



## 【 Making Our Teacher's Wish, My Wish ... 】

Going north 210 miles by car from New York City to Boston, with our excellent driver DJ Yoshi at the wheel, Area Leader Yukiko navigating next to him, and I sat comfortably enjoying the ride in the back seat... The hills and fields are now completely green, with lush and vivid spring scenery. The missionary trip to Boston started on truly a most invigorating and refreshing day in May.

At lunchtime, we stopped at the "rest stop" and spread out the packed dishes on the picnic table. I spontaneously took a deep breath and started to feel my entire body embracing the blessings of nature. An overflowing feeling of "gratitude for the support and sustenance" spread throughout my heart.

At that moment, I found myself recalling how every once in a while President Niwano would say, "In the morning, wake up with hope and vows; during the day, live with great effort • diligence; in the evening, sleep with gratitude."

Our Teacher is trying to tell us that the mornings hold the most important key for each day of our life to be productive and our lifetime to be fulfilling.

When I woke up this morning, I again contemplated on how to express my joy and gratitude for "Ahhh, I have been given the gift of life." I then thought, I have yet again been given the opportunity to stand on a new *starting line* to make this day another great day. And thus I would like to continuously reflect on this blessing with gratitude. Furthermore, I felt my desire bubbling and well up within me, to cherish the encounters with the members and non-members in Boston and to give my utmost effort to connect with anything that I may come across.

On the first day, in Boston, we held Hoza at Area Leader Yoshie Norton's home. The participants were Christine, Lillie, Esther and two non-members Yoshie had invited. Yoshie requested that I give a lecture on "what kind of Buddhist organization is Risho Kosei-kai?" I accepted her request. As I started, questions were posed, one after another. I spoke about our Founder's passion and spirit for establishing our organization: "To truly liberate people and rebuild society." That prompted the question, "At the time, did something happen that the society needed to be rebuilt?" Another question raised was, "How are criminals perceived by Risho Kosei-kai?"...and so forth.

I explained that the Lotus Sutra, the basic doctrine our organization, teaches that every living being in this world, without exception, possess valuable life – called the "buddha nature" – which is the same life as the Buddha's. When everyone realizes this, each person would be able to recognize the value of one's own existence as well as that of others. The relationships will then be based on generous hearts – with mutual respect along with praise and admiration for one another. By the spirit of the Lotus Sutra's One Vehicle, our Founder wished for people to attain happiness and "the land of eternally tranquil light" for eternity. And, this is the teaching that can liberate anyone, every person. Because everyone has buddha nature... was my answer.

When first timers join the Hoza, the place becomes purified and re-energized, as if fresh new water had flowed in. And there, I saw our members who are earnestly seeking the Dharma. I also saw how deeply involved Yoshie was as she wholeheartedly prayed for her friend's happiness. She was like the Buddha to me. I found myself putting my hands together in reverence. I am grateful for the time we spent there.

On the second day, we went to Boston Area Leader Suhas Barua's home. Suhas lives with his wife Leema, 6 year-old son Sushmit, and his 84 year-old mother – a four member family. In Leema's womb a much awaited new life, to be born in June, is being nurtured. Suhas' mother has heart and kidney problems. Her condition is such that she has been rushed to the hospital on emergency several times, so their worries never cease.

As I listened to their situation, I learned that they cannot leave his mother in poor health alone. Of course, family vacation is only a dream for them.

Furthermore, as they shared her various dietary restrictions, it seems taking care of her daily meals can be fairly difficult.





Suhas is the youngest and 8<sup>th</sup> of 8 brothers. His manner of words and deeds as he takes care of his mother radiated thoughtfulness. He is certainly a kind-hearted son. Leema is expecting the baby this month, and yet with her nimble footwork she protects Suhas' mother by attending to various concerns, allowing the mother to feel at ease. When Leema said, "At this point, Suhas' elder brothers are saying they don't know how to take care of their mother," I felt Leema was giving her best effort to respect Suhas' feelings behind the caring thoughts and deeds for his mother. As I watched Suhas and Leema, my heart warmed. I felt that the husband and wife relationship between these two who are capable and willing to take care of the mother surely must be happy.

In *Nichiren Gosho*, he refers to filial piety as follows:

"Filial piety is homonymic with *kō(kao)*, meaning "high." The virtue of filial piety is higher in value than heaven. Filial piety is also homonymic with *kō (hou)* meaning "thickness." The virtue of filial piety is thicker in value than even the crust of the earth."

(Senchu Murano, *Liberation from Blindness*, page 20. Berkeley: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2000 )

I shared with them the immeasurable value of filial piety. And I added, "You are a lovely couple who have acquired merits."

Finally, I would like to send these words to Suhas and Leema, who are expecting the birth of their baby very soon, and to all of you who are kindly reading this newsletter:

『 May this child become an accepting, receptive and unaffected person with a beautiful heart 』

『 May this child become a person who walks the Way 』

『 May this child become someone who gets along with everyone 』

(I received these Words of the Buddha when I made my first visit to the Great Sacred Hall in gratitude after my grandchild was born)

As I reflect and digest, once again...to truly raise a child with such wish • prayer...nay, how wonderful it would be if all children who pass through this earth in the future are raised with such wish and prayer! Is this not the responsibility of the adults who now live on earth...and a huge role for us?

Gassho,  
New York Church Minister  
Etsuko Fujita

### *NY Church topics discussed in May*

#### 5/4 < Founder's Memorial Day Service >

After the service we studied President Niwano's Dharma Talk for May

We all cherish and value ourselves. When we are able to see that other people are the same and equally valuable, then we will not thoughtlessly hurt others. Helping us to recognize such dignity of human beings is the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. Everyone has the ability to understand this Dharma. And when we truly become aware of our buddha nature, we will "Make the Self the Light": I learned through this the importance using myself as the Light and living with the belief that I possess sacred life.

#### 5/7 < Monthly Memorial Service for May >

Rev. Fujita raised the following questions: What are things we should consider to do the Monthly Memorial Service wholeheartedly and how can those who submit the requests (especially those who live in remote areas) participate in the service?

For example, at the same time the service is being held at the Center do the sutra recitation at home in front of the altar...and so forth...It is important for each of us to wholeheartedly recite the sutra for our own ancestors.



Flowers by Yoshi

5/10 < CoFounder's Memorial Day Service >

Study Session was held by Rev. Fujita on "Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures" (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha)  
 To believe in the Buddha: I learned the importance of whether or not I can accept "everything and everyone that I face, all as the compassionate workings of the Buddha, and thus are provided to me to help improve my own self." To take refuge in the Dharma: I was able to clearly understand the truth of the universe ·The Law of Causation – changes which occur from the combination of cause and condition that produces an effect and recompense, which is the result produced by the unchangeable truth of interdependence. I also learned that, as result, we arrive at "Everything pertains to me." To take refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma (teachings) are relatively easy to do, but the 3<sup>rd</sup>, taking refuge in the Sangha is difficult. Ananda, a disciple of the Buddha, asked the Buddha, "Of the three treasures, which is the most important?" The Buddha did not reply immediately, but eventually told him, "The Sangha is everything."  
 I learned that it is through the Sangha that I will be able to see the workings of the Buddha, comprehend the teachings, and reach the point I truly feel pure. Since I also learned it is at that time that my practice will finally be perfected and I can start to truly become a person of faith, I decided to make this the motivational energy to be diligent in my practice.



5/7 Monthly Memorial Service



5/10 Study Session



Boston Missionary. Norton's home



Suhas received the certificate of Appointment



5/13 Attended Vesak at United Nation



# SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK BRANCH

## JUNE 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 1PM First Day of Month President Dhatma talk  _____	<b>2</b>  <b>Chicago</b>	<b>3</b>  6pm Meditation	<b>4</b>  Memorial day of Founder	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Closed
<b>8</b>  1PM Sunday Service Study Session(E,J)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Memorial Ser- vice for Co- Founder	<b>11</b>  10am Monthly Memo- rial Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Closed
<b>15</b>  1PM The Eternal Buddha Shakymuni Day Hoza	<b>16</b>  10am Steering Committee	<b>17</b>  6pm Meditation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Closed
<b>22</b>  10am Board Meeting 1pm Unborn Baby Hoza	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Closed
<b>29</b>  Closed	<b>30</b>					
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">           Rev. Fujita Japan            6/27- 7/11         </div>		