

LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

March 2011

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

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

MOCHI-TSUKI 2011

The JACL sponsored celebration of Japan culture, Mochi Tsuki was held at the Scottish Rite Building. Nichiren Buddhist Temple sold traditional Japanese food. Once again the Fujin Kai Members spent many days preparing delicious food for the event. There were many people at the event, and the Temple ran out of food after just a few hours. The event was very successful, and everyone had a great time.

HOSHI MATSURI & SETSUBUN 2011

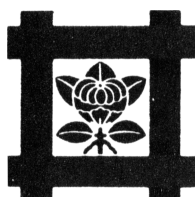
On Sunday February 6th, Our Temple held Hoshi Matsuri & Setsubun. Rev Obata gave a very nice service. Those who were born in the year of the Rabbit tossed beans & Candies to the congregation. Many people attended the service and we all had a very nice enjoyable day.

SPRING OHIGAN CELEBRATION

We will celebrate Spring Ohigan on March 20th. Rev Obata will prepare Toba for all of our ancestors, and we will hold a special service and offer incense. The main hall will be decorated with flowers, fruits and all kinds of sweets, we hope that everyone will attend the service and enjoy this special time of the year. Please fill out the enclosed prayer form and return it to the Temple by March 13th. Following the service there will be a Toba and amulet burning ceremony.

SPRING BAZAAR

On March 27th we will hold our 19th annual spring Bazaar. This will be a gathering of the community to enjoy great food. Tonkatsu Bento, Chicken Donburi, Chow Mein & Tofu Donburi. We will also have a special Raffle with great prizes; we hope everyone will join us for lots of Good food and entertainment. Volunteers are needed on Friday the 25th for food preparation.



Dharma Talk : The Path of Charity

I would like to share something about the Path of Charity. There are six paths toward approaching the Buddha, the path of charity, the path of right behavior, the path of endurance, the path of endeavor, the path of concentration of mind, and the path of wisdom. These six paths are very important practices for Buddhists. The practice of charity gets rid of selfishness. Let me tell you just one simple story.

A long time ago in India, just after Buddha passed away, there was a monk spreading the teaching of the Buddha all over India. One day, in the forest, he was too hungry to keep walking. Finally, he fell down on the ground because of his hunger. He wanted to go to the next town to tell the people there what the Buddha had taught him. However, as you know, India is a very big country and it was too far for him to reach the next town at that time. Falling to the ground, the monk thought that his time to die had come. But there were three animals watching this scene. In those days, all living beings, not only human beings, knew how great the Buddha was. Therefore, those three animals, a bear, a fox, and a rabbit, were aware of the teachings of the Buddha. They wanted to help the monk who lay there dying. They gathered around him and discussed how they could help him. Because it was very cold, they decided to make a small wood fire for him. They spread out to look for things useful to make a small wood fire. The bear gathered and brought a lot of firewood. The fox looked for two pieces of stone to make fire. However, the small and weak rabbit couldn't bring anything. Anyway, they tried to make a small wood fire and succeeded. After the small wood fire was made, the monk and the three animals gathered around the fire. Then, the bear said, "I gathered firewood." The fox said, "I made fire." But the rabbit said nothing and remained still beside the fire. The monk said, "Thank you very much for what you have done for me. And, rabbit, you don't have to worry about anything. I appreciate just the thought that you wanted to help me. That's enough." Tears came out from the rabbit's eyes. The bear said, "Anyhow, we have to look for something for him to eat." At that moment, the rabbit who had not said anything suddenly jumped into the fire. Everyone was very surprised and tried to remove the rabbit from the fire. Unfortunately, it was too late and they couldn't do anything. But they clearly heard the rabbit's voice in the fire, "Monk, please eat me." The monk, the bear and the fox all cried. Suddenly, the burnt rabbit's body went up to the sky. They were surprised and looked up into the sky and saw a tiny, but cute little star brightening the night sky. They all joined their palms together.

The rabbit had offered himself as food for the monk. It meant that the rabbit never forgot the heart of charity. Needless to say, we can assist other people but only within the limit of our ability. We should never force ourselves. Our life is the most precious thing not only for ourselves but also for our parents and friends. The practice of charity gets rid of selfishness. But, please don't misunderstand this. To be unselfish, we don't have to give up everything. We should think of what is really necessary and what we really don't need. In other words, we should not be greedy. We have to strengthen our eyes of wisdom to see what we really need and what we really don't need. That is the Dharma, the teaching of the Buddha.
Sincerely with Gassho,
Rev. Myosho Obata

Spring Higan Service March 20th at 10:00 a.m.

Spring Higan Service will be held on Sunday, March 20th at 10:00a.m.

It is time to express our gratitude and pay respect to our ancestors, the deceased and all the spirits of the universe. Please fill out the enclosed Spring Higan prayer form and return it to the temple. Special prayer for your ancestors and the deceased will be offered during the Service.

Memorial service (March, 2011)

13th Year 1999 Hiromichi Hachiya (Mar. 2)

17th Year 1995 Toyse Miura (Mar. 1)

27th Year 1985 Tatsuno Sasaki (Mar. 30)

43rd Year 1969 Shiroe Sato (Mar. 8) Kei Ito (Mar.29)

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.

Memberships for 2011 are now closed. 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 paying forward membership fees for 2012. Making smaller monthly payments eliminates a lump sum at the end of the year. Many members find it convenient.

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.



Annual 2012 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(s): _____

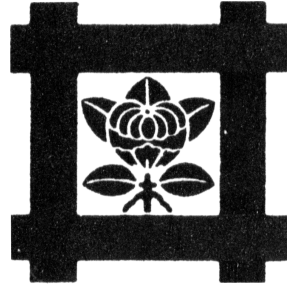
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2011 Members list (includes additions since Feb Newsletter)

Member	Membership level	Member	Membership level
John and Edna Anand	Basic - Fam	Carolyn McKay	Bodhi tree- Ind
Susan Byers	Bodhi tree - Ind	Misao Minagi	Pearl- Ind
Glenn and Cathy Glass	Basic- Fam	James Downie and Crystal Miyake	Basic- Fam
Thomas Graves	Basic- Ind	Jun Nigo	Pearl- Ind
Mae Hirata	Basic- Ind	Al Niknabard	Bodhi tree- Ind
Fusako Imai	Basic- Ind	Johnnie and Afton Nozaki	Pearl- Fam
Robert and Racheal Inouye	Bodhi tree- Fam	Nobi Okazaki	Bodhi tree- Ind
Henry Kawata	Bodhi tree- Ind	Bill and Ida Sugahiro	Bodhi tree- Fam
Kiyomi and Fred Kimura	Pearl- Fam	Hisako Tsukamoto	Basic- Ind
Wayne and Joan Kurowski	Pearl- Fam	Cheryl Tsunemitsu and Jerry Patterson	Bodhi tree- Fam
Shigeko Matsuda	Basic- Ind	Alice Watanabe	Bodhi tree- Ind
Hiroshi and Janie Matsushima	Basic- Fam	John Wong and Xue Liu	Basic- Fam
Yoji and Martha Matsushima	Basic- Fam	Yoshiko Yabuki	Bodhi tree- Ind
Charles and Janie Matsushima	Basic- Fam	Frank and Amy Yasui	Basic- Fam
Tom McCormack	Basic- Fam		

Thank you to all the members who signed up for 2011!!

Nichiren Buddhist Temple



19th Annual Spring Bazaar: Food, Baked goods, Raffle, Community Spirit!

Sunday, March 27th, 2011 11:30 am to 3:00 pm
2025 SE Yamhill St Portland OR 97214 (503) 232-8064

Pre-order Form:

Item	Price	Quantity	Amount	Please return this pre-order form with your check by March 21, 2011 Please make checks payable to: Nichiren Buddhist Temple, 2025 SE Yamhill St. Portland OR 97214. All proceeds benefit Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
Special Tonkatsu Bento (available for 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: _____ e-mail: _____

SPECIAL THANK YOU!

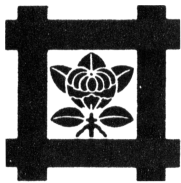
Nichiren Portland Temple wishes to extend sincere appreciation to Mr. John A. Kodachi, PC, for his *pro-bono* work to help Rev. Obata with her Visa status.

For the past two years, Mr. Kodachi gave valuable time, expertise and support -- and for all this, we are truly grateful.

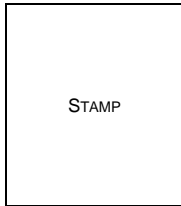
The process was complicated. Initially the Temple had to apply for a special IRS status before the actual process could be started. That part took a full year to complete and during that time John had to make two short term extension applications. Then he made the actual long-term Visa application, but while waiting for that to go through, the short term Visa again expired and he had to request yet another extension. Finally this January the long term Visa was approved. John provided all the documentation and instructions for Sensei Obata to make the trip to the American Consulate in Osaka to get the final stamps. Obviously he did a great job because the application packet was accepted and approved in three days, which is very fast. Had any problems been encountered, Sensei Obata would have been stranded for an indefinite period of time.

Thank you John!

Nichiren Buddhist Temple



Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland OR 97214



To:

ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED