



# KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



## Akemashite Omedetoo Gozaimasu (Happy New Year!)

January 2016

Under the Chinese lunar calendar, 2017 is the year of the rooster. Those born under this sign are said to be seekers of knowledge, honest, trustworthy, healthy, talented, and hard workers. The downside of people born under this sign is that they are very self-centered.

Most Japanese-Americans around my age attended Japanese language school at one time. We were taught reading, writing, conversation, and etiquette. It was customary to practice writing *nengajo*, New Year Greeting Cards, to be sent out at beginning of the New Year. The most common phrase taught and still used is *Akemashite Omedetoo Gozaimasu*. This is often translated as Happy New Year but literally this phrase means "I extend congratulations on a new opening". There is often another accompanying phrase that conveys a deeper meaning to this greeting. It is *Sakunenju taihen osewa ni narimashita. Honnen mo mata doozo yoroshiku onegai mooshi agemasu*. The literal translation is "Throughout the past year, I have caused you to aid me and therefore I am truly indebted to you. I am

incapable of managing my own shortcomings and therefore, may I please ask again for your continued support, guidance, and favor throughout the coming year." The nuance of the word *osewa* is that one has subjected others to numerous situations that required or demanded them to go out of their way to assist. The phrase also recognizes and emphasizes one's continued foolishness as the cause that required or demanded help. The complete phrase expresses a deep sense of obligation to those persons who aided us to live a meaningful life. This concept is referred to as *on* or *go-on*.

I was raised in a family that ran a business and it was customary to visit individuals or families at the end of the year to express gratitude and spend time chatting and giving year-end gifts. As I child, I thought these Japanese conversations and gestures of gratitude were boring and I would nag my parents to leave.

I have begun to understand some of the dynamics of the Buddha's compassion and how it instills gratitude. The light of wisdom and compassion awakens and embraces a "foolish" being like me so that I can understand that there are countless numbers of causes and conditions that make my life possible and that also sustain me. This is true for all things because there is nothing that can exist on its own. Just as humans need food, air, water, sunshine, and other things to exist, so do the trees, animals, plants, and countless other forms of life. As humans we have accumulated enough positive merit to receive this precious form, we also have the ability to make changes for the betterment of all. We often forget this ability or to use it which causes an imbalance in our own lives, affecting others.

It is in my belief, that awareness and mindfulness of the truths found in Shakyamuni Buddha's teachings will lead us back to a balance which will benefit all. We who have received human form are given the great responsibility and opportunity by utilizing the Teaching to guide the world towards a more balanced and compassionate state. The phrase that Japanese use during the beginning of the year



Reverend Earl Ikeda

brings past, present, and future together. We come to realize that we all have a great obligation to each other. Amida Buddha represents the truth and dynamic of life which embraces and illuminates all of us unconditionally. We simply need to be more aware of these truths and connect with these truths and one another through awakening and deep listening. By doing so, we will eventually develop a sense of deep gratitude for who we are, all that we have, and what we are capable of doing.

I hopefully like to think that I have now matured enough to gain deeper insight into the depth of the Teachings and to realize how the Buddha-dharma illuminates and provides a deeper meaning of life, itself. However in reality, the "foolish being" that I truly am still exists deep within.

*Continued p. 2*

**(Happy New Year!)** *Cont. from p. 1*

*Honnen mo mata doozo yoroshiku onegai mooshi agemasu,* I am incapable of managing my own shortcomings and therefore, may I please ask again for your continued support, guidance, and favor throughout the coming year.

Representing the Ikeda family, I would like to take this opportunity to express our best wishes to all for a wonder 2017.

Namo Amida Butsu

**Ho-onko Service and Shojin Ryoori Bento**

*Ho-onko* is considered the most important religious observance in Jodo Shinshu. *Ho-onko* literally means to express deep gratitude to Shinran Shonin, our sectarian founder. It is through the insight of the Shonin that we are able truly to appreciate the vow of the Buddha which embraces us unconditionally and through his profound explanations we able to recite Namu Amida Butsu with deep joy. This service will be observed on Sunday, January 15, at a combined service beginning at 11:30 am. Please come as a family to share this very special time together.

Since 2015, we have been preparing a vegan bento call *shojin ryoori*. We are again proud to announce that these bento will again be prepared and available at a cost of \$20 each. Please call the temple to reserve this special bento or reserve yours on the sign-up sheet provided in the back of the *hondo*, worship hall. This year, only 50 bento will be prepared and available on January 15, at the end of the *Ho-onko* Service. The temple phone number is (212) 678-0305.

## 報恩講と精進料理のお知らせ

1月15日午前11時半から報恩講をお勤めします。報恩講は浄土真宗をお開きくださった親鸞聖人のご恩をしのび、阿弥陀仏のお救いを心に深く味わう大切な法会です。ぜひご家族の皆様と共にお参りください。

また、報恩講の当日、精進料理（野菜料理）弁当を50個限定して作ります。お弁当ご希望の方は仏教会本堂にある申し込み用紙にご署名願います。（20ドル）また、電話でのお申し込みは、ニューヨーク仏教教会212-678-0305番でお受けします。

***Fund for the Future Update***

*By Cheryl Ikemiya*

The members of the Board of Trustees are very grateful for the long-term commitment to the Fund for the Future of our members and friends. Because of this generosity, we have met the challenge of maintaining and improving the New York Buddhist Church complex at 331-332 Riverside Drive. We envision the church as a vital gathering place for the Sangha to learn about the Dharma teachings and Shinran Shonin's all-inclusive message, to celebrate special observances and holidays, to enjoy educational and cultural activities, and to support each other as part of a greater community. Thus, we continue to focus on improving our buildings to better serve the sangha, the Upper Westside and the greater metropolitan area.

In 1993 the NYBC Board established the Fund for the Future, a multi-staged fundraising project to renovate the New York Buddhist Church's complex at 331-332 Riverside Drive and to create a fund to support the Church into the future. In the first phase we renovated the Annex at 331 Riverside Drive. Working with the architectural firm of Smith & Thompson, we completely renovated and restored the building close to its original state. That renovation enabled NYBC to provide a space for multiple functions - classes, meditation, social and cultural activities; to house the America Buddhist Study Center library, office and meeting rooms; to provide living space for the minister's family and building manager plus three guest rooms that are busy throughout the year. To that end, from 1993-2006 we raised nearly \$952,000 from our members, affiliate organizations, friends and corporate contributions.

In the last ten years, we have made great progress with the renovation of the 332 Riverside Drive building, which houses the Hondo or main religious hall, the church office, and the Dojo that is a center for Kokushi Budo Institute, Soh Daiko and other activities. To date we have raised more than \$800,000 and borrowed \$100,000 from NYBC internal funds.

Due to extensive water damage and rapid deterioration in the Dojo bathrooms, the Board determined that this phase of the renovation could not be further delayed. Therefore the facilities were demolished last summer, fitted out with new electrical and plumbing fixtures, and newly installed men's and women's toilets, sinks and showers, as well as storage space. Thus the Fund for the Future had to defer major upgrades to the Onaijin (altar) space, the sound system, new seating, the vestibule storage area and entrance hallway. *Continued on p. 5*

あけましておめでとうございます  
ニューヨーク仏教会住職 池田アール

あけましておめでとうございます。

今年2017年は酉年（とりどし）です。酉年に生まれた人は、正直で才能があり健康な 人と言われます。

さて、私の同年代の日系二世たちは、日本語学校で読み書きや、日本の習慣やマナーを習いました。その時習ったことの一つが、お正月に年賀状を書くことでした。年賀状の決まり文句「明けましておめでとうございます」または「新年おめでとうございます」と書き、その意味を「無事に新しい年をむかえる喜びと希望」と教えていただきました。そして「昨年中は大変お世話になりました。本年もどうぞよろしくお願い申しあげます。」と続けます。私はこの二番目の文章が大切だと思います。意味は「おかげさまで一年を無事に過ごすことができました。どうもありがとうございます。未熟者です、どうぞこれからもご指導願います。」と説明していただきました。お世話とは、見守る、面倒（めんどう）を見るという意味です。年賀状はおもに感謝や希望とお世話になった恩が書かれます。人は一人では存在できません。ほかのもの（人間を含めて）に支えられて存在します。与えられたもののおかげで、私があるのです。我々のまわりにある全てのものが、私に与えられたもので、自分で作ったものは何一つありません。それを考えると、自然に頭が下がります。

私の家は昔、自営業でした。父母と私は毎年年末になると、得意先や知人宅へ お歳暮（お礼の品）を持って年末のあいさつに行きました。両親はお世話になったお礼のため、家々を回ったようです。しかし、子供であった私は その事がわからず、早く家へ帰りたいたって、ぐずったことをおぼえています。

人間は他の生き物より、優れた知恵をいただいているので、世の中を良くする事ができるでしょう。が、人間がこの世で一番大切な生き物だ、人間のためになれば何をしてもいいのだという、傲慢（ごうまん）な考えがあると、良い結果にならないでしょう。人間中心の考え方から、釈尊の「全ての存在が同じように尊い」と考えないと、世の中が良くならないのでは。

阿弥陀仏（法蔵菩薩）は私たちを目覚めさせようと、この世にあらわれてくださいました。お聴聞（仏法を聞く事）は阿弥陀仏の本願を聞かせていただく道です。凡夫の私ですが、聞かせていただく事に喜びを感じるこの頃です。

池田家を代表して、皆様のご健勝とお幸せを心より念じ、また皆様のご指導とご支援をお願いして、新年のあいさつとさせていただきます。

南無阿弥陀仏

(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.

**2016... 1st Year**

**2011 ... 7th Year**

**2001 ... 17th Year**

**1985 ... 33rd Year**

**2015 ... 3rd Year**

**2005 ... 13th Year**

**1993 ... 25th Year**

**1968 ... 50th Year**

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

### January 2017 Sunday, January 8

Asakura, Michiko 2002  
Awaya, Sei 1954  
Awaya, Shinji 1979  
Horiguchi, Mitsuo 1990  
Katori, Chiyo 1995  
Kehler, Alan 1995  
Kodama, Tokuko Edna 2014  
Kubo, Aki 2012  
Kubo, Jimmy Masami 1988  
Levitch, Yoko Matsuo 1985  
Matsumoto, Ryoji 2014  
Mitani, Ryou 1998  
Mitani, Yuki 1934  
Miyazaki, Katsu 1991  
Miyazaki, Seiichi 1954  
Motoyoshi, Sayuri 1994

Nagisa, Miho 1982  
Nke-Aka, Dr. Nori 2004  
Nojima, Junzo 1983  
Okada, Stanley T. 1980  
Okada, Sekiyo 1992  
Okubo, Gontaro 1959  
Sato, Masatoshi 1981  
Schroeter, Charles 1952  
Schroeter, Edward 1972  
Shiomi, Kenjiro 1991  
Sumi, Shizuko 1992  
Takeda, Koito 1958  
Tenzing, Dupjue 2004  
Tsuji, James Toshiaki 1995  
Yakata, Helen Osamu 2014  
Yakata, John Osamu 1991  
Yoshida, Kenichi 1999

### February 2017 Sunday, February 5

Aunt, Stogh NA  
Bushnell, Joe NA  
Bushnell, Maime NA  
Davis, Albert F. 2007  
Davis, Shizue Shimbo 2013  
DiTomasso, Katherine Mary 1993  
Gyaltsen, Dorki 2004  
Hara, Davis Eiji 1979  
Harada, Matsuo 1984  
Horita, Koichi 1952  
Inaba, Flu Hitoshi 1992  
Iriye, Tom Tateki 1995  
Kato, Roy 2011  
Mitani, Yoshio 1943

Miyamura, Shichi 1997  
Namba, Michino 1989  
Sakow, Toshihiko 2000  
Schroeter, Susan 1962  
Shindo, Shige 1947  
Taoka Nobuji 1965  
Tono, Shiteyo 1988  
Wise, Gregory 1983  
Yanagida, Tadashi 1965  
Yasuda, Kunihiro 1959

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE SANGHA

Happy New Year! Me and NYBC forever! ***Dai Miyazaki***

Happy Year of the Rooster 2007 ***Yasuko and Mariko Kato***

So lucky to have the best of two worlds, living here and being there with you. Happy New Year! Love, ***Chieko Nakagawa***

Wishing you health and happiness in the "Year of the Rooster- 2017!" ***Keiko, Ryo and Yoko Ohtaka***

A Healthy and Rewarding "Rooster" Year to All! ***Akiko and Nancy Okada***

Sincere Wishes For a Joyous 2017! ***New York Tachibana Dance Group***

Best Wishes for a Peaceful, Healthy and Happy Year of 2017! ***The Funai Family***

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year of the cock! ***Sahomi Tachibana***

New Year's Greetings to the Buddhist Sangha! From ***Demetrios and Maria Siatos***

*Tony, Yoriko, Angel Armstrong \* Isabelle Bernard \* Marc Grobman \* Cheryl and Miwa Ikemiya \* Gail and Kimiko Inaba \* Akemi ishida \* Iwaki Family \* Gertrude Kihara \* Estelle Kimizuka \* Nobuko Kodama \* Tokiko Miura \* David Okada \* Michiko Otsuki \* Bill and Cathi Redmond \* Mabel Tsufura and Family \* Sat and Alice Tsufura and Family \* Matthew Wise \* Jane and Shelby Hyde*

## Year-End Thoughts and Wishes

*by Isabelle Bernard, NYBC Board Of Trustees Chair*

*Season's Greetings to All!* As we clean our homes to ready for the New Year, I always toss out piles of papers that I've taken notes on...everything from "to do" lists (usually shuffled from day-to-day), to Board agendas, where I've added my own notes. This often gives me the opportunity to compare one year's agendas with the preceding one; which often gives rise to pleasant memories, but sometimes to the feeling of needing to go backwards to review why certain decisions were made, and how to improve for the future. Growth is a constant factor we cannot ignore, as individuals or as your church Board of Trustees! We all wish for the new year to be better than last. We enjoyed many wonderful services, memorable events, friendships old and new, music, talks and films in 2016. The next year holds much promise and I anticipate another full agenda for our members, friends and supporters to enjoy throughout 2017.

For the church to cover the expenses to maintain our buildings, as well as support the services and programs it offers to its members and the community, we have yearly dues, as well as fundraising events. Through membership dues, NYBC members help to maintain the temple, our buildings and pay our resident minister's salary. Your annual membership covers approximately 20% of our general expenses, including yearly per-member dues to our parent organization, the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), which will be increased in 2017, as well as to our Eastern District association of temples and sanghas.

In 2016, we had expenditures for internal and external

## Fund for the Future Update

*Continued from p. 2*

We need continued support to help us on this journey with contributions to the Fund for the Future to sustain the NYBC as a gathering and learning place for the community, where we can support one another and enjoy life together under the guidance of Amida's wisdom and compassion.

building repairs to maintain our building for community usage. This included renovations which you can see (new doorknobs, functioning elevator) as well as some which you may not (dojo bathrooms needed gut renovation, sump pump in basement, etc.) These will be reviewed in our upcoming Sokai meeting, where one of the voting items on the agenda is an increase to our membership dues.

After much deliberation, the Board is proposing that the 2017 basic membership dues should increase to \$250 per individual and \$500 per couple and families. If you are not a church member and participate in one or more of the many temple programs and activities, please consider giving-- in any amount, to assist us in sustaining our operations. We are dependent upon the generosity of both temple members and NYBC friends to provide a gathering place for the Sangha to listen to the teachings of the Buddha and to continue to develop new services and programs for our community.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and thoughtfulness. Warm holiday wishes to all our members, friends and your families for 2017!

## November Board Highlights *By Cheryl Ikemiya*

Center for Buddhist Education-sponsored Minister Tour: Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia from Nepal Hongwanji will visit the Eastern District in July 2017. NYBC members contributed toward the recovery of his temple following the tragic earthquake in Nepal in 2015.

Building Committee: The renovation of the dojo bathroom facilities is near completion and should be ready by the year-end. The elevator required replacement parts to fix and will likely need major repairs in a few years. The outdoor bell system and outside doors were repaired.

Mochitsuki & End-of-Year cleaning: The committee and volunteers began preparations for the Mochitsuki several weeks prior to the event on December 16-17. Members will help with year-end cleaning on December 18.

NYBC will register for the Pride Parade on June 25 2017.

Membership Committee – The committee discussed ways to recruit new members including benefits such as access to religious education classes and materials in addition to cultural events.

# New York Buddhist Church October 2016 - November 2016

## January

**Jan. 1, Sun. 11:30am: Gantan-e (New Year's Day) Service, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda Chairperson: Nancy Okada, Greeters; Kyoko Nishiyama, Music: Nobuko Kodama**

**1pm: New Year's Day Potluck Lunch, Kakizome, Brush Painting, and Hyakunin-Isshu**

**Jan. 4, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation**

**Jan. 5, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)**

**Jan. 7, Sat. 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class**

12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Workshop  
"Awakening to the Zen of This Very Life" led by Konin Cardenas

**Jan. 8, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda Chairperson: Richard Gross, Greeters: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Nobuko Kodama**

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting;

1-2:00pm Children's Taiko; 2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

**Jan. 11, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation**

**Jan. 15, Sun. 11:30am: Ho-onko (Shinran Shonin Memorial) Service, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda, Chairperson: Tony Armstrong, Greeter: Lillian Moy, Music: Ukulele group**

1pm: Buddhist Women's Association New Year's Luncheon

**Jan. 18, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation**

**Jan. 21, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle**

**Jan. 22, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda**

11:30am: English Service, Speaker: MA, Chairperson: Yoriko Fujita, Greeter: Hector Cordero, Music Dai Miyazaki

1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

1-2:00pm Children's Taiko ; 2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

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

**Jan. 29, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service, Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda Chairperson: Keiko Ohtaka, Greeter: Estelle Kimizuka, Music: Yoriko Fujita Armstrong**

**1pm: Annual SOKAI (Membership) meeting, followed by brief Board meeting**

## February

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

**Feb. 2, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)**

**Feb. 4, Sat.**

10-11:30am: Dharma Study Class: Open to Public

12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

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

**Feb. 5, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo**

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

1-2:00pm Children's Taiko

2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

**Feb. 8, Wed.**

7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Feb. 12, Sun.**

11:30am: Nirvana Day and Pets Memorial Service

1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

**Feb. 15, Wed.**

7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Feb. 18, Sat.**

12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle

2-4:00 pm: ABSC Event – "Omotosenke Tea Ceremony" led by Yasuko Chanoyu

**Feb. 19, Sun.**

10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker: Rev Earl Ikeda

11:30am: English Service, Speaker: MA

1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting

1-2:00pm Children's Taiko

2-3:00pm Adult Taiko

**Feb. 22, Wed.**

7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

**Feb. 26, Sun.**

10:30am: Japanese Service, Speaker: Rev Earl Ikeda

11:30am: English Service, Speaker: MA



(2017年)

1月 1日 (日)	午前11時半 午後 1時	元旦会 (修正会) 法話・池田アール住職 パトトラック パーティ (持ち寄り) 書き初めと百人一首
1月 4日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
1月 5日 (木)	午後 7時	法話会 (日本語)
1月 7日 (土)	午前10時 午後12時半 午後 2時	仏教研修会 (英語) ウクレレ同好会 A.B.S.C.主催 禅研修会 Konin Cardenas 先生
1月 8日 (日)	午前11時半 午後 1時 午後 1時	一月祥月法要 法話・池田アール住職 仏教教育部会 太鼓一子供 午後2時一成人
1月11日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
1月15日 (日)	午前11時半 午後 1時	報恩講 法話・池田アール住職 婦人会新年会
1月18日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
1月21日 (土)	午後12時半	ウクレレ同好会
1月22日 (日)	午前10時半 午前11時半 午後 1時 午後 1時	日曜法要 (日本語) 法話・池田アール住職 日曜法要 (英語) 壮年会 太鼓一子供 午後2時一成人
1月25日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
1月29日 (日)	午前10時半 午前11時半 午後 1時	日曜法要 (日本語) 法話・池田アール住職 日曜法要 (英語) 法話・池田アール住職 総会
2月 1日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
2月 2日 (木)	午後 7時	法話会 (日本語)
2月 4日 (土)	午前10時	仏教研修会 (英語)
2月 5日 (日)	午前11時半 午後 1時	二月祥月法要 仏教教育部会
2月 8日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
2月12日 (日)	午前11時半 午後 1時	涅槃会 並びに ペット法要 壮年会
2月15日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
2月19日 (日)	午前10時半 午前11時半 午後 1時半	日曜法要 (日本語) 日曜法要 (英語) 理事会
2月22日 (水)	午後 7時	佛教勤行と静座 (英語)
2月26日 (日)	午前10時半 午前11時半	日曜法要 (日本語) 日曜法要 (英語)

日曜日以外の予定は重要事態の場合に変更されることがあります。

## KOKORO

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

212-678-0305

**Resident Minister: Rev. Earl Ikeda**

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

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**Please support the New York Buddhist Church by becoming a Pledged Member**

### Save the Dates:

**Kokoro Deadline: Sunday January 15**

**Ho-onko Service: Sunday January 15**

**Sokai (General Annual Meeting): Sunday January 29**



# kokoro

January 2016



NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH

**New York Buddhist Church**

**331 Riverside Drive**

**New York, NY 10025**

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

