



Oregon Buddhist Temple
established 1903

Happy New Year and Akemashite Omedetou, on the Oregon

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Newsletter

January 2014



Are We Too Clever?

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Happy New Year! I hope that 2014 is the best year ever for all of us. As we begin this new year, are we prepared? ...Are we excited? ... Are we ready to be amazed? ... or are we too clever?

Modern people sometimes think they are so superior to our exemplars from the past, even to Aristotle, Sakyamuni Buddha, or Shinran. "Shinran did not know there is a Higgs-Boson particle we tell ourselves" (as if we knew what it was, that it is, and why it is important). "Sakyamuni Buddha did not know that the earth revolves around the sun or that the 'morning star' is really the planet Venus' we tell ourselves smugly (actually we don't know his views on astronomy). '2,300 years ago, Aristotle didn't have a smart phone' we may argue. (but he did know that the earth rotates around the sun and could have drawn the human circulatory system by hand much more accurately than I, or most of you, could).

One reason some of us become so smug when we think of great men and women from 2,000 – 2,500 years ago is that we forget what a short period of time that actually is. No significant time in the evolution of the human species at all (We all had two eyes and one nose, in the middle, back then too.). Information may be cumulative, but knowledge, apparently, is not and wisdom certainly is not. Wisdom, for Buddhists, always starts by letting go of what you think you knew and facing life in the light of our starling ignorance.

I'm pretty sure the earth does rotate around the sun. Aristotle, Copernicus and I can all agree about that. However, I'm not at all sure how fast our solar system is traveling across the universe, nor in which direction we are moving. I am sure, absolutely sure, that embracing resentment, envy and hatred will make our lives miserable. Sakyamuni made this clear to us 2,500 years ago.

I'm quite sure that a non-biological soul thing is not the correct explanation of personal identity. Sakyamuni clarified that 2,500 years ago and Aristotle echoed his point two centuries later (no direct influence here, but ...). Plato didn't get that back then and many miss the point today. This life we live now is impermanent and unrepeatable. Something new will come for us at death, but

this, the exact person we are right now and the life we live, will be lost to us. Appreciate life now and give up theories about souls, heavens and such.

Shinran taught his friends and those who would listen, that the promise of universal liberation (Hongan) is present in our own voices when we say the nembutsu. That presence is just as real and nurturing when we say "Namo Amida Butsu" in 2014 as it was when Shinran said "Kimyo Jin Jippo Mu Ge Ko Nyo Rai" in the 13th century of the Common Era.

Being modern gives us a lot to be happy about. We have medicine for head lice, unlike the great pharos. We have antibiotics, ... we have motion pictures and automobiles. We do not have more wisdom about the human condition than Sakyamuni did 2,500 years ago. All the elaborations of theory and practice over these 25 centuries of Buddhist tradition have been designed to help us approach the level of wisdom he realized so long ago. It's natural to be glad we live in an era where penicillin has been discovered. It is silly to think we are more advanced in wisdom or kindness than people in the distant past. If we can't rely on the guidance of Shinran and Sakyamuni, I fear that we are, perhaps, being too clever.

Gassho,
Gregory Gibbs

January Highlights

- 1.1 New Year's Service
- 1.5 New Year's Luncheon
- 1.11 OBWA Meeting
- 1.19 Ho-onko Service
- 1.26 Japanese Community Mochitsuki at Scottish Rite Temple

2014 Membership Form and NW Convention
Registration Form are included in this newsletter.

"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." Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202-3037, 503-234-9456 (ph), e-mail: oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com, website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>. This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editors: Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, tamaribuchi@gmail.com.



President's Message

David Wright

Dear Dharma Friends,

It is both a privilege and a pleasure, as I start my term as Temple President to welcome you to the Oregon Buddhist Temple's 111th yearly celebration of our Dharma

Wheel rotating in America! That wheel was rotating in Japan for nearly a thousand years before our start, and rotating in Asia for more than a thousand years before then.....Wow!

In the coming year, not only can we look forward to the usual services, ceremonies, and celebrations but I am very excited about our upcoming NW District convention in February. There will be an amazing array of speakers, workshops, and other wonderful activities. This promises to be a terrific year.

We have some excellent talent on our Board of Directors and wish to both welcome and thank Ray Fukunaga for taking over the maintenance chair. His first order of business was tending to the basement furnace..Thank you Ken Garner for your brilliant organizational skills as president, And our terrific real estate in cyberspace! Much gratitude to all the lay leadership for mightily putting their shoulder to this Dharma Wheel

We are very fortunate to have Reverend Gibbs as our minister, who not only tends the Temple and our spiritual needs, long hours every day but, twice each week, conducts a wonderful TAI CHI class in the temple basement. I wish to encourage everyone to please attend these sessions. Work within your physical limitation, and your cardiovascular system will thank you. It is just amazing how much better you will feel after just one session. Following the TAI CHI is a Buddhist studies class. Each class is sure to generate spirited ideas and conversation.

Sensei was saying that in our culture there seems to be a preoccupation with the Dharma. But let's not forget the three treasures are the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha. The Buddha, The Teachings of the Buddha, and the Taught.

We wish to express Gratitude to the many folks who turn out long hours for the fund raisers, shining faces, chanting Sutras, enriching their lives in the warm light of our Dharma stream.

Our temple membership has recently been in decline . Our Minister and Board of Directors have some ideas on how to reverse this trend and we look forward to growing the temple membership again.

I will take this opportunity to reach out to the Sangha. I am including my email and phone number and I always return messages left for me. Let me know what is working for you? What could we be doing better? What are your ideas for improving or trying different forms of outreach? Got any ideas for fund raising to help keep this temple strong for the next 111 years? Please share your experience and any ideas with me!

Thank you in advance for your help in making 2014 the best it can be!

David Wright 503-539-7780 email: wright@bctonline.com



Craft Show Thank You + Upcoming Acting Opportunity!

Angie Hughes

Thank you so much to everyone who participated during the Holiday Craft Show in November. Each volunteer was integral in making it a success. Vendors and shoppers alike seemed to have a very positive experience and we have continued to receive useful feedback for future craft shows. Thanks to all!

Also, we are gearing up for presenting several of Hiroshi Kashiwagi's Shoe Box Plays at the Convention in February. If you are interested in being on stage or behind the scenes for this exciting opportunity, please email me at hughesang@hotmail.com. No prior experience is necessary—and it will be fun! You do not have to attend the convention to participate in the plays.

67th NW District Convention - Portland Airport Sheraton - Feb. 7-9. 2014

We hope you are joining us for the NW District Convention with the theme "Honor, Build, Live!" Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Jeffery Wilson, professor and author of Buddhism of the Heart and Dixie Dharma.

We are looking for silent auction items. Each temple is allowed three entries, proceeds go back to the temples. Please contact Carol Saiget at kongsfam@comcast.net if you have ideas for OBT's entries.

We are accepting advertisements, such as business advertisements or well wishes for the convention, for the convention booklet. Please e-mail Tara Tamaribuchi, tamaribuchi@gmail.com to submit your ad.



OBWA News

Nancy Kajitsu and June Shiigi

Happy New Year Everyone!

Oregon Buddhist Women's Association (OBWA) expresses our deepest condolences to the family of the late Jim Fujii a long time member who generously donated much to our temple. A funeral service was held at Oregon Buddhist Temple. We also gratefully acknowledge donations from: anonymous monthly donor, Ben and Sumi Ishida in memory of Mary Okita and Lennie Tanaka, and Ben and Darlene Demise for end of year.

We thank Jean Matsumoto for her many, many years of compassion and



dedication in purchasing flowers for the gravesites of Rev. Wakabayashi and Rev. Terakawa and attending Memorial Day and Obon services. Janice Okamoto along with an OBWA committee will continue to be in charge of these OBWA responsibilities. When able, everyone is encouraged to attend these services.

OBWA will contribute \$25 towards registration fee for any OBWA member who attends the 2014 NW Convention on February 7-9, 2014. Registration deadline: December 31, 2013. Come and visit with old friends and make new ones. We will also need help for the Friday night mixer on February 7th!

Toshikoshi End of Year Soba will be prepared by Alice Ando and the December toban on December 31 at 3 pm, followed by the End of Year service at 6 pm. Ozoni will be prepared by Etsu Osaki for our January New Year service at 10 am. Please come to listen to Rev. Gibbs' Dharma messages and join us for these special foods.

Our next OBWA meeting is on January 11 at 9:30 am. On Saturday, January 18, 10 am to 4 pm Rev. Koshin Ogui, former Bishop of BCA, is our Hoonko guest speaker. Hoonko service follows on Sunday. Reminder: Hoonko soba otoki preparation times are on January 18, 9 am and on January 19, 8 am.

Our OBWA New Year meeting and party will be on February 1, 10:00 am at the Holladay Park Plaza. Contact Yasuko Fields at 503-434-7940/yasuko@raf.us or June Shiigi at 503-642-2791/shiigisj@comcast.net to order your bento. Dessert will be paid by OBWA. Please bring non-perishable food and personal care products for our annual donations to those in need through FISH. Also, bring a wrapped "white elephant" for BINGO prizes.

OBWA welcomes new members. Please contact Jayne Ichikawa (jayneichi@gmail.com) or June Shiigi (shiigisj@comcast.net) for information.

OBT members Wynn Kiyama, Ann Shintani, Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs and Joy Yuzuriha will perform Japanese Classical Dance as part of the Sahomi Tachibana Dancers in the Mochitsuki mainstage show, 11:30 a.m., Sunday, January 26.



Dharma School News

Amy Peterson

The Dharma School made table decorations for the Eitaikyo/110th Anniversary Luncheon, thanks to the help of Ken Garner.

In preparation for convention, students received a coloring book copy of Rev. Diane

Johnson's Amida's ABCs. In case your child hasn't received it or you want to use it with children in your family, please email dharma.school@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

It is also available on PDF. We encourage people of all ages to participate.

On December 7, six students and three teachers stayed for part of the Nembutsu retreat. Teresa Soto read a story for the children. Everyone had a great time.

Dharma School teachers have been planning convention activities for youth. Thank you to Heatherann Price for helping us in this endeavor. For K to 6th Grade (and younger with parent participation), during the Keynote Address, we are looking into having an activity, such as Karate. K to 6th Grade Session I to III activities will include making a Buddhist timeline with Heatherann, coloring, laminating and binding the Amida's ABC book with Maho Garner, Rev. Diane and Heatherann, and building a family Obutsudan with Scott Winner.

Elaine Yuzuriha and Marilyn Achterman will lead the YBA 7th to 12th Graders. Sessions will include a talk about the Minidoka Swing band with dancing, acting out the Buddha Games play, and a discussion about Buddhism in one's future with Socho Umezu.



Girl Scout Troop 43720, Rededication and Investiture for 2013 to 2014.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES

At a recent board meeting, there are a few changes to the OBT By-Laws that we discussed. These proposed changes will be presented and voted upon at the next General Meeting to be held in February 2014.

Article V Section 2

TEXT

Officers shall hold office for one year.

ISSUE

The officer may be re-elected and can hold office for more than one year. It is the term that is one year

PROPOSED CHANGE

The length of term for an office shall be one year.

Article V Section 5.B

TEXT

The Vice President shall be President-elect, shall become President in the following year, and shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence and such other duties as the President may delegate.

ISSUE

There are a couple of issues with making the VP the President elect:

- o If the VP is elected for the 3rd year of his/her term on the board, they would be President-elect for a term when not yet elected to the board by the general membership.

- o Having a President elect mandates a single year in office for the president. Presidents for most temples serve a 2 year term. We should have the option for the President to serve more than 1 consecutive year

PROPOSED CHANGE

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence and such other duties as the President may delegate.

Article IV Section 2

TEXT

There shall be twelve directors. Each director shall hold office for a three-year term. Directors shall be elected by mail ballots distributed to all members at least 25 days before the annual membership meeting. Results will be announced at the annual membership meeting and each director shall begin their term immediately after the annual membership meeting. Four directors shall be elected each year. All members running for the Board must be members at the time their name is placed on the ballot, must agree to serve on the Board at the time their name is placed on the ballot, and must maintain their membership throughout their term. A member need not be nominated by a Nominating Committee, if any, to run for a position on the Board.

ISSUES

Since changing the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year we have our annual meeting in February. That is a 3 month lag from elections to announcement of board members.

Also, it is increasingly difficult to fill 12 director positions. The temple membership is approximately 120 paid members which means the board will consist of 10% of temple members for any given year. This is an unnecessarily high ratio of board members to population.

PROPOSED CHANGE

There shall be nine (9) directors. Each director shall hold office for a three-year term. Directors shall be elected by mail ballots distributed to all members at least 25 days before the annual membership meeting. Results will be announced as soon as possible after election has closed and each director shall begin their term at the start of the new calendar year. Three (3) directors shall be elected each year. All members running for the Board must be members at the time their name is placed on the ballot, must agree to serve on the Board at the time their name is placed on the ballot, and must maintain their membership throughout their term. A member need not be nominated by a Nominating Committee, if any, to run for a position on the Board.

January Toban

Achterman, Marilyn	Garner, Ken	Kajitsu, Nancy
Achterman, Mark	Garner, Maho	Kennedy, Karol
Davis, Ryan	Hughes-Davis,	Michelle Mundt
Dickinson, Kiyomi	Angie	Shiraishi, Karen
Fujikawa, Frieda	Ishimaru, Bettina	Shiraishi, Rick
Fujikawa, Shigeo	Ishimaru, Robert	Tamiyasu, Katie

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

Recommended by Temple Mouse:

'A visit to Portland Art Museum to see the samurai exhibit. It's awesome and educational.'

Samurai! at the Portland Art Museum ends January 12.



Lotus Circle - November

Jean Matsumoto

As the Lotus Circle welcomes the new year, it begins its 7th year of existence and we are grateful to all those who have helped to keep it rolling round and round in the year, 2013, and previous years. Please enjoy the beautiful flower arrangements on the onai-

jin (altar) each week prepared by our flower toban members.

The \$35 donation which is donated by families so the temple can purchase the flowers and honor their loved ones is greatly appreciated. Contributions for the flowers in January are being made by the following:

- January 5 – Takako Ishida in memory of (imo) parents, Seiichi and Tomiye Takahashi; June Shiigi imo mother, Sonoe Muraoka; Jean Matsumoto imo mother, Mikiye
 - January 12 – Chris Dart imo brother, Dale Hoverson; Ben Ishida imo parents, Suetaro and Tomeka
 - January 19 – Kathie Sato imo husband, Nobu; Angie Nakashima imo father, Harry Okita
 - January 26 – Alice Sumida imo parents, Tameji and Take Eto
- Thank you to all of this month's participants in the Lotus Circle. We are grateful to Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) for the Lotus Circle page on our website to share memories, pictures, poetry, etc. of our loved ones. For questions and further information, please contact me at 503-280-2463, or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

November 2013 Donations

In memory of Mary Okita

Vickie S. Onchi
Joe & Toby Onchi
Gerald & Joann Sumoge
Setsuko Okino
Ben & Darlene Demise
Noreen Onchi
Dana Kakishita
Tamiyo Watari
Glenn & Susan Koshiyama
Kazuko Sunamoto

Tomo Saito 13th yr memorial

Fumi Saito

In memory of Tomo Sunomoto

Ruth Sono Watanabe

In memory of Kan Yagi

Ruth Sono Watanabe

In memory of Lenny Tanaka

Gerald & Joann Sumoge

In memory of Mae K. Nakano

Benny & Alice Tano & family
Ed & June Miura & family
Donald Nakano
Bill & Colleen Grant

In memory of Al Ando

Ben & Darlene Demise

In memory of Seijiro & Haru Fujita

Shiz Inaba

In memory of Prof. Haruo Takikawa

Michael J. Freiling

Lotus Circle

Jean Matsumoto
Angela & Glenn Nakashima
Ray & Yasuko Fields
Cathy Shikatani & Willem Stoeller

OBT 110th Anniversary

Alice Sumida
Shiz Inaba
Ben & Darlene Demise
Roberta Ando
Shigeru & Yoko Yuzuriha
Ted & Martha Tamaki
Alfred Ono
Yoichi & Janie Kitayama
K. David Itamura
Elsie & Harold Onishi
Fumiko Okubo
Duane Watari
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Jean Matsumoto
Philip L. Kollas
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Diane Ando Harder
Jean Tateishi
Kim Kono
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Charles & BeeBee Dawson
Connie Masuoka
Misao Minagi
Alice Ando
Randy & Dana Kunisaki
Debra A. Strugar
Hiroshi Kashiwagi
Fusako Ouchida
Janice Okamoto
Kiyomi Dickinson
Fumi Saito
Michael & Janice Ishii
Takako Maeda
Al Abe
Carrie Saito
Pat & Tom Hokama
Ernest Takeda
Scott & Lynn Grannan

OBT Youth Activities Fund

Connie Masuoka

Special donations

James & Judith Nakashima
David M. Akwai (newsletter)
Rhonda Foster
Corinne Jarvis
Ben & Darlene Demise

Special donations cont.

Jarvis Family
Deborah Higa
Mark Rosenheim
Philip L. Kollas
Jason Litts
Atsuko Richards
Amy Peterson
Craig & Lisa Yanase (broken window)

2013 membership

Nobuo & Takako Ishida
Ken & Maho Garner
May Kasahara
Jenna Yokoyama

2014 membership

Tadakazu Kumashiro
Hiroshi & Judith Yamauchi

Ohigan

Nobuo & Takako Ishida
Lily Meiners

Eitaikyo

Anonymous (3)
Shiz Inaba
Jean Matsumoto
Ami Kinoshita
Fumi Saito
Sahomi Tachibana

Eitaikyo cont.

Miyeko (Kan) Yagi
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner
Richard & Kumiko Mishima
Ben & Darlene Demise
Chiyo Okita
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Scott Oldfield & Tracy Joy
Babione
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Jean F. Takashima
Randy & Dana Kunisaki
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
Dana Kakishita
Yoshie Kagawa
Carolyn J. Saiget
Karol Kennedy
Cathy Shikatani & Willem Stoeller
Tamiyo Watari

Acknowledgements are mailed to individuals for donations of \$250 or more, to donors not on the OBT mailing list, and to any donor upon request. Please inform us of any significant errors or omissions.

Susan Endecott

e-mail: sjendecott@gmail.com

2014 Memorial Chart

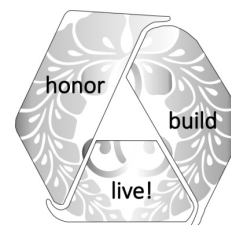
Year of Passing	Memorial	Year of Passing	Memorial
2013	1 year	1998	17 year
2012	3 year	1990	25 year
2008	7 year	1982	33 year
2002	13 year	1965	50 year

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.

REGISTRATION FORM - 67th Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention February 7-9, 2014, Portland, Oregon

Registration (includes workshops, Saturday lunch, and Saturday banquet):

- Adult (A): **\$110**
 - College (C) / YBA (Y) (7th grade and up): **\$90**
 - Dharma School (D) (1st to 6th grade): **\$70** (with child banquet meal)
- For Banquet only (B), price is **\$50** (or **\$25** for child banquet only meal)



Names	Type (A, C, Y, D, or B)	Grade for youth (pK-6)	Saturday Banquet				Reg Amount (\$)
			C 	S 	V 	Child Meal	

Number of Sunday Bentos (optional): regular ___ x \$15 + veggie ___ x \$15 = + ___
 Voucher amount (for OBWA and enrolled Dharma School students only) = - ___

Total (please make checks payable to Oregon Buddhist Temple): _____

Phone number _____ **Email** _____

Send in registrations and checks to Oregon Buddhist Temple by Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2013.

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP 2014 NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:

INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$250.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT

FAMILY: MINIMUM \$500.00 PER FAMILY

SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER

GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER

With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

or if you make payments of \$25/month \$75/quarter for individual and \$50/month \$150/quarter for families

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to Wheel of Dharma newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE _____

Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

