



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

October 2008



## ***Buddhist wisdom - knowing what we know and not pretending about the rest***

***Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs***

October is a month with no special service and so I am quite free to pick a topic for my newsletter article. I have chosen to speak about the intellectual humility Buddhist teachings display and how we can take this into our day to day lives.

The Buddhist religion has no theory about the origin or end of the universe and no pretense of having a message which absolutely everyone must hear. Still we have 2,500 years of tradition that includes some of the finest minds and deepest hearts the human race has produced. We do, then, know that our perspectives on life are worth sharing with those open-minded enough to listen.

As Gyome Kubose repeats many times in his book, *Everyday Suchness*, - "no man is born a Buddhist". In other words, the discernments about life by Sakyamuni and the great teachers of our tradition are not common sense, are not what you already thought before you took the Buddha-dharma to heart. We learn from the Buddha that everything is changing. At first this may seem easy to accept. When you realize that this means that you and everyone you love will die one day, it becomes harder to accept. The Buddha's refusal to accept any kind of soul theory to explain our identity may not seem intuitive for some. As I have often said, it took me fifteen years to understand this fundamental teaching of all Buddhists. When we are told that hatred can only be overcome by kindness we may understand this mentally and verbally, but can we live up to the challenge of living in terms of this knowledge?

It is, perhaps, puzzling how much authority is invested in a minister or other Dharma-teacher given the relative humility of the tradition we are representing. But this authority is itself qualified in that we do not, I do not, say you have to agree with us. If you actively deny fundamental principles of our way then we simply say you are not a

Buddhist. You may be a friend of ours, a regular attendee, but Buddhists trust the insights of the Buddha and his best students. We can put teachings on the "back burner" as I did with the no soul teaching for more than a decade. We don't argue against the Buddha, against Shinran. That would be like a Yamakawa, an argumentative dolt.

Japanese culture has this great image to describe pointlessly argumentative sorts - yamakawa. If you say yama (mountain) such a person will say kawa (river). But if you start out asserting kawa you can bet that that sort of person will insist that yama is the case. This is the essence of what we turn away from as Buddhists. No point in arguing. We Buddhists see all life as deeply interconnected. Is someone supposed to prove or disprove that way of viewing life? Of course not. Arguing is beside the point. Either take on the Buddhist view (darshana) or don't, it's up to you. When others behave like yamakawas Buddhists just don't get drawn into the debate. We are humble enough to know they could be right and wise enough to know that disagreeing with them is a waste of time.

While we have no special service this month we do have a special event: The Sukiyaki Bazaar. Please allow me to thank you in advance for your support of this important fund-raising event. We could not survive as a Buddhist community without these sorts of efforts from our members or without the financial support of friends of the temple who attend these events. I hope that you will accept my sincere thanks.

With palms together/Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

### ***Sukiyaki Bazaar***

***Sun. October 5, 2008 11:30 – 3:30 pm***

***Sukiyaki, Chow Mein, Chicken/ Beef Bento, Snack Bar,  
Omiyage Gift Shop, Produce Stand, Cultural Displays  
Work list is included***

*"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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October Highlights

Oct 3	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 4	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	9 am
Oct 5	Sukiyaki bazaar preparation	7 am
Oct 5	Sukiyaki Bazaar	11:30 – 3:30 pm
Oct 10	Board meeting	7 pm
Oct 18	OBWA meeting	9:30 am



### **Notes of OBTA board meeting - September 12, 2008**

**Judy Hittle, OBTA Secretary**

- There will be a night-long session of vocal Nembutsu practice starting at 9 p.m. on December 6 and ending just before the Bodhi Day service on December 7. All are invited to join for as long a period as one is able to attend.
- Rev. Gibbs will be at the Fresno Temple on September 28 for their Ohigan service.
- Dates and guest speakers for special services for 2009 are:
 

Hoonko	01/17/09	Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto
Spring Ohigan	03/22/09	Rev. Tatsuya Aoki
Hanamatsuri	04/05/09	none
Gotan-e	05/17/09	none
Obon	07/26/09	Rev. Jerry Hirano
Fall Ohigan	09/20/09	none
Eitaikyo	11/15/09	Rev. Mukojima
- The NW Dharma School Teachers Workshop was held on September 6, at OBTA (see article in this newsletter).
- The first Dharma School session was September 7. There were 17 students in attendance.
- The project to replace the lights in the Temple basement will be done in September. Other projects to be considered will be the electrical concerns in the kitchen area and the repainting of the lines in the parking lot.
- Joe Wahl and Yoshi Ono thanked everyone for their assistance in carrying out another successful ObonFest. A debriefing meeting was held on September 7. Written reports are being accumulated for a file for the next Obon Chairs. Stan Shiigi has already agreed to be one of the co-chairs of the 2009 ObonFest.
- Shinya Ichikawa and the outgoing Board members will comprise the OBTA Board elections committee. All OBTA members are encouraged to consider serving on the Board. (see article in this newsletter)
- The next OBTA Board meeting will be on Friday, October 10, 2008, at 7 p.m. The Board meets every second Friday of the month.

OBTA members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the Temple office in the Annex, or contact the OBTA Secretary.

### **Seeking candidates for the 2009-2011 OBTA Board of Directors**

The OBTA Board is seeking candidates for the 2009-2011 OBTA Board of Directors between now and early November when the election will be held by mail-in ballots. The OBTA Board of Directors manages and controls the business and property of OBTA. There are twelve directors. Each director holds office for a three-year term. Four directors are elected each year. The year 2008 marks the end of the three-year terms for Joe Wahl, Yoshi Ono, Judy Hittle and David Wright. The remaining Board members are:

2009: Kim Kono, Jerry Sumoge, Hiroshi Yamauchi, Shinya Ichikawa.

2009-2010: Mark Achterman, Hiroshi Matsushima, Al Ono, Elaine Yuzuriha

The four directors elected this year will serve from 2009 to 2011. Those leaving the Board this year are eligible for re-election.

All members running for the Board must be members at the time their names are placed on the ballot, must agree to serve on the Board at the time their names are placed on the ballot, and must maintain their membership throughout their term.

The schedule for the election process is as follows:

- Deadline for nominations is November 1, 2008.
- Ballots will be mailed out to members on Monday, November 10.
- Ballots should be returned to OBTA by Sunday, November 30 at which time they will be counted and validated.
- Results will be announced at the OBTA general meeting in early December.

Please consider placing your name on the ballot and being a member of the OBTA Board to help carry out the mission statement of the Oregon Buddhist Temple (see box at bottom of page 1). Current Board members will be actively seeking candidates in the next several weeks.



### **OBWA news** **Misa Kodama**

We would like to thank the September toban crew, Katie Tamiyasu, Linda Tanaka, Cynthia Wong, Nancy Kajitsu and Mary Ann Yoshida for the refreshments provided for our monthly meeting on the September 13.

After our meeting we all went to the Bamboo Grove for a delicious Hawaiian lunch. Kawika of Bamboo Grove was

a guest chef and cooked the entire yakisoba for our Obonfest. OBWA wanted to show our appreciation for his support and decided to visit his restaurant. We had many others joining us at the restaurant and had a wonderful time.

OBWA will be changing the tradition of visiting the shut-ins with ohagi on Ohigan due to lack of woman-power to make the ohagi. Instead OBWA will visit the shut-ins with pots of mums.

The Sukiyaki Bazaar is approaching. We will need your dedication and long hours of help for food preparations from everyone. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Food preparation schedule:

- Friday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. - cook/fry noodles
  - Saturday October 4, 9:00 a.m. - cut vegetables for chow mein/sukiyaki
  - Sunday October 5, 7:00 a.m. - prepare chow mein
- Next OBWA meeting will be on October 18, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Next month's reporter is Etsu Osaki.

## ***Back by popular demand***

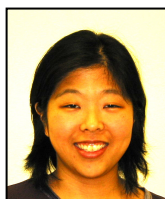
***Edna Annand***

Following the October 18th OBWA monthly meeting, there will be another crafts/learning workshop. Tentatively we have scheduled: making pin cushions; making conch shell wind catchers; making greeting cards, and crocheting luggage tags. These items are to be sold at our spring bazaar next year. This workshop is being sponsored by the OBWA but is open to all interested persons, men and women alike.



## ***Bazaar gift shop*** ***Janice Ishii***

A mini-omiyage (gift) shop will be open during Sukiyaki bazaar. Donation of Asian-inspired gifts to sell is 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 suggestion for handicrafts are appreciated. All sales benefit the temple. Arigato.



## ***Dharma school news*** ***Ann Shintani***

Welcome back to Dharma School!

The OBT Dharma School owes much of its success to those who volunteer their time each year. Volunteers are needed every year to help plan classes, organize fundraisers and activities. Our current Dharma School teachers, Ann Shintani, Kyoko

Gibbs, Marilyn Achterman, Mie MacGraw, Elaine Yuzuriha, Kim Kono, and Amy Peterson, are asking OBT members for their support.

We have around 30 students from ages 1 to 18 years (on average 10 families a week) enrolled in the Dharma School, participating in Lumbini (up to Kindergarten), Bodhi (1st to 3rd Grade), Sangha (4th to 6th Grade) and Dana (7th to 12th Grade) Classes.

We meet after regular services for about 45 minutes to an hour to learn about temple etiquette, basic Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, perform services to the community, and to socialize.

Please take the time to update your children's' information by filling out the Dharma School registration form, and bringing your children when there are classes, which is whenever we have regular service (no classes after special services or our fundraising events). Also, by registering, I will be able to send you periodic reminders of Dharma School events.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Oct. 4-5: We will be baking items in the temple kitchen on Saturday evening, 6pm, on Oct. 4 for the Bake Sale at the Sukiyaki bazaar on Oct. 5. We need help with baking and purchasing ingredients for Saturday night and packaging and selling items on Sunday. Please respond to the Dharma School message board for more information, or email Ann (ann@hoonko.com).
- Oct. 26: We will be visiting a few of our homebound senior friends. Please come in your Halloween costumes to make our visits festive! The Dana class will provide students returning from visits a Halloween Party. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us.
- Dharma School teacher meetings: We are having a regularly scheduled Dharma School teachers meeting at 9am the last Sunday of the month. We will primarily use this time to plan lessons and class activities. If you are interested in participating, please join us. We will definitely be seeking volunteers for the children's program for the Convention next February.
- Mochitsuki: We are looking for an activity for children while their parents and older siblings are volunteering at the Mochitsuki this year. If you can plan a project or activity for ages 4 to 11, please contact Ann. We will recruit older students to help.

**Dharma School Resources** - We are excited to have some new resources to work with this year: Ken Garner has developed the new OBT website, including a message board feature for Dharma School. Theresa Soto De Roman - Ministerial Assistant, Cynthia Wong and Michelle Mundt have also joined us and will provide much appreciated support to classes. Tomiko Takeuchi has compiled our Dharma School calendar for the 2008-2009 year. We are also happy to meet our new friend in the Dharma, "Bodhi-kun".

**Teachers Workshop** - On Saturday, September 6, OBT Dharma School hosted the Northwest Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League annual teacher's

workshop and meeting. Planning for this annual workshop has been rotated amongst the Northwest temples, and this year was our turn.

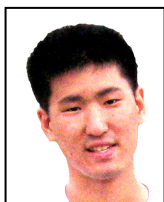
We had a special program that covered the basics of curriculum building and lesson-planning, and the hands-on experience of trying to think of learning from the student's perspective, from pre-school to adult.

We were very fortunate to have past Dharma School teachers, many who are or have been professional educators, participate in sharing their knowledge and ideas to help our Dharma School program: Lynn Grannan, Jayne Ichikawa, Etsu Osaki, Carol Saiget, Stan Shiigi, and Cathy Yarne.

They offered many guides on topics such as how to focus on the objective, ways to help students explore and understand concepts that compliment their learning style, and how to overcome common challenges such as distractions, how to make best use of time when students are able to attend class, and how to plan with spotty attendance.

All our regular teachers, Amy (Dana), Elaine and Kim (Sangha), Marilyn and Mie (Bodhi), and Kyoko and Ann (Lumbini) participated, as well as Michelle and Cynthia. We were excited to see participants from Seattle, Spokane and Ontario join us as well. I think I am not alone when I say that I came away with definite areas to work on, and feel confident that our program, teachers, and students will benefit.

We would also like to thank Susan Endecott, Alice Ando, and Ken Yuzuriha for providing the lunch, and Amy Peterson and Kyoko Gibbs for arranging for snacks and drinks. Jean Matsumoto was our workshop registrar, and Katherine Achterman and Joy Yuzuriha provided daycare. Last but not least, I would like to thank Elaine Yuzuriha for her efforts to organize a workshop focused on the "how-to's", and to Rev. Gibbs for his support of the parents and Dharma School.



### ***Hawaii visit sponsored by Youth Advocacy Committee David Fukunaga***

In August I participated in the first and perhaps only YAC (Youth Advocacy Committee) Hawaii trip. It was brainstormed by the senior members of the YAC and for the most part planned by the YAC advisors. Initially the plan was to visit two islands, but due to financial restrictions it was shortened to one island. The main purpose of the trip was outreach. 19 YMAs (Youth Ministers Assistants) were sent to Hawaii to prance around Oahu and show off what we can do in order to attract the attention of the YBA programs there in hopes of extending the reach of the YAC. It was so much fun.

Accompanying us were advisors from San Mateo, White River, Senshin and West Los Angeles temples. Their main duties were keeping us on time and taking photo and video documentation. We were also lucky enough to have

Reverend Kobata of the bishop's office with us. His wisdom was wonderful to have around.

We had three services a day, every day. Each service included chanting led by one of the youth and then a dharma message also from a youth. One in the morning (usually around 7:30, but as early as 6 o'clock), one around lunch and one in the evening as the sun goes down.

We visited Pearl City temple, Honpa Hongwanji, Waialua Hongwanji, Wahiawa Hongwanji, Kailua Hongwanji, Moiliili Hongwanji, Mililani Hongwanji, and Buddhist Study Center of Hawaii and had a service at each place. We attended both the Pearl City Obon and the Mililani Obon. I was fortunate enough to meet many people from both the Honolulu District YBA and Oahu District YBA and hang out with them for a few hours. We met ministers at each temple we went to and everyone welcomed us with open arms. We had very interesting sessions with Dr. George Tanabe and Dr. Alfred Bloom about everything to do with Buddhism. It was an eye opening experience as well as an educational one.

But when we didn't have seitens in our hands and okesas on our shoulders we played the tourist role well enough. This trip was certainly not all fun and games, but it was also not all time spent on the na'jin. We all spent enough time on the beach to receive some nice burns and some silly tan lines. We went to a swap meet at Aloha Stadium, we cruised the Ala Moana and Ward Center malls and had a taste of the best shave ice joints in all of Hawaii.

This trip was probably the highlight of my summer and will undoubtedly have lasting effects in the BCA. We have attracted the attention of many young people and the curiosity of temple members all throughout Oahu. I would like to thank the people that helped to make this trip possible for me and for the support I received from them. Thanks a lot guys.

In Gassho,  
David Fukunaga



### ***Buddhist ABC Etsu Osaki***

At a recent Dharma Exchange we divided into four groups and held a contest on Buddhist ABC's. Each team had to come up with a Buddhist word for each of the letters that were assigned them. They were also required to give an explanation. These were the results.

A Amida	B Buddha	C Compassion
D Dharma	E Enlightenment	F Freedom
G Gassho	H Harmony	I Interdependence
J Jataka Tales	K Karma	L Lumbini
M Mudra	N Nembutsu	O Obon
P Peace	Q Quiet	R Rennyō
S Samsara	T Trust	U Universal
V Vandana Tisarana		W Wat
X Xena	Y Yasashii	Z Zendo



**Lotus Circle –  
September/October  
Jean Matsumoto**

Altar flowers for September/October are being provided by:

- September 28 - Mary Okita in memory of husband, Frank Morio
- October 5 - Carol Saiget in memory of father, Tomo Saito
- October 12 - Masako April Kinoshita in memory of husband, Yosh
- October 19 - Mary and Alan Kasubuchi in memory of husband and father, Ben Sr. The Kida family in memory of Fumi Kida
- October 26 - Brian Lawson in memory of mother, Maud Lawson

The temple gratefully acknowledges the donation of flowers and the flower arrangement toban for beautifying the altars every week. For information about the Lotus Circle and to become a member, please call Jean Matsumoto, 503-280-2463, or jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

Don't forget to check out the Lotus Circle page on OBT's website. You can view it at: [http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/frames/sangha\\_html](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/frames/sangha_html) and select the Lotus Circle link. This is on the OBT only portion of the website. When you click on the Lotus Circle link, it will ask for a userid & password. The userid & password is generic for members and/or friends of the temple. If you need the userid & password, contact Jean Matsumoto or Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). If you are a Lotus Circle member you can include a photo, poem, personal reflection etc. as a brief memorial to the person for whom the flowers were donated. Just contact Ken Garner and he will format and post the material for you.



**Maintenance  
Hiroshi Yamauchi**

It's about time to start acknowledging some good deeds that might have gone unnoticed for while.

Judy's son, Eric Hittle, is a true welding artist. A Dharma room table was falling apart with the underneath pipe frame in shambles. "Throw it away and buy a new one," was the easiest thing to do. But not Eric, he saw long term utility in this worn out table. So, in his spare time he reattached the broken pieces with his trusty home welding kit and now the table is better than new. Not many home-made welding doctors around these days can do a first class job like that.

And, have you noticed the snappy white window blinds on both ends of the front entry way. Check them out next time you come into the temple. They scroll up and down,

not like the old hanging blinds that were brittle and breaking apart. Our resident interior decorator, Etsu Osaki saw the need to replace the blinds and did so.

Ever wonder how the overgrown weeds outdoors were getting mowed every so often. The weeds were flowering and getting too thick for our rotary power mowers to cut. So, our maintenance work moved outdoors. Thanks to David Wright and his weed whacking mower, there are no "safe zones" for weeds around our Temple any more. Ask him about his wonderful machine next time you see him. These are just some of the good deeds that might have gone unnoticed. There are others that you can check out on the maintenance clipboard down stairs. It's beginning to work.

**October Toban**

Fugate, Brenda	Fugate, Jerry
Garner, Ken	Garner, Maho
Harder, Diane	Herndon, David
Ichikawa, Jayne	Ichikawa, Shinya
Inoue, Kay	Kinoshita, Ken
Kono, Kim	Liljeholm, Edward
Mishima, Kumiko	Monas, Tsuyako
Nakashima, Angie	Nakashima, Glen
Nakashimada, Leke	Nakashimada, Mary
Nasman, Keith	Nasman, Kerrie
Pawlowski, Clara	Pawlowski, Steve
Shibata, Alan	Shibata, Julie
Sunamoto, Kazuko	Ueno, Setsu

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**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Year</u>
<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.*



## **OBT readers club**

**Cynthia Wong**

Have you ever watched the book discussions on Oprah, or gone to book clubs at a friend's home or local public library, and wished that there were a place where you could read and talk about books related to the Buddha's teaching? Well, here's your chance! The OBT Readers' Club is coming! "Readers" rather than "Book" because we may at some point read material other than books, such as journal or magazine articles, graphic novels, or other formats.

For the first selection, however, I would like to propose that we read the book *Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turn into Gold* by Rev. Taitetsu Unno. As you have probably heard by now, Rev. Unno will be visiting Portland in February 2009 to be the keynote speaker at the Northwest District Convention. Wouldn't it be great to have read one or two of his books before then, and maybe even think of some good questions to pose him when he gets here?

How about meeting in the temple basement on Wednesday, October 22 at 7:00 pm? We can get organized and start talking about Rev. Unno's book. I will act as facilitator only; you (club members), having read the selection, will come prepared with questions and comments to do most of the talking!

Please e-mail me at [cynwong54@yahoo.com](mailto:cynwong54@yahoo.com) or call me at 503-608-2981 and give me your name, e-mail (if you use e-mail) and telephone number if you are interested.

The club can be open to non-temple members as well; the only prerequisites are a love of reading, an open mind, a respect for the opinions of others, and a sincere interest in learning about the Buddhist teachings and how they apply to our everyday lives.

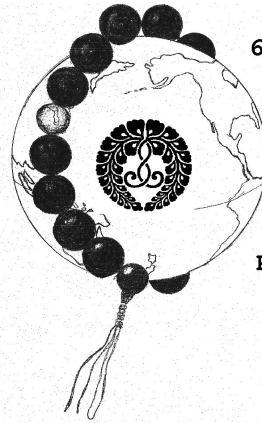
To begin, I would like to concentrate on materials relating to Shin Buddhist teaching in particular, but as we go along, we can certainly incorporate materials from other Buddhist traditions as well as stories about life situations (terminal illness, family relations, friendship, environment, etc.) that aren't necessarily told from a Buddhist perspective (but we can bring that perspective to them!).

Readers' Club members will be responsible for securing their own copy of the book under discussion, though I am certainly available to help with that if necessary.

If you wish to purchase a copy, you can use this link from the OBT web page to purchase from Amazon.com: [http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/frames/store\\_frame.html](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/frames/store_frame.html). The temple gets a percentage of the purchase price. If you also use a scrip card to make your purchase, the temple benefits twice!

Please pre-register for the Readers' Club by contacting me before you make a book purchase. I would like to keep the number of members to about 15 so that discussions can remain manageable. If many people are interested, I could schedule an additional monthly meeting. Hope to hear from you soon, and happy reading!

## Jodo Shinshu in an Interdependent World



Join us in 2009  
for the  
62nd Northwest District  
Buddhist Convention

February  
13th - 15th

Doubletree Hotel  
Portland-Lloyd Center  
Portland, Oregon

Keynote speaker  
Taitetsu Unno

Hosted by Oregon Buddhist Temple

## **Summer leaves with Autumn Leaves ...**

It is that time of the year. A single red maple leaf performs a graceful ballet in the cool autumn breeze before it finally joins the other leaves on the ground. During the warm spring days and in the hot summer heat, it gave shelter to countless insects, even giving a part of itself to the hungry bugs.

And now, it is that time of the year. But before it falls from its branch, it prepares for the future, for next spring a fresh green leaf will shoot out from the same branch. In its twilight hours it displayed to the world, without pride, without self-consciousness, its ultimate beauty.

Does the human spirit grow more beautiful with each passing day? Or does it become more engrossed in its mortality by creating stronger hands of self-attachment.

Is my life reflecting a deeper beauty as I grow older? What karmic influences will I leave for the good of the world?

I wonder. In the quiet of the night, I recite the Nembutsu.

From *The Heart Of The Buddha-Dharma*,  
Kenryu T. Tsuji