



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2019

August 15th

Reverend Yuki Sugahara

“Keep your mind without wrath, and don’t show anger at your face. Do not get angry even if others differ from you. Everyone has his heart and opinion. His right may be your wrong, your right may be his wrong. You are not necessarily a sage. He is not necessarily a fool. All of us are mediocre people. Who can distinguish right from wrong without fail? All of us are wise and fool, like a ring has no end. Therefore if others get angry, think about your error. Even if you have a firm opinion, listen to others opinion carefully.”

- Prince Shotoku, the Seventeen Article Constitution

Do you know what day August 15th is? It is the day Imperial Japan surrendered and the day that World War II ended.

Both of my grandfathers were sent to the battlefields. They were both Buddhist priests, but most healthy men, regardless of their occupation, were required to serve in the military at that time.

My grandpa on my father’s side went to China, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. He never talked about specific experiences in the war, but he told me about how much fish he could catch and how the Japanese soldiers taught people in Papua New Guinea how to wear clothes.

Actually, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea were sites of some of the most intense fighting of the war, so I am sure that grandpa must have had some really tough experiences there. But he never mentioned them -- maybe he did not want to talk about it.

I still remember that my father, grandpa and I went to Wakayama prefecture together to see the place my grandfather returned to after the war. My father was born three years after the war ended, so if my grandpa had not come back, I would not be here today.

My grandpa on my mother’s side went to China, was captured by the Russians and was sent to Siberia to do hard labor in severe circumstances. Luckily, he was good at drawing and painting, so Russian generals and soldiers often called on him to draw portraits of them to send home to their families. My grandpa told me that because of this he was able to stay in warm places compared to the others who were captured. But, when anyone passed away, he had to carry the body and dig the hole to bury the body. It is said that 575,000 Japanese were captured and 55,000 died in Siberia. Fortunately, my grandpa survived

and came back. Again, my mother was born in 1953 so if he had not been able to come back, I would not be here today.

Both of my grandfathers had harsh experiences during the war, but it was not only my grandfathers or Japanese soldiers and their families; the people of all the countries that were involved in the war had severe and sad experiences. War does not determine who is right and who is wrong, war only brings sadness to the people. When I think about the fact that there were lives which could have been lived if the war had never happened, I experience an indescribable feeling...

Sadly, we cannot change the past, but we are able to learn from it and project those lessons into the future. However, what we see in the world is a repetition of what has happened in the past... we really need to learn from the past, not repeat the sad history of human beings.

At the beginning of this article I shared the words of Prince Shotoku from *The Seventeen Article Constitution*, which was the first Japanese constitution and was established in the early 7th century. Based on the teachings of Buddhism, it did not promote particular policies, but was asking each individual to think and act with restraint, respect and humility. If everyone is able to think and act like this, the world will be a peaceful place.

What is written here is really simple, yet, difficult to follow because we often think “I’m right” and don’t listen to the opinions of others. Yet, we should realize that this mindset of “I’m right” and not listening to others is the cause of conflict and war which creates sadness around the world.

Shinran Shonin wrote in a letter to his followers: “May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the world and may the Buddhist teachings spread!” This is also my sincere wish as a Buddhist and I hope that the sad patterns of history will not be repeated again.

Gassho.

Home Visits

Rev. Yuki has been visiting members who are unable to or have difficulty coming to the temple. If you or a family member would like to have Reverend Yuki visit you, please call him at 916-834-7350

“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.

August Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of August. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the August 11 Sunday service at 10 am.

Please join us and offer incense in memory of your relative(s) or friends. Listed below are the names of those who passed away starting from 1950. Oregon Buddhist Temple has records from 1904. If a name is missing, incorrect, or prior to 1950, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Abe, Patsy 8/30/2006 *	Kuribayashi, Tatsuko 8/20/2001 *	Sasaki, Teruko 8/28/2009
Akao, Toshiko 8/14/2000	Kutada, Emi 8/3/2016	Shido, Mary 8/14/2000
Ando, Suematsu 8/26/1957	Maeda, Francis Kanji 8/24/2001	Shintani, Kazumi 8/12/2016 *
Ando, Sumiko 8/25/2001 *	Maeda, Kinu 8/31/1987 *	Smith, Vincent 8/19/2001
Azuma, Nisuke 8/11/1961	Masuoka, Nobuko 8/5/2016 *	Sugimura, Kinu 8/10/1972 *
Brown, Jan Jr 8/31/2007	Matsumura, Kina 8/10/1972	Susaki, Nobuko 8/2/2001
Brown, Reiko Akao 8/15/2011	Mayers, Bernard Leon 8/17/2010	Takabayashi, Tsunetaro 8/20/1960
Fujii, Yoshimi 8/31/1995	Melore, Barbara 8/17/2006	Tamiyasu, Hirao 8/21/1978
Greenwood, Arlita 8/10/2001	Morita, Yachiyo 8/31/1997 *	Tanaka, Saichi 8/12/1957
Harrison, Henrietta Ueoka 8/5/2014	Muramatsu, Sam M 8/13/1978	Teramura, Kiskeya 8/26/1969
Hata, Kesae Kay 8/17/2000	Muramatsu, Phyllis 8/11/2006 *	Toyooka, Hatsuye 8/23/1983 *
Higashi, Jinsue 8/11/1961	Naemura, Saisuke 8/20/1953	Uesugi, Take 8/9/1953 *
Inahara, Tei 8/6/1997 *	Naganuma, Sam S 8/12/2001	Uyeda, Henry 8/24/1974
Ishida Baby 8/12/1950	Nakano, Sanami 8/28/2008	Uyeda, Josephine 8/12/2012 *
Itamura, Edith 8/6/2002	Nakao, Emil 8/14/2005	Winner, Diane Renee 8/7/2001
Ito, Masu 8/26/1956 *	Nakao, Kaitaro 8/5/1972	Yagi, Kan 8/9/2013 *
Katada, Kazue 8/28/1995 *	Okawa, Reiko 8/31/1998 *	Yamaguchi, Ujitsubo 8/27/86
Kato, Koriku 8/16/1974	Okawa, Toichi 8/11/1959	Yoshida, Kamekichi 8/28/1952
Kinoshita, Sei 8/1/1973	Sakamoto Hantaro 8/25/1954	

*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 ysobtporland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com

President's Column

Ken Garner, OBT President

*Amidst the ripening grain,
And adds her voice to sell the song
That The brilliant poppy flaunts her head
August's here again
Helen Winslow*

August is just around the corner (as of this writing), and that means Obon, OBT's busiest few week of our annual calendar.

Many of you know that I have been driving for Lyft for about a year now. For those of you unfamiliar with Lyft, it (and

its competitor Uber) is a ride-share company which uses a smart phone app to connect riders and drivers. People needing a ride enter their location and destination into the app and within a few minutes somebody arrives to give them a ride. Drivers are not employees of Lyft. We sign in and make ourselves available to give rides at our own discretion. The application we utilize somehow coordinates the available drives to pair with the riders. How this works, or actually that it works at all, is pretty amazing

Events at OBT kind of work like Lyft. Temple members and friends sign up (or not) and show up as they are available to help out. Our hard-working chairs somehow juggle time, the tasks that need to be done with the available resources. Somehow this hot mess of multiple tasks and uncertain staffing that are our events come together. It is an amazing thing to watch.

This year's Obonfest will include several exciting changes and it promised to be our best one yet. See you there!

July Board Meeting Summary

Traci Kiyama, OBT Secretary

The Board met on Friday, July 12. Elaine Yuzuriha gave an update on how the temple is doing financially, which is typical compared to past years.

Cathy Yarne is working hard to coordinate everything for the Gomonsu's visit in September. Be on the lookout for information about how to RSVP for the potluck following the special service on Monday, September 2. OBT will provide a main dish of salmon. Everyone in attendance will be asked to bring a side dish.

Bill Tanaka has offered to wax the floor in the basement.

If you are interested in helping with Natsu Matsuri on Saturday, July 27 selling and grilling corn at Uwajimaya, please let Matt Langer know.

Our facility continues to be rented by several groups and brings a good source of income for the temple.

We had our first donation to the car donation program. Angie said it was very easy!

The temple has replaced all locks in the building. New keys were issued by Cathy.

Charley Reneau and Jerry Sumoge are working hard to coordinate everyone for Obon Fest. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up on the website or at temple, or let Judy Hittle know.

Reverend Peter Hata of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple is confirmed as the keynote speaker for the 2021 NW Convention being held here in Portland.

OBT will volunteer at Oregon Food Bank on a regular basis.

If you are interested in joining the Board, please let someone on the Board know. Three positions will open up next year.

Rev. Sugahara gave his report.

Gassho



Oregon Food Bank

Jayne Ichikawa

On June 29, thirty-four dedicated OBT volunteers and friends gathered at the Oregon Food Bank to help from 9:00 to 11:30 to repack fresh apples and frozen meat for the many needy families in the Portland area. Volunteers repackaged 20,855 pounds apples and 6,514 pounds of meat which meant that each volunteer was responsible for 408 individual meals! We worked as an efficient, happy team. After we finished, 20 of us gathered and enjoyed pleasant conversation and a delicious lunch at the McMenamins, Kennedy School Hotel, renovated from the Kennedy School that Jayne Ichikawa taught at years ago. We hope that this very worthwhile OBT outreach project will continue in the future. Many thanks to Robbi Ando and her assistants who organized and encouraged many to participate.

Oregon Buddhist Women's Association (OBWA)

Etsu Osaki

As mentioned above, OBWA members participate in the food packaging at the Oregon Food Bank. It was very satisfying to do something to help the needy.

There will be no OBWA meeting in August. Also, there will be no service on August 4, the day after Obonfest. We will be cleaning up after the event.

Be sure to come to the Obon dance practices which are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 9 pm starting July 16 to August 1. We hope our members will sign up to help at Obonfest.

Monshu Kojun Ohtani will be here on September 2, Monday. We hope everyone will attend the service.

Marilyn Achterman will be next month's reporter

Dharma School

Ann Shintani

I hope you are enjoying your Summer! Mika and I returned from our trip to Osaka, Japan, and we are both happy to have had that experience together and be home.

Now, we are preparing for Obon season with meeting friends old and new, looking forward to the food, and bon odor. Our wonderful Obonfest poster has been designed by Mayu. I hope you will be able to join the temple festivities, either by volunteering, purchasing or helping sell raffle tickets, considering making a donation for a memorial lantern, and/or taking part in the festivities.

On August 25, after service, Dharma School will sponsor a group field trip... more to come!

My First Portland Pride Day Parade

Ann Shintani

My thanks to Yuki Sasao for inviting us to this wonderful opportunity. On Sunday, June 16th, the Hill-Nomoto family, myself, and Yuki and volunteers from her company, Deloitte and Touche, marched in the Portland Pride Parade. She drove her lime green car, blasted the radio, and posted a “W-2” form on the sides of her car supporting same-sex marriage. The reception was warm and inviting. My arm was sore from waving to everyone on the short (1-mile?) parade route (although I had the benefit of riding in Yuki’s car). We even saw the Niederts on the parade route!

The article below by Jerry Sumoge is the seventh in a series of articles written this year by an OBT board member to help make the board more accessible to temple members.

Turn the Switch to Enlightenment

Jerry Sumoge, OBT

Illusion is described as an act of deception, or imposition, and mockery. We can go from illusion to enlightenment; the attainment of enlightenment could be like your journey on a train. I am on a train where the inevitable destination is enlightenment.

Enlightenment is the ultimate fulfillment of the human being; the achievement of perfect wisdom, the perfection of the intellect; and compassion, the perfect purification of the emotion. The supreme purpose of Buddhism is to turn illusion into enlightenment (Sensei Kenryu T. Tsuji, author of “The Heart of the Buddha-Dharma”)

From a practical standpoint, you can go from dark to light (illusion to enlightenment) with one or two switches in a room – an on/off switch, or a dimmer switch that turns clockwise from dark to light. Enlightenment is not an on/off switch but rather a dimmer switch, which seems to be the most appropriate way to attain enlightenment.

So turn the dimmer switch clockwise.

Gassho

Lotus Circle – August

Jean Matsumoto

OBT is grateful for our Flower Toban who so creatively arrange beautiful flowers on the altar and around the Temple building every week. And, without the Lotus Circle members they wouldn’t have the beautiful flowers to arrange. So, this month, we are grateful that the following people chose to honor their loved ones who are no longer with us by their generous donations:

- August 11 – Miki Yagi in memory of (imo) husband, Kan; Ann Shintani-Winner imo her mother Kazumi and grandparents Takeo & Aiko Yamanaka
- August 19 – Glenn, Jim, Janie Okawa imo their parents Toichi & Reiko; Chisao Hata imo mother Kesae Kay, uncle and aunt Mitsuge & Jean Tamiyasu and cousin Eric Tamiyasu; anonymous imo Alice Etsuko Sumida; Frank Muramatsu imo his parents Sam & Kyu, brother Noboru, and grandfather Tatsutaro
- August 25 – Debby Abe and Dan Meatte imo Debby’s mother Patsy Abe and grandparents John & Yoneko Yoneyama

Please check out our Lotus Circle webpage and contribute to it via webmaster@oregonbuddhistemple.com. If you have any questions about this group, please feel free to call 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

August Toban

Robbie Ando	Chiz Chambers
Randy Cho	Yasuko Fields
Brenda Fugate	Diane Harder
Jayne Ichikawa	Shinya Ichikawa
Kim Kono	Angie Nakashima
Glenn Nakashima	Clara Pawlowski
Steve Pawlowski	Ann Shintani Winner
Scott Winner	

Quotations from Shin Buddhism Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold, by Taitetsu Unno

Here we must pause and reflect on the meaning of the word "religion" and the need to expand its definition. The word "religion" as we know it did not exist in Asian languages, but when Western civilization was introduced into that part of the world in the modern period, people came up with translations that reflected their own heritage. Searching for a suitable equivalent to translate the term into their vernacular, the Japanese, for example, used the word *shu-kyo* as a translation for "religion." This term is found in Buddhist scriptures; its literal meaning is "the teaching of that which is fundamental." (Shu is "fundamental tenet" and kyo is "teaching.") It is in this sense that both the path of Sages and path of the Pure Land may be called religion—they teach that which is fundamental for living a meaningful, creative life, including the path or method to that realization.

...

In Buddhist literature we often come across the word "realize." This word has two connotations. First, it means to see or understand clearly, such as in the admission "I realized my mistake." Second, it is to make something real, total, and concrete, as in the saying "He realized his dream." The dream

has been completely embodied. It is in the latter sense that we speak of realizing enlightenment or realizing Buddhahood. The purpose of Buddhist practice is to go beyond the first sense of understanding something to the second sense of embodiment. In this sense, saying the nembutsu, realizing the reason for it, is the same as living the nembutsu.

...

The path of Pure Land, on the other hand, is primarily a way for the laity; it is available to anyone, regardless of status, who seeks the path of enlightenment. This path is for people engaged in raising a family, making a living, doing productive work, negotiating through life's endless demands. In traditional Asia such people also provided material support for the monks and nuns, so that the latter could fulfill their religious vocations. This path of Pure Land is also known as the Straight Way, a direct and unobstructed path to liberation and freedom, due to the working of boundless compassion, in contrast to the path of Sages, which can be circuitous, full of obstacles, temptations, and pitfalls.

...

On rituals and chanting:

... rituals handed down through the centuries provide a stabilizing ground to the emotional fluctuations that are our common lot, whether religious or nonreligious. Like the weather in New England, emotional states constantly undergo change without any warning. We thus yearn to become connected to something enduring and consistent. This is where devotional sutra-chanting in Buddhism plays a crucial role. No matter what one's psychological state may be, communal chanting provides

a soothing setting that cannot be easily created by any other means.

The ritual of sutra chanting, whether communal or individual, includes diverse settings. In my own case, the number of Shin Buddhists in new England is minuscule, but I am part of a larger Shin Sangha in space and time. My chanting resonates with the chanting by Shin Buddhists across the globe, in Kyoto, Honolulu, Anchorage, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, London, Antwerp, Dusseldorf, Salzburg, Geneva, Kenya, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, Singapore, and Hong Kong. It also connects me to my childhood, when we had daily chanting before the home altar, and to my father's temple in Kyushu, Japan, where early morning and evening chanting had been conducted for twelve generations at the same site. But it goes even further back, to the oral transmissions from the time of the historical Buddha in India in the fifth century B.C.E.

...

Describing Suzuki's final moments as he lay dying in a Tokyo hospital, his student and friend Kosho Otani of Tokyo Honganji writes:

In my observation, the more congenial his attitude became towards Shin Buddhism, the more often he uttered "Thank you." This "Thank you," with his own unique tone, derives from Dr. Suzuki's upbringing in a Shin Buddhist atmosphere in Kanazawa. In other words, Shin Buddhism bloomed in the warmth of his feeling, and Zen manifested itself in his sharpness and resoluteness of his mind; as if the former were his mother and the latter his father, these two elements formed Dr. Daisetz Suzuki.

OBT volunteers at Oregon Food Bank' June 29, 2019



Several OBT members attended the Minidoka Pilgrimage July 5 – 8, 2019



Front Row (L-R): Jayne's sister Chery Freeman; Jayne Ichikawa; Carol Saiget; Cathy Yarne; Joni (Nakayama) Kimoto; Roberta (Shoji) Coates; Susanne Shoji; Linda (Akamatsu) Nicoll; Keith Nakayama; Leslie (Nakayama) Nelson; Lucy Capehart; Connie Masuoka; Kurt Yokoyama Ikeda; Abby Rotwein

Second Row (L-R) Cheryl's husband Dick Freeman; Shinya Ichikawa; Rod Reeves; Cynthia Bayse; Katie Bush; Elissa Dingus; Lynn Yarne; Yukiyo Kawano

Third Row (L-R) Eleanor Nakayama; Tim Nakayama; Setsy Larouche; Chip Larouche

The Minidoka War Relocation Center was in operation from 1942–45 and is one of ten camps at which Japanese Americans, both citizens and resident "aliens," were interned during World War II. Under provisions of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, all persons of Japanese ancestry were excluded from the West Coast of the United States. At its peak, Minidoka housed 9,397 Japanese Americans, predominantly from Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Located in south central Idaho, it is 17 miles northeast of Twin Falls in an area known as Hunt. (from Wikipedia)

Obon Fest 2019
Saturday, August 3, 2019
3:00 - 9:00p.m.

All are Welcome!

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave,
Portland, Oregon.
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Temple Talk Portland Taiko Children's Activities Artisan Vendors	Entertainment Food and Beverage Beer Garden and MUCH MORE FUN!
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Attendance is Free!

OBON FEST
Kimono Sale
2019

July 20 (Sat) 11am Presale for OBWA and OBT
July 27 (Sat) Noon to 4pm
August 3 (Sat) 3-7pm

July 25 - August 1 (Tue & Thur) 7-9pm
During Obon Practice

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave,
Portland, OR 97202

Contact:
yasuko@raf.us
Donations (Kimonos and yukatas, old and new) are welcomed.

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE**OBON MEMORIAL LANTERN ORDER FORM TO CELEBRATE OBONFEST 2019****WHITE Lanterns**

Commemorate the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends or even pets.

**RED Lanterns**

Honor a living person, organization or business.

RE-HANG a previously purchased lantern to continue this joyful remembrance.

Please use one form for each new lantern. This order form is also available on the OBT website.

WHITE COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN (\$25) Deadline to order by: **Monday, July 29, 2019.**

Deceased's First Name (English) _____ Last name _____

Japanese Version/ Buddhist name (Kanji/Katakana) will be on Lantern _____

Date of Passing (if known): _____

RED COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN (\$25) Deadline to order by: **Monday, July 29, 2019.**

First name/business/organization in English _____ LastName _____

Japanese Version (Kanji/Katakana) on lantern _____

RE-HANGING Previously Purchased Lantern: **\$15 for the 1st order, \$10 Each additional lantern**

Deadline to order by: **Thursday, August 1, 2019**

Name (English) _____

Name (English) _____

Name (English) _____

Name (English) _____

Just in case we have a question about the lantern:

PURCHASER'S NAME _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Checks Payable to: **Oregon Buddhist Temple**

3720 SE 34th Avenue. Portland. OR 97202

Lanterns to be re-hung in 2020 can be stored at the temple OR purchased lanterns can be picked up Sunday following the ObonFest. Lanterns inactive for two years will be discarded.

Thank you very much!

Lanterns OBT Phone contact: 503-234-9456

email

Oregon Buddhist Temple Donations for June 2019

SHOTSUKI HOYO***In memory of Seiichi Fujii***

Robertta Ando

Diane Ando Harder

In memory of James Hasuike

Grace Hasuike

In memory of Misuyo Okamoto

Janice Okamoto

In memory of Yone Ikata

Alice Ando

In memory of Henry Muramatsu

Alice Ando

***In memory of Aster, Charlotte Ann
& John Mishima***

Amy Peterson

In memory of Hichiro Takao

Amy Peterson

Lotus Circle

Randy L. Muramatsu

Nancy Lee Takeuchi

Rose T. Ikata

Harry McNicholas

Grace Hasuike

Lily Meiners

Ronald & Linda Iwasaki

Anonymous

Special donations

James & Judith Nakashima

Katsuya & Grace Amasuga

Thongphanh Phanhavady

(Kaiser Found. Community Giving)

Iwashita Family

Jon & Barbara Yanase Shirota

(Honoring graduate Lauren Yanase)

Susumu Takao & Kathleen King

Michael Karpinko

Paul Telles

Beverly Aaby

Gary Higashi

Jae Yong & Marilyn Huh

Angela Hughes & Ryan Davis *(Obonfest)****Spring Bazaar donations***

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner

Traci & Wynn Kiyama

Ken & Maho Garner

Kiyo Endecott

Susan Endecott

Enshane Hill-Nomoto

Obon / Kangi-e

Rei Okabayashi

Angela & Glenn Nakashima

2019 Annual Pledge

Alfred Ono

***Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual
Pledge donations***

Kaoru Hori

Diane Ando Harder

Susan Lilly & Erik Acherson

Jean Matsumoto

Nancy Walseth

Atsuko Richards

Felicia Ann Teba

Tony & Sena Clinton

Susan Endecott

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mailed to individuals 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/omissions.
Thank you.
sjendecott@gmail.com***

Thank you for your continued support