

RADIANCE No. 34

July and August, 2013

SACRED WORDS

If the castellan is strong, his warriors are strong while the castellan is coward, his warriors are weak. One's mind is a master of his or her body. If one has strong mind or faith, his or her guardians have strong power of protection. When a person is born, two guardians were born and dwell on each shoulder. The guardians' name is *gusho-reijin* or *god born together*.

Nichiren – “*Dojo-jin Shugo no Koto*”

Obon

Mass Memorial Service

And Offertory to Hungry Spirits

July 28th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.

The *Obon* Mass Memorial Service originated as the salvation from hell of Maudgalyayana 's mother who was in hell with extreme hunger.

Please write your name and ancestors' names on the enclosed prayer form and send it back before the 28th with your donation. Together we will pray for your ancestors and all hungry spirits. For those who passed away within the last twelve months, this *Obon* Memorial Service is the first for them. Rev. Kanai will write a special *toba* for the newly deceased and offer special prayers. If you are interested, anyone can also offer *toba* to any ancestors with the contribution of \$10 per name. *Toba* is a message to the deceased that you are fine in this world. If you wish to do so, please give your name and ancestors' names to Rev. Kanai ahead of time. So he will write the *Toba* and gives special prayers.

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai will visit us and give us a message of the day. Please attend the service.

Come, Come Everybody to Study Buddhism!

Rev. Shokai Kanai

“Come, come, everybody. How do you do and how are you? Won't you have some candy, One and Two and Three, Four, Five? Let's all sing a happy song, Sing tala-la la la la.” This is the song that was sung before the English Conversation Class broadcasted by NHK (Japanese Broadcasting) radio station after World War II (1940s and '50s). The song was set to a very mystical Japanese song, “*Sho, sho, shoji! Sho-ji no niwa wa. ...*” I enjoyed the song and the English Conversation lessons. This educational program was hosted by Tadaichi Hirakawa and an American, Mr. Harris. When I started to learn English in Japan at the age of thirteen, I always listened to this educational program for fifteen minutes every weekday evening.

Now, it is my turn to teach Buddhism at the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Of course it is not on radio, but through private lessons. I have already started the classes for several students who are eager to learn Buddhism at different times and on different days. A couple students have studied Buddhism in college, so I teach them the Life History of Nichiren Dai'Shonin and his teachings. Another person is a college student who wants to learn basic Buddhism.

Since the class is private, you can start anytime at your convenience. The text will be “The Teaching of Buddha” by BDK for basic Buddhism, “Nichiren” by Jack Christensen for those who want to learn about Nichiren Buddhism, and “The Introduction to the Lotus Sutra” by Suguro for those wanting to learn the Lotus Sutra. There is no tuition but do request offertory donation at each session.

Education is very important for the betterment of America. I hope my students apply what they have learned in their daily lives.

Monthly Amulet Is a Receiver for Prayers

Nichiren Dai'Shonin said, “If one has strong mind or faith, his or her guardians have strong power of protection. When a person is born, two guardians were born and dwell on each shoulder. The guardians' name is *gusho-reijin* or *god born together*.” Rev. Shokai Kanai always gives prayers to all supporters and amulet holders every morning and appreciation for them in the evening. Please consider the amulet called *gusho-reijin-fu* as a receiver of my prayers. Please hang around your neck or put it in your wallet so you always carry it with you. In order to refresh your prayers and appreciation every month, you must replace it with a new one at the beginning of each month.

If you would like to subscribe the *gusho-reijin* amulet, please let Rev. Kanai know the number of amulet(s) you want for your family and send a check payable to Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada. One amulet is \$5 donation each month. He will mail it to you at the end of each preceding month.

A point of View

Banyan Tree in Lahaina, Maui

Kumiko Kanai

Kanai Shonin and I attended the Installation Ceremony of Reverend Chishin Hirai, the new Bishop of the Nichiren Shu Hawaii District on May 19th, 2013. Preceding the ceremony in Oahu, we visited our son, Edward, who lives in Maui. He took us to see the Banyan tree, which is an oasis for local people in Lahaina Town.

The tree (Belgaum Bodhi Tree) was only 8 feet tall when it was imported from India. It was planted in 1873 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Christian propagation there. The giant tree is now 139 years old. The Lahaina banyan tree is now 60 feet high and 200 feet wide from the extensive spreading branches.

The branches of the banyan tree cover a whole city block, and roots extend down from the branches, called aerial roots. Once the root reaches the ground, it forms a new trunk and helps the original trunk grow. Thus it is one, large tree.

Because I heard that this tree has vitality and symbolizes long life, I touched the trunk softly and felt a significant amount of time go by. The trunk was shining because so many people touched it.

Later, we had dinner at a seaside restaurant while watching the sun setting and stopped by a delicious gelato shop and enjoyed the Italian ice cream while window-shopping.

I will always remember this good day in Lahaina, Maui.

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai's Short Visit to U.S.

Rev. Shoda Kanai will visit us and conduct *Okaji Kito* Blessing on Saturday, July 27th and *Obon Segaki* Memorial Service on Sunday, July 28th. Everyone is welcome to attend these services.

He will then go to Boston, MA to be one of the lecturers at the NONA Weeklong Retreat at Aryaloka Buddhist Retreat Center in New Hampshire from August 1st through 9th. Those interested in attending, please visit this website for further information, www.buddhistretreat.org. The deadline for application is July 26th. He will return to Japan for more study and training.

HELLO FROM JAPAN (8)

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

I recently went to Tokyo for the Overseas Ministers Meeting. Before the meeting started, I met a friend who took me to Tokyo Tower. Unfortunately it was raining so I could not see that far. The view from the observation deck changed my perception of Tokyo. It all started when I first viewed Roppongi Hills. The building is so large but more importantly it was on top of a hill! I have been to Roppongi district many times. Sure there are sloping streets but not to the extent that it seemed as I was walking on a hill. Walking on a hill for me was like walking in downtown Seattle, from 2nd Avenue to 3rd Avenue to 4th Avenue (for those of you who do not know, the walk up is very excruciating as the slope is almost 20 degrees).

First of all, there are many hills in Tokyo. I never knew since I am always traveling by train which is elevated off the ground or by subway. I have been to Shinjuku and Shibuya districts many times but never felt that I was on a hill. Manhattan has hills too, but you can tell by looking down the streets. Tokyo streets are not squared like it is in Manhattan so the many building cover the perspective of location. You can never see the next district over unless you are high on top of one the tall buildings.

Secondly, maybe due to the low cloud ceiling, the city seemed smaller. All the tall buildings seemed very close. Even far off Shinjuku seemed close. I told my friend that Tokyo was a small city, even though I know it to be one of the largest in the world. This is what I saw. The view made it seem like it was a 10 minute walk to the bay (actually it would be more around 30 minutes). I have a pamphlet showing the names to the different buildings around town. The picture shows clearly what I missed. I can make out small structures in Yokohama (Landmark Tower). I went back to my camera pictures and did not capture 50% of what was in the pamphlet.

Third, towards the north, Ginza district seemed small and compact. In reality the buildings are much closer to each other and with a variety of restaurants and clubs, the areas seems larger in life. I could only tell that this area was Ginza by the neon lights that lit up at dusk. It was too cloudy to see the new Sky Tree Tower.

I was shocked to see all of this. After all these years, I always felt that Tokyo was flat, never with so many hills. Being elevated made the city seem smaller, more intimate, something that I have never felt before. Same goes with our views that we hold dearly. We may be blinded and only see certain parts of the whole. The whole sometimes is difficult to see and accept. It is only when you can take a step back and view from a distance that the whole starts to appear.

We are all ignorant and must strive to find the whole and to understand the whole in order to have wisdom. Many people are adamant with their beliefs, “I am right and you are wrong!” This is ignorance. They only see what they want to see and when told the truth (whole) they cannot accept. This is where we must all change; to “see things as they are,” accept new ideas and concepts that help elevate our growth in understanding.

The world was once considered geocentric not heliocentric, and people were punished for have different views. In order to make a better place, we must not judge too quickly and make decisions based on the whole and not on the parts. We may not be able to completely see the whole but let us strive to piece together as much of the parts as we can in order to form sound judgment.

Events

June

30th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. July Monthly *Kito* Blessing

July

Morning Service	8:30 a.m. Daily (Anyone can attend)
Individual Study Classes	12:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. on Wed. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday
7 th (Sun)	No Service
14 th (Sun)	No Service
21 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Service (Chanting & Meditation)
27 th (Sat) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Okaji Kito</i> Blessing by Rev. Shoda Kanai
28 th (Sun) 10:30 am.	<i>Obon</i> Memorial Service

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at Toronto, Canada for *Obon* Service from July 5 to July 7th
Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at Seattle, WA for *Obon* Service from July 12 to July 14th

August

Morning Service 8:30 a.m. Daily (Anyone can attend)
Individual Study Classes 12:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. on Wed. and 5:00 p.m. on Friday
4th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
11th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service (Chanting & Meditation)
18th (Sun) No Service
25th (Sun) No Service
26th (Mon) 10:30 a.m. Deity Daikoku Blessing
Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit members in Utah for *Obon* Services from August 16 to 19th
Rev. Shokai Kanai will be in Los Angeles for NONA Ministers meeting from Aug. 23rd to 25th