



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

April 2011



April is the kindest month *Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs*

I am writing this in mid-March and I am enjoying watching Spring begin to peek out of the corners of the sky and the garden. Soon it will be here. You will be reading this in April and Spring should be fully sprung. You should be surrounded by the testament of Spring everywhere you look.

The first Sunday of the month, April 3rd, will be our Hanamatsuri service. I hope that you will come out to celebrate the birthday of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni. At 9:30 am I will do my best to give a Japanese-language talk. Our main service will begin at 10 am. I will deliver an English-language Dharma talk at that service, which will be easier on the congregation and on me. Our Hanamatsuri service always includes brief performances by our Dharma-school children. We appreciate the efforts of our Dharma-school students and our Dharma-school teachers in adding this valued component to our service. Come out to the temple on April 3rd and prepare to be charmed by our young ones.

The earthquake and following tsunami that hit Japan last month remind us how fragile our lives are. What was, considered in a planetary context, a small glitch in Mother Nature's nurturing of us took their lives from thousands. Tens of thousands more have been displaced. They are without homes or jobs. The whole area of Sendai, where their homes and employers both were, is totally gone now. It was as if Mother Nature were nudging me when I found out a couple of days after the horrific events that the printer for my soon-to-be-published book is in Sendai. I should say, was in Sendai. It's like the earth were saying to me, "You don't get off scot-free. Even you, sitting comfortably half a world away, must suffer some small inconvenience from this disaster." As I write, I know of no family member or friend of our temple community who was killed or injured. I hope this remains so as those still missing continue to be found, some alive but most deceased.

Our lives are fragile and brief. They are also valuable and meaningful. Our big event this month is, again, the flower festival, Hanamatsuri, which commemorates the birth of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni. I am very glad that Shakyamuni was born some 25 centuries ago. It is in the lineage of his teaching that I discovered the deep Oneness of all Life. It is in the lineage of Shakyamuni teaching that Shinran wrote his profound commentaries on the nembutsu

practice. It is from a succession of worthy teachers taught by Shakyamuni and by those he taught that we receive the nembutsu teaching. When we call the Buddha's Name it is, as Tsuji sensei reminded us, the Buddha calling us. To be able to hear the tireless mercy of the Buddha in the simple voicing of phrases like, "Namo Amida Butsu" is wonderful is it not?

The title of my article this month is a deliberate contradiction of T.S. Eliot's opening line from his famous poem, "The Wasteland," - "April is the cruelest month." The narrator in Eliot's poem is world-weary, interested in the comfort of sleep alone. If there is still some life left in us, we will see that April is the kindest month. It reminds us that every ending is some new beginning's start. April reminds us that life always renews itself. Shakyamuni started a tradition of Awakening to the fundamental goodness of life after he was born one April eighth. We have received his teaching and the guidance of all the insightful monks, nuns, ministers and scholars who have been raised in the lineage of his tradition. This is something to be grateful for. Especially since Shakyamuni was born this month, I have to disagree with Tommy, - April is the kindest month.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

April Highlights

Apr 3	Hanamatsuri Service	9:30 am
	Followed by entertainment and Refreshments	
Apr 8	OBT Board Meeting	7:00 pm
Apr 15	OBT Reader's Club	7:00 pm
Apr 18	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am



President's column

Ken Garner
OBTA Board President

Buddham Saranam Gacchami.
Dhammam Saranam Gacchami.
Sangham Saranam Gacchami.

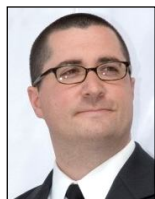
Maho and I are fortunate that our family in Japan has so far only suffered breakage of items and rolling blackouts in the terrible Sendai earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear emergency that rocked northern Honshu on March 11. Unfortunately this great disaster killed tens of thousands and

displaced hundreds of thousands. This is an event which will take a generation or more to recover.

Each week we chant the Ti-Sarana, affirming that we seek refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha. We turn to these three treasures for knowledge, strength, and support. The third jewel is the Sangha, the community. While there is disagreement on what exactly constitutes the Sangha, I personally prefer a broad, inclusive definition. The Sangha is us. For me, all who bask in Amida's compassion are included without prejudice. Since the earthquake, I've been thinking a lot about the implications of Sangha. I look to the Sangha for refuge. It follows that as a part of the Sangha, I cannot only take refuge, I also must provide refuge as I can. For me this includes supporting disaster relief.

OBT is collecting funds for earthquake/tsunami relief. We are one of many organizations doing so. If you are of a mind to and are able to contribute, I encourage you to make sure that the organization(s) you choose to give your money is trustworthy. We will be consolidating all donations we receive and send them to the Buddhist Churches of America. The BCA Social Welfare Committee will disburse 100% of funds collected from all temples to the relief effort in Japan. You may write a check to Oregon Buddhist Temple with Japan Disaster Relief in the notation section. Your contribution will not be wasted.

In Gassho
Ken



Spring bazaar thank you

**Angie Hughes, Ryan
Davis, Co-chairs**

We wanted to thank everyone who helped in making Spring Bazaar a success! From planning, to preparing, to running the actual event, you all were integral in making Spring Bazaar happen, and we thank you so much for your continued guidance and support as we learn how to better chair this event. It is always amazing to see everyone come together and donate time, energy, and talent to this process. Please also be sure to pass along our gratitude to any volunteers who are not temple members.

Again, thank you all so much!
Angie Hughes and Ryan Davis



OBWA news

Alice Ando

A thank you to all the OBWA members and friends who helped with the cooking of chow mein, osushi and udon for the Spring bazaar. Also thank you for their help in making the omanju, which sold out. Many hours were spent at the temple and you being there is greatly appreciated.

The OBWA acknowledges with deep appreciation donations received from the following during the months of January and February, 2011:

- Setsy LaRouche
- Cathy Yarne
- Dana Kunisaki
- Hiro Takeuchi
- OBT
- Anonymous



Dharma school (DS) news

Amy Peterson

The DS year is moving quickly. Thanks to Michael, Katherine, Sage and their moms for helping us with the Spring bazaar snack bar preparations. We had all the DS teachers and their families show up to help (Elaine and Joy Y, Marilyn and Kirt A, Cathy and Michi S, Ann S, Kyoko and Sho) and a few extras (Alyssa O, Kristi and Lori F) to help. We made some new treats: mochi ganache, hand-dipped chocolates and steamed buns. We brought back the fruit sorbet and the sweet potato yokan along with our staples of cookies and brownies.

Please be sure your children come to DS as we only have a couple practices before Hanamatsuri on Sunday April 3rd. Also mark Saturday the 2nd and learn how and why we decorate the hanamido with Kyoko Gibbs. If you have flowers in your garden please bring them to decorate. We hope to have the camellias in the garden blooming by then.

We are hoping to have taiko practices after special service refreshments. The next special service is Ohigan on March 20th. We'll be making gifts for elder visitations on May 1st.

Please also mark April 16th on your calendar as we have an Earth Day volunteer project (more info to follow).

Kyoko Gibbs has volunteered to be our representative to the Federation of DS Teacher's League the end of April.

We are looking forward to working in the garden with the help of our community gardener Nate Mason. He has already dug up, separated and replanted the scallions to be pickled (to make rakyō). Check it out.

Dharma school snack bar appreciation

Kyoko Gibbs

Thank you DS friends and families, Working hard is fun indeed when DS friends and families share time together! We all enjoyed creating new items and tasting them to make sure before selling them at the Spring bazaar. DS workers at the DS booth were very helpful and great customers as well. Your creativity and enthusiasm are appreciated. Arogatou!!

Also, we'd like to thank Richard & Edna Koyama and Jayne Ichikawa for their generous donations and kind support.

Gassho



Lotus circle – April

Jean Matsumoto

What better way to keep our loved ones' memories alive than by joining OBT's Lotus Circle? Many parents, grandparents and great grandparents were members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and because of their devotion and dedication, we receive the benefits of their legacy.

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

- April 3 – Gordon Wong in memory of (imo) father, Tung Sang Wong
- April 10 – May Saito (imo) husband, Emo; Lily Meiners imo son, Wallace; Ben Ishida imo father, Suetaro
- April 17 – Kazuko Sunamoto imo husband, Kats, and in-laws, Yozo and Sen
- April 24 – Misa Kodama imo mother-in-law, Miyaki Kayama

Again, we thank all of you who make the donations for purchase of the beautiful flowers by the Flower Toban who then arrange them for our altar for services. We appreciate the members of the Flower Toban who take turns arranging the flowers in their own creative ways. Our temple webmaster has set up a Lotus Circle page for us to share memories of loved ones. Please check it out or contact Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com), also our current Temple Board President, about submitting material to share. For further information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or jamatsumoto@gmail.com

April Toban

Ando, Alice	Ando, Tammy
Dawson, Beebee	Dawson, Charles
Demise, Darlene	Gorawsky, Christo
Ishimaru, Ann	Long, Amy
McCormack, Tom	Reneau, Charles
Semke, Zack	Shiigi, June
Shiigi, Stan	Sumoge, Jerry
Sumoge, JoAnn	Takashima, Jean
Takeuchi, Tom	Takeuchi, Tomiko
Tano, Alice	Babione, Tracy
Oldfield, Scott	

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 theDharma

Words of Jean Matsumoto - 1995

Namo Amida Butsu

In Japan and for us it's Namu Amida Butsu or Namandabu

In China it's Namu Omita Fo

In Vietnam it's Namu Adida Phat

In Sanskrit it's Namu Amitabhaya

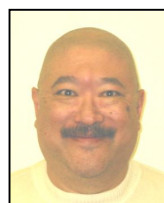
In Theravada Buddhism it's Namu tasa bhagavato samma sambuddhassa

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

2011 Memorial Chart

Year	Year	Year	Year
Of Passing	Memorial	Of Passing	Memorial
2010	1 year	1989	23 year
2009	3 year	1985	27 year
2005	7 year	1979	33 year
1999	13 year	1975	37 year
1995	17 year	1962	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.



Eco-Sangha committee and earth day 2011

Tom Takeuchi

Earth Day was founded by US Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970 as an environmental teach-in in the USA and is now celebrated worldwide by more than 175 countries. The Eco-Sangha

committee of the Oregon Buddhist Temple was formed in 2010 and given the mission "to ensure that environmentally-friendly action and conservation are promoted, practiced, and attained in the operation of the temple".

As such we invite all OBT members, families and OBT friends and guests for a variety of activities during the month of April in celebration of Earth Day 2011. To begin, the Eco-Sangha will sponsor Caran Goodall from the Sustainability Center of Metro to present "Earth Friendly Cleaners" at the April 10, Sunday dharma exchange.

Saturday, April 16th, the Dharma School has organized a clean up at the Rose City cemetery for our SOLV project and Earth Day 2011 activity.

Sunday, April 17th, the Eco-Sangha just in time for Spring gardening, will present Glen Anderson speaking on "Veggie Gardening".

Sunday, April 24th, the Dharma School will offer an open classroom with an environmental sustainability theme.

Anyone who would like to be a member of the Eco-Sangha committee, please contact Tom Takeuchi, at "doctom@quixnet.net".

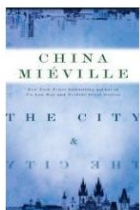


Graduation banquet

Elaine Yuzuriha

Tickets for the graduation banquet are now for sale. The graduation banquet is Sunday, May 1st, 2011 at the Multnomah Athletic Club at 5pm, and it honors the

2011 Japanese American high school graduates from the Portland metropolitan area. Come and support a worthy cause and be prepared for a fun evening. Key note speaker is Lisa Hoashi from Mercy Corp, and a former Japanese American graduate from Portland, who attended this banquet when she was a senior. This year's tickets are same price as last year, \$45. Contact Elaine Yuzuriha at e.yuzuriha@comcast.net or (360) 253-9532.



OBT Readers' Club meeting **Wednesday, April 20, 7:00-8:30 pm**

The City & the City by China Miéville

In this fast-paced detective novel, a murder that may have been committed in one of two parallel cities is being investigated by the other city's police. What complicates the investigation is that residents of one city are expected to "unsee" the other. What is this "unseeing"? Could we be doing it in our daily lives? Join us for a lively discussion. Book may be purchased through the Amazon.com portal on the OBT website, <http://oregonbuddhisttemple.com>.

Oregon Buddhist Temple **February 2011 Donations**

In memory of Yasuko's father

Yasuko & Ray Fields

In memory of Shigeichi Kakishita

Hisako Kakishita, Eleanor Kakishita,
Minnie Young & Dana Kakishita

In memory of Mae Furukawa

Midori, Tom & Terri-Ann Carrollo

Lotus Circle

Lew & Jean Tomita
Setsy & Chip Larouche

Special donations

Alice Sumida (for tree trimming)
May Ishida
Elaine Furumoto & Betty Bezier
Portland Shotokan LLC (facility use)
Guinevere A. Jones
Amy Long
Grace Aoki (Spring bazaar)
Jean Matsumoto (Hoonko seminar)

Mika's 3rd birthday

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner

2011 Membership donations

Linda Nishi-Strattner
May Ishida
Chris & Susan Leedham
Mike & Shizue Yasui
Jim & Jean Takashima
Hiroko Sugitani-Fish
Katie Tamiyasu
Sahomi Tachibana
Setsu Ueno
Cynthia & Gordon Wong
Steve & Clara Pawlowski
Ray Fukunaga
Alice Ando
Alfred Ono
Amy Peterson
Fumi Saito

Member pledge donations

Rose T. Ikata
Jean Matsumoto
Susan Endecott
Susan Lilly
Gary Higashi
Matt & Kirstin Litchfield
Katie Bretsch

Thank you for your continued support!

Acknowledgements are mailed to individuals for donations of \$250 or more, to donors not on the OBT mailing list, and to any donor upon request. Please inform us of any significant errors or omissions

Susan Endecott, 503-698-3767,
endecott@worldstar.com