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PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

November 2020

From “Wrong View” to ‘Right View’ Reverend Yuki Sugahara

*The liberating wheel of light is without bound;
Each person it touches, it is taught,
Is freed from attachments to being and nonbeing,
So take refuge in Amida, the enlightenment of
nondiscrimination.
- Jodo Wasan 5*

I have been reading a book on Yogacara (Sanskrit, “yoga practice”, see note 1 at end of article), “representation only” school of Mahayana Buddhism with my minister friends in Japan online almost every week since March. We have read 330 pages and still have about 300 pages left. We are now studying about the mental concomitant taught in the Thirty Verses on Representation Only, written by Vasubandhu.

The Thirty Verses mentions Fifty-One Mental Factors and twenty-six are about Blind Passion afflictions. Most of the afflictions work on our surface mind, but some of them work on our subconscious mind that is very difficult to get rid of.

One of the afflictions is “Wrong View.” But, compared to what? One of the texts of Yogacara, the *Discourse on the Perfection of Representation Only* explains:

What are wrong views?

They have as their essential nature defiled discernment, that is, false or topsy-turvy speculations and judgments in regard to eternal verities (truths) and principles. Their mode of activity is to impede “good views” (truths), and to produce suffering.

So wrong views means to see things topsy-turvy. We add our false impression on everything and create the world around us through this wrong view. “Good view” or “right view” is to see things as they are. Wrong view impedes “right view”, producing suffering or unsatisfaction. Wrong view could be seeing impermanent as permanent. It is like the beginning staying in place.

Discourse on the Perfection of Representation Only divides wrong view into five topsy-turvy views. The explanation in the *Discourse* is a bit complicated so I will use the explanation from the Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism.

Five types of wrong view:

1. The view that there is an enduring self, or soul, that exists in reality.

2. Extreme views, namely belief in permanence or annihilation.

3. Fallacious views, the denial of or disbelief in the efficacy of karma, rebirth, and causality.

4. The rigid attachment to views, such as mistakenly and stubbornly clinging to one’s own speculative views as being superior to all others.

5. The rigid attachment to the soteriological (doctrine of salvation) efficacy of rites and rituals.

I will not explain all of them in detail, but most of the wrong views are creating chaos in the world right now. “Extreme Views” is one of the wrong views we have to be careful of or we should be mindful of in our nature to using extreme views to judge things and people. I don’t want to use political examples so I will use the example from a story of Rakugo (see note 2 at end of article) story teller Hayashiya Rokusuke. When he was going to ride on the Shinkansen bullet train, he waited at the platform an hour before the departure time. His disciple told him “Shinkansen leaves on time so it’s meaningless to wait there this early.” But Rokusuke told the disciple that “well, it might leave early. They sometime leave late so there’s a possibility of also leaving early.”

If you have ever been to Japan, you know how trains leave on time. So, I was surprised when I first used Amtrak that they don’t even come on time! But, I guess it is a natural thing for people in the US. We have the presumption that the train might come late or leave late, but never leave early. So we are using this extreme view that the train might leave late, but never leave early. We attach to this one-sided idea and think that the opposite idea is a wrong idea. This is an extreme view.

The following is a story I heard from my friend, which he had heard from a scholar of our tradition. The scholar received a question, “What should I do when I quarrel with my wife?” Then the scholar said “quarrel until you get exhausted and then both of you go before Amida Buddha together and ask ‘which is right?’” Then Amida Buddha would say “you are both wrong.”

So, we should always ask guidance to the Buddha and see if our view is not leaning too much towards one side and not being mindful of the other side’s opinion.

Another wrong view I would like to introduce is the rigid attachment to views. This seems no different from the extreme views, but one of the books says the rigid attachment

“OBT welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and political or religious affiliation.”

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to views is integrating all the wrong view and attaching to it as the right view.

The Discourse continuous, “the function of these views is to furnish occasions for various disputes and struggles.” So, because of this wrong view of rigid attachment to views, we have disputes and struggles.

If everyone thinks his/her opinion is right and never compromises, disputes and conflicts never disappear from the world. What we need is the mind of listening, and the mind of being mindful of others. In Jodo Shinshu, we understand, or I understand that this mind of being mindful of others comes from the nurturing working of Amida Buddha

I am full of blind passions such as the three poisons of greed, anger, and ignorance and based on this ignorance I see people and things with the wrong view. The working of Amida Buddha in nembutsu makes me realize that this is to be the case. So if more people encounter the teaching of Amida Buddha and realize the foolish nature of relying on ignorance

and seeing the world with wrong views, I am sure the world would be a more peaceful place. I hope everyone encounters the teaching of nembutsu and nurtures the mind of being mindful of others in this difficult time.

Gassho

- (1) *Yogācāra emphasizes the study of cognition, perception, and consciousness through the interior lens of meditative and yogic practices.*
- (2) *Rakugo is a form of Japanese verbal entertainment. The lone storyteller sits on a raised platform, a kōza. Using only a paper fan and a small cloth as props, and without standing up from the seiza sitting position, the rakugo artist depicts a long and complicated comical story. The story always involves the dialogue of two or more characters.*

November Shotsuki Hoyo

Listed below are the names of those who passed away starting from 1950. Oregon Buddhist Temple has records from 1904. Names of deceased prior to 1950 are added if requested. If a name is missing or incorrect, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Ando, Kikue 11/9/1989 *	Kiyohara, Jutarō 11/ 13/1953	Okita, Clara Kazue 11/17/2004
Asakawa, Nogi Seichi 11/14/1992	Kiyokawa, Rei 11/25/1979	Ouchida, Shizuyo 11/8/1965 *
Emoto, Junpei 11/11/1957	Koida, William Minoru 11/13/2010	Sakauye, Shizue Suzie 11/13/1997*
Fujii, Kazuo 11/5/2007	Kuribayashi, Seimi 11/19/1987	Sako, Fumie 11/25/1998 *
Fujimura, Masao 11/29/1959	Maehara, Kameichi 11/19/1957	Shimizu, Shizuno 11/3/1952 *
Furukawa, Frank 11/9/1979	Maekawa, Tomoko 11/24/1995	Shoji, George Tatsuo 11/12/1995
Hamataka, Fujimatsu 11/5/1950	Maekawa, Yone 11/24/2004 *	Sunamoto, Bob Hiroshi 11/22/2009
Hara, Mineto 11/13/2015	Masuda, Ryonosuke 11/20/1975	Tachibana, Toki 11/19/1962 *
Harder, Richard 11/21/1996	Matsumoto, Kametaro 11/6/1980	Takabayashi, Utajiro 11/10/1963
Hasebe, Jamie Jo 11/26/2004	Matsunaga, Ayame 11/2/2006 *	Takashima, Tokiye Ruth 11/25/2005*
Hayashi, Dr Mie May 11/2/2002	Minagi, Yoneo Eddie 11/11/2002	Takeuchi, Sakajiro 11/9/1963
Hiransomboon, Totsavask (Todd) 11/8/2002	Mitoma, Hisa 11/16/1960 *	Takeuchi, Shiro 11/22/2011
Imamura, Megan Akemi 11/1/2013	Morita, Chieto 11/1/1989	Tamiyasu, Gunichi 11/20/1958
Kanzaki, Kyuji 11/6/1962	Murahashi, Kazue 11/14/1979 *	Tamura, Mitsuru 11/27/1977 *
Kato, Yahichi 11/19/1964	Murahashi, Toyoki 11/24/1961	Tan, Poh Chye 11/25/2008
Kawasaki, Hikojiro 11/25/1952	Nakamoto, Takaichi 11/15/1952	Teramura, Uno 11/28/1966 *
Kinoshita, Nadine Colette 11/28/2009	Nakamura, James S 11/15/1976	Yamano, Alice 11/22/1988 *
Kirihara, Kyo 11/11/1962 *	Nakamura, Tsuru 11/21/1986 *	Yamauchi, Hiroshi 11/3/2014
Kiso, Yukino 11/27/1991 *	Nakayama, Katsumi 11/25/1996	Yoshihara, Chiyoko 11/20/2006 *
		Yoshihara, Taro 11/6/2004

* OBWA member

2019 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2018	1 Year	2003	17 Year
2017	3 Year	1995	25 Year
2012	7 Year	1987	33 Year
2007	13 Year	1970	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtportland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of the late Reverend Kakuyuei Tada who passed away on Sept. 27th. Rev Tada was the OBT supervising minister during the last quarter of 2001.

Condolences can be sent to his wife Tamiko Tada 16819 Mariposa Ave. Gardena CA. 90247

President's Column
Cathy Yarne, OBT President

Dear Sangha,

The rust-orange leaves on the maple tree outside my window are yet another reminder that fall is here. The passage of time seems amiss since we were unable to host our annual Sukiyaki food bazaar. Last week my husband found some matsutake mushrooms. My family agreed that one of their favorite ways to eat them was in OBT sukiyaki. As a child I use to call it suki-icky so I never tried to cook it at home. I love being a part of the sukiyaki crew at our fundraiser. With all the experience I've gained at OBT, I should be able to cook this at home - right? Wish me luck!

This next bit of information will most likely make you groan - "Oh no!" On October 13th the City repaired a leak in the sewer line on 34th. Unfortunately this caused a backup in the drains in our basement. This resulted in water damage in both restrooms, hallway outside of the restrooms and parts of the kitchen. The first phase of sanitizing has occurred. A small portion of some walls and flooring will be removed. The full extent of the damages & repairs is still to be determined as the affected areas are exposed. To complicate the demolition and repairs, there is asbestos in some areas.

Since this is a major project I've pulled together a small group to oversee the entire project. (Jeff Yarne, Ryan Davis, Ray Fukunaga, Mark Achterman). They will be working with the contractors, monitoring the progress, communicate with our insurance, etc. Together I'm confident they will make sure the project is done well and in the best interest of the temple.

Although this is an extremely unfortunate incident, we are lucky that we do not have to cancel any in-person activities at

the temple since they've been suspended due to Covid. At this time there are still many unknowns to provide an estimated completion date. In the meantime, the entire basement IS OFF LIMITS to everyone - yes even the curious! The basement is a "work zone." Please do not interrupt the work being done, and stay out of the workers way for your safety and theirs. I'll provide regular updates to you in the monthly newsletter.

Needless to say, the first 48 hours after discovering the problem was very stressful for me. Now that I've had time to accept the reality of the incident and understand the scope of the project I'm a bit calmer. Having these 4 people overseeing the project is a tremendous reassurance that everything will work out - eventually. take care,

Gassho,

Cathy Yarne

Call or text: 503 319-7071

Email yarnefamily@gmail.com

Benefit Concert
Angie Hughes

In the Spirit of Giving: An Evening of Music with OBT will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 7PM. This is a one-time interactive event over Zoom, featuring temple musicians, artists, and eager participants. It is our heartfelt hope that, like our many other fundraisers, the Sangha will gather to support the temple during this exciting show. Together, we can create an amazing time for all to enjoy that will be entertaining and productive for the continued vitality of our temple.

Over the past eight months, we can probably all agree that there are specific aspects of temple activities that we miss. Whether you enjoy volunteering at an Obonfest booth, preparing refreshments for after dharma exchange, or maybe working side by side with your friends in the kitchen during Sukiyaki, there's an aspect of temple life that is absent for you. Whatever that is, we hope this Benefit Concert will provide you with another avenue by which to connect with Sangha members, support the temple, and enjoy the talents of our OBT musicians. The saying goes that it takes a village, and for OBT, it definitely takes a Sangha.

Please contact the Benefit Committee at givingobt@gmail.com for the Zoom link, questions, and inquiries. We are very excited to share this wonderful event and see you on November 14th.

If you would like to donate in advance of the event, please visit the OBT webpage for additional details:

<https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/benefit-concert>

Thank you!

The following article by OBT board member Ken Garner is written to help make board members more accessible to temple members

Gratitude is the Secret to Happiness ~~ Unaccredited Facebook meme Ken Garner

Believe it or not, we have made it to November, limping though we may be towards the year's finish line. I don't know about you, but I feel pummeled: battered, bruised, and mostly just plain tired.

November is the month of Thanksgiving, the nationally designated time of gratitude for all that we have been given. I mentioned in each of the November articles I wrote as temple president that Thanksgiving, the most Jodo Shinshu of all the American holidays, is my favorite. How fortunate am I for all of the countless causes and conditions that lead me to be here now, to have wonderful friends, a supportive community, and a loving family. How can I not be truly grateful to encounter the Dharma and to feel the warm embrace of Amida's compassion and wisdom?

In normal years gratitude comes easy. 2020 has been anything but normal. As years go, 2020 has been the perfect storm of perfect storms. Storms of political unrest, civil discord, racism, economic failing, fires, hurricanes, climate change, have ravaged our planet. And this is not even mentioning the biggest storm of all, the global Covid 19 pandemic, the like of which has not been seen in a century.

Being sheltered in place and appropriately distanced, I occasionally find myself lamenting the situation we are in. The little inconveniences I must undergo and the bigger disruption to life as I knew it. I turn on the TV and am bombarded with news, none of which is good. It is easy to be overwhelmed with the events of 2020. For what can I be grateful?

Taken as a whole, the storms of 2020 are overwhelming. When I look at each one individually, however, I find silver linings in each cloud. These silver linings are in the reactions to the storms and actions taken to negotiate the obstacles. Across BCA, the Covid pandemic required temples to close and cancel all activity. Since people could no longer attend service to hear the Dharma, temples and BCA began to live stream services and seminars to reach people at their homes. While in the past those of us living in the Pacific Northwest found it difficult to attend seminars, meetings, classes at the Jodo Shinshu Center, events are now available on-line through Zoom meetings. We can hear ministers and other speakers from temples in BCA, Canada, Hawaii, and elsewhere. Never before have we had such an abundance of riches. I believe that this change, adding the on-line to the in-person availability of the Dharma, is a permanent one. The more avenues we have to hear the Dharma and participate in events the better. Now that we have found new ways to share the Dharma, why would we go back to in-person alone? It took the storm of the pandemic to produce this silver lining.

For each of the storms, there are silver linings; we just

have to look for them. 2020 has been challenging but by the same token it has been a great catalyst. Ultimately I am an optimist and I believe the hardships we experience from the events of this year are the birth pains for a better tomorrow. For the silver linings I bow in gratitude to 2020. Happy Thanksgiving everybody! Namo Amida Butsu.

Dharma Exchange Schedule

We are holding Dharma Exchange sessions every other week on Sundays at 11:00 am. These sessions are via Zoom. Here is the list of topics for upcoming sessions

- November 8: Kemi Nakabayashi "Music in BCA"
- November 22: Ken Garner "Gratitude"
- December 6: Ann Shintani "TBA"
- December 20: Al Ono "December 25, Just Another Day at OBT"

2020 OBT Board of Directors

Term Ending 2020: Angie Davis (Vice President), Traci Kiyama (Secretary), Cathy Yarne (President), Jenna Yokoyama

Term Ending 2021: Marilyn Achterman, Ken Garner, Mai Thi La, Ann Shintani

Term Ending 2022: Erik Ackerson, Jayne Ichikawa, Katie Tamiyasu, Christine White

Dharma School

Ann Shintani

Eitai-kyo, or "perpetual sutra", service is observed in November. This observance recognizes the effort to hear and share the Dharma. With our temple activities on-line, this sharing of Dharma will be different at this time of physical-distancing.

We held a supply pick-up/distribution on one Saturday in October. We met in the temple parking lot, and enjoyed our brief visits. We shared supplies for making home butsudans, gratitude mini-pumpkins, and cards. Our home butsudan (altar) will give us a reminder of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, as well as reminders of impermanence and other concepts. Do you remember what those are?

Marilyn thoughtfully added a seasonal fruit of either pear, pomegranate, or persimmon to our bags. Thank you to those others who also contributed: Amy, Mrs. Mizuta, Etsu, Elaine, the FDSTL, Ann and the DS fund.

During our visits, we learned something about our Sangha: someone makes and gives gifts of beautiful aprons; a dad uses a Japanese emergency vehicle as their second car; one family has a decal store on Etsy; and someone likes their waffles with fresh blueberries. Mika and I met a new family in town from

Arizona, M and J - welcome!

In lieu of our annual elder visitation, we will have visitors join us at our virtual class. We hope you will plan to join in OBT's music fundraising event and hear Dharma School's contribution. For your Thanksgiving, perhaps we all can create our own gratitude pumpkins to reflect upon, and that will give you a sense of ease and freedom.



Supply Pickup Distribution



Buddhist Study Class via Zoom



Intermediate Class: Reading The Three Pure Land Sutras – encountering the teaching which the Buddhas enjoyed

When: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 7pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Participants are at their

respective homes on their computers, communicating via Zoom.

This is a twice a month intermediate level Buddhist study class. Please contact Reverend Sugahara for more information.

Currently we are reading Tannisho.

The next class will be November 4 on Chapter 15.

Excerpt from Chapters 15.

*XV – When true entrusting, firm as a diamond,
Is settled, at that very instant
Amida's light grasps us and protects us,
And we forever transcend birth-and-death.*

Thus Have I Heard

'Thus have I heard is the common translation of the first line of standard introduction of Buddhist discourses. This phrase serves to confirm that the discourse is coming from the Buddha himself, as a "seal of authenticity".'

The book, American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War, by Duncan Ryuken Williams chronicles the story of how Japanese Americans fought and defended their right of religious freedom when faced with injustice. The Prologue of the book begins: Thus Have I Heard: An American Sutra.

In the link below, No-No Boy's new song "Buddha In The Searchlights," was inspired by stories and themes from Duncan Ryuken Williams' book

> <https://youtu.be/fy4drXCBQps>

Portland Taiko



This year, Portland Taiko will hold its Bonenkai (year-end party, recital, and fundraiser) online. We will present the unedited taiko videos from our fall concert as well as new taiko videos from our students in the Power Taiko and Beyond Basics classes. In addition to short greetings, announcements, and games, we will pay tribute to our beloved friend and co-founder Valerie Otani with a special video and a new musical work-in-progress.

This has been a difficult year for all of us, so we are anxious to say "good-bye" to 2020 and welcome in the new year with hopes for a better future. With that in mind, grab your favorite drink and join us on Friday, December 4 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Visit our website, www.portlandtaiko.org, type in "PT2020" for the link, then click! Please email us at info@portlandtaiko.org if you have any questions and we hope to see you there

What is Compassion?

Below is a definition from Wikipedia. It is a definition for human compassion, not the infinite Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Compassion motivates people to go out of their way to help the physical, mental, or emotional pains of another and themselves. Compassion is often regarded as having sensitivity, an emotional aspect to suffering. Though, when based on cerebral notions such as fairness, justice, and interdependence, it may be considered rational in nature and its application

understood as an activity also based on sound judgment. There is also an aspect of equal dimension, such that an individual's compassion is often given a property of "depth", "vigor", or "passion". The etymology of "compassion" is Latin, meaning "co-suffering." Compassion involves "feeling for another" and is a precursor to empathy, the "feeling as another" capacity for better person-centered acts of active compassion; in common parlance active compassion is the desire to alleviate another's suffering

Donations to Oregon Buddhist Temple can be made through PayPal on the Temple website. Click the "support" heading or see below. For those familiar with PayPal, see below. Donations can also be mailed to the Temple.

Donate through PayPal

Did you know that OBT has a PayPal Account? We gratefully accept the donations through PayPal. This is the perfect way to donate during this difficult time of social distancing.

Thank you for your consideration!

Gassho,
Yuki Sugahara
Resident Minister
Oregon Buddhist Temple



When paper newsletters were mailed, donation envelopes were enclosed for those months that had special services and events. Now that the newsletter is available only electronically this is not possible. This is a reminder to encourage readers to continue the donations, not only for these events but anytime. Thank you.

February	Hoonko
March	Spring Ohigan
April	Hanamatsuri
May	Gotan-E Shinran Shonin Birthday Celebration
July	Kangi-e "A Gathering of Joy" Obon Service
August	Obonfest
September	Fall Ohigan
November	Eitaikyo - Perpetual Memorial Service
December	Year End Gift for the Temple

Oregon Buddhist Temple is closed until further notice

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
Happy Hour**

Nov. 2nd & Nov. 9th

7:00 pm



If ...

- *You're wondering how other members of the Sangha are doing & what they've been up to*
- *Feel like chatting*
- *Forgot what someone looks like*
- *You're ready for a few smiles and laughs*
- *Want to practice your zoom meeting skills*



Join us! We look forward to seeing you!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83334934164?pwd=K3lHN2RpN1BjOXFQMFFOa0JxVGplQT09>

BYOB & Snacks!

**In the Spirit of Giving:
An Evening of Music
with OBT**

Saturday
November 14, 2020
7 PM

To learn more, please visit:
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

To request an invitation link, please email:
givingobt@gmail.com



Save the date!

Oregon Buddhist Temple September Donations

In memory of Shig Yuzuriha

Ray & Lori Fukunaga
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Susan Endecott

In honor of Jeff & Cathy Yarne,

***Pat & Jack Bishop,
& Jean Matsumoto***
Anonymous

Fall Ohigan

Katie Tamiyasu
Pat Hokama
Diane Ando Harder
Dana Kakishita

***In memory of Dick Hoverson,
Phyllis Muramatsu, Patsy Abe***

Chris Dart

Special donations

June & Stan Shiigi (2020 Fund Drive)

Carolyn J. Saiget (thank you to
NW ministers for joint services)

Harry Bondareff & Kerry Connolly

Beverly Aaby

Beatrice Saito

Karol Kennedy

Gary Higashi

Matthew Mackintosh

Ray & Lori Fukunaga

Jill & Huy Van

Susan Endecott

2020 Annual Pledge

Thomas C. McCormack
Alice Ando

SHOTSUKI HOYO***Tom & Fumi Saito memorial***

Cathlyn Yarne

Carolyn J. Saiget

***Monthly/Quarterly/Semi-
annual Pledge donations***

Jean Matsumoto
Diane Ando Harder
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson
Alice Tano
Susan Endecott

Junne Hirai 7th year memorial

Gail & Ronald Stinnett

In memory of Ryonosuki Fukiyo,

George Masuda, Eddie Minagi

& Jimmie Kanaya

Lynn Yoshihara Kanaya

Obon / Obonfest

Carolyn J. Saiget

Colin Nakamura

Chris Dart

In memory of Fumi Kida &

Tsuru Nakamura

Alice Kida

Lew & Jean Tomita

***Donation acknowledgements
are mailed for donations of
\$250 or more, to donors not
on the OBT mailing list, and
to any donor upon request.
sjendecott@gmail.com***

Thank you for your continued support

What and when were these events?

