



## Northern California Koyasan Temple

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January 12, 2024

Dear Koyasan Temple Member and Friends,

The Hoshi Matsuri (Star Festival) Prayer Service and Mamemaki (Bean Tossing) Ritual will be held at the Temple on Sunday, February 18, at 1:30 pm. Reverend Mimatsu will be performing the Goma Fire Ritual and ceremonial burning of the Soe Gomagi (wooden stick) with each person's prayer/wish to the Buddha. The service will be in person and broadcast live via Zoom. The Zoom link will be emailed prior to the service. If you are not on the Temple's email list, please contact the Temple to request the link.

During the Hoshi Matsuri Prayer Service, we pray to the stars for a year of happiness and good fortune and to ward off misfortune. The stars represent the moon, sun, planets, comets, and constellations whose movements, according to Japanese astrology, influences our lives and determines our fortune.

The Hoshi Matsuri omamori will be blessed during this ritual. To request a blessed omamori, please complete the Hoshi Matsuri application form. To help locate your star, refer to the Yakuyoke Hoshi Matsuri Chart or Star Chart. If you wish to participate in the Goma Fire Ritual, please complete the Soe Gomagi form. These forms are also posted on the Temple's website.

Please remit your application form(s) and check (payable to NC Koyasan Temple) or electronically by PayPal or Venmo through the Temple's website no later than February 11, 2024. If you combine the Hoshi Matsuri and Soe Gomagi donations, please designate the amount for each. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Temple.

The Mamemaki Ritual, which will be held following the service in the Temple, is a traditional Japanese ritual to cleanse and drive away the demons of misfortune by throwing fuku mame (good luck beans) and inviting in good fortune by chanting "Oni wa soto, fuku wa uchi " (demons of misfortune out, good fortune in).

Following the service in the Social Hall, please join us for a bowl of delicious ozoni (mochi soup), an opportunity to socialize with the sangha and purchase the blessed omamoris.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support. We pray that you will have a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous year.

In Gassho,

Northern California Koyasan Temple