

RADIANCE

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January/February, 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 1, 2013

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Snake and the Fifth Star is at the center of the Nine Stars Chart. The Fifth Star denotes soil created by men such as a dam or a bank but not the soil of a mountain or the ground. The Fifth Star also denotes the days between each season. The soil heaped by men is easy to break down. It is said that creation or destruction is the power of this Fifth Star. When this star comes at the center, it denotes powerful energy to all other stars, but if its energy is misused it will lead to destruction. Thus, throughout this year, we should listen to others in order to keep balance and harmony; otherwise, a rich man may become a homeless.

The twelve signs of the Chinese zodiacs are used for denoting compass directions as well as the hours of the day and season of the year; for instance the mouse is the north and 12 midnight and the ox is north-east-north and 2 a.m. For this year, the snake is south-east-south and 10 a.m.; thus, you should have vitality in the morning throughout this year, and by appreciating the abundant energy of the universe, good fortune will chase after you.

New Year's Day Blessing January 1st (Tue) 10:30 a.m.

The first Blessing ceremony in 2013 will start at 10:30 a.m. on the first day of January at the current Kannon Temple. During the ceremony Rev. Shokai Kanai will bless the congregation with the scroll of the Lotus Sutra. Traditional *otoso* (herb) drink for good health will be served to everyone.

If you would like to have special prayers through 2013, please write your name and prayers on a piece of white paper and send it to the temple. Rev. Kanai will read all your prayers during the New Year's Day Blessing and also for the first seven days of the year. Donation for the prayers will be greatly appreciated. New Year *ofudas* (prayer tablets) will be handed to each family who attends the first day of the New Year Service. For those who are not able to attend the service, the *ofudas* will be mailed out in the first week of January.

Prosperous Year for the Kannon Temple of Nevada

Bishop Shokai Kanai

I wished to hold the New Year's Day Ceremony at the new location of the Kannon Temple of Nevada. The demolition of the inside house is done and the new wall frame works were started, but the Planning Department of the city has not given us permit to go farther because of the handicap parking space and the entrance door must be widened. The architect is working on them now. Therefore, we do not know when the opening day of the new Kannon Temple building is. We must be very patient for another one or two months at least.

After the renovation is completed and the use permit as a temple is granted, we will move in. We are able to advertise on public media, and can place a big name plate on the front and side of the building. I am planning to do *angya*, where I wear formal robes, a big *tendai-gasa* hat, beat a hand drum while chanting, "Namu Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo," and march around the neighborhood. If it was summer, I may not be able to do so because of the desert heat, but it is still winter and good timing.

Since the location of the temple on Sahara Ave is only $\frac{3}{4}$ miles east from Las Vegas Boulevard, it has a lot of traffic and is within a commercial zone (C-1). I am planning to hold "A Quick Chanting and Meditation" for busy workers during their lunch time.

Not only that, Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai will be back on March 24 and able to talk to people on Buddhism and the Lotus Sutra in English with his experience in Japan.

I wish that the Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple will be a spiritual spot for all people to gain peace of body, mind and soul.

Opening the New Temple Building and Home Coming Celebration for Rev. Douglas Kanai

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai's *Dai-Aragyo* or great extreme ascetic practice for 100 days has about one and a half months left to go. He seemed to be struggling to understand the Japanese language, the special manners in the monastery and hunger at first, and he lost over 20 lbs, but he is excellent spiritually according to a report from a visitor.

The training will be over on February 10, but he will still stay in Japan and visit several temples and take an internship at his teacher's temple, Myokensan Shinnyoji in Osaka. Then he will be back to Las Vegas on March 24.

The Homecoming Special Ritual will start at 10:30 a.m. with *suigyō* or water purification at the parking lot of the new Kannon Temple. He will be accompanied with his senior priests who completed the training, Rev. Kanjo Ueda (3rd time completion) and Rev. Tetsuji Nakazawa (2nd time completion).

The ceremony will be combined with the opening of the new temple building. These three priests who just completed their 100 days *Dai-Aragyo* will bless our temple and congregation. Please make a plan to attend these ceremonies that may be once in your lifetime.

Hoshimatsuri & Setsubun Service

February 3rd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.

Setsubun means "to divide seasons" in Japanese. It is the eve of spring and also New Year's Eve according to the Japanese Lunar calendar. During the *Setsu-bun* Service those who were born in the Year of the Snake will toss roasted soy beans to the congregation to chase away evil spirits. Hopefully you will cleanse your evil minds by attending the service and receiving the Reverend's blessing and the beans.

The Years of Snake are **2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953, 1941 and 1929**. Those snakes who would like to toss beans during the service, please contact Revend Kanai at (702)396-6276. Non-members are welcome. He will also be presenting an amulet by request. If so, please send him your name and your families' birth date(s) ahead of time, so he can prepare the special amulets ready for you at the service.

Offering One Million Time *Odaimoku* Chanting:

The total numbers of the One Million Time *Odaimoku* Chanting sheets offered at the altar

have reached 920 on Dec. 19, 2012. That means we have chanted 920,000 times altogether. We will reach chanting for the 1,000,000th time soon with your help. Please send your one million chanting sheet when it is filled up to the Kannon Temple of Nevada.

Offering *Shakyo* of Kannon Sutra:

The total number of booklets tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra has reached 336 on Dec. 20, 2012. This project, with individual donations, helped to buy the property for our temple on East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas last August.

Donation toward “Odaimoku and Two Buddhas Statue”

We have already enshrined the statue of the Odaimoku and Sakya/Taho Buddha Statue *Gohonzon* at the altar of the current temple. The total cost of the statue, tax, handling and shipping was 3,239,568 Yen. With your thoughtful donation we were able to pay 924,543 Yen so far. If possible, Rev. Shokai Kanai humbly asks anyone to contribute more than \$100 toward the statue. He will read the contributors' prayer requests for more than 100 days and send you a *gassho* amulet after the completion of the prayers. The donor's names will be written with *sumi* ink on a wood board and will be kept forever at the altar.

2013 Memorial Years for the Deceased

Please make a reservation for the memorial service ahead of time.

One Year	2012
3rd Year	2011
7th Year	2007
13th Year	2001
17th Year	1997
23rd Year	1991
27th Year	1987
33rd Year	1981
50th Year	1964

