



Oregon Buddhist Temple
established 1903

Joyously Dancing on the Oregon...

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Newsletter

August 2014



Obon and Positive Intentions

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Obon season is based on a story about Sakyamuni Buddha's disciple, Mokuren [Maudgayayana]. I won't repeat the story in detail. The upshot

is that Mokuren sees his mother trapped in another realm (following her biological death). The Buddha advises generosity. Mokuren subsidizes a banquet for all the monks and later discerns that his mother has been released from that realm of suffering. How much of this story do you believe? How much of it do you take seriously?

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is about living fully and honestly, without illusions of one's righteousness relative to others. However, it is also about becoming Buddhas in the Pure Realm of Amida's influence. How many OBT members can feel the pull of this idea? It is all right to believe whatever you like. However, assuming that the part of the Dharma one relates to easily is the more true or central part of the Buddha's teachings is an exercise in self-deception. It's all meant to be taken in considerable seriousness, ... the Dharma of the Buddhas.

My parents are deceased. My reasons for not trying to send positive energy to them in their current, new lives is not based on the sort of piety that Shinran Shonin expresses in article #5 of the Tannisho, but it is based on a certain sort of humility that Shinran would have appreciated. I'm sure you remember that Shinran Shonin gave two reasons for not saying the nembutsu for the benefit of his deceased parents: 1. It is the Buddha's positive energy or karmic merit and not Shinran's (nor mine nor yours) to direct. 2. Secondly, and more deeply, in present, past or futures lives everyone has been or will be mother, father, sister, brother. So we would need a truly vast karmic storehouse of merit to help all these past or future parents.

I'm more stubborn than Shinran. I would just try to save the mother and father I remember from this biological lifetime first. Later through the auspices of Amida's Pure Land I will work to liberate all. My only reason for not starting right now with acting to liberate George Karroll Gibbs and Myrtle Louise Trimmer Gibbs is that, I have no positive

karmic merit to share at all. I am running on a deficit balance. My karmic life is like a run down condo in a steadily worsening neighborhood, ... I'll never pay off the loan, so to speak. My karmic merit wouldn't even get me into the realm of Enlightenment, let alone be adequate for dragging my mom & dad across the threshold of Ultimate truth.

Most of you, I suspect, see this as a metaphor. You think of Enlightenment at death as simply being a return to the oneness of all Life. It is all right if some of you only go that far in taking in the message of Shinran and all the great teachers in the Pure Land stream of Mahayana tradition. It is all right, however, you are missing something. In the depths of our lives the links we have with others can cross many lifetimes.

Last month we had our solemn Obon service. Although we honored 12 people who were friends or associates of our temple, we only lost four temple members. Losing even one member is more than we wish, but, in my 12 ½ years here, this is the fewest number of temple members who have passed away.

So, ... it is time to move on to the joyous Obon dancing. In fact, you are, as likely as not, reading this after our Obonfest.

Continued on page 3...

August Highlights

- 8/1 Obonfest Preparations 9am
- 8/2 Obonfest Preparations 9am
- 8/2 OBONFEST 3-9pm
- 8/3 Obonfest Cleanup 9am
- 8/6 The Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration at the Waterfront Park 6pm
- 8/8 Board Meeting 7pm
- 8/10 DS Teachers Meeting 9am
- 8/10 Girl Scouts 12:15
- 8/13 Bon Odori -Portland Japanese Gardens 8-9:30pm
- 8/16 OBWA Meeting 9:30am
- 8/16 Kumihimo Class Noon-2:30pm
- 8/24 Girl Scouts 12:15

"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." Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202-3037, 503-234-9456 (ph), e-mail: oregonbuddhisttemple at yahoo .com, website: http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com. This monthly newsletter is published by the Oregon Buddhist Temple, a Buddhist Churches of America temple affiliated with Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-Ha. Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address. Send news items to the editor: Rev. Diane Johnson, revjishin@gmail.com.



OBWA News

Nancy Kajitsu

June and July have been very busy months for the Oregon Buddhist Women's Association.

We enjoyed a Birthday luncheon with our members at Super King Buffet on

June 21st. Thank you to the Ishida family for joining us and allowing us to celebrate Sumi's 88th birthday. Also thank you for your donation. Chiho Okita was also honored with a nenju for celebrating her 99th birthday. Alice Sumida who was unable to attend will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 18th. OBWA also thanks those ladies who were able to donate canned goods for the Backpack Project, a program to help needy children/families, at the Templeton School in Tigard.

Saturdays in July have been busy with preparation of the manju for the OBON on Aug 2. It is done and ready! Thank you to the Toban group for food and all the help!

OBWA Calendar Events:

Kimono/Yukata Sale from July 20 to August 2: We can use any Kimono/Yukata you may not want anymore for the Kimono/Yukata sale. Donations are welcome! Please contact Yasuko Fields and/or June Shiigi for more information. Obon cemetery services on July 26. Please check the calendar for times and location.

Somen otoki preparations for Obon/Hatsubon Service on Sat, July 26 at 9:00am and 8:00am on July 27. Your help is appreciated.

Obon/Hatsubon Service on July 27

OBONfest preparations on Aug 1 from 9:00am; Aug 2 help needed from 9:00am.

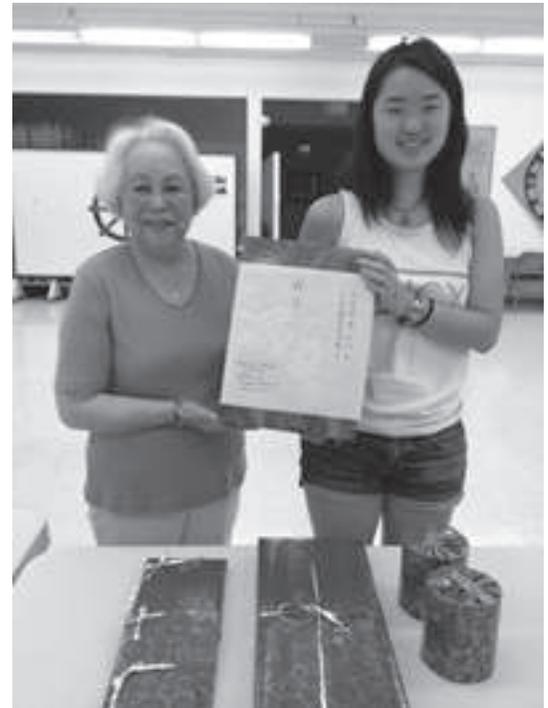
OBONfest: August 2 from 3:00-9:00pm. Please attend and enjoy the festivities.

Bon Odori at Portland Japanese Garden on August 13, from 8 pm

August 16, 9:30 am OBWA meeting, Kumihimo Workshop 12 noon to 2:30 pm (class closed)



I to r: Honored member Sumi Ishida with daughter Susan Yoneda, niece Janice Ishida, and Takako and Nobi Ishida at the Annual OBWA Birthday Lunch



I to r: OBWA member Misa Kodama and Youth Exchange Student Kristi Fukunaga hold a gift from the FBWA to be presented to Lady Ruzumi Ohtani and Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani in Japan.

(cont. from page 1)

Still, I wanted to remind you that there was genuinely joyous dancing at the beginning of this tradition because Sakya-muni, Mokuren and the other monks did believe in future lives and in the possibility of positive, renewed, living there. I hope that all of you can appreciate this from time to time. If there is Buddha-nature waiting to blossom inside each of us, and if this was also true of our deceased loved ones, there is reason to dance. If this reaches you after the Obonfest, maybe you should go out and dance again tonight. Dance to jazz? Dance to a mariachi band? Dance at a rock concert. It's all good. If you open your heart to the full range of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings you will want to dance, you will need to dance, and no one will be able to stop you.

Gassho,
Gregory Gibbs

Dharma Exchange Haiku

Hear the drum beat
Dance to the rhythms
Enjoy the festivity.

Ray Fields

Not knowing what is...
Real or unreal, my tears fall
Sunrise, sunset, aah!

Stan Shiigi

The beer is free
We still pay for it
One way or 'nuther.

Rev. Gibbs

Lives are dancing now
Roses bloom in the warm wind
People are happy

David Johnson

Workers scurrying
Pavement soaking up
Obonfest begins.

Brenda Fugate

Suff'ring mother freed
Mogallana fed the monks
So he danced with joy!

E. Osaki

Lost loved one known so well
Kind stranger seen once
Bring fond memories.

Pat Lindemaier

It's July again
Obon time is here
Let's dance and have fun.

Alice Ando

Hatsubon ni
Omoidasu nowa
Egao da ke.

(translation)

On hatsubon service
The only thing I recall about the
deceased person
Is his/her smile.

Kiyomi Dickinson

Lanterns glowing bright
Dancers in bright kimonos
Drummers beat in time!

Jean Matsumoto

Bon to-ro
To- moru yube ni
Chichi, haha ni au.

(translation)

Bon to-ro (lantern)
Meet my parents in the evening
When it's lit.

Yasuko Fields

The sun is striking warmly
The moon is uplifting the stars
Balanced in fullness the light.

D. Mattson

Squeezing my tummy
Bright yukata and obi
Ahhh Evening over.

Marilyn Achterman



l to r: Bishop Umezu and BCA FBWA Youth Exchange Students Rosie Yasukochi (Seattle BWA) and Kristi Fukunaga (Oregon BWA). Bishop Umezu and Rev. Endo spoke with Rosie and Kristi during their San Francisco International Airport stop over before continuing the flight to Japan.

Book Club Meeting News

There will be no Book Group meeting in the month of August. It has been decided to take a break for the month of August as so many activities loom ahead as well as vacations. We will forward our August selection "That's Funny, You Don't Look Buddhist" by Sylvia Boorstein to September. Hope to see you in September and thank you for your patience.

Karol Kenndy

June 2014 Donations

In memory of Sally M.L. Nakamura

Colin Nakamura

Tomo Sunamoto 1st year memorial

Robert K. Sunamoto Family

In memory of Kan Yagi

Miyeko Yagi

In memory of Jack & Yoshiko Yasutome

Kenneth Yasutome

In memory of Alan Kasubuchi

Gerald & Joann Sumoge

Atsuko Richards

In memory of Fumi Okubo

Anonymous

In memory of Mary T. Okita

Ruby Izui

Peter Izui

Karen Kanemoto

Chuck Izui

Lotus Circle

Mitsuko Hasuiki

Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

Judy Murase

Special donations

Lani Yamami

Randy & Dana Kunisaki

Alice Sumida

Dana Kakishita

Kenneth Yasutome

Atsuko Richards

Hannah Honma

Janie Matsushima

Matt Muramatsu (HVAC project)

Susan Endecott (HVAC project)

2014 Membership donations

Colin & Sally Nakamura

Philip L. Kollas

Kenneth Yasutome

Traci & Wynn Kiyama

Randy Kunisaki

Teruko Nishikawa

Member pledge donations

Jean Matsumoto

Marilyn Achterman

Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs

Angela & Ryan Hughes-Davis

Brenda Fugate

Gerald & Joann Sumoge

Pat Hokama

Alice Tano

Maho Gamer

Amy Osaki

Charles Dawson

Miyoko Maeda

Lisa D. Anderson

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. Susan Endecott Email: sjendecott@gmail.com



Obonfest, Sat, Aug 2, 3-9 pm

Entertainment, taiko, food, gift shop,
children's activities, temple talks

Obon dancing starts at 7 pm

Free dance practices Tue & Thur
starting July 15, 7 pm

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

3720 SE 34th Ave & Powell

Portland, OR 97202

503-234-9456 www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com



August Toban

Roberta Ando	Kim Kono
Randy Choi	Kumiko Mishima
Ray Fields	Tsuyako Monas
Yasuko Fields	Clara Pawlowski
Brenda Fugate	Steve Pawlowski
Jerry Fugate	
Diane Harder	
Jayne Ichikawa	
Shinya Ichikawa	
Kay Inoue	

2014 Memorial Chart

Year of Passing	Memorial	Year of Passing	Memorial
2013	1 year	1998	17 year
2012	3 year	1990	25 year
2008	7 year	1982	33 year
2002	13 year	1965	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.

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

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP 2014
NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:

INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$250.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT

FAMILY: MINIMUM \$500.00 PER FAMILY

SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER

GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER

With Silver and Gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to **Wheel of Dharma** newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE _____
 ADDITIONAL DONATION _____
 TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:

Oregon Buddhist Temple
 3720 SE 34th Avenue
 Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE



Lotus Circle

Jean Matsumoto

We are grateful to our faithful Lotus Circle participants for contributions made to the Oregon Buddhist Temple to cover the cost of the beautiful flowers that our Flower Toban members arrange on the onaijin (altar) each week. On the last Sunday in July, a donation was made by Reiko Haupt in memory of her mother, Karen Scapple. For August, we would like to acknowledge the following people who will be providing funds for purchase of the flowers:

August 3 – Ami Kinoshita in memory of (imo) her parents, Taitaro and Mitsu Nakao, and her parents-in-law (Kaz's parents), Tokuji and Kise Kinoshita

August 10 – Matt, Randy, and Julie Muramatsu imo their mother, Phyllis, and grandparents, Sumiko and Frank Ando; Ray Fields imo his stepfather, Bernard Mayers

August 17 – Sandi Yamauchi imo her mother, Misaye Tonooka, and grandmother, Chiyoko Tonooka.

August 24 – open

August 31 – anonymous imo Tanezo Niiyama

The Lotus has a webpage set up by Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) and you are all welcome to check it out and share memories of loved ones with us. For information about the Lotus Circle and how to join, please call 503-280-2463 or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

