

RADIANCE #43
January 1, 2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 1, 2015

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the Sheep, and the Third Star is at the center of the Nine Stars Chart. The Third Star denotes the element of plant, the season of the spring, the month of March, and the direction is the east. The third star indicates the time when grass and plants sprout and grow. Thus, the year of the Third Star denotes the beginning of something, but tender care is needed like taking good care of a sprout or a baby.

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 sheep is south-southwest (direction), early fall (season) and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (time); thus, you may feel a little tired, and things may not go smoothly.

When you consider the Third Star of the Nine Stars and the Year of Sheep, this year may be an up and down time in your fortune.

There is also another fortune, and according to the 28 Planets Fortune (360 degrees separated by the four directions north, east, south, and west – with 7 planets in each direction), this year is very good for you to start something new.

It Is the Year of New Generation!

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Six months have already passed since the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Propagation of Nichiren Shu in North America. My term as bishop will end on March 31, 2015. Myokei Caine-Barrett Shonin of the Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Texas was elected as the next NONA Bishop.

The Head Office of Nichiren Shu in Japan expects to review the structural reform on International Affairs at the annual congress meeting in March.

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai of Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple will return from the 100 Days Aragyō Ascetic Practice on March 5. The Welcome Home Ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 8th. He will be installed as a head priest of the temple on June 7th. Rev. Shokai Kanai is still active as an associate priest and continues his study classes and Sunday services under the leadership of his son. Rev. Douglas will communicate with local

people more closely and benefit them.

Two years ago, we opened the current temple on Sahara Avenue; last year we started private study classes in order to increase individual understanding of Buddhism and Nichiren Dai'Shonin's teachings. This is a new year for this temple under the leadership of the new head priest who was born and educated in America and trained as a Nichiren Shu priest in Japan for over three years. Please support us and the Kannon Temple of Nevada.

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 congregations with the scroll of the Lotus Sutra. Traditional *otoso* (herb) drink will be served to everyone for good health.

Note: If you would like to have special prayers through 2015, 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 in the first week of January.

Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun Service **February 1st (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 Sheep will toss roasted soy beans to the congregations to chase away their negative energy. Hopefully you will cleanse your negative minds by attending the service and receiving the Reverend's blessing and the beans.

The Years of Sheep are **2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967, 1955, 1944 and 1931**. Those Sheeps 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* outfit, 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. 15th (Sun), 10:30 a.m.

Nichiren Dai'Shonin was born on February 16, 1222. According to legend, it is said that unseasonal lotus flowers bloomed and spring water sprung out of the ground of his house. They denoted the birth of a future saint. He devoted his whole life for the salvation of all people in Japan from natural disasters, a civil war and foreign invasion. People all around the world can benefit from the freedom from sufferings by chanting the Sacred Title of the Lotus Sutra, "Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo." Let us show our appreciation by chanting the O'Daimoku.

2015 Memorial Years for the Deceased

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

One Year	2014
3rd Year	2013
7th Year	2009
13th Year	2003
17th Year	1999
23rd Year	1993
27th Year	1989
33rd Year	1983
50th Year	1966

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

Wolfgang Puck Bar & Grill

Kumiko Kanai

It was very rare when Wolfgang Puck, a celebrity chef, brought his Hollywood hotspot Spago to Las Vegas 22 years ago and during that time there have been so many restaurants and clubs that have come and go. He opened a new Bar and Grill at Downtown Summerlin, a newly opened shopping mall located west of the city of Las Vegas last October. He said, "Spago is really the mother of all the restaurants, so we have to keep it special. This one is an everyday restaurant; it's a neighborhood restaurant."

His motto is to share your good fortune. "If we do well, everybody should participate in doing well." He has 22 upscale restaurants around the world and 45 bar & grills. He always

challenges his cooking to see how he can really modify it to his taste. He said he would go to Mexico to learn from them in the spring.

What should I challenge this year?s

4th Seminar for Nichiren Shu Members Held

On December 20th Venerable Ryusho Matsuda lectured on the Mandala Gohonzon with its picture. Bishop Shokai Kanai instructed how to use a Japanese *fude* and demonstrated how to write a character “永.” Later everyone wrote “南無妙法蓮華經” with the *fude* pen three times. Rev. Ryusho Jeffus’ presentations were the parables from the Lotus Sutra: Magic City and Poisoned Children & Their Father. Then he concluded the practical ways to chant the Odaimoku by asking students to speak up various meaning of “Namu.”

Next morning we marched on Sahara Avenue with a placard, “Peace and Security of the Nation with Namu Myo-ho Ren-ge Kyo” beating hand drums while chanting the Odaimoku.

The Bodhi Day Service was also held. Matsuda Shonin delivered the message of the day. At noon we enjoyed the Year End Pot Luck Luncheon. It was a wonderful day!

HELLO FROM JAPAN (17)

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

(The following letter was submitted to Shumuin to explain the reasons why he wanted to enter the second 100 Day Aragyo)

I feel that my mission of being able to explain *kigan kito* or prayers in English so that Americans understand the value and awaken to their true nature of reality is not complete. Even before finishing my first 100 days, I already knew that I had to come back for my second 100 days. There is much more to learn about *Shuho* that only senior priests can teach through oral transmission. Also, another 100 days of *suigyo* and chanting Chapter 16 of the Lotus Sutra will cleanse my mind and increase my spiritual strength. I can take back with me all I learned and formulate *Shuho* geared towards Americans.

100 days will better prepare me to transmit Nichiren Dai’Shonin’s teachings to a broader audience. I can use my experience to attract more followers and teach Buddhist principles. I recently spoke to high school history teachers about Buddhism, including my experience in Aragyo. Everyone was shocked and amazed as it is rare to meet an ascetic. This creates curiosity which leads to discussion. I can then go talk to the children in their classes about Buddhism and how they could follow this spiritual path.

Many people are searching for something spiritual but do not know where to look. By being able to talk about my experiences, I can reach many people who otherwise would not hear St. Nichiren's words. I can help people realize their actual spirituality, which is the power of the Odaimoku.

EVENTS

January

- 1st (Thu) 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day First Blessing of the Year
- 4th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 11th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service (Reading the Lotus Sutra)
- 18th (Sun) No Service
- 25th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service (Shodai-gyo – Meditation and Chanting)

February

- 1st (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing (Hoshi-Matsuri, Soy-tossing ritual)
 - 8th (Sun) No Service (Rev. Kanai is in Japan)
 - 15th (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service (Buddha's Pari-Nirvana and Birthday Celebration of Nichiren)
 - 17th (Tue) 10:30 a.m. Deity Daikoku Blessing
 - 22nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m. No Service (Rev. Kanai is at NBIC)
- Rev. Shokai Kanai will visit Japan from Feb. 5th (Thu) to Feb. 11 (Wed) for attending the Completion of the Arago Ceremony)
- Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at NBIC for the NONA Ministers' Seminar and Meeting from Feb. 19~22nd.
- Rev. Shokai Kanai will be at NBIC for the Diversity Seminar for the NONA Sangha members from Feb. 26(Thu) to 28th (Sat)

Individual Study Classes

Since everyone has different schedules and different levels of understanding of Buddhism, Rev. Shokai Kanai holds individual lessons on Buddhism, Nichiren Shu Teachings, & Chanting during weekdays and nights. Anyone interested in learning Buddhism or meditation, just call (702)866-5956 to set up a time and day that is convenient for you.