



This month, we will be observing Ohigan. Ohigan gives us the opportunity to contemplate the reality of our existence and the vow of Amida Buddha to liberate us. The literal meaning of Ohigan is “the Other Shore.” This term evokes the dualism of our lives being on this and the other shore, but also expresses the oneness of the totality of our existence.

The observance of Ohigan is a Japanese Buddhist tradition said to have been inspired by Prince Shotoko, considered the first great patron of Buddhism in Japan, who was a semi-legendary figure over 1,500 years ago. It is also based on the teachings and writings of the great Chinese figure, Shan Ta, or Zendo Daishi in Japanese. In the chant Shoshin Nembutsu -ge, our founder Shinran Shonin expresses gratitude to Seven Great Masters or Shichikousou, who helped him to understand the Great Vow of Amida Buddha. Shan Tao was the fifth of

KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



The Other Shore

September 2018

those Great Masters. Shan Tao, a Chinese monk and scholar greatly revered Amitabha Buddha and the Universal Vow of this Buddha to save all sentient beings. He wrote and left many writings on the benefits of taking refuge in this Buddha's vow in the form of reciting Namo Amida Butsu. He is said to have recited Namo Amida Butsu many thousand times each day. He listed many practices to receive merit but emphasized the recitation of the Amida Buddha's Name as the greatest practice that would lead to freedom from this world of eternal suffering or samsara.

He used a parable referred to as “The River of Fire and Water” to help us understand and awaken to the Vow. In this tale, a traveler suddenly discovers that he is being chased by vicious beasts and demons. The traveler runs as fast as he can but soon encounters a river. There is no other escape but to cross the river before him! There is only a very narrow shallow path to cross the river from one shore to the other, and on one side of the path are very rough waves and on the other, great, leaping flames. The traveler is confused and conflicted: to remain on this shore means certain death by the pursuing beasts and demons, but to go forward may mean a terrible end consumed by the waves or flames. He is deeply fearful in contemplating his possible fate.

It is at that moment that he hears a gentle voice encouraging him to go forward and telling him that there is nothing to fear. Still doubtful, he raises his head to look ahead at the other shore. He sees the Buddha Amida with open arms beckoning him to come forward. To remain here on this shore means certain suffering and death; to go forward may mean suffering and death but provides hope. The traveler makes the decision to seize the opportunity and takes his first step not realizing what fate lies ahead. Entrusting in the beckoning of Amida Buddha, he takes the first step then the second. With each following step the narrow path



Reverend Earl Ikeda

miraculously widens! It becomes wide enough for the traveler safely to reach the Other Shore! This parable is an example of the meaning of Amida Buddha's Vow to save and free all of us from the endless cycle of birth and death. The beasts and demons in this story represent our fears, illusions, and delusions. The rough waves and river of fire represents our hatred, insatiable thirst for want, and ignorance. The path represents hope and the way to be free from all suffering which is overcome by entrusting or calling the Buddha's Name, Namo Amida Butsu.

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Minister's Message, *Continued from p. 1*

The traveler learns that it is fear and doubt that keeps us from seeing clearly, especially our rebirth in Amida's Land of Bliss.

Honen Shonin was also deeply moved by Shan Tao's thoughts and expressed his gratitude to Shan Tao by sharing his thoughts on awakening to this truth to his disciples. Shinran also deeply respect this great Chinese teacher and mentions and shares the master's thoughts in his writings.

In order to reach the Other Shore, one does not have to wait for one's end of life. We can all reach the Other Shore now by hearing and entrusting in the Buddha's Vows and allowing Buddha energy to fill our hearts and minds with wisdom, compassion and thoughts to help us transcend the ordinary.

Namu Amida Butsu

NYBC Ohigan Service

In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, Ohigan is observed twice a year in the Spring and Autumn. This year's Fall service is scheduled for Sunday, September 23 at 11:30 am.

Please join us to listen and participate in the Buddha Dharma with family and friends.

NYBC 80th Anniversary

New York Buddhist Church will observe its 80th Anniversary with a 10 course Chinese banquet in Manhattan's Chinatown at Oriental Garden at 14 Elizabeth Street. We will be honoring Mr. Bon Yagi, Soh Daiko and the Tachibana Dance group for their contributions in fostering cultural awareness and community development. Rev. Hozen Seki, NYBC's founding minister brought the Onembutsu teachings to the East Coast. He also wanted people to have

access to Japanese culture. He encouraged and nurtured both at the NYBC.

After 80 years, the NYBC has become and still is an important part of the religious, cultural, and social life of the Japanese-American, Japanese and greater communities of New York City and the metropolitan area.

Please make plans to attend this anniversary banquet on Saturday, October 20. Seating is limited and will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis. On Sunday, October 21, we will have a simple anniversary service at 11:30 am. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Ronald Miyamura of Chicago.

No Study Class In October

Because there is a MAP seminar during the first week in October at Ekoji Temple outside of Washington D.C., the monthly Dharma study class is cancelled.

Shoojin Ryoori Workshop

On Saturday, October 27, Rev. Masami Asao will be conducting a class on monastic cooking. Rev. Asao is a minister of the Takataha of Jodo Shinshu and resides in Tokyo, Japan, where she conducts classes at her temple. Rev. Asao has been coming to NYC to do workshops at various Zen temples and at William-Sonoma. The next issue of Kokoro will have additional information about this event.

Internment at Cypress Hills

NYBC holds an internment ceremony once a year at our Bussharito (columbarium) at Cypress Hills Cemetery. Internment requires documentation and there are associated costs. The annual internment is being scheduled in early November. Please call the temple at (212) 678-0305 for details. The next issue of Kokoro will have additional information about this event.

彼岸法要

9月23日(日) 午前11時30分から秋のお彼岸法要を勤めます。お参りいただきますようお知らせいたします。お彼岸はお浄土へ帰って行かれた人をしのぶとともに、迷いの世界に生きる私を仏様の光に照らして、かえりみる機会です。

NYBC 80周年記念晩餐会のお知らせ

10月20日(土曜日) 午後5時半-8時半 オリエンタルガーデン(14 Elizabeth Street NYC 10013)において、ニューヨーク仏教会80周年記念の晩餐会をおこないます。

Cont. on p. 4

お彼岸（ひがん）

9月22日はお彼岸です。カレンダーの上では、この日から秋となります。

仏教は1500年ぐらい前日本へ伝えられ、聖徳太子様（574-622）が人々に仏に帰依することをすすめられたおかげで、日本中にひろまりました。春と秋の彼岸会は仏教の伝統行事です。「彼岸」とは阿弥陀仏の浄土、自由で幸せな国です。しかし、この世と彼岸（浄土）の二つの世界があるのではなく一つです。お浄土は我々のいるこの世界にあります。

お彼岸は、中国の善導大師の教えから生まれたと言われています。親鸞聖人の恩師、法然聖人は善導様の「念仏のみで救われる」との教えを特に尊重されましたので、親鸞聖人も先生と同じように善導様をたいへん尊敬されました。親鸞聖人がお書きになった「正信念仏偈」の中で、七人の高僧（龍樹、天親、曇鸞、道綽、善導、源信、源空-法然）をたたえられました。善導様は七人中五番目の高僧です。

善導様は、中国浄土系の僧で学者です。多くの書物をお書きになり、念仏をとるだけで救われると言われました。長く難しい修行をしなくても、名号（南無阿弥陀仏）をとるだけで、苦しみから解放されるとの教えです。また、苦しんでいる人々のため、一日に数千回も念仏をとることで精進されたと言われ、善導の口から仏様が次から次へ出てくる像が作られています。

善導様が書かれた「二河白道」があります。目覚めの「たとえ話」です。

ある時、旅人が一人で歩いていると、恐ろしい獣（けもの）や盗賊（とうぞく）が突然旅人におそいかかってきました。旅人は逃げようとしたのですが、大きな河が行く手をふさぎ逃げる事が出来ません。しかし、河の途中に白く細い道が向こう岸に向かっていました。白道の道幅は10センチぐらいしかありません。また道の片側は水が高波となって打ち寄せ、反対側は火がふきあげ道を焼いていました。旅人はそこにとどまれば野獣や盗賊に殺されるでしょうし、白道を進めば高波や火のなかに落ち死ぬに違いないでしょう。そこにとどまっても、進んでも死んでしまうでしょう。しかし、旅人は「この道を選んで前に歩こう。すでに道がある。」と決心して歩き出すと、向こう岸から「すぐにこちらへきなさい。」という声が聞こえました。その声は阿弥陀仏でした。旅人が仏様の言葉を信じて白道を歩き出すと、不思議なことに道がひろがり旅人は無事向こう岸へたどり着きました。

この話は、阿弥陀仏が我々を生まれ変わり死に変わる迷いの世界から救ってくださる物語です。野獣や盗賊は、人間の恐怖、妄想、無明をあらわし、河の水は欲、火は怒りです。白道は念仏によって救われる道があることを示しています。どんな悪業煩惱があっても、阿弥陀仏の本願を疑いなく信じれば、浄土往生できるのです。

法然聖人は善導様の教えで目覚められたと言われています。また法然聖人は善導の素晴らしい教えと、弟子と共に学べた縁をたいへん感謝されました。親鸞聖人は、先生と同じように善導様の教えを尊敬され、善導の論文を「教行信証」に引用されています。

浄土真宗の教えは、死んでお浄土（彼岸）へいくのを待たず、今ここで南無阿弥陀仏を聞くことによって、仏の智慧と慈悲によって救われ、人間の考えを超えた彼岸へ行くことが出来ます。彼岸は何にも束縛されない自由な国です。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

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

September 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, September 9		October 2018 Shotsuki Hoyo Service Sunday, October 7	
Arran, Glen 2003 Hashimoto, Masaru David 1997 Hino, Hisako 2001 Ikuta, Masayoshi 2012 Ishida, Takanobu 2014 Kamada, Shunichi Max 1967 Kamikawa, Karoku 1964 Kamita, Edward Katsumi 1998 Komiya, Shohei 1997 Lechtanski, Leo 2003 Matsumaru, Kakutaro 1969 Miyazaki, Gentaro 1978 Mizobata, Keiko 1989 Moribe, Daisy 1987 Mozumi, Julia 2014 Mozumi, Sara 2014	Murahata, Joe Sueki 1999 Nagashima, Hideo 2000 Nakamura, Fujino 1981 Ochiai, Waichiro 1993 Omori, Jack Ichiro 2006 Sato, Masahide 1979 Shinozuka, Fujiko 1994 Soeda, Sadako 1997 Sugai, Toshiko Yoshida 2011 Tung, Mei-Jy 2014 Uno, Elsie 1993 Williams, Robert Gordon 2003 Yoshikami, Rev. Egen Iwasaburo 1999 Yoshikami, Mutsuko 1999	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 Ito, Haruo 2017 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

Minster's Message Cont. from p. 2

みなさまどうぞお集まり願います。ニューヨーク仏教会は関法善法師がお念仏の教えと、日本文化の紹介のため東海岸の研修道場として開かれました。幸い皆様のご支援ご協力のおかげで、日本人社会だけでなくアメリカ社会へ貢献して80年がたちました。ご一緒に仏教会設立80周年の喜びをわかちあいたいと思いますので、ぜひご出席願います。お席が限られています、ご出欠のお知らせをお願いいたします。

なお、10月21日（日曜日）午前11時30分から、ミヤマラロナルド シカゴ仏教会住職をご講師にお迎えし、80周年記念法要を勤めます。

10月仏教研修会中止のお知らせ

仏教研修会は、恵光寺でアシスタントの研修会があるため中

止です。

精進料理クラス

10月27日（土曜日）あさおまami師の精進料理教室があります。あさお師は浄土真宗高田派（東京）の僧侶です。師はニューヨークの禅寺やウィリアムソノマで精進料理を教えられたことがあります。くわしくは10月号のKokoroをご覧ください。

納骨のお知らせ

サイプレスヒルズにあるニューヨーク仏教会納骨堂への納骨を11月初旬に予定しています。納骨ご予約の方は、死亡証明書、火葬証明書、経費などが必要ですので、仏教会（電話212-678-0305）へお問い合わせください。詳しくは、10月号Kokoroでお知らせいたします。

Sangha News

By Ruth Funai

Congratulations to **Dick Okada** on his marriage to Andrea Tofanelli. It took place in San Francisco on Nov. 20, 2017, which, also, happens to be her birthday! It will be difficult to forget their anniversary or her birthday! They both attended his mother, **Mrs. Akiko Okada's** 100th birthday in the spring. Dick is the brother to **Nancy**, Alan and Elsie. NYBC Members extend best wishes to both of them.

Every February for the past 8 years, **Gail Inaba** and her husband, Don Thompson have spent a couple of weeks in Bonaire where they snorkel, barbeque, read, sleep and go to the Dutch supermarket for daily provisions. Bonaire is a Dutch municipality about 40 miles off the coast of Venezuela. It is a small, scrubby island without the beautiful beaches of its sister island Aruba, but it is well known for its excellent diving and snorkeling because of its pristine waters and well protected reef. Over the years, Gail and Don have sighted spotted eagle rays, octopus, stoplight parrotfish, lots of barracuda, hawksbill and green turtles and many other tropical reef fish. They also are usually able to catch a wahoo or two ("ono" in Hawaiian which means "delicious") which ends up as sashimi, crudo, cerviche, and grilled skewers.



Don Thompson and Gail Inaba, snorkeling off Klein Bonaire

Soh Daiko News

By Mac Evans

Soh Daiko has been on our summer break, and we are getting excited to come back for an eventful 2018-2019 performance season.

We're pleased to close off 2018 celebrating the 80th anniversary of our home at the New York Buddhist Church! Similarly, 2019 marks Soh Daiko's 40th anniversary! We already starting to plan festivities, so keep on the lookout for our celebration concert sometime in the summer.

These future events and our docket of performances we already have lined up could always use some more hands on deck, so we're also looking forward to our annual recruitment on Saturday, October 6 and Thursday, October 11. Mark your calendars for a workshop, or for the chance to try out to becoming a performing member of Soh Daiko! Details will become available on sohdaiko.org, so keep in touch!

Save the Date
Keirokai Luncheon and Bingo
Sunday, September 23 1 pm

O Bon 2018

WILLOW GROVE

OBON By Tony Armstron

On July 28th, members of the NYBC, Seabrook and Ekoji Sanghas and the Princeton Japanese Association met to clean 12 grave markers for the annual Willow Grove Obon service. Willow Grove is the gravesite of Japanese who died visiting from Japan during the Meiji era. One of them was a child. On the gravesite there are five obelisks and 6-bases. The obelisks are smaller versions of our own Washington Monument. There are signs of change and struggle, as one obelisk is missing and two have been repaired.

Rev. Kenryu Tsuji established the holding of this annual service with the assistance of the Eastern district temples and ministers. It has become an annual service for us for more than 40 years. Coming here and tending to the graves evokes for me a spirit of continuing cooperation and understanding. The incense smoke and our voices in the chants seemed to keep this spirit alive. Willow Grove Cemetery is tucked away in New Brunswick, New Jersey, which is a small college town surrounding Rutgers College. The cemetery is sorely neglected, with few visitors, which makes our annual visit so much more important.

Afterwards, 19 of us went to enjoy fellowship – which is done every year - at the Teppanyaki Grill.



At Willow Grove

Seabrook O-Bon By Keiko Omori

This year Mother Nature was an unwelcome visitor to the Seabrook obon. Undaunted, the festival activities moved indoors in to the church hall and everyone was sheltered from the continuing uninterrupted rain. To begin the festivities, three taiko (drum) groups performed, Hoh Daiko (Seabrook), Nen Daiko (D.C.) and Soh Daiko (NY).

Their exciting performances brought loud cheers from the audience. Then, the loud speaker called for the dancers to make the traditional circle to begin dancing to familiar songs. There is a sudden explosion of excitement as everyone rushed to the center of the hall to begin the annual Obon Dance Festival that occurs just once a year. The familiar folk songs fill the hall and the dancers begin to dance in a circle with smiles and laughter, happy again to be dancing in the annual bon odori. It's a joyous time dancing together with people of all ages, for the same purpose with friends and strangers.

It was great to see members from the Ekoji Buddhist Temple(D.C. area), and the New York Buddhist Church joining the Seabrook Sangha for this festive event. Until next year ...

80th Anniversary Celebration of the New York Buddhist Church

OCTOBER 20, 2018

ORIENTAL GARDEN 14 ELIZABETH STREET 5:30-8:30 PM

Honoring the cultural and community contributions of:

Mr. Bon Yagi Soh Daiko Tachibana Dance Group

I would like to sponsor a message and/or advertisement in the Event Program Booklet:

_____ Full Page	\$750.00
_____ Half Page	\$500.00
_____ Quarter Page	\$250.00
_____ Acknowledgment One Line	\$75.00

*Ads and messages must be received by September 20th. Images, text and ad-related questions can be submitted to: rsemenick@gmail.com or kitty86@aol.com.

I would like to attend dinner on Oct. 20th :

_____ Gold Circle at \$2000.00
10 Seats/one table
Full page in Program Booklet
Memento recognition
_____ Silver Circle at \$1500.00
10 Seats/one table
Half page in Program Booklet
Memento recognition
_____ Bronze Circle at \$1200.00
10 Seats/one table
Listing in Program Booklet
_____ Individual tickets at \$100.00 each

I cannot attend, but would like to make a tax deductible donation to the New York Buddhist Church in the amount of \$_____.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please make checks payable to: New York Buddhist Church. Send this form along with your payment to: New York Buddhist Church, 331-332 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10025.

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhistChurch.org

212-678-0305

Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda

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Nancy Okada at 212-678-0305.

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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 Editor: Gail Inaba, 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 for more information. (

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



kokoro

September 2018



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

New York Buddhist Church

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