



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

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Great Tomorrow by Haya Akegarasu

[**Editor's Note:** This month the resident minister has not written an article but instead for the occasion of Koso-ki, the memorial for Haya Akegarasu (1877-1954) she would like us to read this article from *Shout of Buddha* (translated by Gyoko Saito and Joan Sweany, Orchid Press: 1977).]

I am living every day in struggle, but living in this struggle I have one enjoyment in my mind, and that is tomorrow. I encourage myself saying, Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and so I have this one enjoyment even in the midst of struggle.

When I heard this confession from a woman temple member, I could not hold back my tears.

O Tomorrow! Only the one who submerges herself in struggles and suffering can taste this tomorrow. Only a person whose suffering is the torture of the known world's reality can taste and feel attracted by that tomorrow which is the unknown world, the world of the future.

These days, every morning when I get up I enjoy thinking, "Today I will have something interesting happen to me." Always when I go out I think I will discover something good. This



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

This article
continues
on page 6
at 1.

Another Natsu Matsuri

Another year, another successful Natsu Matsuri; for over seventy years, we have held our annual summer festival. Although what had been a two day festival is now only one day, the one constant has been the involvement of the Sangha. Every aspect of the festival depends on the volunteers.

With over 750 chicken dinners sold, Team Teriyaki once again hit a homerun. On Saturday morning, the chicken arrived and was promptly processed and placed into the BTC secret teriyaki marinade. Sunday morning at five AM, the cooking crew started to arrive for a day of masterful grilling. Throughout the day, visitors enjoyed delicious teriyaki chicken. But that wasn't the only taste treat.

After a Saturday of chopping and preparation, Sunday brought a crew of dozens to assemble the chirashi and make the inari. Throughout the day on Sunday, the kitchen crew worked tirelessly to serve the steady stream of customers. When the day ended, every bit of food had been consumed by satisfied customers.

This year's festival attendees were treated to various performances on the indoor stage. This year's stage performances included taiko, Iaido, aikido, Kyudo and an O-Bon odori preview.



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 7
at 2.

AUGUST 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 ◀◀◀

- August 11—**Bon Odori**
- August 12—**Obon Service**
- August 26—**Kosoki (Haya Akegarasu Memorial)**

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: August 24.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: August 9.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: August 26.
- **Upaya Helpers** (refreshment service, community outreach, ping pong, etc.)
- **Cook It Forward** (feeding unhoused persons)—Mary Harvey <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CookItForward/>

Meditation & Buddhist Education

- **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm. Class resumes after Labor Day.

- **Dharma School**—2nd and 4th Sundays every month during Regular Temple Service. On break for summer. Resumes September 9.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next session starts August 8. E-mail Nancey Epperson at naepperson14@gmail.com.

- **Meditation**—Sundays, 9:00 am and Thursdays, 7:30 pm. First-timers: come 10 minutes early for instruction. On break until after Labor Day.

- **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. No meeting in February.

- **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, 7-9 pm. **Children**, 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays at 11. Email kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org to confirm.

- **Ukulele Group**—Tuesdays, 1 pm. Email Ruth Abbinanti: fabbinanti@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

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- ❁ 6/03 June memorial service. ** Sutra study class met.
- ❁ 6/05 Darryl Shishido did tour of BTC and presentation on Buddhism for youth group from Georgia hosted by Lakeview Church of Christ.
- ❁ 6/09 Asoka Society temple clean-up.
- ❁ 6/10 Dharma School service.
- ❁ 6/13 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial service for George Honda, Russell Honda and Tomio Horita at Montrose Cemetery.
- ❁ 6/14 Nancey Epperson and Darryl Shishido attended ONE-Northside meeting at North Shore Baptist Church.
- ❁ 6/17 Natsu Matsuri.
- ❁ 6/22 July bulletin mailed.
- ❁ 6/24 Pride Sunday service. ** Board of Directors met.
- ❁ 6/30 Rev. Nakai conducted ashes burial at Graceland Cemetery and 49th day service at BTC for the late Yoshiko Rosie Takagi. Mrs. Takagi is survived by daughters Pat Ouchi and Joanne Fukuyama and son Robert Takagi.

BTC was informed of the passing of longtime member Mrs. Fumiko Fukuya on June 18, preceded by the passing of her husband Kazuo in September 2017.

Our deepest sympathy to
the family and friends of:
Yoshiko Rosie Takagi
Fumiko Fukuya

Aikido: “Co-operation, not competition”
D. J. Lortie and son perform at Natsu Matsuri



(photo courtesy of George Nagata)

THANK YOU!

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

Service & Hospitality

- **Sunday Service Participants:** Sandra Adams, Joe Evans, Alec Hudson, Lynnell Long, Patzwaladt, Otto Patzwaladt, Darryl Shishido, Elaine Siegel, Dharma School students
- **Lay Leaders:** Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Darryl Shishido
- **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga
- **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- **Bulletin Mailing:** Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Nancey Epperson, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, Amy Kawamoto, Lane Kometani, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Mary Ozaki, Seichi Shiraiwa, Sharon Shiraiwa, Ruby Tsuji
- **Natsu Matsuri Clean-up Before and After:** Asoka group
- **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Noreen Enkoji, Bill Gallaga, Haru Ito, Ruby Izui, Jess Lechuga, Jane Morishige, Steven Nagata, Frances Patzwaladt, Paul Yamauchi

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:** Gary Nakai, John Sagami, Tomio Tademoto, Michael Yasukawa
- **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:** Dharma School
- **Administrative Office Volunteers:** Ruth Abbinanti, Nancey Epperson, 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 all! -



2018 Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) Convention

Members of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago have been invited to attend the 2018 Eastern Buddhist League Conference, hosted by the Toronto Buddhist Church, in Toronto Canada. The conference lasts from Friday, August 31st through Sunday September 2nd, 2018.

The theme this year is “Pursuit of True Happiness...The Shin Buddhist Path.”

Happiness matters. Research has revealed that people who are happy enjoy life more, are more resilient, have better relationships and are physically healthier. In Buddhism, happiness is discussed on many levels, but it always starts with the self. Our goal for this upcoming conference is to provide participants with a better understanding of what happiness means and how they can achieve happiness in their daily, and often stressful, lives.

The keynote speakers will be Rev. Bob Oshita and Rev. Patti Oshita. Both are well known among Jodo Shinshu followers.



Jump for Joy: “The Pursuit of True Happiness”

Visit www.tbc.on.ca/eb1 for more details and to register for the conference.

For questions, send an email to torontoeb1@gmail.com.



FLOOD RELIEF!



Hokusai's vision of the flood

The Japan Flood Friendship Fund (JFFF) has been established by the US-Japan Council (USJC) and others to aid those affected by Japan's current weather disaster. Ehime, Hiroshima and Okayama prefectures have experienced floods, landslides, hundreds of deaths, home damage and lack of drinking water.

All contributions to JFFF go to relief efforts through networks of nonprofit organizations in the affected areas. Consider making a donation! Donations are tax deductible (permitted by law under the 501c (3) provisions of the U.S. tax code).

For inquiries, or if interested in partnering with JFFF: JFFF@usjapanCouncil.org.

The Burning Self

by Haya Akegarasu

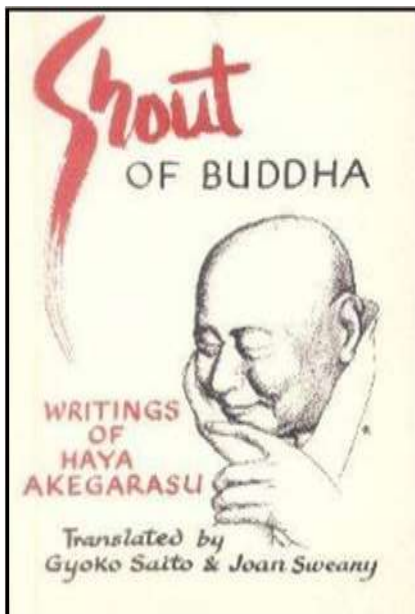
Brilliancy of the burning self! These flames of hell blaze up, seize earth, are about to invade heaven--no ledge to put my foot on, no cave to hide my body in, no refuge for my soul. All havens, all old friends are horribly consumed in these hellish flames. Even my adored God and Buddha, in these highest heavens, melt down in these deep fires of hell. Unable to kill the flames, I tried to escape them. I ran to persons, to things. I prayed to God and Buddha, reciting Nembutsu, trying to find power--All in vain.

Now at every breath the monstrous flames assail me. I jump on anguished screams, I crouch on silences. Writhing, I strain with the thought "I don't want to burn, I don't want to die," but the raging flames advance upon my legs and arms, and reach my head.

I am not aware of it, but I stand in these flames like the god of the fire.

Now the burning has caught my whole body, reaches up and grasps my soul. "Death! I am all fire." Sobbing, I hurl myself into it.

How strange, that at this moment I should gain a new life. Spirit of Burning, radiant with the flames of hell, Spirit of Quietude, shining throughout all worlds and space! Now moving on emboldened, without regret or fear, without thought or qualm, with only this burning of the fires of hell, I overgrow the entire universe.



Press, translated by Gyoko Saito and Joan Sweany, cover art by Roger Adams)

No man gains a new life unless he dreads the fire that will consume his body and soul, unless he mourns its coming. But no man knows enlightenment unless he surrenders to this fire of hell.

Flames of the creation of my total self are my only enlightenment.

From Akegarasu, Haya, *Shout of Buddha* (Orchid

Back-to-School Fun(d) Raising

BOOK SALE!

**Saturday and Sunday
September 8 & 9**

Donations wanted!

Books in good condition – fiction, non-fiction, children's books, cooking, hobbies, language handbooks, popular culture, philosophy, sports, DVDs, CDs – anything that interests you will interest a buyer!

Please no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, or books in poor condition.



Drop off books any Sunday after services.



Volunteers wanted!

Pre-sale: collecting, toting, sorting books.
During the sale: Helping visitors, selling books!

For more info, or to volunteer, contact Diana Schoendorff:
billandi@
sbcglobal.net

BIG BREAKFAST!

Sunday September 9

8AM – 11 AM

\$10 adults \$7.50 kids under 12

For menu and other details – see insert / flyer

Satisfy your intellectual hunger at the same time—visit the book sale after you dine!

Pride Sunday at BTC

Sunday June 24 was Pride Sunday. On this occasion BTC celebrates not only the oneness of all humanity, but the diversity of our membership. This year we were fortunate to have Lexi Chu of **i2i** – Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago as a guest speaker. Lexi told of their story to come to terms with their (non-mainstream) sexuality and identity. They also gave the sangha an insight into the struggles faced by LGBTQ folks of Asian heritage.

i2i is a group for individuals and family members of Asian and Pacific Island heritage (APIs) who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning. The families can be of origin, of choice, from adoption and/or multiracial. Individual APIs looking for support, friends, or community are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. Email them at i2iChicagopride@gmail.com



Lexi Chu with Rev. Patti.

Great Tomorrow (continued from page 1)

“today” is rather shallow but it will develop into that feeling of tomorrow manifested by that woman. The future life which is drawn by experiences and stresses is always dark and painful. But those who must cry over present sufferings and are completely disappointed with their past and present life, for them the future world directly drawn by the innermost aspiration (*hongan*) itself is somehow full of joy. The future—not as something selfishly expected—but as the deep wish itself has such spiritually liberating power.

The mind that expects a self-profiting tomorrow is a deluded, ineffective mind. But the real wish itself has no time to conceptualize “tomorrow”—that is, the wish itself as tomorrow is the only reality, treasure, brightness, awakening.

The mind of seeking the true world and the calling [Namu Amida Butsu] which urges and invites us to that world is the essential way of the innermost aspiration.

O Tomorrow! O Great Tomorrow! Because of this I am always being reborn and moving onward.

Quang Minh Monks Pilgrimage

Every summer the monks of Quang Minh Temple in Uptown make a pilgrimage to the other Buddhist temples in the neighborhood. This year, about 30 monks and several lay supporters monks visited BTC on July 11.



photos this page: Rev. Patt Nakai

Natsu Matsuri: Hot fun in the Summertime!



(left)
Albert Gonzales helps out with the chicken!
[photo: Albert himself(ie)]

(below)
Elaine Siegel gives a Dharmathon message.
(photo: Rev. Patti Nakai)



Cultural exhibits and crafts – something for everyone.

In the hondo, for Dharmathon, lay leaders presented brief talks on various aspects of Buddhism and answered questions. In addition, there was a presentation by author Naomi Hirahara discussing her book “Life After Manzanar.” Again this year, our haiku contest brought out the poet in many of us with some exceptional haikus on the subject of wind.

Although the craft group did not have a table this year, various vendors offered handmade jewelry, ojuzu, and artworks. The “Name in Japanese” calligraphy table produced beautiful bookmarks as a keepsake of the festival.

The cultural exhibit featured traditional festivals: Hinamatsuri (Girl’s Day), Tango No Sekku (Boy’s Day Festival), Tanabata (Star Festival) and Kiku No Sekku (Chrysanthemum Festival). Various temple members displayed some of their prized possessions and the Asoka group made beautiful paper flowers.

Many others helped with the raffle, food ticket sales, food service, set up and clean up, and myriad behind the scenes tasks. Every job is important because every job needs to be done.

As chairman of the festival for over twenty years, I find that my job gets easier each year. It isn’t that the overall workload for the festival is less; it is because I know that I can count on the Sangha to get things done. Working together as one, with one common goal, we are able to make Natsu Matsuri a success each year. Thank you for all you do.



The iaido team: Jerry Morishige, Yasuo Ito, Michael Kudo, Jr., Lyndsee Geyer

(photos: George Nagata)

(photos: George Nagata)




The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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AUGUST 2018 CALENDAR 						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:30 pm Bon Odori Practice	3 Taiko 7PM By appointment	4
5 11 am Monthly Memorial Service	6 7 pm Iaido	7 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Ukulele 7:30 pm Bon Odori Practice	8	9 6 pm Bulletin Submissions due 7:30 pm Bon Odori Practice	10 Taiko 7PM By appointment	11 7:30 pm Bon Odori
12 11 am Obon Service	13 7 pm Iaido	14 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Ukulele	15	16	17 Taiko 7PM By appointment	18 1 pm Asoka Society
19 11 am Regular Service	20 7 pm Iaido	21 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Ukulele	22	23	24 10 am Bulletin Mailing Taiko 7PM By appointment	25
26 11 am Kosoki (Akegarasu Memorial) 12:30 pm Board Meeting	27 7 pm Iaido	28 11 am Tai Chi 1 pm Ukulele	29	30	31 Taiko 7PM By appointment EBL Conference	

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.