



A short time ago, I received an email message from a friend who asked whether he could share information with a certain group. That request triggered harsh and angry emotions in me because of a very negative incident I had experienced with that group over 20 years ago. Even recently, I felt deep resentment against them and mentally berated my friend for making this request. "Never, never, ever!", were the words that flooded my angry mind in response! "What an absolute idiot!", I thought.

Then, a voice in my mind said, "It's been over 20 years, why are you still suffering and feeling pain by clinging on to this matter. I had to use my fingers and toes to calculate how many years had gone by. Yes, so long ago and yet I was still fuming! I thought of how every Sunday I stand before the Sangha, trying to make others become aware of the Buddha's teachings. I was behaving in exactly the opposite way of how I try to guide others! If I can't

KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



I'm Not There, Yet

follow what I preach, am I worthy of wearing ministerial robes, am I truly a disciple of the Buddha? I immediately became embarrassed with myself. Many years of studying and contemplating the Buddha's teachings in a moment seemed to go down the drain with my infuriated reaction. How foolish and arrogant I was in that instant.

I realized that it was this type of anger and suffering that the Buddha is always trying to point us away from. It was bitter emotions that were controlling me and not my true mind and heart. My ego was now controlling my heart and mind creating a veil of false reality that invoked such painful and angry feelings. "Baka da nee (what an idiot)", became a very loud voice coming from my heart and mind. Buddha was right, through my ignorance I was creating my own suffering. Even worse, my suffering created suffering for others. Without realizing it, how selfish I was.

Shinran recognized the "foolish being" (bombyu-nin) in himself and sought the power of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow in the form of Namu Amida Butsu to help him awaken to his ignorance and to ease his suffering. By opening his heart and mind to hear the compassionate voice of Amida Buddha calling him through the onembutsu, Shinran began to realize that HE was the object of the Primal Vow, the vow to embrace all beings to universal truth. It may have been this realization which led him to realize that we are all "fellow travelers on the same path". It was through his personal life sufferings that he shared with us the means by which we can realize the workings of great wisdom and compassion which embraces us in many mysterious ways. This awakening helps us realize who we really are.

Through this incident, I realized that the compassion of Amida Buddha's vow also embraces me. How foolish and ignorant I am! Though I can wear the robes of a teacher guided by the awakened one, I'm not there yet!

Namu Amida Butsu

December 2018



Reverend Earl Ikeda

Joya-e and Shusho-e Services

Joya-e means "A Gathering on a Night to Dispel". The historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, taught that people have many faults, 108 of which are major. As we come to the end of another year. We gather together at a service to reflect upon our imperfections and the vow to free us from the bondage of Samsara. The climax of the service is for each person to ring the bell and the bell is rung for a symbolic total of 108 times.

The following morning, we observe Shusho-e which means "A Gathering to Make Things Right". The Japanese have adopted this tradition in recognition that we can make things better when we realize that Amida Buddha is always guiding us and will never abandon us no matter how severe our faults may be. What better time to express gratitude to Buddha by

Cont. on p. 2

Get Ready for Mochitsuki

By Nancy Okada

As we mentioned in last month's Kokoro, December is Mochitsuki Month. Members look forward to celebrating the New Year with freshly made Mochi, used in making ozoni and zen-zai or broiled until puffy and seasoned with sweetened shoyu or kinako.

If you have never participated in the NYBC's annual mochitsuki, you now have a chance to join in this decades-old NYBC tradition. In addition to the actual rice-pounding, there is a lot of preparation. This year's mochitsuki production is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 21-22. On Saturday, December 22, we can use volunteers to help, particularly later in the day when there will be clean up tasks to prepare the Hondo for service the next day.

How to Volunteer to Help

It takes many hands to make this event a reality

and a great way to join in some fun. Try your hand at a traditional experience and get to know other members of the NYBC Sangha. Please contact Ruth Funai, Nancy Okada, or Mariko Kato if you would like to assist.

How and When to Order and Pick up Your Noshi Mochi

The final pounded product produces sheets called noshi mochi which are about 8" x 11" in size.

Sunday, December 16 is the Ordering Deadline. Please place your order by this date with Nancy Okada, Mariko Kato or Ruth Funai or by calling the New York Buddhist Church at 212 678-0305. The cost per noshi mochi is \$15.00.

When you order, please tell us the date and approximate time you will pick up your order and leave a contact number. Although Mochi will be available at the end of day Saturday, Sunday morning (Dec. 23) pick up is preferable, as the Mochi will have set overnight. If you would like your Noshi Mochi cut, it will be an additional \$5.00 fee.

Cont. from p. 1

coming together to recite the Buddha's name together. Our Joya-e service will be observed on Monday, December 31st, at 7 pm. Shusho-e will be observed on New Year's morning at 11:30 am. A New Year's Day celebration potluck will follow the service. Please bring a main dish to share with others. There will be other activities, too.

Ho-onko Observance and Shojin Ryori Bento **Sunday Jan. 20**

Ho-onko is the annual memorial service for our founder, Shinran Shonin, who entered Nirvana on January 16, 1213. Ho-onko literally means, a Gathering of Gratitude. Shinran's teachings have helped many to understand and accept the difficult reality of human life with hope. His teachings are also an interpretation of his understanding of Amida Buddha's universal vows. We are awakened to this hope with gratitude for the gift of life we have received by having the wondrous opportunity to encounter the Onembutsu. For Ho-onko, NYBC will again be offering the opportunity to purchase Shojin Ryori bento. In Jodo

Shinshu, a strict vegan diet is not required. However, with the observance of Ho-onko it is customary to partake of a meal that is prepared in the monastic tradition, Shojin Ryori.

The bento will be available on Sunday, January 20th, following the service. The cost is a donation of \$25. A limited number of bento will be made. To ensure your bento, please contact the temple at (212)678-0305, or reserve a bento through a temple member.

**OLD Blankets needed for
our O-naijin restoration.
Please donate any old
blankets that you no longer
use to the New York
Buddhist Church.**

まだ 道のりは長いです。

暫く前、友人から グループの人と情報をシェアしてもいいかというメールがありました。これを聞いて 怒りを感じました。というのは 20年前に このグループといやな経験をした事があったからです。何年も経った今でさえ このグループだけでなく 頼んできた友人にも 憤りを感じています。「もう絶対いやだ」という気持ちになり、友人の事をひどい人だと思ったのです。

このような事があって、「もう20年前に起きた事なのに どうして 今でも これにこだわり、苦痛を感じるのだろう」と自分に問いかけました。もう長い月日経っているのです。「そうだ。これは ずっと前に起きた事なのに 今でも 私は怒りを抑えきれないでいるのだ。」私は 毎週日曜日にお寺に来るサンガの皆さんの前で、お釈迦様の教えを伝えている自分の事を考えました。僧侶として話している事と反対の事を考えている自分がありました。僧侶である自分が 教えを 実生活に生かしていないのなら、僧侶の袈裟を着る資格があるのだろうか。私は本当にお釈迦様の教えを伝える弟子なのだろうか。このように考えて 自分自身 悩みました。何年もかけて 仏教を勉強した事、お釈迦様の教えを考える事などは無駄だったのではないだろうかとも思いました。その瞬間 何て情けない、生意気な人間になったという思いがありました。

私が経験したこのような怒りと苦痛は お釈迦様がいつも 和らげようとしている事に気づきました。つまり 自分の心ではなく、怒りが 自分をコントロールしていました。自分のエゴが 真実を見えなくし、苦痛と怒りを生み、私の心をコントロールしていました。「ばかだね」という声が 心の中から聞こえました。お釈迦様は 正しかったのです。自分の無知が、自分を苦しめていました。それだけでなく、他の人をも 苦しめていたのです。それに気がつかなかった私は、なんてわがままな人間だったのでしょうか。

親鸞上人は 自分が凡夫だという事を認め、自分の無知に気づき、南無阿弥陀仏という念仏を唱える事で、阿弥陀の本願の力を求めました。これは 親鸞が自分の無知に気づき 苦しみを 和らげる事にありました。念仏を通し 阿弥陀の慈悲の声を聞くために 素直に心を開く事により、親鸞自身 本願の出会いがありました。それは すべての人は 不変の真実に抱かれているという本願であり、親鸞は 人はみな 同じ道を歩み旅するのだという事に気づきました。親鸞自身の苦しみと理解を通して すべての人に抱かれている智慧と慈悲に気づかせてくれます。この目覚めは 自分がどんな人間なのかという事に気づかせてくれます。

私は 自分自身の経験を通して、阿弥陀の慈悲に抱かれている事に気づきました。なんて愚かで無知な人間だったのだろうか。僧侶である私は袈裟を着ていますが、まだ 先の道のりは長いです。

南無阿弥陀仏

翻訳 小玉 修子

Translated by Nobuko Kodama

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

December 2018 Sunday, December 2

Abe, Yoshihiro 2004
Arai, Tomoe M. 2011
Araki, Kikuyo 1964
Bakhroushin, Gleb 1994
Charini de Zavata, Susana 1981
Harada, Kameichi 1981
Hattori, Yasuko 2007
Ishida, Katsu 1984
Jayang, Momo 1986
Lobsanbd, Agu 1996
Matsumara, Kiichi 1990
Mishima, Chikako 1997
Mitani, Isao 1949
Mitsuuchi, Gary 1994
Miyazaki, Chieko 1992

Okada, Kazuo 1989
Okada, Roy 1981
Okada, Shigeyo 1989
Seki, Satomi 2010
Takahashi, Mitsuo 1998
Taoka, Tami 1999
Tung, James Guang-Yao 1995
Unno, Rev. Taitetsu 2014
Yamane, Eimi 1988

January 2017 Sunday, January 6

Asakura, Michiko 2002
Awaya, Sei 1954
Awaya, Shinji 1979
Horiguchi, Mitsuo 1990

Katori, Chiyo 1995
Kehler, Alan 1995
Kitajima, Molly 2014
Kodama, Tokuko Edna 2014
Kubo, Aki 2012
Kubo, Jimmy Masami 1988
Kuwaki, Katumori 2015
Levitch, Yoko Matsuo 1985
Matsumoto, Ryoji 2014
Mitani, Ryou 1998
Mitani, Yuki 1934
Miyazaki, Katsu 1991
Miyazaki, Seiichi 1954
Motoyoshi, Sayuri 1994
Nagisa, Miho 1982
Nke-Aka, Dr. Nori 2004

Nojima, Junzo 1983
Okada, Stanley T. 1980
Okada, Sekiyo 1992
Okubo, Gontaro 1959
Chiyo Sansone 2016
Sato, Masatoshi 1981
Schroeter, Charles 1952
Schroeter, Edward 1972
Shiomi, Kenjiro 1991
Sumi, Shizuko 1992
Takeda, Koito 1958
Tenzing, Dupjue 2004
Tsuji, James Toshiaki 1995
Yakata, Helen Osamu 2014
Yakata, John Osamu 1991
Yoshida, Kenichi 1999



In Memoriam

James Y. Nagahiro, a retired Air force colonel and NYBC member of many years, sadly passed away, October 23 at the age of 86. He was well-known for his famous curry, his takuwan (pickled daikon), hockey pucks and dried sliced apples (in the spring) and bags of apples (in the fall) during our fundraisers, the White Elephant Sale and Autumn Festival. Many of the items had to be bought early by the members as they were sold out quickly! He and his wife, Alice, would make the 4 ½ hour drive from New Hampshire twice a year to work tirelessly in the kitchen to help prepare and serve the food items to be sold. Being from Hawaii, many stories were exchanged with others who were from Hawaii and even those who were not. He and Alice continued to participate until they were not physically able to do so and then, the takuwan, hockey pucks and sliced apples were mailed express for the events.

Since Jim was a very private person, a family service was held in New Hampshire on November 9 officiated by Rev. Earl Ikeda. The family requests that any donation or monetary remembrances be directed to the New York Buddhist Church or the Pacific Buddhist Academy at: 1754 Lusitana Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Jim, with his friendly, warm personality and his sense of duty and hard work will be sorely missed! We extend our condolences and deep sympathies to Alice, the family, relatives and many friends.

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Jeffrey and Lillian Lum spent two weeks in France during August with their son, Christopher and wife, Sarah. They had an apartment near the Champs Elysee through Airbnb which was lovely and convenient to the all the attractions and the Metro which made it easy to get around Paris. Naturally, they took in all the tourist places like the Notre Dame Cathedral, Île de Paris, Louvre (Mona Lisa), Musée de Moderne, Centre Pompidou, Musée de Picasso, the Eiffel tower and Rodin Museum and its Sculpture Garden and many more. There were several markets for natural milk, cheese, eggs, breads and prepared foods like: paella, beef bourginon, cassoulet, roast duck, chicken, lamb and pork and delicious local wines, so it was like eating at a bistro, but with the comforts of home.

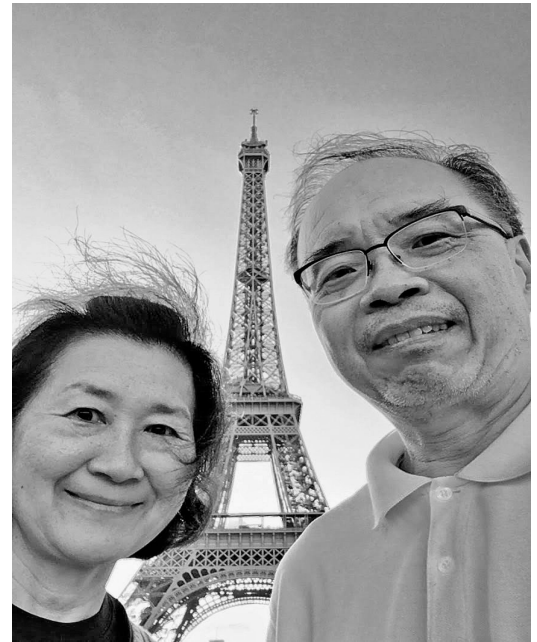
Then Chris and Sarah rented a car and drove them to a wedding of the daughter of a friend in the country about 50 miles away. The event was held at a flower farm in the town of Sonchamp which was beautiful! They were then driven back to Paris for their trip back home to New York City while Chris and Sarah continued their travel to Brittany, Normandy, Nice and Lyon before returning to Seattle.

Correction: In last month's Sangha News, Lily's name should have been: **Lily Sakai-Johnson**.

Your Support of the New York Buddhist Church is very important. It enables us to continue to maintain a place where all are welcome to share in the teachings of the Buddha Dharma and Jodo Shinshu. It also allows us to provide cultural and social activities for members and the greater community. As we all know, maintaining a building in New York City is costly and there are many expenses that need to be covered: repairs and maintenance, insurance, utilities, our minister's salary and benefits and many others.

Please help us continue to be able to be in New York City by renewing your membership in 2019 or joining as a new or re-instated member.

A membership form is printed on the back of this month's calendar.



Lillian and Jeff Lum enjoying the iconic sights of Paris

Did you know that the light refreshments we serve during fellowship after services are made and donated by Sangha members and others who attend service? It's a potluck and we welcome everyone's contributions. If you think we need more vegetarian selections or we could use more fresh fruit, please bring some to share. It could be a good opportunity for you to try out that new recipe on a group of willing subjects!

There's a small team of people (under Gertrude Kihara's guidance) who volunteer to set up and clean up every week. You are always welcome to join the crew, but be aware that you will be held to Gertrude's high standards. It's good character building.

We gratefully receive everyone's contributions.

Send Your New Year's Greetings to the Sangha

Send your New Year's greetings to the Sangha and support the NYBC! Complete this form so we receive it by December 16, accompanied with a check or cash of \$5.00 and *Kokoro* will list your name, for \$10.00 we will also print a greeting of up to 20 words in our January issue.

- Give a completed form with donation to Ruth Funai, or
- Send the completed form with donation to:

Greetings, New York Buddhist Church, 331 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10025

Name(s) *(Please print clearly, only your name will appear in Kokoro. Contact information is for office use only.)*

Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Greeting *(Donation of \$10.00):*

Board Highlights, cont. from p. 7

Old Business

- **Update on 80th Anniversary Benefit Dinner:** Gail Inaba reported that the event will be within budget. All tables have been sold. People have been willing to pay for full tables, but not the ads. The budget includes in-kind donations. Of the \$100 per seat \$40 is tax-deductible. With additional contributions for the 80th anniversary, the net is projected to be \$26,760. Gross: \$35,320.
- **Mochitsuki:** The price for noshimochi will be \$15/per. We will order 400 lbs. of mochi rice. Mochitsuki will be on December 21-22.
- **Onaijin Fund:** The committee working on the renovation of the Onaijin (Rev. Earl Ikeda, Isabelle Bernard, Nobuko Kodama, Nancy Okada, Yoriko Armstrong, and Cheryl Ikemiya)
- The Board members and Rev. Earl Ikeda met with Mr. Tatsuji Maeda of Aloha Business Consulting and Mr. Keiichi Akimichi (Urushi National Assigned Craftsman and Curator of National Important Cultural Assets Maintenance and Restoration Member), who will lead the group of craftspeople.
- We discussed the proposal to restore the elements of the Onaijin, including most of the major and smaller elements on

the altar. The timeframe will be the following: The project begins on March 14 (travel) with work commencing on March 15, concluding on April 4 and departure on April 5, 2019. The team will include five craftspeople, plus Mr. and Mrs. Maeda. Mr. Maeda will manage the project team, and Mrs. Maeda will assist cooking and in transporting the metal parts back and forth between Japan and New York for polishing. We discussed the workspace which will be the front parlor on the second floor of the Annex building at 331 Riverside Drive and the back of the Hondo on the first floor of the 332 Riverside Drive building. We will provide transportation to and from JFK International, three guest rooms during their stay and the kitchen for cooking meals. We will also provide some materials and equipment which are specified in the contract.

The Board voted and approved the contract with Aloha Business Consulting .

Annual review of the minister and building caretaker's performance: The evaluation should be completed by January 2019

REMEMBER TO RESERVE YOUR NOSHI MOCHI

So Daiko News By Julianna Hessel

As the air gets colder and the leaves begin to fall, Soh Daiko continues to develop our trainees and sharpen our own drumming technique. During the autumn season, trainees take time before every practice to work on perfecting the art of tying shime-daiko; drums that we tie and untie before and after each practice to maintain their timbre. If you've ever been walking through the church before one of our practices, we have undoubtedly created a human obstacle course in the main foyer as a result of this practice. Our members are also hard at work developing our repertoire and taking on new performing roles in addition to our regular strength and endurance training as we prepare for our upcoming 40th anniversary celebrations. As the year progresses, our trainees will continue to work hard at joining us in these performing roles - be sure to stay tuned for announcements of upcoming performances to see all of this work put into action!

In addition to their drumming, we make sure trainees learn about Soh Daiko's history. Earlier this month, founding Soh Daiko members Alan and Merle Okada gave a presentation to the trainees outlining our history and relationship to key taiko figures and events. We are always happy to have Alan and Merle join us to help us carry the teachings and legacies of those who built our community always.

On the weekend of November 10th, several Soh Daiko members and alumni had the opportunity to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of the one of those key figures: Grandmaster Seiichi Tanaka and the San Francisco Taiko Dojo (SFTD). This 2-day "International Taiko Festival" highlighted the breadth of Tanaka-sensei's lineage as hundreds of artists with ties to the SFTD put on a set of concerts lasting over 4 hours each. Soh Daiko is no exception to this impact; from our very beginnings, Tanaka-sensei taught us some of the core kata and repertoire that continues to be the backbone of Soh Daiko's music. This weekend of celebration brought up many such nostalgic memories for those involved, and served as an amazing demonstration to the next generation of the power that taiko has to unite people from all walks of life.

The past month has indeed given us much to reflect on and be thankful for as we press forward with our training. We would like to once again thank the New York Buddhist Church for honoring us at the 80th anniversary gala last month. As we celebrated this rich history over delicious food, we recognized how much our relationship with the church has influenced our group. Thank you, and congratulations on 80 years; we are what we are because of you.

October Board Highlights

By Cheryl Ikemiya

Minister's Report: Minister's Assistants and Rev. Ikeda went to Ekoji Buddhist Temple for the MAP Seminar held in the Eastern District from October 4-7. The next seminar held in the Eastern District will be in two years tentatively at Seabrook Buddhist Temple

Financial Report: Treasurer Nancy Okada alerted the Board that \$42K will be spent on equipment and repairs in the next few months, including \$30-35K for a new boiler, which will take three days to replace. During that period, there will be no heat in the building, so we cannot schedule guests during that time frame. In addition, we will replace Rev. Earl's computer with a laptop as well as a space heater and shelves. Nancy informed us that the Buddhist Churches of America will no longer handle the minister's salary and benefits, including the annuity package

New Business:

Indemnification and Insurance Amendment to the By-laws: Gail suggested that we should add an indemnification and insurance amendment section to the By-Laws. This will be included as an amendment to be voted on at the Annual Sokai meeting.

Interment of ashes at Cypress Hills Cemetery will be held on November 11, 2018. Fees are \$435/urn to be paid to Cypress Hills Cemetery; \$100 for the service at the interment; plus support to the Eitaikyo Fund.

Feedback on the Eitaikyo Fund: Following last month's Board approval of an annual fee of \$250/urn, Isabelle requested information on the Eitaikyo Funds at other temples. The fees are one time only for some temples; however, the minister negotiates with the family if they cannot afford the fees. In Japan, the practice is an annual fee for maintenance of the ashes. Nancy clarified that the Eitaikyo registry overlaps with the Shotsuki Hoyo list; however, the Shotsuki list includes names of individuals not interred in either the Nokotsudo or the Columbarium. Members are not aware fully of what it means to maintain the ashes. The maintenance includes regular Shotsuki Hoyo, Eitaikyo, Obon and other services as well as providing the space for the ashes. Isabelle suggested that the funeral service booklet and that we add an Eitaikyo section in the funeral service booklet. We could send this information out to the membership and to those who have requested a funeral/memorial service for their loved ones. *Cont. on P. 6*

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.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, Nobuko Kodama, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, and the Buddhist Women's Association mailing team.

Articles and 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.chrbru.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

December 2018



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

New York Buddhist Church

331 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10025

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