



OBT established 1903

PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

September 2010



Have some decency – the second Paramita

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

In September and March we celebrate the Ohigan services. Our Fall Ohigan service will be September 19th this year. I will give a Japanese-language message at the service beginning at 9:30 a.m. that day. The main service will begin at 10 a.m. and will include an English-language Dharma message. The Buddhist message for Ohigan always includes reference to the six paramitas or virtues.

Those six special virtues, in their highest form, help us understand what a fully awoken Buddha must be like. In their simplest forms they are guidance to proper living for all of us. The first paramita is giving. As Dean Sluyter has said, for ordinary people like us, this comes down to a simple guideline: Don't be a cheapskate!

The second paramita, for a Buddha, is perfectly ethical conduct. Since we can't all have perfect conduct all the time we need to establish a more achievable goal. For someone like me the second paramita, wholesome conduct, is simply a matter of trying to have some decency. I don't know what perfect conduct is but I know what it means to have some decency. It means not sticking my nose into other people's business. It means not taking what does not belong to you. It means you don't walk your dog unless you are prepared to pick up its leavings and carry it back to your own trash can. My wife and boys and I pulled up to our house a couple of years ago when a woman had just picked up her dog's leavings after he pooped on our lawn. So far so good. But then she dropped the bag in our trash can. I let it go without comment but I was thinking, "Have some decency. Why do I have to smell your dog's leavings for the next week?"

The third paramita or decent form of behavior we hope to embody is patience. In particular this means patience with others whom you feel have offended you. The

Buddhist question is always "What did I do to draw this negative behavior upon myself? What can I do to avoid drawing this person's ire in the future?" The fourth virtue or paramita is endeavor. How hard should we endeavor to live as Buddhists? How hard should we try to be patient? How much effort should we put into keeping our noses out of other people's business and such? These are questions that can only be answered by the individual in question. I work pretty hard at living Buddhistically but I also allow myself to be a little mischievous now and then. How hard do you think you should work at having some decency?

The fifth paramita is usually translated as meditation. Very few Jodo Shinshu temples have meditation classes. So what does this aspect of living Buddhistically come down to for us? In the Pure Land stream of Mahayana tradition where Shinshu developed, visualization of the Buddha and his Purifying Realm of Influence were the usual component. For our denominational founder, Shinran, meditation or any sort of Buddhist practice are what the Buddha has turned over to us, as a gift, in fulfilling his Vow of Universal Liberation [Hongwanji]. I would say that the point of contact with this paramita is the composure - mental, emotional and even physical composure that come to us when we say the Nembutsu and take the teachings to heart.

The sixth paramita is wisdom. Wisdom too is something we find, in this stream of tradition, coming to us. Wisdom is a gift. Sometimes it seems like the Buddha leaves this gift for us when we are sleeping. When we follow the Nembutsu teaching we find that, occasionally, there is some real wisdom in our living. We are never sure ahead of time if we are going to do something wise or something stupid. But a growing ability to wisely embrace wholesome thoughts and actions...a growing ability to set aside unwise, unwholesome actions - this is what ensues from taking the Nembutsu teaching deeply to heart. Thank you for your participation in the life of our temple. Thank you for reading this article.

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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Sukiyaki Bazaar is Sunday, October 3. Food pre-order form is attached. Work list will be in next month's newsletter.

September/October Highlights

Sep 10	Board Meeting	7 pm
Sep 12	Dharma Gathering and potluck brunch at Kenilworth Park	10 am
Sep 18	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am
Sep 19	OBT Ohigan Service followed by potluck lunch	9:30 am
Oct 1	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	9 am
Oct 2	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	9 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki Bazaar preparations	7 am
Oct 3	Sukiyaki Bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm



President's message **Kim Kono, OBW President**

This month's newsletter will certainly include many accolades for OBT's Obonfest, which is fitting as it was a great success! On behalf of the Board,

we wish to express a resounding "thank you" to every member, volunteer, and attendee who helped make Obonfest a strong fundraising and friend-raising event.

Hundreds of volunteer hours were given to planning and implementing the details of this celebration. I wish to express special thanks to Joe Wahl for chairing the event, as well as to all the committee chairs for overseeing their key area, each which added to the day's cultural richness. Delicious food, Portland Taiko performances, vendors, a gift shop, a kids booth and temple talks offered an array of activities and experiences. Of course Obonfest wouldn't take place if not for the setup of the booths, seating, and yagura, and the hanging of the signature lanterns.

I'd also like to recognize a few individuals who I believe our Sangha would like to collectively thank for their contributions.

Sahomi Tachibana has gracefully and skillfully led the bon odori practices and dancing at Obonfest for many years. She has patiently taught generations of OBT members, together with friends of the temple, to dance with joy, and through movement, appreciate Japanese American culture. Thank you, Sahomi! In this same spirit of gratitude. I'd also like to thank Pat Hokama for serving as Obonfest's mistress of ceremonies. Throughout the day, Pat warmly welcomed guests until the evening closed. It was especially memorable when Pat sang the beloved "Sukiyaki" song!

Obonfest holds personal memories for us all, as we remember our ancestors and celebrate the present. I look

forward to OBT's next celebration together, the Sukiyaki Bazaar on Oct. 3rd!

In Gassho,

OBT receives copy machine donation

The Annex is now housing a "new" copy machine that was received as an in-kind donation thanks to the efforts of Ray Fields. The new machine will be more cost efficient and has the capacity to print and collate our newsletter. We're excited and pleased to have this quality piece of equipment. Thanks, Ray!



OBWA news **Alice Ando**

The OBWA acknowledges with sincere appreciation the following donations received during June/July/August:

- Fumi Saito - 88th Birthday
- Ami Kinoshita - In memory of husband Kaz's 7th year memorial
- Makoto Iwashita - In memory of Kasuga Iwashita
- Alice Tano - Granddaughter's high school graduation
- Sahomi Tachibana - Supply for Obon odori
- Anonymous - 3 donations

The next OBWA meeting will be held on September 18, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. After this meeting, Ann Shintani will give a presentation on preparing sukiyaki in preparation for the Sukiyaki Bazaar October 3, 2010. Please join us and learn how to prepare Sukiyaki.



OBWA luncheon **June Shiigi**

After our OBWA monthly meeting on July 17, we had a wonderful dim sum luncheon at the Ocean City Restaurant to celebrate all of our birthdays. The ages of those in attendance ranged from a 7 year old granddaughter to a member who just celebrated her 96th birthday. Thirty-two of us enjoyed a delicious 8 course meal of shrimp dumpling, shrimp & pork dumpling, bean curd roll, steamed BBQ bun, stuffed eggplant and shrimp paste, house special fried chow mein (noodles with pork, chicken, shrimp, beef and vegetables), green beans and tofu with black bean sauce, and egg custard. We were grateful to be able to have a nice meal together. Happy Birthday to all OBWA members!

Photos below taken at OBWA luncheon::

- (1) Miki Yagi, Sachi Hasuie, Katie Tamiyasu, Alice Tano
- (2) Hisa Kobayashi, Kaori Kobayashi, Kiyomi Dickenson, Atsuko Richards
- (3) Janice Okamoto, Jean Tateishi, Tomoko Ono, Yasuko Fields, Rev. Gibbs



relatives of Oregon Buddhist Temple who worked so hard to make this year's Obon Festival such a great event. We must also thank the community who came out in such great numbers that this year's Obon will be remembered as one of the largest in history. While final figures are not yet completed, we sold out of virtually every food item! In addition, we had more people participating in the Obon dancing than most can recall. As I was walking around, I constantly heard, "this is the best Obon ever!"

As the saying goes, it takes a village to raise a child. Well, I would say in our case, it takes more than a Sangha to put on a great Obon Festival! I feel so very fortunate that we have such a great Sangha!

To all of you, Well Done! We can't thank you enough!
In Gassho, Joe

Thanks to ...

Richard Koyama who used a powerful carpet vacuum to clean the carpet in the foyer and steps after Obonfest.



Dharma school news
Amy Peterson

Welcome back for another year of Dharma School. We'll start the year with a picnic in the park on Sunday Sept 12th.

This year we'll explore the neighborhood

by having our picnic at Kenilworth park located at 34th and Holgate. There should be easier parking and a more level ground. We'll be by the swings. Please bring a potluck dish (and serving utensil) to share. The Dharma School will supply plates, napkins, cups and hot drinks.

Our theme this year is Eco-Sangha Buddhism. We'll explore how we inter-relate to our environment as we learn more about Buddhism, appropriate to each grade level.

We have some fun things planned. Please watch the on-line calendar for more up-to-date information. If you have not yet registered your child for Dharma School, please use the online form or pick one up next week.

We're hoping to have at least a 10 person team for the Race for the Cure on September 19. If you have not yet registered it may be too late to register on the team, but call Amy Peterson for more info or how to register as an individual. You can register for any of the events and still be part of the team. So even if your event is Sleep In for the Cure, join our OBT DS Team by calling 503 481 0699.

We'll be done in time for Ohigan Service.

Dancing at Obon

Remembering my parents

Now in Ojodo.

Obon odori

Been dancing for many years

Try again next year?

Yukatas swinging

Uchiwas all synchronized

Thank you, Sahomi



Lotus circle – September

Jean Matsumoto

Altar flowers for the month of September 2010 are provided by donations from:

- September 5 – Susan Leedham in memory of (imo) father, Kay Akiyama
- September 12 – Yasuko Fields imo sister, Minako Maekawa; Karen Scapple imo father, Tsutomu Watanabe
- September 19 – Takako Ishida imo parents, Seiichi and Tomiye Takahashi
- September 26 – Mary Okita imo husband, Frank Morio; Terry Courter and Terri-Ann Carollo imo mother and grandmother, Mae Furukawa

OBT thanks all of you for defraying the cost of the flowers that grace our altar every Sunday. We are also grateful for the Flower Toban members who do such a beautiful job arranging the flowers each week. Don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on our website or get in touch with Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) about submitting material about a loved one you wish to remember. For information about the Lotus Circle or for signing up to join, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or matsumo@orcatech.org.



Obon festival 2010 a resounding success!

Joseph Wahl, 2010 Festival Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members, friends and

2010 Memorial Chart

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year 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.

September Toban

Ando, Alice	Ando, Tammy
Dawson, Beebee	Dawson, Charles
Demise, Darlene	Gorawsky, Christo
Higashi, Gary	Ishimaru, Ann
Kunisaki, Dana	Kunisaki, Randy
McCormack, Tom	Reneau, Charles
Semke, Zack	Shiigi, June
Shiigi, Stan	Sugitani, Hiroko
Sumoge, Jerry	Sumoge, JoAnn
Takashima, Jean	Takeuchi, Tom
Takeuchi, Tomiko	Tano, Alice
Yasui-Carroll, Sharon	

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



Sukiyaki bazaar - Oct. 3

Ann Shintani, Bazaar chairperson

Part of the richness of our temple is our cultural cooking tradition, and the Sukiyaki Bazaar is another opportunity to share that with the greater community while raising needed funds so our temple can continue. In addition to the food, we plan again to have traditional Japanese ikebana and calligraphy displays, Dharma School snack bar to feed our sweet tooth, Omiyage shop for our shoppers, and the popular Produce Booth for fresh vegetables and flowers.

This year, I plan to schedule volunteers ahead of time to ensure that we have enough volunteers for each shift, so the work schedule in next month's October newsletter will be more reflective of volunteers' participation. This may be ambitious, but I am willing to try and hope to have your help and support.

On Sunday, Sep. 18, 2010, at approximately 11am, we will have a sukiyaki cooking demonstration. It will be open

to all who will be helping in the temple kitchen during this event. We need your help. Old-timers and newbies are welcome. Please RSVP to Ann at 503-240-1804 or bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com. This year we will offer a new vegetarian bento, created by one of our member chefs. Please consider volunteering, and participating in this demonstration.



Seeking omiyage gifts

Janice Ishii

Once again, an Omiyage (gift) shop will be open during Sukiyaki Bazaar. Donations of Asian-inspired gifts are needed. We are looking for lightly used dishware, accessories, and collectibles. Please bring your donations labeled "Sukiyaki-Omiyage" with your name to the temple Annex. Pricing suggestions for handicrafts are appreciated. All sales benefit the temple. Thank you!

Save the dates

- November 13 - The Psychological Benefits of Buddhist Teaching and Practice, a seminar led by Reverend Ryo Imamura, professor of Psychology at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and an ordained Jodo Shinshu minister.
- Feb. 11, 12, 13, 2011 - NW District Convention hosted by Tacoma Buddhist Temple.
Theme: Okage sama de, arigato (because of you, I am well...) Guest speaker Rinban Bobby Oshita



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 and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. You can also send an email to them at scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.