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PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

May 2010



You say its Shinran's birthday

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

We will celebrate the birthday of our denominational founder, Shinran Shonin, Sunday May 23rd. At 9:30 a.m. on that day we will have a brief service including a Japanese-language message that I will compose for that occasion. At 10 a.m. our main English-language message will be given by our guest speaker, Rev. Kurt Rye. Rev. Rye is charming and outgoing, pleasant and approachable.

Rev. Kurt Kyosei Rye is originally from the Washington D.C. area. From the age of sixteen however, he spent most of his years in the Seattle area. So, he is really from the Northwest just like I will always be from the town where he is currently assigned, Fresno, even though I didn't move there until I was seven. I hope you will come out to hear his Dharma message on May 23rd. It is sure to be a meaningful and engaging message.

The special service we are inviting him for, Gotan-E, is a celebration of Shinran's birthday. The title of my article here, "You say its Shinran's birthday", suggests the Beatles song "Birthday". The next line, by Paul in his "Elvis" voice, would be "it's my birthday too, yeah". Is Shinran's birthday really our birthdays too?

I do feel like Shinran's birthday is also my birthday. As you know, Shinran said that if we seem to be alone sometimes when we are saying the nembutsu, really he is there saying it with us too, so that there are always at least two people uttering the nembutsu when we say "Namo Amida Butsu". He felt that sort of intimacy with anyone who was drawn to the nembutsu by his teaching. So when we say our celebration of Shinran's birthday is May 23rd this year, well it's my birthday too.

Actually I share the exact day of my birthday with the former emperor of Japan, Hirohito. When I was in Japan, my seminary Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin was one of the few institutions not celebrating Midori no Hi, which is a commemoration of Hirohito's birthday. I was in a country

where my birthday happens to be a national holiday but I was attending one of the few schools that remained in regular session that day. At the time, it didn't seem fair.

Our denomination is not afraid of taking stances on social issues. Our denomination is not unwilling to position itself amidst political realities. It is not some false dichotomy between religion and politics that explains why our group does not observe April 29th as a holiday. The Go Monshu, His Eminence Koshin Ohtani, speaks out against development of nuclear weapons. He is a pacifist. The Go Monshu in his new book, "Buddha's Wish for the World", says "there is absolutely no justification for killing another human being". The Go Monshu advocates racial and social equality, opposes class difference and repeatedly calls for a more just distribution of wealth. The Go Monshu encourages environmental protection. But he won't celebrate Midori no Hi on April 29th. He doesn't want to associate himself with class privilege (Hirohito was his relative I am told) or with the imperialism of the military government that Hirohito in no way opposed nor worked to control. As a result, Hongwanji-ha-sponsored institutions like the seminary I attended in Japan do not observe the Midori no Hi holiday.

Shinran's birthday we do celebrate. The actual day of his birth, on a solar calendar, comes out to be May 21st. We usually schedule his birthday celebration, Gotan-E, as close to that day as possible. This year, again, it will be May 23rd. You say its Shinran's birthday. It's my birthday too.

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."

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May Highlights

May 2	Japanese community graduation banquet, MAC	5 pm
May 14	OBT board meeting	7 pm
May 15	OBWA meeting	9:30 am
	Stroke awareness presentation	11 am
May 15	Seminar: Shakespeare: A Buddhist Perspective	2 – 4 pm
May 23	Gotanye, infant and new member recognition service, followed by refreshments	9:30 am
May 31	Memorial Day Services	
	Temple	9 am
	Gresham Cemetery	10:30 am
	Rose City Cemetery	noon
	Rose City Japanese American Community Service	1 pm
	Lone Fir Cemetery	2:30 pm



***President's message –
Springing into action***
Kim Kono, OBT President

During the past few months, the OBT Board has been tackling issues vital to our temple's future, and as such, are topics on which we'll seek the guidance and support of members. I'd like to touch upon two of those items here.

Member engagement: Members are aware that last fall the OBT Board conducted a Sangha Outreach Project, or membership survey, in an effort to better understand members, how they're engaging with the temple, and how we might better support our community. I'm pleased to share that we received a 26% return on a survey of 245 current and past members.

The Board compiled the results, which were reviewed by past presidents of OBT who convened in February 2010. The past presidents who met are making recommendations to the Board for their consideration. In an upcoming newsletter, you'll hear more about the survey. One point that did come out of the past president's meeting is the need to recruit new volunteers and leaders of key events and activities, including temple committees.

At the April 25th Dharma Exchange, the Board and committee leaders will have an opportunity to share the work of the committees, ask for your input and answer questions, and if members are so inclined, enlist your energy and talents!

In addition, the Board seeks to identify emerging areas of need. For example, we're excited that Tom Takeuchi has volunteered to lead a new Eco-Sangha Committee. Tom will share thoughts at Dharma Exchange on how OBT can practice becoming green. Join us on April 25th to hear about new possibilities like this, as well as to learn about and share ideas on the other committees that sustain OBT.

Donation Boxes: Did you know that in the Hondo there are three large wooden donation boxes? In the temple in which I grew up, there were similar boxes. My parents gave me coins or dollar bills to drop in each Sunday as my brother and I entered the Hondo. As an adult, I admit that I've grown out of this habit, reserving my giving for membership, special service donations, or the Lotus Circle.

At the April Board meeting, we decided that we want to give guests, as well as members of all ages, the opportunity to regularly support OBT. This is why we are moving one donation box into the Lobby to make it more visible and accessible. You'll also notice that envelopes are appearing in the pews. Contributions of all amounts over time add up and will benefit OBT, which relies on the generosity of dues paying members, and donations from the broader community via fundraisers or special gifts for funerals and weddings.

OBT operates on a lean budget. Our endowment, under the management of the Finance Committee, has its earnings reinvested to provide for future operating support.

The Board is taking small steps in cultivating Dana in a way that members and non-members alike can choose to participate, however they are comfortable. I plan to get into the habit again of using the donation boxes (and skipping that weekend latte), and to cultivate regular giving in my son when he enters the Hondo.

To all members on behalf of the Board, thank you for your thoughtful generosity in supporting and caring for OBT.

In Gassho



OBWA news

Katie Tamiyasu, OBWA Vice-president

Thank you to Julie Kagawa, Grace Ishikawa, Sumi Ishida, Misa Kodama, Miki Yagi and Etsu Osaki for the refreshments served at the OBWA meeting on March 20th. Also thank you to the toban for their hard work doing the monthly temple clean up after the meeting.

Hanamatsuri was observed on April 4th, and we thank the April toban and the ladies of OBWA for the otoki preparation of chirashizushi, barbecued chicken, miso broccoli and orange wedges. Also thank you to those who made deliveries to the homebound members, so they could also enjoy the delicious food.

OBWA gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for donations received in February, March and April.

For month of February:

Feb 8 Chiho Okita

Feb 22 Josephine Uyeda

Anonymous

For month of March:

- Mar 8 Atsuko Richardson (for her birthday),
Janice Okamoto (recovery from her surgery),
Anonymous
- Mar 23 Ruth Watanabe (in memory of Mary Kasubuchi)
Alan Kasubuchi (in memory of Mary Kasubuchi)
Pat Hokama (orei for the flowers)
- Mar 30 Kiyomi Dickenson

For month of April

- April 3 Nobi Masuoka (Matthew Masuoka 13yrs memorial)
- April 10 Sumiko Ikata (orei for Rose Ikata's omimai)
Anonymous

May is National Stroke Awareness Month, so after the OBWA general meeting on Saturday, May 15th, Dr. Lisa Yanase will speak on stroke prevention, heart disease and dementia. Temple members and friends are invited to attend the presentation at 11am (see later article).

Please pay OBWA dues for 2010 if you are still planning to join and haven't paid. co-treasurers Grace Ichikawa and Misa Kodama will gladly receive your \$6.00 dues

In Gassho



Thank you garden helpers ***Jayne Ichikawa***

Despite the rainy, windy week before Hanamatsuri, a small, persevering crew, including my 90 year old mother, Ami Kinoshita, and my visiting sister from

Virginia were able to remove weeds and restore beauty to our Japanese garden in time for Hanamatsuri. Many thanks to these dedicated people for their time and efforts: Karen Scapple, Susan Lilly, Stan Shiigi, Tom McCormack, David Wright (mowing the grounds) and Shinya Ichikawa. The maintenance of the garden is ongoing so I hope others will be able to help when needed.



New books in the library ***Etsu Osaki***

The Minidoka Story by Sat Ichikawa, Seattle Nisei Vets Foundation, 2009, 24 pages.

This little booklet tells what happened to Americans of Japanese ancestry during WWII. It's a picture story of the lives of families who survived America's concentration camps.

We have 2 copies in our library and the Dharma Store has copies for sale at \$5.50.

Great Compassion: The Essence of Shin Buddhism, copyrighted by Mary Wada Roath, Creative Arts Book Co,

Berkeley, 218 pages.

These quotations were contributed by ministers, teachers and lay members and were gathered by the Fresno Betsuin Dharma Group. It's a handy source to find appropriate sayings for different occasions. "Birth in the Pure Land means not only to be born but to live." By Rev. Kosho Yukawa.

101 Questions and Answers on Buddhism by John Renard, Gramercy Books, New York, 2002 edition, 187 pages. This book answers 101 most common questions about the faith of a quarter of the world's people. Some questions: What do Buddhists think about birth, death and the afterlife? What are the most basic elements in Buddhist teachings? How does Buddhism compare with other religions?

Annon: Peace and Tranquility: Booklet of Sermons Commemorating the 750th Memorial of Shinran Shonin. Ministers from the Southern District share their thoughts and insights on the Nembutsu and on the topic of world peace.

Against the Stream: A Buddhist Manual for Spiritual Revolutionaries, Harper San Francisco, 2007, 162 pages. The author writes that at 17 he was in a padded cell of the local juvenile hall. He had been leading a life of stealing and drugs. His father suggested meditation, which saved his life. He became a teacher of meditation, a writer and a counselor. The book covers Buddha's life, the 4 Truths, 8 Fold Path and discusses various types of meditation.

Learning to Dance in the Rain: The Power of Gratitude by Mac Anderson and BJ Gallagher, Simple Truths: 2009, 109 pages. This is a beautifully illustrated, easy-to-read book about the power of gratitude. The author, Mac Anderson, was inspired by a blind, young pianist who was bound to a wheelchair who made beautiful music. This musician's "attitude of gratitude" inspired him to write this book. "Life's not about waiting for the storm to pass, It's about learning to dance in the rain."



Lotus circle – May ***Jean Matsumoto***

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

- May 2 – Ami Kinoshita in memory of (imo) brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Yosh and April Kinoshita and children Nadine and Teddy Kinoshita
- May 9 – Kan and Miki Yagi imo their parents
- May 16 – Christopher Shiraishi imo parents, Yutaka and Kazue
- May 23 – Kiyomi Dickinson imo mother, Toshiko Kitagawa
- May 30 – Sumie Ishida imo father, Yoshikiyo, and mother, Hisayo Yamamoto

Thank you to all for your generosity which allows us to have the beautiful flowers that the Flower Toban arranges for us each week. Now that spring is here, the flowers are not only plentiful but colorful and are greatly appreciated by all who see them on the onajin. Remember to check out

the Lotus Circle page on our website thanks to Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and contact him if you would like to submit information in memory of your loved ones. For information about joining the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or matsumo@orcatech.org.

May Toban

Asakawa, Carol	Greenwood, Don
Greenwood, Merrie	Hittle, Judy
Hittle, Paul	Hokama, Pat
Hokama, Tom	Larouche, Chip
Larouche, Setsy	Matsunaga, Robert
Nishi-Strattner, Linda	Nishi-Strattner, Mark
Ono, Al	Ono, Tomoko
Ono, Yoshi	Okamoto, Janice
Shikatani, Cathy	Stoeller, Willem
Tanaka, Bill	Tanaka, Linda
Tateishi, Jeanie	Yanase, Craig
Yanase, Lisa	Yuzuriha, Elaine
Yuzuriha, Todd	

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		Year	
Of Passing	Memorial	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.



Heartfelt thank you and gratitude

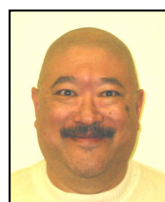
Janice Okamoto

Dear friends and members of the Oregon Buddhist temple. The family of Karl F. Wingren sincerely appreciates your sympathy cards and gifts on the sudden and unexpected passing of my son-in-law Karl on March 22nd at age 45 years old. A celebration of life was held on April 3rd at the Lake Oswego Heritage house. We thank you for your support.

In Gassho,
Janice Okamoto, mother-in-law
Elaine Okamoto Wingren, Kentaro and Emiko

In the service

Sean Magee, grandson of OBT members Ben and Alice Tano, joined the US Air Force on March 2. He is stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX undergoing eight weeks of basic training before becoming an aerospace maintenance apprentice. Sean reports he's doing well and of course the family misses him and is proud of him. OBT wishes the Tano and Magee family well.



OBT has a new committee: Eco-Sangha Committee (ESC) Tom Takeuchi

I will serve as Chairperson. "The mission of the OBT Eco-Sangha is to ensure that environmental-friendly action and conservation are promoted, practiced, and attained in the operation of the temple."

I feel that to promote and practice this mission statement requires that we work with ourselves, within our homes, our businesses, as well as at our temple. I also feel that we are each at different places in our path and have different levels of commitment.

To promote and practice this mission statement requires working with ourselves, within our homes, our businesses, and as well as at our temple. I also feel that we are each at different places in our path and have different levels of commitment.

Some temple members will be satisfied to compost all food debris while others would prefer to buy local, and still others will choose to do both. Some temple members will be satisfied to recycle flashlight batteries while others would prefer to hook a generator to their stationary exercise bicycle. And some members will choose to become vegetarians for a host of reasons.

As such this committee will serve as a source of options one can take to be environmentally-friendly. We will not undertake to make policy statements, or demand a strict code of conduct, however, returning to Buddhist thinking would be nice.

Being a new committee, I am looking for people interested in going green, being environmentally active, looking to develop a sustainable lifestyle, and to do that means sharing of information, generating questions, problem-solving as a team, and most importantly gathering material.

I understand we are all busy and meeting on a regular basis is difficult, so initially I would like to communicate via the internet, first to generate conversation, develop a chat room so we can start discussion and share ideas, and if possible, meeting every once in awhile to

generate dialogue and group thinking.

Are you interested? If yes, send me an email to doctom@quixnet.net announcing your interest and willingness to help. I will try to keep everyone informed and submit an article from the ESC in our temple's monthly newsletter.

Eco-Sangha contest

To decrease our carbon footprint/our environmental impact at our temple, we first need to know what waste/garbage/crap we are producing. Once we know what, then we can look into reduce, reuse, recycle, replace,...

So here is the contest: List all the things we use at the temple that must be thrown away. Number the items. The winner is the one with the most items. Be specific and don't try to offer solutions. Packaging (which types), paper products (which kinds and for what uses), office equipment and supplies, fixtures...

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded. Don't know what they will be, but they should be green. The contest starts now and all entries must be submitted no later than midnight May 31st to "doctom@quixnet.net". Sorry I reserve the right to be the judge with any problem(s) but I will consult Reverend Gibbs and my sister Tomiko.



Lisa Yanase

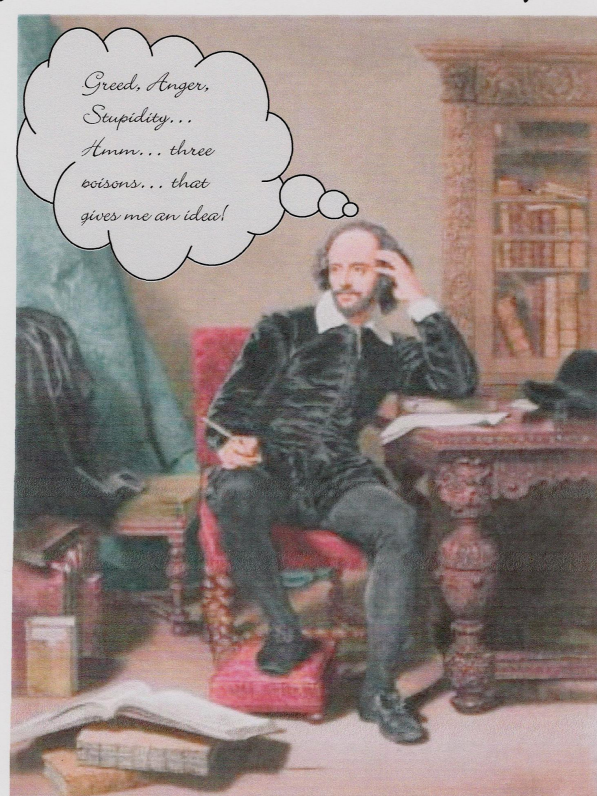
Lisa Yanase MD, to speak for May National Stroke Awareness Month

Everybody is invited to hear OBT member Dr. Yanase speak on Saturday May 15, 11 am at the OBT social hall (basement). Her much abbreviated auto-

biography and even more abbreviated credentials follow:

I was born a seventh generation Texan, and spent my weekends on the family cattle ranch ridin', fishin' and shootin'. I went to Duke University, where I became interested in biology, psychology, (and Buddhism) and turned that into a first job in neuroscience research. I decided I liked humans better than lab rats, so started medical school at University of North Carolina. After several moves for training, I landed in Salt Lake City, where a friend introduced me to Craig. I now am the Medical Director of Stroke Center at Providence Portland, Brownie Troop leader, proud mother of Lauren and Bryan, and tolerant and adoring wife of Craig (also an OBT member: editor's note).

Shakespeare: A Buddhist Perspective



Saturday, May 15th, 2 – 4 pm
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave

one block south of SE Powell Blvd.

Free and open to the general public

Easy access by Trimet line # 9

Plenty of parking