



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



Mo Makule, Mo Pupule

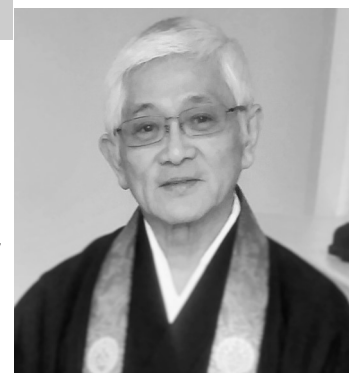
February 2017

When we observed my *Kanreki* several years ago, the celebration was themed “Mo Makule, Mo Pupule”. *Kanreki* is the last *yakudoshi*, unlucky year, in a person’s life and is observed when one reaches the age of 60. *Kanreki* means to reverse the cycle of aging and one is supposed to get younger as the years progress. “Mo” is Hawaiian Pidgin English for “more”. “Makule” means “getting older” and “pupule” in Hawaiian means the opposite of “intelligent”, but in this case senile or unpredictable. Therefore the theme means, “The older one gets, the more senile/unpredictable one becomes”. This was several years ago and I have begun to wonder if there is truth to this theme. Supposedly, one should get younger as we progress with age but my

body aches a bit more and I even have trouble remembering what I ate for dinner last night! However, I’d like to believe that in spite of the physical changes and challenges of aging, I’ve become a bit wiser instead of “mo pupule”. Thinking about the many things that have been experienced, perhaps wisdom comes with being “makule”.

New York City has given me the opportunity to meet many outstanding individuals, younger and older, who I find very fascinating when they share their life experiences. They include doctors, lawyers, business executives, laborers, artists, the “everyday Joe”, etcetera, who represent every aspect of life. New Yorkers endure a lot! To make it here means that you must be special! Life is tough, demanding, and competition is very rough! In Frank Sinatra’s song MY WAY there is the line that states, “If you can make it here, you’ll make it anywhere”. New York does challenge you!

Perhaps this is the reason why I came here. Prior to coming here I just asked myself if I was content with life. Everything was very satisfactory and there was no want. Friends and family were abundant and life was just enjoyable. However, I began to realize that as beautiful as my paradisiacal world was I could predict the happenings of today, this month, this year and most probably the next few years into the future. Life had become routine and I was caught up in this wonder world. There were no challenges and I honestly asked myself if this life situation was the means to become a better person. No, I need challenges and changes in my life.



Reverend Earl Ikeda

O-nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, is about having the strength and courage to better oneself even if the going gets rough. The dynamics of Namo Amida Butsu support me in countless ways by allowing me to be myself. It embraces a foolish being like me and leads me to be the best that I can ever be: my true self; not something that I’m not. The deep awakening that this energy provides gives me direction and allows me to have the strength and courage to face realities and not be afraid or timid. O-nembutsu is the Life Energy itself in its purest form which energizes and sustains every one of us. It

Cont. on p. 2

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seems that society tends to look at the “makule” differently. That’s okay but I feel great being just being myself, knowing that the Life Energy sustains and embraces me unconditionally.

There is no dualism in Buddhism. One needs to be “pupule” first in order to be “akamai”, the opposite meaning of “pupule”.

Namo Amida Butsu

A Great Big Mahalo Nui Loa (Thank you very much)

Thank you everyone for supporting us by purchasing *shojin ryoori bentos*. At Ho-onko, it is customary to serve a vegan meal to observe the passing of our sect’s founder, Shinran Shonin.

Also *Mahalo* to all of the volunteers who worked very hard to provide the best that they could offer in preparing, cooking, and the presentation of the meals.

A major characteristic of the foods served is their simplicity. Although Shinran Shonin was born and raised in the old capital of Kyoto, he spent many years in the Kanto areas which were basically farm and fishing areas. He lived a very simple life and the foods served during his memorial represent the gratitude that the masses - the common but devoted people of that time - offered to Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin. Cooking in the Buddhist tradition represents cooking with one’s entire being, from the heart.

Any Interest In Monastic Cooking or Wagashi (Japanese Confectionary) Making Classes?

Interested in learning monastic (vegan) cooking or taking Japanese confectionary making classes? If there is interest, I would consider creating ongoing classes to teach the creation and preparation of these types of foods. Please call NYBC at 212 678 0305 if you are interested.

報恩講のお礼

1月15日の宗祖親鸞聖人の報恩講へ、お参りいただきありがとうございます。

報恩講には精進料理のお弁当を作り、有志の方よりお布施を頂きありがとうございました。心よりお礼を申し上げます。また、ボランティアの皆様が心を込めてお弁当を作ってくさったおかげで、美味しいお弁当ができました。ありがとう。親鸞様は京都でお生まれになりましたが、越後や関東の農業や漁業の人々と一緒にすごされ、簡素な生活をされました。報恩講は、阿弥陀仏と親鸞様のご恩に感謝し、親鸞聖人が好んで食べられたと伝えられる豆料理（小豆かゆ、おぜんざい）が作られます。また京都の本山（西本願寺）や各地のお寺で、精進料理も作られます。池田アール住職

お知らせ

和菓子（ベジタリアン）作りのクラスを計画しております。

何かご意見、ご希望がありましたら、池田アール住職(電話212-678-0305)までお知らせください。

Mochitsuki 2016

By Tony Armstrong

New York Buddhist Church’s 2016 Mochitsuki was held on December 17th. This year’s event had many more aspiring mochi makers for the more experienced members to show how to make perfect mochi. Because it is for New Year’s celebration, each batch will get better and better. We would like to thank the new and more experienced members for participating in last year’s event and hope to see everyone, a little better, this coming December.

アカマイになる

ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

数年前、私の還暦（かんれき・満60歳の祝賀）を祝っていただきました。還暦の漢字の意味「年月（としつき）が逆転（ぎゃくてん）して元へ戻る」のように、日本では「還暦を迎えたら一年一年若くなる」といいます。たとえば、子供が成人になると物事の道理がわかるようになりますが、それをすぎ（昔の）60歳ごろになると、だんだん子供のように道理を忘れてしまうので還暦と呼ばれるのでしょう。還暦は諺（ことわざ）です。

私の還暦祝賀会のテーマはハワイ語で「Mo Makule, Mo Pupule」でした。「Mo」は「もっと多く」、「Makule」は「としをとる」、「Pupule」は「ボケ・ボケる」ですから、「歳（とし）とった、ボケ老人」がテーマでした。しかし、このテーマは良いとか悪いとかの意味がありません。私は還暦をすぎた頃より、体の節々に痛みを感じ、身体のおとろえや、記憶力の減退を感じます。しかし、体のおとろえに反して、若い頃より賢明（けんめい）になったように思います。仏様が知恵を与えてくださったのでしょう。歳をとることも悪いことではありませんね。

私はニューヨークへ赴任してから、色々な年齢層の人たちに出会うご縁をいただいています。佛縁でお目にかかった人は、学者、医者、弁護士から「日常のジョー」と言われるどこにでもいる普通の人まで、いろいろな分野の人たちです。ニューヨークで生きる人々は、きびしい荒波に負けないダイナミックな人々です。フランクシナトラの歌「マイウエー」に「ニューヨークで成功すれば、どこでも成功できる。」という歌詞がありますが、ニューヨーカーはまさにその歌のような人たちです。

私がニューヨークへ来た理由は、良い人間になりたいと思ったからでした。私のハワイでの生活は、なんの不満もありませんでした。友人や家族に恵まれ、パラヂスのような毎日でした。しかし、ハワイの生活は、今日も、明日も、来月も、たぶん二、三年先も、予想できるほど変化のない平凡なもので、変化がないのでチャレンジする必要がありませんでした。私はハワイにいたら自分自身が向上する機会がないのではと思いはじめていました。丁度そんな時、ニューヨーク仏教会へのご縁をいただきました。

お聴聞をしていると、南無阿弥陀仏が私に力と勇気とを与えてくださっていることに目覚めます。阿弥陀仏の偉大な力は、愚かな私をそのまま慈しみ、みちびいてくださり、どんな困難なことも恐れないう強さと勇気を与えてくださいます。阿弥陀仏は一人一人を目覚めさせようと日夜休みなく働いてくださっています。

歳をとることは、悪いことのように考えがちです。が、物事に良いとか悪いとかはありません。仏教の教えは一元論ですので、物事を二つに分けて（良い悪い）考え、どちらか一つを選ぶことをしません。歳をとることは、仏智をいただいてだんだん人間として成熟（せいじゅく）することで、ハワイ語で言えば「アカマイ・賢い人」になることです。

南無 阿弥陀仏

(Trans by 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	2011 ... 7th Year	2001 ... 17th Year	1985 ... 33rd Year
2015 ... 3rd Year	2005 ... 13th Year	1993 ... 25th Year	1968 ... 50th Year

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

<p style="text-align: center;">February 2017 Sunday, February 5</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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 Tono, Shiteyo 1988 Wise, Gregory 1983 Yanagida, Tadashi 1965 Yasuda, Kunihiko 1959</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March 2017 Sunday, March 5</p> <p>Fukuchi, Kaname 1994 Hahn, Maude 1992 Hayden, Joseph 1994 Hino, Larry Tateaki 2004 Horita, George Hiroshi 2003 Horita, Haruo 1997 Inoue, Kazuko 2011 Ishida, Kazumi 1965 Ito, Mary 2005 Kamada, Mitsuye 2016 Kasuga, Mieko Grace 1968 Kasuga, Teruo Terry 1986 Katajima, Robert 2004 Kubo, Yukichi 1957 Kume, Hidekichi 2008</p>	<p>Miyamura, Yoshio 1985 Nakamura, Suya 1978 Nogami, Mitsue Arita 2015 Ochiai, Fuku 2008 Okada, Barbra Teri 2011 Okada, Isaburo 1949 Okada, Richard Alan 1987 Pascarella, Josephine Tringali 2004 Poon, Peter 2000 Tamura, Yoshiko NA Usui, Betty Tono 1999 Walker, Charles F. 1991 Yabuki, Tadayuki NA Yamakawa, Richard Alan 1992 Yampolsky, Anne Rei 1964</p>
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Pets Memorial Form—Nirvana Day, February 12, 2017

Pet's Name: _____

Check one: Dog _____ Cat _____ Other (describe) _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Please give this form to one of the Minister's Assistants or Rev. Ikeda by February 11. Completed forms can be left in the Minister's office. Please consider giving an extra donation in honor of your pet.

Sangha News *By Ruth Funai*

Cheryl Ikemiya's daughter Miwa was recently engaged to Rohit Prakash, who proposed on a trip to Yosemite National Park in mid-December. Miwa grew up participating in the NYBC Dharma School and the children's taiko group. Miwa and Ro have been together for six years and started a tech company Townsquared, a private networking platform for local businesses, which is now in San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, Portland OR and New York City. Ro is the CEO, and Miwa leads the design team. Cheryl looks forward to having a new son-in-law who is thoughtful, caring, smart, full of energy and an excellent cook!



Miwa and Ro's engagement at Yosemite Part on December 17.

Nirvana Day and Pets Memorial *By Gary Jaskula, MA*

We will hold our annual Pets Memorial Observance on Sunday, February 12 in conjunction with the Nirvana Day Service. Pets Memorial is a lovely and popular custom celebrated in BCA temples.

We honor the memory of the deceased animal companions who have enriched our lives. We are reminded that all sentient beings have Buddha nature and the potential for enlightenment. With their love and devotion our pets share their lives and connect with us in very deep ways beyond human words.

If you have seen traditional Mahayana pictures of the passing of the Buddha into Nirvana, Shakyamuni Buddha is lying down in the grove surrounded by disciples from all walks of life. And frequently down front the animals

are also there. The Buddha enters Nirvana surrounded by all creation. What a wonderful way to celebrate Nirvana Day for young and old alike.

At the NYBC, we enjoy listening to the names of our beloved departed pets read out at the beginning of the service. You are also invited to bring pictures of these pets which are set up on the onaijin for the Nirvana Day Service.

To place your pets name on the list, kindly fill out a pets memorial form and return it to any of the ministers assistants or Rev. Ikeda by February 11. Forms will also be placed at the entrance of the Hondo. If you are bringing photos for the onaijin, please have them at the Temple an hour before the service on February 12. After the service, please stay a few minutes before going up to enjoy refreshments to pick up your photos to take home.

New York Buddhist Church February 2017 - March 2017

February

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

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

Feb. 4, Sat. 10-11:30am: Dharma Study Class: Open to Public ; 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program : Larry Hama talk

Feb. 5, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo Speaker: Rev Earl Ikeda
Chairperson: Nancy Okada, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting ; 1-2:00pm Children's Taiko; 2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

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

Feb. 12, Sun.
11:30am: Nirvana Day and Pets Memorial Service , Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda, Chairperson: Ruth Funai, Greeter: Kyoko Nishiyama, Music: Nobuko Kodama
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

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

Feb. 18, Sat.
12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
2-4:00 pm: ABSC Event – "Omotosenke Tea Ceremony" led by Yasuko Chanoyu

Feb. 19, Sun.
10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker: Rev Earl Ikeda
11:30am: English Service, Speaker: MA , Chairperson: Yoriko Fujita, Greeter: Chieko Iwaki, Music: Dai Miyazaki
1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting ; 1-2:00pm Children's Taiko
2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

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

Feb. 26, Sun.
10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker: Rev Earl Ikeda
11:30am: English Service, Speaker: MA ; Chairperson: Gertrude Kihara, Greeter: Estelle Kimizuka, Music: Yoriko Fujita Arm-strong

March

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

Mar 2-4 / H-S BCA National Board Meeting

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

Mar. 4, Sat. 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering
12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center: "The Monkey Pod Tree" book discussion, with Mamoru Funai (author)

Mar. 5, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting ; 1-2:00pm Children's Taiko
2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

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

Mar. 11, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

Mar. 12, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service
11:30am: English Service
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

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

Mar. 19, Sun. 11:30am: Spring Higan-e Service
1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting
1-2:00pm Children's Taiko
2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

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

Mar. 25, Sat. 10am-4pm: White Elephant Sale

Mar. 26, Sun. 11:30am: Rennyō Shōnin Memorial Service, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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

Soh Daiko News *By Mac Evans*

Happy New Year from Soh Daiko!

After a short break for the holidays we are back to practicing to get ready for our performance season. In the New Year of the rooster we've already started celebrating.

We started off with our annual Mochitsuki. Soh Daiko past present and future come together to eat, play drums, and pound mochi. Aside from our own New Years party, we have been honored to be invited to play at New Years Parties throughout the city. We brought our shishimai to the Japan Society of New York one day, and we also brought Nidan arrangement to New Year party sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in New York and supported by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, the Nippon Club, and the Japanese American Association of New York. We love it when we can do gigs like this, and we're happy to be asked to perform.

Coming up we have a couple performances at Colleges. We will be performing at Rutgers as part of their Pan Asian Lunar New Year celebration, and also at University of Hartford Connecticut for their 32nd annual International Festival. We're happy to be asked back to perform at both of these schools for their events, and to be able to play taiko outside of the city. Many of these shows will be performed along the way as we prepare for our Carnegie Neighborhood Series concert at Laguardia Performing Arts Center. On March 25th, 2017 we will be playing an hour long free concert. This is another show we've been lucky to have done annually for the past several years. This is also a great opportunity to come see us play our full repertoire, or to invite your friends to come see us perform.

We have a busy schedule in the next couple of months, we hope to see you at one of our performances! Check our website for up-to-date information on our activities.

www.sohdaiko.org

www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

December Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

The Dojo bathroom renovation is nearing completion. Due to the deterioration of space the Board decided that the renovation should take priority as a Fund for the Future project. (The opening ceremony was held on January 8th with a walk-through the new bathrooms by the Board and members in attendance.)

In 2016 expenses exceeded income. The Board approved a proposal to be brought to the general membership at the Sokai annual meeting for an increase in membership dues: \$250 individual/\$500 family. The Treasurer forecasts the need to plan a zero-based budget in future years due to the constraints of income generated from membership, contributions and earnings from events.

The Board discussed additional benefits for members by providing more access to learning about the traditions and background of Buddhism in an introductory class; access to ongoing classes such as meditation and adult education during the week; and books for new members.

Mochitsuki and end-of-year cleaning was held in mid-December.

The Buddhist Women's Association approved the purchase of a commercial mixer for baking which will help with selling baked goods on the premises. The next step is to purchase a double decker convection oven.

Finance Committee met on Dec 2, 2016 to discuss alternative income generating ideas.

The Strategic Planning Committee would like to have a Town Hall with the membership after the Sokai meeting.

KOKORO

**www.NewYorkBuddhist
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**Resident Minister: Rev. Earl
Ikeda**

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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.

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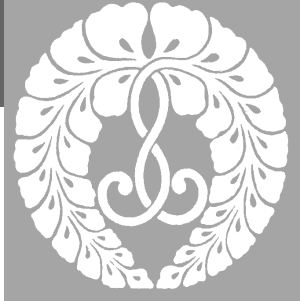


kokoro

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