



Oregon Buddhist Temple
established 1903

Dharma School begins September 15th on the

Pureland Path

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Newsletter

September 2013



To the Other Shore and Beyond

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

September is here. It brings us the beginning of the Dharma-school year (9-15) and our Ohigan service (9-22). Ohigan is that much beloved Indian cultural metaphor of Liberation being like going to the other

shore (higan). Here I am spinning that metaphor a bit, - to the other shore and beyond. Those of you who have children will recognize the allusion to Buzz Lightyear, whose motto is “to infinity and beyond.” This phrase captures the undaunted and perhaps un-reflective optimism of Buzz Lightyear. Is it similarly inconsistent to think of going “to the other shore and beyond”? I don’t think so.

Receiving Enlightenment, coming to full Awakening through the transformative influence of Amida’s Pure Realm is only half the journey for us. Coming back to help others makes the arc complete. Indeed, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we intend to go to the Other Shore and beyond.

One of my friends who is Buddhist, but new to Jodo Shinshu, was having trouble relating to the utterance of “Namo Amida Butsu” and other forms in Chinese and Japanese. If he were able to attend our services regularly I would recommend coming to the vocal nembutsu session that runs 9:30 am to 9:50 am every Sunday [except on days of special observation when there is a Japanese-language message at that time]. However he has difficulties with transportation and such so I told him: “No Living Being Left Behind” is nembutsu. He is enjoying that form of nembutsu.

Just as Rev. Kodani comes up with a new Obon dance every few years, we can innovate new verbal forms of nembutsu if we choose. My favorite of his is the gardener’s dance. This could not be done with a mantra. A mantra may work in part by the nature of its sounds and is never translated. Anywhere on the planet earth you go and find Buddhists, if they chant the mantra that closes the “Heart Sutra” [Hannya Shin Gyo] it sounds the same

“Om Gate, Gate, Paragate, Parasamgate, Bodhi Svaha”. The nembutsu can sound the same from place to place (our “Namo Amida Butsu” and “Namu Amida Butsu”, here in the Americas, sound pretty much the same as they sound in Japan). The nembutsu can also sound quite a bit different from one Buddhist community to another - “Namayam Buddhayam Amitayam” in India, “Namo Omito Fu” in China, “Nam mo A Di Da Phat” in Viet Nam etc. Perhaps we should borrow Anna Leonowens phrase here, - Et cetera Et cetera, Et cetera. There are innumerable verbal forms of nembutsu.

Any phrase we utter, or hold silently in our hearts and minds, is nembutsu so long as we are thinking of the promise of Universal liberation. This recollection that we are picked up and carried to the Buddha’s realm of Purity and Joy can enliven many a verbal utterance, “Namo Amida Butsu,” “Namandabu,” “I rely upon the source of limitless Wisdom-light and Endless Life,” “No Living Being Left Behind,” etc., etc., etc.

Please try holding one of these verbal forms of nembutsu in your heart and mind. If the situation allows, let it flow out between your lips. In any case, please remember that you are included in Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow, in the Buddha’s commitment: “No Living Being Left Behind.” The Buddha’s Vow will carry us to the Other Shore and Beyond.

Gassho,
Gregory Gibbs

September Highlights

- 9.14 OBT board meeting 7 pm
- 9.15 - Dharma School begins with service and potluck at Kenilworth Park, 10 a.m.
- 9.21 - OBWA Meeting 9:30 am
- 9.22 - Ohigan Service 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.” Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202-3037, 503-234-9456 (ph), 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: Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs, tamaribuchi@gmail.com.



President's Message

Ken Garner

By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.
Helen Hunt Jackson, *September*

Autumn is my favorite season. I love the cooler temperatures, the lengthening shadows, the baseball pennant races (what happened to my beloved Giants?), the start of football season (go Niners!). After the play of summer, September is the time of return. Even though we enter the home stretch of the calendar year, it paradoxically is also the time of new beginnings. The school year starts with the promise of new subjects to learn and explore.

At OBT we had an eventful summer. Obonfest is now a pleasant memory. Thank you Yoshi Ono and Craig Yanase for chairing this, our most important fund raiser and public outreach event. I think it was a great move to order up perfect weather for the event! Thanks also go to Marilyn Achterman for coordinating our volunteers to make sure everything that needed to be staffed was. This year we tried a few new things, from new menu items to a token system for paying for food and drink. By going to the token system and centralizing the points where we accept payment, we were able to accept credit cards for the first time. While we may have a few kinks to iron out, the feedback I received on the tokens has been very positive from both our customers and from the booths. We also had an outside vendor run the shaved ice concession. I am interested in hearing any comments you may have on these experiments.

We also had a few major expenses this summer that, while not entirely unexpected, were inopportune. After 14 years of service, the temple car died. So you will now see Rev Gibbs behind the wheel of a 2012 Nissan Versa. Likewise the compressor for the basement walk-in refrigerator needed to be replaced. We also found, while replacing the toilets in the annex, dry rot in the bathroom flooring which required immediate attention. While we do make plans for contingencies like this, it is still an unwelcome drain on temple finances.

But, as I mentioned above, September is a time for new beginnings. The Dharma School will soon be in full swing and temple activities will be returning to normal. In the coming months we will have Sukiyaki Bazaar, 110 Year Anniversary Commemoration, 2014 District Convention, and more. If you haven't been to the temple for a while, I invite you to return. We miss you. If you have been considering coming in for a first-time visit we invite and welcome you. And for those who have attending regularly I thank you for your dedication and commitment. We are better as a Sangha for having you all with us.

In Gassho,
Ken

A Day in the life of a Shin Buddhist

Rev. Diane Jishin Johnson

Other Power embraces me
Compassion is mine
Kindness beyond compare surrounds me
Amida shines my way
Illuminates my darkness
Brightens my day
Lightens my heart
Quells my fear
A day in the life..my life...this life....I am grateful to know Amida!
Thank you, thank you!

Save the Date: November 16-17, 2013

OBT to Celebrate 110th Anniversary
Saturday Seminar featuring Rev. Harry Bridge and Rev./Dr. Mark Unno • Sunday Eitai-kyo Service and 110th Anniversary Luncheon • Photos needed of temple members for anniversary update. Photos will be taken at the temple at every opportunity or email to dharmaschool@oregonbuddhisttemple.com.



Musings of an OBT Board Member

Ray Fukunaga

This spring and summer has shown me many examples of the impermanence of life. David and Kristi graduating college and high school, moving David from Salem to Eugene, no chairing of Obon Shave Ice

booth, moving Kristi to college, and Lori and I left in an empty nest. Where has the time gone? I thought just the other day I was picking up the kids at Richmond Elementary or pushing Kristi in a stroller around the neighborhood so she would nap.

I remember when the kids were young I would say during some stay of parental bliss that yeah, the kids are at a good age. That more or less ended somewhere near the mid-teenage years. But looking back at those times, they were also at a 'good age' because you saw and talked to them at home every day although on some days it was just a grunt response that you got back. Lori and I do look forward to our empty nest... or at least I think Lori does. We look forward to more freedom to travel and to pursue our own interests. But I do miss hearing David picking on his guitar, Kristi tap dancing on the plywood downstairs, playing tennis or ping pong with David, and hearing Kristi say 'Hello Pappy' just like she did as I was typing this.

I know as a Buddhist we should live in the moment and understand that the past is gone and the future is not here yet but these memories are here with me in the present, are what has made me who I am today, and define my present thoughts. But alas, even the thought of these memories can be fleeting because Kristi said it is dinnertime. Namu Amida Butsu. Itadakimasu!



OBWA News

Etsu Osaki

The Oregon Buddhist Women's Association sends their deepest condolences to the families of Tomo Sunamoto who passed away on July 23 and of Kan Yagi who passed away on August 9. They were

both very dedicated members of OBWA and of the temple.

The following donations are gratefully acknowledged: Mr. & Mrs. Makoto Iwashita and anonymous donations for July and August.

High school graduates were honored at the Sunday service, August 11, with gifts from OBWA. They were Kristi Fukunaga, Danielle Yoshinaga and Aisha Almahmoud.

July and August were busy months. Somen and cucumber namasu were prepared for Obon service otoki on July 28. Thanks to Kiyomi Dickinson for her leadership. Manju and somen were prepared and sold for Obonfest. Thanks to Jean Takashima for her help with the manju. The kimono sale was a big success thanks to donations from members. Proceeds were shared by OBT and OBWA.

Thanks to Marilyn Achterman and Nancy Kajitsu for preparing refreshments for the obon dance practices. Thanks also to Scott Winner and Beebee Dawson for preparing lunch for workers on August 2 and 3 respectively.

OBWA members danced in the Japanese Garden Obon observation on August 13. They will also dance at the SakeOne Pacific Rim Festival at Forest Grove on August 24. Manju will also be sold.

Members will be preparing meals for the delegates at the NW Dharma School Teachers League meeting on August 24.

The next meeting will be September 21st at which time Mark Achterman will speak about long-term care insurance.



Rev. Gibbs with high school graduates Danielle Yoshinaga and Kristi Fukunaga. Aisha Almahmoud, the third graduate, is missing.

OBT 2013 Holiday Craft Show By Angie Hughes

Are you a crafter, artist, or someone who just likes to make things? If so, this might be for you! OBT will be hosting a Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, November 23, 2013, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and everyone is invited! We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who would like to participate in this fun community building opportunity. Each booth space will be offered at the very reasonable rate of \$25 per table, including complimentary tea and coffee during set up hours of 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. We are hoping for all types of quality handmade items and pieces of art that come from you or your team! To download the application and guidelines, please visit the OBT website at <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>. Spaces are offered on a first come first serve basis. The deadline for submitting applications is October 31. Please contact Angie Hughes with any additional questions at amhcreations@hotmail.com. We hope you will join us, as a crafter or a customer!



Obonfest a Success

Yoshi Ono and Craig Yanase

Our event this year was a great success, thanks to the hard work of every one of you who shuffled your regular schedules, took time off your job, and spent your energy on preparation, execution, and cleaning up of our annual festival. Many of the chairs have submitted articles for the newsletter thanking folks for donations and for their hard work but in order to keep the newsletter size reasonable, we have decided to just broadcast one big Thank You and forego the individual messages. We apologize for those chairs that wanted to recognize specific individuals, but we will need to do it via personal messages.



The food items went over very well, selling out of most items perhaps a little too early. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment, and the vendors did well. Are we offering too many different choices? Was the use of tokens too complicated? We'll start discussing this and other questions at the board level so we can use your feedback to make things better next year.

If you have comments/suggestions about Obonfest, please let your committee chairperson know or feel free to talk directly to any OBT board member. Hopefully, through your feedback, our Obonfest can improve and grow.

With gassho,
Yoshi Ono and Craig Yanase

September Toban

Carrollo, Teri-Ann	Moro, Marlene	Van Dyke, Mark
Dart, Chris	Oh-Keith, Doug	Wahl, Joe
Hollander, David	Oh-Keith, Kathy	Wahl, Lora
Ishikawa, Grace	Osaki, Etsuko	Yagi, Micki
Johnson, Diane	Osaki, Herb	Yamauchi, Sandie
Kagawa, Julie	Saiget, Carol	Yarne, Cathy
Kolas, Phillip		

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



Dharma School News

Amy Peterson

Remember to register your child for the upcoming year. We are recruiting people to assist the teachers and learn the Dharma.

Registration form will be online shortly.

The DS new year starts off on September 15 with a potluck in the park! Please join us at Kenilworth Park, at SE 34th and Holgate, just a few blocks from the temple. DS will provide beverages, paper goods and utensils. Please bring a dish to share. Service will begin as usual at 10 a.m., with potluck to follow. In the event of rain, we'll meet at the temple. A reminder will be posted on the front door. There will be games for the children.

While the Dharma School is not in session, the teachers have been busy! July elder visitation was small but fun. We are sorry that we lost one of our friends, Hiro Takeuchi, shortly after our visit. He was happy and interacted with us and looking towards his birthday. We will miss him.

Teachers and students all were busy with Obonfest preparation, dance practice and event day. Thanks to all who participated as this is a major Temple fundraiser and a great time to remember our ancestors.

2013 Memorial Chart

Year of Passing	Memorial	Year of Passing	Memorial
2012	1 year	1997	17 year
2011	3 year	1989	25 year
2007	7 year	1981	33 year
2001	13 year	1964	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.



Dharma School Rummage Sale and Spaghetti Bingo

Ann Shintani

We had a few hardy volunteers sweat all week over the huge pile of donated items that had accumulated in the Annex garage. In addition to clothes, books, kitchen

items, and LOTS of other miscellaneous stuff, we had the task of finding new homes for the large TV, the organ, and several large bookshelves and other furniture. At our August 16 and 17 Rummage Sale, we probably sold a third, gave away another third, and sent another third to Goodwill or the dumpster. Amazingly, we raised over \$800. Thank you to the following diligent volunteers: Junko Haynes (lunches), Karol Kennedy, Susan Endecott, Rev., Sho, Ren, and Kyoko Gibbs (snacks), Ann Shintani and Scott Winner, Nancy Kajitsu, Danielle Yoshinaga, Cathy Shikatani, Ray and Lori Fukunaga, Marilyn Achterman, Tomiko Takeuchi, Michael and Janice Ishii, Alice Tano (lunch), Tara and Beatrix Gibbs, Amy and John Peterson, and Kirt Achterman. We failed to get rid of the old copier, and the marble table (we missed them as they were obscured). Did I mention that there were lots of items?

Afterwards, nearly 40 of us were treated with meat and vegetable primavera spaghetti by Beebee and Charles Dawson. Ray Fields made his Cesar salad, and Marilyn Achterman and Kyoko Gibbs made desserts (we also had Voodoo Donuts and other goodies). Thanks to Grand Central Bakery for the donation of bread, rolls and pastries. Kirt Achterman and Justin Kwong expertly called the bingo, and succeeded in handing out prizes to the "lucky" winners. In addition, thank you to Lori and Ray Fukunaga, Kyoko Gibbs, Ann Shintani and Scott Winner. Thank you to those who supported these Dharma School fundraisers with their participation. It was hard work, but we are warmed by your effort to join us.

Our deepest condolences to the family of Kan Yagi, who passed away on August 9, 2013.

Garden Project

Brian Neubauer

Thank you so much for everyone's help in the garden before Obon. It is such an honor, for me, to be able to serve the Sangha in such a way. It was the garden that first attracted me to the temple and then the rich heritage after that.

I want very much to continue to help grow the community and visually show that impressive background. And I feel that can be done though the garden, as well as outreach of many sorts.

My hope is that we can create an easier job for events like Obon by having a plan from the start of the year. What I suggest is that we create a plot of the entire grounds of the temple - over that plot we will draw a quarter grid that will be separated by different groups in the temple. Inside those four grids it will be separated to allow each groups members to take individual spots to tend. This plot will also help us to know what plants need attending and what plants are tended to by the official gardener. It will also allow us to make changes or see what we want to keep.

At the beginning of the year, in the spring, we will have a massive clean up. Then each week the hope is the individuals in the grids will continue the upkeep if those spots. It is important to understand that everyone has their own families and time constraints, and because of this we hope to create a plan that will accommodate those times. So that no one person is taking more than they can.

It is my hope that the sangha will embrace my ideas and we can take the steps to creating an amazing visual for visitors and members alike. Thank you for your time and you welcoming me to this community.

July 2013 Donations

In memory of Tatsuya & Yasashi Ichikawa

Etsu & Herb Osaki
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Joseph & Lora Wahl

In memory of Marcus Hishinuma

Etsu & Herb Osaki
Joseph & Lora Wahl

In memory of Minoru & Hatsune Osaki

Etsu & Herb Osaki
Joseph & Lora Wahl

In memory of Shizue Sue Yasui

Mike Yasui & family

Hitoshi Ikata 17th yr memorial

Rose T. Ikata

Yachiyo & Chieto Morita memorial

Elsie & Harold Onishi

In memory of Bill Henry

Motoko Henry

In memory of Denny & Kikue Ando

Allen M. Ando

In memory of Yutake & Kazue Shiraishi

May Kasahara

In memory of Charlotte Smith

May Kasahara

In memory of Shizue Sugihara

Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

Koichi Minatoya 100th yr memorial

Mrs. Suwa Minatoya

Sam Naganuma 13th yr memorial

Mary Naganuma
Steve & Lori Naganuma

Aiko Yamanaka 13th yr memorial

Ann Shintani & Scott Winner

In memory of Setsu Ueno

Shoun & Grace Ishikawa

In memory of Hiro Takeuchi

Theodore Taniguchi
Fumi Saito

In memory of Sachi Onchi

Maryann Ikata
George & Amy Kanegae
Vickie S. Onchi
Noreen Onchi

Lotus Circle

Amy Peterson
Judy Murase
Ami Kinoshita
Dennis & Sandra Yamauchi
Jean Matsumoto

Special donations

The Estate of Kiyoko Yumibe
Alice Sumida (tree trimming)
Makoto & Kyoko Iwashita (Nokotsudo)
Lily Kajiwara
Glenn & Kathleen Andreas Okawa
Amy Peterson
Jean Matsumoto (Hishinuma fund)
Alice Sumida (Father's Day)
Rev. Patti Nakai
Susan Endecott (Social Welfare fund)
Joann Ng (via United Way)
Diane E. Johnson
Henry & Eulia Mishima
Ryuichi Maekawa
Shigeiko Nemakura
Yoko Sugiyama
Eiko Okuyama

Obon/Kangi-E

Henry & Eulia Mishima
Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa
Nobuko Masuoka
Yoshi & Tomoko Ono
June & Stan Shiigi
Shoun & Grace Ishikawa
Carrie Saito
Rei Okabayashi
Dennis & Virginia Sugihara
K. David Itamura
Randy & Dana Kunisaki
Fumi Saito
Kimiko Iwamoto
Richard & Kumiko Mishima
Susan Endecott
Fusako Ouchida

Obon/Kangi-E (continued)

Junko Haynes
Atsuko Richards
Charles & BeeBee Dawson
Ami Kinoshita
Ben & Sumie Ishida
May Ishida
Fumiko Okubo
Sahomi Tachibana
May Watari
Setsy & Chip Larouche
Jean Takashima
Grace Aoki
Gary Paulson
Chiyo Okita
Lew & Jean Tomita
Alice Kida
Kaoru Hori
Dana Kakishita
Teruko Nishikawa
Kan & Miyeko Yagi
Misako Kodama
Jean Matsumoto
Amy Long
Herb & Etsu Osaki
Laura M. Maeda
Yoshie Kagawa
Kiyomi Dickinson
Debra A. Strugar
Ann Shintani & Scott Winner
Misao Minagi
Karol Kennedy
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Tara Tamaribuchi-Gibbs
Alice Ando
Tsuyako Monas
Ernest Takeda
Barbara K. Shirota

Member pledge donations

Gary Higashi
Jean Matsumoto
Gerald & Joann Sumoge
Diane Ando Harder
Charles Bickel

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
e-mail: sjendecott@gmail.com

**Lotus Circle - September**

Jean Matsumoto

It is September already and the flowers for the Flower Toban to arrange on our temple altar will be in fall colors. We are grateful to the generous donations by the following which makes it possible to purchase the flowers each week:

- September 1 – Susan Leedham in memory of (imo) father, Kay Akiyama
- September 8 – Reiko Scapple Haupt imo grandfather, Tsutomu Watanabe

- September 15 – Yasuko Fields imo sister, Minako Maekawa; Mary Okita imo husband, Frank Morio
- September 22 – Takako Ishida imo parents, Seiichi and Tomiye Takahashi; Jean Tateishi imo parents, Yoshimasa and Chiyoko, and sister, Julia Ninomiya
- September 29 – Terry Courter and Terri-ann Carrollo imo mother and grandmother, Mae Furukawa; Amy Peterson imo father, Yosh Mishima, and grandmothers, Yoshi Takao, and Sakae Mishima.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness. Thank you also to Ken Garner, temple president (webmaster@oregonbuddhisttemple.com), who set up a Lotus Circle page on our website to share memories and pictures of loved ones. For questions about the Lotus Circle and how to join, please feel free to call Jean Matsumoto at 503-280-2463, or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com.

OBT 110th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON - pre-order require
 Sunday, November 17th
 110th Anniversary and Eitaikyo service & Celebration

Services will be followed by a special anniversary luncheon.
Bentos prepared by Chef Matsuzaki must be preordered by November 3rd.

Name(s) _____

please print all names

of lunches _____ x \$20 = _____ (amount enclosed)

Mail to: Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 S.E. 34th Avenue Portland OR 97202

A small lunch alternative will be provided for the Dharma school children.

SUKIYAKI BAZAAR

Sunday, October 6, 2013, 11am to 3pm at Oregon Buddhist Temple
 Sukiyaki (Beef and Vegetarian) • Chow Mein • Chicken Bento • Produce
 Ikebana and Calligraphy Display • Snack Bar • Omiyage Gifts and more...

For info call 503.234.9456 or e-mail bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com



ORDER FORM Pre-order is highly recommended.
 Please return order forms by Wednesday, October 2, 2013.

Item	Price	To Go Quantity	Dine In Quantity	Total Quantity	\$ Amount
Sukiyaki	\$8				
Vegetarian Sukiyaki	\$8				
Chow Mein	\$8				
Chicken Bento	\$8				
Total \$ =					

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to:
Oregon Buddhist Temple

Mail to: Oregon Buddhist Temple
 3720 SE 34th Avenue
 Portland, OR 97202-3037