



"Wow, it's already the end of the year, where did the time go" is a comment that is frequently heard in December, along with "I wish I had done this or that this past year." We are reminded at year-end that time passes by quickly. In Buddhism, this is the realization of *mujo* or the concept that "everything is in constant change". Nature has a wondrous way of making us aware of this change through the passing of the seasons. Each season has unique characteristics reflected in its colors, temperature, and the food that is associated with it. How aware are we of our own ongoing change? Our mind and bodies are constantly transforming in an organic process and in response to our natural environment. It is a natural change that we often refer to as the "process of aging". Buddhism expresses this process in the story of the four gates through which Prince Siddhartha passes. The first three gates represent old age, sickness, and death. Each of us will pass through these gates; this is a universal truth. This reality, however, may leave us sad or even depressed. The fourth gate

KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



Wow, the End of the Year!

December 2017

that Siddhartha passes through represents hope. Here the young prince sees a person seeking truth that will help him or her cope with the anxieties presented by old age, sickness and death.

When he was 29, the Prince Siddhartha renounced worldly pleasures to seek answers to this suffering. Through countless rigorous practices, at the age of 35, at twilight on the 8th day of the 12th month, while sitting in meditation under a Pippala (Bodhi) tree, he realized the Universal Truth, detaching himself from misunderstanding, and was able to see the true nature of all existences and phenomena. Thus, he attained the state of Enlightenment. Until one reaches this state, a person leads a blind life filled with suffering and sorrow.

As an enlightened being, Buddha is not a supernatural being, who can overcome death, but rather a person who has gone beyond the simple human mind and has transcended illusions and delusions and sees the Universal Truth in a clear and meaningful way. This awakening transcends fears and brings a deep sense of joy. It allows us to live in the present, the here and now, with clarity. Awakening or Enlightenment allows us to experience a unique joy and truly live life to its fullest. In the teachings of the Jodo Shinshu Sect, in Mahayana Buddhism, the enlightenment of the Buddha is of fundamental importance and our founder, Shinran Shonin, states in the Chapter on Practice in the Shoshin Nembutsuge:

Sakymuni Tathagata appeared in this world
Solely to teach the ocean-like Primal Vow of Amida;
We, an ocean of beings in an evil age of five
defilements,
Should entrust ourselves to the Tathagata's words of
truth.

My interpretation of this passage is that the coming of Sakyamuni Buddha was to help us, "beings in an evil age of the five defilements", lost in our illusions and delusions, to transcend our narrow mind into one that is vast and unlimited, by entrusting ourselves and listening to the words of the Buddhas. I often express this by saying that "There is



Reverend Earl Ikeda

something out there which cares and embraces each of us with unconditional wisdom and compassion". This awakening of our individual minds through wisdom and compassion is, in part, to be one with the heart and mind of the Buddha. By experiencing compassion through the maiden giving him milk Shakyamuni became enlightened.

We are all experiencing change within ourselves and the environment around us. Awareness of this truth of natural change helps us live each precious, unrepeatable moment to the fullest with gratitude through wisdom and compassion. Even if we do not realize it, these many countless causes and conditions are supporting us to go beyond our sufferings. As we come to the end of 2017, may I express my sincerest gratitude to all of you

Cont. on following page

Minister's Message*Cont. from preceding page*

for having made this year fantastic!! Let's enjoy the journey together knowing that everything is in constant change, including our lives. And, reminded there is something that truly loves us and understands our simple human minds.

Namo Amida Butsu

Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you very much)

Thank you everyone for making our recent fundraiser, a Hawaiian luau, a wonderful success. As previously mentioned, in Hawaiian folklore, there are elves or dwarfs called Menehune. These Menehune are often described as being mischievous but also very helpful. They are also never seen and do their work "behind the scene". The Hawaiian word for "help" is Kokua. Kokua does not simply mean helping out but requires and includes the feeling of making something successful with your wholehearted participation. This feeling naturally comes out when we realize that we are all part of a group and universal family. I have always known that there are many Menehune here in NYC, and I'm very glad that many are at our temple. Again, Mahalo Nui Loa to all of you for being Menhune, and for your unconditional "kokua".

End of the Year Events

Bodhi Day, Jodo-e, the day of Buddha's Enlightenment will be observed on Sunday, December 3rd.

The Annual Holiday Party, Sing-Along and ukulele strumming circle, will be on Friday, December 8th, from 6 pm. Cost is \$15, which includes various foods and punch, games with prizes, and fellowship. A "Secret Santa" is an option with surprise wrapped gifts costing between \$4 – 6. Everyone is welcome and the sign-up sheet is available in the temple or by calling the temple office at (212) 678-0305.

Our end of the year temple clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th. All

members, friends, and supporters are encouraged to volunteer with the clean-up.

Our annual Mochi-tsuki event is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16. Please place your orders with Nancy Okada, Keiko Ohtaka or Mariko Kato at (212) 678-0305 before the deadline of DECEMBER 10 to reserve your mochi. Please contact Ruth Funai at 212 678 0305 to volunteer on Dec. 10, 15 or 16 and have a lot of fun at this event.

Joya-e, the Night to Dispel negative karma, is observed on the last day of the year, New Year's Eve. This observance helps us to reflect upon our imperfections and the Buddha's Vow to dispel them. It give us an opportunity to express gratitude for the all-embracing vow of Amida Buddha thus allowing each of us to born in the Land of Bliss one day. The Kansho or temple bell is rung 108 times to reflect upon the 108 major imperfections. **This year's Joya-e will be observed on Sunday, December 31, at 7 pm.**

On January 1st, we observe Shusho-e, a ceremony to greet the New Year and reflect upon "Making things better". Service begins at 11:30 am with a pot-luck to follow with everyone bringing something to share. Please join us for fellowship.

Hoonko Service and Shojin Ryoori Bento—January 21

Hoonko, is our annual service reflecting upon the passing of our founder, Shinran Shonin, and expressing gratitude for his wonderful teachings of the Buddha. At our mother temple in Kyoto, Japan, this is considered the most important service of the year and for hundreds of years the custom of serving a vegetarian/vegan meal has existed

For the past few years we have been providing a Shojin Ryoori bento. The cost of the bento is \$25 each and limited to 60. A list at the Hondo entrance will be made shortly to reserve your bento or you may call the temple office at (212) 678-0305, to reserve yours. The deadline to reserve is January 7. All proceeds will go to the temple.

Future Shojin Ryoori and Wagashi Workshops

Due to a very busy schedule and a number of timing conflicts, our workshops were postponed. We will resume classes in February of 2018.

Cont. from p. 4

7) 2018年1月21日(日) 11時半から親鸞聖人報恩講をお勤めします。報恩講をお祝いして、精進弁当(ベジタリアン・25ドル)を60個限定で作ります。お弁当ご希望の方は電話(212-678-0034番)でお申し込みください。

8) 池田アール住職の次回の料理教室は2018年2月です。

ニューヨーク仏教会 池田アール住職

光陰矢のごとしと言いますが、あっという間に2017年の師走(しわす・12月)になりました。皆様のおかげで、この一年を無事に勤めさせていただき心よりお礼申し上げます。

さて、12月はお釈迦様のお悟り、成道会(じょうどうえ)があります。成道とは真理(しんり)を悟ることです。釈尊がみつけれられた真理とは、無常(むじょう)の法です。この世は因(いん)と縁(えん)によって変化するので、永遠に変わらないものはありません。さて人間はどんな時無常を知るのでしょうか。病気、死、経済的な問題に直面した時でしょうか。無常は苦しみの因と言われますが、無常から苦しみだけが生まれるのでしょうか？

釈尊(幼名シッダールタ)の四つの門の経験が仏典に書かれています。シッダールタはインドにある小さい国の王子として生まれ、何不自由のない生活を送っていました。そのため苦しみということを知りませんでした。ある日お城の門を出ようとして老人、病人、死人に出会いました。四番目の門では、生き生きとした修行僧(しゅぎょうそう)を見ました。シッダールタは老人や病人を見て苦しみを知り、また命に輝いている僧(お坊さん)を見て、僧となり人々を苦しみから解放してやりたいと思われました。そのためシッダールタは29歳の時、仏門に入られました。そして釈尊は12月8日の明けがた、無常という真理に目覚められました。お釈迦様が35歳の時、無常とはすべてのものは変化し、変わらないものはないという絶対の真理を見つけられたのです。その結果、人々は釈尊を偉大な人と言いましたが、ご自身は他の人と変わらない普通の人間であると考えられました。

親鸞聖人は法要でお勤めする「正信偈(しょうしんげ)」に釈尊について書かれています。

(サービスブック 36ページ)

如来所以興出世	(教主世尊は 阿弥陀仏の)
唯説弥陀本願海	(誓い説かんと 生まれたもう)
五濁悪事群生海	(濁りの世にし まどうもの)
応信如来如実言	(教えのまこと 信ずべし)

この偈(歌)は、「釈尊は、阿弥陀佛が苦しむ人々を救いたいという願いから、48願をたてられました。阿弥陀仏のその本願を人々に伝えるためこの世界にあらわれてくださいました。お釈迦様の教えは真実ですから、信じなさい。」という意味です。

釈尊のつけられた絶対の真理(法)は無常(因と縁)です。この世に永遠に変わらないものはなく、すべてのものは縁により変化します。無常には二つの面があります。1)無常は人間苦の原因となります。その例が、病気や死です。もう一つの面は、無常は 2)すべてのものを新しくし、ダイナミックなクリエイティビティが生まれます。たとえば芸術家が創作活動をするのは、無常によります。また、人間はこの世が無常であるからこそ、苦しみを越えて一度しかない人生を完成させようとしています。

仏様はいつも「佛のもとに來たれ(南無阿弥陀仏)」と呼びかけてくださいます。阿弥陀仏がこの世にあらわれてくださったわけを信じ、苦しみをこえ人生を完成させるのには、聴聞(聞くこと)が大切です。

さて、ニューヨーク仏教会の成道会(じょうどうえ)は12月3日(日)午前11時半からです。どうぞお参りいただきますようご案内申します。

南無阿弥陀仏

(Trans. Akemi Ishida)

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Services Schedule for 2017

Shotsuki hoyo is a traditional monthly service to remember your loved ones who died during that month, particularly in the intervals listed below. The Memorial Service provides a way to express your gratitude and recognize their continuing influence in your life. To arrange a shotsuki hoyo memorial service, please talk to Rev. Earl Ikeda or one of our minister's assistants.

2016... 1st Year	2015 ... 3rd Year	2011 ... 7th Year	2005 ... 13th Year
2001... 17th Year	1993 ... 25th Year	1985 ... 33rd Year	1968 ... 50th Year

The names of the persons we will be remembering this month and next are listed below.

December 2017 Sunday, December 3 Abe, Yoshihiro 2004 Arai, Tomoe M. 2011 Araki, Kikuyo 1964 Bakhroushin, Gleb 1994 Charini de Zavata, Susana 1981 Harada, Kameichi 1981 Hattori, Yasuko 2007 Ishida, Katsu 1984 Jayang, Momo 1986 Lobsanbd, Agu 1996 Mishima, Chikako 1997 Mitani, Isao 1949 Mitsuchi, Gary 1994	Miyazaki, Chieko 1992 Okada, Kazuo 1989 Okada, Roy 1981 Okada, Shigeyo 1989 Seki, Satomi 2010 Takahashi, Mitsuo 1998 Taoka, Tami 1999 Tung, James Guang-Yao 1995 Yamane, Eimi 1988	Horiguchi, Mitsuo 1990 Katori, Chiyo 1995 Kehler, Alan 1995 Kodama, Tokuko Edna 2014 Kubo, Aki 2012 Kubo, Jimmy Masami 1988 Levitch, Yoko Matsuo 1985 Matsumoto, Ryoji 2014 Mitani, Ryou 1998 Mitani, Yuki 1934 Miyazaki, Katsu 1991 Miyazaki, Seiichi 1954 Motoyoshi, Sayuri 1994 Nagisa, Miho 1982 Nke-Aka, Dr. Nori 2004	Nojima, Junzo 1983 Okada, Stanley T. 1980 Okada, Sekiyo 1992 Okubo, Gontaro 1959 Sato, Masatoshi 1981 Schroeter, Charles 1952 Schroeter, Edward 1972 Shiomi, Kenjiro 1991 Sumi, Shizuko 1992 Takeda, Koito 1958 Tenzing, Dupjue 2004 Tsuji, James Toshiaki 1995 Yakata, Helen Osamu 2014 Yakata, John Osamu 1991 Yoshida, Kenichi 1999
	January 2017 Sunday, January 7 Asakura, Michiko 2002 Awaya, Sei 1954 Awaya, Shinji 1979		

池田アール住職より お礼の言葉

皆様のご協力のおかげで、ハワイ料理のファンレイザー昼食会は大成功でした。ありがとうございました。ハワイの民話にメネフネという小人（こびと）の話があります。メネフネは悪ふざけをしますが、とても一生懸命に働きます。ハワイ語の「助ける」はコクアです。コクアはただ手伝うというだけでなく、心からお手つだいすることです。ニューヨーク仏教会の沢山のメネフネがコクアしてくださったおかげで、ファンレイザーが成功しました。心よりお礼申し上げます。

12月の行事について

- 12月3日（日曜日）午前11時半から釈尊成道会をつとめます。どうぞお参りください。
- 12月8日（金）午後6時からウクレレ同好会ホリディパーティーがあります。食事、飲み物、ゲーム、賞品などがあります。秘密のサンタに参加される方は4～6ドルの品物を準備してください。ホリディパーティーは、どなたでも参加できますので、本堂にある申し込み用紙に記名するか、電話（212-678-

0305番）でお申し込みください。参加費は15ドルです。

3）12月17日（日）仏教会の大掃除です。皆様のご協力をお願いします。

4）12月15日（金）と16日（土）は恒例の餅つきがあります。

のし餅の申し込みは12月10日までお受けします。またボランティアをしてくださる方は府内ルース、または、仏教会（電話212-678-0305番）へお知らせください。

5）12月31日午後7時より除夜会（じょやえ）をつとめます。108回 除夜の鐘つきをしますので、ぜひお参りください。

6）2018年1月1日修正会（元旦会）を午前11時半からです。

その後、新年会（持ち寄り）並びに羽野任世先生指導の「かきぞめ」や「百人一首」があります。Cont. p. 2

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Chieko Nakagawa made her 4th annual visit to Frankfurt, Germany to visit her son's family. It was bittersweet, as it will be her last one since her son and family will be moving back to Tokyo. She had the pleasure of seeing her grandchildren perform at the the Nihonjin Gakko's Bunkasai (Japanese School in Frankfurt). Her granddaughter, who is in 9th grade, accompanied the entire junior high school chorus on the piano and also, acted as a mother in its drama. The granddaughter in 5th grade performed in a play, all spoken in German- in a Japanese school? Her grandson in the 3rd grade had a lead role in a play which he performed with much confidence. Chieko, being the proud grandmother, has watched her grandchildren grow into wonderful children!

She and her daughter-in-law visited Johann Wolfgang Goethe's House in Frankfurt. It is both a museum and research institute in which Goethe had lived during his productive years. It was unbelievable to walk through the rooms where that family had actually resided. The music room, especially, was of interest with its upright pyramid piano and a red clavichord. Goethe's puppet theatre and the writing desk where he wrote his early works, poems, plays and the first verses of "Faust" added to a fascinating tour. She will miss Frankfurt and the warm German people very much.

Dai Miyazaki spent 4-weeks in Japan, starting in the north visiting friends who survived the tsunami 5-years ago in Sendai, Fukushima and Iwaki . He travelled to suburban Tokyo and spent an afternoon with Michiko Unno Otsuki



Chieko Nakagawa and her grandchildren

as several NYBC members have done this year. While in Tokyo, he attended a reunion of 100 former Japan Airline employees. He had worked with them for 10 years during the "pre-jet propeller era" with small airplanes while in Japan before coming to this country. He travelled south to Nagoya to visit a cousin and viewed Amano Hashidate, the famous Tango peninsula north of Kyoto. The trees were planted to make it look like a "Bridge to the Heaven" (Amano Hashidate). He continued south to Kyushu, his ancestral home, and then back to Tokyo where he attended a primary school reunion. The attendees had a wonderful time even though the numbers decreased from 180



Rev. Earl Ikeda travelled to Colorado Springs, CO to join in the observance of his grandson, Elias', first birthday. In Hawaii where Rev. Ikeda comes from, the first birthday of a child is an occasion for a huge celebration. We wish Elias a belated,

Rev. Earl with Elias, the Birthday boy. Happy 1st birthday and many more.

Send Your New Year's Greetings to the Sangha

Send your New Year's greetings to the Sangha and support the NYBC! Complete this form so we receive it by December 16, accompanied with a check or cash of \$5.00 and *Kokoro* will list your name, for \$10.00 we will also print a greeting of up to 20 words in our January issue.

- Give a completed form with donation to Ruth Funai, or
- Send the completed form with donation to:

Greetings, New York Buddhist Church, 331 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10025

Name(s) *(Please print clearly, only your name will appear in Kokoro. Contact information is for office use only.)*

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Greeting *(Donation of \$10.00):*

October Board Highlights By Cheryl Ikemiya

Financial Report – update by Nancy Okada –Bow window is finished. Final costs were \$25K for scaffolding and \$40K for the bow window repairs.

New Business:

Mochitsuki: Lamar Tsufura will organize the labor. We need to place the order for the mochigome rice. Mariko Kato and Keiko Ohtaka will be the contact persons for orders and will be assisted by Ruth Funai, Nancy Okada and Yasuko Kato. The price is \$15/per sheet. Dates for Mochitsuki are Friday, 12/15 and Saturday, 12/16 with cleanup on Sunday, 12/17.

Ukelele group will purchase new music stands. A scanned copy of the music will be sent to members. Copies will be available for purchase for those who want them.

Buddhist Global Relief: Walk for Hunger: October 28 (from 9 am-12 noon). The group will meet at 79th and Riverside Drive and walk north. NYBC will have a team and will raise funds for the group on the website.

Holiday Party: Friday, 12/8. Adult Buddhist Association will pay for the drinks. Rev. Earl will cook the meal and a donation of \$15 is requested. People must sign up. Participants will exchange Secret Santa gifts of \$5-7 range.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports:

Buddhist Women's Association The BWA has invited MA Chiemi Bly of Twin Cities sangha, who will speak at the BWA Memorial

and Esshiniko and Kakushiniko Service. Building Committee, reported by Nancy Okada – We have discarded a lot of trash including radiators with the help of KBI and Soh Daiko. Linen stands for the guest room floor have arrived, and we will begin to reorganize the linen closet.

Membership Committee – The committee is drafting a sheet with member benefits.

Social Services, reported by Ruth – Tokiko Miura was in Harlem Hospital and has been transferred to Mt. Sinai. She is now in rehab and the committee will try to visit her this week. October 12 service for Mr. Haruo Ito who passed away at 105. She sent a card and koden to the family.

Soh Daiko, reported by Mac Evans. Have eight new trainees;

Strategic Planning Committee – will plan a town hall in January 2018.





Luau Kitchen Crew: Tomoko Iwaki, Rev. Ikeda, Lianne Akiona, Jason Akiona, Ruth Funai, Gertrude Kihara. Not present: Ricardo Venancio, Lani Sanjek, Clement Hirai.



MA Gary Jaskula behind a selection of local beers and Island fruit.

Luau Lunch November 2017



Clockwise from left:

Ken Yasuda and Karl Davis; Members of Soh Daiko on the beach; The New Uke City Strummers all a-lei and strumming away.

Photos by David Okada

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

212-678-0305

Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

Kokoro is published by the New York Buddhist Church, a Jodo Shinshu temple. Opinions expressed in *Kokoro* are not necessarily those of the NYBC.

Subscriptions: *Kokoro* is mailed free to NYBC members, and to non-members for \$15/year. For subscriptions and mailing address updates, please contact:

Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

Contributors: Rev. Earl Ikeda, Ruth Funai, Akemi Ishida, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Gary Jaskula, Mac Evans, Tony Di Tomasso, Brian McGurgan, Gertrude Kihara, Brian Funai, Tony Armstrong, and the Buddhist Women's Association mailing team.

Articles and photographs are welcome and will be published subject to suitability of content and availability of space.

Send contributions to Kokoro Editors: Gail Inaba, ginaba@optonline.net and Mariko Kato at marikrew@hotmail.com / mkatony@hotmail.com.

**Next Deadline
is
Fri., Dec. 15**

**Support the
NYBC
Join as a Pledged
Member**

Save the Dates:

Holiday Party Dec. 8

Mochitsuki Dec. 15-16

Temple Cleanup Dec. 17

*Reserve your Shojin Ryori
Bento*



kokoro

December 2017

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

New York Buddhist Church

331 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10025

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

