

# RADIANCE

No. 48 (Nov. 1, 2015)

November/December, 2015

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## SACRED WORDS

I see all living beings equally. I have no partiality for them. There is not 'this one' or 'that one' to me. I transcend love and hatred.

*Lotus Sutra, Chapter V - The Simile of Herbs (p.111)*

### **NONA Dharma Conference** *(Wasan and Shodai-gyo Training)* Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> (Sat) & 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sun)

We are holding a study session Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> on *Wasan* and *Shodai-gyo*. We have invited Giko Tabata Shonin from Eisho-ji Temple, Aomori, Japan to lead us in both activities. As this is a NONA event, it is open to everyone, both ministers and lay people. Please make plans on attending this class. The registration fee is \$50. Your Minister has application forms and the deadline for this event is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Transportation and accommodations are at your own expense. Those interested, please contact the temple at (702)866-5956 or [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com) for further information.

### **PEACE MARCH & BODHI DAY SERVICE** Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

We will march for *Peace and Prosperity* for our neighborhood on Sahara Avenue while chanting *Odaimoku*. Please arrive early in order to prepare for the march. Everyone is welcome to join.

After the march, we will celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment Day. Traditionally a *bodhi-tree* is placed near the altar, representing the time Buddha became enlightened.

Following the service, we will hold our Year End Pot-luck Luncheon. Please bring your favorite food for everyone to enjoy!

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE** Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Thu)

This year for safety reasons, we will hold the New Year's Eve Service at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup>. This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, Gohonzon, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout the year 2015.

All attendees will hit the *hansho* bell a total of 108 times, symbolizing our 108 attachments and illusions. All negativity hopefully will be erased with the sound of the gong to welcome in 2016 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### **THE PARLIAMENT OF WORLD'S RELIGION** Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

From October 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, I attended The Parliament of World's Religion in Salt Lake City, UT. This event brought many of the world's various religions together to have a dialogue on interfaith and bring forth a sense of togetherness to combat all the hate and misunderstanding caused by our beliefs. Several other Nichiren Shu ministers attended this event as well. We all learned a great deal about how other people are practicing their faith and made many new contacts.

The theme for the event was "Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity". This message is very poignant now as there are many conflicts around the world all in the name of religion. Even in the US, there are many religious sects who are unwavering in their absolute beliefs. In order to make this earth a better place to live, we all have to learn to get along with one another. This comes about through listening.

We are all wrapped up in our daily lives that we do not take time to think about others. When we only think about ourselves, we close ourselves to the world around us. This insularly feeling feeds hate, ignorance and greed, which is the root problem of all conflicts. We need to stop and not listen to our selfish thoughts but to truly listen to the person next to you. You may be surprised and learn something new and you may be surprised that both of you are not different at all.

First, I ask all of you to go out and expand your horizons and broaden your circle of acquaintances. Meet other people who are not of your culture or social position. Make friends with them and listen to their story. I am sure they will have something interesting to say. Second, travel to another country. If that is not possible, learn another language or find an ethnic community and immerse yourself. Understand their perspective. Curiosity is the key.

By continuing to challenge ourselves and learn about others, we gain compassion. Compassion is what will make this a better world. We can all start by learning and practicing compassion. The Buddha knew this many thousands of years ago and is the core of his teachings. Let us all be like the Buddha and be compassionate towards all.

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

## Lucky Cat in Las Vegas

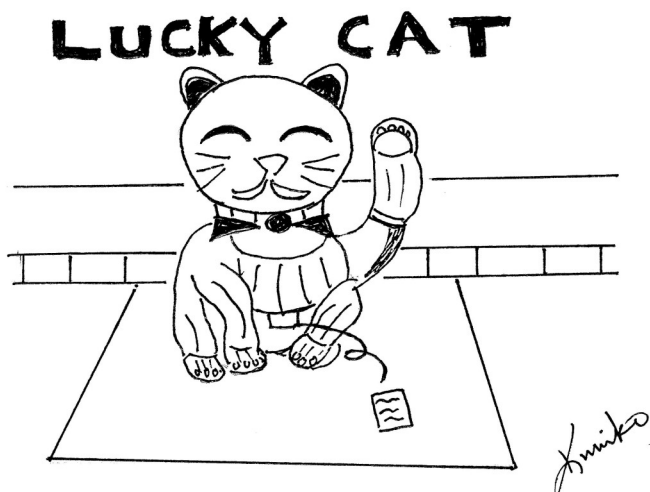
Kumiko Kanai

A Lucky Cat is displayed in the Art Gallery of Cosmopolitan Resort Hotel in Las Vegas. It is about nine feet high silver cat. In America, it is also called; Welcome Cat, Money Cat, Happy Cat and Lucky Cat.

The Lucky Cat in Vegas is raising her left hand. When you touch the palm, a lucky card comes out of her belly. It has a short message like a fortune cookie, but it is said that there are some free cocktail tickets, free buffet tickets for two, play cards worth of \$5 to \$25, free VIP night club tickets, etc. You have to be 21 years old to touch the palm of the cat.

It is said that the cat's left arm raised means to invite customers while right arm raised means to invite money. We do not know when and who started it, but the cat symbolizes as a mascot of Family Happiness, Prosperity of Stores in Japanese livelihood.

Since I took a picture of myself with the Lucky Cat, there should be some sort of good things that will happen soon.



## The Odaimoku is Light

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Have you ever wondered why Nichiren Dai'Shonin wrote 南無妙法蓮華經 with semi-cursive writing and some lines stretching from some of the characters written on the *Mandala Gohonzon*?

Those lines represent the rays of light. Do you remember, when Nichiren Dai'Shonin, the founder of our faith, chanted the sacred title of the Lotus Sutra,



“NAMU MYOHO RENGE KYO” for the first time?

He chanted it facing the rising sun from the horizon of the Pacific Ocean. Then he changed his name from Rencho to “Nichiren (Sun-lotus).” Chapter 21 of the sutra says, “Just as the light of the sun and the moon eliminates all darkness, this person will be able to eliminate the darkness of the living beings of the world.” The rays of the sun remove all darkness without any favoritism. *Odaimoku* chanting will remove all your negative karma instantly just like the rays of the sun remove darkness instantly.

Nichiren said in the letter to Lady Nichinyo, “The names listed on the *Gohonzon* include all Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, saints, and all living beings that appeared in Chapter One of the Lotus Sutra. Each one of them are illumined with the rays of the five characters of *Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo*. This is called *Gohonzon* or the Most Honored Object of Worship.” He continued to say, “Do not seek the *Gohonzon* outside of you because you who chant the *Odaimoku* have it within your body.”

He says in *Senkyo Chodai-mon* that illusion creates all bad karma and negative thought. They will be eliminated by chanting *Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo*.

We must realize those who chant *Odaimoku* are the light. The light brightens you and others. The light may be tiny like a burning stick of match, but it removes fear of darkness and tell you which way you should move. The light removes our fear. The light gives us hope. The light is warm. The light gives you direction.

While you chant, image that you are shining. After your chant, tell yourself, “I am brightening my surrounding with the radiance of *Namu Myoho Renge Kyo*.”

The more you chant the *Odaimoku*, the more you brighten yourself. Then your light may become much brighter like a flashlight or floodlight or even a lighthouse than a burning stick of match. Thus, I try to be a brighter light and so should you.

## New Building Fund

\$55,563.49

443 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered 1,536,000 times of Chanting *Odiamoku* offered As of October 20, 2015

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

## EVENTS

<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	6 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
8 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	13 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
15 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Komatsubara Persecution Service	14 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)10:30 a.m.	Deity Daikoku Service
21 <sup>st</sup> (Sat) 9:30a.m.	Dharma Conference	20 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Peace March & Bodhi Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun)10:30 a.m.	Dharma Conference (cont.)	27 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) No Service	
29 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) No Service		31 <sup>st</sup> (Thu)10:30 a.m.	New Year's Eve Service

- Rev. Shokai and Kumiko Kanai will be traveling to Japan 11/26~12/10
- Rev. Shoda Kanai will be traveling to Seattle 12/11~14

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