

# RADIANCE

No. 66 (November 1, 2018)

November/December 2018

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## SACRED WORDS

*Mugwort grass grows straight amidst the hemp field. Trees do not grow straight, but by cutting them straight, they become useful. If you chant the sutra as it states, your mind will be straightened. Be aware that it is hard for us to chant Odaimoku unless the spirit of the Eternal Buddha enters into our bodies.*

St. Nichiren—*Myomitsu Shonin Goshosoku*

### **Komatsubara Persecution Service**

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. Before sunset 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. He was wounded in the ensuing attack, while two followers were killed.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

### **Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues Appreciation / Year End Potluck Luncheon**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</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 under that tree.

We will also show our appreciation to your Buddhist statues (*Daikoku, Kishibojin, Kannon, St. Nichiren, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) 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 and Farewell Party for Shokai Shonin**. Please bring your favorite food for everyone to enjoy!

### **Temple Cleaning**

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

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 Ceremony**

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

Come join us for the last service for 2018! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, Gohonzon, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout the year.

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 2018 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### **Last Sermon for Shokai Kanai Shonin**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The current Bishop of Nichiren Mission of Hawaii is planning to return to Japan in December, so *Shumuin* (Headquarters) has asked Shokai Shonin to replace him, and he has accepted the new assignment. This is **only a temporary appointment** and he will be returning back to Las Vegas upon completion of his term.

Please come and listen to his last sermon. He still has a dream of building a new temple in Las Vegas, so he kindly requests your continued support in helping him make his dream come true.

Let's all wish him well on his new adventure!  
Gook Luck Sensei!

### **Straighten Up!**

Shoda Douglas Kanai

Growing up with my brothers, we were not always on our best behavior. As kids, we were always moving about. When it came time to study though, I tend to slouch as I sat. My mother always kept saying, "*Sesuji wo nobashite!*" (straighten up your back!). Good posture learned young will continue to adulthood.

Since I was never a good listener, I continued to slouch. Then came the broomstick handle. It was placed in the back of my shirt, tucked into the back of my pants. Now, I could no longer slouch! This was very uncomfortable! Even while sitting on the couch watching TV, I was told to sit up straight, instead of lying there.

To this day, I still slouch, but more mindful of the benefits of having a straight back. Proper posture is beneficial in breathing. Without proper breathing our bodies will not receive the oxygen that is necessary for the body to function, thus the body does not move at its optimal pace. Proper posture also conveys confidence as the head is held high and shoulders are back.

More importantly though, think of the spine as a lightning rod. If it is bent, the electricity will not channel properly, thus will not dissipating the charge. We are all full of energy, but at what level? With a straight back, we are connecting ourselves with

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*My View Point (As I heard and as I see)*  
**Mt. Fuji Viewed from the Summit of Mt. Minobu**

Kumiko Kanai

Last October 11th, we participated in *Rinban Kyuji* (Rotation System of taking care of Nichiren Dai'Shonin's ashes) at the Head Temple of Nichiren Shu, Minobusan Kuonji Temple.

The previous day, October 10th, we took a direct bus from Shinjuku to Minobu, which took roughly three hours and 40 minutes. Upon arrival and dropping off our luggage and registering for the next day's *Rinban Kyuji*, we took the ropeway to the top of Mt. Minobu. It was 3:30 pm when we reached the top and was barely able to see Mt. Fuji before the clouds obscured our view.

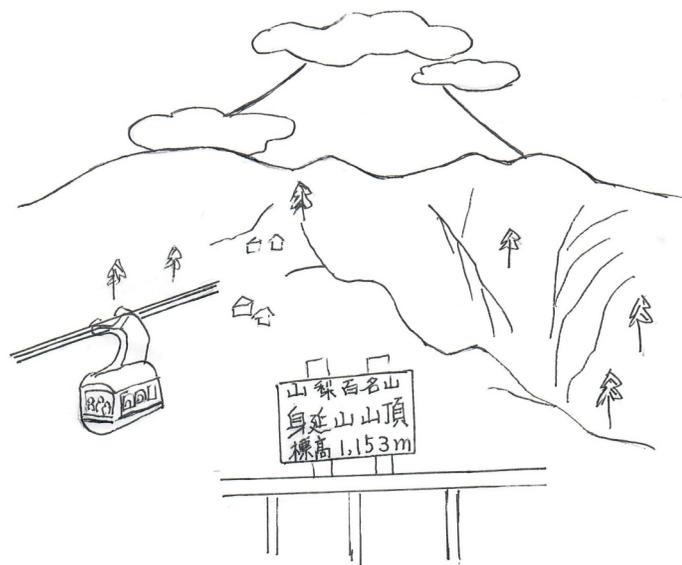
In the days of Nichiren, there were no paths to the top, but he created his own to the top so that he could face to his hometown and pay homage to his parents and master.

Morning service was held in the Kuonji Temple Main Hall at 6 am, followed by *Rinban Kyuji* at 9 am.

*Rinban Kyuji* started with Nichiren Dai'Shoinin's wish of having one of his six disciples taking turns every month, watching and caring for his mausoleum, which has now become one the most important duties for believers. With a minimum of 10 people (including minister and followers), the Chief Abbot relinquishes his duty for a day and allows the followers to take his place as administrator of Nichiren's mausoleum and conduct a special ceremony.

Starting from the next day after *Rinban Kyuji*, many unplanned miraculous, happy, and wonderful things occurred, so I was extremely grateful and thankful.

Ladies and gentlemen! I recommend that you partake in Minobusan's *Rinban Kyuji* once in your lifetime!



**Building Fund Acknowledgement**

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(From June 23, 2018 to October 23, 2018)

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SK (Add. 3 Sahakyo + Donation)	\$2,075.
KN (Add. Odaimoku 55M times)	\$1,040.
ML (Add. 1 Shakyo + Donation)	\$800.
JC (Add. Donation)	\$500.
JE (New Donation)	\$500.
GM (New Donation)	\$500.
KM (New Donation)	\$500.
MC (New Donation)	\$300.
HH (Add. Donation)	\$300.
Anonymous (Add. Donation)	\$300.
HT (Add. Donation)	\$200.
LY (New 10 Shakyo + Donation)	\$200.
MK (New Donation)	\$100.
WS (Add. Donation)	\$50.
MY (Add. 1 Shakyo + Donation)	\$50.
JT (Add. 2 Shakyo)	\$40.
YI (Add. Odaiomoku 4M times)	\$30.
JT2 (Add. 1 Shakyo)	\$20.
AY (Add. 2 Shakyo)	\$20.
CS (New 1 Shakyo)	\$20.
DW (Add. 1 Sakyō)	\$10.
KM (New Donation)	¥70,000.
WB (New Donation)	¥50,000.
EI (Add. Donation)	¥50,000.
AU (Add. Donation)	¥50,000.
NU (Add. Donation)	¥50,000.
GM (New Donation)	¥30,000.
Anonymous (Add Donation)	¥30,000.
TT (Add. Donation)	¥20,000.
TK (Add. 3 Shakyo)	¥6,000.
RK (New 2 Shakyo)	¥4,000.
SK (New 2 Shakyo)	¥4,000.
YK (New 2 Shakyo)	¥4,000.
KM (New 2 Shakyo)	¥4,000.
ET (New 2 Shakyo)	¥4,000.

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heaven and the earth so that we are in balance. When we are in balance, we are Buddhas.

I do stress that during *Shodaigyo* to always keep your back straight. If sitting on a chair, it is easy to lean back or if sitting on the floor with legs crossed to slouch. Please be mindful whenever you chant to sit with your back straight, head held high, like you are trying to touch the ceiling with your head. By doing this, we elongate our spines so that we can better bring Buddha into our bodies and lo and behold, something special may happen. Watch for it!

**EVENTS**

**November**

- 4<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 11<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Komatsubara* Persecution
- 18<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
- 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

**December**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation & Year End Potluck Luncheon
- 9<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 16<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> **No Service**
- 27<sup>th</sup> (Thu) 10:00 a.m. Year End Temple Cleaning
- 31<sup>st</sup> (Mon) 10:30 a.m. New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

- Shokai Kanai Shonin will depart for Hawaii alone on 12/5

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