



RADIANCE

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January/February 2025

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Happy New Year!

According to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the **Wood Snake**. As the **Second Star** of the Nine Star Feng Shui moves to the center, this is also an opportunity for transformation, growth, and strategic planning. Be careful of pitfalls such as betrayal and financial loss. Through careful planning, this is an ideal year to plant seeds for the future as the snake symbolizes new beginnings. The directions to avoid are Northeast and Southwest. Lucky direction (*eho*) is West-Southwest.



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.

New Year's Day Service

Jan. 1, **10:30 a.m.** (Wed)

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. 2, **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 Snake** will be able to toss roasted soy beans to chase out negative entities and cleanse your spirit.

Those born under the sign of the **Snake, 2025, 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953 and 1941**, 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. 9, **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. 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. 19, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the annual "Safe Driving" Blessing Ceremony on January 19. Please fill out the enclosed form with all the necessary information and send back to the temple with your donation.

Once new amulets are received, please send back only the **old paper** amulet and keep the plastic jacket. We will properly dispose during the *Otakiage* Burning Ceremony.

Ceremony to Burn Old Religious Items

Feb. 23, **10:30 a.m.** (Sun)

We will hold the 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.

Bring Joy to Everyone

Shoda Kanai

Recently, I participated in Hawaii Mission Lay Leader Retreat as one of the lecturers. The other lecturer was Rev. Gakugyo Matsumoto from Minobusan Kuonji Temple. He further explained the current slogan of Kuonji Temple, *Tomo ni Iki, Tomo ni Sakaeru* (Live Together, Flourish Together).

We as practitioners of the Lotus Sutra and the teachings of Nichiren Shonin, understand that we are all Buddhas. We all have the Buddha seed, thus ⇨

⇐the potential to become Buddhas. How do we go about that? We live our lives as bodhisattvas.

As bodhisattvas, we are striving to work on ourselves, but also help others. What can I do to help others? We at first might think too big, such as trying to solve climate change or bring peace to the Middle East. We can try, but without political connections, it will be very difficult. That is the reality of how things work.

Instead, start small. There is a term *Bakku Yoraku* (alleviate suffering & bring joy). This is what we should be focusing on. We want to ease the suffering of many people, but instead of focusing on many, focus on one. That one is us. Let's bring joy to ourselves first, so that we can then share that joy to others. Enjoy life, laugh, go outside and commune with nature. By us being happy, we can spread that to others and will be easily transmitted.

What makes a laughing baby put a smile on your face? It is their sincerity and their innocence of just being happy that makes you happy. In that same manner, we need to be like the baby to bring joy to others through our sincerity. Laughter is contagious.

We all want to help alleviate the suffering of everyone. Some people want help, others don't. Let's start by working on ourselves first, then bring joy to those seeking your help. Then they too can spread joy to others. As Nichiren Shonin stated in his writing *Senji-sho*, "If the number of the believers increases from two to three and to hundreds, thousands, millions; then, it becomes the huge Mount Sumeru of Buddhahood or the great ocean of nirvana." Let us start building the mountain and filling the ocean.



New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin's Birth

753 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,980,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of December 21, 2024

Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

From the High Desert, I Bring you Good News!

Kotatsu (heater table)

Shoda Kanai

My brother and his family came to visit Las Vegas in early December as my sister-in-law had their holiday party in town.

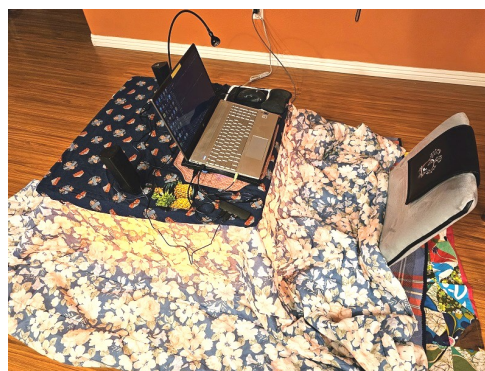
After picking them up at the airport and grabbing a quick bite, I took them home to rest and let the traffic die down before taking them to the hotel. During this time, my niece helped me put up my Christmas decorations of small tree, stockings, and Hawaiian Santa all over the living room.



Then my brother explained to her this small table I had set up in the family room draped with a futon. This is the small *kotatsu* (heater table) that I believe we still had since the time we lived in Bellevue, WA (high school time). During winters in Las Vegas, it does get cold, so I set the *kotatsu* up so that I can work on my laptop sitting in front of the tv. I still leave the *kotatsu* out during summer; I just remove the futon so I can still work on my laptop.

After plugging in the heat element, my niece quickly went into the futon to experience this new sensation. Hawai'i is too warm, so this was the first time seeing this kind of table. Eventually she took her socks off since her feet were getting too hot! Since she is tiny, she was able to slide underneath the table and play "hide and seek." She enjoyed sitting under the *kotatsu* very much.

Being able to see someone enjoy simple pleasures in life, things that are taken for granted, brought joy to my heart. She is truly a bodhisattva.



EVENTS

January

- 1 (Wed) 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day *Kito* Blessing
- 5 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly *Kito* Blessing
- 12 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
- 19 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Safe Driving *Kito* Blessing
- 26 (Sun) **No Service** Traveling to another temple

February

- 2 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Hoshimatsuri* / *Setsubun* Service
- 9 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Buddha's Nirvana / Nichiren Shonin's Birthday Service
- 16 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Shodai-gyo* (Chanting Meditation)
- 23 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Otakeage* (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 ***