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# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

May 2012



***We do not forget those we love; we must remember those to whom we are indebted***

***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

I hope you are all having many pleasant experiences this month. I hope the weather is as good as I am imagining it being (it is still April as I write this). Of course, the title of this article points to Memorial Day. I will see many of you on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Memorial Day Services at the temple (9 am), at the Gresham Pioneer Cemetery (10:30 am) and at Rose City Cemetery (for OBT at noon, and for everyone interested at 1 pm). I may even see some of you at the Mu En Ho Yo, a service for those with no living relatives in the area, at the Lone Fir Cemetery around 2:30 pm.

Each of these services may help us with the loss, not only of loved ones who served in the military, but the loss of all those whom we love. We should feel grateful for the military service and those who have been part of our armed services. But we also have others to whom we are indebted: our parents of course, and our teachers and mentors we've had in our professions and even in our hobbies.

This, I suspect, is one of the reasons Memorial Day observations gravitated toward being a memorial for all who have passed. We owe so much to so many others. We do not forget those we love. We sometimes do forget those to whom we are indebted, however.

This month, we will also honor our denominational founder, Shinran on the occasion of his birthday. This "Founder's Day"/Gotan-E service will be held on Sunday, May 20th. The more we study Jodo Shinshu Buddhism the more we realize we are indebted to Shinran. We will begin the day with a service from 9:30 am where we will receive a Dharma-message in Japanese from our guest speaker, Minister Emeritus of the Buddhist Churches of America Rev. LaVerne Sasaki. He will also deliver a Dharma-message or

'Buddhist Sermon' in English in our main service which will begin at 10 am. LaVerne Sensei is one of the most respected of my retired colleagues. He is also a very pleasant person. If you have not heard him speak before, please come out on May 20th, I am sure you will not be disappointed.

It is still six weeks off, but I want to inform you that we are planning a series of classes both for newer members and for long-time members who wish to brush up on the basics. There will be a fee for the six classes. \$25 for all six classes or \$5 per class for those who may not wish to attend the whole series. These classes will be held at 2 pm on six Sundays beginning on June 17th. Each class will run 90 minutes. We will offer classes on "Introduction to General Buddhism" on 6-17, 6-24 and 7-1-12. A series of three classes on "Introduction to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism" will be offered on 7-8-, 7-15 & 7-22-12. If paying the registration is a problem for you just speak with me privately and we can tap one of our scholarship funds. These classes will be team-taught by me and by the Minister's Assistants. We hope to see you there.

As Memorial Day approaches we sometimes get a little sad remembering those close to us who have passed on. The Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha, the Vow of Universal Liberation, is picking up our loved ones and ourselves and moving us toward true Awakening to Reality. This Awakening will resolve our sense of loss, remove our suffering and open out a new life for us where we work for the Liberation of others while enjoying peace and fulfillment ourselves. I hope all our members can feel something like this moving in the background of our lives. If you want to understand this more deeply please come to the classes listed above or to our regular weekly Buddhist Study classes on Mondays and Fridays. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

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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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 editor: Shinya Ichikawa, [sjichi@gmail.com](mailto:sjichi@gmail.com)

May Highlights

May 6	Japanese community graduation banquet, MAC	5 pm
May 11	OBT board meeting	7 pm
May 19	OBWA meeting	9:30 am
May 20	Gotan-E, infant and new member recognition service; refreshments	9:30 am
May 28	Memorial Day Services	
	Temple	9 am
	Gresham Cemetery	10:30 am
	Rose City Cemetery	noon
	Rose City Japanese American Community Service	1 pm
	Lone Fir Cemetery	2:30 pm

**President's message***Yoshi Ono, OBWA president*

One of the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha was that "Everything changes, nothing remains without change." We tend to get comfortable with the status quo and resist making changes when the results may not be certain success. As the board of directors contemplates the course for OBT's future, we see where changes are necessary for long term sustainability. There are some subtle changes being planned and I hope to explain some of the thought behind them.

First is the need for improved security and safety. We hope to install a door and locks to be able to secure the hondo to protect our onaijin and nokotsudo. Security cameras at entrances/exits and better lighting are being considered. An enclosed area adjacent to the back entrance is also being planned. The work is all from volunteer effort so there is no firm timetable for these changes.

Secondly, to address our budget shortfalls we are hoping to make it a little easier for visitors and casual attendees who may not respond to donation envelopes in the newsletter or don't see the donation boxes to contribute to our operations. New envelopes at the front desk in the foyer and in the pews are being printed to attract participation and membership from newcomers.

Thirdly, as I may have hinted at previously are changes to the toban duties to emphasize the special event staffing and monthly temple cleaning. This reduces the toban's weekly refreshment duties and will likely shift it to other volunteers, possibly on a sign-up basis. Please check for further details coming soon.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Rev. Gibbs and the minister assistants for taking on the additional Buddhist education programs that I'm sure will attract newcomers to OBT. Also Dharma School has been increasing activities with things like the movie night and SOLV participation. Thanks to all who work hard on these activities which I see as positive changes, albeit gradual, to our Sangha.

In Gassho, Yoshi Ono

**OBWA news***Katie Tamiyasu*

This year's Hanamatsuri was celebrated on April 8th. We would like to thank all those who came to help on Saturday and Sunday morning to prepare food for the luncheon. There were about 120 members and guests staying for lunch and over 30 food deliveries to home-bound members.

The April 15th service was chaired by Jayne Ichikawa on behalf of the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association (OBWA), to remember and honor Eshin-ni and Kakushin-ni, two early women leaders of our Jodo Shinshu.

OBWA acknowledges a special donation from Sahomi Tachibana. We thank you and appreciate your support.

OBWA president Alice Ando is recovering from a very bad bout of the flu and was hospitalized for a few days and is now home recuperating. We wish her well. She was very dehydrated, which is a dangerous situation when you have the flu. The following excerpt is from the WebMD website:

"Dehydration, which occurs when your body doesn't have the fluid it needs to function properly. Severe dehydration can cause your kidneys to shut down. Dehydration can be particularly dangerous in children and the elderly."

OBWA would like to remind everyone that Gotan-e Service is May 20th, and we would appreciate helpers to come for food prep on Saturday May 19th at 9am.

In Gassho

**Dharma school news***Amy Peterson, DS superintendent*

Classes for children grades pre-school through high school are held most Sundays in the Annex following the regular 10:00 am OBT service. Check OBT website for schedule. Classes are taught by Dharma School volunteers. For more information and/or to register your child, please contact Amy Peterson at [dharماشool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:dharماشool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com).

We are seeking volunteers! Would you like to make a difference at OBT? We have many volunteer opportunities available in the Dharma School. All OBT parents and friends are welcome, but being a parent is not required, nor is being a Dharma expert. We are specifically looking for volunteers to co-chair with our teachers on some upcoming activities. Please contact us at [dharماشool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:dharماشool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) to volunteer.

Thank you to Marilyn Achterman, Ren Gibbs, Sho Gibbs, Ann Shintani, and Mika Winner for decorating the Hanamido (flower altar for the baby Buddha) on April 7th. A special thank you to Heather Price and James Proestos for providing these beautiful flowers which also decorated the lunch tables downstairs!

Thank you to Clyde Oh Keith, Gabe Oh Keith for presenting flowers to the Onaijin (inner area) during the Hanamatsuri service on April 8th.

April 29: Dharma School Children's Service, 10:00 am: Meet in the annex for a children's service during the regular OBT service. Service is led by older DS students and DS volunteers. Parents are welcome to attend with their children, or children are welcome to attend on their own.

May-July: We are accepting donations of gently used items for the Dharma School Rummage Sale to be held July 6 and 7. Please bring your donations to the Temple Annex or coordinate pick-up of items by leaving a message at the Temple office: (503) 234-9456.

June 16: Spaghetti Bingo Night: Save the date! Annual fundraiser for Dharma School. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help set up, cook, and serve spaghetti to OBT members and friends. To volunteer please contact Ann Shintani at dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

July 6 and 7: Rummage Sale: Fundraiser to support Dharma School. Open to the OBT community and the public. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help set up, sell items, and clean up. To volunteer or if you have questions, please contact Kyoko Gibbs at dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

August 5: Obonfest: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to chair and/or help at the children's activity booth. To volunteer, please contact Elaine Yuzuriha at dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.



### **Lotus circle – May** **Jean Matsumoto**

The flowers for the altar for the month of May are being provided by donations of \$35 made by the following:

- May 6 – Kan and Miki Yagi in memory of (imo) their parents
- May 13 – Jane Hunt imo her parents, Yutaka and Kazue Shiraishi
- May 20 – Sumie Ishida imo her parents, Yoshikiyo and Misayo Yamamoto
- May 27 – Kiyomi Dickenson imo her mother, Toshiko Kitagawa

Oregon Buddhist Temple is grateful for the generosity of those who have joined the Lotus Circle and provide beautiful flowers to be arranged by our Flower Toban for the altar each Sunday. What a thoughtful way to remember loved ones. Remember also that Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) can arrange for memories to be shared on the webpage he has set up for the Lotus Circle. If you are interested in being a part of this group or have any questions about joining, please contact me at 503-280-2463 or [jamatsumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatsumoto@gmail.com).

### **Condolence ...**

To the family of Leke Nakashimada who passed away March 30, 2012.

## **2012 Memorial Chart**

**Updated April 2012 to correspond with the Hongwanji Guide on Rituals and Ceremonies**

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2011	1 year	1996	17 year
2010	3 year	1988	25 year
2006	7 year	1980	33 year
2000	13 year	1963	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.*

### **Live each day with gratitude** **Etsu Osaki**

For Hanamatsuri I made deliveries of our sushi plate to some members in the Gresham area. One of them was Hiro Takeuchi who looked very young at 90 plus. He thanked me and said, "I'm grateful for each day." They are words of wisdom for all of us.

### **May Toban**

Cave, Marian Nagaki	Cohen, Cindy
Fukunaga, Lori	Fukunaga, Ray
Ishii, Janice	Ishii, Michael
Kiyama, Traci	Kiyama, Wynn
Koyama, Edna	Koyama, Richard
Matsumoto, Jean	Meiners, Lily
Price, Heatheranne	Richards, Atsuko
Roberts, Charlene	Soto, Teresa
Takeda, Ernest	Tanada, Anna
Tsutsumi, Gail	Tsutsumi, Robert
VinHasa, Sharon	Watari, Duane



### **The Japanese American graduation banquet** **Elaine Yuzuriha**

The 65th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet will be held on Sunday, May 6th at 5pm at the Multnomah Athletic Club. This fine community tradition honors the graduating high school seniors of the Japanese American Community around the Portland Metropolitan area and awards the community scholarships. This year's keynote speaker will be the Honorable Lynn Nakamoto, Oregon Court of Appeals Judge, and the first Asian American judge on any Oregon state or federal appellate court.

Oregon Buddhist Temple is a sponsoring organization of the banquet. Please come out and support our community and the 2012 high school seniors. Tickets for the dinner are \$50 and are available from Elaine Yuzuriha at e.yuzuriha@comcast.net or (360) 253-9532.



### ***OBT readers' club***

***Ken Garner***

***No Crystal Stair*** by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

You can't walk straight on a crooked line. You do you'll break your leg. How can you walk straight in a crooked system? Lewis Michaux was born to do things his own way. When a white banker told him to sell fried chicken, not books, because Negroes don't read, Lewis took five books and one-hundred dollars and built a bookstore. It soon became the intellectual center of Harlem, a refuge for everyone from Muhammad Ali to Malcolm X. In *No Crystal Stair*, Coretta Scott King Award-winning author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson combines meticulous research with a storyteller's flair to document the life and times of her great uncle Lewis Michaux, an extraordinary literacy pioneer of the Civil Rights

era.

Join our discussion of this book (and other topics) at the next meeting of the OBT Readers' Club Wednesday May 16, 2012 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We meet at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub, at 915 SE Hawthorne, Portland, OR. The OBT Readers' Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday. All are welcome.

### ***White River Buddhist Temple Centennial***

Past members and friends of White River, on May 19, 2012, the temple will be celebrating its Centennial. Registration information is available at the temple website ([www.wrbt.org](http://www.wrbt.org)) or contact the temple (email, phone or mail) and registration information can be sent to you. Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime event. Email us at [Centennial@wrbt.org](mailto:Centennial@wrbt.org) or, White River Buddhist Temple, PO Box 855, Auburn, WA 98071-0855. (253) 833-1442

***Support OBT by paying your 2012 Membership dues***

## **Oregon Buddhist Temple March 2012 Donations**

### ***In memory of Shizuko Ouchida***

Ruth K. Schwartz  
Joe & Toby Onchi  
Herb & Etsu Osaki  
(to Hishinuma Fund)

### ***In memory of Yosh Hasuike***

Joe & Toby Onchi

### ***Jim Takashima 49th day memorial***

Jean Takashima  
June & Stan Shiigi  
Matt Muramatsu  
Lillian Okazaki

### ***In memory of Howard Tanada***

Tony Tanada

### ***In memory of Shio Uyetake***

Nobuko Uyetake

### ***Jim Kida 25th yr memorial***

Alice Kida  
The Lewis Tomita family

### ***Lotus Circle***

Misako Kodama  
Kazuko Sunamoto

### ***Charles B. Wahl birthday***

Takeko Wahl

### ***Lewis L. Howe birthday***

Takeko Wahl

### ***Special donations***

Anonymous  
Nobuko Fujinaka (Nokotsudo)  
Nami Sasaki (Yearend donation)  
Mary R. Francillon  
Scott Oldfield & Traci Babione  
Alfred Ono  
Mary R. Francillon

### ***Ohigan***

Anonymous (3)  
Grace & Katsuya Amasuga  
Fumiko Okubo  
Kan & Miyeko Yagi  
May Kasahara  
Grace Aoki  
Fumi Saito  
Kimiko Iwamoto  
Mitsuko Hasuike  
Sahomi Tachibana  
Jean Matsumoto  
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner  
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha

### ***Ohigan***

Amy Long  
Dana Kakishita  
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono  
Kiyomi Dickinson  
Alice Ando  
Janice Okamoto  
LaRhette Swann  
Karol Kennedy  
June & Stan Shiigi  
Ray & Lori Fukunaga  
Alice Sumida  
Katie & Ed Tamiyasu  
Pat & Tom Hokama  
George & Chiyo Okita  
Nami Sasaki  
Misako Kodama  
Sumiko Ikata  
Teruko Nishikawa  
Kayoko Kaye  
Mary T. Okita  
Kim Kono  
Herb & Etsu Osaki  
Misao Minagi  
Nobuko Fujinaka  
Phaedra Urban  
Scott Oldfield & Traci Babione  
Randy & Dana Kunisaki  
Alfred Ono  
Chris & Susan Leedham

### ***2012 Membership donations***

Nobuko Fujinaka  
Phaedra Urban  
Nami Sasaki  
Sahomi Tachibana  
Ernest Takeda  
Takeko Wahl  
Kaoru Hori

### ***Member pledge donations***

Teresa Soto  
Susan M. Lilly  
Katie Bretsch  
Matt & Kirstin Litchfield  
Chanda & Eric Stone  
Jean Matsumoto  
Susan Endecott

*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*

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