

# Kokoro

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

## Twins

was a dark, stormy night, he could see an ugly young woman with dark, tattered clothing standing behind the noble goddess. The master stopped her and asked her who she was. The ugly woman answered, "I am a goddess of misfortune. Wherever I go, disaster follows." "Oh, no!" The man exclaimed. "We can't invite you in. Sorry, but you cannot come in, young lady. You must go elsewhere," the man firmly told her. The ugly young woman smiled gently and said, "I understand. I will leave now, but my twin sister must leave, too. We are always together. Wherever one goes, the other must follow." And they both left.

They visited every house in the village, but no one welcomed them both. The goddesses stood at the last house, a ramshackle little shack, that looked like very poor people lived inside. The twin goddesses decided to In modern society, it is change the order in which they spoke. This time, the ugly goddess knocked at the door, and the goddess of good fortune stood in the shadows behind her. An old woman answered the door and said, "Who's there, on such a terrible night? Oh, dear! You look terrible! Please our lives, but we still look come in out of the cold. We do not have much food, but for happiness from outside. we have a warm fire pit. Please come in and sit down." The ugly goddess hesitantly said, "Thank you, but I am a we cannot be happy alone. goddess of misfortune, and my sister is here, too. May we both come in?" The old woman smiled at the ugly goddess and said, "It's okay. You look so cold and tired that you might freeze to death if you stay outside.

We don't have much to lose. Of course you can both come in." Entering the old woman's house, they saw an old man seated by the fire pit, making a straw hat.

The old couple offered the goddesses their own futon (mattress), since they did not have any extra ones for guests, and they slept in the barn. The next morning, by Cont. on p. 7 the time they woke up, the twin goddesses were already gone. They found a plate full of mochi for the new year, a pile of straw hats for snowy days, and



January 2019



**Reverend Earl Ikeda** 

golden statues of the goddesses where they sat by the fire pit.

believed that wealth or fortune can improve our lives and make us happy. Technology has enriched Shinran Shonin said that A simple fire pit was enough to make an old couple and a pair of goddesses warm and happy on a cold night. Where does your happiness come from?

Namo Amida Butsu

A long time ago, on a brutally cold winter night in rural Japan, a wealthy family was startled by a knock on the door. The husband wondered who would visit them on such a cold night, and asked the maid to answer the door. The maid opened the door and found a beautiful woman standing at the door. The woman introduced herself saying, "I am a goddess of good fortune. May I come in?" She wore a gorgeous outfit, with a golden scarf floating around her, radiating light. The maid asked the woman to wait, and rushed back to the living room, where she reported what she just saw.

The master of the house was delighted and personally went to the door to greet her. He bowed deeply and said, "Please come in. We are delighted to have you in our house." As the goddess of good fortune was entering, he saw a dark, figure behind her, hidden in the shadows. Although it Kokoro

## Holiday Party Festivities 2018



A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL !







## **Onaijin Restoration to Begin**

The campaign for the restoration of the Onaijin (altar) is nearing completion, and a team of five artisans will arrive from Japan in mid-March to be in residence for three weeks to see the project through. The NYBC Board is working with Mr. Tatsuji Maeda of Aloha Business Consulting to oversee the restoration with the work executed on site. During this period, the main parts of the altar will be disassembled and moved to the Annex building second floor front parlor as well as a section near the back entrance of the Hondo. The lacquer, gold leaf and painted carvings will be restored during this process. We would like to thank all the individuals who contributed toward the first restoration of the original altar and look forward to celebrating with our members a newly restored Onaijin in April.

#### 双子

昔々 ある寒い日に 日本の田舎の小さい町に住む 裕福な家族が 戸をたたく音を聞いて 驚きました。その家の 主人は こんな寒い日に一体 誰が訪ねて来るのだろうと 不思議に思い、お手伝いの人に 出てみるように言いま した。戸を開けてみると そこには きれいな女性が立っていて、「私は 幸運の女神です。」と紹介し、「入って もよろしいですか。」と尋ねました。その女性は すてきな着物を着て、金の衣を巻き 光で輝いていました。お手 伝いの人は 女性に待つように言い、居間に急いでもどり 今 見た事を主人に伝えました。

それを聞いて 主人は 喜び勇んで 戸で女神を迎え、深くお辞儀をして「どうぞお入りください。家に来ていただ いて 光栄です。」と言いました。そこで 幸運の女神が家に入ろうとすると 主人は女神の後ろの陰に隠れている もう一人の暗い姿を見ました。その日は暗い、吹雪の夜でしたが、高貴な女神の後ろに ぼろぼろの着物を着た み すぼらしい若い女性が見えました。主人は その女性を 引き止め、誰なのか聞くと、「私は不幸の女神です。私が 行く所はどこでも 不幸な事が起きるのです。」と言うのを聞いて 主人は「申し訳ありませんが、お迎えする事は できません。どこか他へ行ってくださいませんか。」と強い口調で、言ったのです。すると 女性は 優しく微笑 み、「わかりました。それなら 今 出て行きます。でも 私達は 双子ですから 二人とも 出て行かなくてはい けません。いつも 一緒にいますから,一人が行く所には 必ず 離れないで ついて行くのです。」と言って、出 て行きました。

その後 二人の女神は村の全ての家を訪ねました。でも二人を迎え入れてくれる人は 一人もいませんでした。女神 は最後に 貧しい人が住んでいると思えるみすぼらしい小さい小屋に立ち止まりました。今度は 双子の女神は 話 す順序を 変え、まず 不幸の女神が戸をたたき、幸運の女神は その女神の後ろの陰に立ちました。すると 年老 いた女性が戸を開け、「こんな日に どなたでしょうか。まあ かわいそうに。すぐお入りなさい。食べ物は たい して ありませんが、暖かいいろりがあります。さあさあ、入って お座りください。」と言いました。不幸の女神 は 遠慮しながら、「ありがとうございます。でも私は不幸の女神で、ここにもう一人の双子の女神がいます。二人 で入っても構いませんか。」年老いた女性は不幸の女神に 笑顔で、こう答えました。「どうぞ どうぞ。お二人と も寒さで、お疲れのようで、このまま外にいたら 凍え死んでしまいますよ。気にしないで、お二人とも お入りな さい。」と言いました。その女性の家に入ると、いろりのそばには 年とった主人が座っていて、わらで 笠を作っ ていました。

年寄りの夫婦は 女神に 自分たちが寝ていた布団を使ってもらい、お客さん用の布団がなかったので 自分達は納 屋で寝ました。次の朝、夫婦が起きた時には 双子の女神はもう いませんでした。そして お正月のためのたくさ んのお餅と 雪の日にかぶる笠が積んであるのを見つけました。その上に いろりのそばの座っていた所には 金の 二つの女神の像が置いてありました。

現代社会では 富や財産が人を幸せにすると考えられています。テクノロジーの発達で人の生活ば 豊かになりまし たが、現代人は まだ 見かけの幸せを求めているようです。親鸞上人は 人は 一人では 幸せになれないと言い ました。たった一つのいろりが 寒い日に 年老いた夫婦と双子の女神の心を暖め、またとない喜びを与えました。 皆さんの幸せは どこから来るのでしょうか。

南無阿弥陀仏

翻訳 小玉修子

Translated by Nobuko Kodama

## Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Services Schedule for 2019

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.

2018 1st Year	2017 3rd Year	2013 7th Year	2007 13th Year
2001 17th Year	1995 25th Year	1987 33rd Year	1970 50th Year

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

### January 2019 Sunday, January 6

Asakura, Michiko 2002 Awaya, Sei 1954 Awaya, Shinji 1979 Endo, Tsuguo 2016 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 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

## February 2019 Sunday, February 3

Aunt, Stogh NA Bushnell, Joe NA Bushnell, Maime NA Davis, Albert F. 2007 Davis, Shizue Shimbo 2013 DiTomasso, Katherine Mary 1993 Gyaltsen, Dorki 2004 Hara, Davis Eiji 1979 Harada, Matsuo 1984 Horita, Koichi 1952 Inaba, Flu Hitoshi 1992 Iriye, Tom Tateki 1995 Kato, Roy 2011 Kurokawa, Teru 2016 Mitani, Yoshio 1943 Miyamura, Shichi 1997 Nakamura, James 2015 Namba, Michino 1989 Omori, Yoko 1994 Sakow, Toshihiko 2000 Schroeter, Susan 1962 Shindo, Shige 1947 Taoka Nobuji 1965 Tep, Borey 2015 Tono, Shiteyo 1988 Wise, Gregory 1983 Yanagida, Tadashi 1965 Yasuda, Kunihiko 1959

#### In Memoriam

**George Yamamoto**, a NYBC member who had served on the Board of Trustees for many years, passed away at the age of 89 on November 15, 2018. He and his family lived in New Jersey until his transfer to Cortland, New York, living there for the past 40 years. He worked as a mechanical engineer at Intertek, being promoted to vice president of the air conditioning division. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii where he met his wife, Yoneko "Ann" Yamamoto.

They were both very active volunteers at NYBC, raising their children during their formative years in the Sunday School, now known as the Dharma School. He was predeceased by his son, Dean. We extend our condolences and deepest sympathies to Ann, daughter, Ann Mohammed, the family, relatives and many friends.



George Yamamoto 1929-2018

## Sangha News By Ruth Funai

**Brian and Kyoko McGurgan**, long time NYBC members, report they experienced a strong magnitude 7.0 earthquake, the morning of November 30, with the epicenter just seven miles north of Anchorage. Only minor injuries were reported and damage to buildings and infrastructure, while significant, was far less than might have occurred from such a strong earthquake. Many people here credit the improved building codes introduced following the devastating M9.2 Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 for the region's resilience. Since the quake, things have now mostly returned to normal. Frequent aftershocks had everyone on edge but seem to be subsiding. It was a very frightening experience, but they were grateful that Anchorage has pulled though so well.

They have been really enjoying life in Alaska which they had visited ten years ago with Kyoko's parents and aunt. They had wanted go ever since, as they were amazed by the dramatic beauty and vast scale of the landscape and loved seeing all the wildlife. A year and a half ago, they decided to try living there so they could visit more of the state and to see what it was like throughout the year. Brian is working as an Information Technology analyst and Kyoko is a social worker at an art studio working with the developmentally disabled population. They enjoy time outdoors all year long, including the long winter when daylight is short.

They help friends with dog sled training and races, photograph the spectacular scenery and the Northern Lights, and during whale watches and on glacier tours. This year, they spent much time in August and September along the coast of the Cook Inlet around Anchorage watching and photographing the pods of beluga whales that live there. They frequently hike up onto the bluffs south of town to watch white Dall sheep and occasional black bears and have gotten to know moose very well. You could learn more about life there, by visiting Kyoko's blog at: <a href="https://kyokoandbriansalaskanadventure.wordpress.com/">https://kyokoandbriansalaskanadventure.wordpress.com/</a>.

They would love to have their friends let them know If they are a planning a trip to Alaska!



Kyoko and Brian McGurgan, enjoying and photographing the beauty of Alaska

#### In Memoriam

**Dimitri B. Bakhroushin**, a Minister's Assistant under the tutelage of Rev. Hozen Seki, passed away on October 18, 2018 at the age of 72. He conducted Sunday Dharma School classes, assisted the services at the Isabella Home, and participated in many interfaith events. He authored a book titled "A Buddhist-Christian Synthesis: One Can Be Both Buddhist and Christian" (Vantage Press, 1995). A memorial service was conducted at NYBC on December 2.

#### Soh Daiko, cont. from p. 7

Another highlight of the past month was the New York Buddhist Church's night of caroling. Our members were delighted to spend time with the church community, enjoy delicious home-cooked food, exchange gifts, and kazoo their favorite holiday songs. We would like to thank the church, the New Uke City Strummers, and the Reverend for including us in these heart-warming festivities. As the year comes to a close, Soh Daiko reflects on the terrific year we've had and all that the new year will bring.

Come January, we will be full-steam-ahead celebrating our 40th anniversary, and we can't wait to share with you all that we've been working on!

Kokoro

## New Year's Greetings from the Sangha

Happy New Year! **Kimiko & Gail Inaba** \* Akimashite Omedeto! Namu Amida Butsu- **Clement & Arlene Hirae** \* Happy New Year 2018- Year of the Pig. In Gassho, **Yasuko & Mariko Kato** \* sincere Hopes for a Safe and Rewarding 2019! **Akiko & Nancy Okada** \* Peace and Good Health in 2019! **Tachibana Dance Group** Best Wishes for Peace, Health G Joy to Everyone! **Jeff, Lillian, Christopher & Sarah Lum** \* May the New Year bring good health and happiness to everyone and their loved ones. **Renee Semenick** \* Akemashita Omedeto Gozaimasu. Happy New Year Year of the Boar! from **Tony and Yoriko Armstrong** \* A Bright & Happy New year to Everyone in the World! **Dai Miyazaki** \* A Happy, Healthy Omedeto to all for 2019! **Dai Miyazaki** \* Wishing you health, pearce and joy in the Year of the Boar—2019! **The Ohtakas** \* May peace, compassion and good health prevail throughout the year! **Ruth, Brian, Craig, Laura & Julia** \* May you experience Joy and Fulfillment lving your Passion and Purpose, as satoru "sat" Tsufura did! **Alice, Donna, Lamarr Tsufura** \* Peace on Earth! **Paula Horii** \* Wishing all our Sangha friends, a Wonderful and Happy New Year from **The American Buddhist Study Center** 

And from:

Isabelle Bernard \* Davíd Okada \* Susan Bloom \* Karl Davís \* Tony Dítomasso \* August Elder \* Ríchard Gross \* Hírokí Hasegawa \* Cheryl Ikemíya \* Chíeko Iwakí \* Gertrude Kíhara \* Estelle Kímízuka \* Nobuko Kodama \* \* Míchael & Díana Moríta \* Líllían Moy \* Haruko Sakurazawa \* T.Y. \* Masamí Sumítaní \* Yukíko sato \* Kyoko Níshíyama \*Joan Míyazakí \* Tomoko and Maya Iwakí \* Tatsuo Ito \* Dakím Duncan



Pets' M	lemorial Service Nirvana Day, February , 2019
	DogOther (describe)
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
	n to any Minister's Assistant or Rev. Ikeda by February , 2018. Please consider giving n memory of your pet(s).

## Nirvana Day and Petr Memorial

By Gary Jaskula, MA

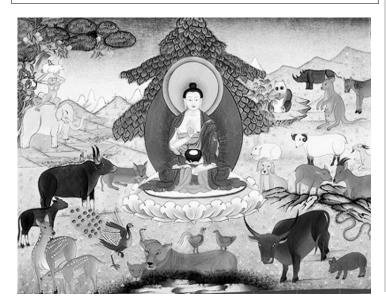
We will hold our annual Pets Memorial Observance on Sunday, February in conjunction with the Nirvana Day Service. Pets Memorial is a lovely and popular custom celebrated in BCA temples.

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.



## So Daiko News By Julianna Hessel

At the start of December we welcomed two Girl Scout troops to the dojo for a introduction to taiko workshop. The 17 girls, ranging in age from 9 to 15, and their 5 leaders learned basic hitting technique and kiai, developed their playing and listening skills through drills, and got the chance to perform a solo with the musical support of their troops and Soh Daiko members. The girls left with their City Adventure badges and a newfound appreciation for taiko. It was very special to watch this group learn, gain confidence, and most importantly have fun playing taiko. We are so glad to have been the ones to introduce them to it!

Later, we had the great fortune to give a workshop to the Bergenfield High School taiko group. This workshop focused on playing as a group and then supporting each other with kiai, accessory instruments, and movement. We are thankful for the relationship we've formed with Bergenfield High School Taiko, and we hope to see their faces at one of our recruitment workshops down the road! *Cont. on p. 5* 

#### Cont. from p. 1

Hoonko Service and Shojin Ryoori Bento

The memorial service observing the passing of our founder Shinran Shonin is called *Hoonko* in Japanese. Of the Six Major Services, Roku Daihoyo, this observance is considered the most important. This year our Hoonko service is on Sunday, January 20.

In Japan, this observance is held three times; at the home, the family temple, and at the Mother Temple, *Honzan*. *Hoon* means to express gratitude, and *kou* means the gathering of the group or sangha. We reflect upon the Wondrous Vow, *guzeigan*, of Amida Buddha which assures us birth in the Pure Land.

It is traditional to serve a vegetarian/vegan meal at this service, *shojin ryoori*. NYBC volunteers will be making traditional bentos for this service. The cost of the bento is \$25 each. Please sign up or call the temple at (212) 678-0305 to reserve yours.

#### Annual Sokai Meeting Sunday January 27

All members are invited to attend the NYBC's annual meeting. New Board members will be elected and reports by various officers and groups will be presented. It is a good opportunity to ask the Board of Trustees any questions you have about the operations or any other matter related to the NYBC.



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# New York Buddhist Church Jan.-Feb. 2019

January

Jan. 1, Tues. 11:30am: Shusho-e (New Year's Day) Service, Speaker:

1pm: New Year's Day Potluck Lunch, Kakizome, Brush Painting, and Hyakunin-Isshu

Jan. 2, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Jan. 3, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)

Jan. 5, Sat. 10-11:30am: [Dharma Gathering and Study Class]

2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program

Jan. 6, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo, Speaker: Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Nancy Okada, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

Jan. 9, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Jan. 12, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

Jan. 13, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service Chairperson: Richard Gross, Greeter: Lily Sakai Johnson, Music: Ukulele group

1 pm Adult Buddhist Association meeting;

Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1), Children (1-2pm); adults (2-3pm)

Jan. 16, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Jan. 20, Sun. 11:30am: Ho-onko (Shinran Shonin Memorial) Service, Chairperson: Renee Semenick, Greeter: Diama Omori, Music: Yoriko Armstrong

Shojin Ryori Bento

1pm: Buddhist Women's Association New Year's Luncheon

Jan. 23, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Jan. 26, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

Jan. 27, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service Chairperson: Mariko Kato, Greeter: Lillian Moy, Music: Nobuko Kodama

1pm: Annual SOKAI (Membership) meeting, followed by brief Board meeting

Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1), Children (1-2pm); adults 2-3pm)

Jan. 30, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

## February

*Feb. 2, Sat.* 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

Feb. 3, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

Feb. 6, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Feb. 7, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)

Feb. 9, Sat. 2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program

Feb. 10, Sun. 11:30am: Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) and Pets Memorial Service

1:30pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1),Children (1-2pm); adults (2-3pm)

Feb. 13, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Feb. 16, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

*Feb. 17, Sun.* 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service

1:00pm: Board of Trustees meeting

Feb. 20, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

*Feb. 24, Sun.* 10:30am: Japanese Service, 11:30am: English Service

Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1),Children (1-2pm); adults (2-3pm)

Feb. 27, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

## Save the Dates:

Ho-onko Servíce Sun. Jan. 20

Reserve your Shojín Ryorí Bento Annual Sokaí Meetíng Sun. Jan. 27

CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE—CONSULT www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org for ANY UPDATES OR REVISIONS

#### 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 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

## **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. (May be delayed response 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, 7-9:30 pm and Saturdays, 2-5pm, NYBC Dojo. 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 Sunday mornings 10:30-11:00 am and 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 of the month, morning  $\,$  10-11:30 am  $\,$ 

Jinpukai (Okinawan Dance) usually every Monday 7-9 pm



kokoro

January 2019

#### NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

New York Buddhist Church

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New York, NY 10025

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org



