



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

願
慧

VOLUME 74

NUMBER 8

MAY

2018 A.D.
2561 B.E.

Articles

Transcending All
Together, by Rev.
Patti Nakai1

The Nature of
Oneness, by Bill
Bohlman1

The Rhythm of Life,
by Roger Adams
.....4

News & Items

New Employee!...4

BTC in the
Community5

Hanamatsuri.....5

Movie at MBT.....5

Bishop Ito Visit ...6

Hatsu Mairi.....6

Regular Features

Events & Activities
.....2

Mission Statement
.....2

Temple News.....3

Thank You!.....3

Calendar8



Address:

1151 W Leland Ave.
Chicago, IL
60640-5043

Telephone:

773-334-4661

Online:

BuddhistTemple
Chicago.org

Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

President

Bill Bohlman

Transcending All Together

You know that feeling you get in a competition when you're way ahead of the pack and then you cross the goal line or hit the big score and everyone is praising you and you win some cool prizes? Whether you know that feeling or not, it does not describe enlightenment even though a great many people think it does.

What does enlightenment feel like? A lot of Buddhist texts say it's beyond description, but I think it's something like realizing every living being deserves a trophy and you're the one who gets to pass them out—to the person in rags begging on the corner, to the customer service clerk giving you a hard time, to the tiny bug crawling through the cracks of the sidewalk, to the scruffy weed coming out of the flower bed. "Yes—all of you deserve a trophy and I'm happy to give this token of the world's appreciation to you!"

The reason I can make this assumption is that's how I see the historical Buddha and the great teachers such as Shinran and Akegarasu Haya. They didn't care about winning prizes or praise for themselves, but in their interactions with others, they showed the utmost respect and gratitude, no matter how much society viewed those beings as insignificant or despicable.

Akegarasu loved the phrase from the Larger Sutra, *Kai to o-jo*

The Nature of Oneness

Oneness. The idea of Oneness is central to the Buddhadharmā. In Buddhist practice, what is Oneness? Usually, in America, we speak of oneness as an ideal, a goal. Unity or harmony among all people is oneness. Equality regardless of race, nationality or gender is oneness. Compassion for those in need is oneness. Buddhist Oneness goes beyond these ideals. Buddhist Oneness is not a goal. It is the reality of life.

One of the best explanations of Oneness occurred at a Buddhist convention I attended. During the question and answer period after a seminar someone asked, "What is Oneness?" A panel member replied in a simple, understandable manner.

Holding up a sheet of paper he asked, "Do you see a cloud in this paper?" No one responded. Again he asked, "Do you see a cloud in this paper?" "You must see a cloud in this paper," he continued, "because without a cloud there is no rain. Without rain there is no tree. Without a tree there is no paper." He then asked, "Do you see a steel mill?" "You must see a steel mill because without the mill there is no steel. Without steel there is no ax or saw to cut the tree. No tree cut down, no paper." The audience was beginning to understand his point. Chuckling he asked, "Do you see Wheaties. Loggers work hard and need a good breakfast.



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

This article
continues
on page 7
at column 1.



Bill Bohlman
BTC President

Contact Bill at
budtempchi@aol.com
or find him most
Sundays after
service at the
information desk
& bookstore.

This article
continues
on page 6
at column 1.

MAY 2018 Temple Events & Activities Guide

- See Calendar (page 8) for specific dates.
- Up-to-date details/last-minute changes are available on Facebook: www.facebook.com/budtempchi
- **ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, and held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted).**

➤➤➤ *Special Temple Services and Events* ◀◀◀

- May 20—**Tanjo-e (Shinran Shonin Birthday).**
- May 27—**Hatsu Mairi**

Regular Temple Services

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

Temple Meetings & Community Service

- **Bulletin mailing**—2nd to last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month: May 25.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: May 10.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: May 27.
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding unhoused persons)—Mary Harvey
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. E-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.

- **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm
- **Meditation**—Sundays, 9:00 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. First-timers: come 10 minutes early for instruction.
- **Sutra Study Class**—2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.

Social & Cultural Activities

- **Aikido** (“cooperation, not competition”)—Sundays, 5-7 pm. Email DJ Lortie djaikibudo@gmail.com.
- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3rd Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: May 19.
- **Iaido** (Japanese Swordsmanship)—Mondays, 7-9 pm.
- **Qigong** (Chinese Movement)—Tuesdays, 11-12:30pm. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- **Taiko** (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe)—**Adults**, Fridays, 7-9pm.
Children, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays, 11 am.
Email: kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org.
- **Ukulele Group**—Tuesdays, 1 pm. Email Ruth Abbinanti: fabbianti@sbcglobal.net

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 Rev. Patti Nakai, Darryl Shishido (Editor), Nancey Epperson, Ann Yi

Feedback & Submissions Questions, comments, corrections & suggestions are welcome. Submissions are encouraged—articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc. 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

© **Copyright 2018 BTC Bulletin**, except where otherwise noted.

- ☸ 3/03 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Jimmy Omura. Mr. Omura is survived by children Melinda, Michele and Mark.
- ☸ 3/04 March memorial service. *** Chanting class met. *** Rev. Nakai conducted 3rd year memorial service for Seiji Matsumoto.
- ☸ 3/08 Nancey Epperson and Darryl Shishido attended ONE Northside membership meeting at North Shore Baptist Church.
- ☸ 3/09-3/10 Rev. Nakai attended ministers seminar and Dharma Seeds seminar with Wendy Fawcett at the Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin. Speaker at both events was Prof. Yasushi Kigoshi, president of Otani University.
- ☸ 3/11 Koshu-ki, memorial service for Rev. Gyoko Saito. Elaine Siegel gave the Dharma School talk and Darryl Shishido gave the lay talk.
- ☸ 3/13 Rev. Nakai conducted cremation service for Michael Gallaga at Woodlawn Memorial Park in Forest Park.
- ☸ 3/17 Asoka Society met.
- ☸ 3/18 Spring Ohigan service.
- ☸ 3/23 April bulletin mailed.
- ☸ 3/24 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Michael Gallaga at BTC. Mr. Gallaga is survived by children William and Amanda.
- ☸ 3/25 Founders Day, memorial service for Rev. Gyomay Kubose. *** Board of Directors met.
- ☸ 3/26 Elaine Siegel did presentation on Buddhist meditation at Frances Xavier Warde School. *** Darryl Shishido attended Japanese Mutual Aid Society meeting at the Japanese American Service Committee.

Our deepest sympathy to
the family and friends of:

Michael Gallaga
Jimmy Omura

THANK YOU!

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

Service & Hospitality

Sunday Service Participants: Sandra Adams,
Nancey Epperson, Glenn Fujiura, Albert Gonzalez,

THANK YOU!

(continued from previous column)

- Anna Idol, Debbie Miyashiro, Stanley Oda,
Darryl Shishido, Erica Yuen, Dharma School students
- **Lay Leaders:** Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Darryl Shishido, Miriam Solon
 - **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga, Ukulele Group
 - **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
 - **Bulletin Mailing:** Dennis Chan, Jerome Comeau, Antoinette d'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Nancey Epperson, Haru Ito, Ellen Johnson, Sadae Kasamoto, Amy Kawamoto, Lane Kometani, Masa Nakata, Mary Samson, Catherine Shiraiwa, Seichi Shiraiwa, Ruby Tsuji
 - **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Noreen Enkoji, Nancey Epperson, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, Amy Kawamoto, Jane and Jerry Morishige, Alice Murata, Mary Ozaki, Fumi Takata

Temple Keepers

- **Maintaining Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tademoto
- **Cleaning Hondo & Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- **Cleaning washrooms:** DJ and family
- **Emptying trash, putting it out for disposal:** Sue Balsam, Nancey Epperson, Adam Kellman
- **Sweeping and mopping:** John Sagami
- **Restocking paper towels and toilet paper:** Miriam Solon
- **Watering plants, laundering kitchen towels and aprons:** Alice Murata
- **Clearing trash from temple exterior spaces:** Wendy, Jacob and William Fawcett
- **Cleaning minister's residence:** Diana Schoendorff, Miriam Solon
- **Administrative Office Volunteers:** Ruth Abbinanti, Nancey Epperson, Mary Samson, Darryl Shishido
- **Maintaining and updating Temple website:** Ann Yi
- **Maintaining and updating Temple computer:** John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai
- **Setting up and taking down chairs & tables:** Too many to thank—thanks to all!

The Rhythm of Life

by Roger Adams

The oneness of all things—this is Reverend Kiyozawa’s statement in which he beautifully describes the interdependence and interrelatedness of all beings and all things. He was teacher to my teacher’s teacher. He passed away in 1903. So besides so many others who are followers of him, one can say that by way of Reverend Haya Akegarasu, his student, that there is a lineage between him and many others of such importance to the modern development of Buddhism, such as Shuichi Maida and including my teacher Reverend Gyoko Saito and Reverend Kubose and D. T. Suzuki and others as well. They are all part of the same modern movement, leading to the introduction of Buddhism into this country.

Words have such an important meaning. For instance, remembering his words as I awoke this morning, and over a cup of coffee and with the door to the kitchen open, I gazed outside and saw the garden and the birds singing, hoping in my mind that I will be able soon to go to Berkeley, California to be with others to study Shinran Shonin at the Maida Center For Buddhism—and having danced all night with my friend—I was really meditating on the oneness of all things with the sense of joy in my mind. These words—“the oneness of all things”—really manifested what I was feeling. Here, I have such a natural feeling. These words shine out. This shining feeling is the Pure Land as we follow the Way of Buddha. The Pure Land is the world of spirit in which we have transcended our petty and so often trivial quarrels over who’s right and who’s wrong, realizing that our judgments about others so often lead us into a feeling of separation—without feeling at one, but just feeling irritated—this lack of spiritual well-being that gnaws at our essence. Then it becomes so difficult to realize this world of oneness of all things. But to transcend it is the whole problem of our spiritual life. It is the feeling of transcending all things at the same time feeling at one with them. Indeed, transcending the world while feeling at one is the very world contained in the oneness of all things, like the woman in Akegarasu’s story, who stood up to dance at a temple gathering exclaiming, “I will dance my way into the Pure Land!”

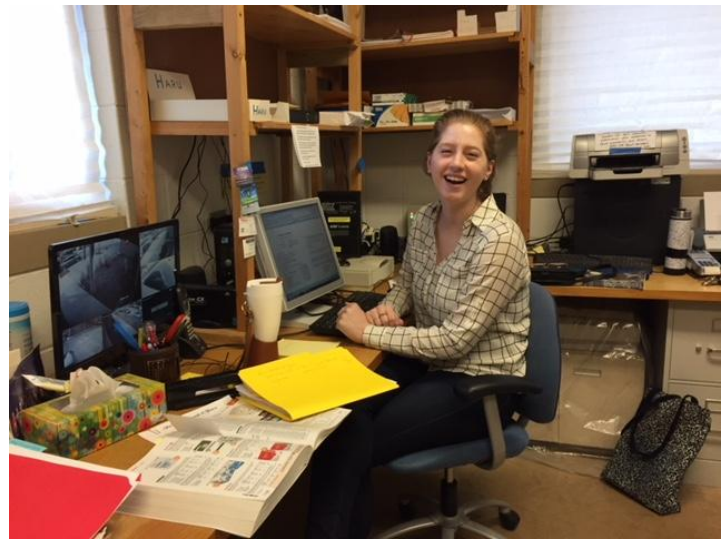
It’s not just the words, but how physical and mental way in which these words change my life, how the

(continued in next column)

The Rhythm of Life

(continued from previous column)

rhythm of life brings me into the One Soul of the universe. Here we can dance in the delight of life itself. As life moves, my mind is dancing. First, there is the life-movement, and then out of it, words pop up to describe it. So often our heads get cut off from our body, or physical being, and therefore, we feel disjointed from our very being and with life itself—a very irritable and difficult world can come out of this. But by following the Buddha’s way we can transcend this problem, this feeling of separation between ourselves and life itself. Thus, the words “the oneness of life”—and I feel the joy of the pure spirit of moving in this rhythm of life.



(photo: Rev. Patti)

New Employee!

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago has hired a temporary/part-time employee to handle the temple’s office/administrative work. Her name is Katie Riddle. She is 25, comes from Grosse Pointe, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit), and attended Loyola University here in Chicago studying English Literature and Spanish Literature. She had a year of service with AmeriCorps, the US Federal Government’s domestic volunteering service, involved in the “City Year” program in Gage Park High School, tutoring and mentoring an English class.

Please join *The BTC Bulletin* in welcoming Katie to our temple!

BTC in the Community

By Nancey Epperson

Engaged Buddhism is a modern term for applying Buddhist teachings in a socially active manner. One way this happens at BTC is through our involvement in the community. From Cook It Forward, our outreach to unhoused persons, to participation in the neighborhood organization ONE Northside, BTC members engage with other Uptown organizations and residents.



photo: Rev. Patti Nakai

On April 3, BTC was host to a dance program produced by our neighbor the Hattian American Museum. The program used modern choreography to interpret the history of Haiti. At the end of the evening, the choreographer led audience members in a line dance.

Another community partner is Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA). For the past 3 (hot, humid) summers, CMAA has held English classes in the spacious, air-conditioned BTC open hall. On June 2, CMAA has organized Dim Sum and Then Some “fun run” through our neighborhood of Uptown. This is the only runner’s event where the participants get a free box of dim sum just for taking part! To register, go to <https://www.chinesemutualaid.org/dim-sum-5k-2018> Use the code DIMSUMASLE for discount registration.



Hanamatsuri – April 8, 2018

Ochigo Parade



Kambutsu Offering



(photos: Wendy Fawcett)

Movie at MBT

Paths of the Soul – a movie about group of Tibetan Buddhists who make a 1,200-mile pilgrimage to Lhasa, prostrating every few yards, will be shown Sunday May 6, 1:00 PM, at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 West Menomonee, in Chicago. Free parking, free admission.

The Nature of Oneness (continued from page 1)

No loggers, no cut trees, no paper.” What was the point he made? First, nothing exists independent of outside conditions. Second, no single component is more important than another. These two points, along with the idea of impermanence, are the basis of Buddhism.

The legend of the birth of Gautama Buddha says that he took seven steps and cried, “Above the heavens and below the heavens I alone am most noble.” This is “The birth cry of the Buddha.” It is not a statement of superiority. Rather, it is the recognition that all people are unique. We all have a nobility that is not determined by others. Our nobility is ours by birth. It cannot be taken away from us. If all are unique then none are superior or inferior. This individual uniqueness is Oneness.

Respect for all living things is an expression of Oneness. Many Buddhists feel the taking of life is contrary to the teachings and choose to be vegetarians. Those who are not vegetarians respect the life taken to provide them with food. Mindfulness, the realization of the effect of our actions and appreciation of the present moment, is Oneness.

In his book *Everyday Suchness* Rev. Gyomay Kubose ends his discussion of Oneness with the following, “We have to see and understand things as they are. Each and all are unique and independent and, at the same time, all are interrelated and interdependent. We are all one.”

(reprinted from thatbuddhaguy.com with permission from the author)



With one hand pointing to the heavens, the other towards earth, the statue in the hanamido shows the baby Buddha making his birth cry.

(Photo: Mary Harvey)

Bishop Ito Visit



Rev. Noriaki Ito, Bishop of the Higashi Honganji North America District, will visit BTC on May 26 & 27 as part of our Tanjo-e observances. He will conduct a chanting workshop on Saturday, and give the Dharma talk at the Sunday service.

Though Rev. Ito was born in Japan, he grew up in the USA. He followed his father (Rinban Horyu Ito) into the ministry, receiving his master in Shin Buddhist Studies from Otani University in 1975. He served at Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin and West Covina Buddhist Temple before being elevated to Bishop in 2011. BTC's ties with Higashi Betsuin are deep. During the wartime internment, Rev. Kubose successfully negotiated with the bank to prevent foreclosure and thus allow the temple to continue.

Rev. Ito was one of the delegates (along with Rev. Patti) to attend the Buddhist-Catholic Dialog in Rom in June 2015

The Tanjo-e service on May 27 will commemorate the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsu Mairi May 20

Hatsu Mairi is the ceremony marking a child's official “first visit” to the temple. The child and the parents are recognized before the sangha, and certificate of commemoration is given. Children of any age, from infant to teenagers, can participate. Applications are available at the temple or you can call or email us.

Transcending All Together

(continued from page 1)

(“all will inevitably go and be born [in the Pure Land]”). He also expressed it in the title of his last book, *Yo to tomo-ni, yo o koen* (“together with the world, [we] transcend the world”). For Akegarasu, that is the main message of the Larger Sutra—that deep inside each of us is the wish (*hongan*) to awaken to oneness and break out of the limiting shell of our ego-self. As the character Dharmakara says in his vows in the Larger Sutra—there is no enlightenment for me unless all are enlightened together.

When I went to Los Angeles this past March to hear Prof. Yasushi Kigoshi speak at the Dharma Seeds retreat, this message was made clear and concrete. (You can read my report of the retreat “To Help or Not Help” at higashihonganjiusa.org.) Soon after the 2011 tsunami disaster, Prof. Kigoshi as the president of Otani University helped the students organize monthly weekend trips to the damaged area to provide whatever assistance was needed by the survivors. He said they named their ongoing project “T.A.T.” to stand for *Tomo-ni ayumi tai* (“[We] want to walk this path together [with you]”). The English translation they came up with was “Transcending All Together.”

In translating the Japanese phrases above, I have to put brackets on the pronouns because the actual expressions don’t have a subject (I, we) and object (you, them). Transcending one’s ego-self is only accomplished when you forget about being the subject who acts on an object. Westerners have portrayed Mahayana Buddhism as the bodhisattva (that which “I” am trying to be) saving all the unfortunate sentient beings who would be lost without “my” help. But I often tell people that in Jodo Shinshu we really can’t consider ourselves the bodhisattvas (or even bodhisattvas in training) but it’s important to start seeing that the bodhisattvas who help us immensely are all around. And in the minds of teachers such as Shinran and Akegarasu, bodhisattvas in various disguises are so numerous, you might as well look up to every person as one.

It was very moving to me to hear Prof. Kigoshi talk of the student volunteers as just doing things together with the tsunami survivors and listening to their stories. He saw it was very fulfilling for the

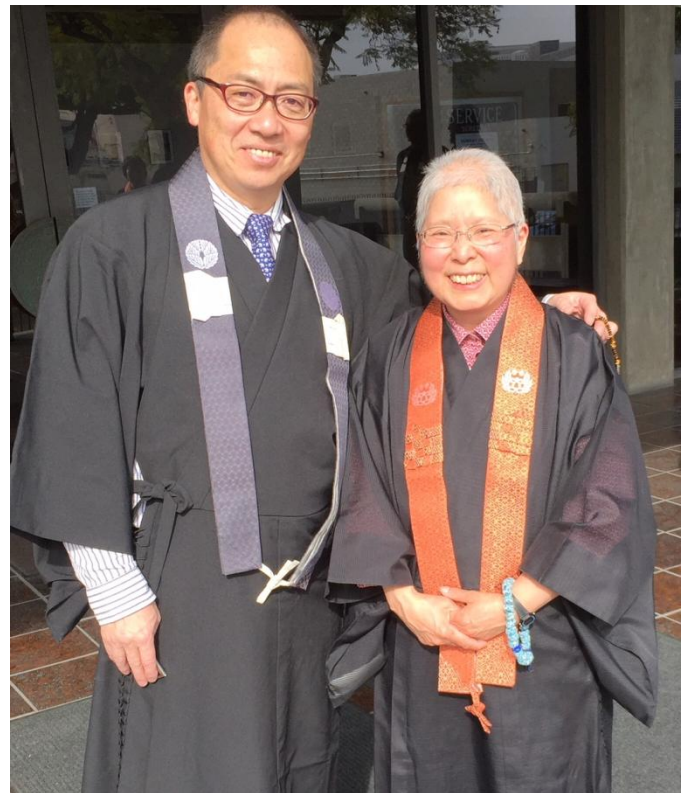
(continued in next column)

Transcending All Together

(continued from page 1)

students to relate to the survivors as “fellow travelers” and not with the “I’m saving you” attitude of self-appointed do-gooders. Even though he is known as one of the top scholars of the Higashi Honganji denomination, Prof. Kigoshi didn’t feel it was for him to “teach” Buddhism to the survivors. He felt in listening and spending time with them, they were teaching him about life as it truly is.

To be the true disciple of the Buddha means doing what you can and walking the path with others respecting them as worthy individuals, not seeing them as pitiful souls that need salvation from you. Prof. Kigoshi and the student volunteers show us by example how to live by the Dharma rather than preach it. I hope for myself and our temple members, we can learn from listening to the struggles of others, especially those who are different from us in appearance, status, culture, religion etc. Spiritual awakening—enlightenment—has to be transcending together with all, not just yourself and a chosen few.



Prof. Yasushi Kigoshi and Rev. Patti at the Dharma Seeds retreat in March 2018. (photo: Rev. Patti)



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

1151 W Leland Ave
 CHICAGO, IL 60640-5043 USA
www.buddhisttemplechicago.org
 Phone: (773) 334-4661

NOT FOR PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
 PERMIT NO. 7329

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MAY 2018 CALENDAR



See page 2 for details on specific events. Events may be canceled or moved.
 Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	2 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	3 7:30 pm Meditation	4 7:00 pm Taiko (tentative)	5
6 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial Service 5 pm Aikido	7 7 pm laido	8 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	9 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	10 10 am Bulletin Submissions due 7:30 pm Meditation	11 7:00 pm Taiko (tentative)	12
13 9 am Meditation 10 am Children's Taiko 11 am Dharma School 5 pm Aikido	14 7 pm laido	15 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	16 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	17 7:30 pm Meditation	18 7:00 pm Taiko (tentative)	19 1pm Asoka Society
20 9 am Meditation 11 am Hatsu Mairi 5 pm Aikido	21 7 pm laido	22 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	23 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	24 7:30pm Meditation	25 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7:00 pm Taiko (tentative)	26 1:30 PM Workshop – Rituals & Chanting Practice
27 9 am Meditation 10 am Children's Taiko 11 am Tanjo-e service / Dharma School 12:30 pm Board Meeting 5 pm Aikido	28 7 pm laido	29 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	30 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	31 7:30 pm Meditation		