
Yet another quick summer on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

September 2009



Moderation in many things

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

As I write this for publication it is still hot and humid. We've had an unusually hot summer but I suspect you may be experiencing the pleasant weather of September as you read this. Our Ohigan services were originally scheduled in what were considered the most temperate times of the year. It is easier to hear the Dharma when we are reasonably comfortable. It is easier to take the Dharma-message in, re-think it in your own terms and reformulate your own understanding when the weather and surroundings are comfortable. Our Fall Ohigan service will be held September 20th and I will give a Japanese-language message at 9:30 a.m. Our main service will follow at 10 a.m. and include a Dharma-message in English.

Some of you will remember that when I first came here, going on eight years ago, I used to spend about 1/3 of the Buddhist sermon portion of our services speaking in Japanese. It soon became clear that this was not necessary, not desired, better discontinued. I think the focus on the Japanese language was unpopular even without taking my meager language skills into consideration. We now have a moderate amount of Japanese-language message content in our yearly calendar.

Many of you know I was raised Roman Catholic. In my home town of Fresno there were three churches that were predominantly Italian-American in their membership. Two of the three struck me as more Italian-American than churches. The priests did their best to provide religious instruction, spiritual leadership, but if 65% of the members were only there for reasons of their ethnicity what was a spiritual leader to do? The one church that just happened to be predominantly Italian-American but had a religious focus, St. Anthony's, is still going strong. The two churches that were only Italian-American social clubs have closed.

The Oregon Buddhist temple would have disappeared long ago if it had tried to survive as a Japanese-American

social club. Nonetheless, our connection to Japanese culture remains strong and is an invigorating factor in the health of our temple. We have a moderate, even a large, component of Japanese culture informing our temple activities but you can still be comfortable here if you are non-Japanese in your ethnicity and in your language skills.

It was not Buddhists but Roman Stoics who encouraged moderation in all things. Buddhists practice moderation in many things. I hope you are immoderately intense in your love of your family and friends. I hope you are immoderately intense in your commitment to the well-being of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. I hope that you are immoderately, greatly concerned about repairing as much of the damage humans have done to the environment as we possibly can. Buddhists are not moderate in all things, but we are moderate in many. I am trying to learn to eat moderately. I have always been involved in moderate exercise. I am not sure if a man my age [60] should amp up his exercise program or not. As we come to enjoy the moderate weather of early fall I hope we can each reflect on where we need to be more moderate and where we need to be intense. As I like to say, - Moderation in all things, including moderation.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

Sukiyaki Bazaar is Sunday, October 4. Food pre-order form is attached. Work list will be in next month's newsletter.

"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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September/October Highlights

Sep 11	Board Meeting	7 pm
Sep 13	Dharma Gathering Ohigan Service and potluck at Laurelhurst Park	10 am
Sep 19	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
Sep 20	OBT Ohigan Service followed by potluck lunch	9:30 am
Oct 2	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	9 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	8 am
Oct 4	Sukiyaki Bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm

**President's message**

Yoshi Ono, OBT President

We were extremely happy that the temperatures were below 100°F for this year's Obonfest. Several days before the event were quite uncomfortable due to the heat, and as usual, nervous about the attendance to the big event. Things turned out well and everything went very smoothly. I really appreciate the coordination of all the details by the co-chairs Stan Shiigi and Judy Hittle. It's truly a big task and they handled it like old time pros. The committee chairs also did a great job in executing the tasks in each area. Thank you to all who turned out to work, eat, drink, play, and dance. It's the gathering of all the people to participate in one way or another that makes Obonfest successful.

As the sounds of the taiko subside in our minds, we begin to feel the onset of fall. The start of school, football season, and Sukiyaki Bazaar come to mind. This year Ann Shintani-Winner has graciously stepped up to chair Sukiyaki Bazaar which is on October 4. I would once again ask for your help by volunteering your assistance to Ann and the Temple. As usual, the work schedule will be published and order forms will be sent out so please get your orders in and help us out in any way. Thank you. In Gassho,

**OBWA news**

Nancy Kajitsu

Thanks to Tomiko for planning the trip to Chinook Winds and a good time was had by all.

The next OBWA meeting will be held on Saturday September 19, 2009.

Our Fall Bazaar is fast approaching. Alice Ando would like to remind us that work will begin on Friday morning October 2 at 9 am. Saturday morning will begin at 9am also, but Sunday morning begins at 7am. Please come and help.

**Dharma school news**

Ann Shintani

Dharma School will officially open on Sunday Sept. 13th at our Dharma Gathering Ohigan service and potluck in the park. See Amy Peterson's article for details.

We are still looking for people interested in helping with our Dharma School program. If you are interested in learning more about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, teaching is an excellent way. Our master theme for the year will be: Shinran Shonin the early years, as we gear up for the 750th Memorial in 2011. Time commitment is minimal as classes are taught in teams.

Dharma School teachers will be chairing services in September.

Now is also the time to register for our Temple Girl Scout troop #43720. Girls supplement their neighborhood troops with service, Buddhist perspective on scouting programs, and activities. Contact Amy Peterson for more information.

I am pleased to announce that Amy Peterson will be the Dharma School Coordinator for 2009-2010. Thank you, Amy! I have really enjoyed being the Coordinator for the past few years (including through my pregnancy) and have really appreciated Rev. Gibbs and the Dharma School teacher's support and dedication to the Dharma School. Amy Peterson has many years of experience with Dharma School and with the Girl Scout program. As for me, I would like to try to cut back on my responsibilities at the temple, although I still plan to be involved with the Dharma School. I have volunteered to chair this fall's Sukiyaki Bazaar fundraising and community food event: I will need lots of help as have I misplaced the notebook. I plan to continue the event in the traditional way, without making major changes. Thank you for your patience and flexibility with me on this.

We are so grateful to Hiroshi Yamauchi for creating and tending the Wheel of Dharma School Garden. Here is an update of new donors, including Mr. Yamauchi's response to a segment in last month's newsletter, "Hiroshi, Hiroshi, how does your garden grow?"

New community garden member: Karen Wong

**More Dharma school**

Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator

Be Yourself Buddhist Day Camp, which took place August 11-14, was not only fun but also educational. Everyone from camper, to aide to adults all learned many things during the four day camp. Campers were excited to come every morning. Songs, games, crafts, cooking and more were

experienced. We're all looking forward to another camp next year. We'll be looking to arrange ride shares to accommodate more campers. 2010 theme is For Me Alone.

Dharma School will officially open on Sunday Sept. 13th at our Dharma School Ohigan Service in the Park. Please bring your children, parents, friends, potluck breakfast dish and dogs to Laurelhurst Park, located near S.E. Ankeny and 39th (Cesar Chavez Street) at picnic Area F. Registration forms are available through the website or at the picnic. Service starts at 10:00 am. Paper goods and beverages will be provided by Dharma School.



Parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, all who spend time with kids!

Tomiko Takeuchi

The Dharma School will be sponsoring a "parenting class". We are just putting this 6 week session together, and wanted to let you know as early as possible. Starting date is October 11 and will run through November 29. This allows for a couple of special Sunday events when we won't meet. Right now we are looking at a 12:15 – 1 p.m. schedule on Sunday following snack and social time. There will be activities for the children so that parents will be able to participate without distraction.

Our group facilitator will be Ty Okamura, retired Portland Public School counselor. I have known Ty for many years and have great respect for her skills, and appreciate her helping us with this project.

Parents will be contacted for input and guidance as we develop this program. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, don't hesitate to contact the temple or drop an e-mail through our website: www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com



Obonfest 2009 Co-Chairs Stan Shuigi and Judy Hittle

Despite the 96-degree heat, we had a highly

successful Obonfest 2009. The crowd was large and the food booths either sold out or were very close to selling out.

As you can imagine, the shave ice and ice-cold soft drinks/water sold like "hot cakes". We sold all 8 cases of water by 6 pm and had to make two trips to Safeway to buy 9 more cases (thanks to Tom McCormack, Nicholas Yoshinaga and Jerry Fugate). All 8 cases of soft drinks also sold out. We used 31 bags of ice (out of 32 bought) for the shave ice and for keeping the soft drinks, water and beer cold. The shave ice booth was open until after Obon ended!

Obonfest 2009 couldn't have happened without the hard work of the Sangha. First came the organization of the committees and naming chair(s) for each committee. We

spent months preparing for Obonfest, starting with the design of the T shirts, adding Obonfest information to the OBT website, and distributing flyers, press releases and advertisements. Then came the long process of organizing the program, filling each committee with workers, ordering food/supplies/refrigerated trailer/trash and recycling bins/porta potties and applying for a temporary food permit. In addition, the preparation of manju was started about a month before Obonfest and dance practices began.

On Thursday July 30th, the bulk of the food was picked up and several food booths prepared their sauces. On Friday July 31st, a large number of Sangha members showed up to set up the booths/yagura/benches/ tents in the parking lot. An equally large number of members were in the kitchen to prepare items for the yakisoba, chirashizushi, yakiniku, teriyaki chicken, and Spam musubi. Two hundred pounds of rice were washed. Alice Ando and OBWA prepared a somen lunch for the workers.

Early in the morning of Obonfest day (August 1st) in preparation for the heat, the air conditioner in the Hondo level and the kitchen/basement was turned on. The chirashizushi and spam musubi were prepared in the morning and stored in the walk-in refrigerator. Outside, the set up of the booths was completed, the lanterns were hung over the dance area and the padded stage area put into place. The sound system was set up. In the basement, the children's booth was set up. Alice Ando and the OWBA again provided lunch for all the workers using trimmings from the yakiniku beef of the previous day. Then from 1 to 4 pm, final preparations were done. The soft drinks, water and beer were cooled in ice. The charcoal for the yakiniku was started, the convection oven turned on to cook the teriyaki chicken, and the gas fired woks were started for the yakisoba. The information and raffle booths were ready. The omiyage shop was ready. The outside vendors were ready.

At 4:00 pm Obonfest 2009 began. The program included Tanuki Taiko, Portland Taiko, Obukan Kendo Club and Temple Talk. The Bon Odori started at about 7:00 pm. Raffle drawings were done during breaks in the dancing. Obonfest ended at 8:45 pm.

Then on Sunday August 2nd, Sangha members helped to break down and store the booths, tents, benches, and clean the kitchen. A delicious lunch of leftovers was provided under the direction of Katie Kawazoe.

We'd like to thank the following Sangha members for chairing the Obonfest committees: Publicity (Etsu Osaki), Emcee (Pat Hokama), Treasurer (Shinya Ichikawa), Signs (Judy Yamauchi), Raffle (Yoshi Ono), Vendors (Susan Leedham, Chris Dart), Entertainment (Carol Saiget, Cathy Yarne), Parking (Herb Osaki, John and Amy Peterson), Electrical (Jerry Fugate), Lanterns (Tom McCormack, Bill and Linda Tanaka), Children's Booth (Ann Shintani), Omiyage Shop (Brenda Fugate, Janice Ishii), Website Manager (Ken Garner), T-shirt Design (Maho Garner), T-shirt Printing (Kim Kono), Information (Jean Matsumoto), First Aid (Al Ono, Craig and Lisa Yanase), Day Security (Paul Hittle), Overnight Security (Paul Hittle, Dana

Macmartin, Charles Dawson, Jerry Sumoge, Joe Wahl, Sound System (Robert Kagawa), Odori Sensei (Sahomi Tachibana), Temple Talks (Rev. Gregory Gibbs), Yakisoba (Al Ono, Etsu Osaki), Yakiniku (Jerry Sumoge, Dennis Yamauchi), Teriyaki Chicken (Tom Hokama), Beer Garden (Mark Achterman), Manju and Chirashizushi (OBWA), Spam Musubi (Nancy Kajitsu, Katie Tamayasu), Soft Drinks (Marilyn Achterman), Shave Ice (Ray Fukunaga).

We also like to thank the Sangha members whose donations helped to defray the cost of the raffle prize and the food purchases: Raffle (Alice Sumida); Food purchases (Al Ono, Anonymous, Chris Dart, Kiyomi Dickinson, Kim Kono and Randy Choy, Pat and Tom Hokama, Ray Fields, Scott Winner, Stan and June Shiigi, Susan and Chris Leedham, Katie Tamayasu). These members donated a total of \$3,538.

We'd also liked to thank the Sangha members (and their friends) who helped in the Friday set up and food preparation, the Saturday set up and food preparation, in all the booths during Obonfest, and the Sunday clean up. The names are too numerous to list. Without these helpers, Obonfest would not be possible, let alone a success. We'd like to thank June Shiigi for helping to organize the work force. Because of her efforts, few members had double shifts and all of these were voluntary.

Finally, we'd like to thank Teresa Enrico and the members of the Tanuki Taiko and Portland Taiko for performing at Obonfest 2009. Their performances are always a highlight of the program. We'd also like to thank John Hancock and members of the Obukan Kendo Club for their exciting demonstration of the martial art of kendo. Thanks also to the money counters headed by Eric Ouchida, and including Sue Muramatsu, and Gail and Kelly Martin.

Again, thank you to everyone for making Obonfest 2009 a success!



Obonfest Omiyage 2009 Brenda Fugate, Janice Ishii

Despite the hot weather, the obonfest Omiyage booth was crowded with browsers and buyers. Items for sale included lightly-used Japanese children's books, assorted Beanie Babies, Japanese dry goods including a man's winter kimono, cotton yukatas, colorful printed hankies, kitchenware such as rice bowls, tea sets and mugs. There were wooden and ceramic Japanese dolls, Obon T-shirts past and present and many other unique gift items.

We would like to thank our many generous donors: Kathy Boettcher, Kiyomi Dickinson, Susan Endecott, Yasuko Fields, Merrie Greenwood, Pat Hokama, Karol Kennedy Misa Kodama, Jean Matsumoto, Marlene Moro, Judy Murase, Al Ono, Setsu Ueno, Barb Wagner, Sandy

Yamauchi and several anonymous donors. Our apologies and thanks to anyone we missed in the list above.

Thanks also to the hardworking crew who helped with pricing, set up, selling, and/or clean-up: Kiyo Endecott, Susan Endecott, Yasuko Fields, Jerry Fugate, Liz Fugate, Lily Meiner, Marlene Moro, LaRhette Swann, Gail Tsutsumi and Ken Yuzuriha. Again, our regrets and thanks to anyone whose name we have omitted.



Lotus circle – July/August Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of September are being provided by:

- September 6 – Susan Leedham in memory of (imo) father Kay Akiyama; Kazuko Sunamoto imo parents Hinatsuke and Kane Nakamoto
- September 13 – Yasuko Fields imo sister Minako Maekawa; Karen Scapple imo father Tsutomu Watanabe
- September 20 – Amy Peterson imo father Yosh Mishima; Takako Ishida imo father Seiichi Takahashi
- September 27 - Janie Matsushima imo mother Mae Furukawa; Mary Okita imo husband Frank

Thank you all for your generous donations that cover the cost of the beautiful flowers on our onajin each Sunday. And please don't forget to thank the ladies of our Flower Toban who make the lovely arrangements on the altar and around the temple. Also, check with Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) if you would like to put information, pictures, poems, etc. about your loved ones on our Lotus Circle webpage. For information about the Lotus Circle and how to join us, please contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.



New book in the library Etsu Osaki

Buddhist Women Across Cultures: Realizations; edited by Karma Lekshe Tsomo, State University of NY Press, 1999, paperback, 297 pages.

The author is instructor of Buddhism at Chaminade University and Degree Fellow at the East-West Center.

Women from various Buddhist traditions write about "women's struggle for religious equity in Asian Buddhist cultures as well as the process of creating Buddhist feminist identity across national and ethnic boundaries as Buddhism gains attention in the West."

The chapter on Japanese Buddhist Nuns written by Paula Arai is quite interesting. It says that the very first

Buddhists in Japan were two nuns who received their ordination in Korea.

Congratulations Sahomi

Sahomi Tachibana has been teaching odori for 60 years! At one of the bon odori practices she celebrated this occasion with a cake and many good wishes from those in attendance. She started teaching at a very young age, taught bon odori at her previous temple, the New York Buddhist Church, and many years at OBT. So, thank you Sahomi. Bon Odori would not be the same without you.

2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	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.

August Toban

Anderson, Lisa	Cooney, Nolan
Endecott, Kiyo	Endecott, Susan
Gibbs, David	Gibbs, Kyoko
Grannan, Lynn	Grannan, Scott
Henry, Motoko	Herold, Tammy
Leedham, Chris	Leedham, Susan
Masuoka, Connie	Masuoka, Nobuko
Matsushima, Hiroshi	Matsushima, Janie
McGraw, Kara	Miwa, Keiko
Ouchida, Fusako	Peterson, Amy
Shintani, Ann	Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, Tara
Tanaka, Lennie	Winner, Scott
Wright, David	Yamauchi, Hiroshi
Yamauchi, Judy	

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



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Buy Scrip and financially support OBT while you shop at no additional cost to yourself. 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.