



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

April 2023

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Notice: There will be no bulletin for May 2023. Only the Acknowledgments and Monthly Memorial list will be published.



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For the Spring O-Higan service, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi of the West Covina Buddhist Temple spoke to us via Zoom.

Celebrating Shinran by Rev. Patti Nakai

In the latter half of April a group of us from BTC will be travelling to Japan for the big celebration of Shinran Shonin's 850th birthday and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu. There will be fifteen of us participating in the special service and activities in Kyoto and then eleven of us will be in the Higashi Honganji group tour pilgrimage, visiting places significant to Shinran's life such as Niigata and Nagano. The tour ends in Tokyo so we hope to be able to meet up with Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga.

Of course, the month of April is when we celebrate the birth of the historical Buddha with Hanamatsuri (this year the service is on April 16). But if there was anyone who was truly concerned with conveying the teachings of the Buddha it was Shinran.

In the legendary birth cry of the Buddha, "Above the heavens, below the heavens, I alone am noble," there is the teachings that each and every being is worthy of respect. "Alone" means, each being by themselves is noble – it doesn't matter what group they belong to: family, caste, ethnicity, religion etc. But as Buddhism developed, spreading throughout Asia, elitism crept in and there were hierarchies in Buddhist institutions and notions of who could come in and who should stay out of places of Buddhist practice.

Shinran in his twenty years as a monk on Mt. Hiei saw this all around him and one legend says he encountered a woman who wanted to go to the monastery to learn the teachings and he had to tell her, "no females allowed." Later he wondered if that rule was in keeping with what the sutras said – Buddha had no problem speaking to women and there were plenty of examples of women sharing their insights on the Dharma. After he left the monastery, he found a teacher who proclaimed the egalitarianism of the Buddha's teachings – Honen who brought the teachings to men and women, poor and rich, aristocrats and outcasts.

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So in celebrating Shinran we are celebrating someone who brought the Buddha's teachings to the people who were not allowed in the monasteries – the poor, the working class, the “country bumpkins” living far from the capital, those with disgraced reputations or from families who had been in “unclean” jobs such as butchery or mortuary work. More effective than any arduous practice, the hearing of Namu Amida Butsu, could bring one into participation in what is called “enlightenment,” the awareness of the interconnection of all beings.

The 2023 BTC Scholarship

ELIGIBILITY – Applicant must be a high school senior or an undergraduate senior who has attended The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Dharma School and/or participated in one of the activities of BTC and is a paid member or listed on a family membership two years prior to the scholarship year according to BTC membership records.

SELECTION – The BTC Scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic merit and personal dedication to the Temple with consideration given to individual need.

PROCEDURE – An applicant must complete the Scholarship Application, obtain one recommendation, and write a 200-word essay. All applications must be accompanied by a certified transcript of the student's high school grades (if available, or a letter given as to the reason why this was omitted). The responsibility for a completed application and submission by the time of the deadline rests solely with the applicant.

OBTAIN SCHOLARSHIP FORM – Contact Rev. Patti Nakai at 773-334-4661 for an application packet.

DEADLINE – Applications must be received by midnight May 30, 2023. All correspondence, forms, inquiries and applications should be sent to:
The BTC Scholarship Committee
c/o The Buddhist Temple of Chicago
1151 W Leland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640

PRESENTATION – The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Scholarships will be awarded during the Sunday Service on June 13th at 11 AM. Recipients will be notified by e-mail or telephone during the first week in June.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live April 2nd

Hanamatsuri April 16th on Zoom (see insert for sign-in info)

Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service – April 9th

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) – 3rd Saturday 1pm – April 15th

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

Kokyō Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

Natsu Matsuri and Beyond by Bill Bohlman

Over the last few months, temple activities have begun to return to the previous normal. Sunday service is seeing more attendees and various events are returning. This year, Natsu Matsuri will be held on Sunday, July 9, 2023. The full scope of the festival has not been decided, but the world famous teriyaki chicken and other delicious food will once again be the star of the show. Food pre-order forms will be available starting in May; updates will be posted on our website and Facebook.

Throughout the years, the success of Natsu Matsuri has depended on the support of the attendees and the army of volunteers who make the festival possible. In fact, the success of the temple itself has depended on the dedicated sangha. As challenges arose the sangha was always there to help the temple meet those challenges. Now, as we approach our 79th anniversary, we face a new challenge: Rev. Patti's retirement at the end of September.

The ministerial succession committee has been meeting monthly since March 2022. During this time the committee has formulated a job description and employment package as part of our search for the next minister. In addition to all of her ministerial duties Rev. Patti provided the committee with a detailed outline of her everyday administrative activities. It is these day to day administrative activities that we will need to fill with volunteers. Although Rev. Patti has stated that she will be available to officiate funeral and memorial services upon request, the Sunday services will be handled by volunteers until a new minister is found. The future of BTC now truly depends on the sangha.

Over the next few months, a comprehensive plan will be developed and made available to the members. It is our hope that sufficient numbers of volunteers will be available to fill all the roles. With gratitude to those who have come before, the future of BTC is in our hands.

Natsu Matsuri
Summer Festival
SAVE THE DATE !
JULY 9, 2023 SUNDAY
Festive Food and Fun



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



APRIL 2023 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 laido* 7:00pm	4 11am Qi-Gong	5	6 7:15pm Meditation	7 Taiko* 7pm	8
9 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School service 3:30 Aikido	10 laido* 7:00pm	11 11am Qi-Gong	12	13 7:15pm Meditation	14 Taiko* 7pm	15 1:00 Asoka
16 9:30am Meditation 11am Hanamatsuri Service 3:30 Aikido	17 laido* 7:00pm	18 11am Qi-Gong	19	20 7:15pm Meditation	21 Taiko* 7pm	22
23 9:30am Meditation 11am Lay Speaker Service 3:30 Aikido	24 laido* 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 3:30 Aikido	*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance					