



RADIANCE

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May/June, 2015

Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada

1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488

Tele: (702)866-5956 Fax: (702)396-6276

<http://kannon-temple-nevada.org/>

SACRED WORDS

All of Nichiren's disciple and followers should not have the divisive mind of self and other, this and that, but think of the integral relationship between fish and the water. When we chant Namu Myoho Renge Kyo with the attitude of "different in body, same in mind," that is the blood lineage of the great purpose beyond the cycle of birth and death. That is the purpose of Nichiren's propagation efforts. If so, the great vow of widely promulgating and spreading the Lotus Sutra should come true.

Nichiren- Shoji Ichidaiji Kechimyaku Sho

Installation Ceremony as the Head Priest of the Temple

June 7th is the day when Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai will be installed as the head priest of the Kannon Temple of Nevada. He has been studying, practicing and training to become a head priest at Shinnyo-ji Temple in Osaka since December 25, 2012. During his three years of training, he has completed the 100 Day Aragyo Ascetic Training twice. His understanding, speaking and writing Japanese has improved. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend the ceremony.

As a witness to the installation, Rev. Kanju Ueda the head priest of Shinnyo-ji Temple and his younger brother, Rev. Kansen Ueda and their wives will come to Las Vegas to congratulate his accomplishment and his future responsibility as the head priest. They will also bring a group of priests and lay people from the temple for this occasion.

Congratulatory Luncheon will follow the ceremony at the temple. We appreciate if you can bring a dish of your choice.

Our Missions

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Though I step back from the head priest position on June 7th, I am not retiring. Although Shoda Shonin becomes the head priest, he will continue to return to Japan for examinations and further training. He will also represent Kannon Temple in NONA meetings and ceremonies in North America. He will take legal and external responsibilities, the Kannon Temple of Nevada is not ready for him to make a living, so he may have to find work that has good benefit for his future.

I have four great missions to accomplish:

1. As I mentioned before, I intend to build a new temple building by 2022 when our founder of faith, Nichiren Dai-Shonin's 800th Birthday Celebration.
2. I would like to publish a book, *The Lectures on the Lotus Sutra*. The contents of all lectures are already on our homepage. However, through having classes on the sutra every week, my students and I am reviewing it and editing them now.
3. *Minwa-fu Hokekyo Dowa* by Rev. Koge Matasumoto will be published in English. The first three volumes are already on <http://kannon-temple-nevada.org/>. This is aimed for children and beginners in understanding the Lotus

Sutra. It contains pictures in each chapter making it very interesting to read for you and for your children and grandchildren. When all the volumes are translated, I would like to publish them with the permission of the author.

4. As I step away from daily duties, my wife and I would like to visit Nichiren Shu temples around the world, she teaches Nichiren Shu Wasan while I give lectures on the Lotus Sutra.

Please understand our mission and support our dreams.

Building Fund

\$36,958.60

431 booklets donation of Tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra
14,310,000 times of Chanting Odaimoku
As of April 23, 2015

Cleaning the Temple and Have Barbeque Lunch in the Parking Lot

Preceding the installation ceremony, we need to clean up the temple inside and out. This volunteer work starts at 10:30 a.m. on May 25th (Monday). The temple does not have enough cleaning tools. Please bring your own tools if you can.

After cleanup we will have a good time with a barbeque lunch in the parking lot.

Memorial Day Service at the Veteran's Cemetery

May 25th is Memorial Day! This is the day for all Americans to show their respect and appreciation to all soldiers who sacrificed their lives for this country. The National Cemetery for Veterans and their spouses is 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 graves to say prayer starting at 11 a.m.

If you can make time, please come to the cemetery and meet him to pray together.

Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items and Tea Whisks

***June 28 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
@ 3920 Spencer Street, L.V.***

If you have old religious items such as old *ofuda*, *i-ha-i*, and amulets, and do not need them in your home, please bring or mail them to the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Old *cha-sen* from tea ceremony and old dolls (burnable) are also accepted. We will hold a special appreciation ceremony for them and ask the spirits to leave them and return to the

universe. The burning ceremony will take place in the backyard of Kanai's residence (3920 Spencer Street, Las Vegas) at 10:30 a.m. on June 28th.



Welcome Home, Douglas!

The Welcome Home Ceremony for Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai for completing his second Aragyo was held on March 8th. Thank you very much for your prayers and support during his 100 Days ordeal.

Preceding the ceremony, the five Aragyo monks held *suigyo* ritual to purify their bodies and strengthen their spiritual energy by pouring buckets of cold water on their shoulders and back several times. Wearing white hemp robes worn for 100 days, they chanted the sutra and Odaimoku very rapidly and energetically. He reported and appreci-

ated to the Gohonzon his accomplishment.

Later all congregations received *kito* blessing from the five priests.

The next morning Douglas went back to Japan together with the four other fellow priests in order to complete his three years of training at Shinyo-ji Temple in Osaka, prepare to move back home and visited those whom he had received favors during his stay in Japan.

He came back to America on April 17th to prepare for his Installation Ceremony as the head priest of the Kannon Temple of Nevada on June 7th. Please make an effort to attend this ceremony. We will be grateful for your participation.



BACK FROM JAPAN

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

As I was leaving Japan, the brightly colored cherry blossoms were beginning to fall. In Japan, going to parks and enjoying a picnic under the cherry blossoms is an deep-rooted ritual. Thus places like Kyoto were packed with people coming to sit under the cherry blossoms. The blossoms though only last about a week. Then they begin to fall, ever so slowly until the bright colors are replaced by green leaves. Sometimes it looks like it is snowing with all the petals coming to the ground.

I wish to enjoy the cherry blossoms for a longer time, but unfortunately this is not the case. There is only a short window to be able to enjoy the sights. Just as my stay in Japan was somewhat brief, I cannot stay here forever. It is now time for the green leaves to bloom just as it is now my time to bring back what I have learned to the States. The time spent was precious just like the cherry blossoms.

After three and a half years, I am finally back home. It only seemed like yesterday that I left for Japan. My how time flies! I was very fortunate to have stayed and studied at Shinnyo-ji Temple in northern Osaka Prefecture. Though the temple location was very remote and “in the country”, this was a great opportunity for me to really focus on my studies as well as learn more about being a priest. During

this time, I was able to enter and successfully complete 100 Days Arago Training twice. It is with this knowledge gained that I can hopefully share with all of you.

I have many ideas that I would like to implement and see if they work here in the States. But first, I must take care of my health. Even though the second 100 Days Arago Training was not as taxing on my body as the first 100 Days, I still have to be careful. I may feel fine, but maybe not. So I will rest as much as I can and try to acclimatize back into this Saha World, especially the dry heat of Las Vegas. Coming from a cold wet climate to a very hot one, may not be good for my health. Please be patient while recover.

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

Cup Game

Kumiko Kanai

A cup game is now trendy among youngsters. It is a children's clapping game that involves tapping a table and hitting a cup using a defined rhythm. "Cup" is a 2012 song popularized in the film "Pitch Perfect," performed by Anna Kendrick, using the cup game as percussion beat. She performed the game during an audition. The game can be played by a person or as many as ten, twenty or more. They sit

around a table. Each player possesses a cup and in unison the players tap out the defined rhythm using their cups. It can be played competitively where a player making a mistake in the rhythm must drop out of the game with the game play continuing until only one player remains. It requires speed of hand motion and practice to sing the song with the speed of the hand motion speeded up.

I have just started because it is good for brain activity. When you sing a song, hands do not move with speed of the singing, while you watch carefully hand motion, the song does not go with it. It is hard.

If you have a plastic cup, you can play. Would you like to play? If you don't know, click "Cups" on YouTube.



Events

May

3rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
 10th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Izu Persecution for Nichiren Dai'Shonin and Mother's Day Service
 17th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Reading the Lotus Sutra (Chapter 8)
 24th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Shodai-gyo (Meditation and Chanting)
 25th (Mon) 10:30 a.m. Volunteer Day for cleanup the temple followed by Barbeque Lunch
 25th (Mon) 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day Service at the National Cemetery in Boulder City
 31st (Sun) No service 5th Sunday

June

7th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Installation Ceremony at the Kannon Temple of Nevada
 14th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
 17th (Wed) 10:30 a.m. Deity Daikoku Blessing
 21st (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Chanting and Meditation
 28th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Burning Old Religious Items at Kanai's Residence

STUDY CLASS

Rev. Shokai Kanai holds various classes on Buddhism for beginners, Lotus Sutra, Works of Nichiren Dai'Shonin, and chanting and meditation. These classes are all private lessons because everyone is different level of understanding. If you would like to study Buddhism, please call Rev. Kanai at (702)866-5956.

