



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

October 2009



## **Enjoying our Temple community**

**Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs**

I hope that you are each in good health and amidst positive circumstances as you read this. Please allow me to thank you for your support of our Sukiyaki Bazaar. This event may have already been completed as you read this. I am still looking forward to the Sukiyaki Bazaar as I write this article. I very much appreciate Ann Shintani-Winner's chairing this event. With her leadership and the support of all of you I am confident that the food will be good, the companionship nurturing and the donations to the temple substantial.

One event this month I especially wanted to draw your attention to is the panel discussion on "The Role of Ritual in Religious traditions". This will be on the second Saturday of the month, October 10th at 2 p.m. In our temple's hondo (or "main chapel"). I have asked the Minister's Assistants to do the actual presentation-side of the body of the seminar. I will sit in with them to address questions as some might pertain to the specifically Jodo Shinshu view of ritual behavior. Like all of our seminars this is open to the public without charge.

October is harvest season but many of you, like me, do not live on farms even though our parents were born on them. The natural rhythm of life that my parents learned in farming and ranching are less obvious to those of us who have been life-long city dwellers. One thing we miss that our predecessors had in their lives is the naturalness of slowing down and taking in the fact that it has been a good year. Once the harvest was in, in good years, my dad's family could relax and say, "despite all the hard work, the harvest is in and we are secure."

As city dwellers there is always something more to do and no natural point at which we may slow down and take it in that we have done our work, may rest awhile and may appreciate that life is good. The life of this temple is

flourishing. We added thirteen new adult members this year and added six or eight children to our Dharma school. This is about the average increase in membership we have been experiencing the last seven or eight years. It is roughly twice the number of members we lose through death and attrition. This means that our temple is on a path of slow, steady, sustainable growth.

Growing in numbers is, of course, not the most important thing for a religious organization. As Rennyō said, it is not mere numeric growth but the addition of even one more member in the group that have realized a deep faith in the teachings that is most important. My perception is that there is both a deepening spirituality in our temple and a stronger sense of community.

All this is hard for me to take in and here I am encouraging you to appreciate it. The increasingly obvious spirituality, the warmer sense of community and the slow but steady growth in numbers are the harvest we have taken in. It is not just the work that I have done. It is not just the help from Minister's Assistants. It is you, our members that have planted the seeds for this bumper harvest of spirituality, community and slow numeric growth with its promise of economic sustainability. I hope that we can all continue to meet together at the temple and share parts of our journeys through this life together. I hope we can continue to include people of many different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds in our Sangha. The Sangha, or Buddhist community, is one of the three great treasures of the truth as we often affirm in readings at services. It is the one that exists because we walk our paths with reference to the Buddhist teachings. Some might question whether there is a Buddha or there is a Dharma. No one can question whether there is that third jewel of a Buddhist Sangha so long as two or more of us try to live in the light of the teachings. We have a lovely community/Sangha here at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. I am very pleased to be here with all of you.

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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## Sukiyaki Bazaar

*Sunday, October 4, 2009 11:30 – 3:30 pm*  
*Beef and Vegetarian Sukiyaki, Chow Mein, Chicken Bento, Manju (Japanese Pastry), Produce and plant Stand, Snack Bar, Omiyage Gift Shop, Ikebana (Flower) and Japanese Calligraphy displays.*  
*Work list is included*

### October Highlights

Oct 2	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 4	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	7 am
Oct 4	Sukiyaki bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm
Oct 9	Board meeting	7 pm
Oct 10	Role of Ritual seminar	2 pm
Oct 17	OBWA meeting	9:30 am



**Yoshi Ono**  
**OBTA President**



**Kim Kono**  
**OBTA Vice-President**

### **OBTA member surveys due 9/30 /09**

The OBTA Board launched the Sangha Outreach Project this summer to take measure of the health and wellness of our Temple so we may better understand what areas are working well and those that need improvement.

The first step of the project was to conduct a member survey. The survey was mailed to members in the August newsletter and has also been accessible on-line on the OBTA website <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>.

If you have not yet completed a survey, you still have time! The deadline is September 30, 2009. The Board deeply values and requests your participation to help ensure we are serving our Sangha well. If you wish, you may remain anonymous when doing the survey.

To access the survey on-line on the OBTA website, you'll need to login as a member:

Username: obt

Password: namoamidabutsu

If you need a copy of the survey mailed to you or for questions, contact Kim Kono, OBTA vice president/project coordinator (503 236-6811) or at [membership@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:membership@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)

Thank you for helping the OBTA Board identify ways to strengthen member engagement and retention, as well as to assess outreach support and services to fellow members.

In gassho



### **Summary notes of September 11, 2009 OBTA board meeting** **Ken Garner, OBTA Secretary**

- A public lecture on the Role of Ritual will be held on October 10 starting at 2:00 pm. The lecture will be conducted by the minister's assistants.
- Due to our recent electricity usage, OBTA will be billed at a different rate schedule than we were. The end result is that our rates will most likely increase.
- We are looking for a co-chair for next year's Obonfest. Anybody interested in filling this vital role should contact any member of the board.
- The Dharma School has distributed two surveys to parents to solicit their opinions on the proposed parenting class and on the direction and activities of the Dharma School.
- The OBTA Membership survey will close September 30. As of the September 11 Board Meeting we have received about 50 responses.
- The property next door to OBTA has been sold (sale pending).
- Ann Shintani is the chairperson for the Sukiyaki Bazaar scheduled for October 4. There are opportunities for involvement still available. Contact Ann if you would like to volunteer.
- The election for the 2010 Board will be held in November. If you are interested in serving the OBTA community as a board member, contact any of the current board members.
- The next OBTA Board meeting will be October 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. OBTA members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBTA Secretary.

### **Seeking candidates for the 2010-2012 OBTA Board of Directors**

The OBTA Board is seeking candidates for the 2010-2012 OBTA Board of Directors between now and early November when the election will be held by mail-in ballots. The OBTA Board of Directors manages and controls the business and property of OBTA. There are twelve directors. Each director holds office for a three-year term. Four directors are elected each year. The year 2009 marks the end of the three-year terms for Kim Kono, Jerry Sumoge,

Joe Wahl and Shinya Ichikawa. The remaining Board members are:

2010: Mark Achterman, Hiroshi Matsushima, Al Ono, Elaine Yuzuriha.

2010-2011: Ken Garner, Janie Matsushima, Yoshi Ono, David Wright.

The four directors elected this year will serve from 2010 to 2012. Those leaving the Board this year are eligible for re-election.

All members running for the Board must be members at the time their names are placed on the ballot, must agree to serve on the Board at the time their names are placed on the ballot, and must maintain their membership throughout their term.

The schedule for the election process is as follows:

- Deadline for nominations is October 31, 2009.
- Ballots will be mailed out to members on Monday, November 9.
- Ballots should be returned to OBT by Sunday, November 29 at which time they will be counted and validated.
- Results will be announced at the following Sunday service, and in the December newsletter..

Please consider placing your name on the ballot and being a member of the OBT Board to help carry out the mission statement of the Oregon Buddhist Temple (see box at bottom of page 1). Current Board members will be actively seeking candidates in the next several weeks.



### **OBWA news** *Katie Tamiyasu*

We gratefully acknowledge donations from Misao Minagi, John Ota, Rose Ikata in memory of Hitoshi Joe Ikata, and Makoto Iwashita in memory of Kasuga

Iwashita. Thank you also to the August Toban for clean-up and refreshments from Misa Kodama, Julie Kagawa, Miki Yagi, Sumi Ishida, Alice Tano, Chris Dart and Fumi Okubo.

The preparation schedule for the Fall Sukiyaki Bazaar on October 4th is as follows:

- Friday, Oct 2nd, 9AM - cook and fry noodles.
- Saturday, Oct 3rd, 9AM - cut meat and vegetables for sukiyaki and chow mein.
- Sunday, Oct 4th, 7AM - cook chow mein and prep for sukiyaki servings.

Your help will be appreciated whenever possible.

The National Buddhist Women's Association conference will be held in Sacramento, CA., October 9th to 11th this fall. If there are any members interested in attending, please contact Alice Ando (503-256-9086/Cell 971-570-8094) as soon as possible.

The October OBWA reporter is Jean Matsumoto.



### **Dharma school news** *Amy Peterson, Dharma school coordinator*

Dharma School has started for a new year. We started off the Dharma School (DS) year with a great picnic at Laurelhurst Park. My Thanks to Etsuko Osaki, Ann Shintani, Mie McGraw, Kyoko Gibbs, BeeBee and Charles Dawson, Zack Semke, Cynthia Wong and Rev. Gibbs as well as many others who helped with set up and clean up. There was plenty of fantastic food with a relaxed atmosphere which gave everyone time to get to know new people and revisit old friends. The children loved the games as much as the adults enjoyed watching.

If you were unable to attend you can still register your child by downloading a registration form or picking one up at the Temple.

Here is our line up of teachers for the upcoming year: Lumbini class ages up to Kindergarten - Ann Shintani, Ann Ishimaru, Maho Garner and Terri Ann Corrollo.

Bodhi class grades 1-3 - Kyoko Gibbs and Mie McGraw  
Sangha class grades 4-5 - Marilyn Achterman, Cathy Shikitani, and Lisa Anderson

Prajna class grades 6-8 - Elaine Yuzuriha and Rev. Diane Johnson.

Dana class high school Michelle Mundt and Mie McGraw with help from guest speakers

We will also have help from our Minister's Assistants Cynthia Wong, Teresa SotodeRoman, Etsuko Osaki and Tammy Herold visiting classes and substituting. We have a lot of great things in the planning and people have offered to do some enrichment activities.

Our theme this year is Shinran Shonin the early years. Classes will reflect on the early life of Shinran Shonin and how that influenced his later teachings.

Some reminders: On Sat. Oct 3rd. 6:30 pm we will have a DS baking party for Snack Bar. We encourage all DS families and friends to help us make snacks to sell at our snack bar. Donations of store baked goods are always welcome. We also appreciate donations of any ingredients. A list of needed ingredients will be listed on the website. The students will be scheduled to help at the snack bar during the Sukiyaki bazaar.

The DS students will be visiting OBT shut-in members on Sunday Oct. 25th. They will dress in their best Halloween costumes and sing songs for and with the Temple members. Jean Matsumoto is coordinating this with the families. If you have any questions contact Amy Peterson 503 481 0699 or Jean Matsumoto. The Dana Class will be hosting a Halloween party for the students when they return.

Marilyn Achterman and I will be representing the Temple at the NW District DS Teachers meeting in Ontario on Sept. 19th.



### ***Wheel of Dharma garden Ann Shintani Winner***

We have been harvesting heirloom tomatoes and green onions recently for the Dharma School Wheel of Dharma Garden. The following are donors who

made contributions of plant starters, seeds, and plants to gardener Hiroshi Yamauchi, for the garden last Spring. Thank you for your generous donations!

- Iroquois tomatoes purple heirlooms (Kathy and Bill Dabelstein)
- Kabocha squash (Herb Osaki)
- Zucchini (Herb Osaki, Kara McGraw)
- Kyo-Negi, or green onions (Mr. Makoto Maeda)
- Rakkyo, scallions for pickling (Mr. Maeda, Mrs. Kumiko Mishima, and Shig and Mary Kuroye)
- In addition, Dharma School students planted an assortment of veggies in the square foot garden by the entry gate.
- Japanese apricots for pickled apricots, or Ume (Judy Yamauchi)
- Persimmons or kaki (June Schumann)
- Italian figs, a type of Bodhi tree (Fred Carmelo)
- Asian pear, or nashi (Kaz Tamura)
- Raspberries, red and white (Masamichi Nitani)
- Flowers, chrysanthemums and clematis (Anonymous)

Also, Mrs. Fusako Ouchida donated a large basket of Japanese Peppers from her garden one Sunday for the Dharma School to sell. Thank you, they were delicious!

### ***Sukiyaki bazaar omiyage (gift) shop***

Once again, a mini-omiyage shop will be open during Sukiyaki bazaar. Donations of Asian-inspired gifts are needed. We are looking for lightly used dishware, accessories, and collectibles. Please bring your donations labeled "Sukiyaki-Omiyage" with your name to the temple annex. Pricing suggestions for handicrafts are appreciated. All sales benefit the temple. Thank you!



### ***Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, all who spend time with kids! Tomiko Takeuchi***

The Dharma School will be sponsoring a "parenting class". Starting date is October 11. The class will run through November 29, which this allows for special events when we can't meet. Classes will meet 12:15 – 1 p.m. 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. Ty is a well respected professional with excellent skills.

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](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com)



### ***Lotus circle – July/August Jean Matsumoto***

Altar flowers for October are being provided by:

- October 4 – Carol Saiget in memory of (imo) father, Tomo Saito.
- October 11 – Nadine Kinoshita imo of father Yosh Kinoshita.
- October 18 – The Kida Family imo mother, grandmother, great-grandmother Fumi Kida. Mary and Alan Kasubuchi imo husband and father, Ben Kasubuchi, Sr.
- October 25 – Open

OBT gratefully acknowledges the donation of fresh flowers for our altar each week. We also thank the Flower Toban for the beautiful arrangements. If you are interested in joining the Lotus Circle or need information, please contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or e-mail [jamatumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatumoto@gmail.com). Please check out the Lotus Circle page on OBT's website <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>. If you are interested in submitting an article, photo, poem, personal reflection regarding a loved one who has passed on, please contact Ken Garner ([webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)).



### ***Thank you! Etsu Osaki***

Thank you to all those who have generously contributed to Campaign BCA. It was most heartening to see all the OBT names listed in the August issue of the Wheel of Dharma. This campaign is an ongoing one and still far from its goal. So please consider donating again in the near future.

### ***Buddha's Wish for the World A book by Monshu Koshin Ohtani***

OBT has purchased fifty copies of this easily read book by the Gomonsu. Do take a look at the table of contents. Such chapters as "Why do you suppose we are alive?", "So, where are all the good guys?", and "Other Power does not mean count on other people" should entice one to delve into this little book with the beautiful cover. Do come on Sunday

and purchase one for only \$15.00.

### 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.*

### October Toban

Asakawa, Carol	Dart, Chris
Greenwood, Don	Greenwood, Merrie
Hittle, Judy	Hittle, Paul
Hokama, Pat	Hokama, Tom
Larouche, Chip	Larouche, Setsy
Matsunaga, Robert	Nishi-Strattner, Linda
Nishi-Strattner, Mark	Ono, Al
Ono, Tomoko	Ono, Yoshi
Okamoto, Janice	Osaka, Gordon
Shikatani, Cathy	Stoeller, Willem
Tanaka, Bill	Tanaka, Linda
Tateishi, Jeanie	Yanase, Craig
Yanase, Lisa	Yuzuriha, Elaine
Yuzuriha, Todd	

*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*

have your tax deductible amount calculated and available at your request.

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](mailto:scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com).



JUST SCRIP IT  
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### ***Scrip purchases are tax deductible*** ***Ken Garner***

We were notified by Great Lakes Scrip Program that a recent ruling has established that donations OBT receives as a result of scrip purchases are tax deductible. For example, if you buy a \$100 Safeway card (4% contribution), \$4.00 goes to OBT and you can claim a \$4.00 tax deduction. So you get full value for your scrip card, OBT benefits from your purchase, and you get a tax deduction. The more you buy, the more deductions you can claim. These tax deductions add up quickly and all at no net cost to you. We are tracking purchases by family and at year end will