



RADIANCE

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November/December 2022

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SACRED WORDS

...in any place where a copy of this sutra is put, be it in a garden in a forest, under a tree, in a monastery, in the house of a person in white robes, in a hall, in a mountain, in a valley, or in the wilderness, there should a stupa be erected and offerings be made to it because, know this, the place [where the stupa is erected] is the place of enlightenment.

Lotus Sutra Ch. 21 - *The Supernatural Powers of the Tathagatas*

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.

Komatsubara Persecution Service Nov. 20th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. Before sunset of November 11, 1264, Nichiren was ambushed in the forests of *Komatsubara*, in current Chiba Prefecture. He was on his way to a devout follower's residence after secretly visiting his sick mother. He was wounded in the ensuing attack, while two followers were killed.

Please join us online to commemorate this important event.

Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues **Appreciation** Dec. 11th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Let us celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment Day. Traditionally a *bodhi-tree* is placed near the altar, representing the time Buddha became enlightened under that tree.

We will also show our appreciation to your Buddhist statues (*Daikoku, Kishibojin, Kannon, Nichiren Shonin, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) that you place in your altar. Detailed instructions will be given later.

We usually hold our **Year End Potluck Luncheon** after service, Unfortunately we have to cancel it again this year. Please pray that we can meet in-person soon!

New Year's Eve Ceremony Dec. 31st, **10:30 a.m.** (Sat)

Come join us for the last service for 2022! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, *Gohonzon*, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout this interesting year.

We will hit the *hansho* bell a total of 108 times, symbolizing our 108 attachments and illusions. All negativity will hopefully be gone with the sound of the bell to welcome in 2023 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

Monthly Amulets

With the difficulty in receiving monthly amulets from Japan, Kannon Temple will be creating its own special amulet with donation remaining the same at \$5 per month per amulet or \$60 per year per amulet. Please contact the temple either by mail or email with your name and number of requested amulet(s). Donations can be made via check, Zellepay, or PayPal.

New amulets will be mailed out starting January 2023.

Temple Cleaning Dec. 27th **10:00 a.m.** (Tues)

In late December, it is tradition to help thoroughly clean the temple. This deep clean is to help rid the temple and you of any grime and negative energy accumulated over the year. This is in preparation for the coming new year so we can start fresh.

We ask for volunteers to come help with this year's temple cleaning on December 27th with social distancing. Bring your own cleaning supplies if you wish.

Special Stones Shoda Kanai

In late September, I was invited to participate in the installation ceremony of *Ireicho* at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA. Please see next article regarding the *Ireicho* itself. This was a powerful experience recognizing all of those who were incarcerated just for being Japanese or of Japanese descent during World War II.

At the museum, I had the opportunity to view their current exhibit, "Sutra and Bible." This exhibit showcased many of the religious items from both Buddhism and Christianity. There was hand carved *butsudans*, crosses, translated bibles, artwork, a special *taiko* drum [see Hirai, C. (December 1, 2017). The Honouliuli drum. *Nichiren Shu News*, 217, 1]⇒

⇐and some special stones with *kanji* written on them.

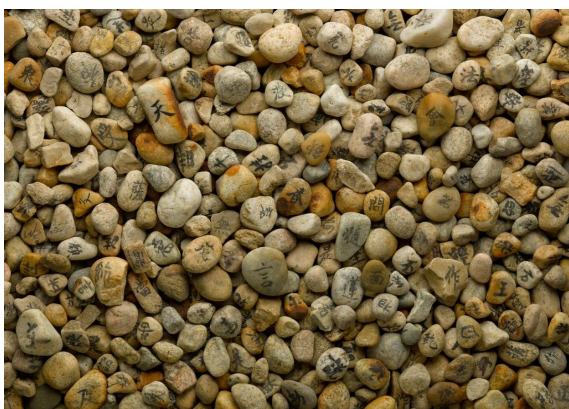
In 1956 at the Heart Mountain Camp, Wyoming, a farmer dug up a 55-gallon drum filled with stones with *kanji* written on them. Knowing that these stones were important but still unsure, the farmer kept them in a barn. It was later that the stones were donated to JANM.

It was not until 2001 when a scholar of Indian Buddhism from Japan saw these stones and realized that it could spell out Buddhist scripture. He contacted Professor Kenryo Minowa at University of Tokyo to assist in figuring out the jumbled characters.

Using a special algorithm, the professor determined that the stones matched up to the first six fascicles of the Lotus Sutra! Though not definitive of who produced these stones, it was assumed that Rev. Nichikan Morikita who taught calligraphy at the camp was the inscriber. He was also the only ordained Nichiren priest at the camp. Rev. Morikita was deported in 1943.

Even during difficult times where any *kanji* sutra books were banned, one could still create their own book by copying the sutra from memory. There are 69,384 characters in the Lotus Sutra. This must have taken a long time, but with strong faith in the *Odaimoku*, one can bring forth Buddha Land to any place, even an internment camp.

Let us continue to strive to chant and familiarize ourselves with the Lotus Sutra. One day we will have it memorized so that we too can create our own sutra book when called upon.



(Japanese American National Museum)

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

747 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,450,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 25, 2022

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Irei-Cho

Shoda Kanai

Irei means, “consoling the spirits of the dead” and *cho* means, “book, register.” The installation ceremony for *Ireicho* consisted of both clergy and camp internees or descendants representing the 75 camps, detention, assembly, and isolation centers. A special *toba* with the name of the camp and soil sample from the location was offered. I represented Leupp Isolation Center, AZ.

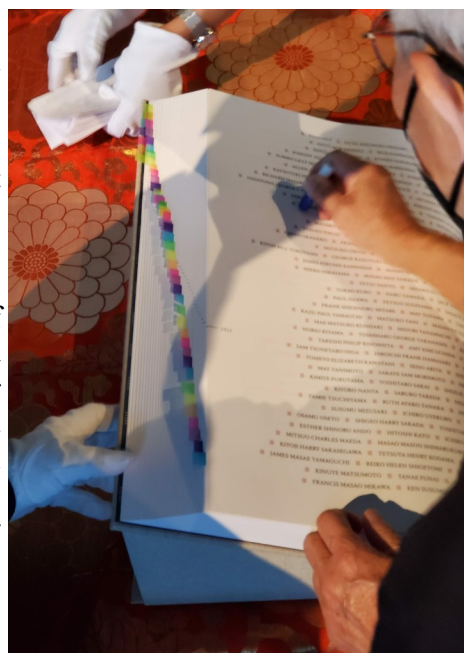
Each of these sites were spread out not just only on the west coast, but from Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, Wyoming, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin, New York, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and Arkansas just to name a few.

Over 125,000 Japanese, Japanese Americans were interned. But upon further research, a complete list of names was nowhere to be found. Thus, this project helped compile each name so that they will not be forgotten, and their sacrifice not be in vain. History tends to repeat itself; we must make sure this does not happen again to any citizen.

The book also contains a special ceramic created from the soil of all 75 sites. As part of the ceremony, I was allowed to touch it and pray for all the spirits and encouragement for the survivors.

A special “mark” is placed by each name and is arranged by birth year, starting from 1893 to 1945. Though I have no relatives who were in camp, I still left my “mark” to honor an internee.

If you have family who were interned or know of anyone who was interned, please visit JANM in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA to see the book itself and leave “a mark” to honor your family and ancestors. I am sure they will appreciate your efforts. Also, visit the exhibit as well. It was quite educational.



EVENTS

November

6th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
 13th (Sun) **No Service** **Travel to Japan**
 20th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Komatsubara* Persecution Service
 27th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

December

4th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
 11th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation
 18th & 25th (Sun) **No Service**
 27th (Tue) 10:00 a.m. Temple Cleaning
 31st (Sat) 10:30 a.m. New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

• Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for Ministers Conference—11/11~19

*** 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 ***