



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

June 2020

Letters of Rennyo Shonin: *Gobunsho* Reverend Yuki Sugahara

It has been two months since this situation of the home shelter, but I hope everyone is well. I believe some of you are getting tired of looking into the screen watching videos on YouTube or attending meetings online. I feel like I am busier doing something online than when things were normal.

Many ministers and their temples are livestreaming services or showing videos of services online. This is to keep connected with the Sangha members, but also to reach out to the areas where there are no Jodo Shinshu temples. I believe there are some people who attend the virtual services regularly from outside of Oregon and also outside of the United States and I am glad if I am providing help for people to understand more about Jodo Shinshu.

When I think about this new way of propagation, I think about Rennyo Shonin (1414-1499), the 8th head priest of Honganji tradition. He wrote many letters to spread the teaching of shinjin and nembutsu to people in various areas.

I have started the series of sharing one letter of Rennyo Shonin a day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/OregonBuddhistTemple>, since May 3. One reason for doing this is that I've felt for a long time the lack of translation when we attend morning service at our head temple, Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto. The order of the morning service is really simple every morning. Chant Sanbutsuge at Amida's Hall (since it is now under repair the service order might be different), move to the Founder's Hall, chant Shoshinge, listen to the Dharma talk and *Gobunsho*/Letters of Rennyo.

We know the existence of over 250 letters of Rennyo Shonin, but 80 of them were compiled as *Gobunsho*. There is a reading cycle or rotation of the letters among 31 letters plus or minus a few. We get to hear a different letter every morning, but there is no translation provided at the Nishi Hongwanji's service. So, I thought it would be helpful to have English translations and explanations available. When you have a chance to visit Japan and Nishi Hongwanji next time, I hope my video will help to understand the contents of Rennyo Shonin's letter which is read at the morning services.

It is said that the first letter (as far as we know), was written in March 1461 when Rennyo Shonin was 47 years old. In 1459, a typhoon hit Kyoto and many houses were destroyed and many people died. In addition, many people died because of famine in 1461. It is said that about 82,000 people died because of the famine, the dead bodies stopped the flow of Kamogawa river, and the smell of dead bodies filled the air of Kyoto. Many people lost homes and many people were begging for something to eat on the street. But, the Ashikaga Shogunate government of the time did not care about what was happening in town, but spent much money on remodeling the villa of the Shogun. This triggered the Onin War in 1467-1477.

Buddhist priests and monks did what they could to help the people. Rennyo Shonin probably struggled to support and help people in need and tried many things, one of which was to share the teachings in simple words. So Rennyo Shonin wrote letters regarding the teachings to the people. They gathered together and read and discussed the contents of the letters. That gathering was called "Ko(h)." Because of Rennyo Shonin's energetic efforts and propagation, Honganji gained many followers and became one of the most powerful Buddhist groups in Japan.

Now, we are in a difficult time of pandemic COVID-19. About 310,000 people died by COVID-19 and over 4,500,000 people were infected. When I think about the hard work of medical workers to help people, I often think of what I can do as a Buddhist Priest. I am no match for Rennyo Shonin, but what I can do is to share the teaching online and I am only hoping that this is helping some people and I am not being an obstacle for the dharma to spread...

I heard most of the counties in Oregon are now in Phase one of the reopening process. Our county Multnomah has the largest population so it might take more time, but things are moving forward. Even if we are in the darkest time of our lives, there is always sunrise. Little bit more gaman/perseverance everyone. I am looking forward to meeting you again in person,
Gassho

"OBT welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and political or religious affiliation."
Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456
e-mail: info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>
Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address.

June 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.

Akiyama, Uhichi 6/12/1967	Kawasaki, Corky Tokuyoshi 6/7/2001	Okamoto, Misuyo 6/4/1997 *
Asai, Matsu 6/12/1967	King, Hugh Ryunyo Gerald 6/28/2014	Okawa, Misu 6/18/1978 *
Asawu, Benosuke 6/25/1963	Kinoshita, Kise 6/7/1989 *	Onishi, Shiz 6/2/2006 *
Aso, Benzo 6/25/1963	Kinoshita, Teddy 6/6/1956	Ota, Hajime 6/24/1987
Fujii, Mary Nakata 6/30/2017	Matsubu, Yone 6/5/1964 *	Sato, Yoshio Joe 6/12/1975
Fujii, Seiichi 6/25/1963	Matsuda, Denishiro 6/5/1956	Shido, Mary Miyeko 6/15/2000
Gekko, Harry Hare 6/12/2004	Mayeda, Soichi 6/26/1973	Shiiki, Asa 6/4/1991
Hamada, Tokuichi 6/1/1972	Mishima, Aster 6/7/1983 *	Shinoka, Kiyokichi 6/3/1959
Hanning, Adolph 6/1/1953	Mishima, Charlotte Ann 6/17/1961	Shiogi, Chiyo 6/9/1999 *
Harada, Kimie 6/16/2005 *	Mishima, John 6/23/2010	Sumino, George Yoshio 6/27/1996
Hasegawa, Tsune 6/13/1953*	Miyoshi, Toku 6/9/1987 *	Suzuki, Kagi 6/8/1984
Hasuike, Torazo 6/30/1967	Muramatsu, Henry 6/15/2016	Takao, Hachiro 6/26/1962
Hondo, Mas 6/26/2004	Naganuma, Frank Y 6/17/1997	Takeuchi, "Tad" Tadashi 6/25/1997
Honma, Ed 6/6/1996	Niioka, Kiyokichi 6/3/1959	Tamiyasu, Eric M. 6/30/2001
Ikata, Yone 6/5/1964 *	Niiyama, Tanezo 6/7/1984	Uyeda, Mariko 6/28/1955
Kaga, Mura 6/24/1955 *	Ninomura, Yukiyo 6/16/1972 *	Yada, Yoneko 6/10/2006
Kagawa, John Masaaki 6/13/2001	Nishikawa, Kiyoshi 6/10/1979	Yamaguchi, Mary 6/20/2017
Kanno, Makoto 6/7/1993	Oguri, Kuni 6/29/1959*	Yasui, Shizue 6/29/2013 *

*OBWA member

2020 Memorial Services			
Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2019	1 Year	2004	17 Year
2018	3 Year	1996	25 Year
2013	7 Year	1988	33 Year
2008	13 Year	1971	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 ysobtporland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com

President's Column Cathy Yarne, OBT President

Dear Sangha,

I recently read an article about leadership in organizations and the crisis we are enduring. Although not the key point, it noted 1) the hardest task for leaders of any organizations is to manage their cash flow and reduce costs and 2) the importance of being honest and transparent to its members/employees. As a board member and president of OBT I took this seriously. So, in this article I want to share my perspective of the financial situation of our temple.

All of OBT's primary income sources have been deeply impacted. Donations made for special services and all donations in general have been minimal compared to previous years. Annual pledges are also less than previous years. So far two major fundraisers; Spring Food Bazaar and Obon festival have been cancelled. Although we have not officially canceled the remaining fundraisers for the year it is anticipated that these events will be affected or possibly canceled all together. For decades we have been aware of our dependence on "labor intensive" fundraisers. Now we are challenged with the need

Condolences

To the family of Kathie Sato who passed away April 28, 2020.



to develop alternatives. If you have ideas and/or would like to participate in the planning, please contact me or Rev. Sugahara.

Plans are currently underway to host a virtual Obon and possibly a separate, virtual fundraiser. (If you are interested in participating in these events please contact me). Although we hope a fundraiser does well, it will most likely not meet the projected losses for the year. While the loss of income continues to grow, we are committed to 75-80% of our annual expenses that include minister's compensation, the cost to maintain the facilities and BCA dues.

The Board made the difficult decision to not apply for the government Paycheck Protection Program loan. With millions of businesses and organizations having to terminate employees, cut wages and the possibility that many will be forced to shut down permanently, our temple felt there are far too many whose needs are greater than ours. OBT is fortunate to have an endowment which provides us the ability to absorb our losses. All of this is with the heavy knowledge that for most of the past 15-20 years we operated with a deficit and it has taken decades, tremendous effort, and dedication to build this endowment.

One immeasurable positive outcome of this pandemic is that many people have expressed a deeper level of appreciation for our temple, our Sangha and the Dharma. As in the past, one way to express your appreciation and support is to make your annual pledge and donations. We hope the absence of donation envelopes included with our newsletters, does not deter you from making contributions to support our temple.

Gassho,
Cathy Yarne

PS

Writing this article was somewhat easy since "it is what it is", yet difficult because it's a "negative" topic. Since my article is already long, I will share some of the great things that are happenings for another time. However please know that while the temple remains physically closed, the Board, Rev. Sugahara, and the Buddhist Education Committee remain active.

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

OBWA News



Lady Takeko Kujo (1887 – 1928) and her sister-in-law Lady Kazuko Ohtani - founded the Buddhist Women's Association during the Russo Japanese War of 1904–1905. The Association was active in sending care packages to soldiers at the front, and to helping families who had lost their sons in combat. While performing humanitarian work, she contracted blood poisoning and passed away on February 7, 1928.

She was also a poet and is noted for writing the lyrics to the gatha, Seiya.

Seiya (Peaceful Night, also known as Sacred Evening – lyrics below)

Ctrl + Click to hear the gatha

<https://youtu.be/KPs-M5qTAU0>



The beauty of the star-lit sky...

Who can understand this riddle?

When countless eyes shine bright with tears of joy,
my heart is at peace.

There are many Buddhas greater in number than the
sands of the Ganges River who say,

Whether at noon or night,
they will always protect me.

My heart hears this and is at peace.

From the book "Leaves of My Heart" by
Lady Takeko Kujo

Thank you to the many ladies who served and are serving as presidents of the OBWA and OBT, as shown in the following page.

During this unprecedented time of covid-19, we have had to change the way we do many things. Not being able to gather in large groups has taken a toll on all our events and face to face group meetings in ways we have known it.

OBWA is trying to put together a List of Past Presidents, without being able to access the archives currently at the temple. We are publishing the following list in hopes that some of you can help us with this project. If you have any questions or corrections, please let us know.

Thank you.

Katie Tamiyasu

OBWA List of Presidents

2017-2021	Katie Tamiyasu & Pat Hokama
2016	Marilyn Achterman
2013-2015	June Shiigi & Jayne Ichikawa
2012	Alice Ando
2011 (7 mons)	Alice Ando
2011 (5 mons)	Tammy Herold
2003-2010	Alice Ando
2002	Etsu Osaki
1999-2001	Alice Ando
1998 (8 mons)	Alice Ando
1998 (4 mons)	Sachi Hasuike & Masako Iwai
1996-1997	June Shiigi
1991-1995	Patsy Abe
1984-1990	Sumiko Ando
1979-1983	Tomo Sunamoto
1975-1978	Rin Mura
1974	Okusan Nakagami
1928-1973	Minister's wives
1925-1928	Okusan Minamoto

OBT Women Presidents

2020	Cathy Yarne
2017	Judy Hittle
2015-2016	Cathy Yarne
2010	Kim Kono
1999	Ann Shintani
1996	Jean Matsumoto

Next month's OBWA reporters are Robbi Ando and Diane Harder

Greeting Cards of Kindness Jayne Ichikawa and Cathy Shikatani



From Jayne: Greeting cards such as these made by Cathy Shikatani were sent out to selected seniors to maintain connectedness during these socially distant times. Thank you Cathy.

From Cathy: I've been doing all sorts of crafts since I was a kid. One day (about 30 years ago) my Mom gave me a bunch of cards she had made. They were of tsuru and kokeshi dolls (made with a toothpick as the base). I started making kimono cards and sold them at craft shows in LA. Then a few years later, I started using rubber stamps to make cards and more recently, (a lot) more stamps and a hand crank paper cutting "machine". I've been donating cards to Ikoinokai for a few years now and often use recycled materials when I see something neat, especially in Japanese goods packaging!

Virtual Obonfest Ann Shintani

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: OBT's Obonfest is scheduled to take place August 1, 2020, as our first ever virtual event! We remember Obonfest as being a community event with crowds of people, music, delicious smells, and faces of families and friends. We will attempt to retain the spirit of our Summer festival the best that we can while maintaining social distance. We are fortunate to have enthusiastic and creative volunteers who are generous with their time and talents. More information to come!

Dharma School and Services

View a Dharma talk for children and adults by Reverend Harry Bridge of the Oakland Buddhist Temple, April 19, 2020. "Lion's Roar". Ctrl + Click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nN0HOuRWY4>

Listen and sing along as Reverend Sugahara plays "Shinran Sama" on the bass guitar. Ctrl + Click

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=off7Ixure3Q>

The article on the following page by Angie Hughes is the sixth in a series of articles written this year by an OBT board member to help make the board more accessible to temple members.

Finding Space for Rediscovery

Angie Hughes

In 2014, my husband, son, and I packed up our belongings, sold our home, put everything in storage, and traveled for the year. During this time, I learned to make do with less of everything, especially the fun hobbies that had occupied my creative side. We ventured to new places, took lots of walks, read, watched movies, and played board games. When that year came to an end and the adventure was over, we returned to our “normal” lives of work, school, family, and temple activities. However, something had shifted for us. Instead of unpacking all our belongings and filling our new home, we left most of our things in bins in the new basement and garage. They were still important enough for us to keep, but we said we would get to them “someday.” One of the areas of my life I left tucked away was my massive collection of paper arts and craft supplies. I used to be an avid crafter and, in fact, one of my best friends often referred to me as the scrapbooking queen. She would laugh about a time when we were at a mommy meet-up and instead of chasing my toddler son through the plastic ball maze, I sat and chatted with a dad and worked on a scrapbook. She said I was “hardcore.”

When we left that year, I disconnected from this passion and then, upon returning, jumped into a new career. Just like that, five years rolled by and I never touched my cherished collection. The cards that I used to lovingly make for family and friends were replaced with store bought ones and the scrapbooks continued to collect dust, unfinished and half embellished. I expeditiously completed glossy photobooks through online services, reasoning that this was a perfectly good substitute for the labor-intensive pieces I used to turn out because I was now too busy. And, of course, these were acceptable by my friends and family because it turns out my reason for creating was not about them at all. This slightly nagging feeling caught up with me, finally, standing in the garage with my husband this past March.

During the second week of our stay at home order in Washington, we were talking about lumber and how he needed more space in the garage so he could get the wood off of the floor. A few minor changes would help him achieve this. That is when a lightbulb went off for me. I had somehow given up on my creative side—an activity I did just for my own pure enjoyment—and here it was, collecting wood shavings and dust.

The next five days were a blur and I am not even sure if I changed out of my pajamas, honestly. The path from the garage to the living room was unwalkable chaos as I pored over each box, drawer, bin, and container, while moving, organizing, and rediscovering every last bit of my collection of supplies. I found things I forgot about and they somehow seemed to have multiplied.

I have now touched every piece, down to the last brad and bow. Instead of being buried under the lumber and holiday boxes in the basement, my paper craft world is alive and well and prominently situated in our living room. I have a table to work at and a view out the window. There is a place for everything, and I have been very productive. Realizing that I



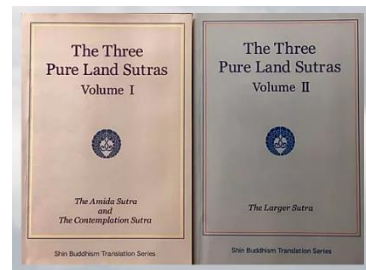
Desk



Work Area

love to create and that I have missed it has been eye opening for me. It doesn't have to be great...or even good. It can just be for me because I enjoy it and I'm allowing myself the time to do it. I can't use “busy” as an excuse, at least not right now. It's also liberating to know how much I don't really care what's taking up space in my living room when I'm not expecting any guests. I have plunged into a half-finished holiday scrapbook from 2012, and I'm looking forward to sharing it with my family when it's done.

Buddhist Study Class



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: Oregon Buddhist Temple

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

The class is conducted on-line with Zoom, as shown below in the May 6, class. Currently we are reading Tannisho. Rev. Sugihara gives the historical background of its writing and interpretations of confusing statements. Discussion and questions are welcome and encouraged.



On the Lake Oswego Foothills Park Trail



Lake Oswego.

As we walked the Trail, we came across this display, in honor of military veterans connected with the City of



- Ayu Kashiwa from Mountainside High School won the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship, awarded by Portland JACL.
- Alexis Klum from Tigard High School won the Art and Teri Iwasaki / Roger T. Okamoto Scholarship, awarded by Oregon Nisei Vets.
- Irene Nagasaka from Westview High School won the Mary Naito Scholarship, awarded by Japanese Ancestral Society.
- Andy Okamoto, grandson of OBT member Janice Okamoto, from Cottonwood High School, won the Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship, awarded by Portland JACL.
- Nicholas Shibata from Sunset High School won the Tsuya & Kumaichi Minamoto Scholarship, awarded by Japanese Ancestral Society.
- Akane Grace Shirota, daughter of OBT member Lisa Anderson, from Liberty High School, won the Shokookai Scholarship.
- Mariko Tanada from Central Catholic High School won the Dr. Matthew Masuoka / State Farm Scholarship, awarded by Portland JACL.
- Irie Tei from Sunset High School won the Hide Naito Scholarship, awarded by Japanese Ancestral Society.
- Alexander Masog from Scappoose High School, Nicholas Shibata from Sunset High School, Mito Smith from Grant High School, and Emiko Wingren, OBT member Janice Okamoto's granddaughter, from Sandy High School each won the Henjyoji Arts Award.

Other graduates with ties to Oregon Buddhist Temple include Devin Kagawa, son of Alice Kagawa, from Madison High School, and Shawn Ichikawa, son of Jeff and Junko Ichikawa, from James Bowie High School, Austin TX. Congratulations to the Class of 2020 and we want to recognize your achievements.

College graduates of the Class of 2020 who were unable to have graduation ceremonies include Alyssa Ono, daughter of Yoshi and Tomoko Ono, from University of Washington, and Joy Yuzuriha, daughter of Todd and Elaine Yuzuriha, from Stanford University.

Miss Jean Retires and is Awarded the Distinguished Emeritus Title

After 20 plus years of serving as “Unofficial Final Proofer” of the Oregon Buddhist Temple newsletter, THE PURELAND PATH, Jean Matsumoto officially announced her retirement and is elevated to the much-coveted Emeritus status. Her footsteps will be difficult to follow but with the combined effort of fellow proofreaders’ linguistic knowledge, keen eagle eyesight and overall proof-reading skills, the newsletter will continue at the same level of excellence that was evident (usually) under Jean’s guidance. Finally, Jean you are always welcome to continue commenting on the content and quality of the Newsletter. Thank you Jean.

Annex Rejuvenation Marilyn Achterman

We are creating a warm and welcoming space for the sangha in our adjoining ‘annex’ building. As part of our enhancements, we are seeking a tabletop refrigerator and a dishwasher. If you have one to re-purpose, please email and I will happily incorporate in our new space.

2020 Japanese American Community Scholarships Elaine Yuzuriha

For the first time in recent memory, what would have been the 73rd Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet was cancelled due to the prohibitions from the Covid-19 pandemic. The scholarship committee met virtually and awarded the Class of 2020 the Japanese American Community Scholarships. Congratulations to the following graduates, we are so proud of you!

- Kayla Asakawa from Beaverton International High School won the Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship.
- Emily Jackson from Grant High School won the Valeda Club / Nikkei Fujinkai Scholarship.

Haiku of These Times Etsu Osaki

These are frightening times
Corona virus is here
Everyone take care

No service Sunday
Temple is closed to members
Nembutsu at home

Namo Amida
I Gassho to Amida
Every morn and night

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.

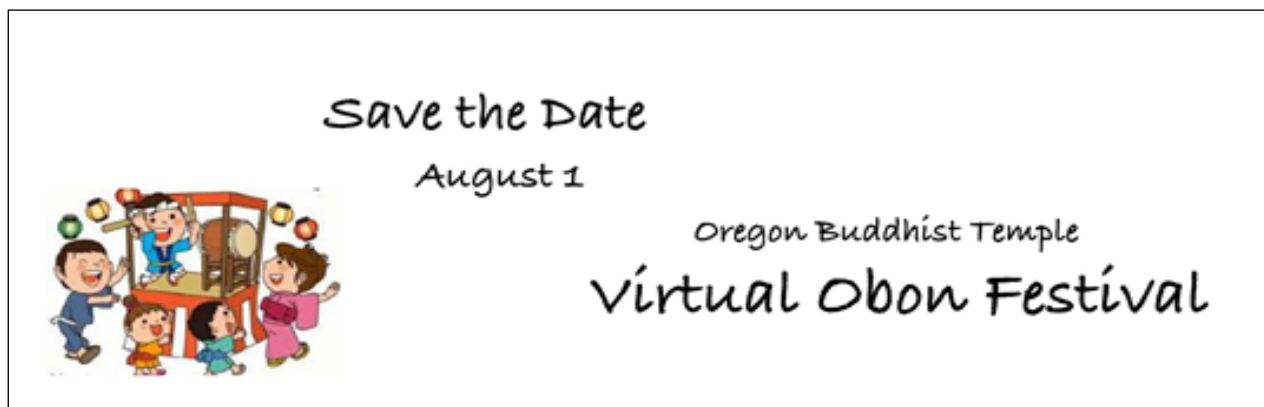
Thank you for your consideration!

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



Watch for new dances and info coming to the website in June! <https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/obon-festival>

No Sunday Bon Odori practice in the month of June or July

Oregon Buddhist Temple is closed through the month of June



VOLUNTEERS are NEEDED NOW
to plan a virtual fundraiser.
Contact Rev. Sugahara or Cathy Yarne



Oregon Buddhist Temple April 2020 Donations

In memory of Carol Asakawa

Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Jean Matsumoto

In memory of Tom Hokama

Jean Matsumoto
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Scott & Lynn Grannan

In memory of Dale Meiners

Jean Matsumoto

Sally M L Nakamura 7th yr memorial

Colin Nakamura

In memory of Miki Yagi

Jean Matsumoto

In memory of Katsumi & Kazuko Sunamoto

Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

SHOTSUKI HOYO

May Shotsuki Hoyo

Jimmy & Mary Ann Yoshida

In memory of Shoemon Nakamura

Lew & Jean Tomita
Alice Kida

In memory of Sam Iwamoto

Katie Tamiyasu

Lotus Circle

Colin Nakamura

Special donations

Steve & Clara Pawlowski
(wedding)
Jeanette Hager
Heidi Peterson
Gary Higashi
Yoshi Ono
Paul Telles
Maris Bishoprick

Spring bazaar donations

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Robert & Gail Tsutsumi
Carolyn J. Saiget
Beth Sellers
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Evelyn & Gerald Migaki

Hanamatsuri

Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Dennis & Virginia Sugihara
Diane Ando Harder
Katie Tamiyasu
Roberta Ando
Dana Kakishita
Kiyomi Dickinson
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

Ohigan

Kiyomi Dickinson

2020 Annual Pledge

Edward M. Liljeholm

Monthly pledge donations

Jean Matsumoto
Diane Ando Harder
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson
Nancy Walseth
Susan Endecott

Thank you for your continued support support!

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

Please inform us of any significant errors or omissions.

sjendecott@gmail.com