


RADIANCE

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May/June 2020

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SACRED WORDS

Thus they (bodhisattvas and protective deities) will protect the practitioners of the Lotus Sutra without fail regardless if the practitioners are insincere, unwise, impure, and do not observe the precepts so as long as they chant “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.”

St. Nichiren—*Kito Sho*

COVID-19 Update

At the time of publication, the state of Nevada has eased some restrictions on some non-essential businesses, but we still cannot meet in person. In order to keep everyone safe, Kannon Temple has created a **zoom.us** account to broadcast Sunday Services. For those interested in participating in service from home, please contact the temple at: kannontemplenv@gmail.com to obtain meeting ID and password.

We have also created an electronic payment option in lieu of check/cash. Please create a **venmo.com** account and send donation to: [@kannontemplenv](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 10th, **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 remotely so that we too can live the Lotus Sutra.

May 10th 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 21st.

Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery

May 25th, **11:00 a.m.** (Mon)

May 25th 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.

Nothing is Permanent

Shoda Douglas Kanai

Let us all pray together, regardless of religion or denomination, for the early termination of COVID-19, the early recovery of those affected, and attainment of Buddhahood for those who have passed.

I also pray that everyone is staying safe and adhering to the “Stay-at-Home” policy set forth by the government. States may differ in the implementations of this order, but to keep you and everyone around you safe, it is best to stay home. There are those who do not wish to listen and protest, which is their right to do. Though they say they are speaking for everyone, they are only speaking for themselves. The issue is that they want to return to “normalcy,” how it was before, how it was safe before. What these people do not realize is that nothing stays the same. Everything is constantly changing. We cannot return to how it was before. Going back to “normal” will not alleviate suffering, but only increase it. Change is always scary as we do not know or can control what comes next. We fear what we do not know, thus always want to remain safe, in the same place. This place though is non-existent.

The Buddha teaches impermanence, nothing stays the same. There is always something affecting another thing, thus always changing form. We call this the “Law of Cause and Effect.” If we stay at home and not gather in groups (cause), we can slow the spread of the virus, thus keeping the hospitals from overloading (effect). What is deadly about this virus is that it may take up to two weeks before someone comes down with actual symptoms, meanwhile still being contagious. I was talking to my cousin in Japan, who's pregnant daughter was almost to term. They were all thinking of paying respects to my grandfather's grave in Tokyo but decided it best not to go just to be safe. The crowded people on trains and the streets swayed their decision. Two weeks later, many Tokyo residents are just now showing signs of the virus. They appreciated their decision to stay home, otherwise they too might have become sick. Thus, my cousin's daughter was able to safely deliver a healthy boy.

With everyone staying at home, some may have become stir-crazy and is prone to blaming others. It is always someone else's fault. We do not look at the greater picture of how this effects everyone. ⇒

⇐ Along with impermanence, Buddha also taught interdependence within the Law of Cause and Effect. We are all connected to each other. We may not think so but look at your cell phone. Where was it made, China? Someone had to create the design, manufacture the parts, put it together, box it, ship it to your country, ship to the store, and sell it. Many people were involved just so that you can have a cell phone.

We are all connected with our energy input/output as well. I tend not to watch the news as it is always negative. Many articles are “click-bait” to insight anger, but also to push advertisements. There is a result for all this anger. More suffering. The virus could be the cause of our underlying anger towards one another. We do not show compassion and understanding to others and only think about ourselves. We have been destroying the earth with pollution and garbage. Thus, the earth must cleanse itself and show us how we are undutiful children. With the virus causing lockdown, the earth is showing us what our potential can be if we listen and show compassion to everyone. The skies are clearer as the road are less dense, and the animals are venturing into the cities.

As with anything, this pandemic will pass. Nothing is permanent. I pray that many will learn the lessons from this virus, of being better prepared, but more importantly being nicer and considerate of others. In cities across Europe, people created impromptu gatherings on their balconies and created music together. Once we can meet in person, my hope is that that spirit displayed on the balconies will continue. Instead of just being sequestered in your own home, we get to meet the neighbors and others in the community, thus fostering more friendship and understanding. We cannot go back to “normal.” We must change for the better and how we can better those around us.

In the meantime, continue to chant *Odaimoku* so we can begin to heal the world and make it into a Buddha Land.

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren’s Birth

649 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,660,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 28, 2020

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

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

What you can do at Home

Kumiko Kanai

To prevent the spread of coronavirus infection, the U.S. government from the middle of March requested everyone to stay at home as much as possible. I only leave the house once a week to go buy groceries.

I don’t think the world will return to normal after this pandemic. If you keep listening to negative news, your immune system will weaken. Since we have lots of time now, why not try to turn this big crisis into big chance to switch to a positive way of thinking, to aim for a new world, a new way of life, and a new way of working.

In addition, I am grateful for the knowledge I gained from the experts for their insights about the US economy after the corona pandemic.

Meanwhile, I noticed some points to keep my body and mind healthy based on the first line of the Japanese Alphabet with the first character associated to a specific word.

A...aruku (Walk) - walk around the neighborhood when the weather is nice, avoiding crowds

Ka...kagamu (squat) – to keep muscle strength in legs, stand and sit from your chair

Sa...sasaeru (support) - being careful not to fall, stay still in various poses to sense balance

Ta...tatsu (stand) - instead of sitting down all day, get up and do house chores

Na...nandemo taberu (eat anything) – eat a balanced diet to improve your immune strength

Ha...haku (breath) – relax with deep breaths from the bottom of stomach, inhaling through your nose and long exhale through the mouth

Ma...mawasu (rotate) – to stretch the muscles, move the joints to loosen the body

Ya...yasumu (rest) – don't overdo when you are tired or sick

Ra...rajio taiso (radio gymnastics, daily morning exercise program broadcasted over Japanese radio) - perfect for moving your entire body

Wa...warau (laugh) – every day find one thing to bring a smile to your face

I perform all of these every day. Why don’t you try?



EVENTS

(Services will be conducted online until it is safe for everyone to meet again)

<u>May</u>		<u>June</u>	
3 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother’s Day	14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
17 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
24 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shakyo</i> Tracing
25 th (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City		
31 st (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday		

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