



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

May 2008



## ***Shinran's birthday and his passing***

***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

I hope that you are all well and rested as you read this. After our hosting of the National Council one month and holding our spring food bazaar the next, I fear we have strained many of our loyal members. The month of April was a bit calmer and more relaxed for most of us I believe. By the time you read this it will have been two months since the end of the National Council and I am still feeling some residual fatigue. This month, on May 11th we will be celebrating 1. Shinran's Birthday, 2. The 750th memorial of Shinran's passing, 3. Infant Presentation, 4. New member recognition, 5. Mothers Day. It should prove to be a very full day.

Shinran's 750th memorial will be held in Kyoto in three years. Each temple has been asked to dedicate a service to this memorial this year. At the board meeting we decided to combine the 750th memorial with Gotan-E. Donations received in the Gotan-E envelope will be placed in a special fund to be given to our headquarters in Japan in three years for the international commemoration of our founder, Shinran's, 750th memorial.

Our headquarters in Kyoto covers more than one third of the cost of training each BCA minister. It is only once every fifteen to twenty years that we are asked to contribute something to Japan. Some temples, for example, the Oakland Buddhist Church, just put envelopes in every newsletter for those wishing to make donations. We do as most temples and put an envelope in three out of four newsletters but with the envelopes designated for specific purposes. Our temple's lay leaders and I appreciate your donations very much. There are no donations mandatory for attending our services, exercise programs or study classes. The envelopes are a convenience for those who know they are being benefited by this temple and wish to donate beyond the \$200 membership donation. Not even

that donation is mandatory. I am confident that our temple will continue to be in good financial health as long as we provide value to our members and friends.

The combined Gotan-E/Shinran's 750th memorial services will begin with a Japanese message. I will be delivering the message myself as the guest speaker we had invited had a health problem and is recovering, with an excellent prognosis, from a minor operation. At 10 a.m. our main service will begin and it will include an English-language Dharma message.

What Shinran and all the great Buddhist teachers have tried to teach us is that true happiness comes from truly caring about others. This is what a mother (or a father, or a loving auntie) learns in caring for children. Being a good parent brings a strong sense of what enlightened living must truly be like. As Buddhists we simply have to open our hearts so that all the people and animals and plants seem as close to us as our own children. If we do this fully we will know what the Buddha realized. We must hold to the vision that Shinran shared with us: In this life, in the past or in the future all living beings are, have been or will be our mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers. We must awaken through the influence of Amida's Pure Realm and then work to liberate them all.

Please come join us on May eleventh and commemorate this wonderful teacher, Shinran Shonin. That day I'm sure you will also remember your debt to and your love for your own mother. Maybe as you and I watch young couples present their infants to the Buddha's presence that day we will get a strong sense of what it means to see all as our own family members. Please join us if you can!

Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

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***The family crest of Shinran Shonin, founder of Jodo Shinshu, the Makifuji (wisteria crest shown at top left corner) symbolizes the Hongwanji branch of Japanese Pure-land Buddhism.***

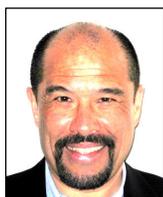
*"The purpose of the Oregon Buddhist Temple is to insure that the Jodo Shinshu Sangha have the facilities, resident minister and other resources they need to share the BuddhaDharma in their daily lives and during their major life events."*

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May Highlights

May 4	DS Swimming Pool Party Japanese Community Graduation Banquet, MAC	5 pm
May 9	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
May 11	Gotane/750 <sup>th</sup> Shinran Memorial/ Mothers Day/Infant and new member recognition service, followed by refreshments	9:30 am
May 17	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
May 26	Memorial Day Services Temple	9 am
	Gresham Cemetery	10:30 am
	Rose City Cemetery	noon
	Rose City Japanese American Community Service	1 pm
	Lone Fir Cemetery	2:30 pm



**OBT President's message**  
*Joe Wahl*

Hello Everyone! I know we are all anxiously awaiting the real coming of Spring and all that the season brings.

Your Sangha is once again busy planning our very important Obon Festival that occurs on Saturday, August 2 this year. Obon is not only our celebration and remembrance for those who have left us, but it is also the Temple's primary fund raiser. Our Obon Festival is celebrated as a community event that many attend from all over the region. The Obon Planning Committee has started to meet and identify various committee chairs who will assist in organizing and coordinating the volunteers who help make Obon the special occasion that it is.

We are still in need of an overall Obon Chair, as well as some of the committees. If you are interested in assisting with planning for Obon, please contact Yoshi Ono, Shinya Ichikawa, or me. The next Obon Planning committee meeting will take place after service on Sunday, May 4th. We appreciate everyone's help and assistance on this very important event.

In Gassho



**Special thank you**  
*Alfred Ono*

A special thank you to Ray Fields for his donation of the laptop projector to the Temple. It was used during the BCA National Council meeting to present power point slide presentations at the IBS seminar and to present the budget and other items during the Council meeting.

The projector is now a resource to use here at OBT with laptop slide shows such as was shown at the 100th Anniversary, or to use to augment discussion such as in Dharma Exchange.

Thank you Ray for your generosity.  
Gassho



**Spring bazaar-a few more thanks!**

*Hannah Honma, Spring Bazaar Food Chair*

On behalf of the Oregon Buddhist Temple, I would like to thank everyone for all their support and amazing work during our 2008 Spring Bazaar. It was so nice to see familiar, as well as new faces. With many helping hands, we were able to get the food preparation done in three days.

The weather was perfect and a steady crowd streamed into the temple throughout the day. By 2:15 p.m., the chow mein, the chicken and beef bento and sushi had sold out!

It is difficult to thank everyone by name here, but I do wish to thank Etsu Osaki and the March Toban (Brenda Fugate served as toban chair) for preparing the volunteers' lunch and keeping them energetic and well-fed. Additional thanks to all the people who brought refreshments.

Spring Bazaar was truly an all-volunteer effort. Thanks to everyone!



**From the spring bazaar chairs**

*Susan Leedham and Kim Kono*

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle:

- 1st Prize, \$500 – Ken Shigaya
- 2nd Prize, \$300 – Mic Mundt
- 3rd Prize, \$200 – George Okita

Thank you to Ken Shigaya of Renton, WA who donated back the first prize to OBT. He graciously did so with the accompany note: "It was really a shocking surprise for me to receive this check because I have never won a raffle or any kind of drawing before. Thank you very much for the check of \$500.00, but it gives me greater pleasure to donate it back to your temple".



**A Dharma talk by Teresa**  
*Teresa Soto De Roman*  
*Submitted by Janie Matsushima*

Lately, I have been thinking about my Dharma friends. Dharma friends have

your best interests at heart and are also followers of the Nembutsu. Dharma friends can guide you to assume a different perspective, a new appreciation of life, or a healthy way to connect with others.

“Take refuge,” one of my Dharma friends counseled me. “Wanting the situation to be different won’t make it so”, said another. Yet another reminded me, “Remember, we’re all imperfect human beings.

In 1998, finding myself in a deep emotional abyss, I flew out of that deep dark hole when my Dharma friend spoke the words to me; “Remember the Golden Chain. You must keep your link bright and strong.” I am a link in Amida’s golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I will keep my link bright and strong.”

The words “I am grateful”, “I appreciate”, “How grateful I am”, often spill out of Dharma friends’ mouths. These words are great reminders of the benefits that come with appreciation of the small things in life as well as the big things.

In Jodo Shinshu, we are encouraged to respect all living beings. I cannot end this talk without talking about the four and/or two-legged friends in how they provide us with companionship and often reflect our anxieties. They can be the cheerleaders for us to move to a healthier place emotionally or physically. We are taught in Jodo Shinshu to be respectful of others. In some cases, as with wild animals, the best that we can do is to retreat or get away from people who make us uncomfortable.

Muchisimas Gracias,  
In Gassho,



### **Dharma Exchange** **04/13/08 - Eco-Sangha** **Etsu Osaki**

To be a Buddhist is to be both an ecologist and a conservationist. Buddha taught non-duality, interdependence and mindfulness.

These were some suggestions given at Dharma Exchange to the question “What can the temple do to help the environment?”

1. Give option to receive newsletter electronically rather than by mail.
2. Give option to electronically transfer funds (i.e. yearly dues, monthly envelopes to temple)
3. Arrange carpool bank for temple events (also good fellowship too!)
4. Temple participation in SOLV and other local ecological events. (also good outreach)
5. Use regular cups, dinnerware instead of paper.
6. Teach everyone how to use the thermostat and/or program thermostat.
7. Limit heating temperature to 68 and cooling to 72 degrees.
8. Compost
9. Check downspouts

10. Don’t use disposable chopsticks.
11. Consider replacing dishwasher with a more efficient one.
12. Unplug computers or turn powerstrips off.
13. Make sure we use environmentally safe cleaning products.
14. Windows and doors properly insulated.
15. Turn off lights.

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## **OBWA news**

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

March 7 Refreshments for spring bazaar: Jerry Sumoge, Hannah Honma, Ernie Takeda, Kyoko Gibbs, Tom Hokama, Frieda Fujikawa, Shizuko Ouchida, Teruko Nishikawa, Setsu Ueno, Fumi Okubo, Sumi Ishida,

6 rolls packaging tape: Hannah Honma

March 15 for OBWA meeting refreshments: Kumiko Mishima, Tsuyako Monas, Kazuko Sunamoto, Brenda & Jerry Fugate, Edna Annand, Mary Nakashimada, Shizuko Ouchida, Alice Sumida, Setsu Ueno.

April 5 Hanamatsuri food preparation: Tom Takeuchi, Etsu Osaki, Misa Kodama, Chiho Okita, Mary Okita, Mary Kasubuchi, Sachi Hasuike, Katie Tamiyasu, Julie Kagawa, Alice Ando.

April 6 Hanamatsuri food preparation: Herb & Etsu Osaki, Jerry Fugate, Julie Kagawa, Alice Tano, Katie Tamiyasu, Lily Meiners, Judy Yamauchi, Kyoko Gibbs, Mary Okita, Chiho Okita, Ray Fukunaga, Karen Scapple, Sachi Hasuike, Ernie Takeda, June & Stan Shiigi, Marilyn Achterman, Teresa SotodeRoman.

Obuppan for March - Kyoko Gibbs; for April-Misa Kodama

Flowers for March/April- Kyoko Gibbs, Tomoko Ono, Yasuko Fields, June Shiigi, Susan Endecott, Janice Okamoto, Jayne Ichikawa, Judy Yamauchi.

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## **New books in the children’s library**

Hello Maggie!, by Shigeru Yabu, illus by Willie Ito, Yabitoon Books, Camarillo, CA, 2007, \$11.95.

Children are children, no matter where. In this book, the author recollects his days in the Heart Mt. Internment Camp during WWII. He raises a baby magpie that becomes a cherished friend. It is a touching story and humorous because of the clever illustrations by the artist, Willie Ito.

Author Yabu was the first Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Camarillo, CA. Willie Ito, whose interest in cartooning flourished in camp, worked in the animation industry-- among them Hanna Barbera and Walt Disney.

Omoide IV, Childhood Memories, edited by Atsushi Kiuchi & Dee Goto, illustrations by Aki Sogabe & Sam Goto. Published by Nikkei Heritage Association of WA, 2005, \$13.95, 62 pages.

This “is a book of personal short stories comprised of childhood recollections before, during and after the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. These stories were gathered from local Northwest Japanese Americans.” Appropriate for intermediate grades and above. Adults would enjoy it also.



**“Swim, swim little fish,  
Buddha loves you little  
fish”**

*Ann Shintani Winner, Dharma School*

Please join us for a pool party on Sunday, May 4th at Holladay Park Plaza, 1600 NE 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, near the Lloyd Center. The Plaza (home of Jean Matsumoto) has graciously opened their beautiful facility for us to splash and swim in their pool. We will leave the temple after Reverend Gibb’s dharma talk. We will swim for an hour or so, and then have lunch in an adjacent room. A certified life guard will be watching over us. Please bring your suit, towel and water toys. We will park at the Sears parking lot nearest to 16th Avenue. If you will be staying at the temple for dharma exchange, please plan on picking up your child about 2:00pm.

Please email msachterman@juno.com, if you are able to come. We need to let Holladay Park know how many children and how many adults by April 27th.

Glub, glub, hope to see you on the 4th.  
In Gassho, Dharma School Teachers



***Congratulations 2008  
Graduates***

*Elaine Yuzuriha*

The Japanese American Graduation Banquet will be held Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The keynote speaker will be Jane Komeiji, a retired educator and historian from Hawaii and author of the book “Okage Sama de”. The banquet is held annually to honor the high school graduating seniors associated with Japanese American sponsoring organizations, of which OBT is one.

The Oregon Buddhist Temple congratulates the following high school seniors affiliated with our temple:

- Michael Ando, son of Kevin and Tammy Ando, grandson of Alice Ando
- David Cohen, son of Marshall and Cindy Cohen
- Anya Sampson, daughter of Charles and Bee Bee Dawson
- Elle Hashimoto, daughter of Takashi and Atsuko Hashimoto
- Yuki Inoue, son of Kay Inoue
- Angela Kanegae, daughter of Blake Kanegae and Ruby Hoyer, granddaughter of George and Amy

- Kanegae
- Stacy Sumoge, daughter of Jerry and JoAnn Sumoge
- Kelsey Wahl, daughter of Joe and Lora Wahl, granddaughter of Herb and Etsu Osaki
- Derek Yagi, son of Shannon and Marla Yagi, grandson of Kan and Micki Yagi
- Ken Yuzuriha, son of Todd and Elaine Yuzuriha, grandson of Shig and Yo Yuzuriha

Good luck and a bright future to each and every one of you!

***May 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
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



***Lotus Circle - May  
Jean Matsumoto***

Altar flowers for the month of May will be provided by:

- May 4 - open
- May 11 – S. and J. Ichikawa in

memory of all mothers

- May 18 - Miki Yagi
- May 25 - Brian Lawson in memory of father-in-law, John Patrick Bergman

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

***No Mother’s Day pancake breakfast***

The Mother’s Day pancake breakfast, a tradition at OBT for a number of years, is canceled this year. This OBT

board decision was made partly due to decreasing attendance at the breakfast in recent years and also because of refreshments that will be served for lunch following the Mother's Day Gotane/Hatsumairi Service. Mothers will be honored at the lunch.

### 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.*



### Broadband internet at OBT Yoshi Ono

The Temple has recently made a few upgrades to keep pace with the information age. The minister's PC was replaced with an XP computer and LCD monitor, the internet connection went from dial-up to DSL, a wireless hub and extender was installed so that members can access the web from the main temple and annex. If you search for wireless services on your laptop PC, you may find OBT-Wifi and OBT-EXT. Select the one with the stronger signal and input the passphrase "namuamidabutsu" to gain access. Please contact me if you have any problems at yoshi.ono@gmail.com or 360-910-8135. I look forward to seeing more people take advantage of this access.

Our OBT website has also been moved to a commercial server, thanks to the work by Keith Nasman who initiated and has maintained our website for a number of years. We also have other members bringing ideas for further improvements to this aspect of the temple. We hope to bring about these changes gradually in phases to allow everyone to adjust.

For the next phase we are considering things such as a PC in the library, a laptop, upgrade in the accounting PC and software, security cameras, etc. As always, we wish to acquire these improvements with minimal impact on our expenditures. So my request is for anyone who would like to donate a computer, laptop, other hi-tech gear (make sure they are not too old or slow, no Windows98 or earlier please), and let me know. Thank you.

Gassho

Editors note: Thank you to Yoshi Ono for donating the computer system that Rev. Gibbs is now using.



### Learn how to dress in a kimono

Tomiko Takeuchi

July 19, 2008

11:00 a.m., OBT basement

Following the OBWA meeting on July 19, at 11 a.m., Sahomi Tachibana will demonstrate kimono dressing. She will show us different ways to tie an obi and explain the involved process.

If you have a kimono or yukata, bring them along. You will have a chance to be dressed in your own outfit. We will have some vintage kimonos and yukatas available for purchase. If you have any obi or other items that we might be able to use, we can use your donation. Please contact Tomiko through the temple if you have any questions.

Check your schedule and see if you can join us. Of course, guests are always welcome.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Center for Buddhist Education present

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**Honen & Shinran**  
Pureland Masters Within Our Contemporary World

June 27-29, 2008  
\$100 Registration Fee

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Minister of Jodoshu North America Buddhist Missions,  
Los Angeles

Reverend Dr. David Matsumoto  
Director, Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies  
Institute of Buddhist Studies  
Resident Minister, Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Dr. Lisa Grumbach  
Professor of Buddhist Studies and Japanese Religions  
Institute of Buddhist Studies

Reverend Kodo Umezumi  
Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education

Reverend Harry Bridge  
Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of Lodi

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See Rev. Gibbs for details and registration.