

RADIANCE

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November/December, 2011

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
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SACRED WORDS

All Buddhas wish that all living beings do not do bad behavior but do many good deeds, and purify their minds. This is Buddhism.

Dharma Parda

Bodhi Day Service and Pot Luck Luncheon

The official Bodhi Day (Enlightenment Day) is December 8th when Sakyamuni attained Enlightenment under the bodhi tree some 2,500 years ago in India.

We would like to commemorate this historical event on December 18th at 10:30 a.m. A bodhi tree will be placed at the altar and all attendees can offer candle light. After the service, let us enjoy the Year-End Party with a potluck luncheon. Please bring your favorite dish with servings for five or more.

Need Volunteers at L.V. Marathon

The annual "Rock & Roll" Las Vegas Marathon starts at 4:00 p.m. on December 5th. We need volunteers to help pass out cups of water to runners at --- mile water station. Those who can help must register ahead of time. Please call Rev. Kanai at (702)396-6276 if you can help. More detail will be announced directly.

New Year Eve Service

December 31st, 7:30 p.m.

Let us close 2011 with “Thank you very much!” We will hold the New Year Eve Chanting starting at 7:30 p.m. on December 31st.

Everyone hits the traditional temple bell 108 times to say, “Good Bye” to the passing year and welcome the New Year, 2012. Then Mrs. Kanai will serve you noodles to bring forth long life.

Appreciation and Gratitude to All Supporters!

The following have been donated toward the building Fund of Kannon Temple of Nevada and offered at the altar by October 28, 2011.

- >> 532 Odaimoku Chanting Sheets, that means the supporters of this temple chanted 5,320,000 times of NAMU MYOHO RENGE KYO since April, 2009.
- >> 302 Booklets of *Shakyo* (tracing the words of Kannon Chapter of the Lotus Sutra)
- >> \$113,822.71 is the accumulated amount for the Building Fund.

Plant Roots of Virtue

Rev. Shokai Kanai

December 8th is an important day for all Mahayana Buddhists; because this was the day Gautama Siddhartha of Kapilavastu (present day Nepal) attained Enlightenment and became a Buddha after six years of ascetic practices and meditation. Buddhism is not difficult to understand. As you read in this issue’s Sacred Words, “It teaches us not to do badly but to do good and purify your minds.” This is a very simple concept; even a three year old child knows this, but an 80 years old person cannot do thoroughly. Without practice the teaching does not help you.

The following picture is read, “Shaku Toku.” Abbot Nichiko Fujii of Minobusan Kuonji Temple presented this to me when I made pilgrimage to the temple. The *shiki-shi* says, “Plant Roots of Virtue” and also written “In commemorating the 750th Anniversary of Rikkyo Kaishu” or “Establishing Nichiren Buddhism.”

Virtue means behavior or attitude that shows high moral standards particularly in good

quality. “Plant Roots of Virtue” appears in many chapters of the Lotus Sutra, and means to do something to please others. If the virtues are accumulated, personal grace will naturally appear, then gods and deities will protect this person even if he or she does not pray for it.

One day Sakyamuni Buddha was walking along a road and came to a bridge construction site. He asked a question to the workers, “What is the reason why you work?” A answered, “Because I have to earn for food and drink. B answered, “Because I have to feed my children and wife,” C said, “Because for the sake of all people who cross this river without getting wet.”

Well, which one of the three are you, A, B, or C? The work and pay for the work are the same, but their attitudes toward the work are quite different. A’s interest is in the pay mostly so his work may be crude, while B feel responsibility for feeding his children and wife, so his interest is on the pay just like A, but C has a wonderful attitude towards the work, so his interest is not only the pay but more on the work itself to build the strong and firm bridge for the safety for all people. He may not feel tired even after hard day’s work.

By the way, the year-end is approaching, and you will be soon asked to give to charity or volunteer time from various places. This is now a good opportunity for you to plant the seeds of good for your community and charity organization including your temple or church.

Our temple has volunteered to pass cups of water to the runners in the Las Vegas Marathon, on the first Saturday of December for the last two years. This year will be the third year for us. We are happy to be able to do so with many other volunteers.

The above Sacred Words are from *Dharma Parda*, one of the earliest Buddhist scriptures. Chapter 16 of the *Lotus Sutra* reveals, “This world of mine is peaceful. It is filled with gods and men.” If you think this world is not peaceful, and gods are not here, let us create the peaceful land on this earth and let make gods come back on this place. If you plant seeds of many good, you influence others to copy you. You are the original of the copies. Gods and deities will come back if you plant a lot of virtues.

Now, Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada is planning to buy a building to use as a temple by March of next year. This temple will be the abode for the Gohonzon of the Ten Realms, the Eternal Buddha, Taho Buddha, Nichiren Shonin, Kannon Bodhisattva, Deities Kishimojin, Daikoku, and Shichimen. It is not only for these spiritual beings but also for anyone who wish to improve themselves, and for all people who are interested in creating a better future for this world. Millions of people around the world visit Las Vegas every year. This temple will be for them who are interested in improving themselves and the world. This temple building will exist for tens and hundreds years. If you make a contribution to buy a building, remodeling the building and maintaining it, your virtue cannot be calculated.

Please plant many good seeds of virtue. You do not need to pray for something; you receive it without asking because “Gods and men live together!”

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Pilgrimage to Nichiren Shonin's Memorial Sites

The planned route for the pilgrimage next year to Japan starts at Seichoji Temple in Kominato where Nichiren Shonin trained to become a priest and first proclaimed the Odaimoku. Then we will follow the events of his life through Kamakura, Izu, and Minobusan, finally ending back in Tokyo. The first day is Monday, March 26th. The last day is Tuesday, April 3rd. Three days of the tour will be spent at Minobusan and will include *Rinban*, the ritual chanting in front of Nichiren's Memorial Tomb. Part of the time at Minobusan will include a hike up Shichimensan, a mountain dedicated to a deity who protected Nichiren while he was at Minobusan. This is one of the sacred mountains for Nichiren Buddhists. We will stay at the temple compound at the top of the mountain and, if the weather is clear, we will be able to watch the sun rise over Mt. Fuji!

The total cost of the trip is \$1,920. Participants will be responsible for their own airfare to and from Tokyo. The tour package will include all transportation and hotel accommodations, most meals and an English-speaking tour guide.

This will be a great way to see the places where Nichiren Shonin lived and worked. Bishop Kanai plans on going and hopes you will be able to be a part of this special trip.

For more information, please access NBIC website: <http://www.nichiren-shu.org/NONA> and click Pilgrimage 2012.

Fee is due in full by February 20, 2012. Check needs to be made payable to NONA. Current price is based on an exchange rate of \$1 = 75 Yen which can fluctuate.

A Point of View

Soda Pop Doughnut

Kumiko Kanai

I had a chance to go to Boston, Massachusetts from September 28th to October 2nd. I helped preparation of breakfast, lunch, and supper during NONA ministers retreat and meeting for five days. I also taught "*Wasan*" to the members of Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Greater New England.

Mr. Neal Yocom took me to buy vegetables for vegetarians and vegans at Sidder Hill Farm. I ate a doughnut made of apple soda pop. The doughnut smelled slightly apple-like and tasted without as much sweetness as I thought.

On the way to the farm, we passed a town called Exeter; there I saw a stone monument of DECLARATION OF RIGHTS engraved June, 1779. I sensed the historical old town.

On the last day of the retreat, Neal bought for me traditional New England clam chowder. It was so delicious (not vegetarian).

CLARITY OF MIND

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

The news these days are pessimistic with the uncertainty of the economy, the struggles in Europe and the civil unrest in the Middle East. We may feel that dark clouds are hovering, bringing about a feeling of despair. Many want change, but do not know how or where to start. Many are searching for the answers anywhere they can. Especially with the internet, information is readily available.

Though there are many paths in seeking the answers; we, the followers of Nichiren Shonin, are blessed to have heard the one True Dharma. By chanting even a simple phrase of the Lotus Sutra, the dark clouds around us dissipates, bringing forth the rays of the sun to brighten our surroundings. There is too much focus on negativity, so we must counteract with our positivity. Through our chanting, we will dispel the clouds and bring forth light. This light is knowledge which is the answer to many of the issues these days.

In our daily prayers, let us not only pray for our loved ones, those who are suffering and our ancestors, but also to bring peace and security to this world. This is St. Nichiren's wish as stated in *Rissho Ankoku Ron*, to spread the Odaimoku around the world. Let us help bring about this wish by teaching to others the wonderful characters of NAMU MYO HO REN GE KYO. Let us unveil everyone's eyes so they can see this world as it truly is, Sakyamuni Buddha's Pure Land.

EVENTS

November

Deity Daikoku Blessing	5 th (Sat) 10:30 p.m.
Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	6 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Komatsubara Persecution Day Service	13 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Shodaigyo (Chanting & Meditation)	20 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service	27 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Morning Chanting (Everyone is Welcome) Daily 7:00 a.m.	
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Every Wed. (Except 9 th) 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be out of town on Nov. 8th and 9th.

December

Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing Ceremony	4 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Las Vegas Marathon Volunteering	4 th (Sun) 3:00 p.m.
Shodaigyo (Chanting & Meditation)	11 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Bodhi Day Service	18 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
Year End Potluck Luncheon	18 th (Sun) after the service
(No Sunday Service on 25 th)	
New Year's Eve Chanting	31 st (Sat) 7:30 p.m.
Morning Chanting (Everyone is Welcome) Daily 7:00a.m.	
Study Class on the Lotus Sutra	Every Wed. (Except 28 th) 7:30 p.m.