



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

June 2010



## Drinking the healing waters

Reverend Jundo Gregory Gibbs

This Summer I hope we will all remember to keep hydrated, to drink plenty of water. Water keeps us alive. Every summer we lose friends who simply did not drink enough of it on hot days. I hope you will also take a moment, from time to time, to say the nembutsu in forms like "Namo Amida Butsu". These words can flow like healing waters into our hearts, minds and bodies. Not only the nembutsu but any "kind and beautiful words" act like healing waters as they flow out between our lips and in through our ears.

Besides putting clean water into ourselves in the summer we want to remember not to imbibe the three poisons of greed, anger and delusion. There is one venomous action that combines all three of the poisons Buddhists strive to avoid in one noxious cocktail: gossip. Gossips are greedy for the spotlight and compelled to demand our attentions. Gossips are filled with hate and work to harm those they circulate stories about. Gossips are deluded, destroying their own reputations while trying to insult others. Gossip is the whole bag of ugliness Buddhism tries to draw us away from.

Tricycle magazine's summer 2010 issue has a long article on how gossip destroys Buddhist communities. As Roshi Joan Halifax says in that article: "one of the heaviest karmas is to divide or demoralize the sangha, and gossiping, third-party communication certainly does this. In a time when gossip makes headlines and speech is used to divide and not unite, we must be especially vigilant". There is only one way to stop gossip and that is to not gossip, to not listen to or repeat hearsay, "third party communication". So please avoid the malignant waters of gossip, and avoid the company of those who release such venom through their lips. Let's each try to make this the summer of no gossip.

Specific events in June I would like to draw your

attention include the Buddhist Festival in the Park: Unity and Diversity. This yearly, interdenominational Buddhist festival is held in the Col. Summers Park, at S.E. 17th and Taylor streets, June 5th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. I will be one of the panelists on the topic of Buddhist unity and diversity. I will be joined with priests trained in the Tibetan, Zen and Vipassana traditions so we will have a diverse group of Buddhists to address the topic of diversity in our tradition. Many traditions will have informational tables as will OBT. Come out and learn more about our fellow Buddhists here in the greater Portland area.

On June 19th Lady Sahomi Tachibana will hold a performance by her Japanese dance company in the temple basement. The performance will probably start at 7 p.m. but you might like to come a little early to chat with the special friends who come to this event each year. We cannot be sure how many more years Sahomi Sensei will be performing along with her troupe so please come out this year for an evening of Japanese dance on June 19th.

Also, we will have a drama camp for children starting June 15th. Temple members Ryan Davis and Angie Hughes are organizing this wonderful opportunity for children to develop their abilities to express themselves. See Angie's article for details.

It will be a full month and an invigorating summer for OBT. I hope you all will nurture yourselves with water and with that crucial Buddhist remedy, "kind and beautiful words". Gassho, Reverend Gibbs

### June Highlights

Jun 5	Buddhist Day in the Park Colonel Sommers Park	11 - 4 pm
Jun 14	OBT Board Meeting	7 pm
Jun 15	Drama camp, session 1	
Jun 19	Tachibana Dancers Recital	7 pm
Jun 19	OBWA Meeting	9:30 am

*"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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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@gmail.com](mailto:sjichi@gmail.com)



### ***President's message – What OB T offers our community***

***Kim Kono, OB T President***

For 107 years the Oregon Buddhist Temple has provided generations of members and families a place to gather, celebrate Japanese American culture, and practice the Buddha Dharma. Increasingly, thanks to Reverend Gibbs, the work of our Buddhist Education Committee and our active Sangha, OB T is not only serving its own members, but also is reaching out to the broader community. We're partnering with other organizations while responding to the public's interest in learning more about Buddhism. This is especially evident with the slate of events occurring this spring and summer.

On May 15, OB T offered two events open and free to the public. In the morning, the OBWA hosted a talk on stroke awareness by OB T member and neurologist, Dr. Lisa Yanase. In the afternoon, Reverend Gibbs, OB T member Jerry Fugate, and Reverend Gyokuko Carlson of the Dharma Rain Zen Center, led a panel discussion on "Shakespeare: A Buddhist Perspective" (see write-up in the Oregonian Living Section on May 10). Both talks featured such different topics, yet brought members and citizens together to learn from one another at the temple.

On June 5th OB T will participate in the Buddhist Day in the Park at Colonel Summers Park in SE Portland. This gathering brings together multiple organizations from various denominations, including OB T, providing a friendly forum that recognizes Buddhism's growing following and engaging citizens through dialogue and displays. Thanks to outreach efforts by Reverend Gibbs and our ministers' assistants, OB T shares the Dharma not just within our temple walls, but also at community affairs like this, which attract hundreds of attendees.

And of course, there's ObonFest, coming your way on Saturday, August 7th. Under the leadership of chair and board member, Joe Wahl, Obon is the biggest fundraiser and event, celebrating our ethnic roots and reminding us of ancestors past. Depending on who you are, Obon can represent many things: it may evoke childhood memories of dancing and games; of hard work, lots of cooking and great food; or simply a great day hanging out with friends and family. For OB T members, it's definitely a time to showcase our lovely temple, introduce it to the public at large and extend an open invitation to come visit again. I hope you'll join in the planning by volunteering and helping out, and then, partake of the fun by attending this joyful event.

Thank you members for all that you're doing to help OB T thrive this spring and summer In Gassho



### ***Update on last year's OB T membership survey***

***Yoshi Ono and Kim Kono***

In the fall of last year the board conducted a survey of the past and present OB T members to try and gather feedback to assess general impressions of the overall health of the Temple, areas which were working well and those areas in need of improvement. Thank you to those that did respond. With about a 26% return rate, we had both survey responses and many comments. We followed this up in February with a meeting where all past board presidents were invited to review the results and discuss potential action items. We had a total of 11 presidents attend on the Super Bowl Sunday which speaks very highly of their dedication to the temple. They were Al Abe, Mark Achterman, Shinya Ichikawa, Michael Ishii, Kim Kono, Jean Matsumoto, Al Ono, Yoshi Ono, Stan Shiigi, Joe Wahl, and Kan Yagi. This article is intended to summarize some of the key points from that meeting.

- It would be desirable to obtain more detailed information in a future follow up survey to understand demographics and trends
  - Grooming volunteer chairs and leaders of our key events and regular temple functions is critical. Maintaining continuity over several years will facilitate organizing the events.
  - We should be more direct in asking for contributions, putting out envelopes and passing the basket, etc.
  - We discussed the need for creating a stronger support system and activities for our senior members (in addition to what OBWA currently provides); however, a volunteer has to champion this effort.
  - Growth of our Sangha through outreach activities and member retention.
  - As we grow more diverse in ethnicity, how do we choose to sustain and celebrate OB T's Japanese ethnic roots while building our membership?
- We decided that holding such past presidents meetings was a great idea and scheduling about two per year was a good frequency. Things we will cover in the next meeting are:
- a) Identify and implement strategies to recruit, train and sustain volunteer leadership of key OB T events, activities, and needs.
  - b) Interview lapsed members and new members to determine what attracts them to OB T and what activities/services/values would retain their long-term membership.
  - c) Examine and focus on new fundraising strategies and resources, e.g. bequests and planned gifts to OB T, building on scrip or other creative practices.
  - d) Research best practices with other temples and BCA in conducting a performance evaluation of OB T Reverend.

We have started to make some changes to address the items brought up, such as placement of the donation box and ordering a bronze plaque labeled "donations" in the foyer, and holding a dharma exchange to review the

committees and recruit new volunteers. We will also schedule a Dharma Exchange session to disclose the survey results, discuss some of the recommendations of the past presidents, and to get more discussion among those attending. Please keep an eye out for the announcement and attend if you able.

Gassho, Yoshi Ono and Kim Kono



### **OBWA news** *Jayne Ichikawa*

OBWA gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following for donations received in March, April, and early May:

Pat Hokama, Kiyomi Dickinson, Nobuko

Masuoka, Ruth Sono Watanabe, Alan Kasubuchi, Sumiko Ikata, Nobuko Uyetake, and Mary Okita.

The Gotanye service and Hatsumairi will be held on May 23. Thank you to the May toban and helpers who will prepare the lunch following the service.

We send our deepest condolences to the families of Don Greenwood who passed away on May 4th and Yoko Ouchida who passed away on May 10th. Both were members of OBWA.

OBWA sponsored their first "Aging Wisely of 2010" with a presentation by Dr. Lisa Yanase on stroke awareness and prevention in the temple basement on May 15. There were about 50 attendees who were informed about how to prevent, recognize, treat, and survive a stroke. Her emphasis to the audience was: "Stroke is a Brain Attack, Time is Brain, Every Minute Counts, Call 911". The presentation ended with a question and answer session. If you want more information on her presentation/hand-outs, please contact Jayne Ichikawa.

Future interesting activities are planned for June, July, August, and September following each OBWA meeting. More information and details will follow but please mark these dates on your calendar and join us!

- June 19 Nishiura-Ryokusuido kimono/ accessories— fashion, sales, and demonstration
- July 17 Lunch gathering at a restaurant
- Aug.21 Cooking class by Mrs. Hamada
- Sept.18 Learn how to make sukiyaki for the October Bazaar (and eat sukiyaki after)

Susan Lilly has generously offered to demonstrate yoga to members and friends at the temple. Her knowledge and skill as a yoga instructor will be another activity for our Aging Wisely series. More information will come in the future.



### **2010 high school grads** *Ann Shintani Winner*

Congratulations to this year's high school graduates. The following four who have connections to OBT were recognized at

the annual Japanese American Community Graduation

Banquet on May 2nd at the Multnomah Athletic Club.

- Abraham Almahmoud, Benson HS, son of Kay Inoue
- Chanell Magee, David Douglas HS, daughter of Brad and Nanette Magee, granddaughter of Ben and Alice Tano.
- Leigh Nishi-Strattner, Wilson HS, daughter of Mark and Linda Strattner
- Brad Sumoge, Westview HS, son of Jerry and JoAnn Sumoge

Leigh was honored with the Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple Japanese Art Award. She is a student of Sahomi Tachibana, Japanese classical dance teacher.

***Sahomi Tachibana's Dance students' recital will be on Saturday, June 19th at 7pm. All are invited.***



### **Dharma school news** *Amy Peterson*

We will be celebrating April, May and June birthdays the last Sunday of May.

It will follow the Children's service during announcements.

Our DS year is almost over, yet our garden is just sprouting. We just got another donation of seeds from Karen Wong. Thank you so much. The Lumbini class had so much fun planting peas and now they can see them sprout.

We will have our last day of DS on June 13th. There was some confusion on the chairing of services so the Sangha Class is chairing this month and the Prajna Class will Chair the first two Sundays in June.

Since we will not have DS, we have some activities for the kids planned over the summer. We will be preparing some Taiko practice drums June 27th in preparation for our DS Summer Day Camp. It may take a couple of Sundays to make all the drums. PLEASE CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE FOR CAMP INFO.

If you have an activity that would be appropriate for all ages that you'd like to share we'd like to make sure there is an activity for any children that come while the adults are in Dharma Exchange.

We are looking for donations for our annual Rummage Sale, date in July to be determined. This major fundraiser enables us to send teachers to workshops, students to district convention, buy classroom supplies, activities, etc. Along with that we need people to help Nancy Kajitsu organize, price and sell on those two days (Fri and Sat). That will be followed by Spaghetti Bingo. More details to come next month. If you have rummage to donate it can be dropped off at the Temple Annex Garage, or arrange pick up of items by calling Amy at 503 481 0699.



**Lotus circle – June**  
*Jean Matsumoto*

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

- June 6 – Amy Peterson in memory of (imo) parents, Yosh and Aster Mishima;

Jayne Ichikawa imo grandmother, Kise Kinoshita

- June 13 – Alan Kasubuchi imo brother, Denny Kasubuchi, and aunt, Chie Itami
- June 20 – Ruth Sono Watanabe imo father, Bunta Sono, mother, Yone Sono Murazen, and step-father, Frank Murazen
- June 27 – Jerry Koike imo grandparents, Yosaku and Sueko Aono

OBT gratefully acknowledges all of the above members for their generous contributions which assure us to have flowers for our Flower Toban to arrange so beautifully on our onaijin and around out temple each week. We are also grateful to Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) for setting up the Lotus Circle page on our website, so you can submit information regarding your loved ones each month. For information about the Lotus Circle, contact Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or [matsumo@orcatech.org](mailto:matsumo@orcatech.org).

**June Toban**

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Abe, Al             | Achterman, Marilyn |
| Achterman, Mark     | Bagnall, Alden     |
| Davis, Ryan         | Dickinson, Kiyomi  |
| Fujikawa, Frieda    | Fujikawa, Shigeo   |
| Hughes-Davis, Angie | Ikemiya, Cheryl    |
| Ishimaru, Bettina   | Ishimaru, Robert   |
| Kajitsu, Nancy      | Kasahara, Mae      |
| Kennedy, Karol      | Little, Craig      |
| Little, Laima       | Masaki, Lori       |
| Shiraishi, Rick     | Swann, LaRhette    |
| Takemoto, May       | Tamiyasu, Katie    |
| Wong, Cynthia       | Wong, Gordon       |
| Yoshida, Carl       | Yoshida, Jim       |
| Yoshida, Mary Ann   |                    |

*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 theDharma*

*Words of Jean Matsumoto - 1995*

**Condolences ...**

- To Merrie and Lee Greenwood on the passing of husband and father Don Greenwood on May 4.
- To the family of Yuko Ouchida who passed away May 10.

**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.*



**Counting down ... space still available**  
**Japan 2011 trip**  
*Tomiko Takeuchi*

There are some spots open in the OBT trip to Japan, May 13-22, 2011. The trip is open to non members and friends. If you know someone who is interested they may e-mail: [kyoto2011@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:kyoto2011@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) or call Misa at 503 252 1074 or Tomiko at 503 661 1579.

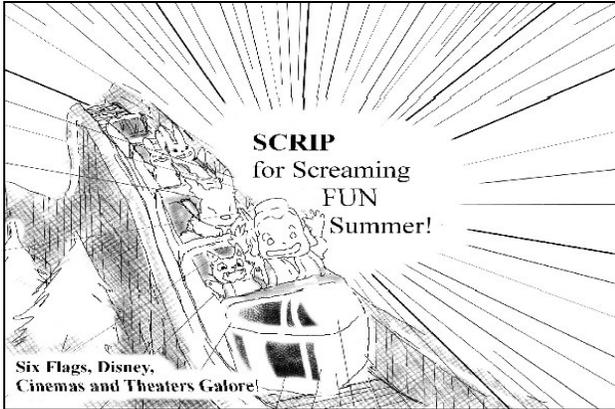
This trip is planned to attend the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial and the 14th World Buddhist Women’s Convention. Tours will be hosted in Kyoto by Rev. Gibbs. Each traveler may choose from 2 optional tours: one to Tokyo, Nikko, and Kamakura; or to Hiroshima, Miyajima, and Kurashiki.

A deposit of \$200 is due on July 1, 2010. The basic tour will cost between \$2600-\$3000; and the optional tours \$1100 - \$1600 (cost depends on the number of people in the group).



**Scrip Tip**  
*Ken Garner*

Did you know that Walgreens is one of the participating vendors in our Scrip program? Walgreens accepts Scrip as payment for prescriptions. At a 6% donation rate, the benefit to OBT quickly adds up. Stop by the Scrip table downstairs after service on Sunday and talk to Ken Garner, Cynthia Wong and Gordon Wong. They have a full list of vendors, take orders, and gladly answer any questions about the program you may have. New vendors are constantly being added to the program and temporary bonus periods for different vendors are announced. You may find something that interests you. You can also send an email to them at [scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:scrip@oregonbuddhisttemple.com). By the way, as of May 16 we have earned \$552.95 in 2010 for OBT through the Scrip and Amazon Associates programs.



**Obon commemorative lanterns**

Obonfest will again feature Commemorative Lanterns to celebrate our Kangi-e or “Gathering of Joy” on August 7th. Red and white lanterns will be hung from lines radiating from the center of the dance area. White lanterns commemorate 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 this joyful remembrance. **Order form is in this newsletter and at the temple.**

Also donations are 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



**Portland world theatre**  
*Angie Hughes*

Portland World Theatre will be presenting Act the World summer drama camp for kids during three sessions throughout June, July, and August. Angie Hughes and Ryan Davis, co-founders of Portland World Theatre, will be working alongside two fellow local thespians, giving kids ages 7-12 an opportunity to learn about theatre from around the world. The kids will meet for six hours each day, Tuesday-Thursday at OBT, participating in everything from improv acting to script writing to learning how to apply Kabuki stage make-up. For more information about this fun and enriching learning opportunity, please contact Angie at 503-367-2650 or visit the camp website at [www.acttheworld.com](http://www.acttheworld.com).

***A reminder to support the Oregon Buddhist Temple by paying your 2010 Membership dues. Thank you.***

**OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
**MEMBERSHIP 2010**  
**NEW OR RENEWAL REGISTRATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DONATION:  
INDIVIDUAL: MINIMUM \$200.00 PER INDIVIDUAL ADULT  
FAMILY: MINIMUM \$400.00 PER FAMILY  
SILVER: \$500.00 PER MEMBER With silver and gold membership you receive our deep appreciation and your name  
GOLD: \$1000.00 PER MEMBER will be listed in the newsletter as special donors, unless you request not to be listed.

OR YOU MAY MAKE PAYMENTS OF A MINIMUM \$20.00 PER MONTH OR A MINIMUM \$60.00 PER QUARTER

Membership allows voting privileges, a subscription to Wheel of Dharma newsletter from Buddhist Churches of America, and most importantly, demonstrates your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FEE \_\_\_\_\_ Drop off this form and a check or mail both to:  
ADDITIONAL DONATION \_\_\_\_\_ Oregon Buddhist Temple  
TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_ 3720 SE 34th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97202

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course  
2010 Fall Enrollment  
Applications Now Accepted**

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for their fall 2010 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 100 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.