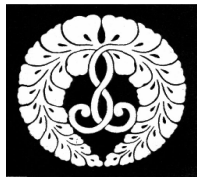


Summertime - and the living is enlightening on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

June 2008



School's Out Forever *Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs*

I like writing the newsletter article in June since the topic is wide open. We don't have any special service this month and I can talk about whatever I choose. I have chosen the title of a 36 year old rock song to start with, - School's Out (Forever).

School will be out for many students this month. Even Dharma school ends on June 8th. Dharma School will resume in September. School will resume for many students in the fall. If you just finished medical school I guess school may be out "forever" but you will still have internship and residency and I would hope you will still read medical journals and such.

When do we complete our studies of the Buddha-dharma do you think? My answer to that question is bipolar and contradictory. In one sense our study of the Buddhist teachings and the truths they illumine is never over. As the Bodhisattva's vows state "I vow to learn the Dharma in its entirety although it is infinite." Studying the Dharma is an endless project - a joyous never ending adventure in one important and genuine sense.

There is, however, a sense in which our study of what life truly is and how to live it should be complete. That is to say, we have to actually live our lives as Buddhist people with only so many years left to us. We should consider school to be out. School should be out in the sense that we take responsibility to live our lives with reference to the Dharma. We should not allow ourselves to think, "well, I don't really understand this Buddhism stuff...I don't know what it would have to do with how I vote or how I raise my children..."

We don't have time to study the Dharma first and live our lives next. The Buddha-dharma has everything to do with how we raise our children, how we vote, which movies we pay to see. We must not raise our children to disrespect

persons of differing religions, racial backgrounds or sexual orientations. How we vote should be connected to our Buddhist convictions. There is more than one way to do that and more than one valid choice to be made on the current ballot and again in November, but it should connect to our understanding of life as Buddhists.

There are many ways of being Buddhist, many schools of interpretation. For a good look at the diversity in Buddhist tradition please come join us at "Harmony in the Park" at Col. Summers Park South East 17th and Taylor on June 7th from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. OBT will have an informational booth there. I will be on a panel discussion currently scheduled for about 3 p.m. This will be another opportunity to learn the Buddha-dharma, another opportunity for adult Dharma school. Please take advantage of this learning opportunity.

Even so, don't wait until you've come to a deeper understanding to live as a Buddhist. In a very real sense we don't have that much time. School's out!

Warm Regards, Greg Gibbs

June Highlights

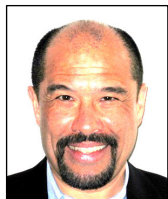
Jun 7	Buddhist Day in the Park	11:30 – 4:30 pm
	Colonel Sommers Park	
Jun 7	Tachibana Dancers Recital	7 pm
Jun 13	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Jun 15	Father's Day Potluck	after service
Jun 15	Obonfest Planning Meeting	after service
Jun 21	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am

OBT 2008 Membership registration form is enclosed. Thank you for your support.

"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 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@verizon.net



**Obonfest co-
chairs Joe
Wahl and
Yoshi Ono**

Joe and Yoshi will again co-chair the Obonfest this year. The date is Saturday, August 2. Most of the committee chairs have been appointed and planning is well under way. The next Obonfest meeting is Sunday, June 15 after service. Everyone's help is appreciated.

Carol Saiget, Entertainment Chair, received welcomed confirmation from Portland Taiko that they will be performing again at Obonfest 2008.



**Obon
commemora-
tive lanterns
Bill and Linda
Tanaka**

Once again our Obonfest will feature Commemorative Lanterns to celebrate our Kangi-e or "Gathering of Joy" on August 2nd. Last year more than 150 red and white lanterns were hung from lines radiating from the center of our dance area. The White lanterns commemorated the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends, or even pets regardless of when they passed away. The names of the honored ones are beautifully written in kanji, katakana and/or English with the date of passing.

Red lanterns give you an opportunity to help sponsor the Obon Festival. You can have the name of any business, family or person's name written in kanji, katakana and/or English to show your support for the event and our temple.

If you have lanterns from last year, you can have them hung for a nominal fee, to continue in this joyful remembrance. What better way to celebrate this "Gathering of Joy"! **Order form is in this newsletter and at the temple.**

Once again donations would be appreciated to offset the cost. Send donations to the Oregon Buddhist Temple Commemorative Lanterns.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave
Portland, OR 97202

Thank You

Chairpersons
Bill and Linda Tanaka
(503) 292-4269



Commemorative lanterns will again adorn Obonfest

Gotan-e, Hatsumairi and new members

Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday) was celebrated on Sunday, May 11th, along with Hatsumairi (presentation of children to the Buddha) with new-borns Mika Jane Winner, daughter of Scott Winner and Ann Shintani and Midori Hiroko Carrollo, daughter of Tom and Teri-Ann Carrollo. OBT also welcomed new members Tadakazu Kumashiro, Kenshi Toll, Jon Ward, Marla and Shannon Yagi, Betty and Henry Young.



Mika Jane Winner and Midori Hiroko Carrollo with parents



**OBWA appreciation
Alice Ando, OBWA President**

At the meeting of the OBWA we have wonderful snacks to help keep us on our toes and we want to thank those who provided the snacks on April 19: Sachi Hasuike, Sharon Vinhasa, Marian Cave, Rose Ouchida, Kathy Sato and Jean Matsumoto.

To the toban who did the clean-up on April 26: Lily Kajiwara, Gail and Bob Tsutsumi, Cindy Cohen, Lily Meiners, Teresa Soto de Ramon, Sachi Hasuike, Karen Scapple, Jose Ramon, Ray Fukunaga, Ernie Takeda, Michael Ishii, and Jean Matsumoto.

Refreshments for May 17 OBWA meeting: Teruko Nishikawa, Tomiko Takeuchi, Darlene Demise, Alice Tano, Sumi Ikata, June Shiigi, Mary Okita, Edna Annand and Alice Ando.



**MAP II, April 17-20,
JodoShinshu Center,
Berkeley
Etsu Osaki**

I was privileged to attend this MAP II session at the Jodoshinshu Center with fellow minister assistant, Brenda Fugate. Looking back these were some of my impressions -- so much information, so much inspiration.

Fellow participants came from all over the US—New York, Salt Lake City, Denver, Arizona, as well as California and Oregon. All together there were 24 MA's, only six of us were Japanese Americans. Does that tell you something about our future? I was most certainly the oldest—the youngest were the IBS students who were the ages of my grandkids. We had a diverse group--teachers, artists, a psychiatrist, a DJ, an editor, a radio personality and a temple brat (me).

Brenda and I were like kids finding our way on public transportation. We found the Airport BART at the Oakland Airport right away. Then transferring to the regular BART was an experience, especially buying tickets from a machine. A 3-block walk found us at the JSC. The facilities were comfortable and the company was fantastic.

Meeting all the “nesshin” (devout) participants was a highlight in itself.

Presentations included such topics as history of American Buddhism, Buddhism 101, How to prepare a Dharma message, outreach, chanting, onaijin etiquette, all by BCA ministers and scholars. I won't go into the details of the lectures, however, Socho Ogui's simple message struck me. He told us that sincerity was most important plus a sense of humor and energy. He also cautioned us not to be afraid of criticism. A good friend should criticize; after all we are all humans.

Thanks to the staff at the JSC for all their efforts to organize the weekend and for making us feel at home. I felt humbled and grateful to be given this opportunity.



**Lotus Circle - May
Jean Matsumoto**

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

- June 1 - Sumi Ishida in memory of father Yoshikiyo Yamamoto.
- June 8 - Amy Peterson in memory of mother Aster Mishima; Mary Asakawa in memory of mother Kise

Kinoshita; Sumi Ishida in memory of mother Misayo Yamamoto.

- June 15 - Mary Kasubuchi in memory of sister Chie Itami; Alan Kasubuchi in memory of brother Denny.
- June 22 - open
- June 29 - open

For information regarding the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463; e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

June Toban

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Courter, Terry
Dart, Chris	Heartt, Helena
Ishida, Sumi	Ishikawa, Grace
Kagawa, Julie	Kasubuchi, Alan
Kawazoe, Katie	Kawazoe, Ken
Kodama, Misa	Kodama, Sat
Lilly, Susan	Mastro, Ronald
Okubo, Fumi	Osaki, Amy
Osaki, Etsuko	Osaki, Herb
Saiget, Carol	Saito, Fumi
Saito, May	Wahl, Joe
Wahl, Lora	Yagi, Kan
Yagi, Micki	Yamauchi, Sandy
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 the Dharma.

Words of Jean Matsumoto – 1995

Who are the OBTA Board of Directors?

Members serve a three calendar-year term with elections in November.

1st Year

Mark Achterman
Hiroshi Matsushima
Al Ono
Elaine Yuzuriha

2nd Year

Shinya Ichikawa, Financial Officer
Kim Kono
Jerry Sumoge

Hiroshi Yamauchi
3rd Year

Judy Hittle, Secretary
Yoshi Ono, Vice-President
Joe Wahl, President
David Wright

In addition Alice Ando, as its president, represents OBWA on the Board.

2008 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
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.

Condolences ...

To the family of Sauda Kinoshita who passed away April 24, 2008.



Scrip program

Ken Garner

Do high prices get you down? Do you faint each time you fill-up your car? While we cannot do anything about how much the things you buy cost, we can help

you direct a portion of what you normally spend to support the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

We're pleased to announce that our temple will be participating in a new fundraising program. It's called "scrip", and it's the fundraising program that works while you shop.

Scrip is simply a word that means "substitute money" – in other words, scrip is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They're the same gift certificates that you buy at the store. Over 700 retailers participate in this program so chances are there will be scrip available for at least some of the stores where you shop.

So how does this work? It's simple -- scrip participating retailers agree to sell gift certificates to us at a discount. You buy the certificates for full face value, you redeem them for full face value, and our temple keeps the difference as revenue.

The beauty of scrip is that you put your regular household shopping dollars to work. You earn money for our temple without spending a single additional penny. Other temples who participate in this program have said that this is like "picking up free money." Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip at the stores that participate in the scrip program. Scrip can be used for just about any household purchase including food, clothing, entertainment, gasoline and even dining out.

We will begin the scrip program in June. Ken Garner, Cynthia and Gordon Wong have agreed to administer this program. They will be setting up a table on Sundays after Dharma Exchange to answer questions and take orders. An order form with a partial list of participating vendors is included in this month's newsletter. A complete list of vendors is available upon request or at: <http://glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx>. See Ken, Cynthia or Gordon for additional information or contact them at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.



Learn how to dress in a kimono

Tomiko Takeuchi

July 19, 2008

11:00 am, OBT basement

Come join us as Sahomi Tachibana demonstrates obi tying and dressing in kimono. This is your chance to see the involved process, and enjoy seeing the finished product.

If you have a kimono or yukata, and want to be dressed in it ... bring it in and you will have the opportunity. We will have some yukatas, kimonos, and obis for purchase. You might find just what you are looking for.

Come join in the fun ... and learn something too. If you have questions, please call the temple and leave a message for Tomiko.

PRACTICING NO PRACTICE An introduction to American Shin Buddhism



WHEN: August 1-3, 2008. Fri evening to Sun noon

WHERE: The Quaker Center: a rustic, relaxing, redwood retreat site in the Santa Cruz Mts.

COST: \$175 Room, meals, tuition

FACILITATOR: Dr. Kenji Akahoshi is a health professional, a ministerial aspirant in Shin Buddhism with a Master's degree in transpersonal psychology, and has a background in wilderness vision quests and personal growth disciplines.

INFORMATION: Details and registration

Tel: 408-294-1005 kna1023@sbcglobal.net