



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

December 2009



## *Giving all year round* Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

I am hoping that this newsletter will reach you in time to remind you of our night-long Bodhi Day Nembutsu-centered retreat here at the OBT temple 12-5 from 8:15 p.m. This will be our second annual Bodhi Day Nembutsu retreat. The one last year was a big hit with those who were able to attend. The event will run for 12 hours but you can attend for as little as five or ten minutes if you'd like to pop in and join us in vocal nembutsu for awhile.

Organizing and presenting this educational and spiritual event is a way the Ministers Assistants and I hope to give something special to the temple community. If you are able to attend and participate, even briefly, that will be a way of giving your support to us and to the temple. It is also a way of repaying your indebtedness to Amida Buddha for fulfilling the Vow of Universal Liberation (Hon Gan). We like to offer the retreat leading up to our Bodhi Day service the next morning. Most of the world's major religions have a special observation in December and for Buddhists it is Bodhi Day, the commemoration of the Awakening to Enlightenment of the historical Buddha Sakyamuni.

Giving is the active expression of wisdom. Giving is crucial to our humanity. As oseibo/year-end giving approaches some of us may find ourselves a bit short of funds. We can't, all of us, give money to persons who have helped us, causes that we believe in, institutions that nurture us. However, many of us can give time and effort. If we are too busy to volunteer at OBT or other organizations we believe in, or if we are not well enough to exert physical effort we can still, all of us, give kind words and positive intentions. Giving is the way Buddhist live. If we are too ill to say kind and encouraging words we can give appreciative glances.

We are including envelopes in this newsletter that some of you may wish to use to make year end gifts to the temple

or to me. You should only make such a donation if you can afford to and if you feel that you have been benefited by the temple and me. For those of you who are able and inclined to make this donation I hope you will understand that any amount will be sincerely appreciated.

Rev. Art Takemoto used to tell a story about doing a memorial service for a pre-teenage boy who had lost his mother. The boy gave him one dollar as a donation for the service. I first heard Rev. Art tell that story when I was a lay member of the Fresno temple. That would have been about 26 years ago. At the time I thought, "Why didn't he just tell the boy that no donation was necessary?" I heard Rev. Takemoto tell the same story again when I had been a minister for about five years. That would have been about 1999. By then I understood. Ministers have to let people give. Helping people learn to give, even in their youth, is part of our job. I'm sure Rev. Art didn't crave that one dollar bill. He wanted the boy to have the feeling of dignity that comes with arranging a memorial for one's mother. He wanted the boy to know that giving is how we live, the most crucial aspect of being Buddhist, of being human. To have refused to receive the donation would have taken something away from the boy, something of much greater worth than one dollar.

Please make giving a central part of your life as a Buddhist. But, remember giving is a kindness. The fundamental thing given is kindness. If we can afford to make a monetary donation to those we feel help us that is great. But none of us is so poor we cannot give a kind word, a smile, a gentle glance. I want to thank all the members and friends of the Oregon Buddhist Temple for all you have given to my family and me these past eight years. We appreciate your support. We appreciate your kindness. We appreciate you.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

*"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."*

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456  
503-231-1551 (fax) e-mail: [oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com) website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>  
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 and Jayne Ichikawa, [sjichi@verizon.net](mailto:sjichi@verizon.net)

**Mochitsuki is December 13, 2009. Mochi order form and mochitsuki work schedule are enclosed.**

**OBT 2010 Membership registration form is enclosed.**

#### December Highlights

Dec 5	All Night Nembutsu	8:15 pm – 7:45 am
Dec 6	Bodhi Day Service, Jodo-E	10 am
	Followed by potluck lunch	
Dec 11	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Dec 13	Mochitsuki-Mochi Sale	All Day
Dec 19	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
Dec 31	Year-End Service, Joya-E	6 pm
Jan 1	New Year Service, Shusho-E	10 am



### **Summary notes of November 13, 2009 OBT board meeting**

**Ken Garner, OBT Secretary**

- We are looking for a chair person for the Spring Food Bazaar (March 7, 2010). Anybody interested in filling this vital role should contact any member of the board.
- Greeters for upcoming Sunday Services will be: 11/15 Ernie Takeda, 11/22 Shinya Ichikawa, 11/29 Elaine Yuzuriha, 12/6 Yoshi Ono. Anybody interested in taking a turn at greeting our members and visitors should contact any member of the board.
- The recent number of funerals held at the temple has taxed the members of the funeral committee and other temple member helpers. The board will review and update our procedures for these occasions.
- The board is reviewing OBT's insurance coverage. We will be updating our coverage to include personal liability for the Board Members and Dharma School Staff. This will include the adoption of a temple Sexual Harassment and Conduct Policy as well as background check on all people filling these roles.
- Mochitsuki will be December 13, 2009. 600 pounds of rice will again be used. Duty rosters with work crews will be distributed.
- The date for 2010 New Year's luncheon is to be determined. Last year there was a conflict with the Hiroshima Club's party and several members were unable to attend. The date will be determined after discussion with the Hiroshima Club to avoid the same situation as last year.
- The next OBT Board meeting will be December 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome and are

encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.



### **OBWA news**

**Alice Ando, OBWA President**

On November 8, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., the Oregon Buddhist Women's Assn., held the Past Members' Memorial Service. Chairperson Janice Okamoto opened the service reminding us of the grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and sisters, we have lost, who have been members of the OBWA, and their contributions to our organization. There are many wonderful memories of working together. Flowers, fruits and omanju adorned the altar for this special service. Incense was offered for the deceased OBWA families by the family and relatives of the late Mary Asakawa, the most recently deceased OBWA member. Rev. Gibbs gave the Dharma message remembering how the late Frances Ota enjoyed our Temple and the kind words she left. Following the service the attendees were invited downstairs for tea and light refreshments. Thank you to the ladies who helped to make this service possible.

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Assn., acknowledges with deep appreciation the following donations received for the Past Member's Memorial:

Albert Abe, Alice Ando, Roberta Ando, Ben & Darlene Demise, Susan Endecott, Haru Furukawa, Yoshio & Sachi Hasuike, Nobuo & Takako Ishida, Shoun & Grace Ishikawa (In memory of Toki Tachibana), Kimiko Iwamoto, Yoshie Kagawa, Nancy Kajitsu, Dona Kakishita, Hisako Kakishita, Mary Kasubuchi, Alice Kida (In memory of Fumi Kida & Tsuru Nakamura), Misa Kodama, Takako Maeda (in memory of Kow Mukaida), Jean Matsumoto, Teru Nishikawa, Janice Okamoto, George & Chiho Okita, Mary Okita, Maxine L. Oliver, Herb & Etsu Osaki, Fusako Ouchida, Shizuko Ouchida, Carrie Saito, Alice Sumida, Kazuko Sunamoto, Jean Takashima, Katie Tamiyasu an Lew & Jean Tomita (in memory of Fumi Kida & Tsuru Nakamura).

Thank you to Tamiyo Watari for the beautiful kaki (persimmon) which we enjoyed as part of the refreshments for the Past Members Memorial

#### Other Donations:

Maxine L. Oliver	In memory of Mary Asakawa
Ami Kinoshita	In memory of Mary Asakawa
Sahomi Tachibana	Special donation
Anonymous	
Misa Kodama	Special donation

To the family of the late Mary Asakawa, the Oregon Buddhist Women's Assn., sends their deepest condolence upon your loss. We enjoyed her presence at many of our functions and her help whenever we needed it. We will miss Mary and her smile.

With Gassho



### **Dharma school news**

*Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator*

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have had our first "family" or "kids" service. It will be held Nov. 22nd and if it goes well we will try to have them every other month. This will give the students an opportunity to practice some of the kansho ringing, chanting, gatha singing, and Dharma talks to give them more ownership in their Temple.

Please remember to turn in the student's My Offering envelope before the end of November. Again this is an opportunity for the students to take ownership in not only their Temple but also contribute as well to BCA education. The amount of the money is not the point, but to practice Dana, selfless giving to something where we hope they find and receive some benefit. If your child has not received an envelope please see their teacher or Amy Peterson to get one. Please take this opportunity to discuss giving and how they can make a difference with even a small donation. It should not be done by parents without input or discussion with their child.

There will be some opportunity for students to learn about Japanese New Year traditions. One will be our Mochitsuki on Dec. 13th for those 13 and older. We will try to provide baby sitting for families with children younger than that. The second opportunity is for the Oregon Nikkei Endowment Osechi Ryori (New Year) food boxes. Not only is the food made from scratch it is made at the Temple kitchen. There is a lot of opportunity for learning what foods mean, how the boxes are packed and how this tradition has been preserved over the many decades. (Adults are also welcome, and if students need volunteer hours verification, a letter can be provided.)

We will soon find out what Angie Hughes and Maho Garner have come up with for our Hanamatsuri program in April.

Remember to contact Amy if you would like babysitting for Mochitsuki.



### **To all animal lovers**

*Joy Yuzuriha*

To all of you who donated to my Bronze Award project:

I would like to thank all the generous church members who supported the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society in Washougal, WA. I received many towels, blankets, pet toys, dog and cat food, and gift cards. I will have a report in next newsletter after we deliver the donated goods. Thanks again for your support.



### **Lotus circle – November/December**

*Jean Matsumoto*

Altar flowers in the month of November were provided by:

- November 15 – Mary Asakawa in memory of (imo) husband, Nogi

Altar flowers in the month of December are being provided by:

- December 6 – Etsu Osaki imo parents, Tatsuya and Yasashi Ichikawa
- December 13 – Nami Sasaki imo husband, Arthur Ojiro, and daughter, Susanne Mineko Myers; Dr. Al Ono imo mother, Masaye
- December 20 – Susan Endecott imo husband, Ron
- December 27 – Ernie Takeda imo parents, George and Satoko Takeda

We greatly appreciate the donation of flowers for our altar each Sunday. Thank you to the Flower Toban ladies who arrange the flowers beautifully each week. Check out our webpage and contribute memories of loved ones who have passed on via Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). For information about the Lotus Circle and how to join, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-380-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.



**Small Cards, Big Thoughts ...  
SCRIP for the Holidays ...**

### **Scrip make gift giving easy**

*Ken Garner*

Remember this holiday season and all year round that scrip gift cards make great gifts. Gift cards ship well and guarantee that recipients will get a gift they want. You can also use scrip to make a gift purchase. The proceeds support our temple at no additional cost to you. And as the tax year comes to an end, it is good to know that donations OB T receives as a result of scrip purchases are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. For example, if you buy a \$25 Lands End card (currently 17% contribution), \$4.25 goes to OB T and you can claim a \$4.25 tax deduction. So you get full value for your scrip card, OB T benefits from your purchase, and

you get a tax deduction. The more you buy, the more deductions you can claim. These tax deductions add up quickly and all at NO NET COST TO YOU. We are tracking purchases by family and at year end will have your tax deductible amount calculated and available at your request.

Visit the Dharma Store/Scrip Sales a table downstairs after service on Sunday to see the full list of vendors and the current bonuses in effect and to place an order. We will gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to the team at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

### Condolences ...

- To the family of Mrs. Mary Asakawa who passed away October 31, 2009.
- To the family of Mr. Gary Matsuoka who passed away October 31, 2009.

### 2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	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.*

### December Toban

Fields, Ray	Fields, Yasuko
Fugate, Brenda	Fugate, Jerry
Garner, Ken	Garner, Maho
Harder, Diane	Ichikawa, Jayne
Ichikawa, Shinya	Inoue, Kay
Kinoshita, Ken	Kobayashi, Hisa
Kobayashi, Kaori	Kono, Kim
Liljeholm, Edward	Mishima, Kumiko
Monas, Tsuyako	Nakashima, Angie
Nakashima, Glen	Nakashimada, Leke
Nasman, Keith	Nasman, Kerrie
Pawlowski, Clara	Pawlowski, Steve
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*

In Celebration of Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> memorial  
Oregon Buddhist Temple invites you to join us for

## An All-Night Vocal Nembutsu

Saturday to Sunday,  
December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Ave  
503-234-9456

Beginning at 8:15 pm  
with a talk on the Nembutsu.

9 pm - Nembutsu recitation begins  
8 am - Breakfast  
10 am - Bodhi Day service

International caffeine service available  
all night long featuring tea and coffee  
from around the world!

### Bodhi seals

The Buddhist Churches of America thanks you for your support and asks for your continue assistance in spreading the Buddha Dharma by using the enclosed Bodhi seals throughout the year. Please return donations OBT, which retains fifty percent of the proceeds for its programs.

### 2010 New Year luncheon February 7

The New Year luncheon is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> directly following the 10 am Dharma gathering. This date coincides with Kisaragi-ki, the service in honor of Lady Kujo (1887-1928) who co-founded the Buddhist Women's Association and is considered to be the most outstanding woman in modern Jodo Shinshu history. The service and luncheon will be a special event for all attendees. Luncheon order forms will appear in next month's newsletter.

To learn more about Lady Kujo, link to <http://www.shindharmanet.com/writings/kujo.htm>

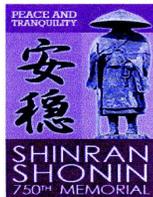


## ***Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial*** Cynthia Wong

The Buddhist Churches of America will commemorate the 750th memorial anniversary of our denominational founder, Shinran Shonin, with a symposium, banquet, service, and musical program to be held on February 27-28, 2010, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, CA. The theme of the programs is "Peace and Tranquility." The programs will directly follow the National Council meeting, which will be held at the same location from Thursday, February 26, until the morning of Saturday, February 28. The symposium will feature a keynote address by Pieper Toyama, head of the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu, HI. There will also be a Japanese-language presentation by Rev. Dr. Kenneth

Tanaka, and English-language presentations by Dr. James Dobbins, Rev. Harry Bridge, and Jacqueline Kramer.

Schedule information is provided below, and I can supply you with any other information that you may need concerning the programs, hotel accommodations, and airport transportation. You can reach me at cynwong54@yahoo.com, or by phone at 503-608-2981. Ken Garner, our webmaster, will also post the registration form and other information on the temple's website, <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>. There is no charge for attending the service on Sunday, February 28, but the symposium and banquet cost will be \$110. Please register with me by January 17, 2010, and make your check payable to the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Please consider joining us for this North American celebration of Shinran's memorial, in particular if you think you may not be able to travel to Japan for the 2011 celebration at Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto.



### Buddhist Churches of America **SHINRAN SHONIN 750<sup>TH</sup> MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE, SYMPOSIUM and BANQUET**

Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, California

February 27-28, 2010

#### **Saturday, February 27**

11:00AM - 2:00PM	Symposium Registration
1:15PM - 2:00PM	Opening Service
2:00PM - 2:50PM	<b>Keynote Speaker - Dr. Rev. Ken Tanaka</b>
2:50PM - 3:10PM	Orientation and Transition
3:10PM - 4:10PM	Session I <b>Symposium Speakers</b>

#### **アメリカ浄土真宗の歩みと展望とその意義 - アメリカ仏教全体を背景に**

Amerika Jodo Shinshu no Ayumi to Tenbo to Sono Igi -

Amerika Bukkyo Zentai wo Haikei ni

**Dr. Rev. Ken Tanaka**

The Meaning and Potential of Music in Shin Buddhism  
**Reverend Harry Bridge**

Shinran Shonin and His Family: A Personal History  
**Professor James Dobbins**

The Practice of Buddhism in Everyday Family Life  
**Jacqueline Kramer**

4:10PM - 4:20PM	Break and Transition
4:20PM - 5:30PM	Session II <b>Shin Expo</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shinran Shonin Video</li> <li>• Book readings and signings by Dr. Rev. Tanaka, Prof. James Dobbins, and Ms. Jacqueline Kramer</li> <li>• Interactive Techno Display of Jodo Shinshu Communities in the World</li> <li>• Peace and Tranquility Displays</li> <li>• Display of selected Dharma School Art Posters</li> <li>• Life of Shinran Shonin Drawings</li> </ul>
5:45PM - 6:30PM	No Host Social
6:30PM - 9:00PM	Banquet <b>Banquet Speaker - Mr. Pieper Toyama</b>
9:00PM - 10:30PM	Informal no host hospitality

#### **Sunday, February 28**

	<b>Family Service</b>
8:00 AM - 9:00AM	Individual Oshoko
9:30 AM - 10:15AM	Shinran Shonin's 750 <sup>th</sup> Memorial Observance
10:15AM - 12:00PM	Musical Program <b>"Take Refuge in the Pure Music"</b>