

RADIANCE No. 37

January 1, 2014

January/February, 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 1, 2014

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Horse, and the Fourth Star is at the center of the Nine Stars Chart. The Fourth Star denotes the element of plant, the season of the late spring to early summer and the months of April and May. It is the time when grass and plant sprout and grow. Thus, the year of the Fourth Star denotes prosperity and busy with matters such as marriage, consultation, or care assistance.

The twelve signs of the Chinese zodiacs are used as compass directions as well as the hours of the day and the season of the year; for instance, the horse is south (direction), summer (season) and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (time); thus, you should have vitality and many activities throughout this year, but unwanted grass may grow, too.

New Year's Day *Kito* Blessing

January 1st, 10:30 a.m.

During the New Year's Day 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.

Note: If you would like to have special prayers through 2014, please write your name and prayers on a piece of white paper provided at the temple. Rev. Kanai will read all your prayers during the ceremony and also during the morning service 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 New Year Service. For those who are not able to attend the service, the *ofudas* will be mailed out the first week of January.

The Year of Education for the Next Generation

Bishop Shokai Kanai

The year of 2014 will be the year of education for the next generation at the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Unfortunately Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai is still training in Japan and trying to pass the *Koshu* Test and preparing himself for the second 100 Days Aragyō from November 1, this year.

At our temple, I have classes on General Buddhism, Introduction to the Lotus Sutra, and Reading and Explanation of the Lotus Sutra every week starting last November. Four of the students are either a current high school teacher or teacher candidates studying graduate course at UNLV. While they go to college, they also teach English. Their teaching attitude is based on Nichiren Shu's "Learning and Practicing" which has influenced some of their students through their attitude and spoken words. Within another five years they will be the qualified Dharma Teachers not only at the temple but also outside of the temple. Future America depends on these teachers and parents.

Those who would like to study Buddhism, please contact Rev. Shokai Kanai.

Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items and Tea Whisks

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

If you have some old religious items such as old *ofuda* and amulets, and do not need them at your home, please bring or mail them to the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Old *chasen* from tea ceremony and old dolls (burnable) are also accepted. We will conduct the special ceremony asking the spirits to leave from the items and return to the universe. The burning ceremony will take place at the temple back parking lot.

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

Black Friday and Activate My Brain

Kumiko Kanai

The After Thanksgiving Day Bargain Sale that consumes 20 percents of the yearly spending for Americans normally starts after Thanksgiving Day. However, some stores started

on November 22nd, a week earlier this year. Internet sale started on November 24th, one day earlier than last year. The reason why it is called Black Friday is that all stores make black (surplus) on the first day.

Seeing advertisements, I got up at five in the morning on Friday and went to “Guitar Center” opening at 6 a.m. The store is located about ten minutes from my house and already several dozens of people were in line. I have one guitar for beginner. Because I wanted to buy it for intermediate this time, I went to shopping early in the morning on Black Friday.

In my childhood I learned playing piano, then I belonged to a Hawaiian Club at a company where I worked and played ukulele after work.

Three years ago I suddenly wanted to play guitar seeing a friend of mine playing it. She taught me how to play. Although I am not good at it yet, I play and sing my favorite songs in my way.

According to the December issue of the newsletter from Humana Insurance Company, it recommends for us to use our left hand if he or she is right-handed and to use the right hand if he or she is left-handed for opening doors, writing, picking something and other things. Then, your brain will be more activated although result may not see right away.

I wonder if my brain is going to be activated because I play ukulele, electric piano, and guitar.

HELLO FROM JAPAN (11)

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai

Happy New Year! It is time once again to make resolutions. I am not a firm believer in resolutions as it always tends to be broken or forgotten. It is better to live life as you are supposed to from the beginning and not find excuses to do so. One way would be to start listening to others. In conversations, we tend to talk about ourselves and talk over each other to get in our thoughts. Plus as we wait to get in our word, we are not listening to the other person but rather formulating our next response. Many conflicts arise because we cannot simply back down and must have our opinions heard. “I am right, you are wrong” is a common theme.

Being in Japan now for two years has helped me listen more as my language skill is still lacking, therefore I can only try to follow a conversation rather than trying to dominate it. This has given me time to reflect. By truly listening, we can pick up nuances and start to understand the other person's perspective. As I listen to Japanese conversation, I have slowly started to pick up new vocabulary and dialects. Same goes if I was to return to the states and partake in a conversation, I can now hear what is being said and gain empathy. Through a greater understanding, my input would become more meaningful, so I do not have to talk for talking sake. This is part of following the Eight Fold Path.

“The Statue of the Odaimoku and Two Buddhas”

Although financing has been completed for the Kannon Temple of Nevada and renovation expenses, we still owe about \$6,600 for the statue Gohonzon. Rev. Shokai Kanai will appreciate your generous contribution toward the statue. Your prayer will be read for over 100 days every morning. Please write a check [Kannon Temple of Nevada](#) for the statue.

Offering One Million Time *Odaimoku* Chanting:

The total numbers of the Ten Thousand Time *Odaimoku* Chanting sheets offered at the altar have now reached 1,132 on Dec. 23, 2013. That means we have chanted 11,290,000 times altogether. Please send your chanting sheet when it is completed 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 386 on Dec. 20, 2013. This project, with individual donations, helped to buy the property for our temple on East Sahara Avenue last August.

Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service

February 2nd (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 *Setsubun* Service those who were born in the Year of the Horse will toss roasted soy beans to the congregation to chase away negative beings. Hopefully you will cleanse your negative minds by attending the service and receiving the Reverend’s blessing and the beans.

The Years of Horse are **2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, 1954, 1942 and 1930**. Those horses who would like to toss beans during the service, please contact Reverend Kanai at (702)866-5956 or 396-6276. Non-members are also welcome. Since they will wear special *kamishimo* out-fit, please come to the temple by 10:15 a.m. Lucky Beans will be given to all in attendance.

Nichiren Dai-Shonin’s Birthday

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

Nichiren Dai’Shonin was born and passed away in the year of the horse. He loved the horse very much. There are two pictures he drew. His love was toward all living beings through the spirit of “*Rissho Ankoku,*” *Establish Peace and Security with the Righteousness*. Let us show appreciation by chanting O’Daimoku, “*Namu Myoho Renge Kyo.*”

2014 Memorial Years for the Deceased

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

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| One Year | 2013 |
| 3rd Year | 2012 |
| 7th Year | 2008 |
| 13th Year | 2002 |
| 17th Year | 1998 |
| 23rd Year | 1992 |

27th Year 1988
33rd Year 1982
50th Year 1965

EVENTS

December 31st 7:30 p.m. - New Year's Eve Service –108 sounding of the Temple Bell

January

New Year's Day *Kito* Blessing 1st (
 Monthly *Kito* Blessing 5th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Service 12th No Service because Rev. Kanai on Business trip
 Chanting and Meditation 19th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
 Burning Ceremony 26th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.

Study Classes

Japanese Class Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m.
 Nichiren Shonin's Writing Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
 Introduction to the Lotus Sutra Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.
 The Teaching of the Buddha Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.
 Reading the Lotus Sutra Fridays, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be out of state for New Year's Blessing on 10th (Fri) to 12th (Sun)

February

Hoshimatsuri & *Setsubun* Soy Bean Tossing Festival

 2nd (Sun)10:30 a.m.
 Chanting and Meditation 9th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.
 St. Nichiren's Birthday Cerebration 16th (Sun)10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Service 23rd No Service

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at the L.A. Nichiren Shu Temple for Ministers' Educational Workshop & Meeting 21st (Fri) to 23rd (Sun)

Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at NBIC for the NONA President and Vice-President Diversity Seminar from Feb. 28th (Fri) to Mar. 2 (Sun)

Rev. Shoda Douglas Kanai will conduct March *Kito* Blessing on March 2, 2013.