



RADIANCE

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March/April 2020

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SACRED WORDS

To be filial means to be high; heaven is high but not at all higher than being filial. To be filial also means to be deep; the earth is deep but is not any deeper than being filial. Both sages and wise men come from filial families. How much more should students of Buddhism realize the favors they receive and show gratitude for them? Disciples of the Buddha received from parents, people, sovereign (of nation), and Buddhism. Show gratitude to them.

St. Nichiren—*Kaimoku Sho*

Spring Higan Memorial Service

Mar. 22nd, **10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

Higan means the “other shore” (Buddha Land) while *Shigan* means “this shore” (worldly land of the material). The world we can see is “this shore” while the “other shore” is the spiritual realm that we can see only through our faith. *Higan* Memorial Service is held to show our appreciation to those in the “other shore” by offering our chanting so that our ancestors can attain Buddhahood.

Please write your name and family names of your ancestors or their individual names on the enclosed prayer form and return to the Kannon Temple of Nevada with your donation. Let us chant the sutra and *Odaimoku* together for them.

Buddha’s Birthday Celebration

Blessing New Born Babies

Apr. 5th, **10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

Happy Birthday to Sakyamuni Buddha!

According to legend, the baby Buddha, soon after his birth, stood firmly, and walked seven steps and proclaimed, “From heaven to the earth, I alone am the most honored one!” by pointing his right index finger to heaven and his left index finger to the earth. This means the Buddha is the only person who has attained such precepts, meditation and good roots of virtue. It also means there is no person just like you in this world who have the same appearance, character and karma. Therefore, you are the most honored one as well as any other person.

We welcome everyone to attend this celebration. Sweet tea in honor of his birth will be served.

Newborn babies will receive Shoda Kanai Shonin’s blessing and amulets. Please let him know the name of the new born baby ahead of time.

Kizuna Society Spring Festival

Apr. 4th, **10:00 a.m. (Sat)**

A fundraising event will be held on April 4th at **Kizuna Japanese Spring Festival, Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Lorenzi Park, 720 Twin Lakes Dr., Las Vegas, 89107.** We are planning to have a booth to sell various Japanese items for this event. All proceeds will go towards the building fund. Please stop by and help support the temple. For those who cannot make it, monetary donations are welcome as well.

Tokudo Shiki in Hawaii

Shoda Douglas Kanai

Recently I traveled to Honolulu, HI to assist my father with *Tokudo Shiki* (Taking of Precepts—first step in becoming a priest) where his disciple ceremoniously cut his hair and vowed to spread the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha and St. Nichiren.

This was a great experience as two *Shomyo-Shi* masters came to guide and assist in the ceremony as well. Since they are knowledgeable about various ceremonies, they helped coordinate the movements so that everyone was able to conduct a wonderful service.

As overseas priests, we often conduct special services alone, thus do not have the chance to showcase some of the fine ceremonies that are available. It is only during noteworthy ceremonies, such as NONA 100th Year Celebration that many of the overseas priests meet and are able to conduct an all encompassing service. Thus it is rare for those in the congregation to experience these types of services.

Tokudo Shiki is one of these rare ceremonies, as this service is only performed when a disciple is ready to fully commit in starting the journey in becoming a Nichiren Shu priest. Those in attendance were able to experience the special vows made, cutting of the hair, and the transition from lay person (a person wearing regular clothes) to *Shami* (apprentice priest, with shaved head, wearing white robes). Upon changing, the *Shami* moves to the altar where he receives his black robes and *Kesa* (white sash) and takes a seat next to all the other priests for the remainder of the service.

As this ceremony was new to everyone, they had many questions. Such as: “What was the purpose of throwing petals as you entered the *hondo*?” “The petals falling from the sky represents *mandarava* flowers raining down from heaven, purified the area around us.”

Or, “What’s the purpose of this ceremony?” “To symbolize the *Shami* is ‘leaving home’ and removing all worldly possessions to dedicate their lives to Sakyamuni Buddha and St. Nichiren.”

Or, “This was a wonderful and meaningful service.”



⇨ “I hope that today has a lasting impact and touched your inner buddha nature.”

For the *Shami*, this begins the long journey of further instructions before being able to finally become a Nichiren Shu priest. As I now have a new Dharma Brother, I have the opportunity to help train him in proper etiquette, movement, and most importantly, how to fold robes. This last one is the most difficult but the most important.

The robes we wear are not just accoutrements, but I considered them to be part of Buddha’s Teaching, thus something to respect and honor. When most people change out of their work clothes and into something more comfortable, sometimes those clothes are thrown on the floor and forgotten until laundry day. But with priest’s robes, we do not toss them anywhere. Even if our white robes are damp with sweat, we air dry, then properly fold for storage. Same with the black robes, we fold them properly after each use. When transporting our robes, we use *furoshiki* (garment wrapper) that we place our robes, *obis*, and *tabis* so that nothing ever touches the ground. This is how we show respect to our robes.

Not everyone can or wish to become a priest. Those who do decide to dedicate their life to the Lotus Sutra, has to commit to daily practice and humility. Many mistakes will be made and the journey rough. But in the end, all of these good and bad experiences will help shape the *Shami* into becoming a great priest, ultimately becoming a reflection of their master.

Hina Matsuri

March 3rd is *Hina Matsuri* or Girl’s Day. This is the time to display special dolls representing the Imperial Court and coming of spring. I may create a small display at temple.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren’s Birth
\$152,845.88.

640 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,410,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of February 26, 2020
Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

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

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Kumiko Kanai

Last year, on September 7, 2019, a girl was born to my third son who lives in Maui. This is my first granddaughter. I did not have an older or younger sister. Thus, I am delighted that I can consider my first granddaughter just as my own daughter. My mother always made me cute handmade clothes. I remember her always saying, “Girls like cute clothes.”

As Lily-chan is in Maui, I talk and sing songs to her via video chat. “Mary had a little lamb, little lamb, Mary had a little lamb, so you are very cute!” (direct translation from Japanese version) I sing to her so that she can hear and remember my voice, but since I have yet to hold her, she looks blankly, “Who is this?” but I continue to sing so that she can become familiar with my voice.

At first, I say, “I am your Las Vegas grandmother,” and then I sing “Mary had a Little Lamb.” This may be an annoyance for the baby.

However, by now it has become a convenient world where you can talk with others on your smartphone even if you are far away.

I’m looking forward to Lily-chan’s growth.

I sometimes talk to my grandson in Seattle on the phone as well.

I’m glad that I lived a long life and was able to talk with my grandchildren.



EVENTS

March

1st (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
8th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
15th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
22nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Ohigan* Memorial Service
29th (Sun) **No Service** **5th Sunday**

April

4th (Sat) 10:00 a.m. Kizuna Society Spring Festival
5th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Hanamatsuri* (Buddha’s Birthday)
12th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
19th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
26th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

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