

About the Club

In Buddhism for Global Peace, we study and practice Nichiren Buddhism. The purpose of the club is to apply Buddhist philosophy into our daily life and to promote global peace. We do this through the inner transformation of each individual. Practicing Nichiren Buddhism enable us to tap into unlimited potential through awakening Buddha-nature within ourselves.

Our basic activities include seminars on Buddhism, chanting (or active mediation) sessions, community activities, discussion meetings, interfaith dialogues, and out-door activities. The club has a sister club at Teachers College which co-sponsors variety of events that are not limited to religious activity, but cultural, educational as well as peace activity.

We welcome people of all faith. We in fact have students with other religious backgrounds regularly attend club activities.

If you wish to join the club, or if your club wishes to have joint activity, please contact us!

Visit our website at:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/buddhism/>

Email us at:

buddhism@columbia.edu

Buddhism for Global Peace
At
Columbia University
& Teachers College



BUDDHISM
FOR GLOBAL PEACE

Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism

Buddhism is one of the world's oldest religions. At its core is the quest to understand life and to help people overcome their basic sufferings. Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism traces its origins to the teachings of Shakyamuni, who is said to have lived some 2,500 years ago. He made it his life's purpose to find solutions to the inescapable sufferings of life. He expounded his ultimate teachings, which were later compiled as the Lotus Sutra. The Lotus Sutra is unique among the teachings of Buddhism because it affirms that the attainment of enlightenment is possible for all people without distinction of race, gender, social standing, or education. Buddhism is a powerful, life-affirming, egalitarian and humanistic teaching.

It was a Japanese priest named Nichiren Daishonin, who took the important step to transform profound theory of the Lotus Sutra into a simple practice. Nichiren Daishonin lived in the 13th century during a tumultuous time of social unrest and natural catastrophe. He brought of the realm of theoretical contemplation into an actual experiential practice when he first chanted Nam-myoho-renge-kyo (Devotion to the Mystic Law).

Each of us possesses the potential for a winning life. Within us is the ability to live with courage, to have a fulfilling relationship, to enjoy good health, to show true compassion for others, and the power to surmount our deepest problems. Crucial to living a winning life is to undergo the inner transformation that enables us to bring out our highest human qualities. The practice of chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo as taught by Nichiren Daishonin is a catalyst for experiencing this inner revolution.

It is the promise of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism that we can attain a state of freedom and unshakable happiness for ourselves while creating a harmony with others.

Nam-Myoho-Renge-Kyo

Value creation is the essence of Nichiren Buddhism which teaches that each person has at the core of their being and enlightened potential. When tapped through chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, qualities such as wisdom, courage, compassion and inner strength emerge. Chanting creates unlimited hope transforming challenges into personal victories, thus affecting people and the world around us in a positive way.

NAM	<i>DEVOTION</i>	By devoting our lives to this law through faith, practice and study, we will awaken the life-condition of Buddha, or enlightenment, inside ourselves.
MYO HO	<i>MYSTIC LAW</i>	The mysterious nature of our life from moment to moment, which the mind cannot comprehend or words express
REN GE	<i>LOTUS FLOWER (Cause and effect)</i>	This represents the simultaneity of cause and effect. We create causes through thoughts, words and actions. With each cause made, an effect is registered simultaneously in the depths of life, and those effects are manifested when we meet the right environmental circumstances.
KYO	<i>SOUND/ TEACHING</i>	This is how the Buddha has traditionally instructed-through the spoken word, which is heard.