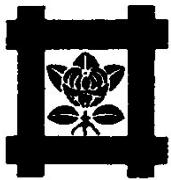


# RADIANCE



No. 61 (January 1, 2018)

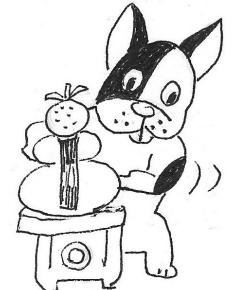
January/February 2018

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## Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the **Dog**, which denotes faithful and protection of master and house. It is the year to guard yourself and protect your house. The **Ninth Star** denotes the mid-summer season and noon time. So, the results of your thoughts and conducts in the past, will appear this year. It may be the year of crying or laughter. The year of bustling!



### New Year's Day Service Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Mon)

**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 2017 maladies and bring fortune for 2018. 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. 4<sup>th</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 Dog will toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative beings and cleanse your soul.

Those born under the sign of **Dog**, **2018, 2006, 1994, 1982, 1970, 1958, 1946 and 1934**, 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. 11<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. 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)

If you have any old religious items, such as *oihais*, *ofudas* and amulets from 2017, please bring them or mail them to the temple. We will conduct a special ceremony, where burning the items will purity 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.

### General Meeting Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:30 a.m. (Sun)

Kannon Temple will hold a General Meeting after service on January 21<sup>st</sup>. There are several items set for discussion regarding future plans of the temple. Meeting is open to all.

### 500 Dust Particle Kalpas Shoda Douglas Kanai

As I watch my cousin reach the International Space Station (ISS), the Soyuz capsule that he was riding on looked tiny compared to the earth below. Seeing videos from ISS, one can slightly make out the curvature of the earth. The earth is really, really big! It has been awhile since I viewed from this perspective.

Now imagine if earth and all the other planets, moons and rocky satellites in not only our solar system but also the galaxy were all crushed into fine powder. Now, moving from our galaxy to a point 500 thousand billion galaxies away and placed one dust particle, then repeated that process until all particles of dust were exhausted. Can you count how many worlds that were passed? It is inconceivable!

Now as told by the Buddha in Ch. 16, that inconceivable number of worlds with dust or not where all crushed into power plus 100 thousand billion kalpas is less than when Buddha became Enlightened. This is very hard to imagine!

In order to place a number on eternity, the 500 Dust Particle Kalpas shows just how long ago that time was. Viewing the earth from space brings home just how vast the universe really is and how long ago the Buddha really attained Enlightenment. The amazing thing is that He has been teaching for that amount of time and we have been his disciples for that amount of time too! It's just that we sometimes move away from him and come back again. Let us stay with him and adhere to his message for many years to come!

### 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. Kanai 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)*  
**Nephew Norishige Kanai's Successful Soyuz Launch!**  
Kumiko Kanai

On Youtube's JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) page, there was a public viewing on December 16th at 11:21pm (17th at 4:21pm Japan time) for the launch of Soyuz Capsule which Rev. Shokai's nephew, Norishige was on board. Then on the 18th at 2:55am, my nephew finally arrived at the space station. I viewed this launch and boarding on my new 23in. computer screen that I recently bought on Black Friday.

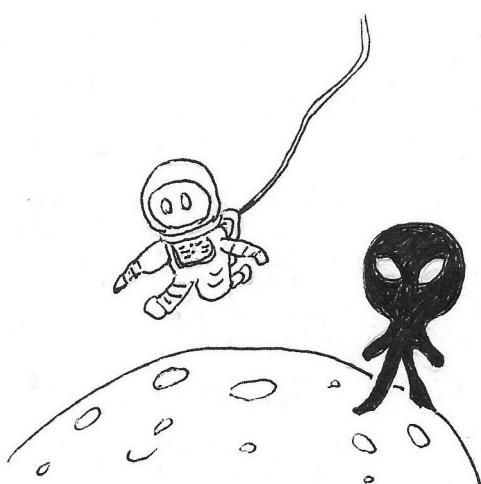
Launching from the steppes of Kazakhstan's Baikonur Cosmodrome, the Soyuz was able to cut the final third stage engine nine minutes after launch to orbit at about 200 km (124mi). He will stay on ISS for six months.

As a medical doctor, he is planning around 30 experiments on "Hope." He feels, "The key to healthy long life is in space." Thus, he will spend his time doing medical experiments until June 3, 2018, when he is scheduled to return. Also, if anyone gets sick, he will be able to tend to their illness.

When he was young, Norishige read a book by Morio Kita, *Doctor Manbo at Sea*. This inspired him to become a doctor and enrolled at National Defense Medical College and later became a surgeon on a submarine. In 2008, he applied to become an astronaut. Not knowing when the final decision would be made after initial examination, he continued the rigorous physical training required of an astronaut daily for two hours, until he finally got accepted six months later in 2009.

You can go to <https://iss.jaxa.jp> to follow his adventure.

Everyone! Let's all cheer him together!



**Have a Great Ambition In the New Year**

Rev. Shokai Kanai

Happy New Year to all! Did you decide your ambition for the New Year?

Ambition means strong desire to achieve something. When I was a student, my teachers asked the students often, "What is your ambition for this year?" I also heard often, "I already gave up my ambition," after a week or a month passed into the new year.

Almost all Buddhists say the Four Great Vows at the end of the services. But I don't like to say, "Our defilements are inexhaustible, I vow to quench them all." Siddhartha Gautama deserted his kingdom, prince-hood, wife and son; so, the Buddha could say the vow. Although I am a Buddhist priest for many decades and advanced in age, I still have a lot of desires.

Living off of social security and IRA, I am semi-retired. Since then, I have a great ambition to build a new temple building and a residential quarter in Las Vegas. The feeling of my ambition is getting stronger these days. The goal will be 2022. The Kannon Temple of Nevada will be a spiritual temple for all people around the world to bring *Peace of Body, Mind and Soul*.

You may also have held an ambition for many years. If the ambition is for others, it will be accomplished for sure. Even if it will not be fulfilled in this life, it will materialize in your next life, or someone else will take over your ambition. For example my father's ambition to become a medical doctor was fulfilled by his grandson, Dr. Norishige Kanai. He furthers his adventures in finding a special medicine for our healthy long life at the International Space Station.

Because of countless numbers of our forefathers' ambitions, we are living in this comfortable and happy life every day. Thank you very much to those people!

Ambition for benefiting others will be reality for sure sooner or later!

**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Nichiren's Birth  
\$114,963.06

**502 shakyo** tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **19,490,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 22, 2017  
*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

## EVENTS

<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> (Mon) 10:30 a.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> (Thu) 10:30 a.m. Deity <i>Daikoku</i> Blessing	
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. 4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Hoshimatsuri / Setsubun</i> Service	
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. 11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Buddha's Nirvana /	
21 <sup>st</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. 18 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. St. Nichiren's Birthday Service	
28 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. 25 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m. <i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation) <i>Otakiage</i> (Burning Ceremony)	
Sunday Service	

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