



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN

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VOLUME 75  
NUMBER 1  
OCTOBER

2018 A.D.  
2561 B.E.

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### Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

### President

Bill Bohlman

## Birth of the Temple by Rev. Gyoko Saito

*[Note: In 1994, Rev. Saito was asked to submit a congratulatory message for the BTC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet since he had served at our temple for twenty-five years. At the time he and I were working together at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. For the Los Angeles temple's bulletin, Rev. Saito wrote his articles in Japanese and gave them to me to translate and our discussions about the articles helped me in putting his thoughts into English. In this piece, Rev. Saito's feelings and meaning come through powerfully even though, as some of you will recognize, the wording is mine. – PN]*

I would like to convey my warmest congratulations to everyone involved with the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, from Rev. and Mrs. Gyomay Kubose to the many temple members and friends, on this anniversary celebration of the temple's founding on October 8, 1994 exactly fifty years ago today.

It was on the occasion of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary that Rev. Kubose wrote in the Bulletin, "A Buddhist temple is something which is born, not made." In order to explain my understanding of Rev. Kubose's statement, I would like to quote from the preface to the *Kyogyoshinsho* by Shinran Shonin.

## Forget Your Anger

Shortly after the passing of the Buddha, a novice came to Ananda, the Buddha's cousin. Having spent the previous forty-five years traveling with the Buddha, Ananda knew him better than anyone. The novice asked, "Did the Buddha ever become angry?" Ananda replied, "Of course he did. He was only human. But he forgot it immediately."

"He was only human. But he forgot it immediately." These two sentences express a basic teaching of Buddhism. First, Gautama Buddha was neither a god nor a divine being. He was a human being like you or I. As such, he was subject to all the emotions we experience, including anger. However, unlike most of us, when his anger arose, it disappeared almost instantaneously. He did not hold on to the anger, therefore, he did not take actions based on this anger. Suffering did not arise, the cause having been eliminated.

This teaching of overcoming anger is an example of how the Buddhadharma applies to everyday life. Stressful situations fill modern life. Angry reactions while driving have become so frequent that the term "road rage" has entered our language. Tragedies occur, yet when looked upon later, a simple truth



Rev. Patti Nakai  
Resident Minister

This article  
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Bill Bohlman  
BTC President

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or find him most  
Sundays after  
service at the  
information desk  
& bookstore.

This article  
continues  
on page 6  
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## OCTOBER 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](http://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 «««

- October 14—**BTC 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- October 13 & 14 – **Open House Chicago** (see insert)

### 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**—last Friday every month, 10 am; volunteers welcome. This month October 26.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: October 11.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: October 28.
- **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. Current text: River of Fire, River of Water by Taitetsu Unno

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. Next 4-week session begins October 9. Email Nancey Epperson: [naepperson14@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:djaikibudo@gmail.com). **NOTE: Sunday October 14, Aikido will begin at 5:30 PM.**

- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: October 20.

- **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](mailto:kokyotaiko@buddhisttemplechicago.org) to confirm.

- **Ukulele Group**—Tuesdays, 1 pm. Email Ruth Abbinanti: [fabbinanti@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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, Ruth Abbinanti, 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](mailto:BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com) or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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## Temple News August 2018

- ✿ 8/05 August memorial service.
- ✿ 8/11 Bon Odori.
- ✿ 8/12 Obon service.
- ✿ 8/18 Asoka Society met
- ✿ 8/19 Lay speaker Sunday talk given by Bill Bohlman. \*\*\* Sutra study class met.
- ✿ 8/24 September bulletin mailing.
- ✿ 8/26 Koso-ki (Rev. Akegarasu memorial) service. \*\*\* Recording made of BTC members chanting for the “Prayer” community art project by James Webb on display at the Art Institute September through December. \*\*\* Board of Directors met.
- ✿ 8/28 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Amy Kawamoto. She is survived by son Rick.
- ✿ 8/30 Rev. Nakai attended Buddhist-Catholic dialogue group meeting at the Midwest Buddhist Temple.
- ✿ 8/31-9/2 Miriam Solon attended the Eastern Buddhist League conference in Toronto, Canada.

### THANK YOU!

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

#### Service & Hospitality

- **Sunday Service Participants:** Ruth Abbinanti, Anita Bassiri, Bill Bohlman, Glenn Fujiura, Mary Harvey, Ed Horiuchi, Anna Idol, Michael Kudo, Debbie Miyashiro, Miriam Solon
- **Lay Leaders:** Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Elaine Siegel
- **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga
- **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- **Bulletin Mailing:** Antoinette d’Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, April Kellman, Lane Kometani, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Ruby Tsuji
- **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Asoka Society, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, A. Kellman, Mounce Family, Alice Murata, Stanley Oda, Miriam Solon, Van Someren, Ruby Tsuji

#### Temple Keepers

- **Maintaining Temple inside and out:** Tomio Tademoto
- **Cleaning Hondo & Nokotsudo:** Michael Yasukawa
- **Extensive landscape maintenance:** Tomio Tademoto
- **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, April Kellman
- **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!

**Our deepest sympathy to  
the family and friends of:  
Amy Kawamoto**

**We apologize that these names  
were not included  
in last month’s bulletin:  
Toshio Joji  
Henry Terada**

## Breakfast Fundraiser

By Elaine Siegel & Lynn Maruyama

A breakfast fundraiser was held at the temple 9/9/18, in conjunction with the book sale fundraiser. These fundraisers were held due to a deficit budget the temple is currently running on. The breakfast was one of teriyaki wieners, eggs, and rice, with a vegetarian option of lentils. There were freshly baked goods served along with coffee, tea, and juice.

The A+ kitchen crew consisted of Chuck Izui, Pete Izui, Laura Muraoka, Gary Yamagiwa, Debbie Miyashiro, and Jerry and Jane Morishige. The freshly baked goods were donated by Carrie Breitbach, Jan Saiki, Karen Kanemoto, Deb Miyashiro, Jane Morishige, Elaine Siegel, and Lynn Maruyama. Laura Muraoka made some cucumber sunomono which was also on each plate served. Servers were the Dharma School children, including Will, Esther and Isla.

The breakfast netted \$510.00. We are thankful to all who happily volunteered to cook, sell tickets, and serve our customers. We are appreciative to all who dug deep into their pockets to buy tickets.

Again, thank you ALL who participated in some way to make this fundraiser a success! We are indeed gratified to have such a wonderful, caring, and helpful Sangha!



On September 1, the Asoka Society had an outing to see "Crazy Rich Asians". Afterwards, several members went to Red Robin restaurant for a bite to eat.

(Photo: Ed Horiuchi).

## James Webb: Prayer

This fall, the Art Institute of Chicago is presenting *Prayer*, a commissioned work by South African artist James Webb. On August 19, four members of BTC (Anita Bassiri, Bill Bolhman, Nancey Epperson, Anna Idol) were recorded chanting San Sei Ge in the hondo. This recording was blended with recordings from over 70 other communities of faith to create the aural exhibit.

*Prayer* is an ongoing project, remade around the world since its first presentation in Webb's home city of Cape Town in 2000. The Chicago version is the 10th and largest to date, as well as the first in North America. The work consists of recordings of prayer and chant from individuals who belong to dozens of faiths and spiritual affinities in the host city. Listeners are invited to remove their shoes and walk the length of the carpet, composing their own arrangement of voices as they go, or to kneel or otherwise lower themselves next to a speaker to listen more closely to particular prayers.

By deliberately gathering prayers from a variety of neighborhoods and spiritual practices, Webb aims to join together inhabitants of his host city. All recorded individuals are named in the exhibition, along with their communities or congregations, and all faith groups received a copy of their own recording. The recording made by BTC members can be found at:

<https://buddhisttemplechicago.org/prayer/>

The opening discussion and public preview were held Thursday, September 6. The exhibit continues through December 31.

(photo from opening night reception; text adapted from Art Institute publicity)



## Oshita Foundation

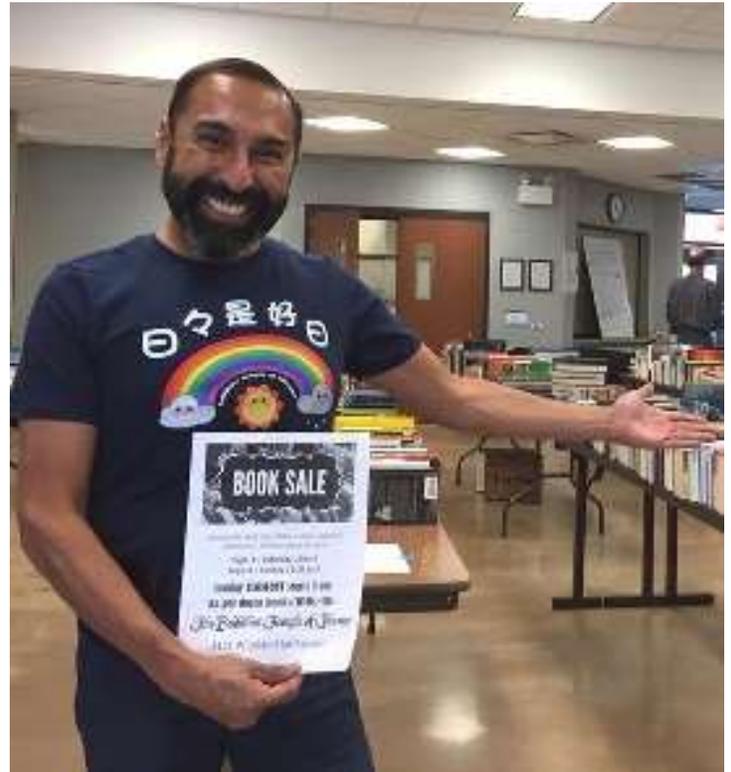
The Gregg and Robyn Oshita foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to inspire individuals, families, and companies to donate life giving blood, plasma, platelets, and register for the national bone marrow registry to help those in desperate need in the event of a serious illness, accident, violence or natural disaster. It was founded to honor the memory of their mother Robyn Oshita (pictured above) who died suddenly from blood cancer in 2017.



The foundation is having two fund raising events in October: October 19 from 4 – 8 PM, in a partnership with Panera Bread (6059 N. Lincoln Avenue), for any customer who shows the partnership flyer (either a paper or electronic version) to the staff when ordering, the foundation will get a portion of the proceeds.

On October 20, team Robyn Oshita will join the The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night walk to build awareness of blood cancers as well as raise money for research and support of patients and their families.

For more information, or to participate in these events, contact Michael Oshita at [michael.oshita@thegrofoundation.org](mailto:michael.oshita@thegrofoundation.org).



### Want a Shirt?

If you missed out on the shirts and are squirming with very un-Buddhist envy and desire, go to the online order form at <https://tinyurl.com/orderbtshirt>. Fill in your email address, your full name, and how many shirts you want in each size. We'll tally the number of shirts we need and place an order all at once to save on shipping. Shirts are \$22 with a \$2 discount if you pay cash.

Adult sizes are unisex and run S to 3XL. Kid sizes vary; let us know what you want and we'll see what we can do.



Asoka likes to party!  
On September 15, we celebrated Betty Yoshioka's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(Photo: Ed Horiuchi)

## Birth of the Temple

(continued from page 1)

How difficult it is to encounter the Innermost Aspiration of Amida Buddha even if I would have lived many lives. How difficult it is to have the pure Heart of Entrusting even if I would have lived for eons. Yet because of the joyful convergence of karmic conditions from the distant past to the present, I have been able to entrust myself to the Innermost Aspiration and live it accordingly.

With these words of Shinran in mind, we can see that the founding of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago came out of “the joyful convergence of karmic conditions from the distant past to the present.” A baby is brought to life not merely because of her mother and father but through the lives of generations of forefathers and foremothers on both her parents’ sides. In much the same way, the Buddhist Temple of Chicago came into being not only due to the organizing efforts of Rev. Kubose and the founding members, but due to all the events and people that influenced their lives, and to all the history of events and generations of people that came before their lifetimes. Therefore, Rev. Kubose was entirely correct in saying the temple was not created, but was born.

In the fifty years since the temple first opened its doors in Hyde Park, hundreds of people, through the favorable karmic conditions of their own lives, have come to the Buddhist Temple of Chicago and became a part of its growing Sangha. The history of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago contains fifty years of individual seekers coming together to hear the teachings of Nembutsu and to discover how to live a more meaningful life. As just one of those many individuals, I wish to share with everyone my appreciation of what Shinran called “the joyful convergence of karmic conditions from the distant past to the present” which makes it possible for us to encounter the Buddhist teachings. I also wish for the Buddhist Temple of Chicago to continue growing and developing as the place of learning the Way of Nembutsu. Namu Amida Butsu.

## Forget Your Anger

(continued from page 1)

emerges. At any point, if either party involved had forgotten their anger the outcome would have been far different.

Our family relationships also suffer due to anger. Husbands and wives, parents and children, allowing anger to explode, the deep bonds that should exist drown in a sea of emotion. Understanding, love and compassion disappear and only anguish is present.

Anger also causes us to make mistakes. How often have you reacted in anger, only to discover that you were mistaken about what had initially happened or had been said? If you had forgotten your anger immediately, your subsequent actions would not have created more suffering.

During the years that I have practiced the Buddhadharma, many of the teachings have found their way into my business life. As the owner of a wholesale distribution company, I have had the misfortune of losing money to stores that go out of business. Although this certainly does not please me, I have slowly learned how to let go of the anger this causes. I realize that by holding on to the anger I am less able to focus on learning from the loss and making the decisions that would prevent the same thing from happening again. Regardless of my anger, the money is lost. Holding on to my anger only prolongs my suffering.

To feel anger is a normal, human reaction. The question is, what do we do when this emotion arises? Do we become attached to this anger, lash out at those whom we feel have offended us, let it boil within us clouding our senses? Or, do we learn to forget it immediately like Gautama Buddha, the Awakened One?

As  
always,  
the choice  
is ours.  
Namu  
Amida  
Butsu.





## BTC 2018 Book Sale

By Diana Schoendorff & Ann Yi

*"I WANT THEM!!!"*

— *Young boy at the book sale staring at the books*

We hear you. We want them too. Despite grumbling "I have too many books" and "I don't need any more books," people browsing the amazing selection of quality books this past September 8 and 9 couldn't resist buying piles of books. They also bought DVDs, CDs, and choice donated craft items, such as a framed calligraphy print by our founding minister Rev. Kubose, beautiful Japanese stationery, and astoundingly detailed papercuts from China. (A few stationery sets and papercuts are still available—ask at the temple book counter.)

People spontaneously helped out in wonderfully creative ways. Dharma School kids designed colorful signs and stood on the corner despite chilly weather to entice the folks on Broadway to pop in. It worked! Walk-in traffic spiked whenever they were out there. Buyers snatched up a limited edition run of one dozen 日々是好日 (Every Day is a Good Day) Buddhist Temple of Chicago t-shirts designed by one of our Dharma School parents (get yours! – see page 5). And in addition to donating high quality books and buying them, many temple members and their friends and families donated money or kindly gave us their change when they made purchases.

In all, the book sale raised about \$1,700. Moreover, it provided the valuable dual service of cleaning temple members' bookshelves and then promptly restocking them. It was a truly universal temple effort, and along with the terrific breakfast event, a whole lot of fun too! A huge THANK YOU to everybody who bought books and helped out.

Special thanks to the following volunteers who helped collect, store, unpack, move, sort, sell, and repack books. Please forgive us if we omitted anyone.

Ruth  
Abbinanti  
Sue Balsam  
Bill  
Bohlman  
Carrie  
Breitbach  
Ruth Crisler  
Nancey  
Epperson  
Glenn T.  
Fujiura  
Drea  
Gallaga  
Albert  
Gonzalez



Susan Grace

Sean Green

Allison & Jason Izui

Adam Kellman

April Kellman

John Kelly

Lynnell Long

Debbie Miyashiro

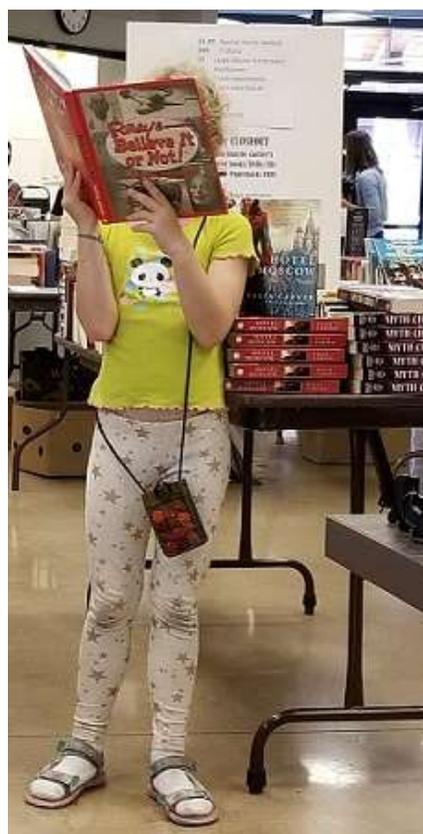
Jane &  
Jerry Morishige

Ann Naumes

Helene Rom

Gloria Smith

Dharma School  
Students:  
Liam, Kestrel,  
Flora, Isla,  
Esther, Will



(Photos by Rev. Patti Nakai and Ann Yi)



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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## OCTOBER 2018 CALENDAR



See page 2 for details on specific events. Events may be canceled or moved  
 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 pm laido	2 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele	3 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	4 7:30 pm Meditation	5 7PM Taiko By appointment	6
7 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial  5 pm Aikido	8 7 pm laido	9 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele  7pm Intro to Buddhism	10  7 pm Buddhism Study Class	11 7:30 pm Meditation	12  7PM Taiko By appointment	13 OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO 9-5 today; 1-5 Sunday
14 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service/ Dharma School 5:30 pm Aikido	15 7 pm laido	16 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele  7pm Intro to Buddhism	17  7 pm Buddhism Study Class	18 7:30 pm Meditation	19  7PM Taiko By appointment	20 1 pm Asoka Society
21 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service  5 pm Aikido	22 7 pm laido	23 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele  7pm Intro to Buddhism	24  7 pm Buddhism Study Class	25 7:30 pm Meditation	26 10 am Bulletin Mailing  7PM Taiko By appointment	27
28 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service/ Dharma School 12:30 pm Board Meeting 5 pm Aikido	29 7 pm laido	30 11 am Qigong 1 pm Ukulele  7pm Intro to Buddhism	31  7 pm Buddhism Study Class			