



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 schooldays 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

# KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



## Hasebe Sensei's Thoughts

April 2019

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 WONDROUS 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



Reverend Earl Ikeda

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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 to 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.



暗闇にいる人は何が暗闇なのかわかりません。暗闇に光がささない限り、暗闇が理解できません。阿弥陀様の光が私達を照らし、照らされているという事が理解できて初めて、暗闇にいる事が自覚できるのです。意味のない物は何もないし、価値がない物也没有。この世に無駄な人もいません。全ての幸福、不幸、悲しい事、あらゆる問題があった時、阿弥陀様に会い、これは本願を確認するまたとない機会なのです。この和讃は幸せとは何か、本当に大切なものは何か、そして何に頼る事ができるのか教えてくれているのです。

地位があるかないか、金持ちか貧乏か、若いかな年をとっているか、健康か病気か、何かしているか、していないかなど 阿弥陀様がくださる喜び、幸せは いわゆる私達が言う幸せな感情を超えたものであり、不幸せな感情を喜びに変えてくださいます。阿弥陀様がくださる喜びと幸せは全てを超えたものなのです。私達がそれに出会った時、全ての人生での経験は財産となり、無駄になるものは一つもないと親鸞は和讃で言っています。

合掌

翻訳 小玉 修子

Translated by Nobuko Kodama

### お内陣修復工事と入仏式

3月14日 木曜日に日本から職人が到着しました。お内陣と仏壇の修復工事のアドバイスと仕事を始めるためです。お内陣は 80年間 修復されていません。会員の方、その他の支援をしてくださる方の寛大なサポートのおかげで、この工事を始める事ができました。職人は約3週間滞在し、お内陣をできるだけ元の状態に戻す仕事にかかります。この期間中、仏教会では サービスを続ける予定です。職人の仕事状況に合わせて、予定が変わるクラスがいくつかあります。予定通り日曜サービスはありますが、場所が変わる事があります。

阿弥陀様を元の仏壇に戻すにあたり、伝統行事の一環として「入仏式」を行います。この式の意味は 「阿弥陀様を元に戻す」という事です。仏壇の阿弥陀様をお内陣修復工事などのために 一時 置き換える場合、工事が終わった段階で、 伝統的に阿弥陀様の仏像と常願が入れ替わると考えます。 仏教会では 親鸞聖人のお誕生日を祝う御誕生会のサービスがある5月19日日曜日に 入仏式を行います。

## 長谷部先生の思い

‘Oneness’というカパ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 友達でしたが、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、丈夫な体の事をいう事もあります。これが全てあれば『成功した人』と呼ぶのかもしれませんが、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  
むなしくすぐる ひとぞなき  
くどくの宝海 みちみちて  
煩惱の濁水 へだてなし」

この和讃の解釈として

「本願力は全ての人に気付かせてくれ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ると、『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、お辞儀するものではありません。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 教えてください。」

## 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.

**2018... 1st Year**

**2016... 3rd Year**

**2013 ... 7th Year**

**2007... 13th Year**

**2003... 17th Year**

**1995 ... 25th Year**

**1987 ... 33rd Year**

**1970 ... 50th Year**

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

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>APRIL 2019</b><br><b>Shotsuki Hoyo Service:</b><br><b>Sunday, April 14</b><br>Briceland, Penelope Warren 1994<br>Chen, Po-Shen 2005<br>Hondo, Rev. Shoji 2015<br>Horiuchi, Yoshitaka 1991<br>Iizuka, Reiko 2010<br>Ikoma, Chiyoko 1985<br>Ikoma, Fumiko 1948<br>Kaneko, Seijuro 1968<br>Kikuchi, Chiyoko 2004<br>Kubo, Matsuye 2010<br>Magome, Shizuo 1995<br>Matsukawa, Nabe 1994<br>Matsushita, Ryomen 1922<br>McCarthy, Joseph 2008 | Mine, Seki 1973<br>Mitani, Chiyo 1973<br>Nishida, Tomihiro 1997<br>Sakioka, Tomio 1995<br>Shih, Michael 2015<br>Suzuki, Haneko 1991<br>Takaishi, Mokichi 1975<br>Takayama, Yukiko, NA<br>Tominaga, Riro 1969<br>Unno, Hanako 1999<br>Wakuya, Ted Tadao 1988 | Dauber, Edna 1968<br>Fujita, Atsuko 1999<br>Fujita, Isamu 1996<br>Hino, Rev. Yoshio 1984<br>Horishige, Kaichi 1933<br>Ikoma, Fukutaro 1934<br>Ikoma, Kame 1953<br>Kamada, Jason 2005<br>Kamita, Yoshio 1990<br>Kan, June 2013<br>Kato, Kimi Hiratsuka 2005<br>Knippenberg, Rolf - Kai 2013<br>Kuchiba, Kaizo 2002<br>Kume, Susao 2000<br>Matsukawa, Toru 2013<br>Matsumaru, Hatsuko 2009<br>Matsumaru, Toshiko, 1941<br>Matsushita, Bunya 1944<br>Matsushita, David 1995<br>Matsushita, Hama 1946 | Matsushita, Shogo 1936<br>Mr., Archie, NA<br>Mitani, Yoshikazu 2000<br>Miura, Judy Ayako 2001<br>Moribe, Ben Seikou 2001<br>Okada, Magoichi 1952<br>Okada, Robert 2006<br>Sakow, Bruce Hidemi 2009<br>Shimoda, Yukio 1981<br>Soeda, Toshio 1992<br>Suemura, Toshi 2013<br>Takeda, Hisafumi 1936<br>Tominaga, Toshio 2000<br>Tsutsui, Akinosuke 1990<br>Uncle, Lang, NA<br>Waibel, Jean Yuriko 1996<br>Washio, Peggy Chieko 1998<br>Yasuda, Jane 2017 |
|   | <b>May 2019</b><br><b>Shotsuki Hoyo Service</b><br><b>Sunday, May 5</b><br>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:** 50<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Sangha News By Ruth Funai

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.



*Upper right: Richard Gross enjoying the rugged landscape of Iceland*

*Above: Gail Inaba, Koshin Paley Ellison (co-founder of the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care), Cheryl Ikemiya, Duncan Ryuken Williams, Rev. Earl Ikeda and Isabelle Bernard at the American Sutra talk. (Photo courtesy David Okada)*

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.

New York Buddhist Church  
**White Elephant Sale**

**Saturday, April 13, 2019**  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm**



**SILENT AUCTION**  
 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**JAPANESE FOOD**

BAKED GOODS • JEWELRY • HOUSEHOLD GOODS • OLD AND NEW "TREASURES"

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS\***

Martial Arts Demonstration ..... 10:00 am – 2:00 pm  
 Tachibana Dance Group ..... 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

\*Program is subject to change.

**New York Buddhist Church**  
 332 Riverside Drive (Between 105 & 106 Streets)  
 (212) 678-0305  
[www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org](http://www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org)

**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.*



American Buddhist Study Center

Presents

**Saturday Afternoon Movie**

**April 6, 2019 - 2:30 to 4:00 PM**

***Taking the Brightness***



Please join us for the screening of director Kon Ishikawa's 1993 film "Sono kido o Totte." This enchanted period film set in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

**Apr. 3, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Apr. 4, Thu.** 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Jap. Study Group)

*O-naijin restoration scheduled to be complete*

**Apr. 6, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

2:30-4:30: American Buddhist Study Center: Film: *Taking the Brightness* RSVP at [info@ambuddhist.org](mailto:info@ambuddhist.org)

**Apr. 7, Sun.** 10:30am: Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Service; 11:30am: Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday) Service : Speaker : Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Ruth Funai, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama

Taiko classes : 5 year olds (12:30-1:15), Children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm)

**Apr. 10, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Apr. 13, Sat.** 10am-4pm White Elephant Sale

**Apr. 14, Sun.** 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo Speaker: Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Richard Gross: Greeter David ? Music Ukulele group 1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

**Apr. 17, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Apr. 20, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

**Apr. 21, Sun.** 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)

**Apr. 25, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Apr 28, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service: 11:30am: English Service Speaker: Rev. Ikeda, Chairperson: Tony Ditomasso, Greeter Lily Sakai Johnson, Music: Ukulele Group

## May

**May 1, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**May 2, Thu.** 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group); 7-8pm American Buddhist Study Center: Rev. Daijaku Kinst will talk about Buddhism and Psychology

**May 4, Sat.** 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class

2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program

**May 5, Sun.** 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)

**May 8, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**May 11, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

**May 12, Sun.** Mother's Day 10:30am: Japanese Service 11:30am: English Service

**May 15, Wed** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**May 19, Sun.** 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)

**May 22, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**May 25, Sat.** 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

**May 26, Sun.** 10:30am: Japanese Service

11:30am: English Service Speaker: Gary Shobo Jaskula

**May 27, Mon.** Memorial Day

Memorial Day Services at Mt. Olivet and Cypress Hills Cemeteries

**May 29, Wed.** 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

## KOKORO

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

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.

**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.

**Contributors:** Rev. Earl Ikeda, Ruth Funai, Brian Funai, Akemi Ishida, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Mac Evans, Tony Di Tomasso, Richard Gross, Tony Armstrong, and the Buddhist Women's Association mailing team.

**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](mailto:ginaba@optonline.net)**

## 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.

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.chrbu.net/page-albu-recital](http://www.chrbu.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

April 2019



New York Buddhist Church

New York Buddhist Church

331 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10025

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

