



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

January 2023

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PLEASE NOTE:

New membership
2023 rates are
noted in the insert



ADDRESS

1151 W. Leland Ave
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

TELEPHONE

(773) 334-4661

ONLINE

BuddhistTempleChicago.org

E-MAIL

Bulletin.btc@gmail.com



2022 Mochi Tsuki in full swing (of the wooden mallets)

CALENDAR THANKS by Rev. Patti Nakai

To everyone, Happy New Year and thank you for your help and support this past year! To our members and friends on the mailing list, by now you may have received the 2023 temple calendar.

I have to remember that Buddhism teaches us the truth of impermanence so that I know at some point I have to let go of things. Since I will be retiring in September this was the last calendar I will be working on. Whether our temple continues to send out a calendar every year is up to the members to decide. During the pandemic lockdown, many organizations gave up on mailing out calendars. For one reason – younger generations don't use paper calendars because all their schedules are on their electronic devices. But also it takes a lot of labor to put together and mail out a calendar. I want to thank all of those volunteers who helped:

The Sutra Study Class members who chose the Akegarasu quotes used in the calendar: Ruth Abbinanti, Anna Hightower (Berkeley Higashi temple), Terry Koch, Miriam Solon, Hilal Tamrat.
Mailing preparation crew: Dennis Chan, Noreen Enkoji, Ed Horiuchi, Sadae Kasamoto, April Kellman, Candy Minx, Alice Murata, Mary Ozaki, Gene Skala. Transporting mail to post office: Gary T. Nakai.

If you appreciate receiving the calendar, please donate to offset the cost and let us know if you're willing to help with putting together the 2024 calendar.

Mochitsuki 2022, A Huge Success! By Gary T. Nakai

BTC's first mochitsuki post-pandemic was a huge success by all accounts!

By every metric that we assess our experiences after each traditional mochi making festival, budgetary/fundraising, quality of product, variety of product, setup without a hitch, material purchases without having to substitute, training with gaiety amongst skilled persons and neophytes, the fun had which was expressed by many, exuberant clean up by many hands, etc., and most important, personal lessons learned for next time. The sum of these measurements were gratifying, rewarding, and encouraging, having a profound effect on us all, the BTC Sangha.

The donations received during this festival minus expenses easily cleared \$1,000, the most ever experienced. And more incredible was that during the steady display of energy of the younger, skilled participants, we actually ran through the 100 lbs. of mochigome without feeling it. People who wanted mochi at the end were denied because we ran out. Some didn't want the fun to end! Next year do we pound more? Much appreciation to our leaders, long-standing and first time volunteers, willing apprentices, guests who stepped right in, as did Consul General of Japan Hiroshi Tajima, and deputies Naoya Kishi, and Sanae Kanno.

Thanks to the guiding leadership of Gwen Kato with her crew: Joan Ambo, Sadie Kasamoto, Jane Morishige, Naomi Mounce, Laura Muraoka, Alice Murata, Janice Omachi, Betty Segal, Hilal Tamrat, Mieko Yoshida;

our mochigome washing and setup crew: Amy Kato, Adam Kellman, April Kellman, Candy Minx, John Sagami, Ruby Tsuji;

perennial equipment master Tomio Tademoto;

leader Michael Tanimura with kitchen crew: Mike Kudo, Jr., Greg Lambros, Stanley Oda, Worlynn Ow;

skilled hands at the Usu: Ann Berends, Alan, Mitchell, & Eric Kato, Mark Keehan, Robert & Elizabeth Kumaki, Noriyuki Mizuuchi & Family, Tal Rosen, Gary, Tyler, & Sam Shimomura;

quality monitors/sorters: Bill Bohlman, Nancey Epperson, Ed Horiuchi;

And to the many unnamed volunteers who helped setup, execute, clean up and put everything away, the steady flow of first-time pounders and the many hands to form the cakes, and to the many who staged photo ops of the little ones, that make this all worthwhile in preserving this tradition for all who come next.

And lastly, congratulations to Chiyeko Yoshida, who, at the esteemed age of 98, became the most senior participant at pounding mochi in BTC mochitsuki history, as she uttered: "wait until next year, you ain't seen nothing yet."

Go to BTC website, www.buddhisttemplechicago.org for videos and stills of our most successful mochitsuki in recent memory.

New Year New Challenges by Bill Bohlman

Every year we are faced with a new set of challenges. This year, however, we are faced with the biggest challenge in many years: the future of BTC. As most of you already know, Rev. Patti plans on retiring by the end of September. For the first time in our history we do not have a minister in waiting. Our actions now will determine the future of BTC.

Since early last year, a ministerial succession committee has met the first Sunday of each month. Through the input of many interested temple members a job description and benefit package has been developed and will be disseminated through the appropriate channels. There are a limited number of qualified candidates and other temples are also seeking a minister. What can we do to make BTC an appealing destination?

The basis of any thriving temple is an engaged sangha. Throughout its history, BTC has had a sangha that steps forward whenever a need arises. However, since the return to in person services after the pandemic the attendance at Sunday services has been minimal; many Sundays there is only a dozen or so people at the service. Our Dharma School has started again but only one or two children currently attend. How can we expect a new minister to want to come to BTC if no one is coming to service?

Last year we were able to have a scaled down Natsu Matsuri and mochi tsuki. Both of these events were well attended and we look forward to doing them again this year. Temple members and friends stepped up to help and both of these events were a success. How do we take the energy of these events and bring some of it to our weekly service?

The last Sunday of this month, January 29, will be the Eitaikyo service and the annual general membership meeting; the first general meeting in two years. This is your opportunity to hear what is being done to find a new minister and how we will proceed in the event we cannot find one. This is your temple; its success depends on you. Currently the position of VP Religious Affairs is open and anyone interested in applying should contact me at budtempchi@aol.com to learn the position's requirements.

For over 77 years BTC has met every challenge that it has faced and come out stronger. In 2023, with gratitude to those who have come before, we once again will meet the challenge.



Scheduled activities – subject to change

Weekly services – Sundays 11am - in-person, Facebook Live January 8th
Second Sunday Children's Dharma School service – January 15th
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
Iaido (martial art) – Mondays 7:00pm
Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



January 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 11am New Years Day Service	2	3 11am Qi-Gong	4	5 7:15pm Meditation	6 Taiko* 7pm	7
8 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30 Aikido	9 laido* 7:00pm	10 11am Qi-Gong	11	12 7:15pm Meditation	13 Taiko* 7pm	14
15 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School service 3:30 Aikido	16 laido* 7:00pm	17 11am Qi-Gong	18	19 7:15pm Meditation	20 Taiko* 7pm	21
22 9:30am Meditation 11am Regular Service 3:30 Aikido	23 laido* 7:00pm	24 11am Qi-Gong	25	26 7:15pm Meditation	27 Taiko* 7pm	28
29 9:30am Meditation 11am Eitaikyo Service 12 noon General Membership Meeting	30 laido* 7:00pm	31 11am Qi-Gong				

*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance