



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

March 2023

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PLEASE NOTE:

New membership
2023 rates are
noted in the insert



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Ruby Tsuji receives the Certificate of Appreciation for her continuing volunteer help. Pictured with her son Roger and his family.

Householder Ministers by Rev. Patti Nakai

In the historical Buddha's time there were people who wanted to devote their entire lives to following the Buddha, so they left their homes and families and became monks and nuns, sometimes referred to in the sutras as "the Homeless" since they travelled place to place along with the Buddha. However the Buddha recognized there were people who received and shared his teachings even though they had homes, jobs and families to take care of. Those people, who included many who were recognized as enlightened Dharma teachers, were called "the householders."

When I was studying at Otani University in Japan, I thought it was ironic how those terms were used – *shukke* "left home" meant the ordained people and *zaike* "staying home" meant people from lay family backgrounds. During the Tokugawa era, the Shogun had decreed that almost all occupations had to be passed down from father to son, so many Buddhist priests felt obligated to marry and have children and temples became family property passed down through generations. Our past minister, Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, was an example of a *shukke* – coming from a long line of ordained priests but as many of you know, his family's temple was destroyed in the bombing of Tokyo during World War II.

Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito were both *zaike* ministers – their forefathers were not priests and they had no claims on a temple as family property. I think the fact that they both entered the ministry not from family obligation but from their desire to share the wonderful teachings they received through Haya Akegarasu – has a lot to do with the way BTC is, not restrained by an overwhelming amount of traditional and sectarian rules for

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how a temple should be. For their time and even now, many Jodo Shinshu ministers in the U.S. are *shukke*, coming from “the family business.” This month as we observe the memorials of both Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito, let us appreciate their *zaiko* perspective. I feel they both could relate to all of us as fellow laypeople, not as nepo-babies riding on their forefathers’ coattails.

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 March 5th,

Spring Ohigan March 19th on Zoom (contact temple for sign-in info)

Second Sunday Children’s Dharma School service – March 12th

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 - March 18th

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.

laido (martial art) – Mondays 7:00pm

Kokyo Taiko (drums) – Friday evenings, Sunday afternoons

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of

Michio “Mitch” Iwao February 20, 2023

Emptiness by Bill Bohlman

“Form is emptiness; emptiness is form.” This statement could be that of a physicist or an astronomer. A physicist will explain that at the subatomic level vast spaces exist between the atoms. An astronomer ponders the nature of dark energy; the mysterious force in the cosmic void that binds the universe together. However, the sentence that follows reveals that we are not speaking of matters scientific; “Feelings, perceptions, impulses, and consciousness are also like this.”

These statements are part of a translation of the *Heart of Wisdom Sutra*, a basic Buddhist teaching, and the foundation of Zen Buddhism. The idea of the emptiness of all things is a fundamental teaching in Buddhism; what is this emptiness?

The Buddha realized that one of the major causes of discomfort and suffering in our lives is our perception of reality. We are convinced that we know the truth and anything that varies from this personal truth causes conflict within us. How can it be that one person’s truth is different from another’s? Perhaps, it is because all things are empty, and we fill them with our own truth. “The original nature of all things is emptiness.” This line from the sutra expresses this idea. No matter what we see, hear, taste, touch or think, none of it has any substance until we fill it with our perceptions. Yet, each person perceives things differently. We all have our personal preferences in food, music, art and every other aspect of life. How could this be if there was a fixed, never changing reality? Three individuals see a mature oak tree; the first seeking shade sees the tree as a source of escape from the heat. The second, a carpenter, sees the tree as a source of lumber from which to build. The third, needing to heat his home, sees the tree as a source of fuel. The tree does not change, only the perceptions of it differ. This is the nature of emptiness.

Every day, we experience this emptiness in our own lives. As we look in the mirror, whom do we see? We see the person we define as our self; however, who is this self; isn’t it simply the person we are at this moment? It certainly isn’t the same person whom we saw in the mirror five years ago, ten years ago, and twenty years ago. Have our likes and dislikes remained the same? Have our opinions changed in any way? We certainly are not the same person as the day we were born. Our physical changes and life experiences fill us, and continue to do so every day.

“When the mind does not become attached to anything, there are no obstacles and fear does not exist.” Our awakening to the emptiness of all things, and their constant state of change, liberates us from the attachments that cause suffering. We awaken to life as it is.

HATSU MAIRI (official “first visit”)

Usually our temple announces the Hatsu Mairi service for the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend in May but we realize it may be difficult for families to gather on that day. If you would like a Hatsu Mairi service for your child (any age up to 18), you can schedule it for any Sunday service or if you prefer a private gathering, it can be on a Saturday at the temple. The parents do not have to be members of the temple.

Please contact Rev. Patti to discuss details.



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



March 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 7:15pm Meditation	3 Taiko* 7pm	4
5 9:30am Meditation 11am Monthly Memorial 3:30 Aikido	6 laido* 7:00pm	7 11am Qi-Gong	8	9 7:15pm Meditation	10 Taiko* 7pm	11
12 9:30am Meditation 11am Dharma School service 3:30 Aikido	13 laido* 7:00pm	14 11am Qi-Gong	15	16 7:15pm Meditation	17 Taiko* 7pm	18 1:00 Asoka
19 9:30am Meditation 11am Spring Ohigan Service 3:30 Aikido	20 laido* 7:00pm	21 11am Qi-Gong	22	23 7:15pm Meditation	24 Taiko* 7pm	25
26 9:30am Meditation 11am Lay Service 12:15 Board Meeting 3:30 Aikido	27 laido* 7:00pm	28 11am Qi-Gong	29	30 7:15pm Meditation	31 Taiko* 7pm	

*laido and Taiko require appointments made in advance