
Summertime - preparing for the Obon season on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

July 2010



Remembering our loved ones

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

The month of July is upon us. I'm hoping that this month looks more like summer than most of the month of June did. You may have already celebrated the 4th by the time you read this. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists we are members of the oldest continuous representative democracy in the world (826 years and counting). As citizens of the USA we are participants in the first workable adaptation of democracy to the context of populous modern nations. Without meaning to rest on our laurels we may say that we have something to be proud of as citizens of the first real democracy among nations and as participants in the first truly democratic religious organization. This is worth celebrating and I hope you had or are having a great Fourth of July.

Also, I hope you will join us on the 25th for our Obon and Hatsubon service. This service is an important time for Buddhists to reflect upon those we love, especially those who have preceded us in passing on to the next life. We combine our Hatsubon and Obon services here at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Hatsubon is the first Obon service since passing. This will be a very important service for those who have lost a loved one in the last year. If possible a family member or friend will come forward to offer incense in honor of each of those members and friends of the temple who have passed away in the past year. In the case that no one close to the deceased is able to attend this service one of OBT's Minister's Assistants will go up to offer incense on their behalf.

OBT's Obon service will include a Dharma-talk by Rev. Grant Ikuta of the Steveston, British Columbia temple. Rev. Ikuta is a friend of mine. If you come out on the 25th and meet him I'm sure he will become a friend of yours as well. Most of you have not heard one of his Dharma-messages before. I highly recommend him as a teacher of

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Rev. Ikuta will deliver a brief Japanese-language message at the 9:30 a.m. service and then give an English-language message in our main service, which starts at 10 a.m.

Our Obon and Hatsubon service on July 25th will be followed by cemetery visitations on Saturday, July 31st. I will preside at a brief service at the Rose City Cemetery at 9 a.m. Services will follow that Saturday at the Gresham cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and back here at OBT at noon.

Whether you can attend these services or not, I hope you are having a wonderful summer. I also hope you will take a little time this Obon season to remember your deceased friends and family members. Death presents a challenge to the lives we try to live here on earth, on this beautiful planet. If those challenges open out to questions about the meaning that can be given to life and questions about what may follow our current biological lives – please explore the Buddhist teachings. You can listen to Dharma-messages at our services as a way of exploring Buddhist teachings. You may find illumination in our more casual Dharma-exchange sessions following our services. I also like to believe that the study classes I offer on Mondays and Fridays may help bring clarity in these important areas of our lives. In any case, I hope you are having a wonderful summer.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

OBT Membership registration form and Obonfest commemorative lantern order form are in this issue

"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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July Highlights

July 9	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Jul 16, 17	DS Rummage Sale	7 am
Jul 17	DS Spaghetti Bingo	6:00 pm
Jul 17	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
July 20, 22, 27, 29, Aug 3, 5	Obon Dance Practice	7 pm
Jul 25	Obon Service	9:30 am
Jul 27, 28, 29, 30		9 am
	DS Summer Camp	
Jul 31	Obon Cemetery Services Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
Aug 7	Obonfest	3 – 9 pm



**President's message—
traditions in giving at OBT**

Kim Kono, OBT President

Every Sunday, sometime between 9:45 am-10 am, the lobby of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is one of the busiest and most fun places to congregate. Children run around and others greet friends before settling into the hondo for service. Within the center of this activity is the welcome table hosted by volunteer members and the board. During special services, the welcome table gets extra busy, particularly with the receiving of special donations via white envelopes, which are included in temple newsletters. New members and guests to OBT may wonder about the significance of these gifts, and why they hold importance.

As a sansei growing up in a Jodo Shinshu temple, I observed my grandparents and parents faithfully making monetary donations at special services. However, since their contributions were concealed within the envelopes turned in prior to service, I never knew how much they were giving and of course, was curious. Once I inquired and my father told me that it wasn't the amount that was important, it was the tradition of giving to the temple and paying respect for the occasion and to the temple itself.

This tradition of giving "special donations" has for generations provided a steady source of income for temples, including OBT. In addition, OBT has relied on special donations from families holding funerals, memorial services, and weddings at the temple. Gifts made at special services, as well as to acknowledge temple services is very much welcomed, appreciated, and needed.

Special donations are one of three key revenue sources at the temple; the other funding sources are membership dues and special event fundraisers (Sukiyaki, Spring Bazaar, Obon and Mochitsuki). It is a fact that donations made at special services are significantly declining and impacting our operating budget. Decreased giving may be due to a variety of factors, especially the economy, but it may also reflect our diversifying Sangha who is not aware of the special donations tradition.

While the OBT board continues to seek new ways of fundraising, I share these thoughts in the spirit of encouraging participation and renewing traditions in giving during special services. These traditions have been passed down over the generations and indeed, helped build OBT. I hope these traditions can continue to ensure OBT's future.

At the Obon Service on July 25, I hope to see you as we honor our ancestors and enjoy the fellowship of our Sangha. And, when you enter the lobby, please consider making a special donation to mark the occasion and help sustain OBT. Many gifts of all amounts will make a difference.

OBWA news

Jean Matsumoto



OBWA gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for donations received in May: Lisa Yanase, 2 anonymous.

Appreciation is extended to those who brought refreshments to the April monthly OBWA meeting: Kiyomi Dickenson, Fusako Ouchida, Kyoko Gibbs, Ann Shintani, Tammy Herold, and Susan Endecott. Thank you, Toban members who participated in the April monthly clean-up. Refreshments for the May meeting were brought by Janice Okamoto and Linda Tanaka. On May 22, otoki (refreshment) for after the Gotan-E Service was prepared by: Atsuko Richards, Darlene Demise, Kiyomi Dickenson, Dr. Al Ono, Ernie Takeda, Kiyoko Gibbs, Marlene Moro, Tomoko Ono, Cathy Shikatani-Stoeller, Bill Tanaka, and Alice Ando. The udon (noodles) was delicious. Thanks to the May toban for the temple clean-up at the end of the month.

On Sunday, June 13, the OBWA presented all of the OBT high school graduates with the book "The Buddha's Wish for the World" by the Monshu Koshin Ohtani (copies of which are for sale in our library) and a monetary gift. Congratulations, graduates, from OBWA.

Gotan-e and Hatsumairi

Jean Matsumoto

Gotan-E, the birthday of our founder Shinran Shonin, was observed on Sunday, May 23, 2010 with a special service which featured the OBT choir singing Shinshu Shuka accompanied by Elaine Yuzuriha on the piano and Todd Yuzuriha on the trumpet. Our guest minister for this service was Reverend Kurt Rye of the Fresno Betsuin. Rev. Rye, a native of the Pacific Northwest, told of how he found Jodo Shinshu by visiting the Seattle Betsuin and encountering Reverend Don Castro (our Sensei, Rev. Gibbs, found Jodo Shinshu by visiting the Fresno Betsuin and encountering Reverend Carol Himaka). OBT also observes Hatsumairi (welcoming of new babies, new Dharma School children and new Temple members) at our Gotan-E service. Welcomed this year were babies: Midori Amalie

Sandrowicz, daughter of Brandon and Angela (Shintani) Sandrowicz, and Abigail Renee Butler, daughter of Rhett Butler and Chiki Kwong. New Dharma School students are Belle and Liam Dabelstein, children of Bill and Kathleen Dabelstein, and Zoe Roe, daughter of Alan and Nita Roe. Our new Temple members are: Amen and Kelly Kester, Randy Kunisaki, and Charles Reneau.



Reverend Kurt Rye speaking at Gotan-e service



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson

Dharma School is over for another year. Attendance awards and recognition of High School graduates were presented so if your student missed Sunday June 13, please contact your student's teacher or Amy Peterson, the DS Coordinator through the OBT Website.

We will have programs for children during the summer for those adults wanting to attend Dharma Exchange. Students will be making taiko practice drums for the DS Summer Day Camp and adult volunteers will help re-head one of the old taiko drums. We still have not finalized a July date for the Swim party but will email parents when it is confirmed. If you are interested please contact Amy. Nenju repair class will also be available this summer. We'll be looking for more volunteers to assist with summer activities. Please check the website calendar for more updates.

Remember:

July 12-15 Mon -Thurs set up for DS Rummage Sale. Contact Nancy Kajitsu

July 16-17 Fri- Sat 7 am - 3 pm DS Rummage Sale. Contact Nancy Kajitsu

July 17 Sat 6 pm DS Spaghetti Bingo Fundraiser
Tickets available \$5 seniors and youth, \$7 adults, \$21 family ticket (direct family only please)

Please bring a wrapped white elephant prize to be used for Bingo. Please mark the target prize audience (Male, Female, Adult, Youth, any, etc.)

Dessert snack bar and optional drinks will be available for purchase.

July 27-30 Tue-Fri DS Buddhist Music Summer Day Camp.

Please download registration form or get more information from the OBT Website. Forms will be available at the front table of the Temple.

This fall we will conduct classes for Scouts wanting to earn the BCA Scouting religious awards. Please contact Amy if you know someone interested. Classes are open to all Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H. Religious awards are beneficial for Eagle, Gold and other awards and related scholarships. Please check BCA Scouting Committee link for more information:
<http://bcascout.webs.com/>



Signs of a stroke

Etsu Osaki

On May 15th following the regular OBWA meeting, Dr. Lisa Yanase spoke on strokes. According to a handout it is essential to call 911 FAST. Look for these symptoms:

1. Face: If the face looks uneven ask the person to smile.
2. Arm: One arm numb or hanging down. Ask the person to raise both arms.
3. Speech: Slurred or mixed up speech. As the person to repeat a simple sentence.
4. Time: Call 911 now. Don't wait.
You may be at higher risk if
 1. You have high blood pressure
 2. You smoke
 3. You have diabetes
 4. You are overweight or physically inactive.
 5. You have irregular heartbeats.

Lotus circle – July

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of July 2010 are being provided by donations from:

- July 4 – Ami Kinoshita in memory of (imo) husband, Kaz; Mitsuko Hasuike imo husband James; Tom McCormack imo parents, Mac and Libby
- July 11 – Grace Ishikawa imo father, Joe Sadaji Tachibana
- July 17 – open
- July 25 – Lily Meiners imo parents, Frank and Mary Kurihara

Thank you, all, for your generosity which pays for the beautiful flowers that our Flower Toban arranges for us every Sunday. Remember, Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) has arranged a Lotus Circle page on our website where you can submit articles about your loved ones. Want to know more about the Lotus Circle? Contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or matsumo@orcatech.org

July Toban

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 the Dharma

Words of Jean Matsumoto - 1995

2010 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2009	1 year	1988	23 year
2008	3 year	1984	27 year
2004	7 year	1978	33 year
1998	13 year	1974	37 year
1994	17 year	1961	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.



Shakespeare: A Buddhist perspective

Brenda Fugate

Although nobody was claiming that the Renaissance English Dramatist was a Buddhist, the panelist at OBT's May 15th Seminar showed that Shakespeare understood clearly how human beings bring suffering upon themselves and others. The three panelists – our own Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs, Gyokuko Carlson of Dharma Rain Zen Center and OBT member Jerry Fugate focused mainly on the ways in which the Bard's great tragedies demonstrate how the poisons of greed, anger and ignorance lead to death and misery for the play's characters. Plays such as Macbeth, Hamlet, Othello, King Lear and Julius Cesar dissect the karmic consequences of unwholesome obsessive ambition. They provide an engaging and compelling warning to audiences to avoid such thoughts and behaviors – and to watch for them in their leaders.

Approximately seventy attendees, most drawn from

outside the OBT community, attended the afternoon seminar, enriching it with their questions and enthusiasm for the topic. Brenda Fugate moderated the seminar and Charles Dawson acted as sound engineer.



Saturday, August 7 3 - 9 pm
at the OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
3720 SE 34th Ave (at Powell Blvd)

Activities include:

- Portland Taiko
- Children's Booth
- Cultural entertainment, food and gifts
- Obon dancing starts at 6:30 pm



You are invited to learn the Obon dances.
Lessons are FREE and no prior experience is required.
Practices start July 20th, every Tues & Thurs • 7 pm
at the OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
located at 3720 SE 34th Ave (at Powell Blvd)

For more information, please visit:
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com
or call 503-234-9456

Obonfest publicity and entertainment

Zack Semke



Publicity preparations for Obonfest 2010 are in full swing, with a new T-shirt design by Maho Garner, a flyer design by Joni Shimabukuro incorporating Maho's artwork, and press releases and photos out to local press. But we need the entire temple's help in spreading the word, so please tell all your friends about August 7! We'll also be calling on folks to help get the flyers out into the community. Flyers will be available at temple and we'll make pitches for help to the Sangha at services. Thanks in advance for whatever you can do to help publicize Obonfest 2010!

We have an exciting schedule of performances, culminating in Obon Odori. This year Portland Taiko will perform a shorter "teaser" performance right after Tanuki Taiko's 3:45 performance and then will perform a longer set beginning at 6:00. Temple Talks, a martial arts demonstration, and the raffle will round out the schedule. I can't wait!

Obonfest 2010 Schedule, August 7

3:00 Obon Opens/Welcome
 3:45 Tanuki Taiko
 4:00 Portland Taiko
 4:15 Temple Talk
 4:45 Martial Arts Demonstration
 5:15 Temple Talk
 5:45 Obon Service
 6:00 Portland Taiko
 6:45 Obon Odori
 8:45 Raffle
 8:50 Obon Odori
 9:00 Farewell

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 well 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) 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 OBT.

Obon commemorative lanterns

Obonfest will again feature Commemorative Lanterns to celebrate our Kangi-e or "Gathering of Joy" on August 7th. Red and white lanterns will be hung from lines radiating from the center of the dance area. White lanterns commemorate 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 this joyful remembrance.

Order form is in this newsletter and at the temple.

Also donations are 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

TLC for the temple taiko

Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke

After many years of faithful service, the heads on the temple taiko need repairing. Portland Taiko has graciously loaned OBT its taiko re-skinning equipment (four hydraulic jacks, stretching stand, rope) and we have the cowhide and tacks en route to us. We're almost ready to skin some taiko!

We just need some volunteers to help us out - we'll show you how to cut the skins into shape, form them on the taiko, stretch them, and tack them onto the taiko. It's fun and really rewarding to see (and hear!) the results of your handiwork. We'll begin the process during Dharma Exchange on June 27 and then will have two more sessions during July. Please call us at 503-232-1864 or email zacksemke@verizon.net if you are interested and willing to help!



Let's go out to eat

Ken Garner

Tired of eating at the same old places but don't want to pay full price to try a new restaurant? Well, the scrip program may have a solution for you. How does spending \$20 for a \$50 voucher sound? Restaurant.com Gift Cards are now available through our scrip program. Restaurant.com is about celebrating the dining experience more affordably. It is a convenient way to enjoy an evening out whenever you want without busting the budget. The gift cards are redeemable online for gift certificates to over 14,000 participating restaurants nationwide, as well as select online retailers. A quick check of the participating restaurants in the greater Portland area found over 100 places within 15 miles of our temple. Each \$50 gift card costs your family only \$20. The return to OBT is 50%. So for your \$20, you can get \$50 worth of vouchers (one \$50 gift certificate, two \$25 gift certificates, five \$10 gift certificates, or any combination up to \$50) and OBT gets \$10. Gift cards need to be redeemed online before use. Please note that there may be minimum spend requirements at participating restaurants and online merchant websites. Other restrictions may apply.

Visit the Dharma Store/Scrip Sales table downstairs after service on Sunday for more information on Restaurant.com or any other questions you may have about the scrip program. You can also send an email to the team at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

A reminder to support the Oregon Buddhist Temple by paying your 2010 Membership dues. Thank you.

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP 2010
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

Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course
2010 Fall Enrollment
Applications Now Accepted

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for their fall 2010 enrollment. The popular 2-year, computer-based program continues to offer online instruction in the origins and development of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin's life and teaching, sutras & masters of the Pure Land tradition and history of Jodo Shinshu.

An excellent opportunity for beginners or for those who have already studied Jodo Shinshu, the program reaches out to people all over the world. Students come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Belgium, Poland, Japan, as well as, Hawaii and the BCA. With over 100 students enrolled, the course has much to offer those interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. The course instructors consist of 14 ministers and professors who specialize in the subjects taught. An optional August Workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center is held every year.