



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

March 2019

Calling from the Truth Reverend Yuki Sugahara

“If they happen to have one thing, they feel that something else is lacking. If they have this, they feel they do not have that, and thus they wish they had as much as others.”
- The Larger Sutra

My health was very good as a child and the doctor often declared me a “Healthy Boy.” But, a few years ago, I suddenly started to feel dizzy, with ringing in my ear, and numbness on my right-hand side. So I decided to go see the doctor. That day, the doctor gave me meclizine, a medicine that was supposed to help get rid of the dizziness. I hoped the medicine would help me recover from the symptoms, but it didn’t work. So I went to see the doctor again, but he could not determine what was wrong... and then the ringing of my ears and the numbness went away. I still have no idea what was wrong with my body.

All I felt was how wonderful it was to have a healthy life. When I was healthy, I didn’t realize how wonderful it was to live without being bothered by dizziness. Instead, as I shared in the words from the *Larger Sutra* at the beginning, I happened to have one thing, and felt that something else was lacking. I was healthy, but I was feeling disappointment from watching the fat on my chin. I was comparing myself to my past self and thought “I used to be skinnier than today.”

We only realize how fortunate we are to have something when we lose it. I used health as an example, but this also happens when we lose someone we truly love. We realize how that person was sharing the important parts of our lives. Losing health, losing someone we love... these things are included in the Eight Types of Suffering taught by Shakyamuni Buddha: 1. Birth, 2. Aging, 3. Illness (losing health), 4 Death, 5. Separation from loved ones, 6. Having to associate with those we dislike, 7. Being unable to acquire what we wish, 8. Being attached to the five elemental aggregates of which our body, mind and environment are composed (attachments to the idea of “the self.”) These are sufferings because we make comparisons between what we are experiencing now and the opposite circumstances (ex: Illness ⇔ Health). However, when we turn our ideas, even these sufferings can be something we can be grateful for. And I think we are able to turn our ideas only by encountering the light of wisdom (Amida Buddha).

I’m still “young”... I’ll be 39 years old this year. Many people say that “you are still young, so don’t worry about your health.” However, by experiencing these symptoms a few years

ago, I realize that regardless of age, we experience illness... and I found out that I was taking my health for granted. The symptoms reminded me of my ignorance in taking my health for granted. I understand this as the “calling from the truth” or “encountering the light of wisdom.” Since I’m going to die someday, it is difficult and rare to keep a healthy body. So just being healthy is an amazing thing. What we can do is to try to live this life with joy at being alive with the Nembutsu.

Gassho

2019 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2018	1 Year	2003	17 Year
2017	3 Year	1995	25 Year
2012	7 Year	1987	33 Year
2007	13 Year	1970	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtportland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com

Home Visits

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

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave & Powell Blvd, Portland

Spring Bazaar!
Sunday, April 28, 2019
11am-3pm


Omyage!


Mabo Dofu


Mar far chicken


Bento


Inari sushi

Curry Rice

Pre-order online: www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Order form will be in next month’s newsletter

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

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456

e-mail: info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>

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

March Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of March. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the March 10th 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 Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Abe, Chozo 3/26/1962	Kuranishi, Torakazu 3/12/1956	Saito, Hisako 3/25/2002 *
Ando, Michael Allyn Noboru 3/8/2018	Kurata, Toraiichi 3/12/1956	Sakurai, Chiyoko 3/11/1986 *
Aoki, George Shigeru 3/8/1986	Kuribayashi, Tatsuko 3/8/2011	Sanjo, Iki 3/26/1970
Choi, Wonchoon 3/6/1966	Maeda, Yaeko 3/23/1986 *	Sasaki, Ojiro Art 3/27/2004
Dilley, Masako 3/23/1991	Masuoka, Mathew M 3/20/1998	Sato, Sueno 3/12/1980
Feingold, Ben 3/22/1982	Matsunaga, Henry 3/10/1985	Serikaku, Beatrice 3/31/1999
Fujita, Haru 3/7/1999 *	Mishiro, Iki 3/1970 *	Shiogi, Sadaji 3/14/1975
Hamada, Hana 3/9/1993 *	Miura, Hitoshi 3/18/1975	Shiraishi, Joe 3/6/2005
Hara, Eijiro 3/16/1959	Mizote, Wataru 3/4/1962	Shiraishi, Yutaka 3/19/1996
Hariya, Shinichi 3/9/1955	Muraki, Makie 3/24/2017	Takabayashi, Yukino 3/9/1976 *
Haruki, Koji 3/23/1959	Muramatsu, Kyu 3/31/1966 *	Takano, Yoshigo 3/7/1963
Hataseki, Taro 3/7/1953	Naganuma, Sumi 3/1981 *	Takeuchi, Dori Junko 3/22/1976
Higashi, Roy 3/19/1998	Nakashimada, Leke 3/30/2012	Takeuchi, Janet Setsuko 3/22/1976
Ikata, Sumiko 3/30/2016 *	Nakashimada, Mary 3/15/2009 *	Tamura, Kuniji 3/17/2001
Itoyama, Shohachi 3/11/1956	Nakashimada, Tatsuzo 3/5/1952	Tanada, Howard Toshikatsu 3/20/1994
Kakishita, Shigeichi 3/1/1993	Naruki, Koji 3/23/1959	Tanaka, Toshiko 3/23/2013 *
Kanai, Nancy Hisako 3/12/1987	Nishida, Gunichi 3/25/1997	Tanaka, Yutaka 3/10/1962
Kato, Hanjiro 3/27/1955	Nishimura, Kijyu 3/31/1982 *	Tsujimura, Tokichi Tom 3/8/1971
Kida, James Keijiro 3/31/1988	Nunotani, Nobuichi 3/9/1955	Uyesugi, Kazue 3/1974 *
Kimura, Chika 3/24/1930 *	Ochiai, Zenzaburo 3/4/1982	Uyetake, Shio 3/16/2009
Kitagawa, Sada 3/20/1993	Okabayashi, Hatsu 3/19/1968	Watari, Jack Shizuma 3/19/1999
Koike, Chikara 3/10/1986	Onishi, Fred 3/1/1982	Yamada, Frances Yurie 3/26/2015
Koike, Toshiko 3/31/2006 *	Rikiishi, Tameichi 3/30/1964	Yamada, Senichiro 3/1/1958
Kono, Jean 3/3/2015	Sadamoto, Yoshito G 3/30/2006	Yamano, Shigetaro 3/6/1978
Kuranishi, Isao 3/26/1995	Saheki, Akira Cap 3/31/2014	

*obwa member

March comes in like a lion and out as a lamb Ken Garner, OBT President

I am writing my March article during the February 2019 snow-apocalypse that wasn't. After consulting the weather channel and local news weather forecasting, Reverend Yuki and I decided on Saturday February 9 that we would cancel temple activity on Sunday February 10. It was a close call, but we felt it was better to be safe than sorry. Even though the forecasted amount of snow in Portland proper wasn't that great, we all know that it doesn't take much for the streets to become sheets

of ice. In a fortuitous act of foresight, Reverend Yuki video recorded his howa (Dharma talk) on Friday. I was able to upload the talk to the OBT YouTube Channel (see the article about our YouTube Channel in this newsletter).

Cancelling the temple activities was one thing – it was quite another to notify people of the cancellation. The last thing we wanted was to have people come to an empty temple. We placed closure notices on the temple website and Facebook pages. We changed the message on the temple's answering machine. We placed a sign on the temple door (thanks Susan Lilly). I sent an email to the people for whom I had email addresses, but I know I

don't have everybody. It became very clear to me that we need a solid process for rapid communications to members of the greater OBT community.

Some of you may be aware that we have been working on developing an official OBT database. Currently there are several spreadsheets and lists with contact information with varying degrees of currency and accuracy. The idea is to make the data base a single trusted source for information. Ideally this data base would include not only contact information but also skill and experience information.

We all have privacy concerns so access to this data base would be strictly controlled. It will not be available on-line and only accessible by a data base administrator who could produce reports by request. We hope to have the first version of the data base up soon. I hope that you will support this effort and be included in this important tool for running OBT.

In Gassho

Oregon Buddhist Women's Association Jayne Ichikawa

As always, the OBWA (Oregon Buddhist Women's Assoc) has been active, dedicated and enjoying many events that might interest you, the reader, to join our organization, if you haven't yet considered this.

Here is a summary of January/February/March events:

- January 27—OBWA helped our temple at the JACL Mochitsuki selling popular and delicious onigiri which was headed by Cathy Y and Robbi Ando. It was a very successful sale. The support shown in the kitchen preparation as well as the friendly staff of helpers was outstanding. (see Cathy Y's article)
- February 2—The annual OBWA NY's party was held at the Super King Buffet Restaurant. Those attending were offered a gastronomical assortment of "all you can eat" buffet for only \$12. Members/friends attending also had a chance to socialize and play several games that created laughter and friendly competition. Maho G. who was our efficient photographer submitted photos of this gathering for the newsletter and OBT website.
- February 15-17—Many members/families attended the NW Buddhist Convention hosted by the White River Temple. Our OBWA cabinet conducted the BWA representative's and general meetings as the 2017-18 NWBWA cabinet. Much appreciation to Co-Presidents Katie and Pat who were very dedicated and diligent fulfilling this important position for the NWBWA.
- February 24—OBWA will be in charge of the service for honoring Lady Kujo and Otani and on March 10, the service for Eshinni-Kakashinni.
- March 16—OBWA meeting beginning at 9:45am
Please contact Judy Yamauchi (judyyamouchi@comcast.net) if you are interested in joining the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association and/or speak with other OBWA members for more information.

Next OBWA reporter is Pat Hokama

"Many Hands" - Mochitsuki 2019

Cathy Yarne

OBT's participation in Mochitsuki 2019 was another great example of how the sangha can work together to support OBT. This Japanese American community event was held at PSU on Jan 26th. Thanks to the gourmet skills of Robbi Ando, we sold onigiri with salmon, spam, umeboshi, takuwan and plain.

The old saying, "Many hands make light work" can be amended to say, "light and rewarding work." Especially since I could not participate, I'd like to personally thank all of the many volunteers who gathered supplies, prepared ingredients, washed rice, shaped more than 900 onigiri, washed dishes, cleaned, delivered, and sold food at the event. Some volunteers even extended their "toban clean up" day and some came as early as 7am to make the onigiri. The success of this fundraiser is due to your dedication and commitment.

A special thank you to Robbi Ando for not only her creative cooking and organizational skills but also for leading this activity.



FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES Robbi Ando

The OBWA and OBT continues through March our food drive for the benefit of the Oregon Food Bank. Both food and funds are important.

Cash donations can be made to the Oregon Food Bank online at give.oregonfoodbank.org/OBT or via check to Oregon Food Bank and left at the temple reception table.

Food donations can be deposited through March in the barrel located in the temple reception area. A list of most needed foods will be available near the barrel.

Thanks for your generosity.

Dharma School

Ann Shintani

Hanamatsuri is April 7 – we plan to have a musical/talent show as our Dharma School performance for Hanamatsuri. You are not required to be a student nor have musical talent to help us shine. Can you think of a talent we can share? We also ask families to help with donating flowers for the flower altar (Hanamido) that represents the garden where Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha was born. We suggest flowers from gardens, to minimize the expense, if possible. Please contact Ann if you can help us in some way with the performance or with flowers.

Spring Fundraiser is April 27 – again Dharma School families and friends are asked to help at OBT's Dessert Bar at the Spring Bazaar. We are seeking monetary donations or donations of baked items. Pies and other homemade specialty baked items sell well and make a small profit! We do need plenty of parents to supervise students as they make change for customers and serve efficiently, neatly and cleanly.

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

Meet the Board Members

Angie Hughes

Often, I'm asked how Ryan, Avery and I came to be Buddhist and what motivated us to join OBT so I would like to share a little of our background and path to this point. When I was born, it was extremely important to my great-grandmother, Agnes Gallagher, that I be baptized and raised in the Episcopalian faith. I enjoyed those formative years, driving down to the Parish of St. Mark with her and my great-grandpa, Tom. It was a big event, making our way to Northwest Portland for what was my only experience with church-type ritual. I grew to appreciate the pomp and circumstance of the priests marching down the aisle, swinging the thurible, to the low notes of the enormous pipe organ. Once my great-grandparents passed, though, it wasn't the same and the rebellious teen in me could no longer get behind the message.

Ryan's experience was a little different. His family never went to church but his best friend, Andy's, did. They began encouraging Ryan to go with them and then, ultimately, would only allow Andy to spend the night if Ryan went to church. As imagined, this did not go over well with Ryan's folks and that was the end of that.

When Ryan and I got married, I had already spent a year in Japan, soaking up the culture, so it seemed necessary that we go back and explore for a few years. The Jet Program afforded us the opportunity to travel through much of the country and we easily and quickly took to the quality of peace we felt surrounding each new experience, temple, and meeting with Buddhist thought. It seemed inclusive to us as one shrine ended where the

next temple began. It was an open-door kind of thinking that was new to us. We embraced it.

Once we returned to Portland and had Avery, of all the churches and temples we visited around town, OBT was an immediate fit for us. We've happily been attending and participating since then. I appreciate each experience that led up to our involvement here and I'm grateful to my great-grandparents as well for instilling in me the goal of seeking something—even if it wasn't exactly what they had in mind for future generations. I like to think they would be satisfied with my choice.

Lotus circle – March

Jean Matsumoto

Did I really say “I wonder when real winter will arrive” last month when December and January were so mild? Today was the second day of snow this year and it is February 9th. Nonetheless, our Flower Toban members will have beautiful flowers to arrange in March because of the thoughtful following members of OBT's Lotus Circle:

- Mar 3 - Chieko & Dana Kakishita & Minnie Young in memory of (imo) father, Shigeichi Kakishita; anonymous imo Zenzaburo & Tamiyo Ochiai and family Nobuko Susaki, Shizuko Okazaki & Kaz Ochiai; Rick Shiraishi imo parents Joe & Kaoru and grandparents Umeno & Takuichi Fukumoto
- Mar 10 - Jean Takashima imo parents Tokichi & Tomiko Tsujimura; Kevin & Tammy Ando imo son, Michael Allyn Noboru; Jerry Koike imo parents Chikara & Toshiko; Janice Okamoto imo parents, Henry & Ayame Matsunaga, sisters Janice Sakuragi and Jeannie Matsunaga
- Mar 17 - Diane Onchi imo parents Leke & Mary Nakashimada; May Watari & Duane imo husband/father Jack Watari; Christopher Shiraishi imo parents Yutaka & Kazue; Dr Connie Masuoka imo parents Dr Matthew & Nobuko, grandparents Baiichi & Matsuyo and aunt & uncle Masako & Yoshio Urushitani; Anna Tanada imo husband Howard; Misao Kodama imo mother Sada Kitagawa & father Hatsujiro Kobayashi
- Mar 24 - Susan Endecott imo mother Toshiko Tanaka; anonymous imo Hisako Saito & her son Norio
- Mar 31 - Joyce Olsen imo parents Art Ojiro & Nami Sasaki and sister Susanne Myers; Setsy Larouche imo father Yoshito George; Alice Kida & Lew & Jean Tomita and family imo father Jim Kida and grandfather Shoemon Nakamura

OBT greatly appreciates the generosity of the above-named people. We also appreciate the webpage established by Ken Garner, webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com for our use. If you are interested in remembering a loved one with altar flowers once a year, please call me at 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com. Thank you.

Girl Scouts

Amy Peterson

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) has two patch programs for Scouts (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Campfire, and 4H) and on Sunday March 2nd GS Troop 43720 will participate in the Scout Sunday program. The girls will provide a cake to celebrate 107 years of Girl Scouts in the US. Please join us Sunday March 3rd at the 10 am service. Girls Discover, Connect and Take action and we encourage the girls through the GS Promise and GS Laws which are much like the Jodo Shinshu Creed and the Dharma.

The second patch is the Obon patch where scouts learn about Obon, the dances, history, and the Japanese. BCA also has a religious award program in Buddhism. For more information on any of these, please contact Amy Peterson gstroop43720obt@gmail.com.

The girls want to thank you in advance for your cookie orders and despite the snow, they have cookies in hand. If you can't pick up your pre-orders at the temple, please let us know and we'll make arrangements to get them to you.

As the girls have in most cases exceeded their goals, they're adding a trip to an aquatic park to their list of activities funded by their cookie sales. Next newsletter we'll be able to identify what they've selected from their cookie sales.

Recently two older girls; Midori and Aria volunteered at the Portland Cat Show and gained valuable information and experience. The younger girls attended the Service Unit Thinking Day where they presented the country of the Philippines and learned about 8 other countries, sampling new foods, learning crafts and interesting history.

March Toban

Aaron Cole	Anna Dakota
Kiyo Endecott	Susan Endecott
Lori Fukunaga	Ray Fukunaga
Janice Ishii	Michael Ishii
Traci Kiyama	Wynn Kiyama
Amy Peterson	Beth Sellers
Duane Watari	Glenda Watson
Jenna Yokoyama	

OBT Readers' Club

Ken Garner

Sunday March 24, 2019 Dharma Exchange
[The Dalai Lama's Cat](#) by David Michie

The next Readers' Club meeting is scheduled for the Dharma Exchange on March 24, 2019. This is directly after the Sunday Service. We will be discussing [The Dalai Lama's Cat](#) by David Michie. Note, we will be reading and discussing the first book in the series. All readers must secure their own copy of the book.

Starving and pitiful, a mud-smearred kitten is rescued from the slums of New Delhi and transported to a life she could have never imagined. In a beautiful sanctuary overlooking the snow-capped Himalayas, she begins her new life as the Dalai Lama's cat, warmhearted, irreverent, and wise, this cat of many names opens a window to the inner sanctum of life in Dharamsala. A tiny spy observing the constant flow of private meetings between His Holiness and everyone from Hollywood celebrities to philanthropists to self-help authors, the Dalai Lama's cat provides us with insights on how to find happiness and meaning in a busy, materialistic world. Her story will put a smile on the face of anyone who has been blessed by the kneading paws and bountiful purring of a cat.

The conversations we have at the Book Club Dharma Exchanges are always good -- and are even better if you have had an opportunity to read all or part of the book! Please join in the conversation March 24.

OBT YouTube Channel

Ken Garner

For the past year and a half we have video recorded all of the Dharma Talks given at OBT's Sunday Services. These talks are uploaded onto OBT's YouTube Channel and are available for anybody to view. This channel can be accessed by typing **Oregon Buddhist Temple** in the search box of YouTube's home page. The direct URL for our channel is www.youtube.com/user/OregonBuddhistTemple. The talks are generally posted and available the same day they are given. They are a great way to hear the Dharma when you cannot attend temple or to revisit a previous talk. Some of the recent comments we have received state:

- "Thank you very much Reverend Sugahara. I am in the Bay Area and can't get to Portland very easily, however, it was great to be with you this way. This helped me get through my day."
- "So glad I watched this today! I love that when I can't make it in person, I can still hear the sermon, and I'm a sucker for fabric metaphors. Thanks for posting."
- "My father is unable to make it to temple very often, so he looks forward to the videos and watches every week."

We have over 100 subscribers to the channel. By subscribing you receive notification when a new video is uploaded to the channel. Subscribing is easy and free and done from the channel page.

Reverend Harry Bridge Podcasts

Our recent Hoonko guest speaker, Rev. Harry Bridge, has an excellent series of podcasts at <http://www.dharmarealm.com/?cat=4>. A podcast is a "digital audio file made available on the internet for downloading to a computer" Podcasts are not visual, like utube; only audio. Some of Rev. Bridge's topics are:

- What did the Buddha say?

- Experience and Faith
- No self, again!
- Study v. Practice
- No-self and Identity
- The Buddhist Answer for Everything
- Buddhism and Social Justice

The podcasts are 30 minutes long or less and very informative. They are also enjoyable to hear.

Hiroya Tsukamoto Return Engagement May 19, 2019

Ken Garner

Mark your calendars for Sunday May 19, 2019. We again will be hosting a concert by guitarist Hiroya Tsukamoto. Those who attended Tsukamoto-san's concert last year were treated to an impressive display of musicianship and storytelling. Start time for the concert is TBD. Advance Sale Tickets will be only \$15 (+ \$2 service charge) and will be available at the OBT on-line store at <https://squareup.com/store/oregon-buddhist-temple>. Half of the proceeds (\$7.50 per ticket) will go OBT. Tsukamoto's music has been described as "an innovative, impressionistic journey filled with earthy, organic soundscapes that impart a mood of peace and tranquility." You can hear and listen to him on his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFCVVNnd2nb3qv7BmHvXG3w>.

Attention High School Seniors

Elaine Yuzuriha

This is a reminder that the Japanese American Community Scholarship Applications are due on March 1st. Please check the www.pdxjacl.org website for the application and the qualifications. Several community scholarships are available as well as the National JAACL scholarships. But you must get your applications in on time!

Remember to put on your calendar that the Japanese American Graduation Banquet is on Sunday, May 5, 2019. And remember to contact Elaine Yuzuriha to supply information about your high school senior so they can be invited to the banquet. It is a great annual celebration for the achievements of our young people, and we love to see the support of Oregon Buddhist Temple members and friends. Tickets are available for \$35 from Elaine.

Of special note, the keynote speaker will be OBT member Wynn Kiyama and the master of ceremonies will be OBT member Chip Larouche.

Spring Ohigan Service March 17 and River of Fire River of Water

OBT will be celebration the spring Ohigan service on March 17. Ohigan literally means "the other shore", this world of

suffering being "this shore", and the world of enlightenment the "other shore".

Ohigan is also derived from the Sanskrit word Paramita and suggests the Six Paramitas or perfections of practicing charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom to reach the other shore. The observance of Ohigan is a tradition said to have been inspired by Prince Shotoku (574–622), the first great patron of Buddhism in Japan. The holiday is also based on the teachings and writings of the Chinese scholar and monk Shan-Tao (613–681), one of the Seven Great Masters, or Seven Patriarchs who helped develop Pure Land Buddhism.

Shan-Tao's parable below is explained in the prologue of the late Reverend Dr. Taitetsu Unno's book [River of Fire River of Water](#) :

Pure Land Parable of the Two Rivers and White Path



Attributed to Shan-tao, the Pure Land master of seventh-century China, it captures the existential predicament in which one is made to awaken the aspiration for enlightenment (bodhicitta).

In the parable, a traveler is journeying through an unknown and dangerous wilderness. Soon he is pursued by bandits and wild beasts, and he races to get away from them. Running westward, he eventually comes to a river divided into two, separated by a narrow white path. The white path is only a few inches wide and runs from the near shore to the far shore. On one side of the path the river is filled with leaping flames that reach twenty feet into the air; on the other, the deep river has a powerful current that overflows with dangerous waves. Even though the white path is the only possibility of escape across the perilous river, it is not an alternative because of lapping fire and waves. Filled with fear, the traveler cannot go forward, cannot go back, and cannot stand still. In the words of Shan-tao, he faces "three kinds of imminent death." Just at that time, the desperate traveler hears a calming voice right behind him on the eastern shore, urging him to go forward on the white path: "Go forth without fear; no danger exists. But if you remain, you will surely die!" Just then, he hears a beckoning call from the far shore: "Come just as you are with singleness of heart. Do not fear the flames and waves; I shall protect you!"

Shan-tao tells us that the river of fire connotes anger; the river of water, greed. The two joined together make an odd picture, but they illustrate how the overflowing abundance of greed and anger can fill our lives. In our greed we want to make life move according to our desires. When we do not get our way, our passions are stifled and anger erupts.

The eastern shore, the side where the traveler encountered his dilemma, is the world of delusion-samsara. The western shore is the Other Shore of enlightenment-nirvana. While this side is the defiled land, the far side is known as the Pure Land. Connecting the two is a narrow, white path. The tenuousness of the path shows the weakness of human aspiration to break through self-delusion into liberation and freedom. The pursuing bandits represent enticing teachings that abound in our world, all promising immediate material benefits and psychological relief. They may provide temporary answers but no true liberation. The wild beasts manifest instinctual passions that keep us bound to this shore of delusion. Both pull us away from moving

forward on the path. The voice of encouragement from the eastern shore is that of the historical Buddha, the teachings of Sakyamuni; the beckoning call from the western shore comes from the Buddha of Immeasurable Light and Immeasurable Life, Amida. As one heeds the urging of Sakyamuni, the aspiration to move forward becomes pure and powerful. And as one embodies the call of Amida, it becomes single-minded and unshakable. This aspiration for supreme enlightenment is none other than the white path, now expanded and made safe, now an open passage through the flames of anger and waves of greed.

But even though the first step has been taken on the path, the threat is not over. As the traveler moves forward, the bandits make enticing promises and the beasts offer all kinds of temptations, attempting to call him back to this shore of delusion. But, sustained by the words of Sakyamuni and the call of Amida, the traveler does not hesitate, moves forward, and reaches the Other shore safely into the waiting arms of a good friend (kalyanamitra) who is none other than Amida Buddha.

OBWA members gathered for New Year's party on February 2. Entertainment included playing Pictionary



**Oregon Buddhist Temple
January 2019 Donations**

In memory of Mary F. Saito

Bea & Ken Saito

In memory of Hiroshi Matsushima

Debra K. Oyamada
Ryuko Kakishita
Alice Kida
Robert Kagawa
Yoshie Kagawa
Diane Ando Harder
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Roberta Ando
Lew & Jean Tomita
Sharon Takahashi
Amy & John Peterson

In memory of Howard Tanada

Tony & Wendy Tanada

In memory of Susan Koshiyama

Tamiyo Watari

In memory of Ray Fields

Janie Matsushima
Herb & Etsu Osaki (*Hishinuma fund*)

In memory of Don Smith

Vickie S. Onchi

SHOTSUKI HOYO

In memory of Mikiye Matsumoto

Alice Ando

In memory of Yasashi Ichikawa

Anonymous

In memory of Ami Kinoshita

Anonymous

In memory of Umeno Fukumoto

Setsy & Chip Larouche

In memory of Sakae Ando

Diane Ando Harder
Roberta Ando

In memory of Benny Tano

Alice Tano

In memory of Kikuno Egashira

Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

Lotus Circle

Judy & Paul Hittle
Dan & Julianne Miura
Ronald & Mary Ann Ikata
Mabel Ota
Roberta Ando

Lotus Circle (continued)

Masakazu Maekawa
Kathleen Sato
Anonymous

Special donations

Rose T. Ikata
Alice Ando (*New year gift*)
Beverly Aaby
Takako Yamaguchi
Francis K. Lee
Shigeo & Frieda Fujikawa
Julia Yoshimoto & Surinder Singh
Gary Higashi
Amy Long
Fusako Ouchida
Anonymous (*United Way*)
Duane Watari (*Yearend gift*)
Craig & Lisa Yanase (*Yearend gift*)
Roberta Ando (*BCA Dana Program*)
Amanda Stein
Therese Holthausen
FacultyNY LLC

Hoonko seminar

Mark & Marilyn Achterman
Jean Matsumoto
Anonymous (many)

Hoonko

May Ishida
Jean Matsumoto
Kristen Wong
Michael & Janice Ishii
Connie Masuoka
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