

RADIANCE

No. 33 (May 1, 2013)

May/June, 2013

SACRED WORDS

A tiny needle sinks in the water. Rain falls – it cannot float in the air. These are natural laws. A person who kills a tiny ant falls into hell. A person who kills a human being falls into hell. However, a huge rock can float on water if it is placed on a ship. A raging fire can be extinguished by the power of water. Without repentance, even a small transgression can make a person fall into hell. On the other hand, with sincere repentance, even great transgressions can be erased.

Nichiren – “*Kōnichī Bō Goshō*”

I Vow to Obey the Law

Rev. Shokai Kanai

My long time dream since landing in America in April 1964 of opening a new temple at a new location has finally materialized on March 24, 2013.

Before receiving a permanent visa to live in America as a Buddhist priest, I had to make two vows in front of the “Star and Stripes” at the American Embassy, “I vow not to involve myself in political activities” (because of separation of church and state) and “to enlist in the armed forces if I was drafted” (this was during the Vietnam War in 1960s). I used to carry the classification card that allowed even a priest to join the war if I was drafted. I carried the ID for several years even after the Vietnam War ended.

My missionary work was always at previously established temples by Japanese immigrant Nichiren Buddhists in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and Seattle during the last 49 years. Six years ago when I became a senior citizen at the age of 65 and a half, I decided to move to a new place to establish a new temple. This happened to be LAS VEGAS, the place for material joy. I wished to establish a place for spiritual joy in Sin City. Material and Spiritual should be together is my philosophy.

My wife and I bought an ideal house on Spencer Street and moved in October 2007 to commemorate my retirement from the established temple. The house had two stories with a lofted ceiling over the living room area, where we placed the altar.

Many people liked the house as a temple. Two years after moving to the house, I place a banner, *NIHREN BUDDHIST KANNON TEMPLE OF NEVADA*. This was against city code for no worshiping in a residential area. After a public hearing, we had a one year permit to continue as a temple. Meantime we searched for a new temple location in a commercial zone and found a leasing space within budget. However, the cost to remodel was too expensive. So I gave up leasing a store front temple and requested an extension of the use permit for another year. This was unanimously rejected at the next public hearing.

The only choice was to buy a building within budget in a commercial zone. We found a space with enough parking and met the minimum requirements for a temple. In order to renovate the property to be a temple, we had to obey many rules and codes of the planning committee of the City of Las Vegas. I was so frustrated with the process and worried that the renovation would not be completed before the Grand Opening and Welcome Home for Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai on March 24th. I prayed so hard, the more I prayed, the more I became frustrated, so I left it in the hands of the City of Las Vegas rules and codes committee. Then I finally received the O.K. from the city five days before the important day.

Many people asked me to pray for recovery from sickness, passing examination tests, good business or resolving family problems. I chant “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo” and pray but tell them to obey the laws and to repent their wrong conducts. “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo” means, “I vow to obey the laws.” When you chant the *Odaimoku*, you will unconsciously follow the laws of the universe, constitution of the country, rules of your community and your own family. Then balance and harmony will prevail and then happiness will follow after.

Please chant the *Odaimoku* and act in righteousness, then your wish will become reality.

New Address and Telephone Number

Nichiren Buddhist
KANNON TEMPLE of NEVADA
1600 East Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488

Tele: (702)866-5956
Tele/Fax: (702)396-6276

*Please use the Spencer street address for mailing and
the (702)866-5956 telephone number to talk to Rev. Kanai during the day time.*

Ten Million Times *Odaimoku* Chanting and The Grand Opening of the New Kannon Temple

One year ago I published RADIANCE No.27 (May 1st issue) and announced that the Kannon Temple would lease a Store Front Temple on Jones Boulevard, in conjunction with 7 Million Times *Odaimoku* Chanting. However, I changed my mind because of the high cost of renovation.

Now we have reached Ten Million Times *Odaimoku* Chanting last March and were able to hold the Grand Opening of the New Kannon Temple at 1600 East Sahara Avenue with ownership of the temple. Reverend Shokai Kanai deeply

appreciates those who made contributions towards the Building Fund, Offertory for the Tracing Kannon Sutra, and Contribution to the Statue of the *Odaimoku* and Two Buddhas. With these warm-hearted supports, the new temple materialized.

The next goal is for the temple to be a place for *Peace of Body, Mind and Soul* for Everyone!

One Point of View

Wise Way to Eat at Buffet Restaurant

Kumiko Kanai

There are many restaurants that serve buffet (All you can eat). I recently read a very interesting article by Drs Oz and Roizen in the Las Vegas Review Journal. It explains how to eat at buffet:

Sit far away from the food as much as possible, this way you will not be as tempted to overeat,

Fill your dish with vegetables first, such as salads, go with balsamic vinaigrette or olive oil for dressing,

Drink a glass of water between each course and rest for five minutes before going back for your next plate,

Main course should be anything oven roasted or grilled, without breading or sauce, Desert should be fresh fruits and coffee without sugar.

Get advice from your doctor and let's enjoy the next meal at a buffet restaurant!

HELLO FROM JAPAN 7

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

This time I am writing from Las Vegas. After leaving the 100 days Aragyodo on February 10th, I visited many temples to assist with other graduating priest's "welcome back service." I mainly moved around the temples in my district, Tokyo. I was able to experience many different styles of service as well as see many different temples. This was a valuable experience that I greatly appreciated.

As part of the "welcome back service", there is *suigyō* or water purification, where we pour cold water over our shoulders. This is done to show the congregation what type of ascetic practice that we endured during the 100 days. Well, I thought my body was used to the cold as this winter was one of the coldest on record in Japan. It must have been the tap water. At every temple I visited, the water was colder than when I was inside. This was a shock. It also could have been that the weather is actually colder in February vs. December or January. Some days it was snowing while we were pouring the cold water, other times I remember breaking the ice in

bucket before beginning *suigyo*. When it is this cold, *sake* is mixed in with the water to prevent it from freezing. I could smell it as the water was going over my body. I viewed this as a continuation of the purification process.

Also, now that I am not restricted on what I could eat my first meal outside was a fancy dinner at Ryugenji Temple in Meguro district, Tokyo. What I ate, I could not describe. It was a very traditional dinner. After a couple more fancy dinners, I was finally able to go to the neighborhood 7-11, to grab “junk food” which I was craving. Unfortunately the taste was not as good as I thought. Since leaving the 100 days, my palate changed. Instead of sweets, I was actually craving spice. Fortunately there was a curry house nearby, so that is where I went quite frequently. Later on, I was told to watch what I eat after leaving due to the fact that I lost too much weight in a rather short time. If I gained weight too fast, it could be detrimental to my health going forward. This was a shock. So I have been paring back on what I eat, less red meat and no Las Vegas buffets. Even the tips from the previous article would not help me.

Speaking of Las Vegas, my “welcome back service” was held on March 24th. I invited four other priests to help assist with the service. Many people came from all over to welcome me back. Good thing that the new temple was newly permitted just five days before so that there was room for everyone. I believe more than 60 people came to visit. I thank everyone for coming to hear my story and be blessed by myself and fellow ministers. After the service, I was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times and featured the next day. I initially did not like the article, but quickly receive calls from various people to interview me to discuss my story. One of my friends found the article via Google News. Since then, I posted it on my Facebook account to great reviews. The article helped explain how grueling my experience was. I was also featured in many newspapers and magazines in Japan, since I was the first American born minister to complete the 100 days.

Now as I am resting in Las Vegas to regain my health, I am preparing for my next part of my journey. I will be returning to Japan to study more about *kito* blessings. There are many more teachers whom I could learn from. With these new found skills, I will be able to help my congregation as well as the people of America.

EVENT

May

Morning Service: 8:30 a.m. every day
Study Class on “*Kaimoku-Sho*” 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday
Study Class on Buddhism for Beginners 12:30 p.m. every Thursday

5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Service (Nichiren’s Tatsunokuchi Persecution Day)
19 th (Sun)	No Service
26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Chanting and Meditation

Rev. & Mrs. Shokai Kanai will go to Nichiren Mission of Hawaii for Bishop Hirai's Installation Ceremony from May 17th to 20th.

June

Morning Service: 8:30 a.m. every day

Study Class on "*Kaimoku-Sho*" 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday except 6/12

Study Class on Buddhism for Beginners 12:30 p.m. every Thursday except 6/20

2nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing

9th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Chanting and Meditation

16th (Sun) No Service

23rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service

27th (Thu) 10:30 a.m. Deity Daikoku Service

30th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service

Rev. Shokai Kanai will go to Japan for the District Managers' Meeting in Tokyo and then pilgrimage to Mt. Shichimen from June 10th to June 17th.