



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

November 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message

Open House Chicago

President's Message

Acknowledgments

Monthly Memorial

Calendar

PLEASE NOTE:

Membership rates for 2023 will be announced in the December bulletin



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com



At the Temple Anniversary service, longtime volunteers Jane and the late Jerry Morishige were honored. Pictured front left to right: Jane Morishige, Rev. Patti, Prof. Yasuo Ito. Back row: Bill Bohlman and Dominic Butler

ESSENTIAL WORKERS by Rev. Patti Nakai

In November we observe Ho-on-ko, the memorial of Shinran. Shinran was born as an aristocrat and even though he lived in a monastery from age 9 to 29 then lived in Kyoto with his teacher Honen's group to age 35, he was well-fed and did not have to worry about or know where his meals came from. Then when Honen's group was persecuted and Shinran was exiled to far away Niigata, he experienced the reality of how food was provided (or not – there were frequent famines at the time). He witnessed the work of the rural folk – the farmers tending and harvesting crops, fishermen spending hours on the water to gather fish, hunters capturing and slaughtering animals and the traders who enabled the distribution of food stuffs and implements for preparing and serving food. In Shinran's upbringing, all of these workers were called *aku-nin*, evil persons, for breaking the Buddhist precepts. But in rural Niigata, Shinran realized how essential these workers were to feeding the community.

For a lot of us who grew up in the city and suburbs, we tend to ignore the existence of the people working hard to bring us our food. During the still ongoing pandemic, however, we heard how essential these workers were – they had to keep working on the job while white collar employees could work from home on their computers. From the farm workers working in harsh weather, to the processors at factories, to the delivery drivers, and to grocery store and restaurant employees – without them we wouldn't have anything to eat unless we had our own garden at home. (Continued on page 2)

Continued from Page 1

In the long *shoku-zen no kotoba* “the words before eating” that are recited at Higashi Honganji events in Japan, we are told to be thankful for the lives of plants and animals contained in our food. But in saying *itadakimasu* (“I gratefully receive”) before we eat, we should also remember all the essential workers who put in time and labor for not much monetary reward. This time of year, my favorite meme on the internet is where they show one panel with a family sitting down to a feast and the father with folded hands is saying, “Thank you Jesus for this food.” And in the next panel standing in a vegetable field is a migrant worker named Jesus, saying “*De nada.*” In our gratitude for Jesus, Maria, Rosa, Sergio et al (I see their stories on the United Farm Workers social media posts), let us support them in their campaigns to receive better working conditions and pay. Let us be more aware of the many lives that make our lives livable – bowing down (Namu Amida Butsu) in respect. 🌸

Well Done - BTC Open House Chicago 2022 - Joyful Success! By Gary T. Nakai

Many thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers who selflessly shared their joy in relating to a record 972 visitors, over 7 hours on Saturday and 4 hours on Sunday, essentially what this BTC is. Doing the simple math, that’s presenting to, on average, 88 visitors an hour non-stop!

Through the various informative displays spread throughout the temple, our guests attentively listened to all that was presented and expressed sincere appreciation for learning so much. Whether it was our temple’s unique architectural feature, the Rokkaku-do for our Hondo, our early history involving resettlement from the camps and how CBC/BTC came to be, the priceless original altar made in Heart Mountain WRC, the in-house artistry of Mr. Koizumi’s and his marvelous carved wood panels depicting the life of Siddhartha Gautama who became the Buddha, the harshness of the camps and the uplifting stories told of our forebears who rose above it all and started our temple, our eager team presented a boundless spectrum of information to the thoughtful inquiries of our visitors. Many thanks to the Japanese American Service Committee for sharing their graphic materials to help tell of the Japanese American experience at this point in our history.

Many of our visitors paused and gathered around the table to further discuss BTC, Buddhism, and our culture while enjoying the provided tea. The Chicago Architectural Center monitors were very complimentary of the welcoming, friendly nature of our team’s approach to the presentations. Each volunteer added such color with personal experiences before our fascinated guests at the intense pace, and most volunteers made this open house achievement happen by serving for just one shift; albeit an all-day shift!

Bravo! to the gracious, well-prepared, tireless OHC Team of Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Glenn Fujiura, Drea Gallaga, Karen Kanemoto, Adam Kellman, Dennis Lai, Alice Murata, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary Nakai, Hilal Tamrat, Ruby Tsuji. On behalf of BTC, Gassho, Gassho, Gassho.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live November 6th
Second Sunday Children’s Dharma School service – November 13th (2nd Sunday)
Qigong (Chinese exercise) – Tuesdays 11am - online Zoom and in-person
Thursday Meditation 7:15pm – Facebook Live (and in-person Nov 10th & 17th)
Sunday Meditation 9:30am – in-person only
Aikido (martial art) – Sundays 3:30pm – in-person only
Asoka Society (social gathering) – November 19th (3rd Saturday)

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

Itadakimasu by Bill Bohlman

Thanksgiving: a celebration of gratitude. For those of us able to gather with family and friends it is a time when we reflect upon all that we have. Of all the holidays celebrated in America, Thanksgiving, in my opinion, is the one most in tune with Buddhist teachings.

I have noticed that Thanksgiving is the one time when almost everyone says some sort of blessing before eating. Most people direct this thanks to their Creator. They express their gratitude for all He has provided. The phrase “Itadakimasu” expresses broader thanks. When we say, “I will humbly receive,” we are thanking everyone and everything responsible for our meal. We thank the cook, the grocer, the delivery person and the farmer for bringing this food to our table. We are grateful to the turkey that gave its life for our meal. Mindful of all that has occurred, we humbly receive that which is offered.

Thanksgiving is also a time when we are more aware of others less fortunate. Newspapers and television are filled with stories about volunteers helping serve meals to the homeless and needy; a smiling politician or celebrity hands out a turkey leg or some stuffing; but what about the rest of the year? What do we do then?

The Buddhist teachings speak of the Oneness of all things. This means that nothing exists independently. Everything is dependent on, and connected to, everything else. All actions have infinite effects. Suffering has the same effect. No one will ever overcome their own suffering as long as another still suffers. Thanksgiving can be the time that we rededicate ourselves to overcoming all suffering.

A basic idea in Buddhism is that of “Dana,” or giving. Dana is different from charity. Usually, we think of charity as assisting others suffering due to poverty, disaster or conflict. Although Dana includes all this, it goes beyond just material needs. Dana is any thought, word or action that helps relieve suffering whether it is spiritual, emotional or physical. Dana is performed without the expectation of any recognition or reward. The only reward is on a universal scale. The suffering of one is the suffering of all.

This year, as you sit down to your Thanksgiving meal, think about all you have and reflect on all that has occurred so that this moment could exist. All that has gone before has led to this moment. Then, humbly and with great joy begin. Itadakimasu.

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)



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



November 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 11am Qi-Gong	2	3	4 Taiko* 7pm	5
6 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30 Aikido	7 Iaido* 7:00pm	8 11am Qi-Gong	9	10 7:15pm Meditation	11 Taiko* 7pm	12
13 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School 3:30 Aikido	14 Iaido* 7:00pm	15 11am Qi-Gong	16	17 7:15pm Meditation	18 Taiko* 7pm	19 1pm Asoka
20 9:30am Meditation 11am Ho-on-ko 3:30 Aikido	21 Iaido* 7:00pm	22 11am Qi-Gong	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 3:30pm Aikido	28 Iaido* 7:00pm	29 11am Qi-Gong	30			