

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 286

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

March 2010

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

Spring Ohigan

O higan Service is time to express our gratitude and pay respect to our ancestors, the deceased and all the spirits of the universe. Spring Ohigan Service will be held on **Sunday, March 21st at 10:00 a.m.** Your attendance to pay respect with incense offering is greatly appreciated. Please fill out the enclosed Ohigan Prayer form and return it to the temple. Special prayer for your ancestors and the deceased will be offered during the Service.

Spring Bazaar

Our Temple's huge social gathering is scheduled for **Sunday March 28th 11:30 to 3:00**. We celebrate our Sangha and the greater community by inviting everyone to partake in our Temple's legendary hospitality. In honor of how big the event has become we have dropped the "mini" from the traditional Mini-Bazaar name. The star attraction is the food. Please see the attached order form for pre-orders. Tonkatsu is only available by pre-order. Your tickets will be available at the will-call table as you enter the Temple on the day of the Bazaar. We will also have home-baked goods in great variety and a raffle with cash and many fine prizes. This is our largest fund raiser of the year by far and the most fun!

Construction campaign

Construction of the new wheelchair ramp and handrail from the parking lot to the Temple Main Hall is starting this week. It should be in place for the Bazaar. Many thanks to all the members who contributed to expedite this work!

Board meeting schedule

The Board of directors meeting was moved to the second Sunday in March due to some schedule conflicts. Consequently this newsletter is going out in advance of the meeting, and the monthly treasurer's report can not be reviewed and approved in time to be included in this mailing. Next month's edition of *Lotus* will include March and April's treasurer's reports for members.

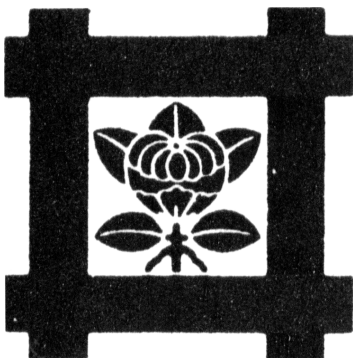
Japanese Community

Graduation Banquet:

If you know any graduating high-school seniors that would like to participate in the Banquet, please send an e-mail to nbt-portland@clear.net or contact Bill Sugahiro. It will be the 62nd annual High School Graduation Banquet and will be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club in May. Last year almost \$20,000 in scholarships were awarded to 15 graduating high school seniors.

Hanamatsuri

This year springtime came a little early based on the warm weather, blooming flowers and singing birds. Hanamatsuri, the springtime celebration of the blossom and Buddha's Birthday is still a month away - Sunday **April 11th**. We have a beautiful service planned and hope to see everyone participate in pouring tea over the baby Buddha for good health and prosperity.



Dharma Talk in March : En – Gi in Japanese

Karma is an important teaching of the Buddha. Simply put, it is the Law of cause and effect. Our life is the creation of our minds. Karma is actually within ourselves and flows like a stream from past to present and from present to future. Each of us is creating our own karma, good, negative and indifferent by an action of the body, speech (word) and mind (thought). Besides our family is creating the family karma and our temple is creating our temple's karma.

Then I would like to tell you about **En – Gi** in Japanese which comes from Buddhism.

The word **En – Gi** is a shortened form, using the second and fourth characters, of the four – character expression **In – Nen –**

Sho – Ki in Japanese. The four – character phrase means that everything has a cause and a condition. **Cause (In)** is the factor which directly bring about a result, and **condition (En)** refers to factors which complement the direct factors. The example of a flower is often used to explain this. A flower blooms because seeds are planted and shoots come forth. Therefore, the seed is the direct **cause (In)** for the blooming of the flower. However, flowers will not grow simply from seeds. They must be given water and sunshine. In this instance, water and sunlight are indirect factors causing the flower to bloom, and are, in other words, **condition (En)**.

In the same way that a flower is made to bloom as a result of the cause of the seed and the conditions of the water and sunshine, all existences including ourselves are not realized independently, but rather are materialized as a result of various causes and conditions.

Hence all phenomena are manifested as a result of the mutual relationship of innumerable causes and conditions. **En – Gi** refers to the fact that when those causes and conditions change, the phenomena too will change. Therefore, this is connected to **impermanence** (all things arise, change, and are extinguished) and **no self** (no existence is absolute and immutable).

For Nichiren believers, the teaching of the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Shonin are **En (condition)**.

I believe that we strengthen the faith to Go – Hon – Zon by learning and practicing the teaching of the Lotus Sutra and Nichiren Shonin and accumulate good deeds in our daily life. I am convinced that we can change our negative karma to bring good karma to us, our family, and our temple.

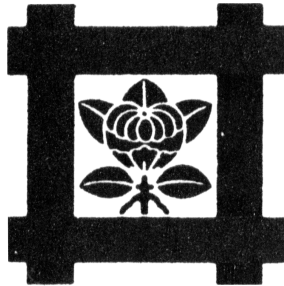
Sincerely with Gassho

Rev. Myosho Obata

Memorial Service (March, 2010)

3rd Year 2008 Bruce Fukuda (Mar.28)

Nichiren Buddhist Temple



**18th Annual Spring Bazaar:
Food, Baked goods, Raffle, Community Spirit!**
Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:30 am to 3:00 pm
2025 SE Yamhill St., Portland OR 97214 (503) 232-8064

Pre-order Form: Also available at <http://nichiren-shu.org/portland/>

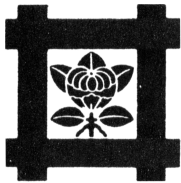
Item	Price	Quantity	Amount	Please return this pre-order form with your check by March 23, 2010 Please make checks payable to: Nichiren Buddhist Temple, 2025 SE Yamhill St. Portland OR 97214. All proceeds benefit Portland NBT
Special Tonkatsu Bento (available by pre-order only)	\$7.00			
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice with veggies)	\$6.00			
Tofu Donburi (Local Ota Tofu Teriyaki over rice with veggies- no animal products whatsoever)	\$6.00			
Chow Mein (Noodles and pork - Very tasty!)	\$6.00			
Total:				

Stop at the will-call table at the temple entrance for your tickets. We'll have them prepared in an envelope for you so that you can get in quickly!

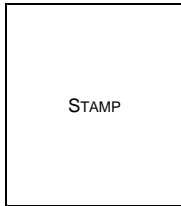
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland OR 97214



ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED