

Obonfest is Saturday August 6 on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2011

Freedom tastes of reality

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

This will reach most of you before our Obonfest. I want to thank you in advance for your support of this event. You are just about to, or have just put in a lot of effort for this major fund-raising event. What motivates the members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple to work so hard?

I believe it is primarily a true feeling of gratitude for what you have gained through this temple, through the Buddha-dharma. Sometimes, I fear, Jodo Shinshu ministers speak too much of gratitude in isolation from explaining its motivation. Rennyō Shonin almost always spoke of “gratitude” and “joy” together. If you are joyous due to a promise of liberation made clear to you at this temple, then, it is natural that you feel gratitude. Then it is natural that you will endeavor to help your family, your friends, your temple, and your social organizations. However, many of us don't feel joy 16 – 24 hours out of the day. So, it may be useful to speak of appreciation and gratitude. Whether joyous in each moment or not, appreciating the nembutsu will lead to a life of thankfulness.

Someone who truly appreciates the warm spiritual vision and the genuine community that this temple provides will want to donate to the temple and to the National Organization, the Buddhist Churches of America. If some do not feel that you are being benefited by this temple and its parent organization, it indicates a failure on my part. I wish I might have explained more clearly how the preparation we receive at our graduate school, The Institute of Buddhist Studies has been crucial to my being able to do anything like an adequate job as the Resident Minister of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

I will come back to what benefits are offered here, at OBT. I am sure that there are many of you who are grateful for the spiritual guidance and the many friendships they have gained through this temple. Many have found their suffering reduced, especially at times of loss, through participation in the life of our temple. Many of us feel we are coming more and more to understand the deep truth about this life through

the guidance of Shinran Shonin and the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism. I like to believe that many of us are coming to live in a happier and more meaningful way thanks to the nurturance received here at the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

I am proud to have been one of the first dozen or so people who sent in a donation to the BCA debt relief. I was only able to send the requested amount \$199. I wish I could have done more, and, if able, I will send additional donations later in the year. Please help us dig out of the debt we are swimming in. If we can pay off the 3.1 million dollars we still owe Calif. Bank and Trust for construction of the Jodo Shinshu center it will save us paying \$17,000 per month in interest. This debt is reducing our ability to train ministers, to train Minister's Assistants, to train lay leaders, etc. The Jodo Shinshu center houses the Institute of Buddhist Studies, the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, the USA branch of Ryukoku University, the Center for Buddhist Education ... it is the center for planning and often the location for our Youth activities, ... it is a very good thing.

Gratitude will be the source of future donations to our temple and to our national organization. Let me again ask, “What is there to be grateful for?” In the preceding paragraph I talked a bit about the many positive functions that the Jodo Shinshu Center provides. In particular I will remind you that as the home of the Institute of Buddhist Studies it is crucial to providing new ministers. Ministers trained at IBS have a very good record for longevity in service to our temples. They also tend to be the ministers with the best reputations for giving interesting, engaging, understandable sermons, or howa. Much good work is done for all of us by our national organization, by the Buddhist Churches of America. If you can help us financially please do. If you helped us with volunteer work at the Obonfest, thank you so much. I truly appreciate the members of this temple. I am proud of your hard work to sustain this spiritual center. I am proud of the way the established members continue to welcome new participants, without regard to their race, cultural background or political leanings. There is no place I would rather be than

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OBT, thanks to all of you
Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

July Highlights

Jul 26, 28, Aug 2, 4	Obon dance practice	7 pm
Jul 30	Obon cemetery services Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
Jul 31	Obon and Hatsubon Service	9:30 am
Aug 5	Obonfest preparation	all day
Aug 6	Obonfest	3 – 9 pm
Aug 7	Obonfest cleanup	9 am
Aug 20	OBWA meeting and birthday lunch	9:30 am

President's message

Ken Garner, OBT President

For the past month, Maho and Mayu have been on their annual trip to Japan. During their daily reports about how hot and humid (mushiatsui!) it is, I can't help but feel fortunate to be here in the great Pacific Northwest with our relatively mild climate.

I also feel fortunate to be part of the Oregon Buddhist Temple Sangha. While any organization runs on the energy of its members, a volunteer organization such as OBT could not exist without the freely given efforts of its members. I am amazed at the willingness of you, our members and friends, to volunteer your time and talents to OBT month after month and event after event. It gladdens me to know that you, like me, find value in what this community has to offer, and that you are willing to donate your energy to ensure OBT's continued existence. Thank you all.

Each month in my column I encourage people to become (more) involved in some aspect or other of our temple's life. This month I want to call out and thank some people who have recently gotten involved and are making a difference:

- Kats Amasuga has stepped up and offered his contractor skills to tackle our maintenance list backlog. Quietly maintenance items that have been deferred are now being completed. You may have noticed that the wall behind the dishwasher is no longer flaking and has a fresh coat of paint.
- Kirstin Litchfield and Phaedra Urban have begun working on a new member package. The intent of this package is to smooth a new member's integration into OBT community. As new members themselves, Kristen and Phaedra bring a unique perspective to and are well suited for this task.
- Nate Mason has taken on the Dharma School garden. He brings his love of gardening and community gardening experience to our little patch next to the Annex.

- Joy Yuzuriha planned, supervised, and painted the storage shed. The paint was badly faded and chipping. Joy and her team (see Joy's article in this newsletter) did an outstanding job and the shed looks like new.

Thank you Kats, Kirstin, Phaedra, Nate, and Joy for your work on behalf of OBT.

I look forward to seeing you all at Obonfest 2011 on August 6. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

In Gassho

Ken

Musings of an OBT board member

Zack Semke

On the page of every monthly OBT board meeting agenda reads the OBT Mission Statement: "The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to ensure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the Buddha-Dharma in their daily lives and during their major life events." This statement is an excellent reminder to all of us about what is important about OBT and what we as board members are there to support and perpetuate.

The "nuts and bolts" of the mission are straightforward: facilities, minister and resources. But the underlying purpose is profound: to share the Buddha-Dharma both in our day-to-day existence and at key events in our lives. Ultimately it's about creating the space and the support for a Jodo Shinshu community in Portland - for building and nurturing a Sangha here.

I've been an OBT board member for two years now, and it's truly been an honor to take part in supporting the manifestation of this mission. And we all owe a debt of gratitude to the generations of OBT Sangha members and leaders who have gone before us to build this wonderful temple and to lay the solid organizational and financial foundation that we enjoy today. Their hard work and sound stewardship has left a lasting legacy.

We're not without our challenges, of course. Like many organizations, nonprofit and otherwise, income has not kept pace with expenses recently. The economic storm that we've all been through for the past three years certainly takes some of the blame, and we on the board have been hard at work trimming expenses wherever possible to mitigate losses.

But the recession is not the only story here. Our temple, like many Jodo Shinshu temples, is evolving and its demographics are shifting. What was an almost exclusively Japanese American/Japanese Sangha a few decades ago has become decidedly more diverse. From my perspective, as long as we remain connected to and observant of OBT's cultural roots, this shift can be a positive one. (It's certainly been a good one for me, allowing me to connect with Jodo Shinshu!) And as Stan Shiigi wrote in this space last month, for Jodo Shinshu to remain alive and relevant, it must evolve, after all.

But as the temple's membership broadens and evolves, so too must our methods of building financial support for "the

facilities, resident minister, and other resources” that allow OBT to achieve its mission.

I don’t know about others who are new to the Jodo Shinshu community, but I’m a bit thick-skulled at times. For instance, it took awhile for me to realize that special services are times when temple members traditionally make a special donation to the temple, above and beyond regular membership dues. (I now know that, without these special donations, the temple really struggles to balance its books.)

Why did it take me so long to catch on to? Maybe because I wasn’t raised Jodo Shinshu or Japanese American so I didn’t know the protocol, or maybe because I’m too desensitized to pick up on the subtle donation envelope slipped into the OBT newsletter. These days we’re all inundated by fundraising appeals from dozens and dozens of worthy nonprofits each year. Like you, I’m used to having nonprofits ask me for money clearly and often, and to make a case for why my donation is important. So my observation is that as OBT’s membership continues to evolve, we will need to become less subtle about how we ask for financial support from our Sangha. We need to make sure that the temple’s request for support gets through to people like me, so that those of us who are new to the Jodo Shinshu community know how and when to provide support.

This column is also a farewell message for me. My wife, Ann Ishimaru, and our two kids, Mika and Kai, are moving to Seattle in mid-August. Ann has accepted a professorship at the University of Washington, and I’ll be telecommuting from our place in the Wallingford neighborhood. This temple, the JA community that surrounds it, and the broader Portland community have really become home for us (we moved to Portland in 1994), and we’ll miss everyone dearly. We’ll be sure to make return visits, but until then, take good care!

In Gassho,
Zack Semke



Kai, Ann, Mika and Zack at the temple of Poseidon outside of Athens, Greece

Editor’s note: We are very sad to see Zack, Ann, Mika and Kai leave OBT and Portland. However we are also very happy for them. Our loss is Seattle’s gain. We wish them well in their new home. Actually it’s a bit of a home-coming for them, since they lived in the Seattle area in their younger days.

OBWA news

Nance Kajitsu

The OBWA held its monthly meeting on July 16th. Our gratitude goes to Yoshi Ono, Jean Tateishi and Janice Okamoto for making such a variety of treats.

Our August meeting and annual birthday luncheon will be held on Saturday, August 20th. Contact people for this event are Jayne Ichikawa and June Shiigi. See the article below.

Hatsubon or Obon Service is on Sunday, July 31 at 10am. Following this special service is otoki of somen and cucumber salad. Helpers are needed on Saturday, July 30th from 9am and Sunday morning at 8:30.

For those of you who can attend, gravesite services will be held with Reverend Gibbs at Rose City (9am), Gresham Cemetery (10am) and at OBT (12noon) on July 30.

Obonfest is upon us and we need all of your help to prepare for the August 6th date. Prep work begins on Friday morning at 9am and continues on Saturday also at 9am.

In Gassho,

OBWA birthday luncheon

Jayne Ichikawa

On Saturday, August 20, the OBWA will have a birthday luncheon at MIO SUSHI restaurant located on 4204 NE Halsey in the Hollywood District (phone # 503-288-4778) at 12:00. This gathering will follow the monthly OBWA meeting on August 20. Members can carpool from the temple after the meeting at 11:30 or can drive directly to the restaurant. The bento combination lunch and dessert will be \$10 including tip. Members will be contacted through the OBWA phone tree. Questions, including transportation concerns, can be answered by Jayne Ichikawa (503-639-0067), June Shiigi (503-642-2791), or Misa Kodama (503-252-1074). Hope you can attend this occasion to see friends and celebrate our birthdays!

The Dharma School had a busy July

Amy Peterson, DS Coordinator

July was a busy month for the Dharma School. Our Martial Arts Day Camp was a huge success due to instructors Lisa Anderson - yoga, Bettina Ishimaru - karate, Dwight Onchi - aikido, and Rev. Gibbs - tai chi. The students were really excited to come every day and forged lasting friendships with the other campers. They even liked the lunches so much that we decided next year’s camp will be about FOOD. If you’d like to help with the camp or have ideas please contact Amy Peterson. Next year’s camp will be held in mid August date to be determined.

Thanks to Susan Endecott and Karol Kennedy for heading up our DS garage sale. They enlisted a lot of help

and helped fill the coffers for next year's budget. On top of that they cleaned out the garage, organized it and got it ready for future donations. If you have things to donate, please tag it and place it in the directed location or leave a message through the website and we'll take care of it. Thanks to all for your donations, hard work, and purchasing items. All donations are gratefully received and acknowledged. If you did not get a donation letter for tax purposes, please contact Amy through the website email.

We are so fortunate to have DS parent and temple president Ken Garner who made the spaghetti sauce for the Saturday night spaghetti dinner. The guests loved the sauce he made from scratch and slow cooked.

Alice Ando was at the Temple from 9 am for the OBWA meeting, helped at the garage sale, helped with the spaghetti preparation, ate and left. I'm not sure if she got to play bingo or not. Scott Winner and Mika helped with the set up. Joy Yuzuriha made rice crispie treats, helped with the food prep and sold tickets. She was almost like a one person show. Todd Yuzuriha helped throughout the night, as did Ann Shintani, John Peterson, Marilyn Achterman, Lori and Ray Fukunaga. Edna Koyama, not only helped at the garage sale, but made the shortcake, punch, coffee jello and donated many, many prizes. She helped with preparation, serving and clean-up in spite of not being a DS parent as her daughter graduated from college 4 or 5 years ago. Ray Fields pushed us into the technology age with an online bingo random generator, setting up and taking down the computer and projector. Joy and assistant Alyssa Ono called and checked the numbers and bingos. Kristi Fukunaga helped with the bingo and clean-up. I hope I didn't miss anyone. If I did, please accept my "Thank you"!

Thank you to all that came, helped, ate and we hope you all had a good time. We are hoping that next year we'll get some other parents to help organize and run the fundraiser so the teachers can sit back and enjoy. We hope no one left without a prize.

We are sad to see Ann and Zack Semke, Mika and Kai leave us. They were leading the taiko but Wynn Kiyama has stepped up and offered to help finish the summer schedule.

New building at OBT!!... (almost)

Joy Yuzuriha

For my Silver Award Project I painted the storage unit behind the temple with the help of many people. I'd like to thank the following people for their much needed effort:

- Yoshi and Alyssa Ono
- Teresa Soto de Roman
- Lori Fukunaga
- My parents, Todd and Elaine Yuzuriha

I'd also like to thank everyone who helped me prepare to paint:

- Ken Garner and Reverend Gibbs for the power washers
- Michi Stoeller for power washing
- David Wright for buying supplies
- Amy Peterson for the Troop 43720 funds and support
- The OBT Board of Directors for approving and

supporting this project

If you'd like to see this project in action you can visit the temple's website (www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com) for a link to the photo album that I put together. Those people who helped sure know how the paint will stick on wood...and hands.)

Thanks again for everybody's support.

Obonfest fast approaching, this year with a new Bon-Odori twist!

Zack Semke and Yoshi Ono, Co-chairs



With this year's Obonfest, a few new things are being offered. In addition to the live music by HAPPYFUNSMILE, we will be selling uchiwa, shopping bags, and water bottles with this year's Obonfest logo of a dragonfly silhouette on a circle.

Thanks go to everyone that has contributed their ideas, time, and money to make this festival successful,

including the following committee chairs:

- Pat Hokama (Emcee)
- June and Stan Shiigi (Volunteer Coordination)
- Shinya Ichikawa (Treasurer)
- Robert Kagawa (Audio System)
- Lisa and Craig Yanase (First Aid)
- Jean Matsumoto (Information Booth)
- Amy Long and Zack Semke (Publicity)
- Etsu Osaki (Signs)
- Carol Saiget and Cathy Yarne (Raffle)
- Ryan Davis (Construction/Demolition/Popcorn)
- Sahomi Tachibana (Bon Odori Dancing)
- Wynn Kiyama (Live Bon Odori Music)
- Zack Semke (Entertainment)
- Jerry Fugate (Electrical)
- Susan Leedham (Vendors)
- Brenda Fugate and Jan Ishii (OBT Omiyage Booth)
- Kim Kono (T-shirts)
- Maho & Ken Garner (Design and Logo)
- Sharon Vinhasa (Shopping bags and water bottles)
- Kiyoko Gibbs and Ann Shintani (Children's Activities)
- BeeBee Tan-Beck (Lanterns & Uchiwa)
- Charles Reneau (Parking)
- David Wright (Trash/Recycling/Maintenance)
- Ray Fields (Porta Potties and purchasing)
- Susan Lilly (Neighborhood Relations)
- Gerry Sumoge (Yakiniku/Chicken/Spare Ribs/Hot Dogs/Dumpster/Refrigerator Trailer)
- Kim Kono (Yakisoba)
- Nancy Kajitsu (Spam musubi)

OBWA (Chirashisushi and manju)
 Ray Fukunaga (Shave Ice)
 Marilyn Achterman (Drinks)
 Mark Achterman (Beer Garden, edamame)
 Joe Wahl (Food and Beer permits)
 To be named later (Security)

See you at Obonfest 2011!
 June and Stan Shiigi (shiigisj@comcast.net)
 Zack Semke (zacksemke@gmail.com)
 Yoshi Ono (yoshi.ono@gmail.com)

Obonfest 2011 Schedule
 3:00 OBON Opening Welcome
 4:00 PORTLAND TAIKO
 4:15 TEMPLE TALK
 5:00 TANUKI TAIKO
 5:15 TEMPLE TALK
 5:45 OBON SERVICE
 6:00 PORTLAND TAIKO
 6:30 HAPPYFUNSMILE
 6:45 BON ODORI
 7:45 -- Intermission --
 8:00 BON ODORI continues
 8:45 RAFFLE DRAWING
 8:50 FINAL DANCE
 9:00 FAREWELL

Rehang commemorative lanterns for Obonfest 2011

It's that time of year to prepare your commemorative lantern for Obonfest! For those of you who purchased a lantern in a previous year, we can re-hang it for you. If you do not have your lantern stored at the temple, please bring it in for hanging. Just fill out the "Hanging of Last Year's Lantern" section of the form that was in last month's newsletter or that is on the front table of the temple foyer and return with payment to OBT

Please contact BeeBee, Lantern Committee Chair, with any questions or for more information (503.412.8881 or mindfulhear@hotmail.com).

Lotus circle – August

Jean Matsumoto

During this season of Obon, the altar flowers are especially meaningful and OBT is especially grateful for the donations made to the Lotus Circle for the Flower Toban to arrange so beautifully each week. Donations for altar flowers on Sundays in the month of August are being provided by:

- August 7 – Matt, Randy and Julie Muramatsu in memory of (imo) their mother, Phyllis.
- August 14 – Ray Fields imo stepfather, Bernard Mayers; Ami Kinoshita imo parents, Taitaro and Mitsu Nakao; and also imo late husband Kaz's parents, Tokuji and Kise for Obon.
- August 21 – Sandie Yamauchi imo mother, Misaye Tonooka, and grandmother, Chiyoko Tonooka.
- August 28 – LaRhette Swann imo father Larry, mother Phyllis and brother Ernest.

Please feel free to submit comments, memories, or tributes to your loved ones on the Lotus Circle page of the temple website. Simply contact temple president Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and share your thoughts. If you have any questions about the Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.



OBON RAFFLE TICKETS

A book of 6 tickets for \$10 OR \$2 per ticket
 Cash or check payable to the Oregon Buddhist Temple

1st prize = \$500
 2nd prize = \$300
 3rd prize = \$200
 4th prize = \$50 gift card to Fred Meyers
 and more.

If you are selling tickets, please remember to turn in all ticket stubs w/money + any unsold books by noon the day of Obon.

New books in the children's library

Etsu Osaki

Buddhism: The Path to Enlightenment, adapted from the words of Rev. Gyomay Kubose, Dharma House Publishing, 1986, 2000. This booklet with beautiful photos is a general introduction to Buddhism. Some copies are also available for purchase at \$5.00.

Dewdrops On a Lotus Leaf: Zen Poems of Ryokan, translated by John Stevens, Shambala Publications, Boston: 1993. Ryokan was a Zen poet born in 1758. He lived quietly in mountain hermitages, begging for food, meditating and composing poems. He is noted for his free and flowing calligraphy and is a most popular and beloved figure in Japan.

2011 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
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.

August Toban

Abe, Al	Achterman, Marilyn
Achterman, Mark	Bagnall, Alden
Davis, Ryan	Dickinson, Kiyomi
Fujikawa, Frieda	Fujikawa, Shigeo
Hughes-Davis, Angie	Ikemiya, Cheryl
Ishimaru, Bettina	Ishimaru, Robert
Kajitsu, Nancy	Kennedy, Karol
Shiraishi, Karen	Shiraishi, Rick
Swann, LaRhett	Takemoto, May
Tamiyasu, Katie	Yoshida, Carl
Yoshida, Jim	Yoshida, Mary Ann

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 theDharma

Words of Jean Matsumoto - 1995

Jodo Shinshu correspondence course 2011 Fall enrollment

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for their fall 2011 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 80 students



Oregon Buddhist Temple June 2011 Donations

In memory of Mits Tamiyasu

Jean Matsumoto

In memory of Denny & Kikue Ando

Allen M. Ando

In memory of Ray Shiiki

Fumiko Okubo

In memory of Ronald Oshiro

In memory of James Kunisaki

Randy & Dana Kunisaki

Gotan-e

Lily Meiners

Special donations

Alice Sumida
(for Obonfest raffle prizes)

James & Judith Nakashima
Grandpa & Grandma Mizuta
(Katherine's Graduation)

Anonymous
Anonymous (Hishinuma Fund)

Lotus Circle

Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Anonymous
Mitsuko Hasuike

Obon/Kangi-E

Scott Oldfield & Tracy Joy Babione
Rei Okabayashi

Member pledge donations

Carol & Robert Mason
(for Nate & Rhys Mason)
Susan M. Lilly
Jean Matsumoto
Katie Bretsch
Susan Endecott
Donna & Alfredo Martinez
Matt & Kirstin Litchfield

Acknowledgements are mailed to individuals for donations of \$250 or more, to donors not on the OBT mailing list, and to any donor upon request. Please inform us of any significant errors or omissions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Susan Endecott
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endecott@worldstar.com