held Tuesdays 8 to 10 pm at Bethany United Church. Call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for info.
- ❁ Japanese 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) – Adults, Fridays, 7 to 9 pm. Children, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 11 am.

📖 Education & Meditation 📖

- ❁ Dharma Sunday School (for children) – Second and fourth Sundays, 11 am
- ❁ 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.
- ❁ Buddhism Study Class – Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome.
- ❁ Meditation – Sundays 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: March 15.**

📞 Meetings, Socials, Volunteering 📞

- ❁ Asoka Society – Generally third Saturday of the month. **This month: March 14.**
- ❁ Board Meeting – Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. **This month: February 22.**
- ❁ BTC Bulletin mailing – 2nd-to-last Friday of the month, 10 am, volunteers strongly encouraged. **This month: March 29.**
- ❁ BTC submissions – See page 3 for details. Generally due 8 days prior to the mailing on Thursday, 6 pm. **This month: March 12.**
- ❁ BTC Young Adults Group – Will be discussing the book *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed on **March 14** (tentative). See Temple Facebook page for updates on times.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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



BTC CALENDAR MARCH 2015

日本語の 祥月法要
 3月1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 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial Service 11 am Children's Taiko 1 pm Shotsuki Hoyo Service (Japanese)	2 7 pm laido	3 11 am Qigong	4 7 pm Buddhism study class	5 7:30 pm Meditation	6 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	7 10 am Crafts 10 am Japanese Language School
8 9 am Meditation 11 am Rev. Saito Memorial 11 am Dharma School	9 7 pm laido	10 11 am Qigong	11 7 pm Buddhism study class	12 6 pm Bulletin Submissions Due 7:30 pm Meditation	13 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	14 10 am Japanese Language School 1pm Asoka Society
15 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Children's Taiko 12:30 pm Sutra Study Class	16 7 pm laido	17 11 am Qigong	18	19 7:30 pm Meditation	20 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	21 10 am Crafts 10 am Japanese Language School
22 9 am Meditation 11 am Spring O-Higan 11 am Dharma School	23 7 pm laido	24 11 am Qigong	25 7 pm Buddhism study class	26 7:30 pm Meditation	27 7 pm Kokyo Taiko	28 10 am Japanese Language School
29 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Children's Taiko 12: 30pm Board Meeting	30 7 pm laido	31 11 am Qigong				