



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

May 2011

## **Honor from a distance**

**Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs**

This year is the 750th memorial of our denominational founder, Shinran Shonin, passing on to the Pure Land. Our headquarters in Japan has been planning services to honor Shinran for decades leading up to this. The roof at the Go Eido, the main temple in Kyoto, has been replaced at great cost and with considerable effort by many. At one point there were 27 of us from OBT planning to attend the commemoration in Kyoto this month. Then came the earthquake and tsunami. All but three of the OBT members who were originally going to Japan this month have canceled their planned trips. We will have to honor Shinran at a distance.

Although the commemoration of Shinran's passing is being celebrated this month, so is his birthday. We are having our celebration of his birthday, Founders Day/Gotan-E, on May 8th this year. Please come to the temple for this important observance. At 9:30 am on May 8th I will give a Japanese-language message. My talk at the main service, starting at 10 am, will be in English. It will be a full day for us, as we will also have new member recognition and child presentation [Hatsumairi]. Also, of course, the service will be held on Mother's Day.

True happiness, genuine fulfillment, comes from caring about others. This is a message that Shinran Shonin and all the great Buddhist teachers have tried to get across to us. This is also the lesson learned by loving mothers, fathers, uncles and aunties. This is, perhaps, a link between commemorating the birthday of our denominational founder, Shinran, having child's first presentation to the Buddha and new member recognition. It is all about valuing others. We are very pleased that new members have come to join our temple. We wish to thank them for joining us. Without a continuing entrance of new members to our temple it would eventually close. Also, we wouldn't be here if it was not for the teaching career of Shinran Shonin. He brought the nembutsu teaching to everyone. Even as he made Buddhism accessible to everyone, he also worked to give a serious philosophical underpinning to the egalitarian message. We wish to honor him. We will each, in our own way, remember our mothers that day. None of us would be here without our mothers. It is easy to feel grateful to your mother if you have any humanity at all. Are you also grateful to your children?

I am grateful to my two boys, Sho and Ren, for bringing meaning and stability to my life. As I watch other parents

present their children to the Buddha I will recall how much joy and purpose my own boys have brought into my life. This year I have to honor Shinran from a distance. I can't go to Kyoto for the big celebration. I have to honor my mother from a considerable distance. She passed away in 1992. I will be able to honor my own children from no distance at all. I will hug them and tell them I love them and remind them that they are the best two boys in the world. Of course, if you have two boys, you may think they are the two best boys in the world. I will teach you a secret here about Mahayana Buddhist logic. I can say that Sho and Ren are the best two boys in the world and it doesn't mean that your two boys can't be the best two boys in the world too. How does this work? Come to the study classes on Mondays and Fridays and I will try to explain. I suspect you already understand. And so ... you will probably also understand when I tell you that Shinran Shonin is the best denominational founder of any Religious leader in the history of the world. Please come to the Oregon Buddhist Temple on May 8th to celebrate his birthday.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

### May Highlights

May 1	Japanese community graduation banquet, MAC	5 pm
May 8	Gotan-E, infant and new member recognition service, followed by refreshments	9:30 am
May 13	OBT board meeting	7 pm
May 14	OBWA meeting	9:30 am
May 30	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 column**

**Ken Garner, OBT Board President**

A student fulfilling a humanities requirement. A "Nightstand Buddhist" finally deciding to experience an actual service. Parents seeking a family friendly place to hear the Dharma. An Obonfest attendee with an interest in Japan

was intrigued by the temple talk. A person whose family is Jodo Shinshu wanting to re-connect to his/her roots.

Each Sunday, a person who has never attended an Oregon Buddhist Temple service walks through our doors. The reasons for coming are as varied as each person. Over the past couple of years, we have seen an increase in the number of first time visitors. This bodes well for the future of OBT. It indicates that in the greater Portland area there is interest in the Dharma and that people are seeking and finding us.

Entering the temple for the first time can be intimidating, especially for those who do not know anybody at OBT. We have greeters at the door who welcome our guests and provide a basic orientation if asked. We also have recently instituted a docent program. The minister's assistants make themselves available after the service to answer questions.

A welcoming Sangha is a healthy Sangha. I believe that we have a friendly Sangha. When Maho and I started coming regularly we were greeted with smiles and hellos by the congregation. A long time member introduced himself and it wasn't long before pictures of the granddaughter were produced. We were made to feel like we could belong.

We want our visitors to have a pleasant and meaningful experience at OBT. While it is true that many visitors are just satisfying a curiosity and may not come back, they are nonetheless welcome. Creating and maintaining a welcoming atmosphere is one important step in fostering a second visit. Recently greeters have primarily been Board members but there is no reason why non-Board members cannot do it. I encourage anybody who has an interest to take a turn. Please see me or any of the Board members if you would like to help out letting our visitors know, "You are welcome here."

In Gassho  
Ken

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## ***April OBT board meeting summary***

***Angie Hughes, OBT Secretary***

We had a very productive April board meeting! We covered many topics, with a majority of our time spent discussing maintenance issues around the temple. Several projects have been completed, including the elevator and downstairs drinking fountain repairs. We are also working on the annex gutters and we will soon begin looking at the possibility of a paint job for the entire temple. David Wright has been working hard at addressing the maintenance issues around OBT and several board members are also assisting with making phone calls and getting bids for various projects. We also had a visit from Sharon Vinhasa who shared some fundraising ideas, one of which is the reusable shopping bag, which we will hope to sell at the Obon Festival in August.

## ***OBWA news***

***Tammy Herold, OBWA President***

When I walked into OBT's doors over 12 years ago, I never would have believed I'd be writing an article for the Temple newsletter as OBWA President! But, here I am and here it is.

I knew being the president would be a daunting task with a huge learning curve and I was scared, but I have to tell you it's been a fantastic experience so far! And all because of the wonderful people involved in OBWA and OBT. Many, many questions have been answered for me and help has come from all corners. I think it would take several kalpas for me to express the true depths of my appreciation to everyone who has lent a helping hand, a listening ear or sage advice. Thank you everyone!

Speaking of saying thank you, a huge thank you goes out to all who helped prepare the Hanamatsuri meal. The portions were generous and the presentation was most colorful. Feedback was very positive, including comments such as "best ever!"

No sooner is Hanamatsuri meal prep over then we look forward to meal prep for Gotane. Udon and a side dish will be prepared. Please join us in the kitchen at 9 am on Saturday, May 7th and before service at 8am on Sunday, May 8th. And remember, you don't have to be a member of OBWA to help out at these cooking events. Show up and I'm sure we can find a job for you to do! Thank you in advance to all who will be helping.

Thank you to members who have paid their \$10 dues in the last month. The OBWA gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the donations received from the following individuals:

Hiro Takeuchi, Carolyn Saiget, Anonymous

And finally, thank you to those who made donations during the Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni Memorial service on April 10th. Remember, these funds will be used for educational purposes at Oregon Buddhist Temple.

Have a great May,  
Tammy L. Herold

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## ***Dharma school (DS) news***

***Amy Peterson, DS Superintendent***

April started off with a bang! Kyoko Gibbs and crew of sons Sho and Ren, Cathy Shikitani and daughter Michi Stoeller and Marilyn Achterman decorated the hanamido, which was exceptionally beautiful this year with enough camellias to decorate the top, sides and bottom. They also made two bouquets for the offering. The DS Hanamatsuri program created by Elaine Yuzuriha, sound by Todd Yuzuriha, camera by Wendy-Lin Peterson and narrated by Joy Yuzuriha has had fantastic revues. For those who missed it or want to show off your student, it can be found on YouTube, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D\\_6NQfkGJfk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_6NQfkGJfk)

DS students are busy preparing for their visits to our homebound elders. A few did take time to join us for our Earth Day project, cleaning the Rose City cemetery. The weather was forecasted to clear and although the rain stopped for most of the day, sprinkles came toward the end to encourage us to finish cleaning and return home. Rev. Gibbs was one of the first to arrive along with Marilyn Achterman. Kyoko Gibbs brought sons Sho and Ren between soccer games and Eric Stone brought son Tuck and daughter Galen. They worked hard to remove moss and grime from the

headstones, cleaned up flowers tossed by the wind and adults cleaned up broken vases. It was an experience to see the names of many families that still attend the Temple and remember those no longer with us.

We will have Open Classrooms on Sunday April 24th when children get to know the garden. Unfortunately our garden guru, Nate Mason is out of town but our master gardener Cathy Shikitani will lead some of the activities. Older students will organize an egg hunt for the younger students.

On April 29 - May 1st Kyoko Gibbs will represent OBT at the Federation of DS Teacher's League annual meeting in Fresno. May 1st our DS will be visiting some of our Temple elders. Later that evening four of our DS students will be honored at the Japanese Community Graduation Banquet held at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

The May 8th Gotan-E service will include Hatsumairi wherein new-borns and new members will be presented to the Temple officially for the first time.

Due to scheduling conflicts we will postpone taiko practices until June. Please watch next month's newsletter for the schedule of practices led by Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke. Practices will be held during Dharma Exchange. We do not have DS classes in the summer.

Just a reminder that any scout 10 years and older who is interested in attending the Nembutsu Camporee in August needs to contact Amy Peterson through the OBT website immediately as registration is due the end of April. Interested DS students who are not scouts are welcome to attend but need parent participation. Scouts do not have to be Jodo Shinshu to attend. Our Girl Scout troop is planning on attending so interested parents should contact Amy now! Mark your calendars for our DS day camp July 12-15th. Our theme this year is Buddhism and Martial Arts. The camp is for ages 5 to 5th grade with older grades as camp counselors.

### **1000 Cranes "Ganbare Nippon" t-shirt sales supports Japan earthquake and tsunami relief**

*Carol Saiget*

In an effort to raise funds for Japanese relief efforts and to build awareness of the many challenges that Japan and its people are facing, the temple has been selling t-shirts. Designed by Lynn Yarne, the shirts communicate a compassionate, yet powerful message. Each shirt is decorated with 1000 origami cranes and the words "Ganbare Nippon", kanji in front and English in back.

The crane is said to live for a thousand years. Made popular by the story of Sadako and the Thousand Cranes, it is commonly said that folding 1000 origami cranes is a message for healing, hope, and happiness during challenging times. "Ganbare Nippon" is a phrase used to lift someone's spirit. "Don't give up; do your best; go for it!" It is often used as a rally or cheer that expresses support and a call for unity.

So far, the OBT has raised over \$2500 with hope that

this number will continue to grow. Shirts are for sale (\$20) at the temple on Sundays. (For large quantities, please contact Carol Saiget (360) 834-7806, kongsfam@comcast.net. All profits will be earmarked for the relief efforts.



### **OBT donates generously to BCA's Japan disaster relief fund**

*Shinya Ichikawa, OBT Financial Officer*

In addition to proceeds from the t-shirt sales mentioned above, slightly under \$5,000 was collected by OBT through generous donations from members and friends for BCA's Japan disaster relief fund.

### **"Young leaders today" conference**

*David Fukunaga*

The weekend of March 25-27 I had the privilege of being invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Young Leaders Today conference in San Francisco, sponsored by the Youth Advocacy Committee of the Buddhist Churches of America. This conference was meant to be the gathering of young leaders from communities all across the west coast as well as the Youth Ministers Assistants for the cultivation of stronger Buddhist leadership for the future.

All attendees participated in insightful workshops lead by Rev. Furumoto of the San Mateo Buddhist Temple and Rev. Kobata of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. We discussed what it means to be Buddhist and if Buddhism is a faith or simply a way of life. As a Buddhist, what is it that we believe in? Are things like the Pure Land and Amida Buddha synonymous with Heaven and God?

I feel like I learned a lot at this conference and got to reexamine myself as a Buddhist. I made new friends from all over the west coast and got to meet the newest groups of Youth Ministers Assistants. It had been awhile since I have

been able to attend a YAC event, so it was very nice to be able to rekindle my connection with the BCA youth community. I thank all those that helped make this trip possible for me and all those who support the OBT Youth Activities Fund. It would not have been possible without your support

In Gassho,  
David Fukunaga

### ***Thank you garden helpers***

*Jayne Ichikawa*

On Saturday, April 2, the morning began with a downpour but by 9:00 the dark rain clouds broke and blue skies appeared!

It was a determined crew who met to weed, rake, mow, and beautify the temple garden before the Hanamatsuri service the next day. Many thanks to the following dedicated people: Dennis Yamauchi, Janice and Michael Ishii, Stan Shiigi, Susan Lily, Michelle Mundt, Cathy Shikitani, and Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa. By the time we finished, the rain was beginning to fall - perfect timing! We really need more people to help us maintain the temple garden. If you are interested in helping with the garden toban, please let me know.

### ***Lotus circle – May***

*Jean Matsumoto*

The Lotus Circle goes round and round and pays respect to our loved ones whom we cannot and should not forget. Altar flowers for the month of May are being provided by donations from:

- May 1 – Merrie Greenwood in memory of (imo) husband, Don.
- May 8 – Kan and Miki Yagi imo parents
- May 15 – Chris Shiraishi imo parents, Yutaka and Kazue
- May 22 – Kiyomi Dickenson imo mother, Toshiko Kitagawa
- May 29 – Sumie Ishida imo parents, Yoshikiyo and Misayo Yamamoto

Thank you to all the generous supporters of this program.

Our flower toban never runs out of beautiful flowers to arrange for us and to make our onaijin look so pretty. Have you checked out the Lotus Circle page on our website that Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) has arranged for us? Please contact Ken if you would like to share memories of loved ones with us. For information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or jamatsumoto@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to join at any time.

### ***May Toban***

Carollo, Teri-Ann	Dart, Chris
Ishida, Sumi	Ishikawa, Grace
Kagawa, Julie	Kawazoe, Katie
Kawazoe, Ken	Kodama, Misa
Lilly, Susan	Moro, Marlene
Okubo, Fumi	Osaki, Amy
Osaki, Etsuko	Osaki, Herb
Saiget, Carol	Wahl, Joe
Wahl, Lora	Yagi, Kan
Yagi, Marla	Yagi, Micki
Yagi, Shannon	Yamauchi, Sandie
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*

### **2011 Memorial Chart**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Memorial</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>23 year</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>3 year</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>27 year</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>7 year</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>33 year</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>13 year</b>	<b>1975</b>	<b>37 year</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>17 year</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>50 year</b>

*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.*

### ***Jesus and Buddha - the parallel sayings*** *Tammy Herold*

I used the above named book in a Dharma talk a few months ago. A copy has been ordered for our library and I was asked to write a review for the newsletter.

The title pretty much lets you know what you're in for. This is a "coffee table" book full of beautiful pictures. The sections have titles such as "Wisdom", "Compassion" and "Discipleship." On each page is a quote from Jesus and a "parallel" quote from the Buddha - more like a Christian and Buddhist quote rather than actual spoken words of the men involved. I do wonder why the Christian quote is first when the Buddha was around for 500 years before Christ! But seeing how the book is edited by a Christian scholar, I'll cut him some slack.

Please be sure to read the brief introduction and editor's preface as there is some interesting information contained therein. Many scholars have tried to "prove" Jesus came across Buddhist teachings in His travels and that's why the beliefs appear to be similar. The most important thing I took away from this book was to look at the core message of those teachings. The commonalities are what should be celebrated and not be a cause of segregation. This book actually helped my Christian family understand Buddhism (and me) better.

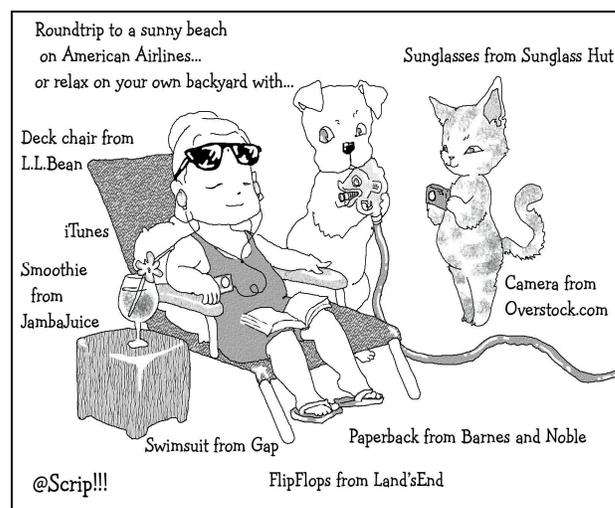
Be sure to check out and enjoy this book-it's a quick read. I like to just pick it up and let it open to a page. More times than not, the quote will pertain to something going on at that time in my life. See if the same thing happens to you!

### Archives committee request

The archives committee is asking members to submit any material regarding OBT that is no longer current. These would include minutes, programs, photos, etc. Make copies if you wish to keep them. Please don't dispose of them.

Archives committee: Jean, LaRhette, Etsu

### Buy Scrip to support OBT



Ken Garner and helpers have a table downstairs after service on Sunday where they have a full list of vendors, take orders, and gladly answer any questions you may have about the scrip program. You can also send an email to them at [scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com).

### Haiku Dharma Exchange, March 27, 2011

Rain chases sun  
Birds awaken and sing  
New day comes.  
Jeremy

Longing for faces  
Familiar places I loved  
Heart misses the known  
Jules

World still turns slowly  
Despite the devastation  
Sun will rise again.  
Tammy Herold

Bare branches with forced  
Dogwood blooms, spring  
comes early  
In warmed winter homes.  
Phaedra

Scattered newsprint, fur balls  
Mystery grime in bathroom  
I need a maid, bad.  
Amy L.

Waves of the ocean  
The island has shed its tears  
It stays in our hearts.  
Cody Hamp

Love for father now  
Compassion, patience,  
kindness  
Gone forever now.

The pink flowers bloom  
It is unlike the tropics  
I live in Portland.

Earthquake, tsunami  
Energy of our planet  
Let us help Japan.

Kuruma nashi  
Ichi ichi ame de  
San kai kigai.

Car all gone bye bye  
Face and hair wet 3 days  
straight  
Change clothes thrice a day.

Hot soak  
Heavy, steamy mist  
Natural pleasure  
Karol K.

Going to Japan  
I selfishly worry  
Will my trip be spoiled?  
Brenda Fugate

Yuki no naka  
Saita sakura mo  
Chijikomaru.  
(Cherry blossoms must also be  
cold in the snow.)

It's play-off time  
.9 seconds to harness  
Alley oop, victory.

Azure sky, no rain  
Crocus peeks its eyes at me  
Look, promise of spring.

Beyond names and form  
The mystery opens up  
And we know nothing.

All our kids have paws  
Fur and mud is ev'rywhere  
We really don't mind.

Music of friendship  
Love replenishes itself  
Such a joy to give.

Cold in the basement  
Trying to write some haiku  
Namo Amida.  
Etsu

Recognozco que  
Se hay que amar bien hoy  
Manano no hay

I realize that yes  
I must love well today  
There is no tomorrow  
Teresa