



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



Dreams

January 2018

“Shinnen, akemashite omedetoo gozaimasu. Sakunenjuu, iroiro to osewa ni narimashita. Honnen mo doozo yoroshiku onegai mooshi agemasu!”

Literally: “On this occasion of the beginning of the New Year, I wish to express my sincerest congratulations [to you and everyone]. During the entire past year, knowingly I have caused you many inconveniences. [However] May I also continue to humbly ask for your assistance in all ways during this year!”

This is the customary and formal Japanese salutation exchanged at the beginning of the new year. After expressing this sentiment to a member of the temple, he replied, “What’s so good about observing the New Year anyway? I still have the same aches and pains and my financial situation hasn’t improved at all! What’s this “new” about?” Obviously, a “new” year did not represent new prospects for alleviating his personal issues. He had a good point. Our problems still remain when the clock strikes at midnight to signal the beginning of a new year.

Whether they are physical, emotional, financial or other issues, problems do not magically disappear. However, the way we perceive things can make a difference.

The historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, said that our mind determines who and what we are. Specifically, the way our minds perceive things will make a difference in every aspect of our lives. Our deeply embedded egos prevent us from seeing things as they really are. For example, weather is caused by a number of factors, including the jet stream, the amount of moisture, wind speeds and temperature. The resulting weather simply is, although we often label it as “bad” or “good.” We use these labels as a way of understanding and attempting to control various situations and conditions. It is our minds, driven by our ego that characterizes persons, places, and things.

Are these subjective, ego-driven thoughts negative? Buddhism is the universal teaching which helps us to understand life and to transcend life’s dissatisfactions and desires. Understanding universal truths, through the dharma, helps us move beyond dwelling on annoying and painful matters that we often have no control over. By awakening our minds to seeing or understanding things as they truly are, we can experience an entirely new world or way of life that brings greater peace and harmony in our daily lives. Through wisdom which leads to compassion and understanding, we can better enjoy this precious moment in time called life. A brand new year will not eradicate our financial woes, illnesses, aching backs, or similar problems, however, refreshing our perspective or adopting a new perspective through the dharma can help us to cope with them better and move on.

I also truly believe that we need dreams that give us hope. These aspirations encourage us to realize goals that enrich our lives and those of others. Although we sometimes think that we would be happiest if everything was “my way” we also know that is rarely the case. We must not forget, however, that each and every one of us was given the privilege of experiencing life and that we all have a great purpose!



Reverend Earl Ikeda

In 2018, may we all find our purpose and dreams through the teachings of the Buddha. May we also realize that we determine our own tomorrows by the way we use our bodies, speech, and thoughts. Remember to ask yourself often, “how do I want my tomorrow to be.” Let’s all have wonderfully positive dreams!

Namo Amida Butsu

Hoonko Service and Shojin Ryoori Bento

The memorial service observing the passing of our founder Shinran Shonin is called *Hoonko* in Japanese. Of the Six Major Services, Roku Daihoyo, this observance is considered the most important. This year our Hoonko service is on Sunday, January 21.

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In Japan, this observance is held three times; at the home, the family temple, and at the Mother Temple, *Honzan*. *Hoon* means to express gratitude, and *kou* means the gathering of the group or sangha. We reflect upon the Wondrous Vow, *guzeigan*, of Amida Buddha which assures us birth in the Pure Land.

It is traditional to serve a vegetarian/vegan meal at this service, *shojin ryoori*. NYBC volunteers will be making traditional bentos for this service. The cost of the bento is \$25 each. Please sign up or call the temple at (212) 678-0305 to reserve yours.

Howa-kai (Japanese Language Dharma Class)

Everyone is welcome to our monthly Japanese language sessions usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Our first Howa-kai for 2018 will be on January 4th, at 7 pm, first floor room.

Lessons are from the BDK published book "The Teaching of Buddha". A donation of \$5 is gratefully appreciated.

Chanting and Dharma Study

Chanting and dharma study classes are usually held on the first Saturday of each month. Our first class for this year is on January 6th. We will practice the Shoshin Nembutsuge, The Hymn of True Entrusting, taken from the writings of our founder Shinran Shonin. Dharma lessons will focus on general Buddhism from The Teaching of Buddha, published by BDK. Donations are gratefully appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

Shojin Ryoori and Wagashi Classes

Vegetarian/vegan cooking served in the Buddhist monastic style is called *shojin ryoori*. It is vegan and contains no animal, fish, or milk ingredients. Our classes will begin on the second Saturday in February, the 10th. Classes begin at 10 am with hands on instructions and tasting at the end. Classes are about 2 hours and conclude with a meal of the dishes made. The cost is a donation of \$25 for NYBC pledged members and \$30 for non-pledged members. Class sizes are limited to 10. Please sign-in at the temple or call the office at (212) 678-0305.

Please check our monthly calendar printed in the Kokoro for other events and services. All events, services and the calendar are subject to change.

法話会 (日本語)

毎月第一木曜日午後7時から本堂で日本語の法話会があります。2018年第一回法話会は1月4日(木)7時からありますので、ぜひご参加ください。テキストは仏教伝道協会出版の「仏教聖典」です。なお一回につき5ドルの寄付をお願いします。

仏教研修会 (英語)

念仏と仏教勉強会が毎月第一土曜日午前10時からあり、どなたでも参加していただけます。今月は1月6日(土曜日)です。お念仏(正信念仏偈)と一般仏教を学びます。テキストは仏教伝道協会出版の「仏教聖典」です。(寄付任意)

報恩講と精進料理のお弁当

報恩講は浄土真宗をお開きくださった親鸞聖人のご恩をしのぶ、浄土真宗で一番大切な法要です。今年も報恩講を記念して、精進弁当(25ドル)をつくりまします。申し込みは、電話(212-678-0305)、または本堂の申し込み用紙にご記名願います。

精進料理と和菓子のクラス

料理教室は第二土曜日午前10時から12時までの約2時間です。次回のクラスは2月10日(土)です。ご希望の方は電話(212-678-0305)へお申し込みください。(定員は10名)

精進料理は野菜料理です。魚、肉類、ミルクなどは一切使用しません。クラスの終わりに作った料理を試食します。仏教会会員は25ドル、会員でない方は30ドルのご寄付をお願いします。

お願い

ニューヨーク仏教教会の行事は、重要事態のため変更することがあります。必ずその月のカレンダーを見て確認していただきますようお願いいたします。

Next Deadline is

Mon., Jan. 15

夢 (ゆめ)
池田アール住職

新年おめでとうございます。
昨年中は大変お世話になりました。本年もどうぞよろしく願い申し上げます。

「新年おめでとうございます」は、日本人の間でかわされるお正月のあいさつです。ある日、外人の門徒さんに新年のあいさつについて話をした時のことです。その門徒さんは「新年の新は新しいということですね。しかし新しい年がきても 私の体の痛みはなおらないし、経済状態もよくなるらない。少しも変わりません。“新・new”とは？」ときかれました。新年をむかえたら、昨年の問題が魔法のように消えて無くなるということではありません。

日本では、お正月に一年の計画や目標を立てる習慣があります。新年に未来の計画や目標を立てた人たちにとっては、新年はスターティングポイントですから、すべてが新しいといえるでしょう。

お釈迦様は心によってその人がどんな人になるかが決まると言われました。私たちの見方や受け取り方が、その人の人生に大きな影響をあたえますので、正しい見方や考えをすることがたいせつです。人間は生まれたときから自己中心的な考えを持っているので、真実が見えません。たとえば天気はジェット気流、水の含有量、風速および気温などの条件によります。我々は「今日は天気が良い」とか「悪い」とか決めます。が、天気には良いとか悪いとかの意味がありません。利己主義な私たちは真実が見えないので、自分の都合で良いとか悪いとかを決めているだけです。

どうしたら真実が見えるのでしょうか？ 仏教は普遍的な教えで、本当の自分を知り、真実をみることを教えてくれます。仏法を聞いて真理を知ると、コントロールできないことをコントロールしようとして苦しんでいる私に、それをこえる道を知らせてくれます。法に目覚めると、今まで見えなかった真実の世界が見えるのです。そして今まで経験しなかったよう平穏な生活ができるでしょう。おだやかな生活をしている人には自然に知恵や慈悲が生まれ、一度しかない貴重な一生を喜びとともに完成することができます。

新しい年になっても、財政難、病気、などの問題を無くすることはできません。しかし、新年にあたり、仏法をとおして、新しい角度で自分や物事を見てはどうでしょうか。見方を変えると自分のおろかさに気が付き、また大問題と思っていた事が取るに足りないことであつたと知ることもあるでしょう。

新しい年の初めに、夢や願いを持つ事は大切です。夢や願いがあると人生を力強く生きる意欲がわきます。しかし夢や希望が自分の思うように実現するとは限りません。願いが実現しないときは、忍耐強く努力しつづけることでしょう。私たちが忘れてならないのは、私たちは一人一人の人生が素晴らしくなるように、チャレンジする特権と能力をいただいていることです。

2018年の年頭にあたり、新年のご挨拶を申し上げるとともに、皆様が仏法をとおして、夢や願いを持って生きられるよう念じています。将来どんな人間になるかは、私たちの日々の行動、言葉、考え、精進によって決まります。また夢や願いを実現するのは自分自身の努力のほかにはないでしょう。

南無阿弥陀仏

(Trans. by Akemi Ishida)

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Services Schedule for 2018

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.

2017... 1st Year	2016 ... 3rd Year	2012 ... 7th Year	2006 ... 13th Year
2002... 17th Year	1994 ... 25th Year	1986 ... 33rd Year	1969 ... 50th Year

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

January 2017 Sunday, January 7

Asakura, Michiko 2002
 Awaya, Sei 1954
 Awaya, Shinji 1979
 Endo, Tsuguo 2016
 Horiguchi, Mitsuo 1990
 Katori, Chiyo 1995
 Kehler, Alan 1995
 Kitajima, Molly 2014
 Kodama, Tokuko Edna 2014
 Kubo, Aki 2012
 Kubo, Jimmy Masami 1988
 Kuwaki, Katumori 2015
 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

February 2017 Sunday, February 4

Aunt, Stogh NA
 Bushnell, Joe NA
 Bushnell, Maime NA
 Davis, Albert F. 2007
 Davis, Shizue Shimbo 2013
 DiTomasso, Katherine Mary 1993
 Gyaltsen, Dorki 2004
 Hara, Davis Eiji 1979
 Harada, Matsuo 1984
 Horita, Koichi 1952

Inaba, Flu Hitoshi 1992
 Iriye, Tom Tateki 1995
 Kato, Roy 2011
 Kurokawa, Teru 2016
 Mitani, Yoshio 1943
 Miyamura, Shichi 1997
 Nakamura, James 2015
 Namba, Michino 1989
 Omori, Yoko 1994
 Sakow, Toshihiko 2000
 Schroeter, Susan 1962
 Shindo, Shige 1947
 Taoka Nobuji 1965
 Tep, Borey 2015
 Tono, Shiteyo 1988
 Wise, Gregory 1983
 Yanagida, Tadashi 1965
 Yasuda, Kunihiko 1959



In Memoriam

A long time member of the NYBC, Sam Kunihiro passed away at the end of November. Since arriving in New York City some 60 years ago, he has been devoted to the

NYBC, its members and ministers. He was a man of many talents (tailor, pattern maker, short order cook, carpenter, draftsman, electrician, plumber, teacher and more). He quietly would take on any task if he thought it would benefit you and/or the church without seeking recognition. Soh Daiko remembers that he was instrumental in its early days, making the first purple and black costumes by hand, building the first drum closet in the dojo, making donations (always cash!) and hachimaki sealed in plastic to the group and tips on how to do almost anything better than you can think. And as he was always generous with his time and talents, he also will be fondly remembered for providing a "kanpai" sip of Jameson in making others feel welcomed and honored in sharing in the activities of the NYBC.



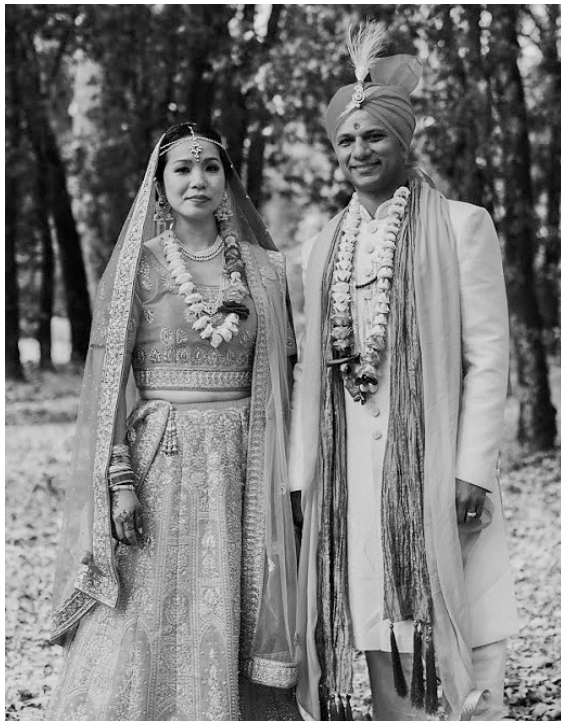
Cheryl Ikemiya, elegant mother of the bride. (See next page for article.)

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Bill and Cathi Redmond's daughter Jenn married Brad McCormick on October 7, 2017 in Tucson, AZ. The wedding took place in the backyard of their home, which was beautifully decorated! Jenn and Brad met through a dating service and soon found they had a lot in common. They both love to help young people. Jenn is a teacher and Brad is with the Job Corps. The happy couple has now formed a real Brady Bunch with their 5 teenagers. Their wedding service was heartfelt and beautiful, with the partners sharing the vows they had written. NYBC extends our congratulations and best wishes to the couple!



Jenn and Brad, celebrating their wedding in Tucson, AZ



Newlyweds Miwa Ikemiya and Rohit Prakash, resplendent in Indian Dress.

Cheryl Ikemiya's daughter, Miwa, married Rohit Prakash in October at the Campovida Winery in Hopland, CA. Miwa grew up in the NYBC Dharma School and was in the Children's Taiko at the church. Miwa met Ro when they were students in the Bay Area, she in graduate studies in design at California College of the Arts and he finishing a PhD in neuroscience at Stanford University. Ro started Townsquared, an online networking plat-

form for local businesses which Miwa joined as the designer.

They had two wedding ceremonies reflecting their family backgrounds, Hindu and Buddhist. The traditional Indian wedding celebrations are held for days. Two days before the ceremonies, the families and friends celebrated: Diwali festival of lights; Sangeet (music and dance); the Baraat (horse processional with the groom arriving at the bride's family on a white horse); garland exchanges between families; and finally, the Hindu wedding ceremony. All the principal male members of each family had turbans wrapped on their heads, including Cheryl's brother, brother-in-law and nephew, and the women all wore traditional Indian dresses.

Later in the afternoon Miwa and Ro had a wedding ceremony at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple officiated by Rev. Candice Shibat. During her tokudo training in Kyoto, Cheryl had met Candice who was finishing her studies. Candice was also in Gary Jaskula's (another NYBC M/A) Tokudo class, and she is the niece of Eileen Matsushita (a long time NYBC member)- there were multiple ties to our church.

She asked the bridal couple to write letters to each other about what marriage meant to them, which were read for the first time during the ceremony. The ceremony was beautiful and very personal. Family and friends came from India, Japan, Cambodia, Germany, the UK, and Canada and from Hawaii to Maine and from Florida to Washington and many states in between. They were very grateful to be able to share those days together with their family and friends and appreciative of all the members at NYBC who wished them well.

New Year's Greetings from the Sangha

Happy New year! **Kimiko & Gail Inaba** * Akimashite Omedeto! Namu Amida Butsu- **Clement & Arlene Hirae** Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu! **Ian Angus & Tomoko Kerr** * Greetings from Denver Colorado! **DJ & Rich Ida** Happy New Year 2018- Year of the Dog. In Gassho, **Yasuko & Mariko Kato** * Peace * Harmony * Joy As We Follow The Dog! **Akiko & Nancy Okada** * Peace and Joy as we put one foot before each other in 2018! **Tachibana Dance Group** Best Wishes for Peace, Health & Joy to Everyone! **Jeff, Lillian, Christopher & Sarah Lum** * Happy New Year! Love **Blair & Yuki** * Feliz Ano Nuevo! **Francisco y Paola** * Grace, Humility, Gratitude, Goodness, Compassion, Beauty, Joy, Love, my New Year's wish for showing me the meaning of hope. **Renee Semenick** * Happy New Year for 2018! **Ricardo** * Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu. Happy New Year from **Tony, Yoriko and Angel** * A Bright & Happy New year to Everyone in the World! **Dai Miyazaki** * Hauoli Makahiki Hou! **James and Alice Nagahiro** * GREETINGS FROM RAINY OREGON. WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR OF THE DOG. **Sahomi Tachibana** * Thanks for making my 2017 memorable. May yours be as memorable and more in the Year of the Dog. **Chieko Nakagawa** * A Bright & Happy New Year to Everyone & the world! **Dai Miyazaki** * Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 'Year of the Dog'- 2018! **Ohtaka Family** * May peace, compassion and good health prevail throughout the year! **Ruth, Brian, Craig, Laura & Julia**

And from:

Karl Davis * Anthony Ditomasso * August Elder * Richard Gross * Hiroki Hasegawa * Cheryl Ikemiyama * Akemi Ishida * Chieko Iwaki * Gertrude Kihara * Estelle Kimizuka * Nobuko Kodama * Mari & Etsuko Matsumoto * Tokiko Miura * Michael & Diana Morita * Lillian Moy * Karl & Tammy Palma * Bill & Cathi Redmond * Haruko Sakurazawa * S.B. * Cynthia Yuki Teramura * T.Y.



Pets' Memorial Service Nirvana Day, February 11, 2018

Pet's Name(s): _____

Check one: Cat Dog Other (describe) _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please give this form to any Minister's Assistant or Rev. Ikeda by February 8, 2018. Please consider giving an extra donation in memory of your pet(s).

Year End Festivities



Merry Band of Holiday Party Carolers, braving the cold to serenade our neighbors.

Tomoko Iwaki, Chieko Iwaki, Toshiko Suzuki for the delicious food to sustain our energies. Thank you to all who gave their energies to NYBC for this annual event. Happy New Year to all.

Mochitsuki

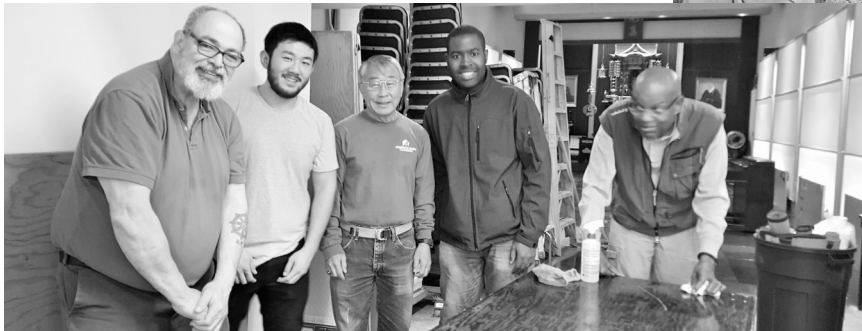
From left to right: Craig Funai, Brian Funai, Alan Okada, Tomoko Iwaki, Merle Okada and Bob Moribe.

The church was a bustle with energetic "elves" the weekend of 15-16 December implementing NYBC's 2017 mochitsuki. It was a bittersweet event not having Sam Kunihiro as the point person for many aspects of this annual event....but we were able to complete the task thanks to Lamarr Tsufura, Brian Funai, Craig Funai, MacConnel Evans who spearheaded preparation and set-up for the event happenings itself. Nancy Okada and Akemi Ishida did the prep work for the Friday mochi trial event for Friday afternoon. The Friday night overnight crew (Rev. Ikeda, Gertrude Kihara, Mariko Kato, Elna Mukaida) prepped 250 pounds of mochigomi and equipment needs for the all-day Saturday event. Thanks to many hands, expertise and ingenuity more than 200 8 x 11 inch at 2.5 pounds of noshi mochi were prepared to bring delicious happiness for the New Year's celebration. "Gochisosama" to Ruth Funai,



Lily Sakai-Johnson, polishing at the Temple year end cleaning.

Temple Cleaners (left to right): Tony DiTomasso, Jimmy Wu, Clement Hirai, Damian Walker, Karl Davis, Auguste Elder, Yoriko Armstrong,, Isabelle Bernard, Lillian Moy and Susan Bloom. A big thanks to everyone who pitched in to clean the Temple!



KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

212-678-0305

Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

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

Send contributions to Kokoro

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Ongoing Activities

Children's and Adult's Taiko Drumming: Sundays, usually every other week, 1-2pm, 2-3 pm NYBC Dojo. Email Teddy Yoshikami at tyoshikami@verizon.net for more information. (May be delayed response in Jan. And Feb.)

Kokushi Budo Institute Martial Arts Class: Weekday evenings and Saturday mornings, NYBC Dojo. More information: www.kokushibudo.com.

Soh Daiko Drumming: Thursdays, 7-9:30 pm and Saturdays, 2-5pm, NYBC Dojo. More information: www.sohdaiko.org.

Tachibana Dance Group: Saturdays, 11:30 am NYBC Annex, 2nd floor. More information: talk to Nancy Okada, and visit www.chrbu.net/page-albu-recital.

Howakai: Japanese Study Group, usually first Thursday of the month, 7-8:30 pm

Chanting and Meditation: Usually Sunday mornings 10:30-11:00 am and Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 pm

Ukulele Class and Strumming circle: Usually every other Saturday afternoon 12:30-2 pm

Dharma Study Group: usually first Saturday of the month, morning 10-11:30 am



kokoro

January 2018



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