



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

July 2022



Portion of the affinity diagram from the brainstorming session of the Ministerial Succession committee. See Page 3 for rest of the affinity diagram results.

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Please note: the bulletin will be limited in content from now on

Membership Reminder:

Please renew your 2022 membership, if you haven't already done so. Thanks!



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com

MINISTERIAL SUCCESSION ACTIVITY By Wendy Fawcett

As most of you know, Rev. Nakai announced her desire to retire. While her timeline may be flexible, it is prudent for the membership to begin readying for a transition. After many months of talk about how BTC will choose its next minister, the Board moved forward with creating the Ministerial Succession Committee and setting meetings to begin the challenging task. In March of 2022, we held our first meeting, and it was decided that we would meet at least monthly, on the first Sunday of the month after service. Right away, discussion developed that a brainstorming meeting should be held to get as much input from BTC members as possible.

On June 5, 2022, twenty-two members of BTC convened both in person and on zoom for a brainstorming session that involved juggling microphones, making sure you're muted or unmuted, and large neon sticky notes. On those brightly colored sticky notes were what we tried to pare down to three words or less, a description of what we hoped would be in our next resident minister. For the greater portion of the meeting, we passed the microphone and called out characteristics such as "relatable" and "good listener", educational requirements like "well versed in Shin Buddhism" and "familiar with other religions", among other descriptors. Everyone was encouraged to participate. If a person couldn't keep it to the suggested 3 words, many others stepped in with concise suggestions that the group agreed adequately described the original suggestion. The suggestions that were sent in before the meeting were also included.

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After the brainstorming session began to slow to a trickle, the task of organizing the sticky notes into categories took place. The group came up with 11 categories and ranked them in the following order of priority: 1) religious educational background, 2) communication skills, 3) living standards, 4) leadership skills, 5) interpersonal skills, 6) supports Dharma School, 7) embraces diversity, 8) BTC commitment, 9) personal traits, 10) knowledge of Japanese culture, and 11) familiar with technology. This diagram has been on display at the temple for everyone to see the results of this session.

What one will see is a “wish list” of sorts. We know that there is no one person who can fulfill every idea that we called out and hoped for in our next minister. But what perhaps we have learned from this brainstorming session is that the Sangha was in relative agreement with the suggestions and the ranking in priority. While there was an occasional follow up question or discussion after a suggestion was made, the group tended to nod in agreement or “added to” or “bounced off” of what another person said. Ultimately, what I think I observed that day is not only what we hoped to see in our next minister, but what we hoped to see in ourselves and from the Sangha as well.

With our brainstorming session complete, we now have a direction with which to move forward when creating a job description. This is the first step in our journey in finding another resident minister. As we have been emphasizing, there is much work to be done in this task. We encourage all BTC members to participate in this important work. We meet monthly on the first Sunday of the month after service. I hope to see you there!

Many thanks to those in attendance who accomplished the above: Dean Adams, Ken Addison, Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Wendy Fawcett, Glenn Fujiura, Drea Gallaga, Anna Idol, Yasuo Ito, Gwen Kato, Adam Kellman, Terry Koch, Carlos Meza, Candy Minx, Debbie Miyashiro, Jane Morishige, Gary Nakai, Susan Nakamura, Stanley Oda, Miriam Solon, Hilal Tamrat, Ruby Tsuji.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live July 3
Second Sunday Children’s Dharma School service - on summer break
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – on summer break until September
Sunday Meditation 9:30am – on summer break until September
Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only
Asoka Society (social gathering) – 1pm third Saturday July 16

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



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



July 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 Taiko* 7pm	2
3 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30pm Aikido	4 laido* 7:00pm	5 11am Qi-Gong	6	7	8 Taiko* 7pm	9
10 12 – 4pm Natsu Matsuri	11 laido* 7:00pm	12 11am Qi-Gong	13	14	15 Taiko* 7pm	16 1pm Asoka
17 11am Regular Service 3:30pm Aikido	18 laido* 7:00pm	19 11am Qi-Gong	20	21	22 Taiko* 7pm	23
24 11am Lay Speaker 3:30pm Aikido	25 laido* 7:00pm	26 11am Qi-Gong	27	28	29 Taiko* 7pm	30
31 11am Regular Service 12:15 Board Meeting 3:30pm Aikido	*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance					