

RADIANCE

No. 38 (Mar 1, 2014)

March/April, 2014

SACRED WORDS

Money changes into various things, so as the Lotus Sutra. Money becomes light in darkness, it becomes a boat to cross the river to reach the other shore, it becomes water to drink or fire to cook. Likewise, when you have faith in the Lotus Sutra, you become peaceful in this world, and you will be born in a better place after death.

Nichiren – “Yagenta Dono Gohenji”

Nichiren Buddhist Order of North America 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary of the Nichiren Buddhist Order of North America and Los Angeles Nichiren Buddhist Temple will be commemorated at the Temple and Double Tree Inn by Hilton in Little Tokyo on June 28th and 29th. Schedule as follows:

June 28th (Sat)

9:30 a.m.	Memorial Service for all NONA Deceased Ministers	@ Temple
1:00 p.m.	<i>Kito</i> Blessing for World Peace	@ Temple
4:00 p.m.	Lecture by Dr. Jacqueline Stone	@ Hotel
6:30 p.m.	Banquet	@ Hotel

June 29th (Sun)

10:00 a.m.	Grand Ceremony officiated by Archbishop	@ Temple
2:00 p.m.	<i>Shodai Angya</i> and Street Preaching	@ Little Tokyo

We are honored that the Archbishop of Nichiren Shu will officiate the Grand Ceremony. We are expecting many NONA members and visitors from Japan to participate. The registration fee is \$125 per person for the Banquet on 28th and lunch on 29th. Those who attend the events and/or make donation toward the event will receive the following items:

- ① **“A Century of Nichiren Buddhism in North America”** – History Book
- ② **“A Phrase of the Day”** – English and Japanese Booklet
- ③ **NONA Calendar** – Pictures and information of all NONA *sanghas*
- ④ **NONA Anniversary Special Incense** – “Century”

Kannon Temple of Nevada will host many visitors including the Archbishop from June 25th to July 1st. Please make an effort to welcome them if you can arrange your time. The detail time and day will be announced in the next issue.

Garage Sale

March 22nd (Sat)

From 7:00 a.m. to noon

@9612 Coral Ave., Las Vegas

Before we obtained the current temple building, we held a garage sale twice in order to raise funds for the building. We still need your help for maintenance of the building. We are fortunate that Mr. & Mrs. John Potter will allow us to use their driveway. If you have anything for the sale, please bring them to the temple by March 20th. Your assistance at the sale will be greatly appreciated!

Spring *Hi-gan* Memorial Service

10:30 a.m., March 23rd (Sun)

Hi-gan means the “other shore” (Buddha Land) while *Shi-gan* means “this shore” (worldly land of the material.) Nichiren Shu teaches the Buddha Land is not in the far west nor up-heaven but here with us. The world we can see is “this shore” while the “other shore” is the spiritual realm that we can see only through our faith. *Higan* Memorial Service is a ceremony to show our appreciation to those in the “other shore”. By offering our chanting to our ancestors, they also will attain Buddha-hood.

Please write your name and family names of your ancestors or their individual names on the enclosed prayer form and return to the Kannon Temple of Nevada with your donation. Let us chant the sutra and Odaimoku together for them.

Buddha's Birthday Celebration

Blessing New Born Babies

10:30 a.m., April 6th (Sun)

Happy Birthday to the Buddha Sakyamuni!

According to legend, the baby Buddha, soon after his birth, stood firmly, and walked seven steps and proclaimed, “From heaven to the earth, I alone am the most honored one!” by pointing his right index finger to heaven and his left index finger to the earth. This legend was based on a recorded document that the Buddha said to a Brahman priest after his enlightenment. Even in the 21st century, there is no one like the Buddha who attained the Realty of Existence.

Although we may be far away from the Buddha-hood, we at least try to be like the Buddha through faith. Process is more important than the result.

We welcome everyone to attend the celebration. We will serve sweet tea in honor of his birth.

Newborn babies will receive Rev. Kanai's blessing and amulets.

Kaishu-e
Outdoor Sunday Service and Picnic
April 27th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
@ Red Spring at Calico Basin

Facing the rising sun Nichiren Dai'Shonin chanted, "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo" for the first time at the top of Mt. Kiyosumi on April 28th, 771 years ago. To honor the event and to show our appreciation, we will have the *Kai-shu-e* Outdoor Sunday Service at Red Spring in Calico Basin followed by picnic and hiking to a spiritual spot. Bring your own food and beverage.

Direction to the site: Go towards the Red Rock Canyon National Park on Charleston Blvd. About 1 mile before the entrance of the park, turn right at the street named Calico Basin. Enter the picnic area of Red Spring. Please try to arrive earlier since it will be crowded with other visitors on Sunday.

***Kisho-shiki* and Receiving the Gohonzon**

After the first Sunday Service this year, two ladies received the Mandala Gohonzon of the Ten Realms to signify their firm faith in Nichiren Shu. *Kisho-shiki* means "a ceremony to affirm returning to righteousness" (the teachings of the Lotus Sutra). We are originally the Eternal Buddha's children. The happy Buddha's children are Clemencia Best and Yvonne Smeltzer. They both have been attending Sunday Services and study classes regularly for over one year. Congratulations!!!

***Setsubun* Soy Beans Donation**

Hoshimatsuri and *Setsubun* Service were held on February 2nd. Throwing roasted soy beans is a part of the *Setsubun* Service to chase away evils from our minds. The roasted beans were donated by the Las Vegas Mutual Trading Company (Noritoshi Kanai). Since the beans were roasted professionally, everyone enjoys eating them. Thank you very much for the donation!

Rev. Shokai Kanai, Mrs. Cindy Campbell, Mrs. Yukiko Dow, and Mr. Loch Moranz participated in tossing the beans as they were born in the Year of the Horse.

Burning Ceremony

On February 23rd we held the first burning ceremony of old religious items such as amulets, *ofuda*, *o-i-hai*, and also old *chasen*, tea ceremony whisk in the temple back parking lot.

Since we did not hold it last year because of busy schedule for opening the new temple and preparation for Shoda Douglas Shonin's Returning Ceremony from Arago, there were many items to burn and it took over one hour. During that time, the congregation beat hand drums, *taiko* and chanted, "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo." We believed that we showed our appreciation to those old items and requested them to return to the universe so that when the time comes they will return to us as another item. More importantly we blessed our neighborhood by the Odaimoku chanting for one hour.

We also appreciate Mr. John Potter who arranged to get a permit for the burning ceremony from Clark County and paid for the expense of the cost.

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

Ice Show Giving Dreams

Kumiko Kanai

I went to see "Disney On Ice: Rockin' Ever After" at the Thomas & Mack Center at UNLV. This show was produced by Feld Entertainment and has traveled to many cities. Ice skaters wearing Disney Characters performed beautifully to music from Disney movies narrating many of the stories.

I was surprised to see so many girls wearing princess costumes and boys as prince or other characters' costume walking with their parents from the parking lot. Inside the arena they clapped their hands and shouted loudly every time when Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Cinderella, Pinocchio and Donald Duck appeared on the ice. Their eyes were shining.

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them. I only hope that we don't lose sight of one thing – that it was all started by a mouse," said Walt Disney.

By the way, my ice skate level is just beginner.

HELLO FROM JAPAN 12

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

This March 11th will mark the 3rd anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Please

take time on this date to pray for all the countless number of lives lost in this disaster. Your prayers will help them reach the Buddha Land.

Last October, I was invited on a pilgrimage to see the aftermath of the earthquake/tsunami. Since the area of devastation is immense, I specifically went to Iwate Prefecture, which is roughly 135 miles north of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Even after a couple of years, the devastation is still visible. Many of the houses were swept away or burned down and only the foundation remains. It is quite eerie to see vast tracks of land so desolate.

I visited remains of a school building where the water level reached the third floor, then went up to a nearby hill to see from above the same school and the devastation surrounding it. We passed by a Disaster Prevention Center where people escaped to but unfortunately no one survived as the building was only two stories and the water level reached three stories. Saw hillsides barren after all the wild fires from exploding propane tanks. Near the ocean, there are sections of broken cement pilings and twisted metal from the breakwaters that could not handle the tsunami force. We can try but we can never contain the power of Mother Nature.

There are large white tents where the debris is sifted as workers are painstakingly going through each item, seeing if they can find a special heirloom that can be reconnected to the owner. This could take several years as the pile of debris is spread over many, many acres.

The toll on the survivors is also strained. After the TV cameras and journalist leave, they are now alone, almost forgotten. Many feel guilty of surviving, depressed as the sole survivor of their family and not willing to leave their homes, living in temporary housing which is noisy and cramped, separated from loved ones as sons and daughters have left the area and other tragedies. Some are able to rebuild and move into a new home, but others are still waiting.

To see this type of devastation first hand has left quite an impact on me. TV and internet cannot show the scope of everything that has happened. Out of this great tragedy where all hope may be lost, I saw the will to survive. Many are picking up the pieces, rebuilding and incorporating the lessons learned from this ruin. I saw compassion of those volunteers coming to assist their fellow countrymen, especially a doctor who also happens to be a Nichiren Shu priest. He is helping the community cope, cheering them up, and making house calls to get those shut in out and back into society. From the bad, there is always good.

Disasters can strike anywhere. Are you prepared? Do you know what to do in an emergency? If no, then I suggest starting today and learning as much as you can. Talk to your family members and include them in this discussion. Be willing to help out your neighbors and fellow citizens in times of need. Remember, we are all bodhisattvas who have elected to come back to this world to help others. Your compassion towards them will in turn help sprout their Buddha seeds and on the path towards Buddha-hood.

EVENTS

March

2 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly Blessing (Rev. Shoda Kanai conducts)
8 th (Sat) 2:45 p.m.	Rev. Shoda Kanai gives lecture at Chaparral High School
9 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Service (Rev. Shoda Kanai conducts)
16 th (Sun) No Service	Rev. Shokai Kanai conducts <i>Higan</i> Memorial Service at the Seattle B. Church
22 nd (Sat) 7:00 a.m.	Garage Sale
23 rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Spring <i>Higan</i> Memorial Service at the Kannon Temple
“ 12:00 noon	Minobu Youth Leader Seminar Slide Show by Katie Hutchinson
30 th (Sun) 5 th Sunday -	No Service

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be in Japan for General Congress Meeting from 3/1 to 3/8

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be in Seattle for *Higan* Memorial Service from 3/15 and 16th

April

4 th (Fri) 2:00 p.m.	Presentation regarding NONA 100 th Anniversary at Nichiren Shu Shumuin
6 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
13 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hanamatsuri</i> Buddha's Birthday Service
20 th (Sun) No Service	Rev. Kanai is in Japan
27 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kaishu-e</i> Under the Sun Service & Picnic

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be in Japan for the Friday Sermon on the 100th Anniversary at Shumuin from 4/1 to 4/5

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be in Japan for the Nichiren Shu District Managers' Meeting at Shumuin from 4/20 to 4/25

Study Classes

Introduction to the Lotus Sutra	Mondays, 5 p.m.
The Teaching of Buddha	Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
Japanese Lesson	Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
Writings of Nichiren Shonin	Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Introduction to the Lotus Sutra	Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.