

Opening the 106th year on the Oregon



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PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

January 2009



Awakening to our true selves

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Happy New Year! I hope that this New Year will bring much happiness, warmth and fulfillment to all of you. Personally, I don't consider 2009 to be the Year of the Ox (or whatever), I think of it as the Year of Social Equality. We have a president-elect of mixed heritage. Also, for the second time one of our major political parties ran a woman for election in the vice-presidential slot. Hollywood success has ceased to be based on ethnicity (as was asked recently on a television show, "of what ethnicity is Jessica Alba?"). I won't go so far as some who claim that America has overcome racism altogether. Still, we are waking up to the challenge of living mindful of the fundamental principle of Buddhist tradition – the equal worthiness of all persons, the equal value of all living things.

I hope many of you will come to our Ho On Ko seminar with Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto on January 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rev. Matsumoto's theme will be "Buddhist Thoughts on Social Equality". Please come out to hear him explain Buddhist perspectives on equality. Matsumoto Sensei is highly trained in Buddhist studies (MA from IBS, PhD from Ryukoku University). As a Japanese American of the baby boomer generation he grew up in a time when prejudice against Japanese and Japanese Americans was strong in North America. Also, as the father of a son coping with Downs syndrome, he knows that ethnicity is not the only basis upon which people suffer discrimination. His presentation will be based on a real-life struggle with discrimination as well as reflecting a strong grounding in Buddhist thought. There is, of course, no charge to attend and you don't have to stay for the whole day. Just drop in for an hour or so if that's all the time you can spare from your schedule on Saturday January 17th.

As most of you know, our temple will host the Northwest District Buddhist Convention February 13th - 15th at the Doubletree Hotel at Lloyd's Center. We hope

that many of you attend. Even if you can't make the whole convention, please come out for the closing Service Sunday Morning at Lloyd's Center Double Tree. At that time we will certify two Minister's Assistants, Ms. Tammy Herold and Ms. Cynthia Wong. Also, we will honor two of our long-time, hard-working, lay leaders by naming them "Honorary Minister's Assistants". I don't want to ruin the surprise as only board members have been told which two life-long OBT members we are honoring. Please try to come out February 15, learn who these two women are, and see them acknowledged for their long years of supporting our temple. Allow me to thank those of you who are already working hard to prepare for this Buddhist convention.

Besides presenting the Ho On Ko Seminar on January 17th, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto will also be the speaker for our Ho On Ko service the next day. At 9:30 a.m. on January 18th Matsumoto Sensei will deliver a brief Japanese-language message. At 10 a.m. that morning he will deliver an English language Dharma message as part of our main service honoring our denominational founder, Shinran Shonin. Please come out for this service if you possibly can.

Again, I wish all good things for you in this fresh year of 2009, the Year of Equality.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

January Highlights

Jan 1	New Year's Service, Shusho-E	10 am
Jan 9	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Jan 17	Hoonko Seminar	10 am
Jan 18	Hoonko Service	9:30 am
Jan 25	OBT New Year's Luncheon	11:30 am

**OBT 2009 Membership registration form is attached.
OBT New Year's luncheon order form is attached.**

"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

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Hoonko Seminar

Etsu Osaki

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto will speak on "Buddhist Thoughts on Social Equality" on Saturday, January 17th, 10 am to 4 pm at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. This Hoonko Seminar is held annually to honor the memorial day of Shinran Shonin, founder of the Jodo Shinshu Sect of Buddhism.

Renouncing any discrimination is central to Buddhist spirituality. Please come to share your thoughts on social equality with one of the most highly trained Shinshu priests in the West.

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto received his PhD. from Ryukoku University in Kyoto. He is currently the resident minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple while also serving as a Professor at the Institute of Buddhist Studies where he received one of his Master's degrees.

Special thanks to those who braved the freezing, snowy weather on Sunday, December 14 to make Mochitsuki a success once again. This is an event that allows members to socialize and get to know each other while working in a festive atmosphere. Production was smooth and efficient and everybody now has mochi for the New Year and beyond.

Mark and Marilyn Achterman, chairpersons



Summary notes of December 12 OBT board meeting

Judy Hittle, OBT Secretary

- Alan Kasubuchi and Ken Kawazoe completed the annual audit of the OBT financial system, for the Fiscal Year 2008.
- Iko No Kai situation has been delayed. OBT members are encouraged to speak to Board members about their opinion regarding Iko No Kai using the OBT facilities.
- JACL Mochitsuki will be on January 17th, which is the same day as our Hoonko Seminar with Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto. Rev. Gibbs is encouraging everyone to attend this seminar which has a theme, "Buddhist Thoughts on Social Equality".
- OBT incoming board members are: Ken Garner, Janie Matsushima, David Wright, Yoshi Ono. The 2009 officers are: President - Yoshi Ono; Vice President - Kim Kono; Secretary - Ken Garner.
- NW District Convention Committee is seeking sponsors for the convention.
- The 2009 National Council Meeting will be held in

February in Irvine, CA.

- OBT New Year's Party - January 25th (see attached order form)
- OBT's fiscal year will be the calendar year beginning in 2009 (January - December) instead of (October-September), which it has been for several years.

The next OBT Board meeting is on January 9, 2009, at 7 p.m. The board meets every second Friday of the month. OBT members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex, or contact the OBT Secretary.

OBT is hosting the Northwest Buddhist Convention February 13th - 15th, 2009

See the attached form



OBWA news

June Shiigi

Happy New Year from the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association! The OBWA Cabinet for 2009 is as follows:

President:	Alice Ando
Vice President:	Katie Tamiyasu
Recording Sec. (E):	Tomiko Takeuchi & Cynthia Wong
Recording Sec. (J):	Yasuko Fields & Kiyomi Dickinson
Corresponding Sec. (E):	Alice Tano & Nancy Kajitsu
Corresponding Sec. (J):	Kyoko Gibbs & Julie Kagawa
Treasurers:	Tammy Herold & Grace Ishikawa
Advisor:	Etsu Osaki

OBWA gratefully acknowledges donations from Josephine Uyeda (88th Birthday), Mary T. Yamaguchi (special), Mary Asakawa (88th Birthday), Sharon Yasui Carrell (donation from luggage tags) and donations from the Past Members Memorial Service.

Our New Year Party will be at Holladay Park Plaza (Penthouse), 1300 NE 16th Ave., Portland on Saturday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m. Reply by January 15 to Tomiko Takeuchi (503-661-1579) or Alice Ando (503-256-9086). Please bring non-perishable food, cash donations or toiletries (unopened freebies from hotels OK) for FISH (a nonprofit org.- neighbor helping neighbor). FISH really appreciates OBWA's donations for the past 5 years. They will need our help more so this year.

We encourage everyone to sign up and attend the 2009 NW Buddhist Convention in Portland, February 13 to 15.

New books in the library

Etsu Osaki

Children's Books

- *What the Pumpkin Learned: An Ancient Buddhist Tale*, retold

by Sybil Taylor, illustrated by June Atkin, Heian International, Torrance, CA, 32 pages. A beautifully illustrated book, quarreling pumpkins learn a lesson about interdependence.

- *Siddhartha and the Swan* by Adiccabandhu and Padmasri, Windhorse Publishing, Birmingham, Gr. Britain, 1998, 26 pages. The story of Siddhartha and Devadatta is retold with bright illustrations.
- *The Bicycle Man* by Allen Say, Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston, 1982. "A gentle story of a group of Japanese children meeting two American Soldiers after the war."
- *Kamishibai Man* by Allen Say, Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston, 2005, 31 pages. Kamishibai means "paper theater." In Japan children would come running at the sounds of wooden clappers. It would be the man who told stories and gave out candies.
- *The Sign Painter* by Allen Say, Houghton Mifflin Co: Boston, 2000, 32 pages. A boy comes into town, hungry and looking for work. He gets a job helping a sign painter.
- *Hello, Maggie* by Shigeru Yabu, illustrated by Willie Ito, Yabitoon Books, Camarillo, CA, 2007. A pet magpie brings good memories to a boy and his family during the trying days of internment.

Adult Books

- *In Defense of our Neighbors: the Walt and Milly Woodward Story* by Mary Woodward, Fenwick Publishing, Bainbridge Island:WA, 2008, 151 pages. The story of a Bainbridge couple's fight to help the Japanese Americans at the time of internment. Written by the late couple's daughter.
- *Issei, the Shadow Generation: Rooted in Japanese Values, Planted on American Soil* by Tsukasa Matsueda, Ed. D, published by Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California, San Francisco, 2006, 98 pages. This book "brings to light the subtle cultural teachings the Issei instilled in their children through everyday action and expressions."
- *Shin Sutras to Live By* edited by Ruth Tabrah and Shoji Matsumoto, Buddhist Study Center Press, Honpa Hongwanji Mission, Honolulu, HI:1989, 43 pages. (booklet). 1 - Sanbutsuge:Dharmakara's Song of Praise to His Teacher Lokeshvararaji Buddha. 2 - Junirai: Affirmation of the 48 Great Vows. 3 - Shoshinge: Shinran's song of Nembutsu.
- *Living Shin Buddhism: An Account of a Visit with Hanada Sensei* by Ruth Tabrah, edited by William Masuda, Office of Buddhist Education, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, Honolulu: 1978, 27 pages.(booklet) ancestry.



Lotus circle – November/December Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers are being provided by:

- December 28 - Michi Stoeller in memory of (imo) her grandmothers: Helena Stoeller and Kikuko Hikida Shikatani
- January 4 - Merrie Greenwood imo father Joe Chiyozo Shiramizu; Takako Ishida imo mother Tomiye Takahashi; Jean Matsumoto imo mother Mikiye
- January 11 - Open
- January 18 - Chris Dart imo brother Richard Dale

Hoverson; Mary Asakawa imo father Tokuji Kinoshita; Ben Ishida imo mother Tomeka

- January 25 - Kathie Sato imo husband Nobu

Thank you to all who are helping to spin the Lotus Circle another year. Others are welcome to join us at any time during the coming year and there are some Sundays which still remain open. Just call Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com. and pick the appropriate Sunday you would like to honor a beloved one. If you would like to know more about the Lotus Circle, call or e-mail Jean. The flowers are arranged for each Sunday service by the dedicated members of the Flower Toban and beautify our onajin. Check out the Lotus Circle page on the OBT website and submit brief memorials, pictures, poetry, etc., through Ken Garner, webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

January Toban

Terri-Ann Carrollo	Terry Courter
Chris Dart	Sumi Ishida
Grace Ishikawa	Yoshie (Julie) Kagawa
Alan Kasubuchi	Katie Kawazoe
Ken Kawazoe	Misa Kodama
Sat Kodama	Susan Lilly
Ronald Mastro	Marlene Moro
Fumi Okubo	Amy Osaki
Etsuko Osaki. Lead	Herb Osaki
Carol Saiget	Joe Wahl
Lora Wahl, Lead	Kan Yagi
Micki Yagi	Shannon Yagi
Marla Yagi	Sandie Yamauchi
Cathy Yarne	

Toban not only means "my turn" but "my chance" to show my appreciation to all the men and women whose monetary donations and hard work resulted in this beautiful place, our Temple, to hear the Dharma.

Words of Jean Matsumoto – 1995



Thank you, Brenda! Kyoko Gibbs

About a month ago I received a thick Toban file from Brenda Fugate. It was time for me to take over her job. As I looked through the file, which has been collected since 1996 and still typewritten for the first three years, I realized how many hours Brenda has spent coordinating the Toban schedules for us, and how patient she has been through it all.

I'd like to recognize her working tirelessly for us and ask that we give her our sincere appreciation. Thank you very much !!

2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	50 year

If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.



Just one quick click

Ken Garner

If you are making a purchase from Amazon.com, remember to access their site via the search boxes on the OBT homepage (www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com). These search boxes are located at the bottom of the navigation (left side) and highlights (right side) bars. Simply accessing Amazon.com through these search boxes will ensure that OBT receives a portion of what you spend.



All-night Nembutsu session December 6-7, 2008

Cynthia Wong

As a prelude to Bodhi Day, the celebration of the historical Buddha's enlightenment, the Oregon Buddhist Temple held an all-night nembutsu service from Saturday evening, Dec. 6 to Sunday morning, Dec. 7. Inspired by the marathon effort at the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple earlier this year, but not wanting to break or set any records, the OBT service lasted roughly 11 hours. Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs opened the service at 8:15 pm on Saturday evening with an introductory talk. He distributed folders that contained a letter explaining the purpose of the service, a schedule, an article outlining the history of nembutsu practice, and visual representations of various forms of the nembutsu. After a question-and-answer period and a brief break, the service began with a circumambulation of the hondo while reciting the nembutsu. The night was generally divided into 45 minute sessions of practice with 15 minute breaks. Participants chanted the nembutsu at their own pace while circumambulating the hondo (main hall) and o-naijin (altar). There was a session with circumambulation while vocalizing only when passing in front of the o-naijin, once at the statue of Amida Buddha and again at the entrance doors. Another session combined vocal nembutsu with reflection on the concept of nembutsu as "Awoken Reality compassionately entering samsara/the mundane realm," in the words of Rev. Gibbs.

There were also two invigorating (or exhausting, depending on one's point of view) sessions of chanting "Namo Amida Bu" continuously in the Jodo-shu style, accompanied by striking mokugyo or wooden fish (a liturgical percussion instrument). Participants had the opportunity to come up and try striking the mokugyo while chanting the Buddha's name. It was an interesting counterbalance to the more spontaneous, easygoing Jodo Shinshu style of saying the nembutsu.

There was a core group of 8 or 9 people who stayed the entire night or most of it, including a visitor from the Dharma Rain Zen Center and an intrepid Oregonian reporter who observed the proceedings to the very end, and whose article appeared in the Thursday, Dec. 11 issue of the newspaper. 12 more people came at various times to participate for as long as they could during the night or early morning. Sho Gibbs and Kirt Achterman deserve particular mention for forsaking comfortable beds to join the adults in chanting (Sho stayed all night with his father, taking just a brief nap in one of the pews). Early on, from about 8:45 to 10 pm, matcha or powdered green tea as used in the Japanese tea ceremony was served by Yasuko Fields. Snacks were available in the basement during the breaks throughout the night, and an international coffee and tea service was provided by Minister's Assistant Brenda Fugate and her husband Jerry, which included Turkish coffee and Moroccan tea. Some of the all-nighters fought off sleep with varying degrees of success at 5 am when Rev. Gibbs dedicated a session to the nine- and ten-character forms of the nembutsu (Namo Fu Ka Shi Gi Ko Nyo Rai and Kimyo Jin Jippo Mu Ge Ko Nyo Rai). The slumberers took to their feet with renewed energy, however, as Rev. Gibbs led everyone around the hondo to view the paintings depicting significant events in the life of Shinran Shonin. Finally, breakfast was served at 8 am preceding the Bodhi Day service at 10.

The all-night nembutsu service was a unique opportunity for intensive nembutsu practice, for appreciating the Pure Land tradition of Honen Shonin and Shinran Shonin, and for enjoying a sense of camaraderie with fellow practitioners and temple members during the breaks. A debt of gratitude is owed to everyone responsible for planning and carrying out the service. It is hoped that this kind of opportunity will be made possible again in the near future, and that more temple members and community members will take advantage of it.



Sho Gibbs, Gordon Wong and Kirt Achterman striking the mokugyo