



RADIANCE

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July/August 2022

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SACRED WORDS

Respect the stupa, honor it, and praise it! Anyone who, after seeing the stupa, bows to it, and makes offerings to it, know this, will approach Anuttara-samyak-sambodhi (Perfect Enlightenment).

Lotus Sutra Ch. 10 - The Teacher of the Dharma

COVID-19 Update

Good News! The State of Nevada is gradually lifting restrictions, therefore Kannon Temple will open for in-person service. We request that everyone gets vaccinated, wear a mask, bring their own DHARMA book, and social distance as much as possible. There will be no meal after service so please do not bring anything. Services will still be broadcasted online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through **Zellepay.com** to: kannontemplenv@gmail.com.

Obon Memorial Service

July 17th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Buddhism can save all souls even those in hell. The *Obon* Memorial Service originated with the story from one of Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Maudgalayana, who saved his mother from her incessant suffering in the level of Hungry Ghost.

For the newly deceased, this will be their first *Obon* Memorial Service. We will create a special *Toba* (wooden tablet) with their name written on it and make special offerings to them. This is a special message to the deceased.

Please write your name and ancestors' on the enclosed prayer form and send it back to the Kannon Temple before July 17th with your donation. Together with the congregation, we will pray for your deceased loved ones and all hungry spirits in the lower realms.

Obon Cemetery and Home Visitations in Utah

Due to assisting Hawaii Mission in late July and NONA Retreat, this year's Utah visit has been **cancelled**. Instead, please fill out enclosed prayer form and send back to Kannon Temple along with your donation. Join service online via **Zoom** July 17th and let us all together chant for our ancestors.

Matsubagayatsu Persecution Service

Aug. 21st, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The first of four major persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. An angry mob tried to kill him and burned his hut down. According to legend, he was saved by a monkey.

Please come join us to commemorate this important event.

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. If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

Save the Date ~ Aug. 6th and 7th

NONA is holding their annual retreat via Zoom over the weekend of August 6th and 7th. This is a good chance to meet and chant together with other sangha members from around the world. Scheduled time is from 9am ~ 1pm PDT both days. Please register at <https://www.nichirenbayarea.org/2022-nona-retreat-registration>. Suggest donation is \$30, \$50, or \$70. Please contact the temple if you have any questions.

Five-Storied Pagoda

Shoda Kanai

I believe everyone is familiar with the five-storied pagodas that are built on many temple grounds in Japan. Typically made from wood, they stand out with their exquisite beauty and prominence. They have become quite the tourist attraction and help attract people to the temple.

Where did the five-storied pagoda originate? The concept originally came from India with the Buddha. He said many times to bury his ashes in a *stupa*. *Stupa* is a Sanskrit word translated as "heap." It was a burial mound, usually constructed of dirt. In later times, the mounds became more ornate and built with stones. Besides holding Buddha's ashes, other relics and sutras were now stored inside.

These stupas became a place where disciples and followers could congregate around to chant sutras and be in the vicinity of Sakyamuni Buddha. By paying homage and showing appreciation in the presence of the Buddha, one could surely attain Enlightenment.

As Buddhism spread throughout Asia, the stupa slowly transformed from a mound into a building structure. As stupas were a place to meet the Buddha, the buildings began to represent Buddha himself. From the head at the top, to the face, chest, stomach, and finally the legs at the bottom. The five levels ⇒

⇐also represent each of the five elements of the universe: earth, water, fire, wind, and space (void). Earth is the base and space is the top.

Building a pagoda is very costly and out of the reach of the average person. So instead, a smaller wooden plank was created to represent the five-storied pagoda which is referred to as *toba*. On the *toba*, we can write the names of our deceased ancestors, inscribing them within their own stupa or mausoleum and have them become one with the Buddha.

With the written *toba*, it is now easier to commune with our ancestors as we can hold them with our hands and can physically chant to them. Their spirit is all around us, but when we can see them in person, there is a greater connection just like when we look at their portraits.

Traditionally, *tobas* can be requested at any time, not just for *Obon* and Spring/Autumn *O-Higan* Services. With limited space and supply at Kannon Temple, *tobas* are mainly created for those families requesting *Eitai Kuyo* (perpetual memorial service for all ancestors). If you are interested in honoring your ancestors for perpetuity, please contact the temple for further information.



Five-storied Pagoda
Minobusan Kuonji Temple

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

724 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,360,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of June 26, 2022

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

A Bear of Very Little Brain

Shoda Kanai

The other day I went to the Disney Store to pick up a Winnie-the-Pooh bear doll for my niece. This got me thinking, it has been a long while since I watched or read the story about Pooh. After some digging, I did find an old book.

Pooh is very simple minded. He does get into various predicaments, but always finds a solution, sometimes with the help of his friend Christopher Robin and Piglet. The solutions turn out to be common sense.

Though the story of Pooh is aimed at children, we adults can learn a lesson or two. We all like to think that we are smart, but in actuality we are not. We are all simple just like Pooh. Instead of trying to overthink a solution that we may encounter, we should be like Pooh and use common sense to deal with any issue. The simpler the better.

There is also a book explaining Taoism in, "The Tao of Pooh." Using the various characters, the book outlines each of the major tenets of Taoism which teaches to live life simply. This is another way to view and interact with the world.

There are other wisdoms that can be gleaned from the stories of Winnie-the-Pooh. A quick search and we can find many. Don't get too bogged down trying to find meaning, but instead enjoy the simplicity of Pooh and his friends.



EVENTS

<u>July</u>		<u>August</u>	
3 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	7 th (Sun) No Service	NONA Retreat
10 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing
17 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service	21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Matsubagayatsu</i> Persecution
24 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	28 th (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
31 st (Sun) No Service	5th SUNDAY		

• Shoda Kanai Shonin in Hawaii to assist Hawaii Mission—7/25~8/4

*** 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 ***