

# RADIANCE


No. 64 (July 1, 2018)

July/August 2018

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## SACRED WORDS

*I respect you deeply. I do not despise you. Why is that? It is because you will be able to practice the Way of Bodhisattvas and become Buddhas.*

*Lotus Sutra Chapter XX—Never-Despising Bodhisattva*

### Obon Mass Memorial Service

July 15<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Buddhism can save all souls even those in hell. The *Obon* Memorial Service originated with the story from one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana. His mother was saved from her incessant suffering from starvation in hell.

For the newly deceased, this will be their first *Obon* Memorial Service. We will create a special *Toba* (wooden tablet) with their name written on it and make special offerings to them. This is a special message to the deceased.

Please write your name and ancestors' on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the Kannon Temple before July 15<sup>th</sup> with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the hell stage.

### Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup>

The Kanai family will make their annual visitations to the gravesites and homes of members in northern Utah such as Corinne, Ogden, Syracuse and Salt Lake City. A detailed schedule will be sent out later to those members in Utah.

### Matsubagayatsu Persecution Service Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The first of four major persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. An angry mob tried to kill him and burned his hut down. According to legend, he was saved by a monkey.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

### Building Fund Acknowledgement

#### **Total: \$2,724.55**

(From April 23, 2018 to June 22, 2018)

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| SK (Add. Odaimoku 3M times, 2 Shakyo) | \$1,050. |
| KK (Additional Donation)              | \$300.   |
| KN (Add. Odaimoku 8M times)           | \$160.   |
| UI (Add. Odaimoku 6M times)           | \$100.   |
| WS (New 1 Shakyo)                     | \$100.   |
| JT (New 1 Shakyo)                     | \$50.    |
| DW (New 1 Shakyo)                     | \$35.    |
| HH (Add. Odaimoku 3M times)           | \$20.    |
| YD (New 1 Shakyo)                     | \$20.    |
| Anonymous (Additional Donation)       | ¥30,000. |
| JT (Additional Donation)              | ¥20,000. |
| ST (New Donation)                     | ¥20,000. |
| TT (New Donation)                     | ¥20,000. |
| BN (Additional Donation)              | ¥10,000. |

**We deeply appreciate your continued support!**

### I Respect You!

Shoda Douglas Kanai

This past month I attended the Overseas Ministers' Meeting at *Shumuin* (Nichiren Shu Headquarters). As part of the Opening Service, we read a passage from Ch. 20 "Never Despising Bodhisattva" in Japanese. I did not have my reference book so I had to wait until I returned to find the passage in English to reflect on its meaning. That passage is above in *Sacred Words*.

This is the phrase I try to live by every day. With all the "perceived" craziness that is going on in this country and around the world, if everyone would follow Never-Despising Bodhisattva's way, then we achieve world peace. Hate is a strong word and strong emotion. It is better to be calm rather than work yourself up and cause stress.

To live by the principles of the Buddha, one must keep one's mind calm and even at all times; not too hot, not too cold. One way to achieve this, is to appreciate everyone around you, even if they are screaming or yelling at you. Everyone has the potential to become a Buddha. We must not discriminate because someone acts differently or looks differently or thinks differently. We are all the same inside, as everyone is carrying the seed of Buddhahood.

It is a difficult situation when a person is screaming at you, but if you remember the above words and calmly bow to them and show your respect towards them, you are acting just like the Buddha. Even if that person continues to yell at you, just move back a few paces and continue to bow to them. Just as evil monks threw rocks and tile pieces at Never-Despising Bodhisattva, he ran away to a safe distance and still made his proclamation.

Another way to show respect to someone's inner Buddha is to do something kind to a stranger. Everyone is hurting inside and consumed by their inner thoughts. A simple gesture or kind words can have tremendous impact. When that person smiles, they are happy for that one moment and in that one moment they can reach the Heavenly realm or even the Buddha realm. This is the path of a Bodhisattva can take to help spread the Dharma to all without speaking about it. The Dharma is spread through action and feeling rather than through logic and words. There will be a time later when you can explain the Dharma in words, but for now, take action and spread joy!

*My View Point (As I heard and as I see)*

## Champagne Skirt

Kumiko Kanai

Last May 17th, I went to the newly remodeled buffet at Palms Hotel and Casino. As part of the re-dedication ceremony, they were giving away free champagne on the casino floor from 5 p.m. There was a model dressed in a special skirt that held three rows of wooden trays that held about 50 glasses of champagne.

As the wait for the buffet was over an hour long, the champagne dress model walked by and I grabbed a glass which I gave to Kanai Shonin, since I cannot drink champagne.

The model dressed in gold was walking very slowly. As this was interesting, I took a quick picture with my phone. I looked closely to see why the glasses did not fall out. Underneath the skirt, there was four small wheels that helped propel the model slowly forward. As people took the glasses, there was someone else who replaced the glasses from a tray and placed on the framework of the skirt. Only in Las Vegas!

It seemed that the cost of renovation was \$620 million with the pool opening next year.

More importantly, the buffet was very crowded but I was able to eat all the delicious foods!



## “Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowo” by Rev. Koge Matsumoto 30 Volumes Completed

Shokai Kanai

In the early morning of August 8, 1986, the author Rev. Koge Matsumoto heard a clear voice saying “*Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowo*.” As she did not understand this meaning, she asked Professor Eishu Miyazaki of Minobusan University who said, “It probably means to take the 28 volumes of the *Lotus Sutra* and publish a book volume by volume.”

Then on November 1st, she had a dream of herself wearing a *Tendai-kasa* (triangular bamboo hat) surrounded by many children, while she was talking. In accordance with the intuition received from this dream, she entered *Shingyodojo* (35 day training to become priest) in May the following year. Within 10 days, the first manuscript was completed.

Since then, it has taken over 8 years to complete all 30 volumes, beginning with the first volume explaining Sakyamuni Buddha’s life, the *Lotus Sutra’s* 28 volumes, and the last volume contained the life story of Nichiren Dai’Shonin. She was busy as a member of the temple lady’s group, wife, mother, along with priest duties of giving lectures, teaching sign language, conducting services and taking many pilgrimages to Nepal to gain inspiration from where the *Lotus Sutra* and *Odaimoku* was born. Although the books are written towards children, she would also like adults to read it as well.

The *Lotus Sutra* transcends the three worlds of the universe. As this book is written so that anyone can understand easily, I felt as though Nichiren Dai’Shonin himself was translating this book. I experienced awakening many times throughout this process. While reading this book, I understood my mission and why I was born into this world.

With this book now in English, I hope that everyone will get a chance to read it so that we can bring about world peace.

I would really appreciate it if you could read the English version on the temple website, under the “Teaching” section and scroll to the bottom to “Children’s Book by Koge Matsumoto.”

## Garage/Rummage Sale

We are planning on holding another garage sale in Autumn to help build the new temple. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please drop them off at the temple. For larger items, please contact the temple first to make arrangements. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated!

## EVENTS

| <u>July</u>   | <u>August</u>   |
|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing             | 5 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) <b>No Service</b> Utah <i>Obon</i> Memorial Service |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service                          | 12 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <b>Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing</b>     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Obon</i> Memorial Service            | 19 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) |
| 22 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) | 26 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Matsubagayatsu</i> Persecution       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) <b>No Service</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday           |   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> (Tue) 10:30 a.m. Deity <i>Daikoku</i> Blessing           |   |

**\*\* Note: *Kito* Blessing will be held on Second Sunday \*\***

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for meeting and study 8/30 ~ 9/14

\*\*\* Those interested in Study Class and/or Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements \*\*\*