



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

October 2011



## **The heat is off** Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Last month I told you that the heat was off-somewhat prematurely. It stayed hot longer than I had expected. This month the heat is back on. Not outside, but in the sense that we must all pull together to present the Sukiyaki Bazaar on October 2nd. Elaine Yuzuriha has been so good as to volunteer to chair this event this year. Please, let's all of us support her and the temple in helping to put on this crucial fundraiser. If this newsletter should come to your attention after the event, allow me to thank you for your support as workers in and/or purchasers of sukiyaki and the other taste delights at this very important yearly fund-raiser.

I am grateful to all of you for your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Of course, it is natural for me to be grateful, as you provide my livelihood. It would be a bit vain of me to expect all of you, - who give time, effort and monetary donations to the temple - to be grateful every living moment. Still, I do believe that our temple provides many benefits for our members and friends.

We often say that Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is a way of living in gratitude. This is true. Still, it is my responsibility, the responsibility of the Minister's Assistants, and the responsibility of the temples lay leadership to make sure that you actually have something to be grateful for. Please come to our services when you can. If you can spare the time, arrive at 9:30 am and join us for the vocal nembutsu session that runs until ten minutes before service. I would love it if more of you would come to our Buddhist study classes. Some of you would enjoy them. Attendance is up a bit for the "Tai Chi as Exercise" classes, but there is still room for many more of you. It is an exercise class that challenges you at your own level for a half hour. Those who are a bit out of shape will still be able to do the exercise. Those of you who are in great shape will still do a lot to build increased leg strength for half an hour. Give it a try. There is no charge, and you might like it.

Our temple offers friendship and community. If you come to our services but don't usually stay for Dharma Exchange, try staying a few times for that relaxed study and discussion activity. A new topic is addressed each week and it is led by a large rotating group of presenters. Perhaps you have something you'd like to share at this session after our weekly service. Talk with Dharma Exchange Coordinator, Brenda Fugate, she'll be happy to get you on the schedule.

We are a community that is growing in its diversity. With my training in and commitment to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism there is nothing I'd rather do than speak with all of you about the principles of Jodo Shinshu: Amida Buddha, His Pure Realm of influence, Other Power/Empowerment by the Buddha, Shinjin - the trusting confidence that flows into our lives through the Buddha's compassionate concern for us, the Nembutsu. However, I can't speak only about these topics in my weekly Dharma-messages. For the Jodo Shinshu loyalist I must urge you to attend study classes and to attend the Ho On Ko Seminar when I teach it next January 14th. We need to understand Jodo Shinshu within the Mahayana context that it developed in. This somewhat broader focus includes our long-time members and our newer members, friends and guests. I try to have something for most of our attendees in the Dharma-messages on Sundays, but for the full picture you will need to attend study classes and our special educational seminars.

In the long run, I am hoping we will all learn what it means to live a life of gratitude. I don't feel grateful every time I pull on the I84 freeway. I do feel grateful every time I come to the Oregon Buddhist Temple. I receive so much here. I am truly grateful to all of you who support this temple. Thank you for supporting our temple.

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 is Sunday, October 2. Food pre-order form is attached. Work list is attached.***

#### October Highlights

|        |                             |                 |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Sep 29 | Sukiyaki bazaar preparation | 9 am            |
| Sep 30 | Sukiyaki bazaar preparation | 9 am            |
| Oct 1  | Sukiyaki bazaar preparation | 9 am            |
| Oct 2  | Sukiyaki bazaar preparation | 7 am            |
| Oct 2  | Sukiyaki bazaar             | 11:30 – 3:30 pm |
| Oct 14 | Board meeting               | 7 pm            |
| Oct 15 | OBWA meeting                | 9:30 am         |



### ***President's message***

***Ken Garner, OBTA President***

“Are you interested in or have you ever considered becoming a member of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Buddhist Temple?” Along with the changing leaf colors, our annual search for OBTA Board candidates is upon us. Many of you will have been approached by me or another board member with the above question.

For those of you who do not know, the Board is made up of 12 individuals. Our current Board is a healthy mix of long time and relatively new members. The terms are for 3 years and are staggered so that 4 seats are up for election every year. One of the members with an expiring term is not planning on running in this election. Thank you Elaine Yuzuriha for your outstanding service to OBTA during your tenure on the Board. David Wright, Yoshi Ono and I also have expiring terms and are planning on running for re-election.

The requirements to run for and be on the Board are: 1) You must be dues-paying members at the time your name is placed on the ballot and maintain your membership throughout your term; 2) You must agree to serve on the Board at the time your name is placed on the ballot – i.e. you cannot be drafted!; and 3) You must take a key role on a temple project, committee or activity.

I have enjoyed my first term on the Board and my time as OBTA President. Being on the Board has given me a different view of our temple, on what it takes to keep this community operating and healthy. OBTA is important to me and my family and I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to be a positive (I hope!) influence. From emails I receive and conversations I have with temple members and friends, I know OBTA is important to you as well. There definitely is no shortage of ideas and opinions about its operation and future. I encourage you to take the next step and run for the Board of Directors and help us as we move forward.

To learn more about serving on the OBTA Board, please contact me or any current board member. We will provide

you with a description of responsibilities and give you the inside scoop of what it is like to be on the Board.

Deadline for nominations is Sunday, October 30, 2011.

In other Board news, Wynn Kiyama has been voted in by the Board to fill the position (expiring December 2012) left vacant when Zack Semke and family moved to Seattle. Wynn and his wife Traci moved to Portland in 2010. Since joining OBTA Wynn has become one of our organists, he accompanies the choir, and he arranged his group HappyFunSmile to perform at this year's Obonfest. Both he and Traci have experience on the Board of Directors of the New York Buddhist Church. We look forward to the energy and insights Wynn will bring to the Board.

In Gassho

Ken

### ***OBTA September board meeting summary***

***Angie Hughes, OBTA Secretary***



At our September 9th Board meeting, we discussed the financial health and future goals of the temple. We are striving to find additional income sources for the economic well being of the temple. We will begin renting the facilities, looking into planned giving, and also working towards building our membership in the coming years. We also discussed upcoming projects, such as moving forward with updates and safety improvements to the back area of the main building. This would include better exterior illumination and several other projects. The wrap up for 2011 Obon Festival was also on the agenda and it was determined that this was one of the most productive and gainful Obon festivals in some years. Many thanks to all who made it such a success. We are now looking forward to Sukiyaki bazaar and the chair, Elaine Yuzuriha, is busy planning this event. We hope that everyone will come out to support this temple fundraiser. We covered a great deal at this month's Board Meeting and we'll meet again on Friday, October 14th. All temple members are welcomed to attend.

### ***Musings of an OBTA board member***

***David Wright***



It seems like yesterday, but it was the Spring of 1994, my buddy John called, “Hey David, the Buddhist are having something like Easter... Buddha's Birthday, Wanna go?”

Well I went, and have kept going ever since. Going to the temple every week I possibly can, has represented an amazing value in my life. When asked to do an article for our paper about what our temple means to me, I pondered at length. Recalling several times the words of Walt Whitman,

When I undertake to tell the best I find I cannot,  
My tongue is ineffectual on its pivots,

My breath will not be obedient to its organs,  
I become a dumb man.

Bear with me while I try to put words to the wonderful feeling of coming to our services, making our sacred tones, opening up myself to the calling bell, feasting my eyes on our altar, and the always breathtaking flower arrangements, Hearing the Dharma of the Buddha, is a very positive transforming experience.

It's difficult to put words to the feelings of standing at my Mother's death bed, and having our minister by my side, chanting a very sustaining sutra at 3 am, or the feelings I have dancing under her white lantern at our Obon Festival each year, or regularly visiting her ashes behind the altar. Words come hard approaching the realm of the sacred. That's why so often, we say simply, Namu Amida Butsu.

It's been 6 years nearly since I was elected to the Board of Directors. Anyone attending our temple will note a flurry of activities, fund raisers, special services, youth activities, dinners, rummage sales, committee meetings, on end, year around. How it all gets done is still very much a mystery to me. The fact that it always somehow does fosters strong evidence of other power.

For the past several years, each year as the economy has constricted, it has become harder to keep temple finances in the black. We rely on dues, fund raisers, and envelopes sent out with the news letter. We don't pass the hat. The problem is most of us these days receive mail by the boxful, and out of every publication falls a handful of envelopes, all destined for the round file. Such has been the fate it seems of many temple envelopes. Please, when the envelope arrives in your temple newsletter, stuff in it what you can afford, and return to your temple. A very big heart felt thank you from your Oregon Buddhist Temple Board of Directors.



### **OBWA news**

**Etsu Osaki**

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

- Anonymous
- Alice Sumida
- Nobuko Masuoka

Thirty-three members and friends enjoyed a "birthday" luncheon at Mio Sushi following the monthly meeting on Saturday, August 20th. Everyone joined in to sing "Happy Birthday" and had a great time. The comments were that we should do this more often.

At the August monthly meeting plans were made for fall Ohigan. OBWA members prepare ohagi and deliver them to homebound members of the temple. Also it was voted to send \$200 to BCA for their deficit relief fund.

We express our deepest condolences to the family of Mrs. Hisako Kakishita who passed away on September 4th. She was a quiet, gentle person and a hard-working member. She will be missed. Her funeral was held at OBT on September 10th.

We are happy to hear that associate members, Ray Fields

and Kan Yagi, are well on their way to recovery after their recent surgeries.

We express big thanks to all the members who worked so hard at the recent Obonfest. The omanju was delicious and sold out quickly. We also thank the July and August tobans for their refreshments and clean up of the temple.

President Alice Ando and Amy Peterson will represent us at the National Buddhist Women's Conference in October at San Jose.

We need lots of help to prepare for the sukiyaki bazaar. We will be working in the kitchen starting at 9 am from Thursday to Saturday and 7:00 am on Sunday, the day of the bazaar.

The next meeting will be Saturday, October 15th at 9:30 am.



### **Dharma school news**

**Amy Peterson, DS Coordinator**

Welcome to DS 2011-2012! This year we will be trying some new things! We are going to try to utilize our website more. Please

check us out at <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/about/dharma/dharma-school.html>

We are also going to utilize an online calendar to keep parents informed and reminded of upcoming activities. Please let us know if you are not getting emails from us. Email us at: [dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)

October is a busy month for us with the Sukiya Dinner, bake sale preparation and snack bar. Because of our annual Elder visitation on October 30, our Children's service will be on October 23rd along with Birthday Sunday.

Girl Scout troop #43720 will be starting with a parent meeting on October 9th. Please be sure and pick up a registration form and have it completed before then. Registration is \$12 per year.

The Dana Class will be chairing services in October as well as planning the Halloween party with the Prajna class so attendance is crucial.



### **Sukiya bazaar- new this year!**

**Elaine Yuzuriha**

The Sukiya bazaar will include a fun new addition: BINGO. On Sunday, October 2nd, the Sukiya Bazaar will open its doors at 11:30 am and serve up the best sukiyaki this side of the Pacific (in my opinion, mmm). Other foods include OBWA's world famous chow mein and Marilyn's chicken bento, as well as the Dharma School's always a surprise snack bar. Fresh produce, a fabulous omiyage sale, and wonderful artistic displays of Ikebana (flower arrangements) and calligraphy, and my own small collection of Japanese dolls will be displayed upstairs in the hondo. Starting at 2pm, when the lunch crowd begins to

wane, we will have a fun session of Bingo until closing at 3:30pm. Surprise gifts await you. Come, socialize, and have fun. We'd love to see you there!

## ***Dharma School baking party October 1st***

***Elaine Yuzuriha***

In recent years, we have had a baking party at the temple the night before a fundraiser because everything sold at our bake sale table should be made in a licensed kitchen. We invite the older Dharma School students and their parents to bring their favorite dessert recipe and the ingredients to make it on Saturday, Oct. 1st at 6:00 pm. Or just bring yourself and a parent. We will have ingredients there to make yummy treats for the snack bar. Since the kitchen can be a dangerous place, we discourage kids that are Lumbini and Bodhi class age to come but it is up to your parents to decide whether you can handle it.

We can also use donations of commercially baked goods. Pies are especially popular, but anything would be appreciated. Unfortunately, we cannot accept homemade treats. Thank you, and see you all at the baking party!



### ***Lotus circle – September/October Jean Matsumoto***

Altar flowers for Sunday, September 11, were donated by Reiko (Scapple) Park in memory of (imo) her grandfather, Tsutomu Watanabe.

Altar flowers for Sundays in the month of October are being provided by donations from:

- October 2 – Carol Saiget imo father, Tomo Saito
- October 9 – Alan Kasubuchi imo father, Ben
- October 16 – Kida/Tomita Families imo mother, Fumi Kida, and grandmother, Tsuru Nakamura; Ami Kinoshita imo brother- and sister-in-law, Yosh and April
- October 23 – Misa Kodama imo husband, Satoru
- October 30 – open

OBT is truly grateful to all the generous donors who provide the lovely flowers which are so beautifully arranged by the Flower Toban members each week. Please check with our wonderful webmaster, OBT president Ken Garner ([webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)) and share tributes and memories of your loved ones on our Lotus Circle webpage. For information about the Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or [jamatsumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatsumoto@gmail.com).

## ***Condolences ...***

- To the family of Hisako Kakishita who passed away September 4, 2011.
- To Jerry Sumoge whose mother Yukiko Sumoge passed away August 28, 2011

### **2011 Memorial Chart**

| <u>Year</u><br><u>Of Passing</u> | <u>Memorial</u> | <u>Year</u><br><u>Of Passing</u> | <u>Memorial</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 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.*

## ***When I am by myself, I am not by myself***

*A recitation by Reverend Akio Miyaji at a funeral*

When I am by myself, I am not by myself  
When I call the Buddha's name, Buddha is calling me  
Gratitude and joy pours from my heart

When I am by myself, I am not by myself  
When I go to my yard, the flowers are making conversations with me

When I am by myself, I am not by myself  
When I go up the hill, I can hear the birds singing  
And sounds just like Amida Buddha

When I am by myself, I am not by myself  
If I look through the window, I see the ocean that goes around the world  
The ocean connects the world of Amida Buddha

When I am by myself, I am not by myself  
Amida Buddha, Shakamuni Buddha, Shinran-sama are in my heart  
My late husband, my parents, my ancestors are in my heart  
And with this heart, I am secure, at peace, and happy.



## October Toban

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Cave, Marian Nagaki   |                    |
| Cohen, Cindy          | Fukunaga, Lori     |
| Fukunaga, Ray         | Ishii, Janice      |
| Ishii, Michael        | Kiyama, Traci      |
| Kiyama, Wynn          | Koyama, Edna       |
| Koyama, Richard       | Matsumoto, Jean    |
| Meiners, Lily         | Price, Heatheranne |
| Richards, Atsuko      | Roberts, Charlene  |
| Soto de Roman, Teresa |                    |
| Takeda, Ernest        | Tanada, Anna       |
| Tsutsumi, Gail        | Tsutsumi, Robert   |
| VinHasa, Sharon       | Watari, Duane      |

*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*

## October 15<sup>th</sup> Japanese American high school senior's deadline

*Elaine Yuzuriha*

Now is the time to become a member of Oregon Buddhist Temple or to renew your membership if you have a 2012 Japanese American high school senior. The Japanese American community scholarships, awarded each May, requires that each applicant or his or her parents be a member of one of the eleven sponsoring community organizations before the application is due in early March. This deadline to become a member is October 15th. Oregon Buddhist Temple is one of the sponsoring organizations for the Sunday, May 6, 2012. annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet. There are other requirements, please check the Portland JACL website ([www.pdxjacl.org](http://www.pdxjacl.org)) for more

information.

If you have a Japanese American high school senior, or if you know a JA senior who is graduating in 2012, please contact Elaine Yuzuriha, (350) 253-9521, so that the senior's name may be added to the Graduation committee's invitation list. It is a great way to honor your student and meet other members of the Japanese American community.

Check out the Portland Japanese American Graduation page on Facebook for pictures of past graduation banquets.

## Scrip makes gift-giving easy

*Ken Garner*

As we near the gift giving season, remember that scrip gift cards make great gifts. Gift cards ship well and guarantee that recipients will get a gift they want. You can also use scrip to make gift purchases. The proceeds support our temple at no additional cost to you. And as the tax year comes to an end, it is good to know that donations OBT receives as a result of scrip purchases are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. For example, if you buy a \$25 Lands End card (currently 17% contribution and redeemable at Sears), \$4.25 goes to OBT and you can claim a \$4.25 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 have your tax deductible amount calculated and available at your request.

There are over 700 vendors who participate in the scrip program so chances are good that you will find scrip for someplace where you normally shop.

Visit the Dharma Store/Scrip Sales a table downstairs after service on Sunday to see the full list of vendors and the current bonuses in effect and to place an order. We will gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to the team at [scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com).

## \*\*Sukiyaki Bazaar – Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011\*\*



11:30am to 3:30pm at the Oregon Buddhist Temple

|                                  |                        |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sukiyaki (Beef and Vegetarian)   | Chow Mein              |
| Chicken Bento                    | Produce Booth          |
| Ikebana and Calligraphy Displays | Snack Bar              |
| Omiyage Gifts and more...        | Bingo starting at 2 pm |

For info: (503) 234-9456 or [bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)

### Sukiyaki Bazaar Order Form

Pre-order is highly recommended.

Please return order forms by Wednesday Sep. 28, 2011.



| <u>Item</u>  | <u>Price/To Go*</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Sukiyaki*  | \$7.50/\$8.00       | _____           | \$ _____      |
| Vegetarian Sukiyaki*   | \$7.50/\$8.00       | _____           | \$ _____      |
| <i>*For each take-out Sukiyaki order, please add \$.50 (total \$8.00).</i> |                     |                 |               |
| Chow Mein  | \$7.00              | _____           | \$ _____      |
| Chicken Bento  | \$8.00              | _____           | \$ _____      |
| <b>Total</b>   |                     |                 | \$ _____      |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Oregon Buddhist Temple**      Mail to: Oregon Buddhist Temple  
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