

Sangha in Motion

U.S. Dharma Centers - Staying Connected



FALL 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Opening Message

RKINA

Hawaii

New York

Oklahoma

San Francisco

Founder's Words

Guiding Thoughts



I have heard that a snake that fails to complete molting dies. I am not sure if this is true. I have also heard that snakes cry from the pain of shedding their skin. Molting is painful, but without it, death comes. How severe the law of nature is! So I feel molting might be Buddha's compassion and mercy for snakes.

What is molting for us, practitioners of Buddhism? I believe it's the moment when we are able to accept matters which we never could before.

When I was told that the Sangha in Motion would be renewed, I thought the time of molting for us had come. I feel Buddha's message is that it is time to shed our old skin and grow as a sangha in the United States. I believe that we are able to celebrate the renewed Sangha in Motion today because of the combined force of Buddha's compassion to embrace the sangha and our desire to grow in the United States.

My friends, let's make the circle of sangha larger and stronger together. Congratulation!



Gassho,
Rev. Kazuya Nagashima
Minister, RK San Francisco

Rissho Kosei-kai International of North America



Advanced Seminar in San Francisco

From September 9-11, the second session of the four-part Advanced Seminar was held in San Francisco. Fifteen participants from Oklahoma, San Antonio, Los Angeles, Tampa Bay, Seattle, Dayton, and plus instructors Rev. Kris Ladusau and Rev. Nick Ozuna were in attendance. Rev. Mizutani, director of Rissho Kosei-kai International, Rev. Hosoyama from Los Angeles and Rev. Nagashima from San Francisco also contributed as advisors for the seminar.

On this occasion, the participants covered chapters 6 – 13 in the Lotus Sutra and offered presentations on these chapters. The Advanced Seminar is always an intensive study gathering over a short period of time, but the participants had a great opportunity to interact with one another and share in the joy of the Dharma. They all resolved to return back to their local sanghas and share what they had learned over the weekend with their members.



Contributed by
Rev. Nicholas Ozuna
RKINA

RK Buddhist Church of Hawaii



On 10/9/2016 Risho Kosei-kai Hawaii along with our fellow members in Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace helped to clean up the Kakaako Waterfront Park. An accumulation of trash and campsites have made the park an unwelcome place for people looking to relax at the waterfront park. Many of Honolulu's families would come to the park to play on the hills or stroll along the waterfront walkway.

The park has become the gathering place for 60 or so of Hawaii's 7000+ homeless people. The homeless problem in Hawaii has grown tremendously over the last few years with skyrocketing home prices and economic down turn several years ago. Hoping to assist the parks residents who camp out there and bring back some of the beauty of the park we picked up trash from bushes, walkways and the grounds.

In all we collected about 20 garbage bags of trash that allows the park maintenance crew to focus on other matters like repairing faucets, sprinklers and bigger projects to sustain the parks usefulness.

Contributed by Bradley Tom
RK Hawaii





RK Buddhist Church of New York

New York Members have been excitedly studying and sharing the Dharma. Under Reverend Fujita’s directive, in order to deepen each member’s faith, there have been a series of dynamic monthly study sessions centered upon the essential meaning of the Kyoten.

Led by Reverend Kyoichi Sugino, together with Yasuko Vendley and James Lynch, members from New York and Fort Myers have been studying together via Skype to go through the Kyoten in detail, in order to understand the Kyoten’s true significance and to deepen our faith.

So far we have touched upon many topics such as, the deep meaning of “DoJo” (the place of the way), parinirvana, the true meaning of taking refuge, the Eternal Buddha, buddha nature, bodhisattva and the proper attitude we should have as practitioners of the dharma.

The Fort Myers members expressed their appreciation for the lessons and shared that they value their Kyoten chanting much more now.

We as a dharma family are excited to know that we have dharma brothers and sisters with whom we can share life’s pains and pleasures, while deepening our understanding of Buddhism and our faith.



Gassho
James Lynch
RK Buddhist Church of New York



Dharma Center of Oklahoma

For the International Day of Peace in September, Tinker Air Force Base held its first ever Interfaith Prayer Ceremony and Dinner.

Rev. Kris Ladusau spoke, representing the Buddhist Faith. Books and prayer beads were donated to the Interfaith Library supply from the Oklahoma Dharma Center. A music day was also held as a way to bring people together in the spirit of creating harmony through music. Through drumming, the energy had an amazing affect on the members who felt revitalized and it created strong bonds within the sangha.

Rev. Kris Ladusau
Dharma Center of Oklahoma



Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center of San Francisco



Rummage Sale

For the last several years, we have had two community outreach opportunities during the summer months. One of them is “Rummage Sale.”

In August our annual rummage sale came together with the hard work of members and friends of the church. This year we chose to give the proceeds to a social services charity, Pacifica Resource Center, which helps locals who are in need. Noting our intent in our newspaper ads and flyers resonated with the community as we had several people donate careful of items for the sale. We were blessed with great weather and a good turnout which brought in a record profit that we were able to send to the Resource Center.

We usually sell hot dogs and drinks during the sale and this year we tried something different – yaki soba hot dogs and chili hot dogs, as well as the classic hot dog. People were curious so they tried them and they were a hit. We made 3 times in sales over previous years.





Pacifica Coast Fog Fest

Although we are Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center of San Francisco, our location is actually in the coastal town of Pacifica. Weather can be temperamental here. When it is good, it is glorious but when it is bad, the fog can be as thick as pea soup. Pacifica has embraced that fact and celebrates with the annual Pacifica Coast Fog Fest in September. This year was our 6th time being part of the weekend event. In our 10' x 10' booth, we had the Hanamido (Infant Buddha Pagoda) for people to pour tea over the baby buddha and make a prayer. There also was a place where people can write a prayer to tie onto some bamboo branches we had. Having activities that were free and interactive was a good way to bring people to our booth. We had postcards, magazines, book marks with words by the Founder and our contact info, and small rolled up copies of the *Meditation of Loving Kindness* that we gave away. In exchange, we got to meet some nice people and on a sign-up sheet many left their email address and phone number which we use for our monthly emails. Doing these activities bring us more into the communities outside our church and they help us members become stronger in our relationship with each other. They are a lot of work but the rewards are great.



Contributed by Sayoko Lesure
RK Buddhist Center of San Francisco

Words from Founder Niwano

Founder's Faith

“Ever since the founding of Kosei-kai, I have lived in the Buddha’s Law, especially the Lotus Sutra. In the early days, my efforts to save people from suffering and, later, my work for the peace conferences all have found their basis in the Lotus Sutra. And as long as I live, I intend to follow the same course. It is the only one for me.... I shall continue my faith until I hear the voice of the Buddha calling from the sky, Excellent, excellent.”

- Founder Nikkyo Niwano



Guiding Thoughts

To Work With All My Strength

The founder made a vow on the overnight train to Tokyo from his hometown in Tokamachi. He made three vows at first, then another three he added after that. Today I would like to talk about one of his vows, “Work with all one’s strength”.

We work every day... work work work. For what? You know sometimes we do not know what is the purpose, but we work anyway. Well I know you say it’s for earning a living. Is this really the answer? Of course that is the one of the answers, but if you work enough to support your living, then people might stop working altogether. Yes, some do, but there must be something else than just earning enough to live.

If you work only for the purpose of living, then you get tired. Once R.W. Emerson said, “Do the thing and you will get the energy to do the thing”. If you have a clear purpose and if you work with all of your energy, then the energy flows into you. The energy does not stay in but it flows through you. The Universal Law is always supporting you whenever your mind is focused and works with all its strength within you. The Universal Law never lets you get tired when you are focused with all of your strength.

- Rev. Takashi Yoshizawa, RKINA Chief Operating Officers/Minister

Past issues of *Sangha in Motion* can be found here: <http://rkina.org/sanghainmotion/enewsletterarchive.html>