

# RADIANCE

No. 54 (November 1, 2016)

November/December 2016

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## SACRED WORDS

*Sariputra! All the Buddhas in the past expounded various teachings to all living beings with innumerable expedients, that is to say, with stories of previous lives, parables, similes and discourses, only for the purpose of revealing the One Buddha-Vehicle.*

*Lotus Sutra, Chapter II—Expedients (p. 33)*

### **Komatsubara Persecution Service**

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. On the night 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.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

### **Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues Appreciation**

**Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Beginning this year, we will show our appreciation to your Buddhist statues. *Daikoku, Kishibojin, Kannon, St. Nichiren, Buddhas* or any statues 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!

### **Garage/Rummage Sale**

**Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m.~12 noon (Sat & Sun)**

A fundraising event will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to help build a new temple. If you have 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 house 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.

### **Temple Cleaning**

**Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.~12 noon (Tue)**

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 Service**

**Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sat)**

This year for safety reasons, we will hold the New Year's Eve Service at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup>. This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, Gohonzon, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout the year 2016.

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 2017 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### **More Than Enlightenment**

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

On the morning of December 8<sup>th</sup> Siddhartha Gautama attained Enlightenment and became the Buddha. What is Enlightenment? There are many examples and explanations on what truly it is, from "Removal of Suffering" to "Emptiness" to "Dependent Origination". These are very difficult concepts to comprehend. I will try to explain it to you in simpler terms.

When the Buddha talks about "Suffering," this is caused by our attachment or wanting no change, when there is constant change. "Emptiness" is the absence of any permanent person or thing and "Dependent Origination" explains the connectedness of everything, nothing just appears out of nothing. To understand all of these concepts means you attained Enlightenment. This is what Siddhartha realized when he "awoken" under the *bodhi* tree.

Over the next 40 years, Siddhartha (now known as The Buddha) expounded on these concepts with various parables and stories. He taught that Nirvana was the goal when we broke the cycle of birth and death, in a sense, nothingness. This though is not the ultimate truth. There is more to than just attaining Nirvana.

The ultimate goal is to understand that everyone and everything are all connected and depend on each other. This is *Shoho Jisso*, or "**Reality of all Things**". In Buddha's earlier teachings, we are just a cog in wheel. With the introduction of Lotus Sutra, we are now the axle that drives the wheel. Each one of us is a Buddha, so we all strive to help others since we all respect each others as a Buddha.

Siddhartha did attain Enlightenment and we celebrate this occasion. His teachings left us more than just an understanding of his core principles regarding suffering and ending the cycle of birth and death. He left us the tools to reach the Buddha inside all of us.

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

## Hand-made Kimono Hanger

Kumiko Kanai

One of our family friends teaches *Urasenke Chado* in Las Vegas. Her name is Jodie Cohen. Through a scholarship she went to Japan and studied in the *Midorikai*, foreign student program, in Kyoto for a year. Returning to the states, she continued to take tea ceremony lessons in California for many years. Her husband, John, is a very handy-man and built a Japanese tea-house connected to their home. Of course it has *mizuya* or a kitchen.

One day I was invited to a tea-ceremony gathering and saw her kimono hanging on hand-made hangers. The hangers looked so nice. I asked her husband to make some for us.

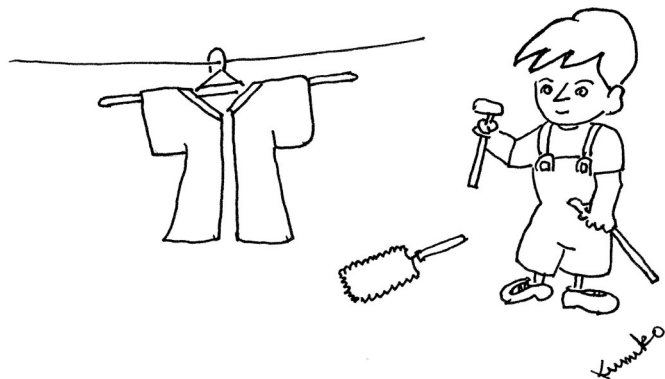
He made a few, but the regular length of the stick sold at stores is 48 inches. It is shorter than kimono sleeves. When I told him, John added two inches on both ends. The new hangers are just right to stretch the sleeves and it also has an extra bar to hang an *obi* sash.

These hangers are very useful for my husband and son to hang their robes on after each service.

John also washes dishes and bowls used in *kaiseki* meal by himself after each *cha-kai* or tea ceremony. These are held a few times a year.

Thank you, John! Your kimono hangers are very useful for us!

I was surprised to see an American built a Japanese tea house with local materials in Las Vegas.



## Before Trying to Become a Buddha, Behave like a Bodhisattva!

Rev. Shokai Kanai

The big difference between the statues of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas are as follows: A Buddha statue wears one robe only because they renounced the worldly matters and attained Buddha-hood, so they have no attachment to anything. On the other hand, Bodhisattvas are lay people; therefore, most statues of Bodhisattvas wear garments, crowns, necklaces, and bracelets. Some Bodhisattvas hold a flower base or a medicine bottle. ⇨

Thus, the Bodhisattvas are decorated with many jewels.

Since you are a lay person, it is perfectly all right to wear make up and jewels. The personal adornment makes you and others happy. When women are decorating themselves like Bodhisattvas, people will praise them. When men wear sharp suits and dress up like Bodhisattvas, people will respect them.

Bodhisattva means, “one who seeks enlightenment not only for himself but also for others.” The most well-known Bodhisattva is “Kannon.” It is in the Lotus Sutra Chapter 25. The title of that chapter is “The Universal Gate of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva.” Many Buddhists consider this chapter as an independent sutra; therefore, it is widely accepted and read regardless of their denomination. The “Universal Gate” symbolizes open to everyone! Therefore, some Kannon Bodhisattva statue have eleven faces to perceive all directions.

The sutra teaches worldly gain. It says, “If living beings call the name of World-Voice-Perceiver Bodhisattva with all their hearts when they are under various sufferings, the Bodhisattva will immediately perceive their voices and cause them to emancipate themselves from the sufferings.”

This chapter of the Lotus Sutra was composed for lay people during the first century. At that time there might have been no specialists like policeman, fireman, rescuer, coast guard and medical doctor. To call his name is more like “Dial 911” in the present.

The Nevada Kannon Temple enshrines the Eleven Face Kannon Bodhisattva. There are two kinds of people that come to our temple. One is seeking salvation from Kannon Bodhisattva. For these people, we will have counselling, memorial service, *kito* blessing, and teach them to have peace of body, mind, and soul.

The other group that comes to the temple, come to learn how to behave like a Bodhisattva. The Kannon Bodhisattva called them to come to the temple. They are practicing chanting, *Shodaigyo*, meditation, studying the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Buddhism. They are the leaders in our communities.

Behave like a Bodhisattva means to keep up your job and task at home at work and in community. Make other joyful! This is behaving like a Bodhisattva.

**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Nichiren’s Birth  
\$86,433.04

470 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, 17,420,000 times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 24, 2016

*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

## EVENTS

### November

6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
11 <sup>th</sup> (Fri) 7:00 a.m.~	Garage/Rummage Sale Day 1
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sat) 7:00 a.m.~	Garage/Rummage Sale Day 2
13 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Komatsubara</i> Persecution
20 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
27 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English/Japanese Service

### December

4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
18 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation & Year End Potluck Luncheon
25 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) No Service	Temple closed
27 <sup>th</sup> (Tue) 10:00 a.m.	Year End Temple Cleaning
31 <sup>st</sup> (Sat) 10:30 a.m.	New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be traveling to Japan for meetings 11/16 ~ 29
- Rev. Shoda Kanai will attend Ministers’ Training at NBIC 11/30

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