

Easing out of summer into autumn on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

September 2011



The heat is off

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

It's September and the Obonfest is completed. The heat is off! The OBT members worked so hard on our Obonfest.

Thank you all very much. The weather was good last August 6th. Every guest I heard speak, spoke of what a wonderful time they were having. Our financial receipts were even up from any recent year. It was a great event made successful by teamwork and camaraderie.

Of course, my boys don't feel like the heat is off. They are gearing up for another year of school. They, like other youth at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, must begin to make their full efforts again here in September after getting some relaxation during the summer. Still, for the adults at OBT this is the calm between two storms. Just next month we must gear up again for the Sukiyaki Bazaar. But that too will combine work with enjoying friendships amongst the Sangha.

This month, as our children gear up for school, perhaps the adults can settle down a little. If it has not yet as you read this, it will cool off for all of us, so far as the temperature outside goes. One month of resting on our laurels is surely in order. We had a great Obonfest thanks to all of you. We are one of the most diverse temples in our 62 temple BCA family, and this is something to be proud of. It means that we are doing what we are supposed to do – share the Buddha-dharma with all interested parties. It also means that OBT has a bright future. Temples whose communities are unified not by an interest in Buddhism, but only by ethnic identity will disappear in the next 20 -30 years. OBT will be here for its bicentennial, have no doubt!

We do not, however, need to start planning the bicentennial of the Oregon Buddhist Temple yet. It will be in 2103, so we have some time to prepare and can begin those preparations later. Again, let us appreciate where we are for a moment - for a month? OBT has a bright future. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has a growing role in the spirituality of the United States of America. Personally, things go well for me

as well. I am awaiting the publication of my first book. It will be a collection of essays on Buddhist concerns entitled, ***Becoming Buddhist, Becoming Buddhas, Liberating All Beings***. My editor, Dennis Hirota, is also a personal friend and the preeminent Jodo Shinshu philosopher here in the early decades of the 21st century. I will schedule a book reading and signing here at OBT sometime in the next few months.

My older son Sho is taking a greater interest in bicycle riding and this is good for my health as he allows me to tag along on some of his journeys. My younger son, Ren, is so full of life and so active that just being in the same room with him for twenty minutes burns a few hundred calories. Like that Canadian guy once said, "The future is so bright, I need to wear shades." I hope that all of you can feel this. We are in the embrace of a tireless compassion. A genuine caring is flowing into our lives at all times. If you feel this, I am glad. I feel this (a lot of the time; not, quite, constantly). Besides feeling the kindness of the Buddha surrounding you and transforming your life for the better, if you want to understand this intellectually, come to the study classes. The calendar for this newsletter will tell you when those study classes are. They are held most Friday evenings, albeit never the 2nd Friday of the month. Study classes are held almost every Monday afternoon, though we do rest on the national holidays.

If you don't yearn for a better verbal grasp of the teachings, perhaps you would like to attend our "Tai Chi as Exercise" classes. Attendance for these exercise classes is growing. They are offered at no charge and are do-able by those who are not in great shape. I'm teaching the classes, so how great of shape could one possibly need to be in to participate? In any case, I hope to see you at the Sunday services often. I truly believe that our temple has much to offer for almost anyone. I know it exists only because of the hard work, financial sacrifices, and dedication of our members. Thank you all very much.

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 will be in next month's newsletter.

September/October Highlights

Sep 9	Board Meeting	7 pm
Sep 11	Dharma Gathering and potluck brunch at Kenilworth Park	10 am
Sep 16	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
Sep 18	OBT Ohigan Service followed by potluck lunch	9:30 am
Sep 30	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	9 am
Oct 1	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	9 am
Oct 2	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	7 am
Oct 2	Sukiyaki Bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm



President's message

Ken Garner, OBT President

September has long been one of my favorite months -- the baseball pennant races, the lengthening shadows, the warm days in the last throes of summer with just a hint of autumn chill. September is a transition month and a time of return. When I was a kid I looked forward to returning to school and the promise of the new academic year (although as a parent I think I enjoy it even more now than I did then!).

Obonfest 2011 is now a pleasant memory. It was a great event from both a fun and financial perspective. Along with our tried and true attractions, we tried a few new things this year (live music for some of the dancing, a photo booth, OBT logo water bottles and shopping bags). A little change is good, it shows that Obonfest is alive and not just a relic of the past. We want to observe and respect our traditions while at the same time we must keep the celebration fresh. Thank you all for your hard work in making this year's Obonfest so fun and successful. I especially want to recognize Yoshi Ono and Zack Semke for their leadership in chairing this year's event and June Shiigi for coordinating the volunteers. Chairing and coordinating an event are crucial and often thankless tasks and they did an outstanding job. Thank you. Mark your calendars for Obonfest 2012 on August 4, 2012. What changes will be in store? I look forward to another wonderful celebration next year.

September is also a time of return for the Oregon Buddhist Temple. The summer hiatus is over. The Dharma School will soon be in full swing and temple activities will be returning to normal. If you haven't been to the temple for a while, I invite you to return. We miss you. We value our new members and friends for the fresh energy and beginner's mind they bring to our temple. We value our long-time members and friends for their dedication and institutional memory. We are better as a Sangha for having you all with us.

In Gassho

Ken

Musings of an OBT board member

Elaine Yuzuriha



I live in gratitude for the opportunity to see this beautiful day. I was reminded of this when I lost a very good friend recently. One day I said see you after your trip, the next day he was dead. Sometimes I choose to forget how fragile this life is, how changeable and unique each day is. Recently, we lost a temple member in Karen Scapple, and we send our condolences to her family. The Ishimaru/ Semke family moved up north to Seattle, and we send our good wishes to a valuable former board member and Obon chairperson in Zack Semke and his family.

We had a very successful Obon this year. Although I was unable to be here in town due to the Nembutsu Camporee for the Girl Scout troop, I hear of large crowds, sell out food, and wonderful live music. The temple community really rose to the occasion to work together toward a successful fund raiser, greatly needed in these troubled economic times. I am grateful to Yoshi Ono and Zack for their leadership, and the dedicated manpower supporting the temple.

On October 2nd, we have our next major fund raiser, the Sukiyaki Bazaar. This is an annual rite of passage to welcome the colder weather by preparing a hot pot winter time dish, and to share it with the community. This year, I am hoping to bring back bingo from 2pm to 3:30, to give people a reason to stay and socialize. I will be asking much of our members for help, to make this event as successful as Obon was. Please help. I have never chaired a major fundraiser and I have a lot to learn. I am grateful for the opportunity to do so.

In Gassho,

OBWA news

Katie Tamiyasu



The OBWA acknowledges with deep appreciation the donations received from Makoto Iwashita in memory of Kasagu Iwashita and anonymous during the month of July.

On July 25th, one of our long time OBWA members, Alice Sumida, was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation, an honor awarded once a year to individuals and groups worldwide for outstanding contribution to the friendly relationship and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States. Alice was one of 68 individuals and 30 groups from all over the world to be awarded this prestigious award. A presentation ceremony will be held later this year at the official residence of the Japanese Consul General Takamichi Okabe. A full press release is in The Yuuyake Shimbun, July 2011 issue. Congratulations Alice!

We would like to thank Jean Matsumoto and Janice

Okamoto for taking flowers to Rose City Cemetery on July 27th for memorial offerings to Rev. Terakawa and Rev. Wakabayashi.

The weather couldn't have been more perfect for the Obonfest this year, overcast in the morning and early afternoon, and by the opening ceremonies the sun had come out to shine on the festivities.

We would like to thank the OBWA members and friends who came to help Friday and Saturday to prepare and cook for the Obonfest. Also our thanks to Lil Okazaki for her delicious chow mein, and Ray Fields for his delicious Caesar salad served for lunch on Friday. It was nice to see so many new faces that came to help, which is very encouraging and welcome when help is needed. Thank you all.

In Gassho



Dharma school news

Amy Peterson, DS Coordinator

We extend thanks to Cathy Shikitani, Ann Shintani, Kyoko Gibbs, Marilyn Achterman, Nate Mason, Wynn & Tracy Kiyama as well as our recently transferred friends Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke for all their hard work providing activities for the children during our summer break.

We are preparing our new DS year with the addition of Chandra Stone. We have some other volunteers stepping up to help us this year as well. We can always use more volunteers to help with classes, as well as provide substitutes when teachers have other obligations.

We are excited to rejuvenate our Girl Scout Troop #43720. We are looking to add a few Daisy Girl Scouts (K-1st) to the troop this fall. If you are interested in joining our troop please see Amy Peterson or contact us through the OBT Website. You do not have to be a Temple member for your daughter to join. Meetings are twice per month depending on special services and events.

Our webmaster is putting a registration form online. Please complete a new registration form for the 2011-2012 year. If you have any questions please contact Amy Peterson. Please join us at Kenilworth Park, Sunday Sept. 11th as we kick off our DS year. Please bring a pot luck dish to share.

Our first Children's service will be Sept. 25th. at 10 am in the Annex. Prior to the service we have a teacher's meeting. The meetings are always open to parents and prospective teachers and helpers. Please be aware that those working with the children need to submit information for a background check.

If you are unable to attend regular DS and would like access to or information via the website or email, please contact Amy Peterson.



Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) summer retreat, July 4-10

Kristi Fukunaga

When my brother went to YAC, he seemed to have a good time. But that was him: not me. I thought that because we were two different people, my experience at YAC would be different and not as fun because I am a shyer person than my brother. I thought within a week there would be no way I could bond with a group of people as much as my brother did. But I was wrong.

What made me go was Amy Peterson. Every year she would ask me if I was old enough to go and highly suggest that I do. Last year I didn't go because I still felt too young, but this year I wasn't.

After Amy's persistent reminder to sign up for YAC, and my brother's encouragement to go as well, I signed up reluctantly. However, when I got to Sacramento, where they had YAC, I realized that I had no reason to be so hesitant to enter the Sacramento Betsuin. I had no reason to shy away from the people in YAC.

Yes, at first it was a little awkward because we didn't know each other so well, but we were always friendly with one another. And before we knew it, we became a family. Because of this atmosphere, I became more and more comfortable. As I became more comfortable, I noticed doing services weren't so nerve-racking. I knew that everyone was backing and wouldn't judge me for my mistakes that I might have made. So with this mindset, I was able to grow. I became more comfortable doing the different tasks from ringing the kansho to doshi; things I would have been terrified to do.

When I first looked at the schedule, I was a little worried about how I would be able to get through each day because each day had four services and three workshops. But with each service, I was completely engaged and each dharma talk we heard was relatable and comforting. When our peers got up to do the dharma talk, we learned a little bit about them as well. And with the workshops, the teachers were always interactive and engaging. I was afraid at the beginning of the week that I might fall asleep during a service or workshop, however, the workshops and services were something that did the exact opposite; they kept me up.

Through this experience, I have gained new friends, or dharma buddies as we call them, gained leadership skills, became more comfortable in my skin, and have reconnected with Buddhism. I have to say, this week retreat is really a life changing experience. There is no way to quite explain it, but I feel different coming out of it. I feel a good change within me. YAC has really given me experiences, wisdom, memories, and relationships that you can't put a price on. So thank you to OBT and the Youth Activities Fund for giving me this wonderful experience. Without all your help and support, this would have never happened and I am forever grateful.



2011 ObonFest volunteers June and Stan Shiigi

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who helped to make our 2011 ObonFest a success. Thank you also to all of the newcomers who helped out, too! As you hopefully

found out, working together to help our temple is nice way of getting to know each other. And if you were not available this year, there is always next year!



***Omiyage thanks
Janice Ishii and Brenda
Fugate,
Omiyage co-chairs***

We would like to thank the following generous donors who helped make the Omiyage Booth a success: Lori & Kristi Fukunaga, Merrie Greenwood, Pat Hokama, Karol Kennedy, Misa Kodama, Edna Koyama, Randy and Dana Kunisaki, Jean Matsumoto, Martha Mizuta, Tsuyako Monas, Charlene Roberts, June Shiigi, Cathy Shikatani, LaRhette Swann, Sahomi Tachibana, Setsu Ueno & Toyoko Oguri, and many anonymous donors.

Those who helped with sorting and pricing, moving boxes, sales and packing up include the following: Charlene Roberts, Karol Kennedy, LaRhette Swann, Susan and Kiyo Endecott, Gail Tsutsumi and Jamie, Lily Meiner, Susan Lily, Judy Soga, Merrie Greenwood, Nobi Masuoka, Marlene Moro, Yasuko Fields, Edna Koyama, and Michael Ishii.

In Gassho



***Thank you for Obon lantern
and Japan relief help
BeeBee Tan-Beck***

We thank everyone who donated generously to the Japan relief fans and who participated in the Obon lantern program. This year we made Uchiwa fans for Japan relief and we thank Ray Fields and Connie Masuoka for helping to provide the fans. Karol Kennedy and Marlene Moro graciously donated time to decorate the fans with folded origami cranes generously donated by Alice H. and Eisaku (Ace) Hiromura from Vancouver.

We thank Wendy Peterson, Anya Rose Sampson, Chris Lantiser, Charles Dawson, and many others for helping us hang and take down the Obon lanterns, Amy Peterson for her continued help and support in making the tassels and Elaine Yuzuriha for information and advice; Yasuko Fields, Tomoko Ono and Misa Kodama for graciously providing their calligraphic skills to make the commemorative lanterns.



***Lotus circle – September
Jean Matsumoto***

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

- September 4 – Susan Leedham in memory of (imo) father, Kay Akiyama
- September 11 – open
- September 18 – Yasuko Fields imo sister, Minako

Maekawa; Mary Okita imo husband, Frank Morio

- September 25 – Shinya Ichikawa imo of father, Tatsuya Ichikawa

OBT is grateful for the generous donations made by members of the Lotus Circle which makes it possible for us to have beautiful flowers arranged on the altar each week by our Flower Toban. Please check out the Lotus Circle page on our website by contacting Ken Garner, temple president and webmaster, at webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com with tributes to your loved ones. For information and/or signing up to be a member of the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com

Condolences ...

- To the family of Mabel Boggs who passed away July 10th, 2011.
- To the family of Karen Scapple who passed away July 25th, 2011.



***A tribute to Karen Scapple
Etsu Osaki***

Our gentle teacher
Embraced in Amida's arms
Namoamida

She was a friendly, gentle lady--always smiling and helping. Thank you Karen for all your help with the Dharma Store. Thank you for your presence at OBT. We will miss you.

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.

September Toban

Ando, Roberta	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



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



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

Sukiyaki (Beef and Vegetarian)
Chicken Bento
Ikebana and Calligraphy Displays
Omiyage Gifts and more...

Chow Mein
Produce Booth
Snack Bar
Bingo starting at 2 pm

For info: (503) 234-9456 or 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	_____	\$ _____

**For each take-out Sukiyaki order, please add \$.50 (total \$8.00).*

Chow Mein	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Chicken Bento	\$8.00	_____	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

☐

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to:

Mail to:

Oregon Buddhist Temple

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Avenue

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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