

RADIANCE No. 39

May 1, 2014

May and June

SACRED WORDS

Nichiren's compassion is boundless; therefore, "NAMU MYOHO RENGE KYO" will spread forever beyond the ten thousand year-period or *mappo* era.

Nichiren's Writing, "Ho-on Sho"

Archbishop of Nichiren Shu and Chief Abbot of Minobusan Kuon-ji Temple Visits the Oldest and Newest Nichiren Shu Temples in North America

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary Propagation of Nichiren Buddhism in North America, the most honored Nisso Uchino, Archbishop and the Chief Abbot of Minobusan Kuon-ji Temple will conduct the Grand Ceremony at the Los Angeles Nichiren Buddhist Temple on June 29th. He is said to be a descendant of Lord Hakii who donated all of Mount Minobu to Nichiren Dai'Shonin, the founder of Nichiren Buddhism 740 years ago.

There will be many people from all over Japan coming for this celebration. We would like to welcome the Archbishop and his group with a special banquet on June 28th. Those who would like to join in the festivities starting with the banquet on Saturday evening and Grand Ceremony on Sunday morning (29th), please send the registration fee of \$125 payable to L.A. Nichiren Buddhist Temple. If you also wish to attend the Memorial Service and World Peace *Kito* Blessing starting Saturday morning, lunch will be an additional \$25. Please send your registration fee to your minister. We would like to see as many NONA members participate in these events.

The next day, June 30th, the Archbishop will visit our Kannon Temple of Nevada with his escort around noon. I hope many people will welcome him and his group at our new temple on Sahara Avenue, where we just held our grand opening ceremony a year ago. Our group is still small but the sound of Odaimoku and hand drums will be a warm welcome for Archbishop Uchino's group.

Outdoor Sunday Service and Picnic Commemorating Nichiren Buddhism Birthday

On April 27th we celebrated the birthday of Nichiren Buddhism at the Spring Table Picnic Grounds in Calico Basin on the eastside of Red Rock National Park. As you know Nichiren Dai'shonin chanted "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo" for the first time at the top of Mount Kiyosumi on April 28, 1253. When we marched while chanting the Odaimoku with hand drums, some people clapped their hands with the rhythm of the drums and even some children approached to us as we walked by.

Although Las Vegas is surrounded by desert, there are a few places where spring water comes out of the rocks naturally. Such places were used to be the habitations for native aborigines. Therefore, these small areas are covered with green grasses and trees and are very precious even for us today.

The Flourishing Garage Sale

We held a garage sale in the driveway of Mr. & Mrs. John Potter starting at 6:00 am on March 23rd. One of the temple members donated many items before moving such as pictures in various sizes of frames, kitchen utensils and some furniture. Many others donated other items and cash. The volunteers at the site were John and Jodie Potter, Katie Hutchinson, Paula Patterson, Kazuko Underhill, and Kumiko Kanai. Thank you very much!

Memorial Day Service at the Veteran's Cemetery

May 26th is Memorial Day! It is the day for all Americans to show their respect and appreciation to all soldiers who sacrificed their precious lives. The National Cemetery for veterans and their spouses are in Boulder City, southeast of Las Vegas. There are several people who are buried there related to our members of Kannon Temple. Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit each one of their tombs and pray starting at 11 a.m. If you can make time, please visit.

Odaimoku Chanting Reaches 12,420,000 times

Since the Kannon Temple of Nevada started the “10,000 Time Odaimoku Chanting” in April 2010, it has reached 12,420,000 times as of April 25, 2014. The next goal is 13 million times. We placed a public announcement board at front window saying, “Chant, ‘Namu Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-kyo.’ You will be Patient, Endeavor, Glad to give. You will have Calm Mind and Wisdom.”

Please continue to chant. If you would like the 10,000 times chanting sheet, please call Rev. Kanai at (702)396-6276.

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

COMIC

Kumiko Kanai

One of my daily routine is to thoroughly read the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, our daily newspaper in Southern Nevada. I read all pages after breakfast. There are 22 comics on one of the back pages. It always amazes how well drawn pictures of animals and people with their explanation and feelings in a casual manner.

The following is the conversation between a grandson and his grandfather on “Pickles”:

Grandson: “I saw on TV that some guy won 10 million dollars in a Lottery. Have you ever won a big prize, Grandpa?”

Grandfather: “I won your Grandma's heart.”

Grandson: “Yeah, me neither.”

Hello from Japan (13)

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

During my last visit to America, I was given the opportunity to talk to high school and middle school Social Studies teachers about Buddhism, including my experience in *Aragyo*, which amazed everyone. Some thought that I was crazy to do such a practice. Understandingly, it is very rare to meet someone who has completed ascetic training. There are not many opportunities in America to do such practices. The only comparable experience would be

Special Forces military training. My hope was that I could inspire these teachers to broaden their horizons.

The image of Las Vegas is that of excess and indulgence; an adult playground. Hidden behind this façade, there are amazing people, such as myself. Part of my plan for the future, is to be able do more lectures for teachers and the community, to talk about my experiences. This is one way to spread the message of the Buddha and St. Nichiren to a greater audience and influence them to act according to Buddhist principles. I may even use the sound from my *bokken* to wake them up!

(One of the teachers who attended my lecture asked Rev. Shokai Kanai to give a presentation on Buddhism at her school. He did four presentations to different classes at Harney Middle School.)

Events

May

- 4th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 11th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Izu Persecution Service for Nichiren
- 18th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra
- 25th (Sun) no service

Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit Japan for the World Nichiren Shu Ministers Conference and also visit the Archbishop at Minobusan Kuonji Temple.

June

- 1st (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
 - 8th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Chanting and Meditation
 - 15th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra
 - 25th (Wed) 12 noon Pilgrimage from Ryugenji in Tokyo
 - 26th (Thu) 12 noon Pilgrimage from Japan
- Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at the Los Angeles Nichiren Buddhist Temple for the 100th Anniversary Events from June 27th to 30th.
- 30th (Mon) 12 noon Welcoming the Archbishop Nisso Uchino at the Kannon Temple

NICHIREN BUDDHIST ORDER OF NORTH AMERICA

北米日蓮仏教団

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**Invitation for
100th Anniversary of Nichiren Shu Beikoku Betsuin in Los Angeles and
Nichiren Shu Propagation in North America (NONA)**

It is our honor to announce that we are going to celebrate 100th Anniversary of Nichiren Shu Propagation in North America, in conjunction with the celebration of 100th Anniversary of Nichiren Shu Beikoku Betsuin, Los Angeles, California. Commemorating Events are listed below. We deeply appreciate the great efforts of all deceased ministers and congregations during these past 100years and also immeasurable supports by Nichiren Shu Shumuin.

Nichiren Shu Shumuin has marked this great milestone as the first commemorative ceremony of 800th Anniversary of the Birth of Nichiren Daishonin. On our grand ceremony on June 29th, the Archbishop Nisso Uchino will be the officiant. It is a great privilege to have him at such a jubilant occasion. Please attend this special ceremony along with the congregations of your temples.

Please note that board president and spouse will be invited, but other congregations will need to pay for \$150 as registration fee. For this fee, \$100 for 100th Anniversary Banquet, \$25 for Bento box lunch for 28th and \$25 for Bento box lunch for 29th are included. For congregations, please send the enclosed application form by June 10th with registration fee to your temple's minister.

Memorial events will be held as below:

June 28 (Sat)

9:30 a.m.	Memorial Service of all NONA Deceased Ministers	at temple
Noon	Lunch (bento box)	
1:00 a.m.	World Peace <i>Kito</i> Blessing by Tokyo District Priests	at temple
4:00 p.m.	NONA 100 th Anniversary Lecture by Dr. Jacqueline Stone	at Double tree by Hilton
6:30 p.m.	NONA 100 th Anniversary Banquet	at Double tree by Hilton

June 29 (Sun)

10:00 a.m. NONA 100th Anniversary Grand Ceremony

at temple

Noon Lunch (bento box)

2:00 p.m. *Shodai Angya* and Street Preaching

at Little Tokyo

Transportations between Double Tree by Hilton and the temple are provided by NONA for both days.

In Gassho,

Rev. Join Inoue

Bishop Shokai Kanai

R.S.V.P.