



**“One Buddha is All the Buddha”
(CWS, p.87)*
Reverend Yuki Sugahara**

I cannot believe that we are already in April. April is the month of celebration. In Japan, this is the month of entering school, Shinran Shonin’s birthday on the lunar calendar is April 1, April 8 is Hanamatsuri (birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha) and April 15 is the day of establishment of Jodo Shinshu.

This year, we are celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s birth and the 800th year of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu. There are various opinions as to when Shinran Shonin finished writing the draft of KyoGyoShinSho, but April 15, 1224 is considered as the date, and we consider that day as the establishment of Jodo Shinshu.

In KyoGyoShinSho, various masters’ writings are quoted and we see many quotes from the writings of Master Shan-tao (613-681). The words I shared in the above title is the words from Master Shan-tao’s *Commentary on the Contemplation Sutra*.

In one of the sutras we chant at Shotsuki Services, *Amida Sutra*, there is a section which all the Buddhas of the six directions (ten directions in different translation) give witness to how the nembutsu teaching taught by Shakyamuni Buddha is true and real. Master Shan-tao explains that because all the Buddhas share the same compassion, what one Buddha teaches is what all the Buddhas teach. Shakyamuni Buddha praised and recommended to us the nembutsu teaching and all the Buddhas give witness to it.

This also made me think about the words of Chapter Two of *Tannisho*:

If Amida’s Primal Vow is true, Shakyamuni’s teaching cannot be false.
(CWS, p. 662)

Shakyamuni Buddha praised and recommended the teaching of nembutsu, teaching of riding the power of the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha because “one Buddha is all the Buddha.” What one Buddha teaches is witnessed by all the Buddhas. Because Amida’s Primal Vow is true, Shakyamuni Buddha is praising and recommending the nembutsu to us.

I have shared this before in my Dharma talk. The character 説 setsu, is often translated as “delivered, expounded.” This is the regular translation. But Shinran Shonin teaches us that this character also has the meaning of “joy.” The sutras we rely on, the *Larger Sutra* (仏説無量寿經 *bus-setsu-mu-ryou-ju-kyou*), the *Contemplation Sutra* (仏説観無量寿經 *bus-setsu-kan-mu-ryou-ju-kyou*), and the *Amida Sutra* (仏説阿弥陀經 *bus-setsu-a-mi-da-kyou*), all begin with the word 仏説 *bus-setsu*. These are the sutras delivered by Buddha, but these are also the sutras which all the Buddhas “enjoy” because they share the same compassion. Their intent of appearing in this world was to save all beings from this world of love and hate. The working of Amida’s Primal Vow unfailingly brings all beings to the attainment of birth in the Pure Land, the realm of enlightenment and attainment of Buddhahood. Because this is the teaching which fulfills the wishes of all the Buddhas, the Buddhas “enjoy” these sutras.

Because of the guidance of Shinran Shonin, many masters from the past, and our predecessors, we are now being able to hear the teaching which all the Buddhas enjoy. How fortunate we are!

Gassho

*CWA refers to [The Collected Works of Shinran](#)

“Arigato, Until We Meet Again”

(ありがとう また会う日まで)

**Come to Rev. Sugahara & Family Farewell Party
Saturday, June 17, 2023 - 12:00PM to 3:00PM
See lunch order form on page 8**

“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.

April Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of April. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the April 16 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.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aono, Setsuko 4/6/1977 | Kayama, Miyaki 4/30/1988 * | Phaophongsavaf, Sisaveny 4/6/1980 |
| Asakawa, Carol 4/10/2020 | Kinoshita, Masaki 4/1/1996 | Phommavanb, Boun Panh 4/6/1980 |
| Dabelstein, Alice 4/1997 | Kinoshita, Sauda 4/24/2008 | Saito, Emil 4/16/2000 |
| Fujii, May Michiko 4/15/2001 | Konishi, Tsunesuke 4/5/1963 | Sato, Kathie 4/28/2020 |
| Fujinaka, Tatsuo G 4/15/2007 | Masuoka, Matsuyo 4/26/1960 * | Shimoishimaru, Mitsu 4/25/1978* |
| Fukushima, Michiko 4/21/1994 | Meiners, Dale 4/17/2020 | Shimomaeda, Matsuko 4/22/1999* |
| Furukawa, Richard 4/22/2012 | Nagae, Mitsunosuke 4/28/1966 | Sunamoto, Katsumi 4/18/2002 |
| Greenwood, Merrie 4/25/2012 * | Nakamura, Shoemon 4/27/1973 | Takashima, Noboru Newton 4/12/1978 |
| Hirofuji, Noye 4/4/1976 * | Niemi, Tami 4/2/1950 | Tomohiro, Haruyo 4/18/1983 * |
| Ideguchi, Sadakichi 4/13/1950 | Nishimura, George 4/9/1999 | Urushitani, Yoshio 4/4/1975 |
| Imai, Ryokichi 4/8/1955 | Ogawa, Hiroshi 4/9/2021 | Waskevitch, Hatsue Saikawa 4/17/2002 |
| Ishida, Ben Tsutomu 4/2/2015 | Okawa, Tsutsuji 4/6/1957 | Weiser, Haruka Juliana 4/5/2016 |
| Ishida, Suetaro 4/12/1961 | Ota, Frances 4/3/2009 * | Yamanaka, Takeo 4/1/1985 |
| Iwamoto, Miyoshi 4/14/1956 | Ouchida, Kyuta 4/30/1980 | Yasumichi, Calvin K 4/24/2001 |
| Kamaya, Carol Fumie 4/28/1976 | Osaki, Tamenaka 4/10/1951 | Yoneyama, Hon Terukichi 4/9/1993 |
| Kasubuchi, Alan 4/26/2014 | Ozaki, Shizue 4/3/1963 * | Yumibe, Isako 4/20/1989 * |
| Katada, John H 4/12/1995 | Ozaki, Tamenaka 4/10/1951 | |

*obwa member

2023 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2022	1 Year	2007	17 Year
2021	3 Year	1999	25 Year
2017	7 year	1991	33 Year
2011	13 Year	1974	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements With Reverend Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtoportland0612017@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Note: The Year Of Passing for the 7 Year Memorial has been corrected to 2017. It was previously listed as 2016. The error was reported by a conscientious newsletter reader.

Condolences



To the family of the late Fusako Ouchida who passed away on February 12. A memorial service was held at Bateman Carroll Funeral Home on Sunday March 12, 2023



To the family of the late May Takemoto who passed away on February 28. A memorial service will be held at the Bateman Carroll Funeral Home on Saturday April. 1, 1:00 pm.



President's Column Charles Reneau, OBT President

Hello everyone,

Just like the flowers bursting up throughout my garden, your OBT Board has been busy recently. Here are some updates:

Supervising Minister: In the absence of a Resident Minister, the Northwest District of the BCA has assigned us a new Supervising Minister, Rev. Tadao Koyama. Rev. Koyama is from Sacramento, and was actually a student of Rev. Sugahara, when both were in Florin. I met Rev. Koyama (through Zoom) at the BCA National Council Meeting last month, and can't wait to get to know him better. We had hoped that he would be available for this position, because of the shorter travel distance between our two Temples. For more information, please visit: <https://www.tacomabt.org/our-sensei/>

Rev. Sugahara: Save the date for our Farewell Party on Saturday June 17th. His final service as Resident Minister will be on Sunday, June 18th. Please bring Kleenex.

Fencing: Our new fence and gates are installed. We still need to re-key the walk-through gates (no one wants to carry around a set of four keys!), so we aren't currently locking them. We may start closing the main sliding gate, but not before we notify anyone who is a current key holder, and supply them with a remote or other means to enter the parking lot.

Temple Covid Policy: As the acute risks of the Covid pandemic recede, we have loosened our Covid policies, and masks are now optional in our services and events at the Temple. If you are feeling ill, please stay home; however if you must come in while ill, please wear a mask to reduce transmission of Covid and other respiratory illnesses.

Movie Night: Angie Hughes and Kristen Wong are working on a plan for a Movie Night at the Temple! We think this will be a fun way to spend some low-key, low-volunteer-effort time together as a Temple. Be prepared for popcorn.

Obon: Marilyn Achterman has agreed to co-chair Obon this year, with a focus on non-food elements of the event. We are currently seeking a co-chair to concentrate on the food. I can already taste the spam musubi.

Fall Fundraiser: Master Chefs and pro-level organizers Robbi Ando and Diane Harder are currently working on a plan for a Fall Fundraiser for October.

I clearly need to eat some lunch because now all I can think about is food.

Gassho,
Charley

Daily On-line Services

Reverend Yuki conducts daily on-line services including Sundays at 8 am. On Sundays he also conducts a service at 10 am. Go to the Oregon Buddhist Temple web site and "Check out the

[YouTube Channel of Oregon Buddhist Temple](#)

Or click on

[Oregon Buddhist Temple - YouTube](#)

The OBT Hanamatsuri Service will be on April 23, 2023

Hanamatsuri 花祭り

flower-festival

The birthday observance of the Buddha Shakyamuni. It is observed by Japanese Buddhists on April 8th. The more proper name is *Kanbutsu-e* (bathe-Buddha-gathering), referring to the ritual of bathing the image of the infant Buddha with sweet tea, commemorating the sweet or soft rain that fell at the time of his birth.

Hanamidō 花御堂

flower-honorific-pavilion

A small pavilion decorated with flowers and housing an image of the baby Siddhartha (Shakyamuni Buddha) at the *Hanamatsuri* service. The image stands in a basin of sweet tea. The sweet tea (*amacha*) is poured over the image. The *Hanamidō* often sits upon the back of the representation of a white elephant in accordance with the myth of the Buddha's birth.

From Cocktails, written by Reverend Masao Kodani



2023-2025 OBT Board and 2023 Officers

Term Ending 2025: Shinya Ichikawa, Jayne Ichikawa, Katie Tamiyasu, Kristen Wong

Term Ending 2024: Marilyn Huh, Suniti Kumar, Carol Saiget, Charles Reneau (President)

Term Ending 2023: Angie Hughes (Secretary), Jeanette Hager, Judy Hittle (Vice-President), Cathy Yarne

Elaine Yuzuriha (Financial Officer)

- We are all invited to Rev Sugahara and Family's Farewell Party on June 17, 2023, 12:00-3:00pm. Bento Lunch (\$25) can be ordered on the form in the OBT Newsletter. Deadline is June 1, 2023
- This is a very late entry about a heartwarming visit with Alice Tano on Sunday, January 29. Cathy Yarne, Amy and John Peterson, Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa visited her at Alice's new residence, Powell Valley Assisted Living Facility in Gresham. Alice was so grateful and happy to see us. Of course we couldn't leave without her giving us her colorful homemade scrubbies. Photo below.



**Oregon Buddhist Women's Association
Jayne Ichikawa**

Information and Important Dates to remember:

- Sad news to report about the passing of an OBWA member, May Takemoto. She was born on May 17, 1922 and died on February 28, 2023. A service will be held at Bateman Carroll Funeral Home on April 1, 2023, 1 pm.
- This is a notice from Elaine Werner: Sahomi Tachibana, a long time Bon Odori instructor at the Oregon Buddhist Temple is having a celebration by having a Birthday Open House on **Sunday, April 16, from 1-4 pm.**

Where: Elaine Werner's house (daughter of Sahomi) 7735 SW 66th Ave, Portland, OR 97223.

Additional Information: Stop by and say hello if you can. If you can't, you can send Sahomi a card at: Sahomi Tachibana, 5711 SW Multnomah Blvd, Room 203, Portland, OR 97219. There will be food and beverages so no need to bring anything except yourself and good wishes. If attending, please email Elaine at elainewerner38@yahoo.com



Jayne Ichikawa Alice Tano Cathy Yarne

At the OBWA Saturday, March 18th meeting, An OBWA Birthdays: A Circle of Gratitude project was initiated and organized by an OBWA member, Marilyn Huh. Below is Marilyn's article about this wonderful project:

OBWA Birthdays: A Circle of Gratitude

Birthdays provide a tremendous opportunity to wrap ourselves in gratitude for our own lives as well as the lives of our cherished OBWA friends. We are therefore delighted to announce a new OBWA birthday practice: sending each other real, physical birthday cards to mark those special times and rejoice in the years of our sisters' and brothers' lives. OBWA members can opt into receiving cards from fellow members, and can send, personally and privately, as few or as many cards as they wish. We look forward to a sparkling year, forming a circle of gratitude for the many treasures embodied in our members.

Next OBWA reporter is Nancy Walseth.



Sahomi Tachibana, center, leads the Bon Odori dancers at Oregon Buddhist Church's Obon Fest in 2011. (Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki)

**TO RENEW YOUR 2023 OBWA
MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE SEND \$20 TO**

**OBWA
3720 SE 34TH AVE
PORTLAND OR 97202**



**Girl Scouts
Amy Peterson**

The Girl Scouts want to thank all who ordered cookies from us. Sorry to those we couldn't accommodate. When Amy returns from California she will have the Adventurefuls and Thin Mints that were

ordered. We apologize for the delay but had to do some unusual finagling to make it happen. But at least we'll be able to fulfill your orders.

We did in the process secure some Samoas so if any of those three are of interest, please email us at gstroop43720OBT@gamil.com.

Now the Scouts will be able to go to the water park and camping.

OBT Events and Meetings

Links to and list of Recurring Events. Because most events are now live in OBT, this table will be reduced to a listing of recurring events with zoom links. For questions: bec@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Please check our website for any last minute updates.

<p>OBT Regular Service Dharma Exchange (following the Regular Service) And some special events that are held in the Hondo right after service like the general meeting.</p> <p>Link below to website for the filmed services, and below that the zoom link for the hybrid services and events that follow service. https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/</p> <p>Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85452093371?pwd=RkV2QkRyb3dIRllyQkNneFE5cTRKQT09 Meeting ID: 854 5209 3371 Passcode: 517706</p>	<p>Every week – Sun 10 AM Every other week at 11 AM</p>
<p>Intermediate Study Class Zoom Meeting ID: 815 9359 3428 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81593593428?pwd=WEhYSEZTV0RlcEN4MjhpNnNvOUxBZz09</p>	<p>Every 2 weeks – Wed 7 PM (see calendar) Passcode: 704135</p>
<p>OBWA Zoom Meeting ID: 962 3703 0266 https://zoom.us/j/96237030266?pwd=QjYxMjI5dDM3cnFVLzR5YmEvUU94UT09</p>	<p>3rd Sat, mid-month, each month – 10 AM (see calendar) Passcode: 574232</p>
<p>Dharma School (specific dates in calendar) Meets almost every Sunday, in person at OBT. See Ann Shintani for details.</p>	
<p>OBT Girl Scout Troop (specific dates in calendar) Meets the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:15, in person at OBT. See leader Amy for details.</p>	
<p>Sunday Bon Odori We will have bon odori on the last Sunday of the month at 1 PM in the basement. (July is an exception because of Obon, and August we might be dancing at the Japanese Garden). Request masks and distancing. We will have fans going to circulate the air.</p> <p>Zoom link if you can't make it in person. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81054749182?pwd=aHBjNXhERzNyT3hUU0E5Wmw2cUliZz09 Meeting ID: 810 5474 9182 Passcode: 113529</p> <p>We will send out a Japanese stuff email. But don't have the webpage done yet. See Chris for details.</p>	

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
February 2023 Donations**

In memory of Herb Osaki

Etsuko Osaki
Yoshie (Yasushi) Yamada
Dean & Yukiko Osaki
Joseph & Lora Wahl

In memory of Masako Blackmun

Anonymous

Lotus Circle

Dana Kakishita

Lady Kujo/Lady Ohtani memorial

Dana Kakishita
Amy Peterson
Anonymous

2023 Annual pledge

Roberta Ando
Etsuko Osaki
Janice Okamoto
Beth Sellers

In memory of Jean Tateishi

Janice Okamoto

SHOTSUKI HOYO

**In memory of Kichitaro Fujii,
Hiroshi Fujii, Denny Ando**

Diane Ando Harder
Roberta Ando

Marcus S. Hishinuma Memorial**Scholarship Fund**

Etsuko Osaki

Nirvana Day

Diane Ando Harder
Dana Kakishita
Anonymous

**Monthly/quarterly/semi-
annual pledge donations**

Pat Hokama
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson
Diane Ando Harder
Susan Endecott

Mrs. Nobuko Yoshida**50th year memorial**

Anonymous

In memory of Shigeichi Kakishita

Chieko Kakishita
Minnie Young
Dana Kakishita

Special donations

Amer/ Online Giving Foundation
(Nike employee contribution)
Mark Whittaker
Kent M. Matsuda
Glenda Watson-Coly

Donation acknowledgements

**are mailed for donations of
\$250 or more, and to any
donor upon request. Please
inform us of any significant
errors or omissions.
sjendecott@gmail.com**

In memory of**Seigo & Shizue Sugihara****Gloria (Deoca) Duncan****Katsumi & Kazuko Sunamoto****Yozo & Sen Sunamoto****Richard & Fujiko Izumi****Yoshiaki & Michiko Yukawa**

Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

In memory of Sonoe Muraoka

Derrick & Alison Yoshinaga

Thank you for your continued support



**76th Annual Japanese
American Graduation
Banquet
Elaine Yuzuriha**

The annual Portland Japanese American Graduation Banquet will be Sunday, April 30th, 2023, 1 pm, at the Monarch Hotel & Conference Center (12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, OR). Attend the annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet, an event celebrating the achievements of the Japanese-American high school class of 2023 who reside in the Portland metropolitan area and Clark County, Washington. This year's keynote speaker will be Bishop Diana Akiyama, the first Japanese-American female Episcopalian minister and the first

female bishop to lead the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. Japanese American community scholarships are sponsored by Portland area businesses, organizations, and individuals and will be awarded at the banquet. Tickets are \$45 for the banquet luncheon, graduates are complementary. The public is invited.

Our high school senior from OBT this year is Mayu Garner, daughter of Ken and Maho Garner. Come celebrate with the community Mayu's graduation.

For info or to buy tickets, call 360-253-9532 (leave a voice message) or email e.yuzuriha@gmail.com. Elaine will be happy to get tickets out to you. Also, if you know any Japanese American High School graduate this year, let Elaine know so the committee can issue the student an invitation.

Below is the application form to be a Supporter of the OBT for 2023. Please use one form for each person.



**SUPPORTER OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
PLEDGE FOR 2023**

Please provide the information below to ensure that our records are accurate and up-to-date

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

All individuals who make a pledge will be listed as a Supporter of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

For Individuals who pledge \$300 or more:

- A portion of your pledge will be forwarded to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) for BCA membership
- Eligible to be nominated to be on the Oregon Buddhist Temple Board of Directors
- Eligible to vote for the Board of Directors and other issues that are presented at the General Meeting

I will pledge for 2023, the amount of \$ _____

___ The above amount is to be given as a one-time amount of \$ _____ or

___ The above amount is to be given in payments of \$ _____

___ Monthly ___ Quarterly

Please send this completed Pledge for 2023 to:

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

Pledge payments can be mailed to the above address or made via PayPal at
OregonBuddhistTemple.com

In gratitude for your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple

“Arigato, Until We Meet Again”

(ありがとう また会う日まで)

Come to Rev. Sugahara & Family Farewell Party
Saturday, June 17, 2023 - 12:00PM to 3:00PM

Bento Lunch by Chef Yoshio Matsuzaki (MURATA’S)

~Vegetarian bento is available upon request~

\$25 per person

PIZZA for children not ordering bento

\$5 for one slice, \$10 for two or more

Please use the form below to order. Deadline: June 1, 2023

OBT Bento Order Form

Participant’s name (please print)

Participant’s name (please print)

of Bento _____ x \$25

of Pizza _____ x \$5

of Pizza _____ x \$10

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

Make checks payable to the OBT. Mail above form and payment by June 1, 2023. Any questions please contact Jayne Ichikawa at (503) 810-6390 or email jayneichi@gmail.com

“We Will Miss You”

BCA Music Committee Lyric Contest.



To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of BCA, the BCA Music Committee is having a song lyric-writing contest for a new *gatha* song. Deadline for contest are June 4, 2023, and should include the following guidelines: (1) lyrics will contain at least two and not more than four stanzas, and may have repeating section(s) suitable for a chorus or refrain in between; and (2) the theme of the lyrics may focus on the BCA National Council Meeting 2024 theme, “Embracing the Dharma with Hope and Joy”, the BCA “Life of Gratitude” theme, or on the aspects of Shinran Shonin’s life and legacy. Entries by Adult lyric-writers are to be sent to a BCA contact; entries by Youth (up to and including high school seniors) are to be sent to a FDSTL contact (entries may be submitted by group). Additionally, the FDSTL is encouraging Dharma

School students and youth to participate and will display entries received by April 15, 2023 at the upcoming FDSTL Dharma School Teachers Conference later in the month (these early submittals will be eligible and submitted to the BCA lyric writing contest for Youth). Full instructions and entry forms are posted on the BCA Music Website at [Music | BCA \(buddhistchurchesofamerica.org\)](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/music).

Submitted by Ann Shintani

Unforgettable...The Lotus Skyliners Story



Photo above includes vocalist Pat Nakashima Hokama and Shinya Ichikawa, trombone

For the past two years, a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom are members of the affiliated Buddhist Churches of America, have been actively involved in compiling a book about the Lotus Skyliners. The Lotus Skyliners was a swing band sponsored by the Seattle Betsuin. The band was popular in the greater Seattle area and up and down the West Coast in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1955 and 1956 the band toured California, playing mostly for other Buddhist temples at community halls, dance halls and even at the civic auditorium in San Jose. The band played there on a Saturday night and was sandwiched between Ella Fitzgerald on Friday night and Louis Armstrong on Sunday night.

The book will be entitled “How a Big Band Lifts Up a Small Community”, and will be available for sale at book signing events and through online sellers like Amazon. The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience is the fiscal sponsor and Chin Music Press is the publisher.

The initial book signing and meet and greet event will be held at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, located at 1427 South Main Street in Seattle, on Sunday, June 11, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Former members of the Lotus Skyliners will attend and big band music will be provided by the Rich Hirano quartet. Light refreshments will be provided at this free event. The publication of this book was made possible by a large group of Jump Start donors and generous grants from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and 4Culture of King County.

The below link is a video that was produced for a 2006 reunion of band members. It should give you some idea of the Skyliners.

<https://youtu.be/4BWDXTKnvY>

The below article by board member Jeanette Hager is intended to help make board members more accessible to temple members



My Circuitous Path

Even though there is a direct and an easy way to achieve a goal, or to arrive at a destination, I often end up taking a more complicated and circuitous route. Perhaps, the obstacles that I encounter along the way are providing me with lessons that I need most to learn. For instance, allowing thoughts to overwhelm me instead of taking the path of practicing the Dharma. There are those whose efforts, dedication and diligence in their studies and practices of the Dharma, have kept the teachings alive from its origination from distant past, across countless miles to this present time. The Dharma arises each moment of each day if I remain open and aware to all that is around me. Whether the Dharma teaching is written upon a scroll, on a sign attached to a tree, or expressed in the actions those who selflessly share with others, I just need to be fully aware to its presence. A lesson may be in living through a situation that is difficult to endure. It may arise in a new and unique way or it may seem to repeat over yet again, and again. That teaching which provides me with the realization of what is most precious in life is the greatest gift.



One of the Twin Sutra Pillars at Lingyin Temple in China.



Signs hanging on trees outside of a Buddhist temple in Thailand.



A flower blooming beside the road in Taiwan.



*Allow the path to unfold as it will.
It is the struggle that is creating
opportunities to change and grow oneself
through learning new ways
of seeing, doing and living this life.*

~ Gassho