



Rissho Kosei-kai of New York

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March 2022 Newsletter

Hello everyone,
Hope you are doing well.

March is the month we celebrate the 84th anniversary of the founding of our organization, Rissho Kosei-kai. In addition, this is the month we will welcome the spring equinox and gradually move toward the season of spring. The Winter Olympics in Beijing have ended safely. However, people all over the world are anxiously watching the situation in Ukraine. And in Asia, what will become of Myanmar is still uncertain.

The COVID19 pandemic is now in its third year, but it seems it is still far from being contained. Thus far, numerous precious lives have been lost and many are receiving treatments in the hospitals or recuperating at their homes. We wholeheartedly pray for those who have passed away that they may rest in peace and that those who are currently undergoing medical treatments will quickly recover.

Our RKNY Buddhist Center is celebrating the 40th Anniversary this year. The preparatory committee started with a lively meeting in January with many opinions and suggestions. At this time, once again, let us think about what the significance of celebrating a 40th anniversary is for us.

Forty years ago, on December 1, 1982, Rissho Kosei-kai's NY Center was "born."

We, who live in the present, can look back to 40 years ago and explore the origin to help us realize the direction we could take for our future. Everything has its beginning, and it is very important to look back at its starting point.

Until the NY Center was established, whenever Rissho Kosei-kai opened a new center, conditions for establishing a center was first met only when there were some members and core leaders in the area.

NY, however, has a history of being launched somewhat differently from the other centers.

How it started lies in the Founder's thoughts imbued with his ardent wish to open a center in the NYC area.

Since we have been entrusted with that wish and have continued until today, it is very important to investigate that cause and seek it.

The 40th Anniversary Preparatory Committee is planning to launch several projects to start the preparation. As one of the projects, I would like to collect materials in search of what I just mentioned – "the cause of opening the center" and "the Founder's wish." From now on, I would like to share with everyone what is revealed based on the materials obtained, so that we can learn together.

At present, most people who knew about 40 years ago are no longer with us and, therefore, there are only a few. For those who will be carrying on the responsibilities in the coming era, at this time, I would like to properly organize and pass it on to the next generation.

With anything, it is important to look back to the cause and move forward,

By taking the occasion of the 40th Anniversary as an opportunity to learn the significance of opening the NY Center, and to look back not only on the history of the Center but what the origin of each person's faith was as well, this anniversary project can become a project that grasps this year's meaning and lead to great results.

I think there are various reasons that connect each person to encounter one's faith. Worries, suffering, and life problems often serve as the catalyst to encounter this teaching. If, at this time, one can take this opportunity to reflect and rekindle one's gratitude and be touched again by the way one had been liberated through the "reaching out" care of fellow members, senior members, and the leaders, this can become the "energy" to take a new step.

I, myself, will never forget the gratitude I feel for the words I received from my reverends, the encouragement from my parents and the senior members, the empathy with my fellow members, and how such encounters in various situations had nurtured me to become the person I am today.

Although I cannot always thank them aloud one by one, but I certainly know that they have all become part of me.

While thanking the past reverends, senior members, and fellow members for their tremendous work during the 40 years of the Center's history and thanking those who have been actively putting the wishes of the Founder into practice, I think it will be meaningful if all that can be connected to this year's anniversary project as an opportunity to reflect on the origin of our own faith.

I have a request for all of you. It does not matter when in the history of the NY Center they may have occurred, but if you have any important materials, photographs, episodes, etc., we would be grateful if you could send them to the Center.

Let us stay well and continue to do our best this month.



Gassho

Rev. Tomokazu Hatakeyama

Minister RKNY