



RADIANCE

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May/April 2022

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

Rivers come together to form an ocean. Particles of dust accumulate to become Mt. Sumeru. When I, Nichiren, began having faith in the Lotus Sutra, it was like a drop of water or a particle of dust in Japan. However, when the sutra is chanted and transmitted to two, three, ten, a million, and a billion people, it will grow to be a Mt. Sumeru of perfect enlightenment or the great ocean of Nirvana. There is no way other than this to reach Buddhahood.

Nichiren Shonin—*Senji-Sho*

COVID-19 Update

Good News! The State of Nevada is gradually lifting restrictions, therefore Kannon Temple will open for in-person service. We request that everyone gets vaccinated, wear a mask, bring their own DHARMA book, and social distance as much as possible. There will be no meal after service so please do not bring anything. Services will still be broadcasted online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through **Zellepay.com** to: kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 8th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 Nichiren Shonin was arrested and exiled to Izu Peninsula under the indictment of disturbing the government. Instead of being dropped off on land, he was left on a rock in the bay. As the water rose, he was saved by a fisherman.

This event is considered to be the second of four major persecutions. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion remotely so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

May 8th is also Mother's Day. Nichiren Shonin always stressed filial piety and to show gratitude towards one's parents. Let us also show our respect to our parents, especially to all mothers on her special day. And let us not forget our fathers on Fathers Day, June 19th.

Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery

May 30th, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 30th is Memorial Day! This is the day for all Americans to show their respect and appreciation to all soldiers who sacrificed their lives for this country. The Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is in Boulder City, southeast of Las Vegas. There are several soldiers who are buried there related to our members of Kannon Temple. Social-distancing permitting, we will continue the tradition began by Shokai Kanai Shonin, with Shoda Shonin visiting each one of their tombs to say prayer starting at 11:00 a.m. If you can make time, please come to the cemetery and meet him to pray together.

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. If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

Save the Date ~ Aug. 6th and 7th ~

NONA is holding their annual retreat via Zoom over the weekend of August 6th and 7th. This is a good chance to meet and chant together with other sangha members from around the world. I will be conducting a *Kito* Blessing and teaching *shakyo*. Scheduled time is from 9am ~ 1pm PDT. More information will be presented at a later date.

A Mound of Dirt

Shoda Kanai

Down the street from my house, new homes are being built. There are always construction vehicles rolling down the street. I must make sure my car is in the garage or else loose rocks may damage my car.

In the process of building new homes, the land must first be leveled. The dirt has to go somewhere. Some of the dirt has ended up in a vacant lot nearby where the dirt piles up into a mound. Then this mound is sifted to make fine grain rocks which ends up in a different pile.

What is going to happen to this mound? Could it be used to fill in holes or to help shore up a new foundation? Will it be moved to a different site? I will have to wait and see.

Sometimes when looking at mounds of dirt, it can be an eye sore. Instead of looking at a vacant lot, now all I see is large mounds. As it has been windy lately, the loose dirt fills the air, which creates more dust and can become a health hazard for those with respiratory issues.

Instead of looking at things negatively, let us examine this mound differently. How was this mound created? One little rock, one grain of earth at a time. The accumulation of rock and earth culminates into one large, massive piece.

We can extrapolate this into our daily lives. Little things add up to big things. Whenever we learn ⇨

⇐ something new, we start from the beginning and over time we start to accumulate more steps that we can add to eventually becoming a master.

Same goes with our faith. In the beginning, Buddhism may seem very difficult to understand and comprehend. In the west, we tend to over think and want our mind to understand first rather than the heart (body). If we cannot understand, as it being too difficult, we find other avenues that are easier to take. It is no easy task trying to reconcile questions and continuing along Buddha's path.

But, if we can quiet our minds and listen to our inner self as we continue to chant and practice, we are creating the one little rock and one grain of earth. We are constructing our own mound of dirt or our own Mt. Sumeru. After a while, we soon realize that our mound is as large as a hill and thus start to understand the True Teaching of the Buddha. Even a little revelation will help strengthen our faith and keep us continuing to raise our Mt. Sumeru.

Word of caution, just as our own mounds of dirt can be built, it can be easily destroyed. Wind and rain can come and erode the pile. Our negative thoughts and actions can help wear away our own Mt. Sumeru. Doubt can creep in when we start to over think. So instead, when detrimental thoughts do arise, quickly dispel them so as to deter any further disintegration. As we continue to practice, we will continually fashion our Mt. Sumeru into one of enlightenment.



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

724 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,350,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 26, 2022

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Shichimen Dai Myojin

Shoda Kanai

If you have visited our temple, you can see a print of the Lady Goddess *Shichimen* on the wall next to the Kannon Bodhisattva statue. It may be hard to see as it is tucked away in the corner and notice over the large taiko if you are sitting in the seats.

This is an artwork completed by the 89th Archbishop of Minobusan Kuonji Temple Nikko Takeshita Geika. See the close-up picture and you can see this is not an ordinary drawing. It is composed of various passages from the Lotus Sutra. Those that I have found are the gatha portion from Ch. 25, Universal Gate of World Voice Perceiver, the *dharanis* from Ch. 28, The Encouragement of Universal-Sage Bodhisattva, and portions from Ch. 12 Devadatta regarding the Dragon-king's eight-year-old daughter. I am sure there may be more portions as the characters do get quite small.

Why is Lady Goddess Shichimen important? Legend has it that when Nichiren Shonin was teaching the Lotus Sutra to many followers while sitting on a rock on Mt. Minobu, a beautiful lady would come and listen. One day, someone called out to her as no one knew who she was. Nichiren Shonin then asked her to drink water from a vase which reflected her true identity as a dragon. Then she turned into her true form and returned to her abode, Mt. Shichimen to the Southwest and vowed to protect Mt. Minobu and Practitioners of the Lotus Sutra.

Today, she is revered as one of the many protective deities of the Lotus Sutra. At my home temple Shinnyoji Temple where I have trained for three years in northern Osaka Prefecture, has a small hall dedicated to her and priests conduct special blessings to many followers. There are other temples around Japan that also revere Lady Goddess Shichimen as well. Come take a closer look next time you visit Kannon Temple of Nevada.



EVENTS

May

1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing
8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother's Day
15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
22 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
29 th (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday
30 th (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City

June

5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing
12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
26 th (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shakyo</i> Tracing

*** 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 ***