

# LOTUS

The newsletter of the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

No. 288

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

May 2010

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

## May services

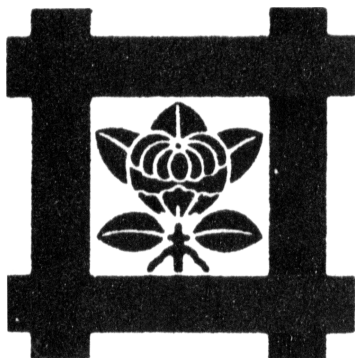
We celebrate the new month with the Lotus blessing on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and commemorate Nichiren Shonin's exile to the Izu peninsula on May 9th. Please see more about Nichiren Shonin's persecutions on the following page. Sensei Obata will be travelling to Japan and therefore services on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> are cancelled. We will hold a Sunday service on May 30<sup>th</sup> so please attend to welcome our Sensei back. See details in the calendar.

## 花祭 Hana Matsuri

Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple observed Hana Matsuri Service to celebrate the birthday of Sakyamuni Buddha on April 11th

Many thanks to our Sangha members who helped decorate the temple for this festival. A statue of the baby Buddha was enshrined surrounded by flowers representing the Lumbini garden where the Buddha was born. We celebrated the birth of the Buddha by sprinkling **Ama Cha** (Sweet Tea in Japanese) on the head of an infant Buddha. The Fujinkai prepared a delicious lunch and Sensei made ama-cha with herbs from Japan.

We were very happy to celebrate the 88th birthdays (a little late perhaps) of **Nobi Okazaki** and **Emiko Fujimoto**. The honored elders were dressed in festive red. They received commemorative gift and many cheers of celebration. Congratulations!



## Upcoming events and fundraisers

Here are some highlights of our Temple's busy calendar of events:

**Annual graduation banquet:** This weekend the Japanese American Ancestral Society (Nikkei Jin Kai) held the banquet at the MAC club. Sensei Obata will give the dedication speech at next year's event.

**Richmond School fundraiser:** Next weekend we'll be selling yakisoba, chicken and tofu bento, drinks and sweets

**Memorial Day:** The Nikkei Jin Kai is sponsoring a memorial service at Rose City Cemetery and our Temple will participate. If you need transportation, please call Sensei Obata and she'll help arrange it.

### **Newly scheduled upcoming events:**

**Rummage Sale:** We still have many items from previous rummage sales. We'd like to hold one last sale this year in August. Please bring any items that you wish to donate for the rummage sale to the Temple downstairs any time throughout the summer.

**The Belmont Street Fair:** The date is set for Sunday Sept. 12th (The week before Fall Ohigan).

## Construction campaign

**Wheelchair Ramp:** Construction of the new wheelchair ramp and handrail from the parking lot to the Temple Main Hall has started. The cement portion will be completed this week and handrails the following week.

**Residence:** Work is proceeding well ahead of schedule. Most of the electrical is finished and about half of the plumbing work. Those jobs will be completed in about 3 weeks. We removed the closets between two rooms that used to be bedrooms upstairs and now have a large open kitchen, dining, living room. Over a ton of rubble was removed. The back porch support that was rotting and sinking was replaced. We are moving to finishing work. Many walls need to be patched up, Insulation is being added where we can. Old heat ducts are being sealed off, bathroom walls are getting tiled, new cabinets and fixtures are being installed.

## **Dharma Talk of May: Life of Persecutions**

On the day of his first chanting of the Odaimoku, Namu Myoho range Kyo, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1253, our founder, Nichiren Shonin gave the first sermon of the Lotus Sutra to monks and other important personages in the South wing hall of Seichoji Temple in Chiba prefecture, Japan. As Nichiren Shonin expected, he was exiled from his hometown, Kominato which was located at Southern part of Boso peninsula of Chiba by Tojo Kage Nobu who was dedicated to Nenbutsu Buddhism after his first sermon. Then Nichiren Shonin moved to Kamakura in Kanagawa prefecture and lived there. He went everywhere to propagate the Lotus Sutra energetically. In 1257, a strong earthquake hit Kamakura. Most of the houses were ruined and many people died. Moreover, in 1258 there were typhoons and tidal waves. And in 1259, there was famine and disease. At last the Shogunate ordered the Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines to pray for

the calming down of disasters, but it was in vain. Therefore Nichiren Shonin investigated the various Buddhist scriptures concerning these disasters. He concluded that the cause of the disasters was that the people had turned away from the true teaching and were following transitory teaching. On July 16<sup>th</sup> in 1260, Nichiren Shonin admonished Hojo Tokiyori, the former director of the Hojo Regent, with the Rissho Ankoku Ron (Treatise on spreading peace throughout the country by establishing the True Dharma) in order to save people and the nation. After admonition of the Rissho Ankoku Ron, Nichiren Shonin encountered many difficulties though, he made up his mind to endure any persecutions since he declared his vow with the Odaimoku on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1253. According to the teaching, he considered many persecutions to be proof of a true practitioner of the Lotus Sutra.

### **The Major Persecutions**

#### **Matsuba ga yatsu Persecution in Kamakura: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1260**

Nenbutsu believers who were persuaded by the powerful Nenbutsu priests became a mob and went to murder Nichiren Shonin and burn his hermitage, but miraculously he was able to escape.

#### **Izu Persecution: May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1261**

Nichiren Shonin was arrested by the Shogunate and sentenced to banishment to a tiny rock peninsula in Izu, Shizuoka Prefecture, but the actual situation was that the Shogunate wanted to execute him. Miraculously, he was rescued by an old fisherman. On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1263, he received a pardon from the Shogunate to return to Kamakura and reunited with his disciples.

#### **Komatst bara Persecution: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1264**

Nichiren shonin returned to his hometown kominato because his mother was near death. Miraculously because of Nichiren Shonin's prayers, her life continued for four more years. In the evening of November 11<sup>th</sup>, on his way to a believer, Yoshitaka Kudo, the Lord of Amatsu, Nichiren Shonin and some disciples were ambushed by hundreds of the Nenbutsu followers entering Komatsu bara (Pine forest). Then Nichiren Shonin was cut on the middle of his forehead seriously and his arm was broken.

#### **Tatsu no kuchi Persecution: September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1271**

Nichiren Shonin was arrested again, on charges of plotting a political disturbance. The real aim of this arrest was to execute him. He was taken to the place of execution, Tatsu no kuchi in Kamakura. At midnight he was to be executed but then a ball of light as bright as the moon flew from the southeast dropped on to the executioner's sword and shattered it into three pieces. The execution had failed.

#### **Sado Exile: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1271**

The Hojo Regent had failed the execution and Nichiren Shonin was resentenced to Sado Exile. He was banished to Sado Island (in Niigata prefecture) which is a remote desolate island far from his followers and living conditions were harsh. In February 1274, Nichiren Shonin was released from Sado Exile.

**Izu Persecution service: May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00a.m.**

Izu Persecution Service will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup> (Sun) at 10:00a.m.at the Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple. Please attend the Service. We will express our gratitude and respect to our founder, Nichiren Shonin.

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

**June. 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m.**

**Memorial Service (May& June, 2010)**

23<sup>rd</sup> Year 1988    Yasuo Soga (Jun.30 )  
37<sup>th</sup> Year 1974    Iwao Akiyama (May.24 )  
43<sup>rd</sup> Year 1968    Shide Kitahara (May. 19 )

**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.

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 May...), 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.

**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

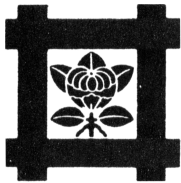
**Membership Form**

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

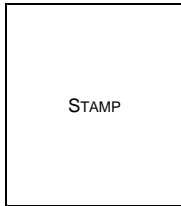
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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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.



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**2025 SE Yamhill Street**  
**Portland OR 97214**



To:

ADDRESS CORRECTON REQUESTED