



## Thanksgiving, a Time of Reflection and Memory Rev. Tadao Koyama

Happy November everyone! I can't believe that the year is almost over. As we enter Thanksgiving season, I can't help but think of Shinran Shonin's Ondokusan Wasan. We sing it quite a few times for our services, but the English translation reads,

“Such is the benevolence of Amida's great compassion  
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of  
our bodies;  
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers,  
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones  
becoming dust.”

This comes from Shinran's Hymns of the Dharma Ages. It expresses his deep gratitude to the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha. He shares his strong feeling that we must all do our utmost to repay the immense gift of the teachings to the best of our abilities. This makes me think on my personal experience of learning in Japan and receiving the education from many talented sensei.

Going through Gonshiki (The ritual and chanting school of the head temple), many of the teachers and priests of Hongwanji spent so much time with us students to ensure that we received the best education and instruction possible. Many days we would have classes and practice from 7am in the morning till 7pm at night. If I thought that I had it difficult the teachers of Gonshiki were expected to stay longer to make sure everything was wrapped up tight.

Towards the end of my time in Japan, I wanted to make sure I gave some gifts to the sensei to express my gratitude to them. I bought them all cookies from Mt. Hiei. When I brought them over they graciously accepted but one of the elder sensei pulled me aside and thanked me for my gift. He also reminded me that he felt a sense of duty to help pass on these teachings and rituals to the future generations and that this is one of the many reasons why he teaches at Gonshiki. He told me to assist nurturing future priests and members of Jodo Shinshu as well.

It is very important to thank our teachers and to show them this gratitude every now and then with gifts or cards of appreciation. However, one of the greatest gifts that a teacher can receive is sharing their teachings with others and doing

our best to live by them as well. As the season of Thanksgiving comes closer, I am deeply thankful to all of the teachers who spent time with me and taught me all that I know today. I am grateful that I am fortunate enough to receive the teachings of Master Shinran and Shakyamuni Buddha. I am grateful to Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion.



## President's Column Charles Reneau, OBT President

Dear Sangha,

First off, I'd like to congratulate Robbi Ando and Diane Harder for coordinating a successful Fall Bazaar! We raised a record amount of funds for this kind of event. Personally, I had a really fun time helping out a few times, making crepes and washing dishes. I think volunteering like this is OBT's "Secret Sauce": it's a low key way to meet people and have fun working together to make something great. Thanks to Robbi and Diane for all their hard work, and thanks to all the volunteers for theirs, as well.

I have exciting news: the Oregon Buddhist Temple is going to get a little bit of a face lift over the next few weeks. The Temple's roofs (Temple, Annex, and Shed) have passed their useful life, and those of us who have walked the roofs have even felt some soft spots, which indicate rotten plywood sheathing. Luckily, we have taken note of these issues prior to any structural damage or water infiltration in any building's interior.

So, in order to prevent damage, we've contracted with Pacific West Roofing to replace the roof. In addition to replacing rotten sheathing, fascia boards, and old shingles, they'll be installing additional venting for the roof, which will extend the life of the new shingles. Roofers will be onsite Monday through Saturday, and will have some areas taped off for safety and materials storage. Sundays will be pretty normal, and we will consistently have access to the building through the rear entrance.

We are having our annual elections for the Oregon Buddhist Temple's Board of Directors next month, and here are some important details about the process.

### What does the Board do?

The following text is excerpted from our Bylaws:

*“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](mailto: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.

The business and property of OBT shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors...the Board shall have the following power and authority: "...to guide OBT officers, employees, and ministers; to exercise all powers reasonably necessary to transact OBT business. . ."

Our all-volunteer Board makes important decisions about the day-to-day activities of the OBT, as well as the future of the Temple. Board membership is the best way to have a say in how the OBT operates.

#### Who can run for the Board?

Any Temple member who has pledged at least \$300 for the year can run for our Board. Board Members serve a three year term, and must maintain the minimum pledge amount

during their term. You can nominate yourself or any other Temple member who agrees to serve.

#### Who can vote?

Any individual Temple member who has pledged at least \$300 for the year, or whose quarterly or monthly payments are current as of November 1, may vote in our Board elections. Please note that, at this time, we do not have any "family" memberships.

#### How and when will we vote?

We will mail out paper ballots on November 1.

Ballots will need to be returned to the Temple (3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97202-3037) by November 15.

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## November Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of **November**. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the November 19 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.

Kikue Ando, 11/9/1989 \*  
Nogi Seichi Asakawa, 11/14/1992  
Junpei Emoto, 11/11/1957  
James (Jim) Fujii, 12/3/2013  
Kazuo Fujii, 11/05/2007  
Masao Fujimura, 11/29/1959  
Frank Furukawa, 11/09/1979  
Fujimatsu Hamataka, 11/05/1950  
Mineto Hara, 11/13/2015  
Richard Harder, 11/21/1996  
Jamie Jo Hasebe, 11/26/2004  
Dr Mie May Hayashi, 11/02/2002  
Totsavask (Todd) Hiransomboon, 11/08/2002  
Megan Akemi Imamura, 11/01/2013  
Kyuji Kanzaki, 11/06/1962  
Ben Shohachi Kasubuchi, 11/09/1984  
Yahichi Kato, 11/19/1964  
Hikojiro Kawasaki, 11/25/1952  
Nadine Colette Kinoshita, 11/28/2009  
Kyo Kirihara, 11/11/1962 \*

Yukino Kiso, 11/27/1991 \*  
Jutaro Kiyohara, 11/13/1953  
Rei Kiyokawa, 11/25/1979  
William Minoru Koida, 11/13/2010  
Seimi Kuribayashi, 11/19/1987  
Kameichi Maehara, 11/19/1957  
Tomoko Maekawa, 11/24/1995  
Yone Maekawa, 11/24/2004 \*  
Ryonosuke Masuda, 11/20/1975  
Kametaro Matsumoto, 11/6/1980  
Ayame Matsunaga, 11/2/2006 \*  
Yoneo Eddie Minagi, 11/11/2002  
Hisa Mitoma, 11/16/1960 \*  
Chieto Morita, 11/01/1989  
Kazue Murahashi, 11/14/1979 \*  
Toyoki Murahashi, 11/24/1961  
Takaichi Nakamoto, 11/15/1952  
James S Nakamura, 11/15/1976  
Tsuru Nakamura, 11/21/1986 \*  
Katsumi Nakayama, 11/25/1996

Yutaka Nishikawa, 11/15/2022  
Clara Kazue Okita, 11/17/2004  
Shizuyo Ouchida, 11/8/1965 \*  
Shizue Suzie Sakauye, 1/13/1997 \*  
Fumie Sako, 11/25/1998 \*  
Shizuno Shimizu, 11/3/1952 \*  
George Tatsuo Shoji, 11/12/1995  
Bob Hiroshi Sunamoto, 11/22/2009  
Toki Tachibana, 11/19/1962 \*  
Utajiro Takabayashi, 11/10/1963  
Tokiye Ruth Takashima, 11/25/2005 \*  
Sakajiro Takeuchi, 11/09/1963  
Shiro Takeuchi, 11/22/2011  
Gunichi Tamiyasu, 11/20/1958  
Mitsuru Tamura, 11/27/1977 \*  
Poh Chye Tan, 11/25/2008  
Uno Teramura, 11/28/1966 \*  
Alice Yamano, 11/22/1988 \*  
Hiroshi Yamauchi, 11/03/2014  
Chiyoko Yoshihara, 11/20/2006 \*  
Taro Yoshihara, 11/06/2004

\* OBWA member

**Oregon Buddhist Temple  
September 2023 Donations**

**In memory of Takako Maeda**

Janice Okamoto  
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa  
Dana Kakishita

**SHOTSUKI HOYO** *(continued)***In memory of Sally Nakamura**

Colin Nakamura

**2023 Annual Pledge**

Joann & Greg Naganuma

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

Pat Hokama  
Kaoru Hori  
Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson  
Glenda Watson-Coly  
Diane Ando Harder  
Susan Endecott

**SHOTSUKI HOYO / LOTUS CIRCLE****In memory of Shiraishi Family**

**Joshihei Shiraishi**

**Umeno Shiraishi**

**Setsuko Shiraishi**

**Fred Shiraishi**

**Jean (Shiraishi) Nakamura**

**Akiko (Shiraishi) Dong**

Sue (Shiraishi) Uyeoka

**Special donations**

Katie Kawazoe  
Susan Endecott  
*(Social Welfare Fund)*  
Dana Kakishita *(Fall Bazaar)*  
Angela Hughes & Ryan Davis  
*(vehicle donation)*

**Fall Ohigan**

Etsuko Osaki  
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner  
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa  
June & Stan Shiigi  
Elaine & Todd Yuzuriha  
Dana Kakishita  
Debra Shimamoto  
Anonymous

**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. Thank you.**

**[sjendecott@gmail.com](mailto:sjendecott@gmail.com)**

**In memory of**

**Shigeru Yuzuriha** *(Sept.)*

**Fumiye Yuzuriha** *(Oct.)*

**Yutaka Nishikawa** *(Nov.)*

**Sakaye Nishikawa** *(Dec.)*

**Zoichi Yuzuriha** *(Dec.)*

Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

**Thank you for your continued support**

**Eitaikyo Service Sunday Nov. 26, 10 am**  
**Eitaikyo (永代経) "Sutra (over) long generations"**

One way to understand the Eitaikyo is as the temple's promise to continue to share and propagate the Dharma, in particular the Nembutsu Teaching (as expressed by the character 「経」 or Sutra), over many "long" (「永」) generations (「代」). The expression "long generations" (「永代」) is frequently translated as "perpetual."

Because of this, the Eitaikyo can be seen as the temple's promise to propagate in perpetuity. However, the temple is also a place that helps us to understand that what makes it possible and meaningful for the temple to propagate are all the people of the temple's past and their concern for the future that helped to make the present and the future possible.

*Excerpt from Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple website*

Reverend Koyama will be at this service

**2023-2025 OBT Board and 2022 Officers**

**Term Ending 2025:** Shinya Ichikawa, Jayne Ichikawa, Katie Tamiyasu, Christine White

**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)

**Past Months' Newsletters**

Can be viewed at the below link.

**[Newsletter | oregonbuddhisttemple](#)**

The article below by OBT board member Cathy Yarne is intended to help make the board more accessible to temple members



**A Caring Sangha**  
Cathy Yarne

Living in Portland, I've unfortunately gotten used to seeing a lot of litter, trash and unsightly tents and campers. On a recent vacation I traveled through several cities where I couldn't help but notice how clean their cities were. We did a lot of walking in residential neighborhoods as well as congested tourist areas. It was extremely rare to see a discarded wrapper or unwanted flyer. There just wasn't litter. This was not because they have an active litter patrol. People just don't litter. The only trash I saw was the minor overflow of a few garbage bins most likely just before a scheduled pick-up time.

There are multiple reasons why we have this problem in Portland but I couldn't help asking myself, "Why can't Portland be more like this?" "Why do so many people litter in Portland?"

My thoughts led me to thinking about what happens at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Inside and out, the temple is clean and looks well maintained. Our members take responsibility for the cleanliness of the temple because we care. Much like the clean cities I visited, it is part of our "Sangha's culture" to be responsible for what we care about - our temple. We make the effort to keep our space tidy, well maintained and clean. We volunteer to keep it that way.

OBT does not have custodians or any hired staff. We rely on our Sangha. In particular we depend on a monthly deep and thorough cleaning by a Toban team. Admittedly, there is a part of me that groans when it's my Toban's turn. However, I do make it a point to participate, not out of obligation but because the temple is something I value. How OBT looks and how comfortable I and others feel in the temple is important to me. I try to do my part to ensure that it stays this way. The Toban system is an organized way for everyone to show they value and care for the temple. It's our opportunity to be responsible and do our part in ensuring OBT is a welcoming, clean and pleasant place. We are very fortunate to have such a caring and giving sangha. Thank you for being mindful that no one is picking up after you, dedicating a morning cleaning the entire temple and annex, restocking the paper towels in the restrooms every week, cleaning and trimming the garden, plus numerous other tasks you do. Your efforts are appreciated. I'm grateful to you for taking care of our temple.

Gassho,  
Cathy Yarne

PS. If you're not on a Toban team please contact Judy Hittle.



**New September Arrival**  
Diane Harder

On September 13, former Dharma student, Robert & his wife, Shannon Harder welcomed a baby boy, Hiro Ando Harder into their lives. Hiro was a little handful at 6 pounds 2 ounces but is growing day by day as his parents are adjusting to the new family's routine. Hiro's grandmother is OBT member, Diane Ando Harder.

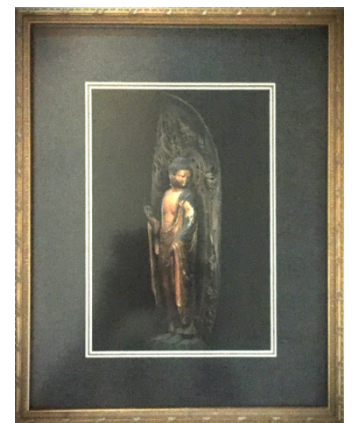


**2024 FBWA Conference Fundraiser**  
Jeanette Hager

The 47th BCA FBWA Conference will be on October 4-6, 2024, in San Jose, California. Please see the attached flyer for more details on the annual FBWA Conference as well as an upcoming fundraiser which is happening on Friday, November 3rd, at all of the Panda Express locations nation-wide to raise funds for the conference. This is for on-line orders only. Thank you so much for your support!

### Mikaeri no Amida

This statue of Amida Looking Back, called Mikaeri no Amida in Japanese, is found in a temple called Eikando, or Zenrinji, in Kyoto. The wooden stature stands three to four feet high with its head turned to the left, looking back for stragglers. Legend states that back in the thirteenth century, during a religious procession, the monk Eikan was falling behind, so Amida turned back and urged him to hurry up and join the group. For me this figure symbolizes the compassion of Amida, who never abandons anyone and always shows concern, especially for the laggard, the lost and the confused.

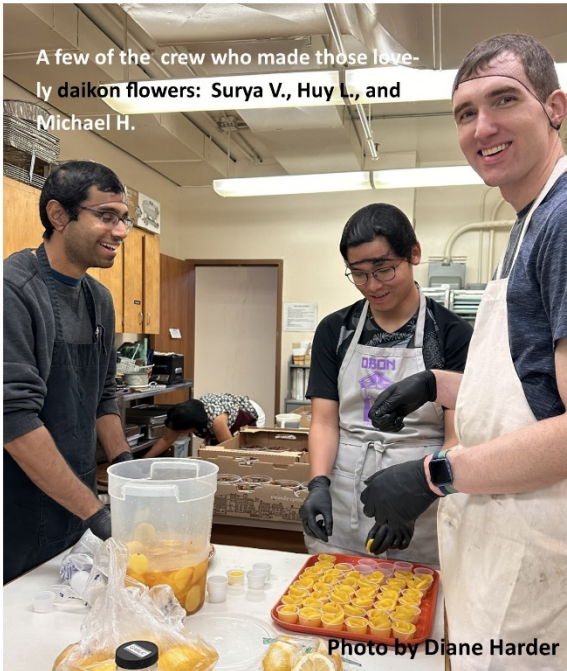


Words from [Shin Buddhism Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold](#)

Taitetsu Unno



Photo by Toki Arlyoshi



A few of the crew who made those lovely daikon flowers: Surya V., Huy L., and Michael H.

Photo by Diane Harder

## OBT FALL BAZAAR 2023

Diane Harder and Robbi Ando



Our first post-pandemic Fall Bazaar is now part of OBT history. Some things were familiar (chow mein), some things were missed (extended chats with friends and families), and some things were new (fancy bento). A line of people ready to pick up their food orders well before the noon opening was one sign of success. There were also areas for improvement (there always are, do you have suggestions?). What will the next fall bring?

Thank you to everyone who worked to make the Fall Bazaar 2023 a success:

- to everyone who pre-ordered food and waited patiently in the pick-up line;
- to OBWA who purchased and arranged delivery of bentos for sangha unable to attend Temple;
- to generous community donors anonymous and named: Charlie's Produce, Summit Chinese Foods, Natural Grocers, Ota Tofu, and Uwajimaya; and
- to each and every volunteer for being willing to deal with publicity and order taking, to shed tears cutting onions, to go home with the smell of shitake juice and frying oil clinging to their clothes, to race to finish packing and decorating what seemed like thousands of bentos, to spend days of long hours doing the thousand tasks needed for such events, and also, importantly, to step into unexpected roles where you saw the need.

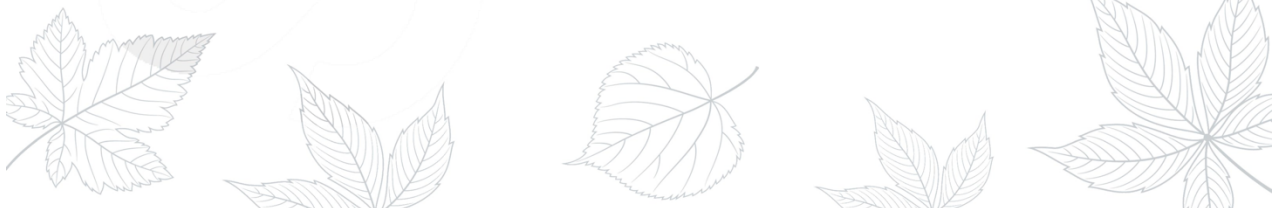
With much gratitude, Diane Harder and Robbi Ando, event co-chairs.

PS: Remember to reuse or recycle those plastics. OBT will recycle cleaned plastics for you.



# THANK YOU!!!

The Oregon Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of





**Dharma School**  
**Ann Shintani**

We enjoyed learning and sharing the Mexican observance of “**El Dia de los Muertos**” (Day of the Dead) on Oct. 15th. Thank you to Pamella Guzman for introducing this topic, and for providing delicious Mexican pastries. Students were invited to share memories about dearly departed family, loved ones, or inspiring historical figures, while displaying colorful memorials and ofrendas (altars).

This poem, “Two Deaths”, by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, is a touching way to convey how remembering people keeps them alive in our hearts, and reminds us to truly live.

<p><b>Two Deaths</b></p>	<p>I trace each letter carved in stone Lifting names high with my voice. <i>Maria</i> <i>James.</i> <i>Eliza.</i> <i>John.</i> Soul by soul they wake, rejoice.</p>
<p>I've heard it said we die two times. The first time is that final breath And when nobody speaks Our names aloud We die a second death.</p>	<p>For through my touch And through my words I raise their songs Their lives on earth.</p>
<p>That day our names desert warm lips Of friends and family, children grown Is when our story books slam shut The hour we turn to dust and bone.</p>	<p>Second death must wait for now. Name by name I give them birth.</p>
<p>Today, alive, I walk This sacred churchyard Settled deep in shade Of sturdy oaks and willows wide Reading tombstones, unafraid.</p>	<p>By Amy LV</p>

**White Elephant Bingo** is a fundraiser for OBT’s Dharma School and Youth Buddhist Association. We will sell bingo cards, and winners will win White Elephant prizes (optional to donate one wrapped White Elephant gift). Join us after Sunday on Nov. 12th for an hour of bingo fun and refreshments.

**Bodhi Day** celebrates the Enlightenment of Shakamuni Buddha, and OBT will again host an evening service on Saturday, Dec. 7th, followed by a potluck. We will have students practice a presentation to share, so I hope all can participate. Bring your family and friends!



At El Dia de los Muertos (Davis, Iain, Maki, Akash, Pamela)



Viewing a memorial (Maya, Anya, Amanda, Suniti)



A colorful memorial (unknown, Julia, Bobbin, Grace, unknown, Anna)



**Oregon Buddhist Women’s Association**

By Amy Peterson

September through October was a busy month for the OBWA!

Our care team was busy visiting OBWA and temple members with food, fellowship and even Rev. Koyama. (see photo). Our members are doing well and we wish them continued health.



*OBWA members Alice Ando and Jean Matsumoto with Rev. Koyama*

On Oct 11th a few of the members trekked up to Mt. Hood to see how their mushroom hunting turned into mushroom gathering. This was one of the first rains, but it cleared off in the afternoon. We were treated to a preview of the karaage chicken and tsukemono provided by Diane Harder and Robbi Ando. Others provided fruits and vegetables from their gardens and many desserts. All were able to "find" some Matsutake and take a couple home. It was still a little early in the season but hopefully educational.



Also during the month, Robbi and Diane Ando were leading us preparing eggs, vegetables and mochi for the Fall Fundraiser as they could be prepared and stored early.

The help from OBWA, OBT family and friends worked feverously on Fri, Sat and ended Sunday the 22nd preparing chow mein, karaage chicken, and made them into bentos along with homemade tsukemono. We exceeded our planned numbers so had a good profit for temple operations. Also were Omiyage and books for sale.

The OBWA voted to provide a bento to our honored sangha members to connect them to the temple again since Covid interrupted our lives. We hope they all enjoyed, not only the bento, but the connection; whether family member of friend delivery.

OBWA also sent a donation to Rev. Ai Hironaka of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission who; along with his family lost their residence and all their belongings. Rev. Hironaka like the two other Buddhist ministers in the area, attempted to fight the fires and spare temple records and artifacts.

Finally, we want you all to save the date for our OBWA outreach program on Reminiscence Therapy. You can join us in person after the Sat. November 18th OBWA meeting at 11 am at the temple or by zoom. We hope this program helps families and care givers provide positive activities to connect with their loved ones. We also plan to record this for future reference. Please email [obtlanterns@gmail.com](mailto:obtlanterns@gmail.com) with any questions.

OBWA reporter for December newsletter is Nancy Walseth.

**Fall Bazaar Thank You**

Marilyn Achterman



It was a splendid day at OBT with the sangha and the community gathering for our fall bazaar. Oh, the food offerings were delicious and the steps in preparation were multifaceted. The dharma school families were active in all aspects of the bazaar. It was a joy witnessing their eager participation. The dharma school teachers are proud of the students.







**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 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202-3037

Pledge payments can be mailed to the above address or made via PayPal at  
[OregonBuddhistTemple.com](http://OregonBuddhistTemple.com)

In gratitude for your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple



Rev. Shozui Wakabayashi

### November 29, 2023 - Oregon Buddhist Temple Celebrates 120 Years of Service

Reverend Shozui Wakabayashi officially founded the Portland Buddhist Church on November 29, 1903, in two rented rooms at 43 Fourth Ave. As the Nembutsu spread throughout Old Town, membership grew to 300 by 1904, outgrowing the space. The church then started to rent an entire building at 19 First Ave. on February 1, 1905.

By 1908, an increasing number of Japanese found new lives in Portland, and joined the church. The membership outgrew 19 First Ave. It decided to raise money to build their own church. Rev. Wakabayashi, Rihei Hasegawa, Y. Inouye and Yojiro Takeuchi filed incorporation papers on October 19, 1908, to start the Japanese Buddhist Association, later changed to the Adult Buddhist Association. The association bought a lot at NW 10<sup>th</sup> and Everett streets for \$5,500 in 1909.

The lot was empty. Records show members had to remove an old house. At 8 a.m. on May 23, 1910, members Inouye, Omura, Yamamoto, Takami, Miike, Kawashima, Nomura, Matsui and Uchiyama razed the building. On May 30 at 8 am, Ishikawa, Kawashima, Nomura, Omura and Inouye removed 1,000 bricks.



86 Tenth Avenue

With the help of 1,763 contributors, builders laid the final touches on September 1910, for \$22,429.22. The new address was 86 Tenth Avenue (today it is 312 N.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave). Members celebrated and held a dedication service on December 15 and 16, 1910.

The old church today is an office building among the art galleries and upscale condominiums of the revitalized Pearl District. Its longevity might be due to those who helped to maintain it.

In the early 1960's, with Nisei establishing their own households, membership outgrew the church. The 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue floor plan was more suited for Issei pioneers to live in and downtown parking had become difficult to come by.

"In the early 1960's the members of OBT came together and decided that we must build a new temple. This was not an easy task, but a long and hard grind. We did rally together and Isseis took the bull by the horn and spearheaded this project. The Niseis and the Sanseis helped, but the Isseis were the ones that gave the most of their time and financial help to build this new temple. To the Isseis, I say "Thank you." --- Herb Osaki



1965 temple construction

*Above history excerpted from the booklet Oregon Buddhist Temple 1903-2003 A History of the One Hundred Years of the Oregon Buddhist Temple, available in the Temple library.*



### Sesshu Fusha

*The person burdened with extreme karma should simply say the Name:  
Although I too am within Amida's grasp,  
Passions obstruct my eyes and I cannot see the light;  
Nevertheless, great compassion is untiring and illumines me always.  
Shoshin-ge, CWS p. 73.*

The below article by Reverend Koyama appeared in the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple October 2023 newsletter

Some of you may remember during last month's Shotsuki Monthly Memorial service, I did a presentation where the Sangha members were able to use their cell phones to help answer questions. Two of the questions were: What was the kindest thing I have done for someone? And the other was: What was the kindest thing someone has done for you? The responses were then shown on the screen forming a "Word Cloud" so that we could all see the variety of the many acts of kindness.

I did this presentation in preparation for one of the workshops I was to lead for the 76<sup>th</sup> Northwest Buddhist Convention in Seattle during the weekend of September 15 – 17, 2023. The Northwest Convention is truly a unique experience as they combine their Northwest District Council meeting, the Northwest District Buddhist Women's Association, the Northwest District Council meeting, and the Northwest YBA meeting to all meet in one place over the weekend. So this leads to families being able to enjoy the convention, go to their respective meetings and workshops, listen to the Dharma messages at the services and eating their banquet meals among family and friends.

Having served in the Northwest for 14 years, Linda and I left on Wednesday evening to spend a few days prior to the convention to visit friends. Having been asked to be the keynote speaker for the convention, I had to prepare for the keynote presentation, a YBA workshop and then an additional adult presentation all in one day. Originally, I had planned to spend the entire month of August to prepare for these sessions. Needless to say, due to my procrastination and other unforeseen distractions, I really only had one week to get everything ready. Many of those nights were uneasy and unrestful sleeps due to worry and anxiety.

So when we got on the plane, I was already tensed and worried. The plane was completely full, but I was able to put my backpack up in the overhead compartment so that I could stretch my legs out in my seat. Now that we were in our seats, there was nothing to do but sit back and relax, even though I knew it was going to be a busy weekend. I decided to relax even more by ordering a glass (actually a can of wine. And it doesn't taste as good because I had to pour it into a paper cup.)

Our flight up to Seattle was smooth and we even arrived a little before scheduled. We even got a glimpse of Mt. Rainier along the way bathed in the warm orange rays of the setting sun. (It gets darker in Seattle later than it does here in the summer months.)

We were met by my nephew, Rev. Tadao Koyama and his wife, Rev. Cyndi, the hosting minister for the convention, at the baggage claim area. But just as we were getting to the baggage claim area, I got a phone call. I looked at the number and saw that it was coming from Bainbridge Island, in the Puget Sound. Because I don't know anyone from Bainbridge Island, I dismissed the call as spam and didn't pick it up. A few minutes later, I got another call from the same number. "Who is calling me from Bainbridge Island?" I thought and again ignored the call.

Again, a few minutes later, another call from Bainbridge Island came in. I don't know why, but I thought I should answer this call this time, ready to quickly hang up when I hear that momentary pause and click after I say, "Hello."

But this time, a person responded quickly and said, “Mr. Koyama, we found your wallet on your incoming flight from San Jose, please return back to gate N-8 to retrieve it.”

I was in shock. I quickly searched my back pocket for my wallet that I know I used when I paid for my can of wine. It wasn't there. I told the agent who called, but I am already in the baggage claim area. He suggested I go up to the ticketing level and ask an agent if they could go to retrieve my wallet.

Long story short, I was eventually re-united with my wallet.

After having to explain to my nephew what happened we went to the hotel to check in. By this time it was well past 9:30 PM so there were not many people checking in. The front desk person checked us in, took the time to explain some of the hotel amenities, the shuttle service to the airport, breakfast in the restaurant, etc. She was very friendly and was interested in knowing where we were coming from and asked if we were a part of the Buddhist convention. She genuinely seemed interested in making us feel welcomed.

Because we had not had dinner, we decided to get something to eat knowing that the hotel restaurant was going to close in half an hour. When we got there, no one else was in the restaurant and we noticed the waitress was sitting down eating her dinner. But when she saw us, she immediately got up, seated us and brought us menus. Despite having interrupted her dinner, she was also very pleasant and friendly to us and the food, even though it had to be cooked at the end of their day, was delicious.

The next day I golfed with some friends. The golf course was conveniently located close to the hotel. It was a beautiful morning with the sun shining and very temperate temperature in the mid 60's when we started and warmed up to the high 70's by the time we ended. The course wandered along a river with a lot of trees and well-groomed fairways and manicured greens. We played a two-scramble which means we play the best hit ball between the two of us. I had to rent golf clubs from the golf course and I just couldn't hit a good straight drive all day. Fortunately my partner was able to compensate for me. On the other hand, we used many of my short iron shots, chips and putts so in the end we made a good team and we were able to beat the other pair 76 to 84! When I went to return the rental golf clubs, the card in the pro shop asked, “Are you sure you have your wallet and phone?” I was in a panic again thinking of my incident at the airport the night before. “Oh no did I do it again?” I quickly checked my pockets again, and found that I did have my wallet and phone. When she saw my face of relief, she said, “I just asked because so many times people forget they put things in the golf bags and leave without knowing they are there and then they have to come back to get them.” I thought, “How thoughtful and kind.”

The intention of my “Word Cloud” workshop was to allow ourselves an opportunity to reflect upon our lives. Especially today, our society seems to be focused on self-gratification and putting the needs of “me,” “myself” and “I” before others. We tend to not pay attention to what is going on around us unless it directly concerns us. In this way, Shinran says, “Passions obstruct my eyes and I cannot see the light.” And even though this may be the case, if we really look hard, we may discover that “Great compassion is untiring and illuminates me always.”

Although at times we may feel cynical about the world around us. But nevertheless, we need to be reminded that just as we are we are embraced with kindness around us. This is what is meant by the expression, *Sesshu Fusha* – *constantly, Never to be abandoned*. Shouldn't we then try to return the favor and fill the lives of others with kindness as well?

Gassho,

Rev. Dean Koyama

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47th FBWA Conference 2024  
Each precious moment, a precious treasure

#### 47<sup>th</sup> BCA FBWA Conference 2024

Coast District BWA will be hosting the 47<sup>th</sup> FBWA Conference, which will be held October 4-6, 2024 at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California.

The theme of the conference is "Ichigo, Ichie", "Each Precious Moment, A Precious Treasure"

Our keynote speakers are former Hawaii Congresswoman, Colleen Hanabusa and Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi (retired).

An optional Friday tour of San Jose Japantown will be offered.

A Parliamentary Procedures Workshop and an odori session of "Ichigo, Ichie" will be available to attendees on Friday evening.

Saturday workshops include Dr. Paula Arai's "Liberating Buddhist Women", a panel discussion "Open Doors and Open Minds" The Future of the Buddhist Sangha", Card Making, Soul Line Dancing, The Art of Modern Lettering, an LGBTQ+ Community Workshop, and Japanese and English Mompo session.

Friday and Saturday activities will be at the Doubletree, and we are moving to the San Jose Betsuin on Sunday for the General Meeting and Closing Service.

We are challenged with rising costs, and in our attempt to keep the registration fees affordable, we will be soliciting sponsorships and donors for the conference. Please look for more information on the FBWA site in a few months.

Electronic Registration packets are planned to be sent out in April 2024 with a deadline date of August 1, 2024.

This will be the first in person FBWA conference since 2018 in Visalia. Please plan to join us as we meet old friends and make new ones.

Gassho,  
Karen Akimoto and Phyllis Sugimoto  
2024 Conference Planning Co-chairs

## Portland Taiko at The Reser – Nov 11th 2023

*Issho: Rhythm Connection* is Portland Taiko's first major theater production since 2019. After spending much of the last three years in virtual rehearsals and outdoor performances, the members of Portland Taiko felt a need to reconnect: to each other, to friends and family, to longtime supporters and the greater community.

"Issho," meaning "together" in Japanese, represents a powerful return to the indoor stage. The performance will explore the connections possible with taiko – linking each performer with each other, with their instruments and with everyone their sound reaches. The evening will include pieces not performed in many years in addition to fan favorites. We hope you can join us at The Reser on November 11th, 7PM. for tkts: [portlandtaiko.org](http://portlandtaiko.org)



**Oregon Buddhist Women's Association  
Presents  
A free program on Reminiscence Therapy**

**Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.  
Join us on zoom or in person with**

A collage of images. On the left, a person's hands are shown holding a stack of old photographs. In the center, there is a stylized graphic of a human head profile composed of colorful dots. On the right, there is a portrait of a man in a suit and tie, identified as Joshua Freitas. Text overlays include "PHOTO REMINISCENCE THERAPY NIDE CERTIFICATION COURSE", "National Institute for Dementia Education", and "VIVID-PIX Education".

**PHOTO  
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**JOSHUA FREITAS**  
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