





RADIANCE

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November/December 2021

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SACRED WORDS

On the 11th day of the 11th month this year, on the thoroughfare of Matsubara in Tojo, Awa Province..., hundreds of nembutsu followers ambushed me. I was accompanied by about ten people, of whom only three or four were strong enough to fight. Arrows attacking us like lightning. One of my disciples was killed at the spot and two others were seriously wounded. I also was hit and wounded, and faced mortal danger, but somehow I escaped death and am still alive today. My faith in the Lotus Sutra has been strengthened as I experienced persecutions such as this.

Nichiren Shonin's Words—*Nanjo Hyoe Shichiro-dono Goshō*

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 at: kannontemplenv@gmail.com to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made through [venmo.com](https://venmo.com/@kannontemplenv) to: [@kannontemplenv](https://venmo.com/@kannontemplenv).

Komatsubara Persecution Service Nov. 14th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. Before sunset of November 11, 1264, 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 join us online to commemorate this important event.

Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues Appreciation Dec. 12th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

Let us 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, Nichiren Shonin, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) that you place in your altar. Detailed instructions will be given later.

We usually hold our **Year End Potluck Luncheon** after service, Unfortunately we have to cancel it again this year. Please pray that we can meet in-person soon!

New Year's Eve Ceremony Dec. 31st, **10:30 a.m.** (Fri)

Come join us for the last service for 2021! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, *Gohonzon*, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout this interesting year.

We 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 2022 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

Monthly Amulets

With the difficulty in receiving monthly amulets from Japan, Kannon Temple will be creating their own special amulet with donation remaining the same at \$5 per month per amulet or \$60 per year per amulet. Please contact the temple either by mail or email with your name and number of requested amulet(s). Donations can be made via check, Venmo, or PayPal.

New amulets will be mailed out starting in January 2022.

Temple Cleaning Dec. 28th **10:00 a.m.** (Tues)

In late December, it is tradition to help thoroughly clean the temple. This deep clean is to help rid the temple and you of any grime and negative energy accumulated over the year. This is in preparation for the coming new year so we can start fresh.

We ask for volunteers to come help with this year's temple cleaning on December 28th with social distancing. Bring your own cleaning supplies if you wish.

Love One Another Shoda Douglas Kanai

A couple of weeks ago, I was co-conducting a seminar at Nichiren Mission of Hawaii both in-person and via Zoom with Bishop Myokei Cain-Barrett. It was nice to be able to catch up in person during this COVID pandemic.

During the retreat she shared her experience of visiting prisons to spread the Dharma. She has spent many years meeting and helping the convicts chant *Odaimoku*.

One would think that these prisoners have no redemption, but a quote attributed by a Benedictine nun and widely used by Mr. Rodgers, "There isn't anyone you couldn't love once you've heard their story." ⇨

⇐ From the outside the prisoners are murderers, rapists, and pedophiles, but inside these people are hurting. They have never experienced love, kindness, or generosity from anyone. All they know is pain and giving pain. Once they are comfortable enough to share their story, we can learn the amount of suffering they are going through. With understanding, we can cut through all the bad karma and layers of past transgressions and get through to the core of the self. This is when they can realize that they have potential to make changes in their lives and attitudes to be able to contribute within society. They are no longer the outcasts but a productive member.

Odaimoku helps in creating and maintaining an understanding of ourselves and that we are responsible for our actions. It is like using a broom to swipe away the many layers of cobweb in an old, dusty room and making sure that the room remains clean. If we forget or neglect cleaning, the room quickly fills up with dust and cobwebs.

Some participants, do repeatedly offend, as they cannot fully grasp the Dharma yet. Others, who have accepted and fully embrace the *Odaimoku*, have changed their life around. Bishop Myokei mentioned that a prized pupil has been released and worked his way up into owning his own trucking company. He has a new family, bought a house, and have hired many other released convicts. He is so successful, that his family thinks he is selling drugs! He is not. The family cannot grasp the idea that chanting *Odaimoku* can really change a person's life around. Even his first trucking boss has inquired about chanting *Odaimoku* as he can see the drastic change and positive benefits of this man. He might think, "If it works for him, maybe it may help me."

I grew up with *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. I may need to revisit his show after all these years and re-learn the messages he thought. We must cherish each and every one as we are special and unique. We can learn from each other to help us increase our understanding of the world and those around us. Through this compassion, we can heal the world and make it a better place for all!

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

705 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,180,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 27, 2021

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

My First Year Impressions

Kumiko Kanai

Aloha Tidings, Nichiren Mission of Hawaii, 51(576)

The end of October will be one year since I moved to Hawaii from the mainland and I experienced many "cultural shocks" some of which I will detail below:

- 1) There are no major banks, such as Chase, US Bank, Bank of America, etc.
- 2) Banks here do not have the bulletproof security glass like on the mainland and only added acrylic shields due to COVID safety precautions.
- 3) The fire engines here are yellow instead of red with surfboards attached ... when I asked a fireman, he said they have a green colored engines at the military bases.
- 4) After the weather report during the nightly news, there is a surf report which will tell you the wave conditions for the next day ... If I was younger, I would try surfing.
- 5) Once a month there is a tsunami warning test ... sirens sound.
- 6) The weather section of the newspaper will inform you of many types of rain conditions in detail ... a couple of showers, passing showers, a few morning showers, partly sunny showers, showers around, breezy with showers, showers in places, and windy with stray showers.
- 7) Hawaii's unique pronunciation and words ... it is difficult to understand what people are saying especially when I pick up the phone.
- 8) Cost of living in Hawaii is very expensive, more than what I am used to! ... I am trying to think of ways to cook with locally sourced Hawaiian ingredients.
- 9) The people here are kind-hearted and laid back ... this is because of the subtropical climate which does not change much throughout the year.
- 10) You can see beautiful rainbows ... Hawaii is called the "Rainbow State," and sometimes you can catch a double or even triple ring rainbow.
- 11) At the Betsuin they say, "choba." What is this "choba?" This phrase was used during the Edo Period in reference to the "reception desk." Maybe this word is a holdover from the first-generation immigrants?

12) During *Mochi-tsuki* (mochi making) at the end of December, after the round mochi is made, they put crunchy peanut butter in the middle... amazingly delicious!



EVENTS

(Services will be conducted online until it is safe for everyone to meet again)

<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>	
7 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Kito Blessing	5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
14 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Komatsubara</i> Persecution Service	12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation
21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	19 th & 26 th (Sun)	No Service
28 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	28 th (Tues) 10:00 a.m.	Temple Cleaning
		31 st (Fri) 10:30 a.m.	New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

*** 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 ***

*** Electronic versions of "Nichiren Shu News" can be found at: <http://nichiren-shu.org/news/> ***