





RADIANCE

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July/August 2025

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956
www.kannon-temple-nevada.org
kannontemplenv@gmail.com

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SACRED WORDS

The upholders of this sutra, even if unrelated by blood, will meet on Mt. Sacred Eagle. How much more possible it is for you and your late father, faithful believers of the Lotus Sutra, to be reborn on the same Mt. Sacred Eagle!

Nichiren Shonin's Words - *Ueno-dono Gohenji (ST 153)*

Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Obon Memorial Service

July 13, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The *Lotus Sutra* can save all souls even those in hell. The *Obon* Memorial Service originated with the story from one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana, who saved his mother from her incessant suffering in the level of Hungry Ghost.

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 13 with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the lower realms.



Matsubagayatsu & Tatsunokuchi

Persecution Service

Aug. 24, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Due to travel scheduled in September, this year we will commemorate two of the four major persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. The first, an angry mob tried to kill him and burned his hut down. According to legend, he was saved by a white monkey. The last, he was sentenced to be executed when a "bright light" shot across the sky, leading to him being saved. Instead, he was exiled to Sado Island where he began composing some of his greatest treatises.

Please come join us to commemorate these two important events.

Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at kannontemplenv@gmail.com. We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah Early August

This year, newly retired Shokai Kanai Shonin will resume the annual visitations to the gravesites and homes of members in northern Utah. A detailed schedule with the exact date and times will be sent out later to those members.

Mt. Sacred Eagle

Shoda Kanai

Grdrhakutra, or Mt. Sacred Eagle is in present day northeast India. This was the place where Sakyamuni Buddha expounded the *Lotus Sutra*. It is an actual place where you can go and visit. If I travel to India, I will definite go here to pay homage.

Mt. Sacred Eagle has deeper meaning when we further study and practice the teachings of Nichiren Shonin. When reading the *Lotus Sutra*, this is the location where all the monks, nuns, lay men and women, bodhisattvas, and various deities meet to listen to the Buddha preach. Some people came and quickly left, thinking that they had already understood what they had not yet. The rest stayed and were able to receive the most profound Teaching.

Not only were the people who stayed behind were able to receive the one True Teaching, they were witness to some supernatural events. First, when Many Treasures Tathagata's stupa came from underground up to the sky, Sakyamuni uplifted everyone to the sky and preached from there. Second, when the Bodhisattvas from Underground rose to meet the Buddha, many countless of them went and greeted him one by one. The Buddha was able to make it seem like all the greetings took only one afternoon. Lastly, Mt. Sacred Eagle is where Sakyamuni resides. He stays here when not in physical form to continue expounding the *Lotus Sutra*.

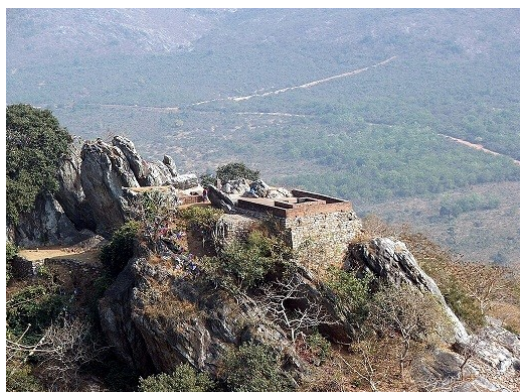
For Nichiren Shonin, Mt. Sacred Eagle was not just a place where Buddha expounded the *Lotus Sutra* but also a place where the *Lotus Sutra* is always \Rightarrow

←present. He mentions many times that his last place of residence, Mt. Minobu, was Mt. Sacred Eagle as this “is truly like living in the everlasting land of the gods where blessings come down from heaven.” It was a tranquil place where he further expounded the *Lotus Sutra* to his followers.

We can further extrapolate that where the *Mandala Gohonzon* is enshrined is also Mt. Sacred Eagle, such as your temple and even your home. The *Gohonzon* not only represents the Ten Realms of the Universe, but also where Sakyamuni, Nichiren, and all deities reside. Each time we chant in front of our *Gohonzon*, we call forth and create a space for Mt. Sacred Eagle to be with us.

Going even further, Mt. Sacred Eagle is also a place where believers in the *Lotus Sutra* can go to meet up with other practitioners after ones’ passing. Nichiren Shonin in his writings conveys to many of his followers that they will meet again at Mt. Sacred Eagle. I am sure that we have all met in our previous lives at Mt. Sacred Eagle and decided to return to this world to experience the *Lotus Sutra* again and further deepen our faith. Even if our family and friends are not practitioners, if they hear a word or a phrase, they too will be able to go to Mt. Sacred Eagle. So, spread the Teachings far and wide to help everyone be able to go.

We are blessed that there is a place called Mt. Sacred Eagle where we can meet the Buddha. We have previously been there, are in there now, and will go again. Let us cherish this thought and further strengthen our resolve to increase our faith and faith in others.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

755 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **25,090,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of June 22, 2025

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Fig Tree

Shoda Kanai

For those who do not receive monthly amulets, last December, I wrote about the special bodhi tree growing at the Hawaii Nichiren Mission. Here is a short excerpt:

In Japan, there is a tradition to revere trees, especially red cedar (*sugi*). Some consider trees as the home of a *kami* (deity) that holds energy. As such, by touching or being near one, one can absorb that energy.

Every morning, my mother has been walking to the bodhi tree barefoot to touch the tree to absorb its energy. As there are few “special” trees in Las Vegas. I decided to try and go out every morning and walk to the bodhi tree and absorb its energy. After removing my *zori* (flip-flops), I touched the tree and roots to absorb the energy. After a while, I did feel the energy flowing in and through me.

Well, I do have a “special” tree in my backyard, my fig tree. I have had many harvests over the years, but it never occurred to me that I can receive its powers.

It was not until my mother who was temporarily staying with me that she remarked how special the fig tree was. Its broad leaves and deep green color make it special. It’s not a bodhi tree, but it works. Every morning during breakfast, she enjoys the view of the green tree and absorbs its energy afterwards.

Now, when I feel tired or in need of an energy boost, I can go out to my tree and absorb its energy. I also thank the tree for providing two abundant harvests of figs every year and providing some figs at



hard-to-reach places for the little birds to eat. (I use the whiskey makers term “angel’s share” for these special figs.)

Try finding your own “special” tree. It does not have to be in your yard. It could be in a park or by a trail. Show your appreciation and it will return in kind.

EVENTS

<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
6 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	3 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
13 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	10 (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	English Service
20 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	17 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
27 (Sun) No Service	Traveling to another temple	24 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Matsubagayatsu</i> & <i>Tatsunokuchi</i> Persecution
		31 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	September Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing

*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password ***

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