



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

February 2022

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At the January 1, 2022 service, Ruby Tsuji rings in the new year.



The Dignity of All Beings by Rev. Patti Nakai

I usually agree with most of the things Pope Francis says, but I have to disagree with his comments made in January that couples are selfish if they take care of pets and don't have children. I understand that in Catholicism and many religious groups, married couples are expected to have as many children as they can. But in Buddhism we recognize that due to myriad causes and conditions it may not be best for a couple, married or not, to bring a child into their lives. It may be best for a child not to be born into circumstances that do not allow for them to get the comprehensive care they should receive for the first eighteen or so years of their life. At our temple there have been memorial services for unborn children, a recognition of the fact that some people decide to terminate a pregnancy and we respect that decision without judging it as something wrong.

Pope Francis seemed to put pets in a lower category than human children, but I think everyone who has raised a "fur baby" will tell you their pet was as much a part of the family as any of the humans. Like with humans, your relationship with your pet goes through a development, adjusting for changes as they come up. Although pets do not use human language, they remind us that true heart-to-heart communication does not require words. Some people feel their pets seemed like clairvoyants, not only able to read your mind, but somehow see into your future. And there are many stories of pets able to sense disaster – whether it be earthquakes or fires or an impending health crisis – and they take action to alert us and lead us to safety. These are not the characteristics of a "lower" category of being, but of beings much more compassionate and selfless than humans who pride themselves on their intelligence and skills. (Continued on page 2)



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In the month of February we commemorate the passing of the historical Buddha with the Nirvana Day service (this year on February 20) and usually the following Sunday is the Pet Memorial service. This scheduling at many Buddhist temples is because when the Buddha was dying, it is said that the animals came out of the forest to pay respects to him. To them, here was one human who saw them as equals and demonstrated empathy in his interactions with them. So the Pet Memorial is to remind us that the Buddha “walked the talk” in treating all beings kindly, whether they were huge elephants or tiny insects. We invite everyone to come to the Pet Memorial with a picture of their loved one and some stories to tell about them. And at any time during the year, if you would like a service for your pet, whether it be a makura-gyo (“pillow service”) when they are near death, or the commemoration of their date of passing, please let me know since I’ve already done those services for members in the past. 🌸



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live only February 6 and 20
Second Sunday Children’s Dharma School service – no BTC service, please attend EBL (see insert)
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 7:00pm – 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) – on break until March
Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons
For more information, see our website or contact BTC

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: Election of Board Officers by Mail

The in-person General Membership Meeting that was scheduled for Sunday, January 31 has been cancelled due to concerns over COVID-19. Voting for officers and the 2022 budget will be done by mail. Only those (age 16 and up) with **2021** paid memberships are eligible to vote. All ballots must be delivered to the temple by February 27, 2022.

Deepest Sympathy to the families of:

Susie Kimura	January 11, 2022
Jerry Morishige	January 15, 2022



Ministerial Succession **By Bill Bohlman, BTC President**

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



As has previously been announced, Rev. Patti Nakai has indicated that she intends to step down as resident minister sometime in 2023. In 2013, Rev. Nakai succeeded Rev. Ashikaga as the resident minister. Since that time, Rev. Nakai has served the temple as a true teacher of the Dharma. We now have the task of finding the right person to continue the legacy of BTC.

Throughout the temple's history we have had the great fortune of having a series of outstanding ministers. As one stepped down as resident minister there was always another waiting in the wings to take the reins. We now find ourselves in the position of having to go outside to find our next minister. To help facilitate this search a ministerial succession committee will be formed.

The first meeting to discuss and establish this committee will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 12:15 PM. The meeting will be held at the temple after service, both in person and via Zoom. All are welcome to attend this meeting, but only temple members will serve on the committee once it is formed. It is our hope that this committee will be reflective of the membership in all its diverse composition.

Since our founding in 1944, BTC has had some of the most outstanding ministers in America. It is our sincere hope that we can find a candidate to continue this great tradition as a teacher of the Dharma. For more information and the Zoom link please contact me at budtempchi@aol.com.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



February 2022 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 11am Qi-Gong	2	3 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	4 Taiko 7pm	5
6 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial Service 3pm Aikido	7 Iaido 7:00pm	8 11am Qi-Gong	9	10 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	11 Taiko 7pm	12 EBL Conference online
13 10:00am EBL Service watch party at temple and also online 3pm Aikido	14 Iaido 7:00pm	15 11am Qi-Gong	16	17 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	18 Taiko 7pm	19
20 9:30am Meditation 11am Nirvana Day Service 3pm Aikido	21 Iaido 7:00pm	22 11am Qi-Gong	23	24 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	25 Taiko 7pm	26
27 9:30am Meditation 11am Pet Memorial Service 12:30 Board Meeting 3pm Aikido	28 Iaido 7:00pm					