



RADIANCE

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September/October 2024

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

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SACRED WORDS

The Buddhas are the Kings of the Dharma, They are free from asravas, from cause and effect. The Buddhas practice patience, In order to save inferior people. They expound the Dharma according to the capacities, Of the ordinary people who are attached to forms.

Lotus Sutra Ch. 4—Understanding by Faith

Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Tastsunokuchi Persecution Service September 1, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The fourth of Four Major Persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. On the night of September 12, 1271, Nichiren was arrested and sentenced to be executed. 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 composing some of his greatest treatises.

Please join us to commemorate this important event. We will be holding this service jointly with *Kito* Blessing due to travel.

Autumn O-higan Service Sept. 22, **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 Kannon Temple with your donation.

Oeshiki Memorial Service Oct. 13, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

On the morning of October 13, 1282, our founder Nichiren Shonin entered into *Parinirvana* after spreading the teaching of the Lotus Sutra for many difficult years. We are holding the 743rd 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*.



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.

Transitioning to New Temple

Kannon Temple of Nevada was founded in 2009 and has been operating with the cooperation and support of everyone. Thank you very much for your assistance. We are now hoping to relocate the temple to a quieter and safer place this fall. The special *shakyo* of the *Kannon* chapter of the *Lotus Sutra*, *Odaimoku* Chanting campaign, and fund donations have reached over \$100,000, but we are still short of our goal.

We are starting a new pledge drive to assist in relocating to a new temple somewhere in the Las Vegas area. If you would like to contribute, please fill out the enclosed special form and return it with your donation. Your prayers or in memoriam for someone will be read for 30 days. Your generosity will help create a peaceful retreat with a Japanese garden where all people, members, non-members, local, out-of-state, and internationally can practice the Dharma and find solitude in this busy world discovering peace of body, mind, and spirit.

What is a Burrito?

Shoda Kanai

In one of my recent Sunday sermons, I asked a question, is a burrito a sandwich? If a sandwich is two pieces of bread with some kind of spread with meat/cheese in between, then is an "open-faced sandwich" a sandwich? There is only one piece of bread, not the required two. What about a hot dog or hoagie? Meat is in between bread but the bread is connected, thus still one piece. What about makizushi (rolled sushi). Is that a sandwich? It looks like a burrito but with seaweed instead of tortilla. Going further, what about a slice of pizza? It can be considered to be a type of an open face sandwich.

Everyone has their opinion, and we can debate all day. The truth is, it's all sandwiches! Though the purists will argue otherwise while others will argue just to be contrarian.

How we view what a sandwich is, is how we view the world. We are shaped by our culture and environment. We can learn to accept new ideas and concepts as well as new types of sandwiches. Or we all can ⇨

⇐turn purist and create labels of what is included and what is not and develop rigid viewpoints. This rigidity is what is holding us back from progressing forward.

I used to run cross country in high school (3 miles off track course). We would always stretch and lightly jog before starting the race. This is to loosen up the muscles and bring in oxygen in preparation for strenuous exertion. If I did not stretch, my muscles would not be ready, creating the opportunity to pull a muscle and hurt myself. Being rigid leads to getting hurt.

Same goes for our ideas and thinking. If we cling too much to one idea or way, we are rigid. Thus, we are not flexible, leading to undue suffering. Being rigid prevents us from receiving new ideas and different ways of thinking. Going back to the sandwich, we would miss out on being able to try new dishes.

The sandwich concept is like Buddha's teachings. There are many flavors to suit each person. The creation, the ingredients, and the outer covering can all be interchanged, added or subtracted. The Buddha knows what kind of sandwich we like and offers us to try new ones too. As our tastes increase, we can venture out and try more exotic and fanciful sandwiches, just as we can expand our understanding of the Dharma and understand the finer points contained within the Teaching.

More importantly, we should enjoy our sandwiches! Let's not over think about what a sandwich is and just enjoy the dish. The Buddha left a variety of teachings that suit us at any given moment. Sometimes I yearn for a burrito and on another day, a hamburger. Let us all enjoy the variety of teachings that Buddha left for us and partake in the joy of the Dharma!



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

752 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,900,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of August 24, 2024

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

LA Rising

Shoda Kanai

The other day, I was able to visit Los Angeles and Little Tokyo. My mother suggested I go to see the mural of Los Angeles Dodgers player Shohei Otani on the side of the Miyako Hotel. She is a big Dodgers fan ever since her time living in LA and as Shohei is a legend in Japan, she is one of his biggest fans.

The mural was created by Robert Vargas, a globally known muralist from Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles (Boyle Heights is where the LA Temple is located). The dedication was on March 27, the day before the Dodgers opening day.

There is a QR code that one can download and display over the mural, depicting Shohei hitting and pitching. Unfortunately for me, I tried using the code, but it did not work for me.

I was still able to see the mural and now able to share with everyone my pictures!



EVENTS

September

1 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Kito/Tatsunokuchi* Persecution
 8-15 (Sun) **No Service** Traveling to another temple
 22 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Autumn *Ohigan* Memorial Service
 29 (Sun) **No Service** Traveling to another temple

October

6 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
 13 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Oeshiki* Memorial Service
 20 (Sun) 10:00 a.m. English Service
 27 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

*** 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 ***