



KOKORO



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

A Minister's Pride, Regret, and Shame

July-August 2018

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

When life is fair and sunlight
gilds the day,
When fortune smiles and
flower adorn our way,
Oft let us pause with grateful
hearts to say,
Namu Amida Butsu

E'en though our way leads
'neath a darken'd sky,
And to our loved ones Pain
and death draw nigh;
Our tears may flow yet
trustingly we cry,
Namu Amida Butsu

GOLDEN CHAIN - II

I am a link in the Buddha's
golden chain of love that
stretches around the world.
I must keep my link bright and
strong.
I will try to be kind and gentle
to every living thing and
protect all
who are weaker than myself.
I will try to think pure and
beautiful thoughts, to say
pure and beautiful words,
And to do pure and beautiful
deeds, knowing thon on what
I do now depends
not only my happiness, but
also that of others.
May every link in the
Buddha's golden chain of love
become bright and strong,
And may we all attain perfect

peace.

These two beautiful and meaningful expressions of Buddhism found in a gatha and reading, respectively, have helped me not only to understand the vastness of the Buddha-dharma, but also remind me of the ignorance of man and my shame as a minister.

In the Service Book, "Shinkaku" is credited for the lyrics of "Namu Amida Butsu", however the "Golden Chain" is not attributed to any writer. In my youth, I thought that they were translations from Japanese writings. I remembered the early publications of Hawaii service books gave credit to the lyricist as being Ernest Shinkaku Hunt. Recently, I did some research on the "Golden Chain" and discovered that it was written by Dorothy Hunt, the wife of Shinkaku Hunt.

Both Reverend Ernest Shinkaku and Mrs. Dorothy Hunt were born in England during the late 1800s. In 1915, they moved to Hawaii where Ernest Hunt felt he could live, study, and appreciate the teachings of the Buddha since Buddhism was already well accepted and practiced by the Japanese community there. It was Hawaii's most famous Honpa Hongwanji Bishop, Yemmyo Imamura, who recognized their sincerity and is said to have ordained them. He may have also given Ernest Hunt the "homyo", dharma name, Shinkaku. An English education department with Shinkaku Hunt as its director was established during the Bishop's term in recognition of the fact that many "nisei", or second generation Americans of Japanese descent, were assimilating and not using Japanese as their first language. Bishop Imamura, recognized as a great visionary, realized that in order for Buddhism to flourish in a foreign country, it had to adapt to its new home. It had to be more accessible by developing English language service components and other changes in order to be able to guide a more youthful population in a quickly changing and developing society.

The English education department consisted of many non-Japanese who were hired to develop and create programs by which Buddhism could harmonize with the American-Hawaiian way of life. This included hiring non-Japanese



Reverend Earl Ikeda

professionals in various field of music, language, and culture. Many of the original publications and gathas echoed the cadences and language of Anglo-American Protestant Christianity and the concept and practice of reading passages and singing gathas were not yet fully understood by a predominantly Japanese sangha. Both Shinkaku and Dorothy Hunt dedicated their efforts to the important task of bringing traditional Japanese Buddhism to a younger, English speaking sangha. The Hunts also organized a non-sectarian Buddhist group focused on the Dharma with the support and guidance of Bishop Imamura.

With the sudden passing of Bishop Imamura, a new Bishop was assigned from Japan and the progress towards establishing an American Buddhism came to a stop. History describes the new Bishop as being very traditional and patriotic to Japan.

Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

The English education department was dissolved and the non-Japanese members were fired. Shinkaku Hunt was relieved of his position in the Hongwanji. He later joined the Soto Zen group to continue his propagation efforts. Rev. Shinkaku and Dorothy Hunt and Bishop Yemmyo Imamura were great visionaries who understood the value of the Onembutsu in our lives. They recognized the universality of the Buddha-dharma and knew that it did not belong to just one group of people. Was an opportunity lost by disbanding their efforts?

In this complex, ever-changing time filled with great uncertainty and fear, do we need to revisit our teachings and avoid the mistakes of the past? Diversity is part of our everyday lives today and the Teachings of the Buddha by means of the Onembutsu embraces all. The Buddha-dharma is a teaching that brings truth to all matters and also points to our future. Our actions, speech, and thoughts of today will have a definite effect on the future. In which direction are we going? In which direction should we go? Whenever we, as a sangha, sing or recite these beautiful and meaningful words, I am very proud, yet at the same time I feel a sense of regret and shame for our past ignorance in dismantling our early attempts to make the Buddha dharma more understandable and accessible to English speakers in America.

New York Buddhist Church Obon Service

Kangi-e, a Gathering of Joy Service, will be observed on Sunday, July 15. Hatsu-bon service, observing the first obon since one's passing, will begin at 10:30, with a joint obon service beginning at 11:30. In Jodo-shinshu, the teachings are about the joy of living. The wondrous vow of Amida Buddha assures all that we can one day be born in the Pure Land. Death is part of the natural path of life which leads to another greater existence. Let us express our gratitude for this present existence and reflect upon the past and the future

2018 Bon Dance at Bryant Park Scheduled

The NYBC sponsored Bon Dance at Bryant Park is scheduled for Sunday, July 8. This event is an opportunity to share our teachings with NYC and to share an aspect of Japanese culture through music and dance. It is free to the public and everyone is welcome to participate. Please check the Kokoro calendar for the exact time.

Your Support is Still Needed

The cost for sponsoring our annual bon dance has greatly increased. We are not allowed to solicit any donations at Bryant Park. To subsidize this event, NYBC prints an annual obon booklet. Please contact Ruth Funai or NYBC to make your donation. Your help insures its continuity.

Presentation by Rev Professor Dennis Hirota

A evening presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The topic for Sensei's presentation is "Believing Again: Shinran as a Teacher for Our Time. Due to scheduling and the bon dance practice, the session will be held upstairs on the first floor. A donation of \$20, is requested.

No Shojin Ryoori Class in July

Due to a very busy schedule, the monthly cooking class will be cancel for July.

Howa, Cont. from p. 3

仏法は仏様がさとられた真理、または仏様の教えです。仏の普遍的な教えは、多様化し不安定な現代の生活にもっとも適した教えだと思います。

さて、我々の行動、スピーチ、考えが、我々の未来の方向を決めるでしょう。私たちはどこへ行くのかを、考える必要があるのではないのでしょうか？

美しく有意義な言葉、たとえば先に書きました「南無阿弥陀仏」や「黄金の鎖」を拝読すると、私は僧侶である誇りとともに、愚かであることを教えていただき頭が下がります。

南無阿弥陀 (Translated by Akemi Ishida)

ニューヨークの仏教教会行事予定

お盆・初盆 7月15日(日)

7月15日(日) 初盆は午前10時30分、お盆・歓喜会(かんぎえ)は午前11時30分からお勤めします。お盆は、故人をしのぶとともに、仏様のご恩を感謝する法会です。皆様どうぞお参りいただきませう、ご案内いたします。

ニューヨーク仏教会 盆踊り 7月8日(日)午後12時半より
ブライアント公園

7月8日(日) 午後12時半よりニューヨーク仏教会の盆踊りが、ブライアント公園であります。日本伝統の盆踊りを一緒に踊りましょう。(無料)

なお、ブライアント公園の使用料が年々高くなっています。ご有志方、寄付のご協力をお願いいたします。

広田デニス先生の講演会(英語) 7月3日(火)午後6時半

広田デニス先生の講演「再び親鸞の教え」が7月3日午後6時半よりニューヨーク仏教会 新館二階であります。どうぞご聴講ください。(寄付20ドル)

7月の精進料理教室 中止のお知らせ

7月の料理教室は中止させていただきます。

誇りと感謝

南無阿弥陀仏

いのちが太陽のようにかがやく、
 幸せと花にかこまれ、
 感謝のことばがあふれる、
 なむあみだぶつ

暗い夜空、
 愛する人のいない痛みと悲しみ、
 涙のあふれる時は、
 なむあみだぶつ

黄金の鎖 - II

私は世界中に広がる仏様の愛の鎖の輪です。私は黄金の輪が明るく強いように守ります。
 私はすべての生き物に親切でやさしく、弱いものを守ります。
 私は純粋で美しい言葉を使い、純粋で美しい行動をするために、自分の幸せとか不幸をあとにして、ほかの人の幸せや不幸せを第一考えます。
 仏の慈悲の鎖は明るく強く、すべてを幸せにみちびいてくれます。

この2つの美しく意味のある文章は、仏法は深く大きいことを教えてくださるだけでなく、私のようなおろかな者が、開教使という衣をいただき、感謝でいっぱいです。

ハワイの古いサービスブックに、この「南無阿弥陀仏」の歌詞は、ハント真覚（しんかく）アーネスト僧侶が作られたと書かれています。しかし、「ゴールデンチェーン・黄金の鎖」を書いた人の名前はありませんでした。私は長い間、日本語で書かれた歌詞を英訳されたのだろうと思っていましたが、最近しらべたところ、ハント真覚師の奥様・ハントドロシイ様が「黄金の鎖」を書かれたことがわかりました。

ハント夫妻は、1800年代後半にイギリスで生まれました。1915年、お二人は仏教がハワイに誕生したのを知り、仏教を学び仏教徒として生活したいという願いから、ハワイへ来られたようです。

その当時、ハワイ仏教団の今村恵猛（いまむらえみょう）総長は、人々から大変尊敬されていました。彼はハント夫妻の仏教にたいする真剣さと熱意に感動して得度させ、真覚という法名を与えられました。

当時の若い日本人二世（にせい）たちの日常語は英語でした。今村総長は英語での仏教伝導が大切なことを信じ、ハワイ仏教団に英語教育部門を設立して、ハント真覚僧侶をその責任者に任命しました。

英語教育部門には、音楽、言語、文化などさまざまな分野の英語を話す外国人が採用されました。その人たちは、アメリカ、ハワイの英語を話す住人が、日本の伝統的な仏教を理解しやすいようなプログラムを作りました。当時のハワイ教団の出版物は、キリスト教を参考にして作られたので、日本人は今まで経験しなかった新しい形式、御文章を拝読することや聖歌を歌うのがむずかしかったようです。真覚とドロシイは若い英語を話す仏教徒たちに、日本の伝統的な仏教や、今村総長の指導と助言による非宗派の仏教を教えました。

しかし、今村恵猛総長が突然逝去（せいきょ）されました。その結果、日本から新総長が赴任され、新しく立ち上げたプログラムや英語教育部が中止されました。外国人の先生は解雇され、ハント僧侶は禅宗へ行かれました。

ハント夫妻や今村 総長は、お念仏が我々の生活に大切であることを知っていた偉大な先生たちでした。仏教の普遍性や仏教は単に一部の人だけのものでないことを理解しておられました。

現代は、非常に複雑で絶えず変化する不安定な時代です。私たちは仏教のユニバーサリティ（普遍性）を見直し学ぶことが大切だと思います。

Cont. on p.2

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">July 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service July 1</p> <p>Arai, Juhei 1953 Hahn, Walter 2017 Hasegawa, Hikoji 2008 Hasegawa, Sono 1999 Hashimoto, Mineko 2014 Hashimoto, Roy 2015 Horishige, Fuji 1935 Horita, Tome 1978 Inaba, Masaharu 2011 Ishida, Yoshie 1979 Ishii, Manken-Toku 1988 Kato, Kimiko 2014 Kuchiba, Ayako 1986 Matsushita, Mae 2009 Matsushita, Michael Minh 2005</p>	<p>Mine, Isekichi 1972 Mitsui, Suma 1951 Mitsuuchi, Koichi 1993 Mozlin, Ellen 1991 Nishimura, Sakae Lotus 1999 Okuyama, Yasuo 1994 Otsuki, Joe Shigeo 1987 Sasaki, Toshi, NA Seki, Kazuo 2004 Seki, Hoken 2015 Seki, Reverend Hozen 1991 Sugai, George Yoshio 1982 Takeda, Hana, NA Tashiro, Kayoko 1962 Wakuya, Nancy Kimiyo 1998 Yampolsky, Philip 1996 Yasuda, Emi 1963 Yasuda, Noo Kemi 1955</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service August 5</p> <p>Armstrong, Jesse J. 2010 Bakhroushin, Irene 1988 Cohen, Edward 1984 Frias, Glenis 2008 Fukuyama, Janet 1991 Harada, Kiyomi Kim 1997 Harada, Sadako 2000 Hashimoto, Frank Tatsuya 1987 Hashimoto, Mineko 2014 Ikuta, Masayoshi 2013 Inoue, Chizuko 2010 Kikuchi, Inomatsu 1958 Kondo, Makiko 1998 Magome, Hiroko 1992 Mitani, Taeko 1988 Miura, Tadashi 2013</p>	<p>Miyazaki, Toshiaki 1998 Morihisa, George Shoji 2015 Murase, Jiro 2014 Murata, Jeanne Kiyoko 1989 Nakagawa, Masahiko 1996 Namba, Yosuke 1941 Niki, Tsutomu 2005 Norbu, Athar 2001 Okuma, Goze 1944 Okuma, Tokusuke 1961 Primus, Edward W. II 1986 Shindo, Kazuya 1945 Soeda, Saichiro 1964 Takahashi, Kiyoshi 1997 Tamura, Masashiro NA Taoka, Tadashi 1935 Theodore, John Noel 1999 Tono, Matsuhei 1971 Tora, Shinichiro 1998 Yamamoto, Dean 2015 Yanagida, Shizuye 2012</p>
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Board Highlights, cont. from p. 6

We need to enforce the requirement that heads of events provide budgets prior to the event, and be responsible for accurate accounting of the expenses and income through the conclusion of the event. Receipts for any reimbursable expenses need to be submitted within one month after the event is concluded.

Fund for the Future: The Onaijin Fund has raised \$65,882. Current income is \$35,882 in donations and Board-designated reallocation of Eitaikyō funds is \$30,000 = \$65,882.

Membership – Yoriko Armstrong reported that the committee is upgrading the information on the membership. It needs to set up a PayPal system on the web site to provide a means to make donations.

Social Services – The committee send card and koden for Mrs. Imamura.

Soh Daiko – Soh Daiko will conduct a public workshop on June 30th for a charge of \$50/\$25. Next performances are for NYBC and Seabrook Obon dance festivals.

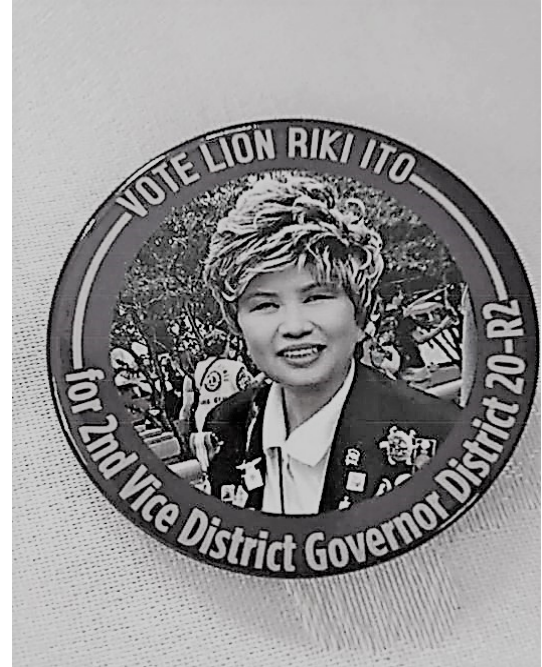
**Dharma School:
Parents of school-age children who are interested in having a Dharma School on Sundays should contact Cheryl Ikemiya at cikemiya@gmail.com.**

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Marc Grobman is involved in various wildlife activities and organizations, including the New Jersey Mycological Association, which studies fungi, or mushrooms. Since the association needed someone to serve as an auctioneer at an upcoming membership event, Marc mentioned his experience conducting bingo games at NYBC's keirokai luncheons, and he was promptly "hired." What he learned at NYBC helped, he said: "always keep in mind that your job is to make the audience happy, not yourself, and try not waste a minute of their time."

Later, Marc attended a herpetology conference in his hometown of Gainesville, Florida, where researchers presented papers about reptiles (snakes, lizards, toads) and amphibians (salamanders, frogs). Speaker after speaker stood at a podium microphone that was at the far side of a projection screen. Whenever they referred to a slide on the screen, they had to lean forward and turn their heads away from the microphone to see the screen, making it difficult for the audience to hear them. Marc noticed the microphone was a cordless model similar to the NYBC's cordless one, so he walked onto the stage, pulled the microphone out of its holder, and showed the speaker how to talk into it while walking anywhere on the stage. For the rest of the conference, all the speakers used the microphone that way. "I never imagined," Marc said, "that volunteering at the NYBC would end up helping New Jersey mycologists and Florida herpetologists!"

Congratulations to **Tony DiTomasso** on his son Chris' marriage to Meghan. They were married in Garden City, NY at St. Anne's Church last month. Tony had a wonderful time at the wedding and reception.



Congratulations to **Riki Ito** for having been elected 2nd Vice District Governor for District 20-R2 at the NY State and Bermuda Convention in Rochester, NY of the Lions Club International. This will be a 3 year commitment starting July 1. No doubt, she will do a wonderful job!



Chris DiTomasso and his new bride, Meghan. Photo provided by Tony DiTomasso.

Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

After a long eight months, Soh Daiko is happy announce a new member joining the family: Julianna Hessel! She began drumming with us after our recruitment workshop in September, and has been training with us ever since. You may have seen her moving equipment across stage, playing accompanying instruments, or drumming in Matsuri at performances this spring.

Julianna makes the long commute from central New Jersey twice a week, works in marketing research, and was previously a member of TCNJ Taiko. Julianna's love of taiko began in 2012 at The College of New Jersey when she attended a taiko workshop on a whim. The intersection of musicality, strength, and movement first drew her into the world of Taiko, and the passionate, supportive community within TCNJ Taiko and in the greater North American taiko community solidified her devotion to the art form. Julianna is thrilled to continue her taiko journey with Soh Daiko and is looking forward to the months and years to come. We hope that she will continue to grow with us, and you'll be able to see more of her soon. You may see her in the upcoming obon festivals, or you can meet her while playing taiko at our upcoming public workshop!

On Sunday, July 8th Soh Daiko will be performing at the New York Buddhist Church's annual Obon festival in Bryant Park, and on Saturday, July 21st will be performing at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple's Obon festival in Seabrook, NJ. Come out to see drumming, dancing, and other festivities, and even have an opportunity to dance yourself!

See our website or social media for the most up to date times and places of our shows as we close out this performance season

www.sohdaiko.org

www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

May Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

Minister's Report by Rev Earl Ikeda

Memorial Day 5/28 will be held at Mt. Olivet and Cypress Hills; Japanese American Association will allow for about nine seats on their bus for NYBC members Takada Ryu Sensei is coming in October and could provide instruction for the Shojin Ryori class. The charge will be \$75 for the class.

New Business

- Temple Entrance: Security – the gate is locked after service and people exiting need to be aware that they should exit through the 331 door. We should post a sign "Gate is locked after service; use the 331 Riverside Drive exit." The gate needs a bar exit so that people don't inadvertently find themselves locked in.
- Onaijin renovation: Cleveland Buddhist Temple is selling its building, and its contents are available for sale. The Board agreed to have the Executive Committee negotiate the price for two altar tables where the Minister Assistants sit and 100 chairs for the Hondo to replace NYBC's green chairs.
- Lost Valley Shin Buddhist Sangha request: The Northampton (MA) group, Lost Valley Sangha, founded by Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno wants to revive its activities and requested that NYBC send an MA or the Minister to assist with their services. The Board voted that we provide assistance to the Lost Valley Sangha and make a more formal agreement that NYBC provide limited support with visits from the Minister's and/or MA to be determined. Expenses such as travel costs should be defrayed.

BWA World Convention in San Francisco, Labor Day weekend 2019: Kintetsu Tour is arranging an East Coast tour following the convention and requested NYBC to be part of the tour in New York City.) The Board voted on hosting a visit for the tour group and will request the exact date and approximate number of visitors.

Old Business

Anniversary fundraising dinner:

Both Mr. Yagi and Soh Daiko accepted the invitation to be honorees. Ruth Funai suggested that additionally Tachibana Dance Group should be honored. The committee should discuss this.

Pride Parade June 24th: Mac Evans is beginning the planning.

Obon: Nancy Okada secured the Bryant Park Restoration Association permit with a fee increase to \$4,500. Nobuko Kodama reported that Japanese American Association will provide the changing area. Yoriko Armstrong will pick up get the key and be responsible for the security of the space.

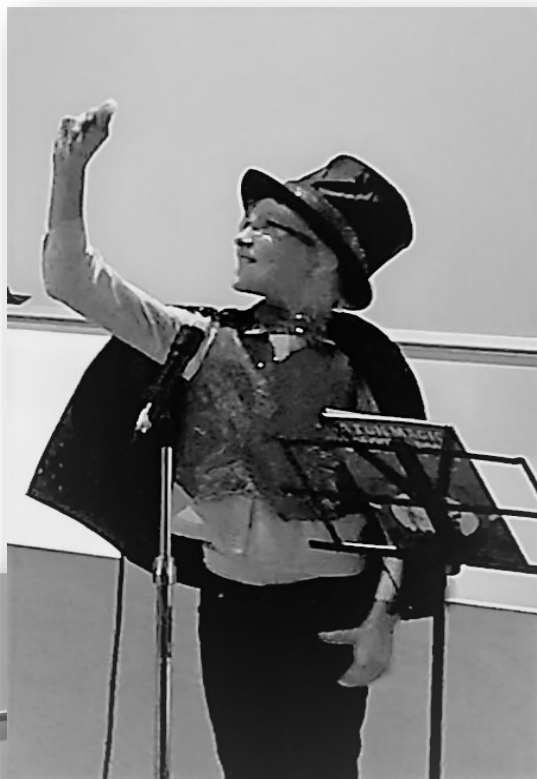
Finance Committee — Cheryl reported on the April 27 meeting.

Nancy Okada, our current Treasurer, has asked to resign from this position. The Treasurer must be a Board member. However, there are currently no viable candidates for this position. In order to train someone to take over this position, we need an Assistant Treasurer, who must be an NYBC pledged member but not necessarily a Board member. We discussed that at present we may need to divide up the job as people train to learn the different aspects of the job. Cheryl will work on quarterly reports of income and expense to provide to the Board. Gail will learn about the contracts, agreements, etc. for building maintenance (DEP, insurance, etc.) and minister's expenses. Yoriko can assist Nancy with check writing and paying expenses.

Sangha Day 2018

By Tony Armstrong

We had another wonderful Sangha Day on Sunday June third. Delicious dishes and desserts for potluck, as well as fantastic performances for the talent show. Richard and I would like to extend our appreciation to the many participants that supported the event through a performance, a potluck offering, setting up, and/ or as a member of the audience. Thank you.



*Photos provided by
Yoriko Armstrong
and Keiko Ohtaka*

*Clockwise, from
above, Rev. Earl,
Lily Sakai-Johnson
and the BWA chorus.*

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

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Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

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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 Editor: Gail Inaba, ginaba@optonline.net

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. (

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

Soh Daiko Drumming: Thursdays, 7-9 pm and Saturdays, 2-6pm, NYBC Dojo. Practices are not open to the general public without prior permission. 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 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 morning of the month, 10-11:30 am

Jinpukai (Okinawan Dance) usually every Monday 7-9 pm



kokoro

July-August 2018



New York Buddhist Church

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