



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path



The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

July 2021



King of Physicians Reverend Yuki Sugahara

Passages on the Land of Happiness states: Through quoting from the various Mahayana scriptures, the method and model for teaching and for listening will be clarified. The Great Assembly Sutra states:

- *The person who teaches the dharma should think of himself as king among physicians and of his work as the elimination of pain. He should think of the dharma that he teaches as sweet nectar (amrita) or milk of the finest taste (manda).*
- *The person who listens to the dharma should think that excellent understanding thereby increases and grows and that his sickness is being cured.*
- *Such a teacher and listener together can make the Buddha-dharma flourish. They dwell always in the presence of the Buddhas. (CWS, p, 118)*

(This is a modified transcript of my talk on June 20, 2021)

Nishi Hongwanji, our head temple in Kyoto, Japan has Ango, a summer retreat or summer study session for two weeks for those who hold the scholarly title of Hongwanji-ha school.

Ango has a long history originating in India, but our tradition's Ango began in 1639. One of the scholars of the time named Ganjoin Jungen lectured on the Three Books of Wasans: Jodo, Koso, and Shozomatsu Wasans. That was the beginning of Ango in our school.

Now, Ango is usually held in Ryukoku University's lecture Hall. It is so hot in Kyoto in July. Actually the temperature is not so high as Sacramento or Arizona, but it is very humid. Yet many ministers from all over Japan come to study and discuss the doctrines of Jodo Shinshu.

During the Ango, we visit Otani Mausoleum, the mausoleum for Shinran Shonin, along with the ashes of many Jodo Shinshu followers. There is also a specific section dedicated to Kangaku scholars called Kangaku-dan.

Kangaku is the top scholars of our school and along with Shikyo, they are in the position of teaching. Hokyo, Jokyo and Tokugo are the students. As far as I know, BCA had only a few Kangaku scholars who served as ministers of BCA. The very first minister BCA minister, Rev. Shuye Sonoda was Kangaku. Rev. Takashi Miyaji's grandfather, Rev. Kakuye Miyaji, was also Kangaku.

At Ango, we mostly study three writings. This year, we are going to study Essentials for Attaining Birth written by Genshin in the 10th century, Notes on the Inscriptions on Sacred Scrolls written by Shinran Shonin in the 13th century and Kego Hokkai Gi Kyo written by Gyonen in the 13-14th century. These writings will be lectured by Scholars of Hongwanji-ha School, and this year, the Ango sessions will be online so I am really looking forward to participating in it.

Participants will also discuss three topics related to the doctrine of Jodo Shinshu. One will be the topic on Recitation of the Name as Repaying the Debt of Gratitude. The reason behind this topic becoming a doctrinal issue is that there was a big discussion among Hongwanji-ha in Edo period in 18th century. In the Hokuriku area of Japan, there was a divergent understanding of Settling Mind of not taking refuge. This divergent understanding was that "Because our birth into the Pure Land is already settled when Bodhisattva Dharmakara accomplished the Vow and became Amida Buddha ten kalpas ago, we do not need to take refuge in Amida Buddha.

To attempt to correct this understanding, the scholar of Hongwanji at that time, Kozon, went to the Hokuriku area and refuted this divergent understanding. But his idea was that we need to take refuge in Amida Buddha through our physical, verbal and mental actions, which was more like a self-power approach.

After the passing of Kozon, another scholar, Chi-Do, followed Kozon's understanding. Another scholar from Hiroshima named Daiei criticized the understanding of Kozon and Chi-do through his writings, resulting in a controversial discussion between those who supported Chi-do or Daiei. The controversy became so intense, resulting in rioting between the two factions that Hongwanji could not handle so the government came in to settle the issue.

After the trial in 1805, Gomonsu-sama of the time, Honnyo decided Chi-do's understanding was the divergent understanding and because this discussion involved many followers, Hongwanji had to close the gate for 100 days. This incident is called Sango Wakuran, the Incident that disturbed the Three Deeds.

Since this decision, Hongwanji-ha has been very sensitive about the self-power and began to emphasize the importance of Shinjin/entrusting heart more than before.

(This article is completed on page 14)

"OBT welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and political or religious affiliation."

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456

e-mail: info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>

Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address.

Daily On-line Services

Reverend Yuki conducts daily on-line services including Sundays at 8 am. On Sundays he also conducts a service at 10 am. Go to the Oregon Buddhist Temple web site and "Check out the

[YouTube Channel of Oregon Buddhist Temple](#)

Or click on

[Oregon Buddhist Temple - YouTube](#)

July Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of July. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the July 11 Sunday service at 10 am. Please join us and offer incense in memory of your relative(s) or friends.

Listed below are the names of those who passed away starting from 1950. Oregon Buddhist Temple has records from 1904. Names of deceased prior to 1950 are added if requested. If a name is missing or incorrect, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Akiyama, Ritsuji 7/20/1955	Iwasaki, Enzo 7/14/1963	Onchi, Miyu 7/11/1974 *
Allen, Akiko 7/17/1988	Iwashita, Hajime 7/10/1963	Ouchida, Rose 7/5/2011
Ando, Frank 7/1/1988	Kaneyama, Kikue 7/25/1999	Ouchida, Shizuka 7/23/1968*
Aoki, Masao 7/7/1999	Kato, Josephine 7/23/1986	Sasaki, Masajiro 7/11/1991
Azuma, U 7/25/1967	Kawachi, Masaru 7/4/1969	Sasaki, Mine 7/1/1964 *
Boggs, Mabel Kiku 7/10/2011	Kinoshita, Kazuo 7/31/2004	Sasaki, Sam Osamu 7/6/1997
Franklin, Diane 7/6/2013	Kinoshita, Kyuzo 7/30/1950	Sasaki, Yayeno 7/7/1978 *
Fujimoto, Motozo 7/2/1961	Kobayashi, Tooru 7/8/1970	Scapple, Karen R 7/25/2011
Fukumoto, Tokuchi 7/4/1955	Kunishige, Sanshichi 7/4/1955	Shimooka, Sajiro 7/1/1951
Furukawa, George 7/29/1991	Kurihara, Frank 7/27/1976	Shiraishi, Fred S 7/15/1986
Gekko, Elaine 7/31/2004	Kurihara, Irene 7/14/2016	Shiraishi, Yasokichi 7/17/1976
Hamada, George S 7/14/2014	Kurihara, Mary 7/22/1983 *	Sumino, Ruby Y 7/21/2009
Hasuike, James 7/7/1995	Matsumiya, Isaburo 7/1/1951	Sunamoto, Tomo 7/23/2013*
Hatago, Ken (Kenny) 7/6/2003	Mori, Kinoye 7/29/1994	Tachibana, Joe S 7/10/1966
Hatori, Toki 7/7/1983	Mukaida, Tomeji 7/19/1976	Takeuchi, Hiroshi 7/10/2013
Hikida, Tokujio 7/6/1952	Muramatsu, Tatsutaro 7/18/1962	Takeuchi, Masao 7/13/1967
Hirata, Frank M 7/27/1975	Murase, Robert 7/18/2005	Takeuchi, Yae 7/6/1971 *
Hokari, Torizo 7/22/1951	Murazen, Yone 7/3/1998 *	Toya, Kaguma 7/27/1968
Honda, Misao 7/16/1992 *	Naemura, Seki 7/19/1987*	Toya, Yone 7/20/1968 *
Ichiba, Uye 7/17/1988	Nakazawa, Tsugio 7/29/1999	Yasui, Hokari, S 7/21/1955
Ikata, Hitoshi Joe 7/11/1997	Niimi, Shigeru 7/17/1960	Yonemura, Sumi 7/12/2002
Iwasaki, George 7/10/2009	Okubo, Shigenobu 7/25/1987	Yoshida, Bud M 7/18/1992

*OBWA member

2021 Memorial Services

Year	Memorial	Year	Memorial
Of Passing		Of Passing	
2020	1 Year	2005	17 Year
2019	3 Year	1997	25 Year
2014	7 year	1989	33 Year
2009	13 Year	1972	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for Loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements With Reverend Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtoportland0612017@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Condolences



To the family of
Shig Fujikawa who
passed away June 1.



To the family of Grace
Ann Hasuiki who passed
away June 11, 2020 (a one
year late notice). She was
the daughter of James and
Mitsuko Hasuiki.

Hatsubon Service

First Obon service following the passing of a loved one

Reverend Yuki Sugahara

We are planning for this year's Hatsubon. Because of the unique situation with COVID last year, there might have been more people who passed away than the funeral/memorial services I conducted. If your loved ones passed away after last July, please let me know so that we can include your loved one's name on the Hatsubon list. Also if you would like your loved one's picture included in the Hatsubon service, please send the picture to:

ysobtoportland0612017@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

President's Column

Ken Garner, OBT President



"Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability." – Sam Keen

It is mid-June as I write – we've had a couple of days previewing the heat of July to come. Having grown up in San Francisco, I tend to melt when temperatures creep past 75 F. Laziness in the face of a string of 90 F days seems a perfectly reasonable response. I don't know how the rest of the country functions this time of year.

One activity in which I can fully participate is sitting and thinking. (My family will attest at least to the sitting part!) Not surprisingly, considering I am the current OBT President, I've been thinking a lot about the Oregon Buddhist Temple. One thing that the pandemic has made crystal clear is the importance of Oregon Buddhist Temple to me and to my family's life. The OBT to which I refer is not the building at 3720 SE 34th Ave. Yes I miss seeing the temple and

contemplating the universal vow in the Hondo but even more so I miss the Sangha. I miss seeing and interacting with everybody.

I believe that we have started to see outside of the artificial boundaries that have tied us to a certain way of doing things and thinking about hearing and sharing the Dharma. An example of this is our utilization of the electronic tools of today to conduct our services and business meetings. This is a great development and definitely is progress. We must press forward, continuing to expand how we view ourselves and how we function as an organization.

It is that time of year when we are recruiting candidates for positions on the temple's Board of Directors. We need people with fresh ideas at OBT. The time has never been more ripe for change. My term is concluding at the end of the year. I will be taking a sabbatical from the Board to recharge my batteries. I will love seeing the direction a new Board takes our temple. If you are curious about the Board and what is expected, please don't hesitate to ask me.

On to the 2021 NW District Convention. As you know, the convention will be unlike any other convention we have had: it will be virtual with a combination of recorded talks and live interaction. Rather than fitting everything into a single weekend, we are spreading the talks over a week that will be viewable at your convenience. "The Art of Buddhist Living" will feature keynote speaker Reverend Peter Hata, a founding member of the legendary jazz fusion group Hiroshima and the current minister of the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Betsuin. Other featured speakers include Kim Stafford (State of Oregon Poet Laureate from 2019 - 2020), Nobuko Miyamoto (songwriter, dance/theater artist, and cultural activist), Rev. Ko'e Umezu (Assistant Minister of the West LA Buddhist Temple and illustrator/storyboard artist), Brian Koichi Mizushima (BCA Youth Coordinator), and our own Rev. Yuki Sugahara. Additional speakers are to be announced. One unusual thing about this conventional is that there will be no registration fee. We will be soliciting for (gently) and accepting donations. The convention will be held September 12 - 19. More details are to follow.

In Gassho
Ken

2021-2023 OBT Board and 2021 Officers

Term Ending 2023: Angie Davis, Jeanette Hager, Judy Hittle, Cathy Yarne

Term Ending 2022: Erik Ackerson, Jayne Ichikawa (Vice-President), Katie Tamiyasu, Christine White

Term Ending 2021: Marilyn Achterman, Ken Garner (President), Mai Thi La (Secretary), Ann Shintani



OBT Basement Update Cathy Yarne

Our basement reconstruction is moving along. The walls are being painted and there will be new flooring by the end of June. We're installing a commercial grade Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT). LVT is known to be durable yet affordable and easy to maintain with a "swifter" or mop. The surface is waterproof and resistant to stains. No waxing or polishing is needed.

Since the kitchen gas burners, woks, convection oven and dishwasher are dismantled all the parts that don't get cleaned by tobans were exposed. It didn't seem right to just put them back into the kitchen without giving them a good cleaning. Using scrappers, steel wool, scouring pads, heavy duty degreasers and muscle, years of accumulated grease, grime and "yuk" was removed. This was a task that has never been done so a big THANK YOU to *Katie T. Pat H. Wendy W. Jeanette H. Ray F. Rev. Yuki, Elaine Y. Ann, Scott and Mika W. and Carl B.*



Pledges 2021 Alfred Ono

By the time you read this article, summer will officially have started. The days will be getting hotter and drier thanks to living in Oregon and climate change, but the days will be getting shorter. Furthermore, the Covid restrictions seem to be lifting and I hope you have received your vaccination.

Here at Oregon Buddhist Temple change continues. As the Covid restrictions lessen and the infection rates decrease, I hope we will be allowed to return to in-person services and to use our newly remodeled basement. Once OBT opens, we will be able to hear and see Rev Yuki as he teaches us the Dharma up close and personal. We will also be able to meet and see each other rather than on a screen. (For me I am tired of screening Zoom and U tube).

However, as has been said before, without fundraisers and white envelopes for special services so far in 2021, OBT is dependent on your pledge support to keep the Temple building strong and safe. Moreover, your pledges will allow OBT to support our resident minister, Reverend Sugahara, who has been doing a great job teaching us the Jodo Shinshu Dharma and being present for major personal events in each of our lives.

To those who have given in 2021, we thank you. So far, we have received 59 pledges for a total of \$19,000, including some very generous pledges.

For those of you who are considering pledging, now is the time to write that generous check and send it off to Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Ave

Portland, Oregon. 97202

An alternative is to give through Pay Pal.

I presume everyone is anxious to travel, to gather together with friends and relatives and to get back to life somewhat like before the pandemic restrictions and related fear. For example, the Timbers and Thorns games are now at 80% capacity - at last a lot of cheering.

So put that PLEDGE TO OBT on your "TO DO" list or just do it now.

Enjoy the summer and stay safe and healthy

Gassho,

Alfred Ono



Oregon Buddhist Women's Association Jayne Ichikawa

OBWA has been zooming our meeting every third Saturday which began with our New Year's Party in February. It has been terrific to see so many members participate. Please notify Nancy Kajitsu (nkajitsu@gmail.com) if you haven't received the OBWA zoom link.

OBWA is proactively meeting the challenges of the terrible occurrence of Anti-Asian Hate crime issues. We have hired Wendy Campbell Parco to present a class in self-defense for OBWA members/relatives on July 10 at the parking lot of the temple. Wendy will focus on situational awareness; use of unconventional tools to protect oneself, the use of applying strategically self-defense which includes verbal defense, and how to make ourselves less vulnerable-looking. Thank you to Rev Yuki for recommending Wendy. OBWA is showing positive strength and effort!

On another pertinent subject, below are comments from OBWA members replying to my request to share changes in attitude, behavior, schedules/routines, and appreciation in their lives since being vaccinated.

Nancy Walseth Before vaccinations, I was afraid of everyone I came into contact with. Going to the grocery store felt like risking my life. After vaccination, I was elated; it seemed a miracle to get such a high degree of protection. In order not to go overboard with relief, I kept reading about variants and of breakthrough cases. But I do believe that it is better to get out and do things with others than to be perfectly "safe" and stay home all the time. So, I am taking baby steps which feel big: doing one on one visiting with trusted friends, making and renewing friendships which were interrupted by Covid-19 precautions and fears, hugging vaccinated friends, but not attending large events, and definitely avoiding events with strangers.

I also found a paper full of worthy advice while cleaning house. Here are several:

- (1) Become the most positive and enthusiastic person you know.
- (2) Work on something you enjoy and that is worthy of your time and talents.

(3) Take good care of the ones you love.

Marilyn Huh I was elated to be vaccinated, and thunderstruck by the opportunity to do something that huge and that important. The difference between vaccinating and not vaccinating is not only demonstrable but enormous. I can easily imagine that this simple act might serve as *the* most important thing that most of us will ever accomplish--whatever our jobs, professions, hobbies, beliefs and declarations happen to be. Rarely is our choice between life and death so clearly marked with a button so easy to push! And what a joy it is to choose life for myself and my family using a method that also bolsters life for our Sangha, our community, and all our brothers and sisters around the world. In Gassho.

Pat Hokama The vaccination provided assurance of safety for me as well as the community. I wish the vaccinated numbers could reach 100%. The past year and a half threw a wrench in many busy people's lives. I feel most concern for the school age children. There weren't many teachers (and parents) prepared for virtual learning. Was it a wasted year? The positive side of being isolated was accomplishing tasks we were going to do "someday". My closets and garage are markedly emptier and neater!

Kiyomi Dickinson I could participate in group step and kickboxing aerobics without wearing a mask or face shield, and I could enjoy the sauna! I was able to shower after exercise (which means no cleaning the shower stall at home).

Alice Tano Although I have been vaccinated, I still miss seeing everyone at the temple. I am making scrubbies and pin cushions daily at home. I am looking forward to celebrating Father's Day with the entire family.

Katie Tamiyasu I am finally able to see my family again. My brother and sister-in-law came from Maui to visit. Very happy to be able to see my mother at her facility and she is able to visit us at my home.

Robbi Ando Giddy! That is how I would describe the feeling of getting that first vaccination, giddy! After the navigating the clunky, glitch filled early registration process, actually reaching the PDX airport mass site sign-in station, receiving a date for the second shot, it was all downhill to the celebration with the first poke on March 6. The major changes became noticeable 3 months later when unmasked social gatherings became possible with friends and extended family as many more became fully vaccinated. The very introverted me hadn't realized how much those gatherings were missed! Thank you for getting vaccinated and making all of us safer.

Jayne Ichikawa I am so joyful that I can see my grandkids again. We are planning a Black Butte vacation in July with our family. The last time we saw our Texan grandsons was in January 2020 so it will be a grand reunion. Also I am so happy to be playing tennis indoors and attending exercise classes without a mask. I completely agree with Kiyomi!

Thank you to these ladies for their contributions. Hope everyone is enjoying the warm summer days. Next month's OBWA reporter is Pat Hokama.

Gassho,

Jayne Ichikawa



Dharma School
Ann Shintani

Dharma School for the summer – thank you to families and volunteers making our 2020-2021 Dharma School year memorable and meaningful. With a year with Covid restrictions, racial conflict, and social distancing, the world can be frightening. I expect that our summer will bring people out to heal, take action, and bring our communities together. Below are photos of our latest project for Gotan-E -- for Shinran Shonin's birthday, students made their versions of statues of Master Shinran in his traveling posture, with hat and shawl, walking stick, and nenju. Thank you to students, teachers, and to Orange County Buddhist Temple's middle school class and Rick Oishi for this great project.



Nembutsu as Kata – our temple has a wonderful resource in the BCA affiliate organization, the FDSTL (Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League). The FDSTL provides structure, training/resources, and peer support for those seeking to improve our student temple programs. Guest speaker Peiper Koyama shared his thoughts about the future of Dharma Schools at the April 2021 teachers' conference of the (FDSTL), an affiliate of the Buddhist Churches of America. He is a retired founder of the Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA, founded in 2007) in Kamuela, HI, which is the first Shin Buddhist high school in the Western Hemisphere. He said that the focus of the PBA is to "produce good human beings" and not to convert. The PBA did this by interpreting (with ministers) Buddhist teachings and blending that into their curriculum by determining what is meaningful in the perspective of the students. Here is a link of Mr. Koyama's address, which is posted on the San Diego Buddhist Temple website:

<https://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org/all-the-latest>.

This month, I dropped off 15 no-sew pet blankets that we collected (back in March!) for the Oregon Humane Society. Thank you to students for making them... these help pets

transition easier to their new forever homes. I believe it is important to teach students to learn about what is needed and to take action.



Girl Scouts News Troop 43720 Amy Peterson

The troop has been meeting by zoom but has participated in other activities such as helping another scout reach her Silver Award by making cards for people at an adult care facility. They've made May Day baskets, Thank You letters to our adult volunteers for Volunteer Appreciation and origami hearts taught by Aria W.

Two of the girls bridged from Daisy to Brownie and we had our second bridging for Kenzie W.

We were able to donate cookies to our charity of choice, Japanese Ancestral Society (no Ikoinokai at the moment) and to our local East Portland Police Precinct that covers the temple and most of the girls' homes. The cookies were enthusiastically received and we hope enjoyed by all.

We also participated in a flag-planting at Willamette National Cemetery, Rose City Cemetery and Forest Lawn Cemetery in Gresham. While Scouts typically plant flags at Willamette National Cemetery, they don't display flags at columbariums. The older girls planted flags for our Oregon Nisei Veterans. Thanks to Connie Masuoka for the flags and for completing the remainder. Smaller cemeteries like Forest Lawn in Gresham did not have a program for planting flags so it was a learning process, planting flags at known Veteran spaces and documenting Veterans not on the printed list. There are a few Nisei Veterans at Forest Lawn. While there are not many veterans identified at Rose City Cemetery, there is a monument for Japanese American Veterans so flags were planted there. The girls enjoyed planting flags and hope to do it again next year.

Thank you again for supporting the Girl Scout troop and hopefully we'll be in person soon and be able to do family camp and Service Unit Fall Camp.



Mika and Midori



Lara and Amy (Row and John present but not in photos)



Terri, Mika, Midori, Elaine (Ann present but not in photo)

The below article by OBT board member Christine White is intended to help make the board more accessible to temple members.



Come as You Are Christine White

Come as you are: a visit to Higashi Honganji and Nishi Honganji

In 2002, I made my third trip to Japan. The first two weeks were spent traveling with a friend and later touring Zen historical sites with a group from Portland. The last week I stayed at a hostel in the hills of Kyoto and did part of the Saigoku Kannon pilgrimage to temples within the city. It was also the week of the fall equinox, aki ohigan, so there were special events everywhere.

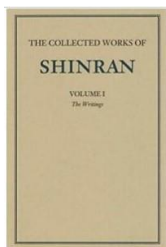
On my way to the transit station one day I decided to visit Higashi Honganji which was relatively close. Here are some excerpts from my travel journal:

"The main hall, an enormous open-fronted building, was perfect to rest in. There were all sorts of people there praying, chatting, just sitting. A tiny girl ran about putting coins in the offering boxes. An elderly man recited scriptures from his sutra book, kneeling for an hour. A young man with a briefcase and dressed in a suit sat near me quietly for some time. In fact, I saw a number of businessmen who appeared to be dropping by on their way to or from the station. One group of schoolchildren was leaving; another of older students remained. A casually dressed young man with a gym bag sat informally, legs out. Was he there with his granny? That didn't seem to be the case. He didn't worship outwardly but kept his eyes fixed on the altar."

I thought since I was in the neighborhood, I might as well visit Nishi Honganji too. As I entered, I noticed that the first hall was covered in tarps and remembered I'd read about a renovation. I heard what I thought was a recording of gagaku music (which I love) and was gobsmacked when I walked around the corner and saw that it was a live performance! In a huge open hall where a service was happening, many people were inside

flanked on two sides by the ordained in front of a beautifully decorated altar with enormous flower arrangements. I joined at the back of the crowd and listened as drums and flutes played and people sang and chanted."

The openness of these two temples was a relief after the strictness of the Zen practice that I knew. I began a questioning process that continues up to the present and has enriched my life immeasurably.



Intermediate Buddhist Study Class via Zoom

When: Next class is Wednesday July 7, 7pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Participants are at their respective homes on their computers, communicating via Zoom.

This is a twice a month intermediate level Buddhist study class. Please contact Reverend Sugahara for more information.

Currently we are reading and discussing *Essentials of Faith Alone* in the Collected Works of Shinran.

The below article by Reverend Yasuo Izumi of the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta, Canada, appeared in their newsletter of May, 2021.



A Story for Children Reverend Yasuo Izumi

A tiny sparrow was living in town and absolutely happy because there were many places where he was able to enjoy and eat freely. But one day, he saw a large swan on the lake in the town. "Wow, this swan is not only large but beautiful!"

So, the sparrow approached the swan and said, "I think you must be the happiest bird in the world!" But the swan said, "Well, I thought so, too, until I met a parrot. The parrot I met had two beautiful colorful feathers and speaks the human language. I speak only bird language. He must be the happiest bird."

The tiny sparrow then visited the parrot. "Hello!" said the sparrow. The parrot replied, "Konnichiwa!". "So, you speak the human language and have two beautiful colorful feathers. You are the happiest bird." The parrot said, "I thought I was the happiest bird until I saw the peacock. You know, the peacock has not only beautiful feathers but also sings with a nice voice."

The tiny sparrow went to the zoo to approach the peacock. Surely enough, the peacock had not only beautiful and colorful feathers but also a nice voice. The tiny sparrow told the peacock, "You have so many colorful feathers and

your voice is so beautiful. You must be the happiest bird in the whole world." The peacock sadly said, "Perhaps it is true. But because of my beautiful feathers and nice voice I am entrapped in this small cage."

For the first time the tiny sparrow reflected on himself and thought, "Well, at least I have food, friends and can fly anywhere. Why do I have to compare myself with others? I think I am all right as I am."

Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister



Sumi-e by Yasuo Izumi



Time to get Ready for Obon Bon Odori! Chris Dart

Time to get ready for Obon bon odori! Obon will be on August 7th with bon odori in the evening at 6:00 pm. It will be filmed and on Zoom again this year as we still need to be careful, but next year we hope we can be back in the parking lot. Toward the end of July we will send out the zoom link in emails and post online on our website.

We will be having practice with live teaching from Chris's living room on Zoom. Not ideal but at least we can be together and dancing even if remote. Because we are on Zoom, each practice will be a bit shorter and we will have more of them. The list is up on our website as are teaching videos. I have three more to add but they will be there shortly and the website will be updated.

<https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/obon-dance>

Questions? – obon@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

DETAILS:

Practice will start Thursday July 8th, and will continue for every Tuesday/Thursday until August 5th.

We will dance in practice order -- the newer dances first and then older ones.

We will begin at 7:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time with announcements and info. Dancing will begin about 7:15 and end about 8:15. Practice will end at 8:30.

There will be time for questions/repeats – live during practice. The leaders and I have been testing this out and are very happy with the way it works.

The link for the meeting follows and will be the same for every practice. There will be no gatekeeper so when you "arrive" you will be into the meeting. Hope to see everyone there!

Stay safe and well. I miss you and look forward to seeing everyone.

Chris

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8939371469?pwd=WEdrTWp1TFJtTFpicXYOWFNpMis4UT09>

Meeting ID: 893 937 1469

Passcode: 724477

Find your local number:

<https://zoom.us/j/8939371469?pwd=WEdrTWp1TFJtTFpicXYOWFNpMis4UT09>



Obon Lanterns Traci Kiyama

Can you believe Obon is around the corner already? Like last year, we will offer the chance to hang a lantern at Obon to remember someone who has passed or to honor an organization with a commemorative lantern. You may consider honoring a relative, friend, pet, or some other important person in your life.

We will have a service on Saturday, August 7 on YouTube. In place of physical lanterns, we will have a slideshow of lanterns with names. This will be shown during the chanting at service. The lantern slides will also be printed and displayed at the temple that day.

Please fill out this form online to order a lantern: <https://forms.gle/HmegkA7apTL241jr7>

The deadline for lantern orders is **Saturday, July 17**. Please consider a donation of \$15 per lantern to OBT. You can donate by:

1. Mailing a check to the temple (check made out to Oregon Buddhist Temple, mailed to 3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland, OR 97202)
2. Donating online through the temple website.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Traci: traci.kiyama@gmail.com

Nikkei Memorial Day Service

The annual service was held at the Rose City Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 31. Todd Yuzuriha played the National Anthem to open the service.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfkomG05ZQQ&autoplay=0>

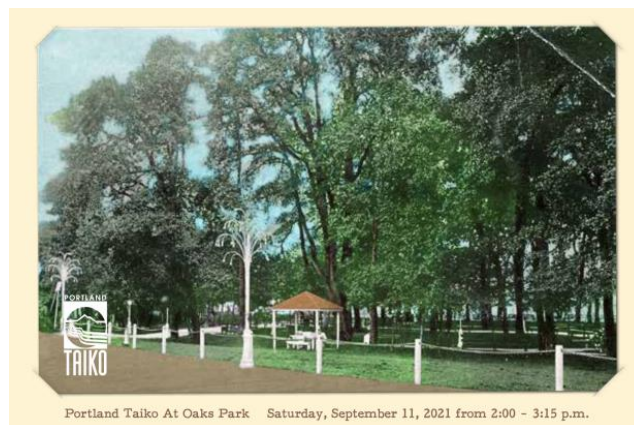


Portland Taiko at Oaks Park Wynn Kiyama

For the past 14 months, Portland Taiko has been rehearsing, performing, and teaching taiko online. We produced a collaborative video with No-No Boy, presented our first online Bonenkai, re-tooled all of our classes and workshops for digital delivery, and created videos for Stop Asian Hate, Partners in Diversity, Rise Against Hate, the Go-For-Broke WWII Soldiers Forever Stamp, NW Children's Theater, and more.

Now, all of our members are vaccinated and we've begun rehearsing in-person, outdoors, at the Oregon Buddhist Temple parking lot. Our "Beyond Basics" class taped up tire taiko for us, and Richard Koyama singlehandedly built 15 tire taiko stands with a new hybrid design. Thank you to you all!!!

With our new tire taiko and stands, Portland Taiko is busily practicing for our upcoming performance in the beautiful and spacious outdoor grove at Oaks Park on Saturday, September 11, 2021. We hope you'll save the date and check our website in early July for ticketing information (www.portlandtaiko.org). We can't wait to reunite with you!



Portland Taiko At Oaks Park Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Ikoi no kai opens in August

After sixteen months of being closed, we are pleased to announce a tentative reopening date for Ikoi no kai for August 9' 2021!!! Our opening date is based upon the State of Oregon protocols for reopening. We have missed you all and look forward to seeing you once again. As we open our doors we will begin with serving lunches only. We will be asking for lunch reservations for the opening period until we are fully operational. Please look for more details in the next newsletter. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Past Months' Newsletters

Can be viewed at the below link.

[Newsletter | oregonbuddhisttemple](#)

When paper newsletters were mailed, donation envelopes were enclosed for those months that had special services and events. Now that the newsletter is available only electronically this is not possible. This is a reminder to encourage readers to continue the donations, not only for these events by anytime. Thank you.

January	Hoonko
February	Nirvana Day
March	Spring Ohigan
April	Hanamatsuri
May	Gotan-E Shiran Shonin Birthday Celebration
July	Kangi-e "A Gathering of Joy" Obon Service
August	Obonfest
September	Fall Ohigan
November	Eitaikyo - Perpetual Memorial Service
December	Year End Gift for the Temple

Sangha Obon SAVE THE DATE August 7, 2021

Save the date for a smaller Obon, with opportunities to purchase items to enjoy, a chance to win prizes, visit the temple, make donations, and have a virtual Bon Odori.

Pre-registration is required to visit the temple on August 7th, so look for instructions in the July newsletter.

We are seeking volunteers to help with this Sangha event. Questions?

Contact Ann Shintani (ann@hoonko.com)

or Jeanette Hager
(jeanette.Otsuji.Hager@gmail.com).



Est. 1903

See Page 12 and 13 for more detailed information on Obon.

Oregon Buddhist Temple Donations for May

In memory of Hiroshi Ogawa

Keiko Ogawa & family

In memory of Linda Yogi

Susan Endecott

SHOTSUKI HOYO / LOTUS CIRCLE***In memory of Yukiyo Nakano***

Alice Tano

In memory of Jean Matsunaga

Janice Okamoto

In memory of Sally M.L. Nakamura

Colin Nakamura

In memory of Isamu Sam Iwamoto

Katie & Ed Tamiyasu

Kimiko Iwamoto

Harold & Patty Iwamoto

Special donations

Dana Kakishita (Mothers Day)

Kent M. Matsuda

Jean Matsumoto

Heidi Peterson

Dana Kakishita (Memorial Day)

Chris & Trina Wong

Susan Endecott

Gotan-e

Keiko Ogawa

Herb & Etsu Osaki

Diane Ando Harder

Janice Okamoto

Pat. Hokama

Katie Tamiyasu

Dana Kakishita

Elaine & Todd Yuzuriha

Anonymous

2021 Annual Pledge

Jeff Ichikawa

Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual pledge donations

Alice Tano

Pat. Hokama

Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson

Diane Ando Harder

Jean Matsumoto








Susan Endecott

***Donation acknowledgements
are mailed for donations of
\$250 or more, to donors not
on the OBT mailing list, and
to any donor upon request.***

sjendecott@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support

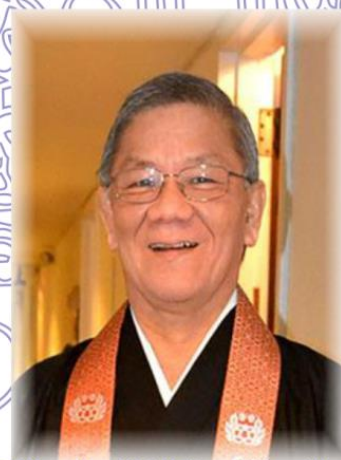
The below butsudans are available for re-homing. If interested, contact Sensei, Christine White, or Ann Shintani.

Home Shrine / Butsudan Re-Homing Width x Height x Depth (butsudan and accessories are subject to availability)	#3 Lantern butsudan 16.5" x 24.5" x 11" 	#4 (handmade) 16.5" x 24.5" x 11" 	#7 Butsudan (handmade) 19" x 32.5" x 5.5" 	#8 Screened butsudan lrg 18" x 26" x 12" (2 piece) 
These are used items entrusted to the temple to find future homes. A few appear hand-made, travelled long distances and/or were treasured heirlooms. Please contact Sensei, Christine White, or Ann Shintani if you are interested in re-homing a shrine. Donations to OBT gratefully accepted.	#10 Box shrine (small) 12.25" x 16.5" x 10" (Photo has silk flowers) 	#11 Annex 2 shrine 15.5" x 24.5" x 11" 	#14 Large Butsudan, 2 pc 17"x28"x15" (shrine) 18.5"x7.5"x16" (base) 	

74th Annual Northwest District (Virtual) Convention

The
Appreciation
Realization
Transformation
Of Buddhist Living

**No
Registration
Fee!**



Keynote Speaker

Reverend Peter Hata

Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin
Founding Member Of The
Legendary Jazz Fusion Group
Hiroshima

SEPTEMBER 12 - 19, 2021

Featured Presenters:

Kim Stafford (State of Oregon Poet Laureate, emeritus)
Nobuko Miyamoto (Songwriter, Dance & Theater Artist, Cultural Activist)
Brian Koichi Mizushima (BCA Youth Coordinator)
Rev. Ko'e Umezu (Asst. Minister WLBT, Illustrator/Storyboard Artist)
Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Resident Minister OBT, Musician)

Registration and Other Details to Follow

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/nw-district-convention2021
contact us: convention@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Obon 2021*A day dedicated to Obon and supporting our community***Saturday, August 7, 2021**

For Obon 2021, we invite our Sangha family to join us in rekindling the joys of the past in dedication and gratitude to those who have come before us and have shared their lives in Nembutsu. We will have virtual activities and a limited in-person Temple visit. The in-person activities on August 7th are not intended for the general public.

OBON-IN-A-BOX (BAG): Please consider donating to Obon 2021. An Obon-in-a-Box (or bag) will be offered for minimum donations of \$25. These will be available for pick up on Saturday, August 7 (please register at the link below) and will include an assortment of gifts, such as:

- o A plain uchiwa fan for bon odori dancing in the summer evening.
- o A heavy-duty, Buddhist themed decal (sticker).
- o Origami paper to create your own folding art.
- o Tea to share with family and friends.
- o Snacks to share or keep to yourself (may include items baked in unlicensed kitchens).

RAFFLE FOR GIFT BASKETS: With your Obon 2021 donation, you have a chance to win a Gift Basket (you will receive a raffle ticket for each \$25 donation). Place your raffle ticket into the drawing of the Gift Basket of your choice (we will have at least five gift baskets, at least \$50 value each).

SIGN UP TO VISIT OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE on AUGUST 7, 2021: Visit the temple for a few minutes by signing up for one of four 30-minute time slots (the time slots are short as the basement is undergoing major renovation). Walk around the temple garden and see what is blooming. We will open up the Onaijin shrine so you may walk through to offer incense and view the virtual lantern remembrance display for 2021. Receive your raffle ticket(s) and enter a drawing for your favorite Gift Basket(s). Pick up your Obon gift, and reconnect with those Sangha members that you encounter in person.

TO SIGN UP ON-LINE, PLEASE GO TO THE LINK BELOW:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Wa0KEfdCHSRiSJ4b5Nc6CSZd3eJg41ZuP7MtcPMlhv4/edit>

Or... please see the Google form in this newsletter, go to section "SANGHA OBON MAIL IN ORDER FORM or ON-LINE, and click on "ON-LINE". **Deadline to submit your order is Friday, July 30, 2021:** If you know a Sangha member who doesn't have access to this newsletter or web access, please share a printout of the form so that they can participate. If you can volunteer to help with this, or have items to donate in gift baskets, please let us know. Thank you!

In gratitude to all for being a part of our OBT Sangha.
Gassho. Ann Shintani and Jeanette Hager

If your eyes are tired and your concentration is wandering, take a break and listen and view The Swan (Le Cygne) by Camille Saint-Saens. The cellist's name is Minzo Kim.



<https://youtu.be/jM5szEKATwY>

Obon 2021

*A day dedicated to Obon
and supporting our
community*
Saturday, August 7, 2021

For Obon 2021, we ask our Sangha to help us kindle the joy in gratitude to those who have given us the gift of a shared life in Nembutsu. To help you create a special Obon while supporting Oregon Buddhist Temple, please use the on-line order forms for Lanterns (at [Lantern Link Here](#)) and for Sangha Obon (at [Sangha Obon Link Here](#)).

If you are unable to go on-line, please print out and use this form.

VIRTUAL LANTERNS - MAIL IN ORDER FORM or ON-LINE

Virtual lantern dedication to loved ones for Obon. You may submit in English and Japanese. Deadline for lantern submittal is **Saturday, July 17**. Suggested donation is \$15 per virtual lantern remembrance.

White Lanterns (commemorate the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends or even pets), and Red Lanterns (honor a living person, organization, or business). More names may be submitted on back.	
Name #1: Click or tap here to enter text.	White Lantern <input type="checkbox"/> or Red Lantern <input type="checkbox"/>
Name #2:	White Lantern <input type="checkbox"/> or Red Lantern <input type="checkbox"/>
Name #3:	White Lantern <input type="checkbox"/> or Red Lantern <input type="checkbox"/>
Name #4:	White Lantern <input type="checkbox"/> or Red Lantern <input type="checkbox"/>

SANGHA OBON MAIL IN ORDER FORM or ON-LINE

Deadline to submit donation, and request Obon gift, raffle ticket(s), and register to visit is Friday, July 30 .	
1. Do you plan to donate to OBT Obon 2021 in an amount of at least \$25? YOUR DONATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED! Mail checks to "OBT Obon 2021" to Oregon Buddhist Temple at 3720 SE 34 th , Portland, OR 97206, or go to OBT's Dana~Giving page and select "Support the temple with a monetary donation on PayPal".	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Donation: \$ _____
2. Do you wish to receive an Obon gift? Donations of \$25 or more to OBT's Obon 2021 by July 31, 2021 are eligible for an Obon gift, available for pick up on August 7. The Obon-in-a-Box (or Bag) will contain an assortment of the following (approx. value of \$15): plain uchiwa fan, a decal with Buddhist theme, origami paper, tea to share, snack (and may include those baked in unlicensed kitchens) and/or other items.	Yes, please <input type="checkbox"/> No gift necessary <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Would you like to receive raffle ticket(s)? Each \$25 increment of Obon 2021 donation received by Aug 7 will receive a ticket. Raffle will take place between 1:00 and 2:00 PM on August 7 th (see raffle basket example).	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Sign up for a time slot to pick up your box/bag, choose raffle prize, and/or to visit OBT in person. (Social distancing and masking are recommended for the safety and health of us all.) <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Noon – 12:30 PM</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> I am not attending</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to volunteer</div> </div>	

Requester Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Questions? Please call or email Ann Shintani at ann@hoonko.com.

(Continued from page 1)

Now, some people say that our school is losing balance and leaning towards shinjin too much and neglecting nembutsu. I understand that opinion, but one thing we should be careful about is that we should not think that “our recitation of the Name becomes the cause for our birth into the Pure Land.” This is divergent understanding from our school. Because if our recitation becomes the cause, that is the self-power from our school’s perspective.

So, how should we understand our nembutsu, recitation of the name namo amida butsu? It is to repay our gratitude for Buddha’s benevolence. To prove this through writings and the words of Shinran Shonin, Seven Pure Land Masters, Rennyo Shonin and other teachers - this is what the topic “Recitation of the Name as the Repaying of the Debt of Gratitude” is discussing.

The words I shared at the beginning are the words I encountered when I was studying the topic. Actually the section I quoted is not related to the topic of discussion, but I thought this is really an interesting section to talk about.

Shinran Shonin quotes these words on the section called the True Disciple of Buddha in Chapter on Shinjin of KyoGyoShinSho. Regarding the True Disciple of Buddha, Shinran Shonin stated

In the term true disciple of Buddha, true contrasts with false and provisional. Disciple indicates a disciple of Shakyamuni and the other Buddhas. This expression refers to the practitioner who has realized the diamond like heart and mind. Through this shinjin and practice, one will without fail transcend and realize great nirvana; hence, one is called true disciple of Buddha.

So Shinran Shonin said “this expression refers to the practitioner who has realized the diamond like heart and mind.” This means that what Shinran Shonin thinks as the true disciple of Buddha is the person of shinjin/entrusting heart. Through shinjin and practice directed to us from Amida Buddha, we unfailingly attain great nirvana. Shinran Shonin referred to the person of shinjin as true disciple of Buddha.

Shonin quotes few passages from the sutras and quotes the words I shared at the beginning.

The person who teaches the dharma should think of himself as king among physicians and of his work as the elimination of pain. He should think of the dharma that he teaches as sweet nectar (amrta) or milk of the finest taste (manda).

This does not mean that those who teach the dharma should be arrogant and gain self-conceit and say “I am the king among physicians.” What makes the person who teaches the dharma as king among physician is the dharma of the Name of Amida Buddha. Through this dharma, all beings regardless of abilities or qualities attain Buddhahood.

I don’t know if this is good example or not, but the smartphone can take very beautiful pictures. You can blur the background and such, but it is not that the picture looks great because I am a good photographer. It is the function of the camera that takes beautiful pictures.

Likewise, it is the Name Namu Amida Butsu which makes any person who teaches the dharma the king of physician. A person who does not have confidence in the teaching, cannot teach the dharma? A teacher of the dharma must have confidence in the teaching by entrusting himself or herself to the working of the Name, Namu Amida Butsu, so there will be no worries regarding birth into the Pure Land.

Nectar refers to the deepness of the beauty of the Buddhist teachings. Nectar and milk of the finest taste are often used as the metaphor to express that Buddhist teachings are the finest medicine. The name Namu Amida Butsu is the finest of the finest medicine that eliminates pain of separation from our loved ones and such.

The person who listens to the dharma should think that excellent understanding thereby increases and grows and that sickness is being cured. The following passage addresses the attitude of listening to the dharma.

“Excellent understanding thereby increases and grows” means that through listening to the dharma, one will be nurtured to be the person who appreciates the teaching more and more. And to think his/her/their sickness is being cured means that there will be no doubt that we attain birth in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha through the working of the Name, Namu Amida Butsu. By attaining birth, we attain Buddhahood. By attaining Buddhahood, we are able to work towards others freely to guide them to the path. So attainment of the birth is really important for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.

The passage continues.

Such a teacher and listener together can make Buddha-dharma flourish. They dwell always in the presence of the Buddhas. We need good teachers who expound the dharma with confidence and those who enjoy listening to the dharma, always in the presence of the Buddhas. Shinran Shonin composed a Wasan, religious poem and said.

*When we say “Namu-amida-butsu,”
The countless Buddhas throughout the ten quarters,
Surrounding us a hundredfold, a thousandfold,
Rejoice in and protect us. [110]
(CWS, p. 355)*

This dharma of the Name Namo Amida Butsu is what Shakyamuni Buddha and all the Buddhas recommended for the people of the last dharma age. Those who receive shinjin/entrusting heart and recite Namo Amida Butsu to respond to the Buddha's benevolence in gratitude are those who follow the guidance of Buddhas and they protect us night and day.

A sangha consists of those who teach the dharma and those who listen. But, in a bigger picture, those who teach the dharma are also those who listen to the dharma. We are all listening to the dharma as taught by Buddhas. So our attitude towards listening to the dharma is important for Buddha-dharma to flourish.

This world is impermanent but I am looking forward to listening to the teaching together more with you. Let us appreciate this opportunity in which we were able to encounter each other in this life and the teaching of the finest of the finest medicine.

This article was much longer than usual but I hope it was helpful.

Gassho.

OBT RECURRING ZOOM MEETINGS	
Meeting	Sign-in Info
Dharma Exchange Every 2 weeks on Sunday @ 11:00 am: —Jul 4, 2021 no DE Jul 18, 2021 Aug 1, 2021 Aug 15, 2021 Aug 29, 2021	Meeting ID: 991 9789 7816 Passcode: 103319 Link: https://zoom.us/j/99197897816?pwd=amRuZ1Y1bEM3Mk5kU0lHeXNleVM4dz09 Dharma Exchange Topics July 4 through August 1 Jul 4 th No Dharma Exchange—Happy Independence Day! Jul 18 After Your Time Is Up: Talking About Changing Customs Surrounding Death Aug 1 Social Activism and Social Responsibility
Happy Hour Every 2 weeks on Monday @ 7:00 pm Jul 12, 2021 Jul 26, 2021 Aug 9, 2021 Aug 23, 2021	Meeting ID: 945 6884 3906 Passcode: 677741 Link: https://zoom.us/j/94568843906?pwd=SUx0SG50cGNUajJweHNUUEJxQnh0dz09
Intermediate Study Class Every 2 weeks on Wednesday @ 7:00 pm: Jul 7, 2021 Jul 21, 2021 Aug 11, 2021 Aug 25, 2021	Meeting ID: 815 9359 3428 Passcode: 704135 Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81593593428?pwd=WEhYSEZTV0RlcEN4MjhpNnNvOUxBZz09
OBWA Once a month on the Third Saturday @ 10:00 am Jul 17, 2021	Meeting ID: 962 3703 0266 Passcode: 574232 Link: https://zoom.us/j/96237030266?pwd=QjYxMjl5dDM3cnFVLzR5YmEvUU94UT09