



People often come to temple seeking freedom from their personal sufferings and the way to enlightenment. They explain that although they have read many books, articles and listened to countless presentations, they have not yet found the joy that Buddhism offers. In a past article, I wrote something about “nightstand Buddhists”-- individuals who seek instant gratification by simply “studying” or “hearing” the Teachings. Unfortunately, the joy that we seek is something very personal and cannot be found “outside” of ourselves by simply reading or listening to presentations. It is experienced by becoming aware of who we are and “living” the practice. We all seek some form of comfort to ease pain it also seems that we want it “now”!

In the book “Ocean” by Rev. Professor Ken Tanaka, he tells the story of a person who falls overboard into the wide ocean and tries very hard to keep from drowning. He expends a tremendous amount of energy and is overcome by exhaustion and finally gives up his efforts. It is at this point, when he

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accepts his existing condition, that he is able to relax and discovers that he can float. The ocean which he fears is now supporting him.

I am definitely the cause of my own sufferings and it is very difficult to seek and realize joy. Although I too have read and studied many books and attended many wonderful lectures, I also find it very difficult to be free from my sufferings. I have come to realize that life is a personal journey and along the way, and with good fortune, have met Amida Buddha. By reflecting upon the Vows of the Buddha and the wonderful interpretations of the Buddha’s words by Shinran Shonin, I find small glimpses of inner peace. By trying to practice “deep listening”, “monpo”, the Teachings have taught me that there must be a balance between all things, especially between the “me” that I think I am and the things I see and experience outside of myself. I have also realized that the world is actually often different from how I think about it. It is my individual perceptions, driven by my ego, that does not allow me to see things as they truly are and to recognize the wondrous world outside of me that exists. This world which I have been denying myself needs to be realized and explored in order to become a whole person. I have a personal interpretation of the Buddhist Teachings, Dharma. Yet, the wonders and the awesomeness of the Teachings are still limited to me because of my limited mind.

I am a limited person who is also a “nightstand Buddhist”. Yet, I have also come to realize that the Vow of the Buddha embraces me unconditionally and the Buddha patiently waits for me to give up on my imperfect self so that I can truly float and be sustained by a wondrous world which awaits me.

Namo Amida Butsu.



Reverend Earl Ikeda

Minister's Message, *Continued from p. 1*

Upcoming Temple Fundraisers

Saturday, November 4th

On Saturday, November 4, NYBC will be having its first annual fundraiser. This fundraiser will help to fund the upkeep of our temple as a place for all to gather to hear and share the dharma. NYBC is also a place where all can gather to help us learn about the countless gifts of life through various presentations which may not be religiously based. Please help to make our temple a sage place for all to gather. The theme for the luncheon will be a Hawaii Luau, serving traditional Hawaiian foods.

If you are interested in attending please contact Nancy Okada: 212-678-0305

Board Highlights, cont.

transferred to Excel.

Guest room floor – suggestion/discussion lead by Yoriko Armstrong. We need to organize a cleanup of the linen closet; organize the sheets and towels and purchase new shelves.

Clearing out trash and junk – Nancy informed us of an inspection by the insurance company. We need to clear out accumulated trash. Nancy and Richard will look into companies that will help dispose of the trash.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports:

Buddhist Women's Association – Minister's Assistant Chiemi Bly from the Twin Cities Sangha will be the speaker on November 19 for the Esshiniko and Kakushiniko Service.

Building Committee – Still working on cameras for the exterior of the buildings. The bow windows project is finished. The roof of 331 Building will soon need to be replaced (estimate \$35K-\$40K). we investigate a green roof.

Membership Committee – The committees is working on a new brochure listing membership benefits. Gail and Mariko will help.

Soh Daiko – Resumed drumming practice on 9/14. Recruitment is on 9/23 and 9/28. Soh Daiko's Mochitsuki will be on 1/6/2018.

Stanley T. Okada Scholarship Fund – Julia Funai received the 2017 scholarship. An article will be in the October Kokoro.

September Board Highlights *By Cheryl Ikemiya*

New Business: update, review and discussion

Mochitsuki – The dates will be Friday, 12/15 and Saturday, 12/16; Cleanup will be on 12/17. New Year's Eve service – Mariko Kato volunteered to be in charge of the Soba for the service on Sunday, 12/31.

Old Business:

November Hawaiian Luau fundraiser – Rev. Ikeda's nephew and niece will be working on the food preparations. The following committees were formed: Invitations and raffle tickets: Isabelle and Nancy; Food : Gertrude Kihara and Keiko Ohtaka; Friday food preparation: Rev Earl, his niece and nephew, Tomoko Iwaki; beer with donation \$5: purchase Gary and Ruth; bartending: Gary; decorations and set up committee: Richard Tony A and Tony D; program committee: Isabelle, Cheryl, Richard: ukes; hula group (Nancy has contact); Raffle committee: Isabelle and Nancy; Clean up: Ruth and Estelle.

Eitaikyo Committee (Yoriko Armstrong, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Gail Inaba, Nancy Okada and Rev. Earl Ikeda) – The committee met on 9/14 and discussed the differences between the funeral ceremony, Eitaikyo (members' death and funeral records), Shotsuki Hoyo (includes both members and non-members). Gail will work with the Eitaikyo records left by June Kan, which are in hard copy. They need to be

Strategic Planning Committee - We discussed working on a new more succinct Mission Statement that reflects our vision and values. It was suggested that we have a discussion after the New Year's Day service, posing questions about "What brought you to NYBC? What are you looking for?" When we greet newcomers, the chair for the service could talk about how and why he/she came to NYBC. We should also engage newcomers and ask them what they are looking for in a sangha.

「すばらしい世界が待っている」

仏教会には 悟りを得たい、現在の苦しみから解放されたいという思いで、仏教の教えを求めに来る方が多くいます。それまでに 仏教の本、記事を読んだり、講演を聞いたりしていますが、教えが伝わっていないようです。前にこのニュースレターに「ナイトスタンド仏教徒」について書きました。これは 仏教の勉強、教えを聞いて、すぐにわかったと思う人達の事です。しかし 仏教は このような形で すぐ 理解できるものではありません。それは自分で考え、気付く事なのです。具体的には 自分が一体どんな人間なのだろうかとか、釈尊の教えが 自分の日常生活に どのように生かされているだろうかなど考えてみる事です。苦しみがあれば、誰でも解放されたいと思い、すぐ救われたいと思うのは当然の事です。

田中ケン先生は 僧侶であり、仏教学を教えられています。「Ocean」という本に 海に溺れた人の例をあげて、仏教の救いについて 書かれています。海に一人放り出された人が、必死に溺れないようにもがきますが、その内に疲れ切ってしまう。でも もがく事をやめて、体を休め、海に浮かんでみて 初めて 今まで怖いと思っていた海が、一瞬に自分を支えるものになる事がわかります。

私自身の苦しみは 確かに自分に原因があります。しかし自分の苦しみが、喜びとなり、それを実感するに至る事はそう簡単にできるものではありません。私もたくさんの本を読み、勉強し、すばらしい講演を何回も聞いて来ました。そのため、苦しみを取り除き、救われるという事が いかにも難しいか理解しているつもりです。私が経験した事は 人生とは 一人旅である事です。そして 幸運にも その旅の途中で、阿弥陀様との出会いがありました。釈尊の本願に触れる事で、心の安らぎを垣間見る事ができました。本願を理解したのは 親鸞上人が 著された釈尊の言葉、考え、又 教えの解釈によるものです。問法とは、聴聞を日頃行う事ですが、私は 教えを通して 物事には何でも バランスがある事を学びました。特に 自分が思っている本当の自分と、そういう自分以外の目を見て 経験する事のバランスが必要だという事です。現実には 私の考えている世界と異なるすばらしい世界があり、又自分が見る世界が あります。でも自分が見ている世界は 自己中心的な目で見ているため、すばらしい世界を そのまま受け入れようとしません。

釈尊の教えは 自分なりに解釈しています。でも釈尊の教えは 自分がまだ不完全な人間であるために、理解も限られています。私も まだ仏教の救いを十分理解していない「ナイトスタンド仏教徒」です。でも 私が実感している事があります。釈尊の本願が私をどんな条件においても抱いてくださり、いつか 私が真に自由になり、私を待っているすばらしい世界に支えられるように、釈尊がこの不完全な自分の成長を 辛抱強く待ってくださるという事です。

南無阿弥陀仏。(translated by Nobuko Kodama)

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.

November 2017

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

Sunday, November 5

Bando, Gikyo 1978
Dymak, Antonio 1942
Dymak, Frank 1958
Eidson, John L. 2000
Hama, Yuriko L. 1974
Hara, George Yoshio 1994
Hara, Komayo Kay 2009
Harada, Hiroko 1990
Hayashi, Roy 1992
Iguchi, Yasuhiro 1990
Kan, Rev. Shunshin 1987

Kaneko, Dorothy 2006
Kodama, Teiji 2001
Kubo, John J. 1986
MacDowell, Stephen 2004
Mitani, Usaburo 1932
Mochizuki, Tomie 1990
Nagawa, Mibu 1947
Ohtaka, Shojiro 1966
Okada, Edna Aki 1987
Okuma, Emiko 2009
Sochi, Mizue 2008

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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

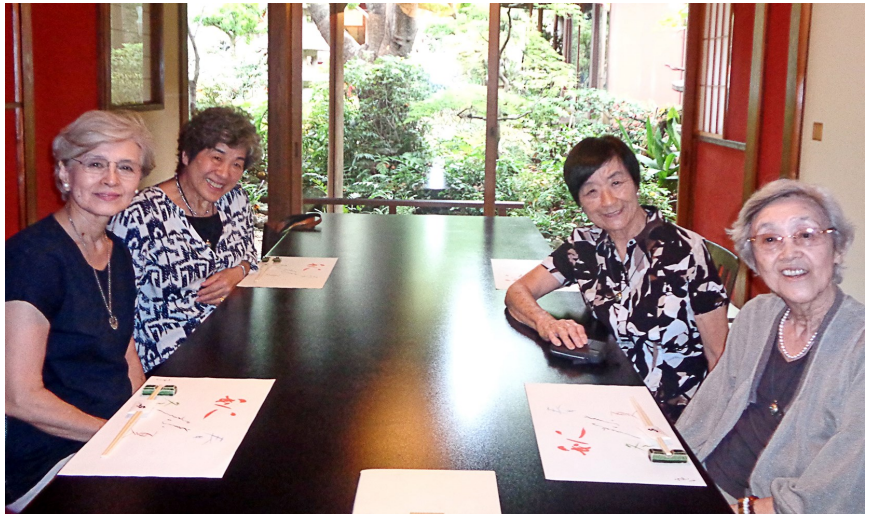
Mishima, Chikako 1997
Mitani, Isao 1949
Mitsuuchi, Gary 1994
Miyazaki, Chieko 1992
Okada, Kazuo 1989
Okada, Roy 1981
Okada, Shigeyo 1989
Seki, Satomi 2010
Takahashi, Mitsuo 1998
Taoka, Tami 1999
Tung, James Guang-Yao 1995
Yamane, Eimi 1988

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Gertrude Kihara and Ruth Funai made a trip to Japan and were able to visit Michiko Unno Otsuki for two days in suburban Tokyo. The first day, they were met by Michi's niece who guided them in travelling by train and taxi to Michi's place, so they could manage on their own the second day. They were treated to the same elegant tofu restaurant, Ukai, which Keiko Ohtaka and Chieko Nakagawa visited as reported in the Kokoro issue, September, 2017. They, also, saw a demonstration of silky tofu-making, sampling the warm finished product— delicious! The next day was spent reminiscing about her days in NYC and them many trips travelled together as a trio. Michi said to be sure to send her greeting and well wishes to all her friends!

Gertrude and Ruth than rode the bullet train to Hokkaido. In Hakodate, they rode to the top of Mt. Hakodate viewing the scenery below during the late afternoon and stayed until night to see the sparkling lights. Since it was cold and very windy, they did not linger long. Being told that the seafood is a specialty there, they enjoyed a huge platter of sashimi and seafood with the sashimi just melting in their mouths— yummy! An early morning visit to the community market for seafood, very fresh fruits and an assortment of products was mind-boggling. A half-day tour of old European homes was difficult as it was done only in Japanese. It ended with a cruise in the bay.

They took a train to Sapporo where they visited the old government building turned museum with its beautiful well-



Left to right: Michi's niece, Gertrude Kihara, Ruth Funai, Michi Otsuki

kept surroundings. They took an all-day tour with 2-tram rides up mountains and a small dam. Since it was the start of fall, the leaves were just turning colors giving a preview of what, in a couple of weeks, will be breathtaking! The tour ended at Otaru, a charming village turned very touristy according to former residents living in NYC.

In the famous Ramen alley, they dined on miso ramen as they were told that was a specialty there. Mini bowls of it were good enough for them and watching others, they peeled cold hardboiled eggs and put them in the ramen! No doubt, there are many beautiful places in Hokkaido that they could have visited, if time allowed— maybe next time.

In Memoriam

Long time NYBC supporter, Mr. Haruo Ito passed away October 3, 2017 at 105 years old. Mr. Ito attended our Keirokai luncheon on September 24, 2017, we were so pleased to see him and he looked so good! A service was held for him at NYBC on October 12, 2017. NYBC members extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Riki Ito, his daughter, his relatives and many friends.

Fun at the Keirokai Lunch 2017



Haruo Ito, Sam Kunihiro and Akiko Okado being honored at the Keirokai Luncheon. See p. for Mr. Ito, In Memorium. We were so happy that he was able to attend this event.



Gertrude Kihara and Keiko Ohtaka, or is it Keiko and Gertrude? Gertrude was the winner of the Grand Prize this year. A pair of tickets to the acclaimed musical, Dear Evan Hansen. Congratulations!



Above, Ricardo Venaccio assisting the Tsufuras, as Chieko Nakagawa looks on. Teddy Yoshikami contemplating her card, with Donna Tsufura, Etsuko Inoue and Keiko Omori in the background.



Right, the Keirokai Chairs, Tony Armstrong and Richard Gross with Cheryl Ikemiya, Ruth Funai and Rev. Earl.

Annual Holiday Sing-Along

On December 6th is NYBC's Annual Sing-Along and Ukulele Strumming Circle Party. Join us for a festive time of song, food and fun. The party starts at 6:00pm. There is a suggested donation. Please contact the New York Buddhist Church/ Rev. Earl Ikeda at (212) 678-0305 for further details.

Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

After a successful recruitment workshop, we now have 8 new trainees who will be studying alongside Soh Daiko members. We had a large number of excellent recruits, as well as other participants who came to learn taiko over two days. Because of the relatively early recruitment this year, we will be able to feature a performance of all 8 trainees at the Autumn Festival on October 21st.

Our performance schedule is intentionally light this fall so we can really focus on getting back to basics. Members and trainees alike are working hard to get solid hits, and our calloused hands and sore muscles are being worked with pride.

www.sohdaiko.org

www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

Get Ready for Mochitsuki!

By Nancy Okada

December signals that it is time to begin preparations for 2017's mochitsuki (rice pounding) event. This tradition of pounding sweet glutinous rice yields a tasty treat that is essential for Japanese households in celebrating the New Year.

If you have never participated in the NYBC's annual mochitsuki, you now have a chance to join in this decades-old NYBC tradition. In addition to the actual rice pounding, there is a lot of preparation. Help required for cleaning up afterwards and putting away equipment for the next year.

How to Volunteer to Help:

It takes many hands to make this event a reality and a great way to join in some fun. Try your hand at a traditional experience and get to know other members of the NYBC Sangha too. Please contact Ruth Funai/Nancy Okada if you would like to join the event.

How to Order and Pick-up Your Noshi Mochi:

The final pounded sweet rice produces sheets of 8 x 10 size of 2.5 pounds approximate weight of noshi mochi. **Sunday, December 10 is the Ordering Deadline.** Please place your order by this date with Ruth Funai/Mariko Kato/Keiko Ohtaka by calling New York Buddhist Church at 212-678-0305. The cost per noshi mochi is \$15.00. When you order, please tell us the date and approximate time you will pick up your order and leave a contact number. Pick-up time: Saturday, December 16, 1-6:30 pm & Sunday, December 17m 11:30 am to 5:00 pm

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

November—December 2017

November*

Nov. 1, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Nov. 2, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)

Nov. 4, Sat. Hawaiian Luau Benefit Luncheon: Traditional Hawaiian Food, Prizes and Island Entertainment Bring your Family and Friends to benefit the NYBC

Nov. 5, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation

11:30am: Rev. Kan Memorial Service and Shotsuki Hoyo, Chairperson: Richard Gross, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Ukulele group

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

1-2pm: Children's Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko

Nov. 8, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Nov. 11, Sat. American Buddhist Study Center presents "Form Awakening" by Auguste Elder, Pottery. Opening exhibit from 2:30 to 6 pm in the ABSC Library

Nov. 12, Sun. . 10:30-11 am Meditation

10:30 am: Japanese Service:

11:30 am English Service Chairperson: Mariko Kato, Greeter: Lillian Moy, Music: Yoriko Armstrong

1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

Nov. 15, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Nov. 18, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

Nov. 19, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation

11:30am: Eshinni-ko & Kakushinni-ko Service Speaker: MA Chiemi Bly, Ministers Assistant of Twin Cities Sangha. Chairperson: Ruth Funai, Greeter: Renee Semenick, Music: Nobuko Kodama

1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting

1-2pm: Children's Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko

Nov. 22, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Nov. 26, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service

11:30am: English Service : MA Chairperson: Ricardo Venancio, Greeter: Kyoko Nishiyama, Music: Dai Miyazaki

Nov. 29, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

December*

Dec. 2, Sat. 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class

12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program

Dec. 3, Sun. 11:30am: Bodhi Day Service, Speaker:

Chair: , Greeter: , Music:

10:30-11 am Meditation

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

1-2pm: Children's Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko

1:30pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

Dec. 6, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Dec. 7, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)

Dec. 8, Fri. 6pm: Holiday Sing-Along and Ukulele Strumming Circle Party

Dec. 9, Sat. American Buddhist Study Center - Showing Japanese Movie from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Dec. 10, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation

11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo, Speaker: Chair: , Greeter: , Music:

1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting

Dec. 13, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Dec. 15-16 Mochitsuki

Dec. 17, Sun. 11:00am: Short Combined Service , Speaker: MA

1:00pm: End-of-Year Cleaning

1-2pm: Children's Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko

Dec. 20, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Dec. 24, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker:

11:30am: English Service, Speaker: Chair: , Greeter: , Music:

Dec. 27, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Dec. 31, Sun. 1-2pm: Children's Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko

7-9pm: Joya-e (New Year's Eve) Service, Speaker

***CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE— CONSULT www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org**

FOR ANY UPDATES OR REVISIONS

2017年 ニューヨーク本願寺佛教会 行事予定		
11月 1日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
11月 2日 (木)	午後 7時	法話会 (日本語)
11月 4日 (土)	正午	ベネフィット昼食会(伝統的なハワイ料理、余興と賞金あり)
11月 5日 (日)	午前10時半	静座
	午前11時半	菅俊真法師追悼法要 並びに 十一月祥月法要
	午後 1時	仏教教育部会
	午後 1時	子供太鼓 午後2時一成年
11月 8日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
11月11日 (土)	午後 2時半	A.B.S.C.主催 陶芸作品展「目覚め」 エルダーオウガスト氏
11月12日 (日)	午前10時半	静座
	午前10時半	日曜法要(日本語) 法話・
	午前11時半	日曜法要(英語) 法話・
	午後 1時	壮年会
11月15日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
11月18日 (土)	午後12時半	ウクレレ同好会
11月19日 (日)	午前10時半	静座
	午前11時半	恵信尼公・覚信尼公追悼法要 法話・ブライ チエミ開教使補佐
	午後 1時半	理事会
	午後 1時	子供太鼓 午後2時一成年
11月22日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
11月26日 (日)	午前10時半	日曜法要(日本語)
	午前11時半	日曜法要(英語)
11月29日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
12月 2日 (土)	午前10時	仏教研修会(英語)
12月 3日 (日)	午前11時半	釈尊成道会
	午後 1時	仏教教育部会
	午後 1時半	壮年会
12月 6日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
12月 7日 (木)	午後 7時	法話会 (日本語)
12月10日 (日)	午前11時半	十二月祥月法要
	午後 1時半	理事会
12月13日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
12月15日-16日		餅つき
12月17日 (日)	午前11時	日曜法要
	午後 1時	年末大掃除
12月20日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
12月24日 (日)	午前10時半	日曜法要(日本語)
	午前11時半	日曜法要(英語)
12月27日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
12月31日 (日)	午後 7時	除夜会
日曜日以外の予定は重要事態の場合に変更されることがあります。		

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

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Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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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 Editors: Gail Inaba, ginaba@optonline.net and Mariko Kato at mkatony@hotmail.com.

**Next Deadline
is
Wed., Nov. 14**

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

Save the Dates:
Benefit Luau Luncheon
November 4
Mochitsuki December 15-17



kokoro

November 2017



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

**New York Buddhist Church
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