



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

April 2021



Dharma School students doing stay-at-home *kambutsu*

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's message
By Rev. Patti Nakai.....1

President's message
By Bill Bohlman.....3

Acknowledgments.....4

Monthly Memorial.....5

Calendar.....6



Toned-down Hanamatsuri By Rev. Patti Nakai

Hanamatsuri, the commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, was for many years the largest service at our temple. But in recent years, attendance has been sparse because the observance falls during spring break when families go on trips. Last year at this time the temple was closed and all of us did our kambutsu at home, pouring sweet tea from a ladle, onto whatever we had as an approximation of the baby Buddha statue (as seen in the photo above).

This year we will do a toned-down Hanamatsuri at the temple as we expect only a few people to be able to attend. We will not be having a hanamido (flower shrine) or o-chigo (children dressed as ancient aristocrats) parade because the volunteers who helped with those aspects are in the high-risk age range. There will not be flower offerings by the representatives of various temple groups since not many of those groups have been meeting at the temple. There will be kambutsu for the in-person attendees to do but the rest of you watching Facebook Live will have to do the DIY kambutsu you did last year.

Pouring sweet tea over the baby Buddha statue represents the rain that washed the newly born child clean after his mother bore him in Lumbini Garden. Buddhism teaches us that in the same way we wash our bodies of the grime and germs that we accumulate during our daily activities, we should give our heart/mind an occasional washdown, letting go of the attachments we spend so much mental energy obsessing about. And the root of those attachments is the attachment to our ego-self. How can we wash that away? Meditation, especially with a group, is one way to get in touch with the world around and within you, taking the focus off building up one's ego. But a more practical way is just to place your concerns on other lives for a few moments – write a letter or call someone, read a novel or watch a movie about a person heroically helping others, go on a walk and notice the different flowers and birds. All these things can be nembutsu activities – “Namu” - a chance to wash off our selfishness, “Amida Butsu” – being exposed to the wonder of life without the dirt of our fixed concepts getting in the way. Hanamatsuri is our annual reminder to see each living being as newly born in their unique life. ❀



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com



Urgently Need Volunteer(s) with Laptop

In order to continue streaming our Sunday services online every week, we need volunteers with laptops (wi-fi enabled and with two USB ports) to come to the temple at least one Sunday a month. Please let us know if you can help!



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, 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 and online Zoom

Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 6:30pm – in-person only

Thursday Meditation - 7:15pm online Facebook Live

Sunday Meditation 9:30am – In-person only

Aikido – Sundays 5-7pm – in-person only

Asoka Society – Saturday April 17 at 1pm – first meeting in over a year!

Taiko TBD

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

Deepest Sympathy

To the family and friends of

Shoji "Watts" Uchida

January 29, 2021



Good to Be Back

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



As I write this I have just returned home from the O-Higan service at the temple. Unlike previous years, the attendance was small and there was no luncheon after service. Yet, this was a wonderful O-Higan; it was my first visit to the temple in a little over a year.

The symbolism of the Six Paramitas and O-Higan, the crossing over to the other shore, seemed fitting for our current times. Looking back on the past year we can see the Six Paramitas in many of the actions of those around us.

Dana, generosity, appears in the actions of the doctors, nurses and first responders who took care of those suffering from COVID. Our gratitude also goes out to those essential workers who at risk to their own health continued to provide the services we needed to survive. Dana also was also shown in the many food distribution drives held throughout the country.

Sila, morality, manifested itself in the actions of those who strove to tell the truth about the pandemic regardless of the attacks on their motives and credibility. They knew to do otherwise would cause even greater suffering.

Kshanti, forbearance, expressed itself whenever we were able to move beyond blaming others for our suffering and realize that they too are suffering. The idea of the interconnectedness, the Oneness of all life, became even more evident as the whole world suffered from the pandemic. The realization that we are only free of the threat when all are freed from the disease reaffirmed this Oneness.

Virya, perseverance, epitomizes the last year. Only through perseverance, and the understanding that life is constant change, were we able to face the challenge. In others, we saw virya in the constant struggle to make everyday life less of a burden.

Dhyana, meditation, found greater meaning in our lives. In a world of turmoil, a reassessment of what we find important became inevitable. As our expectations and desires found themselves upended, a focusing on that which is truly important in our lives occurred.

Prajna, wisdom, is the culmination of the Six Paramitas. As we have experienced the Paramitas in our lives, and have seen them in others, a clearer picture of reality arises. The delusions of our old expectations are revealed; a new perspective of life as it is arises. In a sense, this is a crossing over to the other shore.

It is my hope that in the coming year we will return once again in person to the temple. Through the efforts of Rev. Patti, Gary and others we have had to opportunity to view the Sunday service on Facebook and for this we are grateful. We will continue this practice even when we return in person so that those who cannot attend can stay connected to the Sangha. Until we meet again, Namu Amida Butsu.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

1151 W Leland Ave
 CHICAGO, IL 60640-5043 USA
www.buddhisttemplechicago.org
 Phone: (773) 334-4661

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



April 2021 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 7:15pm Facebook Live meditation	2	3
4 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 5pm Aikido	5 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	6 11am Qi-Gong	7	8 7:15pm Facebook Live meditation	9	10
11 9:30am Meditation 11am Hanamatsuri Dharma School Service 5pm Aikido	12 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	13 11am Qi-Gong	14	15 7:15pm Facebook Live meditation	16	17 1:00pm Asoka meeting
18 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 5pm Aikido	19 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	20 11am Qi-Gong	21	22 7:15pm Facebook Live meditation	23	24
25 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 5pm Aikido	26 11am Mindful Midday 6:30pm laido	27 11am Qi-Gong	28	29 7:15pm Facebook Live meditation	30	