



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



Seeking Shinjin

February 2018

The Kona district lies on the west side of the big island of Hawaii and is famous for its world class coffee, beautiful beaches, and scenic beauty. Many of the original coffee growers were Japanese immigrants whose back-breaking labor produced the famous coffee which is still handpicked from trees grown on the steep slopes of Mauna Loa, an active volcano. Many of them attended the Kona Hongwanji Mission, located in the town of Kealahou. The founding temple members gathered for religious and social purposes and writing Japanese poems was among the activities. In the 1990's, Reverend Tatsuo Muneto translated and compiled them in a book entitled, "Dharma Treasures, Spiritual Insights From Hawaii's Shin Buddhist Pioneers".

Chiyono Sasaki, born in 1897 in the district of Kau on the opposite side of the island was one of the poets. Reverend Muneto writes, "Her early life was as hard and rocky as the bumpy roads on the Kona coffee farms. In order to attain some resolution of her problems she turned to other religions, but she detested any

compromise with a religion that was idealistic. Although she believed that Amida Buddha was for her, no matter how much she listened to the teaching, nothing could quench her spiritual hunger."

Reverend Muneto continues to explain her spiritual quest by saying, "Deeply troubled by her confusion, she could not resist calling on the Rev. Shuun Matsuura in Kealahou. She was in desperate straits. One afternoon when Chiyono returned home to Keopu from the temple, her husband, Kumataro, who had just returned from laboring in the coffee fields, scolded her, shouting, 'You're always going to the temple! What for?' Chiyono replied, 'To listen.' 'After listening, what did you learn?' yelled her husband. 'Nothing,' she answered. Kumataro then said, 'What a fool you are!' Hearing those words, something flashed across Chiyono's inner being: 'Oh, today, I finally am able to truly listen. Yes, I am able to accept and embrace my foolish self.'"

Reverend Muneto then comments, "This awakening to one's true nature as foolish and ignorant by Chiyono was made possible by the working of true compassion which completely enfolds and affirms her. Because of what she had learned from Rev. Matsuura about Amida's compassion directed to the foolish self, she realized her own foolish nature as it is by the critical words from her husband." She expressed this thought and feeling in the following poem:

When told that I was foolish,
It was by the power of Primal Vow
that led to my fall.
Rejoicing, I said
Namu-amida-butsu, Namu-amida-butsu.

When I fell after being told to fall,
I found myself on a lotus petal.
I am ashamed of myself, I am sorry:
Tears of joy come streaming down.

Regardless of the sect of Buddhism pursued, we are all seekers of Universal Truth (Dharma), seeking, *shinjin*. *Shinjin* was first translated as "true faith" and attaining *shinjin* often



Reverend Earl Ikeda

refers to one's true and real devotion to the Buddha and the Teachings, the ultimate attainment of faith. However, within the last 30 years, Jodo Shinshu has translated *shinjin* as "true entrusting", to express the nature of achieving this state. Too often, I believe, we seek or work too hard towards this achievement.

In Jodo Shinshu, *shinjin* is already given to us by the wisdom and compassion and the power of the unconditional vows, of the Buddha. In the *Gobunsho Shonin ichiryu no sho*, Chapter on the Teaching of Shinran Shonin (pg 140, Shin Buddhist Service Book), Rennyō Shonin writes "Butsu no kata yori..." translated as, "from the side of the Buddha." It indicates that saving grace and all other things are unconditionally given and provided to us by the wisdom *Cont. on p. 2*

Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

and the unconditional love of the Buddha. Deep understanding and gratitude fills our entire being when we put our personal selfish pride and ego aside entrusting ourselves to the Buddha's loving vows. Chiyono's Sasaki's story is just one of many that help us to realize our true selves and the joy which awakens us when we are able to accept our selves just as we are.

Namo-Amida-Butsu

Shojin Ryoori Class

Our 2018 cooking classes are usually scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The first shojin ryoori class of the year is scheduled for February 10, from 10 am – 1 pm. Classes focus on simple temple vegan cooking. This month we will be cooking a tofu miso-soup rice dish called "uzumi dofu" and a daikon and aburage boiled dish. Classes end with taste testing and fellowship. Enrollment is limited to 10 persons due to our kitchen size. Cost is \$20 for pledged members and \$30 for non-pledged members. Please call the temple at (212) 678-0305 to register.

Guest-speaker on Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Day

On February 11, Khenpo Pema Wangduk, founder of Palden Sakya and the Vikramasila Foundation will be our guest-speaker for Nirvana Day, or Nehan-e in Japanese. This is the observance of the historical Buddha's, Shakyamuni's passing and entering Nirvana. Khenpo Pema is a well-respected teacher of the Tibetan tradition in our New York Buddhist community. In conjunction with Nirvana Day, we also remember our beloved pets with a Pet Memorial. Names of our beloved pets will be read with fond memories and photos displayed. If you have not registered your pet's name and would like to have the name of your pet remembered and announced, please call the office at (212) 678-0305 or bring the name and/or a photo of your pet on February 11. (A form also appeared in last month's Kokoro.) Service begins at 11:30 am.

Corrections

In the January issue:

Nancy Okada wrote the Mochitsuki article on p. 7

Clement Hirae's name was misspelled as Hirai on p. 7

Isabelle Bernard and David Okada's and Rev. Earl's New Year's Greetings were omitted. From Rev. Earl and Family: Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018!

Cont. from p. 3

仏道を学ぶのは、どの宗派であれ、真実・法を求める求道者となることです。求道には信心が大切です。信心は“true faith”と英語に訳されました。信心を獲得（ぎやくとく・たまわる）することは、知恵のもとに來たれという言葉聞いて、したがうことです。過去30年余りの間に、信心を“true entrusting”と英訳されています。が、あまりにもこの言葉にとらわれすぎているように思います。

浄土真宗の教えは、本願力が、我々をそのまま救うことが約束されています。その例として、蓮如上人のおかきになった聖人一流の章（日曜法要の本140～141ページ）があります。上人は「親鸞聖人の教えは、信心だけで救われる。」とおかきになっています。あるがままの自分を認め、疑いなく南無阿彌陀仏を信じるだけで救われます。佐々木ちよのさんのように、聞き続けることが大切です。話を聞き続けると、本当の自分をそのまま認めることができるようになり、信心の道がひらけてくるでしょう。日本語の詩は、宗藤開教使の英訳の詩を、日本語に訳しました。原文でないことをお断りします。(Trans. by Akemi Ishida)

精進料理教室

2018年度の精進料理クラスは、毎月第二土曜日です。今月のクラスは、2月10日（土曜日）午前10時から午後1時です。料理の材料はすべて野菜です。今月の献立は、豆腐の味噌汁ご飯“うずみ豆腐”を作ります。うずみ豆腐は、豆腐、大根、油揚げ、それにご飯が入った味噌汁料理です。料理のあと全員で試食をします。会費は仏教会会員20ドル、会員でない人は30ドルの、ご寄付をお願いします。お申し込みはニューヨーク仏教会（電話212-678-0305）でお受けします。（定員10名）

釈尊涅槃会とペット法要

2月11日（日）11時半から涅槃会とペット法要をお勤めします。ゲストスピーカーはチベット仏教のケンポ ペマワンダカ師です。涅槃会はお釈迦様が入滅された事をお祝いする法会です。

また、お釈迦様の入滅の時、いろいろな動物が釈尊の死を悲しんであつまったと、いわれていることから、並びにペット法要をつとめます。ペット法要ご希望の方は、2月10日（土曜日）までに事務所（電話212-678-0305）へお知らせください。また、申し込み用紙は1月号のKokoroにあります。なお、涅槃会にペットの写真をご持参くださる方は、当日午前11時までをお願いします。

佐々木ちよのと信心

池田アール住職

ハワイのコナ地区は、ビッグアイランドの西側にあります。コーヒー豆、美しい海岸や景色で世界中に知られています。そのコナに佐々木ちよの（1897年生）という妙好人（みょうこうにん・念仏者をほめたたえた言葉）がおられました。ちよのさんと信心についてお話しさせていただきます。

さて、有名なコナのコーヒー園を始めた多くの方は、日本人移民でした。マウナロアの今も活動している火山の急な斜面に、コーヒーの木が植えられているので、コーヒー豆をつみ取るのは大変な仕事です。しかし、コナでは昔と同じように今も、コーヒー豆は手で採取されています。

ケアラケアのコナ本願寺の設立当時、門徒さんたちはコーヒー園で働く日本人移民たちでした。当時の人々は、仏教によってきびしい生活からすくわれたい、なつかしい日本文化にふれたい、日本人と仲間になりたいなどの理由で、お寺へお参りされました。また、お寺では、日本語で詩を書くことが盛んでした。

1990年代、ハワイの開教使をされておられた宗藤達雄（むねとたつお）先生は、初期移民たちが書いた作品がとても素晴らしいことに気がつかれました。先生は、作品をそのままにしておいては、時代とともに忘れられてしまうと考えられ、英訳をして本にまとめられました。それが「ダーマトレジャー・ダーマの宝物」とよばれる本です。その本に、鈴木大拙先生が1949年コナ本願寺をおとずれたとき感動された、佐々木ちよのさんの詩があります。ちよのさんは、島の反対側のカウ地区に、ご主人の熊太郎さんと住んでいました。

宗藤先生は「ちよのさんが若いころは、むづかしい問題がたくさんあったようでした。その問題を解決するためか、ある宗教へ走られました。しかし、ちよのさんの求道心がみだされなかったのでしょうか。その後、ケアラケアの浄土真宗の開教使、松浦先生のもとで熱心にお聴聞（法話を聞く）をされるようになりました。ある日の午後、ちよのさんがケオプのお寺からもどった時、ご主人の熊太郎さんも丁度コーヒー園での仕事をおえて帰ってきたところでした。熊太郎さんはちよのさんに『お前はいつもお寺へいくが、何のためだ。』とたづねました。『聞きに。』とちよのさんは答えました。『何を聞いた。』と問われ、『何も。』とちよのさんは答えたので、熊太郎さんは『お前は大バカものだ。』とって大声で叱りました。ちよのさんは熊太郎さんの『バカものだ。』との声に打撃（ショック）を受けました。この一言で、ちよのさんは一瞬のうちに真実の自分にめざめたのです。」と言われました。

宗藤開教使は続けて話してくださいました。「ちよのさんのめざめは、おろかで無知であるという自覚です。ちよのさんは、松浦開教使の話を長く聞き続けていたので、ご主人の言葉が引き金となって、真実の自分に目覚めたのです。」

When told that I was foolish,
truly foolish,
It was by the power of Primal Vow
that led to my fall.
Rejoicing, I said
Namu-amida-butsu, Namu-amida-butsu.

バカといわれて
きがついた、
おやさまの
おとさぬ おじひ。
ありがたや、
なむあみだぶつ、なむあみだぶつ。

When I fell after being told to fall,
I found myself on a lotus petal.
I am ashamed of myself, I am sorry:
Tears of joy come streaming down.

おとさぬ おじひ、
はずのなか。
あさましや はずかしや、
うれしなみだの わがみなり。

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.

| February 2018 Sunday, February 4 | | March 2018 Sunday, March 4 | |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Aunt, Stogh NA | Kato, Roy 2011 | Fukuchi, Kaname 1994 | Kume, Hidekichi 2008 |
| Bushnell, Joe NA | Kurokawa, Teru 2016 | Hahn, Maude 1992 | Miyamura, Yoshio 1985 |
| Bushnell, Maime NA | Mitani, Yoshio 1943 | Hayden, Joseph 1994 | Nakamura, Suya 1978 |
| Davis, Albert F. 2007 | Miyamura, Shichi 1997 | Hino, Larry Tateaki 2004 | Nogami, Mitsue Arita 2015 |
| Davis, Shizue Shimbo 2013 | Nakamura, James 2015 | Horita, George Hiroshi 2003 | Ochiai, Fuku 2008 |
| DiTomasso, Katherine Mary 1993 | Namba, Michino 1989 | Horita, Haruo 1997 | Okada, Barbra Teri 2011 |
| Gyaltsen, Dorki 2004 | Omori, Yoko 1994 | Inoue, Kazuko 2011 | Okada, Isaburo 1949 |
| Hara, Davis Eiji 1979 | Sakow, Toshihiko 2000 | Ishida, Kazumi 1965 | Okada, Richard Alan 1987 |
| Harada, Matsuo 1984 | Schroeter, Susan 1962 | Kamada, Mitsuye 2016 | Pascarella, Josephine Tringali 2004 |
| Horita, Koichi 1952 | Shindo, Shige 1947 | Kasuga, Mieko Grace 1968 | Poon, Peter 2000 |
| Inaba, Flu Hitoshi 1992 | Taoka Nobuji 1965 | Kasuga, Teruo Terry 1986 | Tamura, Yoshiko NA |
| Iriye, Tom Tateki 1995 | Tono, Shiteyo 1988 | Katajima, Robert 2004 | Usui, Betty Tono 1999 |
| | Wise, Gregory 1983 | Kubo, Yukichi 1957 | Walker, Charles F. 1991 |
| | Yanagida, Tadashi 1965 | | Yabuki, Tadayuki NA |
| | Yasuda, Kunihiko 1959 | | Yamakawa, Richard Alan 1992 |
| | | | Yampolsky, Anne Rei 1964 |

3月4日(日曜日)「仏教会の未来を考えるタウンホールミーティング」

ニューヨーク仏教会サンガの皆様、いつもご協力いただきありがとうございます。さて、3月4日午後1時15分(英語法要終了後)「仏教会の未来を考えるタウンホールミーティング」を計画しております。

ぜひご出席いただき、率直なご意見を聞かせていただきたいと思います。ニューヨーク仏教会は浄土真宗本願寺派の寺院というだけではなく、カルチャーセンターとして色々な文化活動をさせていただいています。しかし、世界は刻々と変化しています。その変化に対応するには、皆様の声を聞かせていただくことが大切なことと思います。

たとえば、1) どのような特典が仏教会のメンバーになろうとする動機となるか、2) お子様を仏教会のダーマスクールに参加させたいか、3) 仏教、または浄土真宗を学ぶことに興味があるか、4) どのようなジャンルのプログラムに興味があるか、5) カルチャープログラムの指導やボランティアとして活動することに興味があるか、など、率直なご意見をお願いします。

皆様の仏教会ならびにカルチャーセンターとして、活動していきたいと思っております。

3月4日の集会、ぜひご出席願います。
合掌 タウンホールミーティング 委員

イナバゲール、小玉修子、アームストロング頼子。

Town Hall Meeting on March 4

The NYBC Board is organizing a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, March 4 following the English Service at 1:15 pm.

We would like to invite our members and friends to come and discuss our future direction as a religious and cultural center for the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teaching and as a home for community activities.

What are the interests and needs of our membership and friends? Are you a parent interested in a Dharma School or activities for your children? Are you interested in classes on general and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism? Do you want to become involved in cultural activities or volunteer work?

We will begin to set goals for the upcoming years and plan how we can all work together to achieve those goals. We are excited about our achievements toward goals that we have set in the past few years, but there is still much to do to make the New York Buddhist Church a vibrant and vital part of the lives of our community. Please come and participate in the discussion and let us know how you can become involved.

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

We haven't seen **Marc Grobman** at NYBC recently because he's working on outdoor projects. Fifteen years ago he became a volunteer park trail steward, and began constructing a mile-long trail through a county-owned wilderness park. In its swampy areas, Marc and volunteers gather dead tree branches, which they lay across the trail and cover with mud to raise the trailbed height. Soon, grasses and other plants begin growing on it, and their roots stabilize the trailbed. Marc also leads school, scouting, and community groups on nature walks, showing them how to identify various trees, wildflowers, edible wild plants, animal tracks, and other nature signs.

Marc also works as a part-time New Jersey Audubon Society Teacher/Naturalist, leading kids on hikes and teaching them about the "real birds and bees." In turn, they provide him with laughs. For example, one afternoon when an eight-year-old boy was struggling with a backpack almost half his size, Marc offered to carry it for him. After hoisting it onto his back, the boy warned him, "Old people can't carry heavy things like that!" Marc's supervisor is about 10 years younger than he is, and when Marc told her about the conversation, she explained, "They don't have an accurate sense of age." She recalled a time when she was walking with two boys, and one said to the other, who was lagging behind, "Look at her. She's over a hundred years old and she's walking faster than you!" Kids will be kids.

In October, **Gail Inaba** went to India and Bhutan with her college roommate for 3 weeks on a small group tour. In India, they visited the cities of New Delhi, Amritsar and Dharamsala. The most important Sikh temple is located in Amritsar and was very impressive. There, volunteers at the Temple provide free meals to 10,000 people every day and Gail was able to tour the kitchens where the food is prepared and was even invited to help chop onions! Dharamsala is the home of the Tibetan government in exile. It is in the foothills of the Himalayas and is green and beautiful with Tibetan Buddhist temples and monasteries. In Dharamsala, they toured temples, turned prayer wheels and visited a school. Although they were not able to have an audience with the Dalai Lama, they were able to have a lively discussion with his head librarian who spent an hour with them. He spoke excellent English and answered questions from the group about Buddhism and the state of the Tibetans in exile.

Bhutan was the highlight of her trip. Gail reports that the weather was cool in the evenings but clear and warm during the day. Bhutan is a very mountainous country with many beautiful vistas and the group took a number of hikes to be able to enjoy them, including a challenging hike to the Tiger's Nest Monastery. They drove through the middle of the country and visited temples, schools, nunneries and massive fortresses. They were able to have several home visits and enjoy home cooked meals with families in both the city and countryside. Bhutan is the only country where Buddhism is the official state religion and Buddhist practice and philosophy permeates the country. Until 35 years ago, Bhutan was

closed to the rest of the world and only started permitting tourism in the mid to late 1970's. It has only been in the past 30 years that it developed roads, an education system and postal system. Television only came to Bhutan in 1999. Although it is very time consuming to get to Bhutan (almost 38 hours in transit), she hopes to visit again, some day.



Gail Inaba, chopping onions at the Golden Temple.

New York Buddhist Church

White Elephant Sale

Saturday, March 24, 2018
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

SILENT AUCTION
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

JAPANESE FOOD

BAKED GOODS • JEWELRY • HOUSEHOLD GOODS • OLD AND NEW "TREASURES"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Martial Arts Demonstration..... | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| Tachibana Dance Group..... | 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm |

*Program is subject to change.

New York Buddhist Church
332 Riverside Drive (Between 105 & 106 Streets)
(212) 678-0305
www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

Nirvana Day and Pets Memorial By Gary

Jaskula, MA

We will hold our annual Pets Memorial Observance on Sunday, February 11 in conjunction with the Nirvana Day Service. We will also have a guest speaker, Khenpo Pema Wandak, Palden Sakya Center and Vikramasila Foundation, a well known and respected figure in the NY Tibetan Buddhist community. Pets Memorial is a lovely and popular custom celebrated in BCA temples.

We honor the memory of the deceased animal companions who have enriched our lives. We are reminded that all sentient beings have Buddha nature and the potential for enlightenment. With their love and devotion our pets share their lives and connect with us in very deep ways beyond human words.

If you have seen traditional Mahayana pictures of the passing of the Buddha into Nirvana, Shakyamuni Buddha is lying down in the grove surrounded by disciples from all walks of life. And frequently down front the animals are also there. The Buddha enters Nirvana surrounded by all creation. What a wonderful way to celebrate Nirvana Day for young and old alike.

At the NYBC, we enjoy listening to the names of our beloved departed pets read out at the beginning of the service. You are also invited to bring pictures of these pets which are set up on the onaijin for the Nirvana Day Service.

To place your pets name on the list, kindly fill out a pets memorial form that appeared in last month's issue of Kokoro and return it to any of the ministers assistants or Rev. Ikeda by February or call the temple. Forms will also be placed at the entrance of the Hondo. If you are bringing photos for the onaijin, please have them at the Temple an hour before the service on February. After the service, please stay a few minutes before going up to enjoy refreshments to pick up your photos to take home.



Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

We are looking forward to as productive a year in 2018 as we had in 2017. In 2017, We were invited to perform once again our big, full-length show at the Carnegie Neighborhood Series at Laguardia Performing Arts Center. (Tickets are already live for the next show in 2018!). Last year, we also were invited to perform at Rutgers University for their Pan Asian Lunar New Year festival and at University of Hartford Connecticut for their 32nd International Festival. We took part in several other cultural events, including *Talking Drums: Stand Up! Speak Out!* at Lincoln Center Out of Doors, the Asian Pacific American Heritage festival in Chinatown, and Japan Day in Central Park.

We were very busy in the spring performing for JAA Sakura Matsuri in Flushing Meadows Park, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Sakura Matsuri, Roosevelt Island Sakura Matsuri, and the Branch Brook Park Bloomfest. All those spring events happened back to back during the weekends of May, and all of them had fantastic backdrops of cherry blossoms.

In between many of these larger performances, smaller groups were able to provide New Year's Celebration entertainment for the Japan Society of New York and the Consulate General of Japan in New York. We played at the World Health Organization for No Tobacco Day, we played a party for Sumitomo Mitsui Bank, and a taping for the Action Bronson Untitled Show.

Aside from performances, we also engaged in the greater taiko community, and hosted our own teaching workshops. This year we attended the North American Taiko Conference in San Diego. We were also guests at the East Coast Taiko Conference at Brown University, where we led workshops and performed in the concert with other great taiko talent. ECTC 2018 will be hosted by Stony Brook in Long Island, with some work on the backend done by Soh Daiko's Sarah Gilbert. We'll be leading workshops once more and interacting with friends and drummers from the East Coast.

At NYBC we hosted 2 separate taiko workshops, one for the public and one for recruitment. Of the combined 40+ participants between both events, we started work with 8 new trainees, and 5 still remain as we go into 2018 preparing to become probationary members. NYBC hosts some of our favorite events, like marching in the Pride Parade, where we are able to drum as we walked.

The Obon at Bryant Park is always our favorite close to the season, and several of us have been happy to help with the annual mochitsuki.

Cont. on p. 7

November/December Board Highlights By

Cheryl Ikemiya

Minister's Report Rev. Earl Ikeda expressed his thanks to the community for working together to accomplish the Luau and encouraged us to show our temple pride by supporting future events. He reported, with sadness that Sam Kunihiro passed away.

A contract with Seabrook should be handled by the new President in January 2018. He

New Business:

Nancy Okada gave the Luau budget report: Income - luncheon tickets \$6,285; Raffle - \$2,921; donations to Raffle - \$1,500; gross income: \$10,706. Less expenses: Raffle prizes - \$1,500 and projected food costs: \$1,000; Net income: \$8,206. The Board agreed to apply the proceeds to the Onaijin Restoration fund.

Mac Evans volunteered to be the new chair for the Gay Pride Parade in 2018 following Tony DiTomasso's resignation as chair. Tony has served ably in the past few years. Mac will represent NYBC at planning meetings with the city and will head the organizing committee. He has filed the Early Bird Registration.

Budgets for the major services and larger events in 2018 need to be set. The Board also needs to identify chairs/point people for major events. Chairs should form committees to work on events, recruit volunteers, create budgets and timetables. The Board will assist in the organization and recruiting new people.

White Elephant Sale is set for Saturday, March 24.

Strategic Planning – date is set for March 4.

The Board will work with two dates: October 20 or 27 for the 2018 Anniversary Fundraising Dinner. Potential anniversary committee that we will recruit: Isabelle Bernard and Gail Inaba (co-chairs), Nancy Okada, Mariko Kato, Richard Gross, Yoriko Armstrong, Rev. Ikeda, Lillian Moy, and others. The Board decided to replace the Autumn Festival with alternative events like the annual holiday party in December. In 2018 the Anniversary will take in place in lieu of the festival. Other ideas include an Open House featuring the cultural activities and a food alley.

Annual Sokai meeting: Up for re-election for the 2018-2020 term: Isabelle Bernard, Gary Jaskula, Yoriko Fujita Armstrong and Tony Armstrong; Gary Jaskula will not be running for this term. Nominating Committee (Yoriko Armstrong and Keiko Ohtaka): There are two open positions for the 2018-2020 term. The qualifications for Board members are two-year history of membership and willingness to do work.

Old Business:

Buddhist Global Relief Walk to Feed the Hungry – Isabelle Bernard reported that NYBC raised more than \$500 for the cause led by Bhikhu Bodhi, a scholar and translator of the Theravadan tradition.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports:

Adult Buddhist Association: Keiko Ohtaka reported on the recently elected officers. Keiko Ohtaka, President; Tony Armstrong, Vice President; Yoriko Armstrong, Treasurer; Renee Semenick, Secretary; Nobuko Kodama, Historian. The ABA is working on the White Elephant Sale.

Buddhist Women's Association: report by Ruth Funai. The National Federation of Buddhist Women's Association will be in Visalia CA on September 14-16, 2018.

Finance Committee: report on meeting by Cheryl Ikemiya – Priorities are to work with Nancy Okada to prepare 2017 Financial Report and 2018 Budget to present to the membership for the Sokai. Expense reports for travel and events should be submitted within a month of the activity. The The Fund for the Future: Onaijin Fund brochure, designed by Brian Funai, was delivered on December 12 and subsequently mailed.

Membership Committee: report by Yoriko Fujita Armstrong –The committee sent out letters for non-renewing members. Keiko will be in touch with those individuals. Yoriko Armstrong reported that new forms are ready for distribution for the New Year's events

Strategic Planning Committee: report by Cheryl Ikemiya. The committee includes Cheryl Ikemiya, Gail Inaba, Yoriko Armstrong and Nobuko Kodama. They will work on an online survey and an article for Kokoro. Date for a Town Hall is set for March 4.

Soh Daiko Cont. from p. 6

We can't mention our gratitude to NYBC without thanking Sam Kunihiro for all of this support to Soh Daiko over the years. He was a huge help to the group when Soh Daiko was young, and has always been there to support us as we perform at the church and for Obon.

We had a busy and terrific 2017. Many of our performance this year are in the pipeline for 2018, and you can always find our updated schedule on our website or through social media. Everyone at Soh Daiko wishes you a great New Year!

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

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

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Kokoro is published by the New York Buddhist Church, a Jodo Shinshu temple.

Opinions expressed in *Kokoro* are not necessarily those of the NYBC.

Subscriptions: *Kokoro* is mailed free to NYBC members, and to non-members for \$15/year. For subscriptions and mailing address updates, please contact:

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Articles and 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 marikrew@hotmail.com / mkatony@hotmail.com.

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. (Response may be delayed in Jan. and Feb.)

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

February 2018



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

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