



# RADIANCE

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January/February 2026

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## Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the **Fire Horse**. The **First Star** of the Nine Star Feng Shui moves to the center. Best to focus on oneself to prepare for future prospects. The **Fire Horse** year also has the potential for rapid change, career breakthroughs, and inspired thoughts. The directions to avoid are North and South. Lucky direction (*ehō*) is South-Southeast.



### Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com).

### New Year's Day Service

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

**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.

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. 1, **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 Horse** will be able to toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative entities and cleanse your spirit.

Those born under the sign of the **Horse, 2026, 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954 and 1942**, 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. 15, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

February 15 is when Sakyamuni Buddha entered into Parinirvana. February 16 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](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com). We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense.

### Monthly Amulets ~ Reminder ~

Continuing from last year, Kannon Temple will be creating its own special monthly 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 or Zellepay.

New amulets will be mailed out starting January 2026.

### Safe Driving Blessing

Jan. 18, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the annual "Safe Driving" Blessing Ceremony on January 18. Please fill out the enclosed form with all the necessary information and send back to the temple with your donation.

Once new amulets are received, please send back only the **old paper** amulet and keep the plastic jacket. We will properly dispose during the *Otakiage* Burning Ceremony.

### Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items

Feb. 22, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the Burning Ceremony this year. There are many items in boxes waiting to be properly disposed. If you have any old religious items, such as *oihais*, *ofudas*, and amulets, please bring them or mail them to the temple.

We will conduct this special ceremony, where burning of 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. Those of you in the Las Vegas area, please come to the temple to help assist with the ceremony.

### Matryoshka

Shoda Kanai

Recently, I finished the "Study Class on Buddhism" that was started by my father. The course begins with the book "The Teaching of Buddha" by Bukkyō Dendo Kyōkai where we learn the basics about Buddhism. Then we move to "Nichiren" by Jack Christensen, where we learn about our founder, Nichiren Shonin. Finally, we can start on the *Lotus Sutra*. To complete the entire course takes over ⇒

⇐three years.

Buddhism is not easy, especially the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*. Through perseverance, one can gain but a small understanding of Sakyamuni Buddha’s ultimate Teaching.

Through many iterations of teaching this course, I gained a little bit of knowledge. Each time I learn something new. The written words do not change, but the underlying meaning does. Sometimes the words jump out, and I notice a phrase that I previously did not consider. I was trying to come up with an analogy but could only come up with “peeling back the layers of an onion.”

An onion is a bit pungent and not really a great analogy to use when talking about the Lotus Sutra. Then one day looking over some artwork, I saw Russian nesting dolls. That’s it! The Lotus Sutra is just like a nesting doll. As we admire the outer doll, we figure out there is another doll inside. Then, after opening to reveal this new smaller doll, we realize again that there is another smaller doll inside and so forth until reaching the last little doll. Instead of peeling back layers of an onion, I think the revelation of another doll is much better as it reflects our wonderment towards this new realization.

As our faith and knowledge grows, we too grow in gaining deeper insight into the Lotus Sutra. It is said, “The Dharma for Bodhisattvas. The Dharma upheld by the Buddhas.” Though we are all bodhisattvas, our bodhisattva level leans towards beginner, thus harder to comprehend at first. Through our hard effort, we can start to comprehend the underlying meanings of the various passages. Then when the time is right, the next revelation will reveal itself and so forth.

Everyone continue to study and practice. Your knowledge level will surely increase, thus being able to reveal the underlying doll, and then the next doll, then the next until reaching Buddhahood.



**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth  
**766 shakyo** tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **25,200,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 22, 2025  
*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

*From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!*  
**Figs Growing in Winter**

Shoda Kanai

The other day as I was about to rake the fallen leaves from my fig tree (due to the warm desert climate, leaves don’t fall until December), I noticed some new buds growing on a new branch!

I usually have two harvests, one in early June and another one in August. This is unusual! After the second harvest, I just watch and enjoy the broad green leaves. I didn’t expect that I might have a possible third harvest this late in the season.

It has been exceptionally warm during late autumn this year. In early December, it was still reaching a high in the seventies with the low dipping to low fifties! This might have contributed to fruit growing again.

It also could be that the tree could be responding to my mother when she stays over at my house. Every morning before morning prayer in front of the family *butsudan*, she talks to the tree. She touches the younger branches to gain youthful energy. I wonder if the young branches are encouraged to grow as well.

I will leave the buds to see if they can ripen over the next coming days. It is supposed to cool down, so we will have to wait and see what happens. I will report back in the next issue.



**EVENTS**

<u>January</u>		<u>February</u>	
1 (Thu) 10:30 a.m.	New Year’s Day <i>Kito</i> Blessing	1 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hoshimatsuri</i> / <i>Setsubun</i> Service
4 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	8 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
11 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	15 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Buddha’s Parinirvana /
18 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Safe Driving <i>Kito</i> Blessing	Nichiren Shonin’s Birthday Service	
25 (Sun) <b>No Service</b>	Traveling to another temple	22 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Otakiage</i> (Burning Ceremony)
*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for <b>Tea Time with a Priest</b> 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 ***			