



PureLand Path



Wishing and hoping for positive change

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

In every day life, when we say things like, "I'll hope for the best" we are often not hopeful at all. Buddhist spirituality, though, is based on wishing the best for oneself and for others. What Buddhists have found out over these past twenty-five centuries is that wishing can make it so.

By the time you read this I hope the fighting in Gaza strip is over. I hope the new administration is putting together a plan that can actually lead to economic recovery. I hope that I will be over the stomach flu that I am coping with as I write.

When he was with us for the Ho On Ko seminar last month, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto talked about Shinran's use of the term "inori". Shinran's statement was that "we should hope or wish for peace in the world and for people to embrace the Buddha-dharma." However, Matsumoto Sensei's direct teacher, Rev. Tamaru Shigaraki, translates the term "inori" literally so it comes out, "pray for peace in the world and for people to embrace the Buddha-dharma."

Of course Shinran doesn't mean petitionary prayer where we ask some other intelligence (Amida Buddha? Kannon Bodhisattva?) to make the world the way we want it. Still, Shigaraki is right that "pray" is the usual translation for "inori"/"inoru". Perhaps we need not be so picky about language. It is the fundamental intention behind the particular words used to which we should pay the most attention to

Without necessarily supplicating any super-human source I agree with Shinran that it is crucial to hold positive hopes and wishes for the future. This is the key component to what Jodo Shinshu Buddhists call a life of gratitude. If we have some trust in the nembutsu teaching we will want to make this a better world to live in.

How we live is the most important thing. Shinran's

advice is to live with hope for peace in this world and to wish that more and more people will embrace the Buddha-dharma. Wishing and hoping for the best is the beginning of doing the best, or at least doing better. Forty years ago was it Dusty Springfield or Dionne Warwick who cautioned us against "Wishin and Hopin" (I think it was Dionne). Well, she (or the lyricist, Hal David) meant just wishing and just hoping. If we truly wish and hope it will move us to action.

Please act to make our society more peaceful, tolerant and nurturing. Please be tolerant of one another and of myself. We are all imperfect persons with idiosyncrasies. If we wait for some perfect persons to be our friends, our ministers, our lay leaders, we will die waiting. If we truly wish for more harmony in life and also work to accept others as they are we will find ourselves living in a more harmonious world.

Rather than the oft heard Christian advice, "love thy neighbor" the Buddhist way is to accept one's neighbor. Chip Larouche recently e-mailed me a quote from a late 18th century essayist I had never cared much for in the past, Samuel Johnson. But this quote I love: "Kindness is something we can choose to extend to everyone, unlike fondness". I wish we would all resolve to be kind to everyone, Buddhists, Christians, atheists, country and western musicians – everyone. I hope to be kind to everyone I meet in this still New Year of 2009. I know I can't be fond of absolutely everyone, but I can be kind and respectful. That Samuel Johnson guy was a lot deeper than I thought. His remark could have been made by Sakyamuni Buddha. If we are only kind to those we are fond of, we are not going to spend every waking hour being kind. If we extend respect and kindness to everyone without regard to how fond we may be of them, little by little the whole world can change for the better. This is my hope for this year. I hope I will be respectful and kind to everyone I meet. This is not a vain hope. This is a decision about how to live in this world. My other wish is that many of you will join me in this commitment to extend kindness to everyone we meet.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

"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
503-231-1551 (fax) e-mail: oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>
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February Highlights

Feb 1	Lady Kujo Memorial Service	10 am
Feb 8	Nirvana Day Service	10 am
	and pet memorial followed by Shojin (vegetarian) potluck	
Feb 13-15	NW Buddhist Convention, hosted by Oregon Buddhist Temple	
Feb 14	Convention opening service	9 am
Feb 15	Convention closing service	9:30 am
Mar 8	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm

***Food pre-order form is attached.
Work schedule will appear next
month.***



President's message ***Yoshi Ono, OBT President***

As the OBT president for 2009, I would like to express my appreciation to Rev. Gibbs, the board of directors, and the membership for having confidence in me to serve in this capacity. The past three years on the board has allowed me to observe and learn from the leadership demonstrated by Dr. Al Ono, Mark Achterman, and Joe Wahl. With our Temple history dating back over a hundred years, I feel that this is a tremendous responsibility and I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of all my predecessors.

We have a strong and resilient Sangha capable of maintaining smooth operation of the temple and pulling off several big events throughout the year. With the talents and determination of our membership, friends, and community, we have been able to host events such as the Spring Bazaar, Obonfest, Sukiyaki Bazaar, and Mochitsuki, to name a few, where the entire community can gather and enjoy a common experience. Such events are not only fund raisers for our operations but opportunities to meet new people, work and learn or reinforce our customs and traditions. So I'd like to encourage everyone to come to these events and lend a helping hand, even for a short while, and have some fun in the process. If you are inclined to, you can even volunteer to be a coordinator or a co-chairperson.

The big event this month is the NW District Convention that we are hosting from the 13th thru 15th. Our team of volunteer organizers has been hard at work with planning and preparations. But having to overcome the December snowstorms, the bad economy, and late registrations has been highly stressful. We are all very grateful to Carol Saiget and Brenda Fugate for leading this hard working team.

The OBT board has always strived to work in full transparency. That means that all of our minutes, records, financial statements, are available to any member. You may also approach any board member to ask questions or make

comments. We are supposed to make decisions in the best interest of the Sangha, representing the members, so your opinions are important. Members are also welcome to sit in at board meetings. We hope to have at least one meeting this year on a Sunday after service in lieu of Dharma Exchange so more members can observe the proceedings. I also want to encourage more participation in running for board seats later in the year and to help in maintaining the OBT mission, which is to "...insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the Buddha-Dharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

In Gassho



Summary notes of January 9 OBT board meeting ***Ken Garner, OBT Secretary***

- OBT members are encouraged to inform Board members about their opinion regarding Ikoi No Kai using the OBT facilities.
- Preparations for the NW District Convention are progressing (see schedule that follows). The Planning Committee is seeking additional sponsors for the convention. The room rates have been reduced and all attendees are encouraged to book a room.
- See David Wright's article regarding the maintenance clipboard.
- We have 1 co-chair for the Spring Food Bazaar and are looking for another co-chair and a person to coordinate the bento boxes.
- Use of our website is steadily increasing with a spike in usage during the December snow storm. The website is kept current and is a good source of information about temple activities. Members are encouraged to visit the site and to sign up for the bulletin board. The OBT facebook group is also growing and includes several people new to OBT. Members and friends interested in social networking are encouraged to register on Facebook (it is free) and join the OBT group.

There will be no OBT Board meeting in February. The next OBT Board meeting will be March 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.



Sangha outreach program – how can we do it better? ***Kim Kono, OBT Vice-president***

The OBT mission statement is shown at the bottom of the first page of this newsletter, and Yoshi Ono, incoming OBT President, also restates it in his article. Members may have differing

opinions on how well we are accomplishing our mission statement. The more pertinent question however is "how can we do it better?" This spring the Board will be conducting discussions, as well as mailing members an informal, qualitative survey to help answer this question. Results of the discussions and survey will be used to develop or revise programs and approaches to help strengthen our temple, our membership activities and involvement, and other support services. The survey can be completed anonymously if you wish. In addition, we will convene public forums and discussions, such as at Dharma Exchange, during which the Board will welcome your comments and observations. If you'd like more information, call Kim Kono at (503) 236-6811 or email kono4189@comcast.net. Thank you.



**Message from OBWA
President
Alice Ando**

Happy New Year! Thank you all for your support during 2008. This new year is starting out with a bang: The NW Buddhist Convention, Spring bazaar, Hanamatsuri all of which require the participation of OBWA. I look forward to receive the help of my cabinet and members to support the Oregon Buddhist Temple and affiliate organizations in 2009.



**OBWA news
Nance Kajitsu**

OBWA gratefully acknowledges the food pail donation from Sumi Ikata. Also thank you to Julie Kagawa, Etsu Osaki, Misa Kodama, Micki Yagi, and Grace Ishikawa for the gochiso during our first meeting of the year.

Our New Years Party will be at Holladay Park Plaza penthouse, 1300 NE 16th Avenue, Portland on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 10:30am. Please bring non-perishable food, cash donations or toiletries (unopened freebies from hotels are OK) for FISH (a non-profit organization-neighbor helping neighbor) FISH greatly appreciates OBWA's donations for the past 5 years.

Also, sign up and attend the 2009 Northwest Convention.



**All Sangha members: please
help maintain our temple
David Wright, Maintenance chairperson**

Be our eyes and ears; if you see anything that looks amiss, a gutter leaking, some fractured molding, a plumbing or electrical issue, now we have a way everyone can help.

The new Maintenance clipboard is located in the basement on the South wall. Simply make a note of the problem on the clipboard so we can make a timely repair.

Also, if you would like to join our committee, don't hesitate to contact David Wright 503-539-7780 or wright@bctonline.com. You do not need any special skills to participate. There is a lot of satisfaction in keeping our Temple structure happy. Don't worry; we bring in professionals for the tough jobs.



**Lotus circle -
January/February
Jean Matsumoto**

Altar flowers are being provided by:

- January 25 - Angie Nakashima in memory of (imo) father Harry Okita
- February 1 - Alice Sumida imo parents Tameji and Take Eto
- February 8 - Judy Hittle imo parents Joriu and Fumiko Asato
- February 15 - Alan Kasubuchi imo grandparents Shintaro and Tatsu Okita
- February 22 - Yasuko Fields imo father Ryoo Maekawa

As the Lotus Circle spins around another year, we are grateful for the generous donations that defray the cost of beautiful altar flowers every Sunday. We thank the Flower Toban for arranging the flowers on the onajin and elsewhere around the temple. Please visit our OBT website Lotus Circle page for brief memorials, pictures, poetry, etc., webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. For more information or to join the Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

February Toban

Anderson, Lisa	Cooney, Nolan
Endecott, Kiyō	Endecott, Susan
Fields, Ray	Fields, Yasuko
Gibbs, Kyoko - Lead	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	Tanaka, Lennie
Winner, Scott	Wright, David
Hiroshi Yamauchi	Judy Yamauchi

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

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Richard Yasutome who passed away in November 2008 in Pontevedra Beach, Florida. Services will be held pending the ashes being returned to the OBT Nokotsudo.
- To the family of the late Sakae Ando who passed away January 13, 2009.

2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	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.



Rev. David Matsumoto spoke at the Hoonko seminar and service

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, our speaker at the Hoonko seminar and service mentioned Kobabyashi Issa, the famous Jodo Shinshu priest/poet, 1763-1827, who wrote thousands of haiku. Reverend quoted the well-known haiku: "The world of dew is a world of dew, and yet, and yet." He used this haiku to explain the difficulty Shinran experienced in trying to gain shinjin. Issa wrote this haiku after the death of one of his children. One realizes the impermanency of life and yet how difficult is it to accept, especially if it is ones own child. I read this haiku many times when I lost an infant grandson.

Many of Issa's haiku are humorous. He had an absolute trust in Amida; therefore showed "a happy indifference to whatever the future held." He was born in Shinano, now Nagano, to a poor family. He was a poor artist who called his home "kuzu-ya" or "trash home." I visited this home and

yes, it truly was a small one-room hut.
Etsu Osaki

TechnoBuddha Conference 2009

Networking and Reconnecting Seminar
for 21 - 39 Year Olds
Sponsored by the Center for Buddhist Education
at the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley, CA
April 4-5, 2009
Registration Deadline: March 6, 2009
See Etsu Osaki for details and registration form



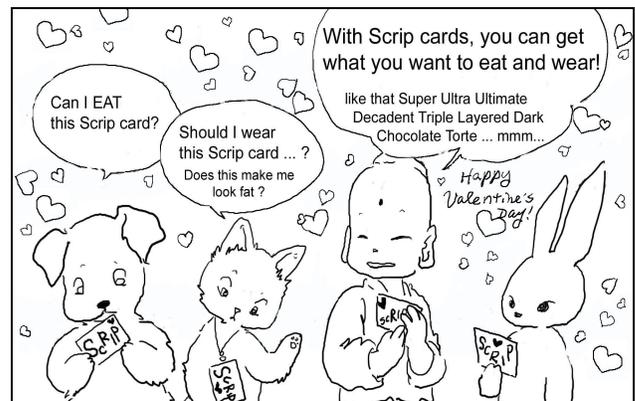
Hey Japanese American High School Seniors ...

*This years Graduation Banquet will be on
Sunday, May 3, 2009
To make sure you get invited, please register your
contact information! Register with
Elaine (e.yuzuriha@comcast.net)
or Kim (kim_kono@yahoo.com)*

*Community scholarships postmark deadline is:
Monday, March 2, 2009
Scholarship interviews will be:
Saturday, April 11, 2009
Scholarship applications and eligibility are available on:*

www.pdxjacl.org

We have over \$20,000 in scholarships to award



Correction: the November 2008 newsletter incorrectly reported that produce for the Sukiyaki bazaar was donated by Masa Okita. We regret this error. The produce was donated by George Okita.

Don't miss the opportunity to
Hear Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno.
 Chant with over 300 sangha members
 Meet with all of our N.W. ministers.
 Visit with old and new Friends from around the N.W.
 Learn how to swing dance...or sing your favorite karaoke tune.
 And be entertained by the Minidoka Swing Band.

Join us for the
 62nd Annual, NW Buddhist Convention
 "Jodo Shinshu in An Interdependent World" and
 the commemoration of Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial
 Feb. 13-15, 2009
 Doubletree Hotel (by Lloyd Center)

For registration information see the OBT website or
 contact Tammy Herald (503) 720-0353

Bring the whole family. We have adult workshops in English and Japanese, a children's program, and childcare for the little ones. If you can't register, keep in mind that all services & workshops are open to our temple membership. See the convention schedule for details.

For hotel reservations call the Doubletree 1-800-996-0510 (request the NW Buddhist block).

62ND Annual NW District Buddhist Convention

FRIDAY

4:00 – 10:00 REGISTRATION
 4:00 – 8:00 Bookstore
 5:00 – 7:00 NW District Ministers' Assoc. Meeting
 7:00 – 9:30 NW District Council Meeting
 7:00 – 8:30 Dance Lessons
 8:30 – 10:00 Karaoke (Adult mixer)
 9:45 – 10:45 Evening Chanting Session
 9:00 – 11:00 Hospitality Room

SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:00 Registration
 8:00 – 9:00 Morning Chanting Session
 8:30 – 6:00 BCA Book Store Open
 8:30 – 9:30 Buddhist Women's Assoc. Rep. Meeting
 Dharma School Teachers' Meeting
 8:30 – 9:30 Children's' (K-8) Activity
 9:00 – 9:30 Oshoko (incense burning before service)
 9:30 – 11:00 Opening Service/Keynote: Rev. Unno
 11:00 – 11:15 Break
 11:15 – 12:15 WORKSHOP SESSIONS #1
 YBA WORKSHOP #1
 — Children's Workshops (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, childcare)
 12:15 – 1:15 LUNCH
 12:15 – 1:15 NW District YBL Meeting & Youth Lunch

1:15 – 2:15

2:15 – 2:30

2:30 – 3:30

3:30 – 5:30

5:30

6:00 – 7:30

8:00 – 10:00

7:45 – 9:00

9:30 – 11:00

9:00 – 11:00

SUNDAY

7:00 – 8:00

8:30 – 9:30

8:30 – 11:30

8:00 – 9:00

8:00 – 9:30

9:30 – 9:45

9:45 – 11:30

12:00

11:45 – 12:15

WORKSHOP SESSIONS #2

YBA WORKSHOP #3
 Children's Workshops (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, childcare)

Break

WORKSHOP SESSIONS #3

YBA WORKSHOP #3
 Children's Workshops (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, child care)

Break

Banquet doors open (assigned seating)

BANQUET

Entertainment "Minidoka Swing Band"

Children's Portland Taiko Workshop

Pajama Party (YBA Activity)

Hospitality Room

Morning Chanting Session

Information/Concierge Open

BCA Book Store Open

NW District Council Meeting

Buddhist Women's Assoc. General Meeting

Oshoko

CLOSING SERVICE

Hotel CHECK OUT

PICK UP pre-ordered Bentos

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
December 2008 Donations**

In memory of Tan Poh Chye
Charles & BeeBee Dawson
Jean Matsumoto

In memory of J. K. & Fumi Kida
Jean Matsumoto

In memory of Natsuko Iguchi
Chikako Iguchi

In memory of Irene Junko Stumpf
Richard D. Stumpf

In memory of Richard Yasutome
Hisako Kakishita

In memory of Beatrice T. Serikaku
James T. Serikaku

Lotus Circle
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Don & Merrie Greenwood
Nobuo & Takako Ishida
Mary Asakawa
Willem & Cathy Stoeller
Ernest Takeda
Cynthia & Gordon Wong
Jean Matsumoto
Alfred Ono
Chris Dart

Hishinuma Memorial Fund
Ramsay & June Hishinuma

Eitaikyo
Iseko Minoura
Shizue Sugihara
Sahomi Tachibana

Bodhi Day
Penny Ann Seibel
Jean Tateishi
Scott & Lynn Grannan
Kan & Miyeko Yagi
Alan Kasubuchi
Mary Kasubuchi
Anonymous

Special donations
Kiyomi Dickinson
JACL Portland Chapter (facility use)
Portland Shotokan (facility use)

Yearend oseibo to temple
Alice Sumida
George & Tomiko Iwasaki
Judy & Paul Hittle
Shigeru & Yoko Yuzuriha
Cynthia & Gordon Wong
Lily Meiners
Sahomi Tachibana
Kan & Miyeko Yagi
Chris Dart
Fumiko Okubo
Sandie Yamauchi
Setsy & Chip Larouche
Joni Shimabukuro
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
LaRhette Swann
Lily & George Kajiwara
Jean Matsumoto
Craig & Laima Little
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Susan Endecott
Angela & Glenn Nakashima
George & Chiho Okita

Yearend oseibo to temple
Grace & Katsuya Amasuga
Hiro Wakabayashi
Grace Aoki
Kimiko Iwamoto
May Kasahara
Bobara Jones
Sumiko Ikata
Michael & Kimberly Hanabusa
Jacki & Alex Danyluk
Shizue Sugihara
Yoshie Kagawa
Mary Asakawa
Grace & Edward Kawasaki
Ernest Takeda
Richard Mishima
Mitsuko Hasuike
Don & Merrie Greenwood
Ami Kinoshita
Ben & Sumie Ishida
Susan M. Lilly
Kim Kono
Alice Ando
June & Stan Shiigi
Satoru & Misako Kodama
Motoko Henry
Masako Kinoshita
Jean Tateishi
Rose T. Ikata
Willem & Cathy Stoeller

2009 Member pledge donations
Kim Kono
Kazuko Sunamoto
Gary Higashi
Helena Heartt
Katie Bretsch
Jean Matsumoto

2009 Membership donations
Ken & Maho Garner
Ben & Sumie Ishida
John & Frances Ota
Henry Mishima
Robert & Gail Tsutsumi
Setsy & Chip Larouche
Terri Ann Carrollo
Bob & Tomo Sunamoto
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Hiroshi & Judith Yamauchi
Mel Takeuchi
David Wright
Carol & William Saiget
Charlene F. Roberts

Note: Your continued membership is important to our temple. Dues are \$200 per year for each adult member. If you prefer, you may make a monthly or quarterly membership pledge donation (minimum \$20 per month or \$60 per quarter, please).

Acknowledgements are mailed to individuals for donations of \$250 or more (as required by the IRS), to donors not on the OBT mailing list, and to any donor upon request.

Susan Endecott
503-698-3767
endecott@worldstar.com

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
SPRING BAZAAR
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009, 11:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

**FOOD PRE-ORDER FORM
*** PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER FORM BY MARCH 5, 2009 *****

Item	Price	Quantity (Eat in)	Quantity (Take Out)	Amount
Chow Mein	\$6.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Sushi	\$6.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Udon	\$6.00	_____	(Not Available)	\$ _____
Chicken Bento	\$7.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Beef Bento	\$7.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Total Amount				\$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

For additional information, please call OBT at 503.234.9456

Thank you for your support