Dharma treasures to be bestowed upon the masses. Always being among you and all sentient beings, I will endlessly and tirelessly expound my desire to embrace them all with all my might.

The Mahayana Buddhist tradition reflects the Bodhisattva Dharmakara’s teachings by placing a strong emphasis on benefiting others as the goal of Buddhist practice. As an expression of this attitude toward the nature of Buddhist practice, the Mahayana tradition expresses the essential elements of Buddhist practice described in the Eightfold Path in an alternative model (incorporating the Eightfold Path) called the Six Paramitas. The literal meaning of paramita in Sanskrit is “Crossing over to the Other Shore.” The paramitas are a set of Buddhist virtues, the perfection of which enables one to cross over from “this shore” of delusion and the cycle of samsara, life and death to arrive at the “other shore” of “paradise” in Nirvana. In Chinese and Japanese translation the term Paramita is sometimes rendered as tō higan 到彼岸 “arriving at the other shore.” This imagery of crossing over to the other shore is the basis for Japanese Buddhist celebrations of Ohigan observed at Spring and Fall Equinoxes.

In Mahayana Buddhist teachings, the paramitas refer to the perfection of bodhisattva practices that result in crossing from this shore of birth and death to arrive at the other shore of Nirvana. For this reason, paramita is often translated into English as “perfection.” The Six Paramitas, or Six “Perfections,” encompass the virtues of the Eightfold Path, while emphasizing benefit for others through the addition of Dana, or generosity, as the first virtue. The Six Paramitas are:

1) Generosity (Skt. Dāna, Jp. fuse 布施) Sharing and grateful giving
2) Moral conduct, upholding precepts (Skt. Śīla, Jp. jikai 持戒) Ethical and Moral Joy.
3) Forbearance (Skt. Kṣānti, Jp. ninniku 忍辱) Practicing peace and patience
4) Diligence (Skt. Vīrya, Jp. shōjin 精進) Virtuous use of energy and commitment. Joyous Effort
5) Contemplation (Skt. Dhyāna, Jp. zenjō 禪定) Samadhi: Attaining shinjin. Concentration
6) Wisdom (Skt. Prajñā, Jp. chie 智慧) Harmony in the oneness of life, wisdom and compassion. Wisdom, the final element of the Six Paramitas, carries the implication that receiving wisdom comes through the practice of benefiting others.

Cont. p. 2
Bodhisattva Dharmkara engaged in these practices in order to attain Enlightenment. In the Juseige, selfless giving or Dana is emphasized. All fulfilled vows must be "unconditional". In other words, the fulfilled vows of all Buddhas are unconditionally undertaken for the benefit of all beings. Dharmakara states that he will unconditionally embrace all beings and bring them to the highest level of existence to be born in his Pure Land. He vows his perpetual presence and guidance to relieve us of "suffering". Ultimately upon attaining his Enlightenment [as Amida Buddha] all beings can be saved and feel his embrace by hearing and reciting his name.

Buddhism differs from many other religions because we cannot be freed or born in the Buddha Lands unless we nullify our past evil karmas. Unlike Catholics, we do not have the practice of "confession" through which our evil deeds, speech and thoughts are expiated. With each birth we continue to carry countless negative karma like loads of excess luggage. Although each existence is an opportunity to find a means to free ourselves, often through action, speech, and thoughts (ignorance), we dig a deeper hole of suffering from which we cannot escape.

By visiting and understanding the causes and conditions for each Buddha Land, Bodhisattva Dharmakara understood the vow(s) that were made and fulfilled by all other Buddhas. Through the fulfillment of those vows they became Buddhas and numerous Buddha Lands were manifested. Similarly, Bodhisattva Dharmakara’s sincere wish to free all from Samsara was realized by establishing and fulfilling vows. In addition, his Enlightenment revealed to us the deep essence of the store-house of Dharma Treasures by his vow to embrace us all. Through his fulfillment of the practices, Dhamakara attained through his Buddhahood the ability to fulfill the practices for each of us to be freed from our suffering and to attain Enlightenment. Simply, the Buddha is fulfilling the practices that we cannot fulfill, out of great compassion and strength.

In times of great stress and sorrow, we are not alone. This is the Buddha’s wish for us as we travel onward. The Buddha has a great understanding of each of us. Amida Buddha knows the causes and conditions of each of our negative and positive moments. Buddha(s) are nonjudgmental, and Amida Buddha unconditionally accepts and embraces us with boundless wisdom and compassion. Amida Buddha is and has always been right in front of me calling my name through his own Name: Namu Amida Butsu. This section or line within the chant, Juseige, reaffirms Bodhisattva Dharmakaya’s wish to embrace and save each of us. How grateful I am!

NYBC Ohigan Service

I was informed that this service was originally called "Tou Higan-e". "Tou" means to "cross over to" and referred to how we can reach the Land of Bliss. "Ohigan" is observed twice a year, in Spring and in Autumn, during the equinox when climate is considered most ideal for contemplating the impermanence of life and Amida Buddha’s universal vow to embrace and bring everyone to his Land.

Our Spring Ohigan Service is scheduled for Sunday, March 17. It is a combined service which begins at 11:30.

ニューヨーク仏教会のお彼岸のサービス

このサービスは「渡彼岸会」という事だと習いました。渡というのは渡るという意味で、これはどのように幸せな彼の地に行くかという意味があります。お彼岸は春と秋、年二回あり、彼岸は無常の人生、ア弥陀仏の普遍性のある本願を考えるのにお一番深い時期だと思われます。この本願は人全てを抱き、彼岸に連れて行ってくださいます。彼岸のサービスは3月17日（日曜日）11時半にあたります。
重誓偈

重誓偈は阿弥陀様の本願を述べている経文で出典は大無量寿経又は無量寿経です。法蔵菩薩が四十八の本願を成就することにより、命あるもの全てを抱くという志を唱えた経文の後に出て来ます。この経文の最初の三文が四十八の本願を簡単に述べており、この三文は「誓不成正覚」つまり「この本願が完全に成就されない限り、私の悟りは決してない」と述べています。他の文は悟りを得るための条件を表しています。

私の好きな経文は「為衆開法蔵 広施功德宝 常於大衆中 説法獅子吼」です。私はこれを次のように訳しました。「普遍の真実の真髄を伝えるため私はこの広大な量の、まだ知られていない、測り知れない教えを人々に広げます。私はいつも人々、全て命あるものと一緒にいて、いつまでも力のある限り、できるだけの力ですべての人を抱くという私の願いを説いて行きます。」

全ての菩薩が悟りを得るための修行としてあるのが六波羅蜜です。六つの修行がこの世の誕生、死、輪廻から悟りの境地にまで至る道に人を導いてくれると考えられます。それは布施、持戒、忍辱、精進、禅定、智慧で、法蔵菩薩は悟りを得るためにこれを修行しました。特に布施、ダーナに重点がおかれました。成就した全ての誓願は何にも制約されないもので、全ての仏陀が成就した誓願はあらゆる人の救済のためにあり、普遍的です。そのため法蔵菩薩はどんな時でも全ての人を抱き、最もレベルの高い存在、悟りに導き、浄土に生まれ変わる事を述べています。苦しみに関しては法蔵菩薩はいつも私達のそばにいて、助け、苦しみを取り除いてくれます。そして菩薩が悟りに達した時、その名前を聞き、唱える事で、全ての人が救われ、教えに抱かれると説いています。

仏教は他の多くの宗教と異なります。それは仏教では過去の出来事や悪い因縁から開放されなければ真の意味で自由になれない。仏陀の世界には生けるものはありません。私の知る限り「告白」という概念はありません。人はそれぞれ生まれた時からあらゆる運命を背負っていますが、それには必ずしも自分が望んでいない因縁があります。人それぞれの存在が自由になるきっかけにすぎません。そして難しい事に人は身体、言葉、考え（無知）を通して、逃げられない深い苦しみの穴を自分で掘っているのです。

それぞれの仏陀の世界の原因と条件を勉強しに訪ね、理解する事により、法蔵菩薩は本願を理解されました。この本願は他の仏陀により作られ、成就されたものです。このように誓願を成就すると仏陀となり、同時に数多くの浄土が出現しました。そのため全ての人を輪廻から救うという法蔵菩薩の純粋な願いは誓願をたて、成就によるものでした。さらに悟りを得るという事は仏陀を抱くこの誓願により法的真髄が明らかになり、感じられるという意味にもなります。修行を通して法蔵菩薩が悟りを得て、その結果いつも私達のそばに存在します。それは仏陀はいつか自由になり、悟りを得るのに必要な修行に導いてくれるためです。簡単に言うと仏陀は私達が達成できない修行を成就しました。その修行は誠実で、力強さが伴う、仏陀の偉大な慈悲と智慧から来るものです。

Cont. on p. 2
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 Hoyō memorial service, please talk to Rev. Earl Ikeda or one of our minister’s assistants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018… 1st Year</th>
<th>2017 … 3rd Year</th>
<th>2013 … 7th Year</th>
<th>2007 … 13th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001… 17th Year</td>
<td>1995 … 25th Year</td>
<td>1987… 33rd Year</td>
<td>1970 … 50th Year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**March 2019**
- Sunday, March 3
  - 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
  - Kan, Steven 2016
  - Kasuga, Mieko Grace 1968
  - Kasuga, Teruo Terry 1986
  - Katajima, Robert 2004
  - Kubo, Yukichi 1957
  - Kume, Hidekichi 2008
  - Miyamura, Yoshio 1985
  - Chieko Kikuchi Nakagawa 2018
  - Nakamura, Suya 1978
  - Nogami, Mitsue Arita 2015
  - Ochiai, Fuku 2008
  - Okada, Barbra Teri 2011
  - Okada, Isaburo 1949
  - Okada, Richard Alan 1987
  - Pascarella, Josephine Tringali 2004
  - Poon, Peter 2000
  - Tamura, Yoshiko NA
  - Usui, Betty Tono 1999
  - Walker, Charles F. 1991
  - Yabuki, Tadayuki NA
  - Yamakawa, Richard Alan 1992
  - Yampolsky, Anne Rei 1964

**APRIL 2019**
- Sunday, April 14
  - Briceland, Penelope Warren 1994
  - Chen, Po-Shen 2005
  - Hondo, Rev. Shojo 2015
  - Horuchi, Yoshitaka 1991
  - Iizuka, Reiko 2010
  - Ikoma, Chiyoko 1985
  - Ikoma, Fumiko 1948
  - Ishida, Shigeru 2012
  - Kaneko, Seijuro 1968
  - Kikuchi, Chiyoko 2004
  - Kubo, Matsuye 2010
  - Magome, Shizu 1995
  - Matsukawa, Nabe 1994
  - Matsushita, Ryomen 1922
  - McCarthy, Joseph 2008
  - Mine, Seki 1973
  - Mitani, Chio 1973
  - Nishida, Tomihiro 1997
  - Noro-Polier, Mieko 2018
  - Sakioka, Tomio 1995
  - Shih, Michael 2015
  - Suzuki, Haneko 1991
  - Takaishi, Mokichi 1975
  - Takayama, Yukiko, NA
  - Tominaga, Riro 1969
  - Unno, Hanako 1999
  - Wakuya, Ted 1988

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the news of Yuiko Yampolsky passing away on January 26 at the age of 83. She was a long time NYBC member and an active BWA (Buddhist Women’s Assoc.) member. She was born in Wakayama, Japan and attended the Kyoto Joshi Daigaku (Kyoto Women’s College). She majored in English and played basketball there.

In 1958, she married Philip Yampolsky and moved to New York City in 1962, where Philip was a professor of Japanese and the lead librarian at the CV Starr East Asian Library of Columbia University. Yuiko, for many years, worked at the Teachers College Bookstore and became an administrative assistant for the East Asian Language and Culture Department at the Donald Keene Center of Columbia University until her retirement. Her talent in calligraphy was recognized in competitions in Japan and she enjoyed gardening and growing orchids.

She is predeceased by her husband, Philip, but is survived by her daughter, Ruri Yampolsky and son, Robert, and 4 grandchildren. We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to them, their relatives, and to her many friends.
Clement Hirae and his wife, Arlene, both retired, spent this past summer running, bicycling, hiking in the mountains, and camping. Their love for the National Parks, took them to Acadia (Maine), Grand Canyon, Volcano in Hawaii and Canada’s, Banff and Yoho.

In October, they volunteered during the Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. It was several days of incredible excitement and high energy preparing for the race and watching the triathletes train. On the day of the race, Clement helped with the awarding of the medals and giving the finishers their t-shirts. Arlene and her sister, Alison, helped distribute food to all the volunteers. A memorable moment for Clement was cheering on Hiromu Inaba, an 85 year old of Chiba, Japan, who became the oldest man to finish the Ironman World Championship. Mr. Inaba finished at 11:54pm, just 6 minutes under the qualifying time of 17 hours!

In November they traveled to Sydney Australia where they were able to see the sights before they began their 10 day cruise to New Zealand. The first stop, after entering The Mildford, Doubtful, and Dusky Sounds, was the New Zealand Fiordland National Park. After arriving in Auckland, they had some time to explore the area, and drove down to Tongariro National Park.

In December, they drove from Boston to take part in NYBC’s annual mochitsuki and year-end clean up. The mochi made a round-about journey from New York to Texas to Hawaii for their Shogatsu Haka Mairi (New Year’s gravesite visitation).

Clement and Arlene have certainly been enjoying their retirement. Good for them!

Congratulations to Mrs. Yoshiye Fujita on her 99th birthday which is an auspicious one in the Japanese tradition! The residents at Isabella Home joined Mrs. Fujita in celebrating with cake, flowers and balloons. Our best wishes to a long time member and supporter of NYBC!
The fourth annual Shojin Ryoori fundraiser was very successful under the able guidance and leadership of Rev. Earl Ikeda and Keiko Ohtaka. For 2 full days, volunteers chopped, sliced, diced and cooked the ingredients of this monastic menu with much camaraderie and friendship! Early in the morning of January 20, the third day of this event, the 50-plus bento trays were filled with the many prepared foods. After the Ho-onko service these bentos, plus desserts, were picked up by those who reserved them and enjoyed by the members, especially those attending the NYBC BWA (Buddhist Women’s Assoc.) annual New Year’s luncheon and meeting. Thank you for all the hard work by the many volunteers and to all the supporters who made this event so successful! We look forward to next year’s delicious bento!

By Ruth Funai
As 2019, and our 40th Anniversary performance season, ramps into high gear, our members continue to work hard strengthening our conditioning to blast through our physically demanding repertoire. Our five trainees continue working to learn our repertoire and form and we wish them the best as they near their review to earn probationary membership status.

At the start of the month we traveled to Rutgers University for their annual Pan Asian Lunar New Year celebration. This event showcased various cultures and talents from the Rutgers community, including Korean and Indian dance groups, and brought in the new year with great food and company. We excited the crowd with our traditional Shishimai (lion dance) as well as two of our pieces that involve a lot of jumping, various instruments, and plenty of joyful shouts (kiai). This has become an annual event for us to participate in and we love getting to share our art with these university students and staff.

This weekend we head to Cornell University to the East Coast Taiko Conference. Here we'll see old friends and perform for taiko groups from up and down the East Coast. Our newest members and trainees will have an opportunity to take workshops from other professionals to strengthen their taiko playing.

Looking ahead to March, we're excited to perform for Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concert Series. It will be a family friendly show on Saturday, March 16. The show is free, but you do need to reserve tickets. Visit www.sohdaiko.org for more information.

If you haven't yet gotten your early bird, discount tickets to our 40th Anniversary show, time is running out! The performance will be on June 22, 2019, and will feature both past and present Soh Daiko members. Visit 40th.sohdaiko.org to buy tickets, pre-order our brand new 40th Anniversary commemorative t-shirt, and find out more! Use promo code "HAYAOKI" at check out. We hope to see you there!

Minister’s Report: Rev. Earl observed that we should exercise caution with our security, noting recent vandalism at a Buddhist temple in Queens. He stated that he and Karl regularly lock the Hondo doors when there are no activities. Someone who wasn’t known to one of our Board members was found to be in the church during a weekday. We need to rope off areas that should not be ventured into, especially with activities going on during the week.

Old Business

- **Mochitsuki – Ruth** is looking for a replacement for the steam-er equipment that was ruined this year. This equipment must be shipped from Japan. Mochitsuki cleanup: Supplies need to be ordered and the cleanup should be supervised. The Board should appoint a committee to be in charge of cleanup. This will be taken up with the Building Committee.

- **Onaijin Fund and Restoration:** The committee working on the renovation of the Onaijin is Rev. Earl Ikeda, Isabelle Bernard, Nobuko Kodama, Nancy Okada, Yoriko Armstrong, and Cheryl Ikemiya. Cheryl is the primary contact. We have been in touch with Mr. Maeda of Aloha Business Consulting to provide documentation for the craftspeople’s visas, to clarify their requirements and to make logistical arrangements.

Please remember to renew (or begin) your membership to the New York Buddhist Church. Your support is gratefully received and allows the NYBC to continue to exist and provide a place where all are welcome to share the Buddha dharma and the spirit of nembutsu.
**New York Buddhist Church**

**White Elephant Sale**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**
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

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**White Elephant Sale**

Prices for table rentals are: members: full table $35, and half a table is $25; non-members: full table is $60 and half a table is $45; $10 for the use of a rack to hang clothes.

We would really appreciate volunteers to help set up on Friday evening, April 12 from 4 to 8pm, and to clean up on Saturday, April 13 after the event at 4pm.

Contact event chairs, Tony DiTomasso or Renee Semenick for additional information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mar. 2, Sat.** 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering  
2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program : Lady Takeko Kujo, “Leaves of My Heart” book discussion | **Apr. 3, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Apr. 4, Thu.** 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)  
**Apr. 6, Sat.** 2:30-4:30: American Buddhist Study Center: Film showing  
**Apr. 7, Sun.** 10:30am: Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Service  
11:30am: Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday) Service  
Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm) |
| **Mar. 3, Sun.** 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo; Chairperson: Gertrude Kihara, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama  
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting | **Apr. 10, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Apr. 13, Sat.** 10am -4pm White Elephant Sale  
**Apr. 14, Sun.** 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo  
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting  
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting |
| **Mar. 6, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation | **Apr. 17, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Apr. 21, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service:  
11:30am: English Service  
1:00 pm: Board of Trustees meeting |
| **Mar. 7, Thu.** 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group) |  
**Mar. 10, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service; Chairperson: Tony Armstrong, Greeter: Mike McDermott, Music: Nobuko Kodama  
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting  
Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm) |
| **Mar. 9, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle  
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting | **Mar. 13, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Mar. 17, Sun.** 11:30am: Spring Higan-e Service; Chairperson: Keiko Ohtaka, Greeter: Lilian Moy, Music: Ukulele group  
1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting  
**Mar. 14, Thurs** ONAIJIN RESTORATION BEGINS |
| **Mar. 15, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation | **Mar. 17, Sun.** 11:30am: Rennyo Shonin Memorial Service; Chairperson: Renee Samenick, Greeter: Susan Bloom, Music: Nobuko Kodama  
Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm) |
| **Mar. 16, Thu.** 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group) | **Mar. 20, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Mar. 23, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle  
Private Location to accommodate O Naijin restoration  
**Mar. 24, Sun.** 11:30am: Rennyo Shonin Memorial Service; Chairperson: Renee Samenick, Greeter: Susan Bloom, Music: Nobuko Kodama  
Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm) |
| **Mar. 18, Fri.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation | **Mar. 27, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**March 31, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service; Chairperson: Richard Gross, Greeter: Lily SakaiJohnson, Music: Ukulele group |
| **Mar. 21, Sat.** 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering  
2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program : Lady Takeko Kujo, “Leaves of My Heart” book discussion |  
**Apr. 25, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation  
**Apr. 28, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service: |

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

Children’s and Adult’s Taiko Drumming: Sundays, usually every other week, 12:30-1:15, 1:15-2:15pm, 2:15-3:15 pm NYBC Dojo. Email Teddy Yoshikami at tyoshikami@verizon.net for more information.


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 of the month, morning 10-11:30 am

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