



Sangha In Motion

Bimonthly eNewsletter for RK Members in the US

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2013

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Nisei Parade

Obon Festival

Lots of news from the
Sanghas!

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This Month—Peace in Today’s Troubled Times



HAPPY BIRTHDAY RISSHO-KOSEI-KAI

Born March 5, 1938

Founders Nikkyo Niwano and Myoko Naganuma

“Rissho” means to stand on the right teachings of the Buddha. “Kosei” means to interact among people to try to perfect our character through mutual support and encouragement. “Kai” means a group of people of the same belief. Therefore, Rissho Kosei-kai means a community of believers that strive to perfect their character by interacting with others basing their actions on the Dharma taught by the Buddha. The members of this sangha have been carrying out this mission for 75 years!

Orange County RK Celebration

Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment Day is in December. In this special month, members of the Orange County Family enshrined the focus of devotion. Here, the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni that has the Stupa of Abundant Treasures Buddha is celebrated, as well as the Four Great Bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice in its nimbus.

Congratulations for your enshrinement and welcome to the Buddha Way.





Nikkyo Niwano
Founder of
Risho Kosei-kai

Excerpt from
“Happy Is the
Peacemaker,”
in *Transcending
Religious
Differences from
Buddhism for
Everyday Life.*

Guidance from Founder Niwano

“When I went to Belgium in 1974 to take part in the second general assembly of the World Conference of religions for peace, I was asked by a reporter from a Brussels broadcasting station, “Mr. Niwano, do you really believe that global peace can be realized through this kind of conference?” I replied: “World peace is a very elusive goal. But that is exactly why I am here expending every effort [to achieve it].”

Mother Teresa was once asked a similar question by a reporter: “Could you achieve more if you could use politics to help people?” She replied, “I try to help the next person. That is all.” Helping the individual right in front of her was Mother Teresa’s way of serving God.

The fifth general assembly of the World Conference of Religions for peace was

held at Monash University in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, in January 1989. I was asked to give the opening remarks, and decided to quote a poem by the Japanese sculptor and poet Kotaro Takamura (1883-1956).

The fruit before the flower,
The sprout before the seed,
Summer before spring.
Do not accept what does not stand
to reason,
What is obviously unnatural.

In our eagerness to achieve our goals we often long for the sprout to appear before the seed. But if we truly desire peace, we must begin by planting the seeds of peace and carefully tending them. The way to peace is a difficult one and there can be no shortcuts. We must make our way as best we can.”

Commentary

Founder seems to be telling us that the way to peace is long, difficult, and elusive. Though we may hope for immediate results, the fruits of our labor are not to be seen for some time. This does not diminish the urgency of peace work, however. If anything, it means we must work hard while knowing that our efforts may be unseen or unacknowledged. We must work for peace because it is the right thing to do. Our work for peace may take us to venues where we speak before an audience, or it may be as simple an act as helping our neighbor. Whatever our situation, we can all share in working for peace by practicing compassion and wisdom in our daily lives.

by Mary Sigman

However much we may wish to see world peace achieved quickly, Founder tells us, through the words of the poet Takamura, that things must happen in their own way and time. The process of achieving world peace involves cultivating the seeds of peace and taking care so the seeds can grow. The fruits of those seeds of peace must grow in this way. Just as a gardener waits patiently after tilling the soil, so we must do the hard work of preparing the world for the fruits of peace. It doesn’t matter that we may not be alive to taste these fruits. What matters is that we do the humble, hard work with patience and fortitude.

Images of early RK Chicago

July 4 2001



President Nichiko Niwano



Mrs. Matsumoto



Dr. Gene Reeves and Rev. Suzuki



Can you find Mrs. Murakami?

Rev. Nagashima new minister for SF & Seattle

All I can offer is my deep love and respect for the Founder and that I have lived my life full of passion for his teachings.

Rev. Nagashima

My name is Takayuki Nagashima. I have been appointed to be the minister of the San Francisco church.

I am honored to succeed Reverend Nagamoto, who I respect and like very much. As you all know, I have served as minister of Rishso Kosei-kai of Brazil for 10 years, and I was just an ordinary church member in Japan when I was suddenly appointed to be a minister.

If I may compare Reverend Nagamoto and myself to horses, from where I stand, Reverend Nagamoto is a thoroughbred and I am just a plow horse. All I can offer is my deep love and respect for the Founder and that I have lived my life full of passion for his teachings. I may not be intelligent and sophisticated like Reverend Nagamoto, so I would appreciate your support and guidance.

On the occasion of today's inauguration ceremony, the director of RK International, Reverend Mizutani, gave me these three points of view to remember as guidance:

1. The members of the San Francisco church are wonderful. So, trust them and practice with them the teachings of Founder Niwano diligently.
2. There are many RK ministers in the United States, so it is good to try to build relationships with them and obtain their guidance to help you proceed with your mission.
3. Set this as your goal: devote yourself to build the San Francisco church as a strong force to spread our Founder's teaching all over the world. Encourage the wonderful American members or followers to take an active role. With their support, create a church that can transmit the Founder's essential teaching to people living in the United States. Spread the message of Everyday Buddhism: practicing Buddhism

in every aspect of our daily lives, whether at home, at work, wherever we are.

Lastly, Director Mizutani said, "The life force of Rishso Kosei-kai is the devotion of its true believers who have learned the teachings of Founder Niwano."

On November 18th, when I received this mission from President Niwano, I pledged that I would transform myself from a messenger of the teaching, into a practitioner of the teaching.

With a gentle smile President Niwano accepted my pledge. Together with the sangha of the San Francisco church I pledge to do my very best.

Thank you very much.
Gassho

Rev. Takayuki Nagashima



WELCOME TO THE US

—REV. NAGASHIMA!

San Francisco Members



LBC Group
2012

Dayton OH



Gift to the Sangha from artisan member Philip DeMarchis.

The picture does not do this tile mosaic of our logo justice. It is stunningly beautiful! It is embedded in an alcove above the fireplace just inside the main entrance of the center.



Car Blessing on Jan 27, was quite frosty! We had frozen members by the end.



Nick Orlando in Ft. Myers doing the purification before service

Fort Myers by Mary Sigman

Rissho Kosei-kaio of Fort Myers has been busy! Our Buddha Book Night and Monthly Movie Night have been successful additions to our schedule, and in February we began adding a 30 minute End of Month Meditation period. We are continuing our interfaith work with other churches in Lee County. Additionally, we are working hard to finalize the wording of our formal request for improvement of mental health assessment and intervention of young children.

We served refreshments following another Memorial Service at UUCFM, a service that is very much appreciated by the families of the loved one. We are seeing some new faces lately as more snowbirds travel to our area, and it is always nice to welcome them and have them share our service. We are looking forward to Rev. Yoshizawa's visit at the beginning of March, at which time he will enshrine altars in the homes of two of our members. They are very excited!

Healthy Living by Jane Perri

What is Peace and How Do We Get It

Peace is much more than simply no war between nations. It is more than not fighting with your neighbor. Peace really begins with you not fighting with yourself. When you are at total peace with who you are, what you are capable of, where you are going in life, what you have and do not have, then you will be at peace.

It is not possible to honestly promote peace between humans when within yourself there is no peace. If we have never felt peace within ourselves, then we have no framework for what it feels, looks, tastes or sounds like. We have no notion of how to obtain it or recognize it when we have it. So we must cultivate peace within first.

The number one obstacle to peace is desire: desire for power, desire for material and financial gain, desire for recognition. Desire for whatever one feels would give him or her an edge to stand above and over others. This is not peace – it is tyranny. One who must have any one of the above will surely abuse anyone who stands in their path of attainment for that which they seek.

Peace and power really are the same thing but not in the usual sense of the meaning. Power is required to have peace. You must have the power to control your OWN desires, your own greed. Once you have established complete control over your basic human animal urges then peace will find its way in – not until then.

Accumulated material wealth demands more, power over others demands increasing amounts of power to maintain control. Lies take more lies to maintain secrecy. So if you want peace – STOP. Stop your cravings and desire for those things that do not build peace of mind, peace of spirit, peace of soul, peace of your essence. Root out the cause – desire, clear the black shroud from your being of greed. Be satisfied with what you have and have not. Better yet – give away much of what you have – you really do not need it anyway. Once shed of desire and material weight, then and only then is there room for peace to come in. If there is no space available, how

will peace be able to take root and grow? Make space, then share.

What does it mean when one says that he or she wants “peace”? Peace is a fairly elusive concept. Peace is timely as we have frequently witnessed. Peace can be between nations or communities. It can also be between individuals of the warring nations while their respective military and politicians continue to rain down their bombs and bullets.

Does peace between individuals have to be a Shakespearian Tragedy? No, it does not. What must happen for peace to occur and war to stop?

Each winter holiday season we hear the song *Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Man*. It can be heard playing daily on our radios, in stores and restaurants. People sing about it in their homes but rarely is the message expressed by the heart.

It begins on the personal level – letting go of hate and revenge; seeing others as one with ourselves, appreciating the similarities instead of focusing on the differences. Take the time to get to know your neighbors, practitioners’ of other faiths and those of other nationalities. Become enriched by these friendships instead of scared of the differences.

Are you up to the challenge to do your part?



Family Matters—Buried Treasure [The Arrogance of Power]

Buddhist Tales for Young & Old
Prince Goodspeaker www.buddhanet.net

Once upon a time, there was an old man who lived in Benares. He had a very good friend, who was known to be wise. Luckily, or perhaps unluckily, he also had a beautiful young wife.

The old man and young wife had a son. The man came to love his son very much. And one day he thought, "I have learned that my beautiful young wife cannot always be trusted. When I die, I am sure she will marry another man, and together they will waste the wealth I have worked so hard for. Later on, there will be nothing left for my son to inherit from his mother. So I will do something to guarantee an inheritance for my deserving son. I will bury my wealth to protect it for him."

Then he called for his most faithful servant, Nanda. Together they took all the old man's wealth deep into the forest and buried it. He said, "My dear Nanda, I know you are obedient and faithful. After I die, you must give this treasure to my son. Keep it a secret until then. When you give the treasure to him, advise him to use it wisely and generously."

Before long, the old man died. Several years later, his son completed his education. He returned home to take his place as the head of the family. His mother said, "My son, being a suspicious man, your father has hidden his wealth. I am sure that his faithful servant, Nanda knows where it is. You should ask him to show you. Then you can get married and support the whole family."

So the son went to Nanda and asked him if he knew where his father had hidden his wealth. Nanda told him that the treasure was buried in the forest, and that he knew the exact spot.

Then the two of them took a basket and a shovel into the forest. When they arrived at the place the treasure was buried, all of a sudden Nanda became puffed up with how important he was. Although he was only a servant,

he had the power of being the only one to know the secret. So he became conceited and thought he was better than the son. He said, "You are the son of a servant girl! Where would you inherit a treasure from?"

The patient son did not talk back to his father's servant. He suffered his abuse, even though it puzzled him. After a short time, they returned home empty-handed.



The strange behavior was repeated two more times. The son thought, "At home, Nanda appears willing to reveal the secret of the treasure; but when we go into the forest carrying the basket and shovel, he is no longer willing. I wonder why he changes his mind each time."

He decided to take this puzzle to his father's wise old friend. He went to him and described what had happened.

The wise old man said, "Go again with Nanda into the forest. Watch where he stands when abuses you, which he surely will do. Then send him away saying,

"You have no right to speak to me that way. Leave me."

"Dig up the ground on that very spot and you will find your inheritance. Nanda is a weak man. Therefore, when he comes closest to his little bit of power, he turns it into abuse."

The son followed this advice exactly. Sure enough, he found the buried treasure. As his father had hoped, he generously used the wealth for the benefit of many.

THE MORAL IS:

A little power soon goes to the head of one not used to it.

Coloring Time!

Image from Buddhahnet.com

Peace to all beings



*“May all beings receive
the blessings of
Kuan Shih Yin P’usa.”*

Senior Corner

by Ann Rinehard

“Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace.”

Buddha

“Since there is no such thing as a retirement age in private life, as long as we live we should embrace a strong desire to improve ourselves, serve others, and contribute to society.” *Founder Nikkyo Niwano, Invisible Eyelashes*

The Buddha said: “Better than a thousand hollow words is one word that brings peace.” In our practice of Buddhism there is a quest for inner peace. Yet as bodhisattvas we know that inner peace is not enough. Because we are all interconnected there will be no peace until all sentient beings share peace.

Founder Niwano said: “The road to peace is not smooth and easy, nor is there a shortcut for it. The only road to peace is endurance.” For 30 years or more, our Founder worked for world peace, traveling to all corners of the world and meeting people of diverse cultures and religions – anyone who was interested in ending conflict.

Many others had a vision for peace during this time. Some of them didn’t set out to be symbols of peace, but through circumstance they were brought by others to set aside violence for the sake of a better future. Here are six peacemakers who were Founder’s contemporaries in working for peaceful change.

Martin Luther King, Jr., US civil rights leader in the 1960s. MLK encouraged non-violent peaceful protests.
Quote: “Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Thich Nhat Hanh, who did post-war relief work in Vietnam. (Founder Niwano also worked to help Vietnam, and in 1977 RKK accepted the first group of Vietnamese

refugees.) Thich Nhat Hanh has written many books about Buddhist practice, and is known as an anti-war speaker and writer.

Quote: “If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace.”

Jimmy Carter, who negotiated international peace settlements, including one between Israel and Palestine. Through the Carter Center, he continues to promote charity and human rights.
Quote: “You just have to have a simple faith.”

Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu, who worked during the 1980s and early 1990s to end apartheid in South Africa. They were also successful in bringing an end to the regime that supported apartheid.

Quotes: Nelson Mandela – “If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

Bishop Tutu – “My humanity is bound upon yours, for we can only be human together.”

Mother Theresa, who took care of the poor and sick in Kolkota. She became an international symbol of peace, yet she was not a person who sought public recognition.

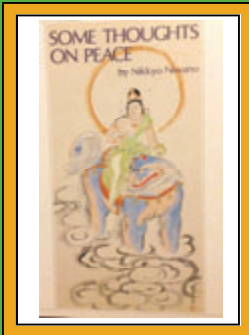
Quote: “If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

We are still working for peace today. We join groups, we demonstrate, we support organizations that promote peace. But while we’re pursuing all these activities, we can also follow Mother Theresa simple but wise advice:

“Peace begins with a smile.”

Book Review

by Nancy Anderson



Some Thoughts on Peace

by
Nikkyo
Niwano



World peace.

How long has it been since any of us have put these two words together and dared to think in terms of global harmony? Day and night, violent events occurring in our world, in our schools, in our homes negate any flicker of hope that peace is possible. Disappointment reigns, anxiety runs rampant, and we suffer.

It is time to refresh our minds and hearts. It is time to read *Some Thoughts on Peace* Nikkyo Niwano, founder of Rissho-kosei kai.

Niwano's magical pen begins his work with recollection of another man, another time, and another place of turmoil. He begins his work by writing of memories of the time he saw the movie, *Gandhi*. As most of us recall, Mahatma Gandhi led a non-violent campaign for India's independence and freedom from British rule. Gandhi, who embraced all religions, was as the core Hindu and very seriously believed and practiced *ahimsa*, or nonviolence.

In the words of Niwano, Gandhi counseled the Indian people "...that what was needed was not violence but unity of mind to move the conscience of the English." *Unity of mind*. Let us highlight those three words and come back to them later.

Using Gandhi as an example, and his story as a launching pad, Niwano then moves us in thought to another figure moving from village to village, and we know him as Never Despire.

To those who were abusive and spiteful to Never Despire he said, "I dare not

despise you. You are to become a buddha."

From here Niwano leads us to other examples of nonviolent behavior, and then into his own mind and thoughts of war and peace. He concludes that we that we have proof that meeting force with force, and using force to protect justice and order, is futile. We are reminded of the basic principles of Buddhism, and the right ways of thinking and doing. Application of Buddhist practices, we are shown, are totally relevant to the achievement of peace and harmony on a global scale.

In addition, this book is a call to "people of religion" to understand that nonviolence is a saving "force" of humankind. Speaking of governments and those who advocate force, the words of Niwano are very clear: "We must appeal to such people to blaze a completely new path, and we must have the courage to form the vanguard of this movement." Let us highlight the words *new path*.

With *unity of mind* we highlighted earlier, and *new path* we just visited, we have a formula for peace in our world and in ourselves. These ideas, combined with our understanding of Buddha-nature, may well be our way out of our despair. Nikkyo Niwano has shown us a way to the peaceful world of our dreams.

Nancy Anderson, a member of Rissho Kosei-kai, received her Lay Buddhist Ordination at Shasta Abbey Buddhist Monastery in northern California. She produces and edits the monthly Dharma Center News for the Dharma Center of Klamath Falls (OR). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Montana State University and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Management/Human Relations from Webster University. She is a Certified Meditation Instructor, trained in Vipassana meditation instruction and certified by the University of Holistic

Art from the Sanghas by Rose Cirigliano

OKC Young Artists

The children of the OKC Sangha are sharing their view of the Dharma. The artists are:

Grace Freeman, Skyley Trahan, Haiden Trahan, Hailey Trahan, Cindy Belardo, Jennifer Belardo.

The children's group meet on Sundays during the adult hoza time. In the last 5 minutes of circle, the kids join the adults and share what they learned that day. Each week they study one of the Buddha's teachings... 6 Perfections, 8 Fold Path... Irene Lam has been the instructor.



What is a Buddhist?



Ten Realms

Tucson Quilt Artist

Masayo Morgan

"I've been quilting since I moved to Tucson from Oswego Il. In 1994. I joined Tucson Quilters Guild, then Neighbor Quilting group. The main purposes of my quilting is to enjoy creativities, friendships and supporting community needs, not asking anything in return, no strings attached.

Why would I this do? We did not have any friends when we moved here, but now we have many, all of them through volunteer works. We have been blessed so many ways and really appreciate every day of our lives here now. I do whatever I can, where ever I live, this has been my way of living."



Poetry
Corner

COMMENCEMENT

If we could just breathe deeply
and find that my breath is yours;
if we could greet each other
like long-lost friends
and grab each other's hands,
exchange a smile with our eyes;
if we could see each sunrise
with its scudding clouds
and each sunset as
a blessing upon us;
see the silhouettes of geese
that fly across the tinted sky
as feathers of hope
we both can share,
then perhaps peace will land at last
and make its home.

-Kathy B. Austin



Photo by Jane Perri

Dear Abhi-Dharma

Dear Abhi-Dharma,

I work in an office that is being affected by the government cut-backs. My salary is connected to a contract we have outside of the U.S., so everyone else in my office is going to lose one day a week from their jobs/pay, but I will not. I feel really bad for everyone. My questions are: How do I deal with this situation? Will they be mad at me? How can I best be of service to them?

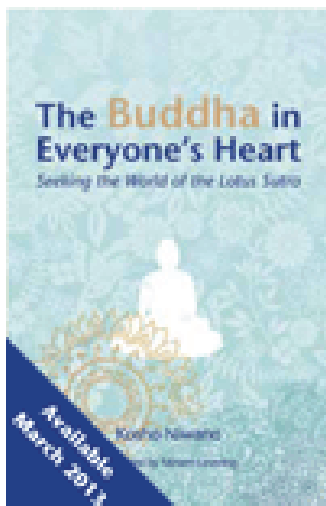
- Needing Guidance

By Rev. Kris Ladusau

Dear Needing Guidance,

This is a very difficult situation on several levels. I see your Buddha-Nature coming through when you express your compassion for your fellow workers and their feelings about what is happening. Everyone will react however they choose to do so – perhaps the most important thing that you can provide is a compassionate ear and a shoulder to lean on if needed. Compassionate listening can be a tremendously powerful gift. Just remember if feelings start to come out sideways – not to take it personally. Just continue to see their Buddha-Nature and make that your connecting point with them.

Bulletin Board



The Buddha in Everyone's Heart Seeing the World of the Lotus Sutra

by Kosho Niwano

**AVAILABLE
MARCH 2013**

Pre-order available via Amazon,
or contact RKINA.

RK in Action

- Los Angeles Church and RKINA will be hosting the US Leaders Seminar April 26-28. President Elect Kosho Niwano will be the guest speaker on Friday night.
- Dayton Dharma Center will be participating in the Wright State University Interfaith Symposium April 11, 2013

POST YOUR CENTER'S UPCOMING EVENTS HERE!

How to Subscribe

To subscribe to this newsletter contact the minister at your Dharma Center or visit the RKINA website. www.rkina.org

How to Submit Articles for Publication

Submit articles, calendar events, questions for "Dear Abhidharma" and creative works through your Dharma Center representative. "Dear Abhidharma" questions can also be sent directly to Rev. Kris Ladusau. krisladusau@gmail.com
Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please send them to Jane Perri jane.perri@rkina-dayton.com

Published by

Rissho Kosei-kai International of North America, Irvine CA
Chief Editor—Rev. Takashi Yoshizawa Editor—Jane Perri

Traveling ?

Try visiting
one of your
sister sanghas!



Locations and Calendar of Centers

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 \(IL\)](#)

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