



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

True and Real Way of Live Reverend Yuki Sugahara

The Eighteenth Vow of Bodhisattva Dharmākara states:
If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters who, with sincere and entrusting heart, aspire to be born in my land and say my name even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment. Excluded are those who commit the five grave offenses and those who slander the right Dharma.

This is the vow known as “the Primal Vow” of Bodhisattva Dharmākara (Amida Tathāgata) in the *Larger Sutra*. Here, we see the word “sentient beings of the ten quarters.” Sentient beings does not only mean “human beings.” As the other translation of the *Larger Sutra* says, “devas, human beings, and even insects that fly, crawl, or creep,” the word “sentient beings” includes all lives, even insects.

“Ten Quarters” are east, west, south, north, north-east, south-east, south-west, south-east, and nadir (bottom) and zenith (above) so it means “all lives of all space.”

We often think that the value of insects’/bugs’ lives and our lives are different. I think not many people hesitate to kill bugs. Of course, some bugs are noxious, so we need to kill them to protect ourselves, but we are killing bugs that are just trying to live for our own convenience. We are seeing the world through our eyes and acting according to our own values.

However, from the view of Tathāgatas/Buddhas, all lives have equal value, and all are shining brilliantly. We human beings often act as the king or the leader of the earth and we categorize things with the eyes of “convenient or inconvenient for us.” This is what Buddha called as “ignorance.”

We create many problems by eyes of “convenient or inconvenient for us”, for example environmental problems. There is news that the huge ice mass in Antarctica is melting. This will cause the sea surface to rise, creating flooding in many countries. This might not be caused only by human ego, but we cannot deny the impact of technologic progress to make our lives more “convenient.”

There are sections in the *Larger Sutra* which talk about the practices of the Bodhisattva Dharmākara. It is little bit long, but please allow me to quote:

For inconceivable and uncountable kalpas, he cultivated countless meritorious acts of bodhisattvas. No thought of greed, anger, or harmfulness arose in his mind. He cherished

no impulse of greed, anger, or harmfulness. He did not cling to any form, sound, smell, taste, touch, or object. Abounding in perseverance, he gave no thought to the suffering to be endured. Having few desires, he knew contentment and was devoid of greed, anger, and ignorance. Always tranquil in a state of Samadhi, he possessed wisdom that knew no impediment. He was free of all thoughts of falsity and deception.

Gentle in countenance and loving in speech, he perceived people’s intentions and was attentive to them. He was full of courage and vigor, and being resolute in his acts, knew no fatigue. Seeking solely that which was pure and undefiled, he brought benefit to all beings.

Shinran Shonin quotes this whole section in the Chapter on Shinjin of the *True Teaching, Practice and Realization*, where he is describing the true and real way of life. (see CWS, p.95). The bolded words are important admonition for us. Our greed, anger and the mind to seek our own convenience is limitless and menacing many lives on this planet. Amida Tathāgata’s wish abides to “all sentient beings.” We cannot live like Bodhisattva Dharmākara, but we should realize that we need to adjust our selfish actions step by step by hearing the wish of Amida Tathāgata.

Namo Amida Butsu.

President’s Column Ken Garner, OBT President

So, what is the state of my temple?

What went on in 2017?

What are the plans for 2018?

What is our financial situation?

The answer to these and other questions will be addressed at the annual meeting on February 4, 2018 (note the date change) directly after the service. While the Oregon Buddhist Temple is an open book – all board meeting minutes and financial reports are available for our community to examine – the annual meeting gives us a chance to get together and talk about the current state of OBT and where we are going. If you have a question for me or the board or have an item you would like to have addressed, you can send it to us via email at board@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. All temple supporters are invited and encouraged to attend.

(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.

February Shotsuki Hoyo

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

Ando, Denny Masaru 2/2/2004	Ishii, James Kentaro 2/27/2010	Okubo, Haru 2/7/2006
Asai, Sagoro 2/18/1969	Ito, Yoshizo 2/1/1995	Sakurai, Sakiyo 2/17/1958
Dorman, Bob 2/2009	Kajiwara, George 2/8/2016	Shiraishi, Sayo 2/23/1952
Ebihara, Sumie 2/1/1957 *	Kasubuchi, Mary W 2/24/2010 *	Sugihara, Seigo 2/24/2003
Egashira, Kikuno 2/7/1997	Katsuro, Mine 2/23/1955	Sunamoto, Sen 2/4/1967 *
Egashira, Reisaku 2/16/1978 *	Kobayashi, Sakae 2/7/1966	Sunamoto, Kazuko 2/26/2017*
Fujii, Hiroshi Hyde 2/26/2005	Maekawa, Shozo 2/17/1990	Tadasumi, Mary 2/23/1954
Fujii, Yonezo Fred 2/21/1973	Maekawa, Ryoo 2/26/2005	Takeda, George Takeo 2/27/1992
Fujii, Yoshino 2/16/1963 *	Miura, Tamuro 2/13/1966	Takeda, Ishi 2/6/1951 *
Fujiwara, George S 2/6/2016	Miyoshi, Jimmy 2/2/1984	Takemoto, Takichi 2/19/1954
Hayashida, Masako 2/3/2004	Morishita, Orga Fusae Junie 2/27/1997	Takeuchi, Thomas 2/20/1990
Hearing, Sachie Yuki 2/2/1989	Morita, Bessie Shinobu 2/4/2012	Tsujimura, Tomi 2/25/1983 *
Hironaka, Shigeru 2/15/2005	Nakamura, Kanesuki 2/22/1956	Uyetake, Chise 2/7/1956 *
Honma, Ira 2/27/1988	Nakamura, Saya 2/21/1987 *	Yamaguchi, Shizuo 2/21/1988*
Ikata, Sueo Buddy 2/27/1992	Niemi, Isao 2/26/1962	Yoshida, Nobuko 2/1973 *
Ikeda, Masaharu 2/21/1975	Oguri, Yasutaro 2/1/1961	Yoshihara, Shuichi 2/7/1962
Ishida, Nobuko 2/11/1973 *	Okita, Tatsu 2/23/1967*	

*OBWA member

One of the topics we will cover in the meeting is my focus items for 2018. Besides day-to-day operations, there are 3 areas that I will be asking the board to direct our efforts this year: 1) Financial Situation; 2) Supporter Growth; 3) Future Direction. For OBT's Financial Situation we will closely look at our current fund-raising efforts, which are dependent on volunteer intensive food event model. Can we re-think how we do things? Can the events be refreshed? We are already seeing a new event, the Tofu Throwdown which is a competition to develop a new recipe featuring tofu for the Spring Food Bazaar. Jenna Yokoyama is heading the event, and this promises to be a fun and interesting event leading up to the Bazaar. For Supporter Growth we will be looking at increasing our supporter roster and pledges. We also will be developing a temple data base to be a single trusted source for OBT data rather than having a dozen independent spreadsheets filled with incomplete and obsolete information. We also will work to increase OBT's external visibility. We have started this with the wildly popular public classes Reverend Sugahara gave at the end of 2017. We want to build on that success to share the

Buddhadharma with more people. Finally, for the Future Direction we will look at where OBT is today, where we envision ourselves in the future, and plot out the steps and actions we need to take to move us in that direction. This will include work on a temple strategic plan.

I realize that this is an ambitious agenda and one that cannot be completed in a single year. Nevertheless, it is essential for us to start the process to ensure that OBT continues to be a vibrant and viable community. If you have skills and experience in any of these three areas, we need you. If you don't have the experience but are interested in OBT's future, we need you. We need both long-time and new members in order for our efforts to be successful.

2018 has started off with a bang, with the New Year's luncheon, the Ho-Onko seminar and service with Reverends Bob & Patti Oshita. Thank you all for work you have done and will do for our sangha this year. 2018 will be an outstanding year.

In gassho,
Ken

Condolences

To the family of Hiroshi Matsushima who passed away December 18, 2017.

To the family of May Kasahara who passed away December 30, 2017.

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

Nirvana Day

Nirvana Day is the day for remembering the death of Shakyamuni Buddha.

The Buddha died at the age of eighty in 483 BCE (before the Common Era). His last words were:

Now, monks, I exhort you: the components of the personality are subject to decay; exert yourselves with diligence!

OBT will hold the Nirvana Day Service Sunday, February 11 at 10 a.m. At OBT, this is also a pet memorial service, so members and friends are invited to bring photos of their deceased pets. A vegetarian potluck will follow the service, plus the Tofu Throwdown, described in this newsletter.

PLEDGE IN 2018

Alfred Ono, Pledge Chairperson

Happy New Year-2018. I hope you had a joyous, fun holiday along with the white Christmas.

I presume you are working on your New Year resolutions. I hope that one resolution is to pledge generously to the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

As you know, one needs to keep your home and the temple comfortable and warm in this cold winter. When you look at your home heating bill this month, you are seeing this can be very costly. We see the same costly bill here at OBT.

Rev Sugahara continues to present the Dharma in a complete and inspiring manner. We are so glad that he has come to OBT. However, he has a beautiful family including two cute children and a wonderful wife. Thus, he needs a livable salary to continue to be here at Oregon Buddhist Temple.

It is through generous pledges like yours that allow us to continue to have the minster and the place to hear and learn from the Dharma. From these lessons you will be able to include those Dharma messages into your life. Moreover, OBT can add these Dharma talks to our website for others to hear and learn from these Dharma lessons. These Dharma words help us and

others to live with more understanding and guidance in our day-to-day lives.

Therefore, help us at Oregon Buddhist Temple to continue with learning from the Dharma and enjoying the partnership and friendship of the Sangha in a comfortable atmosphere. I am asking for a pledge from both regular attendees and from those who are only occasional attendees or who have found a great experience here such as with a family event or a temple event such as Obon or meditation time. If you feel that OBT has given something to you, please support us so we will continue to be here to inspire you.

You can pledge any amount your feel is appropriate and within your budget. For some of you, try to stretch your budget to give that little more to feel extra good with the pledge. You can give in one lump sum or in monthly payments or in a method that works for you.

For those of you who pledge over \$300, you will be listed also with the Buddhist Churches of America.

Thank you for your support.

Hands together

OBWA News

Pat Hokama

OBWA will welcome the Year of the Dog on February 3 at the Holladay Park Plaza penthouse. The combination meeting/party will begin at 10:00. Per tradition, there will be group singing and Bingo games. Attendees are requested to bring a white elephant gift.

Also requested is to bring to the party canned or non-perishable food to be donated to the Oregon Food Bank. This will be the first community outreach project for 2018.

Marilyn Achterman will be in charge of ordering special aprons to be promoted at the January 28 community mochitsuki and which will be sold to the public. The attractive wisteria print was drawn by Maho Garner.

Several members plan to attend the Northwest Buddhist Convention in Spokane February 16-18. The annual meetings always present excellent workshops. It also is a time to renew friendships with other chapters.

Next month's reporters are Roberta Ando and Diane Harder.

Dharma School News

Ann Shintani

Bodhi Day: our Winter evening service, on Dec. 9, was planned by our students. Our Family Choir performed a touching version of, "One Candle", led by Ken. Then, students Rachel (10th grade) and Yukim (12th grade) shared their own Dharma message about interdependence, along with Rev. Sugahara. It is a pleasure to walk the Dharma path with our students, as they are a truly creative group of our temple. Here are short summaries of their thought-provoking and poignant messages.

- Rachel said that she has been an avid reader, and knows that each book has influenced her perspective. We are who we

are by encountering books first-hand, and by the numerous stories and storytellers that influenced the authors of these books. We all are intertwined with each other and with the past by common favorite books. These connections inspire Rachel to look forward to write and often re-write the stories that she has inside her.

- Yukim shared a recent revelation about his life. A few years ago, he visited his hometown in Japan for the first time since his family moved to live in the US. He recalls that his visit was a mixture of pleasant nostalgia, and an emptiness. After returning home, Yukim slowly became aware of the reason for this. To help him come to terms with his discovery, Yukim reflected on the compassionate words of Shinran Shonin.

December 24th Visitation: the dusting of snow gave our brave group a bit of challenge while we walked to Prestige Care and Rehabilitation Center. We visited ten residents, many who do not speak English, and made crafts. We thank the following who braved the weather: Terri and Midori, Mai Thi, Edward, Yukim and Yukaiya, Ann and Mika, and the Yuzuriha family - Todd, Elaine, Ken and daughter-in-law Allison, and Joy.

Lotus Circle – February

Jean Matsumoto

It's winter – let it snow, let it snow, let it snow up on Mt. Hood, please! Those who wanted a 'white x-mas', got one this year, didn't they? Personally, that's enough snow for me for this winter. I hope our Flower Toban members won't have to weather the cold to purchase the altar flowers they arrange each week. Thank you to the generous donors who contribute to Lotus Circle and honor their loved ones who have passed away in the month of February. This month, they are:

- February 4 – Judy Hittle in memory of (imo) her parents, Joriu and Fumiko Asato; Mariko Locke imo her aunt and uncle, Mary and Jim Miyoshi; anonymous imo Haru Okubo
- February 11 – Dan Miura imo his parents, Tamuro and Rin
- February 18 – Toshiko Hayashi in memory of Shido relatives, George and Mary Shido, Dorothy and Takumi Okamoto, and Kemy and Charles Hashimoto
- February 25 – Dennis Sugihara imo parents Seigo and Shizue; Yasuko Fields imo her father, Ryoo Maekawa; Ron Ikata imo his parents, Buddy Sueo and Sumiko

Acknowledgement is also made to Ken Garner, webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com, who set up the Lotus Circle webpage for our use in sharing memories of loved ones. Please feel free to call me at 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com if you have any questions about us.

Tofu Throwdown!

Ken Garner

Do you want to develop the recipe for a new tofu item to be featured at OBT's Spring Food Bazaar? OBT's First (Annual?) Tofu Throwdown will be held on Sunday February 11, 2018. What is a throwdown? It is a cooking competition.

The specific rules and conditions along with a registration form for the competition will come out later this month. We do know that we will have 2 categories, Entree and Dessert. Submitted dishes must be vegetarian (bonus points for vegan) and feature tofu. The winner of the Entree category will have their recipe featured as the vegetarian option at the Spring Bazaar. Channel your inner Iron Chef and enter the Tofu Throwdown!

February Toban

Achterman, Marilyn	Achterman, Mark
Clinton, Sena	Clinton, Tony
Davis, Ryan	Dickinson, Kiyomi
Garner, Ken	Garner, Maho
Hill-Nomoto, Enshane	Hughes, Angie
Inoue, Kay	Kajitsu, Nancy
McCormack, Tom	Nguyen, Angela
Okamoto, Janice	Ouchida, Fusako
Shiraishi, Rick	Tamiyasu, Katie

OBT Readers' Club

March 2018 Dharma Exchange (date TBD)

The Face: A Time Code by Ruth Ozeki

The next Readers' Club meeting will be during a Dharma Exchange in March. The specific date is still TBD. 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 up 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 at a Dharma Exchange in March.

OBT President Ken Garner requested that each OBT board member write an article for the newsletter this year to make the board more accessible to temple members. He suggested that the articles can be just about anything. Below is the first article.



Ichigo Ichiye **Shinya Ichikawa**

“This is the first time I played my bass guitar for a memorial service”, commented Rev. Sugahara. Given two choices of songs for Reverend Sugahara to play for her mother, Ami Kinoshita’s 1st year memorial service, daughter Jayne Ichikawa chose *Ichigo Ichiye*. Reverend introduced the song as one that was played by Jake Shimabukuro, the ukulele player from Hawaii. I was not familiar with the song, but the phrase was vaguely familiar.

According to Wikipedia: “Ichi-go ichi-e (Japanese: 一期一会, lit. "one time, one meeting" is a Japanese four-character idiom (yojijukugo) that describes a cultural concept of treasuring meetings with people. The term is often translated as "for this time only," "never again," or "one chance in a lifetime." The term reminds people to cherish any gathering that they may take part in, citing the fact that many meetings in life are not repeated. Even when the same group of people can get together again, a particular gathering will never be replicated, and thus, each moment is always once-in-a-lifetime.[1] The concept is most commonly associated with Japanese tea ceremonies, especially tea masters Sen no Rikyū and Ii Naosuke.”

The late Reverend Taitetsu Unno, PH.D., mentions ichigo ichiye in his book [Shin Buddhism Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold](#).

“... an appreciation of Time is found in the art of tea ceremony. Its basic philosophy is epitomized in the aphorism: “a whole life in a single encounter” (ichigo ichiye). This Buddhist phrase suggests that each human encounter is more than purely accidental; in fact, it has deep roots in our karmic past and has vast implications in our interconnected and interdependent universe. The gathering for tea ceremony normally limited to four or five guests, is a ritual of silence, underscored by the soft rolling murmur of boiling water and the faint sound of the whisking of powdered tea. All the movements are fluid and natural, coming from the centrum of ki, or ch’i. The five senses are heightened, and attention is focused on the moment, this moment never to be repeated in eternity. Even if the same

people should gather at the same time on the following day, it would be an entirely different experience. In life every moment awaits to be newly explored, for a whole lifetime may be invested into a single moment. The host offers a cup of tea, imbued with years of aesthetic accomplishments, and the guest receives the cup of tea, not only with the hands but with the total sincerity of one’s whole being.

Based on the above explanations of ichigo ichiye, two thoughts come to mind regarding the memorial service. One is Rev. Sugahara’s comment that this is the first (one) time he played the bass guitar for a memorial service. The second is Jayne’s choice of the song ichigo ichiye is absolutely fitting for the occasion as family and friends gathered for this never before nor never to be repeated experience.

Attention High School Class of 2018 **Elaine Yuzuriha**

Applications for the Japanese American Community Scholarships are due Thursday, March 1, 2018. There are many scholarships awarded each year to graduating seniors of Japanese American ancestry. The scholarship application is available on the www.pdxjacl.org website. Applicants are required to have had at least one parent be a member of a sponsoring organization since at least 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 at (360) 253-9532. All applicants must be available for an interview to be scheduled 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. We would like to send invitations to all high school seniors of Japanese ancestry and all graduating children of members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and other Japanese 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!





Above photos courtesy of Todd Yuzuriha and Skip Larouche, taken at January 14 New Years Party. Large group photo is the installation of the OBT Board and OBWA officers.

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

PLEDGE 2018

I want to join the other supporters and pledge a donation to Oregon Buddhist Temple

NAME: _____

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AMOUNT TO BE PLEDGED _____

AMOUNT GIVEN ALL IN ONE PLEDGE DONATION _____

AMOUNT TO BE PLEDGED MONTHLY _____

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All who pledge will be listed as supporters of Oregon Buddhist Temple

Any person who pledges above \$300.00 may also be listed as a member of
Buddhist Churches of America

On behalf of Oregon Buddhist Temple
to all of you who have made a pledge donation
to OBT

In Gassho,
We thank you

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
December 2017 Donations**

***In memory of Kay N. Toyooka,
Fumie Toyooka & Lulu C. Lee***
Martin & Carol Lee

In memory of Irene Junko Stumpf
Richard D. Stumpf

In memory of Hiroshi Yamauchi
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

In memory of George M. Watanabe
Michael & Janice Ishii

In memory of Seigo & Shizue Sugihara
Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

In memory of Hiroshi Matsushima
Christopher Lee
Setsy & Chip Larouche

In memory of Kumiko Toda
Beatrice Saito

Ami Kinoshita 1st year memorial
Jayne & Shinya Ichikawa
Etsu & Herb Osaki

In memory of Mary Fujii
Thomas T. Fujii

In honor of Tomo & Fumi Saito
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(*OBT Youth Activities Fund*)
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