

*Beginning the 10<sup>th</sup> year on the Oregon*



*OBT established 1903*

# PureLand Path

*The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter*

*January 2010*



## ***Starting Over in 2010***

***Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

Happy New Year! I hope this New Year brings all of you continued or improving good health and much happiness. The beginning of the New Year is always a chance to start over. I hope that we can all have a refreshed new take on life in 2010.

Being a baby boomer the concept of starting over reminds me of two singer songwriters who much influenced me in my youth. Bob Dylan had a song called "New Morning" about 40 years ago. John Lennon sang a song called "Just like Starting Over" a little more than 30 years ago. There was, perhaps, a willful insistence on a new beginning in those two songs. Starting over comes with carrying all the old karma with us. John Lennon knew that and was just trying to be optimistic. I've never been too sure what Bob Dylan knows or means to say but I think there was a hope for renewal in his song "New Morning" whether or not he understood that the new morning comes along with the old karma.

Buddhist spirituality tries to encourage such hopefulness – it's a new year, let's start all over again! Buddhist religiosity also wants us to know that we do carry the past karma forward with us and are influenced by it even as we try to forge renewed, fulfilling and valuable lives. If I am going to start over it still has to be me who starts over, the guy who has been making choices and generating karmic influences for sixty years.

Karma is the part of the web of causes and effects we can do something about. The Euro-American tradition of making New Years' resolutions is a charming procedure that Jodo Shinshu Buddhists can engage in if we want to. About five years ago I told you all that I made a resolution "not to gain more than ten pounds in the coming year". I actually lost five pounds that year by having a very do-able resolution that I didn't have to worry about falling away from. Of course, that was five years ago. Those five

pounds have come back, - bringing brothers and sisters with them. So I will make a resolution for 2010: I will increase the amount of exercise I regularly do. I am not promising to eat less or to lose weight. I'll tell you next January if just increasing my exercise regimen by about thirty percent leads to weight loss, improved energy or both.

Let me reprise a bit in commenting on John Lennon. He died on Bodhi Day in 1980. He was murdered by a fundamentalist who hated John for his critical remarks about religious belief. John Lennon pretty much gave the same advice as Sakyamuni Buddha: "Don't believe things just because they are written in some religions' book or because everyone tells you that you must believe it. Only believe in ideas that seem true to you after applying them to the important business of living your life". I doubt very much I would be here, a Buddhist minister in the Pure Land stream of Mahayana Buddhism, if it weren't for John Lennon's recordings back in the 1960's and 1970's. I was one of millions of people who first encountered notions like karma through his songs. John Lennon planted seeds of Awakening in my mind that were added to and nurtured by teachings from Shinran, Shunryu Suzuki, Wajo Sensei Rev. Kakue Miyaji, Dennis Hirota, Robert Aitken and others. For me, John Lennon's songs were part of a process of starting over, a process that continues today.

I hope that this still fresh year of 2010 will be a starting over for all of us. The Oregon Buddhist Temple will provide various resources for renewal in the month of January. One important resource will be our Ho On Ko seminar and service. Our guest minister, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, will lead our seminar on "Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Daily Life" Saturday 1/16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no charge for attending this seminar and we would love to have you join us. If you can't make the seminar please come the next day, 1/17, for our Ho On Ko service. At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, 1/17, Rev. Kuwahara will deliver a Japanese-language Dharma message. At the main service beginning at 10 a.m. he will speak in English. Please join us for our Ho On Ko seminar and service.

*"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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Please look at 2010 as a time for renewal. Please plant positive karmic seeds of respect and caring for others. Please take care of yourselves in this still rather cold weather in this still New Year.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

#### January Highlights

Jan 1	New Year's Service, Shusho-E	10 am
Jan 9	OBWA New Year's Party Holladay Park Plaza	10:30 am
Jan 16	Hoonko Seminar	10 am
Jan 17	Hoonko Service Installation of Temple Officers	9:30 am
Jan 22	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Feb 7	OBT New Year's Luncheon	11:30 am



### ***New Year's Greetings***

**Kim Kono, 2010 OBT Board President**

As we welcome the New Year 2010, I wish to say "akemashite omedeto gozaimasu" on behalf of the entire OBT Board! I am honored to serve as this year's Board president and look forward to building the Sangha and the work that lies ahead. Having grown up in the Monterey Buddhist Temple in California, it would have never occurred to me that someday I would serve on a temple board, much less be given an opportunity to be involved as president. This was something that my father did in the mid-1990s, while my grandmother and mother were Fujinkai members (BWA). Today, my family continues to be active in temple life in Central and Southern CA.

I attended college in Oregon, but it was not until my son, Justin, was a toddler that I made a conscious decision to check out OBT and bring him to Dharma School. Even though I was a new member, I immediately felt at home, as I sensed how much OBT honors its Japanese American roots and history.

That said, OBT is evolving and different from the temple of my youth. Our Sangha is more diverse, with new faces appearing each Sunday. We continue to welcome members of all ages from infants to seniors, adding energy and different perspectives while honoring our Japanese traditions. This year, our OBT Board may be one of the most ethnically diverse in our temple's history.

Some of you have met my husband, Randy, and I'm sure you've seen our son, Justin, age twelve, running around with his pals, Sho and Kirt. I am grateful to my family in supporting my board tenure, and together we look forward to seeing you at temple events and services.

For the OBT Board, the New Year will bring challenges, as well as opportunities. I am proud to be a small part of helping to lead OBT into 2010.



### ***2009 OBT President's message*** **Yoshi Ono**

This past year has been a very busy one for me but everything I've done has been something to which I feel such a strong commitment. The parenting of a soon-to-be teenager, working for the next great invention at Sharp (my employer), tennis playing for fitness and fun, serving as a juror for the sake of the community, and presiding over the board of directors at the temple, are all important to me. The small contribution I made to the temple as 2009 president is part of a greater goal to help spread the Dharma and strengthen the Sangha. It has been a year where we've seen greed and stupidity nearly bring down the global economy and cause widespread suffering. Meanwhile, war, terrorism, poverty, global warming, continue to haunt us. Times like these make me appreciate the Dharma and how it can influence the thoughts and actions of those that follow the teachings, which I am sure helps to make society better.

I appreciate everyone that keeps our temple functioning, from the donors to all the volunteers that work to keep things running smoothly. Thank you to all of you. I was quite impressed with all the detailed tasks that are accomplished behind the scenes, something I did not realize until becoming a board member and president. My gratitude goes to Rev. Gibbs, who works tirelessly and puts in more than I would expect him to do. I want to express my thanks to all who have served the temple, past and present, and welcome anyone that wants to help us into the future. As we move into 2010, I want to first express my gratitude to Kim Kono and Joe Wahl for committing to serve for another term on the board, and to welcome two new members, Angie Hughes and Zack Semke. Their fresh insights and decisions will help to shape the future of our temple.

At our most recent board meeting, we selected Ken Garner as our vice-president and Elaine Yuzuriha as our secretary. They join our 2010 president, Kim Kono, as officers of the board. Shinya Ichikawa has graciously volunteered to remain the treasurer. I have high confidence in their leadership capabilities to move our temple forward. Please join us at the January 17 Hoonko service for the brief installation ceremony.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the members in allowing me to represent the temple as president. Some of you have shared with me your thoughts and wishes regarding the running of the temple. I hope you have seen that I attempted to the best of my ability to work for the benefit of our temple and will continue to do so in my role as a board member.

In Gassho



### **Summary notes of December 11, 2009 OBT board meeting**

**Ken Garner, OBT Secretary**

- Angie Hughes has volunteered to co-chair the 2010 Spring Food Bazaar (March 7). We are looking for an additional co-chair. Anybody interested in filling this vital role should contact any member of the board.
- Greeters for upcoming Sunday Services will be: 12/20 Susan Leedham, 12/27 Open, 1/3 Ken Garner, 1/10 Zack Semke, 1/17 Yoshi Ono. Anybody interested in taking a turn at greeting our members and visitors should contact any member of the board.
- Officers for the 2010 Board were elected. Joining Kim Kono, the 2010 President, will be: Ken Garner, Vice President and Elaine Yuzuriha, Secretary.
- Installation of the 2010 Board will take place after the Hoonko Service on January 17, 2010.
- The annual General Meeting for all members of OBT is scheduled for Sunday February 21, 2010 during Dharma Exchange. All members are encouraged to attend.
- The Board has adopted a temple Sexual Harassment and Conduct Policy. You can view the policy document on the OBT website (link: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/documents/OBT%20Sexual%20Harassment%20Policy-2009.pdf>) or contact a Board Member to receive a copy. Any questions or concerns about this policy can be addressed with any member of the Board.
- The date for 2010 New Year's luncheon is Sunday February 7, 2010

The next OBT Board meeting will be January 22, 2010, 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**

**Etsu Osaki**

The OBWA New Year party is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, at the Holladay Park Plaza penthouse. Do come early, 10 am, to pay dues and socialize. A meeting will start at 11 am followed by lunch and a program. Please bring a non-perishable food item for FISH. Contact Alice Ando, 503-256-9086 or cell 971-570-8094 for reservations.

OBWA acknowledges and thanks the many donations received at the past members' memorial service on November 8. The following donations are also very much appreciated:

Takako Ishida	special donation
Sachi Onchi	special donation

Here is the 2010 Cabinet:

President	Alice Ando
Vice President	Katie Tamiyasu
Treasurer	Misa Kodama & Grace Ishikawa
Rec Secretary (E)	Marilyn Achterman & Jayne Ichikawa
Rec Secretary (J)	Kiyomi Dickinson & Yasuko Fields
Corr Secretary (E)	Nancy Kajitsu, Janice Okamoto, Alice Tano
Corr Secretary (J)	Kyoko Gibbs & Julie Kagawa

NEW YEAR HAIKU'S by Issa

Another year of life

The first snow

Another year of grace

Geta\* crunching in the snow

This New Year's day

Zenkoji (temple)

\*Check <http://www.japanesekimono.com/geta.htm> for geta.

Next month's reporter: Alice Ando



### **Dharma school news**

**Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator**

November and December have been busy for the Dharma School. We are getting positive responses on our parenting series, and hope to have other supplemental classes in the future.

Our first attempt in a long time for a childrens service went very well and adults and students were really impressed by the attention and responsiveness, so we will be having a childrens service on the last Sunday of each month starting in January.

We had students who participated in the all night meditation Saturday ending just before the Bodhi Day service. They really were enthusiastic about the night. They were still awake through service and the potluck.

Sunday while adults and older students were making mochi, the younger students were kept busy by Kyoko Gibbs, Ann Shintani and helpers Maho Garner, Michi Stoeller, and Nicole McGraw. They were surprised by a visit from Santa, which is unusual to see at a Buddhist Temple. Well Santa was impressed by a lot of selfless giving he and Rudolph had been seeing during the year so he just wanted to stop by and chat. He told the students how warming it is to give without expecting anything in return. He did give them an opportunity to talk to him about the letters they sent him or if they hadn't yet sent a letter, tell him what they'd like for Christmas.

For some (Risako, Mika W. and others) it was the first time they've met Santa. Michi and Nicole hid after being the first to hear and see him. Santa wanted to remind the students that asking for a live animal is a huge responsibility so he usually doesn't fulfill those types of wishes, but baby dolls, kaleidoscopes and Baku gun toys are things the elves can and do make. Special thanks to Lisa Yanase for her special connections with the North Pole.

The students had snacks until their parents were done

helping make mochi. It was a good day.

Just a reminder, there will be regular classes the remainder of December and special services New Years Eve and New Years morning so come to the service and otoki (special food) after service.

In January the Sangha class will be chairing services. Hoonko, Shinran Memorial is a special service so there will be no classes that day. If childcare is needed during the Hoonko Seminar, please contact Amy Peterson so we can arrange older students to provide care.

In January you'll have the opportunity to order your favorite Girl Scout cookies from the Temple Scouts. Cookies will be delivered in Feb. the week after convention.

The Dharma School will again provide vouchers to cover half of the NW Convention registration fee:

Student/Youth registration \$75.00 voucher \$37.50

K - Grade 5 registration \$60.00 voucher \$30.00

Age 3 - preschool \$45.00 voucher \$22.50

Dharma School is sad to say farewell to Sean Dawson who moved this week to Australia with his mother. We hope he keeps in touch and we'll miss his help around the Temple. We wish him the best on this new adventure.



**Mochitsuki**  
**thanks**  
**Mark & Marilyn**  
**Achterman,**  
**Chairpersons**

Thank You to all of you who overcame our early morning freeze, and to everyone who came to help us make Mochitsuki a successful event!

A milestone this year: Thanks to generous donations, we now have three large modern mochi pounding machines! We didn't need to start our old grinding machines all day! The social atmosphere was very much improved with the resulting quiet! Production was smooth & efficient, and clean up much easier! Everyone now has mochi for New Year and beyond.

Thank you again for your efforts on behalf of our temple.



**Lotus circle – January**  
**Jean Matsumoto**

Altar flowers for the month of January are being provided by:

- January 3 – Takako Ishida in memory of (imo) mother, Tomiye Takahashi; Jean Matsumoto imo mother, Mikiye
- January 10 – Merrie Greenwood imo father, Joe Chiyozo Shiramizu
- January 17 – Ben Ishida imo mother, Tomeka; Chris Dart imo brother, Richard Dale Hoverson, June Shiigi imo mother, Sonoe Muraoka

- January 24 – Angie Nakashima imo father, Harry Okita
- January 31 – Alice Sumida imo parents, Tameji and Take Eto; Kathie Sato imo husband, Nobu

The Lotus Circle spins yet another year (our third) as we remember our loved ones by providing the flowers for the altar at our temple. OBT is grateful to the members who have joined this Circle and generously donate \$30 so we will always have beautiful flowers for our Flower Toban to arrange each week. We are also grateful to the ladies of the Flower Toban who participate in this program. We are equally grateful to Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) who set up a webpage so members can share memories of their loved ones. For information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or jamatsumoto@gmail.com.



Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong and Gordon Wong have a table downstairs after service on Sunday where they have a full list of vendors, take orders, and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to them at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

### Condolences ...

- To the family of Mr. Bob Sunamoto who passed away November 22, 2009.
- To the family of Ms. Nadine Kinoshita who passed away November 28, 2009.

### 2010 Memorial Chart

Year		Year	
Of Passing	Memorial	Of Passing	Memorial
2009	1 year	1988	23 year
2008	3 year	1984	27 year
2004	7 year	1978	33 year
1998	13 year	1974	37 year
1994	17 year	1961	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.*



## January Toban

Amasuga, Kats	Cave, Marian Nagaki
Cohen, Cindy	Fukunaga, Lori
Fukunaga, Ray	Hondo, Craig
Ishii, Janice	Ishii, Michael
Kajiware, George	Kajiware, Lily
Koyama, Edna	Koyama, Richard
Matsumoto, Jean	Meiners, Lily
Roberts, Charlene	Roman, Jose Manuel
Scapple, Karen	Soto de Roman, Teresa
Takeda, Ernest	Tanada, Anna
Tsutsumi, Gail	Tsutsumi, Robert
VinHasa, Sharon	Watari Duane

*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*

## 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. It will also be the pet memorial service. Luncheon order forms are in this newsletter.

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



## NW District Convention in Ontario, Feb. 12-14, 2010

*Cynthia Wong, Coordinator*

The annual Northwest District Convention will be held in Ontario, Oregon, from Friday, February 12 through noon on Sunday, February 14, 2010. Hosted by the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, the theme of the conference will be "Yononaka Annon Nare" or "May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World," in line with the theme of the Shinran Shonin 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial. Rev. Dr. Nobuo Haneda will be the guest speaker. The Friday evening registration, meetings, and activities will be held at the Idaho-Oregon Temple, while programs on the other days will take place at the Four Rivers Cultural Center. The Cultural Center also has a museum with some items relating to Japanese-American history.

Information about hotel accommodations and registration forms are available on the table in the OBT lobby, as well as from the IOBT website, <http://www.iobt.org>. The cost of registration for the

convention is \$97 for adults, \$75 for youth in grade 6 through college, \$60 for children in kindergarten through grade 5, and \$45 for preschool children. The fee includes a bento box to take away on Sunday afternoon. If you do not wish to purchase the bento box, you may deduct \$10 from the cost of your registration. Also, if you wish to attend the Saturday night banquet only, the cost is \$50. There will be subsidies available for members of OBWA and for Dharma School students. Please contact Alice Ando, OBWA President, or Amy Peterson, Dharma School Coordinator, to confirm the amount of your subsidy. There is a dodge ball tournament tentatively scheduled for Friday night at 7:30 pm, with two divisions: age 10-15 and age 16-up (including adults). There is no charge to participate, but there is a registration/release form to submit if you are interested in playing. We need to have six participants to make a team in either division.

IOBT held a prize drawing from the names of members who attended the 2009 Northwest District Convention in Portland. The following members from OBT are winners: Chris Leedham won free registration to the 2010 District Convention; Al Abe, Frieda Fujikawa, and Mika Semke all won free Sunday bento boxes. All you prize winners, be sure to subtract the value of your prize from the checks that you write for convention registration. Also, if you do not intend to attend the 2010 NW District Convention but would like to transfer your prize to someone else, you can do that. Just let Cynthia Wong know whom you would like to transfer your prize to, and she will inform the Ontario coordinators of the transfer.

There will be a chartered bus from Raz Transportation/Gray Line Portland to take us from OBT to the convention. The bus will leave OBT at 7:15 am on Friday, February 12 and arrive at the Idaho-Oregon Temple in time for the ministers' meeting at 5 pm. The OBT Board of Directors has generously agreed to subsidize the cost of the bus. The roundtrip fare will be \$40 for adults and \$20 for children (age 16 and under). This is a steal when you consider the length of the trip (7-8 hours driving time) and the fact that Greyhound charges \$90 or more for the same trip. The bus will also take us to our hotels on Friday night after the programs are finished, and bring us from our hotels to the Four Rivers Cultural Center on Saturday and Sunday. The hotels which are offering a special discounted convention rate are the Holiday Inn Express and Suites and the Holiday Inn. Please stay at one of these if you plan to ride the bus, since the bus will not stop at other accommodations.

Please submit your registration forms with payment for registration and bus fare, if needed, to Cynthia Wong. The deadline for registration and payment is January 10, 2010. Please make checks payable to the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Cynthia is available to answer all of your questions after service, or call her on her cell phone at 503-608-2981. Let's take this opportunity to visit with dharma friends old and new, and hear the Buddha's teaching from our Northwest District ministers.