

RADIANCE

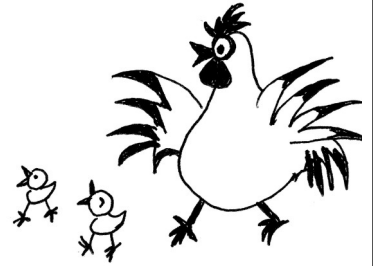
No. 55 (January 1, 2017)

January/February 2017

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Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Rooster, and the First Star is at the center of the Nine Stars Chart. The First Star denotes the element of water, the season of winter and the direction of north. Therefore, it is the year of not being too active but good time for study and working on spirituality. This year is also the year to accomplish your long term wish such as marriage or a new contract.



New Year's Day Service

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

Happy New Year! Come join us 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. If you have not received the form, please contact the temple.

Special New Year *ofudas* will be handed to each family for those in attendance. If you are not able to make the service, they will be mailed out to you.

Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service

Feb. 5th, 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 Rooster will toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of Rooster, **2017, 2005, 1993, 1981, 1969, 1957, 1945 and 1933**, please contact the temple since they will wear special *kami-shimo* outfit. Non-members are also welcome. Lucky Beans will be given to all in attendance.

Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana

St. Nichiren's Birthday

Feb. 12th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

February 15th is when Sakyamuni Buddha entered Nirvana. February 16th is St. Nichiren'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.

Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items and Whisks

Feb. 26th, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

If you have any old religious items, such as *ofudas* and amulets as well as items from tea ceremony such as tea whisks and scoops, please bring them or mail them to the temple. We will conduct a special ceremony, where burning the items will purify and restore the objects back into the basic five elements. We also ask the spirits to leave the item and return back to the universe. The event will take place in the back parking lot.

General Meeting

Jan. 22nd, 11:30 a.m. (Sun)

Kannon Temple will hold a General Meeting after service on January 15th. There are several items set for discussion regarding future plans of the temple. Meeting is open to all.

Endeavor!

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

What an interesting year 2016 has been! Especially in America where a new President was elected after a very long heated campaign from both sides. Agree or disagree with the government, continue to chant *Odaimoku* for all people in order for everyone to be able to realize their own Buddha nature thus realizing peace on earth.

It is a tradition to make a New Year's Resolution, such as quit smoking, go to the gym, lose weight. But for many, these resolutions are usually broken by the end of the first week of the new year and entirely forgotten by the end of the month. It is always hard to start something new (or something old if the case may be) and sticking with it. People make grand goals which is hard to obtain thus easier to quit when goals cannot be met.

Just as in our daily Buddhist practice, it is hard to study everything. Buddha has taught many parables and preached many sutras. Where to start? This can be confusing to most practitioners and even harder for beginners. In the beginning, start small. Set easy goals, such as being able to chant the *Odaimoku*, "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo". Then being able to chant *Odaimoku* faster and faster without getting tongue-tied. The next step will be to learn Japanese pronunciations to read the Lotus Sutra in Japanese. The reason for reading in Japanese is that there is a certain tone/beat that is rhythmical thus meditative. Then as you begin to master pronunciations correctly, again start chanting slowly then gradually pick up speed.

As you being slowly working your way in being able to chant the Lotus Sutra, now would be a good time to start learning more in depth of Buddhism, especially Nichiren Shu. Buddhism needs to be practiced thus the chanting, but we also must cultivate the mind. When we are able to control the mind then we are able to control ourselves, thus be able to elevate our consciousness into becoming closer to being a Buddha ourselves. We all have the seed in becoming a Buddha, practice and learning is essential. This is what St. Nichiren stressed in his writings.

My goal this year is to help elevate everyone to practice and learn. I am available any time to help with either chanting, study or both.

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

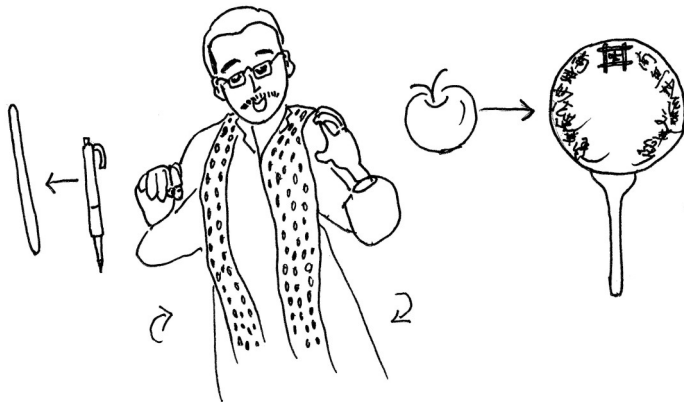
What's PPAP?

Kumiko Kanai

Do you know what 'PPAP' is? It is a currently trending on YouTube around the world. *Pico Taro* who is a middle age Japanese singer/song writer dances with a rhythm of his own way wearing a costume of animal pattern and a long scarf. He sings and dances with funny hand motions, "I have a pen! I have an apple! I have a pen. I have a pineapple! Pineapple pen!" So called "PPAP" was number two popularity in American animated YouTube. It was first time that a Japanese ranked that high.

The reason why his song became that popular was Justin Bieber, a famous Canadian singer, muttered, "I like this YouTube video!" Thus his 88 million followers around the world accessed PPAP video on YouTube. It takes only less than one minutes to watch, so regardless of age from children to adults can view it.

In 2017, I suggest to spread *Odaimoku* chanting joyfully dancing with holding a stick on a right hand and a hand drum on a left while beating the drum, chanting, "This is a *bai*. This is an *uchiwa daiko*. Namu Myoho Renge Kyo."



2017 Memorial Years for the Deceased

Please make reservations for Memorial Service ahead of time.

First Year	2016	13th Year	2005
3rd Year	2015	17th Year	2001
7th Year	2011	23rd Year	1995

Garage Sale

A special thank you to Paula Patterson for letting the Kannon Temple hold a fundraising event at her home. In two days, we made \$311.85 plus an additional \$125 in donations for a total of \$436.85. The money will go towards building a new temple.

The Lotus Sutra for Children

Rev. Shokai Kanai

A Happy New Year to All of You!

Since I semi-retired one and half years ago, I devote myself in translating the 30 volumes of "Minwa-fu Hokyo Dowa" by Rev. Koge Matsumoto. I would like to share this book with you to the English speaking people.

At first Rev. Matsumoto heard a message from Sakyamuni Buddha, "To write a folk tales on the Lotus Sutra for children!" on December 24, 1986. She was a laywoman at that time and did not know what to do. So she asked Professor Eishu Miyazaki of Minobusan University. He told her that she should write and publish a book in 30 volumes – the first volume is for the story of Sakyamuni Buddha and the last one is for the story of Nichiren Dai'Shonin and in between are one volume each for the 28 chapters of the Lotus Sutra. So she said, "I don't have that kind of money." He said, "Don't worry that kind of money will arise!" So she decided to become a Nichiren Shu priest and began to write the first volume. She had hard time to write the first volume, but rest of the volumes she wrote more like auto writing. The pen she holds move very smoothly.

The first volume was published on December 1, 1987 and presented it to many well-known people in Nichiren Shu and friends. She wrote it with standing point of a mother and a Nichiren Shu priest. It took for eight years to publish all 30 volumes.

It has taken for me one and half years since I started to translate each book one after another up to volume 17. It may take another two years to complete the translation of the rest of the volumes. Please read the story volume by volume in order, so that you will understand what Sakaymuni Buddha revealed in the Lotus Sutra.

This book is not only for children but for anyone who is interested in the Lotus Sutra. Please read it to increase your understanding of the sutra!

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth
\$90,211.01

477 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **17,740,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 23, 2016

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

EVENTS

<u>January</u>		<u>February</u>	
1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day <i>Kito</i> Blessing	5 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun</i>
8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Buddha's Nirvana / St. Nichiren's Birthday Service
15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	19 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
22 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) - General Meeting to follow	26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Otakiage</i> (Burning Ceremony)
29 th (Sun) No Service	5 th Sunday		

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