

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 291

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

August 2010

<http://nichiren-shu.org/portland/>

O-bon Memorial Service and Lantern service

We demonstrated our appreciation to our ancestors, the deceased of our friends and our relatives and all the spirits of the universe at Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland at 6:00 pm on July 18, 2010. Members has written in for dozens of Toba which were made on thin wood and made a beautiful display for our loved ones' memorial.

Following the service we went down to the social hall and prepared lanterns for the next service. We used foam boards for the base and Sensei brought a roll of Shoji screen paper from Japan. Member, relatives and friends practiced calligraphy in decorating the lanterns with Odaimoku, the names of the deceased relatives, friends and pets. After that the lanterns were decorated with flowers and greenery.

The Lantern Service was held at the NW corner of the Casting pond at Westmoreland Park at 9:00 pm on Sunday, July 18. We held an impromptu service there in the park. We had to share space with the ducks and geese, but they were polite and let us use their pond. While we chanted Odaimoku we floated O-bon Lanterns on the pond and we expressed our gratitude and paid respect to the honored ones. There, we saw their souls off to the Buddha's land where the eternal Sakyamuni Buddha is the True Dharma.

After the service the Tsuruta boys from Camas, WA paddled a raft onto the pond to collect the lanterns. We saved the foam bases for next year and the paper part was burned in a ceremony.

The week following Obon, the Toba and lanterns were burned in a ceremony after Sunday service. The smoke carries our best wishes to the spirits of our loved ones.

NONA Minister and business meeting

Sensei will travel to Hayward for the annual NONA (Nichiren Order of North America) meeting. There will be no service on August 29th.

Temple news

- Thanks to Joan Kurowski for securing contractors and supervising a facelift to the temple exterior! The Belmont face of the temple is freshly painted, the emblems on the Belmont and Yamhill sides are redone, the sign above the front door is repainted and the new sign on the Belmont side beckons proudly to passersby on Belmont. Sensei Obata secured funding from headquarters for the work.

- The Residence apartment renovation is complete. The City of Portland final permit inspections happened in July and we passed on the first try. A property manager is secured and the unit will be on the market mid month.

Thanks to all who participated in the work party in July: Johnny and Afton, Bob and Racheal, Jerry and Cheryl, Bob and Linda, Susan, Rick Ivie. It was very energizing to see everyone unite in common purpose!

- Rummage sale: August 26-28 See calendar for details. We need volunteers to help with pricing and sales. Pricing will be done on the 24th so please bring in any donations ahead of that time. We are timing the Thursday event to coincide with Farmer's market and hopefully draw in people from that. See the flyer in this newsletter.

Clean usable items should be brought to the temple preferably by August 20th. Please coordinate drop off times with Sensei (503) 232-8064 so she can let you in to the temple.

- The Belmont street fair will be on Sept 12 which falls on a Sunday this year. Please save the date. Volunteers needed for prep and serving. There will be another prep day a few days prior to the event. Details to be determined.

- We are now on Facebook under the name "Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland" thanks to Susan Byers. Please post photos comments, and activities to help improve communication outside of services.

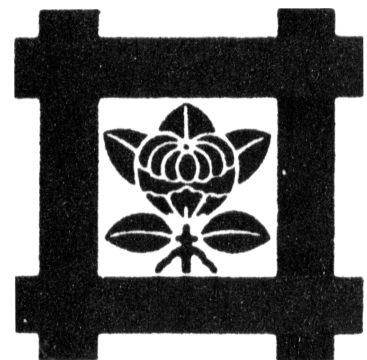
Dharma Talk of August: What is the meaning of Bodhisattva?

After Sakyamuni Buddha's death, his teachings were well kept and practiced and also propagated by the ordained priests, nun priests, lay men and women for about a century. However, the ways of understanding and practicing of the Buddha's teachings began to split into two different traditions because of different interpretation of the Buddha's teachings. One was called **Hinayana (Teravada) Buddhism**. The other was called **Mahayana Buddhism**. Hinayana Buddhism involves practicing by oneself strictly for one's own emancipation, and this is called "**benefitting self**." Contrary to this, Mahayana Buddhism insisted it is only through "**benefitting others**" by saving the other that one can perfect "benefitting self." And it took as its ideal the belief that everyone is capable of becoming a Buddha, so everyone who seeks to save others and achieve enlightenment oneself can be called a **Bodhisattva**. Therefore, you and I as well as anyone else who decides to take the path of Buddhism are **Bodhisattva**. And all Mahayana Sutras, for example, the Great Heart Sutra, the Amida Sutra, the Lotus Sutra and the Nirvana Sutra emphasize the practice of Bodhisattvas. Our founder, Nichiren Shonin dedicated his life to the Lotus Sutra. By upholding and practicing the teaching of the Lotus Sutra, he awakened himself to be a practitioner written in the Lotus Sutra, and at the same time he started thinking to himself if he was a bodhisattva who sprang up from the underground in the chapter 15 of the Lotus Sutra. Moreover, Nichiren Shonin states in his writings, "**Everyone chanting the Odaimoku, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo represents the Bodhisattvas sprung up from the underground in the chapter 15 of the Lotus Sutra.**"

Sincerely with Gassho,
Rev. Myosho Obata

Memorial Year August , 2010

1st Year 2009 : Chikaichi Chuck Miyake (Aug. 17)
17th Year 1994 : Tamotsu Aiba (Aug. 7)
27th Year 1984 : Katsu Okazaki (Aug. 30)



Thanks to the following donors for contributing for the Obon festival:

Obon Donations

Wayne and Joan Kurowski	Robert and Racheal Inouye
Glenn and Cathy Glass	Mitsuko Miyake
Fred and Kiyomi Kimura	Johnny and Afton Nozaki
Shigeko Matsuda	Cheryl Tsunemitsu and Jerry Patterson
Henry Kawata	Yoshiye Tsuboi (Oceanside, CA)
Yoshiko Yabuki	Bill and Ida Sugahiro
Alice Watanabe	Jun Nigo
Misao Minagi	Hisako Tsukamoto
George and Yoko Morita (Springfield VA)	Nobi Okazaki

Toba Donations

Glenn and Cathy Glass	Susan Byers
Cheryl Tsunemitsu and Jerry Patterson	Yoshiko Yabuki
Robert and Racheal Inouye	Alice Watanabe
Yasuko Tsuruta (Camas, WA)	Harue Ninomiya
Yoji and Martha Matsushima	Mitsuko Miyake
Misao Minagi	Johnny and Afton Nozaki
Henry Kawata	Bill and Ida Sugahiro
Lillian Okazaki	Wayne and Joan Kurowski
Mae Hirata	George and Yoko Morita (Springfield, VA)
Tom McCormack	Nobi Okazaki

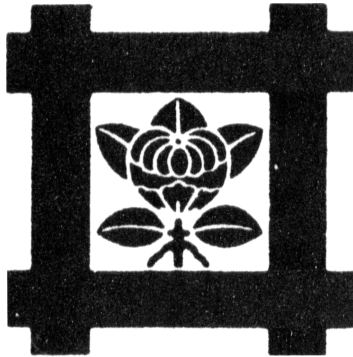
Lantern Donations

Fred and Kiyomi Kimura	Johnny and Afton Nozaki
Glenn and Cathy Glass	Yasuko Tsuruta
Robert and Racheal Inouye	Tom McCormack
Shigeko Matsuda	Susan Byers
Mae Hirata	Cheryl Tsunemitsu and Jerry Patterson
Misao Minagi	Yoshiko Yabuki
Alice Watanabe	Mitsuko Miyake

Temple Rummage Sale Nichiren Buddhist Temple 2025 SE Yamhill St

**Housewares
Small furniture
Children's items
Sports items**

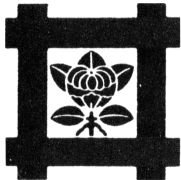
**Thursday Aug 26th 1-6 pm
Friday Aug 27th 9 am- 2 pm
Saturday Aug 28th 9 am- 2 pm**



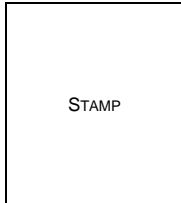
Please post the flyer above in a public place if you can.

Donations of clean, usable items are accepted at any time. Please coordinate with Sensei Obata (503) 232-8064 to ensure that you can get into the temple. Ideally we'd like to see items arrive by Aug 20th, but please no later than Aug 24th.

Volunteers needed to staff for sales and set up. Pricing and set up will be on Aug 24th in the evening.



Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland OR 97214



To:

ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED