

お盆法要 ー施食会ー

OBON SERVICE SEJIKI-E Ceremony

今年もまもなくご先祖様をお迎えするお盆を迎えます。桑港寺ではお盆の法要である施食会(せじきえ)をお勤めいたします。

平素は日々の忙しさにかまけて思うにまかせませんが、せめてお盆は普段から何も催促なさらぬご先祖様と団らんの時間を持ちたいものがあります。

ご家庭ではご仏壇を丹念に掃除し、お花、ろうそく、お線香等を供えます。そして、ご先祖様のお位牌や新仏のお位牌を仏壇から出してお飾りし、果物・お菓子・その他季節の色々なものをお供えいたします。

ご家族お誘い合わせの上、お参りくださるようご案内申し上げます。

また、お寺から7月8日から15日の間に棚経(たなぎょう)として皆様のお宅に伺ってご回向申し上げます。

希望される方はご都合の良い日時を早めにお知らせください。

(電話 : 415-346-7540 e-mail : info@sokoji.org)

2015年7月12日(日曜日)

午前11時より

お盆法要(施食会)、月例法要(7月)

引き続き階下にて婦人会による

お斎の接待がございます。

07.15

The Obon Memorial Service will be held on
Sunday, July 12th, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.
Please join us with your family and friends.

What is Obon?

Obon is one of the most important Japanese traditions. People believe that their ancestors' spirits come back to their homes to be reunited with their family during Obon and pray for the spirits. For the reason, Obon is an important family gathering time, and many people return to their hometowns.

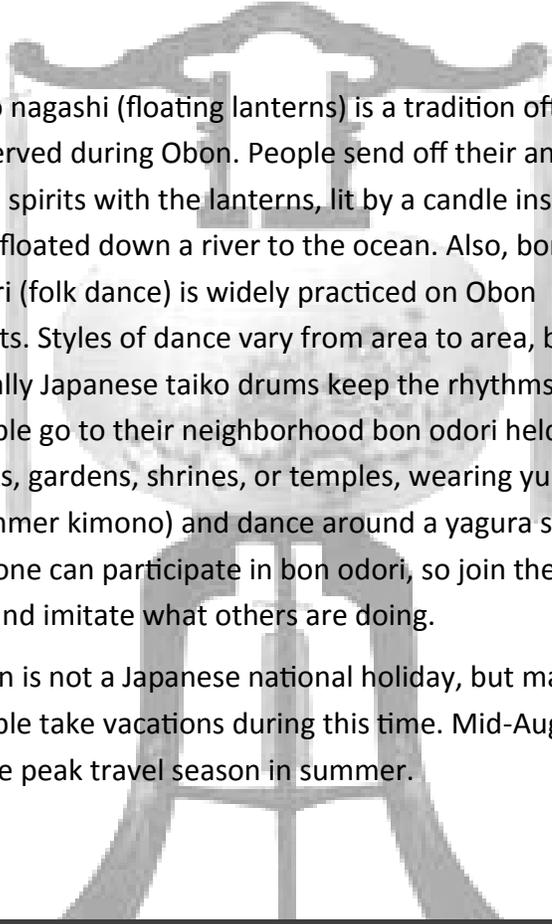
Obon was originally celebrated around the 15th day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar. Obon periods are nowadays different in various regions of Japan.

In most regions, Obon is celebrated around August 15, and it typically begins 13th and ends 16th of August. In some areas in Tokyo, Obon is celebrated around July 15, and it is still celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar in many areas in Okinawa.

Japanese people clean their houses and place a variety of food offerings such as vegetables and fruits to the spirits of ancestors in front of a butsudan (Buddhist altar). Chochin lanterns and arrangements of flower are usually placed by the butsudan.

On the first day of Obon, chochin lanterns are lit inside houses, and people go to their family's grave to call their ancestors' spirits back home. It's called mukae-bon. In some regions, fires called mukae-bi are lit at the entrances of houses to guide the spirits.

During Obon, the smell of senko incense fills Japanese houses and cemeteries.



Toro nagashi (floating lanterns) is a tradition often observed during Obon. People send off their ancestors' spirits with the lanterns, lit by a candle inside and floated down a river to the ocean. Also, bon odori (folk dance) is widely practiced on Obon nights. Styles of dance vary from area to area, but usually Japanese taiko drums keep the rhythms. People go to their neighborhood bon odori held at parks, gardens, shrines, or temples, wearing yukata (summer kimono) and dance around a yagura stage. Anyone can participate in bon odori, so join the circle and imitate what others are doing.

Obon is not a Japanese national holiday, but many people take vacations during this time. Mid-August is the peak travel season in summer.

Rev. Kurotaki will be visiting member's
homes to hold a services

July 8th trough July 15th.

Please call Sokoji (415)346-7540

or

e-mail : info@sokoji.org

to make arrangements.