



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

April 2013



Hope enters our world ***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

April has always been my favorite month. I remember, in high school, reading T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland". I was at first surprised by the line, "April is the cruellest month." As best as I've been able to figure out, Eliot, as a dour and traditionalist Christian, considered life on earth to be a "veil of tears". So, for him, April being so pretty and temperate was just a cruel distraction from the horrors of life on earth.

As a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, I expect all my dreams to come true at the end of this life. The moment I die will be the same moment of my being born into Buddhahood through the auspice of Amida's Pure Land. So T.S. Eliot and I both expect the most complete fulfillment of our dreams and aspirations at the end of this life. But we sure disagree about the month of April.

If I were smart enough, good enough, hard-working enough, I could attain Enlightenment in this life. I wouldn't have to wait for complete fulfillment in the next life. So, for me, for us, April shows us what life truly is. April reminds me how good life will be when it resumes after death. April also reminds me why I am in no hurry to move on to that new and utterly fulfilling life. When I watch my boys play sports in April I don't have to wear a parka and a rabbit-fur hat. When I go biking with my family in April I don't have to wear four layers of clothing to do it. I love April. I love life. I am, in these regards, a typical Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. We hope for complete Awakening to Buddhahood in the future but embrace the warmth and beauty this life has to offer right now.

Let me emphasize a couple of the many activities which will take place at our temple. The Hanamatsuri service will be held on Sunday April 7th. I will give a brief message in Japanese at 9:30 am and also deliver the English-language message at the main service, which begins at 10 am. I would like to think that the Dharma-message would be the highlight of the day for you. More likely it will be the play by our

Dharma-school students. This year the theme will be: "The Buddha-games". This non-violent re-imagining of "The Hunger Games" was done by Dharma-school student Joy Yuzuriha and the final project will be realized with help from the Dharma-school teachers and her fellow students. I'm sure it will be a treat. Keep Sunday morning April seventh in mind and join us to celebrate Hanamatsuri, the "Flower Festival" celebration of the birth of the Buddha Sakyamuni.

I also want to call your attention to the Dharma-Exchange offerings after temple service every Sunday. Each week a lay persons steps up to give a presentation on something we go on to discuss together. I particularly hope you can be with us on April 21st. Following service Sunday 4-21 Rev. Diane Jishin Johnson will give a presentation on websites that present Buddhism. There are a variety of social media projects, temple websites and such that we might access, but how to separate the valuable resources from sectarian or idiosyncratic blogs? Diane Sensei will give us some information on sites she can recommend on the 21st.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I hope I will see you in person soon.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

April Highlights

Apr 7	Hanamatsuri Service Followed by entertainment and refreshments	9:30 am
Apr 12	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Apr 20	OBWA meeting	9:30 am

"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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This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editors: Shinya Ichikawa, sjichi@gmail.com



Membership has its privileges

Ken Garner, OBT president

Last week as I opened my bill, I saw that American Express was telling me that membership has its privileges. This caused me to wonder what perks come with an official paid OBT membership. Well, you get a copy of the Wheel of Dharma, the monthly BCA newspaper, delivered to your house. You get to vote in OBT elections. You get to run for the OBT board. And on your Hatsumairi you receive an o-nenju. That is about it. Everything else is open and available to the greater OBT community and friends regardless of official status. That privileges tagline definitely doesn't apply to us!

Of course Buddhism is about inclusion rather than exclusion and is not about special privileges. This begs the question, then, "If I am already included and can just come and participate fully without being a member, why should I join?" OBT has a business model which requires voluntary membership contributions from those who benefit from what our temple offers. These contributions make up the bulk of OBT's operating funds. Actually our business model is pretty much along the line of public broadcasting -- although without the swag! Anybody who has listened to or watched OPB during pledge season will have heard the pitches made and the reasons to support such an organization.

I can only speak for my family and myself when I say that we have benefited greatly from our OBT membership. We have found a community of friends with a shared purpose, our spiritual home. I know that we would be poorer without this Sangha in our lives. Our membership ensures that OBT's doors remain open so we can hear the dharma and experience this community. It allows us to honor the past and those who sacrificed to bring the teachings to Portland and to bequeath to us our beautiful temple. It also allows us to build for our future, to ensure the dharma continues to flourish in Portland for our children and those who follow us.

As you all should be aware, OBT has been running a revenue/expense deficit pretty much continuously for the past decade. Donations and fund raisers have not met our operating expenses. While we are in no danger of having to close our doors anytime in the near or mid term, it doesn't take a financial genius to know that this is ultimately untenable. The board does all it can to control costs and is seeking additional cost saving measures. Many of our expenses are beyond our control. Just one example: OBT's 2013 BCA obligations went up 12% per member from our 2012 assessment.

OBT membership dues in 2013 are \$220/person or \$440/family. The board has voted to raise the 2014 membership dues to \$250/person or \$500/family. We expect to have small incremental increases for the next couple of years in order to narrow and, we project, close our deficit. During this time we will be looking for ways to make our traditional fund raising activities more efficient and profitable

as well as seek additional revenue sources.

On to other matters. On behalf of the entire Sangha I'd like to thank Marilyn Achterman, Chiki Kwong, and Ann Shintani for chairing the Spring Food Bazaar. They had a late start in the preparations for the event and by all accounts they did an outstanding job. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to the National Council meeting, but I heard how smoothly the event ran. They took courageous steps to institute some needed process and menu changes, knowing that this is the direction we must head in the future. The revenue from our recent food based fund raisers has been fairly flat although with a slight downward trajectory. It has become clear that we must look at ways to refresh and revitalize these events. We will continue to tweak these events and to try new things. If you have any comments about what worked well, what could use some more work, or other suggestions and ideas (and as always, offers of help), please bring them to a board member. Remember you can always send an email to OBT's board of directors at board@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. Any email sent to this address will be routed automatically to every board member and is a great way to get a conversation started.

In gassho, Ken



OBWA news

Alice Ando

Oregon Buddhist Women's Association (OBWA) acknowledges and thanks the following people for their donations: Susan Endecott, Kim Kono, Cathy Yarne and anonymous. The end of February and beginning of March were very busy times for the ladies (and gentlemen) of the OBWA as it was for all those participating in making the Oregon Buddhist Temple (OBT) Spring Bazaar a successful one. A special thank you also to Lennie's Brigade and others. Congratulations and thank you to chairwomen Marilyn Achterman, Ann Shintani and Chiki Kwong. OBWA gratefully appreciates the generous efforts and time given by Jean Takashima. She was instrumental for our manju production and the making of tsukemono and snack food for our successful sale.

With Hanamatsuri just around the corner, the OBWA members will once again be busy preparing lunch of barazushi, teriyaki chicken and selected vegetable for lunch (check the work schedule). We have just finished cleaning the zabuton (cushions) and our next project is to sew washable covers for the zabutons. We will be also learning how to sew furoshikis (Japanese tote bags - date unknown); and yukatas (ladies/men Japanese clothing - May 25). We hope those who are interested will join us.

For those who are not acquainted with OBWA, we are affiliates of the Temple and our mission statement is "The mission of the OBWA shall be to participate in social service(s) and self-cultivation activities with respect to the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, and support the goals and activities of the Oregon Buddhist Temple." We would love to have anyone interested join us and help support our

Temple. If you have any questions, I'll be happy to help in any way I can.

Our next meeting is April 20, 2013 @ 9:30 am. Please join us at 11:00 am for an informative Aging Wisely presentation by Karol Kennedy about Meals on Wheels following the meeting.

Hanamatsuri food preparation schedule:

- Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am food preparation
- Sunday, April 7, 6:30 am cook rice, 7:00 am otoki preparation



Various matters

Etsu Osaki

From the archives: A most interesting letter in Japanese dated April 14, 1960 turned up in our archives. It was a thank you letter to OBT from a Japanese ship commander. The ship had collided with a US Coast Guard tender in Astoria. Apparently our temple hosted the stranded men in some fashion. Does anyone remember this incident?

Check our bulletin board in the basement. It's titled "Hanamatsuri thru the years."

Librarian needed: Anyone interested in helping the OBT library please contact Lily Kajiwarra at lrkajiwarra@comcast.net or Rev. Gibbs. No experience needed.

Another reason to attend temple: In a study of 92,539 women in the Women's Health Initiative study, it was found that "women attending services weekly during the past month, compared with those not attending at all in the past month, were less likely to be depressed and were more likely to be optimistic. These women were also more likely to report overall positive social support and were less likely to report social strain. Overall, results indicate that regular attendance at religious services may be associated with a more optimistic, less depressed, and less cynical outlook on life."

(Journal of Religious Health, March 2012)



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson, DS coordinator

Seeking Dharma School and summer camp volunteers: Do you have teaching background and willing to assist volunteer teachers with lesson plans? Do you have fun activities to share with children and/or high schoolers? We are looking for: 1) adult volunteers to do multi-age programs during the summer when we don't have formal Dharma School, 2) adult and student volunteers for our 2013 OBT Summer Camp, and 3) volunteers for supervising students working in the Temple garden on Sundays. The online OBT calendar will be update periodically for our Summer schedule.

DS fundraising: Thank you to all who supported our Temple Girl Scout troop by purchasing cookies, we made 288 boxes for 5 girls almost all in another troop. The funds help

the girls attend the BCA sponsored Nembutsu Camporee, and do leadership projects. Also, thanks to those who bought in pop and water bottles for our recycling program, in which DS receives the deposits (we have raised \$30 so far about \$5 per bag). You will now see green bags in the "deposit/recycling" tub. To learn more, visit www.bottledropcenters.com/about.

Snack bar and craft room (spring bazaar): Thank you to all that donated time or items, and to Kyoko Gibbs for organizing the baking party and snack bar volunteers, which took in over \$450 (for the temple). Volunteers include Amy P.; Kristi, Lori & Ray; Gabe, Clyde & Doug; Mie and Nicole; Mika; Marilyn; Joy and Elaine; Nita and Zoe; Midori and Terri-Ann; Ren, Sho & Kyoko; and Tara and Beatrix. Donors include Ann, Etsu, Cathy S., and Nancy K. Thank you to Michelle M. and Akiko G. for volunteering in the Craft Room, which allowed visiting families to socialize.

Hanamido (flower pavilion) decorating: on Saturday, April 6, 4PM in the Hondo, we will decorate the flower pavilion with fresh flowers (please bring some if you have them). The structure for the Hanamido was built by the late Jack Ouchida. For decades, he had set up and decorated the shrine for us. These traditions are good to remember as we are looking at our temple's 110th Anniversary.

Hanamatsuri skit practice: The Sangha, Prajna and Dana classes are producing a play, "The Buddha Games", written by Joy Yuzuriha for her Girl Scouts program. The Lumbini and Bodhi classes are practicing a song, "We Are One". The one and only showing will be on April 7, after the Hanamatsuri service. Dun-dun-dun.

Family youth service: We renamed the children's service to the Family Youth Service, as it is a time for older students (who are no longer "children") to practice leading service, for new/ younger families to learn about service etiquette, and to have discussions with all ages. We plan to move the April 28th service from the Annex to the basement to have more space. Also at that time, we are excited to have Rev. Diane Johnson share her book, "Amida's ABC's", so please join us downstairs if you are interested.

Summer camp: OBT DS plans to offer a one-week summer camp July 23rd- July 26 for DS families and friends. The 2013 theme of our Summer Camp is "Buddhist/Japanese holidays". Adults and retirees are encouraged to participate as teachers and mentors for our teen apprentices. Camp cost is \$30 per camper which includes lunch and snack. A registration form will be posted on the website.

Dharma school wish list: the following new or used items are sought - insulated tea/coffee carafe, and regular and child sized garden tools. Thank you to Alice Kida for a recent donation of an insulated carafe.

Rummage sale: No date has yet been set for the Rummage sale, but we have already started collecting items. If you need items picked up please contact Amy P or email us. If you want to drop something off, just get a hold of one of the teachers.

For more information on DS programs, or to see how you can support our DS, contact Amy Peterson, DS Coordinator, at dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

OBT 110th Anniversary

Amy Peterson

November 2013 the Temple will observe the 110th Anniversary of our founding. Rev. Gibbs is putting together a seminar on Sat in both Japanese and English. We'll also have a luncheon on Sunday. As part of the celebration we are updating the 100th Anniversary book.

We would like to update photos so please see Amy Peterson to get your photo taken. We want to include new members and the new children that weren't around in 2003. You can email a photo you would like us to use or we will try to get photos taken in the next few months.

Also we'd like to know what brought you to the Temple: founding fathers, moves, looking for Buddhism, fellowship, friends, etc.

We're also trying to research the founding fathers and see how many families are still in the area. As part of that we are translating the Temple death records which will help us learn where some of our members originated. If you have information that would be helpful we'd appreciate that. The accumulated information will also help those working on family histories and genealogy.



Lotus circle – April

Jean Matsumoto

Looking forward to April showers bringing beautiful flowers for our Flower Toban to arrange on our temple altar through spring and summer this year, Oregon Buddhist

Temple appreciates those donating the funds to purchase them each week. "Thank You" to:

- April 7 – Kazuko Sunamoto in memory of (imo) husband, Kats, and parents-in-law, Yozo and Sen; May Saito imo of husband, Emo
 - April 14 – Lily Meiners imo son, Wallace; Ben Ishida imo father, Suetaro
 - April 21 – Misa Kodama imo mother-in-law, Miyaki Kayama
 - April 28 – Lee Greenwood imo parents, Don and Merrie
- "Thank You" also to temple president Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) who set up a *Lotus circle* page on the temple website to share memories of loved ones. To check out this ongoing program, feel free to contact me at 503-280-2463 or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

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.

May Toban

Delgado, Consuelo	Hittle, Judy
Hittle, Paul	Hokama, Pat
Hokama, Tom	Larouche, Chip
Larouche, Setsy	Ono, Al
Ono, Tomoko	Ono, Yoshi
Okamoto, Janice	Phillips, Lou
Shikatani, Cathy	Stoeller, Willem
Tanaka, Bill	Tanaka, Linda
Yanase, Craig	Yanase, Lisa
Yuzuriha, Elaine	Yuzuriha, Todd

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

The Japanese American graduation banquet, May 5

Elaine Yuzuriha



Evergreen School District Board President, retired VP of Engineering at Logitech, co-host of Junior Achievement's financial education podcast "The Money Jar", author, OBT member, and my

husband for 29 years, Todd Yuzuriha will be the keynote speaker for this year's Japanese American Graduation banquet to be held on Sunday, May 5, 2013. All Nikkei graduating high school seniors are invited to attend this annual celebration, held this year at 5:00 pm at the Multnomah Athletic Club. This 66 year old event is sponsored by eleven community organizations and is free for graduating seniors affiliated with Oregon Buddhist Temple or the Japanese American community.

Sponsoring organizations are Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple, Epworth United Methodist Church, Gresham-Troutdale-JACL, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Nikkei Fujinkai, Oregon Buddhist Temple, Oregon Nisei Veterans Inc., Portland JACL, Shokookai of Portland, and the Valeda Club.

Tickets to the banquet are available now through April 22nd. The public is invited. Please contact Elaine Yuzuriha at 360-253-9532 or email e.yuzuriha@gmail.com for tickets or more information. Elaine will also be at the temple every Sunday, if you wish to purchase tickets directly from her.

All graduating high school seniors of Japanese American decent in the Portland metro area who wish to participate in

2013 Memorial Chart

Year		Year	
Of Passing	Memorial	Of Passing	Memorial
2012	1 year	1997	17 year
2011	3 year	1989	25 year
2007	7 year	1981	33 year
2001	13 year	1964	50 year

the banquet inform Elaine of your contact information so invitations can be issued. Please check out our Facebook page entitled Portland Japanese American Community Graduation for more information and to see pictures of past banquets. It is a really fun event for everyone, and a great tradition in the Japanese American community. Please support it!

OBT readers' club

Wednesday April 17, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Thank You and Okay: An American Zen Failure in Japan

By David Chadwick

David Chadwick, an American student of Zen, decided to move to Japan to continue his training. Each of the vignettes or episodes of this book contributes to an account of his encounters with Japan, both inside and beyond the monastery walls. Gradually, the reader gets to know the various characters in his new world - the bickering monks, the neighboring housewives, the ominous insects, the helpful bureaucrats, the patient abbot, the infuriating English-language students - as they work inexorably towards the initiation of the hero into the mysteries.

Join our discussion of this book (and other topics) at the next meeting of the OBT Readers' Club Wednesday April 17, 2013 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We meet at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub, located at 915 SE Hawthorne, Portland, OR. The OBT Readers' Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday. All are welcome.

Ken Garner

Dharma exchange haiku, 01/27/2013

I struggle to learn
Teachings of enlightenment
My heart is open. - Kay Balmer

Dharma gatherings
Oregon Buddhist Temple
Humble gratitude. - Carol

Two years gone
Who named her anyway?
Our first cat. - Rev. Gibbs

No more leaves on trees
Playoff season has started
Checking scores often. - Tara Aiken

Lost and confused

Trying to write a howa
For Sunday morning. - E. Osaki

Special babe is born
A grandmother I've become
A new beginning. - Judy H.

Green moss on the rock
Quenched by sparkling water drops
A salamander sits. - Wendy Wyant

Art is my window
When I create I feel whole
And then I can breathe. - Lem Canady

The winter is here
I look to the temple roof
It is white with frost. - Susan Lilly

Squirrel darts to and fro
Evading fierce predators
Our cat's not hungry. - Brenda Fugate

I was there and here
I am myself and others
We live as the whole. - Aaron Cole

Loving my queerness
Out and proud, Transgender Girl
I was born this way. - Ahuviya Harel

Love makes the world spin
It's nice to be around it
Every hour counts - Montana Leet

Circles are perfect
Completing the simple
It is raining again. - Mark VanDyke

Is it rain or snow?
Either or fog maybe
My eyes getting worse. - Michelle Mundt

A poem that does not rhyme
A voice that does not sing
Silence is golden. - Leah

Dharma Exchange haiku
I have pen, I have pencil
But I have no idea. - Kiyomi Dickinson

Oregon Buddhist Temple Donations recorded in February

In memory of Sachi Onchi

Mary T. Okita
Jean F. Takashima
K. D. Itamura
Yoshie Kagawa
Diane Ando Harder
Ed, Pam, Kellie & Kevin Kawasaki
Gerald & Joann Sumoge
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Jean Matsumoto
Susan Endecott
Roberta Ando

Shiro Takeuchi 1 year memorial

Margaret Takeuchi
Misawo Takeuchi
Susan Takeuchi

Jim Takashima 1 year memorial

Ben & Darlene Demise

Jojiro Yasutome 50th yr memorial

Kenneth Yasutome

Lady Kujo memorial

Katie Tamiyasu

Lotus Circle

Jerry Koike
Misako Kodama
A. Kida and Tomita Families

Nirvana Day - Pet memorial

Kiyomi Dickinson
Takako Maeda

Eagle Scout Project - Tyler Mann

Anonymous (3)
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Amy Peterson
Kan & Miyeko Yagi
Ray & Lori Fukunaga
Jean Matsumoto
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Charles E. Reneau
Linda & William Tanaka
Joseph & Lora Wahl
Jean Matsumoto
June & Stan Shiigi
Carolyn J. Saiget

Special donations

Anonymous

Special donations

Daniela & Maggie
Alice Sumida (*Spring bazaar raffle*)
Alice Sumida (*for tree trimming*)
Scott Oldfield & Tracy Joy Babione
Richard Fogg
Stan Mayfield (*newsletter*)
Fumiko Okubo
June & Stan Shiigi (*Hoonko seminar*)
Tadakazu & Michiko Kumashiro
Amy Peterson (*employer match*)
Diane E. Johnson
Heather L. Helmer
Philip L. Kollas
Charles & Madeline Hulce (*Nokotsudo*)
Janet Wong & Steve Hay
(*In honor of Jerry Koike*)
Jensen & Shannon Huffman
(*wedding re-affirmation*)

Hoonko

June & Stan Shiigi
Grace Aoki

2013 membership donations

Misako Kodama
Herb & Etsu Osaki

2013 membership donations

Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
Debra A. Strugar
Nami Sasaki
Mike & Shizue Yasui
Fumiko Okubo
Rose T. Ikata

Member pledge donations

Angela & Ryan Hughes-Davis
Jean Matsumoto
Gary Higashi
Susan Endecott
Alice Tano
Charles Bickel
Diane Ando Harder

Acknowledgements are 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 or omissions.

Susan Endecott

[e-mail: sjendecott@gmail.com](mailto:sjendecott@gmail.com)

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP 2013 NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:

INDIVIDUAL:	MINIMUM \$220.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT	
FAMILY:	MINIMUM \$440.00 PER FAMILY	
SILVER:	\$500.00 PER MEMBER	With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name
GOLD:	\$1000.00 PER MEMBER	will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

OR YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS OF A MINIMUM \$20.00 PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to Wheel of Dharma newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE _____

Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE