




# RADIANCE

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January/February 2020

**Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada**  
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488  
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956  
[www.kannon-temple-nevada.org](http://www.kannon-temple-nevada.org)  
[kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com)

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## Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the **Metal Rat**, which is the first zodiac sign. This year will be a lucky year for most zodiac signs. This is a great year for new beginnings and renewal. The **Seventh Star** moves to the middle this year, which denotes early autumn and early evening. The unlucky directions are East and West, thus best not to relocate in either direction. Furthermore, from the center of the house, it would be best not to remodel or disrupt the soil in either direction.



### New Year's Day Service Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Wed)

**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.

*O-toso* (medicinal *sake*) will be served after the service to wash away 2019 maladies and bring fortune for 2020. Non-alcoholic version will be served as well.

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.

### Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

If you have any old religious items, such as *oihais*, *ofudas* and amulets from 2019, please bring them or mail them to the temple. We will conduct a special ceremony, where burning the items will be purified 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.

### Happy New Year! Shoda Douglas Kanai

As we move away from 2019 and welcome 2020, take time to review the previous year and look at both the highs and lows to find areas to rejoice and areas to improve upon. With reflection comes a greater understanding of ourselves.

There may have been times of joy. Did that last a long time? There were other times of sadness and grief. Did that last a long time? We have highs and lows but they do not last forever. Nothing lasts forever. By realizing this, we will be less inclined to be attached to either feeling. Remember the phrases, "All good things come to an end" and "Pain is temporary." This will help guide everyone in the coming year, enjoy the good times and bad times will quickly melt away.

Also, let us all take time to look outside and see what nature truly looks like. Go visit the mountains and the sea. Absorb the energy from these places. This will do wonders for the soul and help replenish the body.

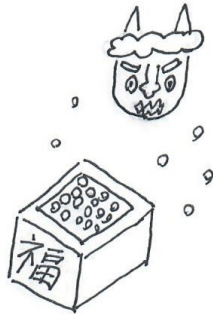
As a society, we are consumed by the material things around us. How many of you can stay away from your smart phones or computer? We are constantly looking down at a little screen and not looking at the greater picture that surrounds us.

Recently I came upon a Hindu drama on the life of Sakyamuni Buddha (it is on Netflix). In one clip that I saw, the Buddha was preaching to his first five disciples when a distraught man was about to leap off a cliff. Buddha saves this man and asks why he was trying to commit suicide. He replied that though he was a son of a wealthy man, had all his desires fulfilled, but when he looked inside, all he saw ⇒

### Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Rat will toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of the **Rat, 2020, 2008, 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948 and 1936**, 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. 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

### General Meeting Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m. (Sun)

Kannon Temple will hold a General Meeting after service on February 9th. There are several items set for discussion regarding future plans of the temple. Meeting is open to all.

⇐was darkness and emptiness. Out of despair, he was going to end his life.

Buddha explained that desire is like a dream, when desire is fulfilled, the mind knows it's a dream, thus fleeting. Life is best to not chase worldly desires. The man asked how did he know this, realized that Buddha was an extraordinary man. Buddha replied that He was always the same radiant being, just that the man's eyes only saw how he wished to see the world. Then Buddha showed him the natural beauty from the cliff and asked the man why he did not see this beauty before he jumped. His reply was that he did not want to see beauty but only saw his own sorrow.

When our minds are calm we can see the beauty around us. Anger, ignorance, and greed only create a film over our eyes to blind us from seeing the truth. As Buddhists we are always on the path seeking the Truth of Buddha's Teachings. Let us all be mindful and work to remove the film over our eyes so that we no longer see the grime left by our delusions.

The sound of the wind and flowing rivers of nature has the energy to help calm the mind. Feeling the earth with our toes will ground us to help release the bad energy and let in the good. Let us all take time out to wash our soul with the power of nature so that we can clearly see Buddha's Teachings.

**Safe Driving Blessing**  
**Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

We will hold an annual "Safe Driving" Blessing Ceremony on January 19th. Please fill out the enclosed form with all the necessary information and send back to the temple with your donation. If you are unable to attend, we will mail out the amulet(s) to you.

At the end of the year, please send back only the **paper** amulet and keep the plastic jacket. We will properly dispose during *Otakiage* Ceremony in February 2021.

**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth  
\$152,065.66.

**637 shakyo** tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,110,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 23, 2019  
*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

*My View Point (As I heard and as I see)*  
**How to Keep Young Life, Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke, Ko**  
 Kumiko Kanai

I found this in a book, "What is the secret to keep young life?" The answer to the question is, "*Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke, Ko.*" (second line of the Japanese alphabet with the first character associated to a specific word, very common when Japanese makes lists)  
*Ka...kando* (passion) - being impressed when view-ing things  
*Ki...kiyomi* (strong interest) - being fascinated with everything  
*Ku...kufu* (ingenuity) - creating various ideas and designs  
*Ke...kenko* (health) - always taking care of your well-being  
*Ko...koi* (love) - to love everyone

The other day, a 94-year-old woman who has lived in the states for over 70 years, drove to my house by herself to pick up various Japanese paperback books, magazines and periodicals that I had.

I asked her about, "*Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke, Ko.*" She knew about "*Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke*" but for her "*Ko*" (koi-love) was reading books.

I then asked her, "How do you view living for 94 years?" She replied cheerfully that she was grateful to have a really good life with the help from others.

Let's all stay young in 2020 by following the principles of "*Ka, Ki, Ku, Ke, Ko!*"



**EVENTS**

<b>January</b>		<b>February</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> (Wed) 10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day <i>Kito</i> Blessing	2 <sup>nd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun</i> Service
5 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	9 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Buddha's Nirvana / St. Nichiren's Birthday Service -General Meeting
12 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	16 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	<b>No Service</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Safe Driving <i>Kito</i> Blessing	23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Otakiage</i> (Burning Ceremony)
26 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)		

- Shoda Kanai Shonin- Assisting *Tokudo* Ceremony and *Shomyo* Training in Hawaii 2/12 ~ 19

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