



Oregon Buddhist Temple
established 1903

Celebrating Shinran, mothers, infants and new members on the

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Newsletter

May 2014



Trusting-Confidence

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Three years ago, we lost a great teacher of the Buddha-dharma, Rev. Dr. Leslie Kawamura. His work on Tibetan Buddhism was ground-breaking. His teaching of Jodo Shinshu was grounded in tradition and progressive in the best sense

of that term. He is a person who I regretted hearing had passed. Unexpectedly, my missing of his friendship and leadership has grown more and more strong over time. Often, even when we care deeply for someone, we gradually adjust to their being gone. With Leslie Sensei, I just seem to miss him a little more all the time.

Dr. Kawamura was a Buddhist scholar with very strong abilities in Pali, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Chinese. When he translated the term "sradha", which is usually rendered "faith", he used the term "trusting-confidence". I have always loved that translation, and I believe there is more than just good language skills behind this. It was a deep spiritual understanding that led him to this phrase, "trusting-confidence".

What strikes me about "trusting-confidence" is that it is not just a translation for one of the precursors of the term "shin-jin". "Trusting-confidence" is a quality absolutely necessary for sane and effective living. Some people have deep confidence in science, and this is enough for them. For most of us, that alone would be insufficient. Living with trust only in the exact sciences, would be too dry. Most of us need something more concrete, more emotionally satisfying than critical thinking and scientific method alone, to feel confident in our lives here on earth, to truly and serenely trust.

Several years ago, my friend and senior colleague, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, wrote in his newsletter about his feelings on watching a reality TV show on Japanese television. It was a show that followed firefighters as they battled blazes in Tokyo. In one episode, they were desperately trying to put out a fire in an apartment building where they knew a mother and her two young children were trapped. Unfortunately they were too late. They found the three already deceased with the mother hovered over the children protecting them. I understand what Rev. Miyaji saw in this

image. Trusting-confidence to the end. Whether the outcome is what we hope for or not, to be able to trust someone or something entirely is a great benefit. The children probably died thinking, "Mommy will protect us somehow. ... Mommy will protect us."

Now, ... Amida Buddha may be a "someone" to some of you and a "something" to others. But, if we can put our trust in the Buddha's Vow of Universal Liberation (Hongan), we will live with composure and hope up to the end. And the end, the conclusion, will be Enlightenment and the opportunity to truly help those we love and value. For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, our understanding of Amida Buddha and our recollection of his Fundamental Vow in saying the nembutsu has been clarified by Shinran. We will celebrate Shinran Shonin's birthday on May 18, with guest speaker Rev. Dennis Fujimoto of the Idaho-Oregon temple. On the same day we will have Hatsumairi/child presentation and new member recognition. Please join us on May 18th!

Of course, we hope to see you many Sundays in May. Perhaps I will see a few more of you at the Buddhist Study classes, Monday afternoons and Friday evenings as well. In any case, I hope that our temple and its activities are a resource for living your lives with trusting-confidence.

Gassho,
Gregory Gibbs

May Highlights

- 5/9: 7pm, OBT Board Meeting
- 5/17: 9am Gotan-e otoki prep,
Richmond Spring Bazaar
- 5/18: 9:30am Japanese language Gotan-e Service; 10am
Gotan-e Service, Guest Speaker: Rev. Dennis Fujimoto
- 5/24: 9:30am OBWA Meeting
- 5/26: Cemetery services: 9am temple, 10:30am Gresham,
noon Rose City, 1pm Rose City Nisei Vets,
2:30 pm Lone Fir

"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 at yahoo dot 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 at gmail dot com.



President's Message

Scott Winner

This month I have a brief word of thanks. I am grateful and deeply appreciate all the wonderful volunteers that keep our temple functioning. From the bookkeeping to grass mowers to flower arrangers and

greeters. Our temple could not function without your dedication and hard work. I don't know why you do it. Some are dedicated to the propagation of Jodo Shinshu ministry, others are motivated by our rich Japanese American culture and history, others by family obligation and some just like us and want to help. For me I do it because of all of the above. The temple is my second home and the Sangha my family. As dedicated as I am to the temple, I can't do it all and I am deeply thankful for all the help you provide.

In the past month I had the pleasure of visiting with Bishop Umezu at his San Francisco office and Rev Marv Harada, assistant to the Bishop, at Orange County Buddhist Church. The Bishop visited our temple in March and he would like to come back for another visit and arrange for some other BCA ministers to also visit Portland. Unfortunately Ministers are very busy on weekends, so we are going to try a Wednesday seminar series. Some of these great BCA ministers will visit our temple on a Wednesday. It would include a daytime session (for folks that don't want to drive at night) and an evening session (for folks that have to work). At the time of this writing, the schedule and list of visitors has not been set. As we get things set up, we will be sure to let people know. Announcements will be made during Sunday service, so stay tuned!

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

My family and I are moving to Seattle in late June/early July, and will miss everyone at OBT. I am searching for one or two persons to replace me as newsletter editor. The newsletter editor collects articles from the Sangha via e-mail, lays out and proofs the newsletter in a word processing or layout software of one's choosing, sends it out for proofing to several Sangha members, and then prints the copies of the newsletter on the annex copy machine. Layout takes two to three hours a month, and printing can take from two to three hours. It is possible to break up the job into two positions -- a layout person and a printer. Folks who are handy with the English language and layout or word processing software would be a good fit!

If you are interested, please see me, Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs at the temple, or e-mail me at tamaribuchi at gmail dot com.



OBWA News

Jayne Ichikawa

OBWA thanks Susan Endecott for her generous donation. There was also a donation from the White River Temple after the Feb. NW Buddhist Convention in Portland.

The beautiful flowers were blooming

which created a lovely setting for the Hanamatsuri Service on April 6. Thank you to the leadership of Kiyomi Dickinson, Marilyn Achterman, Kyoko Gibbs, Katie Tamiyasu, Patsy Hokama, Alice Ando, Jean Takashima, Alice Ando, Etsu Osaki and many others including the April Toban, a delicious otoki after the Hanamatsuri Dharma School program. Twenty-two platters were delivered and/or picked up by relatives/friends for our home-bound members.

On April 16, a prestigious honor was awarded to Connie Masuoka. She is the Gladys McCoy Volunteer of the Year for her many contributions and dedication to the Portland community. We congratulate Connie and her mother, Nobi, for their support and generosity to the Oregon Buddhist Temple and OBWA for many years. We hope many of you were able to attend this ceremony honoring Connie.

On April 19, an Aging Wisely presentation was held after the monthly OBWA meeting. Bob Ernest, a speaker for the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) agency presented valuable information concerning Medicare benefits and options for insurance and assistance. Those people reaching or nearing the age of 65 were especially given important information. Handouts and a question/answer period were offered.

The month of May will be another busy time for OBWA members and friends. Rev. Dennis Fujimoto will be the guest speaker for the Gotan-e Service. Hatsumairi and New Members Presentation will also be part of this service on May 18th. Udon will be prepared by the OBWA and served after the service. On the same weekend, Kyoko Gibbs and helpers will be supporting the Richmond School Bazaar on May 17 with the sale of dorayaki and other crafts.

The monthly OBWA meeting has been moved to May 24. After this meeting there will be a yukata sewing class by Yasuko Fields, assisted by June Shiigi from noon to 3pm. There will also be a happi coat sewing session on June 7th starting at 10:00am. Please join us if you can and enjoy the creative sewing sessions.

On May 26, there will be services held at the temple nokotsudo at 9:00am and at the following cemeteries: Gresham at 10:30am, Rose City at noon, Rose City Nisei Vets at 1:00pm, and Lone Fir at 2:30pm. Janice Okamoto and OBWA members/families will attend the Rose City cemetery and bring flowers for the Rev. Wakabayashi/Rev. Terakawa gravesites.

If you are interested in joining the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association, please contact Co-Presidents: June Shiigi (shiigisj@comcast.net) or Jayne Ichikawa (jayneichi@gmail.com).

New Books in the Library

Rennyō and the Rise of Honganji: Shin Buddhism & Society in Medieval Japan, by Michael Solomon, Pure Land Publications, LA, 1997, paperback, 248 pages.

This is the author's doctoral dissertation and gives a lot of history, names, and dates. His conclusion: 1. Honganji did not rise to preeminent position until Rennyō's time. (1415-1499) 2. Credit must also be given to Rennyō's father Zonnyō and ancestor Kakunyo. 3. Although Rennyō worked with commoners he also worked with the hierarchy when appropriate. 4. He furthered universalism, the heart of Shinran's teachings that emphasized Faith.

The charts on the appendices are helpful - one gives the genealogy of Honganji to Rennyō and another gives the marriages, adoptions and blood ties in Honganji.

Buddhism, A Very Short Introduction by Damien Keown, Oxford Univ. Press, Inc, NY, 1996, paperback, 136 pages.

With maps, diagrams and illustrations and in straightforward language this book explains how Buddhism began and evolved into its present-day form. It goes into the basic teachings such as the 4 Noble Truths, 8-Fold Path, karma, rebirth, meditation and ethics. It covers the spread of Buddhism into various countries including Japan, also the way it evolved into different schools. There is very little regarding Jodoshinshu.

May Book Club Meeting

Please join us at our next meeting, Wednesday May 21, at the Lucky Lab, 915 SE Hawthorne, in Portland.

Our May selection is "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. This is a story narrated by death. It takes place during World War II in Germany, 1939. A young girl treasures books, steals them to survive. The New York Times best seller gave it a five-star rating and described it as eloquent, hopelessly sad, and amazing. It has won many awards. This is Zusak's fourth book.

Thank You Kats!

Just a short note of thanks to Kats Amasuga for his work in maintaining our Temple. On March 17, Kats tightened bolts in the front door closure, planed the sticky back entrance door, and fabricated and installed a "Rain Kicker" above the back kitchen door to prevent that door from rotting like the door he replaced last year. Thanks for noticing the things that need to be done around the temple and your able help in keeping our temple well maintained.

Dharma School News

In March, Girl Scout Troop #43740 kicked off Spring Break with a visit to the Ikonokai senior lunch program at Epworth Methodist Church and donated many boxes of Girl Scout cookies. The scouts enjoyed miso soup, pork cutlets, asparagus, special red bean rice and birthday cake. Loen Dozono thanked us for our donation and our visit.

"For the first time in forever" several of the Sangha, young and young at heart, enjoyed Disney's "Frozen" with plenty of popcorn, hot dogs and leftover birthday cake, thanks to Amy Peterson, Ryan and Angie Hughes-Davis and Marilyn Achterman. We are looking forward to more movie nights to come.

For our special Hanamatsuri service, the Dharma School set up the flower shrine with fresh flowers. The Pure Land Buddhism often refers to our relationship to Amida Buddha as "oya", which means "parent" in Japanese. So, for our Dharma School Hanamatsuri program, the students shared what they thought they received from their parents, such as physical characteristics, or personality traits, and how we are still different/unique, with some surprisingly insightful observations. Then we sang the song, "Okagesamade Arigato", which means "I am thankful for all/you." Thank you to all of the students and parents for sharing, helping and making the delightful posters (please look for them posted in the dining room).

-- Ann Shintani

BCA Archives

The Buddhist Churches of America Archives Committee is asking for materials from pre-war, WWII and post-war. If you have anything please forward to the OBT Archives Committee, Jean Matsumoto or Etsu Osaki. These are some items:

Photos, service books, programs, bulletins, diaries, letters, memories, scrapbooks, speeches, sermons, lectures, business records, legal documents, meeting minutes and reports, brochures and flyers, films, constitutions and revisions, directories, handbooks, membership lists, publications.

The BCA collection is housed at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.



Buddhist Churches of America
Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations

米 国 仏 教 団 婦 人 会 連 盟

2014 BCA FBWA Youth Exchange Program

*An annual program of Japan Buddhist Women's Association and
 Buddhist Churches of America Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations*

NW District BWA will be sending two young women to travel to Japan.

We are seeking:

- Two young NW women - ages 18-24.
- High school/college/university students of Jodo Shinshu practice.
- Young women to nurture as future leaders for Jodo Shinshu women's activities.

Opportunity to:

- Travel to Japan for 14-15 days.
- Experience homestay with a family in Japan.
- Visit Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto.
- Meet Lady Ruzumi Ohtani, wife of Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani.

Criteria:

- In good standing and affiliated with BCA NW District Temple/Church.
- Able to travel on dates: July 25-August 8, 2014.
- Current passport, extending 2 months beyond the ending travel date.

Provided for youths:

- Round trip airfare, domestic travel and homestay.

Submit applications to:

June Shiigi, NWBWA Youth Exchange Chairperson
 Email address: juneshiigi@gmail.com
 Subject: Application for BCA FBWA Youth Exchange Program

Due date: Submit completed Application Form, Two Letters of Recommendation and Information for Host Family Form by: **Extended Due Date To Be Announced**

For more information contact:

June Shiigi: 503-997-3742 or juneshiigi@gmail.com
 Jayne Ichikawa: 503-639-0067 or jayneichi@gmail.com
 Applications to be available at: oregonbuddhisttemple.com



Lotus Circle - May

Jean Matsumoto

Did the April showers bring May flowers? We'll find out for sure this month. The \$35 donation to OBT for altar flowers are being made by:

- May 4 -- Miki Yagi in memory of (imo)

her husband, Kan, her parents, Koichi and Koto Aoki, and her parents-in-law, Takutaro and Riyo.

- May 11 – Joyce Olsen imo her father, Arthur Ojiro Sasaki, and sister, Susanne Myer; and Jane Hunt imo her parents, Yutaka and Kazue Shiraishi

- May 18 – Anonymous imo Zenzaburo and Tamiyo Ochiai and their daughters, Nobuko Susaki and Shizuko Okazaki, and son, Kaz

- May 25 – Kiyomi Dickenson imo mother, Toshiko Kitagawa

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our Lotus Circle members who assure that the Flower Toban have colorful flowers to arrange on our altar each Sunday. Thank you all very much. Also, Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com), thank you for making sure that those who wish to can share memories of loved ones on our webpage. If you have any questions or wish to join the OBT Lotus Circle, please call me at 503-280-2463; or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

March 2014 Donations

In memory of Fumi Okubo

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner
Nobuko Masuoka
Jean Matsumoto
Alice Kida
Lew & Jean Tomita
Fumi Saito
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

In memory of Henry family In memory of Kuroda family

Motoko Henry

In memory of Frank & Sumiko Ando

Matt Muramatsu

In memory of Ronald M. Oshiro & James Kenji Kunisaki

Randy & Dana Kunisaki

Lotus Circle

Miyeko Yagi
Joyce F. Olsen
Terry Tanada
May N. Saito
Jerry Koike

Special donations

Alice Sumida
Kodo Umezu
Corinne Jarvis
Fusako Ouchida
Philip L. Kollas
Robert & Susan Yoneda
Oya No Kai
Arlene Kawabata
Mark Rosenheim

Spring bazaar donations

Cathlyn Yarne
Ray & Lori Fukunaga
Mark & Marilyn Achterman
Kyoko Inoue

Ohigan

Anonymous
Tamiyo Watari
Henry & Eulia Mishima
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Sumiko Ikata
Miyeko Yagi
Ami Kinoshita
Sahomi Tachibana
Kimiko Iwamoto

Ohigan cont.

Gerald & Joann Sumoge
Mitsuko Hasuike
Susan Endecott
Nami Sasaki
Toshiko Hayashi
Jean F. Takashima
Lily Meiners
May Kasahara
Richard & Kumiko Mishima
Randy & Dana Kunisaki
Pat Hokama
Beebee Tan-Beck
Chiyo Okita
Jean Matsumoto
Teruko Nishikawa
Charles Dawson
Robert & Kathleen Matsunaga
Janice Okamoto
Nobuko Masuoka
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Ray & Lori Fukunaga
Grace & Katsuya Amasuga
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
Alice Tano
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Fumi Saito
Dana Kakishita

Ohigan cont.

Kiyomi Dickinson
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Yoshie Kagawa
Takako Maeda
Katie Tamiyasu
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner

2014 membership donations

Roberta Ando
Richard & Karen Shiraishi
Amy Peterson
Craig & Lisa Yanase
Kaoru Hori
June & Stan Shiigi
Jean F. Takashima

Member pledge donations

Alice Tano
Diane Ando Harder
Takako Maeda
Gary Higashi
Brenda Fugate
Jean Matsumoto

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

May Toban

Anderson, Lisa	Leedham, Susan	Strugar, Debra
Endecott, Kiyo	Masuoka, Connie	Strugar, Deven
Endecott, Susan	Masuoka, Nobuko	Tamaribuchi-Gibbs,
Gibbs, David	Mcgraw, Mie	Tara
Gibbs, Kyoko	Ouchida, Fusako	Winner, Scott
Leedham, Chris	Peterson, Amy	Wright, David
	Shintani, Ann	Yamauchi, Judy

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

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.

**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 With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name

GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER 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 _____

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Avenue

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE