



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

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VOLUME 73  
NUMBER 3  
DECEMBER

2016 CE  
2559 BE

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### Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

### President

Bill Bohlman

## Bodhi Day: The Case for Other Power

*[M]y Japanese college buddy Jun . . . took me to a Pure Land Buddhist temple in Chicago. . . . I asked the head monk at one point how I should understand the Pure Land pursuit of heavenly paradise and Amitabha (the deification of Buddha) when the original teachings of the Buddha seemed so different. . . . Then he offered in a soft voice, "Well, my friend, how does the butterfly understand its movement from one flower to the next?" This was followed by a long silence, and I nodded my head slowly, taking in the morsel of enigmatic deep wisdom. Then my friend Jun rolled his eyes and demanded of the monk, "What the hell does that mean?"*

--p. 168, *The Gods Drink Whiskey*, by Stephen T. Asma (San Francisco: Harper, 2005)



Rev. Patti Nakai  
Resident Minister

For more writings by Rev. Nakai, visit her blog, *Taste of Chicago Buddhism*, at: [tinyurl.com/chibud](http://tinyurl.com/chibud)

I'm with Jun! When I met Dr. Asma when we were part of the discussion on Buddhism for the Milt Rosenberg show on WGN-Radio, I found out from him that passage from his book described his first visit to our temple. I assured him that the minister he mentioned was no longer at our temple and I invited him to speak at our Bodhi Day service. He must have been more positively impressed because I heard he started referring people to our temple to explore Buddhism. It took several years to get him to return to our temple to speak at this year's Hanamatsuri service

(Continued on page 7, column 1)

## Another Year Gone Bye

As 2016 draws to a close, we look back upon a year of changes and events. Most have been pleasant and joyful, while others brought us moments of sadness. We lost some long time friends, but we have gained many new ones. Looking back upon the year that was, certain highlights stand out.

Rev. Patti put an emphasis on involving members in the Sunday services. To this end, a group of members received their Ti Sarana and became active lay leaders. Their participation in services handling some of the minister's parts prepare them for the times that Rev. Patti might not be available and they will have to lead a Sunday service. This preparation for the future became more imperative with the departure of Rev. Ashikaga.

In August, we were all surprised when Rev. Ashikaga announced that he and Mrs. Ashikaga would be moving back to Japan in November. The Chicago winters had become too much for them, and Mrs. Ashikaga wanted to be close to her aging brothers and sisters. In conjunction with the temple's 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, a luncheon attended by 150 members and friends honored the Ashikagas.

Special events occurred regularly throughout the year. Guest



Bill Bohlman  
BTC President

Contact Bill at [budtempchi@aol.com](mailto:budtempchi@aol.com) or find him most Sundays after service at the information desk & bookstore.

(Continued on page 7, column 2)

# B.T.C. Temple Events & Activities Guide DECEMBER 2016

- 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](http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi)
- All events are free, held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted), and open to the public.

## ➤➤➤ Special Temple Services and Events ◀◀◀

- Dec. 11—**Bodhi Day** (Buddha's Enlightenment)
- Dec. 18—**Mochi-tsuki** (Rice Pounding)
- Dec. 25—**Year-End Service**

### Regular Temple Services

- **Religious Service** (in English)—Sundays, 11 am.
- **Lay Speaker Sunday**—Usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month, 11 am.

### Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—2<sup>nd</sup> to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: Friday, Dec. 23.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: December 8.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. TBA.
- **Upaya Helpers** (refreshment service, community outreach, ping pong, etc.) Call Candy Minx for info: 312-618-0880.
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding the homeless)—Mary Harvey <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

### Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm. No previous Buddhism study required. On break after Dec. 14 until January.
- **Dharma School** (children's Sunday school)—2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 11 am. This month: Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. E-mail Rev. Nakai at [rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com](mailto:rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com).
- **Meditation**—Sundays, 8:45 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. On break after Dec. 18 until January.
- **Sutra Study Class**—2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.

### Social & Cultural Activities

- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **Book Club** – One night a month. This month: Thursday, December 15, 6:30 pm; *David and Goliath*.
- **Iaido** (Japanese Swordsmanship)—Mondays, 7-9 pm.
- **Kendo** (Japanese Fencing)—Wednesdays, Fridays, 8-10 pm, St. Gregory Church. Call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for information.
- **Kumihimo** (Japanese braiding). Will return in March. Email Nancey Epperson: [naepperson14@gmail.com](mailto:naepperson14@gmail.com).
- **Movie Night**—One Tuesday night a month. This month: Tuesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm; *Groundhog Day*.
- **Qigong** (Chinese Movement)—Tuesdays, 11-noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- **Taiko** (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe)—**Adults**, Fridays, 7-9 pm. Email [kokyotaiko@yahoo.com](mailto:kokyotaiko@yahoo.com) to confirm. **Children**, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 11. Email [sanghacomod@yahoo.com](mailto:sanghacomod@yahoo.com) for appointments.
- **Ukulele Group**—Tuesdays, 1-3 pm.

## 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.

## BTC BULLETIN

**Team** Darryl Shishido (Editor), Rev. Patti Nakai, Ann Yi, Nancey Epperson, Helene Rom, Ruth Abbinanti

**Feedback & Submissions** Comments, corrections, questions, and suggestions are welcomed. Submissions are encouraged (subject to suitability and space availability)—articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc. Anonymous submissions are not published but author's name may be withheld from publication upon request.

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

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## Temple News October 2016

- ❁ **10/02** October memorial service. \*\*\* Japanese service held. \*\*\* Sutra Study class met.
- ❁ **10/03** Rev. Nakai, Helene Rom and Candy Minx attended orientation for “Open House Chicago” held at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.
- ❁ **10/04** Darryl Shishido attended ONE-Northside environmental justice committee meeting at the American Indian Center.
- ❁ **10/08** Rev. Nakai conducted 100<sup>th</sup> Day memorial service for the late Mariko Gallaga at BTC.
- ❁ **10/09** Dharma School and BTC 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary service followed by farewell luncheon for Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga.
- ❁ **10/15** Asoka Society met. \*\*\* BTC participated in Open House Chicago with approx. 250 visitors.
- ❁ **10/16** Regular Sunday service. \*\*\* BTC participated in second day of Open House Chicago with over 400 visitors.
- ❁ **10/19** Rev. Nakai attended the monthly Uptown clergy luncheon.
- ❁ **10/21** November bulletin mailed.
- ❁ **10/22** Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for the late Joni Ishida at Montrose Cemetery. \*\*\* Rev. Nakai conducted public memorial service for the late Mrs. Betty Fukuda at Donnellan Funeral Home in Skokie. Mrs. Fukuda is survived by husband Yoneo and daughter Elizabeth Ruggirello. \*\*\* Spaghetti Night social/fundraiser held at BTC hosted by volunteers, coordinated by Candy Minx.
- ❁ **10/23** Dharma School service and Halloween luncheon. \*\*\* Rev. Ashikaga conducted one-year memorial for the late Hirohito Kabayama.
- ❁ **10/25** Movie night.
- ❁ **10/26-10/27** Rev. Nakai at Higashi Honganji in Los Angeles to attend Ho-on-ko chanting practice, the weekly study class and monthly ministers meeting.
- ❁ **10/30** Lay Speaker service with Ann Yi speaking. \*\*\* Board of Directors met.

Our deepest sympathy to  
the family and friends of:

**Betty Fukuda**

**BODHI DAY**  
DECEMBER 11, 2016



## THANK YOU

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

**Sunday Service Participants:** Bill Bohlman, Tom Corbett, Nancey Epperson, Glenn T. Fujiura, Michael Gallaga, Anna Idol, Lynnell Long, Peter Mizuki, Alice Murata, Gary T. Nakai, Helene Rom, Diana Schoendorff, Carl Scroggins, Francisco Torres, Ann Yi

• **Music/Accompanists:** Mrs. Ashikaga, Drea Gallaga

• **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai

• **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Anna Idol, Matsue Momohara, Alice Murata, Andrea Sugano, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Ruby Tsuji, BTC Board of Directors, Dharma School, Upaya

• **Maintaining and updating the Temple computer:** John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai

• **Maintaining and updating the Temple website:** Ann Yi, Wendy Fawcett

• **Administrative Office Volunteers:** Ruth Abbinanti, Darryl Shishido, Helene Rom

• **Bulletin Mailing:** Nancey Epperson, Lane Kometani, Alice Murata, Mary Shimomura, Haru Ito, Ed Horiuchi, Masa Nakata, Antoinette d’Vencets, Helene Rom, Candy Minx, Noreen Enkoji, Peggy Waters

• **Cleaning Hondo and Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa

• **Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal:** Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Candy Minx, Nancey Epperson

• **Taking care of the Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tademoto

• **Cleaning Temple washrooms:** Anonymous  
Apologies to anyone we have failed to include.



**Diana Schoendorff**  
Superintendent of Dharma School  
(see article p. 4)

## Warm Feelings, Fun and Dharma

by Darryl Shishido

Reverend Patti Nakai says: “Instead of requiring confirmation of your knowledge and understanding of Buddhism, in our Dharma School, as you grow up we associate Buddhism with warm feelings, so that when you become a mature adult with reason and responsibilities, you might favor Buddhism as a guide to thought and conduct.”

*This is the mission Diana Schoendorff has been charged with:* to associate Buddhism with warm feelings in the hearts and heads of our young people. Diana is Superintendent of Dharma School of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago.

Diana hails from Michigan and studied at Michigan State. In her career, she handled child abuse cases and is now a paralegal. She and her husband, Bill, have two children, Beatrice, age 14 and Will, age 7.

From a Catholic/Buddhist background, at maturity, especially with a family, she found herself drawn more and more toward Buddhism. She and her family have attended our Sunday services since 2003.

Our Dharma School ceased years ago due to lack of enrollment but thanks to Temple members Dave LeShuk and Diana it was revived in 2007 with three students. It now has 18 students ready to study Buddhism as adults. Diana has been in charge of the School since 2013.

Our School’s goals are fundamental: (1) have fun while learning, and teaching, Buddha’s teachings (Dharma), (2) build a sense of Sangha (Community [Oneness]), (3) plant seeds of Compassion. This year, **3-6 year olds** focused on Gassho to Oneness, **7-11 year olds** studied The Eightfold Path, and **12 and older** revisited The Six Paramitas.

Away from everyday schools, children have shorter attention spans than adults, resist learning and learn best without lectures or textbooks. Instead, our students do arts and crafts, take part in serious discussions and games, plus take trips in and around Chicago and to Zenyo Brandon’s Bright Dawn Home Spread near Plymouth, Wisconsin for a meditative retreat.

Diana suggests Temple-goers help Dharma School by supplying arts and crafts materials, by babysitting while parents attend services, and by becoming Guest

Teachers. For example, during the annual Dharma School/Halloween party, five Temple-members in costume spoke to each class about their professions with age-appropriate speeches.

For each group, each Guest Teacher brought something to illustrate compassion and right livelihood.

Attorney Elaine Siegel brought dolls and a briefcase to illustrate their use in defending the human rights of people, young and old. Musician Jacob Fawcett brought a drum set to perform the rhythms and beats of uplifting, popular music. Veterinarian Kat Asbury brought X-rays and a partially paralyzed Mexican Chihuahua in a tiny wheelchair to talk about caring for all creatures, great and small. Oncology nurse Lynn Maruyama brought a stethoscope to talk about caring for the sick and infirm and so that students could hear the rhythms and beats of their own hearts for the first time. Firefighter Carlos Meza brought gear and equipment to demonstrate their use in protecting people, himself included, in difficult situations.

Our Temple is fortunate to have such capable members and, according to Diana, each was an effective Guest Teacher.

Twice this year during Sunday services, the Dharma School students hosted a game show (based on TV’s Jeopardy) in which audience members competed as teams to answer questions about Buddhist teachings.

Diana wants everyone to know she is grateful for the assistance of Aaron Eckhart-Frank, who helps with the youngest group of children, and Brooke Dinse, who assists with the oldest group.

If you have a child who would like to attend our Dharma School, if you would like to help us, if you have questions, contact Diana Schoendorff at [billandi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billandi@sbcglobal.net).

## Stewardship—Receiving and Giving

by Gary T. Nakai

Once in a while we come across moments when a situation is revealed to us and the opportunity to address the situation aligns perfectly before us. Take notice of one such need that was met head on with determination by two senior but stalwart members of BTC.

These two ladies were active in our past and each

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## Stewardship (continued from p. 4)

remains active today, collectively making the BTC experience welcoming on Sundays, keeping our financial accounting in order, making sure our monthly memorial obligations are current and our de-centralized administration credible. Thus, being stalwart, through the years they could observe “how it’s going” and what needs to be done.

Such was the case recently when it came to our aging tables, their condition and how we use them. So concerned were these two that they voiced their concern and financially backed their action plan to move a solution along. They partook in selecting replacements that addressed the temple’s on-going needs as well as the overlooked requirements of seminars that we hold and a case was put before our board of directors. A starting point was arrived at and new tables were ordered to replace the most marginal of tables among our inventory.

It is both gratifying and humbling to witness such caring and determination. Noreen Enkoji and Haru Ito recognized a need and did something about it, as they have received and benefitted from those who preceded them. These ladies are among an inspiring group at BTC who demonstrate this commitment to “pay it forward”, but do not wish that it be known. Nevertheless, it is now known, so please thank them anyway.

### BTC Movie Night Preview

## Single-serve Buddhism

by Candy Minx

**Movie Night, December 20, 6:30pm**  
**GROUNDHOG DAY**

*Everywhere I travel, tiny life. Single-serving sugar, single-serving cream, single pat of butter. The microwave Cordon Bleu hobby kit. Shampoo-conditioner combos, sample-packaged mouthwash, tiny bars of soap. The people I meet on each flight? They're single-serving friends.— Fight Club*

When I was in Toronto this past summer, on my way to see the last concert of the band The Tragically Hip, my car battery died. I was stuck in a gas station after filling up the gas tank before heading to the highway. I have Roadside Assistance as part of my cell phone package so I called but they were going to take at least 3 hours to find someone to help me in Canada via my insurance in the States. I was taking up a stall at a gas pump so I started asking around for someone to jumpstart my battery. I was quite surprised at how many drivers were not willing to stop and help. Either the drivers said they didn’t have time, didn’t know how, or didn’t own jumper cables. Everyone said, “Don’t you have Roadside Assistance?”

We have Roadside Assistance in case we are stuck without relatives, friends or neighbors, possibly on a highway estranged and alone, to help us if our vehicles break down. My husband and I have been very grateful for this add-on to our cell phone bill as

(continued on next column)

we’ve had a number of flats, or issues while on road trips, or stuck in the city. Everyone is so busy working at their jobs to keep up with the high cost of living, we can’t just call them to help us every time something goes wrong. Right? In contemporary society neighborliness is not always an expectation or duty. Single-serve Buddhism is similar when there isn’t a standard dialogue about an expectation of duty or participation between the Sangha.

As much as we all appreciate that being an adult means you’ve got to take care of a lot of responsibilities on your own do we really want to live in a world where we don’t even bother to own jumper cables anymore? What about being prepared? What about “just in case”? How much faith have we given to the system to look after each of us?

It’s not that we don’t want to help people, and I suspect we all secretly believe ourselves to be helpful types, but our whole culture in urban North America is single-serve. Get your own Roadside Assistance insurance so you don’t have to ask anyone for help, book a limousine so your friends or family don’t have to drive you to the airport.

When we first began “Movie Night” (well over a year ago and still going strong! We hope!) some of the intention and goals were to find contemporary movies that addressed Buddhist principles and inspired philosophical and emotional discussions. I have tried to focus on current films but we have made a few exceptions with older movies and December is also going to feature an older movie. When I found out that several folks in our Sangha had not seen Groundhog Day I was so excited to change gears. Groundhog Day might be the most famous mainstream Buddhist movie ever. Groundhog Day is almost always found in Google searches for Buddhist-themed movie lists. Bill Murray plays a self-centered TV personality with his classic deadpan delivery in Groundhog Day. The movie’s premise is that Murray’s character wakes up to a very unusual day with very unusual outcomes. I won’t give away any spoilers! If you haven’t seen this movie before, you are in for a real treat. And if you have seen this movie, you know how valuable it is as an object-lesson to explore the hypothetical question: how long does it take for a soul to evolve to another level?

Murray’s character doesn’t see a connection between work and love: he doesn’t understand that sharing his own labor actually builds camaraderie. In a single-serve world we are just supposed to take care of our own problems and get our own work done. Is that really a Buddhist principle? With Single-serve Buddhism, buy your yoga pants, decide if you want to go to service one day and not the next, or help with cleaning up the temple kitchen, or not, or offer to weed the garden, or not. Single-serve Buddhism implies some kind consumerism just for showing up while making sure “I got mine.” Buddhist principles for me have always been a kind of jumper cable to my brain, helping me live a life with peace of mind. I use the principles to test how I live my life and I know I am doing the right way of living, experiencing Team Wisdom. Working together can also expose things about ourselves and others. It is risk-taking to trust that we are working together in a safe space and testing ourselves. Sometimes on the dharma path we all need Roadside Assistance and there isn’t any magic-Buddha-fairy-unicorn coming along, it’s you and me. Bill Murray in Groundhog Day finds a way to

(continued on p. 6)

**Single-serve Buddhism** (continued from p. 5)

get up off his lotus flower and look at the world around him. Helping each other, the Sangha and the physical temple upkeep teaches us lessons we can't learn alone. Have city sacred spaces lost the art and knowledge of mentorship, sharing information and pitching in? Groundhog Day has many lessons and lots of laughter but it is also a mystery revealing how our connections with others transform us in ways camouflaged by our limited understanding of work, time and community.

 **A special thanks to our Spaghetti Dinner donors!** 



**Door Prize Donors:**

Karen Baier  
Jane Ike  
Candy Minx

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Election of officers of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago's Board of Directors will be held after Sunday service at the General Membership Meeting, the last Sunday of January 29.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Bill Bohlman or any current Board member.



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## Bodhi Day (continued from p. 1)

and then we were pleased he was able to give us a Saturday seminar (“Buddhism and Brain Science” on November 5).

Does Dr. Asma still have that idea of Pure Land Buddhism as being “so different” from the original teachings of the Buddha? I didn’t ask him but I feel that from attending two of our services and talking with our members, he knows our temple is very much about respecting the original Buddhist teachings. Those of you who regularly attend our services and study classes know we don’t talk about the “pursuit of heavenly paradise” and deifying the Buddha.

And though some may have heard other Pure Land Buddhists speak that way, the people we consider our teachers – Honen, Shinran, Kiyozawa, Akegarasu, et. al.—emphasize the essence of the Buddha’s teachings and not deviating from it to satisfy individual human greed.

This month’s occasion of Bodhi Day is a time to remind ourselves of how Jodo Shinshu embodies the essential teachings of the historical Buddha. Bodhi Day commemorates the awakening of the fallible human being named Siddhartha. Siddhartha was born into very privileged circumstances but still felt *dukkha* (which Dr. Asma translated as “unsatisfactoriness”). He thought he could find a way to transcend his anxiety over old age, sickness and death through various methods promoted by the gurus of his time for controlling one’s mind and body. As someone trained to be a military leader, Siddhartha easily mastered the exercises in physical and mental discipline. But none of these brought him the joyful peace he saw in the face of the mendicant at his palace’s fourth gate. That man with *ko gen gi gi* “face majestically shining with light” was the manifestation of Amitabha (literally, “not-measurable-light”), the name describing an encounter, not a deity.

When Siddhartha threw in the towel on ascetic practice, he sat comfortably under a tree (he had a nice bath in the river, drank milk pudding offered by a passerby and had a cushy seat of hay from a local farm boy) and wondered how he could encounter that Amitabha again. He searched deeply into his self – into his faulty, deteriorating physical and mental existence – and couldn’t find anything but the opposite of not-measurable-light. Hitting the bottom of despair, he shouted “Avidya!” (not-bright). In that cry, he gave up completely on himself and that was exactly his liberation. What was keeping him from the not-measurable-light were the walls of his ego-self. In his shout of “Avidya!” the walls were shattered and he felt the brilliant light of Life itself flood into his whole existence.

As he went forth to share his awakening with as many people as he could, he found out most guys needed to go through the ascetic process then struggle through hours of deep contemplation. The Buddha found that unfortunately some people who went through these processes became more ego-centered, their walls of separation became thicker instead of shattering apart. He also found people (including females) who didn’t need to spend a lot of time in discipline and meditation – the hard knocks of their lives already brought them to the full manifestation of Buddha-nature.

For the people in the latter group, it makes sense to call them beneficiaries of “other power” while those in the former group are victims of “self power.” Those in the “other power” group have been brought to the “realm of flowingness” (*sukhavati*,

which I feel was grossly mistranslated as “pure land,” or worse yet, “paradise”). Those people, despite the faults they are well aware of, are thoroughly in (“embraced by”) Amitabha – the liberated state of egolessness.

For us to recite “Namu Amida Butsu” is to echo the Buddha’s cry of awakening, “Avidya!” Of course, it is not exactly my awakening, but just a faint echo of the Buddha’s experience. Yet it is a powerful reminder nonetheless that I have been taken onto the path towards egolessness. As expressed in the Larger Sukhavativyuha Sutra, the Buddha realizes his moment of awakening was possible only through the awakenings of all the lives surrounding him, past, present and future. Bodhi Day has happened, is happening and will keep on happening for each of us.



Dr. Steven Asma

## Another Year Gone Bye (continued from p. 1)

speakers presented stimulating seminars and BTC co-hosted the Midwest Buddhist Council Visakha. Our fundraisers included another successful Natsu Matsuri and, in October, a group of hard working members organized a fun-filled spaghetti dinner and silent auction.

On an almost daily basis something is going on at BTC. Aside from Sunday service, there is meditation group twice a week, Rev. Patti’s study groups, book club, movie nights, ping pong, iaido, taiko, and outreach groups. BTC provides the opportunity for members and friends to share with others. Our Cook It Forward group prepares weekly meals for the less fortunate living under the viaducts and another monthly group uses our kitchen to also prepare food for the hungry.

The sense of community, of Sangha, is alive and well at BTC. From assisting at service, to helping in the office, cleaning the temple, helping at Natsu Matsuri, and preparing luncheons and refreshments after services, our members and friends are always there for us. As our membership becomes more diverse, BTC draws upon the strength of this diversity. The vision of Rev. Gyomay Kubose of a temple for all is being fulfilled. As president of BTC, I am proud to tell all I meet about this wonderful temple. As a temple we have accomplished much this year, but even greater things lie ahead. Your continuing support is the key to our hopeful future. Namu Amida Butsu.



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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## BTC CALENDAR DECEMBER 2016

- See **Temple Events & Activities Guide** on page 2 for details on events.
- Events may be canceled or moved after press time due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Check [www.facebook.com/budtempchi](http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi) for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm Meditation	2 7 pm Taiko	3
4 8:45 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial Service 12:30 pm Chanting Class	5 7 pm laido	6 11 am Qigong	7 7 pm Buddhism study	8 6pm Bulletin Submission deadline 7:30 pm Meditation	9 7 pm Taiko	10
11 8:45 am Meditation 11 am BODHI DAY service/Dharma School	12 7 pm laido	13 11 am Qigong	14 7 pm Buddhism study	15 6:30 pm Book Club 7:30 pm Meditation	16 7 pm Taiko	17 1 pm Asoka
18 8:45 am Meditation 11 am Service MOCHITSUKI	19 7 pm laido	20 11 am Qigong 6:30 Movie Night	21	22	23 10 am Bulletin Mailing	24
25 11 am Year-End Service	26	27 11 am Qigong	28	29	30	31