

# LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 295

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

December 2010

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

## Sh'chi-go-san

Literally this holiday means Seven-Five-Three. Children ages seven, five and three are especially celebrated but all children were honored on this day, Sunday November 14th. While we were chanting the Odaimoku, Rev. Obata blessed the children that came to the service. We all had a very happy and joyful time. All of the children were given long-life candy to celebrate the occasion. Nearly 50 people attended including several of the children in fine kimono.

## Myokenji visit luncheon

Thanks again to all the volunteers that helped out with the luncheon honoring our guests from Myokenji Temple on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. The social hall was beautifully decorated in Halloween theme. Many thanks to Fujinkai members who made a large donation to cover the cost of the food for our guests. No temple general funds were used to support it.

## Jo-Do-E Service

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 10:00 am. This is very special day for Buddhists. On this day, we commemorate Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment. After many years of difficult ascetic practice, Sakyamuni decided to sit under a Bodhi tree and meditate. On the morning of December 8<sup>th</sup>, he realized his awakening and became the Buddha.

During the Service, we will express our gratitude and offer the candlelight to the Buddha. Please attend Jo-Do-E Service.

## New Year's Eve Service

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. After Service, we will strike bells ( Joya-no-kane ) 108 times.

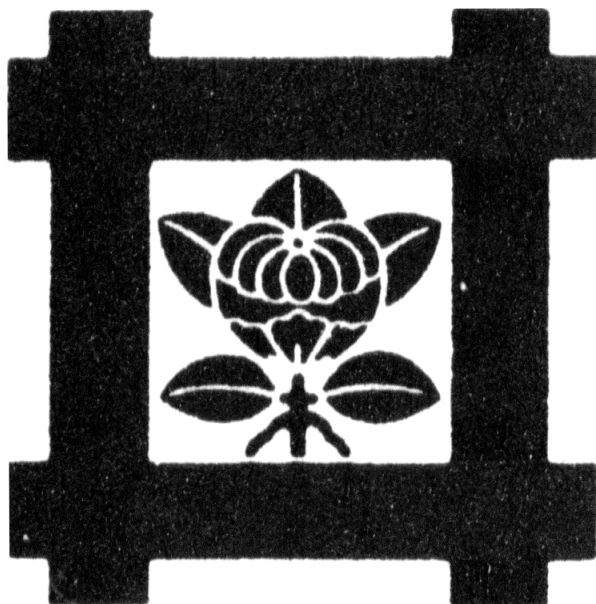
It is said that humans have 108 passions and desires. Striking the bell 108 times drives out these impurities. Ama-zake (a sweet beverage made from fermented rice) will be offered.

## New Year's Day Service

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Nichiren Buddhist Temple will hold the Lotus Blessing and the special prayer. **If you would like to have a special prayer through the coming year, please write your name and prayers on the enclosed form and return it to the temple by December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**

## Temple news

- Upcoming activities: Annual Temple clean up will be Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- New Year's service, general meeting, elections and New Year's Party will be on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm
- MochiTsuki 2011 will be at the Scottish Rite center on Morrison Jan 30th
- The Garage sale will remain a fixture of our fundraising efforts. Donations are accepted at any time for next year's event. There is huge demand for vinyl LP records. We have a temporary spot in the social hall for donated items and permanent storage in the residence basement. Donation letters are available from Sensei Obata.



## Dharma Talk: Eye-Opening Service

### **Why do we have to hold the Eye-Opening Service of the Mandala Gohonzon or the statue of the Buddha?**

Each Buddha is said to possess thirty-two marks of physical excellence. They can be depicted in tangible form in pictures or on statues, with the exception of one mark, **the Buddha's Voice**.

For this reason, we must recite a sutra in front of a wooden or painted Image of the Buddha to endow the Image with all thirty-two marks.

In Nichiren Buddhism, when the Lotus Sutra is placed before the Mandala Gohonzon or an Image and recited in order to complete the Thirty-two features, the Mandala Gohonzon and the Image never fail to become the Eternal Sakyamuni Buddha of the perfect teachings.

Nichiren Shonin states in his writings, **Mokue-nizo-kaigen- no-koto (Opening the Eyes of Images):**

"Because the Lotus Sutra manifests the Buddha's spiritual aspect, when one embodies that spiritual aspect in a wooden or painted Image possessing thirty-one marks, the Image in its entirety becomes the Living Buddha. Some statues or Mandala are decorated so beautifully, but if they lack the one crucial mark, **the Buddha's Voice**. They are not equal to the Buddha or the Mandala Gohonzon. "

Therefore, if we are going to enshrine any statue or the Mandala Gohonzon, these objects must hold the Eye-Opening Service.

Sincerely with Gassho,  
Rev. Myosho Obata

### **Mochi Making for New Year's:**

Mochi Making will be on Sunday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 am in lieu of Sunday service.

Deadline for orders is Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be placed by mail or by calling Sensei Obata at (503) 232-8064. Cost is \$3.50 per lb and maximum order is 25 lbs per family.

Please arrive at the Temple between 11 am and noon to pick up your order.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lbs: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$3.5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NBT membership:**

First and foremost, the mission of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple is to spread Dharma, foster peace and connect with our community at large. This schedule of fees is a minimum suggested donation. In the case of any hardship petition, verbal or written, the Minister or any member of the board of governors is authorized to reduce or waive any fee in support of the larger mission of the Temple. While fees are a necessary part of maintaining a physical Temple, the strength of our Sangha community is based on participation in religious services and Temple events. Membership is based primarily on a sincere belief in the Nichiren Shu doctrine and participation in Temple services and events.

Dues and fees are strictly voluntary. They can be paid annually, monthly or periodically. Each January, the treasurer will add up each member's "membership" contributions (as designated by writing a note on the check) and apply them towards membership fees for the following year. Dues paid by January 2011 cover the year of 2011.

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**Annual 2011 membership dues:**

Basic membership  
Individual \$80 Annually or \$7 Monthly  
Family \$100 Annually or \$8 Monthly

Pearl level member  
Individual \$150 Annually or \$13 Monthly  
Family \$200 Annually or \$17 Monthly

Bodhi-tree level member  
Individual \$200 or more Annually or \$17 Monthly  
Family \$300 or more Annually or \$25 Monthly

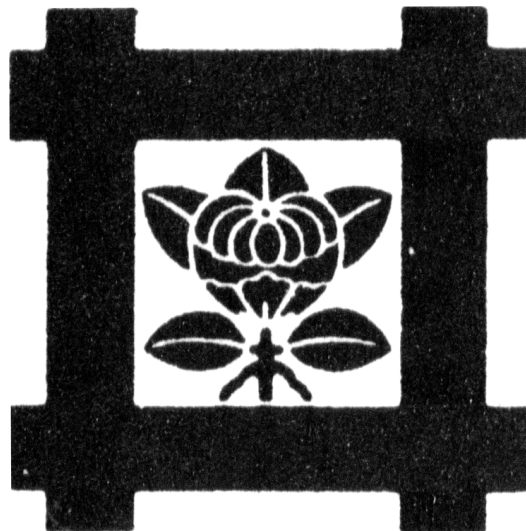
**Membership Form**

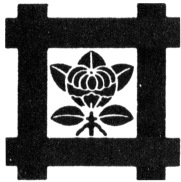
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

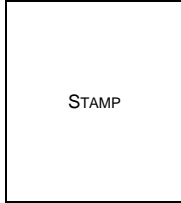
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For any level of membership please add \$5 for the Kyoden Ken Kin which is the NONA educational fund. These funds go directly to NONA headquarters for educational materials and programs. Membership includes Annual personal amulet, listing in the January Newsletter and eligibility for board of directors elections. Requests to remain anonymous or excluded from posting on the ballot will be respected.





**Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple**  
**2025 SE Yamhill Street**  
**Portland OR 97214**



To:

ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED