Summertime – preparing for the Obon season on the Oregon



PureLand Path

OBT established 1903

The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

July 2017

Why do we observe yearly memorial services

Reverend Yuki Sugahara

My life has now reached the fullness of its years. It is certain that I will go to birth in the Pure Land before you, so without fail I will await you there

- Lamp for the Latter Ages, CWS p.539

I was raised in the temple and never wondered why we observe yearly memorial services on the years as follows: 1st year (1 year after passing), 3rd year (two years after passing), 7th year (six years), 13th year (twelve years), 17th year (sixteen years), 25th year (twenty four years), 33rd year (thirty two years), 50th year (forty nine years) and every fifty years after that. Why is the 1st year service on the first year of passing and 3rd year memorial two years after the passing? Some areas observe 23rd and 27th, instead of the 25th year.

We used to count the ages by the year we were born. For example, Hikaru was born on October 29, 2016. Nowadays, we count the age by the birthday so Hikaru is not one year old yet, but according to the old way of counting the ages, Hikaru was already one year old when he was born and he turned two years old on New Year's Day 2017.

Memorial service calendars use the same idea. We observe the 3rd year service two years after the passing. However, why do we observe the 1st year service on the first year after passing? It seems there is no consistency here. The English translation "first year memorial" actually lacks the nuance of the kanji character "周 shū" which means "circulate." The 1st year memorial service is the service held on the full circle of a year from the passing. That is why it is called the 1st year memorial service, and from the 3rd year memorial service, we follow the old way of counting the ages.

Why are services held on the numbers related to three and seven and why not every year? The answer is simple - to give minister a break! Just kidding.

In Buddhism, three and seven are considered important numbers. "Three" is The Three Treasures (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha), Three Marks of Existence (Impermanence, Interdependence, Nirvāna), Three Realms (non-material realm, material realm, desire realm) and so on. The number "seven" is considered as "perfect or complete" in Indian philosophy, and we all know the story of baby Buddha walking the seven

steps after he was born. It represents that the Buddhist teaching goes beyond six realms and reaches the realm of Nirvāna, ultimate peace. For these reasons three and seven are considered as important numbers.

Many people think that memorial services are for those who have passed away. Some Buddhist schools observe memorial services for the repose of the deceased. According to Shin Buddhism teaching, those who have passed away before us have been born into the realm of nirvana, called the Pure Land and became Buddha, so we do not need to pray for their repose or wish them to be born to a better place. Then, who are we conducting memorial services for? It is for us. Our loved ones who have passed away are wishing us to listen to the Dharma and wishing to meet us again in the Pure Land

My first experience of separation was from my grandmother when I was in fourth grade. She had cancer and suffered from pain for a long time. One day, my grandma called my grandpa close, held his hand and said "My dear, I don't want to leave you..." and my grandpa replied "me too, me too... but, we were taught that we have a place to meet again. So, whatever happens, see you in the Pure Land." Then, my grandma replied "ah, that's right, that's right... nanmandabu nanmandabu."

The teaching of the Pure Land gave my grandma comfort and gave strength to my grandpa to live fully. We are living in the wish of our loved ones who have passed away that "We will not be able to see each other physically, but please listen to the teaching of Buddha and live your life as fully as you can. Treasure your time with family and friends. When your life comes to an end, we'll meet again in the Pure Land". We observe memorial services to remember these wishes.

Memorial services give us the opportunity to meet as families and share memories of loved ones. In fact, I am going back to Japan next June to observe my mother and my grandpa's memorial service. This will be the first time in a long time to see my younger sister and her family. My mother treasured the time with family so with her absence it is not exactly a happy occasion, but I feel that my mother is telling me to treasure this opportunity.

The Memorial service tradition is dying in many places, but when I think about the wish of our loved ones who have passed away, I strongly feel we should not miss this opportunity to gather as family to hear the Buddha's teaching.

Gassho

"OBT welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and political or religious affiliation."

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456
e-mail: <u>info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com</u> website: <u>http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com</u>
Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address.

July Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of July. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the July 16 Sunday service at 10 am.

Please join us and offer incense in memory of your relative(s) or friends.

Listed below are the names of those who passed away starting from 1950. Oregon Buddhist Temple has records from 1904. If a name is missing, incorrect, or prior to 1950, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Akiyama, Ritsuji 7/20/1955 Allen, Akiko 7/17/1988 Ando, Frank 7/1/1988 Aoki, Masao 7/7/1999 Azuma, U 7/25/1967 Boggs, Mabel Kiku 7/10/2011 Franklin, Diane 7/6/2013 Fujimoto, Motozo 7/2/1961 Fukumoto, Tokuichi 7/4/1955 Furukawa, George 7/29/1991 Gekko, Elaine 7/31/2004 Hamada, George S 7/14/2014 Hasuike, James 7/7/1995 Hatago, Ken (Kenny) 7/6/2003 Hatori, Toki 7/7/1983 Hikida, Tokujio 7/6/1952 Hirata, Frank M 7/27/1975 Hokari, Torizo 7/22/1951 Honda, Misao 7/16/1992 * Ichiba, Uye 7/17/1988 Ikata, Hitoshi Joe 7/11/1997 Iwasaki, George 7/10/2009

Iwasaki, Enzo 7/14/1963 Iwashita, Hajime 7/10/1963 Kaneyama, Kikue 7/25/1999 Kato, Josephine 7/23/1986 Kawachi, Masaru 7/4/1969 Kinoshita, Kazuo 7/31/2004 Kinoshita, Kyuzo 7/30/1950 Kobayashi, Tooru 7/8/1970 Kunishige, Sanshichi7/4/1955 Kurihara, Frank 7/27/1976 Kurihara, Irene 7/14/2016 Kurihara, Mary 7/22/1983 * Matsumiya, Isaburo 7/1/1951 Mori, Kinoye 7/29/1994 Mukaida, Tomeji 7/19/1976 Muramatsu, Tatsutaro 7/18/1962 Murase, Robert 7/18/2005 Murazen, Yone 7/3/1998 * Naemura, Seki 7/19/1987* Nakazawa, Tsugio 7/29/1999 Niimi, Shigeru 7/17/1960 Okubo, Shigenobu 7/25/1987

Onchi, Miyu 7/11/1974 * Ouchida, Rose 7/5/2011 Ouchida, Shizuka 7/23/1968* Sasaki, Masajiro 7/11/1991 Sasaki, Mine 7/1/1964 * Sasaki, Sam Osamu 7/6/1997 Sasaki, Yayeno 7/7/1978 * Scapple, Karen R 7/25/2011 Shimooka, Sajiro 7/1/1951 Shiraishi, Fred S 7/15/1986 Shiraishi, Yasokichi 7/17/1976 Sumino, Ruby Y 7/21/2009 Sunamoto, Tomo 7/23/2013* Tachibana, Joe S 7/10/1966 Takeuchi, Hiroshi 7/10/2013 Takeuchi, Masao 7/13/1967 Takeuchi, Yae 7/6/1971 * Toya, Kaguma 7/27/1968 Toya, Yone 7/20/1968 * Yasui, Hokari, S 7/21/1955 Yonemura, Sumi 7/12/2002 Yoshida, Bud M 7/18/1992

*OBWA member



Rev. Sugahara riffing the Beetles song 'Imagine'

President's column Judy Hittle, OBT President

Congratulations to Sahomi Tachibana and her students for presenting a wonderful recital on the 17th of June. The dancers were impressive and the dances, so enjoyable. BRAVO!

"Obon, Obon, It's Festival Time . . . "also known as Kangi-e or "Gathering of Joy"

Yes, it's that time of the year once again when we express our gratitude to our ancestors as well as to all who have passed on. This is also the time when we express our gratitude to those who came before us and who generously established the Oregon Buddhist Temple so that we would have a place to gather as a Sangha and continue to hear the

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Dharma. In order to express our gratitude and to perpetuate the existence of OBT, we annually celebrate Obonfest and use this as an opportunity to have our major fundraiser of the year. This year it's Saturday, August 5th.

Charles Reneau and Scott Winner are the chairpersons and they will need all of us. Anyone can help. You can help in whatever way you are able, whether financially, through donations, or physically, by assisting as we prepare for the event, during the event and even after the event. All donations can be sent to: Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Ave., Portland, OR 97202.

If you're able to help, Marilyn Achterman is gathering names of those who want to volunteer and you can email her at: msachterman@juno.com

Please help us make this a successful fundraiser, also come and join in on the fun as we work, and dance in celebration together. Dance practices begin on July 18th, from 7-9pm, downstairs at the Temple.

In connection with Obon, we also have a special service where we pay our respects to those who have passed since the last Obon and we call it, Hatsubon. We will be having this service on Sunday, July 9th. Please let us know if you would like your loved one included in this special service by calling the Temple Office, 503-234-9456. When you leave a message, please be certain that you clearly leave your name and call-back number.

Thank you Sangha members for all that you do for OBT. Humbly, Judy Hittle

OBWA newsPat Hokama, OBWA Vice-President

It was happy birthday time for 33 attendees at the Birthday Lunch on June 17. The lunch at the Super King buffet was topped off with games, and surprise prizes. A good time was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to everyone who also brought a generous amount of food items for the Backpack project at the Templeton Elementary in the Tigard-Tualatin School District. This project helps and supports the needy children and families with food every week which is taken home in the students' backpack on Fridays. This program will continue during the summer.

We will be preparing otoki for Hatsubon on July 8 and 9. The menu is somen and cucumber sunomono. Help is welcome starting at 9:00 am both mornings.

Yasuko Fields heads the Kimono pre-sale on July 15 following our monthly meeting. On the 29th a sale will be open to the public from 12 noon to 4 pm at the Temple. The selections are many and perhaps a new yukata to wear for the Obon odori (dancing)?

We are making early plans on food prep for the August Obon.

Summary notes of June 11, 2017 OBT board meeting

Ken Garner, OBT Secretary

- The definition of the 50th Anniversary: Temple Building Fund was approved. This fund shall be used for those projects that renovate, preserve, and beautify the temple and its grounds.
- The Wisteria Society, a recognition of donors who have or will be making a bequest or planned gift to OBT was established.
- Curtain rails were installed in the Mabel Boggs room to allow us to separate the single room into 2 spaces. The curtains are on order and should be received and installed prior to Obon.
- OBT will be making a sponsor donation to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for their upcoming Obon exhibit.
- Research on an AED Defibrillator Machine continues. We are in the process of comparing pricing and looking at ease of use and available training.
- The Board approved the purchase of video and sound equipment in order to record Dharma Talks, Seminars, Temple events and to upload these recordings to the internet. This purchase will be made by the Hishinuma Fund.
- The Board approved the purchase of a document camera, which when coupled with our projector will allow the projection (and recording) of books and loose materials. This will be useful for classes, seminars, Dharma Exchange, etc. This purchase will be made by the Hishinuma Fund.
- The Board is considering installing exterior bulletin board(s) to post our welcoming statement and upcoming activities.

The next OBT Board meeting will be July 9, 2017 at 12:15 p.m. OBT members are welcome to attend. Minutes of the meetings and reports are available in the temple office in the annex or by contacting the OBT Secretary.

Dharma school

Ann Shintani

DS Bowling Party: after recognizing Kirt Achterman and Michi Stoeller as our high school graduates (photo below), we had a blast bowling at AMF Pro Bowl. I really appreciate the following families that joined in this end of year event -- Achterman, Brooks, Carollo, Garner, Hopkins, Kiyama, Mattson, Nhem, Nomoto, Sugahara, Winner, and Yanase. We snacked on pizza, nachos, and cake, supplied by DS.

DS Summer Schedule: I hope you will join us as we will continue to have activities and youth choir after Sunday Service. We are planning to visit elders, a temple of another

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Buddhist tradition and an Obon exhibit at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center later this summer.



HS graduates Kirt Achterman and Michi Stoeller

More on Hatsumairi

Baby Margaret, father Zak and mother Katherine Cavenell missed the May 14 Hatsumairi service but attended a recent service.



Lotus circle – July Jean Matsumoto

A whole week of sunshine is forecast as I submit this article for publication. Colorful flowers abound for OBT's flower toban members to purchase to display on the onaijin and around the temple each Sunday. This is due to the generous donations made by Lotus Circle members in remembering their loved ones. This month those donors are:

• July 2 – Ruth Watanabe and Francis Sono Gale in memory of (imo) their father Bunta Sono, mother Yone

- Murazen and stepfather Frank; Eric Ouchida imo mother Rose and grandparents Matsutaro and Kyu Muramatsu; Kevin Ando imo grandparents Frank and Sumiko Ando
- July 9 Rose Ikata imo her husband, Joe Hitoshi; Grace Hasuike and Betty Young imo parents James and Mitsuko; Grace Ishikawa imo of father, Joe Sadaji Tachibana; anonymous imo Mabel Boggs
- July 16 Judy Murase imo husband Robert; Nancy Takeuchi imo her parents Masao and Masumi, brothers Mel and Robert, and uncle Hiroshi; anonymous imo Tomeji Tom and Kow Mukaida
- July 23 Lily Meiners imo parents Frank and Mary Kurihara, sister Irene, and son Wallace; Reiko Haupt imo her mother, Karen Scapple and grandfather Tsutomu Watanabe
- July 30 Jayne Ichikawa imo her father, Kaz Kinoshita and grandparents Tokuji and Kise

Please feel free to share memories of loved ones on the webpage created by Ken Garner (webmaster@oregonbuddisttemple.com) and contact me at 503-280-2463 or e-mail jamatsumoto@gmail.com) if you would like to join us or have any questions.

Memorial Day service at Rose City cemetery



14th Annual Buddhist Festival in the Park



The festival was held at Creston Park on Saturday June 3rd. The featured panel was Grace Zang of Oregon Falun Dafa Association (with interpreter), Jampa Nyendak Lathsang of Tibetan Prayer Flag, Juan Carlos La Puente of Portland Shambhala, Domyo Burk of Bright Way Zen and Etsu Osaki of OBT. Etsu Osaki shared her thoughts on her experiences in the internment camps during World War II.

July Toban

Dart, Chris Ishikawa, Grace Kollas, Phillip Kunisaki, Randy Osaki, Amy Reneau, Charles Wahl, Joe Wyant, Wendy Yarne, Cathy Honma, Hannah Kagawa, Julie Kunisaki, Dana Lilly, Susan Osaki, Etsu Saiget, Carol Wahl, Lora Yamauchi, Sandie

OBT Readers' Club

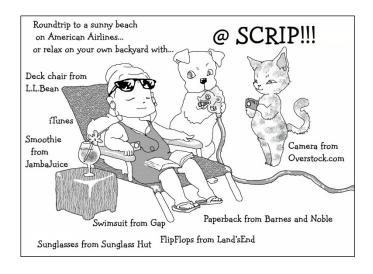
Ken Garner

Sunday August 13, 2017 Dharma Exchange

The next Readers' Club meeting will be the Dharma Exchange on Sunday, August 13, 2017. We will be discussing Why Does the World Exist?: An Existential Detective Story by Jim Holt .There could have been nothing. It might have been easier. Instead there is something. The universe exists, and we are here to ask about it. Why? In Why Does the World Exist?, Jim Holt, an elegant and witty writer comfortably at home in the problem's weird interzone between philosophy and scientific cosmology, sets out in search of such answers. There is no way to do justice to any of these theories in a brief review, but Holt traces the reasoning behind each one with care and clarity--such clarity

that each idea seems resoundingly sensible even as it turns one's brain to a soup of incredulity. I can imagine few more enjoyable ways of thinking than to read this book. --Sarah Bakewell (Amazon Review)

Please join in the conversation at the August 13 Dharma Exchange





Shookokai scholarship essay Kirt Achterman, Central Catholic HS graduate

A problem that faces the Japanese American community isn't an isolated issue;

it is something that can be seen in different minority groups throughout America. Overtime ethnic communities become smaller and smaller and become more dispersed. Japanese Americans were the largest and oldest Asian American group in the U.S. until the 1950s. America is said to be the melting pot nation, different ethnicities and cultures all come together, mix up, and form one stronger nation. The U.S. population trends toward increasing cultural, ethnic and generational diversity. Even more so in recent years with less discrimination and freer immigration laws. Because of the increasing diversity, the Japanese community cannot be strictly defined. Since the 1990's 75% of young Japanese Americans have married non-Japanese. This intermarriage creates a very eclectic Japanese American culture, one that is always changing.

Although the Japanese American community does appear to be on a downward trend due to intermarriage, this is not the real problem. That trend towards diversity is not something that can be stopped, it's something that is a part of being American and living in this great nation. The eclecticism of

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this country is really what sets it apart from others and makes us amazing. The real issue facing the Japanese American community, and other cultural and ethnic communities, is a byproduct of this melting pot. Because the community seems to be shrinking and become more dispersed at such a fast rate, it is easy to forget about what is really important. Japanese Americans have such a rich history, and have been through so much, it is not something that should be left behind. The first generation of Japanese that immigrated were leaving their roots, often many had to leave their families behind while they established a new life in the states. They were going to a new country, with a new language, and a new culture. Isseis had to find work and support their families and do their best to assimilate into a society where they faced racism and were looked down upon. After years of hard work the Japanese community was well established with families, businesses, and churches, yet they still faced discrimination. With the onset of World War II the community faced more problems, their lives were abruptly interrupted as they were uprooted and sent to internment camps. After the war Japanese Americans had to reestablish themselves. The community showed resiliency as they worked to get back to normalcy. Throughout all this struggle, the Japanese have held on to their identity and the culture that they brought over from Japan. The identity that Japanese have created is one unique to the struggle and hardships this community has faced. I find it truly amazing that my ancestors were able to hold onto that identity through everything and pass it onto me. The issue facing our community is that of forgetting our past.

Pledges

Alfred Ono, Pledge Chairperson

With the official start of summer on June 21, the days start to get shorter and we start to slide into shorter days toward the end of the year. Time is getting short for you to consider a pledge to OBT.

Here at OBT we are welcoming Rev. Sugahara and his family to our Sangha. The temple is getting ready for Obonfest in about 7 weeks. We are also doing the repairs and touch ups that can only be done during the warm summer days.

Even though Obon is our best fundraiser, we still need funds to do the above to make OBT function and remain in good condition. Thus we are having our pledge drive to raise funds for the next half of the year. So far we have 76 supporters who have made pledges.

For those of you who are making monthly or quarterly donation, keep it up. For those of you who are thinking of

pledging, get out your checkbook and write out what you feel is an amount to show that you want help to make OBT though the rest of the year. For you who have pledged, we thank you but consider a "tip" on top of your pledge in appreciation of what is happening at OBT.

Several members have talked about a large onetime amount to OBT to cover all of the donations for the year to OBT rather than trying to remember the small envelopes and orei for special services or even the donation you put in for each service as you Gassho. Making this your pledge donation can do this.

Consider the above options and join the other 76 supporters who have pledged to support Oregon Buddhist Temple.

Support OBT

Complete the pledge form below and mail it in to Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202. Thank you.

PLEDGE DONATION-2017 For Oregon Buddhist Temple		
Please make sure we have your information as an OBT supporter:		
Name/names		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Phone	E- Mail	
Amount pledged in o	one donation	
Amount pledged:	Monthly	
	Quarterly	
	Alternative or other method	
Amounts at or above \$250.00 per person will be listed as supporters of OBT and BCA		
Thank you very much for your support of Oregon Buddhist Temple		

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN ORDER FORM TO CELEBRATE OBONFEST 2017

WHITE Lanterns

Commemorate the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends or even pets.



RED Lanterns

Honor a living person, organization or business.

<u>RE-HANG</u> a previously purchased lantern to continue this joyful remembrance.

Please use one form for each new lantern. This order form is also available on the OBT website.

Our Calligraphers would like the lantern order forms by: Tuesday, August 1, 2017. Re-hanging lantern order deadline: Friday August 4, 2017. WHITE COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN (\$25) Deceased's Name (English) Japanese Version (kanji/katakana) Date of Passing: **************************** **RED COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN** (\$25) Name (English) Japanese Version (kanji/katakana)____ *************************** RE-HANGING Previously Purchased Lantern: \$15 for the 1st order, \$10 Each additional lantern Name (English) Name (English) Name (English) Name (English) PURCHASER'S NAME _____ Phone: Checks Payable to: Oregon Buddhist Temple

Lanterns to be re-hung in 2018 can be stored at the temple <u>OR</u> purchased lanterns can be picked up Sunday following the ObonFest. Lanterns inactive for two years will be discarded.

3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

Lanterns OBT Phone contact: 503-234-9456

Oregon Buddhist Temple Donations received in May 2017

Mitsuko Hasuike 1 year memorial

Mitsuko Hasuike family Robert Sunamoto family

In memory of Kazuko Sunamoto

Herb & Etsu Osaki Jim & Merianne Nagae Gayle & Chris Ratliff

In memory of Mae Saito

Joyce & Peter Tsai

In memory of Ami Kinoshita Duane Watari & May Watari

In memory of Frank & Mae Furukawa, Frank Furukawa Jr, Richard Furukawa, Suetaro Ishida, Tomeka Ishida, Ben Ishida & Nobi Ishida

Terry Wakabayashi Courter; Tom, Terri & Midori Carrollo; Wayne Wakabayashi;

Kathi, Joe & Cindy Medina

In memory of Denny & Kikue Ando

Allen M. Ando

In memory of Yukiye Nakano

Alice Tano

Shotsuki Hoyo Kiyomi Dickinson

Special donations

. Kiyo Endecott *(Tamura-Terakawa Schol.)*

Anonymous (United Way)

May Watari (home visitation)

Echelon Audio (music programs)

Anonymous (dresser for Mabel Boggs Rm)

Yoshie Kagawa

Dana Kakishita

Christopher Lee Gary Higashi Beverly Aaby

Beverly Aaby Francine Gauvin Lotus Circle
Amy Peterson

Yoshie Kagawa Matt Muramatsu

Gomonshu Inauguration

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Cathlyn Yarne Mary Fumi Saito Anonymous (2) Hanamatsuri

Sahomi Tachibana May Watari

Anonymous

2017 Annual Pledge donations

Takeko Wahl Amy Peterson Julie & Peter Nhem Ken & Katie Kawazoe

Monthly/Qtrly/Semi-annual

Pledge donations
Tony Clinton
Susan Endecott
Susan M. Lilly

Diane Ando Harder

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

Your donations help to maintain our temple building and to support our programs and services.

THANK YOU!