




# RADIANCE

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## Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the **Earth Boar**, which is the last zodiac sign. This year will be a time of joy, friendship and love for everyone. The **Eighth Star** moves to the middle this year, which denotes late winter and early morning hours. The unlucky directions are southwest and northeast, 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.** (Tue)

**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 2018 maladies and bring fortune for 2019. 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.

### Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service

Feb. 3<sup>rd</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 Boar** will toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of **Boar, 2019, 2007, 1995, 1983, 1971, 1959, 1947 and 1935**, 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. 17<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.

### Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items

Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

If you have any old religious items, such as *oihais*, *ofudas* and amulets from 2018, 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

2018 has come and gone! Now 2019 has rolled in! This is another year in which we can all work on ourselves to develop on our inner Buddha. No time like the present to start!

As with everything surrounding us, there is constant change. We must adapt and move along with change. The more we hold back and yearn for the past or for everything to stay the same, just means that you are only holding on to more attachment which means you are increasing your misery. By accepting change, we suffer less.

Though the process may be difficult, we can surely adapt. New challenges and growth may come out from this change. My father has left for Hawaii, so now it is just me in Las Vegas. I do not think I will have any days off at the moment, but instead of lamenting on needing help, I need to find a way to simplify or streamline some activities, so that I do not always have to be at the temple. Innovation and advancement comes with answering a challenge (just look at the technological sector).

When major hurdles present itself, brace it! Adaptability is the key to life. Some day you will be glad to have met this challenge. Follow these words from a famous actor, "Be water my friend!"

### Traveling to Further Education

Beginning this year, I will be traveling more often for study as well as assisting *Shumuin* (Headquarters) in establishing foreign born priest ordination process. I may not be available for service every Sunday so please note the schedule at the end of each newsletter.

I appreciate your understanding.

### O-Mamori (Amulets)

The monthly amulets that we have is called, *gushoreijin* or "Born Together and Same Name." When you were born, two guardian spirits were also born at the same time, one called the date of your birth and the other, your given name. They stay just above your shoulders according to Buddhist scriptures. They are like a charm for protection if you honor them.

If you would like to subscribe, donations are \$5 per amulet per person per month. Prayers will be refreshed monthly with a new amulet. Shoda Shonin will send you the requested amulets monthly. Please contact the temple if you are interested and/or have questions.

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

## A Sparrow Came to Visit

Kumiko Kanai

Winter has come to Las Vegas. There is a lot of snow on Mount Charleston and the ski slopes are crowded.

The other day after lunch at a hotel, when I returned to the outside parking lot, I spotted a sparrow sitting on top of the driver-side side mirror. I was curious to know why a sparrow would choose my car out of all the other cars in the parking lot. I thought of saying, "Hello!" but if I did, the sparrow would fly away, so instead I took out my phone and took pictures. I watched for 10 minutes as the sparrow was looking around, even inside the car, but as no one was inside, it flew away somewhere else.

When I traveled to Hokkaido two years ago, I remembered a story I heard at the Ainu Museum. The Ainu believed that when God created the heavens and earth, humans and sparrows were dropped to the earth at the same time. Thus, whenever humans mill grain, sparrows are surely there to eat the same grain.

This is a story of one scene of winter in which sparrows come to play.



## Happy New Year from Honolulu, HI

Rev. Shokai Kanai

I felt some culture shock with difference between Honolulu and Las Vega especially weather and work as a head minister. Kannon Temple of Nevada is still new comparing over 110 years old temples in Hawaii.

I have to apologize to all of supporters for Kannon Temple of Nevada. I had no time to say farewell to many people. The preceding ministers' resignation and returning to Japan was a shock to all members of his temple. Even the former Bishop Chishin Hirai and his wife did not have enough time to prepare for moving out of the mission. He still had to train me as his successor in duties such as mailing newsletter, conducting funeral and memorial services and *kito* blessing.

The term, "mission" is funny to you in the main land of America, but here almost all Japanese temples are still named "Mission of a sect." The first Nichiren Buddhist Temple was established in Kapapala in Hawaii Island in 1902 for the immigrated Japanese as sugar cane laborers. Later it was moved to Honolulu, Oahu Island. During over 110 years, only two Hawaiian born Nichiren Shu ministers were born and propagated in Hawaii but they died early and did not have successors.

My goal at this temple is to educate and raise Dharma teachers, lay-leaders, substitutes of Nichiren-Shu priest, part-time ministers and full-time ministers. These Dharma teachers should be American-born especially people born and raised in HAWAII. What I mean of the part-time ministers will be someone who has a steady job and steady income. So, he or she does not have to depend on pay from a temple or mission. These good candidates are senior citizens who are in or near retirement. When I talk about a full-time minister, it may take five to six years at least and cost a lot of money for his or her education and travelling expenses to Japan several times before completing *Shingyo Dojo* just to be recognized as a Nichiren Shu priest.

One week after proclaiming my intention during the installation message, a candidate has already appeared. Although he does not want to be a priest, but he would like to take care of a temple in Hilo. He has one more year before retiring. His family is planning to move to Hilo after his retirement. He will be a good Dharma teacher. But I must still train a full time minister, so that Hawaii is his or her home and plant deep roots in the soil of the islands and grow a big and tall tree of *O'Daimoku*, "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo."

In order to fulfill our destiny that we were born with into this world, ambition and action are important. What is your destiny?

## EVENTS

### January

1<sup>st</sup> (Tue) 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day *Kito* Blessing  
6<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing  
13<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. English Service  
20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> **No Service**

### February

3<sup>rd</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun* Service  
10<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)  
17<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Buddha's Nirvana /  
St. Nichiren's Birthday Service  
24<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Otakiage* (Burning Ceremony)

- Shoda Kanai Shonin in SE Asia for seminar 1/19 ~ 1/29

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