



RADIANCE

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July/August 2023

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SACRED WORDS

I left Kamakura on the 12th day of the 5th month and arrived Sakawa on the same day, Takenoshita on the 13th, Kurumagaeshi on the 14th, Omiya on the 15th, Nambu on the 16th, and arrived at Minobu on the 17th today. I have not yet decided whether or not to live in Minobu, but the atmosphere of the mountain is on the whole comforting to me, so I intend to stay here for awhile.

Nichiren Shonin's Words —Letter to Lord Toki

COVID-19 Update

Good News! The State of Nevada is gradually lifting restrictions, therefore Kannon Temple will open for in-person service. We request that everyone gets vaccinated, wear a mask, bring their own DHARMA book, and social distance as much as possible. There will be no meal after service so please do not bring anything. Services will still be broadcasted online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through [Zellepay.com](https://www.zellepay.com) to: kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Obon Memorial Service

July 16th, **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, 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 16th with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the lower realms.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah July 29th ~ 31st

Post pandemic, Shoda Shonin will resume the annual visitations to the gravesites and homes of members in northern Utah. A detailed schedule will be sent out later to those members.

Matsubagayatsu Persecution Service Aug. 27th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The first of four major persecutions in Nichiren Shonin'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.

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. If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

750th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin Entering Minobusan

Shoda Kanai

Last month the Overseas Ministers were invited to participate in a special ceremony that commemorated the 750th anniversary of Nichiren Shonin first entering Minobusan on May 17, 1274. On the way to Minobusan, we traced Nichiren Shonin's steps from Kamakura by bus.

The first stop was at Hosenji Temple in Odawara City, Kanagawa Prefecture. This was where Nichiren Shonin and his group stayed for the first night. It is said that since the river was swollen and difficult to cross, an old man beckoned them to his hut only to find a statue of Jizo Bodhisattva. Jizo-san is known as a protector of deceased children, but also for travelers. That statue is now enshrined at Hosenji.



The next stop was at Kurumagaeshi Kessha in Susono City, Shizuoka Prefecture. This stop was not at a temple but a small building where the locals take great care of the structure since the time Nichiren stayed on his third night. A special bronze statue of Nichiren is enshrined here. It is said that this statue used to be enshrined at the top of Mt. Fuji.

The next stop was at Myojoji Temple in Nambu Town, Yamanashi Prefecture. This temple used to ⇨



⇐be a Shingon Temple but after Nichiren debated with the head priest and won, converted to Nichiren Shu. There is a special well, “*Hanatsurube*” (Flower Well Bucket) where Nichiren placed a flower in the well bucket, drew water and wrote a talisman for a pregnant woman having health issues. She recovered and delivered

a healthy girl.

The last stop was at *Sōmon* or the entrance gate leading into Minobusan Kuonji Temple complex. Here is where Nichiren met Lord Nambu Sanenaga, benefactor of surrounding area. The rock where Nichiren rested is still there though fenced off.



Before the main service the next day, we all visited Nichiren Shonin’s Mausoleum to pay our respects and then to the monument dedicated to the deceased Overseas Ministers.

Just as we arrived at the main hall Kuonji Temple, the Nichiren Shu Youth Association members 252 strong arrived in groups while chanting *Odaimoku* loudly and hitting their *uchiwa daiko* (hand drums). The sound of their chanting and drum beating reverberated around the temples and mountains. The association members marched from Kamakura to Minobusan all the while chanting and hitting their drums. The journey took five days.

The main service was attended by many priests from around Japan as well as our overseas group. When it came time to chant *Odaimoku*, the youth ⇨

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

751 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,610,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of June 25, 2023

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

⇨ association hit their drums in unison which shook my body. I have never felt so much power, strength, and oneness while chanting. This is an experience I will never forget.



If you have a chance to visit Japan, I highly recommend visiting Minobusan. This is where the spirit of Nichiren Shonin resides and a place where you can increase your faith.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!
Zen Garden in the Desert

Shoda Kanai

The other day, a family requested a one-year memorial service for their late mother. This house was on the outskirts of Las Vegas and by the looks of it, the family put in much time and love in creating their special Japanese themed oasis.

I was struck by the various rock gardens surrounding the house. I felt a calmness in the presence of these gardens. There were private gardens that one could view while soaking in a bath, while others viewed from a tatami room. The grand garden was outside with a *Torii* gate and small bridges over dry water feature. With all the excitement that Las Vegas can offer, there are still small pockets of serenity to relax the senses.

In a couple of years, we hope to find a new location for Kannon Temple, a place where both priests and lay people can come to study but also a place where one can escape the outside world and enter the world of the Buddha. Seeing this rock garden has given us ideas of how to create a place of tranquility.



EVENTS

<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
2 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	6 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing
9 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	13 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
16 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	20 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	27 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Matsubagayatsu</i> Persecution
30 th (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday (Utah Visit)		

*** 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 ***