

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 278

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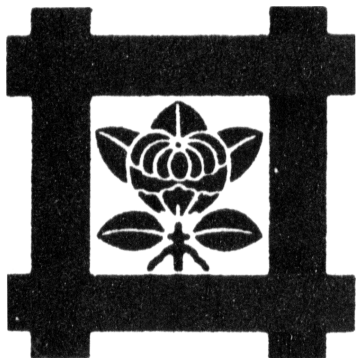
July 2009

Buddhist Festival in Colonel Summers Park

The annual Buddhist Festival was held in Colonel Summers park on June 13th. NBT was well represented with an information booth, a food booth and an open house at the Temple. We hosted many perspective members as well as our neighbors in the community. Many thanks to our Fujinkai for all their hard work in preparation for the event, and to all the volunteers that helped make this a success.

Buddhism by bicycle tour

On Saturday June 20th P-NBT hosted over 40 guests interested in learning more about Buddhism in general and our temple in particular. Shami Jason gave the group a lesson in basic philosophy behind our practice and hosted many questions. Unfortunately the group had to move on with their tour of Temples. If they had more time, they would have stayed longer based on the level of interest in the group.



Sensei Obata returns from Japan

Sensei returned from Japan on Tuesday June 23rd. She is here on a temporary Visa while the paperwork for the permanent one is being processed. She is settling in nicely and wishes to send her appreciation to all members for hosting her warmly and making her feel welcome. She extends an invitation to the membership to call and visit at any time.

Obon celebration this month- July 12th

At Obon time we remember our ancestors through prayer. By acknowledging them with respect we draw strength and good fortune. Just as a building can not stand without a firm foundation, we could not exist if not for our families that came before us. Please see the attached Obon prayer form, and everyone is welcome to attend the Obon service on July 12th.

Minidoka Pilgrimage

The 7th annual pilgrimage to the Minidoka internment camp was held June 27th and 28th. This event commemorates the shameful act of the US government incarcerating a group of over 100,000 people solely based on ethnicity during WWII. P-NBT was represented by three members including one former internee. The story of the removal and incarceration of American citizens with no charge or conviction is a powerful reminder of the dangers inherent in unchecked government action. The experience was very emotional for the attendees and the message was well received by people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Participation overall was about 130 people. The physical remains of the camp are in process of rehabilitation with increased funding by congress.

Home visit program to start for community outreach

In the past our Temple elders would receive visitation from Sensei Akahoshi on a periodic basis. In discussions member brought up the idea of making the visitation a regular activity and that in addition to just the Sensei, we would have a member or two accompany Sensei to the visitation on a rotating basis. The hope is that the visit would take on a more social element and for sharing news of Temple and personal life. To make this happen we are embarking on a process to gather names of those that might enjoy a visit. If you know anyone who you think would benefit from this, please fill in this form and bring or mail it to the Temple.

I want to volunteer :

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Times/days that are best

Please visit this person:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

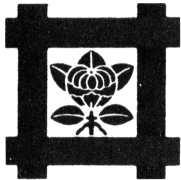
Times/days that are best

Koden:

Sincere thanks and acknowledgement to the following on their Koden remembrance for Bernice Okazaki:

Abhi & Linda Talwalkar

Frank and Janet Fujitani
Brenda Hongo-Ellis
Emiko Fujimoto
Mr and Mrs Tex Irinaga



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