

20th ANNIVERSARY



AN INVITATION

“The appearing of a Pagoda touches the hearts and minds of all people. Those who venerate this Pagoda absolutely reject nuclear warfare and firmly believe that a peaceful world will be manifested.... The vision of a pagoda has the power to bring about a spiritual transformation. It illumines the dawn of a spiritual civilization.”

The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii

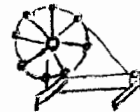


October 2, 2005:

In Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Peace Pagoda
on the birthdate of Mahatma Gandhi, we share the following:

MEETING MAHATMA GANDHI ON OCTOBER 4, 1933
EXCERPTS FROM FUJII GURUJI'S ACCOUNT

"I rejoiced at being able to meet Gandhi-ji today, as if I were given the most priceless treasure. Here's a man, sitting in front of me, spinning the chakra and innocently breaking into a smile. When I thought that he was the very same man who had made invaluable sacrifices, being compelled to undergo repeated imprisonments and punishment, bearing on his shoulders the sufferings of hundreds of millions of Indian people, tears flowed down my face to wet my clasped hands as I prayed. During this time, I had my hands clasped together in prayer with my eyes closed, thanking this utmost valuable and rare opportunity. Rather than expecting to get something out of the conversation, I wished to grasp Gandh-ji himself by this meeting. I did not intend to hear any opinion nor did I wish to make him understand any of my views. The newspapers in India printed an article about this meeting, saying, 'All through the 20 minute meeting, he was reciting Na-Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo and praying.' Indeed, these 20 minutes flew by while tears kept running down my face. The 20 minutes that had exceeded its limit was being extended from both sides. But I felt that I should now bid goodbye to Gandhi-ji, and so paid my whole hearted reverence to him and recited Na-Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo thrice. Gandhi-ji also took his hands off the chakra and clasped them together before his mouth. His eyes that sincerely looked into ours through his eye glasses were slightly moist with tears."



Gandhi-ji invited Guruji to stay at the Sevagram Ashram. Guruji profoundly supported the Independence Movement of the Indian peoples with wholehearted spiritual practice. Some of his monks went to jail with the people. Gandhiji praised the "courageous drum sound" and adopted Na-Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo as the opening prayer in the Ashram's daily morning Interfaith Devotions. It is still chanted today.



You are warmly invited to
the 20th Anniversary Celebration
of the
New England Peace Pagoda

Sunday, October 2, 2005
Leverett Massachusetts

10:30 am SACRED CEREMONY

Ceremony Opens with Native American Prayer
Buddhist Sacred Ceremony begins
Interfaith Prayers for World Peace,
Dharma talk by Nipponzan Myohoji Elder
Venerable Tenshin Shanti Shugei

12:15- 1:15pm

COMMUNITY LUNCH: all invited to partake in
New England Harvest and Asian Entrée Offerings

1:15 pm

CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS:
Remembering the Past to Nurture and Strengthen the Future

Umoja- Too Children's African Drumming and Dancing

Keynote Address:

Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner
Leader for Justice and Peace
Supporter of Pagoda Walks culminating in Boston

Prayer Dance led by Wampanoag friends

Dance into New Temple
Inauguration of the Great Dharma Drum .
Prayers for the timely completion of the New Temple

Sharing of Desserts

20 YEARS IN RETROPECT: An Installation in Words and Photographs
encircling the ceremonial site at the Pagoda for viewing by the community.
Congratulatory Messages to be shared throughout the day.

MOST VENERABLE FUJII GURUJI
ON THE NON-VIOLENT REVOLUTION OF THE U.S.

Selected quotes - 1982

"Most countries were involved in World War II. However, there was a nation, which was not. It protected the lives of 400 million people without possessing a single soldier or firing a single bullet and achieved independence and self-determination after World War II. In the history of establishing a country, this was a miracle. It was the birth of the Republic of India, led by Mahatma Gandhi.

"Not even a single soldier is needed to establish or defend a nation. For the sake of eliminating nuclear weapons, the mind of depending on arms, or any means of violence, must be abandoned. The prime path to create peace in the world is to see the Invisible Being, which is at times called God or Buddha in various religious beliefs...peace will prevail on earth immediately if we depend on spirituality, righteous religious teachings which give human beings the path to follow. This will materialize a world in which no one would be killed or robbed.

"War makes man kill others without hesitation, without reason. Innocent civilians are killed. Following the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, now the people of the entire world are in danger of being killed. Preparations are being made to kill humanity many times over. This is insane. It is an insanity beneath the level of human beings.

"In order to heal this insanity, a spiritual movement must arise. This is what is now called 'non-violence,' a movement for which no one needs to take another's life, but rather to practice compassion and prevent others from even plotting to take life.

"If the United States abandoned the idea of defending the nation through violence, machine force, and warfare, and instead shared its military budget with its own people in need and those throughout the world, then the lives of so many could be sustained. It is said that 800 million people are on the brink of starvation. When the US can convert itself in this way, then the countries of the world will come to admire the United States instead of fearing and hating it. No country in the world would allow the US to be destroyed. This way of thinking in which policies depend on force and the civilization, which heavily depends on science, will come to a deadlock here in the US. When it reaches the ultimate deadlock, that will be the beginning of change. Not a single penny is needed. Believe in others. Believe in this world.

"If the United States is rebuilt in this way, world peace will come tomorrow.

"The peoples of the world can be saved if the American people devote themselves to peace and the absolute prevention of nuclear war...we must await the rising up of the American people's non-violent movement to bring change to their government's policies."

