

Summertime - preparing for the Obon season on the



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

July 2008



Interdependence Day *Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs*

The first Friday in July will be Independence Day. I hope you will have a wonderful time celebrating our country's 232nd birthday. The USA kicked off a notion of representative democracy where all the key executive positions are filled by elected officials. By contrast, the Queen of England is still not an elected post. Americans made the first workable adaptation of democracy to the context of populous modern nations. This innovation in democracy was a great idea and it remains a challenge to live up to our fundamental principles and adapt them authentically to changing conditions. Without resting on our laurels we can say that we have something to be proud of as citizens of the first real democracy. I hope you have a great Fourth of July.

On July 27th we will have our Obon and Hatsubon service. For the moment I am taking to calling this Interdependence Day. It is because we are interdependent with those who have passed before us that respecting and remembering them is so important. I am not always completely happy with the sort of person I am, but I could not be anyone else. What is more, I am this particular person only because of who my mother and father were. My life has always been interdependent with theirs. I will remember all of my friends who have preceded me in death on the weekend of July 26th and 27th but it will especially be my quiet, analytic and reflective father and my emotionally warm, humorous and artistically inclined mother of whom I will be thinking. Some of you will see more of one of those sets of qualities in me than the other but the older I get the more of both of my parents I see in my ways of thinking, feeling and acting.

Our Obon/Hatsubon Service on July 27th, Interdependence Day, will be preceded by cemetery visitations on Saturday 7-26. At 9 a.m. on the 26th I will be

at Rose City for a short service then on to Gresham for a 10:30 a.m. service and back to OBT for a temple service at noon. I hope to see some of you at these services. I hope to see almost all of you at our Obon and Hatsubon service on 7-26. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Will Masuda of the Palo Alto temple. Rev. Masuda is one of my own favorite ministers from whom to hear a Dharma message. Many of you have never heard his presentation of the Dharma and I highly recommend him as a teacher. Those of you who have heard him speak before often did so many years ago. I've known Masuda Sensei for 25 years and the style and feel of his Dharma messages has changed a lot. He was always a person of deep feeling but he has matured even further in the past 25 years. Me too (fortunately I look just the same as I did a quarter century ago, just more intellectually and emotionally mature is all.)

Rev. Masuda will deliver a brief Japanese-language message at the 9:30 a.m. Service and then give an English-language Dharma-message in our main service which starts from 10 a.m. I hope you will be able to join us on Interdependence Day.

At OBT we, like about half of the 85 or so Jodo Shinshu temples in North America, hold our Obon Odori and Obon festival the week after our Obon service. If you want to get ready for the Obonfest Sahomi Tachibana Sensei is again this year giving Obon dance lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on July 15th and then running every Tuesday and Thursday through the end of the month. Along with Sahomi Sensei other highly experienced Obon dancers from our temple will be on hand to help us learn and enjoy this wonderful Buddhist and Japanese cultural tradition. See you there?

Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

The OBT web site has been completely redesigned, thanks to Ken Garner. Be sure to check it out at: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>

"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@verizon.net

July Highlights

July 11	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
July 13	Obonfest Planning Meeting After service	
July 15, 17, 21, 24, 29, 31	Obon Dance Practice	7 pm
July 18	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
July 28	Obon Cemetery Services	
	Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
July 27	Obon Service	9:30 am
Aug 2	Obonfest	4 – 9 pm



**Obonfest co-
chairs Joe
Wahl and
Yoshi Ono**

Planning for the August 2, 2008 Obonfest is progressing smoothly. Most of the committee chairs have been appointed and they are actively doing what's needed to again make Obonfest a great success. The next Obonfest meeting is Sunday, July 13 after service. Everyone's help is appreciated. The emphasis will be on presenting quality – quality of the Obon dances and music, quality of food, quality of entertainment, the quality of OB T as an important and key element in the lives of our members and the quality of OB T's role in the Buddhist and general Portland community.



**Obon
commemo-
rative lanterns
Bill and Linda
Tanaka**

Once again our Obonfest will feature Commemorative Lanterns to celebrate our Kangi-e or "Gathering of Joy" on August 2nd. Last year more than 150 red and white lanterns were hung from lines radiating from the center of our dance area. The White lanterns commemorated the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends, or even pets regardless of when they passed away. The names of the honored ones are beautifully written in kanji, katakana and/or English with the date of passing.

Red lanterns give you an opportunity to help sponsor the Obon Festival. You can have the name of any business, family or person's name written in kanji, katakana and/or English to show your support for the event and our temple.

If you have lanterns from last year, you can have them hung for a nominal fee, to continue in this joyful remembrance. What better way to celebrate this "Gathering of Joy"! **Order form is in this newsletter and at the temple.**

Once again donations would be appreciated to offset the cost. Send donations to the Oregon Buddhist Temple Commemorative Lanterns.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

Thank You

Chairpersons
Bill and Linda Tanaka
(503) 292-4269



Commemorative lanterns will again adorn Obonfest



**Omiyage Booth
Brenda Fugate**

The Omiyage (gift) booth is looking for donations of lightly used items to sell at this year's Obonfest! Asian-themed items sell especially well, but anything pretty may catch someone's eye. Collectables, books, ceramics and accessories are greatly appreciated as are Asian-inspired handicrafts. Donations will be gladly accepted by Brenda Fugate (503-236-1079) or Cynthia Wong at Sunday morning dharma gatherings, bon odori (dance) practices and during obonfest preparation or drop them off at the temple or annex clearly labeled "Obon Omiyage" with your name. If donating handicrafts, please provide a pricing suggestion – we don't want to sell your creations for less than it cost you to make them! All proceeds benefit OB T. Arigato!



**OBWA appreciation
Alice Ando, OBWA President**

Thank you to the May toban for cleanup: Mary Okita, Chiho Okita, Rose Ikata, June and Stan Shiigi, Penny Seibel, Alice Tano, Darlene Demise, Jon D. Ward, Brian Larson, Tom McCormack and Alice Ando.

Donations received and deeply appreciated:

- June Shiigi - 18 Scotch Brite heavy duty pads and 3 Scotch Brite no scratch pads
- Atsuko Richards - Package of tea bags
- Amy Peterson - 50# Homai rice
- OBWA gratefully acknowledges donations as follows:
- Yoshiro Shintani and David Shintani - Birth of Mika Jane Shintani-Winner
- Judy Kobayashi - In memory of her mother the late Sauda Kinoshita

OBWA extends their deepest sympathies to the following families:

- The Late Sauda Kinoshita who passed away April 24
- The Late Junko Yamashita who passed away May 20
- The Late Mary Shiiki who passed away June 11

They will be sadly missed by their OBWA friends.

On May 31 the OBWA participated in the Richmond School Spring Festival selling omiyage items. This is one of the ways that we can be part of the outreach program to be visible to the Japanese and American community. It was a beautiful day and it was nice to see all the young and old who passed by to see what we were selling.



Dharma School pool party ***Ann Shintani***

After service, on a sunny Sunday in May, the Dharma School frolicked in the water at the Holladay Park Plaza pool. The water was oh so warm. There were water toys, lap swimmers and hot tub dippers. Afterwards, we ate and played in the adjoining courtyard, amongst the sun and flowers (Lumbini Garden). Families that enjoyed the afternoon together were the Cohens, Garners, Gibbs, Konos, McGraws, Stoellers, Winners, Nasmans, Yanases, Achtermans, Petersons, Ms. Jean and Michelle. Thank you, Wendy and Heidi Peterson for traveling from Salem to keep the kids safe. Thank you to Ms. Jean and the Plaza for welcoming the families to their beautiful facilities. It was so much fun, we would like to make this an annual summertime event.



Additions to the OBT library ***Etsu Osaki***

Children's Books:

- The Monkey King
- Wisdom of the Golden Goose
- The Fish King's Power of Truth

These three books with colorful illustrations are Jataka tales--stories told by the Buddha. They tell about his many previous lives.

A Treasury of Wise Action: Jataka Tales of

Compassion and Wisdom, Dharma Publishing, 1993, 147 pages. A collection of Jataka tales.

My Pure Land by Hiro Sachiya, The Nembutsu Press, 2003, 187 pages. The author majored in modern Indian philosophy at the University of Tokyo. He says he started studying the Buddha-dharma rather late in his life because "the Buddha was constantly requesting me to..." This book is a very personal, easy to read account of his understanding of the Buddha-dharma.

The Prince and the Monk: Shotoku Worship in Shinran's Buddhism by Kenneth Doo Young Lee, State University of New York Press, 2007, 231 pages. The author is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at California State University at Northridge. In this book he addresses the historical development of the political and religious myths surrounding Shotoku Taishi and their influence on Shinran. This is definitely a scholarly book for the history buff.

Videos:

An Evening with Hiro Sachiya, Japanese with English translation by Rev. David Matsumoto. His talk covers the "Three Poisons"--greed, anger and ignorance.

Rev. Ken Yamada at the Generation Y Retreat, April 5, 2008. Rev. Yamada of the Higashi Hongwanji speaks basic Buddhism to young people.

From the OB Archives

In a newspaper article dated Feb 1, 1969 the late Bishop Kenryu Tsuji was quoted in an interview. "The ultimate purpose of life as a Buddhist is to attain Buddhahood--enlightenment. But the immediate purpose of life is realized in the awakening of faith. The life of faith when it reaches a high level of organization will have developed insight to understand the changing circumstances of life...even during hardships the faith will remain strong because the inner conviction is strong."



Lotus Circle - July ***Jean Matsumoto***

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

- July 6 - Tom McCormack in memory of parents, Mac and Libby; Mitsuko Hasuie in memory of husband, James.
- July 13 - Grace Ishikawa in memory of father, Joe Sadaji Tachibana.
- July 20 - Jayne Ichikawa in memory of father, Kaz Kinoshita.
- July 27 - Lily Meiners in memory of parents, Frank and Merry Kurihara.

For information regarding the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463; e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

July Toban

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

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

2008 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2007	1 year	1986	23 year
2006	3 year	1982	27 year
2002	7 year	1976	33 year
1996	13 year	1972	37 year
1992	17 year	1959	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.



Learn how to dress in a kimono

Tomiko Takeuchi

July 19, 2008

11:00 am, OBT basement

Come join us as Sahomi Tachibana demonstrates obi tying and dressing in kimono. This is your chance to see the involved process, and enjoy seeing the finished product.

If you have a kimono or yukata, and want to be dressed in it ... bring it in and you will have the opportunity. We will have some yukatas, kimonos, and obis for purchase. You might find just what you are looking for.

Come join in the fun ... and learn something too. If you have questions, please call the temple and leave a message for Tomiko.

**BON
FEST 2008**

Aug 2, Sat, 4-9 pm
 Portland Taiko, entertainment, food, gifts,
 children’s booth, temple talks,
 Obon dancing at 6:30. Practices start
 July 15, Tue & Thur, 7:00 pm
OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
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Correspondence Course **Jodo Shinshu**

Visit Our Website:
WWW.JSCC.cbe-bca.org

Application Deadline:
August 15