

RADIANCE #29

September/October, 2012

SACRED WORDS

You will be able to obtain the teachings of the Lotus Sutra after Buddha's extinction if you follow these four concepts: ① Trust the protection of the Buddha, ② Plant the roots of virtue, ③ Approach good people and act jointly with them, ④ Think of saving all living beings.

Chapter 28 of the Lotus Sutra, Shokai Kanai's translation

Second Stage Vow Almost Accomplished

Rev. Shokai Kanai

My vow when I became an overseas minister was to establish a temple in a new location and chant "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo" together with new followers to become happy. The first stage of my vow was accomplished five years ago when I moved to Las Vegas and established a temple at my house.

The second stage was to find a location compatible with county rules. There is a law of "No Worship in Residential Zone" in major cities unless a special permit is issued by the city or county commission after extensive public hearings. When I announced my plans in establishing a temple building in Las Vegas, many people sent me donations. I asked members and general public to participate in "One Million Time Odaimoku Chanting" and "Tracing the Kannon Sutra" in Radiance No. 15 published in May, 2010 to help raise funds to establish a permanent temple site. Since then many people offered their portion towards "One Million Times Odaimoku Chanting." Others have traced the gatha portion of Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra which has been offered to the altar. In addition, I sincerely requested donations toward buying the "*Statue of the Odaimoku and Two Buddha Sitting Side by Side*" in Radiance No. 27 last May. Again with many of your warm hearted support, I was able to purchase the statue from a store in Minobu. The statue arrived safely on August 14th and has temporarily been enshrined in my house. I deeply appreciate all those who have made contributions.

The Store Front Temple that I mentioned in the last issue was cancelled due to the hefty

requirements needed to meet county codes. The enormous remodeling expense to meet code standards was not cost effective. In the meantime, I requested an extension on the current use permit as a place of worship at my house, to continue Sunday services. This was unfortunately denied unanimously at a public hearing. The only choice was to quickly find a new location to legally conduct services.

Alas! I trusted the protection of the Buddhas.

In the middle of July, a building in a commercial zone at near East Sahara Avenue and Maryland Parkway was listed for sale on the internet! The process of buying the property should be completed by the end of August. The architecture is now drawing a floor plan and parking lot plan that the City of Las Vegas Planning Commission will accept. When the commission accepts all requirements as a place of worship, the Kannon Temple of Nevada will be officially recognized as a temple and able to publicize and propagate the teachings of the Buddha.

The structure of the building is old but seems to be strong enough; however, we have to completely remodel the inside including redoing the restrooms for wheel chair access. This may cost a lot of dollars, but it will be money worth spent. As a permanent location, this will be the spiritual temple for all people around the world to obtain peace of body, mind and spirit by reading the Lotus Sutra and chanting “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.”

I deeply appreciated all those who kept supporting me and sending contributions toward the Building Fund. Please excuse me for not publicizing the names of contributors, but the following are the result of your generosity as of August 27, 2012:

Building Fund (including <i>Shakyo</i>):	\$123,449.00
The Statue of the Stupa and Buddhas:	\$14,150.43
Offering the Tracing Kannon Sutra:	370 booklets
Million Time Odaimoku Chanting:	8.19 million times.

My third stage vow is to build a brand new temple. Please continue to support me and towards this new temple for the sake of all mankind.

As the Sacred Words in this month issue, if you ① trust the protection of the Buddha, ② plant the roots of virtue, ③ approach good people and act jointly with them, and ④ think of saving all living beings, your desires may be materialized sooner.

5th Anniversary of Kannon Temple of Nevada & 2012 NONA Convention

All events will be held at Plaza Hotel, 3rd Floor

Convention: Sep. 29th (Sat.) 9:00 a.m.
Banquet: Sep. 29th (Sat.) 6:30 p.m. \$62/per person
Convention: Sep. 30th (Sun.) 9:00 a.m.
Ceremony: Sep. 30th (Sun.) 10:30 a.m.
Luncheon: Sep. 30th (Sun.) 11:30 a.m. \$25/per person

Application Dead Line for Banquet/Luncheon: Sep. 18^a



The picture is the **PLAZA HOTEL**, 1 South Main Street, Las Vegas, NV. This is where the 2012 NONA Convention and the Fifth Anniversary of Kannon Temple of Nevada will be held on September 29th and 30th. Transportation from McCarran Airport to the hotel by taxi may cost around \$35 but there is a shuttle bus, SHOWTIME TOURS (702-895-9976) to any hotel. The cost is \$9 per person from the airport to Plaza Hotel. You have to pay in cash and reservation must be made 24 hours in advance.

The picture also shows part of the famed *Viva Vision* canopy that is part of the *Fremont Street Experience*, a pedestrian promenade in the center of downtown Las Vegas. You can view the free LED light show that begins nightly at 8 pm and runs every hour until midnight daily.

If you cannot participate in the Convention and the 5th Anniversary Event, please try and visit Las Vegas and the Kannon Temple of Nevada in the near future.

The Statue of Odaimoku and Two Buddhas

The donations toward the statue have reached one third of the total expense. I pray for those who have contributed every morning for 100 days as I promised. The names of the contributors will be written on a wood with *sumi* ink to keep it for many generations. A special card amulet with the statue will be give to all donors after one hundred day prayers.

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Autumn *Higan* Memorial Service
Sep. 16 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
At Extended Stay Hotel 3rd Fl. Conference Rm.

Please write your names and ancestors' on the provided prayer form and send or bring to the service with your donation for prayers. We read the Lotus Sutra, chant the Odaimoku and pray together for your ancestors. After the service, we will have a meeting in preparation for the upcoming Fifth Anniversary Events. Please attend the service and the meeting.

Since the request to extend our use permit for a Place of Worship was denied at a public hearing on July 10th, we are holding services at the nearest hotel, Extended Stay Hotel at 1550 East Flamingo Road.

***O-E-Shiki* Appreciation**
Service for Nichiren Shonin

Our founder of Nichiren Buddhism passed away on October 12, 1282. We usually hold *O-E-Shiki* Service to show our appreciation to Nichiren Shonin in October. This is an important ceremony, but Rev. Kanai would like to hold it sometime in November or December to coincide with the Opening Ceremony of the new temple building. More detail will be announced in the next RADIANCE published on November 1st.

FALL GARAGE SALE
FUNDRAISER

Katie Hutchinson

On Saturday, June 30th, we organized a garage sale at the home of temple friend, Jeannie Epstein, in order to raise funds for the future development of Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada. Temple members and friends donated all the items sold at the sale. It was wonderful day and such a joy to see a response from the community. One couple, for example, travelled from the other side of the valley specifically for our sale and bought as much as they could to

help out effort. At the end of the day, we sold almost everything and were able to raise approximately \$390.00 for the temple.

We are planning another sale in October 13th in the hopes of expanding on our previous success. The sale will be hosted at the home of Jodie Cohen-Potter. We greatly appreciate any time or items you would like to donate. Items that sell very well include: DVD/CD, books, clothes, children's toys/clothes, dishware, furniture, and decorative items. However, we will accept anything you can offer. Please speak with Rev. Kanai about making any donations.

Thank you.

A Point of View

Dancing Team from Hokkaido Performed in Las Vegas

Kumiko Kanai

HIRAGISHI TENJIN from Sapporo, one of the best winning dance troupes, performed in Las Vegas' China Town on August 13th. They came to Los Angeles first to participate in the 40th Anniversary of Hokkaido People in America.

This group has won a total of eight first prizes in the Yosakoi Soran Festival in Hokkaido, Japan. The tune of *soran* is the folk song for hard workers like fishermen, praying large catches by women at the seaside. It also expresses joy of large catches and frontier spirit. As 30 male and female youths gathered in small and big clusters, they sang and danced energetically expressing the highs and lows of a wave, the calm and wild ocean, then finalized with joy of large catches of fish. In Japan they usually perform with 130 people, but this smaller group of 30 entertained everyone in China Town.

Their dance of young men and women were full of energy. Their motto is ① Speed, ② Sharp, ③ Strong, and ④ Smile. They really danced joyfully.

I sincerely applauded and cheered the Hiragishi Tenjin Team who practiced hard without forgetting the spirit of *soran*, hard work and good catches and sending the messages with impression and excitement in Japan and overseas.

HELLO FROM JAPAN 4

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

Summer means Obon season. In Tokyo area, Obon is celebrated in July. Out here in the Kansai area (Osaka and surrounding prefectures), Obon is celebrated in August. Traditionally from the 13th to the 15th, our ancestors return to visit their family in this world, thus a time for family gathering, not unlike Thanksgiving in America. The scale is very different than the “Segaki” service (special service for all deceased ancestors) held in America. The largest service that I attended was in Los Angeles. Here, just at Shinnyo-ji, there are two “Segaki” services, one, in the morning and one in the afternoon due to all the names of the deceased. There had to have been more than 2,000 “toba” (wooden memorial tablets) that were displayed all around the main hall. It was a very good experience and I may try to incorporate some of the rituals in America.

I am still preparing for Aragyō. I have many things to memorize before entering and have been working on this. I went with the straight memorization tactic which worked, but as I started to figure out what I was memorizing, I started to see patterns and a greater understanding of what I am chanting. This has changed the way I look at all special prayers. Many passages are derived from the Lotus Sutra. The challenge is finding the passage chapter location in Japanese, and then finding the meaning in English from Professor Murano’s version. On top of what I have to memorize, I now have to improve my Japanese comprehension. This is very exciting as I am gaining a deeper appreciation of the Lotus Sutra and soon will be able to spread my knowledge to you upon my return.

In the meantime, I started “suigyō” (water austerities). Inside Aragyō as part of the training, I would pour buckets of cold water over my shoulders seven times a day to help purify my soul. I am fortunate that there is a waterfall on Shinnyo-ji Temple grounds. Instead of wasting tap water, I can use the natural mountain spring for “suigyō”. This water though, is extra cold. In front of the waterfall there is a small area where I can dip my bucket and practice “suigyō”. There is a short prayer that is read before and after pouring of the cold water. Sometimes I repeat the process as to better familiarize myself to the procedure. In a couple of months’ time, I should be used to the cold water and ritual of “suigyō.”

As summer turns to autumn, it is now time to prepare the body and mind for the coming task at hand. I have heard many stories and know that my experience will not be like what I have heard. All I can do is prepare myself the best I can so that once inside, I will be able to go with the flow.

EVENTS

September

Monthly Blessing Ceremony	2 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Practice Wasan	12 th (Wed) 7:30 p.m.
Autumn <i>Hi-gan</i> Memorial Service	16 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Preparation for the Convention	23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Ministers' Meeting	27 th (Thu)~28 th (Fri)
NONA Convention	29 th (Sat) 9:00 a.m.
Banquet	29 th (Sat) 6:30 p.m.
5 th Anniversary Ceremony	30 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Luncheon	30 th (Sun) 1:00 p.m.
Morning Chanting	Daily 7:15 a.m.
Buddhism for beginners in English	Wed. (12 th , 19 th) 7:30 p.m.

October

Monthly Blessing Ceremony	7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Last Service at Rev. Kanai's Home
Morning Chanting	Daily 7:00 a.m.
Buddhism for Beginners	Wed. (3 rd , 17 th) 7:30 p.m.
Preparation for moving to the New Location	
Bishop & Mrs. Kanai will visit Japan on 10/25~11/3, 2012.	