

Ohigan - reaching the other shore on the Oregon

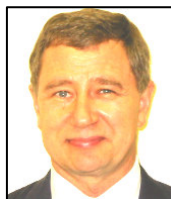


OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

March 2008



Spring – Are we there Yet? ***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

In March we celebrate Ohigan. This Buddhist service was originated in Japan in the seventh century by Prince Shotoku Taishi. The service was set at the time of Vernal Equinox, the evidence of the coming of spring which has been noted since the time of the ancients. Thus the Buddhist religion, newly imported from the Asian continent, assimilated the celebration of the coming of spring. Ohigan, fundamentally a celebration of the possibility of awakening to Buddhahood, also incorporated rejoicing in the dawn of springtime. As I write this I am gazing out my window and it doesn't look much like spring. Is spring coming? Are we there yet?

Before we get to the Ohigan service on March 23rd we will have completed hosting BCA's National Council and putting on our Spring Food Bazaar. When spring does get here we may be a little tired, but hopefully not too tired to enjoy the resurgence of life in and about us. At 9:30 a.m. on 3-23 I will give a brief Japanese-language talk in the course of a brief service. By 10 a.m. we will be underway with our main service and I will give a Dharma message in English at that time. I hope you can join us for the Ohigan service when we get to March twenty-third.

Buddhist spirituality is directed toward living in genuine peace and with subtle joy while being kind to all living things. Are we there yet? No. So long as there are suffering beings who are deluded and behaving in an unwholesome way we are not yet to our goal. What we aspire for, again, is a life of harmony and oneness in which suffering is unknown and expressing kindness is the essence of every human action. So long as armies are sent to war and the environment is degraded, so long as people are placed in prison without being charged with crimes, so long as homelessness continues to become more wide spread we are far from our goal.

Even so, there is a major part of our goal that can be accomplished quickly. We can make kindness the essence

of our thoughts, speech and action. If we try seriously to do this, we will be very close to our goal soon. Are we there yet? We can be so close to "there", to living in an enlightened way, that we feel we are there. It just requires being kind. Are we there yet? Some of us, some of the time, are so close to being there that our hearts move us to say, "Yes. We're there. Isn't it great?"

Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

March Highlights

Mar 1	BCA National Council Meeting	
Mar 7, 8	Spring Bazaar Food Preparation	7:00 am
Mar 9	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME	
	BEGINS	
Mar 9	Spring Bazaar Food Preparation	6:00 am
Mar 9	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Mar 14	OBT Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Mar 15	OBWA Meeting and	9:30 am
	Craft workshop	
Mar 23	Spring Ohigan Service	9:30 am
	Followed by potluck lunch	

Spring Bazaar, Sunday March 9

Please see attached forms for food preorder form, and work schedules.

OBT 2008 Membership registration form is attached. Thank you for your support.

"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."

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Spring bazaar is here – helping hands needed!

Kim Kono

What better way to welcome the spring than by hosting OBT's annual Spring Bazaar for the entire community? This perennial fundraiser features the temple's signature dishes of chow mein, sushi, udon, and bentos (chicken & beef). Make sure to place food orders by March 5, 2008 using the order form in this newsletter.

We'll have an Ikebana display by the Saga Goryu School of Ikebana, a craft gift shop (OBWA omiyage), Dharma School bake sale, and a plant sale stand. This year's raffle offers an opportunity to win attractive cash prizes (\$500 1st prize, \$300 2nd, \$200 3rd). We thank Alice Sumida for her generous donation to fund these prizes. Raffle tickets run \$1/ticket or \$10/book of 11. Buy in advance or the day of the event. See Herb Osaki to purchase tickets or email osaki9678@comcast.net.

Many helping hands are needed to make the Spring Bazaar a success! All OBT members, OBWA members, and community friends (men & women alike) are welcome. Come and learn how to prepare our traditional dishes and enjoy OBT's inter-generational Sangha fellowship. Food preparation begins in earnest on Friday through event time on Sunday. The food prep schedule is:

- Friday, 2/7/08: 7 a.m. chow mein noodles & chopping vegetables
- Saturday, 2/8/08: 7 a.m. finish chow mein, sushi & udon prep, bento meat prep
- Sunday, 2/9/08: 6 a.m. rice cooking, sushi prep, meat cooking

For food preparation, arrive as your schedule permits; there are many tasks and needs. We appreciate whatever time you can give! We also encourage you to help in areas other than your assigned tasks. Help is always needed in the kitchen, so if you are able to work an extra hour or two in addition to your waitress/busboy shift, that would be great. For those who need to sit while working, there are jobs available. If you'd like to help in a particular food area, or for food preparation questions, contact Hannah Honma (503) 641-4681, hkh40@comcast.net.



From the Food Prep chair **Hannah Honma**

Kim Kono and Susan Leedham, chairs of the event, have asked me to chair the food preparation. In turn I am asking again for support from our members.

For the food preparation, we will be working Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as noted above. One big change is that we are hoping to get more men folks and temple members involved.

For those of you that like to sit and work, we can use your help folding boxes, napkin2 etc. We hope everyone will do their share and a bit more. If everyone can help with

the preparation as well as work their shift on the day of the event, the work load will not be so overwhelming for any one person. Time together can be fun.

My sincere thanks,



Mochitsuki 08

Carol Saiget

Mochitsuki is a community event that promotes Japanese culture. Local clubs, organizations, and service related businesses come together to share and celebrate the New Year in our community. If you have never been to the Mochitsuki, it is difficult to describe. Hundreds of people come to watch demonstrations, stage performances, participate in activities, learn about different organizations, and to enjoy Japanese foods. In the past, the OBT has participated in various ways. This year we chose to take advantage of the large crowd and sell teriyaki bento with proceeds benefiting our temple. Although the PCC campus isn't the easiest location to set up shop, we have a dedicated BBQ crew who take their cooking very serious, even in freezing temperatures. In a short time, the smell of chicken and beef teriyaki drifted into the PCC commons and we were in business. There were no scheduled shift changes or replacements; everyone who helped had to hustle and work hard. It was a long weekend but working together, the camaraderie, and the results made it worthwhile. On behalf of the temple, thank you Hannah for being our advisor and doing our shopping and to Jerry for organizing the BBQ crew. Thank you to each member who volunteered their time, energy, and expertise to this project.



Penny Seibel receives Minister's Assistant certification

Congratulations to Penny Seibel who received her Minister's Assistant certification from Socho (Bishop)

Koshin Ogui at the closing service of the 2008 NW Buddhist Convention in south Seattle on February 17. She joins other OBT Minister's Assistants, Brenda Fugate, Teresa Soto de Roman and Etsu Osaki.

Congratulations to Scott Winner and Ann Shintani-Winner on the birth of daughter Mika Jane Winner on February 9. Grandparents are Yoshiro and Kazumi Shintani and Wayne Winner, living in New Mexico.



OBWA news *Jean Matsumoto*

OBWA wishes to thank those on the December toban who helped to prepare and serve the traditional Japanese toshi koshi soba (year-end noodles) on New Year's Eve after the 6:00 pm service. There was a record crowd who attended service on the last day of 2007. We also wish to gratefully acknowledge the following donations made in December: Mitsuki Dazai (profit on Koto concert obento sales); an anonymous monthly pledge and year-end donation; Ben and Darlene Demise in memory of Kikue Kaneyama, Tokiye Ruth Takashima, Fumi Kida, and Phyllis Muramatsu; Sumiko Ikata in appreciation of recovery, and in honor of Alice Ando's 75th birthday.

On January 1st, Janice Okamoto, Alice Ando and Kyoko Gibbs and other January toban members prepared and served ozoni (mochi in broth) yet another traditional Japanese dish eaten on New Year's morning. Then on January 6th, the January toban set the tables, and served the tea to go with the obentos from Osakaya for the Temple New Year's Party. On Saturday, January 12, they helped with setting out "make your own sandwiches" which was the lunch provided for the Hoonko Seminar and began preparations for the udon (noodles) served on Sunday, the 13th, following the Hoonko Service. Thank you to Pat Hokama, Judy Hittle, Linda Tanaka, Kyoko Gibbs, Janice Okamoto, Elaine Yuzuriha and family, BeeBee Dawson, Chip and Setsy Larouche, Al Ono and Yoshi Ono. On Saturday, January 19th, the monthly general clean-up was performed by: Judy Hittle, Pat Hokama, Linda Tanaka, Janice Okamoto, Setsy and Chip Larouche, Yoshi Ono and Al Ono, Cathy and Willem Stoeller, the Yuzuriha family. In addition, Kyoko Gibbs, Lisa Yanase and Janice Okamoto provided refreshments for the work crew. Thank you to all.

And then on the last Saturday of the month, the 26th, OBWA enjoyed an afternoon of eating without having had to cook, relaxing and playing games. The obento from Hakata Mon was delicious and topped off with a light lemon parfait from Holladay Park Plaza. Interesting prizes (white elephants) were won by Bingo players and a raffle drawing was held. Ray Fields was the bingo "caller", and a good time was had by all in spite of the weather forecast for snow. Needless to say, the view from the HPP penthouse was non-existent. Canned and nonperishable food for Fish Emergency Services totaled 129 pounds this year. Thank you to all who contributed.

To following donations made to OBWA are gratefully acknowledged: Uyeda family, Alice Sumida, and anonymous.

Next OBWA meeting: Saturday, 15 March, 9:30 am.

Next month OBWA reporter: Misa Kodama

Lotus Circle – February/March *Jean Matsumoto*

Altar flowers for the month of February were provided by:
February 3 - Judy Hittle in memory of parents, Joriu and Fumiko

Asato

February 10 - June Shiigi in memory of mother, Sonoe Muraoka

February 17 - Lynn Grannan

February 24 - Mary Kasubuchi in memory of parents, Shintaro and Tatsu Okita; Yasuko Fields in memory of father, Ryoo Maekawa

Altar flowers for the month of March will be provided by:
March 2 - Judy Yamauchi in memory of mother, Chiyoko Sakurai
March 9 - Kim Kono in memory of mother, Jean Kono
March 16 - Anna Tanada in memory of husband, Howard
March 23 - Misa Kodama in memory of mother, Sada Kitagawa
March 30 - Setsy Larouch in memory of father, George Yoshito Sadamoto

If you would like more information about the Lotus Circle, please call Jean Matsumoto, (503-280-2463; e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com). Thank you.

Happy occasion opportunities

In addition to remembering loved ones by providing altar flowers, why not remember them on their birthdays with a donation to the temple?

Bodhi seals

These stamps were not included in our monthly newsletter this year, but are available at the Temple. They can be used for all occasions throughout the year: on all your letters, birthday cards, Hoonko cards, Valentine's Day cards, spring Ohigan cards, Hanamatsuri cards, Gotan-e cards, Mother's Day cards, Father's Day cards, Obon cards, fall Ohigan cards, Halloween cards, Thanksgiving cards, Bodhi Day cards, Holiday greeting cards. If you would like 2008 Bodhi Seals and haven't had a chance to pick them up at temple, please call Jean at 503-280-2463.

March Toban

Fugate, Brenda	Fugate, Jerry
Garner, Ken	Garner, Maho
Harder, Diane	Herndon, David
Ichikawa, Jayne	Ichikawa, Shinya
Inoue, Kay	Kinoshita, Ken
Kono, Kim	Liljeholm, Edward
McCormack, Thomas	Mishima, Kumiko
Monas, Tsuyako	Nakashima, Angie
Nakashima, Glen	Nakashimada, Leke
Nakashimada, Mary	Nasman, Keith
Nasman, Kerrie	Pawlowski, Clara
Pawlowski, Steve	Shibata, Alan
Shibata, Julie	Sunamoto, Kazuko
Ueno, Setsu	

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

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Masako Iwai who passed away January 23, 2008.

2008 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2007	1 year	1986	23 year
2006	3 year	1982	27 year
2002	7 year	1976	33 year
1996	13 year	1972	37 year
1992	17 year	1959	50 year

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.

Communicating maintenance needs

Hiroshi Yamauchi

Maintenance is necessary to insure that our OBT fulfills its purpose, to provide its Jodo Shinshu Sangha with the necessary resources to share the Buddha Dharma in their lives. (OBT Bylaws) That part of the "necessary resources" we focus on is the physical facilities of the temple itself, not the surrounding property which is for others to take care. According to our historical records, the building of the temple was completed in July 1966. That is over four decades ago.

For many years maintenance has been handled on an ad hoc basis. But, we know that change is inevitably continuous. So time has taken its toll. Without more organized and vigilant maintenance, parts of our aging facilities will continue to deteriorate. Of course, aging is not always bad. Some things, like antiques gain value with age. But, premature aging is not so good if things function as an interdependent whole like our OBT. Little things begin to erode and eventually big things break down. Light bulbs burn out, plumbing fixtures leak, fire extinguishers deplete, windows crack, and a host of other things wear out. We tend to accept them as commonplace until we can no longer ignore them. By then the repair costs have begun to escalate. That time may have arrived for us, so the Board has decided that more organized and vigilant maintenance is needed to correct the situation.

An essential part of this effort is communication: But just talking about it at Board meetings is not enough. We need to take action. So with this in mind, we have started a maintenance log that identifies needed work and what's being done about it. Check it out on a clipboard downstairs. The purpose is to communicate and stay ahead of the wear and tear process. The log accepts input from the Sangha. If you see something in need of repair, let us know or just log it in. We will pay attention to it and follow up. There is no

fixed format other than to enter a date, identify the project and sign your name to it so we can follow up with you if necessary. Communicating maintenance is to make it work by getting involved.

Among those actively involved so far are Hiroshi Yamauchi, Jeffrey Clyde, Hiroshi Matsushima, David Wright, and Elaine Yuzuriha. Please join us.



The "Crossing Over" Seminar at JSC *Cynthia Wong*

During the weekend of February 1-3, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the seminar "Crossing Over to Shin Buddhism" at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. The seminar was designed for temple members from non-Jodo Shinshu backgrounds, in order to address the gaps in knowledge that we might have and to give us a deeper understanding of our new spiritual path. The keynote address was given by Rev. Don Castro of the Seattle Betsuin, who shared his own "crossing over" story (although he joked that when he first heard the theme of the seminar, he had wondered if he needed to buy a dress) as well as his vision for the future of Jodo Shinshu in North America. The latter included the formation of a pan-Buddhist "Eco-Sangha" concerned with the conservation of our environmental resources.

We also heard dharma talks by Rev. Kodo Umezu, head of the Center for Buddhist Education at the JSC, Rev. David Matsumoto of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and professor at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (also headquartered at the JSC), and Rev. Zuikai Taniguchi, who also led us in a tai chi exercise session along with his tai chi teacher. Brian Nagata, manager of the Numata Center, was also present and led a question-and-answer session. In addition, we were privileged to have Socho Koshin Ogui address us on Saturday morning.

On Sunday morning, we attended the service at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and heard Rev. Matsumoto's dharma talk in honor of Nirvana Day. All weekend there were many opportunities, both formal and informal, to gather and get to know the ministers and temple members who had come from far and wide to attend the seminar. Twenty-four attendees came from as far away as Northampton, Massachusetts, and Ekoji Temple in the Washington, DC area. There were also two members of the Berkeley Higashi temple in attendance. It was a great experience to hear everyone's stories and to hear the dharma from so many good teachers. I hope to see at least some of my new dharma friends and teachers again at the National Council Meeting in Portland at the end of February.

I want to express my gratitude to the staff of the Center for Buddhist Education for making this seminar possible. A humble and sincere thank you to Rev. Kodo Umezu and his more-than-capable assistants Ken Tanimoto and the indispensable Judy Kono. My life is richer and my understanding of Shinran Shonin's teaching is deeper

because of their efforts. I'm sure the other attendees would agree with my sentiments.

This seminar will most likely be offered again in the future, so I would encourage anyone who was not raised in a Jodo Shinshu household to attend it. I would also encourage anyone who can afford the time and expense to do so, to travel to Berkeley to see the Jodo Shinshu Center. The fruits of the Campaign for the 21st Century are evident there for you to see and enjoy. Rev. Umezu and his staff are working very hard to create and present programs that are relevant to every level of engagement with the Buddhist teaching, lay and ministerial, to every age group, and to the community at large. I was convinced that my family's contribution to the Campaign was being well used for the benefit of all beings.



**Attention High School
Graduating Seniors
congratulations**
Elaine Yuzuriha

Applications for the Japanese American Community Scholarships are due March 1, 2008. At least ten scholarships are awarded each year to graduating seniors of Japanese American ancestry. The scholarship application is available at the temple or on the PDXJACL.org website. Applicants are required to have had at least one parent be a member of a sponsoring organization since at least October 15, 2007 and must reside within Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington (OR) or Clark counties. Oregon Buddhist Temple is a sponsoring organization of the annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet. Please see the applications for more details or contact Elaine Yuzuriha at (360) 253-9532. All applicants must be available for an interview to be scheduled on April 12, 2008. This is a wonderful opportunity to garner scholarships for post secondary education. Get your applications in soon!

This year, the Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet will be held on Sunday, May 4th, 2008. We would like to send invitations to all high school seniors of Japanese ancestry and all graduating children of members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and other Japanese community sponsoring organizations. Please help us by contacting Elaine Yuzuriha at (360) 253-9532 (e.yuzuriha@comcast.net) or Kim Kono at (503) 236-6811 with the graduate's name and contact information. Thank you for your help!

**Oregon Buddhist Temple to host 2009
NW Buddhist Convention, "Jodo
Shinshu in an interdependent world"**

Brenda Fugate promoted the 2009 NW Buddhist Convention at the recent 2008 Convention in Seattle, while Alice Ando, Jerry Fugate, Cynthia Wong and

Gordon Wong model their international fashions in line with the Convention theme.



**Campaign BCA – The 21st
Century**
*Etsu Osaki, Buddhist Education
Committee Chair*

Those of you who have visited the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley will agree that we have a beautiful facility to help further Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in this country. It is a center for many activities, especially for educational purposes. But it has a heavy mortgage that we need to pay off. A number of our members have already given generously, but at the recent NW convention it was revealed that this amounts to only 28% of our membership. Surely, we can do better. We hope you will seriously consider a donation to "Campaign BCA – The 21st Century". A donation form is included in this newsletter.

In Gassho

Center for Buddhist Education presents
NETWORKING & RECONNECTING
Generation Y Seminar for 21 – 35 year olds
Saturday, April 5, 2008 - Jodo Shinshu Center
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REVEREND KEN YAMADA
Berkeley Higashi Hongwanji Temple

FINANCIAL WORKSHOP: Koichi Mizushima

Much overlooked in our BCA system, once young adults graduate from college there is often no temple or BCA program for these members at perhaps one of the most important periods of their lives. The CBE would like to provide this seminar for Generation Y members throughout the BCA to gather together in Berkeley for an opportunity to "network and reconnect" with Buddhism.

The \$25 registration includes speakers, breakfast, lunch and dinner. For those wishing lodging, hotel and dorm rooms are available at the JSC.

Deadline: March 10

For further information, please contact Rev. Kodo Umezu at (510) 809-1460 or by email at director@cbe-bca.org.