

## VOLUME 72 NUMBER 1 OCTOBER

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**President**Bill Bohlman

# The Buddhist Temple of Thicago 為 BULLETIN 慧

#### From Rev. Gyomay's Radiant Face: Dharma-Storehouse of the Temple

Rev. Marvin Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Church came to our temple in August for the occasion of Kosoki (memorial of Haya Akegarasu), and in his Saturday seminar he talked about Ko-gen gi gi, the majestically radiant face. Rev. Marvin said during his training as a minister for the Buddhist Churches of America, he saw the phrase in the Larger Sutra and chanted it as the first line of "Sanbutsu-ge" (Nishi Honganji's title for "Tan Butsu Ge"), but he thought it was impossible to see a person's face exuding bright light. Then he took time away from his training to spend several months in Chicago to learn from Rev. Gyomay Kubose. Rev. Marvin said he and Rev. Gyomay discussed a number of topics in Buddhism and whenever Rev. Gyomay talked about what his teacher, Haya Akegarasu, had to say about the topic (and often Rev. Gyomay would pull Akegarasu's book off the shelves to make sure he quoted his teacher accurately), Rev. Gyomay's face would become very radiant.

I found it very revealing to hear that Rev. Marvin saw the phenomena of *Ko-gen gi gi* whenever Rev. Gyomay Kubose talked of his teacher's teachings. It wasn't some great guru proclaiming, "This is my learned view and enlightened revelation," but it was Rev. Kubose saying *Nyo-ze ga-mon*, "Thus I have heard," the line that begins all discourses of the Buddha, allegedly narrated by his cousin Ananda.



Rev. Patti Nakai Resident Minister

For more writings by Rev. Nakai, visit her blog, Taste of Chicago Buddhism, at: tinyurl.com/chibud

This article continues on page 6 at bottom.

#### **Another Year**

Every October, we celebrate the birth of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago. This year is our 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary. We have come a long way since our founding in 1944. Rev. Gyomay Kubose and many other Japanese-Americans moved to Chicago when they were allowed to leave the World War II internment camps. Rev. Kubose and a group of these recent transplants started what was originally known as the Chicago Buddhist Church on the Southside. The new church provided a place for people to hear the Dharma while also helping their community with everyday issues. For Rev. Kubose, it was the beginning of the fulfillment of his desire to bring Buddhism to the western mind. As we gaze upon today's Buddhist landscape, this desire seems to be on its way to fulfillment.

Throughout the years, BTC has made great progress in attracting people of all ethnic, racial, and sexual orientation backgrounds. At the same time, we have stayed true to the teachings, not dumbing them down or promising a cure for your dukkha today. Although our membership is majority Japanese-American, the Sangha at a Sunday service looks like a cross-section of Chicago. Their interest level is high, and from this Sangha, Rev. Patti is developing a strong lay leader group. To enhance the learning experience, we have started to use the Kubose Fund, which



Bill Bohlman BTC President

Contact Bill at budtempchi @aol.com
or find him most Sundays after service at the information desk & bookstore.

This article continues on the next page, at top right.

#### THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

# Understanding the Nembutsu through recognizing the Paramitas in others. Send in your recognitions!

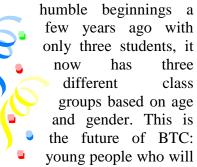
- Special thanks to Jim Kandybe (Ed Horiuchi's brother-inlaw) for donating material and skills to build and install custom shelving for the temple's audio/video rolling rack.
- Sunday Service Participants: Karen Baier, Bill Bohlman, Tom Corbett, Ed Horiuchi, Anna Idol, Lynnell Long, Carlos Meza, Peter Mizuki, Diana Schoendorff, Elaine Siegel, Karl Zawadzki
- Music/Accompanists: Mrs. Ashikaga, Drea Gallaga, Ellen Goode
- Audio Controls: Jacob and Wendy Fawcett, Gary T. Nakai
- Sunday Service Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Candy Minx, Alice Murata, Ruby Tsuji, Upaya Group
- Bulletin Mailing: Dennis Chan, Ed Horiuchi, Haru Ito, Morris & Amy Kawamoto, Masa Nakata, Helene Rom, Mary Shimomura, Ruby Tsuji
- Cleaning Temple washrooms: Anonymous
- Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tademoto
- Maintaining and updating the Temple computer: John Kelly, Gary T. Nakai
- Maintaining and updating the Temple website: Ann Yi
- Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Nancey Epperson, Ed Horiuchi, Adam Kellman, Helene Rom, Ruby Tsuji
- Cleaning Hondo and Nokotsudo: Michael Yasukawa
- Administrative Office Volunteers: Ruth Abbinanti, Nancey Epperson, Candy Minx, Darryl Shishido, Linda Triplett, Ruby Tsuji

#### ... Another Year

(Continued from previous page)

was designated for education and to sponsor lay leaders to go to seminars and the Eastern Buddhist League Convention. When they return, they are asked to give a lay talk or write an article to share their experience. In this way we all benefit.

Another great accomplishment is the growth of our Dharma School. From its



grow up with the Dharma.

I first came to BTC in 1991. A friend asked if I wanted to help barbecue chickens for Natsu Matsuri. Little did I know that teriyaki would change my life. I have seen many ups and downs in the last 24 years, but the approach to the teachings remains constant. So, as we wish BTC a happy 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary, we can look forward to many more years of bringing the Dharma to the people of Chicago. Namu Amida Butsu.

Gassho, Bill Bohlman

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1944 as an administratively independent temple, The Buddhist Temple of Chicago aspires to the following:

- To present and explore the Three Treasures of Buddhism the Buddha (teacher), the Dharma (teachings), and the Sangha (community).
- To be guided and inspired by the historical Buddha, Gautama Shakyamuni, and the teachers who have followed – Shinran Shonin, Manshi Kiyozawa, and Haya Akegarasu.
- To present the Buddha-Dharma in a language and manner relevant and understandable in contemporary America.
- To welcome all who seek the Dharma without any exceptions.
- To be a positive presence in our local community working to enhance the vitality of our neighborhood.
- To honor and continue the traditions of our founding members.
- To always live the Nembutsu Namu Amida Butsu.

#### BTC BULLETIN

**Team** Ruth Abbinanti, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Darryl Shishido, Linda Triplett, Ruby Tsuji, Ann Yi (Editor)

**Feedback & Submissions**Comments, corrections, questions, & suggestions welcome. Submissions of articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc., strongly encouraged. Submissions will be reviewed for suitability and space availability. Anonymous submissions will not be published, but author's names may be withheld from publication upon request.

**Contact** E-mail BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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#### Temple News August 2015

- 8/01 Rev. Nakai conducted one-year memorial service for Rose Sakai at BTC. \*\*\* Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga conducted memorial service for the late Mrs. Hide Kikuchi at BTC. Mrs. Kikuchi is survived by her son James (wife Mary Getty).
- 8/02 August monthly memorial service. \*\*\* Shoshinge class met. \*\*\* No Japanese service was held. \*\*\* Treasures of Uptown Interfaith Coalition held a program about homelessness.
- 8/03 Bon Odori practices started and continued for August 5, 7, 10 and 12.
- 8/06-8/09 Rev. Nakai participated in the Int'l Assn.
- of Shin Buddhist Studies conference in Berkeley CA
- 8/09 Lay speaker for Sunday service was Ed Horiuchi (see his article on page 5).

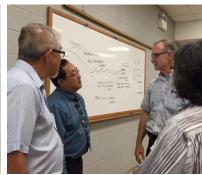
Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

#### **Hide Kikuchi**

- 8/15 Bon Odori dancing festival was held.
- 8/16 Obon Service included Hatsubon observance for 24 loved ones, followed by luncheon served by the Asoka Society.
- 8/18 Rev. Nakai attended monthly Uptown Clergy luncheon. \*\*\* Upaya group had "Movie Night" and watched *Compassion and Wisdom* followed by a discussion.
- 8/20 Rev. Nakai and Rev. Ashikaga conducted the 49th Day/Ashes Burial service for the late Mrs. Hide Kikuchi at Montrose Cemetery.
- 8/21 September bulletin was mailed.
- 8/23 Regular Sunday service. \*\*\* Sutra study class met.
- 8/27 Rev. Nakai attended the monthly Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue meeting at the Our Lady of Pompeii Shrine.
- 8/29 Koso-ki (memorial for Rev. Haya Akegarasu) seminar held with guest speaker Rev. Marvin Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Church.
- 8/30 Koso-ki service with Rev. Harada as guest speaker. \*\*\* Board of Directors met
- We recently learned of the December 2014 passing of Mr. Dean Allen of Dyer, Indiana. The late Mr. Allen and his wife, Satoko "Akiko" Allen (deceased 1998), were active at the temple in the 1990s and Mr. Allen served as president of the Asoka Society.











Rev. Mavin Harada presents a Koso-ki seminar followed by questions and a pizza dinner. He also gave a dharma talk the following day. Photos by Rev. Patti Nakai.









Obon photos above continued on next page

#### **OBON 2015 – THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to all the participants and many helpers who made Bon Odori a memorable event this year:

**Teachers:** Gwen Kato, Karen Kanemoto, Susan Kuse, Naomi Mounce, Linda Tademoto, Joyce Miyata, Miriam Solon, Rev. Patti Nakai

**Set up crew:** Gary Nakai, Karl Zawadzki, Darryl Shishido, Pete Izui, Tomio Tademoto, Michael Kudo, Dave Fujii, Alan, Mitchell and Eric Kato

Announcer & music compiler: Adam Kellman

Taiko Drummers: Miriam Solon, Jeffrey Tademoto, Jeong-

Min Lee, John Sagami, Ryan Toguri

Kimono Dressers: Gwen Kato, Karen Kanemoto, Jan Saiki

**Refreshments:** The Betty & Mas Yoshioka Family in memory of Giichi Moriwaki

**Luncheon:** Somen & Kamaboko for the luncheon after Obon Service was provided by the Morishige Family in memory of those family & friends who have passed away, especially those who had Hatsu Bon: Haruko Tademoto, Calvin Manshio, Jane Watanabe, Richard Brandon, Yoshimi Shimizu, Hide Kikuchi, Giichi Moriwaki, and Lucy Teshima.

























#### What Buddhism Means To Me

By Ed Horiuchi

Author's note: This article is a shorter version of the talk I gave at the Sunday service on August 9, 2015 as a participant in the lay speaker program.

I was raised a Christian from when I was about 8 or 9 years old, attending various churches of various denominations. When my family settled in Chicago around 1947, I started to attend a Presbyterian Church. I went to Sunday school, listened to the sermons, and even became a member of the church choir. However, as I got older, I began to question some of the basic teachings of the church. For instance I was taught that in order to go to Heaven when you die, you must have been baptized and you must have accepted Christ as your personal Savior. I thought about this for a while and one day asked the minister of the church what happens to a person who dies if that person was born into a community of a different belief system and might not have even heard of the Christian religion? Well, I was told, that person would wind up in Limbo. I felt that this answer was not acceptable. As time went on I became less and less able to accept the answers to some of my other questions and by the time I was a senior in high school I quit going to church.

The years rolled by and one day I met this real cute girl with the nicest smile. My wife-to-be. Her name was Yasuko. We fell in love and decided to get married. But where? Well Yasuko's parents were Buddhist, she was Buddhist, my parents were Buddhist. And me? Well I was in Limbo so of course we decided to get married at this temple, which in 1962 was called the Chicago Buddhist Church. Shortly after the marriage officiated by Rev. Kubose, I began to wonder. I was married in a Buddhist temple, but I really didn't know anything about Buddhism. What was this Buddhism thing all about anyway?

My question was answered by an announcement on the temple bulletin board that Rev. Kubose was going to teach Buddhism at classes conducted in the evening. Of course I signed up right away. At the very first class Rev Kubose got up, introduced himself, announced that the purpose of this class was to talk about the teachings of Buddhism. "But first", he said, "I want to tell you what Buddhism is NOT. It is not about a belief in a Supreme Being or a Supernatural Being. It is not about a belief in Heaven or in Hell. And it is not about a belief in the concept of a soul.

(Continued on next page)

# Movie Night October 18 Cooking with Love: *Chef*

By Candy Minx

Is love an art? Then it requires knowledge and effort.

— Erich Fromm

Modern man has transformed himself into a commodity; he experiences his life energy as an investment with which he should make the highest profit, considering his position and the situation on the personality market. He is alienated from himself, from his fellow men and from nature. His main aim is profitable exchange of his skills, knowledge, and of himself, his "personality package" with others who are equally intent on a fair and profitable exchange. Life has no goal except the one to move, no principle except the one of fair exchange, no satisfaction except the one to consume.

#### — Erich Fromm

By a "practice" I am going to mean any coherent and complex form of socially established cooperative human activity through which goods internal to that form of activity are realized in the course of trying to achieve those standards of excellence which are appropriate to, and partially definitive of, that form of activity, with the result that human powers to achieve excellence, and human conceptions of the ends and goods involved, are systematically extended. Tic-tac-toe is not an example of a practice in this sense, nor is throwing a football with skill; but the game of football is, and so is chess. Bricklaying is not a practice; architecture is. Planting turnips is not a practice; farming is. So are the enquiries of physics, chemistry and biology, and so is the work of the historian, and so are painting and music.

#### — Alisdair MacIntyre

Can you be fresh, pure of heart and in the moment when you are doing the same thing over and over every day? Especially when you are trying to do meaningful work you love but it's been hijacked by an industrial profit-based economy?

In the movie *Chef* Jon Favreau's character Chef Carl Caspar, finds himself trading the joy of cooking for the demands of a busy expensive restaurant and losing his sense of self worth. The word chef has its origins in the French word chief, for leader. The irony of this movies "chef/chief" is that he isn't a leader at all. Favreau's chef is a puppet of a culture that demands originality and excitement from critics and foodies owners/investors of those restaurants don't want to risk profit for creativity or artistic freedom. This stalemate is such a good metaphor for the movie business which is an art form dependent on ideas and creativity yet so financially risky for big budget movie to provide profit.

(Continued on page 8)

#### ... What Buddhism Means to Me

(Continued from previous page)

What Buddhism is about is HERE AND NOW. It is about living a positive life with respect and compassion for your fellow man." And he continued with discussions about the Three Treasures, the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path and other teachings of the Buddha. At one of the classes a student asked Rev Kubose, "If there is no Heaven and there is no Hell, what happens when you die?" "Well", Rev Kubose answered, "when you are born into this world we call Earth you are part of it. And when you look at the Earth from a very great distance you see a planet vibrant with life and energy, and you are part of it. And whether you live or you die you remain part of it. You remain part of the Universal Life."

More years go by and one day at work I was talking with my boss, named John, about some work-related issue. At the end of the discussion John asked, "Hey Ed, aren't you a Buddhist?" Yes, I answered. "Well what is this Buddhism thing all about anyway?" So I started to briefly explain what I had learned at the Rev. Kubose's Buddhism class so many years

#### ... Dharma-Storehouse of the Temple

(Continued from page 1)

The dangerous trap in Buddhism and other religions is when disciples see their guru as the fountainhead of all transcendent wisdom and the guru himself starts to believe it. The true teacher who can show us the path of transcending our ego-attachment is the one who sees himself as having no authority because for him, it is his teacher and his teacher's teachers who are passing on the wisdom. Shinran is a great example of this. I can imagine how radiant his face must have appeared to the hundreds of people listening to him convey the Nembutsu teachings of Shakyamuni speaking in the Larger Sutra, along with the pipeline of Pure Land teachers from India, central Asia, China, Korea, and Japan.

I take credit for reviving our temple's annual observance of Kosoki because when I returned to Chicago in the mid-1990s, I found that after Mrs. Miyoko Nozawa's passing, no one thought about having the memorial service to honor Akegarasu, the teacher of our teachers, Rev. Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito. Hearing what Rev. Marvin said reinforced for me the idea that Rev. Kubose would like us to continue remembering his teacher because without Akegarasu there would be no BTC with its ahead-of-the-curve presentation of Buddhism in America.

Rev. Marvin gave us a 26-page excerpt of his translation of Akegarasu's commentary of the Larger Sutra, a translation work-in-progress. In the course of his seminar, he directed us to this passage:

To enter the treasury of the Dharma of the Buddhas means to be immersed into the teachings. Sometimes the term storehouse or treasury is used to describe the Buddha's teachings. To store things in a storehouse and then to enter into it means to immerse oneself into the teachings.

ago. And as I talked John's face grew in disbelief at what I was saying. John spoke up and said, "So if you don't fear eternal damnation, what prevents you from just going out and killing everyone?"

"Well," I said, "you have a moral compass that you live by don't you? And if you live a positive life with respect and compassion for your fellow Man, why would you want to harm them?"

Later that evening at home I thought about my discussion with John. How sad, I thought, that a person would live his entire life in fear of eternal punishment. How sad that a person would make one's decisions in life based on fear! That is not what Buddhism is all about. That is not what Buddhism means to me. It's not about fear. To me, Buddhism is about living a positive life, following a positive path with respect and compassion for your fellow Man, your fellow Human Being. It's about having a moral compass and living it. And yes, it's about being at ONE with the Universal Life.

Once during Rennyo Shonin's time there was a follower who lamented to Rennyo saying, "No matter how much I listen to the teachings, I'm like a sieve and the teachings just leak right out of me." Rennyo responded to the follower saying, "If you immerse the sieve in water, isn't it full of water? Just immerse yourself into the Dharma." The audience of this Larger Sutra, the bhikkus who were present, all had entered the storehouse of the Dharma, meaning they were all immersed into the teachings.

This passage by Akegarasu expresses Rev. Gyomay Kubose's deep wish for BTC, that our temple is the treasury of the Dharma in which all of us can immerse our sieve-like minds. You can come on Sundays to read passages in the service book and hear the Dharma talk, you can come to cultural and social activities, you can come for study classes and meditation. You can come to our temple several times a week and feel your sieve-like mind immersed in the Dharma, whether directly or indirectly. Whether it's once a year or every chance you get, you can encounter the Dharma at our temple. And our temple serves as a Dharma storehouse outside of its physical location through this bulletin, our website and Facebook page. And with your Dharma-storehouse friends you can enjoy outings such as going to hear talks at the Midwest Buddhist Temple and other Buddhist gatherings, as well as enjoying music and movies together.

On this anniversary I'd like to express my deep appreciation to the generations of members and supporters who have kept this temple going strong – to continue as the lively storehouse of the Dharma.

# ... Cooking with Love: Chef

(Continued from page 5)

Chef is also a great metaphor for our egos! We want to be happy, we want to be loved, we want to have fun creative lives, but we let our egos manage our lives as it measures risk and gain based often on a warped sense of reality depending on our personal histories. At best, the ego doesn't want to risk loss unless it gets immediate gratification. The movie challenges big-budget Hollywood machines and our societies addiction to one definition of success.

Chef is a down-to-earth comedy about getting back to basics by rejecting a judgmental culture of professional critics and foodies for the freedom of a

small business venture with direct contact to the customer. *Chef* loses his position at a fancy French restaurant humbling himself to start up a food truck service making sandwiches. And sandwiches never looked so good. The food cinematography is a blast in this movie. *Chef* is simple, fun, hands-on storytelling proving art can be humble and so satisfying on a small indie budget. How does this relate to Buddhism? Demonstrating that we awaken our energy by being in the moment, practicing humility, and serving others heals ourselves and balances our life.

Movie night is *Chef*, on October 18 6 pm. All are welcome, admission is free. Refreshments will be provided but guests are welcome to bring snacks to share.

#### October Temple Events & Activities Guide

- See Calendar on page 8 for specific dates.
- Up-to-date details and last-minute changes are available on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/budtempchi
- All events are free, held at the Temple (unless otherwise noted), and open to the public.

#### >>> Special Services & Events <<<

- October 4, Sunday, 11 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service (English).
- October 11, Sunday, 11 am Temple 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Service
- October 18, Sunday, 6 pm Movie Night: *Chef*
- October 25, Sunday, 12 pm Halloween Party
- October 27, Tuesday, 6 pm Book Night, *One River*, by Wade Davis

#### **Regular Sunday Services**

- Religious Service (in English) Sundays, 11 am.
- Lay Speaker Sunday Generally the third Sunday of the month, 11 am. This month: October 18 (tentative).

#### **Cultural Activities**

- Chinese Movement (Qigong) Tuesdays, 11 am to noon. Call Dennis Chan 312-771-6087 for info.
- Crafts Group Third Saturdays, 10 am to noon. This month: October 17.
- Japanese Fencing (Kendo) Dojo sessions held every Tuesday from 8 to 10 pm at Bethany United Church. Call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for info.
- Japanese Language School (children or adults) Every Saturday, 10 am. Call Temple to register.
- Japanese Swordsmanship (Iaido) Mondays, 7 to 9 pm.
- Taiko (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe) Adults, Fridays, 7 to 9 pm. Email kokyotaiko@yahoo.com to confirm.
- Taiko (BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe) Children, 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays at 11. Email sanghacomod@yahoo.com for info.

#### Meetings, Socials, Volunteering

- Asoka Society Generally the third Saturday of the month, 1 pm. This month: October 17.
- Board Meeting Once a month, Sunday, 12:30 pm. This month: October 18.
- BTC Bulletin mailing Generally 2nd-to-last Friday of the month, 10 am, as many volunteers as possible much appreciated. This month: October 23.
- BTC submissions See page 3 for details on submissions. Generally due 8 days prior to the mailing on Thursday, 6 pm. This month: October 15
- BTC Young Adults Group Check the Bulletin for events scheduled throughout the year.

#### **Education & Meditation**

- Dharma Sunday School (for children) Second and fourth Sundays, 11 am. This month: October 11 and October 25.
- Introduction to Buddhism This 4-week course is held periodically throughout the year. E-mail Rev. Nakai at rev.eshin.patti23@gmail.com.
- Buddhism Study Class Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 pm. No previous Buddhism study required.
- Meditation Sundays 9 am, Thursdays 7:30 pm.
- Sutra Study Class Generally 2nd or 3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 to 2 pm. No previous Buddhism study required. This month: October 11.



# The Buddhist Temple of Thicago

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Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister Rev. Yukei Ashikaga, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose (1905-2000), Founding Minister

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# BTC CALENDAR



#### **OCTOBER 2015**

日本語の 祥月法要 10月4日 午後1:00 時 See Temple Events & Activities Guide on page 7 for details on events. Events may be canceled or moved after press time due to unforeseen circumstances. Check www.facebook.com/budtempchi for the most up-to-date changes.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm Meditation	2 7 pm Adult Taiko	3 10 am Japanese Language School
4 9 am Meditation 11 am Memorial Service 11 am Children's Taiko	5 7 pm laido	6 11 am Qigong	7 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	8 7:30 pm Meditation	9 7 pm Adult Taiko	10 10 am Japanese Language School
9 am Meditation 11 am Anniversary Service 11 am Dharma School 12:30 pm Sutra Study	12 7 pm laido	13 11 am Qigong 7 pm Movie Night	14 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	15 6 pm Bulletin Submissions Due 7:30 pm Meditation	16 7 pm Adult Taiko	17 10 am Japanese Language School 10 am Crafts Group 1 pm Asoka Society
18 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Children's Taiko 12:30 pm Board Meeting	19 7 pm laido	20 11 am Qigong	21 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	7:30 pm Meditation	23 10 am Bulletin Mailing 7 pm Adult Taiko	24 10 am Japanese Language School
25 9 am Meditation 11 am Service 11 am Dharma School 12:00 pm Halloween Party	26 7 pm laido	27 11 am Qigong 6 pm Book Night	28 7 pm Buddhism Study Class	29 7:30 pm Meditation	30 7 pm Adult Taiko	31 10 am Japanese Language School