

RADIANCE

No. 59 (September 1, 2017)

September/October 2017

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada

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SACRED WORDS

The True object of worship (honzon) such as this was not revealed anywhere else by Sakyamuni Buddha during more than fifty years of His preaching in this life. Through His eight years preaching the Lotus Sutra, the scene was limited to the assembly in the sky from Ch. 15 to 22.

Kanjin Honzon-Sho - St. Nichiren's Words (published by NONA p.104)

Tastunokuchi Persecution Service

Sept. 17th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The fourth of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. On the night of September 12, 1271, St. Nichiren was arrested and sentenced for execution. Miraculously he escaped death when a "bright light" shot across the sky, frightening everyone. Later he was exiled to Sado Island instead, where he began to create some of his greatest treatises.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

Autumn O-higan Service

Sept. 24th, **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. 15th, **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 736th 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 us, which is the *Odaimoku*.

Wasan Practice

After Service (Sun)

To help commemorate *Oeshiki*, we will perform *Wasan*. The weeks leading up to October 15th, we will hold a short practice session after weekly Sunday service, so that we will all become proficient. Please schedule extra time after service to attend this practice.

Focus

Shoda Douglas Kanai

Concentration can be difficult in any situation. With all the modern accouterments, such as cell phones and Netflix, our attention is pulled in one direction or another. ↗



How can we pull away and find a simpler mode of existence? One way, is to come to temple to chant and pray.

When arriving at the temple and entering the Main Hall, one can see many different offerings and decorations lining the altar. There are special meanings for each item and has its own purpose for being displayed. What helps out the most with concentration, is the *Gohonzon* or Object of Veneration of the Ten Realms. Each sect and religions has their own Object that they worship. For us Nichiren Shu practitioners, it is the *Mandala Gohonzon*. Our founder St. Nichiren first inscribed this while he was exiled on Sado Island July 8, 1273. Most *Mandala Gohonzon*'s are calligraphic representations. Some temples use actual statues as representations of the written *Gohonzon*. In either case, this is placed at the center of the altar and higher than any other object. This is so that when we look up, our focus is on the *Gohonzon*.

Since we have many distractions, the *Gohonzon* helps us concentrate our mind to the ultimate reality which is the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. The calligraphic *Odaimoku* is written down the middle and easily seen from afar. We can quickly gauze upon this writing and transport ourselves into the land with the Buddhas, deities and St. Nichiren. The *Gohonzon* was created in a way to describe the Ten Realms of the Universe which is the representation of our minds. Nowhere else has this concept been revealed before, as stated in *Kanjin Honzon-Sho*. Thus, the Lotus Sutra is the one true teaching and was intended for us all.

By us focusing on the *Gohonzon*, we are inspiring within ourselves our true nature, which is our Buddhahood. Our daily distractions melt away when sitting in front of the *Gohonzon* as we realize that the Eternal Buddha is here with us, helping us become a better person. With practice, we can transfer that physical *Gohonzon* into ourselves, for we are also the living embodiment of the *Gohonzon*, we are the manifestations of the Eternal Buddha.

The *Gohonzon* is not an idol or a piece of paper. Once the proper "Eye Opening" Ceremony has been performed, an object has been given the 32nd mark, the "eyes" of the Buddha, thus the object is now "alive." It now becomes the "house" where the Buddha resides. As with any house, he can come and go as he pleases. If we are truly sincere and show our appreciation, Buddha will stay in his "house" and listen to our chanting.

So, make sure every time you gaze upon the *Gohonzon*, you say quick prayer of thanks and chant *Odaimoku* silently (or loudly depending on the situation) to show your gratitude (and ask Buddha to stay and listen). By doing so, we are focusing our energies to the universe, but more importantly we are focusing our energies within ourselves so that we can grow and become better Buddhas.

My View Point (As I heard and as I see)
Visiting Nikko Toshogu and Kengon Waterfall
 Kumiko Kanai

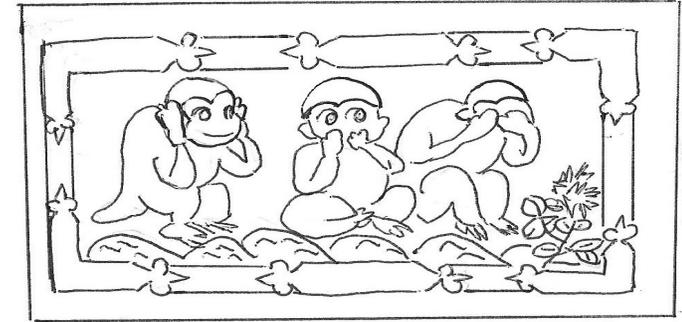
I visited *Nikko Toshogu Shrine* and *Kengon Waterfall* in early July by taking Tobu Limited Express, *SPACIA*, for two days and one night. The express train debuted very recently and runs between Asakusa, Tokyo and Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture.

Nikko Toshogu Shrine enshrines the relics of Tokugawa Ieyasu as his final wish. He was the first Shogun who unified Japan in 1603. The third Shogun, Iemitsu, ordered to build the shrine and many other buildings besides the gorgeous *Toshogu gate*. It is said that the total cost to build the *Toshogu* was around \$40 billion dollars in today's value and over 4.5 million people were involved in order to complete by 1636. It was Tokugawa Shogunate policy to let the entire feudal lords of Japan to show their loyalty to the Shogun and let them spent money for and the energy to build among other things, instead spending on armaments.

The most present beatifying renovation took three years and nine months. We were lucky the renovation had just completed last March. So we were able to observe awesome beautiful art works of the *Yōme-i-mon Gate*, Japan National Treasure and World Heritage. The gate itself is covered with over 5,000 carvings depicting traditional anecdotes, children playing, wise men and sages.

I visited the famous *Kengon Waterfall*, too. The falls were formed when a river was rerouted by lava flows. The main falls had a height of approximately 97 meters (318 feet). I received a lot of spiritual power at the waterfall and returned to Las Vegas. When we came back home, we had two calls requesting *kito* blessings. I appreciated the power of the Kengon Waterfall.

The inn was located along a riverside. The owner said the about 98% of their customers are foreigners. I soaked in the open-air hot spring bath while watching the river. It was a gracious and relaxed time there.



Acknowledgement

Due to privacy reasons, only donors initials will be used. This list is the additional amount since June 22, 2017.

SK: (Add. 2 Shakyo and Odaimoku Chanting 4M times)	\$894
KN: (Add. 14M times Odaimoku Chanting)	\$280
HK: (Donation)	\$200
JC: (Additional Donation)	\$200
JT: (2 Donations)	\$140
YI: (33M times Odaimoku Chanting)	\$130
YS: (Additional Donation)	\$120
AK: (Donation)	\$100
HT: (Additional Donation)	\$100
TY: (Donation)	\$ 75
HH: (3 Donations)	\$ 60
AF: (2 Donations)	\$ 50
MK: (Donation)	\$ 50
KT: (Additional Donation)	\$ 30
TK: (Donation)	¥ 500,000
EI: (6 Donations)	¥ 350,000
Anonymous: (4 Donations)	¥ 110,000
MS: (Donation)	¥ 100,000
MH: (55 Shakyo Booklets)	¥ 60,000
KM: (Donation)	¥ 30,000
KU: (Donation)	¥ 30,000
YY/KY/AY (Donation)	¥ 10,000

Thank you very much for your support!

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth
 \$110,077.47.

496 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, 19,000,000 times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of August 24, 2017

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.



Obon - Utah Cemetery visit

EVENTS

<u>September</u>		<u>October</u>	
3 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
17 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Tatsunokuchi</i> Persecution Service	15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Oeshiki</i> Memorial Service
24 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Autumn <i>Ohigan</i>	22 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
		29 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	5 th Sunday (<i>Shomyo</i> special practice)

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for various study and training classes 8/30 ~ 9/12

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