

Celebrating the birth of the Buddha on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

April 2010



This temple is a place for all Buddhists

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

The event I especially want to call everyone's attention to this month is our Hanamatsuri service. This "Flower Festival" service honors the birth of the founder of Buddhist tradition, Sakyamuni. On April 4th the day will begin with a brief service at 9:30 a.m. in which I will give a Japanese-language message focused upon the birth of the Buddha. At 10 a.m. our main service will begin. My Dharma message in that service will be in English and run the usual twenty minutes or so. That Hanamatsuri service will also feature performances by our Dharma-school students. We appreciate the efforts of our Dharma-school teachers and students in adding this, usually quite charming, component to our celebration.

This Hanamatsuri weekend will begin on Saturday, April 3rd, with a four hour long vocal nembutsu session running from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. This shared vocalization of the Buddha's name should be of interest not only to Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, who number about 30 million worldwide, but to any Buddhist involved with the nembutsu utterance. That would include about 400 million people. We would like anyone interested to attend this four hour enjoyment of saying and hearing the nembutsu together with our Dharma friends.

The main Hanamatsuri services on April 4th should be of interest to any Buddhist. Since there are about a billion of us on this planet we must accept that not every single one of us will be at that service, the hondo/main chapel can't quite hold a billion people. Even so, it is important to note that the service would be of some interest to at least a billion people. Even more than a billion people are welcome at our services. Anyone with an interest in Buddhism is welcome to our services, study classes and other educational and religious functions here. The Oregon Buddhist Temple is a place for all Buddhists...It is a place open to all those with an interest in Buddhism.

On April 18th we will have a service honoring Eshin-

ni, the wife of our denominational founder, Shinran Shonin, and Kakushin-ni, his youngest daughter. Kakushin-ni not only cared for Shinran during his terminal illness. She also kept the membership united after his death and planted the seeds for the flowering of this spiritual tradition which now embraces some thirty million people. Along with our sister denomination, Jodo Shu, we are the first Buddhist denomination to ordain women equally with men – equal in their status and authority. I don't want to speculate how many of the 200 or so Buddhist denominations have followed our lead in moving toward full gender equality. It is something to be proud of that we are the first truly egalitarian Buddhists and we continue to lead the way in democratic spiritual living.

We wish to welcome all who want to investigate the Buddha-dharma to the Oregon Buddhist Temple. The Hanamatsuri service on April 4th is an excellent time to see how we are part of this billion-person plus family of Buddhists. The vocal nembutsu session the night before is an excellent opportunity to be exposed to our most basic spiritual activity, the voicing of the Buddha's name in a spirit of receptivity and trusting-confidence. The Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni service on 4-18 is an excellent time to celebrate our commitment to the equal worthiness of all persons, without variance due to gender, race, nation of family origin etc. Please come out to join us for these important educational, spiritual and social events. Thank you for your kindness in taking the time to read this article.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

April Highlights

Apr 2	OBT Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Apr 4	Hanamatsuri Service	9:30 am
	Followed by entertainment and refreshments	
Apr 14	OBT Reader's Club	7:00 pm
Apr 17	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am

"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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President's message - giving back

Kim Kono, OBT President

In February, my husband, Randy and I, had the good fortune of attending the 2010 NW Buddhist Convention in Ontario, Oregon. Not only was the bus ride with fellow OBT members fun and relaxing - with treats shared all-around - but the entire weekend was inspiring in many ways. This included the warm hospitality we received from the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. From the moment the bus pulled into their parking lot to the parting farewells, their hard work and volunteerism were evident. During the weekend, two conversations stood out. One member made quilted placemats as take-away gifts for each attendee. She started on the project two years in advance to design, buy fabric, and create the mats. She also made fried rice and baked goods for attendees to enjoy in between sessions. When I complimented and thanked her, she told me, "I wanted to do this. It's 'dana,' my way of giving back." Another more senior member of the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple told me with pride, "This is the first year that I've attended convention where I didn't have to do anything; the young people did all the work!" I asked her how this change to the "younger generation" took place. She replied that the temple leadership (i.e. the board and reverend) really supported the effort, but it takes several years and of course, is ongoing.

At OBT, we recognize that we too are in a transition phase. The younger generation has an opportunity to learn from experienced members who are willing to mentor new volunteers. OBT has standing committees that need and welcome new volunteers (see OBT website <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/about/sangha.html>). I encourage you to check out the committees! Please consider whether you can assist in any way. These tasks are essential to keeping our temple maintained and running. Like any Sangha, some committees are well-supported (with enthusiastic lay leaders who are looking to train future leaders), and others need more helping hands. If you would like to learn more, please talk to me or any board member. Together, we can give back, not just to the Issei and Nisei who built OBT, but also, we'll be creating a stronger future. In Gassho



Summary notes of March 12, 2010 OBT board meeting

Ken Garner, OBT Vice-president

- Orei for the Idaho/Oregon Buddhist Temple and OBWA were approved.
- Maintenance: Outside security light for the annex was fixed and the lines in the parking lot were re-painted.
- The annual financial audit will be conducted the first week of April.
- The 2010 Spring Bazaar held on March 7 was a

success, with gross receipts surpassing 2009. Thank you Angie Hughes and Ryan Davis for chairing this important fund raising and community building event.

- A meeting of past OBT presidents was held to review the results of the member survey and to develop action plans to move OBT forward.
- An introductory brochure for OBT is being developed. Other brochure ideas are being considered.
- The Board will review OBT's procurement process. We are exploring using Scrip for purchases when possible that will result in an automatic discount.
- Sunday Service Greeters for March/April will be: 3/14 Kim Kono, 3/21 Ryan Davis, 3/28 David Wright, 4/4 Joe Wahl, 4/11 Ken Garner, 4/18 Mark Achterman, 4/25 Kim Kono. Anybody interested in taking a turn at greeting our members and visitors should contact any member of the Board.

The next OBT Board meeting will be April 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.

Spring bazaar thank you



Angie Hughes, Ryan Davis, Co-chairs



As co-chairs of the OBT Spring Bazaar, we would like to thank all those who helped make the event a success! We thank the Sangha, the OBT Board, OBWA, Sahomi Sensei for her lovely Ikebana displays, Ray Fields, Jean Matsumoto for her help and input, and especially Shinya Ichikawa for his constant guidance and assistance.

Congratulations to raffle prize winners: 1st prize – Terri Courter; 2nd prize – Allison Leak; 3rd prize – Lon Inaba of Wapato; 4th prize – Hiroshi Yamauchi.

Thank you also to all who participated in and supported Spring Bazaar. It was great to see so many of you enjoying the day. We are looking forward to next year!



OBWA news

Nancy Kajitsu, OBWA corr. secretary

On behalf of the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association, grateful thanks for donations from the following members: Chiho Okita, Jean Matsumoto, Atsuko Richards and Janice Okamoto.

Also thank you for your hard work on the Spring Bazaar. The sushi, chow mein, udon and manju were very well received. The taste was wonderful as always and appreciated by all!

In Gassho



Dharma school snack bar appreciation Elaine Yuzuriha

We want to acknowledge the people who spent hours preparing snacks for the snack bar on Saturday, March 6: Amy Peterson, Nicole and Mie McGraw, Ann Shintani, Marilyn and Kirt Achterman. Lori, Ray, and Kristi Fukunaga, Teresa de Roman, Kyoko and Sho Gibbs, Tomoko and Alyssa Ono, Risako Kawanaka, Terri Ann and Midori Carrollo, Elaine and Joy Yuzuriha. I hope I didn't miss anyone. They worked long into the night to make delicious treats to sell. Thank you!

People who donated to the snack bar include Etsu Osaki, Bee Bee Dawson, Kim Kono, Kyoko Gibbs, Elaine Yuzuriha, Cindy Cohen, Lisa Yanase and Kathy Shikatani. I know others donated baked goods as well, and we apologize for having an incomplete list. We would like to thank you so much! Also, Kyoko Gibbs, Katherine Achterman, and Lori Fukunaga worked very hard making sure all the donated items were packaged for sale.

And finally, the kids who worked the snack bar include Joy Yuzuriha, Alyssa Ono, Justin Kwong, Sho Gibbs, Nicole McGraw, Lauren Yanase, Kristi Fukunaga, Aisha Inoue, Akiko Gorawski, Kirt Achterman, and Michi Stoeller. They made it happen and did a great job practicing the life skill of salesmanship. The success of the snack bar is dependent on so many people, and we really appreciate all the help and generosity involved.



Thank you Yoshi and Ken Etsu Osaki

Thanks to Yoshi Ono and Ken Garner for painting all those straight lines in our parking lot. It really looks like a professional job.

New books in the library

Letters of the Nun Eshinni by James C. Dobbins, Univ. of Hawaii Press, Honolulu: 2004, 259 pages.

The author is professor of religion and E. Asian studies at Oberlin College. His specialty is Pure Land Buddhism.

Eshinni (1182-1268?), wife of Shinran, wrote letters to her daughter Kakushinni. These letters have become an important source of information on Shinran's life. They also give descriptions of daily life in medieval Japan. Her life may have been subordinate to Shinran's but her letters show her strong independence. Footnotes, glossary, bibliography and index take almost a half of the book.

Thanks to June Shiigi for donating this book to our library.



Lotus circle – April Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of April are being provided by donations from:

- April 4 - Gordon Wong in memory of (imo) father, Tung Sang Wong
- April 11– Ben Ishida imo father, Suetaro; Lily Meiners imo son, Wallace; May Saito imo husband, Emo
- April 18 – Kazuko Sunamoto imo husband, Kats; father-in-law, Yozo, and mother-in-law, Sen
- April 25 – Misa Kodama imo mother-in-law, Miyaki Kayama

We are grateful for these donations and the ladies of the toban who arrange the beautiful flowers each week. Please check out OBT's website for the Lotus Circle page and if you wish to submit information about a loved one, link to (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). If you need information about the Lotus Circle and how to join, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or matsumo@orcatech.org.

March Toban

Anderson, Lisa	Endecott, Kiyo
Endecott, Susan	Gibbs, David
Gibbs, Kyoko	Grannan, Lynn
Grannan, Scott	Henry, Motoko
Herold, Tammy	Leedham, Chris
Leedham, Susan	Masuoka, Connie
Masuoka, Nobuko	Matsushima, Hiroshi
Matsushima, Janie	McGraw, Kara
Miwa, Keiko	Ouchida, Fusako
Peterson, Amy	Shintani, Ann
Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, Tara	Winner, Scott
Wright, David	Yamauchi, Hiroshi
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

Namo Amida Butsu

In Japan and for us it's Namu Amida Butsu or Namandabu
In China it's Namu Omita Fo
In Vietnam it's Namu Adida Phat
In Sanskrit it's Namu Amitabhaya
In Theravada Buddhism it's Namu tassa bhagavato samma sambuddhassa

From Who Loves Dies Well: On the Brink of Buddha's Pure Land by D. J. Brazier, pp. 174-176.

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Mary Kasubuchi who passed away February 24, 2010.
- To Michael Ishii on the passing of his father James K. Ishii February 27 in Sacramento

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.



A Personal Message

Janice Okamoto

Dear members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple, I am very grateful and thankful for everyone's kindness and generosity.

Thank you for caring, the flowers, cards, phone calls, food and meals. All this support is appreciated and is helping me get well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon. Thank you.

In gassho and gratitude,
Janice Okamoto



Japan trip 2011 information

Tomiko Takeuchi

*Oregon Buddhist Temple
Trip to Japan*

May 13 – 22, 2011

*The Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial
The 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention*

Come join us as we go to Japan for Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service and the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention (men are welcome too). Look over the information below and let us know if this is something that interests you.

The trip is in two parts:

1. Basic tour which includes round trip air, transfers to and from the hotel, and 5 day hotel stay in Kyoto . You may chose to attend the convention, use these days as free time, or join Rev. Gibbs in touring the city.
2. Optional tours - you may select one and go north or south following the Kyoto stay.

- a. Tokyo, Nikko , Kamakura tour.
- b. Hiroshima, Miyajima, Peace Memorial Park , Kurashiki tour.

If you would prefer to return to Portland after the Kyoto stay, that would be a choice. Some might want to visit family or do a tour on their own and then meet us at the airport on flight day. Those of you on the optional tours will be picked up at your hotels and taken to the airport for your return flight.

If you are interested you do need to make a \$200 deposit by April 15, 2010. We don't have exact costs as it will depend on how large the group is ... that is the reason for the range.

1. Basic Tour: \$2600 - \$3000
2. Convention: \$200
3. Optional Tours : \$1100 - \$1600

Below you will find the schedule of payment:

1. Deposit: \$200/person on or before April 15, 2010
2. Partial Payment: \$1000 per person on or before November 30, 2010.
3. Final Payment: due on or before January 31, 2011

We will have a complete cancellation policy when we make our final arrangements. At this time, this is the general information we were given. This does not include information on airline tickets.

1. Before October 31, 2010 - deposit will be fully refunded
2. On or after November 1, 2010 - up to \$450 will be refunded
3. On or after March 1, 2011 - up to \$1000 will be refunded.
4. On or after April 30, 2011 - no refund

Contact information:

E-mail: kyoto2011@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Phone: Misa: 503-252-1074

Tomiko: 503-661-1579

Oregon Buddhist Temple website

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

If you have any questions, please ask. Hope you can join us.

Still looking for 2009 tax deductions?

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.