

RADIANCE

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May/June 2017

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SACRED WORDS

Sariputra! Since I became a Buddha, I [also] have been expounding various teachings with various stories of previous lives, with various parables, and with various similes. I have been leading all living beings with innumerable expedients in order to save them from various attachments, because I have the power to employ expedients and the power to perform the paramita of insight.

Lotus Sutra Chapter II—Expedients (p.24)

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 14th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 St. Nichiren was arrested and exiled to Izu Peninsula for disrupting 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. St. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

This year also commemorates the 751th memorial anniversary of St. Nichiren's mother, *Myoren*. St. Nichiren 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 18th.



Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery

May 29th, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 29th 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. Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit 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.

Shakyo/Shabutsu Tracing

June 11th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

The Lotus Sutra states, "*keep, read, recite, expound and copy the sutra.*" Please join us on this date to further our practice. You have the option of tracing the sutra or copying an image of the Buddha. If you would like, bring your own coloring pencils and pens to create your own beautiful Buddha image.

The Tortoise and the Hare

Shoda Douglas Kanai Shonin

June will be the start of my third year as being the Head Priest at Kannon Temple. A lot has changed since I returned from Japan after completing my second 100 Days *Aragyō* Ascetic Training. My body has regained the weight I lost plus extra, my voice is coming back (with some days still scratchier than others) and being able to run the temple on a daily basis. There is still much to learn and to find new ways of reaching and teaching Buddhist concepts.

As many of the supporters who attend weekly services are new to Buddhism, sometimes it is difficult in being able to explain complex ideas and teachings so that they understand. My goal is to be able to imprint at least one concept every week that they can take home. Information is spreading faster and faster every day. As we become accustomed to higher speeds, we inadvertently become impatient when the information we are seeking does not appear right away. Same goes with our practice. Speed is not the key, being methodical is.

This reminds me of a well know fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare." I remember my mother always quoting this fable since I was very young. Since I never listened, she had to repeat this story many times which is now deeply ingrained in my mind. The speed of the Hare and it taking a nap only to lose the race is just like the information that we obtain every day. Some days are overwhelming that we have to shut down (Hare taking a nap), other days we tend to get over confident so we do not have to keep continuing on the path (Hare confident in victory has time to take a nap). We have to remind ourselves to be the Tortoise and move slowly and continuously.

Knowledge and understand may not come right away or on the other hand, we may think we understand fully quickly so no need for practice. Our arrogance always keeps us from continuing and finishing. We may be quick to quit since it is too difficult or quick to quit because "we know all." Only daily and methodical practice, will help keep us on the right path and for us to be able to reach the finish line, which is gaining the Enlightenment of the Buddha.

Daily practice will help build the patience necessary to continue. Do not be like the Hare. Keep reminding yourselves to be the Tortoise and push on. If you need help in staying on the right path, reach out to me and I will gladly help you maintain being a Tortoise.

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

Live Charity Concert

Kumiko Kanai

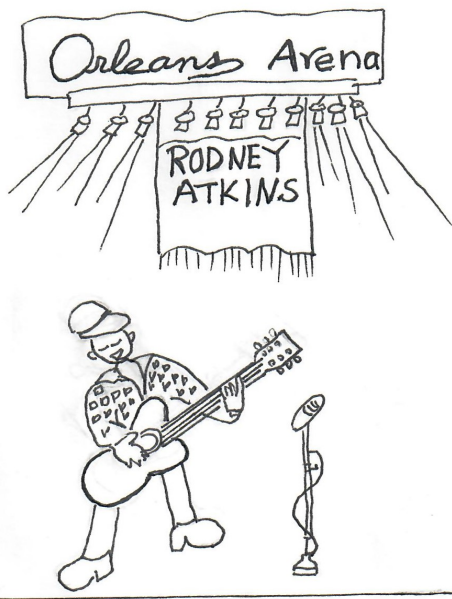
I went to watch a charity concert named “Back the Badge Concert” at The Orleans Arena on April 20th. It was a benefit concert presented by Real Estate Expo supporting local law enforcement in Southern Nevada. Before the Rodney Atkins’ live show, a ceremony for law enforcement officers who were killed while on duty in Southern Nevada (Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas) was held.

After the flag ceremony, one officer spoke, “When I was four years old, my father was gunned down. I also became a policeman and work for the safety of the community.” Another officer said, “I work as a highway patrol officer. One of my job is to write a ticket for speeding, but it is for you to avoid a dangerous accident. Please keep the law for safety!”

A main speaker told us, “There were two officers in southern Nevada and 44 officers who were killed while on duty already in America this year. We appreciate your support toward the two families of these officers.”

After retiring of the colors, about 2,000 people in the capacity of the 9,500 arena enjoyed the concert of Rodney Atkins who is a song writer and singer with guitars.

Since I like country music a lot, I clapped hands with the rhythm of each song. I enjoyed the night very much!



Building a New Temple in the Next Five Years

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Already four years has passed since our current temple building opened in March 2013. Over the years, there were several times that we reached capacity and with the parking lot full, had to use the parking space next door.

Nichiren Shu will be celebrating Nichiren Dai’Shonin’s 800th Birth year in 2021! In conjunction, we wish to build a new temple for our Sangha to grow and flourish in Las Vegas. The new temple will accommodate 100 people in the main service hall. It will also include an ossuary, water purification area, office, kitchen, social hall, class rooms, lodging rooms for visitors who wish to practice day and night.

In RADIANCE issues, we have mentioned the Building Fund and have made great strides in accumulating nearly \$100,000 in donations. For this new project, our goal is to raise an additional **\$3 million** within the next five years. The plan is to hopefully find a new location in three years, design and then build in years four and five.

We hope that you will be able to support us in this Building Campaign effort. Your name will be written with *sumi* ink on a plaque and kept at the building honoring your donation. Please use the special donation form with your prayers so Reverends Shoda & Shokai Kanai can read them for 100 days during morning service. The form is on the desk before entering the mail hall or contact the temple and we will be glad to send you one.

With your support, we can continue to create a place where everyone from around the world is welcome to visit when coming to Las Vegas.

We thank you for your past, present and future generosity!

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren’s Birth
\$94,807.93

487 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **18,420,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 23, 2017

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

May		June	
7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	4 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother’s Day	6 th (Tue) 1:30 p.m.	Quarterly Deity <i>Daikoku</i> Blessing
21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	11 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shakyo/Shabutsu</i> Tracing
28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	18 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service/Father’s Day
29 th (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City	25 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

- Rev. Shokai and Kumiko Kanai in SE Asia to celebrate 800th Anniv. of St. Nichiren’s Birth 5/18 ~ 27
- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for meeting at Headquarters 6/26 ~ 7/7

*** Those interested in Study Class & Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***