



RADIANCE

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March/April 2017

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SACRED WORDS

An imaginary bird called “hiyoku” has two heads in one body with two mouths feeding the single body. Imaginary fish called “himoku” have only one eye each thus the male and female stay together without separation throughout life. Thus should be the relationship between a husband and wife.

Kyodai-sho - St. Nichiren’s Words

My Wedding

On March 11th I will be getting married in a traditional Japanese style wedding in Fukuoka City, Japan. My fiancée Ayano Hara will be joining me after completing the long visa process to help spread the *Odaimoku* here in Las Vegas.

A welcoming party will be held once she is settled in the U.S. Let us all welcome her then!

Spring *Higan* Memorial Service Mar. 19th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

Higan means the “other shore” (Buddha Land) while *Shigan* means “this shore” (worldly land of the material). The world we can see is “this shore” while the “other shore” is the spiritual realm that we can see only through our faith. *Higan* Memorial Service is held to show our appreciation to those in the “other shore” by offering our chanting so that our ancestors can attain Buddhahood.

Please write your name and family names of your ancestors or their individual names on the enclosed prayer form and return to the Kannon Temple of Nevada with your donation. Let us chant the sutra and *Odaimoku* together for them.

Buddha’s Birthday Celebration Blessing New Born Babies Apr. 10th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

Happy Birthday to Sakyamuni Buddha!

According to legend, the baby Buddha, soon after his birth, stood firmly, and walked seven steps and proclaimed, “From heaven to the earth, I alone am the most honored one!” by pointing his right index finger to heaven and his left index finger to the earth. This means the Buddha is the only person who has attained such precepts, meditation and good roots of virtue. It also means there is no person just like you in this world who have the same appearance, character and karma. Therefore, you are the most honored one as well as any other person.

We welcome everyone to attend this celebration. Sweet tea in honor of his birth will be served.

Newborn babies will receive Shoda Kanai Shonin’s blessing and amulets. Please let him know the name of the new born baby ahead of time.

Setsubun Soy Beans Donation

Hoshimatsuri and *Setsubun* Service were held on February 5th. Throwing roasted soy beans are a part of the *Setsubun* Service to chase away evils from our minds. The roasted beans were donated by the Miyako Oriental Foods, Inc. (Mr. Noritoshi Kanai). Since the beans were roasted professionally, everyone enjoys eating them. Thank you very much for the donation!

Cleansing!

Shoda Douglas Kanai Shonin

Here in the high desert, it has been a wet winter. I have never seen this much rain and snow in the mountains! This is a good thing as we are still in a drought and Lake Mead which supplies our water has fallen over 100ft. You can see the white band around the lake like a ring around a bath tub. The extra rains will help replenish some of the lake, causing less burden over summer.

Rain is nice as it helps wash away the sky thus cleaning the dirty air. How nice it is to smell the air after rain showers! Just as the rain helps wash the air so does taking a shower helps clean the body. It is refreshing to feel clean and the sense of joy that comes with it. Not only are you removing the dirty grim but you are also cleaning the mind.

Just as muddy water does not soil a lotus flower, we too must not let our defilements spoil us. Our bad karma and three poisons (greed, anger, ignorance) like the dirt can stick to us and stay with us. We must be mindful of cleansing the body to help remove the dirt.

One way to clean your mind is to continue on your practice of chanting the *Odaimoku* and reciting the Lotus Sutra. This practice will help elevate you spiritually so that you may overcome the many defilements by awakening yourself to your Buddha nature. As you begin to understand the True Nature of Reality, you begin to shed yourself from worldly attachments.

Second, is to come to temple to be specially blessed with *kito* blessing. I always say, this will help “remove the black cloud above your head, so that the sun can shine upon you.” My blessings will help turn you into a lotus flower so you will not be soiled by worldly matters and help you see your great potential.

Lastly, is to do water purification. This practice done by priests mainly in *Aragyō* 100 Day Training, can be done by laity. There is a special prayer chanted before, during and after the pouring of cold water over your body. This practice helps build your physical strength but also is another form of body cleansing. The cold water is washing away our bad karma and sins. Sometimes I do this water purification in the shower, but it is not as powerful if I do it outside, in the cold. Maybe at the next temple location, I will add a special section dedicated to do water purification so that you could join me in this practice as well.

It is only with a clear mind that we can be able to see clearly and fully appreciate the Buddha’s Dharma. Let us all strive to free our minds from defilements and all become like lotus flowers.

My View Point (As I heard and as I see)
SNOW in Las Vegas?

Kumiko Kanai

On January 21st and 22nd snow storm hit Kyle Canyon on Mt. Charleston which is located about one hour drive from Downtown Las Vegas. On the mountain there is several ski slopes for children and beginners.

On T.V. screen and in the newspaper, I saw a man removing snow from the walk-way, covered mail boxes, the highly-snow covered roofs of cabins and parking structures for skiers. Some areas had snow piled up to a person's height.

My curiosity made me to go to check the height of snow, but I could not because of a road block limiting non-residents. I went back there a week later carrying a camera. Snow covered mountains were so beautiful. I was able to see the snow piled up higher than a person's height in some areas along the road to the mountain, I recalled the snow in Tokyo when I was a little girl.

As a child, when I woke up and opened the window in the morning, the snow was all over. So I reached out to touch it. I brushed off the top layer of snow on a leaf to get to the inside and ate that. I thought the top of the snow was dirty but the middle was clean.



Taiko Class Open to Public

On March 5th, Japanese style (*Wadaiko*) practice will start after the Monthly *Kito* Blessing and refreshment. Eight holders for our hand-drum were made by John Potter. Thank you, John for your donation of materials and labor. We will use two sticks and beat the *taiko* during *O'daimoku* and in festival rhythm. It is free and anyone can join!

Learn About Last Moment in Life

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Nichiren Dai'Shonin wrote a letter to Nun Myoho Ama, "I should study the matter of the last moments of life first of all, before studying anything else." This is an important message for Nichiren Shu priests and lay people. ↗

↗ A son of a member of the temple called, "My mother passed away yesterday." I asked, "Where is her body now?" He answered, "It's already at the mortuary. My relatives and her sisters will go to the mortuary at 3 p.m." Then, I said, "Then, I will see you at the mortuary. I wish to pray for her at her pillow side before the meeting with a director of the mortuary!"

When we got there, a director of the mortuary told us that her body was not there yet. Although I want to know the date, time and place of the funeral, but due to sensitive family matters and financial considerations, I told the son to call me when the meeting was over, so that I can come to her house to set up the *Butsudan*. To hold a funeral costs a lot of money, whether burial, cremation, embalming and prepping the body for viewing.

In the evening, I held a *makura-kyo* or awake service at her home. Her son, daughters and sister were at the home, but they did not want to participate in the service except for a daughter who was a Buddhist. They stayed in another room with the doors shut. No information on the funeral was given to me.

Now, please note the following information if you wish to hold a Nichiren-Shu funeral or a memorial service. Please call the Kannon Temple of Nevada or my home before you call a mortuary, because Shoda Shonin or I will go to the hospital, retirement home, or one's house as soon as possible and have a pillow side service for the newly departed. If the death occurred at a hospital or nursing home, they will keep the body for a few hours until the immediate family arrives. I or Shoda Shonin will be there with the family for the final tribute in front of the deceased and give chanting from the Lotus Sutra, *Odaimoku* and Nichiren Dai'Shonin's words.

When I visit an advanced sick person, I ask, "If you can be born again, what do you wish to be?" I expect the dying person has some hope for the next life. I sometimes ask how his or her funeral should be and make sure the family knows it. At near death, I tell, "Nothing to be afraid to die! Go toward the light! Someone from the spiritual realm will come to lead you."

We at this temple, will give chanting and prayer every morning until one's 49th Day after death. We also pray for the members on their memorial day every year during morning service.

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth
 \$91,732.26

479 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **18,070,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of February 20, 2017

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

<u>March</u>		<u>April</u>	
5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	2 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
12 th (Sun) No Service	Shoda Shonin's Wedding	9 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Hanamatsuri (Buddha's B-Day)
19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Spring <i>O-Higan</i> Memorial Service	16 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
		30 th (Sun) No Service	5 th Sunday

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Japan for his Wedding 3/2 ~ 13
- Rev. Shokai and Kumiko Kanai will attend Shoda Shonin's Wedding 3/8 ~ 13

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