



Oregon Buddhist Temple
established 1903

Happy Hanamatsuri and Hanami on the Oregon

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Newsletter

April 2014



Renewal in Many Styles and Forms

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Often for the April newsletter I have built my article around the concept of “renewal.” Everything going swimmingly is an obvious period of renewal. But can we also find renewal in those periods where

we can do little more than put one foot in front of another?

The renewal of our Buddhist living ties right back to becoming more human. Every decision we make should be guided by our concern for other persons and, of course, other living beings including our pets. Truly being human includes caring for animals. We hope to experience renewal in all the communities we belong to, including the ‘animal kingdom’, of which, I would say, we are a part.

We have a very special Sangha here at the Oregon Buddhist temple. We probably have the greatest percentage of non-Japanese members of any of the 61 Jodo Shinshu Temples affiliated with Hongwanji-ha under the auspices of the Buddhist Churches of America. This growing beyond being a community strictly defined by its ethnicity is crucial to the survival of our temple. At the same time, we have continued to hold the interest and the commitment of life-long members of OBT. We continue to build strong ties with other Buddhist groups in the Greater Portland Sangha, while also being very active and engaged with the Japanese-American community here in the Rose City. This movement in two different directions at the same time is a basis for real and continued renewal.

However, at times, we must settle for a definition of “renewal” as putting one foot in front of the other. This “good days mixed with not so good days” situation is what the Buddha always told us would continue throughout our lives. No one is joyous and fulfilled in each moment of their life, at least no un-Enlightened person is. Sakyamuni told a story about a man in a village being visited by the beautiful goddess of good fortune. He let her in right away. However, just a few steps behind her came her sister, the not so attractive goddess of ill fortune. The man blocked her entrance. The goddess of ill fortune explained that she and her sister always traveled together and that if she could not enter his home her sister would not either. Now, of course, Buddhists do

not believe in such goddesses. It was just a story the Buddha told to remind people that, if they want goodness and renewal in their lives, they/we must also accept times of sadness and hardship. What the Buddha-dharma gives us is guidance on how to hold our course and move forward without being overwhelmed by our hardships or being deluded by our successes.

How it is that the Nembutsu teaching makes this possible is something I usually discuss in Sunday’s Dharma-messages and in the Buddhist study classes on Mondays and most Fridays. Come join us for these Buddhist activities and we can continue to explore how true renewal is simply keeping an even keel as we are washed by the waves of good fortune and misfortune alike. Of course, I wish there were only positive experiences coming this Spring for myself, my family and all of you. But I know the not so attractive sibling of ill fortune may peek into our lives from time to time as well.

I hope that April will be a period of renewal for all of us. I hope we will savor the good fortune and happy times. I hope we will each be able to endure with dignity and strength the less happy times. We will celebrate Hanamatsuri on April 6th. This is the service dedicated to commemorating the Buddha’s birth. This was an entry of hope into our world. There is hope in this world. Buddhist tradition is a major source for renewal -- for refreshed, confident and positive living. Happy Hanamatsuri! Please enjoy the lovely Springtime.

Gassho,
Gregory Gibbs

April Highlights

- 4/4: OBT Board Meeting
- 4/6: Hanamatsuri Service and Otoki
- 4/13: Eshinni/Kakushini Service
- 4/19: OBWA meeting at 9:30 am
- 4/20: Renyo Shonin Commemoration Service

“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

Scott Winner

At the March Board meeting, the Board decided to make some changes to the OBT leadership. I have accepted the position of President, Charles Reneau is the new Vice President and Susan Endecott was elected

to the Board (to fill the vacancy). I am delighted David Wright is still on the board, as I value his long time commitment and continued participation.

The board was fortunate to have a private meeting with Bishop Umezu during his March visit. He is truly a wonderful teacher. He encouraged us all to reflect upon our mind state. When faced with a challenging situation, it is important to pause and reflect upon your mind state. Am I angry or sad, elated or manic. Or am I in a peaceful mind state. I think that we can have greater pride in our decisions if we find ourselves in a peaceful mind state when we make our decisions. I am not saying it is easy, but it is certainly good advice.

He also asked us to reflect upon what a Temple is. A Temple is a building, a Hondo, Dharma School, Sangha, Buddha/Dharma, fundraisers, social interaction, history, teaching, endowment and a minister. A Temple also includes things like bills, clogged toilets, cutting the grass and disagreement of opinions. All these things together make up a Temple. A Temple is not defined by just one thing. For me this exercise provided me with the opportunity to reflect upon all the wonderful things I and my family get out of the Temple. It is within this reflective mind state that I can say how honored I am to be selected as President of our Temple. It will be my third term as President and I am hoping it will be my best.

Temple Membership

It's March, a quarter of the year is over – have you paid your annual membership dues yet? I

know you think of this in January but it gets lost in all of the cold weather and resolutions; then suddenly it is 2015 and you forgot to sign up.

It is important to remember membership dues help to pay for this newsletter, the heat in the Temple and our resident minister and visiting ministers and many other yearly expenses. We all help in the fundraisers and many of us help with toban. However, we still need to show our support by signing up for membership and paying our dues. Mostly membership shows that you support the Temple, what it does, and that you want it to stay around. You also get a copy of the Wheel of Dharma newsletter from BCA.

I know that for some \$250.00 is a lot of money. Our budget and costs have gone up so more is needed. You can make payments or if you really are in a financial bind, talk to Yoshi Ono, membership chairman, or Scott Winner, the Temple president, to see what can be worked out. Some dues go to the national Buddhist Churches of America, but by showing them and others our support of the Temple and that our membership numbers are stable or going up- unlike some other temples- they will see us as an active, strong temple.

Fill out the membership form on page six and your check and send it, drop it off or give it to Rev Gibbs or Yoshi Ono or any board member. If you have already signed up- Thank You.

If you have not yet, show us your support and join in the membership

Alfred Ono
Membership Committee

**membership form
on page 6**

NW Women's Youth Exchange with Japan

In 2014, the Northwest District Buddhist Women's Association (NW District BWA) will select two NW young women ages 18 to 24 to travel to Japan for an 8-10 day home stay as part of the annual Japan BWA and Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) Youth Exchange. This exchange is a means of nurturing and sustaining future leaders for Jodo Shinshu women's activities. Sometime during this summer, they will have the opportunity to visit the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto and have the honor of an audience with Lady Ruzumi Ohtani wife of Shinmon Kojun Ohtani who will be the new Gomonshu in June 2014. Their round trip international airfare for the NW students to Japan will be paid by FBWA. In Japan, the Japan BWA will be the host, providing any transportation costs in Japan, and their home stays. The students will pay for personal expenses. Application forms will be available soon. Each applicant must be a female high school or university student who is a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist of good standing and must be affiliated with a BCA NW District Church/Temple. Selection criteria will also include personal contributions and service to a Jodo Shinshu church/temple. A \$500 scholarship from the NW District Council and a matching \$500 scholarship from the NW District BWA to pay for Youth Exchange related personal expenses will be shared by the two students. For more details, please contact June Shiigi at 503-997-3742 or juneshiigi@gmail.com.



OBWA News

Katie Tamiyasu

We would like to thank the OBWA ladies and men who helped with preparing food and getting them to the Sheraton's Hospitality Room during the Northwest Buddhist Convention. Our efforts despite the in-

clement weather was appreciated by all who were able to attend.

The February 23rd Dharma Service was dedicated in memory of Lennie Tanaka. She was a gracious little lady with a huge smile and helped all organizations with any food events. Thank you Lennie for helping OBWA for many years.

The temple's Spring Bazaar and Salmon Dinner was held on March 2nd. We give thanks to Marilyn Atherman for her guidance during the food preps, and to the helpers who came to make this first Salmon feed a successful one. We also thank the OBWA ladies who spent two weekends to make the delicious manju selections. They were sold individually, so you could just buy your favorite ones. Thank you to Jean Takashima for donating scrubbies, including her special "makisushi" scrubbies, which were a big hit at the manju table.

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Association greatly appreciate the donations from Sumi Ishida, Rose Ikata, and Amy Peterson.

After our April 19th OBWA meeting, we invite members and friends to hear a presentation from the SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) program. The presenter, Bob Ernest will speak on such topics as:

- Preparing for Medicare for those reaching 65 years of age
- Medicare questions and benefits
- Supplemental insurance
- Income eligibility for special services

Hand outs will be given, so if you have any questions please join us.

At the April 19th OBWA meeting we will be asking for donations of toiletries for the Raphael House. Please bring toiletries to this meeting and/or the May 17th meeting.

Upcoming April Events:

April 5: Food preparation for Hanamatsuri Otoki begins at 9:00 am

April 6: Hanamatsuri preparation begins at 7:00 am (rice cookers at 6:30 am)

April 6: Hanamatsuri Service, Otoki, and Food Delivery to Homebound

April 13: Eshinni/Kakushini Service (OBWA in charge of service)

April 19: Monthly OBWA meeting at 9:30 am

April 19: Special SHIBA presentation on Medicare Issues at 11:30 am (following OBWA Meeting)

Next month's reporter will be Jayne Ichikawa.

Dharma School News

The Dharma School is planning an entertainment program for Hanamatsuri Service on April 4.

Students will be visiting temple elders on April 20. If you would like children to visit you or someone you know, please contact Amy Peterson.

The Dharma School is planning a Day Camp for August, with a theme of Music in Buddhism. Tentative plans include taiko, singing, Obon Odori, Hip Hop, Chanting and Kansho.

Scout News

Girl Scouts are meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The troop has doubled to 12 students. The troop plans to attend the SOLV Beach cleanup with JASO Tomodachi Club at Cannon Beach on March 22nd.

The Boy Scouts of America are interested in reinvigorating the OBT Boy Scout Troop. If you know a boy of Buddhist faith, interested in joining Boy Scouts, contact Amy Peterson.

April Book Club Meeting

For April 16, our Book Group selection is "Quantum and the Lotus" by M. Ricard and Thruan Trinh. A dialogue or "argument" between a Buddhist Monk and a scientist. Compares the latest science/physics to the teachings of the old sages. Answers the question does science support the religious needs of man. Described as lucid, delightful, fascinating, weighty and a smooth read, I hope you enjoy it. --Karol Kennedy

OCBC Service Books from Etsu Osaki

Thank you to Etsu Osaki for donating 31 copies of the new Orange County Buddhist Church's service books. These books feature new gathas, including Donna Sasaki's works, as well as Japanese gathas with English verses.

Attorney Peggy Nagae of landmark Yasui v. US case to speak at JA HS Awards Banquet

Do you want to support a 67-year-old Japanese American community event? Do you want to hear an amazing keynote speech? Do you want to pay less than last year's event because this year's will be a lunch instead of a dinner? If your answer to any of the above questions is "yes", then you have to come to the Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet.

The keynote speaker, Ms. Peggy Nagae, was the lead attorney in Yasui vs. United States, re-opening Minoru Yasui's Supreme Court case for violating the curfew in Portland, imposed upon Japanese Americans during World War II. Yasui had purposely violate the curfew and had to find an officer to arrest himself in downtown Portland to challenge the curfew. Unfortunately, Min Yasui passed away during the case. Along with the cases of Korematsu vs. United States and Hirabayashi vs. United States, this case challenged the constitutionality of such government actions upon private citizens without due process. Ms. Nagae also founded the consulting firm Peggy Nagae Consulting and has extensive experience and expertise in the fields of organizational change, communication, leadership and team coaching, mediation, cultural competence, team building, workforce diversity, strategic planning, and potentiating the human spirit at work. She will be addressing and inspiring this year's graduates.

This year's event, sponsored by 11 community organizations including Oregon Buddhist Temple, will be held on Sunday, May 4th at 1pm. It will be held at Mulnomah Athletic Club, a beautiful venue, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Connie Masuoka. All Japanese American high school senior graduates in the metropolitan area and Southwest Washington, as well as graduates whose parents belong to one of the sponsoring organizations, are welcome to attend as guests of the community. Please contact Elaine Yuzuriha at e.yuzuriha@comcast.net if you know any Japanese American high school graduates that we can honor.

We would love to have the public attend the event. Tickets will be \$35 this year for the luncheon and will be for sale in April. Please contact Elaine at the above email address or at (360) 253-9532 for tickets.

Salmon Dinner Thank You

Thank you to everyone who took the courageous step in helping host our first salmon dinner. We incorporated changes and made decisions on what day, what hours, what menu, what price, what recipes. We have a new logo, new tickets, new table decorations. We sold wine/beer. We had a full day of talented performers. We had a bookstore. We had friendly greeters in the lobby. We had sales thru paypal. Food prep was completed in half a day. We gained new customers. All of this was new from years past and orchestrated willingly by everyone. Thank you, Garner family for creating a stunning, unique design for us. Thank you, Skip Yamamoto for serving the out of this world scrumptious salmon and for providing guidance in all aspects of the dinner. Thank you, Robbi Ando for sharing her family's chicken recipe with us and experimenting with the broccoli, until she came up with the perfect vegetable dish. Thank you, everyone for your part in creating a whole. It was gratifying to see the Sangha working together and enjoying each other's friendship in support of our temple and the teachings.

-- Marilyn Achterman

April Toban

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Kolas, Phillip	Saiget, Carol
Dart, Chris	Moro, Marlene	Wahl, Joe
Hollander, David	Oh-Keith, Douglas	Wahl, Lora
Ishikawa, Grace	Oh-Keith, Kathy	Yagi, Micki
Kagawa, Julie	Osaki, Etsuko	Yamauchi, Sandie
Katsuno, Daniela	Osaki, Herb	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

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.



Lotus Circle - November

Jean Matsumoto

Spring is here and with it arrives a multitude of colors and varieties of flowers for our flower toban to arrange on our altar each week. We are grateful to the members of the Lotus Circle whose generous dona-

tions allow us to purchase the beautiful flowers. Contributions in April are being made by the following people:

- April 6 – May Saito in memory of (imo) her husband, Emo; Kazuko Sunamoto imo husband, Kats, and his parents, Yozo and Sen

- April 13 – Ben Ishida imo father, Suetaro; Lily Meiners imo son, Wallace
- April 20 -- Lee Greenwood imo parents, Don and Merrie
- April 27 – Misa Kodama imo mother-in-law, Miyaki Kayama

We hope you will check out the Lotus Circle page on our web-site set up by Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhistemple.com) and share memories of loved ones with us. If you have any questions about the Lotus Circle, please call me at 503-280-2463, or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

February 2013 Donations

In memory of Fumiko Okubo

William B. Nishikawa
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Mary S. Komachi

In memory of Lennie Tanaka

Ruth Sono Watanabe
Nobuko Masuoka
Setsy & Chip Larouche
Katie & Ed Tamiyasu

In memory of John Eldon Peterson

Kyoko & Rev. Gibbs
Jean Matsumoto
Karol Kennedy
Janice Okamoto

In memory of Mary Okita

Mr. & Mrs. Jiro Sakamoto

Toshiko Tanaka 1st yr memorial

Susan Endecott

In memory of Sakae Ando

Tak Fujii

Shozo Maekawa memorial

Mabel Ota

Takejiro Nagahama

33rd yr memorial

Tadakazu & Michiko Kumashiro

In memory of Frank C. Hirahara

Patti Hirahara

In memory of Sonoe & Noburo

Muraoka

June & Stan Shiigi

Lady Kujo memorial

Alice Sumida
Katie Tamiyasu
Takako Maeda

Lotus Circle

Chris Dart
Kim Kono
Misako Kodama
Lew & Jean Tomita
Setsy & Chip Larouche

Spring bazaar donations (sponsors)

Alice Sumida
Randy & Dana Kunisaki
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
Roberta Ando
Carolyn J. Saiget
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Randy Cantonwine
Amy Long
Kiyomi Dickinson
Jean Matsumoto
Angela & Ryan Hughes-Davis
Jae Yong Huh
Courtney Acostagrates
Susan Endecott
Kim Kono

Bazaar donations cont.

Nancy Kajitsu
Lynn Grannan
Marlene Moro
Katie Tamiyasu
Diane Johnson

Special Donations

Gregory & Kyoko Gibbs (Ohigan)
OBWA (orei)
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa (OBT 110th Anniversary)
Ray Fields (Social Welfare Fund)
Chris Dart
Jacki & Alex Danyluk
Philip L. Kollas
Takako Maeda (Nirvana Day)
June & Stan Shiigi (Nirvana Day)
Alice Sumida
Corinne Jarvis (Dharma School)
Jacqueleen Rae
Alice Sumida (tree trimming)
Mitsuko Terada (convention)
Amy Peterson (via Truist)
Lily Meiners (Hishinuma fund)
S. Yamasaki
Atsuko Richards
OBWA (Hoonko lunch)
Alice Ando (Hoonko)

2014 Membership

Alice Ando
Debra A. Strugar
Alfred Ono
Cathlyn Yarne
Charles E. Reneau
Phaedra Urban
Tom Takeuchi
Marlene Moro
Lily & George Kajiwara
Joseph & Lora Wahl
Takeko Wahl
Karol Kennedy
Ray & Yasuko Fields
Heatherann Price
Jacki & Alex Danyluk
Sumiko Ikata
Nobuko Uyetake
Rose T. Ikata
Katie Tamiyasu
Scott Oldfield & Tracy Joy
Babione

Member pledge donations

Pat Hokama
Jean Matsumoto
Kiyo Endecott
Diane E. Johnson
Diane Ando Harder
Takako Maeda
Angela & Ryan Hughes-Davis
Robert & Bettina Ishimaru

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



Minidoka Swing Band enlivens District Convention despite blizzard

Elaine Yuzuriha

It didn't bode well that the weather reports predicted freezing rain the evening of February 8, so I asked my husband Todd if we could stay at the convention that night so I wouldn't have to drive under such conditions. It didn't bode well that Larry Nobori, our bandleader, couldn't leave his house with an icy driveway, so he was unable to do the YBA workshop at the convention that morning. Always a pessimist, I began to spread rumors that the Minidoka Swing Band would not be able to perform at the N.W. Buddhist Convention that evening as planned.

But what I didn't plan on was the drive and determination of the band members to rise to the occasion to play for the temple that allows us to use their basement in which to practice. I underestimated the resourcefulness of Laura Baxter, our band manager, and her husband, Karl, to organize four-wheel drive vehicles to pick up band members and music so "the show can go on". For a band with members from Vancouver, WA to Wilsonville, from Hillsboro to Gresham, they pulled out all stops and in the end, we were still missing most of our rhythm section, a key component to any band.

One of my YBA students, Isaac Milne, from Spokane, was a drummer, so I asked him if he could possibly sit in with the band and play the dance. To my surprise and delight, he agreed. I mustered up all my courage to slowly drive out to Lloyd Center to pick up the Irv and Jo Peterson (trombone and singer) and Kokichi Tagawa (who substituted on bass), and we (slowly) drove to Irv's son's home to pick up a snare drum and ride cymbal so Isaac could play something. We barely made it in time to set up.

And play we did, to a wonderful, receptive audience snowed in at the Airport Sheraton. Excited and exuberant kids playing and dancing on the floor, older couples gliding smoothly to the music, and everyone knew we were all in it together. Just as the bands in the internment camps made do with what they had under much more difficult conditions, they found a way to dance and bring some joy into their lives.

I especially enjoyed seeing the kids cheering Isaac on as he "made do" with the drum and the cymbal.

Thank you for allowing us to play, and to the band members (George Shimbo, Mike Strassmeier, Eric Olson, Todd and Joy Yuzuriha, Karl and Terry Baxter, Lonnie Doi, Larry Nobori, Nola Sugai Bogle, Jo and Irv, Kokichi) and substitutes (Al Kato, Mike Powers) who took the risk to come out that night to play. I will definitely remember this gig as something very special, and after we removed the quarter inch of ice that covered the cars, was relieved when everyone made it home safely that night.

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
Portland, Oregon 97202

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE