




RADIANCE

No. 68 (March 1, 2019)

March/April 2019

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

Follow us on 

SACRED WORDS

Faith is nothing special. As a wife loves her husband, a husband devotes his life to his wife; as parents do not disown their children, and children do not desert their mother, you should put faith in the Lotus Sutra, Sakyamuni Buddha, the Buddha of Many Treasures, all Buddhas throughout the universe, bodhi-sattvas, and deities. This is faith.

St. Nichiren—*Myoichi Ama Gozen Gohenji*

Spring Higan Memorial Service Mar. 17th, 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. 7th, 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. 6th, 10:00 a.m. (Sat)

A fundraising event will be held on April 6th 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.

In preparation we are looking for volunteers to assist on March 31st (Sun) with organizing and price labeling items at the temple.

My Penang, Malaysia Trip Shoda Douglas Kanai

I had an opportunity to visit SE Asia, specifically Penang, Malaysia for study class where I learned the finer points of ritual and duties of being a Nichiren Shu priest. It was tough, as old habits are hard to break, but was necessary in making sure that I am following proper protocol. It is difficult being by myself as there is no one around to critique me. If I was in Japan, there are more opportunities to be critiqued, so when this study class came up, I wholly embraced it.

The members of the Penang Temple, Ichinenji were outright exuberant for my visit. They all hold my father in high regards, as he was the catalyst in creating the now revitalized mission of Nichiren Shu in SE Asia. Though I am not my father, they have all heard about me and my missionary work and were happy that they could finally meet me in person. In *Hokkien* (the local Chinese dialect) I am referred to as “Rev. Kanai JR!”

It was interesting to see how other cultures chant and practice Nichiren Shu. The members are all very gung-ho. Some visit temple after work to chant *Odaimoku* for an hour. On Thursdays, they get together for service with Dharma talk afterwards. During this service, many of the members take turns being *kinza* (hitting the large bell), *mokusho* (hitting the round wooden mallet) and *taiko* (large drum). It was inspirational to see the members actively participating in service. Someday I too hope to have members participate in conducting service.

All of what the other priests and I learned was applied to the Late Overseas Ministers Memorial Service on Sunday to show the congregation what a formal Nichiren Shu service looks like. Me being *Shuho-shi*, I incorporated *kito* blessing into the memorial service so that everyone could experience this type of special blessing. Later, I also blessed two cars for those who requested special *kito* blessing.⇒

General Meeting Mar. 10th, 11:30 a.m. (Sun)

Kannon Temple will hold a General Meeting after service on March 10th. There are several items set for discussion regarding future plans of the temple. Meeting is open to all.

⇐Over lunch, many members had various questions about Buddhism and Nichiren Shu. For the next five to six hours, I continued to answer questions on various topics. I cannot recall what I spoke about, but it was it was all encompassing. I think they appreciated a native English speaker who could bring a different perspective on explaining Nichiren Shu. As the social hall became too loud with various conversations, we moved to the study hall where I had the use of a white board and microphone. This impromptu discussion became a full Dharma Talk session! In a quieter room, everyone was able to hear and understand my answers. One of the members called her sister in New Zealand to remotely listen to my talk via phone! I thought they were just using the phone to record my talk but instead it turned out to be a long distance call! I even answered many of her questions she had afterwards.

I really appreciated the hospitality and eagerness to learn from the members. Our time together was short, but we used the time wisely. Someday I will visit Penang again and this time have a full Lecture series prepared!

Note: If you do visit SE Asia, be prepared to eat. I gained at least five pounds from all the wonderful restaurants and prepared meals. I was always asked, "Are you still hungry?" and "Did you have enough to eat?"



Penang Ichinenji

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth
\$133,920.01.

558 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **21,600,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of February 21, 2019
Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

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

Las Vegas Ski Resort

Kumiko Kanai

The impression of Las Vegas = Casino is strong; therefore I don't think anyone knows that about an hour car drive from the city is a ski resort.

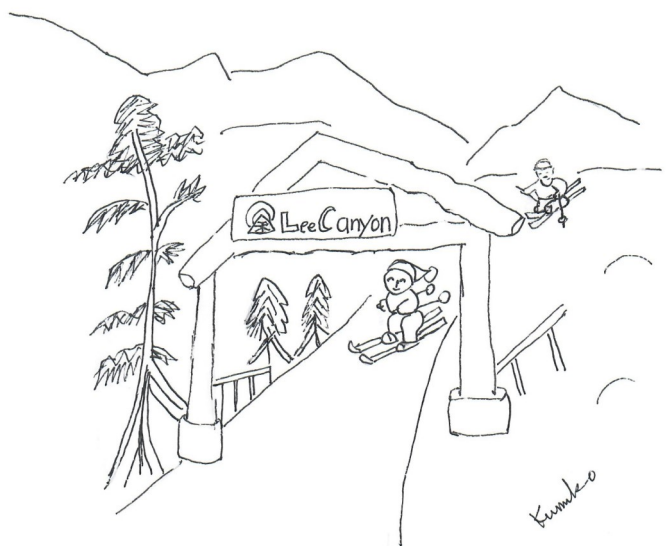
There are many mountains around Las Vegas, where there is Lee Canyon Ski Resort at the foothills on the northwest side of Mount Charleston, which is almost the same elevation as Mt. Fuji.

The base lodge has an elevation of 8,510ft and the top of the first lift is 9,310ft. Contrary to expecting the desert to be arid and dry, with such high mountains, it surely will snow in the winter. Of course, there are many hiking trails in the summer which I have trekked several times.

In January over a four-day weekend, a friend from Los Angeles brought her daughter to take her to ski school. She took a private lesson last year, so this year she was ready for group lesson and sled quite well. When she went on the chair lift with her instructor, she turned to us and waved her hand.

I also was watching the other people who were skiing while eating lunch from the slopes.

It is really wonderful living in Las Vegas and to be able to drink hot cocoa while enjoying the winter wonderland of snow!



EVENTS

March

3 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kito Blessing</i>
10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service & General Meeting
17 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Spring <i>Ohigan</i> Service
24 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
31 st (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	Kizuna Spring Festival Preparation

April

6 th (Sat) 10:00 a.m.~5:00 p.m.	Kizuna Spring Festival @ Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Lorenzi Park
7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hanamatsuri</i> Service
14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kito Blessing</i>
21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

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