

# LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 289

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

June 2010

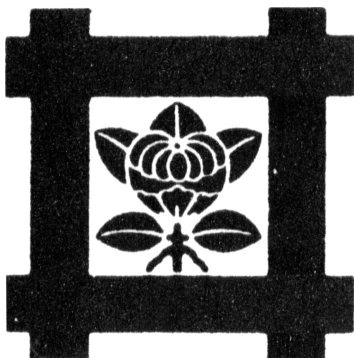
<http://nichiren-shu.org/portland/>

## Obon Season is starting

We honor our ancestors during the summer season through prayer, meditation and celebration. One aspect of that is the **Eitai Kyo Memorial Service that will be held on Sunday, June 13th at 10 am**. The season culminates with the holiday of Obon that we will celebrate at the Temple on July 18th.

In past years we had a tradition of floating Obon lanterns on the Willamette river. For the past several years that practice has been disallowed due to potential safety and littering concerns. This year however we have some exciting news for a new observance and celebration for our Sangha. We have permission from the City of Portland Westmoreland Park manager, Betsy Redfearn, to hold a lantern ceremony at Westmoreland Park. Westmoreland park is near the corner of SE McLoughlin and Bybee roughly between Reed College and the Selwood neighborhood. The park has a large square cement lined pond called the "Casting Pond". We will hold an evening service and float our lanterns at dusk at 9 pm.

A new lantern design takes a cue from Hawaiian Japanese community tradition where the lantern is built on top of a light weight floating board. There is enough space around the lantern to add flowers or decorations as you wish. We will have six weeks to decorate the paper portions of the lanterns in the community room after services. Sensei has calligraphy ink and brushes. Each lantern has a suggested donation of \$15.



## Richmond Spring Fair

The Richmond school annual Spring Fair was held on May 8th. We have a tradition with this event and our food booth is always a hit. This year we had a few changes as the festival has grown. We moved the booth outside so we had much more room to work and also Darryl Inouye had his Yakisoba station right in the booth. Weather was excellent as was community turnout. During the lunch hours we had a constant line of customers. We sold out every beverage, dessert and Tofu Bento. There was very little chicken and noodles remaining at the end. We broke last year's record for revenue by about 9%. Many thanks to all the many volunteers that helped make this event a success.

## New Uchiwa Taikos

Sensei Obata generously donated ten hand drums also known as Uchiwa Taiko for temple services. They were hand made in Japan and sound great!

## 2010 Building campaign

The physical temple last underwent a big renovation in 2006 including a new roof, new floor and drywall in the fellowship hall. The board of directors has been discussing possible future projects. Please direct your requests and ideas to any board member to ensure your opinion is heard. We just completed the wheelchair ramp. It went into service on May 30th. We have requests for :

- Upgrading electrical service for the kitchen
- Adding a lift of some sort to transport people up and down from the Temple great hall level to the lower level
- Upgrading ventilation in the kitchen
- Rehabilitation of the Belmont face of the Temple and signage

Projects are financed from the general fund based on members' interest and availability of funds.

## **Dharma Talk of June : Memorial Service**

Memorial Services are held many times throughout the year. These include **Spring Higan, Eitai-kyo, O-bon, Fall Higan and personal Memorial Services** at Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple.

Members of the family, relatives and friends get together under the name of the deceased persons to express our thankfulness to them and to share their memories and our sadness. At the Service, we offer the flowers, fruit, meal and whatever the deceased likes. During the Service, we offer our merits accumulated by reciting the Lotus Sutra and chanting the Odaimoku, Namu Myoho Renge Kyo to them. And we offer the incense to pay our gratitude and respect to our ancestor and the deceased. Moreover, we pray for their happiness and peace in the life after death and also to console their spirits.

I believe that the significance of having the Memorial Service is not only for the sake of those who have departed, but just as important for those who remain and survive.

**Please join us after service for a special prayer to honor inductees in Eitai Kyo at Rose City Cemetery on Sunday June 13th at noon.**

Sincerely with Gassho,  
Rev. Myosho Obata

## **Eitai Kyo: Perpetual Memorial Service Program**

Q: What is Eitai Kyo Program?

A: Eitai Kyo means perpetual memorial service. This program is sponsored by Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland and the temple takes care of memorial services for the members of Eitai Kyo program permanently.

Q: What does the temple do for the members of Eitai Kyo?

A: The temple makes a black lacquer tablet, called Ihai in Japanese, for the members of Eitai Kyo. Two individual names such as husband and wife can be engraved on one Ihai. Their Buddhist names are engraved on the front and their common names, date of birth and death are engraved on the reverse of Ihai. The Ihai is enshrined at the temple altar.

The temple holds memorial services for the deceased members of Eitai Kyo at Spring and Fall Ohigan and Obon(July) and special Eitai Kyo service in June. At each service, all names of the members of Eitai Kyo are pronounced and prayer is offered to them by a minister. They also receive prayer at daily morning service at the temple with offering of incense, fresh water and flower. The temple takes care of the members of Eitai Kyo permanently.

Q: Who applies the Eitai Kyo?

A: If your deceased parents, brothers, sisters, or relatives were members of the Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland, please think of enrolling the deceased in Eitai Kyo. It does not matter whether you are current member of the temple or not. By enrolling your ancestors in Eitai Kyo, even if you do not hold memorial services for the ancestors of your family, the temple takes care of them and they will never be forgotten.

Also, for the current temple members, you may want to think of enrolling yourselves in Eitai Kyo. Especially if you do not have children or relatives or your children are not the temple members, your memorial service will be taken care by the temple permanently with enrollment in Eitai Kyo. Even if your spouse has died but you are in good health right now, you may enroll yourself and your spouse in Eitai Kyo now so that you don't have to worry about your memorial service in the future.

Q: How much is the membership fee to enroll Eitai Kyo?

A: The membership fee of Eitai Kyo is \$1,000.00 for two people like husband and wife. The fee includes one Ihai tablet and engraving two individual names as described above. The fee is saved in the temple Eitai Kyo fund and the fund takes care of expense of each service.

Q: What if the Portland Temple would be disbanded?

A: The Eitai Kyo will be taken over by a certain responsible Nichiren-shu temple in U.S. or Japan. So the temple will continuously take care of the members of Eitai Kyo of the Portland Temple.

Should you have any questions, please ask Sensei.

## **Eitai Kyo Service (Perpetual Memorial Service)**

**June. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. and Rose City Cemetery service at noon**

## **Memorial Service (June, 2010)**

23<sup>rd</sup> Year 1988 Yasuo Soga (Jun 30)

## An open letter to the Sangha

(By Bill Sugahiro)

I would personally like to acknowledge and express my gratitude to Glenn and Cathy Glass for all the time, effort and energy that they have been spending on the remodeling project involving the residence. The ultimate objective of this project is to rent out the second unit to derive additional revenue for the benefit of the Temple.

They have single-handedly tackled this project, spending an enormous amount of time at City Hall talking to various department heads to arrive at a cost analysis and a plan to convert the residence into a multi-family dwelling. It was necessary to find out what had to be done in the way of surveying, drafting of plans, examining electrical and plumbing codes, researching land use regulations, etc., etc., etc., to work up an analysis of the project and the costs involved.

Alone, the both of them trudged on, shouldering the burden, to find a way for a viable option so a future income stream could be created to preserve our Temple. As many of you know, the expenses of operation far exceed our income and our small group of members have had to participate in many, many fundraising projects to sustain our Temple over the past years.

The good Lord Buddha must have been watching over us as the City Council recently passed an ordinance modifying the requirements on an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) – more commonly known as a “mother-in-law” apartment. By adopting this option as opposed to a duplex, infrastructure fees of over \$15,000 were waived, and resulted in substantial savings, including less restrictive construction code requirements.

Initially, our costs were estimated to be \$16,460 for permit fees, and \$31,844 for various sub-contractors, and materials and donated labor (my estimate of \$30,000 to \$40,000 as Cathy and Glenn are also acting as the general contractor). Now with the waivers, our estimated costs are \$1,090 for permits, and \$30,820 for various sub-contractors and materials and the donated labor.

Not only have Glenn and Cathy worked out the project analysis for the tasks to be done, but also, they have figured out the financing to pay for the costs in completing this project. To finance this project, a loan of \$30,000, using a CD as collateral, has been obtained and deposited into a separate construction checking account. The accrued interest from our CD of \$17,000 is available for the balance of the project, without jeopardizing our favorable interest rate.

To save on the construction costs, Cathy and Glenn, by themselves, with the aid of a 50 ton jack, raised the sagging corner of the residence above the back porch, repaired and replaced the deteriorating wood and installed a new post to hold up the corner.

Those of you who have not seen the second floor of the residence will be pleasantly surprised to view the two Westside bedrooms, which are now an open space for the kitchen, dining and living room areas. The sleeping porch above the backdoor is being converted into a utility room. If you have not had the opportunity to see the change, ask the Reverend to show you the work in progress, the next time you're at the Temple.

The projected timeline for completion is approximately September 2010 with hopes to have it rented by October.

For those who wish to donate to this project, please send your check to the Temple with the notation that it is for the remodeling project and the funds will be deposited into the construction account.

I SALUTE YOU GLENN AND CATHY ----- DOMO ARIGATO GOZAIMASU!! !

## **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.

### **Annual 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

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 and listing in the January Newsletter. Requests to remain anonymous will be respected.

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.

For example: Richard's family donates \$50 a month. On months with holidays he designates the check as donation, on months with no major holiday (for example like this August...), he denotes the check as membership. Since there are 4 months with no holiday in 2010, the total adds up to \$200 so he would be recognized as a pearl level member for 2011.

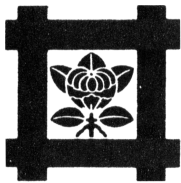
Another example: Rita is single and sends in a check for \$7 every month and adds donations for memorial services from time to time. At the end of 2009 Rita is recognized as a basic member for 2011.

### **Membership Form**

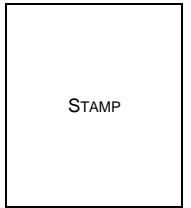
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_



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



To:

ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED