
Obonfest is August 1 on the Oregon



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2009



Harsh words and gossip harm you, kindly talk helps everyone

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

Please allow me to thank the members and friends of the Oregon Buddhist Temple for your support of our Obonfest. I am writing this article in mid-July but you will read it in early August. As I write I don't know how our Obon festival went. What I do know is that it would not have come off at all without the hard work, the long volunteer hours, of our members and friends. Next to membership donations the Obonfest is our single major source of income during the year. Thank you for your support of this event.

In recent weeks I have been emphasizing taking care which words we speak and what tones of voice we use. In our childhoods we all heard the rhyme, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." This is, of course, utterly false. It is the sort of defensive wishful thinking that characterizes the darker corners of our childhood experience. If words could not hurt us, the way sticks and stones can, we wouldn't need to care what people say to us.

In fact words can do great harm. Gossip can ruin lives, destroy communities. In traditional Buddhist communities gossip and nay-saying were taken as grounds for permanent expulsion from the Sangha. Mean remarks can stick with a person throughout his or her life. As I mentioned in a Dharma talk in late June, there are people who would never even think of striking another person with their fist who will, nonetheless, circulate mean-spirited rumors or spew insults at others. My oft-repeated example is a story of asking children at a summer program, "Have you ever injured yourself badly, needing stitches or a cast?" Many of the children replied, "Yes." Then I ask them, "If you think about it now, does it still hurt?" All the children replied, "No." Then I ask them, "Did anyone ever say anything

really mean to you?" Most of the children replied, "Yes". My next question was, "If you think about it now, does it still hurt?" Before the children could think about this at any great length, perhaps becoming depressed in some cases, I replied for them - "You bet it does."

If your florist is a mean-spirited gossip, find a new florist. If the clerk who usually assists you at a store is rude, start shopping at another store. If your co-worker is petty and niggardly in her criticism of others' daydream, ignore her while she is talking instead of listening to her. The basic Buddhist advice is to "avoid destructive personalities". We can't help people whose entire lives are monku, monku, monku (complain, complain, complain). We can avoid those sorts of people as much as possible. Avoiding them will decrease our stress. It also will give them the chance to realize that they are driving away their friends and acquaintances with their constant repetition of hearsay and with their negativity.

There is a middle path in proper speech. We can't always hold our tongues when something we say may be challenging to another. That way of living might work for a monk or nun but not for us. We can, nonetheless, avoid demeaning others. We can eliminate harsh and demeaning language from our lives. We can avoid the weakest of bullies, those who use words to harass others instead of their fists. We can speak kindly about others when there is something nice to say about them. As my grandmother said, "If you can't say something nice about someone, say nothing at all". That is an old North-American saying but it is also very Buddhist. We shouldn't butter everyone up by reflex, but when we are with people we respect we can say nice things. When we are forced to be in the company of gossips and constant complainers we may find ourselves being very quiet. Just avoid those folks if you can. You will live a life that is more composed and happy and, the life of a real Buddhist.

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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July/August highlights

July 25	Obon cemetery services	
	Rose City	9 am
	Gresham	10:30 am
	OBT	12 noon
July 26	Obon-Hatsubon service	9:30 am
Jul 31	Obonfest preparation	9 am - all day
Aug 1	Obonfest preparation	9 am - 4 pm
Aug 1	Obonfest	4 - 9 pm
Aug 2	Obonfest cleanup	9 am
Aug 15	OBWA meeting	9:30 am

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:

- Sanami Nakano 8-28-2008
- George Takanori Okamoto 9-1-2008
- Poh Chye Tan 11-25-2008
- Sakae Ando 1-13-2009
- Robert Earl Dorman 1-25-2009
- Masako April Kinoshita 1-29-2009
- Shio Uyetake 3-16-2009
- Mary Nakashimada 3-21-2009
- Frances Ota 4-3-2009
- Alice Dabelstein
- Jace Machina Bartholomew 6-22-2009
- Melvyn Satoru Ando 6-25-2009
- Frank S. Furukawa 6-26-2009
- George Iwasaki 7-10-2009

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.



Summary notes of July 10 OBT board meeting

Ken Garner, OBT Secretary

- We are looking for volunteers to be co-chairs for the Fall Sukiyaki Bazaar. Any interested person should contact any of the Board members.
- The Board received an estimate to replace the windows in the temple with double pane windows. This would greatly reduce our energy usage. The Board is considering the proposal.
- Members of the Board have been the acting greeters for the Sunday Service. We invite Sangha members to volunteer for a Sunday to greet and introduce our guests. This is an important task to make our first time visitors feel welcome.
- The Board approved financial donations for the annual Nikkei Picnic scheduled for August 16, 2009 and for the

2010 Japanese American Graduation Banquet.

- The Board will be conducting a survey of current and past members to study membership building, engagement, and retention. Contact Kim Kono for more information.
- In an effort to improve the flow of communications, we procured additional email addresses that will be used for various functions of the temple. You can view a list of the email address on the OBT website under the Contact Us Tab (link: <http://oregonbuddhisttemple.com/contact/contactus.html>). Please see Ken Garner if you would like a list of our email addresses.
- There will be no Board Meeting in August. The next OBT Board meeting will be September 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. OBT members are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.



OBWA news

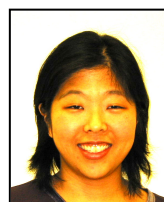
June Shiigi

We gratefully acknowledge for June a monthly anonymous donation and donation from Sumi Ishida in memory of Frances Ota; for July meeting refreshments from Sachi Hasuiki, Sharon Vinhasa, Marian Cave, Kathie Sato, Rose Ouchida, Jean Matsumoto, Kyoko Gibbs; for July toban clean-up by Teresa Soto de Roman, Lily Meiners, Janice and Michael Ishii, Cindy Cohen, Richard Koyama, Ernie Takeda, Gail and Bob Tsutsumi, and Jean Matsumoto.

Bon Odori practice starts July 14 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 pm; Obon service is on July 26, guest minister is Rev. Jerry Hirano, 9:30 am Japanese service, 10 am main service; Obonfest chirashizushi preparation is on Saturday, August 1 at 10:30 am cook rice, 11 am prepare chirashizushi; Bon Odori at Japanese Garden on Sunday, August 16, dress at 6 pm, dance at 7 pm.

On Wednesday, August 12 join us on a trip to Chinook Winds: OBWA members are free, guests \$5, bus leaves OBT at 9am, returns around 6 pm. To reserve the few remaining seats, call Tomiko Takeuchi at 503-661-1579.

Reminder: nominations for 2010 officers in October, election in November. September reporter is Nancy Kajitsu



Dharma school news

Ann Shintani, Coordinator

Please see Ann Shintani (ann@hoonko.com) or Stan Shiigi if you are a student or adult and can volunteer to help with the Obonfest Children's booth. We will again have maneki neko (welcoming cat), bean-bag toss game, water yo-yo fishing, and uchiwa (summer fan) and mini-lantern crafts, downstairs. Proceeds will benefit the Oregon Buddhist Temple general fund.

Final preparations are being made for the Be Yourself Buddhism Summer Day Camp to be held Aug. 11-14th, Tuesday through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm. Registration forms are

available online through the OBT website or at the Temple. Children in pre-school through in -coming 6th graders can register. Cost for the camp is \$20 per camper. Make checks to OBT Dharma School. A light lunch will be provided. Registration forms and payment are due Saturday, August 8, 2009, and late applicants will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. Students will learn about building a Buddhist life for themselves. Activities include learning about the Temple, chanting, offerings and traditions though hands-on activities and songs. Students 7th grade and older interested in assisting with the program should complete a registration form and medical release. We are looking for parents and other adults interested in volunteering, either by teaching, or preparing meals and/or projects. If you think you can help, please contact Amy Peterson for more information. Any questions should also be directed to (amyp@iccom.com) or 503-481-0699.

Thank you to the following donations:

- Alice Ando and Jean Matsumoto, for donations towards purchase of Dharma School service book for Temple use, in appreciation for being honored as honorary minister's assistants.
- Elaine Yuzuriha and family for donations to purchase Dharma School service books for Temple use.
- Alice Ando and LaRhette Swan for their membership donations to the Wheel of Dharma garden.

Summer Dharma school happenings

Marilyn Achterman

From petite, little Belle to power arm Todd and everyone in between, from gutters to strikes and everything in between, from 50 pins to 200 and everything in between, the Dharma students cajoled the balls toward the elusive, white pins. It was an afternoon of Buddhist bowling with Sensei—fun was had by all.

Several families enjoyed an afternoon of splashing and picnicking at the luxurious “Hotel Ms. Jean”. We swam in the pool, relaxed in the hot tub and stepped out to the shaded dining area. Ms. Jean and Holladay Park Plaza graciously let us frolic in their beautiful surroundings.

Hiroshi, Hiroshi, how does your garden grow? With rainwater-captured drip system and little hands planting and weeding each Sunday, we will soon have a fruitful garden of tomatoes, squash and cucumbers. Does anyone have a vegetarian lasagna recipe they would like to share?

The animated puppeteer, Mrs. Wong and the warm and friendly Mrs. Soto de Ramon have enthralled and enriched the students with their meaningful stories. Next time you see a bright, yellow sunflower think of the circumstances and wonder of how it came to be.

The students are creating a “pondering Buddha” poster. Please observe in the upcoming weeks on the Dharma School bulletin board in the temple basement.



Obonfest 2009 Co-Chairs Stan Shiigi and Judy Hittle

Obon construction and food preparation will start on Friday, July 31st

at 9 AM. Please contact Stan Shiigi or your committee chairs for

work schedule for Saturday, August 1st.

Committee chairpersons

Food Committees

Yakisoba	Al Ono and Etsu Osaki
Yakiniku	Jerry Sumoge, Dennis Yamauchi, Tom Hokama
Spam Musubi	Nancy Kajitsu
Chirashizushu:	OBWA (Julie Kagawa)
Manju:	OBWA (Jean Takashima)
Soft Drinks	Marilyn Achterman
Shave Ice	Ray Fukunaga
Beer Garden	Mark Achterman

Non-food Committees

Treasurer	Shinya Ichikawa
Emcee	Pat Hokama
Music - Audio System	Robert Kagawa
First Aid	Al Ono, Lisa Yanase, Craig Yanase
Information Booth	Jean Matsumoto
Publicity	Etsu Osaki
Signs – preparation/posting	Judy Yamauchi
Raffle	Yoshi Ono
Construction/demolition	Judy Hittle, Ryan Davis, Craig Yanase
Entertainment, Temple Talks	Carol Saiget, Cathy Yarne
Electrical	Jerry Fugate
Vendors	Susan Leedham, Chris Dart
OBT Omiyage Booth	Janice Ishii, Brenda Fugate
T-shirts	Kim Kono, Maho Garner
Children's Activities	Ann Shintani
Lanterns	Tom McCormack, Bill & Linda Tanaka
Parking	Herb Osaki, John Peterson
Security	Paul Hittle
Trash/Recycling	Judy Hittle, Paul Hittle, David Wright, and others
Dumpster, Refrig., Trailer	Jerry Sumoge
Porta Potties	Ray Fields
Neighborhood relations	Susan Lilly
Maintenance	David Wright

2009 Obonfest schedule – August 1

4:00	Opening Gassho, welcome address Rev. Gibbs, Pat Hokama	
4:05 - 4:25	Tanuki Taiko	Teresa Enrico
4:30 - 4:50	Temple Talk	Rev. Gibbs
5:00 - 5:20	Obukan Kendo Club	John Hancock
5:30 - 5:50	Temple Talk	Rev. Gibbs
6:00 - 6:10	Obon Service in temple	Rev. Gibbs
6:10 - 6:50	Portland Taiko	Teresa Enrico
6:50 - 7:40	Obon Odori	
7:40 - 7:55	Break (music only)	
7:55 - 8:45	Obon Odori	
8:45	Raffle	Yoshi Ono
8:50 - 9:00	Obon Odori	Tankobushi



Lotus circle – July/August Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for July 12 were donated by: Rose Ikata in memory (imo) of husband Joe.

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

- August 2 – Ray Fields imo mother Lois Mayers
- August 9 – Hank Muramatsu imo wife Phyllis
- August 16 – Ami Kinoshita imo father Taitaro Nakao
- August 23 – LaRhette Swann imo father Larry, mother Phyllis, and brother Ernest; Sandi Yamauchi imo mother Misaye Tonooka and grandmother Chiyoko Tonooka
- August 30 – Dana Brown imo husband Jan

Thank you to all the donors who make sure that our flower arrangement toban volunteers have the beautiful flowers to arrange on the onaijin for our Sunday services and also around the temple. Don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on the OBT website or contact Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) to add material about your loved ones each month. For information about the OBT Lotus Circle, please contact Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or e-mail, jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

2009 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2008	1 year	1987	23 year
2007	3 year	1983	27 year
2003	7 year	1977	33 year
1997	13 year	1973	37 year
1993	17 year	1960	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

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Courter, Terry
Dart, Chris	Ishida, Sumi
Ishikawa, Grace	Kagawa, Julie
Kasubuchi, Alan	Kawazoe, Katie
Kawazoe, Ken	Kodama, Misa
Kodama, Sat	Lilly, Susan
Mastro, Ronald	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, 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



New book in the library Etsu Osaki

Women Practicing Buddhism, Peter Gregory, editor; Wisdom Publications, 2008.

Probably the most interesting chapter for OBT members would be the chapter about Alice Unno, wife of Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno. In this interview she says that she had a happy childhood until the start of World War II. Her father was taken by the FBI as were many other issei community leaders. Then she wished she were a blue-eyed blonde. She was the only Asian American in her class. Her family was Buddhist but she wanted to convert to Christianity. Her parents wisely told her to study Buddhism first and then if she wanted to switch, do so. She started studying Buddhism. She asked questions of Rev. Unno. The relationship blossomed into marriage.

She says "Shin Buddhism allows us to have limitations and to learn to accept them. Life and its problems keep me alive, and it's wonderful."

The other chapters deal with other sects of Buddhism.

Sept 12, Saturday, White River Buddhist Temple will host a seminar with Rev. Dr. Mark Unno.



Readers' Club reads on Cynthia Wong

The OBT Readers' Club has been meeting for eight months now! We usually meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30 pm to discuss Buddhist (particularly Jodo Shinshu Buddhist) themes in works of nonfiction and fiction alike. Finally we have put together a reading list for the coming year, until June 2010. The list is included in this newsletter and will be available at the welcome table in the temple lobby and in the temple library. Of course, you can always check our website (<http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>, follow the links to the Readers' Club page) for upcoming selections. You can also purchase the books from Amazon.com through the OBT website, and OBT will receive a percentage of the purchase price. Use an Amazon.com scrip card for your purchase, and the temple benefits twice! The BCA Bookstore at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA is now an Amazon vendor, so you can order books that are often not carried locally from the BCA Bookstore through Amazon.com. Everybody benefits all around – especially you, when you get to enjoy a good book, good conversation with dharma friends and a deeper understanding of the dharma in your life! We hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings. Bring a friend or family member too!

OBT logo products now available

Ken Garner

Is your wardrobe missing an Oregon Buddhist Temple t-shirt? Once Obon is over, where can you go to fill this gap?

We are happy to announce that OBT now has an on-line store with a line of various logo products available. Visit our on-line store to see what we have for sale. The store can be reached via the OBT Logo Product link on the Bookstore tab on the OBT website (www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com) or by connecting directly at www.cafepress.com/obtstore. For those of you who do not have internet access or do not make purchases on-line, stop by the Scrip Table during post-service refreshments. We will have a computer available for you to browse the store and we can combine orders to reduce the shipping costs. For more information about our on-line store or the products, see Ken Garner or any of the other board members.

and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to them at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. OBT's Scrip program celebrated its first anniversary on June 1, 2009. In its first year, the program returned \$1102 to OBT. Thank you to all who have purchased scrip over the past year and have helped make this a success. Remember that over 700 retailers participate in the program, so chances are that at least some of the stores you patronize have scrip available. With Scrip, you receive full face value for the scrip that you purchase.



The new school year starts soon

Buy Scrip and financially support OBT while you shop -- at no additional cost to yourself. Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong and Gordon Wong have a table downstairs after service on Sunday where they have a full list of vendors, take orders

Oregon Buddhist Temple June 2009 Donations

In memory of Frances Ota

Cheryl Uchida
June & Stan Shiigi
Lew & Jean Tomita
Alice Kida
Mr & Mrs Tex Irinaga

In memory of Mary Nakashimada

Mr & Mrs Tex Irinaga

Yoneko Yada 3rd yr memorial

Harold F. Yada

In memory of Ronald Oshiro

Anonymous
Anonymous

Special donations

Alice Sumida (tree trimming)
James & Judith Nakashima
Joann H. Ng
Susan Endecott
Thomas C. McCormack
Craig & Lisa Yanase

Obon/Kangi-E

Ayako Minamishin
Hiro Wakabayashi
Ami Kinoshita
Fumiko Okubo
Mary Naganuma
Haru Furukawa
Shizue Sugihara
Toshiko Hayashi
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Motoko Henry
Ben & Sumie Ishida

Lotus Circle

Jerry Koike
Kazuko Sunamoto
Ami Kinoshita
Mitsuko Hasuie
Grace Ishikawa

2009 Membership donations

May Kasahara
Takeko Wahl
Ken & Katie Kawazoe
June & Stan Shiigi
William & Kathleen Dabelstein
Craig & Lisa Yanase
George & Chiyo Okita

Member pledge donations

Jean Matsumoto
Susan M. Lilly
Nobuko Uyetake
Katie Bretsch
Helena Hearrt
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
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