

NICHIREN NEWS

JANUARY, 2016

5191 24TH STREET – SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA – 95822 – (916) 456-8371

~ Happy New Year ~

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January, 2016

3	11:30am	Kaji Kito
3	noon	Church meeting
10	----	no service
17	----	no service
24	11:30am	Sunday service
31	11:00am	New Year service
31	noon	New Year Party

February, 2016

7	----	no service
14	11:30am	Setsubun
21	----	no service
28	11:30am	Nichiren-Shonin birthday service/ Kaji Kito
28	noon	Church meeting

SETSUBUN

The Setsubun service will be held on **Sunday, February 14, 2016** at 11:30am. This is a special service for members who were born in the year of the monkey (12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 years old). As always, we will have a raffle after the service so please bring "paper products" for the raffle.

MOCHI TSUKI

Thanks to all the Church members, family & friends for their hard work during our annual mochi tsuki. The mochi tsuki took place on Saturday, December 19, 2015.

CHURCH NEW YEAR PARTY

The annual Church New Year party will be held at noon on **Sunday, January 31, 2016** at the Church. Please note that we have increased the price of the luncheon. The luncheon is **\$20** per person (12 & under are free). If you would like to attend and have not been contacted about your attendance, please call the Church by January 23, 2016.

A memorial service for Church members will be held before the party. The service is scheduled for 11:00am at the Church.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS - 11/29/15

- ✓ Discussed a request by the Nichiren Headquarters in Japan for a written employment agreement for ministers. It was agreed that our church will continue as is without the formal agreement. Brian will draft a response.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS - 12/20/15

- ✓ Discussed letter to be sent to Headquarters which is due in January, 2016
- ✓ Discussed New Year Party. Due to increased costs of ingredients, we will charge \$20 for lunch.

Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Membership-\$240: Kanji Hitomi; Kyomi Igarashi; Miyo Kitamura; Janet Kyotani; Takashi Mizuno; Emiko Nagasawa; Masanao Okamoto; Noboru Tateishi

Memorial: in memory of Mangoro & Shizue Kodani (Dick Kodani/\$300); in memory of Takeshi Kawawaki (Etsuko Nakamura/\$50); in memory of Yukio Aoki and Dan Webb (Liz Nettle/\$50)

Special donation: Nancy Akiyama/ \$250; Kazuyo Johnson/\$70; Meriko Murata/\$20; Fusako Okamoto/ flowers for Sunday services

Roof Repair Fund: Toyoko Nakatogawa/\$500; Noboru Tateishi/\$1,000

Bazaar: Nancy Akiyama/\$150.91; Kanji Hitomi/\$180 (dust bin sale); Janet Kyotani/gloves; Takashi Mizuno/\$50; Gail & Dave Tanaka/2 staplers

Mochi Tsuki: Ruby Goto/10 lb sweet rice; Kenjo Igarashi/\$155 (200 lb sweet rice);



Happy New Year everyone!

In Japan, it is customary to visit the temple on New Years day and pray for your family's health and happiness. In this newsletter, I would like to talk about the meaning of praying on New Years day.

To celebrate the new years and to pray for peace, happiness, and health on New Years day is called "shu shou e" in Japanese. The origins of this custom go back to Ancient China where the ceremony was first practiced. The first written record of this ceremony in Japan is said to have been held at the temple built under the emperor of the time in AD759. After AD765, every prefecture had a big temple where these ceremonies could also be held. During that time, the people prayed for the country's peace and also for good harvest.

In AD827 "shu shou e", which had once been restricted to certain temples, was now publicly given permission to be practiced in several other temples. Through the centuries, it is said that people made a custom to practice "shu shou e" to mainly pray for one's personal benefits. Aside from "shu shou e", it was customary in every prefecture to pray every new years day at a local shrine. During the Edo Period (1600s), people started believing that by praying, they would be blessed with good luck and happiness.

In present day Japan, the "shu shou e" has been renamed "hatsu mou de" due to the incorporation of different styles of praying that have been practiced throughout Japanese history. In any case, the way that the people pray for peace and happiness has not changed. We will gain protection and benefits from the Buddha if we consciously hope for this peace and happiness and work towards achieving this goal.

At our temple, we have a purification service every month. By striving to attend the services and pray, you will be able to obtain benefits from the Buddha. Therefore, this year, let's make an effort to attend these services as I will be purifying your family alters and praying for your family's happiness from the temple at midnight on New Years day.