



PureLand Path

Harmony is the Most Virtuous Thing Reverend Yuki Sugahara

“Harmony should be valued, and quarrels should be avoided. Everyone is apt to form a clique, and there are few people who are reasonable. Therefore, some disobey their lords and fathers, and feud with their neighbors. But when superiors are in harmony and inferiors are friendly, then they discuss affairs in cooperation, everything will be reasonable spontaneously. Then there is nothing which cannot be accomplished.”

- The Seventeen Article Constitution established by Prince Shōtoku.

When I first came to OBT, I was surprised and amazed to have two cabinets along the walls of our Onaijin/altar area. That does not mean that it is inappropriate to have cabinets in the Onaijin, but it is rare to see it. These cabinets contain the Taishō Tripitaka. It was revised and compiled during the Taishō era (early 1900's) with the efforts of Buddhist scholars such as Junjiro Takakusu, the founder of Musashino University, so it is called Taishō Tripitaka. “Tri” is three and “pitaka” is basket in Sanskrit. The Tripitaka consists of the Vināya (rules and regulations for monks, nuns and the sangha), Sūtras (the teaching of Buddha), and Abhidharma (analysis of the dharma, commentaries on sutras).

Among these many texts, there is a sūtra called the Mahāparinibbāna Sutta. This sūtra talks about the last journey of Shakyamuni Buddha. In it, Shakyamuni Buddha gives advice to his disciple, Ānanda, regarding the seven things that are conducive to welfare. Some of them are not useful in modern times, but some of them are worth following in this time of uncertainty. Since Shakyamuni Buddha was talking to Ānanda, the message is directed to the Buddhist Sangha, but it could apply to any organization.

The Seven Things That Are Conducive to Welfare

1. As long as the sangha hold regular and frequent assemblies, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.
2. As long as they meet in harmony, break up in harmony, and carry on their business in harmony, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.
3. As long as they do not authorize what has not been authorized already, and do not abolish what has been authorized, but proceed according to what has been authorized by the rules of training, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.

4. As long as they honor, respect, revere and salute the elders of long standing who are long ordained, fathers and leaders of the order, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.

5. As long as they do not fall prey to desires which arise in them and lead to rebirth, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.

6. As long as they are devoted to forest-lodgings, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.

7. As long as they preserve their personal mindfulness, so that in future the good among their companions will come to them, and those who have already come will feel at ease with them, they may be expected to prosper and not decline.

Of the seven, I feel that the most important one is no. 2, because harmony cannot be achieved by one person, but needs everyone's efforts. If everyone is mindful of creating harmony, then we are expected to prosper and not decline...

Prince Shōtoku (574-622), who is considered the father of Japanese Buddhism, established the first Japanese constitution. The first article says: “Harmony should be valued.” So... Shakyamuni Buddha said harmony is the way to prosper and not decline and Prince Shotoku said harmony should be valued... then, do we still value our self-centered opinions or do we value harmony? I think everyone knows the answer... and I hope everyone treasures harmony above all else.

Gassho.

President's Column Ken Garner, OBT President

Here it is, February 11, due date for the newsletter articles and I am now just getting started on my President's Column. They say March comes in like a lion and leaves as a lamb. If the weather continues as it has this winter, maybe March won't be more ferocious than an irritated house cat. I need to work on this article or I will face something equally terrifying as the Lion of March - an irritated newsletter editor at a missed deadline!

I returned home a couple of hours ago from our Nirvana Day Service and 1st Tofu Throwdown. It was fun to be a judge and see and taste the various tofu creations that some of our Sangha Chefs presented. Choosing a winner from the entries was difficult. Congratulations to Traci Kiyama for her winning Mabo Tofu. This will be the featured vegetarian dish at our *(Continued after Shotsuki Hoyo list)*

“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.

March Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of March. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the March 11th 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.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Abe, Chozo 3/26/1962 | Kuranishi, Torakazu 3/12/1956 | Saito, Hisako 3/25/2002 * |
| Aoki, George Shigeru 3/8/1986 | Kurata, Toraiichi 3/12/1956 | Sakurai, Chiyoko 3/11/1986 * |
| Choi, Wonchoon 3/6/1966 | Kuribayashi, Tatsuko 3/8/2011 | Sanjo, Iki 3/26/1970 |
| Dilley, Masako 3/23/1991 | Maeda, Yaeko 3/23/1986 * | Saito, Hisako 3/25/2002* |
| Feingold, Ben 3/22/1982 | Masuoka, Mathew M 3/20/1998 | Sasaki, Ojiro Art 3/27/2004 |
| Fujita, Haru 3/7/1999 * | Matsunaga, Henry 3/10/1985 | Sato, Sueno 3/12/1980 |
| Hamada, Hana 3/9/1993 * | Mishihiro, Iki 3/1970 * | Serikaku, Beatrice 3/31/1999 |
| Hara, Eijiro 3/16/1959 | Miura, Hitoshi 3/18/1975 | Shiogi, Sadaji 3/14/1975 |
| Hariya, Shinichi 3/9/1955 | Mizote, Wataru 3/4/1962 | Shiraishi, Joe 3/6/2005 |
| Haruki, Koji 3/23/1959 | Muraki, Makie 3/24/2017 | Shiraishi, Yutaka 3/19/1996 |
| Hataseki, Taro 3/7/1953 | Muramatsu, Kyu 3/31/1966 * | Takabayashi, Yukino 3/9/1976 * |
| Higashi, Roy 3/19/1998 | Naganuma, Sumi 3/1981 * | Takano, Yoshigo 3/7/1963 |
| Ikata, Sumiko 3/30/2016 * | Nakashimada, Leke 3/30/2012 | Takeuchi, Dori Junko 3/22/1976 |
| Itoyama, Shohachi 3/11/1956 | Nakashimada, Mary 3/15/2009 * | Takeuchi, Janet Setsuko 3/22/1976 |
| Kakishita, Shigeichi 3/1/1993 | Nakashimada, Tatsuzo 3/5/1952 | Tamura, Kuniji 3/17/2001 |
| Kanai, Nancy Hisako 3/12/1987 | Naruki, Koji 3/23/1959 | Tanada, Howard Toshikatsu 3/29/1994 |
| Kato, Hanjiro 3/27/1955 | Nishida, Gunichi 3/25/1997 | Tanaka, Toshiko 3/23/2013 * |
| Kida, James Keijiro 3/31/1988 | Nishimura, Kijyu 3/31/1982 * | Tanaka, Yutaka 3/10/1962 |
| Kitagawa, Sada 3/20/1993 | Nunotani, Nobuichi 3/9/1955 | Tsujimura, Tokichi Tom 3/8/1971 |
| Kimura, Chika 3/24/1930 * | Ochiai, Zenzaburo 3/4/1982 | Uyesugi, Kazue 3/1974 * |
| Kitagawa, Sada 3/20/1993 | Okabayashi, Hatsu 3/19/1968 | Uyetake, Shio 3/16/2009 |
| Koike, Chikara 3/10/1986 | Onishi, Fred 3/1/1982 | Watari, Jack Shizuma 3/19/1999 |
| Koike, Toshiko 3/31/2006 * | Rikiishi, Tameichi 3/30/1964 | Yamada, Frances Yurie 3/26/2015 |
| Kono, Jean 3/3/2015 | Sadamoto, Yoshito G 3/30/2006 | Yamada, Senichiro 3/1/1958 |
| Kuranishi, Isao 3/26/1995 | Saheki, Akira (Cap 3/31/2014 | Yamano, Shigetaro 3/6/1978 |

* OBWA member

Spring Fundraiser. Traci promised to have a spicy version for those of us who are “heat seekers” and a mild version for those who prefer a gentler meal. Thank you to all who participated. An extra big thank you to Beth Sellers for the whimsical tofusu-mo flyer she created and to Jenna Yokoyama for her efforts in putting this event together. Perhaps a competition like this could become a regular feature to determine new items for our fundraising events.

Mark your calendars for Sunday March 25. We will be hosting a concert by guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto. The concert will begin at 4:00 pm. Advance Sale Tickets are only \$15 (+ \$2 service charge) and are available on-line at <https://squareup.com/store/oregon-buddhist-temple>. Half of the proceeds (\$7.50 per ticket) will go to OBT. Tsukamoto's music has been described as “an innovative, impressionistic journey filled with earthy, organic soundscapes that impart a mood of peace and tranquility.” You can hear and listen to him on his YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFCVVNd2nb3qv7BmHvXG3w>.

In my State of the Temple section of the General Membership Meeting that was held on February 4, I stated that I felt the temple has turned a corner and that as a whole we are looking forward. I believe that OBT is ready and looking forward. We are looking at our existing fundraising events for ways to refresh and make more profitable. The Tofu Throwdown and subsequent menu item change does that. We are looking for new and different fundraisers and outreach opportunities, the Hiroya Tsukamoto concert does that. We are looking at other ideas and seeking other opportunities. Any suggestions that you may have are welcome. You can send them to me at president@oregonbuddhisttemple.com or talk to me at temple. You can also talk to any of the board members. We'd love to hear your ideas and thoughts.

Until next month, in Gassho

OBT Board of Directors

Term Ending 2020: Angie Hughes, Traci Kiyama (Secretary), Jenna Yokoyama, Cathy Yarne (Vice-President)

Term Ending 2019: Chris Dart, Jerry Sumoge, Amy Peterson, Charles Reneau

Term Ending 2018: Marilyn Achterman, Ken Garner (President), Shinya Ichikawa, Kim Kono

What Is It Worth to You?

Alfred Ono, Pledge Chairperson

Oregon Buddhist Temple has been in Portland in various locations for over 100 years. It is available to anyone who wants to attend services, classes or can be a place for special occasions in one's life. What is the value of OBT?

Coming to Portland soon is the musical "Hamilton". This is one of the hottest plays here, in New York and in many other cities. It is an evening that attendees say is well worth the cost and makes one feel great after seeing the musical. Tickets, if you can get them, sell now in Portland for \$200.00 to even over \$500.00 but attendees say it is worth the cost.

An evening for dinner at one of the many Portland or surrounding communities' restaurants is an enjoyable way to share a delicious and unique meal with others. It is not only the meal but the table talk about "how are things" "what is going on in your life" "what do you think" or just glad to see you. The dinner can cost about \$40.00 to even over \$100.00 or more but the value of the meal and the interaction with friends is well worth the cost.

Oregon Buddhist Temple is always available. Services are almost every Sunday whether you chose to attend or not. We have Rev. Sugahara and other members who present the Dharma in an exciting manner that can leave you thinking "that applies to me" or "that makes me feel better" or "that is how I can change my thinking or how I live my life."

Also, at OBT, one can see and work with others from the Sangha. One can enjoy each other in talking, working together, supporting each other or just passing on news from one to another. Studies have shown that interacting with other people makes one feel better and happier, decreases depression and increases life expectancy.

Compared to other things we pay for and find of value, how much is supporting OBT worth? How does OBT stack up as compared to other things that we do to bring us enjoyment, inspiration and make us happy?

Pledge today to the Oregon Buddhist Temple for the 2018 pledge drive and help keep OBT always available for you to participate whenever you feel the need to hear the Dharma, to be around or to meet good Sangha friends. Moreover, OBT will be around for those special events in our lives

Always remember that all pledges are tax deductible

Hands together,

Alfred Ono, pledge chairperson

Buddhist Minister's Fuken

Alfred Ono

On August 6 to August 9 this year, Portland will be the host of the BCA minister's Fuken or minister's continuing education program. This is an annual program for only ministers but some of us are helping with the arrangements. The program itself is planned by the Northwest District ministers.

I am inquiring as to how many people can help mostly with transportation. The meeting will be held at the University Place Hotel on the Portland State Campus. It is important for us to know how many OBT and other people can be available to help with the following:

#1 August 6 Drivers from Portland Airport to the hotel, how many can you transport, when can you be available AM, PM, Evening

#2 August 9 Drivers from the hotel to OBT in the morning to bring ministers to the see the Temple.

#3 August 9 Transportation from OBT to the airport after service at OBT.

#4 August 9 Transportation from the hotel to the airport for those who are catching morning flights. Certainly, ministers can use Max, taxi, Uber or shuttles but we are inquiring how much private transportation can we plan to use and how to put this into our overall plans.

#5 August 8 Host a small group of 4 to 6 ministers at one of the numerous downtown restaurants. One of the reasons the ministers chose Portland and the downtown area is to see and dine in the renowned downtown area. It would be easier and more pleasant if a local person can be with the small group. Transportation, reservations and method of payment will have already been set up. All the host needs to do is to escort the group to the restaurant, assure that there are no problems with the arrangements, enjoy the dinner and enjoy the company of the minister group. I estimate dinner would be around 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

On August 7, the entire group will have dinner and beer at a local brew pub that has yet to be determined.

We need to know how many people can help, so transportation and dinner plans can be made.

I understand the meeting is in August just after Obon. Also summer plans may not have been made and August 6, 8 and 9 are weekdays.

If we have a lot of volunteers, great. If not, we will make other plans.

If you can help with any of the items above, please contact Alfred Ono at onog@aol.com or 503 281 2023. Leave a message if I'm not at home. Contact me if you have any questions.

Alfred Ono, Arranger of Buddhist Minister's Fuken

OBWA News

Robbi Ando and Diane Harder

New Year's Celebration. On February 3 about 50 OBWA members and friends gathered at Holladay Park Plaza to celebrate the New Year. There was a wonderful meal prepared

by Chef Hiroji Obayashi; bingo led by Mark Achterman and enthusiastic kids, with a large pile of white elephant gifts as prizes; a sing-along led by Pat Hokama; a collection of non-perishable food destined for the Oregon Food Bank after a presentation by Chuck King a volunteer Community Ambassador who told us about all the things OFB does to address hunger. Thank you to all who were involved in bringing us this fantastic event.

Women Leaders in Our History. We will soon be honoring four women who were key in the development of Jodo Shin Shu. On February 25 a memorial service will be held for the Lady Kujo and Lady Otani, women of the modern era who founded the Fujinkai and were renowned for charitable work. On March 11th OBWA will chair the Sunday memorial service for Eshinni, devoted Nembutsu follower and wife of Shinran and for Kakushinni, youngest daughter of Shinran and in some eyes the founder of Hongwanji-ha.

Northwest District Buddhist Women's Association. By established rotation OBWA officers will lead the Northwest District Buddhist Women's Association for the next year and Yuki Sensei will serve as advisor.

March OBWA Meeting. Please join us at the next OBWA meeting March 17th. There will be 15 minutes of stretching exercise (Rajjo Taiso) at 9:45am and the business meeting begins at 10:00 am.

Volunteer with Us. Following the March 17th meeting at about 11:30 please help us and representatives of Period (formerly Camions of Care) at a packaging party. We will package feminine sanitary products for the homeless and others in need. Everyone is welcome; there is no age or gender limitations. Two Portland high school students Nadya Okamoto and Vincent Forand co-founded PERIOD in 2014 after realizing that menstrual products are not reliably available to the homeless. It is now an international non-profit organization. Donations of product or funds will be welcome. For more information see <https://www.period.org/> or contact Robbi Ando rchando@comcast.net

Next OBWA Reporter will be Nancy Kajitsu.

Dharma School News Ann Shintani

Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival), which celebrates the birth of Buddha, will be on Sunday, April 8. For the month of March, and after Dharma School classes, students and families will be practicing for a Hanamatsuri choir performance. Seeking singers! Please plan to join us for choir practice for most Sundays in March (except for March 11) and in April before Hanamatsuri. In addition, we are asking for volunteers to help create the Flower Altar (or Hanamido), which is the centerpiece of our Hanamatsuri service. If you can donate fresh flowers from your garden, please bring them to our flower altar work party and choir practice on Saturday, April 7, at 11:00am to Noon. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Spring Fundraiser: Dharma School families have been asked to coordinate a "snack bar" or "Bake sale" for the OBT Spring Fundraiser. Pies, home baked items, and Japanese

pastries have done very well. Store bought cookies and cream pies do not seem to sell well. Can you help?

Lotus Circle – March Jean Matsumoto

It's early February as I write this, and the weather has been mild all week. A gift of a bouquet of daphne fills my apartment with a wonderful fragrance -- spring must be on its way. Thank you to all the following generous donors who pay for the flowers that our Flower Toban members arrange on our altar in memory of (imo) their loved ones:

- March 4 – Dr. David Onishi imo parents, Fred & Shizuko; Dana Kakishita imo father, Shigeichi; Kim Kono imo mother, Jean; Rick Shiraishi imo parents, Joe & Kaoru; anonymous imo Zenzaburo & Tamiyo Ochiai, and family, Nobuko Susaki, Shizuko Okazaki, & Kaz Ochiai
- March 11 – Jerry Koike imo parents, Chikara & Toshiko; Jean Takashima imo parents, Tokichi & Tomiko Tsujimura; Judy Yamauchi imo parents, Chiyoko & Masaru, and sister Betty Sakurai; Diane Onchi imo parents, Leke & Mary Nakashimada
- March 18 – Ray Fields imo father, Ben Feingold; Susan Endecott imo mother, Toshiko Tanaka; Ron Shiraishi imo parents, Yutaka & Kazue; Dr. Connie Masuoka imo parents, Dr. Matthew & Nobuko, grandparents Baiichi & Matsuyo and aunt & uncle, Masako & Yoshio Urushitani; Misao Kodama imo mother, Sada Kitagawa, father Hatsujiro Kobayashi, in-laws Miyaki Kayama & Goichi Kodama; May Watari & Duane Watari family imo husband & father, Jack.
- March 25 – Anna Tanada imo husband, Howard; Joyce Olsen imo parents, Art & Nami Sasaki & sister, Susanne Myers; Setsy Larouche imo father, George Sadamoto; Alice Kida & Lew Tomita family imo father, Jim, & grandfather, Shoemon Nakamura

Don't forget, Lotus Circle has a webpage set up for us by Ken Garner: webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com where memories can be shared. For questions about us, please call me at 503-280-2463 or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

New book in the library Etsu Osaki

Out of the Mud Grows the Wisteria: Life Journey and Essays of a Japanese American Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Minister by Laverne Senyo Sasaki, 198 pages.

Rev Sasaki served more than 40 years in the Buddhist Churches of America. In this book he shares insightful, often humorous stories, stretching from his childhood to Tule Lake Internment Camp, education and ministerial training in the US and in Japan, world travels, interfaith and community outreach and his ministry in Stockton, Mountainview and San Francisco temples.

From the Buddhist Education Committee

There will be a lecture on Buddhist Art in September. Also, three public lectures by Reverend Sugahara are planned for April 29, May 20 and June 3. The Hoonko seminar on January 20 with Rev Bob Oshita was very interesting and successful. Possible speakers for next year was discussed. Bon odori practice schedule was given by Chris Dart—3/4, 4/15, 5/13, 6/10, 9/9, 10/14/ 11/11, 12/9 all starting at 1:00 pm. OBT is scheduled to host the NW Convention in 2021.

OBT Spring Fundraiser! Jenna Yokoyama

The Spring Bazaar is getting a new name! On Sunday, April 22, get ready instead for the OBT Spring Fundraiser! We'll have salmon donburi, chow mein, mar far chicken, as well as this year's winning Tofu Throwdown dishes, Traci's mabo dofu, and Robbi's curry rice!

Food prep will take place April 19, 20, and 21 at 9am. Talk to Jenna if you're able to help. Food pre-order forms as well as the worklist for Sun, April 22 will be posted in the April newsletter. Pre-orders are now also being taken through OBT's website.

Our annual spring event is major fundraiser for OBT. This year, we have a goal of raising \$10,000! How are we going to do it? From your support of pledges, donations, food sales, and all the other goodies for sale that day. All pledges, donations, and food pre-sales collected from Feb 19 through the end of April 22 will be counted towards the goal, so now is the perfect time to renew your annual pledge to OBT, buy a few boxes of chow mein to put in the freezer, and get an extra dessert or two after eating your salmon donburi. Help us get to our goal and help support all the programs and services OBT provides. You can pledge or donate at the temple or online through the Spring Fundraiser [online](#) [store](#). Go to www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Show your support for OBT today! We'll post regular fundraising updates on our website and on the notice board in the basement, so we can all see how much we've raised. Just look for the big thermometer and help us fill it up!

Tofu Throwdown Thanks! Jenna Yokoyama

Congratulations to this year's Tofu Throwdown winning dishes and thank you to everyone who participated! Don't forget, you can order this year's 1st and 2nd place winning dishes at the upcoming OBT Spring Fundraiser. Oishiiii!

1st: Traci's mabo dofu

2nd: Robbi's curry rice

3rd: Phaedra's teriyaki tofu

I forgot to announce the winner of our dessert category at the throwdown (sorry about that!), so I'm proud to announce Mika Winner for her vegan Golden Tofu Brownies!

Thanks again to all our participants Ann, Phaedra, Elaine, Robbi, Susan, Traci, Adam, Mika, Maho, Atsuko and our

judges Ken, Jean, and Rev. Sugahara! I hope everyone had as much fun as I did and I'm thinking we should do it again next year because that was a tasty contest worth repeating.

CPR Responders Amy Peterson

Please contact Amy Peterson or leave a message at the temple if you would like to volunteer to be a CPR responder. We have 10 people so far identified as trained and willing to respond. The lists are by the keypads and phone in the library. We hope to have the AEDs (Automated external defibrillators) mounted soon. Training will be for ADULT CPR and AED only. As soon as we have a list, classes of 6 will be scheduled.

March Toban

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Ando, Roberta | Chambers, Chiz |
| Choy, Randy | Fields, Yasuko |
| Fugate, Brenda | Fugate, Jerry |
| Harder, Diane | Ichikawa, Jayne |
| Ichikawa, Shinya | Kono, Kim |
| Cohen, Carol | Nakashima, Angie |
| Nakashima, Glenn | Pawlowski, Clara |
| Pawlowski, Steve | Shintani-Winner, Ann |
| Winner, Scott | |

OBT Readers' Club Ken Garner

The next Readers' Club meeting will be during the Dharma Exchange on March 11, 2018. We will be discussing The Face: A Time Code by Ruth Ozeki. All readers must secure their own copy of the book. *What did your face look like before your parents were born?* In The Face: A Time Code, bestselling author and Zen Buddhist priest Ruth Ozeki recounts, in moment-to-moment detail, a profound encounter with memory and the mirror. According to ancient Zen tradition, "your face before your parents were born" is your true face. Who are you? What is your true self? What is your identity before or beyond the dualistic distinctions, like father/mother and good/evil, that define us?

With these questions in mind, Ozeki challenges herself to spend three hours gazing into her own reflection, recording her thoughts, and noticing every possible detail. Those solitary hours open a lifetime's worth of meditations on race, aging, family, death, the body, self-doubt, and, finally, acceptance. In this lyrical short memoir, Ozeki calls on her experience of growing up in the wake of World War II as a half-Japanese, half-Caucasian American; of having a public face as an author; of studying the intricate art of the Japanese Noh mask; of being ordained as a Zen Buddhist priest; and of her own and her parents' aging, to paint a rich and utterly unique portrait of a life as told through a face.

Please join in the conversation March 11.

The article below by Angie Hughes is the second in a series of articles written this year by an OBT board member to help make the board more accessible to temple members.

The Count of Monte Cristo Angie Hughes

Since my 20s, I have read *The Count of Monte Cristo* once each decade. I didn't set out to do this—it's my favorite book and it just kind of happened. My takeaway this time, however, is much different than the previous two readings. For those who have never read *The Count*, it's a 1095-page revenge story. Young and prospering Edmond Dantes, the object of jealousy of three conspiring individuals, is accused of a crime he didn't commit. He spends the next fourteen years in a dungeon-like prison, plotting his revenge. Once he escapes, he sets in motion schemes that go beyond what he had ever imagined possible. In the end, he realizes that his actions have harmed so many more people than the enemies he had set out to destroy. His vengeance is more than satisfied, but the price to himself and those around him far outweighs what he originally considered his right to extract.

In my first read of this book, I remember feeling disappointed in Edmond's increasing self-doubt as punishments come to fruition. I wanted him to remain confident in his quest. I felt he had full right to retribution. Reading *The Count* a second time in my 30s was a different experience. I found myself side-stepping the moral and ethical argument and focusing on the technical aspects of the book. I paid more attention to the characters, really trying to understand the connections and the clever interweaving of relationships that I had missed much of in my 20s.

Now, here I am, 45, having just finished my journey with Edmond for a third time. I finally begin to understand his melancholy as his carefully laid plans unravel around him and he regrets their unintended consequences. He spends much of his time undoing the harm he has inadvertently caused. I understand, for the first time, how exhausting this is for him and how, in the end, he is completely justified in setting aside his

resentments and searching, in its place, for just a little bit of calm and peace in his life. In my 20s, I only thought of how he was wronged and how he had a right to seek revenge. Now, in my 40s, and a peer to this character in age, I finally end up where the author does. Though it still makes an interesting story and a richly detailed read, I'm drawn more to Edmond's conclusions: whatever has happened in our lives, finding peace and calm and spending time with those we love is the most important focus for our toil. I'm looking forward to meeting *The Count* again a decade from now and seeing what another ten years of living have taught me and how my relationship with this wonderful book has changed.

Attention High School Class of 2018 Elaine Yuzuriha

Submit your applications for the Japanese American Community Scholarships by Thursday, March 1, 2018. The scholarship application is available on the www.pdxjacl.org website. Japanese American applicants are required to have had at least one parent be a member of a sponsoring organization since October 15, 2017 and must reside within Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington (OR) or Clark (WA) counties. Oregon Buddhist Temple is a sponsoring organization of the annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet. Please see the applications for more details or contact Elaine Yuzuriha. All applicants must be available for an interview on Saturday, April 7, 2018. This is a wonderful opportunity to garner scholarships for post-secondary education. Get your applications in soon!

This year, the Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet will be held on Sunday, May 6th, 2018. The keynote speaker will be Mark Mitsui, President of Portland Community College. Invitations are sent to all high school seniors of Japanese ancestry and all graduating children of members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and other community sponsoring organizations. Please help us by contacting Elaine Yuzuriha at e.yuzuriha@comcast.net with the graduate's name and contact information. Thank you for your help!

OBT Spring Fundraiser! Sun, April 22, 11am-3pm

Chow Mein Salmon Donburi Tofu Throwdown winners! Mar Far Chicken

The OBT Spring Fundraiser is trying to raise **\$10,000** by April 22!

All pledges, donations, and food pre-sales go towards our goal, so renew your annual OBT pledge and pre-order your food today at www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Questions? Email bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com



OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

Beginners and the Curious are Welcome

OPEN PUBLIC CLASSES
\$5 per Class Donation suggested

- April 29: Introduction to Buddhism
- May 20: Buddhism and the Mind
- June 3: Jodo Shinshu Basics

Drop-Ins Welcome

All classes held at OBT
12:30 - 2:00 pm

Invite Your Friends



From the Archives: Young Reverend-to-be Bob Oshita in white pullover with mustache at early 1970s Mountindale retreat



Reverends Patti and Bob Oshita at 2018 Hoonko seminar



OBT members provide music and teach Bon Odori at community mochitsuki with Portland Ondo

Get you tickets to see HiroyaTsukamoto in Concert

Sunday, March 25, 2018, 4:00 pm at Oregon Buddhist Temple



Hiroya Tsukamoto takes us on an innovative, impressionistic journey filled with earthy, organic soundscapes that impart a mood of peace and tranquility.

"... chops, passion and warmth. Zealously recommended!"
Jazz.Review.com

"Hiroya Tsukamoto plays with fluid mastery, pristine tone, and great warmth"
-Celine Koating (author/Acoustic Guitar Magazine/ minor7th)

"Hiroya Tsukamoto takes us to an impressionistic journey"
Boston Herald

www.hiroyatsukamoto.com

Tickets (\$2 service charge will be added)

\$15 Advance Purchase

\$20 Day of Event

Available at: <https://squareup.com/store/Oregon-buddhis-temple>

OBWA members and friends gather to celebrate New Years at Holladay Park Plaza penthouse



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