

In last month's article, I wrote about Chiyono Sasaki who was awakened to her true self by embracing the loving vow of Amida Buddha, which is directed to all sentient beings. According to the book "Dharma Treasures, Spiritual Insight from Hawaii's Shin Buddhist Pioneers", by Reverend Tatsuo Muneto, Chiyono Sasaki, "learned from Rev. Matsuura about Amida's compassion directed to the foolish self, [and] she realized her own foolish nature [through] the critical words of her husband."

Thanks to MA Akemi Ishida, I am able to listen to Rev. Nobuo Haneda's weekly dharma messages from the Maida Center in Berkley, CA. As in the case of Chiyono Sasaki, his insightful messages remind us that the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin are a very personal matter, to be experienced on an individual basis. In Jodo Shinshu, we often express this as "akunin shoki", "the focus (of Amida's Primal Vow) is on the evil being".

Most of us try to live "good lives" and do not wish to be considered foolish or evil. However, we often find

KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



March 2018

Anjin- "Settled Mind"

ourselves falling short of this goal and wonder why we are not feeling that we are accumulating merit or being recognized for "positive results". In addition, we sometimes get negative responses for something that we did with "good intentions" which leaves us puzzled and frustrated. In a previous article, I touched upon the Three Poisons or "causes of suffering": desire, hatred/anger, and ignorance/selfcenteredness. We find ourselves suffering or frustrated in not achieving our desired goals because we are defining "good", "evil" and expecting fulfillment and recognition through our own calculation of what is "good" and "evil". However, we forget that these definitions arise from our selfcenteredness or ego. As in the case of Chiyono, the harder she strove to find fulfillment, the more confused, frustrated and disappointed she found herself. Many of us share Chiyono's situation and when faced with feelings of dissatisfaction in not living the life we aspire to, begin think that the teachings of the Buddha are not true and effective in dealing with life's difficult issues.

The dharma or teaching is meant to help us see, realize, and awaken to our true selves in the same way Chiyono Sasaki experienced a personal awakening to her "foolish self". We hear the teachings of the Buddha and interpretations by Shinran Shonin, however, are we interpreting these teachings based upon our own "calculations" (hakarai)? The only way to be free from these frustrations and disappointments is to become a Buddha, or enlightened being. This path to enlightenment will require us to awaken to universal truths, establish unconditional vows, and fulfill them by undergoing great practices which requires eons of time to fulfill. Only upon completely fulfilling universal and unconditional vows, can we then become Buddhas and acquire the purity of a Buddha's heart and mind. The state of enlightenment allows one to truly understand the sufferings of all sentient beings and see things from a universal spiritual view, free of selfcenteredness or ego.

This may sound ridiculously impossible and hopeless. But, paradoxically, it is not. In the case of Chiyono, her husband made her realize her foolishness by his harsh words, "What a fool you are!" Something suddenly jolted her inner being and



Reverend Earl Ikeda

it was at that moment that she realized that the Buddha's love, in the form of wisdom and compassion was always there reaching out to her, a bombu or foolish being, unconditionally. It was only then that her life took a different path and became a source of joy.

Each of us is on a personal path and our experiences will certainly vary. However, the heart and mind of the Buddha understands this and focuses on each of us in a unconditional and special way. We can allow ourselves to experience this wisdom and compassion and expand joy in our lives and in the lives of those we touch.

Namu Amida Butsu

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Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

Ohigan Service

Higan is observed in Japan for a period of one week in the Spring and again in the Autumn during the spring and fall equinox when the seasons are in balance, neither too hot or cold. It is a good time to reflect upon the illusory nature of life. The word "Higan" is an abbreviation of Tohigan ("to arrive"). Tohigan means "to arrive at the Other Shore." The "Other Shore" is Enlightenment or Nirvana, that is, the Pure Land. We are able to reach the Other Shore when we transcend the cycle of birth and death, crossing over the sea of worldly passions arising from illusion.

NYBC will observe the Spring Ohigan on Sunday, March 18, 11:30 am. Please come as a family and invite friends to share precious time together.

Cooking Class for March

Rev. Ikeda's cooking classes are generally scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. Our March class will be on the 10th, and focus on *Wagashi*, Japanese confections. Classes begin at 10 am until about 12-1pm, here at NYBC. The donations for the classes are \$20, for pledged members, and \$30, for non- pledged members. Everyone is invited to attend. Please contact the temple at (212) 678-0305, to reserve your spot.

Sam Kunihiro's Memorial Service

Longtime and dedicated NYBC member Sam Kunihiro passed away last year. NYBC will be sponsoring his memorial service at the Temple on Sunday, March 11, 2:30 pm.

Everyone is welcomed to come and share in his life and efforts to help make NYBC what it is today.

Tokiko Miura's 49th Day Service

NYBC temple members and friends will reflect upon the life of Tokiko Miura, who was a beloved and active member of our temple. Her 49th Day Memorial Service will be observed at the Temple on March 18, 2:30 pm.

3月18日(日)午前11時半 春の彼岸会法要彼岸は、阿弥陀仏の浄土をさします。お彼岸は一年に春と秋の二回あり、浄土に行かれた亡き人をしのぶとともに、仏様の「そのような生活でいいのですか」との問いかけに耳をかたむけ、自分の生活を振り返る大切なときです。3月18日午前11時半から春の彼岸会法要をつとめます。どうぞご家族や友人とお参りください。

3月10日(土)午前10時 和菓子教室

池田アール住職の和菓子教室は3月10日(土曜日)午前10時から午後12時~1時です。参加される方は、電話212-678-0305番へお申し込みください。

なお、仏教会会員は20ドル、非会員は30ドルの参加費をお願い します。

3月11日(日)午後2時半 クニヒロサム様をしのぶ会 長い間ニューヨーク仏教会のために貢献してくださいました、法友 クニヒロサム様が2017年11月自宅で永眠されました。3月11日 (日曜日)午後2時半からニューヨーク仏教会本堂にて、しのぶ会を おこないます。どなたでも参加していただけます。ぜひ皆様お参り いただきますようご案内申します。

3月18日(日)午後2時半 ミウラトキコ様 満中陰(四十九日)法 要

ニューヨーク仏教会の会員のミウラ ジェーン トキコ様の満中陰 (四十九日)法要をおつとめしますので、お参りいただきますよう ご案内申し上げます。トキコ様は仏教会ならびに仏教婦人会のた め、長い間真摯に貢献してくださいました。



In Memoriam

Jane Tokiko Miura, a long time NYBC and Fujinkai (Buddhist Womens Association) member died January 21, 2018 at the age of 90. She was an energetic, hardworking lady who was very dependable and was tireless! She always arrived early, because she said, she couldn't trust the buses. She would be seen helping in the kitchen and at the fundraisers, Obon Dance Festival, mochitsuki, the monthly mailing of the Kokoro (church newsletter) and annual church clean up, just to name a few. She was part of the BWA chorus which performed during the Sangha Day Talent Shows. She, like many in her generation, will be missed very much, because, "they don't make them like that anymore". Her memorial service is scheduled for March 18 at 2:30pm at NYBC

めざめ **池田**アール**住職**

2018年2月号のKokoroに、佐々木ちよのさんの目覚め(めざめ)について書きました。宗藤達雄開教使の「ダーマの宝・ハワイの浄土真宗のパイオニア」の本に、「ちよのさんは、松浦開教使の教えのおかげで、夫の叱り声が引き金となり、おろか者である真実に目覚めた。」と書かれています。これはちよのさんが信心の人になられた話です。

私ごとですが、カルフォルニア州バークレーの羽田信生先生(毎田仏教センター)の法話を拝聴しています。羽田先生は、「仏法を一般的なことして聞くのではなく、自分の事として聞くことが大切。」と言われます。佐々木ちよのさんは、松浦先生のお話を、自分のこととして聞かれたのです。たとえば「悪人正機・あくにんしょうき」は、阿弥陀仏の救いの目的は悪人と言う意味ですが、 ほかの人が悪人であるかどうかが問題ではなく、自分が悪人であるかどうかが問題です。

我々は、自分を良い人間でありたい思い、おろかで悪い人間とは思いたくありません。しかし、良い人間でありたいと思い、良いことをして良い結果を予想しますが、予期していたような結果にならないことがあります。また、思ってもいなかったような悪い結果となることがあります。すると、わけがわからず納得できないことになります。前に三毒、苦しみの原因(欲、怒り。無知、自己中心)について書きました。私たちは自分の希望するものを手に入れようとしますが、その見込みがはずれると苦しみとなります。 また、仏の教えに従って生きているのに、自分が予想していたような結果にならないと仏様の教えは真実ではない、または本物でないと言う疑い心がおこります。しかし、自分の思うようにならない苦しみは、欲と怒りと無明が原因ではないでしょうか。

ちよのさんはただ聞くだけで、本当の自分を知りました。が、我々は親鸞聖人や先生の教えをはからい心で聞く、そのまま聞かないで自分の都合で聞いているのではないでしょうか。 仏教の目的はめざめた人、南無阿弥陀仏の人になることです。そのために普遍的な真理の法を知ることが必要です。法を知るには聞くことをしなければなりません。法を聞いて頭が下がると、知恵と慈悲の仏様と一つになります。

目覚めた人、佛になるのは不可能なことように思うかもしれません。しかし、そんなにむずかしいことではないでしょう。たとえば、ちよのさんは夫の「バカ者!」と言う声を聞いて、本願・佛性が呼びおこされたのです。ちよのさんの中にあった佛にかえりたいという願いが呼びさまされたのです。この願いは、すべの人が持っています。

我々の生き方は歴史や経験によって違います。しかし、**仏の光**は全てのものを照らし、**我々**は南無阿弥陀佛に目覚めるようにと願われています。

南無阿弥陀仏

(Trans. by Akemi Ishida)

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.

March 2018

Shotsuki Hoyo Service:

Sunday, March 4

Fukuchi, Kaname 1994 Hahn, Maude 1992 Hayden, Joseph 1994 Hino, Larry Tateaki 2004 Horita, George Hiroshi 2003 Horita, Haruo 1997 Inoue, Kazuko 2011 Ishida, Kazumi 1965 Ito, Mary 2005 Kamada, Mitsuye 2016 Kasuga, Mieko Grace 1968 Kasuga, Teruo Terry 1986 Katajima, Robert 2004

Kubo, Yukichi 1957 Kume, Hidekichi 2008 Miyamura, Yoshio 1985 Nakamura, Suya 1978 Nogami, Mitsue Arita 2015 Ochiai, Fuku 2008 Okada, Barbra Teri 2011 Okada, Isaburo 1949 Okada, Richard Alan 1987 Poon, Peter 2000 Tamura, Yoshiko NA Usui, Betty Tono 1999

Pascarella, Josephine Tringali Walker, Charles F. 1991 Yabuki, Tadayuki NA Yamakawa, Richard Alan 1992

Yampolsky, Anne Rei 1964

APRIL 2017 Shotsuki Hoyo Service: Sunday, April 1

Briceland, Penelope Warren Chen, Po-Shen 2005 Hondo, Rev. Shojo 2015 Horiuchi, Yoshitaka 1991 lizuka, Reiko 2010 Ikoma, Chiyoko 1985 Ikoma, Fumiko 1948 Kaneko, Seijuro 1968 Kikuchi, Chiyoko 2004 Kubo, Matsuye 2010 Magome, Shizuo 1995 Matsukawa, Nabe 1994

Matsushita, Ryomen 1922 McCarthy, Joseph 2008 Mine, Seki 1973 Mitani, Chiyo 1973 Nishida, Tomihiro 1997 Sakioka, Tomio 1995 Shih, Michael 2015 Suzuki, Haneko 1991 Takaishi, Mokichi 1975 Takayama, Yukiko, NA Tominaga, Riro 1969 Unno, Hanako 1999 Wakuya, Ted Tadao 1988

Hatsumairi, Infant Presentation Service April 8

By Minister's Assistant Shobo Gary Jaskula

The New York Buddhist Church invites you to bring your newborns and very young children to participate in our annual Hatsumairi Ceremony, which takes place just before our Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday) service on Sunday, April 8, at 10:30am.

Hatsumairi is often translated as "Infant Presentation Service" and it traditionally celebrates the first opportunity for parents to bring children who were born during the previous year to the Temple. Young children who have never come to church can also participate. The main purpose of Hatsumairi is for children to attend a Buddhist Service for the first time, acknowledging that they will grow up according to the Buddhist way of life.

This occasion also provides our temple with the opportunity to give expression to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which embraces people of all ages, genders, races, and social strata. At the New York Buddhist Church, this lovely ceremony is associated with Hanamatsuri (Buddha's birthday) celebration, which is popular with children of all ages.

If you wish to participate in the Hatsumairi Infant Presentation, please contact Reverend Earl Ikeda or a Minister's assistant by Wednesday, April 4.

Sangha News By Ruth Funai



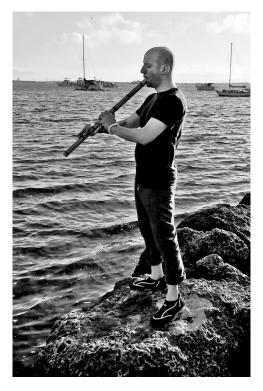
Ricardo, his mother, Olivia and Ricardo's sister, decked out in New Year finery and looking lovely.

Ricardo Venancio traveled to Rio de Janeiro with his daughter, Olivia, to visit his mother and many friends. He went on a spiritual retreat to Buzios, a very famous resort area, near Rio which was very beautiful! He, also, traveled to Petropolis the summer vacation city of the old royal family located in the mountains. New Year's Eve was beautiful, because most of the people dress up in white and wear something new for good luck! They go to the beach, at almost midnight, to make flower offerings on the beach and in the water and to see the fireworks! The weather was perfect since the summer was very cool and not so hot, which was unexpected this time of the year. He and his daughter loved their easy life there and being very close to nature. After 3-weeks, Ricardo had to leave this restful life to return to a cold, windy NYC!

Auguste Elder and his partner, Laureen and her son, Kyle, drove to Hellerton, PA and Silver Springs, MD to spend a week with their families. They, then, drove to the Florida Keys where they camped, snorkeled and kayaked for a week. They spotted a variety of sharks, osprey, and tropical fish too numerous to name and were awed by nature's abundant and resilient sangha. He, also, managed to find time to practice with his shakuhachi by the water's edge, to be prepared to play during meditation in our Sunday services.

Richard Gross has spent every Christmas, so far, in his hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. The weather was, cold and snowy, as it should be, with it snowing daily to about a foot on the ground. Compared to Erie, Pennsylvania which is about a 2 hour drive south of Buffalo this was nothing. They had 5 feet of snow on Christmas day! The surprising thing for him was to hear, according to the local news, that this was the first white Christmas in Buffalo since 2013 which was surprising! The temperature was often in the single digits, but that's not a problem when one can heat up the car from in the house with a touch of a button, and get to the car through the garage without ever having to go outside

Three days later, he and his mother celebrated her 88th birthday with a very nice meal at a local Italian restaurant. Before he knew it, he was back in the Big Apple to greet the New Year.



Auguste, playing shakuhachi at the water's edge in Florida

Renée Semenick spent two weeks celebrating Christmas in Orlando, FL with her parents, two sisters and a brother. A highlight of her trip was attending the Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert which was not only thrilling and inspiring, but also, the first time, in many years, that the entire family attended together. She and her family, then, spent a day at Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure, joined by her brother-in-law and nephew. They, especially, went to see "Christmas at Hogwarts Castle" with Renee dressed in her Harry Potter finest! They waited until sunset to see a magnificent music and light show projected on the castle which did not disappoint.

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White Elephant Sale, March 24

The Adult Buddhist Association's annual White Elephant Sale will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 10am to 4pm in the NYBC Hondo, and includes a Silent Auction from 10am to 2pm. Delicious homemade Japanese food will be sold along with "treasures", including jewelry, household goods

We are accepting donations on Sundays which are tax-deductible, so now is a great time to clean out those closets for items you would like to donate, except for electronics, clothing and books which do not sell, based on past experience. Traditional Japanese craft and textile items are especially welcome.

If you wish to purchase space to sell your own items, we have tables for rent for members at \$35 for a full table and \$20 for a half table, for non-members, \$40 for and \$25 for a half table, but space is limited. Vendors are expected to help clean up afterwards.

We would really appreciate volunteers to help set up on Friday night, March 23 from 4 to 8pm, and to clean up on Saturday, March 25, after the event at 4pm.

This annual event is a lot of fun, a chance to sample great food, meet up with friends and family, and find that special treasure. Bring your friends and family for a great time!

Sangha News, cont. from p. 5

Renée spent the days leading up to Christmas helping to decorate the house and even baking Grandmother's cream wafer cookies which was a success! She says she doesn't intend to make baking a hobby any time soon. On Christmas, the family sat around the tree in their shorts and T-shirts watching football and listening to the funny versions of Christmas songs. At night when the temperature reached 70 degrees, her mom lit the fireplace saying, it felt more like Christmas with a log on the fire. No one ever argued with Mom.

After returning home to NYC, she went to New Haven, CT to visit one of her best friends of 30 years, having lived across the street from each other in Orlando. Together, they welcomed in the New Year which Renée considers the finale to a successful holiday season!



Rene and friend, ringing in the New Year!

Students Invited to Apply for Stanley T. Okada Scholarship

Students are encouraged to apply for the annual Stanley T. Okada Scholarship. The scholarship provides funds for full-time undergraduate, graduate, trade school, or other qualifying educational programs. Pledged members, children and grandchildren of an NYBC pledged supporting member are eligible to apply.

Scholarship recipients are asked to provide a short written report to the committee on how their studies are progressing and how the scholarship has helped them. Their report may be printed in the *Kokoro* newsletter.

For application forms or further information, please contact Gertrude Kihara, Keiko Ohtaka, or Nancy Okada. The application deadline is at the end of May.

The scholarship fund was established in 1980 in memory of Stanley T. Okada, long-time Executive Director of the NYBC, Board of Trustees member, and a significant contributor to the NYBC since its establishment in 1938.



January Board Highlights By Cheryl Ikemiya

Ministers Report by Rev Earl Ikeda: He reported that the Northampton group wants to reorganize and come under the auspices of the NYBC. They will send their proposal. Rev. Earl is exploring conducting services for the LGBTQ community on Sunday afternoons twice a month beginning in April.

New Business:

A 2018 agreement with Seabrook Buddhist Temple with Rev. Earl Ikeda as supervising minister will be executed. Susan Jacques is the new board chair at Seabrook.

Finance Committee recommended and the Board approved a budget of \$5,000 for 2018 religious events for Rev. Ikeda.

Election of Officers for 2018-2019 term Chair: Mariko Kato; Vice Chair and Chair Elect: Gail Inaba was nominated. (Moved: Ruth Funai, second: Isabelle Bernard and carried); Treasurer: Nancy Okada has asked to step down as Treasurer. The Finance Committee is working on possible ways of addressing her request. Recording Secretary: Cheryl Ikemiya will continue. BCA National Council meeting is on February 24 and 25. Our delegates will be Mariko Kato, Nancy Okada and Rev. Earl Ikeda.

Eastern District Meeting is in April 2018. Our delegates will be Mariko Kato and Nancy Okada; Isabelle Bernard is the chair of the EDC.

Board Handbook – we need to carefully review and update the Handbook.

80th Anniversary Fundraising Dinner – Gail Inaba and Isabelle Bernard are co-chairs. Committee members include Nancy Okada, Mariko Kato, Yoriko Armstrong, Lillian Moy, Richard Gross, Ricardo Venancio, Renee Semenick and Yuki Okamoto. Lillian will work on a calendar timeline. The date will be October 20 or 27. One suggestion is a Chinese banquet, which could be cost effective.

Old Business:

Mochitsuki – The Board wishes to thank to Brian and Craig Funai. All the mochi was sold.

Shojin Ryoori fundraiser – All the bento boxes were sold. $50 \times $25 = 1.250 .

Pride Parade on June 24 – update by Mac Evans – Mac signed up for early bird registration. No payment is due to participate. He is working on a budget for the equipment, items to hand out, etc.

Strategic Planning Committee: A date for Town Hall is set for March 4^{th} at $2\ pm$

Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

Soh Daiko's performance season has begun!

We had our first group performance at the Pan Asian Lunar New Year event at Rutgers University. We've been invited to this event for the past couple years, and it's always a great start to our season. We were also excited to attend the East Coast Taiko Conference hosted at Stony Brook University. We led two workshops on Kumidaiko: group drumming, and on Stage Presence and Transitions. Unlike other workshop leaders, we teach as a group instead of an individual, and hope to convey our ideas of taiko drumming to community and college taiko players from the area.

Soh Daiko Representation at ECTC, including members, alumni, probationary members, and the founder of the host group Taiko Tides: Joan Miyazaki

We are also excited that of our 8 trainees, 3 are continuing on as Probationary Members. We will be working hard with them as they continue to train with us to hopefully be the next members of Soh Daiko. They will be with us at our upcoming performances behind the scenes, so you may have a chance to meet them when you see us!

Our schedule is starting to pick up with performances, so always check our website and social media for upcoming events.

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

In Memoriam

Ryotoku Okuma, who was a long time NYBC member and served on the Board of Trustees for many years, passed away on Dec 24, 2016 in Hawaii. His service was held at the Honpa Hongwanji in Honolulu. He served on the Funeral/Eitaikyo Committee at NYBC which was instrumental in the construction and maintenance of the columbarium at Cypress Hill Cemetery and shared his expertise in insurance coverage for NYBC. He and his late wife, Emiko, were active in the Okinawa Kenjinkai.

Come to the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 1:15.

Discuss how you would like the NYBC to address your needs and interests. Share in shaping the future of our Temple.

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhist Church.org

212-678-0305

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.

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.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



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March 2018



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