



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

December 2020

Amida, Music of Purity Reverend Yuki Sugahara

The delicate, wondrous sounds of jewel-trees in the jewel-forests

*Are a naturally pure and harmonious music,
Unexcelled in subtlety and elegance,
So take refuge in Amida, the music of purity. [39]*

(This message is a modified version of the message I gave at the NWD Joint Music Service on November 22, 2020 on Seattle Betsuin's YouTube Channel)

I cannot believe that it's already December! The year 2020 was like a roller coaster, starting with Hikaru's pneumonia, the pandemic, cancellation of the Obon festival, the chaos of the presidential election, success of the online fundraiser, and now we are welcoming the last month of this year 2020. I hope I am able to see you in person next year just as we used to do.

I don't know what your image of Shinran Shonin is, but, he was really a talented person. He created a lot of Wasans. Wasan literally means praising in Japanese, but is often translated as hymns. He created over 500 Wasans with the style of poem called Imayo. Imayo means "modern" and it was popular in Shinran Shonin's time.

I am not sure if you are familiar with Hyakunin Isshu, but this is a classic Japanese card game using classical poems. I am not sure if the melody of the poem stays the same from olden days or not, but it sounds close to the chanting of Wasans.

So, when we say poem, it also means singing. Shinran Shonin used a popular style of singing among the people called Imayo to explain the Pure Land teaching. The emperor Gotoba loved Imayo so much and sang it so much that there is a record saying he hurt his throat by doing so.

I am not sure of the Shinran Shonin's style of propagation, but, he might have sung the Wasan at the beginning of Dharma gatherings followed by explanation of the meaning.

Today's Wasan I shared at the beginning praises one of the virtues of Amida Buddha as Music of Purity, but what does this mean? According to the Japanese Jodo Shinshu Dictionary, Amida Buddha is called the Music of Purity

because Amida Buddha established the Pure Land where we hear the pure sound of music.

There are also side notes on this Wasan poem which could have been written by Shinran Shonin or by another person.

Sounds means: the branches of the trees, the waters of the ponds, and the things that work and move – these all, without exception, produce the sound of dharma.

So basically everything in the Pure Land produces the sound of Dharma.

Pure and harmonious means the softness of the sounds of the notes, kung, shang, chiao, cheng, and yu on the ancient Chinese scale. If you know music, these five notes on the Western scale are C, D, E, G, A. These five notes comprise the C major pentatonic scale. In the Larger Sutra, it doesn't specifically mention these five notes, but maybe these were the popular notes of the music around Shinran Shonin's time. What is important is that all the notes have different names, but produce beautiful harmony. To produce beautiful harmony each sound should respect the other sounds. Otherwise harmony is displaced by discord.

In our world, we divide things with our self-centered judgment of like, dislike, good, bad, right or wrong. We see this happening with regards to color, race, ethnicity, belief, religion. By judging people in this way, unfortunately, we lose harmony. The realm of the Pure Land teaches us that listening and respecting each other produces the beautiful sound of harmony.

So all the sounds in the Pure Land produce the sound of Dharma. This world is not the Pure Land, but when we accept the singing voice of birds, stream of river, sound of trees, any sound as the sound recommending us to listen to the Dharma, we begin to appreciate all the sounds around us.

When Rennyo Shonin was about to pass away, one of his disciples named Kuzen brought a nightingale to ease Rennyo Shonin's mind. I am not sure how nightingale sing in English but in Japanese, nightingale sing in "ho hokekyo." So, Nichiren followers listen to nightingale's voice as "Dharma, Lotus Sutra..." because Ho is Dharma and hokekyo is the Lotus Sutra.

But, Rennyo Shonin listened to the nightingale sing and said "Nightingale is saying 'ho wo kikeyo... listen to the dharma.'" How embarrassing if I don't listen to the dharma..."

So, he asked Kuzen to read one of the Letters of Rennyo and appreciated the nembutsu teaching. In accordance with Shinran Shonin's teaching so he was appreciating. With this

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

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

understanding, I think any sound in our daily lives could be the sound of Dharma. For instance, sound of trees shaking could be the sound to teach us that “even in difficult time like going against the wind, stand straight and strong and you will be alright.” Sound of the river teaches us how our lives are flowing without pause, in other words, how our lives are impermanent.

So again, this world is not the Pure Land, but all the sounds we hear might be the manifestation of Amida Buddha, trying to teach us the importance of listening to the Dharma, to realize how foolish it is to rely on our self-centered judgment, and the importance of respecting each other.

Gassho

2021 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
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 Rev. Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtoportland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com

December Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of December. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the December 13 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. If a name is missing, incorrect, or prior to 1950, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Anderson, Douglas William 12/4/2011	Kimura, Harue 12/8/1993 *	Sasaki, Tsunetaro 12/12/1966
Ando, Bob Minoru 12/26/1998	Kinoshita, Eugene Hiroshi 12/5/1974	Sarusaka, Shige 12/19/1950
Ando, Frank Susumu 12/5/1988	Kobayashi, Nobuo 12/21/1978	Shiiki, Riziko 12/5/1960
Aoki, Kotaro 12/31/1968	Kono, Shinayo 12/20/1991	Shiraishi, Setsuko 12/23/1973
Azuma, Teikichi 12/14/1965	Kristiansen, Tomie Fujita 12/27/2001	Shitasa, Fumi, 12/4/1986
Endo, Shige 12/9/1950	Liebowitz, Daniel 12/8/2007	Stumpf Junko Irene 12/12/2001
Fujii, James 12/3/2013	Masuoka, Baiichi 12/12/1952	Tachibana, Genpei 12/14/1962
Fujii, Sekitaro 12/5/1967	Matsushima, Hiroshi 12/18/2017	Takeda, Satoko 12/28/2000 *
Giese, Hiroko 12/4/2004	Minami, Nobuichi 12/11/1982	Takeuchi, Melvin Susumu 12/3/2011
Hayashi, Irene 12/28/2004 *	Miura, Rin 12/4/2005 *	Takeuchi, Robert 12/25/2015
Hirai, Shijiro 12/12/1956	Miyoshi, MaryTokiko 12/6/2005 *	Tamiyasu, Ikuma 12/7/1984 *
Hirota, Shizuko 12/27/1994	Naito, Kimi 12/14/2004	Tateishi, Yoshimasa 12/16/1960
Ichikawa, Yasashi 12/29/1999 *	Nishimoto, Hatsumi 12/27/1999	Tomohiro, Risuke 12/30/1961
Ikata, Rose 12/20/2019*	Nishino, Aya 12/18/1978 *	Tsuji, Haru 12/13/1984 *
Ikeda, Kaneo 12/31/2000	Okabe, Sayo 12/27/1976	Uyeda, Chiyono 12/2/1959 *
Inouye, Grace Yoshiko 12/20/1992 *	Okita, George 12/23/2011	Uyeda, Matsuo 12/10/2007
Iwai, Yoshiro James 12/3/1998	Okita, Matoichi 12/13/1956	Wahl, Takeko 12/27/2018
Iwashita, Kasuga 12/21/1973 *	Okita, Chiho 12/25/2015*	Woodworth, Eugene 12/21/2013
Inuzuka, Ko 12/24/1959	Okubo, Shizu 12/28/1962 *	Yabuki, Kameji 12/18/1953
Kasahara, May 12/30/2017	Onchi, George 12/20/1990	Yasutome, Sadayo 12/24/1974 *
Kato, Tony 12/16/1998	Ouchida, Jack 12/1/2000	Yoshida, Kumakichi 12/12/1958
Kayama, Giichi 12/30/1979	Sasaki, Kosaku 12/21/1983	Yuzuriha, Zoichi 12/13/1975

*OBWA member

President's Column

Cathy Yarne, OBT President

Dear Sangha,

By the time you receive this newsletter, Thanksgiving will have past. However I'm still bubbling over with gratitude. OBT's first virtual fundraiser was a huge success. Not only was it an enjoyable evening, it was also a very successful fundraiser.

Thank you to the awesome event committee: Marilyn Achterman, Ryan Davis, Ken Garner, Angie Hughes, Jayne Ichikawa, Yuki Sugahara. Special thanks to Ryan & Angie who spearheaded this event.

Thank you to all the talented performers: Yasuko Fields, Ken Garner, Mayu Garner, Daniel, Wynn and Traci Kiyama, Miyoko Maeda, Yasuko Fields, Charles Reneau, Yuki Sugahara, Nancy Walseth, Todd, Elaine and Joy Yuzuriha, the Dharma School students and the Minidoka Swing Band. Thank you to everyone who made a donation!

Other things I am thankful for:

With the cancelation of all of OBT's typical fundraisers, (spring food bazaar, Obon, Craft fair, Sukiyaki food bazaar and mochitsuki) many of you have made special donations! Thank you for your generosity.

Hooray! The election is over. This election created a lot of anxiety and divisiveness. Hopefully we can now move-on toward a more unified, tolerant and cooperative nation.

I'm also excited about the news of covid-19 vaccines possibly in the next 2 -3 months. Even though it may not be available to non-essential workers for months, there is hope that our lives might return back to normal before the end of 2021. In the meantime, I'm so thankful for everyone who is acting responsibly and taking extra measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

This will be my last newsletter article for 2020 so it's my final opportunity to recognize Rev Sugahara. The pandemic has made us rethink how we connect with our Sangha. With the support of the Buddhist Education Committee (BEC) Rev. Sugahara has stepped up to meet these special challenges. OBT continues to have daily services, weekly services, dharma school, dharma exchange, and study groups - all virtually. Thank you very much Rev. Sugahara.

A belated, Happy Thanksgiving!

Gassho,

Cathy Yarne

Pledges

Alfred Ono

This crazy year is finally rolling or crawling to a close. The ups and downs will, hopefully, soon flatten out if we all markedly decrease the spreading of the virus by wearing a mask when around others and staying away from people other than your immediate family (Mother, Father, your kids). For now, Facetime or Zoom your extended family, friends and

limit your exposure to strangers. One infected sneeze, cough or just infected talking spray from an infected person is all that all that it takes to give you the virus infection, then spread it innocently to others.

A vaccine is coming but it will still take a lot of time for it to be safely approved, then distributed for you to get a shot or two and finally for your body to create antibodies. Remember, the vaccine is not a cure but it is a preventative.

Even with our short physical time together at the Temple, OBT has still collected \$26,600 in pledges for 2020 from 81 Supporters of OBT.

Even better, we collected a huge amount from donations at the wonderful zoom music festival last week. Good job to all who put it together.

With your pledges and donations, 2020 should be covered even without our usual fundraising events that did not occur this year.

However, with 2021 coming soon, Oregon Buddhist Temple again needs your support to keep the temple building in good condition while it waits for our return. We also need your support for Reverend Sugahara who has been "zooming" along with daily readings, Sunday services and study classes. Thank you, Reverend Yuki.

With most of 2020 happening virtually, I hope that if EVERYONE will follow the Covid precautions, the virus will have no place to go and will die out. Then we will be able to get together in the Hondo to hear the Dharma.

Stay safe and healthy, have Happy Holidays and have a Happy New Year.

Alfred Ono

Pledge Chairperson

The Pledge Donation form for 2021 is on page 11

Oregon Buddhist Women's Association

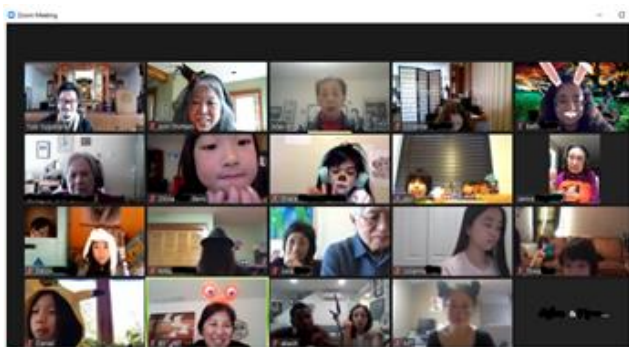
Jayne Ichikawa

See page 8. Reporting next month: Pat Hokama

Dharma School

Ann Shintani

We are excited to see and hear everyone at our virtual Dharma School classes. We are fortunate to have thoughtful, friendly, and technically adept teachers in Beth, Elaine, Mai Thi, and Marilyn. I do my best as a teacher, too. On November 1st, and in lieu of Halloween visitations, Dharma School invited guests to our virtual class. Jean Matsumoto, Janice Okamoto, June and Stan Shiigi, and Alice Tano joined us. It was a nice visit.



On Nov. 21st, we had another Dharma School supply pick-up in the temple parking lot. Along with activities, hand-made face masks (thanks to Carol Saiget) and snacks, we are proud to present OBT Dharma School's "SANGHA - 2021 Calendar". As parents stopped by, some with students, we heard that families are doing as well as can be expected, and are appreciative of the connection and continuity that OBT virtual classes give to students. In addition to student art of people of Jodo Shinshu, our calendar has OBT's activities. We thank Carolyn Saiget for her generous donation of handmade face masks, thoughtfully sized for our students and volunteers.

SANGHA - 2021 Calendar To download and print your link to <https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/dharma-school-calendar>

If you wish to order a hardcopy, send an email to dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Write your name and mailing address to request an 11" x 17" calendar (to defray to cost of printing and postage, we ask for \$8.50 donation, sent to the temple, for "DS Calendar"). Supply is very limited.

Bodhi Day We are looking forward to share student messages during our Dec. 6th virtual Bodhi Day service. Several of our students are preparing video presentations, to be shared by Sensei. Our Bodhi Day theme is "Change".

We are grateful to the following for their dedication: Sugahara Sensei, our Dharma School teachers, Ann, Beth, Elaine, Marilyn, and Mai Thi; and Maho for her photos (including art). We also thank our many temple volunteers/supporters for maintaining our temple: providing on-line services, donating financially, and making difficult decisions to keep us safe.

Happy Holidays!

Ann Shintani on behalf of Dharma School

Buddhist Study Class via Zoom



Intermediate Class:
Reading The Three Pure Land Sutras – encountering the teaching which the Buddhas enjoyed

When: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 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 Tannisho.

The next class will be December 2 on Chapter 17 and 18 and the Postscript.

Excerpt from the Postscript

I know nothing at all of good and evil. For if I could know thoroughly, as Amida Tathagata knows, that an act was good, then I would be good. If I could know thoroughly, as the Tathagata knows, that an act is evil, then I would know evil. But with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this fleeting world - this burning house - all matters without exception are empty and false, totally without truth and sincerity. The nembutsu alone is true and real.

The article below by OBT Board member Mai Thi La is written to help make board members more accessible to temple members.

A Time for Reflection and Looking Ahead



Mai Thi La

A few months ago I watched a Korean drama on Netflix called "It's Okay to Not be Okay". I don't usually like romantic Korean dramas but one of the reasons I enjoyed this series is because of the short children's stories told throughout the show. One of the show's main characters is a children's book author. Her book is read every few episodes. The books in the series are fictional.

I want to share one of the stories from the drama, entitled *The Boy Who Fed on Nightmares*. The story revolves around a boy who suffered from nightmares due to bad memories he could not forget. Because of such memories, the boy became afraid of falling asleep. Therefore, one day he asked a witch to erase his memories, and in exchange, he promised to do anything she asked. The witch agreed and removed his memories. As years went by, even though the boy stopped having nightmares, he was still unhappy. Then one day, the witch reappeared to take away the boy's soul. Before doing so, the boy asked the witch why he was unhappy even though he stopped having nightmares. She replied that only those that remember painful memories can overcome the memories. If those memories are lost, a person cannot become stronger and will remain "a kid whose soul never grows".

I thought about *The Boy Who Fed on Nightmares* lately because as we are nearing the end of 2020, I am sure many of us would like to "forget" what happened this year and start 2021 with a blank slate. But as the story mentioned, if we

forget the pandemic, global wildfires, riots, and other events that happened this year, we will never learn or grow. Therefore, as we prepare for a new year, I hope we become stronger, more compassionate individuals who will make 2021 better than what 2020 was.

Bodhi Day (Jodo-e)

This is the day to commemorate Shakyamuni Buddha's attainment of Awakening. According to legend, the historic event took place on December 8 as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example, Shakyamuni demonstrated that it was possible for man to become a Buddha – a fully Awakened Person. All human beings, therefore, are in possession of this potentiality – Buddha Nature – which, when awakened and cultivated, enables them to achieve supreme wisdom and compassion. This day signifies the dawn of humanity's emancipation from suffering and unawareness.

From the book, Jodo Shinshu A Guide

Blind Passion - Bonno



Reverend Yasuo Izumi
Buddhist Temple of Southern
Alberta

I hope readers are all well despite the difficult, inconvenient, and also painful time.

Covid-19 pandemic is still threatening our lives. Though we hear a vaccine is coming we do not know when. We have not seen any light at the end of the dark tunnel yet. It is difficult to imagine that already more than one million precious lives have perished in the world to this pandemic. The number is rapidly increasing. In these numbers young people are also included.

I remember one line in the chapter on White Ashes written by Renryo of the Hongwanji: "The fragile nature of human existence underlies both young and old." This is not a pessimistic view but a realistic one. The reality of impermanence is always with us. And yet we can hardly think and recognize the harsh reality of life.

Sometime ago, a young mother died. During the funeral service I read White Ashes. Later that day, her daughter asked me for the copy of White Ashes. She said, "These words struck my heart during Mom's funeral service and I would like to keep them for the reminder of the changing nature of human life which my Mom showed me."

Through the death of her dear mother, she for the first time realized the life of impermanence and at the same time, I am sure, she touched the light of Amida's compassion which embraced her. I am sure amid her sadness and loneliness she would start her new life with a smile and courage, knowing

that each life is so precious and sacred shown by the light of Amida.

By the way, in the beginning I used an English expression: we have not seen any light at the end of the dark tunnel. This expression or rather metaphor is interesting to me. According to this, we are in a dark tunnel without light. In the darkness we think negative things such as "Are my loving family members going to die? Am I also going to die?"

In the darkness there is tremendous fear and we feel the life of uncertainty, insecure and alone. The darkness snatches our dream and hope away

But in Buddhism it says Buddha's light is always shining everywhere and any time and embraces all sentient beings equally. Shinran Shonin wrote in one of his poems: "The light of wisdom exceeds all measure. And every finite living being receives this illumination/so take refuge in Amida, the true and real light."

Furthermore, Buddhism tells us that our blind passions lead us to reject the light of Amida. In Shoshinge, written by Shinran, it says: "Though the light of the sun is veiled by clouds and mists, / Beneath the clouds and mists there is brightness, not dark." Clouds and mists represent our blind passions, bonno within us. Buddha's light is always and constantly shining on our blind passions coming out of our ignorance. Amida's light shines and embraces us and nurtures our heart and mind constantly. No matter how strong our blind passions may be, the light of Amida Buddha who is deeply concerned about the life of all sentient beings moves in and becomes one with us. Yes, Amida Buddha of wisdom and compassion expressed in namo amida butsu is always with us, grasps us and never abandons us. We are not alone. We will never be alone. Even in darkness we are embraced as we are by Amida. Knowing this we recite namo amida butsu with deep gratitude and live peacefully and courageously.

In Gassho, Yasuo Izumi, Minister
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta

The below is an excerpt of a June 14, 2020 Dharma talk by Rev. Harry Bridge of Oakland Buddhist Temple.

What Do You Believe, as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist?

Doctrinal

- Impermanence - All things change
- Interdependence – all things are interconnected
- Emptiness (of inherent existence) - things exist only in relation to other things

Values and Ideals

- Kindness
- Compassion
- Equality – a universal religion for everybody; rejection of castes system

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 but anytime. Thank you.

February	Hoonko
March	Spring Ohigan
April	Hanamatsuri
May	Gotan-E Shinran 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

Thank you for your consideration!

Gassho,
Yuki Sugahara
Resident Minister
Oregon Buddhist Temple

Oregon Buddhist Temple is closed until further notice

Answers to last month's "What and when were these events?" question



Top photo: no answer provided

Middle left photo: OBT and OBWA officers' installation, 2000

Bottom photo: Hatsumairi service, July or August 1970

Right photo: Shiigi's home for book discussion, 2000



Oregon Buddhist Temple October Donations

In memory of Shig Yuzuriha

Jean Matsumoto
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Katie Tamiyasu

In memory of Masao Tamiyasu

Katie & Ed Tamiyasu

SHOTSUKI HOYO / LOTUS CIRCLE***In memory of Masako Ando***

Diane Ando Harder
Roberta Ando

In memory of Seigo & Shizue Sugihara,

Yozo & Sen Sunamoto, Denny Creed,
Leonardo & Sachiko Montes DeOca
Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

In memory of Kichizo & Asayo Noji

Linda Tamura

In memory of Hatsue Helen Sadamoto

Setsy & Chip Larouche

In memory of Lennie Tanaka

Nancy Clayton

In memory of mother, Masumi

Nancy Lee Takeuchi

In memory of Dad***In memory of sister, Mae Nakano***

Alice Tano

Thank you, Rev. Sugahara

Robert & Susan Yoneda
Sumie Ishida

Special donations

June & Stan Shiigi (2020 Fund Drive)
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner
(Sukiyaki bazaar)
James & Judith Nakashima
Julia Yoshimoto & Surinder Singh
Amy Peterson (Fall fundraiser)
Roberta Ando (BCA Dana Program)
Dana Kakishita (Benefit concert)

Special donations

Lily Meiners (in honor of
Amy Peterson's kindness)
G. Jeanette Prince-Cherry (Visitor)
Darryl Yagi
Dana Kakishita
Gary Higashi
Kent M. Matsuda
Beverly Aaby
Connie Masuoka
Kory Quon
Marianne Pho
James Bartlett
Matthew Mackintosh
Paul Telles

Ohigan / Eitaikyo

Amy Peterson
Katie Tamiyasu
Sumiko Kosobayashi

2020 Annual Pledge

Alice Ando
Jeanette Hager

***Monthly/quarterly/semi-
annual pledge donations***
Jean Matsumoto
Diane Ando Harder
Pat Hokama
Nancy Walseth
Susan Endecott
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson

***Donation acknowledgements
are mailed for donations of
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on the OBT mailing list, and
to any donor upon request.
sjendecott@gmail.com***

Thank you for your continued support

Thank you to the Donors of In the Spirit of Giving: An Evening of Music with OBT

Ackerson and Lilly	Erik and Susan	Inanaga	Michiko	Sasaki	Alvin and Donna
Anand	Donna	Kiyama	Wynn and Traci	Schmal	Kendra
Ando	Roberta	Kusunoki	Katsuya	Schumann	John and June
Choy & Kono	Randy and Kim	Kwong	Justin	Shiigi	Stan and June
Clayton	Nancy	La	Mai Thi	Stoeller and Shikatani	William and Cathy
Corbett	Tom	Larouche	Chip and Setsy	Winner and Shintani	Scott and Ann
Davis and Hughes	Ryan and Angie	Laverdure	Patti	IMO past Dharma School teachers	
Dozono	Sho and Loen	Leedham	Chris and Susan	Wong	Kristin
Endecott	Susan	Murakami	Ron and Karen	Yamami	Steve and Lani
Fugate	Jerry and Brenda	Moro	Marlene	Yanase	Craig and Lisa
Fukunaga	Ray and Lori	Nakabayashi	Kemi	Yarne and Liwag	Lynn and Luis
Hager	Jeanette	Nakano.	Jeffrey	Yasui	Roger and Carolyn
Harada	Marvin	Nist	Paul IMO Chie Nakamichi	Yokoyama	Jenna
Higley and Schmal	Tyler and Ash	Okamoto	Janice	Yoshimoto	Julia
Hokama	Pat	Ono	Al and Eileen	Yuzuriha	Todd and Elaine
Ichikawa	Shinya and Jayne	Pho	Marianne	Anonymous	
Ichikawa	Jeff	Reneau	Charles	Anonymous	
Ichikawa	David	Saiget	William and Carolyn	Anonymous	

Basement Repair Update

The work in the basement is progressing. Basically the main room, restrooms, elevator room and part of the kitchen have been sanitized and damaged areas have been removed. These first steps involved several days to allow things to dry out, removal of asbestos, clearing out and storing our possessions and sanitizing one more time. The next steps involve getting an estimated cost for repairs and coordinating with our insurance company before proceeding with the actual replacement work.

Having had no experience in this type of situation, I'm quickly learning to be patient. This project involves communication and coordination between several different elements and people. In addition the pandemic can hinder things also. Hopefully work can begin the first week of December.

To take advantage of the situation the Board has approved several updates and changes that will improve ease of care, functionality and appearance. These improvements will not be covered by insurance. (Details will be shared later).



Kitchen



Woman's restroom

OBWA News

Jayne Ichikawa

I am the OBWA reporter for this month and since the temple has been closed for many months including the cancellation of OBWA meetings and activities, I thought many of you might like to hear from our members about themselves during this pandemic. I know we miss each other but hope these personal messages will be enjoyed and appreciated:

I sent out this questionnaire to many of our OBWA members and hoped they would reply. During the pandemic:

- Books I have read and enjoyed
- Movies that I have watched on TV
- Tried these great recipes
- Discovered a new hobby or talent
- Ways to socialize

Instead of filling in their responses I have included them as I received them. Thanks for all your wonderful responses, OBWA ladies
Jayne

Carol S.

Books: American Sutra (Duncan Williams) Still a favorite that every Japanese American should read.

Movies: Queen's Gambit

Recipes: Zucchini Noodles, Pumpkin Chocolate Chip cookies

Hobby or talent: need to learn how to ride my electric assist bike

Socialize: Zoom, Face Time

Etsu's suggestion

Teriyaki Priest by Rev Jerry Hirano. Chapter on "Santa's Golden Chain." Taylor's mother explains how Buddhists can celebrate Christmas. She explains that Jesus had a thing called the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Buddhists recite the Golden Chain which has similar thoughts. So on Christmas morning Taylor went in front of the shrine and repeated "Namu Amida Butsu", thank you, Buddha.

Amv P.

Don't have time to read books but reading the newsletter and Wheel of Dharma
Not movies but series, the good witch, coroner, masked singer, midnight diner
I've not really tried any new recipes, but have tweaked a few trying to make them gluten free or to make them better.
Nothing new, but cleaning house, purging old records, old photos, old books, etc.
Trying to keep i touch with older friends and relatives.
I socialize on Marco Polo (phone app), Zoom, Facebook and plain old phone.
Also social distancing mostly outdoors
Hope you're doing OK. Thanks for checking in.
I do need to check in again with Fusako.
Have dropped food off to Mae Watari and some others a couple of times.

Pat H.

Books I've enjoyed: "Lilac Girls", "All the Light We Cannot See", "The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee".
New Recipes I've liked: salt and pepper pork loin, 20 minute ma-por tofu, Korean fried rice.
Movies: Mulan on Disney and many Korean/Chinese dramas
Hobby: not specifically this category, but working on 1000 piece Christmas puzzle
Socializing all by virtual meetings. Actually I see more friends this way than during "normal" times since they live far away (California, Seattle, Japan)

Kivomi D.

It's so sad that we are back to "lock down" again...my gym is closed again from yesterday till mid-December.
I was just starting to shed some of the weight I gained during the 3 months lockdown in Spring. Yikes!
Since we did not have manju sessions at temple this year, I started to crave for anko but I don't like store-bought anko.
And, I didn't want to stand/guard at the stove for a couple of hours or more to make anko.
So, I found a way to make anko in a rice cooker. Here's how I do it.
1/2 cup raw azuki - rinse (no need to soak overnight)
Put the raw azuki in rice cooker, add water to 3-cup line, and start normal rice cooking cycle.
It will go on for a couple of hours. Check the azuki in 1.5-2 hours. It's cooked when beans are really soft.
Add 0.4 cup of sugar, a pinch of salt, and 3/4 cup of water to the cooked azuki. Stir.
Start the normal rice cooking cycle again. Check the doneness after 20 minutes.
Done!!
The beauty is you don't have to spend hours in front of stove.
The rice cooker automatically goes off when water is all evaporated.
I love the anko with cream cheese on bagel, or on buttered toast.
(No wonder I gained weight during the lockdown!)

Nancy W.

- Books I have read and enjoyed Swimming Home by Deborah Levy, Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel and very good), The Bingo Palace by Louise Erdrich (discovered reading her work out loud I like it more), Dune by Frank Herbert (sci fi classic I had never read, is quite well written), The Plague by Albert Camus (this was my first pandemic choice and it was strangely soothing to read while the pandemic was first spreading because it reminded me that this has happened before and will happen again, that it is a natural phenomenon, The Nakano Thrift Shop by Hiromi Kawakami (very much liked this gentle little book and I recommend it to all), Alfred and Emily by Doris Lessing (she imagines a different life for her parents if no WWI had happened, then the second half of the book tells what their lives were really like in the context of WWI), Upheaval by Jarrod Diamond (the only non-fiction on my list)
- Ways to socialize: Started a zoom group every other week limited to four people so that all can converse naturally! .Also zooming with my siblings.

Traci K.

I read "The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane" by Lisa See.
Wynn has been making pizza at home and trying different recipes.
We have dinner over Zoom with my mom in California regularly.

Robbi A.

- Books I have read and enjoyed

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. I don't know about 'enjoyable', but this book is a compelling, necessary and inspiring read, written by a man that no less than Desmond Tutu called "America's young Nelson Mandela" and others have deemed this generation's Martin Luther King.

- Movies that I have watched on TV
I binge watched the Netflix series 'Midnight Diner'. The ensemble cast is superb and I love the postscript focus on the featured food dish of the episode. The only downside, being required to read the English subtitles.
- Tried these great recipes
The Woks of Life is a wonderful Chinese American blog produced by a mom, dad and 2 daughters. This year I've made several of their sauces including a very tasty and very spicy (a little dab will do you) chili oil <https://thewoksoflife.com/how-to-make-chili-oil/> Join their email list to get regular updates to their recipe collection.

Katie T.

- Books I have read and enjoyed "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford (only one of my favorites)
- Movies that I have watched on TV "Crazy Rich Asians" recent "free" movie ON DEMAND
- Tried these great recipes (No suggestions)
- Discovered a new hobby or talent (No suggestions)
- Ways to socialize: OBT's "Happy Hour" on Zoom was enjoyable, hope to have more!

Diane H.

Although it's been 8 months of mostly staying at home, the time has gone by quickly and when asked these questions, I wonder what have I been doing all this time? My old standby is "downsizing/cleaning" but the results are minimal for the time spent. Hope all is well with you and family, miss seeing everyone at Temple!

Books: Reference books regarding Gardening

Movies/TV: I've discovered Zoom classes-mostly on Gardening (native & edible plants, weed control, pollinators, insect control). Also enjoyed the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimage series "Tadama"

Recipes: I keep finding new recipes to try but no outstanding winners. I did find a new way to do teriyaki chicken in "Just One Cookbook" by Nami; she has lots of simple Japanese recipes that are pretty tasty.

New Hobby: Gardening, or was that weeding?

Socialize: During the warmer/dry weather I was organizing my "coffee/exercise" group to bring lunch to various parks while maintaining our socially correct distance.

Alice Tano

I have been watching Rev Sugahara's services online. I miss seeing everyone at the temple.

Chris D

I decided to do a couple of big projects during the pandemic. Main outside project: I had dug a ditch for a french drain in the back, behind the bedrooms. So, this was the time to finish the french drain (all 63 feet of it), landscape, make a paver patio, and create a nice sitting area in the shade of some big alder trees. Main inside project: Wanted to document the bon odori done at OBT and get it up on the website. Each dance would have a pdf with links to teaching video and dancing videos, information about the dance, and lyrics in Japanese with a translation (unless they were American bon odori). The older dances might not have everything but that is the goal. With Maho's help, we got that started. Also wanted to document all the media (CDs, cassettes, records, DVD, Videos, mp3 files, and mp4 files) in my collection. So, started that for my summer (when hot) and fall/winter project. Am pretty sure it will provide years of entertainment. The patio in the back was a great place to visit friends and family.

Yasuko F.

Good parts of staying home. I could lose weight since I was not eating out at restaurants, eating healthy at home. Also save lots of money! Organizing house stuff and cleaning up, it makes me feel really good! Good exercise, too! Temple services, meetings and exercise all done by Zoom work very well. Save lots of time not driving.

I like the study class of Rev. Sugahara gives us every other Wednesday. I can see some of the temple members through computer screen. It is much better than no meeting at all with them. Morning service Sensei gives us every day. His voice and the sound of the bell ringing make me feel fresh and give me energy to start the day. Thank Sensei for his efforts doing this for us.

I had a lot of practicing of playing golf this summer. Fresh air, beautiful scenery, seeing friends while keeping social distance. Not good playing yet, though!

Watching Met opera is also one of the time spending nights. Most of them are sad stories. I felt very sad when my favorite tenor had to die for his loved one. The sadness affected me a few days. Each opera lasts 3 to 4 hours every night, little too long!

Playing with my cat Nekojiro is one of our things to do every night.
Anyway, I hope we will get back to the life we used to sooner possible.

Now looking forward to seeing the new president in coming January!
Let's hope 2021 will be a great year for everyone.

Angie H

Something we really enjoyed since shortly after the pandemic started is a Wednesday night traditional hobby. We are movie watchers and we've missed going to the theaters so every Wednesday we pick a classic film to watch. It's been interesting to see Avery's reaction to them. We've watched a lot of Hitchcock, childhood favorite of ours, 30s and 40s classics, and critically acclaimed films and cult classics. The Ten Commandments was especially interesting to get through. It took us three Wednesdays! It gives us something new to talk about though.

Another tradition we've started and a way to feel more social (since we used to eat out at restaurants frequently) is to play themed music over Pandora to match whatever cuisine we're having that night. It adds a little something and spaghetti night becomes an Italian restaurant with a little background music. These things give us something to look forward to and add a little flavor :)

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Pledge for 2021

Here is my pledge to show support for Oregon Buddhist Temple

NAME/NAMES _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

E MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Please give us the above information so OBT can have an updated listing

I/WE WILL PLEDGE _____

AMOUNT TO BE GIVEN IN ONE AMOUNT _____

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All who pledge in any amount will be listed as supporters of
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Those pledging \$300 or more will be listed with BCA as members of
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