

# Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

March 2011



## ***Warm and flourishing times***

***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

I hope you are reading this in a warm room looking out upon a warm day with the plants beginning to flourish in your garden. As I write it is quite cold, and rainy, but that camellia bush next to the temple is beginning to flower. Spring is coming. Soon, if not yet, we will see life flourishing all about us.

As I write the Spring food bazaar is approaching. Some of you will read this after that crucial fund-raiser has ended. Allow me to thank you all in advance for your hard work and support of this event. Let me especially thank the co-chairs Ryan Davis and Angie Hughes. There are those whose current schedules or location makes frequent visits to OBT impracticable for them. Some of these folks still find a way to join us the first Sunday in March. They are our members and friends and we love seeing them at this event.

On March 20th we will celebrate Spring Ohigan. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kakuyei Tada. He has been a good friend of the temple, including being its over-seeing minister after Rev. Hanada resigned. He has not been here for several years and I am looking forward to seeing him and hearing his message as I'm sure many of you also are.

Spring Ohigan is a service where we reflect on the goal of enlightenment and the virtues we see in Enlightened people: Selfless giving, moral rectitude, untiring patience, unyielding effort to realize kindness and equality, spiritual composure, and wisdom-insight. Spring itself is a season of rebirth and renewal. Spring is, as it were, a very Buddhist month.

As I have suggested before, the Buddhist tradition is a process of renewal. Buddhists find themselves on earth. We find ourselves living lives that come with no clear meaning or purpose attached or otherwise appended. In becoming Buddhist we have accepted the guidance of Shakyamuni and other great teachers who encourage us to give this life the same meaning they have. In this renewal process Buddhists give life the meaning of gentleness, non-violence, kindness, acceptance, curiosity and insight. Buddhism is a process of giving these

meanings to life and helping it to go through a renewal. In March and April we can see renewal all about us: the camellia bush, the trees, the lawn – everything is turning green and pink and otherwise springing back to life.

As spring begins the biological renewal of life perhaps we can participate in this Buddhist process of renewal. As we observe biological renewal all about us perhaps we can engage more confidently in spiritual renewal. Technically speaking, freedom is the ultimate goal of Buddhists. But in reality kindness is our central and most consistent concern. At the district convention last month Rev. Oshita read a poem of Mitsuo Aida. Oshita sensei got it from Noriaki Ito sensei and now I borrow it from him. In the process it may have become a bit prosaic but it runs something like this: "Two ceramic bowls bang together and break, but if one of them were soft, the tragedy could be avoided."

Can we each endeavor to be the "soft bowl"? As life becomes more and more vibrant this spring can we let more and more go? Can we hear others express ideas we dislike and just say to ourselves silently, "Well, that's how he sees it. For him that way of thinking about it may be fine. Why bother him with the fact that I don't like what he is saying?" There are times to stand up for ourselves. However, there are even more times when everyone would benefit from our being the "soft bowl." I hope we can all enjoy warm and flourishing times this spring. I hope that I, for one, can be the soft bowl that helps to avoid little tragedies from day to day.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

***Bazaar food pre-order form and work schedule are attached***

*"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 editors: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, [sjichi@gmail.com](mailto:sjichi@gmail.com)

**March Highlights**

Mar 3	Bazaar food preparation	9 am
Mar 4	Bazaar food preparation	9 am
Mar 5	Bazaar food preparation	8 am
	Dharma School	6:30 pm
	Bazaar bakery preparation	
Mar 6	Bazaar food preparation	6:30 am
Mar 6	OBT Spring Bazaar	11:30 am – 3:30 pm
Mar 11	OBT Board meeting	7 pm
Mar 19	OBWA meeting	9:30 am
Mar 20	Spring Ohigan service	9:30 am
	Followed by potluck lunch	

***Spring bazaar cooking schedule***

Thursday, March 3

- 9 am Cook chow mein noodles, fry noodles, line baskets for chow mein

Friday, March 4

- 9 am Cut vegetables & meat for chow mein
- 10 am Cook eggs for chow mein/makizushi/udon
- Chow mein/sushi boxes can be made up anytime today

Saturday, March 5

- 8 am Cook chow mein with meat and vegetables
- 8:15 am Cool chow mein and box
- 10:30 am Cook noodles for udon. Make dashi (soup stock), slice kamaboko, green onions for garnish.

Sunday, March 6

- 6:30 am Cook rice for sushi (makizushi and inarizushi)
- 7:00 am Season rice, make inari, maki. Pack
- 8 – 9 am Need men to put up tables & chairs, set table.

***President's column***

**Ken Garner**  
**OBT Board President**

Spring is coming. This past week (it is mid-February as I write this column) I noticed the spring flowers start to poke their way out of the ground in our front yard. In the dark, the cold, and the damp of an Oregon winter life is teeming, ready to burst forth. It won't be long before we are awash in color. It also won't be long before I have to break out the garden gloves and yard tools.

Speaking of Spring, Oregon Buddhist Temple's annual Spring Food Bazaar is just around the corner, on March 6, 2011. Angie Hughes and Ryan Davis are once again chairing the Bazaar, one of our 3 major fund raisers. They are hard at work with preparations to make this a fun and successful event. Their efforts alone cannot guarantee this outcome. In true Buddhist fashion, events such as this are dependent on the efforts of the entire OBT community. There are many jobs that still need to be filled. Food prep begins on Thursday March 3 and continues each day until Sunday. Contact Angie or Ryan to volunteer your talents and time. I want to extend a special invitation to new members and friends to participate. Shared

effort is a great way to meet other temple members and become part of the temple family. Working together we are a Sangha. Even if you are unable to volunteer for this event, we invite you to support the temple and come for the delicious food and fun.

On another topic, in my last column and during the annual meeting we talked about the financial health of our temple. I won't rehash here what was discussed, suffice to say our budget outlook is another year of deficit. Fixing this requires us to not only look for increasing revenues from current and new sources but also to control our spending. Looking at OBT's procurement, we realized that the process was rather loose and too many people were involved. There have been cases of double ordering of temple supplies as well as running out of items which had to be purchased in an emergency situation (which generally comes at high cost). To address this, we have appointed Ray Fields as OBT's Procurement Officer. He will be handling purchasing for the temple. If you need supplies for a temple activity or event, please see Ray. Thank you Ray for accepting this challenging and vital position.

Our next board meeting will be held on Friday March 11, 2011. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm and is preceded by a short service at 7:00 pm. All temple members are invited and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions about the board activities and the running of the temple please contact me or any of our board members. You can send an email to us at [board@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:board@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). This email address will route your note to each and every board member.

In Gassho, Ken



***Membership committee news***  
***Yoshi Ono, Zack Semke***

Last year the membership committee took on two volunteers, Yoshi Ono and Zack Semke, to assist and transfer the committee tasks from Jean Matsumoto. This year, the committee will be working on new ideas to encourage more membership and improve the income from dues. For 2011, the income from dues constitutes about 22% of the budget and greater fund raising is necessary to balance the books. We thank those that have maintained their membership in 2010 and encourage sending in your membership dues in early in 2011 to ensure the financial health of the temple. Since OBT forwards a portion of the dues to the NW District and the BCA assessments, your contribution supports both OBT and regional and national programs. The drop in membership numbers in 2010 placed a strain in last year's budget, putting us in the red once again.

If you have any ideas or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the committee members:

Yoshi Ono, 360-910-8135, [yoshi.ono@gmail.com](mailto:yoshi.ono@gmail.com)

Zack Semke, 503-232-1864, [zacksemke@comcast.net](mailto:zacksemke@comcast.net)

Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, [jamatsumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatsumoto@gmail.com)

***Temple procurement***

***Ray Fields***

In the never-ending attempt to control expenses of the Temple, the board has asked if I would accept the position of procurement officer. My understanding of my duties is to be the central point for all purchases for temple supplies including food for such events as Spring Bazaar, Obon, Sukiayaki, and any other event for which temple funds will be expended.

I have accepted the challenge and now ask for your help and cooperation in helping us control expenses. If you are now involved in any of these events and I would appreciate hearing from you about your needs to fulfill your function. The greater the lead-time in making your requests will be appreciated. If you have been purchasing specific items, I would appreciate knowing what those items are, where you have purchased them in the past and any details you can give me about the items. This will help me meet your requirements for quality and quantity. You can feel free to contact me at [fields@raf.us](mailto:fields@raf.us) or at 503-224-0644.

Gassho, Ray Fields


***OBWA news***  
***Jayne Ichikawa***

Almost 70 members attended the New Year's Party on Jan. 22, at the Holladay Park Plaza. The delicious bento lunch was catered by Bush Garden. Bingo, prizes, and a raffle provided fun entertainment for all.

The February highlight was the 64 annual NW Buddhist Convention hosted by the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. There were 23 OBWA members attending this outstanding event, which was entitled, "Okagesama de, Arigato." Special thanks to the following people: Carol Saiger for skillfully organizing the registration/transportation, Amy Peterson for her expert driving of the 15 passenger van to transport people to Tukwila and back to Portland, Tammy Herald for donating her beautiful Bargello Kimono Art quilt (see photo), a black/white tote bag, and a quilted style handbag, and Jean Takashima for creating and donating a beautiful three dimensional decorative origami ship, a tote bag crocheted with Safeway plastic bags, and a lovely handmade furoshiki. These items created by Tammy and Jean were displayed for the silent auction fund raiser.



Profits from the winning bids will be given to our temple. Carol also asked families/couples to help transport people who couldn't take the van. My husband and I enjoyed the company of Al Abe and Carrie Saito on our drive.

Jan/Feb donations will be reported in the April newsletter. OBWA dues for 2011 is now \$10. In order to make an

accurate roster, we need the membership dues paid as soon as possible. Please mail dues to the temple or to Mrs. Misa Kodama, OBWA co-treasurer. Thank you.

Our next big event will be the spring bazaar on March 6th. Help is needed to help prepare the chow mein and udon. Please refer to the work schedule on page 2 of this newsletter for dates/times. The omiyage shop also needs members to help sell crafts and omanju.


***More thanks***  
***Etsu Osaki***

We have been acknowledging members who help around our temple. So here are a few more of our volunteers:

Librarians: LaRhette Swann and Lily Kajiwara keep up our very nicely-organized library.

Organists/pianists: Elaine Yuzuriha, Wynn Kiyama, Ann Shintani, Lisa Anderson, Etsu Osaki. Ann has asked to be relieved for awhile. Wynn and Elaine also accompany our choir.

Dharma Store: Charlene Roberts and Karen Scapple run our store. Most goods are from the BCA Bookstore.

Musicians: violinists Zack Semke and his wife Ann Ishimaru and trombonist Charles Reneau often make our special services even more special with their playing.

A great big thanks to all of you!


***Dharma school news***  
***Amy Peterson, Coordinator***

It is amazing we are already looking to March and April. First, let me remind you that Girl Scout cookies are here and available for pick up if you pre-ordered. We have a limited number of extras which will be available for sale during refreshments. Also if you didn't get to pre-order, we can arrange to get you cookies. Cookies are \$4 per box.

We have just come back from the NW Dist. Buddhist Convention in Tacoma and everyone is excited about the speakers, music, food, activities, food, programs, food, friends, food, etc. Some highlights were: students playing a new gatha on the ukulele and singing at the banquet! Mayu can now bandage us with confidence. Teachers and choir members also learned some of the new Tacoma gathas. They were composed and written by Donna Sasaki, with a little help from Rev. Yukawa and the members of the Tacoma gatha committee. We hope to learn the gathas over the next year. A gift from a former Tacoma Dharma school teacher and husband Toyoko and Minoru Nakagawara was the printing of the books which we received and gratefully accepted at the banquet. Mark your calendar for next year's convention in Spokane Feb 17-19, 2011! It's truly a family affair.

On Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, all DS families are invited and encouraged to come and help make goodies for the snack bar. Help will also be needed to run the snack bar on Sunday. We are hoping for a parent to step up and help with

the scheduling of the students. March 12th will be Scout Sunday so all Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts should wear their uniforms to service. Our special service in March is Ohigan. Look at the website for some activities.

We are also preparing for the month of April when we will celebrate Hanamatsuri, the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. Students will be preparing something special for service. April will also bring a host of eco-Sangha activities including a trip to the Rose City cemetery! Please watch the newsletter and website for more information.

Seattle Day Camp is set for late June. Check website for application: <http://www.seattlebetsuin.com/2011%20KSP%20registration.doc>

Seattle Youth Retreat is scheduled for July 22-24th. Information will be posted on the website when available.

Nembutsu Camporee for Scouts of all types this year has been opened up to all DS students 4th-12 grades. The Girl Scout troop will be attending so if you'd like to join us, please contact us through the DS website.



### **Lotus circle – March**

**Jean Matsumoto**

Altar flowers are being provided by:

- March 6 – Kim Kono in memory of (imo) mother, Jean
- March 13 – Tony, Terry and Tim Tanada imo father, Howard; Jerry Koike imo parents, Chikara and Toshiko, May Watari imo husband, Jack, and parents, Joe Masaki and Yachiyo Kinoshita.
- March 20 – Misa Kodama imo mother, Sada Kitagawa; Ray Fields imo father, Ben Feingold
- March 27 – Kida and Tomita Families imo father, Jim Kida, and grandfather, Shoemon Nakamura; Setsy Larouche imo father, George Yoshito Sadamoto

OBT gratefully acknowledges the donations made to purchase beautiful fresh flowers for our altar each week. The Flower Toban members are allowed to create fascinating arrangements of flowers in a variety of different colors by your generosity. Also, please don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on our website: <http://wwworegonbuddhisttemple.com> where our incredible webmaster, Ken Garner, has designed a page especially for us. Please contribute articles, photos, poems, personal reflections of loved ones who have passed to be shared. Want to know more about the Lotus Circle or how to join? Contact: Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or e-mail [jamatsumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatsumoto@gmail.com).



### **Attention 2011 high school graduates**

**Elaine Yuzuriha**

This is very short notice, but get in your Japanese Community Scholarship applications by Tuesday, March 1st to be eligible for thousand of dollars worth of scholarships. Information about the scholarships can be found on the Portland JACL website ([www.pdxjacl.org](http://www.pdxjacl.org)). Graduates and/or their parents should have been a member of a community banquet sponsoring organization (of which OBT is one).

We are still collecting contact information for 2011 graduates to invite them to the Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet, held this year on Sunday, May 1, 2011. For more information, check out our page on Facebook; look for Portland Japanese American Graduation Banquet. Or give the information to Elaine Yuzuriha at [e.yuzuriha@comcast.net](mailto:e.yuzuriha@comcast.net), or call (360) 253-9532.

### **2011 Memorial Chart**

<b>Year Of Passing</b>	<b>Memorial</b>	<b>Year Of Passing</b>	<b>Memorial</b>
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.*

### **March 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
Richards, Atsuko	Roberts, Charlene
Scapple, Karen	Soto de Roman, Teresa
Takeda, Ernest	Tanada, Anna
Tsutsumi, Gail	Tsutsumi, Robert
VinHasa, Sharon	Watari, Duane

*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*



## Toban changes are needed and coming

*Cathy Yarne*

The last time I helped clean the temple with my Toban team, I left feeling very frustrated.

Although we worked hard, I felt the temple just wasn't as clean as it should be. Even though I grumble about cleaning toilets and doing more vacuuming than in my own home, I choose to participate in temple clean up. The temple is important to me and the work needs to be done.

I have a great Toban group. Those who do come work hard and those who aren't there have good reasons. The reality is although there are many names on the list, not everyone participates. As a result, there are simply not enough people to get everything cleaned as well as it should be.

To add to my frustration, I knew I had to come the following day to bring refreshments. There are many members who rarely come to Sunday services (for various reasons) but come just to serve snacks. Over the past few years I've fallen into this category. Spending another 3-4 hours at the temple did not sit well with me.

Toban groups were formed to organize members to serve the temple. Although there are many reasons why people cannot or do not participate in Toban, time is a major factor. We need to prioritize and rethink Toban activities so our members prioritize their time and efforts on what the Temple needs their help on the most. My personal belief is that Toban should focus on temple cleanup (OBT can't afford a cleaning service), special services/meals, and funeral receptions when requested by families.

The OBT Board has asked a small group of people to discuss these issues. We are proposing several changes:

- OBT re-educate everyone about the purpose of Toban. Encourages all members of the Sangha (not just dues paying members) to participate in Toban. The new member information packet that is being developed will include information about the Toban.
- Sunday refreshments return back to a very simple, healthy snack. As great as the food is, the snack has turned into a meal. It seems that most Tobans feel obligated to provide lunch. By simplifying and decreasing refreshments, Toban members would not feel obligated to come every Sunday during their month but perhaps only twice.
- "Last call" at 12:30. This will enable Toban members to complete their clean up after refreshments and leave in a timely manner.
- To ease the commitment of consecutive Sundays, we are suggesting that the clean up part of Toban be moved to a different month.

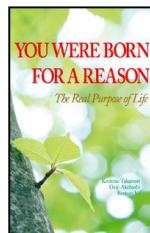
I do not want to discourage the many wonderful cooks who like to share their special dishes. Perhaps these special dishes can be saved for temple potlucks and OBWA meetings. As a general guideline I would like to suggest after Dharma school snacks be simple, healthy snacks.

I also would encourage anyone who can not attend their Toban clean up to make arrangements to clean some part of the

temple when it is more convenient for them.

The Toban system is vital to the temple but it needs to be changed to address the temples most important priorities. We will implement these changes on a trial basis starting with the March Toban group.

We welcome your feedback. Please share your thoughts and ideas with Ken Garner, Kyoko Gibbs, Jean Matsumoto, Brenda Fugate or Cathy Yarne, [yarne@easystreet.net](mailto:yarne@easystreet.net) or 503 274-1537)



## OBT Readers' Club meeting Wed., Mar. 16, 7-8:30 pm

*Cynthia Wong*

You Were Born for a Reason: The True Purpose of Life, by Kentetsu Takamori, Daiji Akehashi, and Kentaro Ito

Originally published in Japan as Naze iku (Why live?), this book finds answers for the age-old quest for the purpose of life in the Pure Land scriptures and writings of Shinran. How do we find happiness and meaning in life in the midst of disappointment and death? Come and talk with us about what the authors suggest. Copies of the book can be purchased through the Amazon.com portal on the OBT website, <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>.



Campaign BCA – The 21st Century

### Campaign Update – March 2011

By Robert Noguchi – BCA Fundraising Manager

#### By the Numbers:

Thanks to your generous gifts and pledges, the campaign has raised over \$550,000 in 2010!

As of 12/31/2010, the campaign has raised \$18,736,836 since its inception in March 2003. Not only has this gone towards funding for the Jodo Shinshu Center, but also the wonderful programs being run there.

#### Just Announced:

Southern District Council will hold a benefit Golf Tournament on **Monday, August 22, 2011**, at the Tustin Ranch Golf Club in Tustin, CA. Many thanks to **Steve Ishii** of Orange County Buddhist Church for chairing this tournament! Please support this event by being a sponsor! For more information, please e-mail [scishii@pacbell.net](mailto:scishii@pacbell.net) or call 714-996-4649.

#### Institute of Buddhist Studies Receives Two Gifts:

**Rev. Seishin Kiyoshi and Mrs. Marrie H. Yamashita** of Berkeley, CA, established a \$100,000 IBS Scholarship Endowment on December 29, 2010. The purpose of the scholarship is to support BCA ministerial candidates, IBS graduates for further studies, and prospective ministers from Japan who wish to study at IBS and serve in the BCA.

**Mr. Noboru Hanyu** of San Francisco, CA, pledged \$500,000 on January 26, 2011, to establish an endowed professorial chair at IBS through his living trust. It will be named the **Noboru and Yaeko Hanyu Buddhist Chaplaincy Professorial Chair**.

#### Annual Giving:

The Coordinated Fundraising Committee is presenting an Annual Giving program at BCA's National Council Meeting in Visalia, CA. Details are coming soon.

#### For More Information:

Contact: Robert Noguchi in the Campaign Office at the Jodo Shinshu Center – 510-809-1453 or e-mail: [robert@bcacampaign.org](mailto:robert@bcacampaign.org).

**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*