



【 Let us, once again, deeply embrace the Founder' spirit for establishing our organization 】

On March 5, a splendid ceremony to celebrate the 78th Anniversary of Rissho Kosei-kai's Founding was held in the Great Sacred Hall in Tokyo. And on that day, I was in that Great Sacred Hall to participate in the solemn and magnificent celebration.

On the stage, the offering procession was gracefully performed by 16 representatives of the young women's groups from throughout Japan, dressed in gorgeous long-sleeved kimonos. The sutra recitation led by Kosho-sama followed. When Rev. Takashi Nishida of Ittoen took the podium, he gave us an inspiring congratulatory address. He spoke about what had occurred 35 years ago. At the time, he said, through an encounter with a member of Rissho Kosei-kai, he was able to meet a praiseworthy member who was actually putting the teachings into practice in his daily life. He was attesting to the fact that the teachings of Founder Niwano is reaching members far and wide and is continuously alive and at work.

Thereafter, President Niwano gave us his guidance.

He said: "We, human beings, have the tendency to compare ourselves to others and make judgements as to who is superior or inferior. In this world, there is not one person who has the exact face as another person's. We each have a face that is one of a kind. It is peerless. When we are able to see each person as peerless, we will be able to value everything that exists and revere one another." Furthermore, he mentioned that it is important for us to be grateful for everything that appears before us and to also be grateful doing behind-the-scene deeds which will help us accumulate merits, such as good health.

During the guidance, it actually looked as though President Niwano was so moved that he was fighting back tears overcome with joy.

Having heard Rev. Takashi Nishida's wonderful congratulatory message as well, I felt I was seeing an image of the world filled with the buddhas. For a while, I could not stop my tears. At the same time, I felt, on this day today, I must reflect on the Founder's spirit for founding the organization, and once again, embrace his wish with my whole body and deeply in my heart and mind.

The spirit with which our Founder established our organization is "his passionate wish to actually liberate people and to rebuild society. For that, there is no other way than to spread the true spirit of Buddhism found in the Lotus Sutra. And his wish for as many people as possible to learn what is embedded in the Lotus Sutra - the way humans should live and how to attain their true happiness." His spirit originated from these wishes.

I believe it was because the member in Miyazaki, whom Rev. Takashi Nishida met 35 years ago and introduced to us in his speech, realized the way humans should live - as taught in the Lotus Sutra and was Founder's wish - that the teachings came to life, as is, in his daily life. Furthermore, from this episode, I feel I was able to clearly ascertain, in an easy to understand way, the changes in the causes and conditions that freely exist in this world, that is, the Law of Causation of cause-condition-effect-recompense.

President Niwano's guidance in March was on the theme: "Do not do what is wrong." In the guidance he said, "Shakyamuni has given us the concrete teaching of not committing the ten evils, and thereby encouraged us to always be able to realize the sanctity of our own and others' lives. If we are truly aware of the sanctity of our own lives and others' lives, we will do only good deeds. We can say that is our true nature."

I realized it is because of our connection with the Buddha's teachings, that we are able to walk the path without the ten evils, and thus, with peace of mind. That is, we are on the path of 'great equanimity.' In the month we celebrate our anniversary, I was able to confirm the significance that it is only when we live the way humans should live, as taught in the Lotus Sutra, there is the path to true happiness.

Gassho

Etsuko Fujita

New York Center Minister





Topic for March

This occurred on a regular Sunday Service day.

After the service, some of us were sitting in the lounge drinking tea with Rev. Fujita. One of the members, A-san, said: "I am grappling with an issue that is very important for me. However, the situation has, in fact, been continuously put on hold. I have considered various possible means, but specifically, things are not coming together and therefore we cannot move forward."

Having heard A-san's comment, Rev. Fujita said, "It is time for you to take this situation seriously and take action." Then she asked, "Are you doing your sutra recitation practice?"

A-san said, "I try to do it at home, but so many thoughts race through my mind that I cannot seem to focus. I always end up leaving after saying, "Eternal Buddha, I am very sorry!" and do the recitation on the subway.

Rev. Fujita's guidance was: "In the same way you should deal with the situation, from now on, you should take the sutra recitation practice seriously. What is of utmost importance is for you to practice "focusing on things you decide to do and complete it properly.

To acquire the habit of completing goals you set for yourself! If you start to do that, you will receive divine protection and your lifestyle will change. We have the Threefold Lotus Sutra in present-day language. Please consider seriously chanting that version. If you understand what the words mean, perhaps it would be possible for you to focus!"

A-san promised to chant the Threefold Lotus Sutra in present-day language from the following day.

I, who sat next to them and heard everything, realized I am just like A-san. Frequently when I chant, my mouth and eyes are reading the sutra, but various thoughts such as, "when I finish chanting, I will do this next, and then I will do that" race through my mind. Before I know it, I have finished the sutra, not at all focused on the task at hand as though I was floating in space. We have karmic connection with what we see! and with what we hear! Through A-san, I realized how important it is to acquire the habit of completing goals that I set for myself.

Thank you very much, Rev. Fujita and A-san.

Gassho
Keiko Idesako

Traffic Safety Service

This year we are again approaching the month of April. It is when the cherry blossom buds start to swell and, at Rissho Kosei-kai of New York, the special Traffic Safety Service is held.

We therefore would like to take this opportunity, again, to confirm the meaning and purpose of the Traffic Safety Service.

There is an important condition (attitude) necessary to attain a brighter and thoughtful society free of traffic accidents.

When we diligently practice the teachings in our daily lives, we cultivate a flexible heart & mind, and realize our own inherent value and that of others.

For example, one of the teachings that we gratefully receive, is the practice of "removing our ego."

When we insist on having our own way, it produces "collision" and anger in our hearts, which can lead to accidents. Resolving our own heart and mind is the best key to insure traffic safety.

Let us revere one another, acknowledge one another, and value each and every one's life. Let us take the Traffic Safety service as an opportunity to reflect on our attitudes.

Gassho
***Please note

This service is not only for those with cars. Drivers who do not own cars, passengers and pedestrians will also be included in the service if their names are submitted on the enclosed request form.

Please send the request form ASAP so it will arrive at NY Center before April 15.





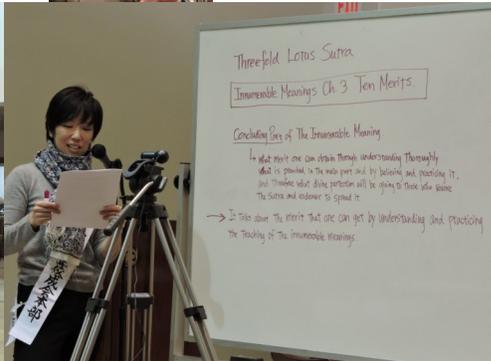
2/28(Sun) Ceremony for Anniversary of Rissho Koseikai's Founding with Ft. Myers Members through skype.



Sharing by NY members



Sharing by Ft. Myers Members



3/13 (Sun) Study session led by NY Chapter leader Yasuko.



3/20(Sun) RKNY Annual meeting.



3/21 (Mon) Spring-time Special Memorial Service.



SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK CHAPTER

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9AM First Day of the Month Service	2 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
3 1PM Celebration of Buddha's Date of Birth Sharing the sig- nificance of Buddha's Birth	4 9AM Memorial Ser- vice for Founder 10AM Steering Committee/ Missionary Mtg	5 10AM Monthly Memorial Service 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting 6pm MEDITATION	6	7	8 9AM Buddha's Date Of Birth All US minister Meeting At L.A.	9 Closed: Dharma Practices at home All US Board meeting
10 1PM Memorial Service for Co-Founder/ President's Dharma Guidance	11	12	13	14	15 9AM The Eternal Bud- dha Shakyamuni Day	16 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
17 1PM Sunday Service Study session	18 10AM Service for Traffic Safety	19 2-4PM Chapter Leaders' Meeting 6pm MEDITATION	20	21	22	23 Closed: Dharma Practices at home
24 Closed	25	26	27	28	29	30 Closed: Dharma Practices at home