



RISSHO KOSEI-KAI OF NEW YORK

320 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016 TEL: (212) 867-5677
E-mail address: koseiny@aol.com, Website : <http://rk-ny.org>

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018

【 Toward the Eightieth Anniversary of Rissho Kosei-kai's Founding 】

Since we welcomed the New Year, the winter's cold weather has been unusually severe, and voices can be heard saying, "I'm freezing!" It seems that this extremely cold weather will continue for a while. We envy those who live in Florida! We all live under varied circumstances, but I would like to send my wishes for a wonderful and healthy February to everyone!



Now, this year, 2018, we will celebrate the milestone eightieth anniversary of Rissho Kosei-kai's founding.

And we received from the President, his guidance "toward the one-hundredth centennial anniversary of our organization's founding."

The President reflected on the past twenty years and gave us this guidance:

"With our general objective, 'Rissho Kosei-kai – Cultivating the Fields in the Hearts and Minds of Each and Every Person,' efforts to revitalize faith have been made one by one, and Rissho Kosei-kai has made steady progress in the direction of its goal. This progress is a proof of the dedicated efforts and endeavors in faith by all of you. 'Cultivating the Fields in the Hearts and Minds' is the most fundamental theme for a human being, which must always be kept in our minds for years to come.

Furthermore, starting with the seventieth anniversary, we promoted and engaged in the enshrinement of the image of the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni as the Gohonzon (the focus of devotion) in all members' homes. It can be said that through this engagement, taking refuge in the Three Treasures, the fundamentals of Buddhism have been accomplished, and the number of the member households in which the Buddhist altar is the center of everyday life has increased.

On the basis of these past developments, looking forward to the upcoming centennial, let us make our best efforts toward promoting our primary goal, the development of human resources.

It cannot be achieved overnight. But if Rissho Kosei-kai, with its Dharma Centers, chapters and neighborhood groups, would serve as an infrastructure to provide an oasis for members, where there are many considerate and compassionate good friends of the sangha and everyone can physically and mentally relax, I believe that the promotion of human resources development would definitely be possible."

Moreover, the President also said that it is important to be awakened to the fact that we ourselves are the root cause of buddhahood and, instead of staying passive in our practice of the faith, we must have proactive and self-reliant attitudes as we continue to learn and practice.

As always, the President continued to teach us the importance of the Dharma of "Make yourself the light; Make the Dharma your light"

And in conclusion, the President said:

"The universe and nature are undergoing creation and change without a pause. Just like the truth of the universe, we must not stagnate, but always apply ourselves to facing everything that comes our way with a renewed spirit."

And, in addition, Kosho-sama sent an announcement:

Regarding the "Matrix: the Mothers Program," Kosho-sama said, "It is not about teaching or just showing where the other person should go. It is about walking together. We are saying: 'Please use this as a starting point to initiate your own primary concerns and your awareness of the issues, and to take steps in your own way. Let us begin from here. If you get lost or confused, please return to here.' Thus, the image of a mother as their haven."

Furthermore, she wrote, "I named this 'Matrix: the Mothers Program' with my heartfelt wish that each of our Dharma Centers, the place of practice for dissemination where people encounter one another, is at work according to the deep wisdom of Buddhism that has continued to 'live' for over 2500 years, is universal, and also a warm and kind place like a mother's loving heart (rice nursery)."

I felt Kosho-sama's deep heartfelt wish for the "Matrix: the Mothers Program" to become the "rice nursery" in which bodhisattvas are raised through connections without hesitation.

Kosho-sama continued, "At present, as we celebrate the eightieth anniversary, we find ourselves influenced by domestic and overseas conditions, and with the appearance of AI (artificial intelligence), questions regarding the nature of 'humanity' are being examined, as well as the emergence of people seeking congenial and sympathetic connections with others. In this era when there seems to be no answers, what stories will we be able to spin?

(omission)

With the present conditions assessed above.....

Conclusion... There are many people in this world who have lost hope. They feel envious of others' achievements and social status and think they are losers. They cannot consult with others about their problems and become isolated as they continue to worry. Let us 'get connected' without any hesitation with such people who are suffering!

Let us convey to them, 'There is a valuable seed within you that will let you become a wonderful person. Please look deep inside yourself and meet your true self.'

The Founder left us with a message from the Bodhisattva Never Despise.

'All of us are valuable existence possessing a seed that connects us to the gods and the buddhas. We must look at the people whom we meet with compassionate eyes and be of help for them in finding the origin of their existence. Our true self will begin to shine when we look closely at the values and virtues of others.'"

To conclude, Kosho-sama wrote, "As such, Risho Kosei-kai will become a 'nursery' for giving birth to and raising bodhisattvas... I believe we can help and assist many more people who are lost and live in isolation with fear and anxiety."

When I read such compassionate and caring thoughts that Kosho-sama shared with us, my heart was deeply touched and I felt warm all over. Then, I felt explosion of excitement rise within me.

Ok! Let's get started!

Toward the one-hundredth centennial anniversary of the organization's founding, let us receive the wisdom and compassion of the Buddha, and deepen our warmhearted and compassionate hearts and minds. And let us aspire to create a world in which everyone is awakened to the truth that all living beings possess buddha nature, revere one another with palms together, and acknowledge one another. Furthermore, may we, one by one, display our own distinctive characteristics, and make serious efforts towards connecting with others without hesitation.

Gassho

New York Center Minister

Etsuko Fujita

Topics

A few months ago, things occurred that started to change my circumstances. What was most problematic was that my financial situation had taken a difficult turn. I tend to be easy-going, but as might be expected, even I found myself feeling anxious when I thought about the future. Although I have been instructed in the Buddha's teaching, "All things are impermanent," I was restless, and struggling with the changes occurring in my life.

I suffered as I tried to get rid of my anxiety. One day, Rev. Fujita said, "Since you are usually easy-going but are now feeling anxious, at this moment, why don't you 'savor the experience of feeling anxious'? This might be very important for you." I accepted her advice and decided to "keep company" with my "anxiety."

Then, astonishingly, I started to fully see the circumstances I had enjoyed until now and to perceive many people's thoughtfulness toward me, and my feelings transformed to gratitude. I truly started to feel very grateful.

At present, my grateful heart is attracting many things for which to be grateful and I am receiving the Buddha's divine protection.

Yoshi





1/1 New Year's Day Service



1/1 Having fun sharing 'osechi ryori' traditional Japanese New Year's dishes



1/23 Basic Buddhism Study Session

With the temperatures below 14° F (-10° C) Manhattan's East River froze



SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9AM Special Practice of the L.S. Chanting First Day of the Month Service President's Dharma Talk	2 9AM Special Practice of the L.S. Chanting	3 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
4 1PM Memorial Service for Founder President Niwano Guidance	5 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Steering Committee Missionary Mtg	6 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Special Prayer for rRenovation 2-4PM Area Leaders' Meeting	7 9AM Sutra Recitation Reach out day	8 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Monthly Memorial Service	9 9AM Memorial Service for Cofounder 10AM Hoza	10 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
11 1PM Nirvana Day Service	12 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Lotus Sutra Study Session For Japanese	13 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	14 9AM Sutra Recitation Reach out day	15 9AM Nirvana Day 10AM Guidance for Leaders	16 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	17 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
18 1PM Sunday Service Study Session	19 <i>President Day</i>	20 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza 2-4PM Area Leaders' Meeting 6:30 PM Study Session	21 9AM Sutra Recitation Reach out day	22 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Guidance for Leaders	23 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	24 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
25 Closed	26 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Hoza	27 9AM Sutra Recitation 10AM Special Prayer for Renovation	28 9AM Sutra Recitation Reach out day			