



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

November 2021

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**



At the Temple Anniversary service, the Kanemoto, Izui and Tademoto families were honored for their years of volunteer service to BTC



Honoring the Past and Present by Rev. Patti Nakai

In November we observe Ho-on-ko, the memorial of Shinran Shonin. At Ho-on-ko time we honor (“ho-on”) Shinran by gathering (“ko”) to listen to the teachings of nembutsu, the teachings of how to transcend our ego-centered limited selves and awaken to our interconnection with all lives. At our temple we have been able to do this Dharma listening at Ho-on-ko time and throughout the year because of the support of hundreds of volunteers whose efforts keep the temple going as an organization.

I would like to start recognizing those members who gave so much of their time, energy and resources to the temple over many years and also encouraged the younger generation to carry on with supporting the temple. At last month's temple anniversary service on October 17 we presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Kanemoto, Izui and Tademoto families. Yutaka Kanemoto was temple president 1963-69 and guided our temple along with his wife Haruko as advising elders. Their son Neil (pictured above far left) was an Eagle Scout in the temple troop and continues to help out preparing the chicken teriyaki at Natsu Matsuri. George Izui was also a temple president 1978-82 and helped with the kendo group. His wife Ruby is still an advising elder, having served in many temple groups such as Dharma School. Their son Pete and daughter Karen Kanemoto (both pictured above) continue to help out at various temple events. Masato Tademoto was a long time volunteer, helping at mochi tsuki and his wife Haruko “Harky” Tademoto served the temple as the expert cook and cleaner and also helped build the partitions used inside the temple. Their son Tomio (pictured above) continues to handle the repair and maintenance of our temple's building and grounds and daughter-in-law Linda (pictured above) carries on with the taiko group to which her husband Kenji was so devoted. Grandson Jeff (pictured above) helps out at special events. The other Kanemoto, Izui and Tademoto children and grandchildren are seen actively helping the temple from time to time.

Continued on Page 2



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com

Continued from Page 1

I hope to honor more families at other special services such as Bodhi Day in December and Eitaikyo in January. There were many families whose first and second generation Japanese American members were instrumental in founding and developing the temple. In most cases, the third and fourth generations were not as active but they still came out to help at Natsu Matsuri and mochi-tsuki, dance at the Bon Odori and attend the funerals and memorials of their parents' friends. And although some of those generations have moved out of the Chicago area, they consistently donate to the temple in memory of their loved ones.

Please help us identify some of the families we should recognize and let us know who we should contact as their representative. Of course there have been individuals and couples who have given much to the temple but their family members – siblings, children, nieces and nephews – were not involved at BTC for various reasons. Since many of those people have passed on, who would represent them to receive the certificate of appreciation? If you are a friend or know a close friend of such past volunteers, please let us know.

As we honor those who helped in the past and whose descendants are still helping us now, I hope others will follow their example into the future. Some of us are winding down our involvement with the temple (such as myself, planning to retire in a couple years) so please discuss with the board members ways in which the temple can continue to exist as the place for gathering to hear the Dharma teachings. 🌸



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live only November 7 and 21

Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service – on Zoom, no in-person classes

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

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

Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – on Facebook Live only

Sunday Meditation 9:30am – in-person only

Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3-5pm – in-person only

Asoka Society (social gathering) – Saturday November 20 at 1pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

For more information, see our website or contact BTC

BTC Calendar – Mailing Preparation

Starting in mid-November we need volunteers to help with mailing preparation of the 2022 BTC calendar. Instead of a large gathering of all volunteers at once, we would like to have 4-5 people at a time come to the temple. Refreshments will be provided – of course!



Maple Leaf

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



Autumn is here, and the change from lush greenery to the colors of fall has occurred. Often, Buddhism uses the imagery of the turning seasons to illustrate a teaching. One such example is a poem by Ryokan (1758-1831), a Zen monk. Although the English translation loses much of the poetic nature, the underlying image comes thru:

Maple leaf
showing front
showing back
falling down

What is the teaching in this poem? As Ryokan watched the falling leaf, its lack of pretension struck him. It showed its front; it showed its back; it hid nothing. He compared this to his own life, how he tried to show only what he thought of as his better aspects. Ryokan realized that his ego was the underlying source of this vanity. If only he could be natural, like the maple leaf, and show his true self, without fear, he would overcome much of the suffering in his life. Ryokan bowed in respect to the maple leaf.

This is the interpretation that I have read and heard from various ministers. They all seem to stress the difference between the maple leaf and us, our ego driven life and its naturalness. However, I see a great similarity. The key to me is the fact that the maple leaf shows front and back as it is falling. Looking at a maple tree in full bloom, one does not see the back of the leaves. Even when the colors turn, the front of the leaf is what is visible. Only when the leaf is falling does the leaf show front and back. Compare this to how we live our life. As an infant, we have no sense of self. We have not yet begun to separate ourselves from our surroundings, the sense of I and You. Starting in early childhood, and throughout most of our adult life, we carefully craft how we appear to others. Only as we approach the end of our lives do we begin to lose this ego-self. We once again appreciate life as it is.

At the moment of death, all people become buddhas. They move beyond the suffering of this world and attain nirvana. The word buddha means awakened one. Shakyamuni Buddha awakened to the depth of his ignorance. He was then able to see the world as it is, not as his wished it to be. He awakened to the naturalness of life. This awareness of the naturalness of life allowed him to begin to overcome the ego-caused suffering present in all human life.

We are capable of this awakening. Shakyamuni Buddha was neither a god nor a prophet. He was simply a human being who attained his awakening. The Dharma teachings show us a way to attain our awakening. Our naturalness will then shine thru, as we show our front and back, at this moment; not only when we too are falling down.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 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 laido 6:30pm	2 11am Qi-Gong	3	4 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	5 Taiko 7pm	6
7 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3pm Aikido	8 laido 6:30pm	9 11am Qi-Gong	10	11 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	12 Taiko 7pm	13
14 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School Service 3pm Aikido	15 laido 6:30pm	16 11am Qi-Gong	17	18 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	19 Taiko 7pm	20 1:00pm Asoka meeting
21 9:30am Meditation 11am Ho-on-ko 3pm Aikido	22 laido 6:30pm	23 11am Qi-Gong	24	25 Thanks- giving	26 Taiko 7pm	27
28 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 12:30 Board Meeting 3pm Aikido	29 laido 6:30pm	30 11am Qi-Gong				