


# RADIANCE

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November/December 2024

**Nichiren Buddhist Kannon Temple of Nevada**  
1600 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104-3488  
Tel/Fax: (702)866-5956  
[www.kannon-temple-nevada.org](http://www.kannon-temple-nevada.org)  
[kannontemplenv@gmail.com](mailto:kannontemplenv@gmail.com)

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## SACRED WORDS

*Thereupon the World-Honored One, wishing to repeat what he had said, sang in gathas*

**Lotus Sutra**

### 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).

### **Komatsubara Persecution Service**

**Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in Nichiren Shonin's life. Before sunset of November 11, 1264, Nichiren was ambushed in the forests of *Komatsubara*, in current Chiba Prefecture. He was on his way to a devout follower's residence after secretly visiting his sick mother. He was wounded in the ensuing attack, while two followers were killed.

Please join us online to commemorate this important event.

### **Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues Appreciation**

**Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

Let us celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment Day. Traditionally a *bodhi-tree* is placed near the altar, representing the time Buddha became enlightened under that tree.

We will also show our appreciation to your Buddhist statues (*Daikoku, Kishibojin, Kannon, Nichiren Shonin, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) that you place in your altar. Detailed instructions will be given later.

We usually hold our **Year End Potluck Luncheon** after service. Unfortunately we will discontinue this tradition until further notice.

### **New Year's Eve Ceremony**

**Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

Come join us for the last service for 2024! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, *Gohonzon*, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout this interesting year.

We will hit the *hansho* bell a total of 108 times, symbolizing our 108 attachments and illusions. All negativity will hopefully be gone with the sound of the bell to welcome in 2025 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### 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.

### Transitioning to New Temple

We are still continuing the new pledge drive to assist in relocating to a new temple somewhere in the Las Vegas area. If you would like to contribute, send your donation to the temple with your prayers or in memorium and I will fill out the form here and chant for 30 days.

Your generosity will help create a peaceful retreat with a Japanese garden where all people, members, non-members, local, out-of-state, and internationally can practice the Dharma and find solitude in this busy world discovering peace of body, mind, and spirit.

### Monthly Amulets

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.

New amulets will be mailed out starting January 2025.

### Temple Cleaning

**Dec. 28 10:00 a.m. (Sat)**

In late December, it is tradition to help thoroughly clean the temple. This deep clean is to help rid the temple and you of any grime and negative energy accumulated over the year. This is in preparation for the coming new year so we can start fresh.

We ask for volunteers to come help with this year's temple cleaning on Saturday December 28 with social distancing. Bring your own cleaning supplies if you wish.

### Speaking English

Shoda Kanai

During my recent trip to Japan, I went to visit my cousin whose grandson is attending an international pre-school. I wanted to help him with his English intonation and listening comprehension. ⇒

⇐ Previously, my cousin sent videos of him speaking but it was kind of hard to understand what he was saying as he was only three years old at the time. Now four, I was trying to coax him to speak more but he could have been a bit shy. Then during dinner, he left the table to go upstairs to retrieve something and stuck out his hand and said, “Wait, please” and scurried away. Wait, what did I just hear? Was that clear intonation without mumbling? That came as a shock as previously he did not speak clearly at times. I expressed my adulation when he returned and showered him with much praise. He smiled and then showed me his toys that he went to get.



Speaking English is difficult for the Japanese as they do not use the tongue as much for pronunciation. I remember my father trying to say, “This or that” by sticking out his tongue. By starting out young, my cousin’s grandson will surely develop the skills to be able to speak fluently, maybe even better than myself.

It was interesting to watch other videos of the teachers teaching. They clap along with the syllables and sing songs. This reminded me of Buddha’s time when they chanted the sutras. As in this month’s Sacred Words, many times in the *Lotus Sutra* it is stated, “Thereupon the World-Honored One, wishing to repeat what he had said, sang in gathas.” The verse section is more poetic and if sung, easier to remember than the prose section. By repeatedly singing, one can start to memorize the sutras, just as it is easier to speak English through repetition by song.

Though I have heard “Jigage” (Ch. 16 gatha) chanted in Sanskrit, I wonder how the gathas would have sounded during Buddha’s time and what kind of “beat” they would have used. I wonder if it would be similar to when we use *mokusho* (wooden block) to assist in carrying the rhythm of our chanting.

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

753 *shakyo* tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **24,930,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 24, 2024

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

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

**Seichoji Temple**

Shoda Kanai

The Kokusai Fukyoshi (Overseas Minister) seminar held at Seichoji Temple at Mt. Kiyosumi. This is the temple where Nichiren Shonin first studied and became a monk. He also returned here to chant the *Odaimoku* for the first time on April 28, 1253, at a place now designated as *Asahigamori* (Sunrise Woods).

This temple is sacred for the place where Nichiren studied but also for all subsequent priests-to-be. After a disciple declares his or her intent on following that path towards priesthood, they are not officially recognized as an apprentice priest until they take, *docho* or precepts here. The disciple pledges his or her intent to follow the path set forth by Nichiren.

As the apprentice progresses, the next step is to attend *Sodorin* a four-night five-day practice of intense training to learn more about priest manner and a preview of what *Shingyo-dojo* (35-day priest training) will be like at Seichoji Temple. What better place to preview what being a priest will be like where Nichiren began his journey?

We Kokusai Fukyoshi were also privileged to be able to hold our seminar here, to be reminded of the dedication of Nichiren and to reaffirm our commitment to help

spread his teachings overseas. There is something special about these sacred places. We were fortunate to be able to absorb the energy of the area to reinvigorate us.



Main Gate



Main Hall

**EVENTS**

**November**

- 3 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
- 10 (Sun) **No Service** Traveling to another temple
- 17 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. *Komatsubara* Persecution Service
- 24 (Sun) **No Service** Traveling to another temple

**December**

- 1 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Monthly Kito Blessing
- 8 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation
- 15, 22, & 29 (Sun) **No Service**
- 28 (Sat) 10:00 a.m. Temple Cleaning
- 31 (Tue) 10:30 a.m. New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells

\*\*\* 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 \*\*\*