

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 296

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

January 2011

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

Jo-Do-E Service

We held the Jo-Do-E Service on December 12th, 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 8th, 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 Services

After the New Year's Eve Service, we struck the Temple bell (Joya-no-kane) 108 times.

It is said that humans have 108 passions and desires. Striking the bell 108 times drives out these impurities. All those present had a chance to strike the bell. Amazake (a sweet beverage made from fermented rice) was offered.

On New Year's day we held the Lotus Blessing and special prayer. After services we had a social visit and enjoyed home made Ozoni, Haupia (a yummy coconut dessert), fresh fruit and cakes.

Mochi-Tsuki 2011

The JACL sponsored celebration of Japanese culture and tradition, **Mochi-Tsuki 2011**. It will be held at the Scottish Rite Center again on SW 15th and Morrison. The date is set for Jan 30th from noon to 4 pm. P-NBT has a booth where we plan to sell lunch, drinks and treats.

New Year's Service, Elections, Party

In addition to the New Year's services that were held on New Year's, there will be a big New Year's service On January 16th at 2 pm. Please plan to come! Following the service we will hold the 2011 Board of directors elections. Anyone who was a member during 2010 or is already a member for 2011 will be eligible to vote and eligible to be elected. If there is anyone who wishes to be excluded from being on the ballot, please contact Sensei Obata before Jan 10th. Following the service and elections there will be light refreshments served in the social hall and we will hold the New Year's party.

Setsubun and Hoshi Matsuri

Setsubun and Hoshi Matsuri Service will be held on Sunday, February 6th at 10 am.

Setsubun means "to divide seasons". It is the eve of spring according to the Japanese zodiac calendar. The actual day of the Setsubun is February 3rd. During the Setsubun Service those who were born in the Year of the Rabbit will toss roasted soy beans, candies and chocolates to the congregation to chase away evil spirits in our minds. They shout, "**Fuku wa uchi, Oni wa soto**" which means "Good fortune in! Devils out!"

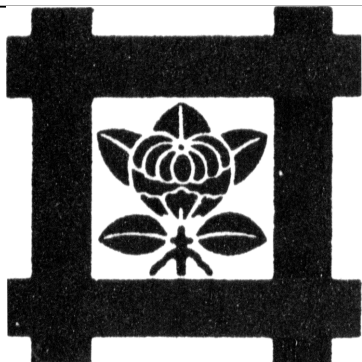
The Year of Rabbit are people who were born in **1915, 1928, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999 and 2011**.

Anyone who wishes to have an amulet for the year 2011, please write you and your family names and birthdays on the enclosed form and return it to the temple **by January 31st, 2011**. You will receive the amulet after the Service.

Please bring a wrapped gift for exchange- \$7 limit

Board meeting

The Board meeting is on the 9th so this newsletter is going out without the Treasurer's report.



Dharma Talk : The Three Treasures

The three treasures are the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Regardless of the country or Buddhist school, the three treasures are objects of worship for all Buddhists. All who call themselves Buddhists must take refuge in the three treasures. The first, Buddha means Rightly Awakened One, and Buddhahood is the final goal in Buddhism. Sakyamuni Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, is the first person in history who reached this state. Accordingly, all Buddhists around the world take refuge in this Buddha first. The second, Dharma is a Sanskrit word. Dharma means the teachings expounded by the Buddha who is enlightened, but originally it meant true teachings. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for Buddhists to undertake religious practices in daily life based on these teachings.

The third, Sangha is a Sanskrit word, too. The Sangha is a religious organization. The Sangha has the four kinds of people, ordained male and female priest, layman and laywoman follower. These include all people who believe in the religion called Buddhism and are practicing the Buddha's teachings in their daily lives.

Nichiren Shonin states about the Sangha in his writings, Itai-Doshin-Ji in Japanese that are often used to describe the unity in the Sangha. Itai-Doshin-Ji means that one in mind but many in body. Then, I will quote the excerpt of it. Nichiren Shonin says, **“All things are possible if people are united in one spirit. Nothing can be accomplished if they are not united. Such teachings also exist in non-Buddhist scriptures. For instance, a king of Yin in old China, King Chieh, who had an army of seven hundred thousand men disunited in spirit, was defeated by king Wu of Chou and his army of eight hundred men, who were united in one spirit. So that if a person has two thoughts, nothing can be accomplished. Even if there are hundreds or thousands of people, if they are united in one, they are surely able to accomplish their aim.”** Nichiren Shonin always reminds us to be unified in purpose so we can achieve our goals as followers of the Lotus Sutra. We put our firm faith in the three treasures, **Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.**

Sincerely with Gassho,
Rev. Myosho Obata

Memorial Service 2011 (January and February)

1st Year 2010	Hawley Kato (Jan. 2)
3rd Year 2009	Victor Okazaki (Feb. 2)
37th Year 1975	Shizuta Yabuki (Feb.14)
47th Year 1966	Eiko kobayashi (Feb. 20)
50th Year 1962	Asajiro Takaya (Jan. 25) Ryukichi Ninomiya (Jan.30)

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

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.

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

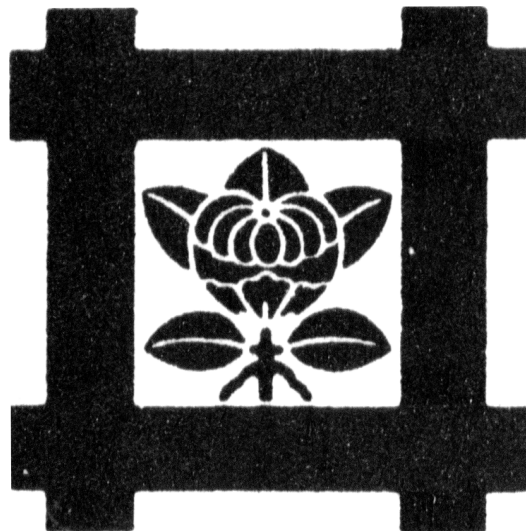
Family \$300 or more Annually or \$25 Monthly

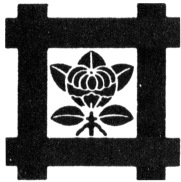
Membership Form

Name: _____

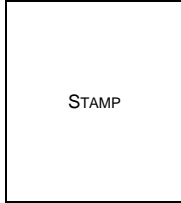
Address: _____

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 February 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