



RADIANCE

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November/December 2019

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SACRED WORDS

When you polish a dusty mirror, it will surely shine like a jewel. Your immature and misguided mind is like a dusty mirror. When you polish your dusty mind, it will become a mirror reflecting the universal truth. Put your firm faith in the three treasures (Buddha, Dharma and Sangha) and let your mind shine day and night. How do you get it to shine? Just say, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.

St. Nichiren's Words—*Issho Jobutsu Sho*

Komatsubara Persecution Service

Nov. 10th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. Before sunset of November 11, 1264, St. 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 come join us to commemorate this important event.

Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues Appreciation / Year End Potluck Luncheon

Dec. 15th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

We will 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, St. Nichiren, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) that you place in your altar is welcome. Please either bring ahead of time or on this date. We will conduct a special appreciation blessing.

Following the service, we will hold our **Year End Potluck Luncheon**. Please bring your favorite food for everyone to enjoy!

Temple Cleaning

Dec. 27th, 10:00 a.m.~12 noon (Fri)

On December 27th, we ask for volunteers to come help thoroughly clean the temple. The deep clean is to help rid of any grime and negative energy accumulated over the year. This is in preparation for the coming new year so we can start fresh.

Bring your own cleaning supplies if you wish.

New Year's Eve Ceremony

Dec. 31st, 10:30 a.m. (Mon)

Come join us for the last service for 2019! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, Gohonzon, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout the year.

All attendees 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 2020 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Reflection

Shoda Douglas Kanai

For those that have yet to visit the temple, please do. Come see the gift presented to my father from a SE Asia Nichiren Shu member. It is a picture of Sakyamuni Buddha's face. It looks three dimensional and follows you wherever you move. So, Buddha is always watching you. This represents Buddha's wisdom as He knows what we are thinking inside and instead of judging us, He has the compassion to lead us back onto the Buddhahood path.

When new visitors stop by, I ask them what they see. Some just see Buddha face, some see the face moving, and others just see another ornamental display. There are other Buddha statues surrounding the "face" so it is just another part of the collection.

I also ask if Buddha's eyes are open or closed. Most people say it is closed. This is the usual answer. For me, the eyes are open. It could be my guilty conscience, knowing that I am always being watched. But seriously, I know that wherever and whenever, Buddha is always watching, showing us his compassion in teaching as well as leading those that need to be taught to a teacher.

I then ask what impression that have seeing Buddha's face. There are various responses. From this response, I can get a sense of who they are, what type of person they are, and where they are mentally. Just like looking into a mirror, looking at a Buddha statue shows our reflection. A mirror only shows what is on the outside, looking a Buddha statue shows what is on the inside. Most people keep the inside-self hidden under layers of falsehoods and attachments. The Buddha knows the truth and reflects as such.

I might have relayed this story in the past, but while I was studying in Japan after completing my first 100 Days *Aragyo* Ascetic Training, I went to a neighborhood temple to help with their yearly special service. The head priest was absent and rarely chanting in the main hall. When I viewed St. Nichiren's statue, I was shocked! He was crying. His face was one of sadness. Thinking that his face a was reflection of my inner being, I quickly apologized, vowing to be a better person. Upon further observation, St. Nichiren was saying to me, that he felt lonely, that no one was chanting at this temple for him and all the other deities. After the special ⇨

⇐ service and returning back to my home temple where I was studying, I immediately went to the main hall to see St. Nichiren's statue. His face was beaming and one of extreme joy! To me, it looked like he was chuckling and having a good time!

The statues know what we are feeling inside us and also the surrounding environment. From large statues to more personal ones, look deeply at the face and see what kind of impression you get. There will be good days and bad. This is just a reflection of where we are at, at any given moment. Be aware of this, so that once you realize that something is amiss, we can make conscious changes to our attitude so that our inner being will change for the better.

When chanting at your altar, look at the statues while chanting *Odaimoku*. I think you will notice a difference from the start and at the end. Sometimes you may not notice any differences. Other times, you may notice vast differences. Again, this is a reflection of our inner self, thus some days we are serious in our chanting and other days, we are just going through the motions.

So next time you visit this temple or any other temple, look deeply at the faces of the statues. Notice the feelings you have and try to analyze it. I am sure that you will learn more about yourself and find areas to work on. Buddha, St. Nichiren and deities show your inner reflection. Bow to your inner self and chant *Nami Myoho Renge Kyo*.

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

Sunflower in my garden

Kumiko Kanai

This is a story of the sunflower that continues to bloom in my backyard from June to October. From the sunflowers planted last year, the wind must have carried seeds all over the yard, with 20 new seedlings growing in various places, with each one having 20-30 flowers blooming.

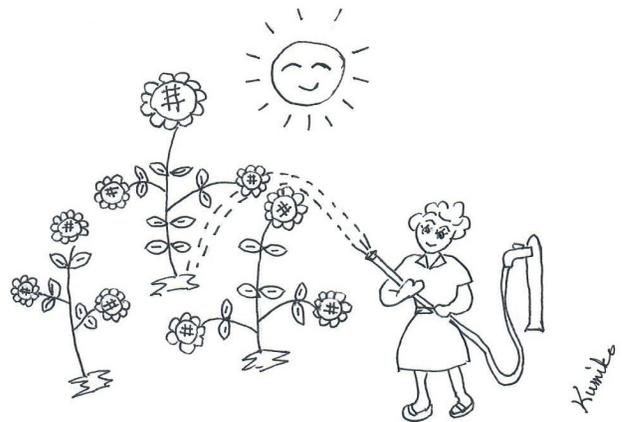
I always thought that sunflowers turned its face towards the sun, east in the morning and west in the evening, but this belief was wrong.

The sunflower moves following the sun as it grows before the flower blooms, and when the stems stiffen and flowers start to blossom, the movement usually stops while facing east.

Plants have a growth hormone called auxin that regulates cell growth in the same way as animals have their own growth hormone. Auxin has the characteristic that its concentration increases when it is exposed to light. When the bud grows and the flower blooms, the stem stops growing and becomes harder and does not chase the sun anymore.

Last year there was a big sunflower blossom, but this year only a pretty flower blossomed. Even after 5 months, I am still amazed at my sunflower growing in my garden.

A sunflower saying, "I only stare at you!"



“Celebration” Baby Girl Birth Announcement

Bishop Shokai and Kumiko Kanai is proud to announce birth of their first grand-daughter, born September 7th to their third son Edde and Amber. A healthy girl, 7lbs 7oz, 19.5in.

Shichi-Go-San (7-5-3) Blessing

Nov. 16th, 10:30 a.m. (Sat)

Mark your calendars on November 16th for *Shichi-Go-San* Blessing! This is a special celebration for girls ages 3 or 7, or boys ages 3 or 5 in Japan. To continue this tradition stateside, we will be holding a special blessing to promote their well being.

Detailed information will be passed out later. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact the temple.

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth
\$150,745.76.

637 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **22,790,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 22, 2019
Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

November

3rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Kito* Blessing
10th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Komatsubara* Persecution Service
16th (Sat) 10:30 a.m. *Shichi-Go-San (7-5-3)* Blessing
17th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
24th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

December

1st (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Kito* Blessing
8th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
15th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation & Year End Potluck Luncheon
22nd & 29th (Sun) **No Service**
27th (Fri) 10:00 a.m. Year End Temple Cleaning
31st (Mon) 10:30 a.m. New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

- Shoda Kanai Shonin– new business blessing in San Francisco 11/3 (afternoon) ~ 11/7

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