



# RADIANCE

No. 97 (January 1, 2024)

January/February 2024

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## Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the Year of the **Wood Dragon**. As the **Third Star** of Nine Star Feng Shui moves to the center, this is also an opportunity for transformation, change, and new beginnings. While the dragon's great energy is present, it can also lead to unforeseen situations, so be careful when traveling. The directions to avoid are West and East. Therefore, it is better not to renovate, break ground, move, or stay for a long time in either of these directions. Lucky direction (*eho*) is East-Northeast.



### Weekly Services

We will continue to hold services with limited in-person attendance and broadcast online via **Zoom**. For those interested in participating online, please contact the temple to obtain meeting ID and password. Donations can be made either by check payable to **Kannon Temple of Nevada** or **Zellepay.com** to [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com).

### New Year's Day Service

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Mon)

**Happy New Year!** Come join us **in-person** or **online** 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. Rev. Kanai will continue to ready your prayers for seven days. If you have not received the form, please contact the temple.

Traditional *O-toso* (medicinal *sake*) will be served after the service. Special New Year *ofudas* will be mailed to those who have requested prayers.

### 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 Dragon** will be able to toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative entities and cleanse your spirit.

Those born under the sign of the **Dragon, 2024, 2012, 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952 and 1940**, please contact the temple since they will wear special *kami-shimo* outfit. Non-members are also welcome.

### Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana

### Nichiren Shonin's Birthday

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

February 15 is when Sakyamuni Buddha entered into Pari-Nirvana. February 16 is Nichiren Shonin'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.

### Electronic Newsletter

If you wish to receive this bi-monthly newsletter electronically, please email temple with your request at [kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com). We are in the process of moving many processes online, which will help reduce temple expense.

### Monthly Amulets ~ Reminder ~

Continuing from last year, Kannon Temple will be creating its own special monthly amulet with donation remaining the same at \$5 per month per amulet or \$60 per year per amulet. Please contact the temple either by mail or email with your name and number of requested amulet(s). Donations can be made via check or Zellepay.

### Safe Driving Blessing

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the annual "Safe Driving" Blessing Ceremony on January 21. Please fill out the enclosed form with all the necessary information and send back to the temple with your donation. Service will be conducted **online** this year.

At the end of the year, please send back only the **paper** amulet and keep the plastic jacket. We will properly dispose during the *Otakiage* Burning Ceremony.

### Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

After a couple of years of absence, we will bring back Burning Ceremony this year. There are many items in boxes waiting to be properly disposed. If you have any old religious items, such as *oihais*, *ofudas* and amulets, please bring them or mail them to the temple.

We will conduct this special ceremony, where burning of the items will purify 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. Those of you in the Las Vegas area, please come to the temple to help assist with the ceremony.

### Routine

Shoda Kanai

Wow, we are already starting 2024! It is said that time moves a lot quicker as we age. In our youth, we are learning new things in school, some interesting and most not. As we process new information, our brains are trying to file what we have learned and focused on trying to understand that information. Time seems to slow down as we process new information.



⇨ Once we start to work, it starts to become repetitive, and our brains move into auto-drive. When our brains are not as actively learning as when we were in school, time does seem to move faster, as another year has already passed.

We are accustomed to falling into a routine. Next thing we know, it is already time for retirement. How do we stop and claim our “time” back? By reactivating our learning function.

Most of us are stressed with work, raising our children, and “don’t have the time” for anything new. I suggest starting slowly, five minutes or so, and learn something new, preferably something that involves both hand movement and brain power like crosswords, Sudoku, crochet, tinkering, etc. If capable, physical activities are encouraged, like pickleball which lately seems to have come back in fashion.

There are also adult learning courses provided by the local university and community colleges where you can learn various subjects. If you are up for a challenge, call the temple to begin studying deeper into Buddhism. Currently, the entire course takes about three and half years to fully complete three different topics. The Lotus Sutra is difficult to understand, so many people avoid studying it, but through my father and myself, have created a program for beginners. Those who have completed and those that are currently going through this curriculum, find that their faith in Nichiren Shu has increased. They notice subtle benefits and gain the realization that their practice is leading them on the correct path.

By actively engaging a different part of the brain, the learning continues, and life does not seem like it is a routine. This will keep your mind healthier and slow the passage of time.



**New Building Fund** commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

752 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,740,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 22, 2023

*Thank you very much! Please continue your support.*

*From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!*

## New Year’s Decorations

Shoda Kanai

I am sure many of you are already familiar with the traditional decorations placed around the house during New Year’s in Japan. I will go over some items just in case to refresh your memory.

First, we will start with the decorations adorning the temple. If you look closely at the altar, you will see stacks of mochi with mikan on top. This is called “*kagami mochi*” (mirror rice cake). The two circular mochi represents, yin/yang, sun/moon and is said to bring good luck for the coming year. The traditional way is to make mochi from scratch but now there are plastic molds sold at specialty supermarkets.



Second, a “*shimekazari*” (string rice straw decoration) which is rolled rice straw molded into a circle with pine leaves. At the temple a small one is hung on the office door to help attract the good fortune deities and ward away evil spirits.

Third, “*kadomatsu*” (pine decoration) consists of three bamboo shoots of different lengths cut at a steep angle with pine and plum branches and said to bring good harvest and happiness for the upcoming year. Due to the temple’s location, we do not place this decoration outside due to possible vandalism.

Lastly, is food and drink. A special meal is prepared called “*osechi ryouri*” contained in 2-3 lacquered boxes, like bento boxes. Items can vary from house to house, but usually contain sweet omelet, candied chestnut, sweet black bean, herring roe, radish/carrot salad, boiled shrimp, salmon roe, lotus roots, fish cakes, and a side of “*ozoni*” (clear broth soup with mochi). Nowadays, specialty supermarkets do sell premade boxes, but to make homemade, preparations start at least three days prior.

“*O-toso*” or a special medicinal herb tea infused with sake is drunk on this day. This drink fends off illness and revitalizes the spirit for the upcoming year. A special vessel, “*tosoki*” is used to serve this drink. A *tosoki* consists of a small teapot with three flat cups ranging sizes small, medium, and large.



My wish is that everyone can partake in one or all of these traditions. Happy New Year!

## EVENTS

### January

1 <sup>st</sup> (Mon) 10:30 a.m.	New Year’s Day <i>Kito</i> Blessing
7 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing
14 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service
21 <sup>st</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Safe Driving <i>Kito</i> Blessing
28 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)

### February

4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Hoshimatsuri</i> / <i>Setsubun</i> Service
11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Buddha’s Nirvana /
	Nichiren Shonin’s Birthday Service
18 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:00 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)
25 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Otakeage</i> (Burning Ceremony)

\*\*\* Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password \*\*\*

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