



KOKORO



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

June 2018

I recently received two letters. One was from a young boy who asked the question, “What will happen when my dad, mom and I die?” The accompanying letter was from his mother letting me know that his grandmother had recently passed away.

I replied to these letters:

Dear _____ and _____,

My name is Earl Ikeda, the resident minister serving New York Buddhist Church. I received your letters and was deeply touched by your questions. I understand that your grandmother recently passed away and you are wondering what became of her when she died and what will happen to your mom and dad when they die, and yourself as well. Your letters brought back memories of my dear obaachan and of the time she passed away. I remember her lying in her bed and my father telling me that she was in a very deep sleep. As I looked at her and with tears in my eyes, I wondered when she would wake up again. Deeply saddened, I also asked myself the same questions you have

asked me. I can’t give you an answer based on personal factual knowledge since I know no one who has returned after dying to tell me what it is like to die and to be dead.

I’ve read a book entitled “The Fall of Freddie the Leaf” which is a simple story about the life of a leaf named Freddie throughout the seasons and its final end upon the coming of winter. It helped me to appreciate the cycle of life and its natural ending. I hope that you and your parents can read it together and that it will help you in understanding the nature of life and death.

The Bodhisattva Dharmakara, faced with questions such as yours, sought answers to those questions for a very long time. In so doing, he recognized many universal Truths called Dharma. These Truths embody the concept of universal love of everyone without any judgment and let us recognize that we not alone in asking questions such as yours. Dharmakara made 48 promises to help bring comfort to each of us. The most important promise was that he would not become a Buddha unless everyone can be born in a place called the Pure Land.

I would like to believe that because of this promise, your grandmother, my grandmother, and all grandmothers now live joyfully in this “Land of Bliss”. It is said that when we go to this wonderful place, we become the same as Amida Buddha. This means that our grandmothers feel “unconditional or universal love” and are very concerned about you and all of us. They have now become awesome and beautiful lights with the ability to help us to live and be the very best that we can be by guiding us with their transcendent light energy. Through Dharmakara’s promise our grandmothers think and worry about us just as we think and worry about them.

Like the Buddhas who are everywhere and everything, our grandmothers now live within each and every one of us, loving us more that we can imagine. Though we cannot see them, they are always here guiding, loving and helping us in every way. They provide wonderful memories that we cherish within our hearts and minds and in reaching the Pure Land, they continue to make it possible for us to be



Reverend Earl Ikeda

unconditionally loved and to become the best people we can be.

When my grandmother passed away, I asked the same questions as you. I had a difficult time trying to understand what dying means and even now I still have questions. However, I hope that I have become mature enough to realize that eventually, we will all pass away. Hearing the name of the Buddha, Namu Amida Butsu, I know my grandmother now lives within me with more love than I can imagine and wants me to be the true and real person that I am supposed to be. I have come to realize that our grandmothers have become “one” with everything, with love. Just as grandmother loves me, I too love her with gratitude. For me, she now lives in “namo amida butsu”. When our time comes to leave this world, we can become the same as our grandmothers;

Cont. on p. 2

Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

feeling unconditional love. However, what's most important now is to live every day by being the best that you can ever be, with gratitude.

Thanking for asking your challenging questions, I also learn from you.

Earl Ikeda

Hope this sharing gives comfort to others.
Namo Amida Butsu

Cooking Class Scheduled for June

A shojin ryoori, monastic cooking, class scheduled for the second Saturday, June 9, from 10 am – 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to learn and partake of the meal after the class is over, from 12 – 1 pm. The cost is \$20 for pledged members and \$30 for others. Please register at the temple or call in at (212) 678-0305. Space is limited.

Pride Day Parade

NYBC will again participate in this year's Pride Day Parade on Sunday, June 24. Buddhism is a practice of non-dualism and we recognize all being as equals. We will again be marching to support the LGBTQ community. Please join us, we welcome all who can walk along with us.

At present, we have not received information as to the time and marching position. Please call the temple at (212) 678-0305, for updates. Thank you

Dharma Lecture by Rev/Prof Dennis Hirota

Rev/Prof Dennis Hirota will be visiting and staying at NYBC. He has consented to do a workshop. We have asked him to share his thoughts on taking Jodo Shinshu into the future.

His lecture is scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 3, from 6:30 – 8:30 at NYBC. The cost for attending is \$20 per person.

パレードに参加して下さる人は、詳細をお知らせしますので、仏教会へ連絡ください。(電話 212-678-0305 番)

7月3日(火) ヒロタ デニス師の講演会

ヒロタ デニス師の講演が、7月3日(火) 午後6時半から午後8時半までニューヨーク仏教会であります。講演会のテーマは「浄土真宗の未来」です。ぜひご聴講ください。

(会費 20ドル)

Cont. from p. 3

ところで、お浄土は私たちの外にあるのではなく、私たちの中にあります。私たちは亡くなられた人の姿が見えませんが、その人たちは私たちの心の中に住んでおられます。〇〇くんのおばあ様は、あなたの心の中に生き続けておられます。

南無阿弥陀仏のお念仏を聞かせていただいていると、私の祖母も阿弥陀仏と一つのように思います。

〇〇くんが人々の幸せを願う慈悲と知恵の心を持っておられ、とても素晴らしいと思います。どうか他人を思いやる心を忘れないでください。また、いただいている命を大切に、くいのない一生をお過ごし下さい。

大切な質問のお手紙をいただき、私もまなばせていただきました。どもありがとうございます。心よりお礼を申し上げます。
南無阿弥陀仏 池田アール

皆様、これをご縁に、仏法を聞き続けましょう。
南無阿弥陀仏

(Trans. by Akemi Ishida)

6月9日(土) 精進料理教室

精進料理教室は6月9日(土) 午前10時から正午までです。

参加者全員でお料理を作り、試食をします。参加費は、仏教会会員は20ドル、会員でない人は30ドルです。人数に制限がありますので、ご参加くださる方は予約をお願いします。電話212-678-0305番)

6月24日(日) プライドディーパレード

ニューヨーク仏教会は、6月24日(日)のプライドディーパレードに参加します。LGBTQを応援し、平等の精神をひろめるために、一人目も多くのパレード参加をお願いします。

少年からの手紙

月日がたつのは早く、六月となりました。先日ある少年から「両親や僕が亡くなると、どこへ行くのでしょうか？」という手紙と、その少年の母親から「私の母が最近亡くなりました。そのことから、息子は人間が死んだらどうなるのか、どこへ行くのかということに心配しています。」という手紙をいただきました。

この事から、6月号のニュースレターに、私の返信を掲載させていただきます。

〇〇くん

お手紙をいただきありがとうございます。私は、ニューヨーク仏教会の池田アール住職です。

君のおばあ様を亡くされたことから、人間の帰って行くところについて、問いを投げかけてくださってありがとうございます。この問いは誰もが関心のある大切な問いです。

〇〇くんの手紙を読んで、私の祖母の最後の日を思い出していました。祖母が寝かされていた近くにいた私に、父は「おばあちゃんはこの世へ行ってしまった。」と言いました。私の大切な祖母が、もうここにいないと思うと涙が出て止まりませんでした。ぼくも君と同じように「おばあちゃんは、どこへ行ったのだろう？」と不安でした。

“The Fall of Freddie the Leaf” という本があります。その本は、法・ダーマについてかかれています。春になると木々に新しい葉がはえます。初めは小さかった子供の葉は、月日がたつと大人の葉に成長します。しかし、秋を向えると葉はかれ始め、冬がくると地面に落ちます。しかし、春がくると、また新しい葉が誕生します。この木の葉のように、この世のものは、必ず終わりがあります。これが自然の法則です。これを法・ダーマといいます。人間も例外ではありません。私たちの命は100年足らずの短いものです。今生かされている貴重な命をありがたく思わずにられません。

いつかご両親と一緒に、“The Fall of Freddie the Leaf” を読んでみてください。

大無量寿経というお経の中に、宝蔵菩薩（ほうぞうぼさつ・仏様になるために学んでいる人）の物語があります。宝蔵菩薩は慈悲と知恵の人です。苦しんでいる人々をごらんになって、どうかして救いたいと思われました。そのために長い間修行をし、世自在王仏の前で、人々を救う48の願いをたてられました。宝蔵菩薩はその中の一つに「全ての人を苦しみのないお浄土へ生まれさせてください。そうでなければ私は仏になりません。」と誓われ、願いが完成しました。

この宝蔵菩薩の誓願が完成しているので、亡くなられた人は苦しみのない安らかな国、浄土に生まれます。そして、この国に生まれた人は仏様の知恵と慈悲によって仏にならせていただきます。

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;">June 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service June 3</p> <p>Allen, Deborah 2014 Arai, Tim 2007 Cohen, Pearl 1996 Dugan, Jim 1991 Eguchi, Kimiko 1996 Himata, Takashi 1995 Ichikawa, Yoko 1990 Kaneko, Hiroshi 2012 Kikuchi, Toyoko C. 2012 Leonard, Michael 2003 Masu, Hatsu 1978 Matsushita, Richard Ken 2014 Mitani, Kayoko 1953 Morinaga, Soko 1995 Nakamura, Ichihei 1935</p>	<p>Nishikawa, Richard Kazumi 1993 Okada, Alice 2010 Okada, Taka 1977 Shimamoto, Gennosuke 1965 Shimamoto, Masayo 1998 Shimamoto, Oiwa 1946 Shirakigawa, Taeko 1966 Stults, Lt. Marcus A. 1864 Takaishi, Mitsuko 1983 Tomita, Kiyo 1972 Tomita, Shinako 1990 Tomita, Tomizo 1941 Washio, Akira 1998</p>	<p>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 Mine, Isekichi 1972 Mitsui, Suma 1951 Mitsuuchi, Koichi 1993 Mozlin, Ellen 1991</p>	<p>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>July 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service July 1</p> <p>Arai, Juhei 1953</p>		

Board Highlights, cont. from p. 6

We discussed the renovation of the 5th Floor including the upgrade of the closet, acquisition of new mattresses and furnishings. Tony A and others are willing to help with the renovation. A project plan should be established.

Space usage by outside groups is increasing.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports

ABA - Keiko Ohtaka will no longer be chairing the White Elephant Sale. This year the gross was \$4,077 and net profit was \$3,980. Sangha Day will be on June 3 at 1:30 pm with a potluck luncheon and entertainment by multiple groups and individuals. Tony Armstrong and Richard Gross are co-chairs.

BWA – Ruth reported that the BWA participated in White Elephant sale. The BWA will make a donation to the San Francisco International FBWA conference in 2019 on Labor Day weekend. (Twin Cities 2019 Eastern Buddhist League conference will be on Columbus Day weekend in 2019.) The 2018 National FBWA conference is in September in Visalia, CA.

Eitaikyo – need to set date to input data and work on creating central files for the funeral/memorial records; we should also have information on the costs and procedures for funerals and memorial services.

Membership – Yoriko Armstrong reported that the committee is upgrading the information on membership. We need to set up a PayPal system on the web site to provide a means to make donations. Mac Evans and Isabelle Bernard will work on this.

Soh Daiko – Mac Evans reported on the concerts in April, mostly Sakura Matsuri Festivals at Roosevelt Island, Flushing Meadows Park, Brooklyn Botanical Garden and Branchbrook NJ; Japan Day in May. Soh Daiko had a workshop with members of Oedo Sukeroku Daiko on April 15 and several members participated in the NYBC Sake tasting event.

Stanley T. Okada Fund – Keiko reported that there are no candidates currently for the scholarship this year.

Strategic Planning - Report from Cheryl Ikemiya. She provided the synopsis of the Town Hall meeting and the feedback. Cheryl will set up an online survey to be sent to an email list of members and visitors. Mac will solicit the cooperation of Soh Daiko members.

Sangha News *By Ruth Funai*

Congratulations to **Mrs. Akiko Okada** who celebrated her 100th birthday! Nancy (her daughter) and Alan (her son) and Merle in NYC were joined by Elsie (her daughter), Bo and Phillip (grandson) Tep and Dick (her son) all coming from California for a joyous observance of Mrs. Okada's momentous occasion! Mrs. Okada even attended Sunday church service where a cake was enjoyed in celebration! May she continue to enjoy good health and celebrate more birthdays!

Congratulations, also, to **Rev. Earl Ikeda** in being given this year's Community Service Award by the Bronx Community Board No 8! His nomination was placed by the MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care/Zicklin Residence in Riverdale, NY for his compassionate care as a volunteer there. He was presented a certificate of recognition on May 8 at the Riverdale Neighborhood House by the Bronx Community Board No 8. Attending the ceremony were his brother and sister-in-law from Hawaii, Helena Wang and Ruth Funai. We are very proud of Rev. Ikeda's work and involvement in the community, besides the many services, activities and events at NYBC!



Rev. Ikeda, receiving Bronx Community Board No. 8 Service Award
Photo by Helen Wang

We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Mr. Tokishige Imamura in the passing of his wife, **Mrs. Kumiko Imamura** on April 20, 2018 of the Sun Chan Restaurant. They have had close ties with NYBC and with our members. We enjoyed their delicious foods for many, many years at the Sun Chan Restaurant and appreciated the care and concern for the catering of church events (funerals, memorials, special events). Mrs. Imamura was a very hardworking, energetic woman who was always smiling and very gracious! We will miss her kindly face very much, but hope to continue to see Mr. Imamura at the restaurant.

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.



The Okada Family, celebrating Mrs. Okada's 100th birthday. From left to right, Alan, Dick, Phillip, Elsie and Nancy. Mrs. Okada in center. Photo taken by Bo Tep.

Soh Daiko News *By Mac Evans*

Thanks everyone who came out to see our performance at Laguardia Performing Arts Center! Many thanks to our friends, family and fans for seeing us, and thanks once again to our alumni Alan, Merle, and Charles for helping us put on a large show. Thanks also to the Carnegie Neighborhood Series for hosting us, we will be back again next year!

On the weekend of April 14th the Japanese Folk Dance Institute of New York celebrated their 25th anniversary with a performance. Several Soh Daiko members and alumni attended to support our fellow Japanese performing artists, and also to see guest artists from Tsugaru Shamisen player Katsuhiro Chiba and members of renowned Sukeroku Daiko. Congratulations to Momo Suzuki and all the dancers from the Minbuza dance ensemble for putting on a great show! On Sunday, Soh Daiko members had a workshop on the basic of basics, getting a solid hit out of the drum. We are always grateful to be able to invite taiko masters to teach us and help us develop.

We also performed as part of an exhibit put on by the Day of Remembrance Committee on April 29th. We were featured among other performances and guest speakers to shed light on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the parallels between then and the current anti-immigrant sentiment specifically against Muslims and Latinos. We are honored to be a part of this event this year.

Would you like a chance to try a hand at taiko drums? Soh Daiko will be hosting a workshop on Saturday, June 30th from 2:00-6:00 PM, open to the public. Our members will instruct on basic hitting technique and teach some repertoire, while introducing some background into the art of taiko. A workshop fee of \$50 will be collected the day of, and there's a discounted rate of \$25 for all members of NYBC. You can visit www.sohdaiko.org for more information and registration.

We are in the midst of performing season, and we've been performing almost every weekend for May. So far we have played at the JAA Sakura Matsuri in Flushing Meadows Park, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Sakura Matsuri, Roosevelt Island Sakura Matsuri, Japan Day in Central park, and the APAH Festival in Chinatown. After our public workshop we will be practicing for Obon season.

Thanks everyone who has come out to see us, and we hope to see more of you out there!

www.sohdaiko.org
www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

Pride Parade Update

The Pride Parade is coming on June 24th, and New York Buddhist Church will once again be marching. If you are interested in participating by holding banners, playing taiko drums, or walking with us, please send an email to mevans@sohdaiko.org. I'll be

April Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

Minister's Report by Rev Earl Ikeda.

Rev Ikeda – Rev. Dennis Hirota is coming to NYC in late June and early July. The Eastern District Minister's Meeting will be in Toronto in June.

Lillian Moy and Cheryl Ikemiya are looking into starting a Dharma School.

New Business

Security system in place – Karl Palma worked last week on putting this in place. The monitoring is 24/7. Cameras are placed in the two front entrances and by the statue. Mr. Yagi volunteered to replace Shinran's staff if the security system is in place. Mariko will send a letter of appreciation to Karl.

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 will begin working on finalizing a venue and date.

Eastern District Council meeting in Cleveland April 13-15.

Isabelle Bernard and Mariko Kato attended. Cleveland Buddhist Temple is selling their building due to many conditions. They will be renting space from a Unitarian church. Isabelle took photos of the altar pieces, and we may buy some of the tables for the NYBC Onaijin.

Seabrook Buddhist Temple: Susan Jacques is President and Tammy Wetzel is Vice Chair as well as representative for the Eastern District to the National Board, in addition to Isabelle Bernard and Jane Blechman, who will represent the Eastern District on new Strategic/Finance committee at BCA.

Ekoji Buddhist Temple has increased its membership by 20; they are making concerted to maintain contact with visitors.

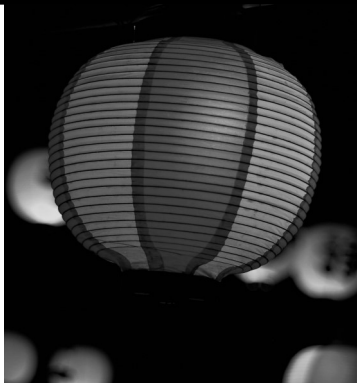
Sakagura Sake Tasting

Yoriko Armstrong reported that we had 62 who paid for the tasting and 52 attended. We grossed \$6,200 income and paid \$1,500 to Mr. Bon Yagi, the owner of Sakagura. The net was \$4,700. Much of the food and supplies were donated by vendors. Soh Daiko attended and provided music to open the event. Mr. Yagi has suggested hosting another sake tasting event, which could take place either in the spring or fall.

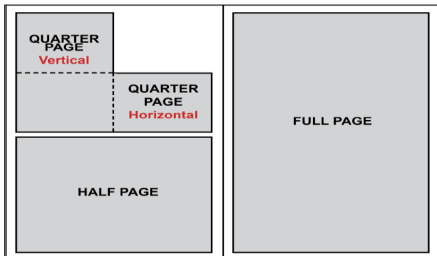
Building committee – The water damage to ceiling on second room and in caretaker's apartment was repaired. The Board discussed the process for moving forward with building projects.. Yoriko Armstrong, Mac Evans, Tony Armstrong, Richard Gross and Isabelle Bernard volunteered to serve on the building committee. *Cont. on p. 4*

Buy Space in the 2018 Obon Booklet for Advertisements and Personal Messages

2018年 盆踊りのプログラムに掲載するメッセージや広告を募集しています。
スペースに限りがありますので、ご希望の方は至急お知らせください。



The New York Buddhist Church Presents the 69th Annual Obon Dance Festival Sunday, July 8, 2018 12:30-5:00PM at Bryant Park (42nd St. and Sixth Ave.)



- Full Page (5½" x 8½").....\$100.00
- Half Page (5½" x 4¼").....\$50.00
- Quarter Page (2¾" x 4¼").....\$25.00
- Booster One Line (Name).....\$15.00

Deadline for submissions is June 24!

Please fill out this form and send with your ad or message, along with your check to:

Ruth Funai c/o New York Buddhist Church
331-332 Riverside Drive
New York, NY 10025

Message: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Full page Half page Quarter page Booster line (Circle one)

Amount enclosed: _____

Deadline is June 24! Please make checks payable to NY Buddhist Church.

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, Brian Funai, Akemi Ishida, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Mac Evans, Tony Di Tomasso, Richard Gross, Tony Armstrong, 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 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

June 2018



New York Buddhist Church

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

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

