



Sangha In Motion

Bimonthly eNewsletter for RK Members in the US

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 2013

Buddhism for Today:
Cultivating the fields of
the heart and mind

HIGHLIGHTS

Obon Festivals
Neisi Week Parade
Online Activities

Lots of news from
the Sanghas!

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OKC Dharma Center Holds Charity Bazaar for Tornado Victims



A massive tornado hit the city of Moore in the State of Oklahoma on May 20. In the aftermath, the Oklahoma Dharma Center held a charity bazaar on May 25 in its parking lot to raise money for relief of the disaster victims.

The tornado was rated at EF-5, at the top of the EF scale for rating the strength of tornadoes. Twenty four people were killed and 240 injured, and about 2,400 houses were destroyed. More than 30,000 people suffered from the devastation. Some of the younger members went to the damaged area to help remove downed trees and rubble.

At the charity bazaar, members of the Oklahoma Dharma Center sold daily necessities, books, and music CDs. The proceeds of \$00 were contributed to the American Red Cross and used to assist the disaster victims. These pictures were taken while they were setting up. After that they were too busy to take any!



Guidance from Rev. Kosho Niwano



Kosho Niwano
President-Designate
Risho Kosei-kai

Excerpt from

"The Buddha in Every-
one's Heart," pp. 61-62

"Skillful means" are all of those chance opportunities that fit the time, place, and individual together so that the person is led toward the Truth. If we assume that all events of our lives are infant skillful means, striving to make the best of them is to live in accordance with the wishes of the Buddha and progress on the path toward Truth. When we truly understand the wishes of the Buddha, we become capable of overcoming all the problems that present themselves to us."



Bronze statues at the Great Sacred Hall in Tokyo

Commentary by Mary Sigman

My first encounter with the idea of Skillful Means came with my reading of Chapter 2 of the Lotus Sutra. In that chapter, Buddha tells Shariputra that he has been teaching as the Buddha in many skillful or tactful ways. He has used parables, stories, and various reasoning's to get his message across. He also speaks gently and cheerfully. And the Buddha uses these methods appropriately depending upon his audience. For this reason I always assumed Skillful Means meant skillful teaching, and as a former teacher I understood the necessity for using a variety of methods with different children in order to reach them successfully.

That is why I was really astounded to read of this other interpretation of

Skillful Means. The notion that every thing, literally every moment, is a part of the Buddha's plan for each of us, gives me a certain contentment. This issue's quote came from the chapter entitled "The Necessary Arrangement of All Things." To truly feel that everything in our lives is as it should be, that everything is a lesson for us in order to come a bit closer to enlightenment, makes me feel at ease. Instead of wishing for things to be different than they are, there is a joy and ease in letting all of that go. We are in the hands of the Buddha, and all is well. This does not mean we still shouldn't use all the appropriate means as dharma teachers, but it does mean that the Buddha always uses skillful means with each of us, all the time, and especially when we are in difficult situations.



RKINA

On July 14, the Orange County Sangha celebrated *Urabon-e*. Often called “Obon” for short, it is a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors. The RKINA sangha members participated in this ceremony to show their appreciation of their ancestors.



Online Sangha and RKINA 101 Basic Teachings Course

The Online Sangha has been open to the public for eight months now. We have eight official members and many others that join in on a regular basis. We begin by chanting Chapters 10 and 16, then have a hoza discussion. The discussions are lively and interesting. Meetings occur on Monday evenings at 9 EST and 6 PST over WebEx. The link is <https://kosei-kai.webex.com> and the password is “RKSangha.” If you know of someone who lives too far from a RK Dharma Center to attend in person, pass along this information.

The Online RKINA 101 Basic Teachings Course is currently running for the fifth year. Rev. Nick Ozuna presents the lectures and discussions on Wednesday evenings and Dr. Jane Perri facilitates online discussions, administers quizzes, and assignments over a courseware site called nfomedia.com during the week between lectures. At the conclusion of the course, students that complete all of the requirements will receive a Certificate of Honor.



"You may not fully recognize the significance of your presence on others in the Sangha, but it is part of a collective contribution that helps us all on the path."

Oklahoma City

by Rev. Kris Ladusau

Personal Reflection: Importance of the Sangha

by Dave Rose

I was talking to a Dharma friend one day and she related that although she could tell the improvement in her life when she was attending the Dharma Center and practicing, she found it easy to fall out of practice and stop coming in spite of the loss of those positive effects.

It is a common problem that we as Buddhists face. I wish I could say that my practice was a straight line on the road to improving my life, however, it is not. Over the years I have found it difficult to establish a regular practice and easy to disestablish one. They say it takes two weeks of doing something before it becomes a habit. From my experience, I would say that is about right for me. Unfortunately, I have also found that finding an excuse to miss practice several times is often enough to break the habit.

This is where a Sangha can be of great help. I personally find an isolated, individual practice can be difficult to maintain. Yet, when I have a group to practice with, they are just the motivation I need to bridge the gaps in my own commitment to practice. My Sangha is there, week in and week out, always available to tap into for inspiration.

There are times when I get up and find that for whatever reason I don't have the self-discipline to pull out my bench and start my day off with chanting or meditation. But I can always find the motivation to make it to the Dharma Center and practice with the support of my Sangha. At the Dharma Center it is not just about me. When I am there, they are my support when I need it, and I am there to provide the same support to them. And when I go home, I have a renewed sense of purpose and it is easier to summon the effort to begin my week with practice.

There is a reason the Sangha is one of the Three Treasures. You may not fully recognize the significance of your presence on others in the Sangha, but it is part of a collective contribution that helps us all on the path. So, to all of you who are there week after week, for whatever reason, you have my thanks, for you have helped me continue my practice in ways you probably don't realize. For those of you that haven't been in awhile but remember what you are missing, drop in and add your energy and experience to the Sangha. I think you will find it rewarding. I know that others will be rewarded by your presence.

Gassho
Dave

Recently the Oklahoma Dharma Center had an activity day. Several members created clay statues of Buddha or bodhisattvas. This was much fun but in addition to that it is part of the Lotus Sutra practices. Can you remember which chapter talks about making statues of clay or carving out of wood?



Oklahoma City by Rev. Kris Ladusau

Drum Circle

The Adult -Youth Group meets 2 times a month for lunch and hoza at OKC



Seminary student Ikuyo Kase visits with Rabbi Vered Harris At the temple B'nai Israel in Oklahoma City. Rev. Kris Ladusau introduced Ikuyo to leaders of many different faith traditions here in Oklahoma during her visit.



Alexander Barrett baby blessing. Jen and Anthony and brother Jackson from our Denver group. Visiting RKOK during July 4 holiday



New Members

John and Natalie Allen became members on Sunday. This is them receiving their Kyoten and sash. So happy to have them as members of Risho Kosei Kai



Hawaii

by Brad Tom



Obon Festival And Bon Dance





Ft. Myers Activities

by Mary Sigman



We have had a very warm and rainy summer season here in Fort Myers!

We want to welcome our latest new member, Valerie Stevens, to our sangha.



Florida Rainbow



Altar set for our Obon Ceremony

Iguana's
Love
the
Dharma
Too!



Iguana visitor and our Basic Buddhism class it came to visit
"We, with all living beings, together accomplish the Buddha Way"



Tampa Bay

by Rev. Nick Ozuna

New Member Emmet Bondurant

I'm a former firefighter/paramedic with a Master's in Social Work; my practicum was in pastoral counseling. I've trained in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, Reiki, and teach meditation. I've always been interested in spirituality, and over the years just kind of evolved into a Buddhist. Introduced to meditation in San Francisco in the 70's, I started to practice *zazen* to ameliorate my own suffering, but over time that motivation matured and expanded into a sincere desire to relieve the suffering of all beings, which led me to formally Take Refuge in *Jukai*.

One of those vows is to “delve deeply into the sutra treasure,” and I remember reading Robert Aitken Roshi tell of how he was a sanctioned teacher before he began an in-depth study of the sutras; a deficit which in retrospect he thought unhelpful. While my lineage tradition is one of “enlightenment outside of the sutras,” that certainly doesn't preclude an education in them, as is evidenced by the writings of teachers and patriarchs stretching back to Dōgen and beyond. However, my Zen sangha doesn't have a resident teacher, and without proper instruction and commentaries, the sutras can be quite baffling. I am very grateful to my soul mate; a *Shinrin-yoku* “tree-hugger” who actively encourages and inspires me to broaden my studies outside of my Zen tradition, which led me to participate in a formal study of the Threefold Lotus Sutra with Reverend Nick Ozuna, minister of Rissho Kosei-kai of Tampa Bay.



The Buddha said that the Dharma isn't upheld by talking about it, but by living in harmony with it. I particularly appreciate that Reverend Nick's weekly Dharma talks and the *hoza* process are entirely focused upon the bodhisattva ideal and the practical application of the teachings in our every-day lives, enabling the sangha to mutually support and encourage one another to address any real-life situation with skillful means. I joined as a member of Rissho Kosei-kai of Tampa Bay in January 2013 and enjoy practicing along with the sangha. Rissho Kosei-kai has such a wonderfully effective and pragmatic approach I find it odd that it's not more widely practiced throughout the U.S.

Los Angeles

by Betty Lininger



Nisei Week Parade

Our most important event that happened recently was on August 11th. Members participated in the annual Nisei Week Parade held in Little Tokyo. About sixty members joined and several of these were members from other centers, notably San Francisco. However we even had three members that traveled from the Ota Kyokai in Tokyo to participate. It was a fun event, with a barbecue held the evening before, and with a live DJ keeping everyone entertained and dancing! This is an important event especially for our youth group.

For the past summer months the English Group has been holding a Tuesday night Basic Buddhism class. It has been one of our most successful classes conducted with an open discussion forum. About six or seven people have been attending. We hope to continue this into the winter months, but with school and work demands increasing we will have to adjust the days and time.





Yoko, Michi and Noriko at Michi's house

San Francisco

by Stephanie Meyer



At RKSF, we have regular Dharma Talks by either Reverend Nagashima or myself. A recent talk by the Reverend was entitled, "In this world, there is no happiness without suffering." He used the image of the Othello game piece with white on one side and black on the other. The game cannot work without this arrangement. Just as black and white need to be on the same game piece, happiness and unhappiness (suffering) go together in life. The Buddha said, "All is suffering," and "All is happiness." This gives us hope that when all we can see is dark and black, it all can turn to light/white in an instant, like the Othello game piece. What we need to do is learn to become a person who can accept that there is always going to be change.

On Aug 25 we held our Annual Rummage Sale in the parking lot of the RKSF Dharma Center. We collected lots of donations from members and friends, which enabled us to set up a great display for people to browse through. Each year, we continue to see many new faces and this year a couple actually requested to come upstairs to see the main altar. The husband had mentioned that he couldn't believe there was a Buddhist Dharma Center in Pacifica! I spent some time explaining some of the basics of RK afterwards, he had described his experience with Japanese Buddhism in Japan. He wanted to share the fact that our Center even exists with others in his neighborhood. I was very happy to hear this.

Each time after the Rummage Sale is over, when the crowds are gone and when the tables, chairs, and leftover items are all put away or donated, we gather for a final reflection on the day. We reminded ourselves that we do not put on this event for the sole purpose of making money; we do it to open ourselves to the community and to strengthen our own internal bonds that are so precious. We practice the teachings by interacting together as a Sangha and meeting new people to spread the seeds of the Dharma.



RKSF Rummage Sale



Dayton

by Jane Perri



New Members

RK Dayton has four new members, Sekou Bush, Prentiss Haney, and Diane Pencil (left to right below) and Kitty Coyle (not pictured) have joined our sangha. Welcome all of you! They have already added greatly to our hoza discussions. Diane completed the Basic Teachings course.



New
Members

Taylor De Marchis, Jane Perri's son has accepted his first commission as an EMT/ Firefighter for The Villages in Florida



Dear Abhi-Dharma

Dear Abhi-Dharma,

I am interested in the Ekayana perspective on Enlightenment. Can you please shed some light on the subject for me?

Thank you,
Waiting in Wisconsin

Dear Waiting in Wisconsin -

Ask ten people to explain “Enlightenment” and you may get ten different answers. This would most likely occur not only because of differences in individual perception, but also in relation to the context at the time of the conversation. While others may even say they don’t feel qualified to answer.

One look at this very important experience would include the possibility of enlightenment occurring as a result of **many lifetimes** of study and practice—practice being the higher focus - in the Lotus Sutra, Buddha says in a past lifetime both he and Ananda followed the Dharma, but because Ananda focused on study and he focused on practice, Shakyamuni was able to achieve enlightenment first.

In the explanation of the teaching on Dependent Origination, we learn that if we are able to remove “Ignorance” **in this lifetime** (ignorance = thinking that our physical bodies are our true being), there will be no need for a karmic rebirth in this realm.

by Rev. Kris Ladusau

Still another view, would be that of “**instant** enlightenment”, found in the story of the eight year old daughter of a Dragon King, who was not only female, but also a child.

For the last several years, I have grown closer to the interpretation of Rev. Nikkyo Niwano who said, “**Enlightenment is in the Encounter.**” Each daily interaction we have with others, provides a golden opportunity to experience the liberation from suffering that the Buddha devoted his life to teaching. This practice takes Dharma out of the realm of theory and puts it directly into daily practice – creating a functional aspect of Buddhism.

We know as Buddhist practitioners, the vital importance of constantly expanding our awareness beyond our own personal needs and wants. As this expansion begins to include others, we soon begin to be/feel connected to everyone and everything. When we begin to function from this new awareness, we naturally follow the Bodhisattva Path –being of service in the world. It becomes our nature to do our best in everything we do, because we understand “interconnectedness.” We consciously choose the highest for ourselves and others. This results in true happiness. The Bodhisattva Path is the first step outside our “finite shell” and the expansion is never ending...

May all beings achieve Enlightenment.





JoAnn Ozaki began her Risho Kosei-kai "Dharma 808 Sangha" volunteer Buddhist Study Program in 2004.

She brings Founder Niwano's interpretation of the "Threefold Lotus Sutra to Inmates at the Halawa Correctional Facility and the Waiawa Correctional Facility on the Island of Oahu in Hawaii.

She has been creating a typical "church" day once a week to each facility regularly for the past nine years to men incarcerated in the State of Hawaii.

Outreach

DHARMA JOURNEY OF JOYCE MANALO

Joyce Manalo has been volunteering and assisting JoAnn at Halawa on Wednesday evenings. Joyce is married to Casey Manalo and has two lovely daughters Yoshimi and Yukie. She works full-time, is a Dharma Teacher and serves as the Youth Director for RK-Hawaii. Her family joined RK-Hawaii when she was very young and has been an active member for over 40 years.

She is very sweet, friendly and willing to help anyone and has been a volunteer since 2006. She finds time in her busy schedule to attend and assist with "Dharma 808 Sangha" Buddhist Study classes. She has a truly busy personal life, but makes time and enjoys sharing her dharma journey with the inmates. Here is the interview I had with her.

Donna: Ms. Joyce, what made you accept the duty of volunteering at the prison?

Ms. Joyce: I was extremely afraid on my first day, I remember having an upset stomach and having to run to the bathroom before entering the "gated" area. Jo-Ann convinced me to try. I thought to myself, "if we can plant one Buddha seed to change their lives, it would be worth being afraid." I decided I wanted to try my best.

Donna: What were your thoughts on the inmates, did your perspective change once meeting them?

Ms. Joyce: I did not like the sound of the gate door closing behind me. I felt the guards were playing their "intimidation" roles very well. At first, I realized that I harbored feelings that I was better than the inmates. I am ashamed to say but, I felt that these men were beneath me – but I was WRONG. I came to see that these incarcerated men were just like my brother or my son, they were just normal people. I could feel that the inmates and I were the same.

I can see now, how I miss judged them, they accepted me as I was, they taught me to be more open minded, my view has been broadened by them. They didn't know it, but they were already practicing Buddhism.

Donna: What is the driving force to make you

by Donna Hunt

continue volunteering for Dharma 808 Sangha Classes?

Ms. Joyce: I think it's the importance of sharing the Dharma with people outside of RKK. I can see that the inmates are very interested in Buddhism. I feel that the Inmates are encouraged by the Buddha's words.

Donna: What is your most memorable incident?

Ms. Joyce: There are so many; once a young boy said to me, "I rather stay in prison than be released." His words upset me so much, tears came to my eyes. I thought, how could this 26 year old say something like that? As the months passed I noticed that his attitude was changing, it seemed that he began to have hope that life outside was possible. There was something in his face, it seemed brighter or there was now a twinkle in his eye. It encouraged me and deepened my faith that the Buddha was guiding and protecting all of us.

Donna: What message from the Buddha do you like to share?

Ms. Joyce: I'd like to share the teachings of "Causation" and "Appreciation." The inmates seem to understand and really take those teachings to heart.

Donna: Would you encourage others to do similar volunteer work?

Ms. Joyce: YES! I would encourage others. In the beginning I thought, "I am going to help the inmates." But what really happened was, "They were teaching me about myself, through them I can see my own flawed character I was learning more from them!" I find that through volunteering, we force ourselves to review the basics, brush up and reinforce what I learned. Volunteering also forces me to "practice" the Buddha's Teachings.

Thank you Ms. Joyce for sharing your Dharma Journey with us. We appreciate your view of your volunteer work. Well Done! Great Job!

Family Matters

Kisa grew up in an Indian village a long time ago. When she was quite young, she got married and went to live with her husband's family in a town called Kapilavattu. When she first moved in with them, things were difficult. She missed her village, her family, and her friends. She felt that no one liked her and that everything she did was wrong. Then, when her son was born, everyone was very pleased and her life improved. However, when the baby was still tiny, her husband died. Kisa was very upset. "At least I still have my little son," she thought.

One sad day, the baby also became very ill and died. Kisa was so unhappy that she just could not believe that her baby was dead. She thought he must be asleep. She wanted to find some special medicine that would make him better and began asking everyone. First, she asked her neighbor. "Please, can you help me?" she asked. "I need some special medicine for my baby." "I'm sorry, Kisa," said the woman, "I'm too busy to stop now. Why don't you ask the shopkeeper?" Sadly, Kisa thanked her and went to find the shopkeeper. However, the shopkeeper only told her to ask the doctor.

"Please, can you help me?" Kisa asked the doctor. "I need some special medicine for my baby." The doctor looked at the baby in Kisa's arms. He could see that it was dead. "I'm sorry, Kisa," he said. "I haven't got the medicine you need." Was there anyone who could help Kisa, he wondered? Then he remembered that the Buddha was staying nearby. He was wise and very kind. Maybe he would know how to help. "Kisa," he suggested, "why don't you go and ask the Buddha?"

The Buddha was sitting in the shade of a tree talking to his friends when Kisa ran up to him. He could see straight away that she was very upset. "How can I help you?" he asked. "My name is Kisa," she replied. "I have been looking everywhere for medicine for my son." The Buddha looked at the little bundle in Kisa's arms. How could Kisa be helped to accept the truth that her little boy had really died?

"Kisa, if you want to make some medicine, you must have some mustard seeds," said the Buddha. "Go into town and ask at each house, but you must only accept seeds from a house in which no one has died." Quickly, Kisa set off into town to get the mustard seeds. At the first house, a young woman answered the door.

"Could I have some mustard seeds to make some medicine?" Kisa asked. The woman went back inside and soon returned with some seeds. "Here you are," said the woman, smiling. Kisa was just about to take the seeds when she remembered the Buddha's words. "Oh, I nearly forgot," said Kisa. "Has anyone died in this house?" "Ah, yes," replied the young woman. "A few months ago my grandmother died, very peacefully. She was a lovely old woman and we remember her very fondly. But why do

Kisa and the Mustard Seeds

you ask?" "Thank you for getting me the seeds," said Kisa, "but I can only take them from a house in which no one has died."

Kisa said goodbye and went on to the next house. An old man was sitting outside. "Please, have you got some mustard seeds to spare?" she asked him. Slowly, the old man got up and went into the house. Soon he emerged with some seeds. "Here you are," he said, holding out his hand. Again, just as Kisa was about to take the seeds, she remembered what the Buddha had said.

"Has anyone died in this house recently?" she asked. "Ah," replied the old man sadly, "just last year the lady of the house, my daughter, and passed on. We all still miss her." "I am sorry to hear your sad news," said Kisa.

"Thank you for getting me the seeds, but I'm afraid I can't take them after all."

At the next house she came to, a young boy answered the door. "Please, have you got some mustard seeds to spare?" she asked. "I'm sure we have," said the boy. "Wait there and I'll ask my mum." Soon the boy came back with the seeds. "Here you are." This time, Kisa remembered! "Can you tell me please if anyone has ever died in this house?" she asked. "Yes," replied the boy quietly. "When I was still a little baby, my dad died. I can't even remember him." "I'm sorry about your dad," said Kisa, "and thank you for getting me the seeds, but I can't use them after all."

As Kisa went from door to door, the answer was the same. Everyone had lost a loved one; if not last year, then a long time ago. Kisa had no mustard seeds but now she understood why she would not be able to find any. She looked at the little bundle in her arms. "I am sorry, my little one, you have gone to another life and I did not want to let you go. Let us find a resting place for you."

In the evening, she returned to the Buddha. She was no longer carrying the little bundle. Her face was now much calmer. "Have you been able to find the mustard seeds, Kisa?" he asked.

"No," she replied, "but now I understand that everyone loses people they love. I have laid my baby to rest, and am now at peace. Thank you."

"You have done well, Kisa," said the Buddha, "for there is nothing stronger in the entire world than a mother's love. Would you like to stay with me for a while?"

As the sun went down over Kapilavattu, Kisa and the Buddha talked. She told him about her life and her baby. He listened kindly. The Buddha reminded Kisa that plants grow in the spring, flower in the summer, and die in the winter - and that new plants grow the following year. Similarly, people are born and eventually die. Kisa now understood that was just how things are.

Talking to the Buddha and listening to his kind words helped Kisa a lot. That very evening she decided to become one of his followers.

Senior Corner

by Ann Rinehard



“We embrace our cultural, ethnic and social diversity in the mentoring process.”

Skillful Means - Mentoring

"When the student is ready, the teacher appears."

In the Lotus Sutra we learn about the many skillful means Shakyamuni Buddha used to guide his followers along the bodhisattva path. He was their mentor until it was time for him to enter parinirvana. Founder Niwano was a mentor who carried forward the Buddha's teachings and shared them with us by establishing Rissho Kosei-kai.

Today, we think of mentors as people of wisdom and experience who support and encourage those who are younger or lesser experienced. As seniors, some of us have time we can volunteer to mentoring, in schools or businesses. Many of us find ourselves mentoring in our families, even acting as the bridge between the parent

and child generations.

Practicing skillful means in mentoring begins with the understanding that we are interconnected, that this relationship is therefore based on mutual trust and respect. While we are older and more experienced, our purpose is to help our mentees develop in their own way. Listening is one way we do this. Listening can be more important than talking. The persons we mentor may find their own answers as we allow them to process.

We embrace our cultural, ethnic and social diversity in the mentoring process. And we learn to selectively forget about "the good old days." What we don't forget is that we, too, struggled and learned. If we were fortunate, we had mentors, who put aside their opinions, accepted us as we were, and offered their help.

When Shakyamuni Buddha was ready to enter parinirvana, he entrusted the bodhisattvas to spread the Dharma. It was time for the students to fully become the teachers. As mentors, we may find ourselves in extended, even life-long relationships with our mentees. But if we are practicing skillful means, we will know when and how to let go, so that they can continue on their ways with confidence and joy. Who knows? Maybe we will become their students. After all, according to skillful means we're never too old to learn.



Bronze statue outside the Great Sacred Hall In Tokyo

Art from the Sanghas by Rose Cirigliano



Joeallen Gibson

Joeallen Gibson, a member of the Oklahoma Dharma Center for over three years, describes on his work as "Geologic Art" -- a result of his career as Geologist.

"Geologic Art or "Geoism" is art inspired by the beauties of nature and geological processes taking place on the Earth. My art draws heavily on my 30 years as a geologist where my study of the earth has moved from the scientific to the spiritual."

"...my study of the earth has moved from the scientific to the spiritual."



Parasols



The Gate



Peyote Rivers

Rivers of the Mind



Art from the Sanghas by Rose Cirigliano



NYC Artist Hiroe Yoshizawa

When did you first start painting in water colors as a medium?

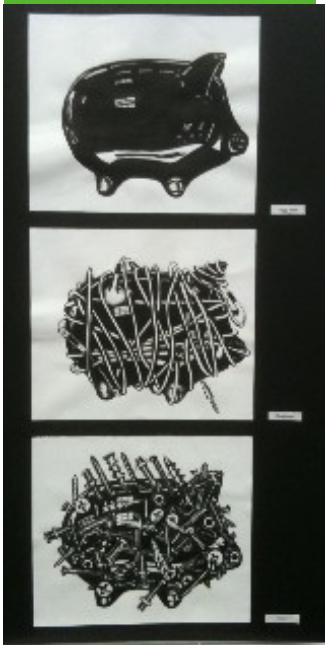
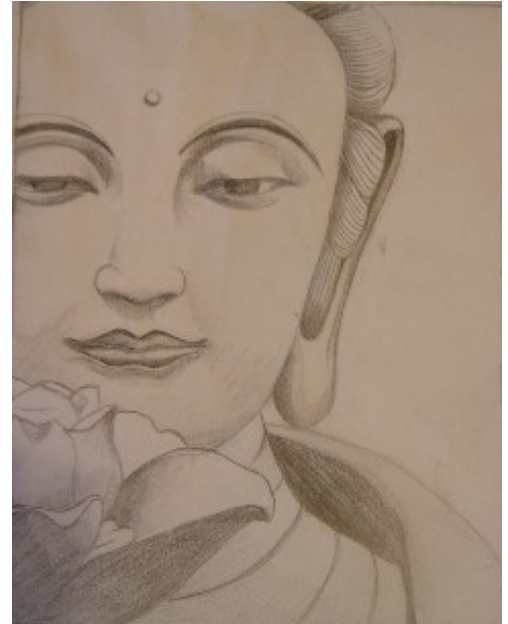
> In 2005 in my water color class. I never took oil painting. I like how I can make the subtle color changes in water colors. My teacher never let us use "white" color to mix to make the color lighter. He said I have to find the right color with my own eyes and mix the right colors to create it without using white.

You say you like digital medium. Why?

> Digital is not my strongest skill. I am learning digital because I want to spend my career at advertising and graphic design so that my design or art will capture various kinds of people through different mediums (such as advertisement, commercial, creative design). Doing just art will limit the audience, and my goal is to contribute to the world peace with art and design I will create. So I need to be noticed by many, many people. Digital art design was my weakest, because it was more abstract (I was better at in concrete art), so I decided to push myself to polish that field.

How interested are you in to work with other media?

> I like working with all the mediums. I think working with various mediums help me to see the dimension and feel the texture and eventually it helps me to understand and create the art.



NYC Artist Yoshi Imura

Yoshi Imura participated in an Ikebana Exhibition at the Japan Nippon Club of NY in 2010.



OKC Grace Freeman

This is artwork by Oklahoma member Grace Freeman. She is almost 5 years old now and enjoys the children's time at the Dharma Center very much.



Correction from last issue, these beautiful flower arrangements are the work of Yoshi Imura.

Poetry by Kathy Austin - Dayton



Poetry Corner

THE GYMNAST

Gabby, an Olympic gymnast,
only sixteen, nicknamed "Flying Squirrel,"
carves the air like no other,
and thus declares her love.

Billions of eyes turn across the
world—
soldiers eyes turn from war;
married eyes turn from anger;
management's eyes turn
from charts and tables;
politicians eyes turn from accusa-
tion.

All eyes form the letter O,
all mouths soften to a smile.
At that very moment—
no shadows.

Kathy Austin has been a featured guest many times on WYSO Public Radio where she shared her poems. She appears at various locations around Dayton Ohio to share her poetry.

MOURNING DOVES

This is a poem about mourning doves,
the ones that perch on the old TV
antenna above the house next door,
balancing in the wind,
the ones I see from my bedroom window.
It's not a poem about love,
or loss of love, or the
obvious connection to death.
One dove flies off.
The other sits.
Just above, clouds scud
through the sky, gather,
then, like feathers, drift away.



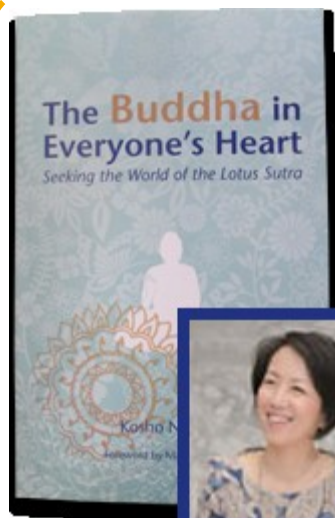
Hot Links

Origins of Skillful Means in Early Buddhism <http://www.buddhanet.net/skilful-means.htm>

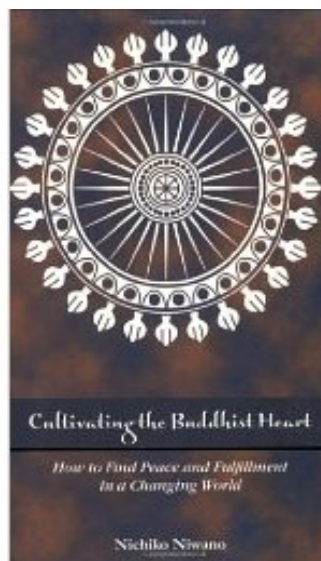
An Introduction to Skillful Means <http://www.mtsource.org/articles/skillful.htm>

Skillful Means Tool Kit <https://sites.google.com/site/psychospiritualtools/> Interesting site from Rick Hanson, Ph.D., is a neuropsychologist and author of *Hardwiring Happiness, Buddha's Brain, Just One Thing*,

Bulletin Board



Rev Koshi Niwano's new book is now available for purchase. To obtain your copy contact your minister or RKINA



Cultivating the Buddhist Heart is now available as a Kindle eBook!

Purchase your copy on Amazon for \$4.99 and receive your instant download

RK in Action

RKKF Senior Center Needs Books

A instructor for a senior center in Klamath Falls OR approached Nancy Anderson of RKKF and asked for donations of gently used books. The center is a rehab/halfway house type organization that is sending out a request specifically for Buddhist books, magazines and pamphlets. Please scan your bookshelves to see what you can donate. All materials should be sent to the Dharma Center at 274 Main St # 240, Klamath Falls, OR 97601.

How to Subscribe

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Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please send them to Jane Perri jane.perri@rkina-dayton.com

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Try visiting
one of your
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Rissho Kosei-kai International of North America (Irvine CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Orange County (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Tampa Bay (FL)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Ft. Myers

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Church of Hawaii (Pearl City, Oahu)

Rissho Kosei-kai Maui Dharma Center (HI)

Rissho Kosei-kai Kona Dharma Center (HI)

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Church of Los Angeles (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of San Antonio (TX)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Buddhist Center of Arizona (Tucson)

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center of Colorado (Denver)

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center of San Diego (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center of Las Vegas (NV)

Rissho Kosei-kai of San Francisco (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Seattle's Buddhist Learning Center (WA)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Sacramento (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai of San Jose (CA)

Lotus Buddhist Circle of San Mateo (CA)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Vancouver (Canada)

Rissho Kosei-kai of New York (NY)

Rissho Kosei-kai of Chicago (IL)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Oklahoma (OKC)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Dallas

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Denver (CO)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Klamath Falls (OR)

Rissho Kosei-kai Dharma Center of Dayton (OH)