





RADIANCE

No. 99 (May 1, 2024)

May/June 2024

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SACRED WORDS

When your late father sees your great kindness shown to me, how happy he will be! It is likely he loved you simply as his child but never expected you to hold a memorial service through the Lotus Sutra. Even if he has been in evil realms due to his sin, Yama, the King of Law, King of the Brahma Heaven, and Indra will notice your offering of filial piety and save him. How can Sakyamuni Buddha and the Lotus Sutra abandon him?

Nichiren Shonin's Words—*Nanjo-dono Gohenji*

Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Izu Persecution and Mother's Day Service May 12, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

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

We will also celebrate Mother's Day. Nichiren Shonin 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.

Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Cemetery May 27, 11:00 a.m. (Mon)

May 27 is Memorial Day the unofficial start of summer! But more importantly, 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. 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.

Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at kannontemplenv@gmail.com. We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense.

A Boy who Saved His Father

Shoda Kanai

The months of May and June bring about a special day for our mother and father respectively. We pay homage to them with brunch, dinner, or a round of golf. We show our gratitude towards them on their special day.

We may get along or not get along with our parents. Family dynamics can be complicated with resentment from all sides. Though this may be difficult, please still pay homage to your parents and forgive them for any ills they may have caused. We can offer our compassion towards them to help them save themselves from residing in one of the lower three realms of Hell, Hungry Ghost, and Animals. Let me tell you a story about Taro Ohashi.

Taro Ohashi upset the Lord Minamoto no Yoritomo who was the first shogun of Japan and started the Kamakura Shogunate. He was sent to prison near the capital city where it was uncertain if he still lived.

In the meantime, Ohashi's wife gave birth to a son and did her best to raise him by herself. As most seven year old kids do, they bully and tease each other. Ohashi's son was ridiculed as "single mother's child." Upset, the son went to his mother to ask where his father was. Mother distraught began to cry. The son being insistent, forced the mother to tell the truth.

His father was taken to prison, but no news has reached them if he was still alive or deceased. The boy longing to see his father tried to find a way to seek his father. His mother insisted that he return to the mountain temple and make an offering to the Buddha and read a fascicle of the Lotus Sutra as part of his filial duty.

The boy returned to the temple and over the years, instead of just reading one fascicle, he was able to read the entire Lotus Sutra and put it to memory. ⇨

⇐At 12 years old, instead of becoming a priest, he ran away and headed to the capital of Kamakura.

Once at the capital, he went straight to the Hachiman Shrine to pray on his wish of knowing if his father was still alive or not. He began to chant the Lotus Sutra. Many onlookers were captivated by this young boy and his splendid voice. Lord Minamoto's wife heard this chanting and told her husband. The Lord then invited the young boy to chant in his Buddha Hall.

While chanting in front of the Lord, news came of a potential execution. Upon hearing this news, the boy began to cry as it could be his father. The Lord, curious, inquired about the boy and heard his story bringing the entire court to tears.

Lord Minamoto quickly gave orders to stay the execution and bring the prisoner to the court. Fortunately, the messenger arrived just in time and brought Taro Ohashi in front of the palace, where the young boy ran to him and untied his shackles. Unsure of what was happening and why the reprieve, Lord Minamoto explained to Ohashi that he was moved to tears as the power of the Lotus Sutra was able to help him become the first shogun and also seeing the power of the Lotus Sutra chanted by a young boy help save his father.

Most of us has a great relationship with our parents and we should continue to pay our respects towards them by offering our chanting to them. While others may still hold some resentment. Please overcome that emotion and offer your chanting of the Lotus Sutra to them. Even if they are alive or deceased, a follower or not, the power of the Lotus Sutra can save everyone. Why not repay them by offering thanks for you to be born in this life and be able to touch the Buddha and Lotus Sutra. Not everyone can meet the Buddha, thus you are special. Let us spread the Buddha's teachings to all those who have yet to meet the Buddha and help save them so they too can create the good karma and meet the Buddha in the future.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's Birth

752 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,810,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of April 24, 2024

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Alignment

Shoda Kanai

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to become a reiki practitioner by being attuned to level two. I can now do basic healing for those who are interested. I probably won't start for a while, though.

For the class, I was not sure what to expect and kept an open mind. After the first day and being attuned to level one, I had great joy. I was excited to learn more and how I could use this newfound knowledge. It is stated that reiki is not religious, but I can see how it could be adapted within my religious practice. Then something fundamentally changed within me on day two.

Day two brought level two attunement, which like a switch, my mind went blank. I felt a peacefulness wash over me. It could be that now my mind is tuned to the universal radio channel, and I can hear the music clearly and not static or the scrambling of in-between channels. I am no longer bogged down by intrusive thoughts. The self-healing that I learned puts me into a very deep meditative state where I feel like I can transcend space and time.

After our class session, the master took us to a meditative garden in Encinitas, CA. This would be just like any other garden before my experience, but



now I can feel the calmness, the ocean breeze, and the stillness throughout my body. I was able to sit quietly and observe nature while processing what I have learned over the past two days. It

was quite refreshing!

We are all energy and vibrate at a certain frequency. Being "in tune" means to be in balance with the universe and earth. We can balance ourselves through a practice that my father created



"Universal Energy Shodaigyo" of which I have previously incorporated. Now I am in the process of updating it with my impression and intuition. Please view the temple's Facebook page to see when the next "Universal Energy Shodaigyo" will take place.

EVENTS

<u>May</u>		<u>June</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) 10:30 a.m.	Izu Persecution/Mother's Day	9 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	16 th (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
26 th (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shakyo</i> (Sutra Tracing)
27 th (Mon) 11:00 a.m.	Cemetery Visit in Boulder City	30 th (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday

*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password ***

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