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PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

February 2010



In what life shall we cross over?

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

As I write this I find myself wishing it were warmer and drier. You will be reading this article two to three weeks after I wrote it and I can only hope it is not cold and drizzly as you read it. As I grow older, I find myself troubled by the weather more than I was in my youth. I also find it harder to be patient with myself when I complain about things like the weather. Once I caught myself moaning about the cold weather as I was standing in front of a mirror. I looked at my reflection and said, aloud, "What if there was no weather at all?" My reflection had no clever response for that question.

It's amazing how many little things I get irritated about in a week's time. If I'm not complaining about the weather I'm worrying how my sons will ever pay for college (when the time comes). Given that my youngest son, Ren, is only five years old I can probably wait a bit to worry about how to pay his college tuition. Even for my older boy, Sho, it'll be seven or eight years before I have to deal directly with the skyrocketing cost of higher education. Perhaps I should spend more time concerning myself with matters that can't wait. Maybe I should ask myself when I will realize the truth of the Nembutsu path more deeply. .

We often read this phrase aloud at our services: "If we do not realize the Truth in the present life, in what life shall we cross over?" Various called "The Three Treasures", "The Threefold Refuge", "The Three Jewels" etc., an oft used devotional reading from our services repeatedly asks such questions, "In what life shall the truth be realized? For a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist this is really two questions. 1. When will I become a thoroughly awoken Buddha who will be of great benefit to others? 2. When will I truly appreciate the Nembutsu?...when will I allow the trusting confidence of shinjin to settle into my life?

The best answer I know to the first question I heard

from Rev. Laverne Sasaki. (who heard it from Joshu Sasaki Roshi I believe, and he, perhaps from someone else.): "I am on a train whose inevitable destination is enlightenment." This is an answer we can all give. The answer to the second question will vary for each of us. For me, I have no doubt that the Buddha has forced me to realize the precious reality of "Namo Amida Butsu" many times in the past. Having no doubt is not the same as knowing something to be a fact. Having no doubt is better than knowing something to be a fact. I have known people who had biopsies that were not malignant but they still doubted whether there was some cancer developing in their bodies. Having no doubt means we progress forward with confidence - with confidence for sure and hopefully also with acceptance of others and kindness toward all whom we meet.

I don't expect to be a Buddha in this life. I do believe the seeds of that Awakening have been planted by the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, the Vow of Universal Liberation. I may have to wait to cross over to the other shore of enlightenment. I am not waiting for the unshakable confidence that this will happen. This confidence carries me through this life with much more stability and happiness than I used to move along with. I hope that many of you can say what I have: "I am on a train whose inevitable destination is enlightenment." "The trusting confidence in the Nembutsu teaching that I find in my heart and mind allow me to resist greedy, angry and delusive urges more and more often as I grow older." These are statements anyone who opens themselves to this teaching should be able to make.

If what I have said makes sense to you, I hope you will take it to heart. If you can't relate to my explanation try listening to one of the other Jodo Shinshu Buddhist ministers from our district at the convention in mid-February. If you can't make that convention, please come to OBT on Valentine's day for our service here. The Dharma message that day will be delivered by our highly capable Minister's Assistant, Ms. Tammy Herold. Please listen to

"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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the Dharma that day whether in Ontario or Portland.
Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

February Highlights

Feb 7 OBT New Years lunch
Feb 12 Convention Bus leaves at 7:15 am
 Feb 12-14 NW Buddhist Convention, hosted by
 Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Ontario OR
 Feb 21 Nirvana Day Service 10 am
 and pet memorial
 followed by Shojin potluck lunch
 Feb 21 OBT annual general meeting 12 noon
 Feb 28 Lady Kujo Memorial Service 10 am
 Mar 7 OBT Spring Bazaar 11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Food pre-order form is attached.
Work schedule will appear next
month.



President's message **Kim Kono, OBTA President**

Getting involved is a good thing. What I admire most about OBT is that our members often find a project that they're comfortable in and passionate about, and then they enthusiastically contribute their time and skills. Some members choose to support one particular activity, such as teaching Dharma School or attending OBWA gatherings. Others may volunteer in several areas. For example, I continue to be inspired by our minister's assistants under Reverend Gibbs' guidance. They are dedicated to steadily building their knowledge of the Dharma, which they impart to us. In addition, they each actively support other aspects of OBT life. That is impressive indeed!

This time of year brings ample opportunities for us all to renew our engagement in the temple. OBT offers many activities year-round, so I will share a few highlights.

Our annual Spring Bazaar will take place on Sunday, March 7. Planning for this key fundraiser has begun in earnest under co-chairs Angie and Ryan Hughes. It takes many hands (and hours) to create a successful event. Whatever time you can give is deeply appreciated. Much help from temple members and willing volunteers is needed with food preparation in advance, as well as on the event day. We also welcome assistance in selling raffle tickets; there will be amazing cash prizes thanks to OBT member, Alice Sumida.

Another opportunity to get involved, while deepening understanding of Jodo Shinshu, is to attend the upcoming District Convention hosted by the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Temple on February 12-14.

OBT's New Year's Luncheon will take place on February 7. Please register and join us to honor our elders,

and enjoy a delicious bento box. If you are able to attend OBT's General Meeting on February 21, which follows the Nirvana Day Service, you will hear the Board's report on OBT operations in 2009 and 2010. Finally, I encourage everyone to renew their annual temple membership. The temple relies on membership dues and contributions to sustain strong support of our temple leadership and administration.

The Board is grateful to all members for the many ways that you get involved through your gifts of time, expertise, and contributions. Thank you for making OBT a vital and enriching place to build our Sangha!

In Gassho



OBWA news **Alice Ando, OBWA President**

A month late but I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of the Oregon Buddhist Women's Assn. I'm

back again as president and I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation in 2009 and ask for your help again in 2010. The cabinet this year is as follows:

President Alice Ando
 Vice President Katie Tamiyasu
 Treasurer Misa Kodama & Grace Ishikawa
 Rec Secretary (E) Marilyn Achterman & Jayne Ichikawa
 Rec Secretary (J) Kiyomi Dickinson & Yasuko Fields
 Corr Sec. (E) Nancy Kajitsu, Janice Okamoto, Alice Tano
 Corr Secretary (J) Kyoko Gibbs & Julie Kagawa
 Advisor: Etsu Osaki

We look forward to another busy year that started with a wonderful New Year meeting/party on January 9, 2010 at the Holladay Park Plaza, thanks to Jean Matsumoto. Under the direction of Tomiko Takeuchi, the helpers: Tammy Ando, Kiyomi Dickinson, Tom Takeuchi, and Carol Asakawa were seen working hard to decorate the penthouse auditorium to a colorful Hawaiian theme. After a short meeting and program, a bento lunch catered by Hakatamon was passed out followed by a dessert of sour cream peach pie prepared by the Holladay Park Plaza kitchen. Bingo followed the lunch with caller Ray Fields. The finale was the fun horse race that was enjoyed by all. The fabulous cut-out horses were made by Maho Garner. Attendees brought non-perishable food for FISH, Emergency Service Inc., a non-profit organization that provides food for the needy in the Portland Metro Area and relies on donations from neighbors. I want to thank all those who volunteered to help and those attending for making this event a huge success.

Donation acknowledgement: the Oregon Buddhist Women's Assn., acknowledges with deep appreciation the following donations received: Fumi Saito, Tom Takeuchi, Darlene Demise, Takako Ishida, Sumi Ishida, Sumi Ikata.



Dharma school news *Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator*

The Dharma school is busy with projects. The teachers wanted a bulletin board to help members know what's happening in Dharma School and where they could display pictures and projects. The Dana Class has designed the board and if it is not completed by the time of this newsletter you should be able to see the work in progress. Thanks to Risako K for the design.

A reminder that the teacher's meeting is at 9 am on Sun. Jan. 31st followed by the children's service, both in the annex. This month's service will be on the Grateful Jizo.

The Dharma school project for the Temple new years party has been rescheduled to Sat. Feb. 6th at 11 am at the temple. I hope many of the students will be able to help with the gifts to honor our most senior members, who continue to give time and service to the Temple. Teaching our students the warmth of giving is invaluable. If they are not able to help on the 6th, if they could arrive a little early on the 7th to help pass out the gifts it would be appreciated.

February will be an active month for us, starting with the Temple New Years Party on the 7th, followed by the NW Dist. Buddhist Convention in Ontario, OR. The Temple will hold services on the 14th, but there will be no Dharma school.

We will observe Nirvana Day on February 21st. As part of this we also will also observe our annual pet memorial. Students should bring pictures or mementos of their pets to share for the service. We will compile a poster of the pictures to display during service on the 21st after which pictures and mementos will be returned.

If you ordered Girl Scout cookies from the Temple troop they should be available on the 21st for sure. Please contact Elaine Yuzuriha for delivery information.



Acknowledgements *Etsu Osaki*

We wish to acknowledge the efforts of the following members who diligently serve the temple.

Onaijin flower committee: Working in pairs, the members do seven or more arrangements: Kyoko Gibbs, Tomoko Ono, Susan Endecott, Janice Okamoto, June Shiigi, Yasuko Fields, Jayne Ichikawa, Misa Kodama, Etsu Osaki, and Miho Weinstein.

Obupan committee: They prepare rice offering for four shrines: Misa Kodama, Kyoko Gibbs, Kay Inoue, and Etsu Osaki.

Thanks to Brenda Fugate for chairing Dharma Exchange and to Jerry for always being there with the audio system.

Thanks to organists/pianists/musicians who provide music for our services: Elaine Yuzuriha, Etsu Osaki, Ann

Shintani, Lisa Anderson, Charles Reneau and Zack Semke.

Hoonko seminar *Etsu Osaki*

On Saturday, January 16, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara of the Jodoshinshu Center led the all-day Hoonko seminar. He presented well-organized lectures on the "History of the Hongwanji" and "Is Jodo Shinshu far from Compassion?" His handout on the Hongwanji had numerous maps and charts documenting in detail the periods, places and names important in its history. He said previous to the discovery of Esshini's letters, some historians did not believe the existence of Shinran.

He continued with interesting information about the roles of Rennyō, Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Tokugawa Ieyasu in Hongwanji history. There seemed to be much family conflict in its history.

Reverend chose the title for the second lecture because some people mistakenly think Shinran did not believe in compassion. Shinran said that true compassion is beyond the ordinary person. That does not mean that he discouraged people from practicing acts of compassion.

Those in attendance enjoyed Sensei's presentation, his warmth and enthusiasm. They also enjoyed a nice lunch thanks to Brenda and Jerry Fugate and the January toban.



Lotus circle – February *Jean Matsumoto*

Altar flowers for the month of February are being provided by donations from:

- February 7 – Judy Hittle in memory of (imo) parents, Joriu and Fumiko Asato
- February 14 – Alan and Mary Kasubuchi imo grandparents and parents, Shintaro and Tatsu Okita
- February 21 – Judy Yamauchi imo mother, Chiyoko Sakurai
- February 28 – Yasuko Fields imo father, Ryoo Maekawa

OBT gratefully acknowledges the contributions made to purchase the colorful flowers that the Flower Toban members arrange so beautifully for our Sunday services. Don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on our website, which Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) has set up for us.

For further information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or matsumo@orcatech.org..



2009 was a success for scrip *Ken Garner*

Thanks to the support of OBT members and friends, the Scrip and Amazon programs earned \$1376.22 for OBT in 2009. Thank you!!! As a result of this success, we are

continuing the program in 2010 with a yearly target of \$1500. Visit the Dharma Store/Script Sales a table downstairs after service on Sunday to see the full list of vendors and the current bonuses in effect and to place an order. There are over 700 vendors who participate in this program so chances are you will find a store where you shop on the list. We will gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to the team at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. Remember, donations OBT receives as a result of scrip purchases are tax deductible. For example, if you buy a \$25 Lands End card (currently 17% contribution), \$4.25 goes to OBT and you can claim a \$4.25 tax deduction. So you get full value for your scrip card, OBT benefits from your purchase, and you get a tax deduction. The more you buy, the more deductions you can claim. These tax deductions add up quickly and all at no net cost to you. We track purchases by family and can provide you with your purchase information and tax deductible amount at your request.

Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong and Gordon Wong have a table downstairs after service on Sunday where they have a full list of vendors, take orders, and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to them at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

February Toban

Ando, Alice	Brown, Dana
Dawson, Beebee	Dawson, Charles
Demise, Darlene	Gorawsky, Christo
Higashi, Gary	Ikata, Rose
Ishimaru, Ann	Lawson, Brian
Muramatsu, Hank	Nakamura, Colin
McCormack, Tom	Okita, Mary
Reneau, Charles	Seibel, Penny
Semke, Zach	Shiigi, June
Shiigi, Stan	Sugitani, Hiroko
Sumoge, Jerry	Sumoge, JoAnn
Takashima, Jean	Takeuchi, Tom
Takeuchi, Tomiko	Tano, Alice

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

2010 OBT New Year luncheon February 7

Come celebrate the New Year on Sunday, February 7, 2010, which will begin with a 10:00 service followed by a delicious bento lunch from Gresham Koji's at 11:30. Our honored seniors, 80 years and older, will be our guests with a complimentary bento lunch. Everyone is encouraged to bring his/her grandparents, children, and friends young and

old. Please let us know if transportation is needed for an honored senior.

Bento lunch is \$10/person. An alternative lunch will be served for the children. Please fill out the form in this newsletter and send it in no later than Jan. 31st. If you have further questions or concerns, call Janie Matsushima (503-643-3007) or email Jayne Ichikawa (sjichi@verizon.net)

2010 Memorial Chart

Year	Year	Year	Year
Of Passing	Memorial	Of Passing	Memorial
2009	1 year	1988	23 year
2008	3 year	1984	27 year
2004	7 year	1978	33 year
1998	13 year	1974	37 year
1994	17 year	1961	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.



Attention: looking for 2010 high school graduate Elaine Yuzuriha

The Japanese Graduation Banquet Scholarship Committee is seeking applicants for the 2010 Scholarships. Application forms can be downloaded from the Portland JACL website, www.pdxjacl.org. All paperwork needs to be mailed to Portland JACL, PO Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286 and postmarked by March 1, 2010.

Scholarship applicants or their parents must be members of one of the sponsoring organizations to be eligible to apply for community scholarships: Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple, Epworth United Methodist Church, Gresham-Troutdale JACL, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Nikkei Funjinkai, Oregon Buddhist Temple, Oregon Nisei Veterans, Portland JACL, Shokookai, or Valeda Club.

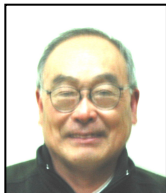
Student members of JACL are also eligible to apply for national JACL awards. These awards are for entering college freshman, continuing students, graduate students and for performing arts. Information about these can be obtained from the national JACL website:

<http://www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>

New this year, the Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple is offering a Traditional Japanese Arts Award to a student who is practicing or studying a Japanese art form. Details about this award can be viewed on the Portland JACL website, www.pdxjacl.org.

All OBT graduating high school seniors are invited to attend the annual Graduation Banquet held this year at the Multnomah Athletic Club on Sunday, May 2, 2010. Please contact Setsy Larouche, larouche@msn.com 503-698-4656

or Marleen Wallingford, marleenwong@comcast.net, 503-526-1340 for more information.



**Go for broke buddhahead –
Leke Nakashimada**
Ken Kawazoe

An original, non-musical, genuine Go for Broke Buddahead is a member of our Sangha. A long time member of the temple, Leke Nakashimada is as dedicated a Jodo Shinshu follower as you will ever find. He does many things at the temple and for his community that most of us know nothing about. True to his Japanese Buddhist culture Leke understands the meaning of Shinran's most important universal virtue: humility.

Most of us know that Leke provides most of the matsutake mushrooms for our annual Sukiyaki Dinner. He's been picking, cleaning, packing and donating the "take" for years.. Leke is always available to help out at our major events, garden clean ups, and special maintenance projects. He has served on the Board of Directors, donated generously, manned the reception table at major services and funerals and volunteered for many functions that are of benefit to the temple.

What most of us don't know is that Leke has mowed and trimmed the grass on a weekly basis (during the growing season) for more than a quarter century. On many occasions, he's had temple equipment repaired without requesting reimbursement. For years Leke provided some of the produce sold at the Obon and Sukiyaki fundraisers. There is no evidence of reimbursement to account for all of his expenditures. These are donations to the temple that do not appear on the ledger.

Through his gruff demeanor, Leke is a man of genuine compassion, a true humanitarian. He visits the sick, helps the incapacitated and gives them his unique dose of encouragement. He provides homegrown produce to just about everyone he runs across. He provides matsutake to many people in the Portland JA community and beyond. One year when the mushroom refused to fruit, Leke bestowed his first and only "take" to Phyllis Muramatsu – just a day before she passed away.

Leke is part of that group of Americans Tom Brokaw refers to as "The Greatest Generation". He is also a member of a sub set of that generation that I call the Go for Broke Buddaheads who endured even harsher hardships as well as a bitter discrimination against people of Japanese ancestry. Yet, despite these obstacles this generation, the Nisei, as well as the parents of this generation, the Issei, are the folks who left us with a glorious legacy marked by hard work, generosity, and dedication to the survival of the temple. Although it is difficult to match the accomplishments of our two greatest generations we can acknowledge our debt to them with a simple and humble thank you. And, perhaps, we can try to emulate them as best we can.

Poems from dharma exchange

Hearing the music
Feeling its gentle intent
Wonder where my youth went.
Rev. Gibbs

2010
Where did the time go?
Looking forward to the new year
Hopeful

Anonymous

Two thousand ten--old
wounds, new promises hiss from
tongues of our leaders.

LaRhette Swann

Kyoto, Nara, Nagoya
Crowds fly by so fast
Koyasan, Hida-Furukawa,
Takayama,
Shirakawago,
Everyone slow down
Fast, slow
Isn't travel wonderful!

Stan Shiigi

A New Year
A fresh start
Do we learn from the past
History repeats itself.

Ray Fields

Quiet the words, feel
the thoughts, the world
comes into better focus.

Wife writing haiku
Telling me yakamashii
I'll sit somewhere else.

Snow
Panic, snow falls and falls
Everything stops
I go out for a walk.

Susan Lily

After the New Year's day service
Saw a rainbow over the sky.

Yasuko Fields

New Year, we say, but
The Buddha doesn't know that
All grasped in the Vow.

Cynthia Wong

Blue moon
Shining on the glistening snow.
Happy year of the tiger.

Continuous rainy days in Portland,
which bring me another happiness
To appreciate sunny days fully.

Light turns, stop, screech--
In front of me a black pickup
Upon his tailgate:
"Oregon makes me wet."

Haiku
Puzzling
Confusing
Very hard to think
Much harder to write.
Haiku in its form

Very hard to decipher
I don't want to try.

People around me
Trying to write haiku now
Not doing it well.

Shiny iPod touch
Feeling so good in my hand
Curse you Steven Jobs.

Cynthia wrote one
Ken Garner wrote one as well
So I'll write one too.

As the beginning of a year,
Despite my will for a resolution
Missing the whole part of the service
Due to my laziness after all
The holiday parties.

Hisa Kobayashi

3 pm New Year's eve here--
I start receiving New Year's messages from Japan
When does my New Year start?
I'm still making osechi ryori!

Kiyomi Dickinson

An elevator door closes too fast
My mother is knocked down
Two months in bed in pain
Back surgery

Two years in bed in pain
Suffering, then death.
If suffering is caused by desire, then
What was her desire?
Tom McCormack

Trying to be an intellectual
I try to remember some katakana but the paper
is gathering dust
A i u e o Ka ki ku ke ko
My daughter is better at hiragana but I will still try
She is depressed but she still encouraged to try to
recover from her illness
But she will recover
Katakana Hiragana Kanji
I am getting discouraged
still trying.

Al Abe

Come over for New Year's
We'll have sushi, teriyaki
Even chicken mar fung
What? You're not coming?
A Rose Bowl party?
Okay, hope we win
But we didn't.

E. Osaki

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ E MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:

INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$200.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT
FAMILY: MINIMUM \$400.00 PER FAMILY
SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name
GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

OR YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS OF A MINIMUM \$20.00 PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to Wheel of Dharma newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE _____ Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:
ADDITIONAL DONATION _____ Oregon Buddhist Temple
TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ 3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97202

If you have any questions contact the Membership Chair or Temple President. Do you have expertise or interest in particular areas that you can contribute to the operation of Oregon Buddhist Temple? If you'd like, please indicate how you might be able to help by checking the spaces below for various committee work: Building maintenance Gardening Office work bookkeeping, etc. Community relations/Graduation banquet Finance, accounting Membership Funeral service assistance – ushering, koden Service donations receiving – front desk Scholarship awarding Dharma School Other (please explain)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE