



Rissho Kosei-kai of New York

320 East 39th Street, New York, NY 10016 TEL: (212) 867-5677

E-mail address: koseiny@aol.com, Website : <http://rk-ny.org>



December 2023 Newsletter

Greetings from Rev. Hatakeyama
December 2023

Hello, everyone. I hope you are all doing well.

As many of you may already know, as of December 1st, Mr. James Lynch, Jr., will assume the position of the new head minister of Rissho Kosei-kai of New York.

Last month, on November 19th, a ceremony for the official appointment of new head ministers for locations both in Japan and internationally was held in the Great Sacred Hall at our Headquarters. In a solemn ritual during this ceremony, each newly appointed head minister walked onto the stage of the altar, one by one, and received the official letter of appointment facing both the Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni and President Nichiko Niwano.

At this time, I would like to join with all of you in extending our heartfelt congratulations on the birth of the 9th head minister of the Rissho Kosei-kai New York Buddhist Center.

Accordingly, I am pleased to inform you that starting this December, you will be receiving monthly messages from Rev. James as he shares his greetings with all of you.

Gassho

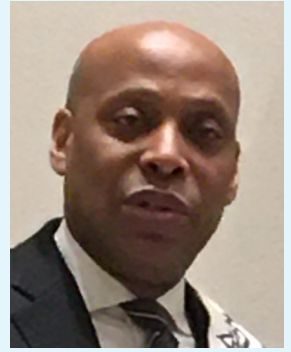
Rev. Tomokazu Hatakeyama

Former Minister RKNY

I hope that all of you are well in both body and mind.

I am writing this to you as we have a brief break from the recent cold spell to slightly warmer weather.

First, thing that I have to say is that I am so very grateful to have this opportunity to briefly share some things with you. I am writing this message late at night as I am preparing for my very important trip to Japan and Rissho Kosei kai Headquarters. I can only say that in so many ways I am overwhelmed by the mysterious working of the Eternal Buddha. There is no way that I could have imagined the feelings that I am having as I write this to you, and I am still formulating what is best to say.



Despite my own inadequacy, I would be remiss if I didn't thank President Niwano, Reverend Akagawa and Reverend Hatakeyama for giving me a chance to practice Buddhism with a genuine spirit of Itai Doshin (Many in Body One in Mind) with all of you.

In the case of Reverend Hatakeyama, I cannot thank him enough for all of his guidance, leadership and wisdom. Indeed, we are so very fortunate to have had Reverend Hatakeyama during this extremely difficult period in US history. From riots in the streets, COVID, economic dislocation, to international conflicts, Reverend Hatakeyama has been a beckon of humility, stability and hope throughout all of the seeming uncertainty.

Reverend Hatakeyama's monthly guidance, has been geared to make our Buddhist practice, both practical as well as impactful, and he is always in harmony with the guidance and direction of President Nichiko Niwano.

Hence, I believe that we would do well not to veer too far from the wonderful road that Reverend Hatakeyama has placed us on, while also courageously exploring together the exciting path that the Eternal Buddha has placed before us.

For me, this (i) means always honoring and respecting the very foundations of our Buddhist practice which has been courageously and faithfully transmitted to us from Japan, through the unsung sacrifice of many, many Japanese members, the roots, while (ii) we must skillfully and mindfully explore ways to continue to integrate these roots into a dynamically organic and authentic form of American Buddhism. We must and can do both.

Tellingly, Revend Kawabata stressed this important synthesis in his guidance to the us in his comments during the New York 40th Anniversary when he noted that Founder's wish for RK was as follows:

“My wish for founding Rissho Kosei-kai was for as many people as possible to know how we human beings should live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra, and to realize the true meaning of happiness on their own ~ It is no exaggeration to say that all my efforts emanated to accomplish my wish.”

With the above wish firmly in mind, Founder was committed that our center, the New York Dharma Center be unique in the world, in that our center should be a dedicated Peace Center. That is a center based upon his profound and deep understanding that all human beings should live as revealed in the Lotus Sutra. How we accomplish this sacred role is up to us and is in our hands, and something we can accomplish together. And while there certainly will be challenges, I know that together with Founder as our internal compass and President Niwano as our guide we will always be successful.

Let us work together in the spirit of many in body and one in mind, for the benefit of our families, our communities, and our world.

Thank you so very much.

Please be safe!

Wishing you the very best always

Gassho

Rev. James(Hiroshi) Lynch

Minister RKNY