



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

February 2011



Hearing the Dharma for oneself

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

This month many of us will participate in the Northwest District Buddhist Convention. It will be up in South Seattle, hosted by the Tacoma temple. I hope that those of you who do attend are able to hear the Dharma in a transformative way.

The phrase "hear the Dharma" is crucial in the Jodo Shinshu school of Mahayana Buddhism. It means two very important, very different things. To hear verbal forms of the Nembutsu such as "Namo Amida Butsu" as the Dharma, as the active working out of Amida's Vow of Universal Liberation is what we mean by Shinjin. This hearing of the Dharma is pure receptivity.

In our school of Buddhism we also use the phrases "hearing the Dharma" and "listening to the Dharma" to refer to the critical, evaluative act of listening to ministers and scholars present the Dharma. Whereas we listen to "Namo Amida Butsu" with an attitude of "this is really true....this is it!", we listen to particular Dharma teachers with an attitude of "is that so?" You must not accept that what I say, what Dr. Haneda says, what Rev. Castro says is the Dharma without question. If each of the three Dharma teachers mentioned give pretty different teachings there are several possibilities. I could be teaching the true Dharma and my colleagues could be a bit off. The reverse might be true, however unlikely. One real possibility is that all three of us are wrong. What is the remaining possibility?

When you hear three very different approaches to the Dharma they may all be valid. As Sylvester Stone said four decades ago, "different strokes for different folks." Which interpretation of "Baker Street" is true, Gerry Rafferty's original or the Fu Fighters cover? I think they are both great. They are both true if we hear them deeply.

I like to have teachers with significantly different takes on the Dharma from mine speak at OBT because I want you

each to come up with your own vision of the Dharma. Please take what I say very seriously. Having listened to the Dharma as I am trying to teach it, you may then accept it totally, reject it totally or, better yet, incorporate some parts of my view in your own unique and developing view of Buddhism.

Reading is still a crucial way to explore the Dharma. There are lots of great books on Buddhism in English now. Please consider reading one or more. Pick an author other than the Dalai Lama or Thich Nhat Hahn. Not that they're not valid, but they are to Buddhism as Lindsay Lohan and Angelina Jolie are to movie actresses. Aren't you tired of hearing the same things about or by the same people? Read our Go Monshu's Book, "The Buddha's Wish for the World." Read Dean Sluyter's "Cinema Nirvana." Read my book when it is out later this year, working title: "Becoming Buddhist, Becoming Buddhas, Liberating All Beings." In any case, read. Read critically but not unsympathetically. Listen to Dharma messages, even mine, critically but not unsympathetically.

When we get the hang of it we can approach life in these two ways of listening: Critically: "Who invented the hip joint, I mean really,..." but also in Pure Receptivity: What is there to say about the sunset, do you think, beyond, "Great!"

If you go to the NW District convention please go to the other minister's workshops. If you are from OBT you have lots of chances to hear my views. Go and listen to Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, Rev. Kakei Nakagawa or another presenter. Come back and listen to my perspective again after the convention. By all means honor your own intuitions. One day we will all be Buddhas. Listening critically, but sympathetically, to others and then coming up with your own viewpoint is crucial. Listen to me critically. Observe the sunset uncritically and receptively. Learn to approach the Buddha-dharma in both ways.

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."

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>
This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editors: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, sjichi@gmail.com

February Highlights

Feb 6	Nirvana Day Service and pet memorial followed by Shojin (vegetarian) potluck lunch	10 am
Feb 6	OBT annual general meeting	12 noon
Feb 11	Convention van leaves at 1:45 pm	
Feb 11-13	NW Buddhist Convention, hosted by Tacoma Buddhist Temple	
Feb 20	Lady Kujo Memorial Service	10 am
Mar 6	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
	Food pre-order form is attached. Work schedule will appear next month.	

**President's column**

Ken Garner
OBT Board President

In last month's column I mentioned some of the challenges that confront the Oregon Buddhist Temple in 2011. First on the list is the temple's financial situation. Stewardship of OBT's finances is the primary and most important responsibility of the board. At our most recent board meeting, we looked at our accounts from 2010 and our budget for 2011. After this review, I have both good news and bad news to report to you.

First the good news. OBT is in no danger of insolvency this year or in any year in the near or mid term. Due to the hard work and generosity of past and present OBT members, we have an endowment fund and other funds which guarantee that OBT has sufficient resources to remain in operation for now and, barring unexpected catastrophic events, into the foreseeable future. We will not have to close our doors any time soon.

Now on to the bad news. OBT ran a deficit in 2010 of over \$9,000. This figure takes into account a very generous donation which came to us in December. Unfortunately 2010 was not an anomaly. Our operating expenses have exceeded our income from donations and fund raisers for the previous 3 years and for 6 of the past 10 years. For the years that we did not run a deficit, special circumstances such as the 100 year celebration or an abnormally high amount of funeral donations, provided us the means to meet our budget. Our budget outlook for 2011 follows the trend of the recent past. The forecast is for another year of deficit.

It does not take a financial analyst to know that an organization cannot survive indefinitely by running a deficit. In 2011 the board is looking at ways to reduce expenditures and increase income. On the expenditures front, late last year the finance committee examined and justified the budget line by line. The next step will be looking at the procurement process. On the income side, we are reviving the fund raising committee to look at our current fundraisers and propose new avenues for income. We also plan on instituting an

item/supplies donation program.

I encourage all current members, if you have not done so, to send in your membership dues or pledge for 2011. If you have considered joining (or returning to) OBT, I encourage you to take the plunge. We run a very lean ship and your donations will not be wasted. Your membership pledges and other donations are greatly appreciated and vital for our long-term viability.

You are invited to our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2011 after service (during the vegetarian potluck). We will review the finances and activities of your temple in more detail.

In Gassho
Ken

New Year's Luncheon well-attended

Ken Garner

Amidst soft koto music and festive bunny table decorations, OBT held our annual New Year's Luncheon on Sunday January 9, 2011. The meal was catered by Chef Naoko and included grilled tofu with sweet miso sauce, yakitori, osechi namasu (vinegared vegetables), nimono hijiki (simmered sea vegetable), nimame, (stewed soy beans), and black & white rice. As is our tradition, those attendees 80 years of age and older were our honored guests. The Dharma school made corsages and boutonnieres as well as goodie bags for the honored guests. In total, 140 bentos were ordered, 31 were for our guests. Overall, a good time was had by all. Thank you to the following people for making this such a special event:

- Zack Semke: Ordering
- Shinya Ichikawa: Name Tags/Tickets
- Jayne Ichikawa: Ticket Distribution/Sign In & Advice
- June Shiigi: Ticket Distribution/Sign In
- Dharma School: Honored Guest Recognition:
- (Amy Peterson, John Peterson, Ann Shintani, Kyoko Gibbs, Marilyn Achterman, BeeBee Tan-Beck, Charles Dawson)
- Maho Garner: Table Decorations
- Jerry Fugate: Background Music

Please send any feedback you have on the luncheon to president@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

**OBWA news**

Etsu Osaki

The OBWA cabinet for 2011 is as follows:

- President: Tammy Herold
- Vice President: Alice Ando
- Recording Secretary, English: Marilyn Achterman, Jayne Ichikawa
- Recording Secretary, Japanese: Kiyomi Dickinson, Yasuko Fields

- Corresponding Secretary, English: Nancy Kajitsu, Janice Okamoto
 - Corresponding Secretary, Japanese: Atsuko Richards
 - Treasurers: Misa Kodama, Grace Ishikawa
- The following donations are gratefully acknowledged:
- Haru Furukawa, in memory of husband
 - Hiro Takeuchi
 - Peter and Karen Koida, in memory of father
 - Darlene Demise for past members' memorial service
 - June Shiigi for past members' memorial service.

On January 22 OBWA held its annual New Year party at the Holladay Park Plaza. Canned food to be donated to charity was collected. Donations for door prizes were made by: Jean Takashima - 2 cloth potato bags, Tammy Herold - apron

The following are donations made for the silent auction at the NW Convention in Tacoma. Proceeds will return to OBWA. Jean Takashima - furoshiki (Japanese fabric), tote bag made from plastic bags, Chinese ship made from folded paper; Tammy Herold - quilted purse, tote bag, borgello kimono art quilt (wall hanging)

OBWA made omanju to sell at the community Mochitsuki, held January 30. Meetings are held at 9:30 am on the third Saturday of each month.

Shakyamuni and Shinran: Buddhism as a teaching of self-examination

Etsu Osaki

Rev. Dr. Nobuo Haneda of the Maida Center in Berkeley was the speaker for the annual Hoonko seminar and service held on January 15 and 16. He was born in Nagano, Japan and was originally interested in studying Christianity and Russian. His interest in Buddhism began when he read a commentary on Faust by Shuichi Maida.

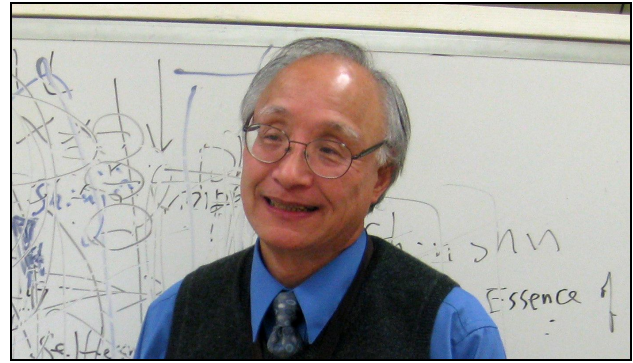
He said that people study Buddhism to solve their own problems so they will be happy, but that is not the real intent of our religion. The only aim is to "know oneself"-- to do away with one's ego and selfishness.

Theravada Buddhism tends to view Buddha as an idol, to be worshipped. In Mahayana tradition everyone can become a Buddha.

The only practice in Jodo Shinshu is to listen, True Nembutsu is listening. By becoming a true listener one can realize shinjin or awakening. This is difficult because we are attached to the self. We need good teachers to guide us. Shinjin is also defined as Oneness or Amida Buddha

In Sunday's service Dr. Haneda emphasized that the ultimate goal is self-transcendence, not self-improvement because the latter involves self-love. Liberation is not realized by self but by Buddha's Wisdom. It is all right in the initial stage to consider self-improvement; however, the ultimate goal is self-replacement.

Dr. Haneda had much to share during the two days. These are only a few thoughts as I understood them.



Reverend Dr. Nobuo Haneda speaking at the Hoonko seminar



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson, Coordinator

While February is a short month, it is a full month for Dharma school.

The first Sunday in February, the 6th, we will be honoring Nirvana Day. As part of that observance we will have our pet memorial. We ask that people (especially students) bring pictures of their deceased pets before that day or by all means on that day. There will also be a vegetarian potluck on the 6th.

Our children's service in January was Sunday the 23rd to accommodate students that will be performing at the community mochitsuki on Sunday January 30th.

Some of us will be attending the NW District Buddhist Convention on February 11-13 in Tukwila (south Seattle) so there will be no classes on the 13th. There will however be a regular service.

The February 20 service will be dedicated to Lady Takeko Kujo (1887-1928), considered to be the most outstanding woman leader in the Nishi Hongwanji branch of Jodo Shinshu in modern times, <http://www.shindharmanet.com/writings/kujo.htm>.

Girl Scout cookies that were pre-ordered in January will be available for pick up. There will be a limited number of cookies available for open sale. Scouts are saving for the Nembutsu Camporee in August. This year it will be hosted by Seattle. (Info in the Wheel of Dharma or from Amy) If you know a Buddhist scout interested in attending, please contact Amy.

March will soon be upon us so we will be looking at recipes for the Spring bazaar bake sale. We will prepare baked goods on Saturday March 5 at 6:30 pm in the Temple kitchen. We would also like a volunteer to help coordinate the baking and the staffing of the snack bar. Please email if you can help and when. amyp@zzz.com



Lotus circle – February

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of February 2011 are being provided by generous donations from:

- February 6 – Judy Hittle in memory of (imo) parents, Joriu and Fumiko Asato.
- February 13 – Dan Miura imo parents, Tamuro and Rin; Alan Kasubuchi imo grandparents, Shintaro and Tatsu Okita
- February 20 – Yasuko Fields imo father, Ryoo Maekawa
- February 27 – Judy Yamauchi imo parents, Masaru and Chiyoko Sakurai and sister Betty Kasaru Sakurai

Thank you to all the above February donors for honoring your loved ones in this manner. The talented ladies of the Flower Toban find so many beautiful ways to arrange the flowers each week and we are grateful. Also check with Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) about including material about your loved ones on our website. All our readers are invited to join the Lotus Circle. For more information, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail Jean at jamatsumoto@gmail.com

**NW Buddhist Convention Update
February 11-13, 2011**

If you have registered to attend the NW Buddhist Convention:
Please make sure you reserve your hotel room by Jan 20th to get the convention rate:

- Doubletree Guest Suites Seattle Airport/Southcenter
- 206 575-8220 (mention “NW Buddhist Convention”)
- Bonus: \$5 breakfast coupon per person per night booked

* See convention bulletin board in the basement for more details.

If you signed up for transportation, we have rented a 15 passenger van.

- Depart from OBT at 2:00 (please arrive 15 min. early)
- Due to very limited luggage space, you are limited to one small bag/suitcase
- Estimated time to return to OBT on Sunday 3:30-4:00 P.M.
- Estimated cost is \$40 per passenger.

If you haven’t signed up for convention, it’s not too late to sign up. Please contact Carol Saiget kongsfam@comcast.net or 360 834 -7806

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

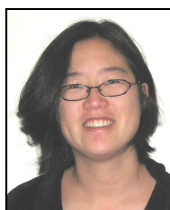
If you would like to have a memorial service performed for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Gibbs as early as possible.

February Toban

Ando, Roberta	Fields, Ray
Fields, Yasuko	Fugate, Brenda
Fugate, Jerry	Garner, Ken
Garner, Maho	Harder, Diane
Ichikawa, Jayne	Ichikawa, Shinya
Inoue, Kay	Kinoshita, Ken
Kobayashi, Hisa	Kobayashi, Kaori
Kono, Kim	Liljeholm, Edward
Mishima, Kumiko	Monas, Tsuyako
Nakashima, Angie	Nakashima, Glen
Nasman, Keith	Nasman, Kerrie
Pawlowski, Clara	Pawlowski, Steve

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



**OBT community partner for
mochitsuki**

Ann Ishimaru

- Mochitsuki - 15th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebration
- When: January 30 11am-4pm
- Where: Scottish Rite Center, 1512 SW Morrison St., Portland

As a community partner supporting this event, OBT will be selling dorayaki at a booth and sharing information about the temple (please contact Ken Garner if you are willing to help take a shift at the OBT table). Any questions? Talk to Ann Ishimaru (annishimaru@yahoo.com, 503-232-1864).

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP 2011
NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION**

NAME _____ DATE _____
 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
SPRING BAZAAR
SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011, 11:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

FOOD PRE-ORDER FORM

*** PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER FORM BY MARCH 3, 2011 ***

Item	Price	Quantity (Eat in)	Quantity (Take Out)	Amount
Chow Mein	\$7.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Sushi	\$7.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Udon	\$7.00	_____	(Not Available)	\$ _____
Chicken Bento	\$8.00	_____	_____	\$ _____
Beef Bento	\$8.00	_____	_____	\$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to: Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, Oregon 97202

For additional information, please call OBT at 503.234.9456

Thank you for your support