People often come to temple seeking freedom from their personal sufferings and the way to enlightenment. They explain that although they have read many books, articles and listened to countless presentations, they have not yet found the joy that Buddhism offers. In a past article, I wrote something about “nightstand Buddhists” -- individuals who seek instant gratification by simply “studying” or “hearing” the Teachings. Unfortunately, the joy that we seek is something very personal and cannot be found “outside” of ourselves by simply reading or listening to presentations. It is experienced by becoming aware of who we are and “living” the practice. We all seek some form of comfort to ease pain and it also seems that we want it “now”!

In the book “Ocean” by Rev. Professor Ken Tanaka, he tells the story of a person who falls overboard into the wide ocean and tries very hard to keep from drowning. He expends a tremendous amount of energy and is overcome by exhaustion and finally gives up his efforts. It is at this point, when he accepts his existing condition, that he is able to relax and discovers that he can float. The ocean which he fears is now supporting him.

I am definitely the cause of my own sufferings and it is very difficult to seek and realize joy. Although I too have read and studied many books and attended many wonderful lectures, I also find it very difficult to be free from my sufferings. I have come to realize that life is a personal journey and along the way, with good fortune, have met Amida Buddha. By reflecting upon the Vows of the Buddha and the wonderful interpretations of the Buddha’s words by Shinran Shonin, I find small glimpses of inner peace. By trying to practice “deep listening”, “monpo”, the Teachings have taught me that there must be a balance between all things, especially between the “me” that I think I am and the things I see and experience outside of myself. I have also realized that the world is actually often different from how I think about it. It is my individual perceptions, driven by my ego, that does not allow me to see things as they truly are and to recognize the wondrous world outside of me that exists. This world which I have been denying myself needs to be realized and explored in order to become a whole person. I have a personal interpretation of the Buddhist Teachings, Dharma. Yet, the wonders and the awesomeness of the Teachings are still limited to me because of my limited mind.

I am a limited person who is also a “nightstand Buddhist”. Yet, I have also come to realize that the Vow of the Buddha embraces me unconditionally and the Buddha patiently waits for me to give up on my imperfect self so that I can truly float and be sustained by a wondrous world which awaits me.

Namo Amida Butsu.
Board Highlights, cont.

transferred to Excel.
Guest room floor – suggestion/discussion lead by Yoriko Armstrong. We need to organize a cleanup of the linen closet; organize the sheets and towels and purchase new shelves.
Clearing out trash and junk – Nancy informed us of an inspection by the insurance company. We need to clear out accumulated trash. Nancy and Richard will look into companies that will help dispose of the trash.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports:

Buddhist Women’s Association – Minister’s Assistant Chiemi Bly from the Twin Cities Sangha will be the speaker on November 19 for the Esshiniko and Kakushiniko Service.
Building Committee – Still working on cameras for the exterior of the buildings. The bow windows project is finished. The roof of 331 Building will soon need to be replaced (estimate $35K-$40K). We investigate a green roof.
Membership Committee – The committee is working on a new brochure listing membership benefits. Gail and Mariko will help.
Stanley T. Okada Scholarship Fund – Julia Funai received the 2017 scholarship. An article will be in the October Kokoro.

September Board Highlights By Cheryl Ikemiya

New Business: update, review and discussion
Mochitsuki – The dates will be Friday, 12/15 and Saturday, 12/16; Cleanup will be on 12/17. New Year’s Eve service – Mariko Kato volunteered to be in charge of the Soba for the service on Sunday, 12/31.

Old Business:

November Hawaiian Luau fundraiser – Rev. Ikeda’s nephew and niece will be working on the food preparations. The following committees were formed: Invitations and raffle tickets: Isabelle and Nancy; Food: Gertrude Kihara and Keiko Ohtaka; Friday food preparation: Rev Earl, his niece and nephew, Tomoko Iwaki; beer with donation $5: purchase Gary and Ruth; bartending: Gary; decorations and set up committee: Richard Tony A and Tony D; program committee: Isabelle, Cheryl, Richard: ukes; hula group (Nancy has contact); Raffle committee: Isabelle and Nancy; Clean up: Ruth and Estelle.
Eitaikyo Committee (Yoriko Armstrong, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Gail Inaba, Nancy Okada and Rev. Earl Ikeda) – The committee met on 9/14 and discussed the differences between the funeral ceremony, Eitaikyo (members’ death and funeral records), Shotsuki Hoyo (includes both members and non-members). Gail will work with the Eitaikyo records left by June Kan, which are in hard copy. They need to be

Minister’s Message, Continued from p. 1

Upcoming Temple Fundraisers

Saturday, November 4th
On Saturday, November 4, NYBC will be having its first annual fundraiser. This fundraiser will help to fund the upkeep of our temple as a place for all to gather to hear and share the dharma. NYBC is also a place where all can gather to help us learn about the countless gifts of life through various presentations which may not be religiously based. Please help to make our temple a sage place for all to gather. The theme for the luncheon will be a Hawaii Luau, serving traditional Hawaiian foods.

If you are interested in attending please contact Nancy Okada: 212-678-0305
「すばらしい世界が待っている」

仏教には　悟りを得たい、現在の苦しみから解放されたいという思いで、仏教の教えを求めに来る方が多くいます。それまでに　仏教の本、記事を読んだり、講演を開いたりしていますが、教えが伝わっていないようです。前にこのニュースレターに「ナイトスタンド仏教徒」について書きました。これは　仏教の勉強、教えを聞いて、すぐにわたったと思う人達の事です。しかし　仏教は　このような形で　すぐ　理解できるものではありません。それは　自分で考え、気付く事なのです。具体的には　自分が一体どんな人間なのだろうかと、釈尊の教えが　自分の日常生活に　どのように生かされているだろうかなど考えてみる事です。苦しみがあれば、誰でも解放されたいと思い、すぐに救われたいと思うのは当然の事です。

田中ケン先生は　僧侶であり、仏教学を教えられています。「Ocean」という本に　海に溺れた人の例をあげて、仏教の救いについて　書かれています。海に一人放り出された人が、必死に溺れないようにもがきますが、その内に疲れ切ってしまいます。でも　もがく事をやめて、体を休め、海に浮かんでみて　初めて　今まで怖いと思っていた海が、一瞬に自分を支えるものに変わることがわかります。

私の苦しみは　確かに自分に原因があります。しかし自分の苦しみが、喜びとなり、それを実感するに至る事は　そう簡単にできるものではありません。私もたくさんの本を読み、勉強し、すばらしい講演を何回も聞いて来ました。そのため、苦しみを取り除き、救われるという事が　いかに難しいか理解しているつもりです。私が経験した事は　人生は　一人旅である事です。そして　幸運にも　その旅の途中で、阿弥陀様との出会いがありました。釈尊の本願に触れる事で、心の安らぎを垣間見ることができました。本願を理解したのは　親鸞上人が　著された釈尊の言葉、考え、教えの解釈によるものです。問法とは　聴聞を日頃行う事ですが、私は　教えを通して　物事には何でも　バランスがある事を学びました。特に　自分が思っている本当の自分と、そういう自分以外の目で見て　経験する事のバランスが必要だという事です。現実には　私の考えている世界と異なるすばらしい世界があり、又自分が　見る世界が　あります。でも自分が見ている世界は　自己中心的な目で見ているため、すばらしい世界を　そのまま　受け入れようとしません。

釈尊の教えは　自分なりに解釈しています。でも釈尊の教えは　自分がまだ不完全な人間であるために、理解も限られています。私も　まだ仏教の教えを十分理解していない「ナイトスタンド仏教徒」です。でも　私が実感している事があります。釈尊の本願が私をどんな条件においても抱いてくださり、いつか　私が真に自由になり、私を持って　いるすばらしい世界に支えられるように、釈尊がこの不完全な自分の成長を　辛抱強く待ってくださるという事です。

南無阿弥陀仏。　(translated by Nobuko Kodama)
Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Services Schedule for 2017

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>33rd Year</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>50th Year</td>
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The names of the persons we will be remembering this month and next are listed below.

### November 2017
**Shotsuki Hoyo Service**
**Sunday, November 5**

- Bando, Gikyo 1978
- Dymak, Antonio 1942
- Dymak, Frank 1958
- Eidson, John L. 2000
- Hama, Yuri L. 1974
- Hara, George Yoshio 1994
- Hara, Komayo Kay 2009
- Harada, Hiroko 1990
- Hayashi, Roy 1992
- Iguchi, Yasuhiro 1990
- Kan, Rev. Shunshin 1987
- Kaneko, Dorothy 2006
- Kodama, Teiji 2001
- Kubo, John J. 1986
- MacDowell, Stephen 2004
- Mitani, Usaburo 1932
- Mochizuki, Tomie 1990
- Nagawa, Mibu 1947
- Ohtaka, Shojo 1966
- Okada, Edna Aki 1987
- Okuma, Emiko 2009
- Sochi, Mizue 2008

### December 2017
**Sunday, December 3**

- Abe, Yoshihiro 2004
- Arai, Tomoe M. 2011
- Araki, Kikuyo 1964
- Bakhroushin, Gleb 1994
- Charini de Zavata, Susana 1981
- Harada, Kameichi 1981
- Hattori, Yasuko 2007
- Ishida, Katsu 1984
- Jayang, Momo 1986
- Lobsanbd, Agu 1996
- Mishima, Chikako 1997
- Mitani, Isao 1949
- Mitsuuchi, Gary 1994
- Miyazaki, Chieko 1992
- Okada, Kazuo 1989
- Okada, Roy 1981
- Okada, Shigeyo 1989
- Seki, Satomi 2010
- Takahashi, Mitsuo 1998
- Taoka, Tami 1999
- Tung, James Guang-Yao 1995
- Yamane, Eimi 1988
Gertrude Kihara and Ruth Funai made a trip to Japan and were able to visit Michiko Unno Otsuki for two days in suburban Tokyo. The first day, they were met by Michi’s niece who guided them in travelling by train and taxi to Michi’s place, so they could manage on their own the second day. They were treated to the same elegant tofu restaurant, Ukai, which Keiko Ohtaka and Chieko Nakagawa visited as reported in the Kokoro issue, September, 2017. They, also, saw a demonstration of silky tofu-making, sampling the warm finished product—delicious! The next day was spent reminiscing about her days in NYC and them many trips travelled together as a trio. Michi said to be sure to send her greeting and well wishes to all her friends!

Gertrude and Ruth than rode the bullet train to Hokkaido. In Hakodate, they rode to the top of Mt. Hakodate viewing the scenery below during the late afternoon and stayed until night to see the sparkling lifts. Since it was cold and very windy, they did not linger long. Being told that the seafood is a specialty there, they enjoyed a huge platter of sashimi and seafood with the sashimi just melting in their mouths—yummy! An early morning visit to the community market for seafood, very fresh fruits and an assortment of products was mind-boggling. A half-day tour of old European homes was difficult as it was done only in Japanese. It ended with a cruise in the bay.

They took a train to Sapporo where they visited the old government building turned museum with its beautiful well-
Haruo Ito, Sam Kunihiro and Akiko Okado being honored at the Keirokai Luncheon. See p. for Mr. Ito, In Memorium. We were so happy that he was able to attend this event.

Gertrude Kihara and Keiko Ohtaka, or is it Keiko and Gertrude? Gertrude was the winner of the Grand Prize this year. A pair of tickets to the acclaimed musical, Dear Evan Hansen. Congratulations!

Above, Ricardo Venaccio assisting the Tsufuras, as Chieko Nakagawa looks on. Teddy Yoshikami contemplating her card, with Donna Tsufura, Etsuko Inoue and Keiko Omori in the background.

Right, the Keirokai Chairs, Tony Armstrong and Richard Gross with Cheryl Ikemiya, Ruth Funai and Rev. Earl.
Annual Holiday Sing-Along

On December 6th is NYBC’s Annual Sing-Along and Ukulele Strumming Circle Party. Join us for a festive time of song, food and fun. The party starts at 6:00pm. There is a suggested donation. Please contact the New York Buddhist Church/Rev. Earl Ikeda at (212) 678-0305 for further details.

Soh Daiko News By Mac Evans

After a successful recruitment workshop, we now have 8 new trainees who will be studying alongside Soh Daiko members. We had a large number of excellent recruits, as well as other participants who came to learn taiko over two days. Because of the relatively early recruitment this year, we will be able to feature a performance of all 8 trainees at the Autumn Festival on October 21st.

Our performance schedule is intentionally light this fall so we can really focus on getting back to basics. Members and trainees alike are working hard to get solid hits, and our calloused hands and sore muscles are being worked with pride.

Www.sohdaiko.org

Www.facebook.com/sohdaiko

Get Ready for Mochitsuki!

By Nancy Okada

December signals that it is time to begin preparations for 2017’s mochitsuki (rice pounding) event. This tradition of pounding sweet glutinous rice yields a tasty treat that is essential for Japanese households in celebrating the New Year.

If you have never participated in the NYBC’s annual mochitsuki, you now have a chance to join in this decades-old NYBC tradition. In addition to the actual rice pounding, there is a lot of preparation. Help required for cleaning up afterwards and putting away equipment for the next year.

How to Volunteer to Help:

It takes many hands to make this event a reality and a great way to join in some fun. Try your hand at a traditional experience and get to know other members of the NYBC Sangha too. Please contact Ruth Funai/Nancy Okada if you would like to join the event.

How to Order and Pick-up Your Noshi Mochi:

The final pounded sweet rice produces sheets of 8 x 10 size of 2.5 pounds approximate weight of noshi mochi. Sunday, December 10 is the Ordering Deadline. Please place your order by this date with Ruth Funai/Mariko Kato/Keiko Ohtaka by calling New York Buddhist Church at 212-678-0305. The cost per noshi mochi is $15.00. When you order, please tell us the date and approximate time you will pick up your order and leave a contact number. Pick-up time: Saturday, December 16, 1-6:30 pm & Sunday, December 17m 11:30 am to 5:00 pm
NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

November—December 2017

November*

Nov. 1, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Nov. 2, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)
Nov. 4, Sat. Hawaiian Luau Benefit Luncheon: Traditional Hawaiian Food, Prizes and Island Entertainment Bring your Family and Friends to benefit the NYBC
Nov. 5, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting
1-2pm: Children’s Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko
Nov. 8, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Nov. 11, Sat. American Buddhist Study Center presents "Form Awakening" by Auguste Elder, Pottery. Opening exhibit from 2:30 to 6 pm in the ABSC Library
Nov. 12, Sun. . 10:30-11 am Meditation
10:30 am: Japanese Service:
11:30 am English Service Chairperson: Mariko Kato, Greeter: Lillian Moy, Music: Yoriko Armstrong
1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting
Nov. 15, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Nov. 18, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
Nov. 19, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation
1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting
1-2pm: Children’s Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko
Nov. 22, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Nov. 26, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service
11:30am: English Service: MA Chairperson: Ricardo Venancio, Greeter: Kyoko Nishiyama, Music: Dai Miyazaki
Nov. 29, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

December*

Dec. 2, Sat. 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class
12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program
Dec. 3, Sun. 11:30am: Bodhi Day Service, Speaker:
Chair: , Greeter: , Music:
10:30-11 am Meditation
1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting
1-2pm: Children’s Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko
1:30pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting
Dec. 6, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Dec. 7, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)
Dec. 8, Fri. 6pm: Holiday Sing-Along and Ukulele Strumming Circle Party
Dec. 9, Sat. American Buddhist Study Center - Showing Japanese Movie from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Dec. 10, Sun. 10:30-11 am Meditation
11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo, Speaker: Chair: , Greeter: , Music:
1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting
Dec. 13, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Dec. 15-16 Mochitsuki
Dec. 17, Sun. 11:00am: Short Combined Service, Speaker: MA
1:00pm: End-of-Year Cleaning
1-2pm: Children’s Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko
Dec. 20, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Dec. 24, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker:
11:30am: English Service, Speaker: Chair: , Greeter: , Music:
Dec. 27, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
Dec. 31, Sun. 1-2pm: Children’s Taiko; 2-3pm: Adult Taiko
7-9pm: Joya-e (New Year’s Eve) Service, Speaker

*CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE— Consult www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org FOR ANY UPDATES OR REVISIONS
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<td>午後 7時</td>
<td>佛教勤行と静座（英語）</td>
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<td>11月 2日</td>
<td>木</td>
<td>午後 7時</td>
<td>法話会（日本語）</td>
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<td>11月 4日</td>
<td>土</td>
<td>午前10時半</td>
<td>ベネフィット昼食会（伝統的なハワイ料理、余興と賞金あり）</td>
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日曜日以外の予定は重要事態の場合に変更されることがあります。
KOKORO
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Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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:

Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.


Articles and photographs are welcome and will be published subject to suitability of content and availability of space.

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Next Deadline
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