## Summertime - and the living is enlightening on the Oregon



# Pureland Path

OBT established 1903

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

June 2011

7 pm

#### Life-long learning Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

This month my older son, Sho, will finish sixth grade. His younger brother Ren will finish kindergarten and matriculate to first grade. Even back in my day that was a big deal. We have several temple members graduating high school this year as well. We might be tempted to ask, "When will I graduate from my studies of the Buddha-dharma?" But, even as that question arises we know that the answer is "Never". Studying the Dharma is a life-long commitment.

My internist graduated medical school about 35 years ago, but he is still studying medicine (I hope). A true physician is always reading medical journals, consulting with colleagues about how some treatments have worked with his or her patients, etc. A physician must be a life-long student of medicine and we must be life-long students of the Dharma. Still, it is great to have those rights of passage that go with graduating. I still remember my high school graduation ceremony fondly.

If you want to continue with your life-long study of the Dharma this month, please come to the Buddhist Festival in the Park, on June 4th at Colonel Summers Park at S.E. 17th and Taylor. The event will run from noon to 4:30 pm. There will be informational booths and talks by representatives of Zen Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Vipassana practice etc. Also, OBT will have a significant presence at this 8th annual presentation of the Buddhist Festival in the Park.

I will give the keynote speech on the topic of "Sharing the Dharma" about 3 pm. Of more interest may be the panel discussion on the same topic running from 1 pm to 2 pm. Our Minister's Assistant, Teresa Soto de Roman will be representing Jodo Shinshu on that panel along with Dr. Dan Rubin, of the Maitripa Buddhist College, Heidi Enji Hoogstra who is a Soto Zen Buddhist and is the organizer of the Festival, and Satya, a Buddhist monk, also trained in Zen, who has a special concern with living close to the earth. If you can, please come out to hear the panel discussion and support Teresa.

Giving is a fundamental Buddhist virtue. There will be a request from our parent organization, the Buddhist Churches of America, coming in the mail soon. You will be asked to help by making a donation to get our national organization out of the debt it has fallen into. I am very sorry that we need to ask you for such help. I apologize for not having understood better what was going on at organizational meetings in the past and not reporting it back to all of you more clearly so that we might have all made a more informed and broad-based decision about spending. Even so, I ask you to seriously consider helping us at this time.

As I always, sincerely, tell you - if you can't help us financially we appreciate your participation. So, again, please come out to the Buddhist Festival in the Park on June 4th to participate, to support us. There is never any charge for attending this festival, hearing the talks and discussions, participating in the discussions, and observing some Buddhist cultural demonstrations. It is all free, but you still have to give. You have to give your time and your attention. These are precious gifts. It is our way as Buddhists to receive and appreciate these most precious of gifts, - time and attention. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

Jun 19

## June Highlights Jun 5 Buddhist Day in the Park Colonel Sommers Park Jun 14 OBT Board Meeting 7 pm Jun 19 OBWA Meeting 9:30 am

Tachibana Dancers Recital

"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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#### President's message Ken Garner, OBT President

I opened the program for this year's May 8 Gotan-ye / Hatsumairi service held on May 8, and **WOW**: 10 new adult members and 25 children were presented to the Sangha. This is great. To all the new members, **WELCOME**, we're glad that you have found something in our community. OBT is better for you having joined us. The Dharma School is thrilled with the number of students coming to hear and learn the Dharma.

When my family started attending OBT, we were welcomed and quickly knew that we could and wanted to join the community. Joining OBT was the easy part. Feeling that we were truly a part of the temple was a bit more difficult. As is true with many organizations, integration of new members is a challenge for us. It is also a challenge for the new member. There is a language that needs to be learned and customs navigated. It was a year and a half after we started coming that my wife mentioned to somebody about how food always seemed to magically appear after service. We were quickly introduced to and invited to join toban! It was by being on a toban team that we expanded our circle of friends and actually started to feel an integral part of OBT. At this time I also read the history of OBT as written in the 100 Year Anniversary Book. This sense of what has gone on before helped me understand OBT as an organization better.

We are looking at ways to help new members develop that sense of belonging. To this end, a few new members and I are working on a new member orientation package. While the contents are still to be determined, we are looking to include OBT history, glossary of terms, bibliography, suggested ways to get involved, etc. I checked with the other temples in the NW District and most of them have also recognized this need and have developed a new member packet for their temples. We will be reviewing their efforts to assist us in our project.

I believe that I gained a better understanding of the Dharma when I began to feel that OBT was my temple. To all people new to OBT, regardless if you are a paid member or not, I offer encouragement in your development as an OBT member. We need and welcome your energy and enthusiasm – of course to the level that you are comfortable and willing. I invite you to ask questions and to get involved in your efforts to become part of the community. It is worth the effort. To all long-time members, I encourage you to continue being welcoming and to include the new members in the life of the temple.

Thank you all for making the Oregon Buddhist Temple what it is.

In Gassho, Ken

### Gotan-e, Hatsumairi and Mother's Day all on a beautiful Sunday morning, May 8, 2011

Jean Matsumoto

A lovely service was held observing Gotan-e, Shinran Shonin's birth, with Sensei giving a Japanese dharma talk at 9:30 am and officiating at an English service held at 10 am. The "Sometime OBT Choir" sang a beautiful gatha "Shuso Gotanye" accompanied by Todd Yuzuriha on the trumpet and Wynn Kiyama on the piano. Assistant Minister Etsu Osaki presented a flannel board story for the children about Mothers. Sensei's English dharma talk was followed by, the Hatsumairi portion of the service as new babies, children and adults were presented to the Temple.

The following babies were welcomed: Vivienne Hopkins (mo: Liz Fugate; grandparents: Minister's Assistant Brenda and Jerry Fugate); Kai Semke (par: Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke); Asha Anand (par: Donna and David Anand); Sage Gross (mo: Yajayra Gross); Lucille (Lucy) Evelyn Boyd (par: Gwen Keyt and James Boyd) and Rhys Mason (fa: Nate Mason).

Dharma School children presented were: Gabe and Clyde Oh-Keith, Tuck and Gaelyn Stone, Kyle and Emily Huang, Michael and Kathryn Gross, Avery Sugg, Alezandra and Patrick Beebe, Denali, Muir, Lyric and Jade Emmons, Grace and Sadie Hazelett, Trinity and Canaan Hale.

New OBT members welcomed were: Traci and Wynn Kiyama, Debra A. Strugar, Phaedra Urban, Karleta Reierson, Gustavo Rojas, Kirstin and Matt Litchfield, and Donna and Molly Martinez.

This special service was topped off with an udon (noodles) luncheon prepared by the Women's Association of OBT.

#### **OBWA** news

June Shiigi

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Association would like to thank the gardening toban who helped to beautify the temple grounds just before Hanamatsuri. The flowers are blooming and the trees have filled up with their beautiful leaves. Hope everyone enjoys the rest of spring!

Thank you to everyone who prepared and served the udon and tsukemono for Gotan-e. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch also in celebration of Shinran Shonin's birthday.

We gratefully acknowledge the following for their donations: Lily Meiners, Kiyomi Dickinson, Anonymous, and Grace Ishikawa.

On May 14, the OBWA sold manju and craft items at the Richmond School Spring Fest. Thank you to those who prepared the manju, donated craft items and helped in the sales booth. Twenty five percent of what was sold will be donated to the Richmond School. A final report will be presented at our next meeting.

#### Obonfest 2011

#### Yoshi Ono, Zack Semke, co-chairs

This year, our temple will be celebrating Obonfest on August 6 and will run from 3 to 9 PM. Though this is a festive time, it is also a memorial observance to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us, to show appreciation for their efforts and influence, and to continue the tradition for those that come after us. For our temple, it also happens to be the biggest fundraising event of the year. Preparations have started and the final details will be in place in the next month. We are seeking volunteers and contributions and any other support you can offer. Our raffle can use donations of prizes and tickets will be available early Please contact one of us at either June. zacksemke@gmail.com or yoshi.ono@gmail.com for further information about the event. To volunteer your help, please contact Stan and June Shiigi at shiigisi@comcast.net . Hope to see you there.

Yoshi Ono and Zack Semke, co-chairs

#### Obonfest omiyage booth Brenda Fugate and Janice Ishii

Seeking donations of Asian goods, crafts, books, and other lightly used gift items to sell. Keep us in mind when you clean that closet or home, downsize your living space, or have a minute to craft gifts.

All sales benefit the temple. Please label items "Omiyage Booth" and your name (optional) and leave in temple annex beginning in July.

Thanks,

#### Congratulations 2011 high school grads Etsu Osaki

OBT has five graduating seniors this year. They are:

- Katherine Achterman: St Mary's Academy; parents Mark/Marilyn Achterman
- Mariko Harder: Grant H.S.; mother Diane Harder
- Mohammad Almahmoud: Benson H.S.; mother Kay Inouye
- Jared Yagi: Tualatin H.S.; parents Shannon/Marla Yagi
- Allen Yoshinaga: Sam Barlow H.S.; parents Derrick/Alison Yoshinaga

Katherine Achterman received the Portland JACL Scholarship at the recent Japanese American Graduation Banquet. She gave the thank you response on behalf of the graduates. She is the editor of her school newspaper, participates in Model Nations, the Dragon Boats and is a Youth Minister's Assistant. She also helps teach Dharma School.

Thanks to Todd Yuzuriha who did a great job as MC and also to his wife, Elaine, who helped with the organization, ticket sales and distribution

## Dharma school swim party

#### Ann Shintani

Sunday, June 12 is the last day of Dharma School, so remember to bring your swimsuit and join in the fun at the Dharma school swim party!

- Holladay Park Plaza, which has a private indoor saltwater pool and outdoor patio. 1300 NE 16th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. Free parking in Sears lot nearest to NE 16<sup>th</sup> and Multnomah.
- Sunday, June 12, 2011, after Sunday Service to 1:00pm
- All Dharma School students and families are invited
- Bring swimsuits, a towel, a potluck dish to share, and a parent or guardian. We will carpool to the pool
- Wendy Peterson will be the life guard

Please RSVP to Ann Shintani at ann@hoonko.com or 503-753-1813 by June 9, 2011. We will provide paper plates, utensils and drinks. We will have limited access to cooking and refrigeration appliances.

Thank you to Ms. Jean Matsumoto for generously letting us use her senior living residence's facilities.

Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington Council has recognized Amy Peterson for outstanding leader. She was nominated for this award for her dedication and enthusiasm she shares with OBT Girl Scout troop 43720 as well as all youths at the temple.

#### Lotus circle – June Jean Matsumoto

The altar flowers for the month of June are being provided by donations made by the following:

- June 5 Ami Kinoshita & Family in memory of (imo) Kaz's mother Kise; Amy Peterson imo parents, Yosh and Aster Mishima, and brother John Mishima
- June 12 Alan Kasubuchi imo brother, Denny, and aunt and uncle, Chie and Chuck Itami
- June 19 Ruth Watanabe imo father, Bunta Sono, mother, Yone Sono Murazen, and stepfather, Frank Murazen
- June 26 Jerry Koike imo grandparents, Yosaku and Sueko Aono

OBT is grateful for the generous donations that enable the Flower Toban to arrange the beautiful flowers on our onaijin (altar) and around our temple each week. OBT is also grateful for Temple president Ken Garner who set up a Lotus Circle page on our website. Please contact him at: webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com if you would like to share thoughts or memories of loved ones. For information about the Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto, 5403-280-2463, or jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Sahomi Tachibana's Dance students' recital will be on Saturday, June 18th at 7pm. All are invited.

#### June Toban

Anderson, Lisa Endecott, Kiyo Endecott, Susan Gibbs, David Gibbs, Kyoko Grannan, Lynn Grannan, Scott Herold, Tammy Leedham, Chris Leedham, Susan Masuoka, Connie Masuoka, Nobuko McGraw, Kara Ouchida, Fusako Peterson, Amy Shintani, Ann

Winner, Scott Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, Tara 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

#### Condolences...

To the family of Mitsugi Tamiyasu of Hood River who passed away May 13

#### 2010 Memorial Chart

Year			
Of Passing	Memorial	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.

#### New books in the library Etsu Osaki

Buddhism of the Heart: Reflections on Shin Buddhism and Inner Togetherness by Jeff Wilson with forwards by Mark and Taitetsu Unno, Wisdom Publications, Boston: 2009, 234 pages. Jeff Wilson started out as a Zen practitioner but found himself "insufferable" so turned to Shin Buddhism, which emphasizes the "entrusting heart."

<u>Dharma Rain: Sources of Buddhist Environmentalism</u> edited by Stephanie Kaza and Kenneth Kraft, Shambhala Publications, Boston: 2000, 491 pages.

"The scale of the environmental crisis now goes beyond any individual's capacity to imagine it...Buddhism and other world religions are being asked to come forward with relevant teachings and take a stand against global destruction."

"Here are classic Buddhist texts, modern commentaries,

resources for ecologically oriented spiritual practice and guidelines for action" Represented are Asian and Western voices from all 3 main streams of Buddhism—Theravada, Mahayana and Vajriyana.

<u>City Guide to Sacred Spaces—Portland, OR.</u> This booklet includes photos and information of ten religious institutions that were included in the "God in America" tours. There are three pages about OBT. Included is a picture of the small stone well in the garden.

#### Children's library

The Gift: A Magical Story About Caring for the Earth by Isia Osuchowska, Wisdom Publications, Boston: 1996. Colorful illustrations help tell the story about using things thoughtfully and with care.

Great Gift and the Wish-Fulfilling Gem: A Jataka Tale retold by Lame Misham, Dharma Publishing, 1990. In ancient India lived a boy named Great Gift. Saddened by all the poor people who didn't have enough to eat, he goes in search for a wish-fulfilling gem to help them. After much hardships and adventure he finds the gem and is able to help the poor and teaches them to live together in harmony.

Zen Ties by Jon J. Muth, Scholastic Press, NY: 2008. Stillwater, a panda, and his nephew Koo practice friendliness and conservation. Haiku is interspersed in this story.

Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth, Scholastic Press, NY: 2005. Three famous Buddhist tales are woven into this story of Stillwater, the panda.

## Jodo Shinshu correspondence course 2011 Fall enrollment

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for their fall 2011 enrollment. The popular 2-year, computer-based program continues to offer online instruction in the origins and development of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin's life and teaching, sutras & masters of the Pure Land tradition and history of Jodo Shinshu.

An excellent opportunity for beginners or for those who have already studied Jodo Shinshu, the program reaches out to people all over the world. Students come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Belgium, Poland, Japan, as well as, Hawaii and the BCA. With over 80 students enrolled, the course has much to offer those interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. The course instructors consist of 14 ministers and professors who specialize in the subjects taught. An optional August Workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center is held every year.

For more information, please visit the course website at: www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org

Applications may be submitted online at course website. Deadline: August 15. Course starts September 1.

Questions may be directed to: Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA Tel: 510-809-1441, email: <a href="mailto:jscc@cbe-bca.org">jscc@cbe-bca.org</a>

### Oregon Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall

Charley Reneau, Bass Trombonist, Oregon Symphony Orchestra, and OBT member

On May 12, 2011, the Oregon Symphony Orchestra performed its debut concert on the main stage at Carnegie Hall, in New York City. We had been invited to perform at the inaugural edition of the Spring for Music Festival, conceived as a celebration of innovative and interesting orchestral programming. Our program, created by our Music Director, Carlos Kalmar, was one of six programs performed at Carnegie Hall over the course of the week, featuring other orchestras from Dallas, Montreal, and elsewhere in North America. The Symphony performance was titled "Music for a Time of War," and featured works by Ives, Adams, Britten and Vaughan-Williams. Kalmar was careful to point out that the program was not a commentary on current events, but was a musical examination of war as a timeless human phenomenon. Performed together, the works created a powerful emotional sense of the violence and tragedy of war. Our performance went well, and the critical reaction has been very positive. The classical music critic of the New Yorker wrote that our performance was a "triumph," and that ours was one of the better shows of the festival. The orchestra ends its season with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

I went to school in New York, and have played in Carnegie Hall several times before, but it was a very special feeling to play there with my wonderful colleagues from Portland. Since I perform so much, I rarely get seriously nervous, but when I'm on stage for an important performance, I often say the nembutsu, to keep my mind focused on the task at hand. Of course, I said Namo Amida Butsu a few times that night! My father and his partner came up to visit and hear the show. In between traveling, rehearsing, and performing we enjoyed fine (expensive!) dining and went to one of my favorite museums. I didn't get a chance to visit my old temple (the New York Buddhist Church), but I'm sure it's doing fine.

Charles Reneau with his bass trombone and showing other talents





ATTENTION: Regarding the below insert from Portland JACL, inasmuch as OBT is part of the Japanese American community, readers of this newsletter who live in Oregon are entitled to listing in the JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) Directory — a very useful resource. OBT does not give out its mailing list, so this is the only means by which you will receive this offer. Please consider it seriously and reply accordingly. Thank you.

information has changed from the 2005 version, please send this information k	build like to be included in the 2011 version of the Portland JACL Community Directory or if your tion has changed from the 2005 version, please send this information by email to <a href="mailto:pdxjacl@hotmail.com">pdxjacl@hotmail.com</a> or by mail to JACL, PO Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286 no later than June 15, 2011.		
First Name(s)			
Last Name			
Street number and address			
City, State, ZIP			
Phone Number			

#### Oregon Buddhist Temple **April 2011 Donations**

In memory of Mrs. Kikuno Egashira Hanamatsuri Hanamatsuri Member pledge donations Shoun & Grace Ishikawa Hisako Kakishita Mary Koida Matt & Kirstin Litchfield Dana Kakishita May N. Saito Jean Matsumoto In memory of Oscar Murahashi Ann & Scott Winner Grace Aoki Susan M. Lilly Matt Muramatsu Chanda & Eric Stone Mary T. Okita Mitsugi Tamiyasu LaRhette Swann Nami Sasaki Katie Bretsch Kise Kinoshita 23rd yr memorial Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha Joseph & Lora Wahl Gary Higashi Kaoru Hori Susan Endecott Ami Kinoshita Yoshi & Tomoko Ono Chris & Susan Leedham Yoshie Kagawa Lotus Circle Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs Lilly Moore Japan Disaster Relief donations Chris Shiraishi Stacy Yamasaki Lily Meiners Judy & Paul Hittle Matthew Riley Randy & Dana Kunisaki Special donations Carrollo Family Quentin & Barbara Smith Gotan-e Shawn & Brent Emmons Atsuko Richards Nobuo & Takako Ishida Philip L. Kollas Martha Mizuta (visitation) Jean Tateishi Kim Kono Al Abe Ray & Yasuko Fields Ray & Lori Fukunaga Ben & Sumie Ishida Anonymous (3) LaRhette Swann Amy Long Fumiko Okubo Donna & Alfredo Martinez Alice Ando Acknowledgements are mailed to Jim & Jean Takashima 2011 Membership donations Kaoru Hori Hanamatsuri Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa Anonymous (2) Benny & Alice Tano Ray & Yasuko Fields Herb & Etsu Osaki Ernest Takeda Sharon Vinhasa June & Stan Shiigi Katie & Ed Tamiyasu May Watari

Kiyomi Dickinson Shizuko Ouchida Merrie Greenwood Teruko Nishikawa Jean Matsumoto

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

A reminder to support the Oregon Buddhist Temple by paying your 2011 Membership dues. Thank you.

## OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP 2011

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ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
E MAIL			
INDIVIDUAL: FAMILY: SILVER: GOLD:	MINIMUM \$400.00 PER \$500.00 PER MEMBER \$1000.00 PER MEMBER listed.	FAMILY With silver and g R will be listed in	old membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE