

RADIANCE

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January/February, 2012

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 1, 2012

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the **Year of the Dragon** and the Sixth Star is located in the center which denotes night, the season is between fall and winter, the person is senior, superior and elder; and it also denotes accomplishment. This means that you'd better get advice from your superiors in order to accomplish your wish.

The location of the star also indicates that it is wise for everyone not to move your house or business toward the southeast and the northwest.

New Year's Prayers

For special prayers throughout 2012, please write your name; mark your prayers on the special prayer form and send back to the temple. Rev. Kanai will read all your prayers during the New Year's Day Blessing and for a week during his morning chanting. Donation for the prayers will be greatly appreciated.

New *ofuda* (prayer tablets) will be handed to each family who attends the first service of the New Year. For those who do not attend the service, the *ofuda* will be mailed on January 3rd.

New Year's Day Blessing

Jan. 1 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.

During the ceremony Rev. Shokai Kanai will bless the congregation with the scroll of the Lotus Sutra while he is chanting special blessing spells. Traditional *otoso* (herb) drink for good health and *ozoni* mochi soup will be served to everyone.

Have a Big Dream but Want Little and Know Contentment with What I Have

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Happy New Year to Everyone!

I hope everyone of your family welcomed the New Year with good health and happiness.

Did you decide on your New Year's resolution? I decided to have a big dream but want little and know contentment with what I have now.

Recent consensus is "Ecology" and "Green," so we must not to waist but reuse, recycle, and seek natural energies. I see many things in my closets and drawers that I have not used for many years. I should give them to a recycle center or dispose them and satisfied with what I have.

Most Buddhists vow, "Our defilements are inexhaustible, I vow to quench them all." Can we really quench all our desires? I cannot find this phrase in the Lotus Sutra. But I found, "He will want little, know contentment, and practice just as you do," in the last page of the sutra. "Want little" means not to hold on to the worldly matters or objects such as material gain, fame, or higher position. The Buddha has no worldly desire at all; however, he has a huge desire to save all living beings. The last phrase in Chapter 16 of the Lotus Sutra says, "How shall I cause all living beings to enter into the unsurpassed way and quickly become Buddhas." Chapter 2 of the same sutra says, "I once vowed that I would cause all living beings to become exactly as I am."

In the fall of 2011, the world population reached 7 billion. How can the Buddha cause 7 billion people to be the same with him? In order to materialize Buddha's huge dream, the Bodhisattva from Underground will fulfill the Buddha's dream as revealed in Chapter 15 of the sutra. The Bodhisattva from Underground is not only Nichiren Shonin but all of us who chant Odaimoku, 'NAMU MYOHO RENGE KYO!'

My big dream this year is to have a temple building for Kannon Temple of Nevada in commercial zone and remodel its inside as a temple, so tourists from around the world may stop by here and find spiritual refuge at this temple. All tourists look so happy in Las Vegas. It may be worldly satisfaction but Las Vegas has vitality and a lot of energy. "They will gain spiritual energy at the Kannon Temple of Nevada," that is my big dream.

I wish you will also have a big dream and live in vitality throughout 2012. I pray for all of you!

Hoshimatsuri (Festival of Stars and Planets)

Setsubun Service

Feb. 12 (Sun), 10:30 a.m.

Setsu-bun means “to divide seasons” in Japanese. It is the eve of spring according to the Japanese zodiac calendar. The actual day of *Setsu-bun* is February 3rd. During the service those who were born in the year of the Dragon will toss roasted soy beans to the congregation to chase away evil spirits. Hopefully you will cleanse your minds by attending the service and receiving the Reverends’ blessing.

The years of Dragon are people who were born in **2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940 and 1928**. Those dragon who would like to toss beans during the service, please contact Rev. Kanai at (702)396-6276. Non-members are also welcome.

Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items and Tea Whisks

Jan. 22 (Sun) 10:30 a.m.

If you have some old religious items such as old *ofuda*, prayer tablets and amulets; please bring or mail them to the Kannon Temple of Nevada. Old *cha-sen* (tea whisks) from tea ceremony and old dolls (burnable) are also accepted. We will hold a special appreciation ceremony for them and ask the spirits to leave from them and return to the universe. The burning ceremony will take place in our back yard.

NONA Ministers' Workshop and Meeting in Las Vegas

Feb. 24 and 25 & Welcome Luncheon for Them on Feb. 26

Nichiren Shu ministers in North America meet once or twice a year for their workshops and meetings hosted at different temples, churches, or at Nichiren Shu International Center. It is our turn to host the event on February 24th and 25th. We will hold the Opening Ceremony, a lecture and the minister's meeting at the temple in the afternoon of the first day and the events will move to Extend Stay Hotel on the second day.

On Sunday, the available ministers and the lecturer will attend our Sunday Service. I hope members and non-members attend the Sunday service starting at 10:30 a.m. We would like to have a Welcome Luncheon after the service, please bring your favorite food. Some of ministers are vegetarian.

A Point of View

First Dream of the Year

Kumiko Kanai

There are at least three definitions of the first dream of the year. ① The first dream after the midnight of New Year's Eve, ② the dream in the morning of January 2nd since the work starts on that day, ③ any first dream on January 1 to 3rd.

It is said that Mt. Fuji, Hawk, and eggplant are lucky dreams in Japan. There are a few versions to as why. One of them is Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa was very happy when he watches Mt. Fuji, does falconry, and eats eggplants. Another version is that Mt. Fuji sounds like *buji* meaning safe, hawk or *taka* in Japanese refers to high, and eggplant or *nasu* also means to accomplish. They are puns to similar sounds.

What sort of first dream did you have?

Note: Mount Fuji is the highest point in Japan at 3,776.24 meters (12,389 feet). It is an active strata volcano that last erupted in 1707 ~ 1708. The mountain lies about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south-west of Tokyo.

More Training and Study in Japan

Rev. Douglas Shoda Kanai

Four years have passed in spreading the teachings of Nichiren Shonin to new followers in Las Vegas. Many people have been seeking answers as they are uncertain in dealing with the challenges of life, the biggest being the down economy. Through the internet and word of mouth, new members have found our temple. They are very grateful to have found us since we are very open and willing to teach the dharma to them. These are the people that are truly in need of hearing the Odaimoku and given the opportunity to ask questions.

In order to build up my spiritual strength, I will be embarking on one and half year long quest of study and training. I hope to enter Dai-Aragyo at Hokekyo-Ji in November 2012, where my purpose is to learn all that I can, so that I can spread the dharma to many more people in Las Vegas. There are many who are seeking answers to their questions. My goal is to be able to answer those questions and help increase the congregation and reach those who would otherwise never hear the teaching of Nichiren Dai Shonin.

It took almost six months to obtain a visa to stay in Japan since I started to gather ten different documents. In early December it was finally delivered to me. I am now at Rev. Kanju Ueda's Shinnyo-ji Temple in Nose, Osaka, Japan. I deeply appreciate him and his family accepting me to be trained at his temple. I will do my best to study all that I can in order to be able to serve the community.

L.V. Marathon

On Sunday December 5th the member of the Kannon Temple volunteered to hand out water to all the runners in the Las Vegas Rock 'n Roll Marathon. This year the marathon began late afternoon so the runners could all view "The Strip" with the neon and lights. Also approximately 44,000 runners signed up this year making it one of the largest marathons ever. With this many number of people, water quickly ran out, but fortunately we all pitched in and tried to fill as many cups as possible. Next year, there may be as many as 60,000. We again will volunteer and fill as many cups in preparation.

Volunteers from Kannon Temple are Rev. Kanai: Shokai & Douglas, June Takahashi, Tristan Moore, Manasewitsche Family: George, Emily, Nicolas, and Erika. Thank you very much for your help in cold night.

Eddie Kanai participated Sunday Service before his full marathon.

EVENTS

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

January

1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	New Year's Day Blessing
4 th (Wed) 10:30 a.m.	First of the Year Deity Daikoku Blessing
8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Shodai-gyo and Meditation
22 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Otaki-age</i> or Burning Old Religious Items
29 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Buddha's Nirvana and St. Nichiren's Birthday Ceremony

Rev. & Mrs. Kanai will visit Ichine-ji Temple in Penang, Malaysia
for their 10th Anniversary from 1/31~2/7

Morning Service (Everyone is welcome)	Everyday at 7:00 a.m.
Reading the Lotus Sutra	Every Wed. 7:30 p.m.

February

5 th (Sun)	No Sunday Service (Rev. Kanai is in Penang)
12 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Hoshi-matsuri & Setsubun Soy Bean Tossing Festival
19 th (Sun)	No Sunday Service (Rev. Kanai is in Seattle)
20 th (Mon)	Dead Line for Registration of Pilgrimage
22 nd (Wed) Morning	Rev. Kanai at LAX to pick up Rev. Mikame
24 th (Fri) 2:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony for NONA Minister's Workshop and Meeting
25 th (Sat) all day	NONA Minister's Workshop and Meeting
26 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday Service with NONA Ministers
26 th (Sun) 12 noon	Welcome Pot Luck Luncheon for the ministers

Rev. Kanai will visit Seattle Nichiren B. Church for their Buddha's Nirvana
and St. Nichiren's Birthday Ceremony on February 17th ~ 18th.

Morning Service (Everyone is welcome)	Everyday at 7:00 a.m.
Reading the Lotus Sutra	Every Wed. 7:30 p.m.