



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

April 2009



I'm glad the Buddha was born

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

When my first son was an infant and in a bad mood I would say to myself, "You're right, life is hard. You're right it is all my fault; - I decided to bring you into this. But I believe that life is good despite all the hardships. I am glad you were born. I'm glad that I was born and lived long enough to be your father and see you born. I know one day you will be able to say, too, "I'm glad I was born."

I'm glad the Buddha, Sakyamuni was born. If it weren't for his being born one April 8th I would not have a place in this wonderful profession of being a Buddhist minister [kaikyoshi/jushoku]. This might seem to be a superficial reason to be glad for the birth of the Buddha, but having a profession in which you can continue to be employed is no small matter in our present circumstances.

I am glad the Buddha was born because he showed the way to awaken to the deep oneness of all life. I am glad that the Buddha was born because he taught us that all discrimination is wrong. I am glad the Buddha was born because he helped us to understand that kindness is the highest virtue and the most exalted value in human living.

I'm glad the Buddha was born because out of his lineage of teaching came the nembutsu practice. I am able to say simple phrases like "Namo Amida Butsu" and feel a sacred goodness settling into my life. This makes me glad that Sakyamuni Buddha was born.

If you are glad that Sakyamuni Buddha was born on April 8th some twenty-five centuries ago, please come celebrate his birthday with us April 5th. I will give a brief Japanese-language message about the Buddha at 9:30 a.m. After that brief service is over we will take a very short break and start our main service at 10 a.m. Our Hanamatsuri service will be followed by entertainment by our Dharma-school students and then a light lunch.

I do hope that you are glad that the Buddha was born. I hope that you are glad that you were born. Buddhists are glad that every living thing has been born. All life is worthy on our view. So far as a woman's say over her own reproductive life goes, every Buddhist group I know of in this country is pro-choice. When we say we are pro-life we don't mean we are anti-choice. It should never have become a political position to be pro-life. Everyone should be pro-life in the Buddhist sense - in the sense of being glad that we have been born into this beautiful world. Again, we are pro-life in the sense of being especially glad that our spiritual exemplars (Sakyamuni Buddha) and our children (for me, Sho and Ren) have been born. Those who don't have children can be glad that their nieces and nephews were born, or that my children were born. Each of us loves someone. Our love for those we care for most reminds us of the value of life.

I hope that you will join us for our Hanamatsuri service, Dharma-school students' performances and lunch. If you come out on April 5th and participate in this event I am confident that you will leave having one more reason to be glad that the Buddha was born.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

April Highlights

Apr 5	Hanamatsuri Service	9:30 am
	Followed by entertainment and refreshments	
Apr 10	OBT Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Apr 15	OBT Reader's Club	7:00 pm
Apr 18	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am

View the 2009 NWD Convention photos at
http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/body/sangha/p_hoto_gallery.html

"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."

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456
503-231-1551 (fax) e-mail: oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>
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Thank you

Todd Yuzuriha, Bazaar Co-chair

On behalf of Yoshi and me, we'd like to thank you all for an awesome job with the OBT Spring Bazaar! With your tireless efforts and help, we were able to have such a successful Spring Bazaar. The raffle prize winners were 1st – Henry Wimpy Kawata, 2nd – Clem Kluthe, 3rd – Justin Kono Kwong in care of Kim Kono. Congratulations!



Summary notes of March 13 OBT board meeting

Ken Garner, OBT Secretary

- Rev. Akahoshi of the Nichiren-shu temple will be returning to Japan.

His farewell will be 4-12 at 2 p.m. OBT will be presenting him with an orei and best wishes.

- Earth Day will be April 19, 2009. All NW District Temples, OBT included, will be focusing on the environment/ecology on the service on this day.
- New Dharma School service books have been purchased and will be making their appearance in the pews shortly. These books were published by the Tacoma Temple and include updated gathas.
- Several maintenance tasks have been recently completed: the furnace filters have been replaced and plumbing leaks repaired. If you see other items that need to be addressed please note on the clipboard in the basement or contact David Wright.
- A "Wheel of Dharma" garden is being planted in the fenced area behind the annex by Hiroshi Yamauchi.
- Reports on the 2009 NW Buddhist Convention and the Spring Food Bazaar were submitted. Thanks to Carol Saiget/Brenda Fugate and Todd Yuzuriha for their hard work in chairing these successful and fun events.
- We will be setting up a PayPal account which will allow us to accept donations on-line.
- We are updating our standing committee list. The Board invites all interested members to be involved with your temple and to sign up for a committee.

The next OBT Board meeting will be April 10, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.



OBWA news

Katie Tamiyasu

OBWA gratefully thanks all the ladies and men for helping in the kitchen in

preparation for the Spring Food Bazaar. We seem to be dwindling down to a small core of helpers each year, but we deeply appreciate it even if you were only able to come for a day or two out of your busy schedule to help.

We would like to correct an oversight to acknowledge two December donations from Sachiko Hasuike for her 88th birthday and from Darlene Demise. Our deepest apologies.

Further donations received in February, but not mentioned in the previous newsletter are gratefully acknowledged from the following: Sumi Ishida, Misa Kodama, Setsy Larouche, Mary Okita, Tsuyako Monas, Tom Takeuchi, Kimi Iwamoto, Kazuko Sunamoto and Tomiko Takeuchi.

We thank the other BWA northwest chapters from Seattle, Tacoma, White River and Idaho-Oregon for their kind donations to OBWA for hosting the NW District Buddhist Woman's meetings during the convention.

April 5th - Hanamatsuri otoki, food prep will start on Saturday morning, April 4th at 9am and on Sunday, April 5th at 7am. Your help will be appreciated.

April 12th - OBWA will sponsor the Eshin-ni and Kakushi-ni Special Service.



Dharma school news

Ann Shintani, Coordinator

Service Chair for April is Sangha class, so if you have a child in the Sangha class, grades 4th-6th, please arrive well before 10am to plan the regular services on April 12, 19 and 26.

Thank you to those who contributed time, ingredients, and/or purchased baked items to this year's Snack Bar at the Spring Bazaar - Marilyn and Kirt Achterman Kay and Aisha Almahmoud and Scott Ray, Lori and Kristi Fukunaga, Maho Garner, Christo and Akiko Gorawski, Kyoko and Sho Gibbs, Janice Ishii, Kim Kono and Justin Kwong, Jean Matsumoto, Mie and Nicole McGraw, Yoshi and Alyssa Ono, Etsu Osaki, Amy Peterson, Ann Shintani, Joanne Sumoge, Beebee Tan-Beck Dawson, Lisa and Lauren Yanase, Elaine and Joy Yuzuriha. This is a fun and profitable way for students to participate in our fundraisers, so we appreciate everyone's participation.

The Tacoma Buddhist Temple has printed an updated Dharma School service book for students, and includes new and/or updated songs. The Dharma School has purchased 150 copies: 100 for temple use and 50 for purchase for family use. We will be passing through to the Sangha the low price given to us, which is \$7 per book. We are also offering opportunities to sponsor books. We hope to have the 100 books for Dharma School use covered by donations at \$7 per book. If you wish to make a more generous donation related to the temple books, please see Ann Shintani for suggestions. Please watch for the new cheery red color service books to be up for sale during Sunday refreshments during the month of April.

In addition to practicing our Hanamatsuri program, the Dharma School coordinates decorating the hanamido, or

flower shrine, for our Hanamatsuri service. Our hanamido represents the Buddha as an infant, standing up in the beautiful Lumbini garden, soon after he was born. We are looking for donations of fresh flowers and volunteers to arrange them on the special flower shrine on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 am at the Temple, so please keep an eye out for camellias, daffodils, wisteria, and other flowers in your garden. Please call Marilyn Achterman for information.

On the Sunday before Earth Day, April 19, the Northwest District temple Dharma School programs will have a District-wide theme of "Eco-Sangha". Classes will learn about the "Earth-Touching Buddha", experience our new "Wheel of Dharma" garden project, and/or learn other ways to express living in harmony with our environment. Hiroshi Yamauchi has volunteered to coordinate with Dharma School on his "Wheel of Dharma" garden, located by the Annex, to grow vegetables, herbs, and flowers for temple and Sangha use at low costs. We are looking forward to having students and other volunteers make this effort a mutually rewarding one. Thank you, Hiroshi!

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) 2009 Young Buddhists' International Cultural Study Exchange Tour to Hongwanji, our main temple in Japan, is planned for July 13-21, 2009. Applications are due to BCA by Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Participation is open to currently active BCA youth ages 16 to 25 years, and the application requires responses on the following: "Briefly describe your three most significant accomplishments in the Jr. YBA, YBA, or Dharma School i.e., positions held, committee chairs, etc", a one-page response to "What I have gained/learned through my activities as a Buddhist Youth", and Rev. Gibbs' approval. Please see lobby desk or Ann Shintani for a hard copy of the application.

The annual Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) workshop for 16- to 18-year olds will be held in Sacramento, CA on July 14-16, 2009. We hear that this is a great program, and the program coordinators plan to keep the group small (under 20 participants). Applications will be posted soon at the YAC website at <http://www.bcayouth.org/>.

Join us for some friendly competition as we bowl with Sensei at the Pro 300 Lanes (www.AMF.com), 3031 SE Powell Blvd, on Sunday, May 24, after service, and in lieu of classes. In the past, we held this event for just Dharma School families, but this time we invite Dharma Exchange participants to join in the fun. The cost is \$8/person, which includes shoe and lane rental. The fee for Dharma School students and teachers will be covered by Dharma School. If you don't like to bowl, join us anyway to watch, snack (sorry, no outside food is allowed), and chat.



Lotus circle - April

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers will be provided by:

- April 5 - Gordon Wong in memory of (imo) father, Tung Sang Wong

- April 12 - Anonymous; May Saito imo husband mo; Ben Ishida imo father Suetaro
- April 19 - Kazuko Sunamoto imo husband Kats, and Kats' parents Yozo and Sen
- April 26 - Sat Kodama imo mother Miyaki Kayama

Again, thank you to all who are keeping the Lotus circle spinning around another year and providing the flowers that our Flower Toban arrange so beautifully on the onajin (altar) and around the temple each week. Check out our Lotus Circle page on the OBT website or contact Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and add notes, data, poetry, messages about your loved ones, etc. For information regarding the OBT Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463 or e-mail, jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Anzen inventory

Chris Dart and Amy Peterson

Thank you to the following members for helping at the Anzen inventory. You all did a great job and your work is really appreciated: Amy and John Peterson, Lori, Ray, and Kristi Fukunaga, BeeBee and Charles Dawson, Susan and Chris Leedham, June and Stan Shiigi, Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa, Kim Kono and Justin, Tom McCormack, Ray Fields, Pat Hokama, Mark, Marilyn, and Kirt Achterman and Kirt's friend Gabe, Janie Matsushima, Ryan Matsushima, Becky Matsushima Talus, Chris Dart

The good news this year was that almost all the inventory was done on computer so that most of the follow-up work was just a matter of copy and pasting data. There were a few sheets to manually enter but minimal compared to other years. Wahoo!

Condolences ...

- To the family of the late Mary Nakashimada who passed away March 15, 2009.
- To the family of the late Shio Uyetake who passed away March 16, 2009.

2009 Memorial Chart

<u>Year</u>	<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
2008	1 year		1987	23 year	
2007	3 year		1983	27 year	
2003	7 year		1977	33 year	
1997	13 year		1973	37 year	
1993	17 year		1960	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.

April Toban

Abe, Al	Achterman, Marilyn
Achterman, Mark	Bagnall, Alden
Ishimaru, Bettina	Camden-Ishimaru, Robert
Dickinson, Kiyomi	Fujikawa, Frieda
Fujikawa, Shigeo	Ikemiya, Cheryl
Kajitsu, Nancy	Kasahara, Mae
Kennedy, Karol	Little, Craig
Little, Laima	Masaki, Lori
Mundt, Michelle	Shiraishi, Rick
Swann, LaRhette	Takemoto, May
Tamiyasu, Katie	Wong, Cynthia
Wong, Gordon	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.

Words of Jean Matsumoto – 1995

O-kaeri-nasai welcome back! Saturday, April 11, 3-5pm

The Portland Japanese Garden celebrates the many contributions of Japanese Americans to the community and to the Garden by having a special day held in honor of Japanese Americans. Along with the amazing beauty, there will be entertainment, light refreshments, and tours of the Garden. In addition:

- Meet guest of honor Lauren Kessler, author of the tremendously successful book *The Stubborn Twig*. Lauren's book, the 2009 selection for the Everybody Reads community reading project, will be available for sale and signing.
- Take a guided tour of the Garden during cherry blossom time.
- Enjoy the beautiful koto playing of Mitsuki Dazai.
- Toast the occasion with sake by Sake One, taste the delicious tea of the Tsuen Tea Company, and enjoy light Japanese snacks prepared by Chef Naoko.

Setsy Larouche is the point of contact for RSVP for OBT. Email her at larouche@msn.com, or call her at (503) 698-4656. Reservations for this free event are limited to the first 400 people.



Hey Japanese American High School Seniors ...

*This year's Graduation Banquet will be on
Sunday, May 3, 2009*

To make sure you get invited, please register your contact information! Register with Elaine (e.yuzuriha@comcast.net) or Kim (kim_kono@yahoo.com)

*Community scholarships postmark deadline is:
Monday, March 2, 2009*

*Scholarship interviews will be:
Saturday, April 11, 2009*

Scholarship applications and eligibility are available on:

www.pdxjacl.org

We have over \$20,000 in scholarships to award



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

Remember, SCrip makes great gifts.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Japan and for us it's Namo Amida Butsu or Namandabu
In China it's Namo Omita Fo
In Vietnam it's Namo Adida Phat
In Sanskrit it's Namo Amitabhaya
In Theravada Buddhism it's Namo tasa bhagavato samma sambuddhassa

From Who Loves Dies Well: On the Brink of Buddha's Pure Land by D. J. Brazier, pp. 174-176.