



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

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Articles

Frog in a Tiny Well,
by Dr. Nobuo
Haneda1

The Delusion of
Control, by Bill
Bohlman1

Reorienting
Ourselves, by Darryl
Shishido

.....4

News & Items

News3

Thanks3

Hot Fun in the
Summertime5

Dancing the Night
Away6

Regular Features

Events & Activities
.....2

Mission Statement
.....2

Calendar8



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Rev. Patti Nakai

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Bill Bohlman

Frog in a Tiny Well by Dr. Nobuo Haneda

[At the 2018 Maida Center retreat in Berkeley, CA, Dr. Haneda referred to this parable of the frog in a tiny well. Here is an excerpt from his "Introduction" in *The Evil Person: Essays on Shin Buddhism* by Shuichi Maida (translated by Nobuo Haneda, Maida Center: 2016, previously published in 1989 by Higashi Honganji).—Reverend Patti Nakai]

Let me explain [the outline of Buddhism] by citing a Japanese proverb: "A frog in a tiny well does not know the huge ocean." In Japan, people use the expression "a well-frog" to describe a person whose perspective is narrow and limited.

Now imagine a tiny well surrounded by a huge ocean. There is a frog in the tiny well. Since the frog has always been in the well, he obviously does not know about the existence of the huge ocean. But does the frog know that he is in a *tiny* well? Does he know the *smallness* of the well? The answer is "No." Thus the huge ocean is not the only thing he does not know. His ignorance is two-fold. This is the two-fold ignorance [of people before encountering Buddhism].

How, then, can the frog know that he is in a tiny well? He must

The Delusion of Control by Bill Bohlman

"Your ego has about as much control over what goes on as a child sitting next to his father in a car with a plastic steering wheel." —Alan Watts

Who is in control here? Most of the time, we like to think that we are; we are the ones who determine our destiny. However, this delusion of control is the primary cause of our suffering. It is true that our thoughts, words and deeds in this moment can influence future events; however, circumstances beyond our control will determine the outcome. Our ego is always subservient to reality as it is.

Is our desire to overcome suffering unattainable? Are our lives like the inscription over the gate to Dante's Hell, "Abandon all hope ye who enter here"? Not necessarily; the Buddhadharm provides us with a path to overcoming suffering.

Three years ago, I was shown the power of the Buddhadharm. At that time time, I had allowed myself to become so sick that I had to be hospitalized. I was a prime example of ego; a single, business-owning man who thought he knew everything. During my illness and recovery, my brother, who was also my business partner, took care of everything. Now, my ego told me, we were



Rev. Patti Nakai
Resident Minister

This article
continues
on page 7
at 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 7
at 1.

SEPTEMBER 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* ◀◀◀

- **Eastern Buddhist League Convention**—Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 1-2, 2018. Toronto, Canada. **TEMPLE CLOSED THIS DAY—NO SERVICE.**
- **Book Sale**—Sat., Sept. 8, 10 am to 5 pm; Sun., Sept. 9, 12:30 pm to 5pm.
- **Breakfast**—Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018, 8 am to 11 am.
- **O-Higan Service**—Sunday, Sept. 16, 11 am.

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: September 21.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: Sept. 6.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: Sept. 23.
- **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

- **Dharma School**—Usually, 2nd and 4th Sunday every month, 11 am. This month: Sept. 9 and 23. **Buddhism Study Class**—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 pm. No class Sept. 5; class resumes Sept. 12.
- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next session planned for October. Email Nancey Epperson: naepperson14@gmail.com
- **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.
- **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: 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

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- ☸ 7/01 July memorial service. *** Chanting class met.
- ☸ 7/07 Rev. Nakai conducted the funeral service for Mr. Toshio Joji at BTC. The 100-year old Mr. Joji is survived by sons Toshi and Seiji.
- ☸ 7/08 Regular service. *** Sutra study class met.
- ☸ 7/09 Kokyo Taiko presented a workshop at BTC for Education Talent Search, a program for disadvantaged youth. *** Summer English classes began at BTC for the Chinese Mutual Aid Association citizenship program.
- ☸ 7/11 Annual Uptown pilgrimage of the monks from Quang Minh Temple.
- ☸ 7/14 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Mr. Henry Terada at BTC, followed by the ashes burial service at Montrose Cemetery.
- ☸ 7/15 Rev. Nakai conducted one-year memorial service for Mieko Kotake at BTC. *** Lay speaker Sunday talk given by Wendy Fawcett.
- ☸ 7/17 Bon Odori teachers met to finalize dances for the 2018 program.
- ☸ 7/20 August bulletin mailing.
- ☸ 7/21 Asoka Society met.
- ☸ 7/22 Regular service. *** Board of directors met.
- ☸ 7/24 BTC hosted ONE-Northside's 5th anniversary celebration.
- ☸ 7/26 Elaine Siegel and Miriam Solon represented BTC at the interfaith dialogue hosted by the U.S. Dept. of Justice held at the Chicago Loop Synagogue.
- ☸ 7/27 – 7/29 Rev. Nakai attended the Maida Center retreat in Berkeley, CA.
- ☸ 7/29 Temple picnic.
- ☸ 7/31 Bon Odori practice.

THANK YOU!

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

Service & Hospitality

- **Sunday Service Participants:** Ruth Abbinanti, Sue Balsam, Anita Bassiri, Jacob Fawcett, Wendy Fawcett, Glenn Fujiura, Mary Harvey, Ed Horiuchi, Anna Idol, Lynnell Long, Alice Murata, Diana Schoendorff, Elaine Siegel

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- **Lay Leaders:** Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Lynnell Long, Darryl Shishido
- **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga
- **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- **Bulletin Mailing:** Dennis Chan, Antoinette d'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, April Kellman, Lane Kometani, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Mary Ozaki, Ruby Tsuji
- **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Jackie Denofrio, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Ruby Izui, Amy Kawamoto, Jim Kikuchi, Alice Murata

Temple Keepers

- **Maintaining Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tadamoto
- **Cleaning Hondo & Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- **Extensive landscape maintenance:** Tomio Tadamoto
- **Cleaning washrooms:** DJ and family
- **Emptying trash, putting it out for disposal:** Sue Balsam, Nancey Epperson, Adam Kellman
- **Sweeping and mopping:** Gary Nakai, 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 to all!
- **Special Project:** Sharpening knives and donation of knife storage block – Wayne and Deanna Nakayama



Reorienting Ourselves

By Darryl Shishido

On Jul 27-29, 2018, at the Maida Center Summer Retreat held in Berkeley, California, Dr Nobuo Haneda gave three lectures on Shinran Shonin's major work, *Kyogyoshinsho*. These lectures were intended to give students of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism a framework with which to understand their path in the light of the nature of "wisdom." This article summarizes this framework.

Dr. Haneda considers wisdom in two ways: Human wisdom, which gives rise to "Provisional Buddhism," and Buddha's Wisdom, which gives rise to "True Buddhism."

Human wisdom is dualistic, meaning it appreciates positive values and hates negative values. Buddha's wisdom is non-dualistic, meaning it finds meaning in both positive and negative values.

In other words, Provisional Buddhism enables me to see only the good that I do. True Buddhism enables me to see both the good and evil that I do.

One's realization that "I am an evil person" on the basis of human wisdom is "an expression of the inferiority complex of a person who cannot live up to ethical standards."

To get from Provisional Buddhism to True Buddhism, practitioners must go through certain stages of thought.

First, practitioners see themselves as good persons, those who perform sundry practices, eliminate blind passions and rely on human wisdom.

Second, practitioners see themselves as evil persons, those who cannot perform sundry practices or eliminate blind passions, but must rely completely on Buddha's wisdom.

Third, "Shinjin" arises when one encounters two things—the path and the person who embodies the path; and when one has two experiences—hearing "the Name (i.e., the words of historical teachers)" and examining one's self on the basis of the Name. Shinjin implies "deep understanding of the self and deep understanding of the Dharma."

One's realization that "I am an evil person" on the basis of Buddha's wisdom is the "deep understanding of the self that Shinran talks about."

Dr. Haneda says, "When the person sees himself as
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Reorienting Ourselves

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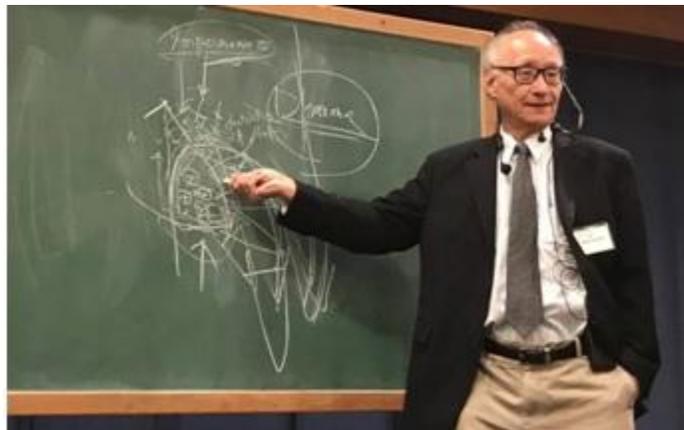


Photo: Maida Center Archives

Dr. Haneda on "Human Wisdom and Buddha's Wisdom"

"an evil person" on the basis of the Buddha's wisdom, his mind feels not only the sadness of confession but also the joy of encountering the Buddha's wisdom and being embraced by it."

In Provisional Buddhism, each practitioner has an *individually different* religious orientation concerning motivation, basis of wisdom, teaching or practice. In True Buddhism, each practitioner has the *same orientation* in those areas, leading to the re-orientation of the mind.

The end-result of the reorientation of our mind is "birth in the Pure Land," This means "birth in a sangha," in which we are liberated from our individual self-centered orientation.

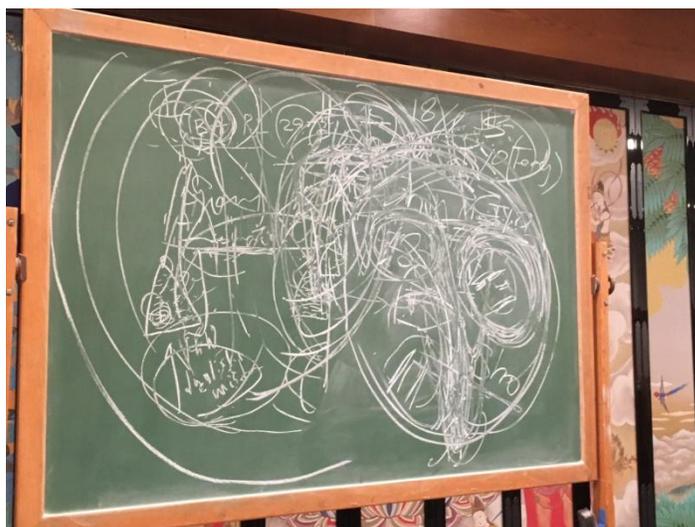


Photo: Darryl Shishido

Our Minds Reoriented

BOOK AND MEDIA

SALE!

Saturday, September 8, 2018

10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday, September 9, 2018

12:30 PM to 5 PM

Something for Everyone!

- Hardcovers!
- Paperbacks!
- Children's books!
- Mysteries!
- Cookbooks!
- Language books!
- Popular culture!
- DVDs!
- CDs!
- ... and more!

Hardcovers \$3 Trade paperbacks \$1
 Mass market paperback .50 DVDs \$2 CDs \$1

Drumming at Navy Pier

Kokyo Taiko (BTC's resident taiko group) received the star treatment when they performed at Navy Pier as part of the Amazon Treasure Truck show before the movie "Isle of Dogs" on July 14.



Photo: Toby Weisman

Members: Hiromi Ishikawa, Mary Harvey, Brett Garry, Miriam Solon, Christy Fell, Ray Kimoto

Visiting Friends in Japan

In July 2018, Carol Koizumi took a Princess Cruise to Japan. While in Japan, she was able to visit with Rev. & Mrs. Ashikaga. The Ashikagas are doing well and are happy with their new surroundings. During the very hot Tokyo weather, Rev. & Mrs. Ashikaga escorted Carol to the Ginza for shopping and sightseeing. Carol is very appreciative of their kindness, as well as their help in navigating the Tokyo subways. The Ashikagas send their love and best wishes to all at BTC.



Photos: Carol Koizumi

HEARTY BREAKFAST!

Sunday, September 9, 2018

8 AM to 11 AM (before Book Sale)

Teriyaki wieners, rice, eggs

Tea, coffee, juice

Vegetarian option available

\$10 adults \$7.70 kids under 12

For tickets, see Elaine Siegel or Lynn Maruyama or pay at the door

For more info, or to help out, contact Lynn Maruyama
Lmaruyama114@gmail.com

Dancing the Night Away – Bon Odori and Obon

This year's Bon Odori celebration was one of the most successful in recent memory. Long time members and experienced dancers were joined by celebrants new to our community and new to Buddhism. We danced to celebrate our loved ones no longer with us. Then we came together on Sunday morning to remember the ones we have lost since the last Obon.



Photos by Mary Harvey, Eric Kato, Patti Nakai, Darryl Shishido

Frog in a Well

(continued from page 1)

get out of the well and see it from outside. Suppose that one day a bird flies over the well and says to the frog, “Mr. Frog, you are in a tiny well. Since you have always been there, you cannot see what is outside your well. There is a huge ocean out there.”

The frog would probably say, “What are you saying? There is a huge world in here. You stupid bird! Go away!” So the bird flies away.

Some time later, the frog starts to think about the words of the bird. Sometimes he hears the sound of splashing water outside his well. He feels that there could be something outside his well after all. He says to himself, “It is possible that the bird is right and I am wrong. Maybe there is something outside this well.”

When the bird again flies over the well, the frog says to him, “Mr. Bird, I am sorry for what I said the other day. Maybe you are right. So why don’t you take me out of this place and show me the ocean you are talking about?” Then the bird, complying with the frog’s request, picks him up and flies up into the air.

When the frog reaches a certain height, he shouts, “How tiny my well is! How huge the ocean is!” Thus he simultaneously starts to see the hugeness of the ocean and the smallness of the well. The frog’s insight into the smallness of the well and his insight into the hugeness of the ocean are inseparable. As soon as he is awakened to the ocean’s hugeness, he is awakened to the well’s smallness and vice versa. Just as the frog’s ignorance was two-fold, his awakening is two-fold.

I should point out here that the frog’s awakening does not make his “well” greater or more significant. His home is still a tiny well. Only his perspective has changed. And if the frog becomes so fascinated by the vastness of the ocean that he jumps into it in an attempt to become one with it, he will immediately die. No matter how small it may be, the “well” is the only place he can live.

Before we study Buddhism we are like the frog in the tiny well. Although we do not know the real nature of the self (symbolized by the “well”), we think we know it. Like the frog who believes that his well is huge, we overestimate the self and consider it great. We love the self so blindly that we cannot see it objectively from outside.

The Delusion of Control

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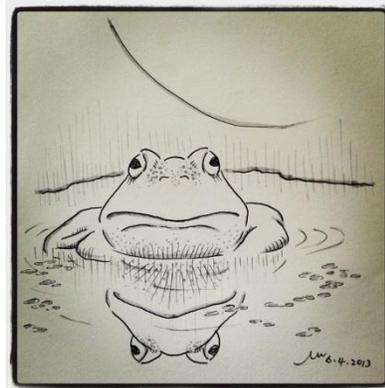
we were back in control. Then, shortly after, my brother was diagnosed with cancer and passed away within two months. Reality had once again preempted my plans. Anger, sadness, frustration, helplessness, a flood of emotions arose within me. My peace of mind was restored thru the Buddhadharma.

The First Noble Truth in Buddhism is that all life has suffering. No one has ever lived who has not experienced some form of misfortune. The Second Noble Truth is that the cause of our suffering is our ignorance, and the root of this ignorance is our ego driven view of the world. Because of this misguided view, whenever misfortune occurs our suffering is deepened by how we react.

The nature of Shakyamuni Buddha’s awakening was his realization that the cause of continual suffering is not external factors; rather, it is how we react to these events. When things we perceive as good happen we feel we are deserving of them. When those we perceive as bad occur we ask, “Why me?” Rev. Gyomay Kubose had a favorite phrase, “Everyday is a good day.” This expresses the understanding that each day is just a day; it is we who make it good or bad. This teaching is not exclusive to Buddhism. The common saying, “When life gives you lemons make lemonade”, expresses the same sentiment.

The past is how we remember it; the future is how we think it will be. The only time that exists is now. Buddhism does not tell us to forget the past; it simply says accept it and move on. Move beyond your ego; grow from the child with the plastic steering wheel to the adult driving the car. Liberation from suffering will be your destination. Namu Amida Butsu.

Frog in a Well (or the Ocean?)





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SEPTEMBER 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 EBL Conference
2 EBL Conference (TEMPLE CLOSED)	3 Labor Day	4 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	5	6 6 pm Bulletin Submissions due	7 7PM Taiko By appointment	8 10 am-5pm Book Sale
9 11 am Monthly Memorial/ Dharma School Begins 8-11 am Breakfast/Book Sale	10 7 pm laido	11 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	12 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	13 7:30 pm Meditation	14 7 pm Taiko By appointment	15 1 pm Asoka Society
16 9 am Meditation 11 am Fall O-Higan service	17 7 pm laido	18 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	19 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	20 7:30 pm Meditation	21 10 am Bulletin Mailing	22
23 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service/ Dharma School	24 7 pm laido	25 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	26 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	27 7:30 pm Meditation	28 7PM Taiko By appointment	29
30 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service 12:30 pm Board Meeting						