



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago BULLETIN



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Rev. Patti Nakai

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Bill Bohlman

## On-Dobo: It's You I Like

I used to think Shinran's teachings would only make sense to adults who've gone through the struggles of living on their own with jobs and relationships. But after seeing the documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" about the television show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," I learned that children even at very young ages are experiencing the suffering of conflict, threats to well-being and loss of loved ones. For them, Shinran has a lot to say, much in the same vein as Fred Rogers' television program. So, for this Ho-on-ko, our commemoration of Shinran's memorial, I would like to focus on how Shinran's teachings address the concerns of children.

Like many of us, Shinran struggled with his inner child well into his adulthood. Having lost his father and mother by age 9, Shinran entered the Mt. Hiei monastery full of anxieties he desperately wanted to quell. But instead of finding a place of peace, in his twenty years at the monastery he was caught up in a world of competition and backstabbing, hypocrisy and corruption, and the pressure to attain goals that seemed to get farther out of reach. Then inspired by a dream he had at the Rokkakudo (six-sided hall in Kyoto that our temple's hondo is modeled after), Shinran left the monastery and sought out Honen Shonin, the eminent scholar who abandoned monastic life to bring Buddhism to the outcasts of society.

## Leave Her at the River

Live in the moment. Much of our suffering arises from our inability to let go of the past. The *Dhammapada*, a collection of the teachings of the Buddha, addresses this inability, "He abused me. He defeated me. He robbed me. Live with such thoughts and you live in hate." But what of our attachment to actions that have no direct effect on us? How can this cause us suffering?

The story of a monk and a novice provides an illustration. The early monastic tradition in Buddhism discouraged monks from any physical contact with women. Even today, in the Theravadan tradition common in Southeast Asia, this prohibition continues. Physical contact is believed to cause a rising of lust and desire. This, in turn, hinders the path to enlightenment. One day, a monk and a novice were walking through the countryside. They came upon a young woman standing by a stream. "I must cross the stream," she said, "but my fine clothes will be ruined and I fear that the current might sweep me away." Saying nothing, the monk lifted the woman and carried her to the other shore. Reaching the other shore, he bowed and continued on his way. This shocked the novice.



Rev. Patti Nakai  
Resident Minister

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Bill Bohlman  
BTC President

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

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# NOVEMBER 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* ◀◀◀

- November 18—**Ho-on-ko service** (Shinran Shonin Memorial)
- November 18—1pm Rev. Christina Yanko lecture (See bio on page 5)

### 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: November 23.
- **Bulletin submissions**—Deadline for notices and articles: every month, 6 pm, the Thursday 15 days prior to mailing. This month: November 8.
- **Temple Board Meeting**—Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: November 25.
- **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.
- **Dharma School (for school-age children)**—Sundays, 11 am. This month: Nov. 11 and Nov. 25.

- **Introduction to Buddhism**—offered periodically throughout the year. E-mail Nancey Epperson at [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**—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

- **Aikido** (“cooperation, not competition”)—Sundays, 5-7 pm. Email DJ Lortie [djaikibudo@gmail.com](mailto:djaikibudo@gmail.com).
- **Asoka Society** (refreshment service, social club, outings, etc.)—3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every month, 1 pm. This month: Nov. 17
- **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 Abbianti: [fabbianti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fabbianti@sbcglobal.net)

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

**Murray Daniel**  
**Shizuko Uragami**

## 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, 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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- ☸ 9/08 Fundraiser Book Sale (continued 9/09)
- ☸ 9/09 Fundraiser Breakfast. \*\*\* September memorial and Dharma School service.
- ☸ 9/11-12 Rev. Nakai attended meetings in Rome, Italy for the Buddhist-Catholic “Green Housing Project” which plans to build affordable housing in Chicago, Brooklyn and Los Angeles.
- ☸ 9/15 Asoka Society met.
- ☸ 9/16 Fall Ohigan service. \*\*\* Sutra study class met.
- ☸ 9/21 October bulletin mailing. \*\*\* Iaido special seminar 9/21-9/24
- ☸ 9/23 Dharma School and lay speaker service. Miriam Solon reported on the Eastern Buddhist League conference in Toronto over Labor Day weekend.
- ☸ 9/27 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for Joseph Korner at his “ghost bike” site.
- ☸ 9/29 Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Shizuko Uragami at Fukui Mortuary in Los Angeles. Mrs. Uragami is survived by son Jeffrey.
- ☸ 9/30 Regular Sunday service. \*\*\* Rev. Nakai conducted memorial service for the late Murray Daniel at BTC. Mr. Daniel is survived by his daughter Dawn. \*\*\* Board of directors met.

**2018 Natsu Matsuri Raffle  
Prize Winners**

**Grand prize (\$1,000)**  
Heather Sawyer, Alaska

**First prize (\$500)**  
George Philosophos, Illinois

**Second prize (\$250)**  
Paul Yamauchi, Illinois

**Third prize (\$100)**  
Tom Corbett, Oregon

**THANK YOU!**

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

**Service & Hospitality**

- **Sunday Service Participants:** Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Carrie Breitbach, Nancey Epperson, Glenn Fujiura, Carlos Meza, Miriam Solon, Ann Yi, Alivia, Annabelle, Marcus, Will
- **Lay Leaders:** Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Wendy Fawcett, Lynnell Long, Miriam Solon
- **Musicians:** Drea Gallaga, Ukulele Group
- **Audio Controls:** Wendy and Jacob Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- **Bulletin Mailing:** Antoinette d’Vencets, Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Sadae Kasamoto, April Kellman, Mike Kudo, Lane Kometani, Alice Murata, Masa Nakata, Helene Rom, Ruby Tsuji
- **Sunday Service Refreshments:** Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Alice Murata, Ruby Tsuji, Upaya

**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 Fawcett
- **Cleaning minister’s residence:** Dharma School
- **Administrative Office Volunteers:** Helene Rom, 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!

## Open House Chicago 2018

By Ann Yi & Helene Rom

BTC once again participated in the Chicago Architecture Center's Open House Chicago event. Some 280 sites across the city opened their doors to visitors for free. It a worldwide event, with Chicago the second largest participant. Only London's event, with 800+ sites, is larger. In 2016 we welcomed 664 visitors, in 2017 we got 730, and this year we got 916!

As in past years, the Japanese American Service Committee loaned us banners depicting the history of Japanese Americans in Chicago during BTC's founding. New this year, they set up a table and answered questions, enriching the visitor experience. Scott Nobuyama, our nokosudo architect, visited on Sunday and spent many hours talking to lucky visitors about the nokotsudo, Japanese Americans in the US during the war, and the beautiful altar built at the camp near Heart Mountain, Wyoming. BTC volunteers showed off our six wood carvings depicting the life of the Buddha, the traditional Jodo Shinshu altar, and the stunning wood ceiling in the hondo to admiring guests.

What other event brings so many new faces through our doors at no cost to us, other than our time and our willingness to share our sacred space? A deep thank you to every person who volunteered. Thanks to you, 916 left our temple with an understanding of BTC's place in Chicago history. A few may even come back and help us continue to build it.



(Photo: Rev. Patti Nakai)

Special thanks to the following volunteers who contributed to the event's success. Please forgive us if we omitted anyone.

Ruth Abbinanti	Joan Ambo	Karen Baier
Sue Balsam	Anita Bassiri	Bill Bohlman
Glenn T. Fujiura	Nancey Epperson	Antoinette d'Veccis
Karen Kanemoto	Adam Kellman	John Kelly
Dennis Lai	Greg Lambros	Candy Minx
Alice Murata	Al Murray	Katherine Nagasawa
Gary T. Nakai	Rev. Patti Nakai	Scott Nobuyama
Fran Patzwaldt	Otto Patzwaldt	Stephen Rodgers
Helene Rom	Kathy Sakata	Mary Samson
Diana	Miriam Solon	Mike Takada
Schoendorff	Ruby Tsuji	Ann Yi



(Photo: Rev. Patti Nakai)



(Photo: Rev. Patti Nakai)

Congratulations to Kain Marzalado and Rachael Tsuji (granddaughter of Ruby Tsuji) who were married on October 7, 2018. The service was conducted by Rev. Patti Nakai.



## Ho-on-ko: Remembering Shinran, Studying the Sutra

Ho-on-ko, the memorial for Shinran Shonin, is a time for worship and study. This year's seminar will be given by Rev. Christina Yanko, former minister of the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Rev. Yanko comes from a small town in Southern Alberta and was the youngest of three. She was raised in a Catholic home but never felt connected to the teachings. When she attended the University of Calgary, she met Rev. Dr. Leslie Kawamura via a Classical Tibetan translation class, wherein they were translating Buddhist Philosophical texts. These teachings (and the Buddhist community that she found herself surrounded by) helped her to overcome some adversities, such as being homeless because of a fire and heart surgery. This instilled in her a desire to spread the teaching of the Dharma to others in similar circumstances in hope that they can also find peace.

Rev. Christina completed a double degree from the University of Calgary in English and Religious Studies, then went on to receive a Masters in Religious Studies with a concentration in Eastern Religions from the University of Calgary, and a Masters in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Rev. Christina was a minister for Toronto Buddhist Church from 2013 - 2017. She has taken a sabbatical from temple work to relocate to North Carolina with her husband, David, who was recalled to active duty in the U. S. Coast Guard.



Photo by Servizio Fotografico Vaticano

## BTC 75th Anniversary Preparations

By Glenn Fujiura

Start checking those old boxes in the attics. Ask your parents and grandparents about their early days in Chicago. Locate those old photo albums. The 75th Anniversary of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago is just a year away.

A single banquet celebration would not do justice for our long and rich history. We need all of 2019.

Planning is underway for the proper appreciation of our historic temple. We hope to integrate a 75th anniversary theme into temple events throughout the year. This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history, honor members past and present, and to share BTC's legacy with the Chicago community.

Keep your eyes open for requests for photos, family stories of the early days at the temple, invitations to anniversary events and requests for volunteers.

According to the U.S. Religious Congregations & Membership Study (RCMS), there were 75 Buddhist sanghas in the Chicago area in 2010. Imagine the first days of BTC in the autumn of 1944 during the waning days of WWII. Our south side sangha of Issei and Nisei, recently resettled from the internment camps, had its inaugural service led by Reverend Gyomay M. Kubose months after our sister temple, MBT, had its first service. A census of two 75 years ago. It has been a long journey. Celebrate with us.



(left) Rev. Nakai in a group of Buddhists and Catholics from the U.S. posing with Pope Francis (see Temple News for details)

## The Four Gates

By Miriam Solon

If you want to replicate Prince Siddhartha's experience at the four gates, I recommend getting involved in your high school 50th year reunion. You'll definitely get a good look at the first three gates (sickness, old age, death). Not sure what I'll see behind door #4. My reunion is in October. I'll let you know if I encounter an arhat or a bodhisattva.

I've been tasked with compiling names and photos of the deceased members of our graduating class. We're at about 12% of the total class, which is the national average mortality for our age group. Two boys died before graduating. The youngest grad died at age 20 of an overwhelming case of metastasized cancer seemingly out of nowhere. The most recent death was this summer, possibly from the aftereffects of military service in Vietnam.

I think the thing that bums me out the most—and I'm not alone in this—is looking at the difference between our pictures at age 17-18 and who we are now. Maybe at age 40 there was a fulcrum of sorts. The not-cute teens grew into their faces (my mom made that observation about Mick Jagger in his 40s vs. his 20s). After 50 it's kinda downhill for everybody, but faster for some than others. It will be interesting to see who lies to whom about how fabulous they look.

If Prince Siddhartha was alarmed the first time he saw an old person, does that imply that in his time the elites were also worshippers of youth? I wonder what the actuarial table for his demographic was. He lived to be 80. Was that in the range of normal? Does it imply that in his day, old people were plentiful but subject to marginalization, just like now in many parts of the world?

The four gates were designed to shock the young prince into an awareness of how narrow his view of life was, but his narrow view wasn't unique to him. So, even though I haven't led as sheltered a life as his, the reality of sickness, old age and death still has the power to shock me.

The fourth gate is the most interesting. It's completely counterintuitive. Siddhartha met a beggar, dressed in rags, seemingly dancing on the edge of survival, who, nevertheless, was the happiest person he'd ever met. That's almost too Hollywood fairy tale for me. I see a lot of people struggling with multiple

(continued in next column)

## Leave Her at the River

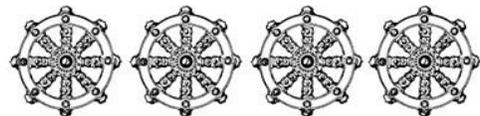
(continued from page 1)

Were not they to avoid touching women? Why had the monk violated this rule? As they continued walking, the novice became increasingly agitated. Finally, he could restrain himself no longer. “Master, are we not to refrain from touching women. Why did you carry her across the stream?” The monk replied, “You fool, are you still carrying the woman? I left her at the river.”

In this case, the monk lived in the moment. A person needed help; he provided that help. Afterwards, he continued on, not dwelling upon who the person was or what he had done. The novice, however, could not let go of the image of the woman in the monk's arms. It was this memory that caused him suffering. Who are we more like, the monk or the novice?

As individuals, and a society, we seem consumed by the thought of placing blame. Rather than live in the moment and take the actions necessary, we constantly debate who is at fault for our problems. We delude ourselves into thinking that once we have assessed blame the suffering will disappear. If only we can find the culprit the misery will end. Instead, the lack of action prolongs the suffering.

The Buddhadharma teaches that the root of our suffering is internal not external. When we become attached to thoughts, memories, or to the actions of others, we perpetuate the cycle of personal anguish. Overcoming this attachment liberates us from our suffering. Everyday, situations occur that are, in many ways, similar to the story of the monk and the novice. Our choice is to be like the novice and carry the woman in our mind, or like the monk and leave her at the river.



## The Four Gates

(continued from previous column)

challenges of poverty, mental illness, physical disability, homelessness and hunger to ever think that their lives are in any way happy. What's behind door #4 for me?

Stay tuned. I'll let you know if I encounter that gate at my reunion.

## On-Dobo: It's You I Like

(continued from page 1)

In his encounter with Honen, Shinran may have heard, “Namu Amida Butsu is Amida Buddha accepting you just as you are.” But in the kindly eyes of Honen, Shinran saw that it was he, Honen, who accepted him completely, just as Honen warmly regarded everyone – beggars, thieves and women of ill-repute – that came to hear his Dharma talks.

I never watched “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” during its run (1968-2001) on PBS. During the 1960s it was “Sesame Street” with its frenetic music and graphics that my baby brother liked. Even though I saw that documentary and the PBS special on the Mister Rogers show, I went to the library to borrow the DVD set and watch a couple of complete episodes.

At the end of one episode, Fred Rogers looks straight into the camera and sings his song, “It’s You I Like.” The ordained Presbyterian minister knew it was too abstract to preach to children “Jesus loves you,” but they would respond to someone looking right at them and assuredly singing:

It’s you I like – it’s not the things you wear,  
It’s not the way you do your hair,  
But it’s you I like.  
The way you are right now,  
The way down deep inside you,  
Not your toys – they’re just beside you.  
  
But it’s you I like – every part of you,  
Your skin, your eyes, your feelings  
Whether old or new.  
I hope that you’ll remember  
Even when you’re feeling blue  
That it’s you I like – it’s you yourself,  
It’s you, it’s you I like.

Maybe to some of you, it sounds like pure mush, but Fred Rogers was concerned that children have a sense of self-worth despite the mass media messages that people are judged by their material possessions and appearance. In the documentary, Fred Rogers is criticized for creating a generation of kids feeling entitled because they’re “special,” but Rogers refutes that claim as he emphasizes that no one is more important than anyone else and needs to have things (so-called entitlements) to augment their intrinsic worth. It’s his critics who believe people have to “earn” the privilege of being respected, supporting the

## On-Dobo: It's You I Like

(continued from previous column)

social pressures to look a certain way and hang on to and not share with others what they’ve “earned” for themselves.

What Shinran saw in Honen is that the true awakening into Buddhahood is this active acceptance of all beings – letting each one know “it’s you I like.” Through his learning under Honen and his intense study of the Larger Sutra and commentaries of the Pure Land teachers, Shinran developed a heightened awareness of his ego’s tricks of asserting “I’m way better than you,” and after much experience of interacting with people from all walks of life, Shinran became sincerely open-hearted. It was not something he himself acknowledged but it was attested to by those who met him, much like the reports of so many people who found Fred Rogers in person was no different from the man singing into the camera on TV.

While Fred Rogers used the term “neighbor” to express the love he felt for each person, Shinran used the term “on-dobo” to express his feeling of friendship with people. “Dobo” means something like “fellow traveler in life” but Shinran in addressing others, called them his “on-dobo,” the “on” prefix indicating “that which I look up to as honorable.” It’s extremely notable that Shinran never considered those who came to him for teachings as his students, disciples or anything indicating a position below him. Everyone was “on-dobo” – people he felt honored to be traveling with in this life.

Among we adults, it’s difficult because of our continuing conflicts to regard each other with such open-heartedness but as we listen more deeply to the Dharma, we will find more and more examples around us of “on-dobo.” (I would say even in my recent second face-to-face with Pope Francis, he’s still the shining example of a person sincerely interested in each one he meets.) The least we can do at our temple is see the face of “on-dobo” in each child who comes for activities such as Dharma School. We can let them know that in “Namu Amida Butsu” Shinran heard the reassurance that we are each one accepted just as we are. For children dealing with a world full of tragedies and danger, these simple teachings of being completely accepted and that we are all fellow travelers can be a source of light to help get through the dark times.



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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<b>NOVEMBER 2018 CALENDAR</b>						
See page 2 for details on specific events. Events may be canceled or moved. Check <a href="http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi">www.facebook.com/budtempchi</a> for the most up-to-date changes.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 pm Meditation	2 7 pm Taiko	3
4 9 am Meditation 11 am Monthly Memorial 5 pm Aikido	5 7 pm laido	6 11 am Qi Gong 1 pm Ukulele	7 7 pm Study Class	8 <b>Bulletin Submissions Due – 6pm</b> 7:30pm Meditation	9 7 pm Taiko	10 7 am Chirashi making for JASC Holiday Delight
11 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service / Dharma School 5 pm Aikido	12 7 pm laido	13 11 am Qi Gong 1 pm Ukulele	14 7 pm Study Class	15 7:30 pm Meditation	16 7 pm Taiko	17 1:00 pm Asoka Society
18 9 am Meditation 11 am Ho-on-ko (Shinran Shonin memorial) 1 pm Rev. Christina Yanko seminar 5 pm Aikido	19 7 pm laido	20 11 am Qi Gong 1 pm Ukulele	21 7 pm Study Class	22 <b>THANKSGIVING</b> 7:30 pm NO Meditation	23 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Taiko (tentative)	24
25 9 am Meditation 11 am Regular Service / Dharma School 12:30 pm Board Meeting 5 pm Aikido	26 7 pm laido	27 11 am Qi Gong 1 pm Ukulele	28 7 pm Study Class	29 7:30 pm Meditation	30 7 pm Taiko	