



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

May 2022

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For the first time since 2019, the Hanamatsuri service had a hanamido decorated with fresh flowers. Thanks to the volunteers (L to R): Karen Kanemoto, Alice Murata, Noreen Enkoji, Jane Morishige, Gwen Kato



A Step Beyond the Status Quo by Rev. Patti Nakai

Last month at Hanamatsuri, we heard the legend of the baby Buddha taking seven steps and declaring, "Above the heavens, below the heavens, I alone am noble." The seven steps symbolize taking one step beyond the six realms of existence (the worlds of devils, hungry demons, beasts, warriors, humans and angels). The six realms of existence are symbols of how most of the time we're caught up in conflicts and the moments of feeling heavenly don't last very long. The seventh step symbolizes transcending that life where joys and sorrows are based on self-attachment.

The teachings of Buddhism show us how to be liberated from our self-attachment and live our lives more in tune with the interconnection to all lives. But it is not easy to step beyond our usual way of thinking and behaving – the "status quo." There are too many influences around us that appeal to our self-attachment to support systems that are only for profits at the expense of others' well being and even threatens their very existence.

One example where Buddhism conflicts with the status quo is the teaching of non-violence – that if we are aware that other beings fear pain and death as much as we do, then we shouldn't be trying to hurt them. Yet the status quo says it's okay to put people through physical and/or mental torture and take away their lives if they are judged to be "bad guys" deserving of punishment. It is horrifying that there are over 2 million incarcerated people in the U. S., many condemned to die by execution or by untreated health problems. A tiny percentage of them may be a danger to society but the rest have been found guilty for acts committed due to teenage immaturity or mental illness, for acts that wouldn't matter today (possession of marijuana, stealing outdated electronics) or for crimes they were coerced into confessing. Rather than rehabilitation, prisons are places of torture. From Shakyamuni to Shinran, all the Buddhist teachers point out that punishment doesn't achieve anything but make us feel morally superior in having the power to hurt another person. Instead, we should be working with them to repair the damage their actions caused. This is just one example, but I hope each of us sees the many ways the Dharma teachings confront the status quo. ☸



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RIDE SHARE AT BTC By Nancey Epperson

The pandemic is fading. People are returning to religious services. Recently, there have been more people at the Temple on Sunday mornings, and at events like Asoka meetings.

Wouldn't you like to be there too? Do you need a ride to get to the Temple?

OR

Can you give a ride?

Let us know! Please call the temple (773 – 334- 4661) and leave a message with your name & phone number.

I will collect the messages and call you back. (Not leaving my home phone # here so as to evade internet scammers)

OR, send me email: naepperson14@gmail.com

I'll put drivers in touch with riders. You then make arrangements together.

See you at the Temple!



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live only May 1 and 22

Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service - on Zoom and in person

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

Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – on Facebook Live only

Sunday Meditation 9:30am – in-person only

Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only

Asoka Society (social gathering) – 1pm third Saturday May 21

Craft Class – To be announced

The above activities are open to the public and free (donations appreciated).

If you are interested in the two activities below, please leave your contact information and the group will set up an appointment for you to visit them.

Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 7:00pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

Memorials for Rev. Sunnan Koyo Kubose

Updated Information

There are two scheduled memorials for Rev. Sunnan Koyo Kubose who passed away on March 7, 2022.

Buddhist Council of the Midwest and Heartland Sangha are sponsoring a local memorial gathering on Sunday May 15 at 1pm, location Elliott Park (Dempster and lakefront) in Evanston. For details, contact: asayohoribe@sbcglobal.net

On Saturday May 21, the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness will be live streaming the memorial service from California. For details, see brightdawn.org

If the time is around the Asoka meeting, we will set up a monitor at the temple for people to watch.



Natsu Matsuri & Minister Search

By Bill Bohlman, BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi@aol.com



Natsu Matsuri is back! Well, sort of. Many people have inquired as to whether there would be a Natsu Matsuri this year. At the most recent board meeting, the board decided that a scaled down version of the festival will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2022. The star of this day will be the world famous BTC teriyaki chicken. We are hoping to be able to offer other food items but this has not been finalized. The food will be sold by presale for pickup on July 10. Due to the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic and the feeling that there is still nervousness about packed indoor gatherings, there will be no performances, exhibits or vendors at this year's festival. Everyone on the Bulletin mailing list who lives within a reasonable distance of the temple will receive a preorder form in the mail before the end of May. The preorder form will also be on the temple website for online ordering.

Another area where temple members have had questions is the search for our next resident minister. Rev. Patti has expressed her desire to retire sometime in 2023. To address this issue and to explore all the options available to us, a minister search committee was formed. This committee is open to all temple members who wish to participate. The chairperson of the committee is Wendy Fawcett, VP Religious Affairs. This is a Sangha led committee; the decisions are made by the Sangha, not the board of directors. Meetings are the first Sunday of the month after service; usually starting about 12:15 PM. If you wish to participate but cannot attend in person you can do so on Zoom; login information upon request.

The festival and the minister search may seem unrelated but they have one thing in common, the Sangha. Both of these items require the participation of the temple members. For over 75 years, BTC has thrived thanks to the dedication of the members. As we slowly return to a semblance of normal your help is once again needed. Together we can continue to make BTC a place for all to hear the Dharma.

Japanese Community Memorial Day Gathering

At Montrose Cemetery
5400 N. Pulaski, Chicago IL

Monday, May 30 at 11am, the Japanese Mutual Aid Society is hosting the annual Memorial Day Gathering as an in-person event this year. Come join this interfaith gathering to honor past community members, including many from our temple.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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May 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 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial Service 3:30pm Aikido	2	3	4	5	6 Taiko* 7pm	7
8 9:30am Meditation 11am Children's Service 3:30pm Aikido	9 laido* 7:00pm	10 11am Qi-Gong	11	12 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	13 Taiko* 7pm	14
15 11am Lay Speaker 3:30pm Aikido	16 laido* 7:00pm	17 11am Qi-Gong	18	19 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	20 Taiko* 7pm	21 1pm Asoka
22 9:30am Meditation 11am Tanjo-e 3:30pm Aikido	23 laido* 7:00pm	24 11am Qi-Gong	25	26 Facebook Live Meditation 7:15pm	27 Taiko* 7pm	28
29 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 12:15 Board Meeting 3:30pm Aikido	30 laido* 7:00pm	31 11am Qi-Gong				

*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance (see page 2)