

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

80 Years of Service to the Community

Founded in 1938 by Rev. Hozen Seki as the first Buddhist church in New York City, the NYBC is a member of the more than 60 temples and organizations that comprise the Buddhist Churches of America, headquartered in San Francisco. Our current resident minister is Rev. Earl Ikeda (2013-present).

Today the NYBC continues to play a leadership role in the Buddhist community on a local, regional and national level as it fulfills its mission. Its goals are to:

- Increase understanding of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings for the sangha membership and larger community
- Promote knowledge of Buddhism in general
- Support the practice of Buddhist teachings in our daily lives and deal with issues confronting society
- Provide appreciation of Japanese, Asian and Asian American culture

We are grateful for your continued support of the New York Buddhist Church. With our 80th anniversary in 2018, we feel energy and excitement and are looking forward to increased opportunities to gather and grow as a sangha – to learn about the Dharma, to celebrate special services and holidays, and to enjoy educational and cultural activities. We encourage you to help us continue this journey by contributing to the Onaijin Fund – to make the NYBC a gathering and learning place for the community, where we can support one another and enjoy life together guided by Amida's wisdom and compassion.

For more information on the religious services and cultural activities of the New York Buddhist Church, consult the website and/or Facebook.



New York Buddhist Church

331-332 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025

Tel. (212) 678-0305

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org



New York Buddhist Church FUND FOR THE FUTURE ONAIJIN FUND



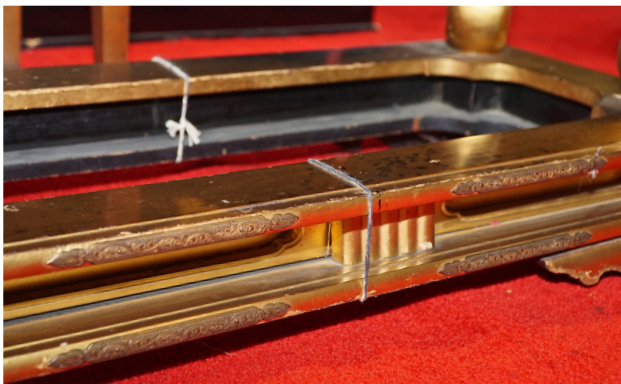
Celebrating its 80th anniversary, the New York Buddhist Church is launching the Onaijin Fund to repair and restore the Onaijin Shrine in the Hondo (main religious hall) with a goal of raising \$350,000.



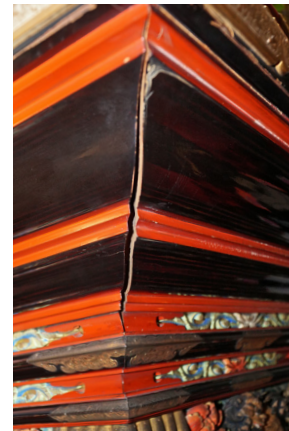
Repair and Restoration: While the Onaijin Shrine appears beautiful from a distance, it is in reality in a fragile state of disrepair with severe “structural cracks” and “a high risk of falling down anytime.” (per the renovation management consultant). **The restoration of the Onaijin Shrine is vital to continue to serve as the focus of our main religious hall.** Its main elements – the gold leaf, lacquer and metal fittings of the Kuden (shrine building), the Shumiden (rectangular dais) and the Maejoku (front table) – all need major repair and restoration. In addition, we would like to improve the sound system, provide new seating and a vestibule storage area as well as renovate the storage areas in the Hondo.



Photos by David Okada



The Need: The restoration requires that the main part of the structure be disassembled, crated and sent to Japan for repair. The major work will be on the Amida Gohonzon statue; Kuden shrine building; Shumidan dais, Maejoku table, the lanterns and incense burners for polishing and gold plating. **This in addition to other improvements to the Hondo main hall will require at a minimum \$350,000.**



Background: In 1993 the NYBC Board established the **Fund for the Future**, a multi-staged fundraising project to renovate the New York Buddhist Church complex at 331-332 Riverside Drive and to create a fund to support the Church into the future. We first renovated the Annex at 331 Riverside Drive and then continued with the renovation of the 332 Riverside Drive building, which houses the Hondo or main religious hall, the church office, and the Dojo basement that is a center for martial arts classes, taiko practice and other functions. A recent renovation of the bathrooms and showers in the Dojo was necessary to be in compliance with the New York City building code. **Over 25 years with the**

extraordinary support of members and friends, we have raised nearly \$1,820,000 to accomplish these goals.

We urgently need your tax-deductible donation to begin the repairs. We cannot delay much longer with the Onaijin Shrine at such risk.

