



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

October 2022



At the Fall O-Higan service, longtime volunteers Tak and Tommi Tomiyama and Isamu and Dorothy Kuse were honored. Pictured left to right: Emma, Lisa and Keith Philibert, Tommi Tomiyama, Rev. Patti, Sara and Susan Kuse, Ryan Beckner, Brian Rous

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Membership Reminder:

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



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DHARMA EDUCATION by Rev. Patti Nakai

The month of September means the beginning of a new school year and this year we are pleased to announce the start of in-person Dharma School classes for school-age children. The first class on September 11 got off to a great start with two students under the guidance of Jake Stewart, our new Dharma School teacher. Thanks to the generosity of Barbara DeKerf and Dr. Thomas Shimoda and family, the Dharma School students for their first project put together a Lego version of the “beckoning cat” *maneki neko*. The Dharma School will normally meet on the second Sunday of the month, but in October the class will be on the third Sunday, October 16. All school-aged kids are welcome and parents and young adults are invited to help out.

Also in September we started a twice-month sutra study class to read and discuss the Larger Sutra in reference to its deep effect on Haya Akegarasu, the teacher of Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito. The Larger Sutra is the main scriptural basis for the Pure Land teachings, yet the current English translations do not convey the message that moved Akegarasu so deeply. Let’s explore together what that message is and if it also has the power to move us. The class meets in-person and on Zoom. Contact me for more information: rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com

SCHEDULE CHANGES FOR OCTOBER

Due to Dharma School scheduling in October, please note the following schedule changes:

October 9th Sunday – Temple Anniversary service

October 16th Sunday – Dharma School service and class

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

October 15 and 16 (Saturday–Sunday)

This year the temple again will participate in the city-wide program of the Chicago Architectural Center. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and talk about our temple's treasures and Japanese American history. If you would like to help, please email Gary T. Nakai: budtempchi@hotmail.com



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live October 2nd
Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service – October 16th (3rd Sunday)
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – Facebook Live and in-person
Sunday Meditation 9:30am – in-person only
Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only
Asoka Society (social gathering) – No Meeting in October
Sutra Study – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7pm – October 4th & 18th

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

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF:

Tatsuya Hirotsuka

September 7, 2022

Anniversary Challenges

By Bill Bohlman, Temple President

As we celebrate our temple's 78th anniversary we find ourselves facing a new set of challenges that will determine the future of BTC. The two most daunting are the declining attendance at service and our search for the next minister.

Although it has been exacerbated by the pandemic, the problem of declining attendance has been continually progressing. Every year it seems that the number of people attending special services and monthly shotsuki hoyo service get smaller and smaller. Now, after the pandemic, we find ourselves with even fewer people at Sunday service. Some weeks there are as few as 10 – 15 people in attendance of which 5 or 6 are first time visitors. Overall, our membership is staying fairly constant but the age of most of the members is over 65. The challenge facing us is how do we reverse this trend? The answer is important as we deal with the second challenge: the next minister.

Rev. Patti has expressed her desire to retire sometime in 2023. The ministerial succession committee meets on a regular basis to address this issue. A job posting and job description has been formulated and will disseminated shortly. Although BTC has a reputation as a dynamic, progressive temple with a reputation as a learning temple, a new minister will want to come to a temple with a bright future. The most important aspect is an engaged Sangha. Throughout the years, our Sangha has always been ready to help the temple, both financially and with "sweat equity". Thankfully, so far, the financial support continues to be there. However, a new minister will most likely want to come to a temple with a Sangha that wants to hear the teachings.

We all have busy lives. The pandemic reset our priorities and a year of not attending service unfortunately became the new normal for many. The early members had busy lives; with far more financial and social obstacles before them. Yet they somehow found the time to lay the foundation that allowed BTC to thrive and prosper all these years. As gratitude for all the hardships they faced we need to make sure BTC continues to thrive.

The future is ours to determine.

Gassho.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



October 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
2 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30 Aikido	3 Iaido* 7:00pm	4 11am Qi-Gong 7pm Sutra study	5	6 7:15pm Meditation	7 Taiko* 7pm	8
9 9:30am Meditation 11am Temple Anniversary Service 3:30 Aikido	10 Iaido* 7:00pm	11 11am Qi-Gong	12	13 7:15pm Meditation	14 Taiko* 7pm	15 Open House Chicago
16 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School 12pm Open House Chicago	17 Iaido* 7:00pm	18 11am Qi-Gong 7pm Sutra study	19	20 7:15pm Meditation	21 Taiko* 7pm	22 NO Asoka
23 9:30am Meditation 11am Lay Speaker 3:30pm Aikido	24 Iaido* 7:00pm	25 11am Qi-Gong	26	27 7:15pm Meditation	28 Taiko* 7pm	29
30 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 12:15 Board Meeting 3:30pm Aikido	31 Iaido* 7:00pm	*Iaido and Taiko require appointments made in advance				