



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

September 2022

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Mini Bon Odori after the August 14 Obon Service - Special thanks to Jane Morishige for the hanging lanterns and refreshments

LANDSCAPING THANKS by Gary T. Nakai



Thanks to our volunteers who answered the call!

I am happy to report that the task to address the warning served BTC on August 4th by City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation citing the code violations regarding the over-growth of foliage on BTC's property has been completed as of Thursday, August 11th.

This was no easy feat considering the limited availability of volunteers during the weekdays and the unbearable heat and humidity of the past week. Never the less, with the deadline to complete the work on the temple's landscaping closing in on us, the following volunteers stepped forward and executed extreme diligence with a sense of expediency so the temple would not be cited and/or fined.

Please join me in recognizing Terry Koch, Yasuo Ito, Peter Mizuki, Naomi Mounce, Kiara Rybak, Miriam Solon, Linda Tademoto, Tomio Tademoto, Brett Garry and Hui-hwa Nam.

Special recognition is to be made of Yasuo Ito's generosity in the use of his gas engine powered hedge trimmer throughout this work which made it possible to trim back and clear the over growth in a mechanized, swift fashion, without which, this project would have proven too arduous to timely complete for the skill and manpower level realized. Using this incident as a case, we need to identify and reach periodic, standing solutions to police and maintain the exterior grounds of the temple.

Membership Reminder:

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



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The Transient State of “Able-Bodied” by Rev. Patti Nakai

When our temple started in 1944 and grew in the 1950s, the founding members – middle-aged Issei (first generation Japanese Americans) and young adult Nisei (second generation) – believed all of the temple maintenance could be done by volunteers and there was no need to hire any employees besides the ministers. At the time they felt they would be able-bodied up until the end and that their children and grandchildren would step into their roles as volunteers. Volunteers spent time at the temple on a regular basis throughout the week – doing janitorial and clerical work and occasionally making repairs. While other temples such as the Midwest Buddhist Temple had paid office and janitorial staff, our temple continued to rely on volunteer labor up through Rev. Ashikaga’s tenure. He had an army of Nisei women and men taking care of all the detail work – people who were already in their 80s yet still physically active and mentally sharp.

When I took over as resident minister, many of those Nisei volunteers were unable to get out or had passed on. The temple finally hired a part time office coordinator when some key people asked to be relieved of their duties. I am grateful we have our current office coordinator Jenae Somerville handling much of the clerical work, but the temple still relies on volunteers to do routine cleaning (DJ Lortie and the Aikido group) and building and grounds maintenance (Tomio Tademoto) and other occasional tasks.

There’s much to be done at the temple but I wonder if we can keep relying on volunteer help (see President’s message next page) as the Boomer-age members are starting to slow down physically and don’t have children involved in the temple. I realize the temple has based its continued maintenance on the belief that there will always be able-bodied members but currently we are seeing an increase of members becoming disabled due to illness, injury and age. We may have to hire more help to make up for the dwindling numbers of volunteers. And when we can’t keep up with maintaining our building, we will have to consider meeting in temporary locations or going online. With a membership of people aging and experiencing decreased mobility, we have to seriously consider how the temple will continue as an organization.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live September 4th
Second Sunday Children’s Dharma School service – Sept. 11th
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – starting Sept. 8th, Facebook Live and in-person
Sunday Meditation 9:30am – starting Sept. 11th, in-person only
Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only
Asoka Society (social gathering) – 1pm third Saturday, September 17th
Sutra Study – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7pm – starting September 20th

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

It Takes A Sangha by Bill Bohlman, Temple President

The pandemic has caused major disruptions in many of our everyday activities. One area where this is evident is in the diminished attendance at Sunday service. As we work on issues that will affect the future of BTC it becomes more imperative to have an engaged Sangha.

Since early this year, the Ministerial Succession Committee has met on the first Sunday of the month after service. With Rev. Patti's stated desire to retire in 2023 it is important that temple members work together on the search for our next resident minister. With no guarantee that we will find a full time resident minister, a plan that is amenable to all needs to be developed. Regardless of what might occur, we need the input from all the members. At the May meeting, two dozen temple members came together to discuss the attributes we seek in the next resident minister. In the ensuing meetings, a job posting and job description was developed. However, even after posting we will need to work on a Plan B should no candidate be found. Input from the Sangha is essential.

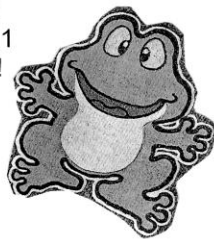
Starting Sunday, September 11, 2022

IN-PERSON DHARMA SCHOOL

Families with school-age children: Please join us for a monthly fun time together at the temple. There will be stories, crafts, games and more. But most of all it will be a time to be with other kids and experiencing the Buddhist principles of kindness and gratitude.



See you on
September 11
At 11:00am!



For more information, please contact Rev. Patti at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com or call 773-334-3661

Another area where we need the Sangha to help is in the everyday maintenance of the temple. Throughout the history of BTC it has been the volunteers who have helped maintain the temple. Now, with fewer people attending, the work has fallen upon only a few. Recently a meeting of representatives of the various temple groups discussed how we would proceed. A checklist of all the various tasks has been developed and a call for volunteers is going out. Members of the various groups will take on certain tasks but we need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping, contact Adam Kellman at btctemplerelations@gmail.com.

A temple is only as strong as its Sangha. For over 75 years the members and friends of BTC have helped sustain the temple. Now is the time for the next generation of helpers.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



September 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 Taiko* 7pm	3	
4 11am Monthly Memorial	5	6	7	8 7:15pm Meditation	9 Taiko* 7pm	10	
11 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School service 3:30 Aikido	12 Iaido* 7:00pm	13 11am Qi-Gong	14	15 7:15pm Meditation	16 Taiko* 7pm	17 1pm Asoka	
18 9:30am Meditation 11am O-higan service 3:30pm Aikido	19 Iaido* 7:00pm	20 11am Qi-Gong 7pm Sutra study	21	22 7:15pm Meditation	23 Taiko* 7pm	24	
25 9:30am Meditation 11am Lay Speaker 12:15 Board Meeting 3:30pm Aikido	26 Iaido* 7:00pm	27 11am Qi-Gong	28	29 7:15pm Meditation	30 Taiko* 7pm		
*Iaido and Taiko require appointments made in advance							