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PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

November 2008



Buddhist wisdom - remembrance of those we love

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Our Eitaikyo service will be November 16th. It is one of the two major Buddhist memorial services we do each year. The other important service with a memorial theme is Obon. Fall is a time well suited for serious reflection and for honoring those who are gone but to whom we are indebted. People we still care about.

Death is an inevitability for ourselves as well as for those we love. This is just how life as biological persons is. The impermanence of all things means that we must lose who and what we care for. This pains us. However, the very impermanence we see in the falling of the autumn leaves and the passing of our friends allows the birth of another friend's granddaughter or, perhaps, our own.

We are part of something vast and inconceivable. This mysterious Great Ocean of Life comes forth as you and I and as those we love. But it doesn't stay put. We grow and develop and (hopefully) live through the prime of our lives.

After this our bodies become a little less strong and flexible. Eventually we languish or die suddenly. If we have been touched by the Buddha's teaching we may have a sense that we will meet our deceased loved ones again. This is not a vain hope. We will, I believe, see our parents again. We won't enjoy meals together again though. I have mentioned before how much, as a child, I used to enjoy eating my mother's very Americanized spaghetti dinners. I was disappointed when, in my late teens, I came on occasion to eat spaghetti at Italian restaurants. Compared to my mother's spaghetti that combined noodles, tomato sauce, salt and ground beef, the "real" stuff was so spicy and, yet, not salty enough.

Some of the small joys we experience with our family and our friends in this life are unrepeatable. Birth into Amida's Pure Land will be a reunion with all the people I love and it will be the fulfillment of my wildest dreams. I

won't, however, have a chance to eat that salty spaghetti I used to be served in Fresno by Myrtle Louise Trimmer Gibbs.

"Eitaikyo" means "perpetuating the Buddhist teachings into the indefinitely distant future." The Eitaikyo service has the dual function of being a Buddhist Memorial Day and being a time when the temple receives donations for the purpose of securing its future. This year our Eitaikyo speaker will be Rev. Dennis Shinseki. He will give a brief Japanese language message at a service at 9:30 a.m. on November 16. At 10 a.m. our main service will begin and we will receive an English language Dharma message from Shinseki Sensei. I encourage you to attend these services.

A temple is a community and not just a building. When you support this temple you are, first and foremost supporting the community that is in this building on 34th street but has been in a couple of other locations over the past 105 years. The association of honoring your deceased parents and grandparents and making a donation to the temple that has nurtured them is probably clear to you. If the temple has nurtured your family it will be a clear connection for you. Donation envelopes are included in most of our newsletters to make supporting this temple easy for those who appreciate what it has done and is doing for them and their families. If you do not feel nurtured by the temple, just drop the envelope in your recycling. There are no mandatory donations to participate in the services, study classes and other activities of this temple. We will survive quite well here at OBT through the support of those who know that their parents' lives and their own lives are being enhanced by the Buddhist vision embodied in our temple activities. The future of our temple will be secured by those families whose children find nurturance and inspiration here. In some cases those young people will be the children of some of our newer members. I would like to believe my own sons will be part of the securing of this temple's future by new member families and long-time participants as well.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

"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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November Highlights

Nov 2	OBWA past members memorial service	1:30 pm
Nov 9	Convention planning meeting	12:30 pm
Nov 14	OBT board meeting	7:00 pm
Nov 16	Eitaikyo service followed by potluck	9:30 am
Nov 22	OBWA meeting	9:30 am



Summary notes of October 10 OBT board meeting

Judy Hittle, OBT Secretary

- Installation of the energy-efficient lighting was completed on 09/24/08.
- Rev. Gibbs and Joe Wahl will participate in a NW District Council phone conference on October 11.
- The Dharma School students successfully handled much of the Sukiyaki Bazaar bake sale, since the adults were busy working at other areas.
- A Japanese American community graduation banquet meeting will be held at OBT on Monday night. (Elaine Yuzuriha and Kim Kono are overseeing this event, of which OBT will be the host in 2009)
- The maintenance clipboard seems to be up-to-date. There is a question regarding supplies and how orders are being placed.
- Amy Peterson is gathering reports from the various chairpersons for the Sukiyaki Bazaar.
- Regarding the OBT board election, ballots will be prepared by Nov. 1st and sent out to members by Nov. 10th. The deadline for the ballots to be returned to OBT will be Nov. 30th. Results of the election will be announced at the general meeting, still to be scheduled.
- The NW District Convention Committee will meet on Sunday, October 12th after Dharma Exchange. The children's activities committee is still without a chairperson.
- Ken Gardner reported that as of October 5th, the scrip program made a profit of \$449 for OBT. Other temples that participate in this program usually realize 60% of their total sales in November and December.
- As a result of many requests, Ken is currently looking into a similar program that Kroger/Fred Meyer has available.
- Ken reminded us that we also have the Amazon.Com account. OBT receives a percentage of all book sales that result from the OBT Website link to Amazon.
- All donations from the Gotan-e services for 2009 and 2010 will be dedicated to the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin fund. The 2008 donations have already been dedicated to this Fund. The 750th Memorial will be held in May 2011.

Next OBT board meeting: November 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. The board meets every second Friday of the month. OBT members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex, or contact the OBT Secretary.



OBWA news

Etsu Osaki

On Sunday, November 2nd, 1:30 pm the Oregon Buddhist Temple Women's Association will hold their annual memorial service to honor members who have passed away. Family and friends of these past members are cordially invited to this special service. For further information please contact the temple 503-234-9456 or Alice Ando at 971-570-8094.

OBWA gratefully acknowledges donations from the Sahomi Tachibana

At the regular October meeting, OBWA members voted to support the BCA Federation of BWA resolutions to staff and provide resources for the Center for Buddhist Studies.

1. OBWA will give \$500 in 2008, 2009 and 2010.
2. OBWA will give a \$2 donation on each membership beginning 2011.

The next meeting will be November 22nd at 9:30 am. This is the 4th Saturday instead of the usual third. Next month's reporter is Alice Ando.

Happy 100 birthday Seattle BWA

Etsu Osaki

On September 20th two representatives from OBT's Buddhist Women's Association attended the Seattle Betsuin BWA's 100th Anniversary. A hundred years may sound like an eternity, but when I think back to when our family first arrived in Seattle from Japan, it was 1936, and the Seattle Fujinkai (as they were called) was only twenty-eight years old. In my perspective now as a grandmother, a hundred years is not that long.

Alice Ando and I represented OBT's Buddhist Women's Association at the luncheon, which was held at the Maplewood Country Club in Kent, Washington. Among the guests were Socho and Mrs. Koshin Ogui, Rinban and Mrs. Matsubayashi of Seattle and other Northwest ministers.

Mrs. Mayumi Ogui, the Socho's wife, gave a very personal, heartwarming talk in Japanese about her relationship with her mother.

Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi who serves the South Alameda County Buddhist Church spoke in English about the hard-working Issei women who came as immigrants and organized the Fujinkai. This was the message I received from her talk: To honor these pioneers let us live today to

the fullest, and look forward to future challenges with hope, always embraced by the Nembutsu.

Looking at old photos on display, I recognized many Fujinkai members from the time when I lived in Seattle as the minister's daughter. I recalled the times when my mother would ask me to chauffeur some of the ladies home after a service. Once the Issei ladies were in the car they were like school girls, joking, laughing and teasing each other. They were nothing like the quiet, submissive wives and mothers stereotypical of Issei women. Sometimes they would get so loud I had difficulty concentrating on my driving.

The trip brought back many fond memories as I met old and new friends. Thank you, OBWA, for allowing me to attend this happy and memorable event.

Gassho, Etsu Osaki



**BCA Federation of
Buddhist Women's
Association delegates
meeting**

Alice Ando, OBWA President

On Saturday, October 11, 2008, Katie Tamiyasu and I attended the above meeting at the Buddhist Church of Oakland. Representing the Northwest BWA, I was asked to offer incense at the opening 9:30 am service. The service officiant was Socho Ogui and co-officiant was Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka, resident minister of the Oakland temple. Socho Ogui encouraged the women to continue supporting their respective temples; encouraged the youth and Minister's Assistant Programs, and thanked FBWA's support of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education so that Buddhism will flourish in the USA.

After service the business meeting was held in the first floor auditorium/cafeteria of the very impressive temple. Honorary advisor Mrs. Mayumi Ogui and the 2007-2008 cabinet were introduced. Reports given included one by Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi on the Sri Lanka project. This project is supported by BCA BWA. The next BCA BWA conference in 2009 will be held by the Northern District in Sacramento. The youth exchange program was discussed in which a Buddhist student from Japan visits a temple in the US and a Buddhist student from the US is selected to visit Japan. The Northwest will have its turn in 2013. In 1999, Janine Ishii of OBT was chosen to go to Japan and we hosted two girls from Japan in 2000.

Two resolutions were presented that will be discussed at the October OBWA meeting. The resolution made by Palo Alto Buddhist Temple was accepted but the one from the Bay District was rejected. The 2009-2010 FBWA Cabinet was introduced. A delicious bento was served after the meeting.

After lunch, discussion ensued on "The ministerial shortage...what can we do about it?" We broke into groups with our facilitator, Susan Bottari. She works with the BCA

Youth Advocacy Committee, and expressed her enjoyment and the importance of working with the youth who are the future of our temples, as among them may be future ministers. Our group included ladies from other California chapters, and we spent 45 minutes discussing activities in our respective temples. Much was said about the Minister's Assistant Program of which Portland is very much involved. After the group discussion, we gathered in the hondo where the facilitators posted their discussion notes on the walls.

Because of our flight schedule, Katie and I could not stay for the final discussion and 3 pm closing service. A member of the Berkeley Temple drove us to the airport for our flight home. I was able to talk to the president of the BCA BWA, Yukiko Otake, and thank her for their hospitality before our departure.

Thank you to the NW District BWA and our OBWA for giving us the opportunity to attend this meeting.



Sukiyaki bazaar

Amy Peterson

The fall Sukiyaki Bazaar was a wonderful mix of old temple families, new members, new babies, and visitors that found us on the web. We had mixed generations of people working on many phases of the event from manju making (working toward an art form), waiting for lost chow mein noodles, then oodles and oodles of yam noodles.

The Yoshida brothers masterfully got us back on schedule with the chow mein noodle cooking, then after more than half the noodles were cooked and the apprentices working together finally took a break. The chow mein vegetables got done early and then they did the veggies for the sukiyaki. Friday was a challenging and interesting day. We even had time to wash the plates early so they were ready for Sunday.

Saturday brought out the meat slicers, more weighing and measuring, rice washing, meat marinating and garnish making. The calligraphy displays were set up, the area for the tea ceremony arranged, omiyage set, the kitchen was cleared for the day, and the Dharma school arrived and prepared the desserts.

Early Sunday the chow mein was made and boxed, the rice started cooking, the BBQ's were lit and going, all the while the produce stand set up in their new location. With a little work the canopy was constructed, the tables arranged and set, the snack bar supplied, the food areas readied while people quickly arranged and set the tables. Janie Matsushima and Alan Kasubuchi spent the day filling the pre-orders and counting out tickets. Leke brought in the secret stash of matsutake to complete the sukiyaki.

Magically and finally at 11:30 the first customers were seated and served. Although we were short of waitresses on the second shift and short on security and dishwashers in the last shift, people like Misa Kodama, Al Ono, the Fukunagas, and Paul Hittle stuck to their positions until the job was done. I apologize for the error on the sukiyaki that

we actually had plenty of. We're still trying to figure that one out.

Although we thought we'd be spared the rain, the produce team led by stuck it out. Then Shinya Ichikawa and Jerry Koike were still counting money as the last of the clean up was done.

I can't thank everyone by name, but I would like to thank those that headed up committees: Tom Takeuchi for procurement, Marilyn Achterman and Jerry Sumoge for the bentos, Jean Takashima, Judy Yamauchi, the Yoshidas and their crews for the chow mein, Estuko Osaki and Jayne Ichikawa for the sukiyaki preparation and cooking, Jean Takashima for the manju, Jean Matsumoto and Leke Nakashimada for the produce procurement and staffing, Janice Ishii for the omiyage shop, Elaine Yuzuriha and the Dharma school teachers and families for the snack bar cooking and sales, Janie Matsushima for the ticket sales, Etsuko Osaki for publicity and Shinya Ichikawa for being treasurer and Joe Wahl for putting away the wet canopy at the end. Alice Ando, the OBWA, and the October toban filled in a lot of missing pieces and last but not least all of you for your help, support and participation.

Special thanks to George Iwasaki and Minoru Koida for the plants and Kaz Tamura, Masa Okita, Leke Nakashimada and Hiroshi Yamauchi for the produce. Although they thought they didn't do as well as previous years the sales were up and hopefully people will be able to find them next time.

Thanks to Tomo Sunamoto's Ikebana group led by Sahomi Tachibana, Grace Ishikawa and her group for the tea ceremony demonstrations, and Judy Yamauchi and friends for the wonderful calligraphy display.

I want to thank all of you who emailed, called or took me aside and gave me pointers and kept me on track.

Amy Peterson, past chair 2008 Suki-yaki Bazaar



Bazaar gift shop ***Janice Ishii***

The mini-omiyage(gift) table had a successful run during the Suki-yaki bazaar in part due to the generous donations from: Marian Nagaki-Cave; Susan Endecott; Yasuko Field; Don & Merrie Greenwood; Edna Koyama; Nobuko Matheson; Diane Harder & Sakae Ando; the Nasmans; June Shiigi; Marge Smith; Sahomi Tachibana; Toshiko Tanaka; and many anonymous donors.

Many thanks to Marian Nagaki-Cave and Merrie Greenwood for their help with sales on Sunday.

A special thanks to Karen Scapple for her tireless assistance on Saturday and Sunday with setup, sales, & cleanup.

Arigato, Janice Ishii



Suki-yaki bazaar bake sale success ***Elaine Yuzuriha***

The Dharma School is truly grateful for the dedicated help it received for the bake sale at the Suki-yaki Bazaar on October 5th. The students really took control and spent many hours selling the delicious goodies and drinks. Thank you to David, Katherine, Abraham, Aisha, Aisha's friend, Kirt, Sho, Alyssa, Joy, Nicole, Shawn, and Michi for their skilled salesmanship. They were an independent, hard working bunch!

The Dharma school parents and students also spent Saturday evening preparing treats for the table in our temple's licensed kitchen. The kids learned many new recipes and tried old familiar ones as well. Kyoko and Sho Gibbs, Marilyn and Kirt Achterman, Ann Shintani, Tomoko and Alyssa Ono, Willem, Cathy, and Michi Stoeller, Charles, Bee Bee, and Shawn Dawson, and Joy Yuzuriha spent hours in food preparation. Ken and Maho Garner also donated their time and supplies baking for the fundraiser. Kyoko Gibbs, Shawn Dawson, and new member Dana did an excellent job packaging the food. I would like to give a special thanks to all those who donated pies, cakes, and okaki. A short list includes Edna Koyama, Etsu Osaki, Kim Kono, Bee Bee Dawson, and many others who left their donations before I could take note of them. My apologies to them for not being on the ball, but your donations are truly appreciated! Without everyone's help, support, and generosity, we couldn't have had the successful and fun bake sale that was enjoyed by all.



Lotus circle – ***October/November*** ***Jean Matsumoto***

Altar flowers are being provided by:

- October 26 - Alice Ando in memory of (imo) husband Alfred
- November 2 - Karen Scapple imo aunt Itsuko Hayashi; Jane Shiraiishi Hunt imo father Yutaka and mother Kazue
- November 9 - Janie Matsushima imo father Frank M ; Kiyomi Dickinson imo father Yoshio Kitagawa; Jean Matsumoto imo father Kametaro
- November 16 - Merrie Greenwood imo father Joe Chiyozo Shiramizu; Mary Asakawa imo husband Nogi; Misao Minagi imo husband Eddie Yoneo
- November 23 - Yasuko Fields imo mother Tomoko Maekawa; Grace Ishikawa imo mother Toki Tachibana
- November 30 - Janice Okamoto imo mother Ayame Matsunaga

Thank you all for your generous donations which make sure that we have flowers for our flower arranger toban to display. Please note the beautiful arrangements on the

onajin and around the temple each week. Remember also that the Lotus Circle has a page on the OBT website where brief memorials, pictures, etc can be published and viewed. Just contact Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). For more information about the Lotus Circle and how to join, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

To honor the memory of George Okamoto

Etsu Osaki

The October 12th Sunday service was designated as a memorial to the late George Okamoto who designed the present temple. Rev. Gibbs spoke of George as a hard-working, generous person. George was still a young architect-in-training so Ralph Bonadurer was hired as the architect. But it was mostly George's ideas that were executed. Janice, his wife gave moving words of appreciation.

"To the Sangha members and to my friends who in so many wonderful ways shared their heartfelt expressions of love and concern before and after my husband's passing on September first of cancer, I appreciate beyond words the donations, food, meals, cards, flowers, e-mails and phone calls. My deepest thanks go to Rev. Gibbs for this service in honor of George. Thank you to the members and friends who have come and shared this day."

"If you miss me say Namuamidabutsu for I, too, live in the six letters." (a Buddhist poem)

In gassho, Janice Okamoto

November Toban

Amasuga, Kats	Amasuga, Lauren
Cave, Marian Nagaki	Cohen, Cindy
Fukunaga, Lori	Fukunaga, Ray
Hasuike, Sachi	Hondo, Craig
Ishii, Janice	Ishii, Michael
Kajiwara, George	Kajiwara, Lily
Koyama, Edna	Koyama, Richard
Matsumoto, Jean	Meiners, Lily
Ouchida, Rose	Roman, Jose Manuel
Sato, Kathie	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

2008 Memorial Chart

Year	Year	Year	Year
Of Passing	Memorial	Of Passing	Memorial
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.

All-night Nembutsu

In commemoration of Bodhi Day, Buddha's enlightenment, members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple will hold an all night chanting session starting at 8:30 pm on Saturday, December 6, 2008. They plan to circumambulate the hondo as they recite the Nembutsu. A breakfast is planned for the following morning. The Bodhi Day Service will begin at 10 am on Sunday. The public is welcome to participate. There is no charge for this event.



OBT is inter(net) connected

Ken Garner

Over the past several months, OBT has taken steps to enhance our presence on the internet. Our goal for this effort is to provide a place for information that will appeal to both interested parties curious about the Oregon Buddhist Temple and OBT members. We are happy to report that we have completed three projects towards meeting these goals.

First of all, as you probably know, we re-launched our website this past June (www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com). If you have not visited the site lately, we encourage you to come see what we have. The content, which is updated frequently, contains information on the various activities of OBT. This includes photos of events - great pictures of Obonfest 2008 photos are posted. There is an OBT restricted area for members and friends that is password protected. Send a note to webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com if you don't know the id and password to access this restricted area.

Secondly, we have created an on-line bulletin board. This bulletin board provides a forum for on-line communication - you can post and respond to notes on any topic that would be of interest to our members. Currently there are posts on the new OBT Readers' club, updates to the Scrip program, Dharma School activities, and other topics. The bulletin board is accessible through the website

or directly at: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/phpbb/>. You will need to register your first time using the bulletin board. Simply follow the easy instructions on the bulletin board front page. If you need assistance, contact webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. We will gladly assist you in any way.

Finally, we have created a group profile for OBT on both of the leading social networking sites: Facebook.com and MySpace.com. These sites are considered by many to be the next wave in community building and critical for organizational growth. Currently, for our purposes, these sites serve as advertisement, to let people know we are here. If you are currently registered for one or both of these networks, consider joining the Oregon Buddhist Temple group. The more people who join the group, the more visibility we have.

If you have any questions or comments on what we have done so far and/or suggestions for improvement and future developments, please contact Ken Garner at the temple or webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Order, pay, and reload scrip on-line

Ken Garner

Did you know that you can order and pay for scrip (gift cards) on-line? Not only that, but you can re-load cards from selected vendors.

Here's how the system works: When you place an order on-line and pay with PrestoPay (GLScrip's online payment system), your order is placed in queue to be delivered with the next submitted order for the temple. This way you can order and pay for your scrip even when you are unable to order in person. You also can reload cards (i.e. add value to) online for selected vendors. Generally speaking, any "reload only" order placed before 3pm Eastern Time will be activated by the next business day. You will need to register with GLScrip at <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/getstarted/register.aspx> to take advantage of this. The enrollment code for OBT is: B17D82C817261. This enrollment code is important because you will need that when you register to ensure that OBT gets credit for your purchases.

There are just a few simple qualifications for "overnight reload":

1. The gift card must be a currently available reloadable card - and it must be a card purchased through our scrip program. Today, Lowes Home Improvement, Starbucks, Hollywood Video, The Gap, and CVS/pharmacy are available for reload. GLScrip is looking to add new retailers shortly.
2. The gift card must be registered on shopwithscrip.com- it takes just seconds to register a card, and you can easily register the card just before you purchase a reload.
3. You must pay with PrestoPay™ - GLScrip's online payment system. There is a \$.39 transaction charge for each PrestoPay order.

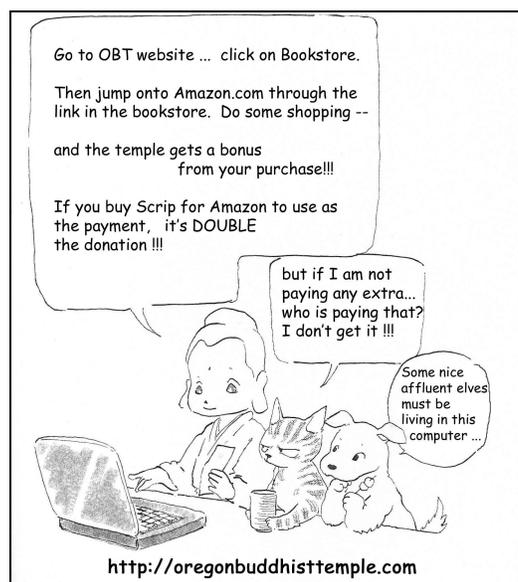
4. The order must be for reloads only - if you combine a reload order with a physical card order, the reload process won't begin until the coordinator releases the physical card order, too. Tip: if you are placing an order for multiple cards, and also want to quickly reload a card, place a separate order for the card reload.

5. The actual time of the reload depends on the individual card activator, and the exact time of day the customer places the order.

Announcements of bonus specials, new vendors, changes to the Scrip program, etc. are posted on the OBT on-line bulletin board (<http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/phpbb/>)

See Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong or Gordon Wong if you have any questions about this or if you have any other questions or comments about OBT's Scrip program. You can also email us at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Remember, Scrip makes great gifts.



Why go to temple?

A Dharma talk 9/28/08, Etsu Osaki

When I asked some Dharma School children this question:

- Kirt said, "To learn Buddhism"
- Lauren said, "To learn about Buddha"
- Sho said, "To meet my friends"

These were some responses from adults:

- I'm getting older, think about death.
- I usually come to hear a good sermon.
- Makes me feel good. Kind of a habit. Just like going to workout.
- Spiritual exercise.
- Where will I have my funeral?