
Welcome National Council Delegates to the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

February 2008



**Soon we will only be
doing three things at once**
Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Our school of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu, as well as Zen and Nichirenshu were popularly known in medieval Japan as single-practice schools (iko-shu). They and we got this nickname because we were so focused on just one thing, in our case – saying the nembutsu. This seems a rather inappropriate title for our approach this month as we each find ourselves doing five or six things at the same time.

Zen Buddhists like to focus on just sitting attentively. Jodo Shinshu Buddhists like to luxuriate in the nembutsu. We like to say “Namo Amida Butsu” in a relaxed but reverent way. Just saying the nembutsu, realizing that it is part of the activity of Universal Liberation, is very nurturing. But currently I am writing a newsletter article, writing a paper to read at the IBS winter seminar, taking care of my children, exercising, reducing my caloric intake, preparing my comments for the Norwest District convention, responding to students taking the CBE correspondence course via my computer and trying to think of something to get my wife for our Wedding Anniversary. No one would mistake me for someone who just does one thing at a time.

Aitken Roshi, of the Zen school, has said that for Americans focus might be cutting it down to only doing three things at once. Despite the irony in the comment, he is serious. Boy, what I would do for a day when I can just do three things at once.

This busy period will end. By mid to late March we should all settle down a bit. Before that, however, we will be very busy hosting the yearly business meeting for the Buddhist Churches of America, the National Council, and the attendant activities that surround it. You will be receiving this newsletter in early February. One thing I would still like to ask you to do this early is to consider entering the golf tournament on February 26th at the Rose City Golf Course. Also, we would love to have more hole sponsors for that event. \$100 is asked for those who sponsor one of the holes during the tournament.

The National Council activities will end on the first day of March. Many of you will be busy preparing for the Spring Food Bazaar that will follow soon after.

(Scheduled for March 9th as we go to press, but even that could change in this impermanent world.) You must forgive us for asking for so much volunteer work from our members in such a short period.

Perhaps after having gone through a period where we will each be doing many, many things each day we can come to appreciate the serenity of just doing three things at once. I do hope that one of the things you often do is to reflect upon the Buddha’s name. Running “Namanda” through your mind as the day progresses may help to “center” you as we used to say four decades ago, - to orient your life in a positive way. If you want to understand how this simple verbal utterance can be the actual working out of the Enlightening of all deluded and suffering beings, please try attending our study classes on Mondays and Fridays. If you want to get a feel for saying the Buddha’s Name aloud, please come to the twenty-minute vocal nembutsu sessions starting at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Please take full advantage of the resources our temple provides, - intellectual, social, aesthetic and spiritual. Consider attending these sessions as one of the three things you might be doing at the same time during slower periods. Multi-tasking isn’t bad. Living without a positive appreciation of our lives is unfortunate.

Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

February Highlights

Feb 3	Lady Kujo Memorial Service	10 am
Feb 8	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Feb 10	Nirvana Day Service	10 am
	and pet memorial followed by Shojin (vegetarian) potluck	
Feb 15-17	NW Buddhist Convention Seattle Buddhist Church, No OBT service on Sunday the 17 th	
Feb 26 – Mar 1	BCA National Council Meeting	
Mar 9	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
	Food pre-order form is attached	

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



***Buddhist Churches of
America National Council
meeting***
Al Ono, Chairperson

Schedule February 26 to March 1 to see or even help with the BCA National Council meeting here in Portland.

If you want to play golf in February, contact Mike Ishii about play on Tuesday, February 26 (application form is attached).

The ministers meet on Wednesday the 27th so it is mostly enjoying hospitality on this day.

Thursday, February 28, the delegates arrive so we may need help with greeters at the airport. Also Thursday at 1:00 pm will be a seminar on "Shin Buddhist Thought and Issues in Contemporary Philosophy" with presentations by Mark Unno and Steven Shankman from University of Oregon, Thomas Kasulis from the University of Ohio and our own Reverend Gregory Gibbs, with responses from the IBS faculty.

Friday February 29 all day will be devoted to the business meeting of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Saturday March 1 will also have a business meeting, with the closing Eitaikyo service at 3:30 pm where you can come to hear the Amida Kyo chanted in grand style. Saturday night is the banquet. Please come to join us for this. Registration for the banquet will be available soon.

The seminar and observation is free. Golf and meals have a fee. Please consider participation in this opportunity here in Portland.

In Gassho, Alfred Ono



***Lotus Society becomes
Lotus Circle***
Jean Matsumoto

After struggling with the word "Society" sounding too uppity, we were fortunate to have someone suggest the word "Circle", so Lotus Circle it will be. Thank you to all who are joining the Circle. The calendar is quickly filling up, which accounts for the doubling up on some dates, but this will insure that the cost of the altar flowers will always be covered even if a Sunday is not claimed.

- January 6 – Merrie Greenwood in memory of father, Joe Chiyozo Shiramizu; and Jean Matsumoto in memory of mother, Mikiye
- January 13 – BeeBee Tan-Beck, in memory of grandmother, Lean Keow Looi
- January 20 – Chris Dart, in memory of brother, Richard Dale Hoverson; and Mary Asakawa, in memory of father, Tokuji Kinoshita
- January 27 – Kathie Sato, in memory of husband, Nobi

If you would like to join the Lotus Circle or need more information about it, please call me. Thank you.

Birthdays and special occasions

Births, weddings, anniversaries and any other happy occasion may warrant wanting to make a donation to the temple. OBT gratefully accepts donations celebrating the birthdays of loved ones who have passed on, the birth of a child, your own birthday, and any other happy event occurring in your life.

In Gassho,
Jean Matsumoto, (503) 280-2463



OBT New Years Party
Janie Matsushima

What fun it was to see so many people participate in the 2008 New Year's Party. The event is in appreciation and gratitude for those who have played such an important role in providing us with our Temple so that we can continue to have a place to embrace the Dharma. The party gives us the opportunity to honor our members who are over 80 years old. We know how hard you have worked and continue to work at various events at the temple. There were over 165 bentos served and nearly 200 participants.

Jayne and Shinya Ichikawa, Carol Saiget and Cathy Yarne handled registration, provided name tags for everyone and directed traffic to make the event operate as smoothly as possible. The Dharma classes, under the direction of Amy Peterson, once again provided the very much appreciated beautiful rose corsages and boutonnieres for all the 39 honorees as well as the table centerpieces. Marilyn Achterman along with other Dharma School families provided special lunches for the students. Beebee Dawson and Hiroshi Matsushima provided special treats for the honorees, which were passed out by the older Dharma School students. Thank you, Crescent and Shamrock musicians (our own Jerry Fugate along with Jennifer and Brian Olson) for providing the background music.

It is not possible to mention all the many people who were involved to make this event so successful. Almost every person who was not an honoree was involved in helping, from start to cleanup. One honoree commented how special it was to see and visit with so many friends she hadn't seen for some time.

The feeling of deep gratitude for all involved is wonderful. Thank you each and everyone!



New Year Message from OBWA

Alice Ando, OBWA President

Happy New Year! from the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association (OBWA). The time flies by and we have already started the year with a bang. It was nice to see those who attended the January 1 New Year service and enjoy the ozoni together. The year-end service was well-attended also, with over 80 people, and we enjoyed the toshi koshi soba.

The January toban is working hard - we've already prepared udon for the Hoonko Service. The OBWA New Year Party will be held on January 26, 2008, at the Holladay Park Plaza at 11:00 a.m., and we look forward to seeing our members and friends for this joyous occasion. Please remember to bring a white elephant item (something that is usable but you don't need anymore) for the bingo prizes, and canned and non-perishable items for the Food Drive. These items will be donated to FISH.

The Northwest Convention sponsored by the Seattle Chapter will be here before we know it, and soon after, the National Council meeting will be here. OBWA hopes to assist in any way we can.

I thank the OBWA Board for all their help in 2007 and look forward to their assistance in 2008. The 2008 Board is unchanged from 2007.



OBWA news

Katie Tamiyasu

Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!

We are looking forward to our OBWA New Year's annual luncheon on Saturday, January 26th at 11am at The Holladay Park Plaza penthouse. If you have not made your reservation yet and would like to attend, please contact Tammy Herold, cell# 503-720-0353.

On February 23rd after the OBWA meeting, there will be a craft workshop and if there is enough interest, there will be another after the March 15th meeting. For the first workshop, we will be make grapevine wreaths and basket decorations. If you have ribbon, wire, glue guns, dried flowers or any unused craft articles, please bring them with you. We hope to make some items to support the craft table at the upcoming Spring Bazaar on March 9th. Edna Annand will be coordinating the craft table, so if you have any items for donation, she will be happy to hear from you.

We extend a special "thank you" to Hiro and Janie Matsushima for their generosity in donating a 33cup rice cooker to the Temple. This will be a tremendous asset in assisting us in food preparation for various events.



Busy times

Tammy L. Herold

I think most everybody associated with our temple knows I have been extremely busy being the registration chair for the NW District Convention and the National Council Meeting. I am also co-treasurer for the OBWA and have been registering and collecting money for the OBWA New Year's Luncheon. And to top it all off, I had out of town company for two weeks as my first grandbaby came to visit for her first Christmas and New Years! Needless to say, it's been a very busy time for me. The consequence of all this is that the individual donations received this month will need to be listed in next month's newsletter. If you have made a donation, please accept our thanks and my extreme apology for the delay in the report. Thank you for understanding.



Dharma School corsage making party

Ann Shintani

On Saturday, Jan. 5, Dharma School students and families joined us in the temple basement to help make fresh flower corsages for honored guests for the OBT New Year's Party. Honored guests were temple members who have served and supported the Sangha and are 80-years old and above. Amy Peterson shared her talent of fresh flower corsage making, which was really fun. We also prepared Mexican tacos for the children who didn't order a lunch for the New Year's Party.

Thank you to the following who helped by donating ingredients and items, for coming out to help, and/or bringing snacks: Marilyn and Kirt Achterman, Charles, Beebee, Anya, and Sean Dawson, the Fukunagas, the Kono-Kwons, the Garners, Kyoko and Sho Gibbs, Mie MacGraw, Amy Peterson, Ann Shintani, Cathy and Michi Stoeller, and Todd, Elaine, Jill, Ken, and Joy Yuzuriha. Thank you for helping the Dharma School honor our temple members and for participating in our New Year's celebration



Kansha – in appreciation

Etsu Osaki

To Bettina Camden Ishimaru for donating a beautiful scroll of the Amidakyo. It is now displayed in the temple lobby. Look carefully at the blank spaces in the middle. You will see the characters "Namu amida butsu."

To Hiroshi and Janie Matsushima for donating the 33-cup commercial rice-cooker for our kitchen.

To Ken and Katie Kawazoe, the hard-working gardeners, for the many hours spent in the temple yard.

We're looking for a volunteer(s) to replace Katie who wishes to resign as chair of the garden committee.

Belatedly, to June and Stan Shiigi for the beautiful stainless steel coffeemaker that they donated. We have been enjoying it every Sunday for quite some time.

New book in the library

Sawtelle, West Los Angeles's Japantown, by Jack Fujimoto, PhD, Arcadia Publishing, San Francisco, 2007.

In the early 1900's isseis settled in Sawtelle, an area that is now West Los Angeles. They farmed and established shops and a community center. With the onset of World War II, the Japantown was disrupted. After returning from camps many of the businesses were re-established. Over the years the Japanese population moved their residences elsewhere. However, today there is still a vibrant business community often known as "Little Osaka."

The author is active in the community and was a president of the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. The many photos make this book easy reading. For old-timers, it will bring back memories of their own Japantown.



Kwan Yin temple
Harry McNicholas

I would like to share with our Sangha a very interesting experience I had a couple of Sundays ago when I visited the Kwan Yin Chinese Buddhist temple in Gresham. As with our temple their

services start at 10:00 AM. Other than that, I found the temple and the practice quite different from ours.

The temple is quite ornate and beautiful with many different Buddhas (including Amida Buddha) and Bodhisattvas both inside and outside the temple. The names of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas given to me I did not understand very well since they were in Chinese. I do know that the name "Kwan Yin" refers to a Buddha called by "Kannon" in Japan. However, a lady explained to me that they had selected the name based upon a town in China.

Although the temple was Chinese the practice was Tibetan. Many members of the Sangha had recently visited Lhasa, Tibet. The resident monk was from Taiwan. I would describe the practice as "devotional" with approximately 3 hours of constant chanting. There were no chairs or pews in the service hall but rather the members chanted the full 3 hours on their knees. Unfortunately, my knees were not up to the task. In addition to putting their hands together (gassho) and bowing, they also made full prostrate/floor bowing. The members all wore robes. I understand that the initiates wear black robes, those who have been able to meet certain precepts brown and of course the monk an ochre colored robe. I noticed many women had "buzzes" so I assume they had the intention of becoming monks or nuns. All the chanting was in Chinese. The English translations indicated the chanting was to pay

homage to all the Buddhas.

The members were quite friendly and very kind. I was invited to an delicious Chinese lunch. I found their devotion quite extraordinary and was please to see many teenagers participating in the proceedings.

I was not able to learn much about their doctrine or practice since I could not find anything in writing about these things. I encourage others to visit their temple to see another approach to Buddhism. The temple is located on N.E. 165th and Glison.

In Gassho

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Ruth Tateishi who passed away January 3, 2008.
- To the family of the late Francis Iwamoto who passed away January 17, 2008
- To the family of the late Sonoe Muraoka who passed away January 18, 2008

2008 Memorial Chart

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

If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.

February Toban

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Abe, Al | Achterman, Marilyn |
| Achterman, Mark | Bagnall, Alden |
| Camden-Ishimaru, Bettina | |
| Camden-Ishimaru, Robert | |
| Fujikawa, Frieda | Fujikawa, Shigeo |
| Honma, Hannah | Ikemiya, Cheryl |
| Kajitsu, Nancy | Kasahara, Mae |
| Kennedy, Karol | Little, Craig |
| Little, Laima | Shiraishi, Rick |
| Swann, LaRhette | Takemoto, May |
| Tamiyasu, Katie | Yamashita, Junko |
| Yoshida, Carl | Yoshida, Jim |
| Yoshida, Mary Ann | |

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.