



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



Living with the Demons Within

April 2017

The movie “Dr. Strange” is about a very talented, gifted and dedicated surgeon, renowned for his extraordinary skills. The doctor was also known for his temper, arrogance and demanding ego which caused much stress to others; until an auto accident completely damages his gifted hands which completely alters his life and limits his abilities. Without his hands, he is nobody. Determined to get his identity back, he learns of an average person who regained complete control of his body after a devastating accident. He seeks out this individual, and after their brief encounter his journey takes him to Nepal, to seek the Ancient One who may help him regain his skills and former life.

Nepal is a country north of India and one of the centers of Mahayana Buddhism. The schools of Buddhism practiced there are influenced by Tibetan Buddhism which is perhaps

the oldest existing form of Buddhism. Even in these modern times, there still exists some mystic elements of Buddhism which come from this area and also often the source of movies of some supernatural or mystical nature.

Dr. Strange finally meets the Ancient One but is refused receiving practice because of his overwhelming ego and arrogance. The Ancient One recognizes the spiritual potentials and abilities within Dr. Strange to reach great heights in attaining his goals but is afraid that if a high level of self-control is achieved, it could be devastating to the world because of the doctor’s overwhelming ego. Another student requests the Ancient One to reconsider the decision; stating that the Ancient One was able to identify, rid, and destroy his own personal demons. The Ancient One replies that the teachings did not rid the student of his demons but allowed the student to live with them! The Ancient One’s statement hit home for me because this is what our teachings, Jodo Shinshu, are about.

“Demons” is the English translation for “mara” in Sanskrit. In Buddhism, these “demons/mara” hinder us from becoming enlightened and traps us in this world of constant suffering, *samsara*. In Japanese these negative elements are referred to as *bonno* or faults stemming from our own self-centeredness, ego.

The goal of Buddhism is to rid ourselves of these demons so that we can achieve enlightenment or spiritual freedom, and work towards the unselfish goal of relieving suffering for all. The uniqueness of Jodo Shinshu, and the genius of our founder Shinran Shonin’s teaching, is in helping us to live with our demons by awakening us to a deeper understanding of our own faults and limitations. By awakening to realize our imperfect self we begin to appreciate the love and concern of Amida Buddha. By relying upon the vow of



Reverend Earl Ikeda

Amida Buddha, which promises to free us from this world of constant suffering, our salvation is assured by looking deep within our limited self and rediscovering and accepting the “real persons” that we actually are; persons drowning in a deep ocean of suffering caused by personal attachments of greed, anger, and stupidity or ignorance. In Jodo Shinshu, *shinjin* or true entrusting, the key to our freedom from this world of suffering, is simply to entrust in the vows of the Buddha and call the name of the Buddha, Namu Amida Butsu. As humans, due to our imperfections and though we may try very hard with a sincere and earnest mind, it may be impossible to be free from our demons.

Cont. on p. 2

Living, Cont. from p. 1

Amida Buddha symbolizes transcending from this world of demons to the world of bliss in the here and now. Not here to sell a movie but I found it very fascinating how the world views Buddhism. It makes me wonder if we're missing out on something very fascinating and wonderful. Please, let us think about this matter together.

Namu Amida Butsu

Internment of Ashes at Cypress Hills

Our annual opening and internment of ashes into our Bussharito at Cypress Hills will be in May. Please contact our office ASAP if you have a request, questions, or for the date. Two very important documents are necessary; (1) a death certificate and (2) the original certificate of cremation. These two documents are required by the State Of New York. There will also be a fee for each urn interred and a request for our Eitai-kyo Fund for the upkeep of the site.

The New York Buddhist Church office number is (212) 678-0305.

Myra Ikeda to Speak at Our May Shotsuki-hoyo

Myra Sachiko Ikeda, wife of Rev. Ikeda, has been asked to speak at our Shotsuki-hoyo in May. She is also author a book entitled, *A Harvest of Hawai'i Plantation Pidgin*.

"Her book is preserving a special language that was created by a cross culture of workers working on Hawaiian sugarcane plantations", from the American Buddhist Study Center announcement of her presentation.

Please attend our May Shotsuki-hoyo to hear her speak.

Cooking Classes by Rev. Ikeda to Begin in April

The first in a series of cooking classes by Rev. Ikeda will begin on Saturday, April 15, from 10 am til 12 noon. The class will be on Shojin Ryori, Monastic Cooking. The cost is \$20 for NYBC members and \$30 for non-members. Due to space limitations, the class will be limited to 10 persons on a first-first-served basis. Please contact the office at 212 678-0305 ASAP to reserve your space. Lunch will be provided after the class.

サイプレスヒルズ墓地 納骨について

納骨（サイプレスヒルズ墓地 納骨堂）を五月に計画しています。納骨ご希望、またはご質問のある方は、ニューヨーク仏教会（電話212-678-0305）へ連絡をお願いします。納骨には死亡証明書（a death certificate）一通、火葬証明書（the original certificate of cremation）一通、永代経費などが必要です。

池田マヤ氏の出版記念講演

池田マヤ氏は本 *A Harvest of Hawai'i Plantation Pidgin* を出版され、五月祥月法要（5月7日）でお話をさせていただきます。*A Harvest of Hawai'i Plantation Pidgin* はハワイの砂糖栽培地で働く人々が使った言葉について書かれています。池田マヤ氏は池田アール住職の奥様です。みなさまどうぞ祥月法要にお参りいただきますようお知らせいたします。また、本のサイン会が5月6日午後2時半からA.B.S.Cであります。

池田アール住職の精進料理教室

4月15日（土）午前10時から、池田アール住職の第一回精進料理教室がはじまります。定員は10名です。満員になり次第締め切りますので、ご希望の方は早めにお申し込み願います。会費は仏教会会員は（一回）20ドル、非会員は30ドルです。

（昼食代含む）

Students Invited to Apply for Stanley T. Okada Scholarship

For application forms or further information, please contact Gertrude Kihara, Keiko Ohtaka, or Nancy Okada. The application deadline is at the end of May.

煩悩（ぼんのう）と悪魔（あくま）

ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

親鸞聖人のお正信偈の中に「不断煩悩得涅槃・ふだんぼんのうとくねはん」、煩悩をだんぜずして涅槃を得るなりとあります。人間の苦しみは自分の煩悩（欲greed、怒りanger、無明ignorance）によっておこります。煩悩はインドや西欧では、悪魔という言葉であられることがあります。

さて、最近見た映画「ストレンジ博士」は悪魔がコンセプトでした。そのことから、浄土真宗、一般仏教、この映画の悪魔（煩悩）について考えてみたいと思います。

まず映画についてお話しします。映画の主人公はストレンジ博士という有能な外科医で、ごうまん、短気、自己中心の人物です。

博士は自動車事故で両手が動かなくなります。彼は外科医ですから、手が動かないと仕事ができません。手の機能を取り戻す方法をさがしましたが見つかりません。

ある日、ストレンジ博士は一人の超能力者が 体の機能を失った人の治療に成功したと聞いたので、その超能力者エイシェントワンに自分の手の治療をたのむため、ネパール国のカトマンズへ旅立ちます。ネパールはインドの北部にある大乘仏教の国で、古いチベット仏教の影響を受けた神秘的な国です。

ストレンジ博士は超能力者エイシェントワンに会いましたが、彼の自尊心とわがままのため、治療をことわります。また、その超能力者は博士の治療を成功させることができると思いました。しかし、ストレンジ博士の治療が成功したら、彼は悪魔のような能力を使って世界を破滅するかもしれないと思い、治療を見合わせました。

超能力者の下で勉強している学生がいました。その学生は、エイシェントワンに、彼の悪魔を取り除く治療を頼みました。その結果、学生は自分の悪魔を取りさってもらったと思い、ストレンジ博士の悪魔も取り除くようにたのみました。超能力者はそれを聞いて学生の悪魔を取り除かなかったと話した。

悪魔はサンスクリット語では“マール”です。この映画の悪魔と日常語の煩悩は、同じ意味でしょう。

さて、一般仏教の教えは悟りのさまたげとなる煩悩を消して、悟（さとる）ことをめざします。しかし、浄土真宗は煩悩とともに生きる、煩悩のまま生きることです。エイシェントワンの考えは、人間は悪魔（煩悩）とともに生きる方が人間らしくて良いと思ったのでしょうか。では、浄土真宗とエイシェントワンの教えは、両方とも煩悩（悪魔）を無くすることなく、煩悩とともに生きることですから、この二つは同じでしょうか。

浄土真宗の教えとエイシェントワンの考えは、同じではないと思います。親鸞聖人は煩悩を断たなくても良いとか、煩悩のままで良いと言っておられません。人間はどうしても煩悩をたち切ることができない悲しい存在。 煩悩とともに生きていくしかない存在と、悲しみ、悲嘆されているのです。（浄土真宗聖典739ページ）

お正信偈の「不断煩悩得涅槃」は、親鸞聖人が私への深い悲しみを含んだご教示といただいています。
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.

APRIL 2017

Shotsuki Hoyo Service: Sunday, April 2

Briceland, Penelope Warren
1994

Chen, Po-Shen 2005

Hondo, Rev. Shojo 2015

Horiuchi, Yoshitaka 1991

Iizuka, Reiko 2010

Ikoma, Chiyoko 1985

Ikoma, Fumiko 1948

Kaneko, Seijuro 1968

Kikuchi, Chiyoko 2004

Kubo, Matsuye 2010

Magome, Shizuo 1995

Matsukawa, Nabe 1994

Matsushita, Ryomen 1922

McCarthy, Joseph 2008

Mine, Seki 1973

Mitani, Chiyo 1973

Nishida, Tomihiro 1997

Sakioka, Tomio 1995

Shih, Michael 2015

Suzuki, Haneko 1991

Takaishi, Mokichi 1975

Takayama, Yukiko, NA

Tominaga, Riro 1969

Unno, Hanako 1999

Wakuya, Ted Tadao 1988

May 2017

Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, May 7

Aunt, Esme, NA

Dauber, Edna 1968

Fujita, Atsuko 1999

Fujita, Isamu 1996

Hino, Rev. Yoshio 1984

Horishige, Kaichi 1933

Ikoma, Fukutaro 1934

Ikoma, Kame 1953

Kamada, Jason 2005

Kamita, Yoshio 1990

Kan, June 2013

Kato, Kimi Hiratsuka 2005

Knippenberg, Rolf - Kai 2013

Kuchiba, Kaizo 2002

Kume, Susao 2000

Matsukawa, Toru 2013

Matsushita, Bunya 1944

Matsushita, David 1995

Matsushita, Hama 1946

Matsushita, Shogo 1936

Mr., Archie, NA

Mitani, Yoshikazu 2000

Miura, Judy Ayako 2001

Moribe, Ben Seikou 2001

Okada, Magoichi 1952

Okada, Robert 2006

Sakow, Bruce Hidemi 2009

Shimoda, Yukio 1981

Soeda, Toshio 1992

Suemura, Toshi 2013

Takeda, Hisafumi 1936

Tominaga, Toshio 2000

Tsutsui, Akinosuke 1990

Uncle, Lang, NA

Waibel, Jean Yuriko 1996

Washio, Peggy Chieko 1998



Kaoru Watanabe

KAORU WATANABE CONCERT APRIL 2ND

On Sunday, April 2 at 2 pm, Kaoru Watanabe, a Grammy nominated, Brooklyn-based composer and practitioner of the Taiko drum and shinobue bamboo flutes will be performing at the NYBC. He is known for artfully combining traditional Japanese ritual and theater music with complex compositional and improvisational elements of jazz and other global music.

Kaoru was a performing member and Artistic director of the iconic Japanese taiko performing arts group KODO for close to a decade. Watanabe has collaborated with such luminaries as Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, McArthur Fellow Jason Moran, Japanese living Treasure Bando Tamasaburo, So Percussion and has created music for Martin Scorsese.

Master shinobue maker Ranjo has called Watanabe's sound on the fue the "greatest in the world." <http://www.watanabekaoru.com>

This will be a unique concert experience. Bring your family and friends and come out to support the performing arts and the NYBC.

Donations: \$20.00

Sangha News *By Ruth Funai*

This past February for 25 performances at the Medicine Show Theatre, **Richard Gross** acted in "Bound To Rise", an original play first put on in the early 1980's by the Medicine Show Theatre founded 1971 by Ms. Barbara Vann (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Vann). It is based on the writings of Horatio Alger and Jacob Riis, from the mid-to-late 1800's, depicting life in New York City in the 1880's. It contrasts the lives of the very rich and the very poor.

This is a musical, with beautiful songs composed by Robert Dennis which many NYBC members enjoyed! Richard, like most of the actors, portrayed numerous characters: a Hasidic New Yorker who has decided to leave the city and go out West to become a cowboy; a train conductor; a shopkeeper; a con-man who deservedly gets thrown in jail; a tramp who finds a trumpet in the trash; a pawnshop owner; a gambler who appeared to be closely related to the conman; two different foremen - both of whom berate and fire their workers for being sick or injured; a mailman; a servant at the rich folk's party; a tenement dweller; a very old newsboy; and finally, an Irish cop, "The first honest policeman in the city of New York!" He, also, played the banjo a couple of times in the production. Wow!

Richard has been a musician all his life, but started acting about 5 or 6 years ago. He was in a band, Fist Of Kindness, (<http://fistofkindness.com/>), that included a few theater people who put him in some of their productions and introduced him to Barbara Vann. Barbara assigned the part of the beggar in their production of "The Beggar's Opera". He acted and performed music for about 9 or 10 plays with her. She died in 2015, but he has since been in 3 shows.

After a grueling month of rehearsals and exhausting participation in this musical, he has been making electronic and ambient music, which can be heard, under various pseudonyms, on his netlabel: Suspicious Sound



Richard in "Bound to Rise"

(<https://archive.org/details/suspiciousoundnetlabel>).

He has become the coordinator for the NYBC's Ukulele Strumming Circle, having taken the reins from Matthew Wise. We will now see him at the board meetings, too. It is so good to see Richard at church again.

In February, **Myra Ikeda** and **Gertrude Kihara** visited Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and the Magical Kingdom at Disney World in Florida. They stayed at a Disney resort hotel that had a ferry to take them to Disney Springs, a place for shopping, eating and entertainment. On a rainy day riding on a bumpy safari road in the Animal Kingdom, they saw live wild animals in their natural habitat. Gertrude appreciated the conservation objectives of that park. They ate at a restaurant that had Mickey Mouse characters and took photos with them. The day ended with dinner at the Rainforest Cafe, an apropos restaurant for the soggy weather.

Myra and Gertrude spent a day at the Universal Harry Potter Wizarding World which is divided into two parts: Diagon Alley/King's Cross station and

Hogsmeade/Hogwart Castle. They went "through" the wall at King's Cross Station to arrive at platform 9 3/4 and rode the Hogwart Express to Hogsmeade. They drank both hot and cold butter beers as well as pumpkin juice. They saw children with interactive wands which were used to activate water fountains, lights, skeletons and other fun objects. Gertrude went on the Hogwart Castle ride which was exciting but got her so sick that it took her an hour to recover. The day ended with a Universal Studio Mardi Gras parade with them bringing home many beads thrown at them by the revelers.

Cont. on p. 6

Hanamatsuri and the Golden Chain: Note from the Editor

I have always thought of Hanamatsuri as one of the special services that children particularly enjoy. As a child, I looked forward to Hanamatsuri because of the fairytale-like story of the Buddha's birth, the pouring of sweet tea over the baby Buddha in the Hanamido, and the Fujinkai's (BWA) Hanamatsuri baskets made of crepe paper covered milk cartons, filled with candy that were given to the Sunday (Dharma) School children. This Hanamatsuri, the words of the Golden Chain, a frequent Dharma School Meditation reading seem especially relevant.

I am a link in Amida's golden chain of love that stretches around the WORLD. I will keep my link bright and strong.

I will be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself.

I will think pure and beautiful thought, say pure and beautiful words, and do pure and beautiful deeds.

May every link in Amida's golden chain of love be bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace.

Hanamatsuri Service is on Sunday, April 9. Please bring your families and join the Sangha in celebrating the birthday of the Buddha. *GMI*

Soh Daiko News *By Mac Evans*

Soh Daiko was happy to be a part of the East Coast Taiko Conference hosted by Gendo Taiko, located at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design. It was a fantastic gathering for taiko players coming from all over the East Coast, as well as special guests from LA, Hawaii, Brazil, and Japan (among other locations). Soh Daiko hosted workshops in stage presence and transitions, sharing our backstage knowledge with taiko players from groups young and old. We also performed Yudachi in the final concert, alongside so many other talented taiko musicians.

We utilized the opportunity to be around such talent by inviting two big taiko soloists to come give Soh Daiko workshops. Hase Mikita gave us drills and direction in improving our Odaiko technique, and Kenny Endo provided workshops on Edo Bayashi rhythms and his piece Symmetrical Soundscapes. It was an honor to be able to learn from both of these taiko masters, and we hope to see them again in the future!

After ECTC we have been preparing for our first full performance of the year, the Carnegie Neighborhood Series performance at Laguardia Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free, with details on our website, and they will go fast as the show approaches on March 25th. We hope to see you all there!

After Carnegie the Cherry Blossoms will start to bloom, and we will be performing all over New York for Sakura Matsuri. You can find us performing at Flushing Meadows Park (April 15th), Branch Brook Park (April 23rd), Roosevelt Island (April 29th) and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens (April 30th). Come find us! All performance details will be available on our website as they get closer.

www.sohdaiko.org

www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

Sangha News, cont. from p. 5

The Magical Kingdom was their last full day. They enjoyed the many "no reservation" rides: Riverboat cruise, Tom Sawyer's raft to his island, the Tomorrowland's rail ride, and atop horses on the large merry-go-round. They also climbed the Swiss Family tree house, went to the Crystal Palace for lunch with the Winnie the Pooh characters and ended the day watching the fireworks display.

They found the food at the parks to be diverse, good and satisfying. Gertrude, the "Potterhead", had never been to a Disney park or to Florida, but wants to go back to Orlando for another round of Harry Potter and Animal Kingdom. Myra is hoping to take the trip with her grandson, Elias, in the future.

Congratulations, **Gail Inaba**, on your recent retirement! Despite her busy schedule at work, Gail had been editor of the Kokoro and serving on the Board of Trustees. Now she will be able to enjoy more leisure time and hopefully, we will see her involved in more church events and activities, right Gail? (Editor's note: We'll see...)



Gertrude and Myra enjoying the Magic Kingdom

Message from the BCA National Headquarters

March 15, 2017

Celebrating the Inauguration of Our New Gomonshu

Dear Sangha Member,

On June 6, 2014, Sokunyo Monshu Koshin Ohtani, 24th generation Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha retired. The Jodo Shinshu Tradition was transmitted to his eldest son, Sennyō Monshu Kojun Ohtani, who succeeded to the position of Jushoku, resident head priest of the Hongwanji, and 25th Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha institution. Sennyō Monshu follows in the footsteps of his predecessors to share the nembutsu teaching with all people.

Services to mark the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition began at the Hongwanji in Kyoto on October 1, 2016 and will conclude in May 2017. As part of this wonderful event, the Buddhist Churches of America would like present a celebratory gift to our new Monshu, Kojun Ohtani, as an expression of our joy and gratitude for the transfer of the Dharma torch and Shinran Shonin's legacy to the next generation.

To support this celebratory gift, we are requesting a minimum individual contribution of \$25, or \$50 per family that will be personally presented to Gomonshu-sama by Bishop Umezu during the upcoming trip in late May 2017. Of course, any amount without limitation will be graciously accepted and presented to Gomonshu-sama.

We request that your celebratory gift be submitted and made payable to your local temple/church by May 1, 2017.

Thank you very much for your support and participation in celebrating this momentous occasion of our new Gomonshu.

Gassho,

/s/

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop

Buddhist Churches of America

Ken Tanimoto, President

BCA National Board

February Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

Isabelle Bernard and Nancy Okada were voted as NYBC representatives to the Eastern District Council meeting on April 21-23; Rev. Ikeda will attend as well.

Fundraising event: Saturday, October 14 was proposed as the date for a Fund for the Future fundraising lunch or dinner. The Committee will be Isabelle Bernard, Mariko Kato, Tony DiTomasso, Nancy Okada, Tony Armstrong and Yoriko Fujita Armstrong; Rev. Earl Ikeda as advisor. In addition they will ask Richard Gross, Mac Evans and Shintaro Higashi (KBI). The event will be at NYBC and not at an outside venue. *(On 2/26 the Special Events Committee met and recommended that this be a luncheon and proposed a Hawaiian luau theme.)*

Intro to Buddhism class – Tuesday March 7, 7:30-9:30 pm led by Gary Jaskula

Open to the Public Dharma Gathering – first Saturdays 10-11:30 am led by Rev. Earl Ikeda

Adult Buddhist Education – Saturday April 15, 11:00 am-12:30 pm focusing on Dr. Kenneth Tanaka's book "Ocean" (3rd Saturday each month).

Monastic/vegetarian cooking – second Saturdays, beginning April 8th, from 10:00 am-12:00 noon led by Rev. Earl Ikeda; Suggested fee: \$20 for members; \$30 nonmembers
Kaoru Watanabe confirmed for performance on Sunday, April 2 at 2:00 pm; \$20 donation will be suggested.

Gallery show of artist Kim Do is planned beginning June 9 (on 2nd floor, 331 front room); guidelines for usage of rooms to be set by Special Events Committee. <https://thekimdo.jimdo.com/about-me/>

Ukulele strumming circle's new leader is Richard Gross. The group will continue meeting twice monthly and will play at Sunday Services, monthly.

Sonam Wangdi Bhutia from Nepal will visit on July 24-30. The Center for Buddhist Education will pay for travel, publicity, and his stay at NYBC. He will conduct Wednesday night meditation, an all-day seminar hosted by NYBC with lunch (\$40 for members and \$50 for nonmembers), and will deliver the Dharma message in both Japanese and English.

KOKORO

**www.NewYorkBuddhist
Church.org**

212-678-0305

**Resident Minister: Rev. Earl
Ikeda**

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Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

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

Articles and especially 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.

Support the New York Buddhist Church. Please join as a pledged member. Membership Forms are in the entrance to the Temple.

Deadline for submitting articles, information and photos for the May Issue of *Kokoro* is Saturday, April 15



kokoro

April 2017



New York Buddhist Church

**New York Buddhist Church
331 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10025**

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

