

RADIANCE

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September/October, 2015

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SACRED WORDS

This triple world is my property. All living beings therein are my children.

There are many sufferings in this world. Only I can save all living beings.

Lotus Sutra, Chapter III—A Parable (p.77)

NEW LAYOUT!

In the process of simplifying the newsletter, we are moving to a single page, double-sided format. I hope you enjoy reading! If you would like to have the Japanese version, please contact us.

AUTUMN O-HIGAN SERVICE Sept. 20th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

The autumn equinox is the time to commemorate our ancestors. This is the time of equal parts day and night, thus the veil for this world and the “other shore” is close. Our chanting of the Lotus Sutra and Odaimoku can readily reach our ancestors to help them reach enlightenment. Please join us for this special service by writing down your ancestor’s names on the included form and send back to the Kannon Temple with your donation.

OESHIKI MEMORIAL SERVICE Oct. 11th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On the morning of October 13th, 1282, our founder Nichiren Shonin entered into *parinirvana* after spreading the teaching of the Lotus Sutra for many difficult years. We are holding the 734th Memorial Service for him. Let us join our hands together in *gassho* to show our appreciation towards him for the lessons that he has taught and the gift he has left, which is the *Odaimoku*.

NONA Dharma Conference (*Wasan* and *Shodaigyo* Training) Nov. 21st (Sat) & 22nd (Sun)

We are holding a study session Nov. 21st and 22nd on *Wasan* and *Shodaigyo*. We have invited Giko Tabata Shonin from Eisho-ji Temple, Aomori, Japan to lead us in both activities. As this is a NONA event, it is open to everyone, both ministers and lay people. Please make plans on attending this class. The registration fee is \$50. Transportation and accommodations are at your own expense. Those interested, please contact the temple at (702)866-5956 or kannontemplenv@gmail.com for further information.

ACTION TO INFLUENCE

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

How quickly has summer passed by! It feels like I have yet to partake in the fun activities that are offering during this season. I have been resting my body after the arduous ordeal of *Aragyo*. I feel fine but there still may be some lingering side-effects that are unseen. Best to be cautious.

Autumn is the time of change where things wind down. The leaves are slowly turning colors from the luscious green to burnt orange, the crops are about to be harvested and the preparation for the coming winter begins. In the past I have talked about taking this time for introspection, looking inside you to see how you can alter your behavior to align yourself with the *Eight Fold Path*. Instead of slowing down, it is now time for action.

From all the lessons previously learned, now is the time to reach out and help those around you. By following the path that the Buddha has previously laid out, we not only think but act in a way that shows that we are truly divine. Action is what others see and perceive. Anyone can talk, talk, talk but the person who does not speak but moves has greater impact. This is how we can influence the world, by showing everyone how we should interact and relate to each other.

This world may seem like it is in turmoil, but it is not. This Saha World is Sakyamuni Buddha’s world, which is his Pure Land. We are just blinded by our wrong perception and evil karma that is preventing us from seeing the world as it truly is. Remember we are all Buddha’s Children. He is our Father. As with any siblings, some listen to Father and others do not. Some get along with each other, while some are always fighting. As we are the ones that are listening and getting along with each other, we have to influence our brothers and sisters to follow the correct path, so that we all can reach the ultimate goal of world peace.

Some may listen to our reasoning but others will not. Therefore by showing them the correct path through our actions, they will be able to finally open their eyes and see the correct path to follow. Let us all strive to make this world a better place. Let us start first with improving yourself spiritually, then improving those around you, which will in turn spread throughout the city, then state, then country, then finally the world.

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

Kabuki in Las Vegas

Kumiko Kanai

“Japan KABUKI Festival in Las Vegas 2015-2016” was performed on the Bellagio Lake. A special stage was set up at Fountains of Bellagio. Ichikawa Somegoro, the principal role, performed an adapted version of the *Kabuki* classic “*Koi Tsukami* (Fight with a Carp)” together with Nakamura Yonekichi for three nights. I went to the first show starting at 9:15 p.m. on Friday, August 14th.

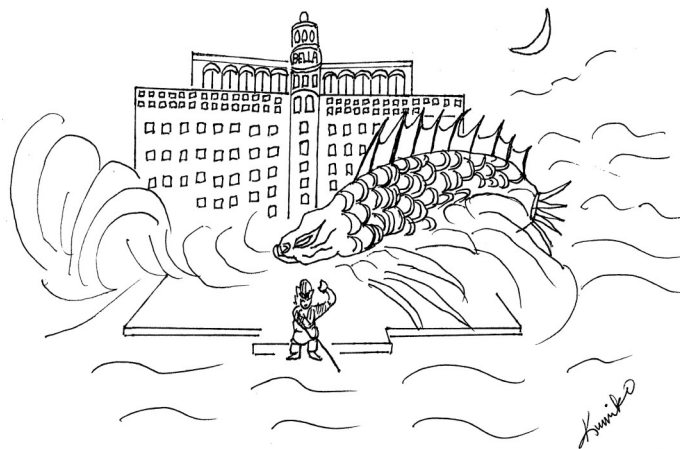
The sound of a small hand drum and square wooden clappers and musical accompaniment reverberated the strip with the traditional Japanese performance. Plus a creative background of the fountains attracted thousands of people from around the world.

The traditional Japanese art form, and the show – with elaborate costumes combined with water movements of the fountain, music and images projected on a screen (curtains of the fountain water). The actor Somegoro maneuvered around on the big stage fighting with a huge carp appeared on the back screen and sometime appeared on the 100 feet water screen of the fountain, he also jumped into the water to catch the carp. The audiences overwhelmed with these never seen fantastic show with effect of the sound, the water and the colorful background. Everybody clapped their hands.

This production included programmers, computer graphic people, animators, architectures, mathematicians, artists, web-designers, editors, and many other specialists. They are ultra technologists.

After the performance, Ichikawa Somegoro said, “*Kabuki* has 400 years of tradition. The tradition is wonderful; however, we *Kabuki* actors must cause the evolution that is our task, I think.”

Note: We went to Bellagio two hours ahead of time to find a good spot to watch. I enjoyed whole show for 30 minutes and also took a lot of pictures.



Easily Understand the LOTUS SUTRA

Rev. Shokai Kanai

It is good news that English speaking people can understand the Lotus Sutra.

Chapter 2 of the sutra says, “Sariputra! The Buddhas attained the innumerable teachings which you have never heard before. No more, Sariputra, will I say because the Dharma attained by the highest truth, rare to hear and difficult to understand.”

The reason why the Lotus Sutra is very difficult to understand is because this is the highest teaching revealed by Sakyamuni Buddha. He had to wait for His disciples to increase their spirituality. He had to wait for 40 years after his enlightenment and only revealed the most profound teachings just before his Pari-Nirvana. This is why it is hard for us to understand.

Rev. Koge Matsumoto began publishing “*Minwa Fu Hokekyo Dowo*” in 1987. It contains 30 volumes, beginning with the first volume on the biography of Sakyamuni Buddha, continuing with the 28 chapters from the Lotus Sutra and completing with the biography of Nichiren Dai-Shonin. It took her seven years to finish this series. Preceding the publication, she had a divine message to write the story of the Lotus Sutra for children in 1986. In order to write the book, she became a Nichiren Shu priest and studied hard and received many advice from many people. Her perspective is geared towards children. Therefore it is easier to understand and practical in daily life. She added many other teachings from other sutras relating to the content of the teachings in each chapters. She also restates many points from previous chapters to help clarify the message and also to remind us not to forget these past points.

I had started to translate the first three volumes and published them in BRIDGE, NONA’s quarterly publication over 10 years ago. However, I had to suspend translation because of my increased duties as NONA Bishop. Since I resigned in March of this year, I resumed the task in translating the entire volumes. So far the first six volumes have been completed and now on our website.

Although it is titled, The Lotus Sutra for Children, it is aimed at everyone. Please visit our website www.kannon-temple-nevada.org and enjoy the teachings. It will be up-loaded every other month.

New Building Fund

\$53,611.46

441 offering of the tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra
1,570,000 times offering of Chanting *Odiamoku*
As of August 18, 2015

We deeply appreciate your support!

EVENTS

September

6 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
13 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	English Service (Chapter 11)
20 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Autumn <i>O-Higan</i> Service
27 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

October

4 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
11 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Oeshiki</i> Memorial Service
18 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
25 th (Sun)10:30 a.m.	English Service (Chapter 12)

- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be traveling to Japan 9/3~17 for further studying and *Advanced Rank Examination*
- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be attending the *Parliament of the World’s Religions* Event in Salt Lake City, UT 10/15~19
- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be attending the 35th Anniversary of the San Jose Temple 10/23~25