



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

October 2010



## Finding the mainstream

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Please allow me to thank you in advance for all your hard work on our Sukiyaki bazaar. Some people may look upon such fund raisers as a necessary evil quite removed from the central business of sharing the Buddhist teachings. Actually, I think such community events are part of the mainstream of Buddhist religiosity. I truly appreciate your efforts for our Sukiyaki bazaar.

When the Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism developed 800 years ago it was seen as unorthodox by many. New developments are often seen as eccentric. Even so, these days we are viewed as mainstream by people educated about the Buddha-dharma. I participated in a long-established Buddhist council in LA when I served there, called Butsuren. I found out at some point that a decade or more before I had joined the council they had rejected requests from Nichiren Sho Shu of America and Rissho Kosei-kai to join on the grounds that they were not really Buddhist. I felt that this was short-sighted, superior-minded and unwarranted. Certainly Zen, Jodo Shu, Nichiren-Shu and our own school were not seen as mainstream when they first appeared. Who are we to view these 20th century schools as not really Buddhist now?

Certainly we are embarrassed when people meet us and say, "Oh, you're Buddhist....so you chant to get things then?" Forty years ago we often heard that aficionados of one of these schools would tell people that by chanting a certain phrase they could get a Mercedes. This is not a very Buddhist concern - "Oh Buddha won't you bring me a Mercedes Benz?" By chanting alone, with no effort toward moral self-improvement nor any serious study of Buddhist philosophical principles, you cannot get a Mercedes. By chanting alone you can't get a used Kia two-door sedan with a bad transmission. Even so, a fringe element of Buddhist tradition cannot be expelled nor branded as "non-Buddhist" just because they seem an embarrassment to those now

considered mainstream. If we reject other groups so harshly we just increase the divisions between people.

On September 11th this year I participated in an inter-faith event at a mosque affirming the worthiness of Islam. In fact, Islam is not one of my favorite religious traditions. It is monotheistic and that puts it way below Hinduism, Taoism, Native American religiosity and such on my own list of personal favorites. It is, however, worthy of our respect. More importantly there are many devout Muslim Americans who are the target of prejudice, especially when that anniversary of terrorist attacks in 2001 rolls around. Devout Muslims are no more terrorists than are Jodo Shinshu Buddhists part of the "Buddha won't you send me a Mercedes Benz" world view. In fact, I posted a remark on Facebook to the effect that the lunatic fringe of Islam is no more violent than the mainstream of Christian tradition. This offended some and I had to do some back tracking in deference to the feelings of people I respect.

If the mainstream of Christian tradition were the teachings of Jesus then Christians would oppose all violence, including all wars. So far as I know, of the 200 or so living schools of Christianity, only the Society of Friends, or Quakers, is 100% non-violent. For me, the Society of Friends should be seen as constituting the mainstream of Christian tradition. What about us? Are we truly mainstream Buddhists as we are usually seen to be in Japan?

The mainstream of Buddhist tradition consists of people committed to non-violence, kindness, tolerance and a viewpoint in which all life is one. If Jodo Shinshu Buddhists live their lives in light of the nembutsu...if we live lives of genuine thankfulness, then we are truly mainstream Buddhists. If we are critical of others, gossipy, resentful then we would be better off chanting for a Mercedes or, perhaps a Jaguar. Our founder, Shinran Shonin, definitely stands in the mainstream of Buddhist tradition. If we live lives appreciating the voiced nembutsu and filled with thankfulness then we too have joined him in the mainstream of Buddhist tradition.

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."*

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456  
503-231-1551 (fax) e-mail: [oregonbuddhisttemple@yahoo.com](mailto:oregonbuddhisttemple@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 editors: Shinya Ichikawa and Jayne Ichikawa, [sjichi@gmail.com](mailto:sjichi@gmail.com).

## **Sukiyaki Bazaar**

**Sunday, October 3, 2010 11:30 – 3:30 pm**  
**Sukiyaki (Beef and Vegetarian), Chow Mein,**  
**Bento (Chicken and Vegetarian), Produce/Plant**  
**sales**  
**Ikebana and Calligraphy Displays, Snack Bar,**  
**Omiyage Gifts and more...**

**Work list is included**

### October Highlights

Sep 30	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 1	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 2	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	7 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm
Oct 8	Board meeting	7 pm
Oct 16	OBWA meeting	9:30 am



### **President's message – serving your temple into the new decade**

**Kim Kono, OBTA President**

OBTA Mission: 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.

OBTA members are remarkable, as they volunteer year-round in support of our Sangha. This spirit of volunteerism, dedication, and Dana has kept the temple thriving for 107 years.

This fall there is an opportunity open to members who are interested in serving in a leadership position. The OBTA Board is seeking candidates for the Board of Directors and will accept nominations through October 31, 2010. In early November an election will be held by mail-in ballot. The OBTA Board is responsible for caring for the temple's physical property, managing the financial assets, supporting and growing our membership, and overseeing the resident minister. There are twelve directors, each who hold office for a three-year term. Four directors are elected each year. The year 2010 marks the end of the three-year terms for Mark Achterman, Hiroshi Matsushima, Al Ono, and Elaine Yuzuriha. Janie Matsushima, now in her second year, will be stepping down; the Board plans to appoint a member to fill the year left on her term.

The four directors elected this year will serve from

2011 to 2013. Those leaving the Board this year are eligible for re-election. Board members who will continue to serve on the Board include: Angie Hughes, Ken Garner, Kim Kono, Yoshi Ono, Zack Semke, Joe Wahl, and David Wright.

Individuals running for the Board must be dues-paying members at the time their names are placed on the ballot and maintain their membership throughout their term; must agree to serve on the Board at the time their names are placed on the ballot; and must take a key role on a temple project, committee or activity.

The schedule for the election process is as follows:

- Deadline for nominations is Sunday, October 31, 2010.
- Ballots will be sent by regular mail to members on Monday, November 8.
- Ballots should be returned to OBTA by Sunday, November 28 at which time they will be counted and validated.
- Results will be announced at the following Sunday service, and in the December newsletter.

To learn more about serving on the OBTA Board, please contact me or a current board member. We will provide you with a description of responsibilities.

OBTA needs capable, dedicated leaders, who bring a breadth of experiences and views representing our Sangha. By placing your name on the ballot, you can potentially serve in a new capacity and help OBTA move into the next decade. Mother Teresa aptly said "we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." The service of all members at OBTA truly makes a difference. Thank you to our Sangha for the many ways you support OBTA!



### **Sukiyaki bazaar - Oct. 3**

**Ann Shintani, Bazaar chairperson**

Are you like me and thrilled that we have the Oregon Buddhist Temple to come to for a different perspective about religion, an accessible and well-read minister, camaraderie, and a common interest in food? Our fundraisers like the Sukiyaki Bazaar help keep this reality alive with needed funds to support our operating expenses. In addition to volunteering and encouraging friends to come eat the delicious food we'll prepare, here is one small, easy way you can help! If you are so inclined, we are accepting monetary donations of any size to help underwrite the costs of purchasing ingredients for the Sukiyaki Bazaar. For example, a cash donation of \$10 will buy the orange garnishes for the bentos; \$25 would buy the green onions for the sukiyaki and a donation of \$60 would buy the chow mein boxes! Please consider contributing by sending a check before Oct. 4th and identifying it as "Sukiyaki donation." Since we are purchasing items in bulk, we ask that you donate by cash as opposed to making an in-kind donation. Thanks for your consideration. Every little bit helps!



### **Seeking omiyage gifts** *Janice Ishii*

Once again, an Omiyage (gift) shop will be open during Sukiyaki Bazaar. Donations of Asian-inspired gifts are needed. We are looking for lightly used dishware, accessories, and collectibles. Please bring your donations labeled "Sukiyaki-Omiyage" with your name to the temple Annex. Pricing suggestions for handicrafts are appreciated. All sales benefit the temple. Thank you!



### **OBWA news** *June Shiigi*

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Association gratefully acknowledges donations in August from Sharon Vinhasa, Etsu Osaki, an anonymous donor and the Japanese Garden Society for our Bon Odori dancers at their annual Obon service. Thank you also for pastry donations from Atsuko Richards, Tom Hokama and Edna Koyama during preparations for ObonFest; OBWA meeting refreshments from Atsuko Richards and Jean Matsumoto; and the August toban monthly cleanup by Lori Fukunaga, Ernie Takeda, Janice Ishii, Michael Ishii, Cindy Cohen, Karen Scapple, Atsuko Richards and Jean Matsumoto. Thank you also to the July toban for their monthly cleanup.

The food preparation schedule for the fall Sukiyaki Bazaar is as follows:

- Thursday, Sep 30  
9 a.m. – boil & fry chow mein noodles
- Friday, Oct 1  
9 a.m. – cut vegetables & meat for chow mein noodles; cut vegetables for sukiyaki  
10 a.m. – cook eggs for chow mein  
Anytime – set up chow mein boxes
- Saturday, Oct 2  
9 a.m. – cook, cool & package chow mein; cut vegetables & meat, wash rice for sukiyaki & bentos
- Sunday, Oct 3  
7 a.m. – prepare for sukiyaki servings, cook rice, and prepare bentos

We would appreciate any help from you, your friends and relatives. And join us on October 3 for some great food!

Our meeting next month is on Saturday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m.

On August 21st after the regular OBWA meeting, member Susan Lilly led a group in yoga. Susan is an experienced yoga instructor who teaches "Yoga for Life" in her home and at Lewis and Clark College. Those who brought mats worked on the floor but for the majority without mats she taught "chair yoga". She passed out copies of her own publications with illustrated

instructions—"Yoga and Meditation" and "Chair Yoga". If interested contact Susan at 503-236-3816.



*Susan Lilly, yoga instructor and OBTA member*

### **Obonfest thanks**

Thank you very much to all of you, your friends and relatives who were able to help at our 2010 ObonFest. Because of all of your wonderful efforts we had a very successful fund-raiser this year. It was hard work but I hope you also had fun and had time to get to know each other better!

In gassho,

*June Shiigi, 2010 ObonFest Volunteer Coordinator*



### **Dharma school news** *Amy Peterson*

The Dharma School started off the year with a picnic at Kenilworth Park. The weather cleared and it was a beautiful day. We had a lot of new and old faces.

Thanks to Mie McGraw and Kyoko Gibbs for providing the games, Sept. Toban for helping with the set up and clean up. Thanks to BeeBee and Charles Dawson for donating the beverages and Marilyn Achterman for taking care of the paper goods. My apologies for anyone I missed that helped with this fun day.

If you are interested in participating in our Secret Buddha Buddies, please email Amy Peterson at [amyp@zzz.com](mailto:amyp@zzz.com) or give her your name, likes, and a little about yourself so we can match the children (family) and an adult secret pal. After we match the children and adults we'll have a box so you can exchange notes and treats with your secret pals so you'll learn more about each other. Then at Hanamatsuri we'll reveal the pals.

Parents should make sure we have current information and medical information on your child for the current year. Also what you'd like to see with online lesson plans.

We will have Birthday Sunday after the children's service on Sunday the 26th so if your child had a birthday in July August or September; bring a coin for each of their years. Adults can also donate and be recognized as well.

Oct. 2nd please join us at 6:30 PM for a baking party as we make baked goods to sell at the Sukiyaki Dinner Snack Bar. Also please check with your child's teacher to sign up for a shift at the snack bar. Please let your team leader know if there is a conflict in times between the snack bar and another shift during the dinner. Children should be able to wear gloves and follow direction to help at the snack bar.

On Halloween, 10/31/10, we'll be visiting our respected OBT elders. The children will be in costume and return to the temple for a party.



### Attention 2011 high school graduating seniors:

*Elaine Yuzuriha*

Now is the time to be thinking about the future. At least ten scholarships are awarded each year to graduating seniors of Japanese American ancestry. Applicants are required to be a member, or to have had at least one parent be a member of a sponsoring organization since at least October 15, 2010 and must reside within Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington (OR) or Clark counties. Oregon Buddhist Temple is a sponsoring organization of the annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet, which will be held on May 1, 2011. Please consider becoming a member of OBT by Oct. 15th in order to qualify for you or your graduate for the community scholarships. Thank you



### New books in the library

*Etsu Osaki*

*Just As You Are: The Manga Biography of Pure Land Master Honen Shonin* by Tetsuro Sayama, manga by Ko

Kawamoto, translated by Leslie Higley, Jodoshinshu Press, Tokyo: 2009, paperback, 205 pages.

This life of Honen is in the popular manga style. He started the first independent Pure Land School, breaking with the schools and institutions of the day. His disciples were Shinran, Dogen and Nichiren.

*Buddha in Your Backpack: Everyday Buddhism for Teens* by Franz Metcalf, Ulysses Press, Berkeley: 2003, paperback, 244 pages.

This easy-to-read book is divided into three parts. The first is about Buddha's life and teachings. The second covers everyday Buddhism and the third is "finding your own path." In the second section the chapter on "The Opposite Sex and You" will probably be of much interest to teens.

### Lotus circle – October

*Jean Matsumoto*



Altar flowers for the month of October 2010 are being provided by donations from

- October 3 – Carol Saiget in memory of (imo) father, Tomo Saito
- October 10 – Alan Kasubuchi imo father, Ben
- October 17 – Kida family in memory of parents, Jimmy and Fumi
- October 24 – Josephine Uyeda in memory of parents, Yone and Kaguma Toya
- October 31 – Open

We are grateful to the families who make the generous donations which pay for the beautiful altar flowers each week. We are also grateful that we have such a dedicated flower toban who arrange the flowers on the onajin and in other areas around the temple. Last but not least, we are grateful to Ken Garner who takes care of our temple Webpage and makes it possible for people to remember their loved ones on the Lotus Circle Page ([webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)). Thank you, all. For information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463 or [jamatsumoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamatsumoto@gmail.com).

### 2010 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2009	1 year	1988	23 year
2008	3 year	1984	27 year
2004	7 year	1978	33 year
1998	13 year	1974	37 year
1994	17 year	1961	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.*

### October Toban

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Dart, Chris
Ishida, Sumi	Ishikawa, Grace
Kagawa, Julie	Kawazoe, Katie
Kawazoe, Ken	Kodama, Misa
Lilly, Susan	Moro, Marlene
Okubo, Fumi	Osaki, Amy
Osaki, Etsuko	Osaki, Herb
Saiget, Carol	Wahl, Joe
Wahl, Lora	Yagi, Kan
Yagi, Marla	Yagi, Micki
Yagi, Shannon	Yamauchi, Sandie
Yarne, Cathy	

*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*

**Oregon Buddhist Temple  
August 2010 Donations**

*In memory of Ben & Mary Kasubuchi*  
Alan Kasubuchi

*In memory of Phyllis Muramatsu*  
Matt Muramatsu

*In memory of Patsy Abe*  
Anonymous

*In memory of Ayame Matsunaga*  
Joyce Matsunaga McMahon

*In memory of Mitsuko Kawamoto*  
Anonymous

*In memory of Minako Ishii*  
Anonymous

*In memory of Mitsugi Yoshinaga*  
Derrick & Alison Yoshinaga

*In memory of Yaeko Shimomaeda*  
*In memory of parents*  
George Shimomaeda

*In memory of Bill Henry*  
Motoko Henry

*In memory of George Onchi*  
Sachi Onchi

*In memory of Mr & Mrs Ikusaburo Onchi*  
Sachi Onchi

*In memory of Mr & Mrs Junzo Mishiro*  
Sachi Onchi

*In memory of Mae & Frank Furukawa*  
*In memory of Tomeka & Suetaro Ishida*  
Walter & Terry Wakabayashi Courter  
Cindi & Joe Medina  
Terri Ann & Tom Carrollo  
Wayne Wakabayashi  
Midori Wakabayashi Carrollo

*In memory of Ronald Oshiro*  
Randy & Dana Kunisaki

*In memory of James Kunisaki*  
Randy & Dana Kunisaki

*George Hirai 25th yr memorial*  
Fusae Junne Hirai

*In memory of mother's birthday*  
Jean Matsumoto

*Lotus Circle*  
Ray & Yasuko Fields  
Mary T. Okita  
Chris & Susan Leedham  
Terri Ann Carrollo

*Obonfest donations*  
Hiroshi & Keiko Ogawa  
Yoshio & Sachiko Hasuike  
Shigeru & Yoko Yuzuriha  
Roberta Ando  
Takaaki Nakagawa  
Kiyoko Yumibe  
Kristie Noguchi  
Craig & Lisa Yanase  
Jean Matsumoto  
Ray & Yasuko Fields  
Kiyomi Dickinson  
Anonymous (2)

*Special donations*  
Alice Sumida (for tree trimming)  
Junko Iwao Toll  
Thomas C. McCormack  
Joann H. Ng (via United Way)  
Audrey Matsumonji  
Portland Shotokan (facility use)  
John & Joann Ng & family  
(Nokotsudo)

*Obon/Kangi-E*  
Les & Evelyn Uyeji  
Masumi Showa  
Merrie Greenwood  
(James Ishii, Hatsubon)

*2010 membership donations*  
Hiroshi Ogawa  
Sharon Vinhasa  
Junko Iwao Toll  
Sahomi Tachibana  
Shannon & Marla Yagi  
Colin & Sally Nakamura

*Member pledge donations*  
Cathy Shikatani &  
Willem Stoeller  
Helena Hearrt  
Gary Higashi  
Susan M. Lilly  
Jean Matsumoto  
Katie Bretsch  
Kiyo Endecott  
Susan Endecott

*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  
503-698-3767  
endecott@worldstar.com

**\*\*Sukiyaki Bazaar – Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010\*\***



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

Sukiyaki (Beef and Vegetarian)      Chow Mein  
Bento (Chicken and Vegetarian)      Produce Booth  
Ikebana and Calligraphy Displays      Snack Bar  
Omiyage Gifts and more...

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 Sep. 26, 2010.



<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Sukiyaki*	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Vegetarian Sukiyaki*	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Chow Mein	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
Chicken Bento	\$7.00	_____	\$ _____
Vegetarian Bento	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ _____</b>

\*For each take-out Sukiyaki order, please bring two containers (one for rice).

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

Please make checks payable to: **Oregon Buddhist Temple**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mail to: Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 SE 34th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202-3037