Kappa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple’s monthly newsletter, Oneness, recently contained a message delivered by Rev. Yuika Hasebe, a Hawaii Kyodan Kaikyoshi minister, at their BWA Hoonko Service.

In her message, she recalls her childhood school days and that, “We all came from a small school at a small city in Japan. So, we all knew each other, and everybody were friends, but we (are) all grow (n) up now and live differently.” She continues, “I have become a minister and moved to Hawaii which I had never thought about.” She reflects upon her life and how her friends’ lives have come to their varied points now in so many unexpected ways and contemplates the meaning of success, and what having a successful life encompasses. If success is defined as happiness, what is happiness?

She muses that: “When we say ‘success’, it often means status, fame, money or power. It might also mean (a) happy family, or it might mean (having a) healthy and strong body. People who have those may be called as ‘successful people’. However, when we think about those people who have all of this, they are not always (necessarily) happy. For at the same time, (there are) even people who don’t have those (and) it does not (necessarily) mean that they are unhappy. Some people don’t need much money to live. Some people prefer to live a simple life.”

In looking for a definition of happiness, Hasebe Sensei quotes and interprets one of Shinran Shonin’s wasans (poems):

‘Of those who encounter the power of the Primal Vow,
Not one passes by in vain;
They are filled with the treasure ocean of virtues,
The defiled waters of their bold passions not separated from it.’

In interpreting this wasan she goes on to state:

The power of the Primal Vow means the (inconceivable) working of Amida Buddha which awakens every one of us. The wondrous working(s) of (this vow of) Amida Buddha reaches us now and Namo Amida Butsu overflows from our lips. We are not just simply putting our hands together in Gassho and bowing our heads. AMIDA BUDDHA’S INCONCEIVABLE AND WONROUS WORKING TEACHES US HOW TO PUT OUR HANDS IN GASSHO AND HOW TO BOW.

People who are living in the dark never know what darkness is. Unless the light breaks through the darkness, one can’t realize the darkness. Amida Buddha’s light shines upon us all and only by realizing that we have been illuminated by Amida Buddha’s light, we are able to know that we are living in the dark. Nothing is meaningless and nothing is fruitless.....no one living this life is in vain. All happiness, all unhappiness, every sadness, every problem we encounter can be understood as the great opportunities to encounter and reaffirm Amida Buddha’s Vow. This hymn tells us what true happiness is to us, what true treasures are for us and what we can truly rely upon.

High status or not, rich or poor, young or old, healthy or sick, doing something or not doing anything, the joy and happiness Amida Buddha gives to us surpasses all secular happiness and transforms all unhappiness to joy. The joy and happiness Amida Buddha directs to us surpasses all. That is why Shinran Shonin said that when we encounter it, everything will become a treasure and not a single thing happening in our life lives will be in vain.

Cont. on p. 2
Minister's Message, Cont. from p. 1

Onaijin Restoration and Nyubutsu-shiki
Japanese craftsmen will arrive on Thursday, March 14th, to begin the task of advising us on the restoration of our Onaijin, the Inner Sanctuary, or altar. The altar has not been restored for over 80 years. Now through the generous efforts of members and supporters we are able to engage in this important task. The craftsmen will be here for three weeks working to bring the altar as close as possible to its original state. During this time, NYBC does not intend to cancel religious services. The schedule for several classes has been modified to adjust to the needs of the craftsmen. Sunday services will take place as scheduled, however, the locations within the building may vary.

As part of the traditional ceremony to welcome the Buddha back to its permanent site on the altar we have a ceremony called “Nyubutsu-shiki”. This term means “To Replace or Put the Buddha Back” Traditionally, when the statue of the Buddha was temporarily placed in an alternate site for such restoration or Onaijin repairs, upon completion of such work, the statue or focus of worship was “replaced back”. NYBC will observe “Nyubutsu-shiki” on Sunday, May 19, in conjunction with Gotan-e, Shinran Shonin’s Birthday Celebration Service.

Please make an effort to attend this momentous ceremony to help us reconnect with the founding and history of the New York Buddhist Church. Your generous donations to help complete this restoration will be greatly appreciated.
長谷部先生の思い

‘Oneness’というカバー本願寺の月刊ニュースレターがありますが、最近ハワイ教団の開教師である長谷部ゆいか先生の婦人会恩講サービスのメッセージが載っていました。

ご自身の子供の時の学校生活を思い出し、次のように述べています。「私達は日本の小さい町の小さい学校にいたので、お互いによく知っていて皆友達でした。但し、今は大人になり、それぞれ違う生活を送っています。私は開教師になり、考えてもいなかったハワイに移る事になりました。」長谷部先生は自分の人生をみつめ、そして友達がどのような経過を経てそれぞれの道を歩むようになったのか顧み、人生における成功とはどんな意味があるのか、そして「成功」が幸せな人と定義するのなら「幸せ」とは何なのか問いかけています。

そして次のように続けています。「成功という場合、よく地位、名誉、お金、力の事を指します。また幸せな家族、健康、丈夫な体の事という事もあります。これが全てあれば『成功した人』と呼ぶのかもしれません。但し、これがない人もいますが、それが必ずしも不幸な人だとは限りません。生きていくのに、あまりお金を必要としない人もいて、シンプルな人生を好む人もいます。」

幸せの定義をするのに長谷部先生は親鸞の和讃引用しています。「本願力にあひぬればむなくすぐるひとぞなきくどくの宝海みちみて煩悩の濁水へだてなし」

この和讃の解釈として「本願力は全ての人に対わせてくる阿弥陀の働きです。この阿弥陀様の不思議な本願力を受け止めてと、『南無阿弥陀仏』と唱える事が口から溢れ出てきます。私達はただ手を合わせ、合掌して、お辞儀するのです。阿弥陀様の計り知れない、不思議な力がどのように手を合わせ、合掌し、どのようにお辞儀するか教えてくださるのです。」
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 hoyo memorial service, please talk to Rev. Earl Ikeda or one of our minister’s assistants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018... 1st Year</th>
<th>2016... 3rd Year</th>
<th>2013 ... 7th Year</th>
<th>2007... 13th Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003... 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.

**April 2019**
**Shotsuki Hoyo Service:**

Sunday, April 14

- Briceland, Penelope Warren 1994
- Chen, Po-Shen 2005
- Hondo, Rev. Shojo 2015
- Horiuchi, Yoshitaka 1991
- Iizuka, Reiko 2010
- Ikoma, Chiyoko 1985
- Ikoma, Fumiko 1948
- Kaneko, Seijuro 1968
- Kikuchi, Chiyoko 2004
- Kato, Kimi Hiratsuka 2005
- Knippenberg, Rolf - Kai 2013
- Kuchiba, Kaizo 2002
- Kume, Susao 2000
- Matsukawa, Toru 2013
- Matsumaru, Hatsuiko 2009
- Matsumaru, Toshiko, 1941
- Matsushita, Bunya 1944
- Matsushita, David 1995
- Matsushita, Hama 1946

**May 2019**
**Shotsuki Hoyo Service:**

Sunday, May 5

Aunt, Esme, NA

**February Board Highlights**

*By Cheryl Ikemiya*

**Minister’s Report:** Rev. Ikeda proposed to conduct a separate service to introduce Jodo Shinshu to LGBT community. He would like a committee to address the sensitivities necessary to serve this community

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Nancy Okada. Nancy reported that the Shojin Ryori event netted $1,000.

**Building Committee:** The water transfer unit next to the heating unit was worked on, and additional plumbing repairs will cost several thousand dollars.

**New Business**

**Membership brochure:** Yoriko Armstrong and Mariko Kato will rework the members brochure which is out of date and needs a new focus.

**Old Business**

**Membership:** Five new members have joined this year. We had a discussion on ways to welcome new members.

**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, Karl Palma and Cheryl Ikemiya.

**Gay Pride Parade:** 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising – Heritage of Pride is the main group, with which NYBC will participate. Tony D and Mac Evans will coordinate our participation.

**Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports**

ABA: Nobuko Kodama reported that Helen Irie will speak on May 5 at 2 pm to discuss Estate Planning, Wills and documents including Healthcare Proxy and Power of Attorney.
Last November on Thanksgiving Day, Richard Gross and his friend, Demina, travelled to Iceland to celebrate her birthday (one of those “important” ones that ended in “0”). According to Richard, he liked the bus trip from the airport to the capital city of Reykjavik. It traveled through a long stretch of land that was formed by flowing lava and had an unearthly alien look. Reykjavik was lovely, with an understated modernist architecture, all squares and rectangles, which he found beautiful. The people were very nice, in a restrained way, which he appreciated.

They had time for just one tour, which was the southern coast. They saw waterfalls, inactive volcanoes, amazing rock formations, and the famous black sand beach which was one of the windiest places they had ever experienced!

They had heard stories about how cold and wintry it is there, so they went with many layers of clothing. Actually, it was warmer than New York City at that time, ranging from the mid-30s to the low-40s, with no rain or snow. They had a great time and are hoping to return for a longer visit after they pay off their credit cards.

Several members of the New York Buddhist Church Board, along with Rev. Earl attended a lecture given by Duncan Ryuken Williams at the Jewish Community Center on the upper West Side on February 21. Professor Williams, who is an ordained minister in the Soto Zen school and a member of the faculty at USC, recently published American Sutra. It is a scholarly, but highly readable and moving account of the little known history of the ordeals suffered and triumphs achieved by Japanese American Buddhists unjustly dispossessed and interned during WWII who drew on their Buddhist faith to remain loyal to the nation. It is a story that continues to resonate amidst the religious and racial tensions that disturb our country today.
Please join us for the screening of director Kon Ichikawa’s 1993 film “Sono kido o Totte.” This enchanted period film set in the 16th century Japan is about an ambitious samurai and a mysterious woman who has amnesia and doesn’t know her name or where she came from. What makes this film a must-see is the magical fairytale like story of love, honor, and integrity. You get drawn in, and when it’s over, the story and characters stay with you. This movie originally aired on Japanese TV in 1993 title “Fusa,” and it was never released theatrically. After the director, Kon Ichikawa passed away in February 2008, "Fusa" was released theatrically in Japan on November 8, 2008.

There will be light refreshments following the movie and discussion

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2019, 2:30 to 4:00 pm

A donation of $5 from ABSC members and $10 for all others is requested.

Save the Date
Sun., May 5, 2:00 pm

Planning for the Future

Helen Irie, a lawyer with expertise in trusts and estates and eldercare issues will be speaking on important legal documents everyone should have in planning for the future. This topic is relevant to people of ALL ages. Please join us for this important information session, sponsored by the ABA.

Students Invited to Apply for Stanley T. Okada Scholarship

For application forms or further information, please contact Gertrude Kihara, Keiko Ohtaka, or Nancy Okada. The application deadline is at the end of May.
# New York Buddhist Church April-May 2019

## April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 3, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 4, Thu</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Howakai (Jap. Study Group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O-naijin restoration scheduled to be complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6, Sat</td>
<td>12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30-4:30: American Buddhist Study Center: Film: Taking the Brightness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RSVP at <a href="mailto:info@ambuddhist.org">info@ambuddhist.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 7, Sun</td>
<td>10:30am: Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Service; 11:30am: Hanamatsuri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Buddha’s Birthday) Service: Speaker: Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Ruth Funai, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taiko classes: 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 10, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 13, Sat</td>
<td>10am-4pm White Elephant Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 14, Sun</td>
<td>11:30am: Shotoku Hoyo Speaker: Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Richard Gross; Greeter: David ? Music Ukulele group 1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting 1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 17, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 20, Sat</td>
<td>12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 21, Sun</td>
<td>10:30am: Japanese Service: 11:30am: English Service Speaker: MA Cheryl Joko Ikemiya, Chairperson: Tony Armstrong, Greeter Yuko Tonohira, Music Nobuko Kodama 1:00 pm: Board of Trustees meeting Taiko classes: 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 25, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
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## May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2, Thu</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group); 7-8pm American Buddhist Study Center: Rev. Daijaku Kinst will talk about Buddhism and Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, Sat</td>
<td>10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5, Sun</td>
<td>Shotsuki Hoyo 11:30am: 1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting 2 pm Helen Irie Presentation, Planning for the Future Taiko classes: 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11, Sat</td>
<td>12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 12, Sun</td>
<td>Mother’s Day 10:30am: Japanese Service 11:30am: English Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, Sun</td>
<td>11:30am: Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) Service; Nyubutsu-shiki ceremony 1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting Taiko classes: 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25, Sat</td>
<td>12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 26, Sun</td>
<td>10:30am: Japanese Service 11:30am: English Service Speaker: Gary Shobo Jaskula</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27, Mon</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day Services at Mt. Olivet and Cypress Hills Cemeteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29, Wed</td>
<td>7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation</td>
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KOKORO

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New York, NY 10025

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212-678-0305

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.


Articles and especially 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

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Ongoing Activities

Children’s and Adult’s Taiko Drumming: Sundays, usually every other week, 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.


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.


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