



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



The Bird's Song

June 2016

Recently, when I was staying at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, I realized that when I wake up in the morning there, I feel very refreshed. Here in Manhattan, I get about the same number of hours of sleep but I often feel very tired when I arise. Last time at Seabrook, I awoke because I heard birds singing! I lay in bed listening to their beautiful song which held the promise for a wonderful the day! I spent a moment reflecting about how quiet the night before was without any sounds of fire engines, trucks, ambulances, etc. I hadn't recognized the constant noise of the city until I was somewhere it didn't exist. Did that mean I had stopped noticing even the simplest of things? Everything surrounds and embraces me because I am unable to sustain myself solely by myself. How amazing, I contemplated, that my path has brought me to a very large city where many invisible

things energize and embrace me, constantly moving at a fast pace. It is wonderful that I also have the opportunity to go a rural area like Seabrook. Even though I, was born in a rural community, living in the City, I asked myself, if I have forgotten all the things that have helped me to be me.

Onembutsu, Namu Amida Butsu, is like the sun, rain, wind, air, and other elements of nature. They just are. It is because they "just are", that they don't cater to just one place or person but share their "gifts" will all. The birds that woke me, although I felt they were singing only for me, were singing for everyone. The birds were wishing everyone a good day. It was my ignorance and ego, that made me think that they were singing their beautiful song only for me.

We all seek happiness, but I believe that we are already surrounded by happiness. The teachings of the Buddha have taught me that everything is neutral and perfect in its own way. If this is true, then why are we unhappy? It is because we all have excess baggage in the form of attachments. To put that into everyday language, we have developed our own expectations of what we perceive as being true and real. Unhappiness is created by want, anger, and illusion. Causes and conditions are caused by our body language, words, and mind. They are not physically tangible, but exist in our minds. When events or circumstances meet our expectations, or attachments, we are happy, but if they do not, we are distressed and depending on the degree of disappointment we can become very angry. With so much happening in the world do we really need additional stress?

The teachings or vows of the Buddha are the means by which we may have a deeper understanding of who and what we are and the means by which we may separate



Reverend Earl Ikeda

from our attachments--the cause of our unhappiness or suffering. Listening to the truth, which Amida Buddha represents and entrusting in the Buddha's vows by answering the call of Namu Amida Butsu, will lead to understanding and eventually acts of kindness. In this life, because there is Namu Amida Butsu we are all embraced and accepted just as we are. How sweet is the song of the birds, reminding us of Namu Amida Butsu.

Correction

In my last article I wrote about sa-shi-su-se-so. A friend from Japan was nice enough to correct me by stating that "se" refers to shoyu and not miso. "So" is the term used to represent miso. I apologize for the misinformation.

Support NYBC's O-bon by Placing Your Advertisement or Personal Message in Our Booklet to be Distributed on Sunday July 10

To be published, we must receive your request by June 15!

Full Page \$100

Half Page \$50

Quarter Page \$25

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Thank you for your generous support.

Sunday, June 5

Sangha Day: Potluck Lunch & Celebration of the Sangha

By Isabelle Bernard

Sangha Day is a great way to celebrate friendships and enjoy our NYBC family! Following services on June 5, we will set up a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish to share... and bring your friends and family too!

We already have some entertainment on tap, including the New Uke City Strummers, who will perform several sing-along songs on ukulele, and the BWA chorus. 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 playing/singing 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!

他力（たりき）

ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

先日シーブロック寺（ニュージャージー州）に泊まらせて頂いた時、目覚まし時計のかわりに小鳥の鳴き声で目を覚ましました。マンハッタンにはない、とても静かでさわやかな朝でした。小鳥たちは「今日は素晴らしい日だよ！」と歌っているかのように聞こえました。思慮を超えた不思議なご縁で、私は生まれ故郷のハワイから、世界の中心地マンハッタンにあるニューヨーク仏教会へむかえて頂きました。そして今日は、マンハッタンから遠く離れたニュージャージー州にある、シーブロック寺を訪ねるご縁をいただきました。太陽、雨、風、などすべて他力（自然・じねん）のはたらきです。他力のはたらきでないものは、この世の中に何もありません。

人間は幸せを求めて生きています。しかし、我々はすでに幸せのご縁を頂いているのですが、それに気がつかないのです。なぜ幸せに気がつかないのでしょうか。その原因は煩惱（欲、怒り、無明）が幸せを見えなくしているからです。たとえば、私たちは願い（望み）を持っています。しかし、煩惱（ぼんのう・欲、怒り、無明）を持った私達は自己中心で世の中の道理を知りません。道理がわからないので、自分の欲求が思うようにならない事を他人の責任（原因）と思いこみ、それが苦しみや怒りになります。親鸞聖人ご自身、20年間比叡山で修行されましたが、修行（自力）で煩惱を無くすることはできない事を悟られました。親鸞聖人は、煩惱を消す事は出来ないが、佛さまにすべてをおまかせすると、煩惱を持ったまま目覚めさせて頂けると言われました。佛様から頂く信心、他力信心で救われていくのです。他力信心は、法話や話をよく聞く事がとても大切です。なぜ聞かねばならないのでしょうか。聞くことは自分をみること、知ることだからです。自分が何であるかを知ると佛さまのおはたらきが分ってくるでしょう。南無阿弥陀仏とともに、お聴聞（ちょうもん）しましょう。

朝、私が目覚めたのは私の力でしょうか。鳥たちが歌っていたのは鳥の力でしょうか。全ては他力のはたらきです。佛さまから数えきれないほどのご縁をいただいて今私があるのです。命を頂いているのです。みんな他力です。お念仏をおとなえし、感謝の日々をすごしましょう。南無阿弥陀仏

訂正とおわび

5月号の記事の中、調味料を「さしすせそ」の順に料理に加えて味つけをするとかきました。その中で「せ」と「そ」が間違えていましたので訂正しておわび申します。正しくは「せ」は醤油（しょうゆ）、「そ」は味噌（みそ）です。

(Trans. Akemi Ishida)

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Services Schedule for 2016

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.

2015 ... 1st Year

2000 ... 17th Year

2014 ... 3rd Year

1992 ... 25th Year

2010 ... 7th Year

1984 ... 33rd Year

2004 ... 13th Year

1967 ... 50th Year

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

June 2016 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, June 5	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, Kiyoko 1972 Tomita, Shinako 1990 Tomita, Tomizo 1941 Washio, Akira 1998	July 2016 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, July 3 Arai, Juhei 1953 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 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
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			

Tachibana Dance Group Invites You to Its Annual Recital

Sunday, June 19

The Tachibana Dance Group, our affiliate organization and practitioners of Japanese traditional and folk dance, will flutter their fans and gracefully glide to and fro at their annual recital on Sunday, June 19. It starts at 2 p.m., but if you don't get there early, it may be standing room only. After you've seen one recital, you'll understand why the event draws a crowd. There is no admission charge, but you will be welcome to make donations in a basket to be passed around at intermission.

Tuesday, June 21, Thursday, June 23, Tuesday, June 28, & Tuesday, July 5:

Dance Practice Sessions Begin for Obon Odori in NYC & Seabrook

Shinran developed Jodo Shinshu to make it accessible to common people. Similarly, our obon dances are designed to be danced by everyone. But with a little practice, you'll find it easier to follow the music and other dancers.

NYBC Obon Dance Practice Sessions are free and open to everyone. The practices will be held upstairs where we have refreshments after Sunday services. All sessions take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Sangha News

By Ruth Funai

Prior to Mr. Haruo Ito celebrating his 104th birthday, he and his daughter, Riki, went on a cruise to the Caribbean which seems to energize him. He celebrated his 104th birthday on April 16, although his birthday was the 15th, the actual day that the ship, Titanic sank. He was born in Seattle, Washington and was sent to Japan as a child. He returned and graduated from high school and then went to Los Angeles for work. During the war, he was sent to Santa Anita and then to Manzanar where he met his future wife. He then came to NYC to join her family and was married in NYC. He has lived and worked here ever since. How fortunate he is that he is not taking any prescription medication. How many of us can claim that distinction? Our best wishes to him on his 104th birthday!

Memorial service for Mitsuye Kamada was held at NYBC on May14, 2016.

Funeral/memorial service was held for Steven Kan, son of late Rev. Shunshin and June Kan on May 22, 2016.



Riki Ito and Dai Miyazaki celebrating with Haruo Ito



Photo by Bo Tep Merle, Elsie, Mrs. Okada, Nancy and Alan celebrating Mrs. Okada's 98th Birthday. Doesn't she look great!

Our best wishes to Mrs. Akiko Okada who celebrated her 98th birthday. Nancy, Alan and Merle Okada were joined by sister, Elsie Tep, and husband, Bo , who visited from Concord, CA. They dined on lobster which was requested by Mrs. Okada who is healthy and doing very well. That's great!

Sunday, June 26:

NYBC to March Again in New York City Gay Pride March

By Gary Jaskula

We are marching for the second time in the NYC Pride Parade on June 28%please Join us!

Last year was the first time that the New York Buddhist Church is officially marched in New York's world-famous Gay Pride Parade. It was a truly inspiring and memorable event. This is an event about inclusion for everyone and everybody is invited to join in without exception. The parade route is about two-and-a-half miles. It begins in Midtown at noon (at Fifth Avenue and 36th Street) and makes its way downtown, to the West Village.

New Yorkers like to be the leaders%but we were not the first Shin Buddhist Temple to participate in a pride parade. Buddhist Church of San Francisco, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, and Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple all march in their local parades and, from what I hear, everyone has a wonderful time as we did last year.

General information on the parade is at www.nycpride.org.

The parade involves thousands of participants, and we will be meet in a designated area. However, we will not know where to meet until mid-June.

April Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

Religious Department Report – Prof. Keiko Toro will give a seminar on May 14 and Dharma talk on May 15. On May 19-21 the new resident minister of Ekoji Buddhist Temple, Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, Mrs. Hayashi and Rev. Ron Miyamura of the Midwest Buddhist Temple will attend the Eastern District Ministers meeting at NYBC. Rev. Hayashi will give the Dharma talk. Memorial Day service with Japanese American Association is on May 30. In June Rev. Kusunoki (Lodi) will bring a Nagasaki group. A group representative will speak on June 12 at the Japanese service.

Treasurer's Report – Finance Committee member Derik Kumagai is helping to update the quarterly reports. The Board is beginning to organize for a fundraising dinner to take place in the fall.

The screening dates for two films on Japanese American mobilization to receive reparations for internment during World War II, "Right of Passage" and "Rebel with a Cause," directed by Janice Tanaka are July 30 and 31 (Saturday and Sunday).

Eastern Buddhist League Conference on September 2-4 at Seabrook Buddhist Temple. The Board will arrange for transportation. Members are encouraged to reserve hotel rooms early. The schedule is from Friday night, all day Saturday and ends Sunday early afternoon. Dress is informal. Our members should also volunteer to help the Seabrook members with the food preparation.

Adult Buddhist Association – Sangha Day is on June 5 with Tony Armstrong as chair. This includes a potluck and talent show. White Elephant Sale was a successful fundraiser.

Building Committee report We are closer to starting the renovation with one of two permits received from the City of New York. The architects will provide a schedule once all permits are received.

Finance Committee – The Board approved the Facility Usage rates, policies and agreement form proposed by Finance Committee.

Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

After a long six months, Soh Daiko is happy announce a new member joining the family: Anna Croteau. She began drumming with us after our recruitment workshop in December, and has been training with us ever since. You may have seen her holding flags in the back of performances, or showcasing progress playing at church events.

Anna commutes from Connecticut twice a week to practice with us, and is a recent college grad from university of Connecticut. Anna has an extensive background in ballet from her youth, but has only recently been introduced to playing taiko with-in the past year. Before Soh Daiko she played briefly with the NY Suwa Daiko association, where her mother currently plays taiko. We hope that she will continue to grow with us, and you'll be able to see her playing in our repertoire soon. You may see her in some of the upcoming small gigs and Obon dances, or you can meet her while playing taiko, at our upcoming public workshop!

Soh Daiko is hosting a workshop open to the public on June 11th from 2:00-6:00 PM. If you've ever wanted to try out taiko drumming and learn the history of the art form from 10 different instructors at once, this is the place to sign up. If you have friends or family that want to try something out for the day, the workshop is open to all. A workshop fee of \$50 will be collected the day of, you can visit www.sohdaiko.org for more information, or RSVP by emailing yue.giu@sohdaiko.org



President Obama Recognizes Vesak Day, Acknowledging a Buddhist Holiday for First Time

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 2016

I send greetings to all those observing Vesak.

Vesak is a special day for millions of Buddhists to honor the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Buddha. At temples around the world, Buddhists use this time to engage in prayer and reflect on the virtues of wisdom, courage, and compassion. By taking part in these acts of humility, the men, women, and children who uphold the proud traditions of Buddhism contribute to the diversity of cultures and religions that define our common humanity.

As you come together to mark this occasion, I wish you all the best.



Visiting Monks create Medicine Buddha Mandala during their visit at NYBC in April. Black and White does not do justice to its exquisite colors.



O-Bon 2015—Mark your calendar for this year's festival in Bryant Park on Sunday July 10.

KOKORO

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

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Articles and photographs are welcome and will be published subject to suitability of content and availability of space.

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**Next Deadline is
Wed. June 15**

Why Jodo Shinshu?

Rev. Marvin Harada, Orange County Buddhist Church

I am a Shin Buddhist because this is the only path of Buddhism that someone like myself can truly follow . I cannot live the life of a monk or nun. I couldn’t survive one week. Because of Shinran Shonin, this path of the Dharma has become available, not just for me, but for countless others who choose to live a lay life. Shinran Shonin

truly makes it possible for the businessman, the housewife, the elderly grandma, the young child, for anyone to follow the path of Buddhism to its greatest depths.

**Sign Up for the
Eastern
Buddhist
League
Conference in
Seabrook Sept.
2-4**



kokoro

June 2016



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