



KOKORO

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



“When a Flower Smiles at You. . . “

July 2019

While having a coffee and chatting with a friend at a sidewalk café on a recent Saturday morning, I happened to glance at the flowers in a planter next to our table. It was a cluster of tiny, purple daisies. My eyes were immediately drawn to just one of them, one that was very simple, seemingly insignificant, and yet it caused a smile to spread across my face. It was as if the flower was smiling too, and was trying to say something to me, maybe even “have a wonderful day” and “I love you.” When I looked again, closer this time, I realized the flower was just being itself, a simple flower. But still, in that moment, it filled me with such joy that I couldn’t help but wonder if there wasn’t more meaning in that flower. So deeply felt was my joy that I carried it with me the entire day, and it even became a part of my Dharma message the following Sunday morning.

The next week, being human and a foolish being, I continued to analyze what I had experienced. I thought long and hard about the various possible meanings of the phenomenon, and in the end, I kept coming back back to the same thought: *although the flower could not even say one word, it truly touched my heart.*

Why? How did it do this? After all, it was only a “simple” flower, with purple petals fanning out, a yellow center, green leaves reaching upward, and its roots firmly planted in the rich and fertile black soil. Hmmm... I eventually surmised, maybe it wasn’t so simple after all; maybe what I felt had a greater significance. Genuinely inspired, I came to the realization that: *the energies of life in its many manifestations are all around us, sustaining us, embracing us, sharing with us. This energy is like the Dharma, the Buddha’s love, in the form of wisdom and compassion, constantly embracing us and saying, “have a wonderful day” and “I love you.”*

Was Buddha in the flower? I really don’t know, but I do know that Buddha is anywhere and everywhere, in the form of a cool summer breeze, in the sunlight, in the shadows, in the refreshing water that quenches our thirst, in the food that nourishes us, in the air that we breathe, and in the fire that keeps us warm on a cold winter’s night. Yes, Buddha’s love is always around us and reaching out to us unconditionally, perhaps sometimes even in the form of a flower.

Buddha is present in everything. As foolish human beings we sometimes “over think” and analyze so much that we miss the essence of what it means to be alive. We need only to be open to receiving the practical messages and gifts that we are given to us everyday, and whether we accept them or not, they are constantly and continuously coming to us in the vow of the Buddha.



Reverend Earl Ikeda

Bringing to mind lines from the famous William Blake poem “To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,” I see now with reverence and gratitude that the single and simple purple flower *was* speaking to me in a communication *beyond* words, in a universal language that touches both mind and heart with wisdom, compassion. It was in fact smiling at me, creating a feeling of joy *inwardly* that in a very special way connects us all to the rest of the world *outwardly*.

Namo Amida Butsu



SANGHA DAY 2019

By David Brady

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon on June 2nd when the Sangha came together for a potluck lunch and talent show. A communal warmth filled the sun soaked second floor of the annex as delicious dishes were shared by all.

After the tables were cleared the audience and participants gathered for an afternoon of song, dance and magic in the Hondo. The room was full of smiles and laughter and every act was very entertaining.

Richard Gross and I extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who brought a dish to share as well as the wonderful acts that graced the stage: Lily Sakai-Johnson, Jinpai-kai USA NYC, The Fujinkai Women's Chorus and New Uke City Strummers. Also thank you to everyone who helped clean up and return the Hondo to service ready status.

花が微笑みかける時

最近 ある土曜日の朝に カフェで座りながら、コーヒーを飲み、友達とおしゃべりをしていた時、たまたま隣のテーブルにあった鉢植えの花が目にとまりました。そこには 紫色の小さいデージーの花が何本かありました。その中の一輪の花は シンプルで、見たところ どこにでもある普通の花でしたが、すぐ私の目に入り、顔に笑みが広がりました。その花をよく見ると、あたかもその花も微笑んでいるようで、私に「すばらしい一日を」とか「愛していますよ」などと 話しかけているように見えました。もう一度 今度はもっと近くで見ましたが、ただ 一輪の花でしかありませんでした。それなのに、見た瞬間、私の心を喜びで満たしてくれ、その花が 単に 話しかけているだけでなく、それ以上に 何か意味があるのではないかと思わずにいられませんでした。その花から 感じた深い喜びは その日一日続き、次の週の日曜日のサービスの法話の一部に この花の事を触れるまでになりました。

人間であり、凡夫である私は、次の週 ずっとこの経験が頭から離れず、必死に考えていました。その花から感じた数々の意味は何だったのだろうか と 長い間 考えました。でも いくら考えても 最後には いつも 同じ所に辿り着きました。それは 花は 一言も言わなかったけど、私の心を強く打ったという事でした。

どうしてでしょうか。繋りは何だったのでしょうか。その花は 紫の花びらが広がり、上に黄色い種があり、緑の葉が上に伸びていて、黒い土に根がついているという普通の花でした。でも 次第に わかってきた事は これは そんなに簡単な事ではないという事でした。

その花からのメッセージの意味は 思っていたより もっと深いのかもしれませんでした。この花を見て、ただ何かを感じましたが、よく考えた末、分かった 事は 生命そのもののエネルギーが すべて私達の周りにあるという事です。それは 私達を支え、理解し、私達と共にあります。そして 智慧と慈悲という形で 絶えず私達を受け入れ、「すばらしい一日を」「愛していますよ」と言っている阿弥陀様の教えのようであり、阿弥陀様の愛のようです。

阿弥陀様は 花だったのでしょうか。私にはわかりませんが、確かに言える事は 阿弥陀様が 夏の涼しい風、太陽の日、その陰、乾きを癒してくれる水、栄養のある食べ物、息をする空気、冬の寒い日に温めてくれる火などの形で、どこにでもいる事です。阿弥陀様の愛は いつも私達の周りにあり、分け隔てなく、手を差し伸べてくださり、恐らく花という形でいるのかもしれません。

そればかりでなく、阿弥陀様は すべて どこにでも 何にでもいます。よく知られている仏教の毒入りの矢の逸話にあるように 凡夫である人間は 時々、考えすぎ、頭で理解しようとしてしまい、肝心な点を見逃してしまう事があります。大切な事は 単に 生活に役に立つメッセージをオープンに 受け止める事です。それを 自分が受け止めるか受け止めないか、どちらにせよ このメッセージは阿弥陀様の本願という形で、いつも絶える事なく、私達に向けられているのです。

私のこの経験を振り返ってみると ウィリアム ブレーカーという有名な詩人の詩が頭に浮かびます。それは「一粒の砂に世界を見る。野生の花に天国を見る。」という詩です。土曜日の朝、一本のシンプルな紫の花が私の目にとまりました。今 畏敬と感謝の念で見えてきたのは、この一本の花が 私に話しかけていたという事です。必ずしも言葉という形としてではなく、言葉を超えた形で、しかも 話し言葉としてではなく、心と気持ちが一緒になった、智慧と慈悲の普遍の言葉です。それは 特別な形で 心の内側に喜びを生み出し、微笑みで 私達を外側の世界と繋げてくれるのです。

合掌

翻訳：小玉 修子

Translated by Nobuko Kodama

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.

July 2019

Shotsuki Hoyo Service July 7

Arai, Juhei 1953

Hahn, Walter 2017

Hasegawa, Hikoji 2008

Hasegawa, Sono 1999

Hashimoto, Mineko 2014

Hashimoto, Roy 2015

Horishige, Fuji 1935

Horita, Tome 1978

Inaba, Masaharu 2011

Ishida, Yoshie 1979

Ishii, Manken-Toku 1988

Kato, Kimiko 2014

Kuchiba, Ayako 1986

Matsushita, Mae 2009

Matsushita, Michael Minh
2005

Mine, Isekichi 1972

Mitsui, Suma 1951

Mitsuuchi, Koichi 1993

Mozlin, Ellen 1991

Nishimura, Sakae Lotus 1999

Okuyama, Yasuo 1994

Otsuki, Joe Shigeo 1987

Sasaki, Toshi, NA

Seki, Kazuo 2004

Seki, Hoken 2015

Seki, Reverend Hozen 1991

Sugai, George Yoshio 1982

Takeda, Hana, NA

Tashiro, Kayoko 1962

Wakuya, Nancy Kimiyo 1998

Yampolsky, Philip 1996

Yasuda, Emi 1963

Yasuda, Noo Kemi 1955

August 2019

Shotsuki Hoyo Service August 6

Armstrong, Jesse J. 2010

Bakhroushin, Irene 1988

Cohen, Edward 1984

Frias, Glenis 2008

Fukuyama, Janet 1991

Harada, Kiyomi Kim 1997

Harada, Sadako 2000

Hashimoto, Frank Tatsuya
1987

Hashimoto, Mineko 2014

Ikuta, Masayoshi 2013

Inoue, Chizuko 2010

Kikuchi, Inomatsu 1958

Kondo, Makiko 1998

Kuchiba, Kunihiro 2015

Magome, Hiroko 1992

Matsumaru, Haruku 1994

Mitani, Taeko 1988

Miura, Tadashi 2013

Miyazaki, Toshiaki 1998

Morihisa, George 2015

Murase, Jiro 2014

Murata, Jeanne Kiyoko 1989

Nakagawa, Masahiko 1996

Namba, Yosuke 1941

Niki, Tsutomu 2005

Norbu, Athar 2001

Okuma, Goze 1944

Okuma, Tokusuke 1961

Primus, Edward W. II 1986

Shindo, Kazuya 1945

Soeda, Saichiro 1964

Takahashi, Kiyoshi 1997

Tamura, Masashiro 2007

Taoka, Tadashi 1935

Theodore, John Noel 1999

Tono, Matsuhei 1971

Tora, Shinichiro 1998

Yamamoto, Dean 2015

Yanagida, Shizuye 2012

Sangha News, Cont. from p.5

During their visit to Nishi Hongwanji's main temple, a class of priests received their ordination and had its final service bringing memories of Cheryl and Isabelle Bernard's ordination ceremony.

Her "foodie" family enjoyed kaiseki ryori, a multi-course meal traditionally served at tea ceremonies, at the two-star Michelin restaurant Wagokoro Izumi in Kyoto. The meal featured the May celebration of Kodomo no Hi (Children's Day), and other seasonal foods, but the masterpiece was the creation of a food scene featuring a pond, a wooden bridge and baked ayu fish that looked like they were swimming on the plate, a wonderful end of a memorable trip!



Cheryl, second row, second from the right at the Kaneko Family reunion

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

For a family reunion in Japan, **Cheryl Ikemiya** joined 23 members from California, Hawaii and Yamaguchi, Japan to trace the steps of their grandparents. They visited the seaside village of Atsuki, Yamaguchi, where the original family house stands. Her paternal cousin, who lives in Hiroshima, arranged a visit to the Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii in Oshima, Yamaguchi. Nearly 30% of the first group of emigrants to Hawaii came from Yamaguchi because the Japanese foreign minister at the time was from that area. The cousins found the record of their grandfather's passage to Hawaii in 1903 at the age of 17. The group visited the local temple and paid respects to the Kaneko family graves. Cheryl discovered that these ancestors were supporters of the local Jodo Shinshu temple!

A visit to Okayama was for another reunion with maternal relatives, including Cheryl's mother's first cousins and her own second cousins. They reminded her of her mother, aunts and cousins in the States as family resemblances and traits exist despite growing up in different countries.

A highlight was Cheryl's daughter **Miwa** and son-in-law, **Rohit Prakash's**, third wedding ceremony at Waratenjin Shrine in Kyoto. They were remarried by the priest and close friend of the Ikemiya family. The priest had conducted Miwa's Hatsumairi (first shrine visit) when she was only a month old. The couple wore traditional wedding clothing and instead of a wig, the hairdresser used Miwa's own hair to fashion it in the traditional style. What an amazing experience!

A side trip to Naoshima (the "Art Island") in the Inland Sea (about 1-½ hours from Okayama) was a memorable experience. The island had been suffering from loss of the fishing industry due to polluted water. Benefactors took advantage of the location and built art museums and installations in old houses and in outdoor settings. Now the local



Miwa and Ro in formal wedding attire

economy is supported by major contemporary art mixed in with the traditional setting of old Japanese houses. Yoriko Armstrong had helped to acquire some of the major Western art housed in the museums for the Benesse Foundation. It is a place not to be missed!

Cheryl reconnected with places and people she knew during her two-year post-college stay in the Kyoto, Osaka and Nara area. She visited the Zen temple Daishuin on the grounds of Ryoanji in Kyoto and the gravesite of her teacher Morinaga Soko Roshi, former president of Hanazono University. She spent an afternoon with a friend who is the head of the Koshoji School of the Rinzai Zen sect. He renovated the temple complex and added a cultural center that hosts concerts and other events.

Cont. p. 4

Soh Daiko's Jubilant and Stunning 40th Anniversay!



This month on June 22nd, we celebrated our long taiko history with our 40th Anniversary Concert. We chose the concert's theme, "kizuna," to celebrate the everlasting bond with our current members, our former members, our audiences, and our communities. Many Soh Daiko former members returned to the stage, bringing invigorating and nostalgic solos to each piece. For the first time in many years, we performed "Songs of the Sky", a piece for fue (bamboo flute) and voice composed by founding Soh Daiko member Sandy Ikeda. Another special performance was former members Hideaki Nishikura and Hitomi Kimura doing a special rendition of Hachijo Daiko, the improvisational drumming style from Hachijo Island.

We were also joined by surprise guest Yoko Fujimoto, one of the founding members of and a principal vocalist with world-renowned group Kodo. She performed three songs, with Soh Daiko members joining her for the final piece. We are very thankful to have had Yoko as a teacher, mentor, and friend since our beginning, and we are so glad she could join us for this momentous occasion.

Another surprise at our 40th Anniversary Concert was our set of six new chu-daiko, crafted by Asano Taiko. This brand new, professionally-made equipment was made possible by our own "Fun for the Future" fundraising campaign. In honor of our 40th Anniversary and in support of all the years to come, we launched this campaign this past spring with the aim of raising \$100,000 throughout our 40th Anniversary year. Four of our founding members - Alan Okada, Merle Okada, Sandy Ikeda, and Jenny Wada - have pledged to match the first \$20,000 donated toward this campaign. We intend to use the rest of this fund to enable further growth of the group through investment in additional new equipment, new repertoire, workshops, costumes, and more. We still have a long way to go to meet our goal and would be grateful for any support you can give. If you are interested in contributing, please visit: 40th.sohdaiko.org/support

This month we are excited to perform at the New York Buddhist Church's 70th Annual Obon Festival in Bryant Park on Sunday, July 14th, and at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple's 74th Annual Obon Festival on Saturday, July 20th. We hope you can come out and dance with us! For more information on these and other upcoming events, please visit: www.sohdaiko.org *By Julianna Hessel*



Tachibana's 60th Annual Dance Recital

The Tachibana Dance Group under the able guidance of Sahotae Tachibana (aka Nancy Okada) performed its 60th Annual Dance recital on June 16, 2019. And although the program got off to a later than scheduled start, it was well worth waiting for it. Sahotae Tachibana and members of the group: Cocoa Yamamoto, Akemi Sarelakos, Chieko Iwaki, Noriko Sakamoto, Christopher Brunner and Toshiko Suzuki (left to right, above) performed solo and ensemble pieces embodying the comic, lyrical and evocative moods of traditional Japanese Dance. We're already looking forward to next year's performance.



70th Annual
Obon Dance Festival

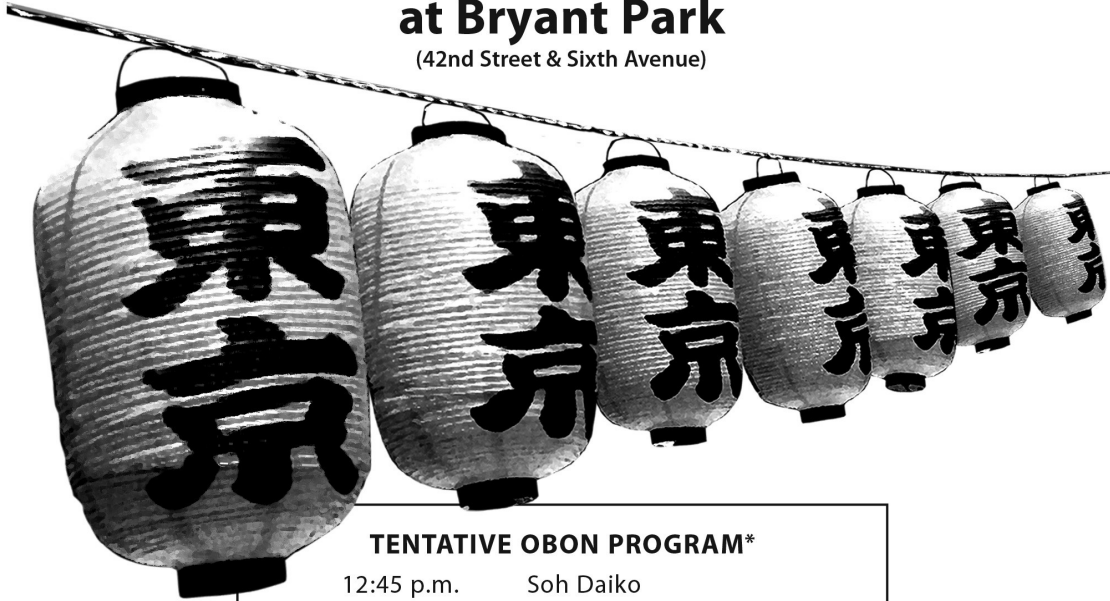
Sponsored by the New York Buddhist Church

Sunday, July 14, 2019

12:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

at Bryant Park

(42nd Street & Sixth Avenue)



TENTATIVE OBON PROGRAM*

12:45 p.m.	Soh Daiko
1:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks National Anthem Welcome Address
1:20 p.m.	<u>Obon Dance Part I</u>
2:10 p.m.	Messages
2:30 p.m.	Tachibana Dance Group
2:45 p.m.	<u>Obon Dance Part II</u>
3:30 p.m.	Soh Daiko
4:15 p.m.	<u>Obon Dance Part III</u>
4:50 p.m.	Closing Message

Learn the art of paper folding at the Origami Workshop!

The public is invited to attend Obon dance practice sessions
at the New York Buddhist Church

June 27, July 2, 9 and 11
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

** Program is subject to change.*

**Annual Obon Service will be held 11:30 AM on Sunday, July 7, 2019
at the New York Buddhist Church**

331-332 Riverside Drive (between 105th & 106th Streets), New York City
Phone: (212) 678-0305 www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

New York Buddhist Church June-July 2019

July

July 2, Tue. 6:30-8pm: O Bon Dance Practice
July 3, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
July 6, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
 10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class
 2:30-4:30 American Buddhist Study Center Program
July 7, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo, Hatsubon/Obon Service
 and Rev. Hozen Seki Memorial Service Speaker: Rev. Nariaki Hayashi
 1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting
 1:30pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting
July 9, Tues. 6:30-8:00 pm O bon Dance Practice
July 10, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
July 11, Thurs. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Jap. Study Group);
 O Bon dance practice 6:30-8:00 pm
July 13 Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
July 14, Sun. 11:00 am Combined Service (short service)
OBon Odori (Bon Dance) Bryant Park 12:45 pm
 Adult Taiko classes : (1-2 pm)
July 17, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
July 20, Sat. Seabrook OBon Odori, gather for bus at 12:30
 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
July 21, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service
 11:30am: English Service
 1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting
July 24, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation
July 27, Sat. 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
July 28, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service Speaker: Rev. Ikeda
 11:30am: English Service Speaker Rev. Ikeda
 Adult Taiko classes : (1-2 pm)
July 31, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

August

Aug. 1, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)
Aug. 3, Sat.—10-11:30am: Dharma Gathering and Study Class
 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming Circle
 2:30-4pm: American Buddhist Study Center Program
Aug. 4, Sun.—11am: Hiroshima & Nagasaki Memorial Service
 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo
Aug. 5-Sept. 4 Summer Break - Church closed

SERVICE HELPERS FOR JULY

July 7 Chairperson Ruth Funai, Greeter Hiroki Hasegawa,
 Music Yoriko Armstrong
 July 14 short service followed by Bon Odori at Bryant Park
 July 21 Chairperson. Tony Armstrong, Greeter: Susan Bloom,
 Music Nobuko Kodama
 July 28 Chairperson David Brady, Greeter Yuko Tonohira,
 Music: Ukulele group
 August 4 Chairperson: Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa,
 Music: Nobuko Kodama

Deadline for September issue Kokoro
 submissions is August 12

**CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE—CONSULT www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org for ANY
 UPDATES OR REVISIONS**

KOKORO

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, Brian Funai, Karl Palma, Nancy Okada, Isabelle Bernard, Cheryl Ikemiya, Julianna Hessel, Tony Di Tomasso, Richard Gross, Tony Armstrong, David Okada 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 Editor: Gail Inaba, ginaba@optonline.net

Ongoing Activities

Children's and Adult's Taiko Drumming: Sundays, 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.

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.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

July 2019



New York Buddhist Church

New York Buddhist Church

331 Riverside Drive

New York, NY 10025

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org

