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 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
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かさに気づくのかわかり、人の苦しみがわかる心が育ちました。

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理解し、私を諦める事もなく、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。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。これを見て、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いったのでしょうか。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ます。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　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。

私の　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、行動に関與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　見事ができ、他の人の苦しみにも　慈善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、サングアに帰依する事で　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。私が苦しめる、他の人も苦しむ、帰依している人が苦しむ、私も苦します。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れてきました。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　カプチック族の人形作家、ロザリー バニャックにより1887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を考えると、必要のは　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で、私は　認めることができます。

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.

<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.

**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  
Komiya, Shohei 1997  
Lehtanski, Leo 2003  
Matsumaru, Kakutarou 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 Iwasaburo 1999  
Yoshikami, Mutsuko 1999  

**October 2019**
**Shotsuki Hoyo Service**
**Sunday, October 6**
Amioka, Masako 1973  
Araki, Genichi 1972  
Davidson, Charles 2000  
Davidson, Ignatius 2000  
Davidson, Inez 2000  
Davidson, Stan 2000  
Hino, Hironobu 2000  
Horita, Hisako 2000  
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 Eichi 2016  
Okubo, Tome 1985  
Sakio, Jack 1991  
Schroeter, Lydia 1993  
Shirakigawa, Tonami 1926  
Takayama, Makoto 2012  
Tamura, 1945  
Tashiro, Shigeo 1954  
Tono, Harry Yoshiaki 1991  
Tsui, Dorothy 2016  
Wise, Blanche 1993  
Wise, Lotus 1988  
Yashiro, Masato 2014  
Yasuda, Kentaro 2005  
Yoshikami, Mitsuye 1987

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!

**Seabrook O-Bon**  
*By Estelle Kimizuka*
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.

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!

Save the Date

Keirokai Lunch and Bingo

Sun., Sept. 22

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!
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

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
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 happy 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.

Photos courtesy of David Okada
Ichijo: One Vehicle
A Seminar on Tendai Buddhism

with Guest Speaker:
Rev. Monshin Paul Naamon
Abbot, Tendai Buddhist Institute
Tendai-shu New York Betsuin

Saturday, September 14, 2019
Open Registration: 8:00am  Seminar: 9:00am - 4:30pm

New York Buddhist Church
331 Riverside Dr. (at W105th St.) New York City
www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org
Registration fees: $50 General, $40 Members, $30 Seniors/Students (Fees include lunch)
September 2019

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


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.


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