



Thanks to Minister's Assistant, MA, Akemi Ishida, I've been able to enjoy the online lectures of Nobuo Haneda Sensei. Haneda Sensei is a scholar from the Otani-ha, a school of Jodo Shinshu, and is the head of the Maida Center located in Berkley, CA. He is one of several great teachers who reside in the USA, and is especially knowledgeable about and is adept at explaining the Three Major Sutras of the Pure Land School, Jodo Sanbukyo.

In his weekly presentations, he addresses students who seek to understand Jodo Shinshu. I too am seeking understanding and in trying to distill the essence of his presentations, I have a recurring thought; that is, the teachings of the Buddha and Shinran Shonin shouldn't be generalized—the teachings are very personal!

For me, this is a very profound idea because as a

# KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



## It Was For Me and Me Alone

October 2017

minister, my focus is to try to help others! Haneda Sensei explains that the teachings are meant to awaken to one's self. Shakyamuni had to discover to his true self before he was able to transcend the many issues that permeated his life. To "awaken" means to understand and accept the reality of one's true self, and to realize that "ignorance", arises out of our own selfish egos. Shinran Shonin, our founder, was also able to rediscover his true self through the guidance of his teacher, Honen Shonin. Shinran had a vision that his life would end at the age of 29. Shinran sincerely believed that was when his physical life would end, however, it was at this age that he met his great teacher, Honen, who skillfully guided him to rediscovering his true self through the Onembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.

Shakyamuni became enlightened by rediscovering his true self and examining and re-directing his thoughts. Shinran also had a similar experience. The historical Buddha felt totally embraced by the universal truth of wisdom and compassion, the oneness of all things, and Shinran through accepting himself as the "foolish being", bombu-nin, was embraced unconditionally by Amida Buddha's vow. It is through genuine and honest self-examination that I too hope to be able to experience or reawaken to some form of enlightenment. I am always looking for answers outside of myself but in reality, I am the cause of many of my problems. All conditions arise from causes that come from within me.

What about everyone else? I often ponder upon this question because people are always looking at me, a person privileged to wear the robes of an enlightened person, for possible answers. My ego, my true foolish self, has been trying to help others but in all reality, I have not even discovered myself. I cannot honestly say



Reverend Earl Ikeda

that I am constantly content with myself and what goes on in my life. It is still the effects of ignorance that misleads me! However, it is not to say that I or others do not help others. By gradually coming to terms with myself, I could have, unknowingly, experienced some inner joy.

Unexplainable experiences may have radiated to others leading to sharing a sense of joy or contentment. Shinran Shonin expressed this thought in the words, Ondobo Ondogyo, fellow travelers on the same path.

Borrowing Shinran Shonin's thoughts, we can then perhaps understand why he stated that the Vows of Amida Buddha were for "me and me alone", the ultimate foolish being.

**Minister's Message**, Continued from p. 1**Upcoming Temple Fundraisers****Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Annual Autumn Sale

**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 safe place for all to gather. The theme for the luncheon will be a Hawaii Luau, feast, serving traditional Hawaiian foods.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the many tasks. Please do not wait to be asked but express your temple pride by volunteering. (Call 212 678 0305)

Announcements will be mailed and tickets will be made available soon. Please reserve your place for this wonderful event.

**No Cooking Class Scheduled for October and November**

Due to upcoming events and fundraisers the cooking classes will be suspended until further notice. My sincerest apologies for any inconveniences this decision may have caused.

**July Board Highlights** By Cheryl Ikemiya**Minister's and Religious Education Report:**

Abbot Monshin Paul Naamon, head of the Tendai School in the U.S., will speak on the *Roots of Jodo Shinshu in Tendai* (how Shinran was influenced by Tendai): seminar on Saturday, September 23 from 10-1pm in the Hondo. The donation requested is \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers, and he also is speaker on Sunday, September 24.

Other speakers: IHOP –two ministers from Hawaii will be coming for the October Shotsuki. MA Vonn Magnin from Arizona Buddhist temple (and fellow Tokudo with Isabelle and Cheryl) will be the speaker for Eitaikyo service on October 15. Dennis Hirota will conduct a workshop on November 11 and 12.

**New Business:**

**Membership** – The Board discussed the need to cultivate new members and to make sure the entire membership is aware of the benefits of membership as well as opportunities to participate with cultural groups: Soh Daiko, Tachibana, Ukelele. The Board also identified possible ways of engaging with service attendees who are not members and millennials, especially those who are college age and young professionals who were members at other BCA temples and are now living in New York City.

**November fundraiser** – Hawaiian Luau Luncheon: We set a fee at \$50 per person and \$500/table of ten. There will be a raffle with attractive prizes. *Cont. On p. 4*

**行事のお知らせ**

10月21日(土)秋祭りがあります。皆様のご協力をお願いいたします。

11月4日(土)は第一回 基金募集のため昼食会します。皆様からのお布施は心のよりどころであるお寺を維持していくために使わせていただきます。

ファンドレイジングの昼食会は、ハワイ料理・ラウーです。ハワイ料理を作るボランティアを募集していますので、皆様のご協力をお願いいたします。

この昼食会について後日詳しくお知らせします。

**料理教室中止について**

毎月ご参加いただきありがとうございます。しかし昼食会準備のため、10月と11月の料理教室は中止させていただきます。

親鸞一人がためなりけり  
ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

最近サンフランシスコ バークレーの羽田信生先生の講義をスカイプで拝聴しています。スカイプで法座を聞くようになったのは、ある開教使補佐から羽田先生の法話会をオンラインで聞く提案があったからです。驚異的なテクノロジーの発達によってニューヨーク仏教会にいながら、西海岸の講義を聞かせていただいています。

羽田先生は「毎田センター」のディレクターで、浄土真宗の僧侶であり仏教学者です。特に先生は、浄土三部経（大無量寿経、観無量寿経、阿弥陀経）を深く研究されている数少ないアメリカ在住の先生。

先日の羽田先生の 講義で、心に残ることを聞きました。先生は生徒の質問に 答えて「仏法を学ぶことは、一般論で考えてはいけません。常に自分の問題として考えること。」と言われました。私は人々を苦しみから救いたいという願いから、仏法や教を理解することに重点を置き、自分の問題として 考えるのを忘れていました。親鸞聖人は「弥陀の五功思惟（ごこうしゆい）の願をよくよくあんずれば、ひとえに親鸞一人（いちにん）がためなりけり。」と言われました。この「一人がためなりけり」を羽田先生は「一般論で考えるのではなく、自分のこととして考えなさい」と言われたのです。仏法を学ぶためには、それを自分のこととして考えないと、どんなに勉強してもわからないでしょう。

さて、釈尊は39歳の時、法・真理に目覚められました。目覚めとは、おろかである本当の自分に気がつくことです。羽田先生は「釈尊は偉大な人で普通の人間とは違うと考える人もいるでしょうが、釈尊は凡夫であったからこそ、凡夫の苦しみがわかり、目覚められたのでしょう。」と言われます。

宗祖親鸞聖人は法然聖人のおみちびきにより本当の自分を見いだされました。親鸞様は29歳の時、20年間の比叡山での修行されましたが、失望のうちに比叡山をおりられました。しかし、この下山が縁（えん）となって、法然聖人にであわれたのです。この縁によって親鸞は「自分は何者か」を発見され悟られたのでしょう。

お釈迦様と親鸞様は、本当の自分を知ること（内省内観）によって真理に目覚められました。お釈迦様は真理（無情）を発見され、親鸞聖人は凡夫（悪人）であることを知られたのです。そのことから 仏教を学ぶことは本当の自分を見ること、内省内観がかなめではないでしょうか。私は愚かにも苦しみは外にあると思い込み、問題は自分の中にあるとは思いませんでした。自分をかえり見ることがなかったのです。しかし、すべての苦しみの原因は自分の中にあることに気づかせていただきました。

僧侶という肩書きをいただいていると、私をたよりにしてくださる人がいます。人を救うような立派なことではできませんが、困っている人がいると、話を聞かせていただいています。親鸞聖人は平等な立場で助け合う念仏の仲間たちを御同朋御同行（おんどうぼうどうぎょう）とよばれました。人々のお話を聞かせていただいているのは、御同朋御同行と共に法を学び助け合う素晴らしい経験をさせていただいていると思うこの頃です。

羽田信生先生のおかげで、 仏法は自分のこととして学ぶ心を教えていただき、大変ありがたく思いました。聖人のお言葉「親鸞一人（いちにん）がためなりけり」を忘れず、お念仏の道を精進したいと思います。

南無阿弥陀仏

思い行き (Trans. by Akemi Ishida)

## 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.

<b>2016... 1st Year</b>	<b>2015 ... 3rd Year</b>	<b>2011 ... 7th Year</b>	<b>2005 ... 13th Year</b>
<b>2001... 17th Year</b>	<b>1993 ... 25th Year</b>	<b>1985 ... 33rd Year</b>	<b>1968 ... 50th Year</b>

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

### October 2017 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, October 1

Amioka, Masako 1973  
Araki, Genichi 1972  
Davidson, Charles ----  
Davidson, Ignatius ----  
Davidson, Inez ----  
Davidson, Stan ----  
Hino, Hironobu 1978  
Horita, Hisako 1909  
Ishida, George G. 2014  
Ito, Eddie M. 2008  
Kamano, Yuki 1995  
Kishi, Haru 2002  
Kusama, Junko 1995

Laatch, Olivia 1991  
Matsuda, Yone 1978  
Matsumoto, Kinichi 2003  
Mishima, Michiko 1997  
Mitsuuchi, Kuma 1995  
Mooney, Eiko 2011  
Motooka, Mark 1981  
Nakamura, Mayumi 2002  
Nishimura, G. Guntaro 2014  
Okajima, Robert Eiichi 2016  
Okubo, Tome 1985  
Sakioka, Jack 1991  
Schroeter, Lydia 1993  
Shirakigawa, Tonami 1926  
Takayama, Makoto 2012  
Tashiro, Shigezo 1954  
Tono, Harry Yoshiaki 1991

Tsuji, Dorothy 2016  
Wise, Blanche 1993  
Wise, Lotus 1988  
Yashiro, Masato 2014  
Yasuda, Kentaro 2005  
Yoshikami, Mitsuye 1987

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

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  
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

### July Board Highlights, *Cont. from page 2*

**Onaijin renovation-** The Fund for the Future goal will be set at \$500K. The priority is to refurbish the onaijin with initial estimates at \$238K from the Japan Memorial Corporation in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Board approved the refurbishment of the Onaijin.

#### Old Business:

**Autumn Festival** on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Tony DiTomasso and Renee Semenick are co-chairs  
**Keirokai Luncheon** on Sunday, September 24 - Tony Armstrong and Richard are co-chairs;

#### Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports:

**Buddhist Women's Association** – A speaker and date for the Es shiniko Service are under consideration.

**Building Committee** –The bow window repair is 90% finished and is costing \$40K. The insurance company sent us an alert on certain items which will be addressed.

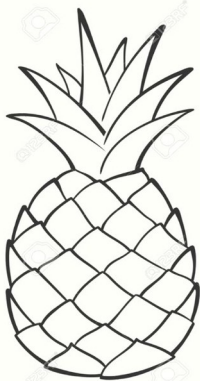
**Soh Daiko** – starting its season in two weeks. Recruitment on 9/23 (Sat) and 9/28 (Thursday); members attended the North American Taiko Conference.

## Sangha News By Ruth Funai

A few weeks after returning from Tokyo this summer, **Keiko Ohtaka** and her daughter, Yoko flew to Honolulu for a 10-day vacation, a trip which was a year in the making. Ten families and friends stayed at a hotel on Waikiki, minutes from the beach which was conveniently located near many delicious eateries which were within walking distance. They did very little tourist-type things except going to a luau, visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center, as well as the Dole pineapple factory, all of which were very enjoyable.

For them, the best part was eating 'ahi poke' (marinated tuna) and shave ice. In fact, if they had more time, they would have liked to have taken a survey of all the different shave ice places. Amazing how each location's specialties have different flavors and different texture of ice. All yummy! Would highly recommend anyone thinking of visiting Hawaii to try both the ahi poke and shave ice.

Everyone left for home after a relaxing time looking a little tanner and with smiles on their faces. It was a wonderful trip!



## Julia K. Funai Receives 2017 Stanley T. Okada Scholarship By Gertrude Kihara



Julia Funai, center, receiving award. Left to right: her parents, Brian, Miki and proud grandmother, Ruth Funai with Rev. Earl Ikeda

Photo by David Okada

Julia Kikue Funai is the 2017 recipient of the Stanley T. Okada Scholarship. Julia is the daughter of supporting member Brian Funai and Miki Funai. She is also the granddaughter of long time supporting member, Ruth Funai.

Julia is currently a freshman at Rutgers University. She is majoring in cell biology and neuroscience with a goal of becoming a neurologist. She is a 2017 graduate of Fair Lawn High School, New Jersey where she belonged to the National English Honor Society and Social Studies Honor Society. She was also captain of the Varsity Cross Country/Track and Field team.

In her essay on Buddhism, Julia wrote: "Every individual is able to make choices that directly impact their lives whether it be for better or worse. The point is that a choice is provided and through the teachings of the Buddha, there is hope that the individual will act with compassion and earn true happiness for themselves and the people around them."\*

## 2017 EBL Conference

### North American Buddhism: A Path Forward

By Nancy Okada

The 2017 Eastern Buddhist League Conference was hosted by Midwest Buddhist Temple (Chicago, Illinois) over the Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, 2017. NYBC members were delighted to have Rev. Kurt Rye (Placer Buddhist Church) as the conference keynote speaker. Rev. Rye was the resident minister at Ekoji Buddhist Temple for a few years and the eastern district members had the opportunity to catch up with his life and he with us. We also had the BCA President Ken Tanimoto, and BCA Chair-elect Rick Stambul see the eastern district in action and able to exchange thoughts and concerns we have in our own temples and district with them.

The conference had the above title as its theme and it was a most rewarding experience for all who attended. All the activities were held at the Midwest Buddhist Temple where thought provoking seminars took place (e.g. Diversity and Inclusion; Selfless Giving; 325% Differences Panel; Buddhism and the Environment; TED Talks and Dharma School panels). One activity which was a true experience in interdependence, dana (giving) and caring was preparation of sandwiches and items for homeless shelters. This is one social awareness activity practiced by MBT and those who attended the conference put their energies and care into the process. Many members also went to deliver the sandwiches and items to shelters. Social awareness in action and first hand was a significant experience for us all.



Front Row (left to right): Chieko Nakagawa, Rev. Earl, Ruth Funai, Nancy Okada; Back Row (left to right): Yoriko Armstrong, Cheryl Ikemiya, Tony Armstrong, Keiko Ohtaka, Gertrude Kihara

Photo provided by Jerry Matsumoto (MBT)

We were given the opportunity to experience how eastern district temples conduct their services. Saturday morning's service was led by New York Buddhist Church Ministers' Assistant Cheryl Ikemiya and NYBC members chaired the service, played the piano and were greeters to the service attendees. Sunday morning's service was led by the Twin Cities Association Sangha led by Ministers' Assistant Chiemi Bly. One noticed slight differences in each service but the voice and taste of the American Jodo Shinshu experience came through clearly.

For some of us it was a delightful short walk from our hotel to Midwest Buddhist Temple. The town houses and brownstone houses path we took led past the old MBT church and opened up into a street where the present temple stands with a beautifully appointed garden. Each morning it felt like we were coming home and we were. Home to a warm array of old and new members from the eastern area to hone our awareness of Jodo Shinshu and invigorate our psyche renewing old acquaintances and gaining new friends. The hospitality was comforting, humorous and rewarding. Thank you to MBT for being our hosts in 2017. In Gassho Rev. Earl Ikeda, Tony & Yoriko Armstrong, Ruth Funai, Cheryl Ikemiya, Gertrude Kihara, Chieko Nakagawa, Keiko Ohtaka, Nancy Okada P.S. We hope to renew acquaintances in Toronto, Canada, in 2018!

## Eitaikyo

Every autumn, an annual Eitaikyo service is conducted at the New York Buddhist Church. This service is dedicated to those loved ones who are recorded in the Eitaikyo registry of NYBC and includes those persons whose funeral memorial service was conducted at the NYBC and whose ashes are maintained by the church.

The word Eitaikyo is a contraction of the more formal term, Ei-tai doku-kyo. *Ei* means eternal. It is composed of the Characters for a river with many tributaries that flows on and on. *Tai* means generations. *Kyo* means sutras or the words of the Buddha. *Doku* means to chant or read. Thus Eitaikyo means to chant the sutras for generations, eternally for our loved ones.

At the NYBC, a special Eitaikyo Memorial Fund was established to ensure the continuation of the teachings of the Buddha and Nembutsu. It is to be used specifically to purchase items for the altar or for altar replacements and repairs. This fund is established through the donations made in memory of deceased members of the family and friends. This ensures a perpetual service for the deceased even when there is no one left in the family to observe a Buddhist Service.

Because the purpose of Eitaikyo is to ensure that a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Service be conducted eternally in memory of a loved one, an initial substantial donation is requested to place a loved one's name in the Eitaikyo registry. An amount of \$500 or more is suggested. However, depending on individual circumstances, other amounts will be considered. Please consult with the resident minister.

Please join us for the Eitaikyo service on Sunday, October 15, and, in particular if a loved one has passed away in the past year. You can speak with Rev. Earl Ikeda about placing a loved one on the Eitaikyo register if he or she is not currently in the register and you believe it would be appropriate to place that person on it. Rev. Earl or one of the minister's assistants can direct you in completing the appropriate forms and providing the proper documentation.

## So Daiko News By Mac Evans

We have just gotten back into drumming from summer break, and the familiar muscle burn feels great.

It feels like we haven't been gone too long, since our last performance was at Lincoln Center Out of Doors on August 6th as part of the show Talking Drums: Stand Up! Speak Out! The show featured musicians and artists representing all corners of the globe, hosted by the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute. We were honored to be included among such other fantastic dancers and percussionists, and happy to be part of a larger culture of performers.

Immediately afterwards most of us were at the North American Taiko Conference in San Diego. We were there for different levels of participation, with some Soh Daiko members volunteering, others observing, some participating in workshops. Our own Tamiko Ooka serves on the board of the Taiko Community Alliance, so she was working extra hard behind the scenes. We saw a lot of familiar faces from our extended taiko family, and many from our Soh Daiko family too! It was good to catch up with Soh Daiko alumni from around the country, including Wynn and Traci Kiyama, Kathy Fuller, Kaoru Watanabe, and of course Alan and Merle Okada. We had a blast and hope to bring back our experiences to share with the rest of the group.



*Soh Daiko and Soh Daiko emeriti in San Diego.*



## 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, Gary Jaskula, Mac Evans, Tony Di Tomasso, Brian McGurgan, Gertrude Kihara, Brian Funai, Tony Armstrong, 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* Editors: Gail Inaba, [ginaba@optonline.net](mailto:ginaba@optonline.net) and Mariko Kato at [mkatony@hotmail.com](mailto:mkatony@hotmail.com).

**Next Deadline  
is  
Sat., Oct. 14**

**Support the  
NYBC  
Join as a Pledged  
Member**

### *Save the Dates:*

*Eitaikyo Service October 15*

*Autumn Festival October 21*

*Benefit Luau Luncheon*

*November 4*



# kokoro

October 2017



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

**New York Buddhist Church**

**331 Riverside Drive**

**New York, NY 10025**

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

