



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



When Life is Fair and Sunlight Gilds the Day!

May 2017

Looking out from the double-door foyer of 331 Riverside Dr., I saw the most amazing sunset! How beautiful it was to not only see the glow of the sunset but also think about the new leaves that are now appearing on what seemed like dried branches just a few days ago. Along 104th and 105th Streets, new green lives are breaking through the barren dark dirt and even buds are beginning to appear in abundance. The birds are singing! Spring is here!
When wondering about this awesome sight, the Gatha *Namu Amida Butsu* came to mind. The lyrics are;

When life is fair and sunlight
gilds the day,
When fortune smiles and
flow'rs 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

Although there are countless interpretations to the meaning of the lyrics, this song makes us aware of the natural changes that take place in life. We appreciate the mild and warmer weather because there is severe cold. Likewise we appreciate the cooler and cold weather because there is extreme heat. With each season we experience its characteristic beauty. In spring, we enjoy the cool weather, brilliant green leaves, beautiful fresh flowers, and the song of the birds. In summer, the weather can be extremely hot but we appreciate the beauty of the colors of the season and also the coolness of the breeze. In autumn, we welcome the vibrant colors of the season, cooler weather, and the falling of the leaves. In winter the whiteness and purity of fresh fallen snow brings us great delight! Each season has its specific splendor, fragrance, and other aspects which complement each other.

We too are all like the seasons. We all have our specific and individual characteristics. According to the teachings of the Buddha, we will all encounter old age, sickness, and eventually death. Just like the seasons, it is all the natural process of life. Though we may feel sad and depressed about a few more wrinkles, white hair, aches and pains, each year no one is alone. We are all changing in our own way. In each phase of our lives we encounter many new and wonderful things which we share with others. Just as the various seasons make us appreciate the other, we too should look at each other as many individuals sharing the journey of life together for we complement one another.



Reverend Earl Ikeda

This gatha written by Shinkaku Hunt clearly makes us realize that there are changes and each is beautiful in its own way. *Namu Amida Butsu* helps us realize that it is true and the very best example is our own lives when we learn to realize and accept this universal truth. Calling Amida Buddha's Name also makes us realize that we are not alone and perhaps for the first time we also begin to appreciate the Buddha's warm embrace expressed by the wonders of the season. How grateful I am to be able to experience the beauty of Spring and the wonderful months to come. Not really knowing how many more years I will be able to experience, I would like to live to the fullest knowing that the Buddha is always with me. The Buddha's love makes me aware of the splendor of living.

Cont. on p. 2

Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

Belated Gratitude

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude for allowing me to be your Jushoku, resident minister. March marks my third year of stay here.

Together with my family, thank you for allowing us to share our lives with you. Looking for many more wonderful years!

Rev. Ikeda's Cooking Class—Saturday May 13, 10am-12:30 pm

The cooking class for May will be on *wagshi*, Japanese confectionaries. The topic will be *mochi*. Plain mocha will be made with emphasis on cutting, molding, and putting in *an*, bean paste filling. We will also be making *sekihan*, red-bean rice. The class begins at 10 and ends, hopefully, at 12 or later. The cost is \$20 for members of NYBC and \$30 for non-members and it is limited to 10 persons.

Internment of Ashes at Cypress Hills

The date for internment is tentatively set for Thursday, May 18. We are awaiting authorization for the internment from the cemetery. The cemetery and the State of New York require a death certificate and the original certificate of cremation.

Please contact NYBC as soon as possible if you have a request for internment. There is a fee.

お礼の言葉 池田アール住職

お礼を申し上げるが遅れましたが、ニューヨーク仏教会の住職に就任して、3年お勤めさせていただきました。皆様のご支援のおかげで、無事4年目をむかえさせていただいており、家族共々心よりお礼申します。今後も皆様とともに、親鸞聖人の教えを広めて生きたいと思っておりますので、よろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

池田アール住職の料理教室 5月13日(土曜日)

5月の料理教室のテーマは和菓子作りです。餅を切る、形を作る、あんを餅に入れることを学びます。また、赤飯を作り、クラスは午前10時より午後12時までです。NYBCの会員は20ドル、非会員は30ドルのご寄付をお願いいたします。

5月18日(木) サイプレスヒルズ納骨

サイプレスヒルズ墓地へ納骨される方は、死亡証明書と火葬証書の原本を準備し、できるだけ早くニューヨーク仏教会(電話212-678-0305)へ予約いただきますよう、お願ひいたします。

White Elephant Sale 2017

By Tony Armstrong

The Spring, we had been waiting for, had sprung for Our White Elephant Sale on March 25, ... at least for that day. Treasure seekers were nourished with Fujinkai (BWA) staples including manju, a large assortment of pastries, and the newly added aroma and flavor of takoyaki. There was also a very wide assortment of donations, including Japanese textiles, which did not stay on the tables for long.

As organizers we acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers and donors who continue to make the White Elephant Sale continue a valuable community and fundraising event for our Sangha. "Thank you" never seems to enough, but we would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude to all of those ,who (too many to name individually) participated and volunteered time, donations and effort to make this event a success.

Gotan-e Service May 21

GOTAN-E service celebrates the birth of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), the founder of the Jodo Shinshu school of Pure Land Buddhism. Shinran Shonin taught that the Buddha's compassion extended to all; and that by reciting Nembutsu with faith in Amida, one may be reborn into the Pure Land regardless of rank or class, gender, whether monk or layperson, literate or illiterate. All that is required is faith in the saving power of Amida's Vow to save all beings. We celebrate his birthday with palms together in appreciation and gratitude. Namu Amida Butsu!

This May celebration is also called *Fujimatsuri* (Wisteria Festival), after the purple flower which represents our sect. Wisteria flowers grow high on the intertwined branches of a tall tree, unlike other flowers which stand up when in full bloom, the wisteria hangs down, as if in humility. This *Fujiwara* crest also represents our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto.

いただいた命
 ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

104番街と105番街のリバーサイドドライブを歩いていると、夕日はだんだんと西にしずみ、言葉にあらわせない、素晴らしい夕焼けです！ 数日前、枯れたように見えた枝に、新しい芽がみえます。また、花壇では土を押しつけて、柔らかい若芽が顔を出し、その近くには花が咲いています。春は命の誕生の季節です！

「南無阿弥陀仏」の歌

太陽がかがやき、幸せが笑っている
 手をあわせ
 南無阿弥陀仏
 黒い雲、愛する人はもういない
 手をあわせ
 南無阿弥陀仏

この聖歌はShinkaku Hunt氏が書かれました。この世のものは常に変化しますが、阿弥陀仏は真実・真理ですから、変わることがありません。阿弥陀仏はどんな時でも、私たちを見守ってくださいます。

春夏秋冬、それぞれの季節に、それぞれの美しさがあります。春は、さわやかな風が吹き、みずみずしい若葉が芽を出し、夏は、太陽がかがやき、全てのものが色あざやかです。そして、木陰には涼しい風。秋は、オレンジや赤色の木の葉が地面に落ち、美しい絨毯(じゅうたん)をひいたように見えます。また、秋は、草花が美しい季節です。冬になると、雪がこの世を白銀の世界に変えます。

自然が変わるだけでなく、因と縁によって作られた、全てのものが変化・生滅します。これを諸行無常(しよぎょうむじょう)と言います。

人間も因と縁によって作られているので変化します。「諸行無常」です。年をとると、しわや白髪が増え、体力のおとろえ感じ、行く末を思うと寂しいものです。しかし、年をかさねる事が、一概にマイナスとは言えません。諸行無常であるからこそ、新しい命の誕生があるのです。そしてもし人間が年をとらず、死ぬこともなかったら、人生はボーとしたものとなり、生きる目的も、人として生まれた意味も、みいだせないでしょう。命に限りがあるからこそ、仏様からいただいた、たった一度の命を大切に、力強く生きることが出来るのではないのでしょうか。

季節の移り変わりが不思議なように、人間には思いも及ばない不可思議な仏の働きによって、命をいただいています。かけがえのないこの命、感謝と喜びの一生にしたいものです。

仏様はいつも私のそばにいて、見守ってくださっていることを感じます。仏様、ありがとう。さて、私の大好きな、雪景色が、何度みれるのでしょうか？

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

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.

<p>May 2017 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, May 7</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Uncle, Lang, NA Waibel, Jean Yuriko 1996 Washio, Peggy Chieko 1998</p> <p>June 2017 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, June 4</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</p>	<p>Morinaga, Soko 1995 Nakamura, Ichihei 1935 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>
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Sunday, June 4

Sangha Day: Potluck Lunch & Celebration of the Sangha

By Isabelle Bernard

Sangha Day is a great way to celebrate and enjoy our NYBC community! Following services on June 4, we will set up a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish to share... and bring your friends and family too!

Last year's entertainment included the New Uke City Strummers, who performed several sing-along songs on ukelele, the BWA chorus, Richard Gross on guitar and vocals and Derik Kumagai on Uke. We also had tai-chi demonstrations and the children's taiko group. So, c'mon, join in! Many of our talented members will share their singing, musical, and other talents.

Because this is a chance to channel your inner talents, be it through music, cooking, art, telling a story, performing a comic routine, juggling, or... (whatever!), please join the line-up. We are a very busy temple, and don't always have time to relax together and spend time as a Sangha family. So please... mark the date on your calendar. Think about what food you'd like to prepare and perhaps a skill or skit you'd like to share! And on Saturday, June 4, get plenty of sleep and have a light breakfast Sunday morning so come Sunday afternoon, you'll be able to par-ty, par-ty, and eat hear-ty! Contact Tony Armstrong or Richard Gross who are organizing this event.

Sangha News *By Ruth Funai*

Estelle Kimizuka travelled with a friend to Las Vegas for eight days, an annual visit to see 2 brothers. They visited Hoover Dam, which after 16 years of drought, is only at 39% capacity. They drove to Red Rock Canyon which is a national park run by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Canyon gets its color from the iron in the rocks and soil. Not far away was Mt. Charleston which has some of the most beautiful houses in the country located on the side of a mountain. Both Red Rock Canyon and Mt. Charleston are located just west of Las Vegas.

They visited the Mob Museum, in Las Vegas, which had mobsters from across the country such as Al Capone, Frank Costello, Dutch Schultz, Lucky Luciano, John Dillinger and Bugsy Siegel. Famous lawmen, J. Edgar Hoover and Eliot Ness of the FBI, were featured. Some guns, clothes, and other paraphernalia are on display.

They ended their trip at the China Date Farm located in Tecopa, CA near the border of Nevada. There they experienced strong winds and hail- unusual for this area! It was started by a Chinese miner who found a spring and saw a chance to make money outside of mining by farming and selling produce to the miners. He later added the date trees. There are more than 20 varieties and one can sample at least 16 of them- yummy! It is still run by some members of the family, but is now in dispute over finances.

Upon returning to NYC, she repacked and went south to visit friends in New Port Richey, Florida to, maybe, rest from her Wild West venture? She certainly does not let moss grow under her feet!

Yoshiye Fujita, a NYBC member, had her 97th birthday celebrated at Isabella Home following the Ohigan service there by NYBC. Congratulations and best wishes for many more with good health!



Yoshiye Fujita and Rev. Earl

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 May 31.

NYBC encourages full-time students who plan on entering or are already educational institutions to apply. They must be pledged NYBC members of children or grandchildren of pledged supporting members.

From p. 6

If you would be interested in doing this, please contact Gail Inaba. All legacies, regardless of the amount are received with deep gratitude. **Non-financial** Along with the giving of material goods, giving of labor and love for the temple also is highly valued. Cleaning the temple building and grounds, setting up or putting away chairs, distributing Service Books, helping with bulletins or volunteering to help with events, bringing after service refreshments among other tasks are all deeply gratefully appreciated.



Soh Daiko, post-performance at LaGuardia

From p. 7

This is the minimum donation, which may be given in two, four or monthly payments (please discuss with Membership Chair or Treasurer).

A portion of the membership pledge is given to the BCA to maintain the National organization. A portion is submitted to our Eastern States District. As a result, we also rely upon our members' donations throughout the year.

As a pledged member, you receive:

- The monthly newsletter "Kokoro"
- The monthly BCA newsletter "The Wheel of Dharma"
- All NYBC reports, including the Annual Report upon request
- "The Teachings of the Buddha" (new members)
- Discounts to special events, classes, seminars and retreats
- Eligibility for various scholarships and limited financial assistance for attending religious retreats, seminars and classes at the local, district and national level
- Eligibility to serve on the New York Buddhist Church Board (after two continuous years of membership) or its affiliated organizations.
- Eligibility to vote in all NYBC elections, including voting privileges at the annual Sokai Membership meeting.
- Priority for using the NYBC facilities, including guest facilities and special rates for facility usage.

Monthly Memorial Services (Shotsuki Hoyo) On the first Sunday of every month the NYBC holds a memorial service for those who have passed away in that month, regardless of year. Funds donated for those services are applied towards the Operating Budget. Please contact Rev. Ikeda, Gail Inaba or Nancy Okada if you would like to have a family member or friend included in our records for these services.

Special Services In a number of months, there are major religious holidays when a special donation envelop is sent out in Kokoro. These include Ho-onko, Ohigan, Gotan-e., etc.

Special or "Restricted" purpose donations Some donations are earmarked for spe

So Daiko News By Mac

Evans

Thanks everyone who came out to see our performance at Laguardia Performing Arts Center! We had a lot of fun putting on a full show, and inviting some alumni to come help us out. So many thank yous to Alan, Merle, and Charles, as well as the Carnegie Neighborhood Series for hosting us!

Like clockwork, with the blooming of the cherry Blossoms Soh Daiko will be performing for Sakura Matsuri Festivals all over New York. We started at Flushing Meadows Park for the JAA Sakura Matsuri on April 15th. Next up we have Branch Brook Park in New Jersey on April 23rd, and a double feature the next weekend at Roosevelt Island on Saturday April 29th and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens on Sunday April 30th. We hope to see you there!

Coming up soon we will host a public workshop on June 24th. This will be an introduction to taiko from all of us, teaching the basics of the art form and our approach to taiko. It's a great opportunity to try taiko, or let your friends and family know!

All the most up-to-date information on upcoming shows and details for events can be found on our website.

www.sohdaiko.org

www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

cial uses. These include: Fund for the Future, Eitaikyo (religious purposes and maintenance of the o-naijin), Kokoro, Stanley Okada Scholarship Fund, Michael Leonard Fund, Nokotsudo.

Legacies You can also consider naming the NYBC as a beneficiary of your estate or your 401k. *See p. 5*

March Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

The Treasurer reported that income has been stable this year.

New Business

Mochitsuki Kitchen: Nancy Okada reported on various discussions with the contractor and city agencies on the possibility of renovating the basement “mochi” kitchen. Nancy is working on obtaining estimate so the Board can evaluate, as we need to prioritize for our next project.

Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard and Rev. Ikeda attended the BCA National Council Meeting . An increase in dues to \$135 was approved at that meeting. The calculation methodology for dues is under consideration. Nancy Okada was elected as one of three new Directors at Large. The attendees noted that there was a lovely formal service, with Gagaku music accompaniment, as performed at the ongoing Ascension Services for our new Gomonshu, Sennyo Ohtani.

Isabelle Bernard reported that the NYBC website was ported over to a new site. She will be adding further content on to this foundation. She noted that there are many more features associated with the new template, resulting in a much improved website. The Board approved the cost of the website .

Isabelle Bernard reported that the 2017 Eastern Buddhist Conference will held at Midwest Buddhist Temple over Labor Day weekend. The agenda for the conference is posted on mbtchicago.org.

Ruth Funai reported that the biennial BWA conference will take place September 14-16 in Visalia CA.

Old Business

Fundraising Lunch: The Special Events Committee set a date in October for the Fundraising lunch. The theme will be A Hawaiian Luau. The Committee is asking for volunteers and is particularly interested in ideas for entertainment, menu and silent auction donations.

Isabelle reminded the Board that Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia's visit is set for July 24-30. The CBE is funding his visit.

Update on Obon planning: O-bon dance will take place on July 23rd. Practice Dates will be announced. (See Calendar)

Yoriko Fujta Armstrong discussed membership benefits including juzu, discount rates for events, books? She also raised the question of how we can provide benefits to remote members.

Affiliated Organization Reports

Communications: We received attractive and informative pamphlets from the Southern district and they are available in the lobby to the Hondo. The permit to march in the Pride Parade on June 25th has been filed. The possibility of group t shirts was raised.

The Membership Committee sent out new forms.

Giving Guide

The New York Buddhist Church is a non-profit organization that relies on donations from the sangha to operate on a day-to-day basis. Our budget is designed to break even. Our operating budget pays for the minister’s salary and basic benefits such as health insurance, the upkeep and maintenance of our facilities—utilities, insurance, repairs, programs (including the costs of publishing and mailing Kokoro), supplies, and other expenses of running the NYBC and affiliate Buddhist organizations. Did you know that the printing and mailing costs alone of Kokoro are more than \$5000.00 a year? Currently, donations, including pledged memberships do not cover the full amount of our operating budget, particularly as our buildings are older and increasingly require major repairs and renovations.

While fundraising is a necessary component of maintaining the NYBC, it is not our primary focus. Our most important focus is Buddhist teachings and to serve as the center for our sangha’s activities. However, here’s a guide to the common forms of giving which is intended to help you identify the best ways for you to support the NYBC.

Pledged Membership Membership in the New York Buddhist Church is open to all. The Temple offers fellowship, religious services, classes, retreats and various other functions. Pledged members who contribute a certain annual amount receive certain additional benefits, but the most important benefit is simply knowing they have contributed to maintaining a flourishing and vibrant NYCB. Pledged memberships provide approximately less than 15% of NYBC’s required income. (Editor’s note: It would be highly desirable for a number of reasons, to increase this percentage. It would provide a more reliable and stable source of funding for the NYBC.)

The current rates are as follows: \$250 for individual members, \$500 for families.

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KOKORO

**www.NewYorkBuddhist
Church.org**

212-678-0305

**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 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 June Issue of Kokoro is Monday, May15



kokoro

May 2017



New York Buddhist Church

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