

# RADIANCE

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May/June 2019

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## SACRED WORDS

*As I contemplate my own life, I Nichiren, have studied Buddhism ever since I was a child. One's life is uncertain, as exhaling one's breath one moment does not guarantee drawing it the next; it is as transient as dew before the wind and its end occurs suddenly to everyone, the wise and the ignorant, the aged and the young. I thought I should study the matter of the last moment of life first of all before studying anything else.*

St. Nichiren—*Myoho Ama Gozen Gohenji*

### Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

On May 12, 1261 St. Nichiren 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. St. Nichiren realized that he was living the Lotus Sutra. Let us commemorate this occasion so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

May 12<sup>th</sup> is also Mother's Day. 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 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 27<sup>th</sup> 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. To continue the tradition began by Shokai Kanai Shonin, Shoda Shonin 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.

### Garage/Rummage Sale

Jun. 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8:00 a.m.~1:00 p.m. (Fri & Sat)

A fundraising event will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to help build a new temple. We still have many items that have been previously dropped off over the last year. If you have more items for donation, please bring to the temple at your earliest convenience. Monetary donations are welcome as well.

Paula Patterson has graciously allowed us to use her residence for the garage sale site. Address is **3272 Grayson Lake Court, Las Vegas, 89129**. We ask for volunteers to help out one or both days. Please call the temple to let us know if you can help.

### Odaimoku for the Deceased

Shoda Douglas Kanai

Recently I was asked to conduct a funeral for a gentleman who passed away from cancer. The family was calling from a local mortuary and requesting a Buddhist funeral. As there were family from overseas, I agreed and in two days' time, prepared and held the service.

Though the gentleman was born Catholic, he gravitated more towards Buddhist teachings. Previously he did study under difference sects but left after disagreeing with their ideology. The family on and off practiced by themselves, but never with another sangha.

During *Odaimoku* chanting and incense offering, the wife chanted along as she was familiar with this practice. Then from above and to her right, I heard a male voice chant *Odaimoku* a couple of times, loudly. During incense offering, I stand to the side, so I did not want to move my head but used my peripheral vision to see who it was. I could not tell. Later, during my sermon, I looked to see who it could have been. My only conclusion is that the deceased husband was standing next to his wife, to support her and to chant *Odaimoku* as well. I told the family this at the end of my sermon and I think everyone was shocked!

Death is difficult for everyone. We no longer have communication with loved ones. There could be some things said or not said that we regret. It takes time to grieve and come to acceptance. In Buddhism, death is not the end but just a transition. Even so, dealing with death is still difficult.

There are many mediums who purportedly claim they are in contact with our loved ones and can relay messages back and forth. I am skeptical about this. Some people may actually have the power to do so, but I see most mediums as charlatans who are taking advantage of a grieving person for monetary gain.

Instead of going to a medium, try talking to ⇨

### Kizuna Spring Festival

The fundraising event held at the Kizuna Spring Festival was a great success! I would like to thank Paula Patterson, Kumiko Toyoda, Meredith Hulka, and Jarred Chan for their assistance in making this event run smoothly. We will shoot for next year!

⇐ the deceased from your family altar. If no altar, then try talking to *ihai* or family tablet. If no *ihai*, then *Gohonzon*. The *Gohonzon* represents the universe and the Ten Realms. Your ancestors are surely able to listen from there. Periodically offer favorite foods and drinks of the deceased to the altar and chant passages from Lotus Sutra and offer your merits to them. I am sure they will hear you just as the deceased gentleman was able to join his own funeral and chant *Odaimoku*. Don't worry about a response. When the time is right, you will receive your answer.

The *Odaimoku* is powerful. It not only benefits the living but also for the deceased. It has the power to help everyone alive or deceased to attain Buddhahood. Therefore, paying homage to our ancestors and loved ones is very important. As we save them, we are saving ourselves. So always continue to chant Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku* for the betterment of all.



“Let’s Go to Space Hot Springs”

**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Nichiren’s Birth  
\$139,443.73.

**605 shakyo** tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **21,880,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 24, 2019  
*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

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

## Two Shot with Astronaut in Japan

Kumiko Kanai

In late February, I went to Japan from Las Vegas and my husband from Hawaii to attend his nephew, Astronaut Norishige Kanai’s wedding.

The solemn wedding was held at the famous Meiji Shrine, followed by the reception held at a room in the Meiji Memorial Hall, where the Imperial family previously occupied. We were offered a special 66 item traditional Japanese set course menu. The entrance door was decorated with a glistening gold chrysanthemum emblem of which I was surprised by it’s beauty and the long tradition that went along with it. I was able to meet and take pictures with the three special guests who happened to be the current astronauts from JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency). This is one page that I will remember in my life.

Funny coincidence, when I was in Los Angeles, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center would sponsor an art exhibit around New Year’s. One year, the theme was “Dream.” I entered my handiwork titled, “Let’s Go to Space Hot Springs” (see me sitting ⇐ in hot springs with E.T. in the upper corner) At that time, I didn’t think one of my relatives would actually become a real astronaut! And then later on this trip I was able to visit my favorite hot springs!

A friend of over 50 years from my university days became sick a month previous and could only eat a little, but since she heard I was coming from America, she mustered the strength and joined me at the hot springs. At the inn, she would order the kid’s meal and ate very little. That night I had a thought. Since I always carry sutra book and *juzu*, I placed the *juzu* on top of the sutra book and chanted *Odaimoku* for 10 minutes. Then I placed the *juzu* on her right side and continued to chant *Odaimoku* for another 20 minutes, praying that she feels better. The next morning, she was able to eat breakfast normally, saying, “Well, I’m shocked, I’m getting better and my stomach feels better!” She requested that I use the *juzu* and continue to heal her just like last night. She was grateful and said, “Thank you! I can now eat normally.”

I was also able to visit a sick friend who was admitted to a university hospital and another at her home to cheer them both up. I myself, am mindful of my own health and wish to give my energy to as many people as I can.

P.S.: Last month I wrote about Las Vegas Ski Resort. Immediately, I received a phone call from Japan stating, “That seven-year-old daughter is my granddaughter, right? I am so happy!” No, thank you for reading my story!

## EVENTS

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
5 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kito</i> Blessing	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kito</i> Blessing
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother’s Day	9 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
19 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	16 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
26 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shakyo</i> Tracing
27 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 10:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City	30 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) <b>No Service</b>	<b>5th Sunday</b>

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for meeting and study at Headquarters 6/24 ~ 7/5

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