



RADIANCE

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January/February 2022

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Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the **Water Tiger**, which is the third zodiac sign. This year will likely be filled with extremes, give rewards, but you must work hard. Stay focused. The **Fifth Star** moves to the middle this year, which is its home. The unlucky directions are SW, E, W, and center, thus best not to relocate in any direction. Furthermore, from the center of the house, it would be best not to remodel or stay too long in any direction.



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).

New Year's Day Service

Jan. 1st, **10:30 a.m.** (Sat)

Happy New Year! Come join us **in-person** or **online** for the first service of the New Year! The special prayers you have submitted will be read at that time to bless you for the upcoming year. Rev. Kanai will continue to ready your prayers for seven days. If you have not received the form, please contact the temple or visit the website.

Traditional *O-toso* (medicinal *sake*) will be served after the service.

Special New Year *ofudas* will be mailed to those who have requested prayers.

Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service

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

Setsubun is the eve of spring and also the Lunar New Year's Eve. Those born in the **Year of the Tiger** hopefully will be able to toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of the **Tiger, 2022, 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950 and 1938**, please contact the temple since they will wear special *kami-shimo* outfit. Non-members are also welcome.

Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana

Nichiren Shonin's Birthday

Feb. 13th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

February 15th is when Sakyamuni Buddha entered into Pari-Nirvana. February 16th is Nichiren Shonin's birthday. We are celebrating both occasions to show our appreciation towards them for their unwavering work in teaching the True Dharma, which has now spread all over the world. Let us show our gratitude by chanting the Lotus Sutra and *Odaimoku* together.

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 ~ Reminder ~

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.

Safe Driving Blessing

Jan. 16th, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the annual "Safe Driving" Blessing Ceremony on January 16th. Please fill out the enclosed form with all the necessary information and send back to the temple with your donation. Service will be conducted **in-person** and **online** this year.

At the end of the year, please send back only the **paper** amulet and keep the plastic jacket. We will properly dispose during the *Otakiage* Ceremony some time in 2022.

Buddha Ears

Shoda Kanai

I am sure many of you have created New Year's Resolutions, some of which was followed through, while others forgotten. For this coming year, let us add one more, "listening."

We hear many things throughout the day. Sometimes we listen to the radio to get our news and daily forecast. Other times, listening to music can help pass the time. Then there are the interactions with other people. Are we really "listening" to what they are saying?

There are many methods in becoming a better listener. I suggest taking some of these courses to help us better understand and be interested in what

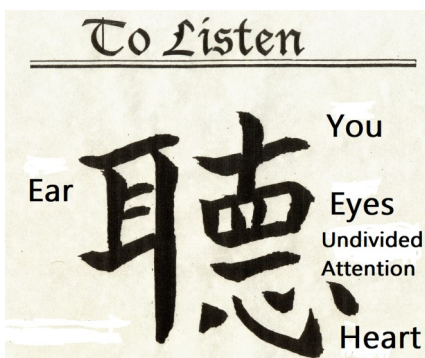
other people are saying. By being a better listener, we can be more empathetic to other's plight. This may be difficult at first as our interests, prejudices, and ego alter what is heard, but with hard work, we can overcome this and not be quick to judge.

Listening to others is important, but also listening to yourself as well. Most people have an internal dialogue within their head. Prioritizing things to do, outlining daily life, and self-criticism. Just as we are engaging when others are speaking, we too must also pay attention to our inner dialogue. Our thoughts too have consequences, with positive being beneficial, while negative ones being detrimental and affect our health. By being aware of what we are thinking we can quickly change our thoughts. This too is difficult, but with daily practice, we can adapt and change our inner monologue.

Why concentrate on "listening to others and within?" We all have "Buddha Ears." When Buddha walked all over India to spread the Dharma, he did not speak first, but let his disciples and followers ask questions. Many times, Buddha would sit there and listen to the stories and concerns of the people. With a quick word, the follower would understand their fallacy or learn a lesson. Buddha was able to do all this through his wisdom.

Buddha's wisdom enabled him to "hear" what we are thinking. Even before the followers spoke, he listens to our minds and our inner self to create the best answer to the coming question that would guide us to the correct path.

We use our eyes to see the environment around us. It is our ears that we use to interact with the people around us. By developing our "Buddha Ears" and wisdom through our daily practice and study, we can increase our compassion towards each other. The more we are considerate, the better the world will be.



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

709 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,180,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 23, 2021

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Hoshigaki (dried persimmon)

Shoda Kanai

In keeping with the gardening theme, I was gifted special *kaki* (Japanese persimmon) called *hachiya*. These are the types that has a pointy end and not the squat type that looks like a pumpkin. *Hachiya* are not tasty when first picked, as it takes time to ripen. Japanese farmers created a way to dry these types of *kaki* and make a special kind of treat.

To make *hoshigaki*, you first make sure that there is enough stem to tie a string to when plucking from the tree. Next, trim away as much of the sepals (the hard green leafy part) and peel. Then tie string and hang in the sun. After several weeks, the *kaki* should start to dry out and shrink, turning into a dark color. A white coating will signify that the *hoshigaki* is ready.

I let one of my *kaki* get a little squishy thus not able to properly peel and hang. I was able to spoon out the insides for a snack. The other two I was able to hang and now waiting for the color to change.

After a couple of weeks hanging by the kitchen window, the *kaki*, has shrunk but has not turned color yet. Maybe I need more sunlight and switched to my south-facing bedroom window. We will see if this works. I could hang it outside, but the birds might get to it before I can complete this entire process. Plus, Las Vegas is relatively dry so hanging it inside with greater humidity may be better for *hoshigaki* development. Stay tuned, I will keep you posted if I was successful or not.

This is just something simple to try. With all the negativity that COVID-19 has brought, let us find some solace and find a new hobby to occupy the mind. Every day, I check out the progress of the *hoshigaki* by massaging, turning, and coaxing it. One day it will be ready to eat! Then on to the next project. What will that be?



Progress - my attempt



Goal - finished product

EVENTS

January

1st (Sat) 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day *Kito* Blessing
 2nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
 9th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
 16th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Safe Driving *Kito* Blessing
 23rd **No Service** 800th Anniv. Ceremony in HI
 30th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

February

6th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Hoshimatsuri* / *Setsubun* Service
 13th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Buddha's Nirvana / Nichiren Shonin's Birthday Service
 20th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service
 27th (Sun) 10:00 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in Hawaii to assist with 800th Anniversary of Nichiren's Birthday Ceremony —1/18~25
- *** 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 ***