Midwest Buddhist Temple

Bulletin

The monthly newsletter of the Midwest Buddhist Temple

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435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614 • 312.943.7801 • mbtchicago.org • Minister: Rev. Aki Rogers

What is the right way to say the Nembutsu?

The following is from a Dharma message that was shared on Oct. 25, 2026.

By Rev. Aki Rogers

What is "Na-Mo-A-Mi-Da-Butsu?"

We say the Nembutsu all the time, but what does it actually mean?

Venerable Shinran wrote the following wasan [poem, hymn] in the collection on the Pure Land, as explained by the Amida Sutra:

十方微塵世界の *Jippō mijin sekai no*

念仏の衆生をみそなはし *Nembutsu no shujō wo misonawashi*

摂取してすてざれば *Sesshu shite sute zareba*

阿弥陀となづけたてまつる *Amida to nazuke tatematsuru*

(註釈版、五七一頁)

Here is the English translation from the Collected Works of Shinran, vol. 1, p. 347:

Seeing the sentient beings of the Nembutsu
Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in the ten quarters,
The Buddha grasps and never abandons them,
And therefore is named "Amida."

*see **nembutsu**, page 9*

inside



Yard Sale

The weather couldn't have been better for another successful MBT Yard Sale.

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Dharma School

Students made beautiful lanterns in preparation of MBT's 1st Annual LGBTQIA+ Memorial Service and Mini-Obon on Sunday, Nov. 29..

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Enjoying nature, beautiful fall day

By Joy Zavala

We made it to the Chicago Botanic Garden on Oct. 18 and had a great time. Tram rides were included with our tickets, so many of us took the tour to capture the main parts, history and details of the garden.

One highlight was seeing Pete Yamamoto's bonsai tree. He was one of MBT's Nisei pioneers and dedicated members.

The Japanese Island is always beautiful and calming. Thanks to everyone for joining our group on a wonderful fall day.



Bonsai photo by Stephen Buckman; photo above by Joy Zavala

happenings

By Elaine Matsushita

"Crystal City: America's Last WWII Concentration Camp," a national traveling exhibit by the Crystal City Pilgrimage Committee, is on display in the newly renovated Legacy Center Library & Reading Room at the Japanese American Service Committee until Nov. 20.

The "Crystal City" exhibit tells the story of the only U.S. internment camp created to reunite families during World War II. Created as a family reunification center for immigrants arrested under the Alien Enemies Act in 1942, Crystal City remained open until 1948, long after WWII ended.

The Crystal City camp, administered by the Department of Justice, held thousands of Japanese, Germans and Italians. It was also used as a detention facility for Latin American residents awaiting deportation in a prisoner of war exchange with Axis countries.

Hours of the free exhibit are 9 am to 5 pm Mondays through Fridays, and 9 am to 5 pm on select weekend dates (Oct. 17 and 18, Oct. 24, Nov. 7 and 14).

There will be a closing program from 1–3 pm Saturday, Nov. 7, which will feature a screening of "One Fighting Irishman." This film tells the story of civic rights attorney Wayne Collins and his representation of more than 5,000 Japanese Americans who renounced their American citizenship while imprisoned at Tule Lake.

Collins' work at Crystal City helped hundreds of Japanese Peruvians avoid deportation to Japan. A panel discussion will follow the screening Registration is required and can be made here.

The JASC is at 5700 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. Learn more and plan your visit here.

JACL Annual Meeting

Join **JACL Chicago** for its Annual Member meeting from 6:30–8:30 pm Dec. 9 at MBT.

JACL Chicago is looking forward to gathering with community to celebrate the past year for the chapter and share some exciting announcements.







Top left: Mickey and Jean Hamano's grandson Nick (left) heads off to the University of Colorado Boulder and Luke(center) to Ohio State University.

Left and above: Jim and Amy Chikaraishi with daughter Kristi Hsieh and grandson Jackson stamp the Ireicho book in Minnesota recently. Jim and Amy also got some 'gardening' in at the Landscape Arboretum while visiting Kristi.

Photo (top left) from Mickey Hamano; photos (left and above) from Kristi Hsieh

In 2026, JACL Chicago hosted its first Day of Remembrance vigil at Broadview ICE facility, which was featured in the Chicago Tribune. The organization also celebrated the 15th anniversary of its flagship program, the Kansha Project.

*see **happenings**, page 10*

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Please send articles and photographs to: **Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614 or bulletin@mbtchicago.org**

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Don't forget to visit our website, ***mbtchicago.org***, for more information about Shin Buddhism and the Midwest Buddhist Temple.



Weather, volunteers, customers contribute to Yard Sale success

By Joy Zavala

It was perfect weather on Oct. 3 for MBT's annual Yard Sale. We sold so many items and all of our profits will help with our Outreach projects, including making sandwiches for homeless shelters and tent cities.

Thanks to our Sangha and neighbors for all of their donations, and our hard-working volunteers for helping with pricing, lugging the boxes out and back in, and taking care of the customers.

It was also a lovely time for socializing with our friends, neighbors and pets.



Photos by Joy Zavala
Beautiful artwork and Japanese dolls were for sale at the annual MBT Yard Sale.

LGBTQIA+ Memorial, mini Obon to be held Nov. 29

By Rev. Aki Rogers

MBT will hold its first LGBTQIA+ Memorial and mini Obon on Sunday, Nov. 29. The last Sunday of November was selected to hold an LGBTQIA+ memorial as it falls between two important dates for the LGBTQIA+ and broader communities, to give everyone a chance to remember those who have passed away and especially to remember them as they were and how they would have wanted to be remembered.

Nov. 20 is the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, a time to reflect on the lives lost due to anti-transgender violence, while Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day, a day to remember the more than 32 million people who have died due to AIDS-related illnesses.

More broadly, this memorial service is for all LGBTQIA+ folks to be remembered as they were.

Unfortunately, there is still stigma, discrimination and hate in our society toward LGBTQIA+ people, those living with HIV, etc. The stigma and discrimination often extends even into

*see **LGBTQIA+**, page 12*

dharma school corner

October highlights, looking ahead

By Jennifer Toguri

To start our Dharma School year, we kicked off with a Meet & Greet, welcoming both returning and new families. In our initial class, students learned temple etiquette, including how to perform *oshoko* (incense offering) with reverence and mindfulness.

As October continued, our students began preparing for a very special upcoming event: MBT's 1st Annual LGBTQIA+ Memorial Service and Mini-Obon on Sunday, Nov. 29. Held between Transgender Day of Remembrance and World AIDS Day, this meaningful service offers our community a dedicated space to honor lost loved ones as they truly were.

Our students crafted a special lantern project and began learning the Lantern Song Bon Odori dance! A big thank you to Aki Sensei and Elaine Miyamura for leading our engaging classes this month.



Photo by Adrian Terrone

Practice at Home
Families can continue the learning and fun at home with these resources:

- **Bon Odori Dance Practice:** Practice step-by-step with the Lantern Song Dance Tutorial or review Lantern Song with Lyrics.
- **Lantern Craft:** Finish or make extra lanterns at home using our project instructions!
- **Recommended Reading:** Check out "I am a Bon Dancer" by Brandi-Ann Uyemura—a wonderful book explaining the spirit of Obon.

Looking Ahead to November

- **Upcoming November Classes:** Join us on Nov. 1 and 15. We have Halloween treats, and we will continue our lantern crafts and dance moves in preparation for the Nov. 29 Mini-Obon service.
- **Friendly Reminders:** If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to complete this year's Dharma School Registration & Photo Permission Form.

Thank you for your continued support and participation. We look forward to seeing everyone!

buddhist women's association

Association launches '27 membership drive

By Jeanne Toguri

We have begun our membership drive for 2027. Dues are still $10, with a portion going to the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association and the Eastern District. Please consider joining our organization. Men are also encouraged to join.

We will be starting to collect the dues in the Social Hall before and after services. If you have any questions regarding the BWA, please feel free to ask us.

Acknowledgements:
• Larry Wiley and the Kabayama Family in memory of Yoshio Kabayama
• Rome Migio

Votes for 2027 election of MBT Board due Nov. 30

Each year, half of our Board of Trustees members reach the end of their two-year term. Those who wish to continue on the board must run for re-election by our membership.

Ballots for the upcoming election will be sent by email on Nov. 3. For members not using email, we will send a paper ballot. **All votes must be returned by Sunday Nov. 30.**

Voting eligibility
All MBT members who have paid their 2026 membership fee at the voting level minimum of $300 will receive a ballot. Those paying in installments, or those who we believe will pay by the end of the year, will also receive a ballot.

If you do not receive your ballot by **Friday, Nov. 13**, please inform the office at office@mbtchicago.org.

Thank you for your participation in this important process.

—MBT Board of Trustees







Photos from Jasmine Li

Ho Etsu Taiko cooks up a breakfast taco buffet for the MBT Sangha.

Ho Etsu Taiko takes to the kitchen, then the streets

By Jasmine Li

October shaped up to be a busy month for Ho Etsu Taiko. At the start of the month, we had the privilege of preparing brunch for the Midwest Buddhist Temple Sangha.

We curated a breakfast taco buffet complete with eggs, sausage, peppers, hash browns and fruit. Prep began at 9 am, and we all stepped into the different roles assigned to us. The morning was a whirlwind of cutting, cooking and baking the various items before serving them to the community after service.

Cakes were also brought out to celebrate Reve. Aki's birthday!

After eating some tacos and cake we once again swarmed the kitchen to finish with cleanup. Just like Ginza, we were all buzzing from the sense of community that surrounds MBT. We are honored to serve the Sangha and are so thankful for everything the Temple community has done for our group. We look forward to cooking for everyone next year!

The following week was the 2026 Chicago Marathon. Along with Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, we held down Mile 11 and played for five hours nonstop.

Over 50,000 runners rushed by as we cheered and drummed. We rotated through some of our repertoire, focusing on pieces that have a "runnable" beat to give energy to the runners. Some of the runners joined in on the fun, taking photos and videos and even drumming with us.

At the end of those five hours, we were physically exhausted, but spirits were still high due to the positive energy coming from everyone—runners and spectators alike.





Photos from Consulate-General of Japan Facebook page

Ho Etsu Taiko joins Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International to cheer on runners in the 2026 Chicago Marathon.





MBT gardens get loving care, cleanup from volunteer team

By Joy Zavala

On Sept. 27, a team of hard-working volunteers came to give the MBT gardens some loving care.

The garden cleanup team took out weedy trees and vines, chopped down a dead tree and bush, worked in the Legacy Garden and removed ivy off the parsonage windows.

We appreciate the wonderful improvement they made in our gardens.



Photos by Joy Zavala

Voluntters take out weedy trees and vines as well as do work in the Legacy Garden.







Donations of new or gently-used cold-weather items sought

By Joy Zavala

We will start collecting cold-weather items for people living in a tent city in Chicago. We have been lucky so far that the weather has been warmer than usual.

Please consider donating blankets, any new or gently used adult coats, scarves, gloves and hats, along with new warm socks. If we have any items left over, we will donate them to area homeless shelters.



A bin is set up in the Social Hall, and we will drop items off with our sandwiches on the last Saturday of the month through December.



oishii / recipes from mbt friends

Okoshi (rice crackers)

Ingredients

2 cups*	rice, cooked and dried (separate grains by rolling with rolling pin)
	Vegetable oil, for frying
¼ tsp.	salt
¼ cup	black sesame seeds
¼ cup	white sesame seeds
1 cup	sugar
3 cups	Rice Krispies

**Approximately 3 cups of cooked rice measures 2 cups of dried rice. Spread cooked rice on cookie sheet and air dry. Leftover rice may be used.*

Syrup Ingredients

1 cup	Karo light corn syrup
2 Tbsp.	sugar (heaping)

Directions

1. In 3" of hot vegetable oil, fry approximately 1/3 cup of the cooked and dried rice at a time, until light brown and puffy (stirring constantly). Drain on paper towel.

2. For syrup, combine corn syrup and sugar in small pot and bring to a boil; lower heat to medium and cook approximately 2 minutes or until a drop of syrup forms soft ball in cold water.

3. Combine dried rice with black and white sesame seeds, sugar and Rice Krispies. Pour syrup on rice mixture and quickly mix; pour onto greased cookie sheet. Place wax paper on top and press down evenly with a rolling pin.

4. Place okoshi in refrigerator for no longer than 15 mins. Cut into pieces. Cool before storing.

To order a copy of "Oishii Cookery," send a check ($15, if picked up at the temple; $20, if mailed—made out to MBT Women's Association) to MBT, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL 60614.

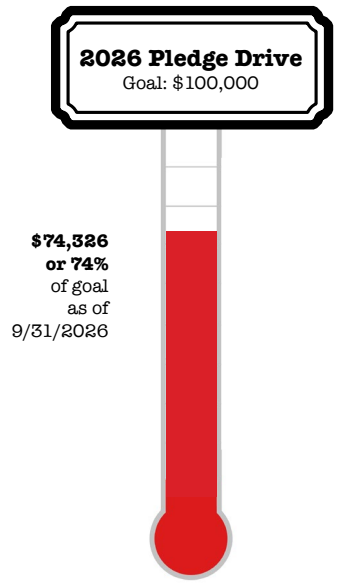
MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE
2026 PLEDGE DRIVE

MBT welcomes everyone to become temple members, with no minimum pledge requirement. All MBT supporters are asked to give what they can financially, as well as their much appreciated time and effort. Donations can be made online at *mbtchicago.org/join-support/donate-now/*; look for the purple "Donate Now."

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What are the benefits of making a pledge?

- Maintains the daily cost of operating the temple (salaries, utilities, maintenance, supplies)
- Supports our religious, social and community programs
- At the $300 minimum, allows voting on key temple issues
- Receive our monthly Bulletin newsletter
- Provides membership in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), including Wheel of Dharma newsletter
- Ensures the continued growth of the temple



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The Midwest Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations received between **Sept. 16 and Oct. 15.**

Due to some delays in processing, you may see your donation acknowledgment in the next issue of the Bulletin. Please reach out to the office with any questions. Please notify the Bulletin or the MBT Office of any omissions or corrections.

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if you have arranged donations through a giving fund or automatic payment, please ensure that your name is included so that we can properly record and acknowledge your generosity.

nembutsu

Continued from page 1

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So, the Buddha of the Pure Land is called Amida because they can see all the beings in the ten directions of the universe and out of Great Compassion, grasps each one and never abandons them. But why "Amida"? Does it have some other meaning or is it just an arbitrary name? What about "Muryoju," like in the Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life? Does the Buddha have more than one name?

Click this link to hear Aki Sensei's Dharma message about grief and remembering, which they shared on Oct. 4, 2026.

And you can click this link to hear the Dharma message shared by Roger Suekama on Oct. 18, 2026.

It's not arbitrary and, yes, there are a few different names all for the same Buddha. It has to do with translation from Sanskrit and Pali into Chinese and later into Japanese.

Sometimes names are transliterated, meaning they are given an approximate pronunciation in the target language from the original language.

Sometimes names are translated to express the meaning of the original language into the target language.

Amida's name in Sanskrit comes from two attributes: Amitābha and Amitāyus. Amitābha comes from "amita" which means "without bound" or "without measure," and "ābha" which means "light." Amitāyus, similarly starts with "amita," and "ayus" which means "life." So when it was transliterated for sound, it became shortened to Amida represented by the Chinese characters 阿弥陀. Yet, when translated to express the meaning, Amitābha became 無量光 [Jpn: *Mu-ryō-kō*], with the first character meaning "not," the second meaning "measure," and the third meaning "light." Amitāyus became 無量寿 [Jpn: *Mu-ryō-ju*], with the same first two characters to represent "immeasurable" and the last character meaning "life."

The immeasurable light and life are important to understanding the traits of Amida Buddha. Immeasurable life means that the Buddha and the teachings exist at all times, from the beginningless past to now, and will continue on into the future.

As such, beings can encounter the Great wisdom and compassion of the Buddha-Dharma at any time.

Immeasurable light teaches us that the light of Amida reaches all corners of the universe without impediment and reminds us that wisdom and compassion can reach all beings no matter where they are or how dark it may seem.

"Butsu" (仏) you might now easily guess sounds similar to "Buddha" and originally was 仏陀 [Jpn: budda, from *butsu + da*].

Now what about the "Namo" that we say before "Amida Butsu"?

Shandao, the fifth great teacher of Jodo Shinshu and the third of the Chinese Pure Land masters, explains it as follows:

"Namo" means "to take refuge." It further signifies aspiring for birth and directing of virtue. "Amida-butsu" is the practice. Because of this import, one necessarily attains birth.

(CWS, vol. 1, p. 37)

"Namo" comes from Sanskrit, the root being "namah" or "namas." The word "namaste" shares that same root which means "to bow to" or "to take refuge." So this then becomes 南無 [Jpn: *Na + mu/o*] based on sound. In our Hongwanji branch of Jodo Shinshu, we read the second character as "mo" rather than the standard "mu" as this was Shinran's preference of pronunciation based on the Chinese pronunciation.

Namas also has two meaning translations, which are 帰命 [*kimyō*] and 帰依 [*kie*].

Shinran explains Shandao's explanation a bit further.

"…[W]e see that the word 'Namo' means to take refuge. In the term to take refuge (kimyō 帰命), 'ki' 帰 means to arrive at ... 'Myō' 命 means to act, to invite, to command, to teach, path, message, to devise, to summon. Thus, kimyō is the command of the Primal Vow calling to and summoning us.

Aspiring for birth and directing virtue indicates the mind of the Tathagata who, having already established the Vow, gives sentient beings the practice necessary for their birth.

The practice is the selected Primal Vow.

One necessarily attains birth elucidates the attainment of the stage of nonretrogression.

(CWS, Chapter on Practice, p. 38)

Shinran is reminding us that altogether "Namo Amida Butsu" is the selected practice in the 18th Vow given to all of us, and when we're able to experience that moment of shinjin-entrustment, we don't become a Buddha, but we do realize the state of nonretrogression, where we will no longer have to suffer endless cycles of birth-death.

So now we hopefully have a clearer understanding of "Namo Amida Butsu," but Shinran also introduces "*kimyō*."

So which is it? "Namo Amida Butsu?"

Something else with "kimyō?"

Yes!

There are many different ways to say the Nembutsu! Aside from the six-character version of "Na-Mo-A-Mi-Da-Butsu" that we're most familiar with, there are also eight, nine, and 10 character versions in Japanese.

南無不可思議光仏

Na mo fu ka shi gi kō butsu

南無不可思議光如来

Na mo fu ka shi gi kō nyo rai

帰命尽十方無礙光如来

Ki myō jin jip-pō mu ge kō nyo rai

You might now be asking, "Well, what is the right way to say the Nembutsu?" The answer is "with sincere heart-mind!" And if you're unable to say it with a deeply sincere mind, that's OK, too, as one day it will eventually spill forth sincerely.

If the above doesn't make sense, and you think there should be just one "right" way to say the Nembutsu, maybe you're like how I used to be. Growing up in the Jodo Shinshu tradition and with my Nisei grandmother, it was drilled into me how to "properly" pronounce the Nembutsu. So I grew up thinking there was just one right way and I would cringe and judge people who said it differently.

But I also ignored how even I and my grandmother and others would say slightly different versions, too, especially the very abbreviated version "Na man da bu" that we all would chant after the main sutra recitation.

Later I learned that there were many different versions such as the Namo/Namu, or dropping the "tsu" from "butsu," as well as all the various ways the Nembutsu is recited in other languages.

And then it hit me. Why would Amida Buddha, whose wisdom and compassion is infinitely greater than mind, care about the pronunciation. And if they did, then wouldn't the "truly correct" version be of Sanskrit or other Indian language that Sakyamuni spoke? My own ego was getting in the way of realizing just how expansive the Nembutsu is as well as Amida Buddha's compassion that knows intention is more important than pronunciation.

So however you call "Amida," the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Life, is "right" or "good" because Amida grasps us, flaws and all, and never abandons or forsakes us over something trivial like pronunciation. The important thing is that we come to realize the wonderful gift Amida Buddha gives us with the working of the Primal Vow, and out of gratitude, we respond with saying the Buddha's name with sincere heart and mind.
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Photo by Henry Moy

Kasha supporters gather to celebrate the program's 15th anniversary and to honor Pat Harada and Bill Yoshino for their work to create Kansha.



Photo by Ellen Dunleavy

Ellen Dunleavy captures the beauty of the church in Lake Bled in Slovenia.

happenings

Continued from page 2

A celebration of the Kansha Project's 15th Anniversary was held Oct. 18 at Kamehachi in Northbrook. Bill Yoshino and Pat Harada, visionaries of the Kasha Project, were honored and alumni shared their stories and projects.

You can RSVP to attend the JACL Chicago Annual Meeting, where a light dinner will be provided, by clicking here.

Riceball magic!
Make an onigiri, post a picture of it on social media and watch your rice ball go into action. JASC has joined **Onigiri Action**, a global campaign by TABLE FOR TWO that turns a simple rice ball into a meal for a child in need. From now until Nov. 17, every photo of onigiri posted on social media with **#OnigiriAction** provides five school meals to children in Africa and Asia. Sounds fabulous!

Festival time
Holiday Delight and Kodomo Matsuri, the signature community event hosted by the Japanese American Service Committee, will be held from 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, Nov. 14, at JASC, 5700 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. The festival continues decades of history and tradition, bringing hundreds of attendees from across Chicagoland together. There will be cultural performances, food and market vendors, children's games and activities, and much more.

If you or someone you know loves to bake, consider donating your homemade treats to be sold at Holiday Delight, with all proceeds supporting JASC's cultural programming and social services. You can sign up to donated baked goods here.

Of if you are interested in volunteering to help out during the festival, fill out the form here.

Wedding bells
Kiku and **Rich Taura** took a road trip to Minnesota for the marriage of **Rev. Todd** and **Connie**'s son **Kyle** to **Sara Peterson** (Ginza volunteer). Rev. Todd and Sara's father **Erik** conducted a joint wedding service, including a traditional Sake Ceremony.

"The Essence Event Center in St. Paul was decorated with 1,600 hanging origami cranes," says proud mom Connie. "And the evening was filled with beautiful speeches, lively music and Kyle serenading Sara with an appearance on the drum set. It was pure magic!" Congratulations to all!!

Surprising sights
While in Japan, **Carl** and **Harumi Ichikawa** were walking near Harumi's mother's home when they were surprised to come upon sumo wrestler

*see **happenings**, page 11*





Above: Kyle and Sara Tsuchiya during their wedding ceremony, officiated by Rev. Todd Tsuchiya and Sara's father Erik Peterson. **Left:** Connie Tsuchiya takes in the 1,600 origami cranes at the end of the magical night.

Photos from Connie Tsuchiya

happenings

Continued from page 10

Yabugasaki. They also visited the Shirakawa-go World Heritage Site, attended the beautiful Takayama Festival with its glowing floats, and enjoyed a Nakamura Kabuki performance in Asakusa.

Land of 10,000 Lakes
We heard from **Kristi Hsieh** that her folks, **Jim** and **Amy Chikaraishi**, were up in Minnesota recently. "My folks came ... to stamp my Mom's family's names in the Ireicho book," says Kristi. "We also got to enjoy some time at the Landscape Arboretum with some wonderful fall colors!"

World traveler
Ellen Dunleavy just got back a few weeks ago from a two-week trip to Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. "It was a beautiful trip full of gorgeous architecture and nature," says Ellen, "but what impressed me most was the kindness and friendliness of the people I encountered."

Halloween comes early
The **Steve Arima/Elaine Ogawa Family** took the first chance they could get to get together to put on their Halloween best.

College-bound
Mickey and **Jean Hamano**'s eldest grandsons are off to college. Grandson **Nick** has headed off to the University of Colorado Boulder and **Luke** is off to Ohio State. "Time flies," says grandpop Mickey.

Happy birthday to...
We would like to send happy birthday wishes to our friends born in November. Happy birthday to:
Joanne Toguri / Nov. 1
Twins Dean and Evan Arima Hoessler / Nov. 5
Ryan Toguri / Nov. 20
Kiku Taura / Nov. 21
Quinn Carsten / Nov. 21
Jason Matsumoto / Nov. 23
Steve Arima / Nov. 23



Ellen Dunleavy captures the beauty of the church in Lake Bled in Slovenia.

Photos from Connie Tsuchiya







Photos from Carl Ichikawa

Among the exciting sights seen by Carl and Harumi Ichikawa while in Japan were sumo wrestler Yabugasaki, the Shirakawa-go World Heritage Site, and the beautiful Takayama Festival with its glowing floats.

The light of compassion that grasps us illumines and protects us always;
The darkness of our ignorance is already broken through;
Still the clouds and mists of greed and desire, anger and hatred,
Cover as always the sky of true and real shinjin.
— From Shoshin Nembutsu Ge

November memorials

On the first Sunday of each month, the Midwest Buddhist Temple holds a collective Monthly Memorial Service during the regular Sunday Family Service, when loved ones can be remembered and honored.

Although memorial services are held in memory of a loved one who has passed away, the purpose of the memorial service is for us, the living, the ones who remain behind. The memorial service provides an opportunity to express appreciation and gratitude for the many benefits we have received from the person who passed away. These are the names of temple friends who have passed away in November, and whom we will remember during the MBT service on Nov. 1. To add a family member, please contact the MBT Office.

November

1926 Masajiro Taura
1927 Tsuyako Noshima
1935 Chizue Shoji
1944 Fred Masai
Mary K. Miyake
Wakaichi Sakoda
1945 Yoneko Tani
1947 Kiyoto Mukai
1949 Rui Katahira
1953 Shigeru Isono
1954 Korio Ishida
1956 Yukichi Udaka
1957 Yasuzo Inouye
1959 Aiko Hirakawa
1963 Yuki Yamashiro
1964 Uru Kitagawa
1965 Ume Yamamoto
1967 Shizuka Imanaka
Yoshigoro Kawaguchi
Masaichi Yoshihara
1972 Kayoko Kodama
Misao Masumoto
Hisako Morimoto
Hajime Tanii
1973 Kikuyo Yamakoshi
1974 Aiko Ishiwari
1977 Chisato Sasaki
Masao Yoshimura
1980 Ann Emi Hamano
William Shishida
1981 Kiyo Amano
1982 Hatsuyo Mizuki
1983 John Minoru Osako
1984 Mamoru Hirota
1986 H. Mabel Nishimura
1987 Mieko Udaka
1988 Fred Voos
Tsuru Sawa
Sadano Taketa
1990 Kiyoshi Ito
1991 Ume Yagi
1994 Chiyono Doi
T. Frank Sugano
1995 Emi Holcomb
Tomoyumi Koga
Ayako Mori
Joe Tsuchiyama
1996 George Kinoshita
Jun Taketa
1997 Rev. Soyu Matsuoka
1998 Tetsuya Fujita
Noboru Oto
Masaye Yanagisawa
1999 Miyuki Oshita
Tadashi Yokoyama
2000 Nancy Nishioka / CA
2001 Robert Henry Adams
Tohru Inouye
T. Richard Sata
Kinu Terao
2002 H. Carl Yasunaga
Richard Fiebig
Mich Furuta
Ronald Omi
Karen S. Sutterfield
Irene Shinagawa
2003 H. Rosie Arakawa
2004 Kay Kakesako
Yoshi Wakabayashi
2005 Tetsuo Itahara
Takeshi Komai
2006 Ruth Emiko Suekama
2008 Doug Douglas
2009 Bill Sugano
2013 Mitsuro Otsuji
2014 Akiko Arima
2015 Jack Tono
2016 Isamu Uyeda
2018 George Hasegawa
2019 Joanne Haruko Fujii
2020 Lois Wendt
Masanori Morimoto
Shiro Shiraga
2021 Chieko Niiro
2022 Kazuko Fujishima
2023 Danny Liu
2025 Suzuko Kawaguchi
Mika Ishikawa Moor

LGBTQIA+

Continued from page 3

death, through deadnaming and misgendering transgender, nonbinary, agender, genderfluid and gender nonconforming folks, to refusing to acknowledge how one lived or died, to denying partners **and friends inclusion in funerals, etc.**

Arising out of Queer Obon held in Los Angeles in 2023, which was organized in part by lay members and ministers from several BCA temples, and other Transgender Day of Remembrance services held at other BCA temples in recent years, we decided to hold both a memorial service and mini-Obon so that our MBT Sangha members and the broader Chicagoland and Midwest communities can have an opportunity to remember loved ones and friends as they truly were in life, and also to be ourselves as we truly are.

We invite everyone to join us for this memorial service, share the name(s) of loved ones and friends whose memories you wish to honor, and be in community with others. Then join us after service in the Social Hall as we dance with joy while holding those memories dear and reflecting on our causes, conditions and connections in this world. No need to practice the bon dances beforehand as MBT's Minyo dancers will be there to lead us for each dance—so just be yourself and dance.

Service is at 10:30 am and the mini Obon will start at 11:30 am.

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save the date

NOV 1 We will have a Bake Sale to benefit our MBT Legacy Garden. Please help by donating baked goods and purchasing some before and after service.

Time: Before and after Sunday Service. **Location:** MBT. **More information:** Contact the MBT Office, 312.943.7801

NOV 1 and 15 An Introduction to MBT: Meet Aki Sensei or one of our Minister's Assistants to learn about MBT and some basics of how our Sunday Services are conducted. These introductions will be held the first and third Sundays of each month. No signup is needed.

Time: 9:45–10 am. **Location:** Meet upstairs in the main hall of the *hondo*. **More information:** Contact the MBT Office, 312.943.7801.

NOV 7 Come join Aki Sensei for a short lecture on "Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu and Vegetarianism." For those who are interested in learning how to make kenchin-jiru, a hearty vegetarian soup, Aki Sensei will lead a cooking demo for 15 registrants. All attendees, lecture and cooking demo, are welcome to enjoy the soup afterward as we watch a short film.

Time: 11 am–1 pm. **Location:** MBT Social Hall. **Suggested donation:** $5 Note: The cooking demonstration is open to only first 15 registrants due to limited space, so please register early. You can also register for only the lecture and movie/eating portions; please register here so we can have an estimated head count of participants. **More information:** Contact the MBT Office, 312.943.7801

NOV 8 and 22 Join Aki Sensei for Bonbu Chats, informal discussions regarding Jodo Shinshu, the teachings and how to apply them in our daily lives. These discussions will be held the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

Time: 11:30–12:30 pm. **More information:** Contact the MBT Office, 312.943.7801.

NOV 28 Join us for our Homeless Project sandwich-making day. This is a hybrid event with sandwiches either made at the temple or made at home and dropped off at the temple.

Time: Sandwich-making at MBT, noon; dropoffs of sandwiches made at home at 1 pm. **Location:** MBT. **More information:** Contact the MBT Office, 312.943.7801, if you would like to participate, including helping with deliveries.

NOV

at midwest buddhist temple

1 SUNDAY — **10:30 am** Monthly Memorial Service / Joy Zavala

8 SUNDAY — **10:30 am** Family Service / Rev. Aki Rogers

15 SUNDAY — **10:30 am** Family Service / Rev. Aki Rogers

22 SUNDAY — **10:30 am** Family Service / Ellen Dunleavy

28 SATURDAY — **Noon** Homeless Project Sandwich-Making (*see details at left*)

29 SUNDAY — **10:30 am** Family Service / Rev. Aki Rogers

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