



# The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

## December 2022

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### PLEASE NOTE:

New membership rates are noted in the insert



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Members of the Qigong class in the Nokotsudo – Alice Murata, Noreen Enkoji and Minnie Darr. Photo was requested by a Northwestern University student who wanted to show people in front of the Heart Mountain altar for his project

### TEACHERS RUNNING by Rev. Patti Nakai

The old Japanese name for the month of December is *shi-wasu* which translates as “teachers running.” Normally people thought of professors and priests as solemnly walking, knowing their roles are highly respected, but in the last month of the year, everyone is running around to finish tasks before the new year and even the dignified teachers are caught up in the hectic rush. At our temple we have a lot going on in December with the return of mochi tsuki (rice cake pounding) on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> (see page 2) and the return to an in-person seminar with Prof. Yasushi Kigoshi on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> (see insert). And yes, we will have regular Sunday service on Christmas day the 25<sup>th</sup>.

If anything, Buddhism tells us not to take ourselves too seriously so instead of urgently rushing around, we should be aware that anything we do or don't do isn't going to cause the world to end. In “Human Commitment and the Buddha's Work,” Manshi Kiyozawa reminds us that whatever we manage to do or not get done depends mostly on causes and conditions, the people and events that we have little control of. So in *Namu Amida Butsu*, I hear the Buddha reminding me to breathe and be grateful for those who help me accomplish things and not stress over what doesn't get done exactly as I had hoped. Let's reflect on the Bodhi Day story of Shakyamuni leaving the palace – with all the to-do lists of materialistic living – to seek what is truly important and finding it in his awakening to the interconnection of all life.

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## 2022 MOCHI TSUKI

Saturday, December 17

Join the fun!

In preparation for the new year, we are having mochi-tsuki (rice-cake pounding) as we did in the past except there will be no sit-down dining and free samples.

Mochi plates will be available for sale around 11am  
– no pre-orders taken.

**Please help us out if you can:**

Washing rice during the week  
Setup begins Saturday at 7:00am  
First pounding is around 10:00am  
Clean-up starts around 1:00pm  
For more information and to volunteer to help, call Tomio Tadamoto 773-274-0745  
Or email: [budtempchi@hotmail.com](mailto:budtempchi@hotmail.com)



Drawing by George Izui



**Scheduled activities – subject to change**

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live November 6th  
Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service – December 11<sup>th</sup> (2nd 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 meetings until March 2023

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

## **A Year of Change and Challenge** by Bill Bohlman

As the year draws to a close, we can look back on a year of changes and challenges at BTC. Perhaps the most significant future change was Rev. Patti's announcement that she intends to retire at the end of September 2023. Rev. Patti made the board of directors aware of her intention early in the year. In response to this announcement the ministerial succession committee formed and began working on the next minister search. This committee is open to all members and as such sought the input of all interested members of the Sangha. To date a job posting and description has been developed and will be disseminated through the appropriate channels.

The work of the committee continues. A plan of action needs to be developed in the event we are unable to find a full time resident minister. As was the case with the development of the job requirements, the input of all members is invaluable. The committee meets the first Sunday of each month after service. All are encouraged to participate.

One of the big challenges of 2022 was getting people to attend Sunday service in person. As a courtesy, we have continued to live stream the shotsuki hoyo service each month and other special services are on Zoom. In addition, Rev. Patti continues to hold her sutra study class on Zoom. But, we need people to attend in person. Any potential new minister will want to have a thriving and engaged Sangha.

One highlight of 2022 was the return of Natsu Matsuri, although in a truncated form. Even though there was no entertainment, an enthusiastic crowd turned out for the delicious world famous teriyaki chicken. We hope to have a full Natsu Matsuri in 2023.

Our membership dues for 2023 underwent some changes. Rising expenses, and the potential costs of a new minister, necessitated an increase in the membership dues. However, two new lower price memberships now exist. These lower dues apply to individuals under the age of 30 and any first time new member. It is the hope of the board that these lower rates will encourage those who may otherwise be hesitant to join as members.

The dharma teaches us that all things are in a constant state of change. So it is with BTC. The past year was one of change and challenge. The strength of BTC has always been the commitment of the Sangha. As we look back on 2022 with gratitude we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Namu Amida Butsu.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

December 10, Saturday – Seminar with Prof. Yasushi Kigoshi

December 17, Saturday – Mochi-tsuki (rice cake pounding)

February 11, Saturday – Eastern Buddhist League conference (online)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## December 2022 Calendar

Events may be canceled or moved:

Check [www.facebook.com/budtempchi](https://www.facebook.com/budtempchi)  
 for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Taiko* 7pm	3
4 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30 Aikido	5 laido* 7:00pm	6 11am Qi-Gong	7	8 7:15pm Meditation	9 Taiko* 7pm	10 2:00pm Seminar
11 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School and Bodhi Day service 3:30 Aikido	12 laido* 7:00pm	13 11am Qi-Gong	14	15 7:15pm Meditation	16 Taiko* 7pm	17 Mochi Tsuki
18 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 3:30 Aikido	19 laido* 7:00pm	20 11am Qi-Gong	21	22 7:15pm Meditation	23 Taiko* 7pm	24 Christmas Eve
25 11am Regular Service Christmas Day	26 laido* 7:00pm	27	28	29	30	31

\*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance