

Obonfest is August 2 on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2008



August can be a joyful month

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Our Obon festival may be over before you read this. If you get this before August second please remember to attend the Obonfest that day, starting at four in the afternoon. If you are reading this after the event I want to thank you for your attendance and participation. A most sincere "Thank you!" to all who volunteered help at this very important yearly event.

The Oregon Buddhist Temple holds its Obon service the week before Obonfest. In doing so we don't mean to obscure the fact that death is a sad reality. At the end of July we have a solemn service and particularly honor those who have passed away in the past calendar year. A week later we are dancing on the asphalt, eating festive foods, perhaps even drinking a beer or two. This is the other side of the Buddhist confrontation with death, - a hopefulness that can issue in a genuine joy.

We suffer when we are separated from one we love by death. Even so, we have reason to believe that the moment of death is a glorious new beginning for those we love. The door to Awakening is wide open. The Buddha's compassion accepts all who wish help. I've repeated the anecdote before that two BCA members in California who passed away about 20 years ago insisted that "Happy Birthday to You" be sung at their funerals. I would strongly discourage this because it is not just the deceased (who in these cases felt certain of birth into the Buddha's Pure Land) with whose feelings we are concerned.

I don't know what happened at the moment of my mother's death. I cannot believe it was entry into a hellish realm. I know that the long suffering that cigarette smoking brought to her life ended at that moment. That aspect of her passing was a relief. Besides knowing that the suffering of emphysema was over I feel that a fundamentally good person like Myrtle Louise Trimmer Gibbs must have begun a life that will be meaningful, worthwhile and pointing

eventually toward the path to Enlightenment. Even so, I would not have wanted to sing "Happy Birthday" at her funeral. So... it makes sense to me that we confront the sadness of separation through death one week in a rather solemn service and then come back the next week to enjoy our conviction in a positive future for our loved ones who have passed before us.

For Buddhists death is a part of the process of life. There is no one and no thing that can disengage the eventuality of death from living on earth. We will each die one day. There will be a new life that unfolds at that moment. If you want to understand this more fully please come to services on Sundays and listen to the Dharma-message. Also consider attending the study classes on Mondays and Fridays. You might also want to consider speaking with me or getting suggested readings I might recommend. Whether you want, at this time, to explore the complex but hopeful Buddhist position on life that follows death or not please remember this truth - Life is precious and short.

Of all the world's religions Buddhism is the leader in keeping its followers mindful of the brevity and worthiness of life. We don't laud some inner spirituality above the lives we are living right now as biological persons. There will be a new beginning at death but it will not change the fact that we have wasted much of this life already. How many hours have you spent gossiping and complaining? How many times this week have you and I let those we love know, perhaps indirectly but genuinely, that we love them?

In August we emphasize joyous hope for the future. Even so, please also value the present with its potential to interact with others. How many people have died in recent years before I said something kind to them that I really meant to say? I hope this will never happen in my life or yours again. I hope you are going to see friends and family today, after you set this newsletter aside. Even more important than telling them you care for them is recognizing yourself that you care for them. Slowing down so that we know that there is love in our hearts is important. That love in your heart is nurturing to others when you express it, it

"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@verizon.net

nurtures you as soon as you remember that it is there.
Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

July/August Highlights

July 26	Obon Cemetery Services	
	Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
July 27	Obon Service	9:30 am
Aug 1	Obonfest Preparation	9 am - all day
Aug 2	Obonfest Preparation	9:30 am - 4 pm
	Rice Cooking	9 am
Aug 2	Obonfest	4 - 9 pm
Aug 3	Obonfest cleanup	9 am
Aug 8	Board Meeting	7 pm
Aug 16	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
Aug 23	Panel discussion	7 pm
	"Buddhist, Theist, Non-believer Dialogue"	

Obon Service Hatsubon

Hatsubon (first Obon Service since passing) will be observed for the following past members and friends this year. Date of passing is shown:

- Bessie Misao Matsuda - 9/3/2007
- Natsuko Iguchi - 10/2/2007
- Kazuo Fujii - 11/5/2007
- Daniel Liebowitz - 12/8/2007
- Matsuo Uyeda - 12/10/2007
- Francis Koweki Iwamoto - 1/17/2008
- Masako Iwai - 1/23/2008
- Ruth Kumiko Tateishi - 1/3/08
- Sonoe Muraoka - 1/18/2008
- Sauda Kinoshita - 4/24/08
- Eugene Beryl Camden

If you have a relative or loved one who has passed away since July of last year who you would like honored at our service on Sunday, July 27th, at 10:00 am, please contact Rev. Gibbs at 503-234-9456.



OBWA news

Katie Tamiyasu

Thank you to the June Toban for the monthly cleanup and refreshments donations from Fumi Okubo, Sumi Ishida, Misa Kodama, Yoshie Kagawa, Etsu Osaki and Miki Yagi for the monthly meeting.

Donations received and deeply appreciated:

For May:

- The Family of Kazuko Sunamoto - In memory of

Katsumi Sunamoto.

- Ray Shiiki - For flowers sent to Mary Shiiki during illness, she passed away June 11th.
 - Jean Matsumoto - For donating the Memorial Day flowers for the Wakabayashi and Terakawa gravesites.
- For June: Susan Kurimoto - In memory of Patsy Abe.

The June monthly meeting was rescheduled to the last Saturday, due to many of those who attended the Minidoka reunion and had a great time.

Obon and Hatsubon food prep: the Toban is requested to help with the food prep for the Obon/Hatsubon on July 26th. Please contact Alice Ando (503-256-9086) if you have any questions.

We have been busy planning for this year's Obonfest and hope to see many of you coming out to help with the food prep, which will be Friday, August 1st beginning at 9am and on Saturday, August 2nd beginning at 9:30am. Rice cookers will begin at 9 am..

Have a safe summer and enjoy the lovely weather that has finally come to the northwest.



Dharma school news

Ann Shintani

Summertime is here and just because there are no classes on Sundays does not mean that all is quiet for Dharma School families and friends!

To ensure that we have updated information on our youth, please register for this Fall's classes using our Dharma School Registration Form, available at the temple.

The OBT Dharma School is hosting the Northwest District Dharma School Teachers' Workshop on Saturday, September 6 at the temple, from 9am to 5pm. We ask that the youths help prepare our lunch and refreshments, so please contact Ann Shintani or Marilyn Achterman for details, and if you would like participate or help out with the workshop.

We will be having our annual Service at Laurelhurst Park at 10am, Sunday, September 14. Please bring a potluck breakfast dish to share. The Dharma School will provide beverages, plates, cups, and utensils.

Finally, we recognize the following past Dharma School students on their High School graduation: Yuki (Inoue) Almahmoud, Michael Ando, David Cohen, Anya Sampson, Stacy Sumoge, Kelsey Wahl, Derek Yagi, and Ken Yuzuriha. Congratulations!

Congratulations to David Fukunaga who was recently elected to the office of Co-President of UNITE PEOPLE (the youth group sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League).



Lotus Circle - August

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of August are being provided by:

- August 3 - Ray Fields in memory of mother Lois Mayers
- August 10 - Sandi Yamauchi in memory of mother Misaye Tonooka and grandmother Chiyoko Tonooka;
- August 10 - Angie Hughes in memory of grandmother Margie Isley
- August 17 - Ami Kinoshita in memory of father Taitaro Nakao
- August 24 - LaRhette Swann in memory of father Larry, mother Phyllis and brother Ernest
- August 31 - Open

Thanks to you, the altar flower arrangement volunteers have beautiful flowers to arrange for all the temple members to enjoy. For information regarding the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463; e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Raffle

\$500/\$300/\$200 and other prizes
\$2 donation/ticket



Obonfest volunteers needed!

Joe Wahl,
Yoshi Ono
Obonfest Co-chairs

OBT Members and Friends: Please mark your calendars and come to help with Obonfest 2008. We need your help with preparations beginning Friday, August 1 and with activities on festival day, Saturday, August 2nd. We also need your help for cleanup on the following day, Sunday August 3rd. "Help Wanted" sign-up sheets are posted at the temple, or contact any of the chairs listed below. If you are not able to help with festival activities, you can still contribute by donating items for the gift shop, buying raffle tickets, or by making cash donations.

Thank you!



Obonfest Chairpersons

Co-Chairs	Joe Wahl, Yoshi Ono
Coordination	Shinya Ichikawa
Treasurer	Shinya Ichikawa
Construction/cleanup	Amy Peterson
Publicity/advertising	Etsu Osaki, Edna Koyama
Information booth	Jean Matsumoto
Mistress of ceremonies	Pat Hokama
Sign preparation	Etsu Osaki
Raffle donation	Alice Sumida
Odori	Sahomi Tachibana
Lanterns	Bill Tanaka, Linda Tanaka
Lantern hanging, removal	Tom McCormack
Entertainment	Carol Saiget
Omiyage booth	Brenda Fugate, Cynthia Wong
Raffle	Cathy Yarne
Food, beverage coordinator	Tom Takeuchi
Yakisoba	Carol and Linda Asakawa, Etsu Osaki
Yakiniku/yakitori/spare ribs	Jerry Sumoge, Tom Hokama
Shaved ice	Ray Fukunaga
Soft drinks/beverages	Michelle Mundt, Cindy Cohen, Marian Cave
Berry desert	Marilyn/Katherine Achterman
Spam musubi	Katie Tamiyasu, Nancy Kajitsu
Chirashi sushi	Yoshie Kagawa, Darlene Demise, Alice Tano
Manju	Jean Takashima, Alice Ando
Corn-on-the-cob	Stan Shiigi
Artisans, Vendor Booths	Susan Leedham
Children's activities	Angie Hughes, Ryan Davis
Parking and signs	Richard Koyama, Michael Ishii
Trash/Recycling	Judy Hittle
Refrigerator truck	Jerry Sumoge

2008 OBONFEST SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 2

3:30	Food sales begins
4:00	Opening gassho, welcome address
4:05 - 4:25	Tanuki Taiko
4:30 - 4:50	Temple Talk
5:00 - 5:20	Japan Karate Federation
5:30 - 5:50	Temple Talk
6:00 - 6:10	Obon Service in temple
6:10 - 6:30	Portland Taiko
6:30 - 7:30	Obon Odori
7:30 - 7:45	INTERMISSION (music only)
7:45 - 8:45	Obon Odori
8:45	Raffle Drawing
8:45 - 9:00	Obon Odori

Food/Beverages

Yakisoba, Yakiniku/Yakitori/Korean short ribs, Chirashi
Sushi, Span Musubi, Corn on the Cob, Manju, Shaved Ice
Soft Drinks/Beverages, Berry Dessert, Beer and
Edamame in the Beer Garden

Port-o-potties	Jerry Sumoge
Acknowledgements	Joe Wahl, Yoshi Ono
Audio system	Robert Kagawa
Electrical	Jerry Fugate
Maintenance	David Wright
Security	Paul Hittle, Charles Dawson
Temple talks	Rev. Gibbs
T-shirts	Kim Kono
Beer garden	Mark Achterman
First aid	Al Ono
Neighborhood relations	Susan Lilly

Re-hanging last year's commemorative lanterns – Sunday, July 27th deadline

Commemorative lanterns purchased for last year's Obonfest can be re-hung this year for \$15. Submit the following information along with the lantern to the OBT office by July 27th, along with a check for \$15 payable to "Oregon Buddhist Temple (Lanterns)": Name on lantern (English), Purchaser's Name, Address, City, State, Zip Code and Telephone.

New lantern orders are no longer being taken.

Lanterns may be picked up Sunday August 3rd or August 10, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.



Obonfest T-shirts on sale

T-shirts for men, women and children are on sale for \$15. The T-shirt, imprinted with an attractive emblem designed by June Shiigi, will be sold during dance practices and during Obonfest.



Omiyage booth Brenda Fugate

The Omiyage (gift) booth is looking for donations of lightly used items to sell at this year's Obonfest! Asian-themed items sell especially well, but anything pretty may catch someone's eye. Collectables, books, ceramics and accessories are greatly appreciated as are Asian-inspired handicrafts. Donations will be gladly accepted by Brenda Fugate (503-236-1079) or Cynthia Wong at Sunday morning dharma gatherings, bon odori (dance) practices and during obonfest preparation or drop them off at the temple or annex clearly labeled "Obon Omiyage" with your name. If donating handicrafts, please provide a pricing suggestion – we don't want to sell your creations for less than it cost you to make them! All proceeds benefit OBT. Arigato!



Preparing for dancing at Obonfest, we gather in the basement and kick up our heels. We are fortunate to have Sahomi Tachibana as our teacher as she gives us a history of the dance, describes the motions, and helps us practice, laugh and enjoy one another. Don't worry if you didn't get to practice-you can still join in at the festival. Come on and just dance.



Notes of OBT Board meeting - July 11, 2008 Judy Hittle, OBT Secretary

- The Scrip program and Lotus Circle programs are well-received and have helped to offset expenses.
- Rev. Gibbs visited Palo Alto as the Obon Service speaker and OBT will have Rev. Masuda of Palo Alto as its Obon Service speaker on July 27th.
- President Joe Wahl shared information from BCA regarding ABC Dharma School Teachers' Retreat which will be held on August 15-17, and the BCA's "21st Century Grand Raffle" that is being held in support of the Jodo Shinshu Center. The drawing for this Raffle will be February 28, 2009, at the BCA National Council Meeting in Irvine, California. Joe is seeking a chairperson to promote this Raffle at OBT.
- OBWA and Dharma School both shared information regarding events scheduled during the weekend of July 18-19. (This reminded everyone of the calendar posted downstairs for events in order to avoid any conflicts and too many events in one weekend. This calendar is for any OBT-related events.)
- Maintenance chair, Hiroshi Yamauchi reported on the progress of the project to replace all of the light fixtures in the Temple, to a more energy-efficient lighting. The total cost for this replacement is \$5,728, however with the Oregon State tax credit and Energy Trust of Oregon incentive, our net cost will be \$1,409. We hope to realize a savings in our energy bill as a result of this project. This project resulted from appraisal of our existing fixtures and the need to replace the ballasts. The EXIT signs will also be replaced to LAD lighting. The tentative date for this project is mid-August.
- 2009 NW District Convention: OBT will be hosting this event, with co-chairs Carol Saiget and Brenda Fugate.
- Guest, Ross Pullen presented us with information regarding use of ETMs (electronic transaction machines) for fundraising events. An ETM allows purchasers to use debit or credit cards. According to Mr. Pullen, use of ETMs increase dollar amounts purchased by 40%. This may be considered for future events.

Next Board Meeting: August 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

The above is only a part of the agenda covered at the OB T Board meeting. The Board meets every second Friday of the month. Members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the Temple office in the Annex, or contact the OB T Secretary.

August Toban

Asakawa, Carol	Dawson, Beebee
Dawson, Charles	Greenwood, Don
Greenwood, Merrie	Hittle, Judy
Hittle, Paul	Hokama, Pat
Hokama, Tom	Larouche, Chip
Larouche, Setsy	Matsunaga, Robert
Nishi-Strattner, Linda	Nishi-Strattner, Mark
Ono, Al	Ono, Tomoko
Ono, Yoshi	Okamoto, Janice
Osaka, Gordon	Shikatani, Cathy
Stoeller, Willem	Tanaka, Bill
Tanaka, Linda	Tateishi, Jeanie
Yanase, Craig	Yanase, Lisa
Yuzuriha, Elaine	Yuzuriha, Todd

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

2008 Memorial Chart

Year	Memorial	Year	Memorial
<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>	<u>Of Passing</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
2007	1 year	1986	23 year
2006	3 year	1982	27 year
2002	7 year	1976	33 year
1996	13 year	1972	37 year
1992	17 year	1959	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.



OBWA casino trip, Oct. 8 *Tomiko Takeuchi*

Guests Welcome. The Oregon Buddhist Women’s Association is off to Lincoln City to Chinook Winds Casino.

Our bus will pick us up at the temple at 9 a.m. and return at 6 p.m. OBWA members may ride the bus for free, and guests are welcome to join us for just \$5. OBWA members need to sign up by August 30. At that time, the remaining seats will be offered to our guests. Guests may sign up now and be placed on a “wait list”. On

September 1, any remaining seats will be filled from that list, in order of sign up.

Come join us and enjoy a fun day, and the opportunity to make the big bucks! Any questions or to sign up, please contact Tomiko. Yu can leave a message on the temple answering service with your name and phone number.



Correspondence Course

Jodo Shinshu

Visit Our Website:
WWW.JSCC.cbe-bca.org

Application Deadline:
August 15

From the White River Buddhist Temple

Seminar with Reverend Mark Unno

LIKE WATER, LIKE SUN: BUDDHIST WISDOM FOR TIMES OF DARKNESS

Saturday, September 6, 2008

We will discuss the significance of Buddhism for times of darkness in personal lives and in society

- Time: 9:30 to 3:00 (9:00 registration)
- Cost: \$15 General (sandwich & salad lunch included)
WR Buddhist Temple Pledge Members \$5
- Location: White River Buddhist Temple (253) 833-1442
3625 Auburn Way North
Auburn, WA
- <http://www.whiteriverbuddhistmpl.org/>
- Contact: Karen Murakami, wrlink4goldenchain@comcast.net

Registrations forms are available at the temple. Registration deadline is Aug. 31