



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

November 2020



Newly added shrubbery gives the temple corner a softer look

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Time of Transformation?

by Rev. Patti Nakai

At this time it is hard to say when we will be free of the COVID-19 restrictions, but most people agree that when that time comes, things will not go back completely to how they were before mid-March 2020. Not just me, but many clergy and laypeople believe that religious organizations will be changed by this lockdown experience. For one, members have gotten used to viewing services without having to get dressed and leave their homes and with the playback option on Facebook Live, they can watch the service at any time and fast-forward through the boring parts. Many of our members and friends now use the PayPal function on our website to make donations rather than send in checks. Joining discussions and classes on Zoom has made participation easier for those with mobility and transportation challenges.

But in what other ways will our temple be different from how it was in 2019? The big crowded events such as Natsu Matsuri (summer fundraiser), Bon Odori (dance festival), mochi-tsuki (rice cake pounding) and even memorial services may have to be downsized for a safer flow of people. Groups using our temple have to adjust their times and use of space to allow for proper disinfecting before and after practices. Definitely the days of pot luck buffets are over and any gatherings with food will have to be carefully planned out and staged.

Yet as the temple becomes a less convenient place for community gatherings, I believe these months of anxiety for our health and our nation will have transformed us into becoming more serious about the temple's central purpose – to provide access to the Dharma and promote mutual support among fellow seekers. And like the retail businesses have learned, we can do these things beyond the “brick and mortar” walls of our location. During this time of Ho-on-ko, let us remember how Shinran found ways to spread the Buddhist teachings in a loose affiliation of small informal groups without elaborate buildings and administrative control. It can be possible to transform our temple into a network of Dharma learners, not requiring a ton of bricks or pile of bodies on the board.



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Ho-On-Ko Seminar and Service

Ho-on-ko is the memorial for Shinran Shonin, a time to gather (*ko*)
To express our gratitude (*ho-on*) for the teachings he shared.

This year our guest speaker will be Rev. Ryoko Osa via the internet.

Saturday, November 21 at 1:00pm – Ho-on-ko Seminar

Zoom Lecture and Discussion “What Shinran Gives to Us”

(see Facebook or contact Rev. Patti for sign-in info)

Sunday, November 22 at 11:00am – Ho-on-ko Service

Dharma Talk “My Feelings, Buddha’s Compassion”

(via recorded video)

Rev. Ryoko Osa has been the resident minister of the Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple since 2017. She was born in Tokyo, Japan And worked at the Higashi Honganji head temple in Kyoto 1996-2006. She moved to Los Angeles in 2006 and served in the North America and Hawaii District offices of Higashi Honganji. She has two children.



Volunteers Needed

If you are comfortable attending the in-person Sunday services, please come a little early to help with set-up and stay a little later to help with disinfecting the chairs and other used surfaces.

Please contact Rev. Patti about other ways you can help the temple in-person or online.



Scheduled activities – subject to change (TBD = to be determined later)

Note that in-person activities are subject to COVID-19 restrictions (mask required)

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person (50 limit), online Facebook Live.

Second Sunday is Children’s Dharma School service (no in-person classes Sept. 2020-June 2021)

Mindful midday (meditation and stretching) – Mondays 11am - in-person (10 limit), online Zoom

Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am, online Zoom, in-person (10 limit)

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 6:30pm, in-person (10 limit)

Thursday Meditation - 7:30pm online Facebook Live; Sunday Meditation 9:30am - In person only

Aikido – Sundays 5-7pm – In person only (10 limit)

Taiko TBD

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

Deepest Sympathy

To the family and friends of

Sadako Fujii September 19, 2020



Giving Thanks

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



Nichi nichu kore ko jitsu. Every day is a good day. This saying was a favorite of Rev. Gyomay Kubose. It expresses the idea that each day is good day; it is only our perception of the day that can make us see it as bad. During this time of pandemic it is difficult to see the day as good, but as we enter the holiday season there is much for which we can be thankful.

Since mid-March, I have been unable to attend Sunday service in person. I always looked forward to going to service, gathering with the Sangha and speaking with students and other visitors. Although I am not able to have the in-person experience, thanks to the hard work of Rev. Patti and Gary Nakai, I and others are able to view the Sunday service via Facebook Live. After service, some of us gather for a Zoom social hour. Classes, meditation and seminars have also been available through these various channels. I am thankful for the efforts of others who make all of this possible

During this difficult time, temple members and friends have continued to support the temple. As the temple has slowly reopened to in-person activities volunteers and group members make sure that it is a safe environment for those who attend. Although they may not be able to attend, many others continue to support the temple financially. I am thankful for those who help the temple survive and prosper.

Most of all I am thankful for the teachings. At times like these, it is easy to fall into a loop of self-pity. Our lives are interrupted; we can't do what we want when we want. A sense of loss of that which was normal leads to a fear of what may lie ahead. The Dharma, however, teaches us to move beyond these feelings. The past is gone, the future is yet to be determined; all we have is this present moment. It is in this moment that we determine how we will proceed. We can focus on what we have lost and what we may yet lose, or we can be thankful for the day. In many ways it is easier to accept the current reality when it is almost universal. I once heard the Dalai Lama say that karma is the result of the actions of human beings. Reflecting on the Oneness of life, the truth of this statement becomes apparent. My actions impact the lives of others just as their actions impact me. To learn to appreciate this moment, even with all its trials and tribulations, is a teaching for which I am thankful.

The teaching of impermanence tells us that all things are constantly changing. At some point this pandemic will end and our lives will return to whatever the new normal will be. Together as a Sangha we will gather to hear the teachings, celebrate the holidays, and enjoy all the activities. For this hope of the future I am thankful. Namu Amida Butsu.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 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 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial Service 5pm Aikido	2 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	3 11am Qi-Gong	4	5	6	7	
8 9:30am Meditation 11am Children's Dharma School Service 5pm Aikido	9 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	10 11am Qi-Gong	11	12	13	14	
15 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 5pm Aikido	16 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	17 11am Qi-Gong	18	19	20	21	
22 9:30am Meditation 11am Ho-on-ko Service 5pm Aikido	23 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	24 11am Qi-Gong	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28	
29 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 5pm Aikido	30 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido						