



The Buddhist Temple
of Chicago

**August
2020**



Sorry, no Bon Odori this year. Photo from 2019 Bon Odori.

Stay Safe!

Obon: Still Connected While Separated

By Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister

If you could do video conferencing over the internet with the afterworld, who would you call? The first person that comes to my mind is my father – during the recent civil unrest and calls for systemic reform, I’d love to hear his thoughts on how we Japanese Americans can show solidarity with the marginalized minorities now as he did during his life. The next person that comes to mind is Rev. Gyoko Saito – how I want to hear from him about finding the mental energy to study Buddhism when the world around you is in continuous upheaval. And I would love to see my laptop screen filled on a Zoom meeting with the faces of dozens of ladies who helped out so much at our temple – to see those wise women, such as Jane Watanabe and Harky Tadamoto, and ask them for detailed instructions on how to make the food and crafts that we don’t seem able to replicate now.

But as of now Silicon Valley hasn’t found a way to connect us over the internet to the world beyond death. Yet in our Buddhist customs we have found ways to stay connected with our loved ones despite their disappearance from the physical world. One custom is our recurrent moments of remembrance – whether it be showing up every year at the temple for Shotsuki Hoyo, the monthly memorial service or taking time at home as part of your daily routine to put your hands together and bow in front of their pictures or Dharma Name cards. As I heard Rev. Saito often say, these moments remind us that we are still in conversation with our loved ones, that we can still talk to them and we can hear them, even hearing things we didn’t hear from them when they were alive.

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The annual observance of Obon in August at our temple is like a big video conferencing call with all of us “hearing” our loved ones communicating with us. This year we will miss Bon Odori, the gathering to do folk dances in a circle – a way of remembering our loved ones with the movement of our bodies. But we will still have the Obon service online (Facebook Live) and with limited in-person attendance (as of this writing we are open but that may change by August 16). Those who passed away since last year’s Obon observance will be commemorated in the Hatsubon (“First Obon”) display of their names. I hope in contemplating together the lives of our loved ones we experience not just gratitude but a sense of continued connection to all of them - to “hear” them and let them guide us towards living our own lives in a more open-hearted way, generous way. Please note that although our temple will not be having Bon Odori this year, on the scheduled date August 15 Saturday there is an online Bon Odori hosted by the Buddhist Churches of America. See flyer at BuddhistChurchesOfAmerica.org



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am (RSVP for in-person), online Facebook Live

Mindful midday (meditation and qigong) – Tuesdays 11am (RSVP for in-person), online Zoom

Buddhism in the Movies chat – Wednesdays 4:30pm, online ONLY Zoom

Bon Odori exercise – 2nd & 4th Thursday @6:30, online ONLY Zoom

Monthly “Treasured Teachings” study class – date to be announced later, online Zoom

For Zoom sign-in information see Event announcements on Facebook or contact Rev. Patti.

Thank You!

Special thanks to our maintenance volunteer Tomio Tademoto who continues to come to the temple throughout the week to clean up trash and trim foliage.

Also thanks to Gary T. Nakai, Drea Gallaga and others (the nameless ninjas) who have come by to clear away the trash around the temple.

Hatsubon 2020

08/07/2019	Brian Takashi Oshita	02/25/2020	Calvin Ichiro Ishida
09/26/2019	Laura Tsuneta Fitzmaurice	03/21/2020	Janice Kuse Hamilton
09/29/2019	Natsue Ann Taketoshi	04/08/2020	Tsuneko Sameshima
11/02/2019	Utako Saito Taylor	04/18/2020	Anna Nagata
11/21/2019	Betty Hiroko Yoshioka	05/30/2020	Kazuo Hori
11/29/2019	B. Dianne Adams	05/30/2020	Vic Masao Omachi
01/06/2020	Harold Jiro Takahashi	06/02/2020	Ryo George Tanaka
02/23/2020	Seichi Shiraiwa		

Long Distance Dharma

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President



Bill Bohlman, BTC President
Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



After over three months of being closed, the temple began in-person Sunday service at the beginning of July. The opportunity now exists for those who wish to experience the Dharma in the temple setting to do so. Social distancing, masks and diligent sanitation measures strive to make the temple experience as safe as possible. For those who cannot attend, long distance Dharma is available.

Since mid-March, and continuing now, Rev. Patti has broadcast a Sunday service via Facebook Live. With an assist from Gary, together they have enabled temple members and others to receive the Dharma from the comfort of their own homes. Even though the temple is again open for service, the Facebook Live broadcasts continue. In addition to the service, an online social hour is held after service, a Tuesday meditation, discussion groups and classes are held via Zoom.

Unfortunately, many other temple activities cannot be conducted online. Probably the biggest casualty is Natsu Matsuri. Since 1997 I have been chairperson of the festival. Although it is a big undertaking, the dedication and hard work of the many temple members and friends make it a joyous occasion. Natsu Matsuri is a time of celebration, a time to see old friends and make some new ones. Of course, it is also the time when we get to enjoy the world famous BTC teriyaki chicken and other delicious treats. Natsu Matsuri also serves an important function for BTC: it is our primary fundraising event. The lack of the festival will put a big hole in our budget. At first, in March, the thought was that Natsu Matsuri could be postponed until fall; that option has now become unrealistic. For now, all we can do is hope that the virus will clear in time for next year's Natsu Matsuri.

Even though the temple was closed to the public, our expenses continued unabated. It is easy to become distanced from the everyday needs of the temple when we are not able to attend, however they still exist. Now is the time to reflect upon what the temple means in our lives; what it has done for us in the past and what it will continue to do. Last year we celebrated our 75th anniversary. In these trying times the focus needs to be on what can be done now to guarantee the years to come.

The temple is here to serve your needs in these trying times. The Dharma teaches us that all things in life are impermanent; that change is inevitable. The time will come when we once again can gather together as a Sangha to hear the Dharma in our hondo. Until then, be well.

Namu Amida Butsu.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2020 Calendar		Events may be canceled or moved: Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 11am Monthly Memorial	3	4 11am Mindful Midday	5	6	7	8
9 11am Regular Service	10	11 11am Mindful Midday	12	13	14	15
16 11am Obon Service	17	18 11am Mindful Midday	19	20	21	22
23 11am Regular Service	24	25 11am Mindful Midday	26	27	28	29