

Yin and Yang Connect across Forty Years

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June 6, 2016



Internal preparations for the fortieth anniversary of the Yankee Stadium rally started early in May 2016. More than a hundred members participated in the District Two Weekend Family Workshop at the Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, New York. District Two covers all of New York State including New York City.

At our seminary, they read excerpts of "God's Hope for America," the speech True Father gave at the Yankee Stadium event and heard testimonies from some of the members who were present on that historic day. With a mix of tears and joy in their faces, John Kung, Yorg Heller and his wife Ayako shared how June 1, 1976 became one of the most unforgettable days of their lives. Without noticing it, most of those listening to them (too young to have been called by God in 1976), felt their experiences as if they were their own. God had

purposely prepared a sequence of events for them to inherit the victory of that incredible day.

Through those testimonies, the desperation members experienced when the storm blew from the field the balloons and large cutout letters that spelled God Bless America was clearly felt. The listeners could viscerally experience how with tears they had asked God to have mercy on them and stop the rain, until one of them began singing "You are my sunshine" and the rain stopped as everyone in the stadium joined in the singing, holding hands. With smiling faces they saw the sun come out and the stadium fill up with people wanting to hear Father's message.

A modern-day rally

On May 28, centered on local New York pastors, the Unificationist community participated in a rally outside the new Yankee Stadium, across the street from where the one Father spoke in once stood. There, brothers and sisters sang "God Bless America" as they held a banner that read, "America is God's Hope." It was an opportunity to connect with the historic site and show appreciation for their support for God's providence to the people of the Bronx, the New York City borough where Yankee Stadium stands.

The anniversary

The forecast called for stormy weather throughout the day of the main event, Sunday, June 5. Despite the forecast, thousands of brothers and sisters came to Belvedere to celebrate with True Mother the fifty-fourth True Day of All Things and the fortieth anniversary of the Yankee Stadium rally. Some arrived early and joined a guided tour around the premises of the beautiful Belvedere Estate or went to pray at the Holy Rock, where True Father had offered so many early morning prayers.

The program started with music and a video of the Yankee Stadium rally. Some members then shared

memories of that day. Finally, we welcomed True Mother to the stage. She went right to the point: "America is a chosen and blessed nation of God," she said with a loving smile, "yet, somehow, America is in danger of losing its blessing. Most of the problems of 1976—youth immorality and family breakdown, secular humanism and individualism, and the declining influence of true religion— are all problems today as they were then. America needs to realize that it must unite with True Parents, sent by God as the returning Messiah and the parents who can bring the divided human family back together again!"



Rainfall

Once True Mother finished her message and left the stage, the rain, which had held off until the last moment, started to come down hard. This time, the members' effort to stop the rain by singing "You are My Sunshine" was in vain; the rain just would not stop.

"It is as if God was making sure we never forget this day," said Ruth Mamami, member of the New York Latino Ministry from underneath her umbrella. It was clear the forty-year cycle was rounding up, starting with the rain ceasing as True Father began his speech in 1976, and ending with True Mother's speech and the subsequent rain forty years later. In a perfect circle, yin and yang, the weather dynamics gave evidence of True Parents' complete unity.

As the festival came to its conclusion, despite the rain and with joyful hearts, brothers and sisters found their way to the food vendors and the children to the ponies and the bouncy castles. It became evident that the occurrences, starting from the weekend workshop at UTS and ending at the festival in Belvedere, were part of a heavenly plan intended for Unificationists to inherit the victory of the Yankee Stadium rally. What an awesome experience!