



OBT established 1903



Why I am Grateful for Shinran Shonin Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy May everyone! Spring weather can sure be frustrating and beautiful at the same time. Sometimes the warm weather makes us open all the windows to air out the house, but by night it becomes so cold that we close the windows and turn on the air conditioning. While fickle weather usually doesn't bother me, but now that I have a son, it is just another aspect of life that highlights the struggles we go on an everyday basis.

Parenting is going along and I have to be honest; this stage is challenging. Currently, Tetsuo (our son) is going through the time in his life where he begins to cry and cry, for no reason. Many parental experts refer to this phase as "the witching hour". For those of you who are not familiar with the term, this is when the baby (usually during the evening) begins to go through an inconsolable crying fit. Daddy changes the diaper, mommy feeds him, he is carried around, hugged, gentle pats on the back, nothing seems to work. One of the main reasons why this phase can seem so frustrating is because no matter what the parent does, nothing seems to work. The baby is still crying uncontrollably, and a feeling of helplessness is most common.

It is precisely this feeling of helplessness that makes me reflect on the Buddhist teaching that Shinran Shonin gifted us. We as humans often think in linear fashions: if we put in the work, we will reap the rewards. The same is true when it comes to our deluded thinking of Buddhist practice. We view Buddhist practice as this method of elevating our spiritual status and/or to help us lead a more peaceful calming life. When chaos and dissatisfaction still penetrate our lives, we become frustrated with the temple or the school of Buddhism. We often think, "I thought these teachings were supposed to help me in life! I thought that doing all of this practice will make me less angry, more patient, and happier!"

This type of logic is exactly why Shinran Shonin taught the Nembutsu path. It might seem counterintuitive, but if we approach the Nembutsu with this notion of "If I say Nembutsu, I will become a better person and a happier person!", we will eventually become very disappointed. The Nembutsu (Namo Amida Butsu) is not here to make our lives easier, but to remind us that because our lives are hard, Buddhist practice has already been done for our sake. There are bad days that we have, even not feeling well enough to go to Sunday

service! In these moments of helplessness, we realize that by ourselves, we cannot fully practice the monk's path of Buddhism.

In our chaotic lives of work, kids, bills, food, complex relationships, existing in this chaotic world itself, I am so grateful that Amida's light of compassion continues to work solely for our benefit and for our eventual enlightenment. This is not to accuse any of us that we are lazy, but that many of us were not born with the karmic conditions to follow the path of a Buddhist monk. This is also not a judgement, or a criticism! This is just reality for many of us, and that is okay! We don't need to be monks, or perfect. We just need to be our genuine selves and say the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu.



Obon Is Our Answer Charles Reneau, OBT President

If you read the news, you've certainly been reading about advances in artificial intelligence. The technology offers the tantalizing promise of augmenting human-led scientific advances in healthcare and sustainable energy, but, like any technology, also presents risks and raises ethical questions.

For instance, many AI developers are concerned that AI could obviate the need for many kinds of good-paying jobs, risking large scale unemployment. A more alarming conjecture is that a sufficiently powerful artificial intelligence could take actions against human well-being, or even human existence.

One ethical question raised by AI is that, while we know how these computer models are created, we cannot for certain know if they have any conscious experience of their activities. While I can say definitively that my iPhone does not suffer when I drop it on my garage floor, there may come a point when computer models may suffer. If so, should we treat these corporate products with the same compassion that we invest in other living beings?

I have been thinking about a more banal, but still deeply troubling possibility: that AI will further strengthen the distractions of modern life, increasing the social isolation that we already see today. Smartphones, social media, on-demand TV, and the constant churn of attention-oriented politics offer us distraction from life's difficulties, and can pull us away from each other. These technologies mask our loneliness, and offer us ultimately unfulfilling "connection" that keeps us in

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

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E-mail: obtwebmaster@gmail.com website: oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address.

our homes, glued to the screen. If AI offers us a simulation of perfect, difficulty free life, should we live in it?

Our Temple helps us answer difficult questions like this.

Shinran founded the Jodo Shinshu tradition in Japan at a time of great uncertainty and upheaval. Rennyō Shōnin, generations later, survived violence and state suppression to keep our Dharma alive. Within the lifetime of current Temple members, Jodo Shinshu Buddhists kept the Dharma alive even in American internment camps.

All of this is possible because of our insistence on human connection. When we meet together, we listen to the Dharma, practice kindness with one another, and strengthen the social bonds that give life meaning. Chanting ancient sutras together is altogether unlike silent, solitary scrolling through an endless feed of current events on the phone.

What would be the opposite of the lonely scroll? An ancient religious gathering like Obon Festival! This is our largest gathering, when we welcome the entire community to come together to enjoy Japanese-American food and culture, and

dance in gratitude. Obon itself is our biggest, loudest, most tasty answer to all difficult questions about living in our times.

So I'd like to make sure everyone know that we will celebrate **Obon Fest on Saturday, August 1** this year. We will of course have more information about the festival in the coming months. For now, I'd like you to save the date in your calendars, and start letting your family know in advance- we'd love to see you all there!

As we did last year, Kim Kono and I will be co-chairing Obon Fest; if you have any questions or ideas for this year's event, please reach out to us!

Note: Interested in signing up as an [Obon Volunteer](#), dancing in [Bon Odori](#) practices, or purchasing an [Obon Lantern](#) for a loved one? See the [Obon Fest notices](#) in the back of the newsletter.

	OBT Upcoming Services	Officiant	Dharma Talk
May 3	Regular Service - 10am	Brenda Fugate	Dr. Al Ono
May 10	Regular Service - 10am	Ken Garner	Brenda Fugate
May 17	Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service - 10am	Rev. Ron Kobata	Rev. Ron Kobata
	Gotanye Special Service - 10am		
May 24	+ Memorial Service in Nokotsudo	Brenda Fugate	Ken Garner
May 25	Memorial Day Services (see below)		
May 31	Regular Service - 10am	Rev. Koyama	Rev. Koyama

Oregon Buddhist Temple Memorial Day Services Monday May 25

Forest Lawn Cemetery and Mausoleum
SW 4th and Walters Drive, Gresham
10:30 am

Japanese Cemetery, by Rose City Cemetery
NE 57th and Fremont, Portland 12pm

Japanese American Community Memorial Day Service Japanese Cemetery 1:00 pm

Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery
SE 26th and Stark, Portland (after Rose City Cemetery service)

May Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of May. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the May 17 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. Names of deceased prior to 1950 are added if requested. If a name is missing or incorrect, please notify the temple at 503 481-0699 or at obtlanterns@gmail.com.

Kikuno Asakawa, 5/5/1962*	Asoye Minami, 5/5/1977*	Hisano Sakamoto, 5/29/1993*
Kanichi Egimoto, 5/11/1950	Kiyomatsu Minami, 5/7/1980	Michio (Mich) Sakauye, 5/3/1995
Toshimi Endo, 5/13/2025	Katsumi Mishima, 5/23/1963	Kenjiro Sasaki, 5/3/1989
Robert Fetter, 9/9/1964	Takuyo Miura, 5/2/1980	Riye Sasaki, 5/1/1987*
Shuichi Fujinaka, 5/20/1961	Kura Masako Mori, 5/30/1980*	George Shido, 5/22/1993
Yoshichiro Funatake, 5/15/1986	Kow Mukaida, 5/30/1977	Matsuji Shimizu, 5/15/1954
Donald Greenwood, 5/4/2010	Susanne Mineko Myers, 5/10/2006	Yayoi Tajima, 5/24/1965*
Mitsuko Hasuike, 5/7/2016*	Saneharu Nagano, 5/17/1965	Unosuke Takano, 5/3/1956
Neil Seth Hollander, 5/28/2015	Denzo Nakagawa, 5/8/1963	Richard Kiyoshi Takashima, 5/31/2001
Asaji Hooraku, 5/29/1952	James Yoshio Nakagawa, 5/1/2008	Mary Natsuko Takeuchi, 5/26/2001*
Kiyoshi Ishii, 5/4/1950	Akiko Nakamatsu, 5/31/1983	Tomiye Takeuchi, 5/27/1984
Isamu Sam Iwamoto, 5/29/1996	Hiroshi Nakamura, 5/11/1978	Mitsugi (Mits) Tamiyasu, 5/13/2011
Akimi Kawachi, 5/10/1981	Sally Mew Lin Nakamura, 5/26/2014	Shime Tanada, 5/30/1960*
Ito Kawamoto, 5/18/1950*	Yukiye Nakano, 5/23/1990	Nobuyoshi Toyooka, 5/13/1996
Suekichi Kawasaki, 5/19/1961	Masao Nakashima, 5/4/1983	Ikutaro Tsubouchi, 5/5/1952
Shin Kobuchi, 5/11/1959	Shotaro Nishikawa, 5/6/1964	Jayne Yasui Van Ness, 5/13/2021
Ginny F Way Lew, 5/23/1951	Shin Obuchi, 5/11/1959	Seiichi Wakayama, 5/19/1954
Martha Masako Maehara, 5/18/1990*	Mataroku Okabe, 5/1/1955	Yoshiko Yasutome, 5/27/2012*
Toshio Maetani, 5/15/1975	Dorothy Hanae Okamoto, 5/18/1984*	Yoneko Yoneyama, 5/29/1996*
Jean Matsunaga, 5/15/2006	Chiyono Okino, 5/7/1952*	Kojiro Yoshida, 5/12/1973
Cruz T Miller, 5/26/2014	Masuko Onishi, 5/2/1963	Akira Yoshiro, 5/11/1997
	Fukuo Ozaki, 5/30/1953	

* OBWA member

A reminder to encourage readers to continue donations for these events and at any other time.

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



Here's some ways you can stay connected to the dharma and to your community:

- Visit the [BCA Connect blog](#) to read and share BCA news, announcements, and articles from *Wheel of Dharma*.
- [Watch videos and live-streams](#) of dharma talks and services throughout the United States.
- Go to the [BCA YouTube](#) channel to view dharma content from throughout BCA.

To join the BCA mailing list:

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bca-connect.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
Donations received 3-20-2026 to 4-16-2026

In memory of Sharon Saito Gattis

Cathlyn Yarne
Carolyn Saiget
Ray & Lori Fukunaga

SHOTSUKI HOYO

In memory of Matt Masuoka

Connie Masuoka

In memory of Yoko Yuzuriha

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

In memory of James K. Kida

Lew & Jean Tomita families

In memory of Shoemon Nakamura

Lew & Jean Tomita families

In memory of Serafin Castellon

Carmen Castellon

In memory of Mitsuko Hasuike

Betty & Henry Young

Special donations

Julia Yoshimoto & S. Bobbin Singh
Amy Long
Christine White
Gary Higashi
Sujata I. Hara

Tamura-Terakawa Scholarship Fund

Susan Endecott

Hanamatsuri

Gerald & JoAnn Sumoge
Elaine & Todd Yuzuriha
Rev. Ronald Kobata
Jayne & Shinya Ichikawa
Dana Kakishita
Pat Hokama

Spring Bazaar donations

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Susan Endecott
Dana Kakishita

2026 Annual pledge

Betty Hasuike Young
Robert & Gail Tsutsumi
Michael & Janice Ishii
Edward Liljeholm

Monthly/bi-monthly pledge

Glenda Watson-Coly
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson
Jonathan Greenwood

***Donation acknowledgements
are mailed for donations of
\$250 or more, and to any
donor upon request.***

***Please inform us of any
significant error or omission.
Thank you!***

sjendecott@gmail.com



The Oregon Buddhist Temple relies on the generosity of the Sangha and other supporters interested in our teachings and activities. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

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Editor's Note: The article below by OBT board member Judy Hittle is intended to help make the board more accessible to temple members.



Eco-Sangha – Earth Day Everyday **Judy Hittle / OBT Board Member**

Within my lifetime, I know that Earth will be the only planet upon which I'll ever live. We hear of space explorations seeking the possibility of being able to exist elsewhere, but that is in the future. In the meantime, we should take a long, honest look at what we have done as we exist on our home planet. Have we done our best for Mother Earth?

Let's just focus on one particular area of our existence – our resources. It seems we discover resources in and on the Earth and we celebrate thinking of all the things that we can do with them, not considering what happens when we have used them up or what we should do with the remnants once we are done using them. Has there been any thought to, how will our actions affect the resources or our surroundings? I'm sure when plastics were first discovered, they were hailed as the answer to many problems. But did we at any time concern ourselves with the thought of once we've used them, what shall we do with them?

I'm sure you've heard the saying that we are a "throw-away society"; we find something useful, we use it up and then we discard it. And why not? "There's more where it came from". It seems to me that this is where acceptance of Interconnectedness is a priority. If we are to realize, what we do can and often does affect another, perhaps we would give more thought to how we treat our resources. Yes, this brings me to that familiar, - "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". BUT, please don't stop listening because you think you've heard this before. Just hear me out . . . please.

At OBT (Oregon Buddhist Temple), we're taking steps to do one small part of remedying this concern for our resources. We recycle. I know there is some feeling that whatever we recycle is sometimes thrown into the landfill by whoever is collecting them. I will not say that this would never happen, but on the most part, we trust that those who collect them will carry on in a responsible way and reprocess them so the items can be repurposed.

There are many community outlets which collect plastics which they will recycle. Often it is done for FREE. New Seasons Market collects #1 plastics containers, only clear and transparent. Look for the chasing arrow triangle with '1' clearly printed within the triangle. Many grocery stores and some schools, collect plastic bags, plastic wraps from produce, and even those resealable freezer bags. We encourage you to take advantage of these services.

However, if you are unable to go to these outlets, OBT also recycles these plastic bags/wraps. We also collect the

following plastic containers, #1 (only transparent, no color), #5, #6 and Styrofoam which have the #6 imprinted on them. There is one very important requirement for ALL items one recycles - they should be CLEAN and DRY. Wet, dirty items not only are disgusting, they contaminate other items within the collection and result in discarding them into the trash. Greasy items should definitely be cleaned.

Compostable containers have been seen as an alternative. However, there are few collection sites which accept these compostable items so we do not collect them. Some may feel that throwing them into the landfill would be just as good as recycling since they will eventually biodegrade in the landfill. BUT, did you know that a landfill is specifically sealed up so toxic gases do not escape into our atmosphere? In order for items to biodegrade, they need to be aerated and this DOES NOT HAPPEN with landfills. One could start a composting pile and include compostable containers. This would be ideal but I wonder how long it would take for these items to decompose.



Additionally, besides recycling of plastics and Styrofoam, did you know that there are available places, like H & M Clothing Store that "allows customers to drop off unwanted clothing or textiles from any brand in any condition at store cash desks"? These are sent off to be sorted into rewear, reuse or recycle. I'm certain there are other similar sources. According to one source, textiles make up nearly 6-8% of total municipal solid waste.

Speaking of statistics, of the total Municipal Solid Waste in a year, approximately 23% is paper and paperboard; 12% is plastics; 22% is food items. These are items which are not difficult to recycle and yet, they end up in the landfill.

In conjunction with these thoughts, our BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) has created an EcoSangha Committee in the hopes that sangha members in every temple will consider what they will do to take on the responsibility of caring for our Mother Earth and her surrounding atmosphere. What part will you play?

[Click on this link](#) to view a video about the BCA EcoSangha Committee featuring environmentally friendly activities being held at various temples



OBWA Report Jeanette Hager

Greetings from our OBWA members!

Our members are busy interweaving their talents and generous spirit within our Sangha community and throughout our greater community. It is through involvement with each other in so many ways that our interconnectedness strengthens our bonds with each other.

- Our members volunteered cooking for the **April Spring Bazaar** helping to provide our Sangha and community with scrumptious chow mein and inari zushi. Our members also delivered these delicious foods to our homebound members.

- At our April meeting, Julia Yoshimoto-Singh, an OBT member who provides legal services for incarcerated women at Coffee Creek prison in Wilsonville, introduced us to the organization, **CREW (Connecting Resource to Empower Women)**. This organization provides support to those most challenged in our community. Women who are released are highly vulnerable to be trafficked, as resources, support, and belongings are very limited upon release. CREW assists by providing free clothing, transportation, and duffle bag full of essential items such as clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. Needed items are used clothing, new socks/underwear, knitted items, full-size hygiene items, and other items. Cash donations go towards transportation and donation storage costs, as well as gift cards to cover-up tattoos that identify formerly trafficked women. Items may be purchased directly from CREW's Amazon page (website: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VBB94LUL3FP0/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex). Purchases through the link will be delivered directly to CREW. Donations purchased outside of Amazon page may be received by coordinating with CREW.

This is a project that our OBWA members will start organizing support for and will invite Temple-wide involvement.

- Also, at our April meeting, Amy Peterson, Co-President, and one of our Temple "historians" gave our OBWA updates on **cherry blossom/leaves pickling** workshop. Cherry blossoms were picked and pickled. Once the new leaves are ready, these, too will be picked and pickled. Timing is difficult because cherry blossoms are so short lived.

- An intergenerational event is the OBWA - Dharma School **Udon/Bingo "Fun-raiser"** which is being held on Saturday, May 2nd start at 4:00 pm. Our OBWA members and the Dharma School students will get together to play bingo and eat delicious udon.

Udon prices: \$7 for Children, \$10 for Adults, \$8 for Seniors, and \$25 for a Family. Please bring "white elephant" gifts for bingo prizes.

- May is the **birthday month** of many of our OBWA members. For all, OBWA and Sangha members whose birthday is in May, best wishes for your birthdays!

- At our OBWA May meeting, Ann Shintani has volunteered to teach us the BCA "**Lantern Song**" **bon odori** at 9:30 am before our meeting begins.

- The Mottainai Craft Group will be hosting a class on "**how to wear yukata/kimono by yourself**" on Saturday, June 20th, 1:00-4:00 pm (registration is required).

- Also in June, our OBWA members will organize an opportunity for our Sangha to volunteer at the **Oregon Food Bank**. (See the **photo below** of our Temple Sangha and OBWA members who volunteered at the Oregon Food Bank in 2025.) Look for more details in the June newsletter and on the screens in the Hondo.



- In July, our members will be joining other Sangha members in preparing foods for the **2026 ObonFest**.

- Then, on **Saturday, August 1st**, you will see our members joining our Sangha and community members volunteering throughout the 2026 ObonFest, creating, cooking, dancing, eating, mentoring, etc. See you there!

Our OBWA members look forward to being with each of you in this event-filled year, a year of excitement, creativity, compassion and deliciousness!

Thank you, Everyone, for all that you do for our Sangha and OBWA!

Our **next meeting is Saturday, May 16, 2026**, at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Gassho,
Jeanette

OBT Hanamatsuri Service, April 12 2026

photos by Maho Garner

OBT held its annual Hanamatsuri (flower festival) Service celebrating the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. The Hanamido (flower altar) was beautifully decorated by Ann Shintani and other Dharma School volunteers, primarily with various homegrown flowers. Following service, the Dharma School kids gave a memorable hula performance directed by Elaine Yuzuriha. This was followed by a delicious potluck meal shared by the sangha.





**Service Chairpersons
for Sunday Services
Alfred Ono**

Hi members of Oregon Buddhist Temple.

It is time to create the schedule for weekly Sunday service chairs for the second half of 2026 here at OBT.

We presently have a small group who have been doing a great job conducting the services but we are always looking for more members to participate. I just need to hear from you personally. Special services are conducted by OBT board members.

There is a script to follow or as you get more comfortable, you can add your introduction or comments.

The schedule will be finalized by mid May so I need to know soon if you are interested in chairing a service.

Please contact me at portlandonos@gmail.com.

Gassho,
Alfred Ono



**A New Experience at OBT Service
Jeff Ichikawa**

After years of watching OBT services on Zoom, it was a thrill to be on the "other side" and manage the camera and zoom for the first time while attending service in April.

Before service, Maho Garner gave me a rundown of how to operate the camera. It is on a tripod, and has a release grip which you squeeze to allow it to swivel left or right, up and down. It also has a zoom in/out switch and a record switch.

Not only is the camera used to stream video over zoom, it also records the services so they can be uploaded to OBT's YouTube channel (see the recent additions listed on the right, thanks to Ken Garner.)

The nearby laptop is used to host the Zoom meeting that is seen by remote viewers. While operating the camera, I tried to keep an eye on the Zoom chat in case the viewers shared any feedback. Sure enough, they let me know that I had turned down the microphone input before service and forgotten to restore it after service started. Fortunately, once I fixed this, the rest of service went smoothly.

Once the service was underway and my nervousness went down, I was able to focus more on the service activities and enjoy the feeling of bringing the experience to an audience outside of the hondo.

Minister's Assistant Brenda Fugate talked about her connections to some of the persons whose names were read for Shotsuki Hoyo. Minister's Assistant Ken Garner skillfully chanted Amida Kyo for the first time I had seen. For Earth Day, Kristen Wong gave a children's talk while "pet animals" kept the children company. Lonny Doi accompanied the service on the piano. Elaine Yuzuriha read the April Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial names, and Jeanette Hager introduced all of the speakers and shared all of the announcements.

Thanks to Maho and everyone else for making this service a memorable experience!

If you have any interest in learning how to work the camera and/or hosting the service on Zoom, the dedicated group of camera volunteers can help you get started! Please contact me at obt.volunteers@gmail.com or Maho Garner.

OBT Dharma Talks are on YouTube

[Click this link to view OBT's YouTube page](#) or the links below for selected Dharma talks.

Heedless of the Dew	M.A. Brenda Fugate
Fact vs. Truth	M.A. Ken Garner
The Nembutsu: A Care Package from Amida Buddha	Rev. Shindo Nishiyama
The Power of Remembrance – A Buddhist Perspective	Rev. Duncan Williams
Wisdom and Compassion in Action	M.A. Ken Garner
Life Will Never Be the Same	Rev. Tadao Koyama
Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani Memorial	M.A. Brenda Fugate
Hoonko Reflection: Compassion During Troubling Times	Rev. Tadao Koyama
A Single Garment of Destiny: Reflection on Rev. Martin Luther King Jr	M.A. Brenda Fugate
Happiness For the New Year	Dr. Alfred Ono

Past OBT Newsletters can be viewed at this link:

[OBT Newsletters](#)





Girl Scouts Troop 43720
Amy Peterson

While I've been out the scouts have been super busy selling cookies and making their goals. They want to thank all those who supported their efforts. They will be donating cookies to Ikoi No Kai and a local shelter (so far)

They went camping with their sister troop 30003 and the highlight was the snow tubing. Luckily they changed plans from night tubing to day tubing which we found, ended up



being the last run of the last day of the season due to the lack of snow!!!

They made cat scratch pads from empty cookie cases to donate.

They will be working with troop 30003 to finish their Little Library project with installation on Annex property in June. This will earn the Juniors their Bronze Award! Service hours for the others.



79th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet
Sunday May 3, 2026
Elaine Yuzuriha

Tickets are currently for sale for the Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet.

The Japanese American Graduation Banquet will be Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 1 pm, located at the Lloyd Center Doubletree by Hilton, 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland. This annual event will honor the Class of 2026 high school graduates from the Portland Metro area and award the community scholarships. The keynote speaker will be **Tiffany Koyama-Lane**, a teacher and Councilor from District 3 on the Portland City Council. She is a yonsei and the first Asian American woman elected to the Portland City Council.

Happily, we have a graduating senior this year from Oregon Buddhist Temple, **Haruki Winner**. Please join us in honoring our student by attending the banquet. We cannot hold these annual luncheons without community support.

Please send the names of any Japanese American High School Graduate from the Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas counties in Oregon, and Clark County, WA to the graduation committee so they can be invited to the graduation banquet to honor them. Contact **Terry Nishikawa** from Gresham Troutdale JACL with the contact information of 2026 Japanese American Graduates. His email is: terry4900@gmail.com.

Or you can contact Elaine Yuzuriha for tickets and information about 2026 graduates. Elaine's email is: elaine@minidokaswingband.com.

Want to receive this newsletter or news about OBT events in your email?

[Click here to join the OBT mailing list](#)





Mottainai Craft Group Debi Shimamoto

As several of our members will be traveling during the month of May, our upcoming meetings will be a great opportunity to complete happi jackets or focus on personal projects.

In June and July, we will begin preparations for the Kimono Sale, held during the temple's Obon Festival on August 1. We will need help with sorting, repairing, and sewing. We hope the Happi Workshop has built confidence among participants so they can assist in creating additional garments.

We are grateful for the donations of kimono, yukata, accessories, and fabric that have already begun to arrive. Thank you to the individuals and families who think of us as they downsize their treasured belongings. Many of these items hold special memories, and we aim to preserve them by offering them for others to enjoy. Some pieces may be repurposed into new creations, while still carrying their stories forward.

If you are planning to donate, please let us know your name so we can properly thank you. Proceeds from the sale will benefit both the temple and the women's group (OBWA).

Kimono 101 Class – June 20

Join us on Saturday, June 20, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm for a special Kimono 101 presentation. Learn the basics of kimono wear, watch a dressing demonstration, and—with guidance—try dressing yourself. Registration will be required; additional details will be shared soon.

Upcoming Dates

May Meetings (Personal Projects / Happi Finishing)

- May 2 (Sat), 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
- May 27 (Wed), 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

June Meetings (Kimono Sale Preparation)

- June 13 (Sat), 10:30 am – 3:00 pm
- June 24 (Wed), 10:30 am – 3:00 pm

July

- July 8 (Wed), time TBA – Kimono Presale Pricing

Contact the group for any questions at mottainaicraftgroup24@gmail.com.

DHARMA SCHOOL / OBWA

FUN RAISER

&



Join us for a fun-filled evening
of Udon and Bingo
Saturday May 2 4:00pm

Child (age 2 – 17)	\$7 / child
Senior (age 65 and up)	\$8 / person
Adult (age 18 – 64)	\$10 / person
Family (adults & children < 18)	\$25

See Amy
Peterson
for details

Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift marked by age group

MAKE YOUR 2026 PLEDGE TODAY!

PLEDGING demonstrates your appreciation for OBT. It acknowledges your commitment to impact Jodo Shinshu, our Sangha and temple has in our lives.

Anyone who makes a pledge (no matter the amount) is a Supporter of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

Pledges of \$300 or greater per year are Full Supporters of OBT and BCA (Buddhist Churches of America). Your name and a portion of your pledge is submitted to the BCA. You are also eligible to become a member of the Board of Directors and vote on temple issues at the General meeting.

Pledge form is included in this newsletter and at



Make your 2026 Pledge today!
Thank you for your support

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

OBT Events and Meetings

Links to and list of recurring events and meetings. Because most events are now live at OBT, this table will contain only those events/meetings with zoom links. Check the newsletter calendar for the dates of everything that is occurring at the temple. For questions: obon.oregonbuddhisttemple@gmail.com (goes to Chris).

Please check our website for any last minute updates (like weather, funerals, or cancellations).

OBT Regular Service

Every week – Sun 10 AM
Dharma Exchange (following the Regular Service) at 11 AM

Link below to website for the filmed services:

<https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/>

This link is to zoom for the live Sunday Services and Dharma Exchange:

Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88441525686?pwd=EeovjfEdmbgAgQUoFXpEC1RAQrzPP1.1>

Meeting ID: 884 4152 5686

Passcode: 804117



OBWA

3rd Sat, mid-month, each month – 10 AM (specific date on calendar)

Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/96237030266?pwd=QjYxMjl5dDM3cnFVLzR5YmEvUU94UT09>

Meeting ID: 962 3703 0266

Passcode: 574232

Sunday Bon Odori

last Sunday of the month (see below – specific date on calendar)

Bon odori is generally the last Sunday of the month at 1 PM in the basement. July/August are exceptions because of Obon and dancing at the Japanese Garden. And, on occasion there are OBT events on the last Sunday so see the newsletter or calendar for specific dates. This is for fun, exercise, learning new dances, re-learning old dances, and seeing your dance buddies.

See Chris for details or to be added to our Japanese Stuff list that we use to notify dancers ---

obon.oregonbuddhisttemple@gmail.com (email comes to Chris and I can answer questions or add you to the list)

Zoom link if you can't make it in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81054749182?pwd=aHBjNXhERzNyT3hUU0E5Wmw2cUliZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 5474 9182

Passcode: 113529

BEC (Buddhist Education Committee)

3rd Wednesday evening of month (see calendar)

This is the group who figures out the educational activities for the temple like the Sunday Services, Dharma Exchange, the Library, the videos and Sunday slide show presentations, and other tasks. We are always busy especially since we are currently without a resident minister. You are welcome to visit and listen in on the decisions or volunteer 😊

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM with a couple exceptions.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/97807303590?pwd=MU90SkZHUnpJUXVxd0EvVGZDYUo4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 978 0730 3590

Passcode: 790943

Rev. Koyama has invited us to participate in his Buddhist Education Class.

Jodo Shinshu 101 Class

Rev. Koyama leads this class the 2nd Wednesday every month, 6pm-7pm. Signup link is [here](#) and also on the Tacoma Buddhist Temple website, <https://www.tacomabt.org/>

Once you are signed up, you will receive an email each month with the class info and zoom link.

TACOMA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

SPRING SEMINAR:

Studying Buddhism for Modern Times

A PANEL DISCUSSION

Saturday, May 16, 2026 @ 2pm-4pm

Tacoma Buddhist Temple Social Hall
1717 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma WA, 98402.

Seminar will also be live-streamed via Zoom. Link provided to those who register.



Professor
Erik Hammerstrom
Pacific Lutheran
University



Professor
Jane Compson
University of
Washington Tacoma



Professor
Bidisha Mallik
University of
Washington Tacoma

Tacoma Buddhist Temple is proud to present our 2026 spring seminar as a panel discussion between three esteemed Scholars of Buddhism and religion from our very own town!

In this seminar we will be discussing a bit about the historical study of Buddhism in the academic world, and then discussing the future of Buddhism in this country and how scholars can help shape that future.

How can Buddhism guide us in this future of wars, political strife, and technological advances like A.I.?



Cost: Seminar is free but donations are welcome
Contact: revtadaok@gmail.com

Save the Date

Obon Fest 2026

Saturday, August 1, 2026



We are looking for volunteers!
Let us know your preferences and receive updates:
[click here](#)



**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
OBON MEMORIAL LANTERN ORDER FORM NEW LANTERN
IN CELEBRATION OF OBONFEST 2026**



All orders due to temple by **July 22, 2026 deadline**

Please: Use one form for each NEW lantern order. One individual/name per order.

All NEW lanterns \$35 one name per lantern and one form per person

Order forms available online at oregonbuddhisttemple.com pay by cash, check or **online donation** email obtlanterns@gmail.com this form

DONOR NAME _____ **Phone** _____ **Email** _____

NOTE: These lanterns will be displayed at the OBONFEST and are the property of the purchaser. They are not to be confused with the lanterns displayed at our Hatsubon service.

WHITE LANTERN

DECEASED FIRST / LAST NAME

DATE OF PASSING

____/____/____

BUDDHIST NAME IF ONE _____

Cat / Dog / _____

Please note if pet

Red Lantern

_____ For Living, Family, Organization, Business,

_____ Japanese version if desired

Office info Cash/Check _____ **CK #** _____ **Paid Online** _____



**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
OBON MEMORIAL LANTERN REHANG ORDER FORM
IN CELEBRATION OF OBONFEST 2026
DEADLINE FOR REHANGS July 24, 2026**

DONOR NAME _____ **Phone** _____
Email _____ **LANTERN REHANGS \$20 each**

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Lantern File # _____ Lantern name _____

Additional? use back of form

If your lantern was not hung for 3 years it will be retired unless rehung or picked up.
If you are unsure of all of your lanterns, please email obtlanterns@gmail.com to request a list of your previously purchased lanterns.

OFFICE USE Paid Online _____ **Cash** _____ **CK #** _____

2026 Event:	Month	Date	Day	Time
No Dancing	January			
Sunday Bon Odori	February	1	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori	February	22	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori	March	29	Sunday	1:00 PM
No Dancing	April			
Sunday Bon Odori	May	3	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori	May	31	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori	June	28	Sunday	1:00 PM
Obon Leader Practice	July	5	Sunday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	13	Monday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	15	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	20	Monday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	22	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	27	Monday	7:00 PM
Obon Dance Practice	July	29	Wednesday	7:00 PM
Obon Bon Odori	August	1	Saturday	7 - 9 PM
J Garden Practice	August	14	Friday	7:00 PM
J Garden Practice	August	21	Friday	7:00 PM
J Garden Bon Odori	August	22	Saturday	10:30 AM
Sunday Bon Odori	September	27	Sunday	1:00 PM
No Dancing	October			
Sunday Bon Odori	November	1	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori	November	29	Sunday	1:00 PM
Sunday Bon Odori (Xmas)	December	27	Sunday	1:00 PM

NOTE: Japanese Garden practice and dancing is for those who sign up as space is limited. Japanese Garden members can come to the practice and dance event without signing up but need to provide their own transportation to the garden.

NOTE: All Sunday Bon Odori is at 1 to 3 PM in the OBT basement. All practices for Obon and the Japanese Garden are from 7 to 9 PM in the OBT basement.



**SUPPORTER OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
PLEDGE FOR 2026**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

All individuals who make a pledge will be listed as a Supporter of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

For individuals who pledge \$300 or more:

- A portion of your pledge will be forwarded to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) for BCA membership
- Eligible to be nominated to be on the Oregon Buddhist Temple Board of Directors
- Eligible to vote for the Board of Directors of Oregon Buddhist Temple and other issues that are presented at the General Meeting.

I will pledge for 2026, the amount of \$ _____

_____ The above amount is to be given as a one- time amount of \$ _____ or

_____ The above amount is to be given in payments of \$ _____

_____ Monthly _____ Quarterly

_____ I would like a pledge reminder before the end of 2026 at (email or phone) _____

Please send this completed Pledge for 2026 and payments to:

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202-3037

[Make an online donation](#)



In gratitude for your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple