



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

March 2010



Moving into the future ***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

As you read this our spring food bazaar will just be about to begin. Allow me to thank you in advance for your hard work and for your financial support of this

yearly fund raiser.

Our temple needs fund raisers like the spring food bazaar and support such as membership dues payment and oseibo donations to continue. However, what we absolutely cannot do without is bringing new members into the temple. As I've pointed out before, in the 111 year history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in North America no temple has ever closed due to financial difficulties. Of our hundred or so temples half a dozen have closed in the past fifty years. They all closed for the same reason, they failed to attract new members.

Gaining new members is possible only with an inclusive attitude. Ethno-centricity is not quite the same thing as racism but it would sink this temple if it were widespread. At a recent temple board meeting Mark Achterman remarked on the growing diversity amongst both our general membership and the board itself. There are temples where increased participation by non-Japanese draws comments such as "I was afraid this was going to happen". Fortunately, that sort of attitude is very rare here.

I have known well a half dozen of the former ministers of OBT and I can tell you that its current multi-ethnic make up is something that they "were hoping was going to happen". I've made friends with most of the lay-leaders of OBT over these past eight years and I can assure you that the growth in diversity amongst OBT's membership is something that they "were hoping was going to happen". So most of you are seeing your hopes realized here at OBT. I thank you for allowing me to help you to move this temple into the future.

The Oregon Buddhist Temple only has one future and that is a multi-ethnic future. The Oregon Buddhist Temple has a future with a diverse membership or it has no future at

all. Even though a multi-ethnic future is the only one possible for OBT, our temple is still the best place to meet your Japanese-American friends. It's just that, from now until forever, you are also going to be meeting your non-Japanese friends here as well.

On March 21st we will hold our Spring Ohigan Service. The first time this service was ever held was in the late sixth century of the Common Era. The first Spring Ohigan service was held under the auspices of the Japanese Prince Regent Shotoku Taishi. It was officiated by Korean monks. It was named after the Indian Buddhist metaphor of attaining nirvana as going to the other shore. The speaker at this year's Ohigan service at OBT will be an Irish-American Jodo Shinshu Buddhist priest – me! This will, perhaps, be in keeping with the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural origins of the service. I will do my best to give a Japanese-language message at the brief service starting at 9:30 am on March 21. At 10 a.m. our main service will begin and I will give a Dharma message in English at that service. It will be great to share the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist style of spirituality with my Japanese and Japanese-American and African-American and Hispanic and non-Japanese Asian-American and Caucasian friends here at OBT that day. I was hoping that this was going to happen.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

March Highlights

Mar 4	Bazaar food preparation	9 am
Mar 5	Bazaar food preparation	9 am
Mar 6	Bazaar food preparation	8 am
	Dharma School	6:30 pm
	Bazaar bakery preparation	
Mar 7	Bazaar food preparation	6:30 am
Mar 7	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Mar 12	OBT Board meeting	7 pm
Mar 20	OBWA meeting	9:30 am
Mar 21	Spring Ohigan service	9:30 am
	Followed by potluck lunch	

"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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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: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, sjichi@verizon.net

Bazaar food pre-order form and work schedule are attached



Demystifying your OBT board

Kim Kono, OBT President

It's no secret that OBT has an elected board of 12 members, each of who serve three-year terms. As members of OBT, I'm sure that you recognize their names and faces. Beyond this, some members may wonder just what our board is up to and what key responsibilities we address. This year, more than ever in OBT history, your board hails from diverse backgrounds. Yet these volunteer lay leaders share a strong desire to serve our Sangha. I'd like to offer a few insights to help demystify the board's work, with the hope of encouraging you to talk with us in an effort to make OBT better than ever.

The board meets the second Friday of every month (except February and August). During a typical board meeting, we work on matters related to our fiduciary responsibilities in caring for the temple's finances. This includes reviewing the monthly treasurer's report, prepared by Shinya Ichikawa, which tracks our revenues and expenses compared to the board approved budget, as well as checking on designated/endowed fund balances. The Board is also responsible for recruiting volunteer chairs for OBT's key fundraisers, chairing special services, and supporting funeral services. Related to our fundraisers, the board is looking ahead to the future to consider revenue sources for the temple and how to better sustain our operating needs.

Board meetings provide a regular forum for reporting or deliberating on major areas of temple life. For example, Reverend Gibbs apprises the board on key activities at OBT, in the NW District, and with BCA. Alice Ando and Elaine Yuzuriha update us on OBWA and Dharma School activities, respectively. David Wright identifies ongoing maintenance needs, and Ken Garner might update us on web issues. These are just a few of many items covered by the board. Other board members include: Mark Achterman, Angie Hughes, Janie and Hiroshi Matsushima, Al Ono, Yoshi Ono, Zack Semke, and Joe Wahl.

The OBT Board is also responsible for items that keep us connected to Jodo Shinshu temples in the NW District, to BCA, and to our broader Portland community. The latter includes partnering with organizations on events ranging from the annual Japanese American Scholarship Banquet to the Nikkei Community Picnic.

Finally, the board is accountable to support and build our Sangha, and care for you, our members. For example, last fall, the board conducted the Sangha Outreach Project, which surveyed past and present OBT members. The past presidents of the board met recently to discuss the results

and share recommendations for our current board's consideration. There is more to come in an upcoming newsletter.

I hope this provides you with a better understanding of the OBT Board. As always, I encourage you to contact me or other board members to provide input and your thoughts.

In Gassho



OBWA news

June Shiigi

Special thank you for the December 31, 2009 year end soba preparation to Jim Yoshida, Mary Ann Yoshida, Alice Ando and the December toban; January 1, 2010

New Year ozoni preparation and serving to Jean Matsumoto, Kyoko Gibbs, Alice Ando, Lily Meiners, Charlene Roberts, Karen Scapple, Janice and Michael Ishii and Anna Tanada.

OBWA gratefully acknowledges January 88th birthday donations from Kimi Iwamoto and Mary Okita; New Year donations from Misao Minagi, Etsu Osaki, Shizuko Ouchida, Misa Kodama, Sumi Ishida, Mary Okita and Setsy LaRouche; and special donations from Ami Kinoshita, Sharon Yasui Carrell, and two anonymous donors.

Thank you also to the January toban for Hoonko soba preparation, Hoonko seminar lunch preparation and monthly clean-up: Jim and Mary Ann Yoshida, Carl Yoshida, Kiyomi Dickenson, Anna Tanada, Ray Fukunaga, Karen Scapple, Charlene Roberts, Michael and Janice Ishii, Bob and Gail Tsutsumi, Ernie Takeda, Cindy Cohen, Lily Meiners, Teresa Soto de Roman and Jean Matsumoto.

We had a wonderful time at the OBT New Year Party. Thank you to Jayne Ichikawa and Janie Matsushima for organizing the event, ordering the bentos and setting up the program; Dharma School, Amy Peterson and Marilyn Achterman for corsages and gifts; and OBT for the colorful bags. Thank you also to those who provided transportation for some of our OBWA members and those who delivered bentos to 80+ years seniors who were not able to attend.

The OBWA expresses deep condolences to Linda Tanaka for the loss of her mother Kiyoye Inouye last year.

Correction: 2010 Japanese Corr. Sec. and alternate are Kyoko Gibbs and Atsuko Richards, respectively.

Spring Bazaar Cooking Schedule

Thursday Mar 4, 2010

9:00 a.m. Cook/fry noodles, line baskets for chow mein

Friday Mar 5, 2010

9:00 a.m. Cut vegetables & meat for chow mein

10:00 a.m. Cook eggs for chow mein/makizushi/udon

Chow mein/osushi boxes can be made up anytime today

Saturday Mar 6, 2010

8:00 a.m. Cook chow mein

8:15 a.m. Cool chow mein & box

10:30 a.m. Cook noodles for udon

Sunday March 7, 2010

6:30 a.m. Cook rice for osushi (makizushi & inarizushi)

6:45 - 7:30 am Cool rice

7:00 a.m. Start preparing rice for osushi/roll makizushi/pack inari zushi

8:00-9:00 a.m. Need men to set up tables & chairs and set tables.



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator

As we are traveling back from the 63rd Annual NW Buddhist Convention we have just finished our bentos and some are napping. Six DS students went on the trip and all were excited, had fun and at times were even tranquil (part of the theme). We will continue the theme on April 18th as we will participate in the NWDS teacher's joint theme: With Eco Sangha may Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World.

Katherine Achterman won a bowling prize you'll have to ask her about. All the students toured the Four Rivers Cultural Center and participated in the Bodhi Tree Peace and Tranquility art project.

We're already planning for next year's convention in Tukwila sponsored by the Tacoma BT, so mark your dates for Feb. 11-13, 2011.

Sunday Feb 21st will be our Pet Memorial as part of the Nirvana Day service.

Sunday Feb 28th is our children's service followed by birthday Sunday for the temple. For those not familiar with Birthday Sunday, the children born that month bring a penny for each year of life and donate it to the Birthday Fund. Then they can pick a small gift after we sing Happy Birthday. This is a nice and long standing tradition of Dana giving in appreciation for our life.

Sat. Mar. 6 the DS will be making goods to sell at the snack bar at Spring bazaar. If you have time please donate it to the cause and have fun with us as we make treats to sell. We will start about 6:30 pm in the temple basement. A list of planned items will be on the website.

On Sunday Mar. 7 students should work a shift (at least one) at the snack bar. Donations of store bought goods should be brought Sat night or sometime Sunday. Older students will also be scheduled for waitressing, dishwashing and bussing.

Immediately after Spring bazaar we will be working on our Hanamatsuri program, so attendance will be vital. Angie Hughes is our director if you'd like more information.

Look forward to Spring garden planting and a Spring shut-in visitation



Dharma school bake sale

Elaine Yuzuriha

We are asking for donations of baked goods made from licensed commercial kitchens to sell at this year's Spring Bazaar. The bake sale booth benefits the temple and education at the temple. Please bring your donations to the temple on the morning of the bazaar, March 7th.

For the Dharma School students, we are having a baking session the evening of March 6th at 6:30 pm. Please

come and help produce baked goods for the Spring Bazaar. If you have any questions, contact Elaine Yuzuriha at e.yuzuriha@comcast.net or (360) 253-9532. Thank you.

Congratulations Mayu!

Of the many entries submitted for the 750th Shinran Shonin Memorial Observance poster competition, OBT Dharma school student Mayu Garner's poster is one of twelve chosen by BCA to be included in the 2011 BCA calendar. Her poster will be shown in a special display at the Shinran Expo on Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Her name will also be announced and her artwork will be shown on video screens during a portion of the musical program on Sunday, February 28, 2010.

Mayu is the 5 year old daughter of OBT members Ken and Maho Garner.



New books in the library

Etsu Osaki

Ocean Beach by Hiroshi Kashiwagi, Asian American Curriculum Project, San Mateo,

CA:2010, 99 pages.

This little book of short stories and free poetry by a Buddhist author is filled with humor and excerpts of his life experiences. It's easy reading and available in our library and also for purchase. Chapter 8 Non-Self is most Buddhist.

The Buddhist Priest Myoe: A Life of Dreams by Hayao Kawai, translated by Mark Unno, The Lapis Press, Venice, CA: 1992, 237 pages.

Myoe, a Buddhist priest, was born in 1173, the same year as Shinran. Although he was revered by his followers he neither started his own sect nor left successors to continue his teachings. He left a chronicle of dreams. People in his time put great importance on dreams. Some priests were even guided by dreams to make crucial decisions. Shinran's dream at Rokkakudo is mentioned in one of the later chapters.

The author is a Jungian psychotherapist in Japan. Mark Unno's introduction compares Myoe to Kawai. For people who enjoy dream analysis this scholarly book would be of interest.

Blue Jean Buddha: Voices of Young Buddhists edited by Sumi Loundon, Wisdom Publications, Boston: 2001, 239 pages

According to Tai Unno "This is a collection of thoughtful and often touching personal experiences of youthful bodhisattvas coming from the rich and variegated traditions of Buddhism."

Some notable quotes from the book:

"I named her (his old bicycle) Samsara as she went round and round and caused me a lot of suffering."

Quotation by the Dalai Lama. "Dharma is service."

“...we can’t get Buddhism in a box. Meditation is hard work; compassion and service require perseverance; keeping ethical codes requires discipline.”

One chapter is written by a Jodoshinshuist. Liane Yasumoto writes about a youth retreat where she first thought she learned the meaning of “Buddhism as a way of life.” But after a car accident that left her paralyzed she truly experienced it. Thanks to Amy Peterson for donating this book to our library.



Lotus circle – March

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of March are being provided by:

- March 7 - Kim Kono in memory of (imo) mother, Jean
- March 14 - Jerry Koike imo parents, Chikara and Toshiko; Anna Tanada imo husband, Howard
- March 21 - Misa Kodama imo mother, Sada Kitagawa
- March 28 - Kida Family imo father, Jim, and grandfather, Shoemon Nakamura; Setsy Larouche imo father, George Yoshito Sadamoto

OBT gratefully acknowledges the donations of flowers for our altar and are appreciative that we have such a dedicated Flower Toban who take the time each week to arrange the flowers. Please also take time to check out our webpage at <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>. Our wonderful webmaster, Ken Garner, has set up a page for the Lotus Circle and you can add material to it. For general information about the Lotus Circle or how to join, just call Jean at 503-280-2463; or e-mail matsumo@orcatech.org. Thank you.

March Toban

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Courter, Terry
Dart, Chris	Fortune, Jane
Ishida, Sumi	Ishikawa, Grace
Kagawa, Julie	Kawazoe, Katie
Kawazoe, Ken	Kodama, Misa
Lilly, Susan	Moro, Marlene
Okubo, Fumi	Osaki, Amy
Osaki, Etsuko	Osaki, Herb
Romo, Albert	Saiget, Carol
Wahl, Joe	Wahl, Lora
Yagi, Kan	Yagi, Marla
Yagi, Micki	Yagi, Shannon
Yamauchi, Sandie	Yarne, Cathy

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

2010 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2009	1 year	1988	23 year
2008	3 year	1984	27 year
2004	7 year	1978	33 year
1998	13 year	1974	37 year
1994	17 year	1961	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.

Japan trip 2011 informational meeting

Tomiko Takeuchi



Join us following service on March 14 as we share plans and answer questions regarding our OBT trip to Japan in May 2011.

The basic tour will include 5 days in Kyoto to attend: The Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial and The 14th World Buddhist Women’s Convention. On our free days Rev. Gibbs will lead tours to help us discover this historic city.

There will be two optional tours available:

1. Tokyo, Nikko, and Kamakura.
2. Hiroshimi, Miyajima, Peace Memorial Park, and Kurashiki.

For those not attending either of these tours, who might want to visit family, or groups who might want to take additional tours, we will work with a JTB agent to develop individual plans. For me, I think I would like to spend some time at Disney Tokyo ... sorry, I seem to get so sidetracked!

We will keep you updated on the website: www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

At our informational meeting we will share more information on the tours we have planned, show you some other tours that are available, and answer any questions. We will take reservations first from temple members, but will open this trip up to others. So, save your pennies and plan on joining us so you can decide if you want to join us.

Tomiko Takeuchi

[\(kyoto2011@oregonbuddhisttemple.com\)](mailto:kyoto2011@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)

Donations OBT receives as a result of scrip purchases are tax deductible. We track purchases by family and can provide you with your purchase information and tax deductible amount at your request. Contact Ken Garner at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com for this information.