

KOKORO

The Light That Awakens

NEW YORK BUDDHIST CHURCH



September 2019

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

From the Statue of Liberty Inscription, "The New Colossus" by poet Emma Lazarus

At the same time the news was showing festive celebrations on July 4th, it was also broadcasting reports about the worsening humanitarian crisis at some of the migrant detention centers along our southern border. Some commentators and interviewees were expressing the view that if the detained migrants were unhappy with the reportedly unacceptable conditions at the centers, then they should go back to where they came from, or not come at all.

Those reports saddened me and seemed to contradict the welcoming message inscribed on the bronze plaque on the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. It made me wonder, on a very personal level, what it means to be an American today. As a nation, do we still hold close to our hearts some of the basic tenets expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the famous poem by Emma Lazarus? Do we continue to believe that everyone is created equal, with the right to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness?" Do we still deem ourselves to be "We the People"... welcoming those seeking a better life and fleeing from persecution?

Do we take our democracy and the five basic freedoms protected by the First Amendment, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition the government for granted? Have we forgotten what we represent to the rest of the world, and more importantly, to ourselves?

To me, being an American has many similarities to being a Buddhist: it means taking responsibility for our thoughts, our speech, and our actions. It means treating everyone equally, with respect and understanding. It means being inclusive and welcoming. Ideally, it means being able to see one's own self in the conditions of all other human beings, and having compassion for their sufferings. All of these principles and values help me to transcend the simple and foolish mind that I have, the one that discriminates, the one that suggests why should I care.

One of the basic aspects of Amida Buddha's vow is that all of us who are seeking clarity in life have the ability to change and to work towards achieving our highest



Reverend Earl Ikeda

potential. In Buddhism we do this by seeking refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma (the teachings), and the Sangha (our community). As I awaken to the vow, I begin to realize my own shortcomings, my own lack of wisdom and compassion, and the universal suffering of all beings, for which I am the cause.

The whole point of Buddhism is to awaken the sleeping mind, allowing us to realize that our existence is not centered around ourselves, and to understand and accept our deep connections and interdependence with all other beings and things. When I suffer, others suffer, and when others suffer, such as individuals seeking refuge, then I suffer as well.

Cont. on page 2

Sangha News By Ruth Funai

Olivia, daughter of Riccardo Venancio, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Olivia was a recipient of NYBC's Stanley T Okada Scholarship to further her education when she graduated from high school. She majored in mathematics, finance and South American studies. She has a job in NYC so it will be wonderful to have her close by. Congratulations, Olivia, in your achievement!

Michiko Otsuki, long-time NYBC member and BWA member, had celebrated her 90th birthday on July 3 and passed away July 7, 2019 in Japan. For many years, she was a treasurer of the BWA until she moved to Tokyo couple of years ago. She could be seen helping in the kitchen during our fundraisers and working behind the



Ricardo, Olivia and her Grandmother at her graduation from U Penn

sales tables in the March and October bazaars.

She worked quietly and tirelessly, was very sociable during many church events and was always so dependable! She loved to travel and went only many tours and conferences with her church friends, well .

Message, Cont. from p. 1

We need to wake up to our own roles and responsibilities and thoughtfully to reflect on how for every action, there is a consequence.

Recently, some friends and I visited the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian located in the old Customs House down in Bowling Green by the New York Harbor. On the cover of one of their brochures is a photograph of a soft sculpture made in 1987 by Cup'ik Eskimo dollmaker Rosalie Paniyak of the Statue of Liberty that was displayed in an exhibit titled My Love, Miss Liberty. I was reminded that as we contemplate what it means to be an American today, we must be cognizant of how America and the one of the most beloved symbols of America, the Statue of Liberty belongs to all of us. We need to recognize that "We the People" represents all peoples and all generations of Americans, past, present, and future.

The Statue of Liberty, named "Liberty Enlightening the World," with her glowing and welcoming torch is a universal symbol of freedom which we celebrate with pride every Fourth of July. We must always remember not to take that freedom for granted, and to be mindful of the sacrifices and struggles of those seeking opportunity in America.

In Jodo Shinshu, Amida Buddha's unhindered light is always illuminating us, embracing and comforting us in its warmth. This light awakens me to my own foolishness, enabling me to perceive the suffering of others. How grateful I am that Amida Buddha who understands the sufferings of all beings, in particular the ones who need it the most, who would never forsake me or shut doors leading to hope to anyone, is in my life.

Namo Amida Butsu

into her late 80s. We will miss her, but have many wonderful memories of her

Message, Cont. from p. 3

浄土真宗では 阿弥陀仏の限りない光が私達を照らし、暖かく 受け入れ、癒してくれます。私はこの光により、どのように自分の愚いさに気づくのかわかり、人たいるでしながわかる心が育ちました。私は 人生で 阿弥陀様に どれほど感謝しているでしょうか。 阿弥陀様は 人間の苦しみ、特にこれを 最も必要とする人の苦しみを誰でも 受け入れるドアを閉めないでいるのです。

合掌

翻訳 小玉 修子

Translated by Nobuko Kodama

目覚めさせてくれる光」

「疲れ果て、貧しさにあえぎ、自由の息吹を求める

群衆を 私に 与えたまえ。」

これは 自由の女神の像に書いてある詩人 エマ ラザルスの「新しい像」という詩の一部です。

7月4日の独立記念日の朝、テレビで記念行事のニュースを見ながら、戸惑いを感じ、悲しい気持ちになりました。 というのも このニュースと同時に 南の

国境沿いにある移民収容所にいる移民の人道的扱いが悪くなっている事を伝えていました。その上 収容所の移民に関して 狭い場所に閉じ込められ、不愉快な思いをしているという事があるのなら、自分の国に戻るか、アメリカに来るべきではないという事も伝えていました。

このように報道された二つの出来事は 自由の女神の銅像の台に彫られている入国を歓迎する文に矛盾しているように思います。これを聞いて、私が考えたのは 今アメリカ人とは 何を意味するのか、それに アメリカ人が自分達にどんな事を問うべきなのかという事です。二百年以上前に書かれた独立宣言と憲法、それに1883年に エマラザラスが書いた有名な詩以来、 国民として アメリカ人の考え方が変わってしまったのでしょうか。人間は皆生活の保証、自由、幸せの追求の元に平等であるという信念をまだ持ち続けているのでしょうか。アメリカ人は「我々は 一」で始まる文を まだ 信じているのでしょうか。

アメリカには 憲法修正第一条により守られている 五つの自由があります。それは 信教の自由、言動の自由、報道の自由、集合結社の自由、政府への請願の自由ですが、アメリカ人は 民主主義とこの五つの自由が当たり前だと思ってしまっているのでしょうか。アメリカ人は 自分達が 他の世界の人に またそれ以上に 自分自身にとって何を意味しているか忘れてしまったのでしょうか。

私にとって アメリカ人という事は、仏教徒である事と同じように 自分の考え、言語、行動に責任を持つ事だと考えます。つまり 尊敬の念と理解する気持ちを持って、全ての人を平等に扱う事です。それは 例外なく、歓迎する事です。理想的には 自分自身と同じように、他の人も分け隔てなく 見る事ができ、他の人の苦しみにも 慈悲の気持ちを持つ事です。このような見解は 私が持っているシンプルで愚かな見方、人を差別し、自分には関係ないという見方を 超えて見えるようになります。

阿弥陀様の本願の基本を理解する一つの考えとして 人生の意味を考える全ての人が 備えている力があります。 それは 自分の人生を変え、よりよい生き方を目指し、それぞれの持っている能力を最大限に使う力です。仏教では これを お釈迦様、教え、サンガに帰依する事で 行います。本願に気づく事で、私の欠点、智慧と慈悲の欠如 私 が原因となっている普遍の苦しみなどがわかるようになります。

結局 仏教とは 自分の気づいていない心に目覚める事で、それは 誰にでも起こり、人との深い絆、因縁を理解させてくれます。私が苦しめば、他の人も苦しみ、帰依している人が苦しめば、私も苦しみます。このように考えていくと、人それぞれが 自分自身のするべき役割、責任に気づき、それが どのように あらゆる行動に関連があるか深く考える必要があるようです。

最近 友達数人と アメリカインディアンのスミソニアン国立美術館を訪ねました。場所は ニューヨークの港にある自由の女神が立っている島から余り遠くない所にあります。その中の一冊のパンフレットのカバーは「私の愛、私の女神」というタイトルの人形の写真で、これは カップイック族の人形作家、ロザリー パニヤックにより1987年に作られました。これを見て、今 アメリカ人は 何の意味があるのかと考えると、必要なのは 私達が 今まであった影響を理解し、「私達、アメリカ人」が、過去、現在、将来に渡り、全てのアメリカ人、全ての世代の意見を述べているという事を認める事です。

歓迎の松明(たいまつ)を手にしている自由の女神は 「世界を導く自由」という名で、誰もが認める自由の象徴であり、毎年 7月4日にアメリカ人は誇りを持って、祝います。この際、いつも覚えておく必要があると思うのは 自由とは 当然あるのものではなく、アメリカで自由を求める人達の犠牲や苦労を考える事です。

Cont. on p. 2

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.

September 2019 **Shotsuki Hoyo Service** Sunday, September 8

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 Komiyama, 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 Iwasa-buro 1999 Yoshikami, Mutsuko 1999

> October 2019 **Shotsuki Hoyo Service** Sunday, October 6

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 Tamura, 1945 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

Seabrook O-Bon By Estelle Kimizuka

Obon Odori is one of the annual events we Buddhists hope to participate in by smiling as we dance all the while. Whether in Sapporo or Seabrook, NJ, spectators are encouraged to join in. It was very hot and humid in Seabrook on the weekend of July 20th. Faces shining with perspiration, almost 50 NYBC members and friends joined the Seabrook Buddhist Temple sangha. The lead dancers from Seabrook Minyo and Tachibana Group (NYBC) danced so well, it made all the other dancers feel that they were great, too! It's fun to dress in yukata (summer kimono) for the Obon Festival. Nearly an out of body experience for someone like me, appropriately so, considering the occasion.

The taiko (drum) performances of Nen Daiko of Ekoji Buddhist Temple (Fairfax, VA), Hoh Daiko of Seabrook Buddhist Temple and our Soh Daiko were superb! It was great that there were as many gals as guys beating on those drums! Cont. on p. 5



Willow Grove and O-Bon Reflections

By David Brady Photos courtesy of Ruth Funai

For the past 42 years, Ekoji Buddhist Temple (Fairfax, VA), Seabrook Buddhist Temple (Seabrook NJ) and NYBC have come together at Willow Grove Cemetery in New Brunswick NJ to tend to the historic gravesite of seven Japanese men and one baby girl, buried between 1870 and 1886. One, Taro Kusakabe, was the first Japanese student to enroll at Rutgers College, studying mathematics and physical sciences. He passed away two weeks before his graduation in 1870, and was the first Japanese student to graduate from an American college, albeit posthumously.

On July 27, members of the three sanghas and the Princeton Japanese Association, organized by Mariko and Michael Banas, met to clean and tend this gravesite. This year there was considerable growth of weeds and bits of moss and mold on the obelisks but all was reversed after a few hours of loving care.



Save the Date Keirokai Lunch and Bingo Sun., Sept. 22



Ms. Fernanda Perrone (Curator of the William Elliot Griffis Collection at Rutgers University) spoke on the history of Kusakabe and the other Japanese interred, the gravesite and the ties between New Brunswick NJ and Fukui Japan. She was joined by Ms. Kim Adams (Archival Librarian, New Brunswick Public Library) and Mr. Michael Rubin (Director of International Programs, City of New Brunswick). He explained the Sister Cities program that New Brunswick maintains with Fukui and Tsuroka Japan. Obon Service was officiated by Rev. Nariaki Hayashi (Ekoji) and Rev. Earl Ikeda (NYBC). Ministers Assistants in attendance were Erick Ishii (Ekoji), Bob Shimokaji (Ekoji) and Cheryl Ikemiya (NYBC).

NYBC members were Hoshina Seki, Nancy Okada, Ruth Funai, Keiko Ohtaka, Daijiro Miyazaki, Cheryl Ikemiya, Michael McDermott, Marc Grobman and David Brady. Flowers, provided by Seabrook, were placed at each of the gravestones.

Members of Ekoji had to return to Virginia due to a 4 hour drive, but others went for a fellowship lunch at a Chinese buffet restaurant. It was a fulfilling meal and a fulfilling end to a memorable Obon Season!

Seabrook, Cont. from p. 4

A full day of enjoying the hospitality and delicious dinner served by the Seabrook sangha and the joyous dancing and wonderful performances of the taiko groups ended with the ride home on the bus back to NYC. Come join in next year's Obon at Seabrook, NJ!

Photo, courtesy of Nobuko Kodama

SOCIAL AWARENESS – LIVING THE NEMBUTSU

2019 Eastern Buddhist League Conference October 11-13, Minneapolis





Keynote Speaker Rev. Matthew Hamasaki Buddhist Church of Sacramento

Friday, October 11

7:00 – 9:00pm, Social Awareness in our Sanghas.

Intra-Buddhist Panel discussion

Saturday, October 12

Ministers Breakfast

Continental Breakfast - Provided

Opening service and address by Rev. Hamasaki -

Awakening Compassion to Taking Action

Lunch - provided

Presentation by Rick Stambul, BCA President Service Project – Feed My Starving Children Dinner on your own - Explore the Area

Optional Evening Activity – Build Your Own Obutsudan

Sunday, October 13

Closing Service

Breakout Session - Who/What/Why/Where/When of Compassion

Lunch - provided

Field Trip - Minneapolis Institute of Art, Exhibit on Empathy -OR-

Bdote Indigenous Historical Site (outdoors)

All Sessions Will Take Place at

The Courtyard by Marriott

Bloomington, MN.

A Block of Rooms has Been Reserved Under "Eastern Buddhist League" 952-876-0100

https://www.marriott.com/batels/travel/mspg/-courtyard-bloomington-by-mall-of-emerica/

Transportation will be provided for off-site activities

More information available on Facebook - Eastern Buddhist League, or on the Twin Cities Buddhist Association Website - TCBUDDHIST.ORG

O Bon NYC 2019 By Diana Omori

We had a joyful Obon experience in Bryant Park on July 14, 2019 in memory of our loved ones. There were many dancers in beautiful and colorful yukatas (summer kimonos) and happi coats, which is always a delight to see. Luckily, it was a beautiful day and the weather was perfect for Obon Dance. Maybe a touch warmer than some of us preferred.

We welcomed the Seabrook Buddhist Temple people who happily joined us in our celebration There was wonderful, energetic entertainment from the Soh Daiko Group (drums) and beautiful classical dancing (buyo) by the Tachibana Dancers.

Many thanks to Kokushi Budo (martial arts group) for their assistance in helping to prepare and clean up the area to make this event possible. Special thanks to Juan Sanchez, Mr. Yagi's associate, who doled out the beverages all afternoon. Thank you, NYBC Members, for your time and efforts to make this festival fun and successful. Come join us next year! We'd love to see you.





New York Buddhist Church Sept.-Oct. 2019

September

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

Sept. 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 Program Book Discussion and Reading "The Buddha's Gift to the World" in the American Buddhist Study Center Library

Sept. 8, Sun. 11:00am: 9/11 Victims Memorial Service (in

front of Shinran Shonin statue)

11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting 1:30pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

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

Sept. 14, Sat. 9:00am-4:30pm "Ichijo" Fall Seminar on Tendai Buddhism, Guest Speaker: Rev. Monshin Paul Naamon

Sept. 15, Sun. 11:30am: O-Higan Service, Speaker: Rev.

Monshin Paul Naamon

1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting

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

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

Sept. 22, Sun. 10:00 am Japanese Service; 11:30am: English

Service Speaker: Rev. Earl Ikeda

1pm: Keirokai Luncheon

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

Sept 29, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service

11:30am: English Service

SERVICE HELPERS FOR September

September 8, Chairperson: Nancy Okada, Greeter: Hiroki Hasegawa, Music: Ukulele group

September 15, Chairperson: Gail Inaba, Greeter: Yuko Tonohira, MusicL Nobuko Kodama

September 22, Chairperson: Richard Gross, Greeter: Susan Bloom, Music: Ukulele group

September 29, Chairperson: David Brady, Greeter: Lily Sakai-

Johnson, Music: Nobuko Kodama

October

Oct. 2, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Oct. 3, Thu. 7-8:30pm: Howakai (Japanese Study Group)

Oct. 5, 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: Lecture, Prof. Aaron Proffitt will give a talk on Shinran Shonin in the

American Buddhist Study Center Library Oct. 6, Sun. 11:30am: Shotsuki Hoyo

1pm: Religious Education Dept. meeting

1pm: Adult Buddhist Association meeting

Oct. 9, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Oct. 11-13, Fri.-Sun. Eastern Buddhist League Conference, Sponsored by Twin Cities Buddhist Association (Minneapolis)

Oct. 13, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service; 11:30am: English Service

Oct. 16, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Oct. 19. Saturday, 12:30-2pm: Ukulele Class and Strumming

2:30 - 5:30: Art Exhibition opening: Howard Horii/Ken Horii, Pure Awakening in the American Buddhist Study Center Li-

Oct. 20, Sun. 11:30-1:30am: Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) Service

1:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting

Taiko classes: 7-10 year olds (12:30-1:15), older children (1:15-2:15pm); adults (2:15-3:15pm). For information contact Teddy at tyoshikami@verizon.net

Oct. 23, Wed. 7-8:30pm: Chanting and Meditation

Oct. 26, Sat. Autumn fundraiser

Oct. 27, Sun. 10:30am: Japanese Service

11:30am: English Service

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

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

KOKORO

www.NewYorkBuddhist Church.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 Brady, David Okada and the Buddhist Women's Association mailing

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.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 nm

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 2019



New York Buddhist Church

New York Buddhist Church 331 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10025

www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org



