
Obonfest is Saturday August 4 on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2012



Freedom tastes of reality *Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs*

I promise that this is the last newsletter article this year I will start by talking about the weather. But, really, I'm not talking about the weather. By the time most of you read this I am guessing that our Obonfest will be over. The heat will be off for our hard-working lay leaders and loyal members. Obonfest is our most important fund-raising event each year. I know it requires a tremendous effort from our Sangha, from our community. What the temperature actually is outside as you read this, I can't say.

I truly appreciate the hard work and financial sacrifices made by our members. It would not be possible for us to exist without them. We have a beautiful temple and it is here because of the sacrifices of several generations of members of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. As I have mentioned recently in Dharma-messages, it is hard to conceive how the founding members, mostly Issei farm workers or loggers, were able to set aside the funds for building our inner area (naijin). Even though the costs were much lower 109 years ago, how could the funds have been accumulated by Buddhists most of whom were working for very low wages?

Next year will be our 110th anniversary. The Oregon Buddhist Temple itself is older than many other religious traditions combined. Our denomination of Buddhism is 788 years old. It is generally considered to be the largest school of Japanese Buddhism. Buddhist tradition in its fundamental perspective is 2,500 years old. We have survived so long, and will continue into distant centuries, because our members have worked hard and made financial sacrifices, and because we have something worth sharing. The Jodo Shinshu school is, as Shinran once wrote, "the culmination of Mahayana Buddhism." The centerpiece of our spiritual path, the nembutsu, makes the Buddha's compassion available to everyone....to anyone who will accept it. We are helped to turn away from greed, anger and stupidity. We are assured of thorough-going Awakening to Reality in the near future. A

great worry is lifted from our shoulders.

Our way is a simple way of being Buddhist. It is available to anyone who wishes to share it. The compassion which pertains to Reality-such-as-it-Truly-is can be encountered in the saying of the Buddha's name, in forms such as "Namo Amida Butsu". I like to believe that it is this compassion flowing into the lives of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists that made our founding members, their children and their grand-children work so hard to build this lovely temple, this warm and inclusive community. Today we flourish with the efforts of the descendants of our earliest members and with the efforts of those of us who have been connected to OBT for a decade or less.

We all begin our association with Buddhist tradition at some point in time. My wife's side of our family has been deeply involved with Buddhism for four centuries. For me, it is only four decades. For some of you reading this, it may have been four years, or four weeks. Even the journey of a thousand miles, as Chuang-Tzu reminds us, begins with a single step. Thank you for taking the step of taking Buddhism seriously. My genuine thanks to all of you who have supported the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Thanks to those who have just found us recently and are already helping at Obonfest, with toban and such. Even if you are just reading this and have not yet attended our temple, thank you for your interest in the Oregon Buddhist 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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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

July/August Highlights

Jul 24, 26, 31 Aug 2	Obon dance practice	7 pm
Jul 28	Obon cemetery services	
	Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
Jul 29	Obon Japanese Service	9:30 am
	Hatsubon/Obon English Service	10 am
Aug 3	Obonfest preparation	all day
Aug 4	Obonfest	3 – 9 pm
	No Dharma gathering	
Aug 5	Obonfest cleanup	9 am
Aug 18	OBWA meeting	9:30 am

**President's message***Yoshi Ono, OBT President*

It has been a very busy summer so far for our temple members. Events such as the rummage sale, kimono sale, spaghetti bingo, movie night, Obon dance practice, and all the other preparations for our Obonfest have kept the activity level pretty high. I want to thank everyone for pitching in and working so hard. Entering August, the festival comes to fruition and I hope we can all take the time to soak in the gathering of joy. We can all look forward to unwinding and relaxing for a while after that.

Our board of directors traditionally takes a break in August, skipping this monthly meeting but reconvening in September. After Labor Day, we begin preparations for the Fall Sukiyaki Bazaar, start to recruit the next group of board candidates, and plan towards the end of the year. There are temple improvements in the works that is already in progress. Also, next year marks the 110th year for our Oregon Buddhist Temple and a small celebration is being planned. We are considering producing an oral history on video as told by our long time members and friends and are looking for talented folks to help us out on this project.

As always, the board is thankful for the generous donations made to the temple to carry out our mission but we are finding that despite tightening our purse strings, the expenditures are greater than the income. It has been this way for a number of years. We welcome fresh ideas in fundraising methods and in attracting new members so please talk to any board member with your thoughts.

In Gassho, Yoshi Ono

**OBWA news***Alice Ando, OBWA president*

The OBWA would like to thank June and Stan Shiigi for cleaning the walk-in cooler. It really was a big job. While looking around the kitchen to make sure the June Toban had covered all the jobs which needed to be done, Stan or June opened the walk-in cooler and discovered mold all over. This resulted because the cooler door which should have been kept open after use (the Spring bazaar?), was closed and probably not checked since that time. Both June and Stan worked to clean the cooler with cleanser, disinfectant and lots of elbow grease. In the future, whenever we use the walk-in cooler, please make sure that after it is turned off, the door is left ajar so air can circulate and prevent mold formation. It's also a good idea for the Toban to look into the cooler periodically to make sure that it is okay. ***The walk-in cooler door should be open at all times when not in use.*** Thank you June and Stan for taking care of this big job on June Toban and the other members as well for a job well done.

The Obon season is upon us and there is much to be done. The Obon dance practice is well on its way. The first day brought a basement full of anxious dancers looking to do the many old and new dances taught by Madame Sahomi Tachibana. Practice will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays ending August 2.

On Friday, August 3, 9:00 am, help will be needed in the kitchen to chop vegetables for making barazushi, and to prepare other food.

OBWA acknowledges with deep appreciation the following donations: Mr. & Mrs. Makato Iwashita - In memory of Kasuga Iwashita - 50th memorial; Anonymous,

**Dharma school news***Amy Peterson, DS Coordinator***Dharma School General Information:**

We are seeking volunteers! Would you like to make a difference at OBT? We have many volunteer opportunities available in the Dharma School. All OBT parents and friends are welcome, but being a parent is not required, nor is being a Dharma expert. We are specifically looking for volunteers to co-chair with our teachers some upcoming activities. Please contact us at dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com to volunteer.

Past Program Wrap-Up:

The Dharma School recently held its annual Rummage Sale July 6th & 7th. Kyoko Gibbs, Chair of the DS Rummage Sale, reports: "The sale went very well. Huge THANK YOU to the wonderful volunteers!! They worked very hard with their positive energy and happy smiles."

The Dharma School would like to thank Marilyn Achterman,

Nancy Kajitsu, Janice Ishii, Karol Kennedy, Alice Tano, Danielle Michiko Yoshinaga, Cathy Shikatani, Susan Endecott, Elaine Yuzuriha, Ann Shintani, LaRhette Swann, Terri-ann & Midori Wakabayashi, Maho & Mayu Garner, David Hollander and Consuelo Delgado. We also thank Ray Fukunaga, Craig Yanase, and Lou Phillips for providing a truck *and* making two trips to Goodwill to donate the leftovers.

The DS teachers, students, and families are also grateful to all those who donated treasures to the sale to support the Dharma School. Many thanks!

Bowling with Sensei will be rescheduled when more students are able to attend.

Upcoming Dharma School Programs:

August 4: Obonfest: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to chair and/or help at the children's activity booth. To volunteer, please contact Elaine Yuzuriha at the above Dharma school web site.

August 21-24: Day Camp: Registration now open for a four-day Dharma School Day Camp, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Children K-6 will learn and make Japanese food; some used in Buddhist Services such as mochi and manju and simple food like miso soup. Grades 7 and above are welcome to apply to be counselors. Adults who would like to help or are interested to learn may also volunteer. Please contact Amy Peterson at the above Dharma school web site.

September 9: First Day of Dharma School 2012-13: Sign up forms will be available in August and online. Please contact Amy Peterson at the above Dharma school web site with questions.



Spaghetti bingo thank you *Ann Shintani*

We had nearly 80 members, family and friends eat, share laughs, and play bingo to benefit our Dharma School programs. We had lots of White Elephant bingo prizes to start off the evening, and enjoyed an assortment of homemade desserts. Prizes ranged from a ceramic scissor holder, art, mini-watermelons. My daughter, Mika, took home many toys, including two Hello Kitty bracelets, which she has decided belong on her ankles. I heard that Ren chose bingo prizes labeled for "women", and gave them to his mother, Kyoko.

A huge "Thank you" to the following volunteers and helpers: Ken and Maho Garner for the spaghetti sauces (meat and vegetarian); Ray Fields for his Caesar salad; Edna Koyama for the punch, water, tea, and Jell-O salad; Scott Winner, Aisha Almahmoud and Akiko Goranski for announcing the bingo games; the many families that brought home-made desserts; Richard Koyama, Yoshi Ono, Marilyn Achterman, and Ray Fukunaga for washing dishes; Kristi Fukunaga and Sho Gibbs for serving and setting up; Marilyn Achterman, Edna Koyama, Chiki Kwong, Kyoko Gibbs, and Tara Gibbs for helping in the kitchen; and Lori and Ray Fukunaga, Kyoko Gibbs, Marilyn Achterman, Amy and John

Peterson and others for cleaning up. My apologies if I left you off this list.

Obonfest 2012 coordinators

Event Chairs - Yoshi Ono (yoshi.ono@gmail.com), Elaine Yuzuriha (e.yuzuriha@comcast.net)

Volunteer Coordination - June and Stan Shiigi (shiigisj@comcast.net)

Emcee - Pat Hokama

Treasurer - Shinya Ichikawa

Audio System - Robert Kagawa

First Aid - Amy Long, Lisa & Craig Yanase

Information Booth - Jean Matsumoto

Publicity - Amy Long, Phaedra Urban, Ken Garner

Signs - Etsu Osaki

Information booklet - Wynn Kiyama, Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs

Raffle - Carol Saiget

Construction/Demolition - Ryan Davis

Bon Odori Dancing - Sahomi Tachibana

Entertainment - Ann Shintani

Electrical - Jerry Fugate

Vendors - Susan Leedham

Omiyage Booth - Brenda Fugate, Janice Ishii, Cathy Shikatani

Event T-shirts - Kim Kono

Design & Logo - Maho Garner

Children's Activities - Chiki Kwong

Popcorn - Ryan Davis & Angie Hughes

Lanterns & Uchiwa - Edna Koyama

Parking - Charles Reneau

Trash/Recycling/Maintenance - David Wright

Porta-Potties - Ray Fields

Purchasing - Ray Fields

Neighbor Relations - Susan Lilly

Yakiniku/Chicken/Spare Ribs/Hot Dogs - Scott Winner

Dumpster & Refrigerator Trailer - Elaine Yuzuriha

Yakisoba - Kim Kono

Spam Musubi - Nancy Kajitsu

Chirashisushi & Manju - Alice Ando, OBWA

Shave Ice - Ray Fukunaga

Drinks - Marilyn Achterman

Beer Garden - Mark Achterman

Food & Beer Permits - Joe Wahl

Security - Charles Dawson for Friday

See you at Obonfest 2012!



Obon Raffle *Carol Saiget*

There is still time to ask your favorite shop or restaurant to donate a gift item or gift card to our Obon raffle. Thank you, in

advance, to all of you who are helping with the raffle ticket sales. Don't forget to turn in your ticket stubs and money and any unsold tickets to the raffle ticket booth no later than 3 o'clock on the day of the event. Who knows, you could be one of our lucky winners! Your support is greatly appreciated. For questions, contact Carol Saiget (360) 834-7806 or kongsfam@comcast.net



Lotus circle – August Jean Matsumoto

What better way to show respect and remember loved ones who have passed on than to honor them by joining Oregon Buddhist Temple's *Lotus circle*? The flowers for our *onaijin* (altar) in August will be purchased with generous donations from the following people:

- August 5 – Matt, Randy, and Julie Muramatsu in memory of (imo) mother, Phyllis; Ami Kinoshita imo parents, Taitaro and Mitsu Nakao, and imo in-laws, Tokuji and Kise Kinoshita
- August 12 – Ray Fields imo step-father, Bernard Mayers
- August 19 – Sandie Yamauchi imo mother, Misaye Tonooka and grandmother, Chiyoko Tonooka
- August 26 – LaRhette Swann imo father, Larry; mother, Phyllis; and brother, Ernest

We are all grateful to have beautiful flowers for our Flower Toban to arrange each week, purchased with donations of \$35 made by the members of the *circle*. We are also grateful to have a webpage created by Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) so that memories of our loved ones can be shared. For information regarding the *Lotus circle*, please do not hesitate to call 503-280-2464 or e-mail: jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Mrs. Yoshiko Yasutome (Feb. 26, 1921 – May 27, 2012)

Yoshiko Morioka was born in The Dalles, Oregon to Hidehiko and Fuku Morioka of Dee, Oregon. She and her twin sister, Toshiko, were taken to Japan as little girls and were there for ten years to be schooled and become proper Japanese ladies.

Yoshiko met and married Jack Yoshiaki Yasutome on February 24, 1940 at the Japanese Community Center in Wasco County, Oregon. Yoshiko had two sons, Kenneth Yasutome, born 1941, and Richard Yasutome (1949–2008).

During the Second World War, the Yasutome family was interned at the Camp in Tule Lake, California from 1941 – 1945. The Yasutome family resettled in Portland, Oregon after release from the Camp to start a new life.

Yoshiko worked professionally as a seamstress and tailor until retiring after the passing of her husband Jack in 1998. She was an active and dedicated member of Oregon Buddhist Temple of Portland, Oregon.

Yoshiko is survived by her oldest son, Kenneth Yasutome of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; and grandson Walter, great grandson Sean and great granddaughter Audrey of Bradenton, Florida.

(Editor's note: The above personal history is placed here because it was not read during the funeral for Mrs. Yasutome)

2012 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2011	1 year	1996	17 year
2010	3 year	1988	25 year
2006	7 year	1980	33 year
2000	13 year	1963	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.

August Toban

Anderson, Lisa	Endecott, Kiyu
Endecott, Susan	Gibbs, David
Gibbs, Kyoko	Grannan, Lynn
Grannan, Scott	Leedham, Chris
Leedham, Susan	Masuoka, Connie
Masuoka, Nobuko	Ouchida, Fusako
Peterson, Amy	Rojas, Gustavo
Shintani, Ann	Strugar, Debra
Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, Tara	
Winner, Scott	Wright, David
Yamauchi, Hiroshi	Yamauchi, Judy

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



Temple garden news

Nate Mason

Summer's heat is here and the temple garden is growing quickly, along with the weeds. Raspberries and kale are available for harvest in abundance, and strawberries in smaller quantities. The Swiss chard is growing and will be big enough to start harvesting soon, and the tomato plants are looking very healthy and are putting out green tomatoes that will ripen up in a month. Volunteers can help with harvesting and weeding, as well as with planting the fruit trees (currently in pots) along the back of the temple parking lot. The trees to be planted include two Asian pears, two western pears, three apples, and a white and a black mulberry. Please talk with Nate ((503) 544-6440, natemason01@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

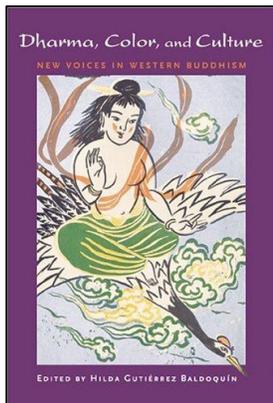


OBT readers' club

Wednesday August 15, 2012 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Dharma, Color, and Culture: New Voices in Western Buddhism

edited by Hilda Gutierrez Baldoquin



For the first time ever, the words of Western Buddhist practitioners of color are recognized and gathered together in one groundbreaking anthology. Alice Walker, Maxine Hong Kingston, Charles Johnson, Thich Nhat Hanh, and twenty-five other contributors share their unique perspectives on the fundamental Buddhist concepts of suffering and the path to the cessation of

suffering. Together they represent the entire spectrum of Buddhist tradition.

Culture forges a new path in our understanding of the simple truths of Buddhism and their relevance for all of us. Essays by Latino, Asian, African-American, and Native American Buddhist practitioners, lay people, and Dharma teachers address the connection between diversity, racism, and Buddhism at four levels: the personal, the interpersonal, the institutional, and the cultural. Recognizing that attention to the pain of racism is essential; the overarching theme of this work is how the Dharma becomes an effective antidote to the suffering and a vehicle for healing and liberation. We will discuss the sections 4 & 5 of this collection during the July meeting. Join our discussion of this book (and other topics) at the next meeting of the OBT Readers' Club

Wednesday August 15, 2012 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We meet at the Lucky Lab Brew Pub, located at 915 SE Hawthorne, Portland, OR. The OBT Readers' Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday. All are welcome.



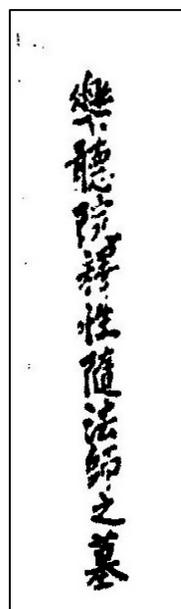
Back to school with scrip

Target, Office Max, Staples, Office Depot, Walmart and other stores selling school

supplies are all participating vendors in our Scrip program. They all have cards in \$25 or \$100 denominations. Consider getting some cards to use in your Back to School purchases. Stop by the Scrip table downstairs after service on Sunday and talk to Ken Garner. He has a full list of vendors, take orders, and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. New vendors are constantly being added to the program and temporary bonus periods for different vendors are announced. You may find something that interests you. You can also send an email to him at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

Reverend Shozui Wakabayashi

Etsu Osaki



Whenever we go to Rose City Cemetery we see the grave of the founder of our temple, Rev. Shozui Wakabayashi. I've always wondered about the meaning of the ten *kanji* characters. This is what I learned:

Raku - easy listening
Cho
In - high-ranking person
Shaku - Buddha nature
Sho
Zui - following
Hou - high-ranking priest
shi
No - of
Haka - grave

See if you can put the words together to make sense.

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
June 2012 Donations**

In memory of Jack, Yoshiko & Richard Yasutome
Kenneth Yasutome

In memory of Yoshiko Yasutome
Jean F. Takashima
Gerald & Joann Sumoge
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

Yenzo Iwashita, Kasuga Iwashita 50th yr memorial
Makoto & Kyoko Iwashita

In memory of Merrie Greenwood
Carol J. Sohreid

In memory of Ayame Matsunaga
Joyce McMahon

In memory of Denny & Kikue Ando
Allen M. Ando, Norman Ando

In memory of Susan Sasaki
Nami Sasaki, Joyce Olsen, Art Sasaki

Lotus Circle
Mitsuko Hasuike
Nami Sasaki, Joyce Olsen, Art Sasaki
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

Mr & Mrs Bob Ouchida's 50th Anniversary
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Hiroko Takeo

Special donations
Tadakazu & Michiko Kumashiro
Alice Sumida (for tree trimming)
Joann H. Ng (via United Way)
John Ladd

Gotan-e
Kan & Miyeko Yagi

Hishinuma Fund (for Buddhism class)

Anonymous (several)
Randy Cantonwine
Matthew Tallman & Kimberly Allen
Philip L. Kollas
Jamie B. Vandrunen

Member pledge donations

Susan M. Lilly
Chanda & Eric Stone
Jean Matsumoto
Matt & Kirstin Litchfield

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. Thank you.
Susan Endecott, 503-698-3767
endecott@worldstar.com

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
MEMBERSHIP 2012
NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION**

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
 E MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:
 INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$220.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT
 FAMILY: MINIMUM \$440.00 PER FAMILY
 SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name
 GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

OR YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS OF A MINIMUM \$20.00 PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER

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 _____ Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:
 ADDITIONAL DONATION _____ Oregon Buddhist Temple
 TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ 3720 SE 34th Avenue
 Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE