



My friend and I looked over vast areas of New York from the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of a nearby building. He suddenly said how wonderful it was to look out upon the scenery and to see the leaves rustling in the tree just below us. He continued to observe that when the tree moves it gains strength and good health. Huh? He explained that when living things, even humans, stay in one position without moving for a long time, they slowly die! He believed invisible forces move everything around us, emanating from some higher form which he could not describe. I began to imagine if Shinran Shonin, whose deep thoughts became the foundation of Jodo Shinshu, was trying to tell us this.

In the second line of the Shoshin Nembutsu-ge,

# KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



## Indescribable Energy

November 2018

*The Hymn of True Entrusting*, Shonin states that he takes refuge in the Buddha of the Light That Is Indescribable, Fukashigiko Nyorai. On one occasion, one of the many wonderful teachers I encountered, a senior minister, described the Buddha as a verb instead of a noun. Although the Buddha is considered a proper noun, it has no form, a thought that Shakyamuni Buddha himself expressed before he passed.

This concept is reflected in the idea that the Buddha is a verb. By having form, there are limitations. That the Buddha has no form frees it from those limitations or boundaries. A true Buddha can be anything, everything, anywhere, everywhere. It can become many things that are constantly changing reaching us with understanding through thoughts and compassion. In the form of a verb it becomes, I believe, a very dynamic energy. The word *riki* may also express the feeling of energy. *Riki* is often translated as power or the workings of a thought or action. For example, the word *hongan-riki*, the power of the Primal Vow or the workings of the Primal Vow, expresses an idea that the working or the power of the Buddha's wisdom and compassion cannot be truly described. It is an awesome energy that continues to pulse out into the universe for the sake of all.

Energy is always there in either an active or dormant form waiting to be activated. There are countless forms of energy all around us giving and providing us life. We experience the rays of light that give energy and movement to our planet and the energy of water as it flows. In describing this



Reverend Earl Ikeda

wonderful dynamic energy that gives us life, my friend also mentioned that we should never ever take things for granted. Like the energy that rustles the leaves to make the tree stronger and healthier, the energies of the Buddha in the form of wisdom and compassion energizes us to become healthy and strong in so many indescribable and mysterious ways. As simple beings that we are, we are fortunate to be able to connect to this energy by calling the Buddha's name, Namo Amida Butsu.

*Reprinted from September 2018*

## Get Ready for Mochitsuki

By Nancy Okada

Next month, the arrival of December harkens the Japanese Asian tradition of welcoming the beginning of 2019 with mochitsuki (rice pounding). This tradition of lovingly pounding sweet glutinous rice yields a treat to enjoy eating 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. This year's mochitsuki production is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 20-22. A more detailed schedule will be published in next month's Kokoro.

### 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. Please contact Ruth Funai, Nancy Okada, or Mariko Kato if you would like to assist.

### How and When to Order and Pick up Your Noshi Mochi

The final pounded product produces sheets called noshi mochi which are about 8" x 11" in size.

***Sunday, December 16 is the Ordering Deadline. Please place your order by this date with Nancy Okada, Mariko Kato or Ruth Funai or by calling the 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 dates: Saturday, December 22 and Sunday December 23. Pick up times will be published in next month's Kokoro.

*Cont. from p. 1*

### **Annual Inurnment at Cypress Hills**

*Our annual inurnment into our Bussharido, NYBC Columbarium, at Cypress Hill Cemetery is scheduled for early November. Please call the temple at (212)678-0305 to make your request.*

*By NY state law, two certificates are required: certificates of death and cremation. Please call the temple to inquire about the costs and donations involved.*

### **Sumie Classes Offered**

*Sumie, Japanese ink painting, is offered every Thursday morning from 9 am until 11 or 12 noon. Techniques begin with the basics derived from the "shikun-shi", the "Four Gentlemen", which practices drawing the Asian orchard, bamboo, plum, and chrysanthemums. The classes are free however donations to NYBC are gratefully appreciated. Participants need to bring their own supplies and interested observers are always welcomed. The sumie classes are led by Rev. Ikeda. Please call the temple at (212)768-0305, with any questions. Everyone is welcome.*

*A big thank you to all who helped make the NYBC 80th Anniversary celebration a successful fundraiser and a terrific party!*

*Cont. from p. 3*

### サイプレスヒルズ納骨

11月初旬にサイプレスヒルズにあるニューヨーク仏教会納骨堂へ納骨を予定しています。納骨予定の方は仏教会（電話212-678-0305）へお知らせください。死亡証明書、埋葬証明書、納骨費などが必要となりますので、お問い合わせください。

### 墨絵クラス

基礎から学ぶ墨絵クラスが、毎週火曜日午前9時から正午まであります。興味のある方はご参加ください。講師はニューヨーク仏教会 池田アール住職。墨絵に必要なものは自己負担です。参加は無料ですが、仏教会へ寄付をお願いします。

## ダイナミックなエネルギー

ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

高層ビルの12階、マンハッタン全てが見わたせるのではないかと思う程、広大で美しいながめでした。それに加え室内は、外の暑さを忘れるほど冷房が程よくきき、ここはお浄土ではないかと思うほどでした。外の景色にみとれていると、友人が眼下にあるものを指さして何か言いました。しかし、私は窓からのながめにすっかり気をとられていたので「何？」と聞くと、彼は「木と木が話しているよ。」と答えました。僕はその意味が即座にわからず、「木がどうしたの？」と聞き返しました。友人は「うまく説明できないが、木と木、花と木が、話をしているのが見える。」と答えました。この友人の話聞いて、仏さま同士が念じあっている「仏仏相念・ぶつぶつそうねん」を思い出しました。

宗祖親鸞聖人は信心の歌「正信念仏偈」をお作りになりました。その「正信念仏偈」の二行目に「南無不可思議光・なむふかしぎこう」限りない光の佛さまに、おまかせしますとお書かきになっています。この南無不可思議光は、南無阿弥陀仏と同じです。

さて、ありがたい事に開教使をつとめさせて頂いていると、素晴らしい諸先生にお教えを頂く事がたくさんあります。ある先輩が、阿弥陀仏は名詞ではなく動詞であると教えてくださいました。善導大師は「南無阿弥陀仏の南無が願（がん）で阿弥陀佛が行（ぎょう）である。願と行の両方がそなわっているの、願行具足だから、どんな悪人でも往生成仏まちがいない。」と言われました。その事から阿弥陀仏はお名号（お名前）ですから名詞ですが、佛さまのお働きをあらわしているの、阿弥陀仏は動詞と教えてくださったのでしょう。阿弥陀仏は不可思議でダイナミックな、おはたらきです。

親鸞様は自然法爾章（じねんほうにしょう）の中で、阿弥陀仏は色も形もないとお書きになっています。佛さまは色も形もありません。が、佛さまを 色も形もないという抽象的な言い方では、理解するのがむずかしいので、阿弥陀さまを人間像であらわします。たとえば、ニューヨーク仏教会の阿弥陀如来様は、我々の方に歩みよられ、救済を示されている立像です。阿弥陀仏は、自力で助かることのできない我々を、たすけたいという願いからこの世に現れられたのです。「佛さまは色も形もない」と本当の事を教えて頂くより、人間像（方便の教え）のほうが、佛さまを良く信ずることができると思います。

南無阿弥陀仏というお名号は、智慧と慈悲をあらわします。佛さまは自力で救われることのない我等のために、日夜や休む事なくおはたらきになっています。そして摂取不捨（せつしゅふしゃ）、仏さまは念仏の衆生を必ず救うとお誓いくださっています。そのため念仏の人は、佛様の光にてらされて救われていくのでしょう。

この宇宙のすべての生き物は、ダイナミックなエネルギーの佛さまです。南無阿弥陀仏

(Trans. 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**

### November 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, November 4

Bando, Gikyo 1978  
Dymak, Antonio 1942  
Dymak, Frank 1958  
Eidson, John L. 2000  
Hama, Yuriko L. 1974  
Hara, George Yoshio 1994  
Hara, Komayo Kay 2009  
Harada, Hiroko 1990  
Hayashi, Roy 1992  
Iguchi, Yasuhiro 1990  
Kan, Rev. Shunshin 1987  
Kaneke, Dorothy 2006

Kodama, Teiji 2001  
Kunihiro, Isami "Sam" 2017  
Kubo, John J. 1986  
MacDowell, Stephen 2004  
Mitani, Usaburo 1932  
Mochizuki, Tomie 1990  
Nagawa, Mibu 1947  
Ohtaka, Shojiro 1966  
Okada, Edna Aki 1987  
Okuma, Emiko 2009  
Sochi, Mizue 2008

### December 2018 Sunday, December 2

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  
Matsumara, Kiichi 1990  
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  
Unno, Rev. Taitetsu 2014  
Yamane, Eimi 1988



*Board member, Cheryl Ikemiya was honored at Pan Asian Repertory Theater's 42d Annual Benefit Dinner, held on October 18. She was saluted and recognized for her leading role in supporting theater arts by developing multiple programs that support a diverse theater community through her role as the Senior Program Officer for the Arts at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.*

*Opposite: Cheryl with Rev. Earl at Pan Asian Rep's Benefit dinner, held at the Golden Unicorn in Manhattan's Chinatown.*

## Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Mikio Sakai and his daughter, Lily Johnson Sakai spent 6 weeks this past summer in Tokyo, Japan, staying with his sister. Lily was able to attend the local public school for 3 weeks and she said she made new friends as they had no difficulty speaking English. She enjoyed the whole experience including the school curriculum and especially the kyushoku (Japanese lunch).

For Obon, Miko, Lily, his sister, brother and his family visited the family grave in Nagoya. It was one of the hottest days with no shade in that huge cemetery, but if they were uncomfortable, it must have been worse for the priest dressed in a formal robe. He conducted services at 30 graves that day! Then, they visited the Ise Shrine and Shima resort where they enjoyed the onsen (hot springs) and swimming.

The highlight of their trip was the Pokemon Train in the Tohoku area which was devastated by the tsunami. The special train had only 2 cars, one being the passenger and the other a playroom for the children. The train, inside and out, was decorated with the Pokemon theme which Lily enjoyed so much that the 2-hour trip went by very quickly. The area's revitalization is still ongoing along the long stretch of the Tohoku shoreline, but the devastation previously seen on television is not visible.

While there, the temperatures were at record highs and they experienced 3-typhoons! Was it a sign of climate change? It was long stay, but for them it felt very short. Lily had a nice time getting to know her aunt, uncle and cousins while Mikio spent quality time with his family and friends, making it a relaxing and

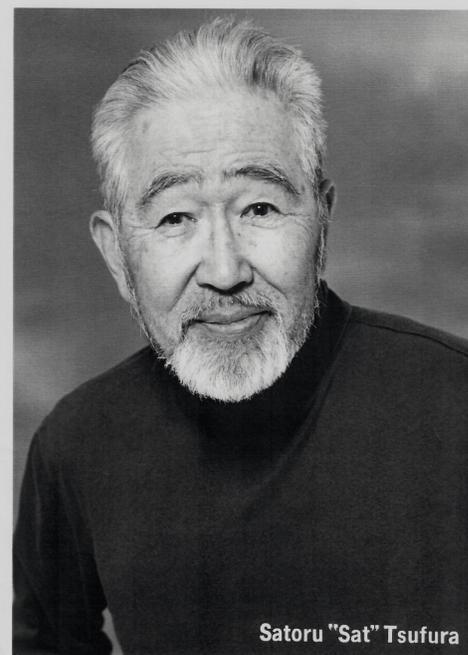
wonderful trip! When they landed at the JFK Airport, Mikio said to Lily, "Isn't it nice to be back home?" Japan is the country where he was born and grew up, but New York is definitely his home now.



Mikio Sakai and daughter, Lily Johnson Sakai vacationing in Japan

### In Memoriam

Long time supporter of NYBC, Satoru "Sat" Tsufura passed away September 14, 2018 at the age of 90. With his warmth and friendliness, he participated and assisted for many years in the annual Obon Festivals, mochitsuki, and biannual fundraisers, including those in 2017-18. A funeral/memorial service was held at NYBC on September 30. We extend our condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, Alice, Donna and Lamarr, his brother, Tadashi, and his relatives and many friends.



Satoru "Sat" Tsufura

NYBC



80th Anniversary



Dinner  
October 22

Photos courtesy of David Okada



# So Daiko News By Julianna Hessel

As we gear up for our 40th anniversary season this year, members and trainees will continue building our strength and endurance with drills and conditioning to make sure we can play our physically demanding set. Our performance schedule is intentionally light for the next few months to allow for us to refine our repertoire and solidify the basics of hitting, movement, and uniformity.

Soh Daiko is also happy to support the Taiko Community Alliance, by once again joining the TCA 100 Club. TCA is an organization that organizes, promotes, and funds taiko events and advances the art of taiko drumming through collaboration. One of Soh Daiko's founders, Alan Okada, as well as our current chair, Tamiko Ooka sit on TCA's board, and being a part of the 100 Club means that all of Soh Daiko's performers are proud TCA members. Like many other individuals and groups, we are glad to contribute to and connect with the broader North American taiko community.

**Thank you and gassho:** As we enter our 40th anniversary year, Soh Daiko is proud to put our best foot forward, and grateful that the New York Buddhist Church has chosen to honor us this year in their 80th anniversary celebration. We congratulate the work and contributions of the Tachibana dance group and



*Current members, above and Soh Daiko alums, below enjoying the 80th Anniversary Dinner on October 20th. Photos, Courtesy of David Okada*

look forward to many more decades of supporting the work of NYBC and this community. We look forward to many months of hard work and hope to see you at our performances and workshops!



## KOKORO

[www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org](http://www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org)

212-678-0305

**Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda**

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Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

**Contributors:** Rev. Earl Ikeda, Ruth Funai, M.A. Koue Akemi Ishida, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, and the Buddhist Women's Association mailing team.

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

**Send contributions to Kokoro Editor: Gail Inaba**  
[ginaba@optonline.net](mailto: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](mailto:tyoshikami@verizon.net) for more information. (

Kokushi Budo Institute Martial Arts Class: Weekday evenings and Saturday mornings, NYBC Dojo. More information: [www.kokushibudo.com](http://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](http://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](http://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

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



# kokoro

November 2018



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**New York Buddhist Church**  
**331 Riverside Drive**  
**New York, NY 10025**

[www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org](http://www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org)

