

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

2025 SE Yamhill St. Portland OR 97214 (503) 232-8064

April 2011

<http://nichiren-shu.org/portland/> and Facebook at Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland

Spring Bazaar!

On Sunday March 27th we held the 19th annual Spring Bazaar. We served over 900 lunches, over 1000 servings of cookies and drinks and over 1500 raffle tickets. Community support was fantastic with visitors to the Temple from near and far. Financially this was our biggest Bazaar ever and was a huge achievement. Our volunteers are the core of this effort. Preparations started over a month in advance with planning and purchasing of raw materials. The entire week preceding the event was busy with bringing in all the cookers, frying noodles and preparing food boxes. The day of the event started for some at 4 am. By 6 am the chow mien line was already running. Even with such a huge undertaking, the food had to be prepared and arranged just so. No shortcuts are allowed and the presentation had to be as beautiful to the eyes as it was to the taste. In addition to tireless efforts, every item – from hashi to tonkatsu and everything in between was all donated. A huge thank-you goes out to everyone who contributed- each in their own special way to the success of the event: Success in terms of service to our community as well as to fund the Temple's operations.

Special thanks also go out to our sponsors- **Ota Family Tofu** for their support as well as for donating all the Tofu for the event. Also thank you to **Anzen Hiroshi's Market** and to **A-Westlake heating and AC** for their support.

Japan Disaster Recovery

A fund to support disaster recovery efforts was set up and being managed by Nichiren Shu headquarters in Japan. We stand united with Nichiren Shu headquarters to assist those suffering. Any contributions received that are marked "Japan disaster" will go directly to this fund. As a contributor, you have many options for donation. Please note that by donating through the Temple in aggregate, you get the assurance that the funds will go 100% to be used in Japan for recovery, you get the US tax write off accorded by NBT's IRS 501(c)(3) status, lastly we will not pursue you with incessant mailings asking for follow-up donations.

Spring Ohigan

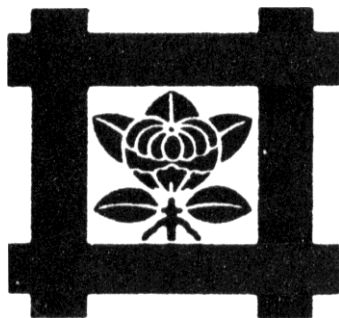
We celebrated Spring Ohigan on Sunday March 20th in hopes that true spring weather would hurry up and get here. Sensei prepared many Toba for our deceased ancestors and friends. She memorialized them with prayer and we all had a chance to light incense to honor their spirits. After the service we conducted the Toba burning ceremony and also used the occasion to burn last year's amulets that were replaced with new ones at New Year. Spring was still in the process of blowing in and it was cold and wet. Thanks to the bravery of our members we were able to honor our ancestors with chanting and beating the uchiwa daiko.

Hana Matsuri

The celebration of Sakyamuni Buddha's birth in the is **Sunday April 10th at 2 pm**. We'll have a floral display representing the Lumbini garden and baby Buddha in a fountain of sweet tea (ama cha). Everyone will have a chance to bless the baby Buddha and celebrate the occasion. Following the service, we'll hold a social hour with light refreshments.

Garage sale donations

The Annual Garage sale will be held in late August. We are accepting items at the Temple and have donation letters available. It's a win-win. You clean out your house and support the Temple at the same time. Thank you in advance!



Dharma Talk : The Birth of Sakyamuni Buddha

According to one tradition, the Buddha was born on April 8th in India about 2,500 years ago. In the region where present-day Tarai in Nepal borders on India, there was at that time a state ruled by the Sakya tribe. The Buddha was the son of the tribal chief and was therefore a prince. He was the only son of king Suddhodana and Queen Maya. Since he was named Siddhartha and his father's surname was Gautama, he was called Gautama Siddhartha.

Siddhartha's mother, Queen Maya, was a princess of the kingdom of Koliya to the east. It is said that she, together with her attendants, stopped to rest in the Lumbini Garden on the way to Koliya where she intended to give birth. In those days, the garden was resplendent with flowers and the entire area was filled with fragrance. When Queen Maya suddenly put out her right hand and touched a tree, her side emitted a seven-colored light and from that light there appeared the figure of jewel-like boy. This baby was Siddhartha, later to become the Buddha.

It is also said that the infant immediately stood up and he pointed to the heaven with his right hand and to the earth with his left hand. And then proceeded to take seven steps, saying, "**I have been born at this time to save all living beings throughout the heaven and the earth because I hold them in profound esteem and will stop their sufferings of life and death.**" This is because this dreadful world cannot be surpassed and causes all living beings to not enjoy eternal tranquility.

Sincerely with Gassho,
Rev. Myosho Obata

Hanamatsuri Service (Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday Celebration)

April 10th (Sun) at 2:00p.m.

At the Service, a statue of the baby Buddha is enshrined surrounded by flowers representing the Lumbini garden where the Buddha was born. And during the Service, we will celebrate the birth of the Buddha by sprinkling **Ama Cha in Japanese(Sweet Tea)** on the head of an infant Buddha.

Establishment of the Nichiren Shu Order Service

April 24th (Sun) at 10:00a.m.

Nichiren Shonin declared he would establish his faith in the Lotus Sutra at Seichoji Temple in his home town, Kominato on April 28, 1253.

Memorial Service (April, 2011)

3rd Year 2009 Yukie Kato (Apr. 9) Bernice Okazaki (Apr. 10)

43rd Year 1969 Haruno Tahara (Apr. 18)

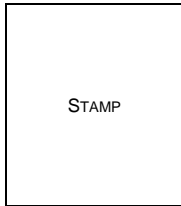
47th Year 1966 Hina Kodama (Apr. 16) Minoru Kawada (Apr. 22)

If you would like to hold a memorial service for your ancestors, Please contact Sensei Obata to plan it prior to the memorial date to make an appointment at (503) 232 8064

Wednesday Meditation (Shodai Gyo) and Dharma lessons: Note the time change on the calendar and specific lesson topics to be covered monthly starting in May.



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2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland OR 97214



To:

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