



GATEWAY



January 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 1



Our fearless leaders, President Johnny Martinez and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi pounded a delicious batch of WCBT mochi to welcome in the New Year 2017!

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone. As we began the New Year, Bill and I hope that this New Year will be filled with memorable and meaningful moments for you and your family.

Last year in August, the 12th World Dōbō Gathering was held in Los Angeles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and staff who made this event a great success. Without their dedication and support, this gathering could not have been realized. Also, I would like to acknowledge the Dharma Seeds Program attendees who spent so many hours to make videos to introduce the past and the future of our district. We received so

many compliments about their presentation.

The theme of this gathering was "Dōbō: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity." It was a great opportunity to meet members and ministers of Japan, Hawaii, North America, and South America. It was truly heartwarming that the Jōdo Shinshū teachings made it possible for us to meet each other. We all felt unified as Dōbō, Jōdo Shinshū followers, beyond boundaries of nationality, language, ethnicity, and cultural background.

On the other hand, as we look at the current state of affairs, differences are used to divide people and isolate each other. We see and hear more contempt towards groups of people

due to differences in religion, race, and ideology. It is the reality of this world that reminds us how difficult it is to "seek unity in the midst of diversity." There is no doubt that the feeling of unity at the World Dōbō Gathering was truly cherished. Yet, being satisfied and content with our success should not be our goal,

Please see MIYOSHI, con't on page 7

Temple Event Highlights:
•Jan 1 New Year's Service
•Jan. 8 Shotsuki Service
•Jan. 15 Eitaikyo/Gen. Mtg
•Feb 11-12 SLOBT Retreat
•Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



The Dharma School children participated in the Year End program on December 19. They walked into the Hondo to the music of "It's A Small World". The Sangha sang the first verse as the children made their way to the front. The students were carrying little signs with the word "love" in different languages. At the end of the song, Dharma School played a guessing game with the audience. As each sign was held up, the Sangha guessed what language was on the sign. It was fun!

In our divisive political year, Dharma School decided to use this simple children's song to remind us that we are one with each other. The concepts of interdependence and impermanence will be lessons that will continue in the new year. The simple song that we all sang will hopefully resonate with our children.

A big Thank You to the Sangha for your continued support of Dharma School! Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2017.

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

Johnny Martinez, President

Cock-a-doodle-doo Everyone!

This is the year of the cock according to the zodiac signs. It is said that people born under this sign are deep thinkers and devoted to their work. The crowing cock reminds us to appreciate the new opportunities that each day brings us so that we can grow. It is a simple thing to say but often difficult to realize. First, I must learn to let go of many of my preconceived notions of others; in short, shut-up and listen. Only by truly deep listening can I hope to hear the message of the Dharma and begin to realize the great depth of my ignorance. It is almost counterintuitive to realize that the worst person, the devil incarnate (aka "the evil person"), is the one I see in the mirror every morning. The year 2017 gives me a new chance to re-encounter the teachings. Becoming a true human being begins when I open my eyes and accept and learn from all that life brings. May this year bring you warmth and fulfillment and find you on the path to enlightenment.

With Gassho





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

New Years Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2017, at 11:00 AM. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2017 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service for January.

Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 10 a.m. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale only so make sure you get your Eitaikyo lunch tickets by contacting Merry Jitoshō or a Toban B member who will be selling lunch tickets for \$15. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 10 and January 24 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

Family Retreat

Our annual Family Retreat will be held this year on February 11 & 12, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. Rimban William Briones will be our guest lecturer and speak on the appropriately titled theme "~~Coffee~~ Wine With Rimban Briones" This will be a great opportunity to get to know Rev. Briones up-close and personal since this year's retreat will be just WCBT members.

Join us for another great weekend with stimulating discussions, quality time with sangha friends, access to the beach and as always, too much food. All set in the serene and scenic setting of the Central Coast. The fee for adults is \$35 (discounted fees for children) and includes meals and available temple lodging. For more information see the flyer on page 5.



Pets Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 26 at 10:00 AM to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day.

GATEWAY Staff

Layout & Editing: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi, Richard Kagawa

Contributors: Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitoshō, Michael Jitoshō, Joanie Martinez

Circulation: Joy Kitaura
West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:

In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

The Temple's mailing address is:

West Covina Buddhist Temple
P. O. Box 1616
West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 689-1040

Website: www.livingdharma.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org



JANUARY

Tami Kitaura, Casey Hansen, Kevin Maekawa, Carol Oshima, Kathy Oshima, Neil Kato, Cora Ormseth, Matthew Ormseth, Kristen Nakano, Hidemi Ena, Jesse Sakaue, Aya Kamimura, Aiko Yep, Don Frack, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase, Andrew Kobayashi, Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams



T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS



These hardworking Sangha members are our Toban leaders for the coming year. (R-L) Dick Koga (Toban C), Merry Jitoshō (Toban B), and Roy Takemura (Toban A). Not pictured is Joy Kitaura who is co-leader for Toban A.

In the sports world there are athletes who lead their respective teams to world championships. A few come to mind like Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and Peyton Manning. However, they were not able to accomplish the success of their teams without the players around them. This is also the case with our Toban system. Our WCBT's Kobe Bryant, Joy Kitaura (Toban A), Michael Jordan, Merry Jitoshō (Toban B) and Peyton Manning, Dick Koga (Toban C), they could not accomplish the success of the many special activities without the hard work and cooperation of the Sangha. On behalf of the Toban leaders, a big heartfelt thank you to the entire Sangha for a successful 2016! *"Do mo arigato"*

Before "Oshogatsu" in the Japanese tradition, it is a time to "osoji", to clean or purify one's environment and begin afresh or start new for the coming year. In America, we may say "Out with the old and in with the new." 2016 was a very successful year for WCBT. We can look back and pat ourselves on the back for a job well done, but we must also learn from the mistakes we made. Then, we can face the challenges upcoming in 2017, with the hope to make an even better year.

With these thoughts, our Toban chairs, Joy, Merry and Dick take this opportunity to wish all WCBT members and their families a very Happy and Prosperous New Year! *"Akemashite Omedeto"*

TOBAN LIST

Tobans are responsible for providing obuppan/flowers for all services and a chairperson for major and Shotuki services

Toban A (July – September)

Akune, Denise
Ariza, Tom & Edith
Fujimoto, Glen
Hamachi, Wesley & Connie
Kagawa, Richard & Ruby
Kitaura, Joy
Maekawa, Raymond & Nancy
Nakatani, Glenn & Jean
Nishihara, Lillian
Sato, Ken & Pat
Shirota, Jon & Barbara
Takahashi, Miyo
Takemoto, Takashi & Hiroko
Takemura, Roy & Judy
Takemura, Vicki
Teragawa, David & Cheryl
Underwood, Phillip & Autrina
Yamasaki, Ron

Toban B (January–March, October–December)

Chen, Mei Ling
Early, Jerry & Jane
Ezaki, Lee & Karen
Gonzalez, Mario & Stephanie
Harrison, Michelle
Ikehara–Nelson, Reiko
Jitoshō, Merry
Mayeda, Haruko
Oshima, Larry
Tanji, Frank

Toban C (April–June)

Godoy, Jose & Lynette
Hansen, Claire
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia
Kato, Ted & Mary
Koga, Dick & Hisako
Kovacs, Yukiko
Kowalski, Kurt
Martinez, Johnny & Joanne
Ogino, Martin & Leslie
Ormseth, Tor & Diana
Oshita, Mitsuru & Mitsu
Underwood, Steve & Denise
Wexler, Alan & Emi
Whang, Bruce
Yamashita, Bob & Kay

THANK YOU!



T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

Coffee The 2017 Family Retreat: *Wine* with Rimban Briones

Lecturer: Rimban William Briones



Date: Feb. 11 (Sat.)~12 (Sun.), 2017
Location: San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple
6996 Ontario Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Fee: \$35.00/adults; discounted fees for children
Checks payable to: WCHHBT
Mail to: West Covina Buddhist Temple
P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793

More Info: (626)689-1040
revnobuko@gmail.com (Rev. Miyoshi) or pishsato@gmail.com (Pat Sato)



◆ *Contemporary Issues and Jodo Shinshu Perspective*

Issues like same sex marriage, immigration, global warming and abortions were not issues during Shinran's life. On the other hand, war, sexism, and poverty were. What is our understanding of these contemporary issues living a life of Nembutsu? We will discuss current events and issues that affect our way of life and how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism influences our view point.

◆ Rev. William Briones was born and raised in Mountain View, CA. His major was Biology. He worked 28 years as a Research Biologist in the Department of Physiology, at Syntex Pharmaceuticals in Palo Alto, CA. He took an early retirement in 1995 and enrolled at the Institute of Buddhist Studies at CA Berkeley's Graduate of Theology Union. Upon Completion of the ministerial program at Berkeley, Rev. Briones attended Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin (Buddhist Seminary) in Kyoto, Japan for 2 years. He received his Tokudo ordination in September 2000 and Kyoshi certification in April 2001.

His orientation began at LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in June 2001 and he joined the ministerial staff as a full time minister in January 2002. He became the 10th Rimban (head minister) of LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in September 2013.

◆ The \$35.00 fee includes all meals, and there is free lodging available at the temple (though space is limited and you must bring a sleeping bag); nearby motels are also available.

Name(s): _____

Number of Attendees: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell phone*: _____

*Please provide instead of home/landline number for communications at the retreat.



T H E G A T E W A Y

MOCHITSUKI





T H E G A T E W A Y

YEAR-END & OSEIBO



Oseibo at Year End is a time when we say thank you to all the Sangha members who helped to organize and lead the activities and fundraisers for our temple. We always end the year with our delicious pot-luck dinner.

MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 1

rather this is the starting point that encourages us to keenly seek the way to live as Dōbō with those who have completely different thoughts and ideas from us. The idea of Dōbō that Shinran Shōnin expresses should not be applied only within a Jōdo Shinshū school. Our challenge to seek unity in the midst of diversity has just begun.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Temple President, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all of our members for their generous support and guidance.

As we enter 2017, I am truly looking forward to working together and listening to the teachings of Shinran Shōnin with all of you this New Year.

Gassho



NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE GATEWAY STAFF

The Gateway staff would like to extend to the Sangha at WCBT our heartfelt appreciation for the generous support you have given us throughout 2016. We wish you all much good cheer in the year of the Rooster.





T H E G A T E W A Y

The West Covina Buddhist Study Center & Dharma Seeds Program Present:

“Finding Pure Land in America”

Speakers: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi (February 27)
Joanie Martinez (March 6)
Anthony Gutierrez (March 13)

.....
Date: Mondays; February 27, March 6, & 13, 2017

Time: 7:30 pm~9:00 pm

Place: East San Gabriel Valley Japanese
Community Center, Room 3
1203 West Puente Ave.,
West Covina, CA 91790

Fee: \$30.00*

Info: (626) 689-1040

dharma@livingdharma.org



About the lecture series:

As a part of the Higashi Honganji tradition we often hear the words Pure Land. It is often said that “Pure Land is not the same as Heaven as we imagine it in Christianity” and “The Pure Land is not a place to go after we die.” What is Pure Land, then? What does it mean to us? How do we make it a part of our everyday life? Shinran Shonin received the essence of Buddhism and has tried to express it through the ideas of Pure Land. What messages can we hear from Pure Land?

Rev. Miyoshi will give a lecture on Shinran’s view on the Pure Land. Our Dharma Seeds Alumnus, Anthony Gutierrez, and WCBT member Joanie Martinez, will be exploring their understanding of Pure Land. We hope you will join us for a lively discussion.

About the Dharma Seeds Program:

This is 3-year program under the theme of “Planting Nenbutsu Seeds in America.” We are nurturing Shinshu students who listen and share the Buddhadharma with everyone through the Jodo Shinshu traditions.

.....
Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

**Pre-registration is requested; but fee is payable either with pre-registration or at 1st class (make check payable to “WCHHBT”)*



T H E G A T E W A Y

WCBT MEMBERS

Registration Fee: \$40 (including lunch and refreshments)

Deadline: Wednesday, January 18, 2017

For registration information contact Rev. Miyoshi at revnobuko@gmail.com or call (626)689-1040

※Please make checks payable to WCHHBT for \$40 per person.

WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

EAST MEETS WEST

Dharmathon with Higashi and Nishi Ministers

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017

9:00 am - 4:30 pm (Doors open at 8:30 am)

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

DHARMATHON: A SERIES OF DHARMA MESSAGES

FEATURING MINISTERS FROM BOTH TRADITIONS

Rev. Noriaki Ito, Bishop,
Higashi Honganji North American District

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop,
Buddhist Churches of America

IN ENGLISH

Rev. Kenji Akahoshi
Rev. Fredrick Brenion
Rev. Bill Briones
Rev. Greg Gibbs
Rev. Marvin Harada
Rev. Peter Hata
Rev. Kory Quon
Rev. Jon Turner
Rev. Fumiaki Usuki
Rev. Patti Usuki

IN JAPANESE

Rev. Masashi Fujii
Rev. Ryuta Furumoto
Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa
Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji
Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi
Rev. Kazuaki Nakata
Rev. Ryoko Osa
Rev. Koho Takata
Rev. Masanori Watanabe
Rev. Mutsumi Wondra

*Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies,
Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education & Shinshu Center of America*

Hosted by the BCA Southern District Ministers Association & Buddhist Education Committee



T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz asks our readers about traditional Japanese New Year's foods.

Difficulty Level: Piece of cake!
Match the words with their description.

___ 1. Osechi ryori ___ 2. Kazunoko
___ 3. Kobumaki ___ 4. Kagami mochi
___ 5. Ozoni ___ 6. Kuromame

- A. Herring or other fish (people often substitute pork or burdock root) wrapped with kelp. Kelp signifies luck because a Japanese word for kelp is konbu which sounds like yorokobu meaning ..."be joyful"
- B. Traditional New Year foods eaten typically during the first 3 days of January.
- C. A traditional soup eaten on New Year's day morning which has mochi as a primary ingredient and the preparation varies by region (in Japan) and household.
- D. Cooked herring roe which symbolize fertility because herring lay lots of eggs
- E. A pair of round mochi, the smaller sits on top of the larger with a small orange placed on top of both. The mochi is thought to bring a good harvest for the coming year and the blessings of ancestors.
- F. Eating this black soy bean dish during New Year's is a symbol of good health for the coming year.

Answers: 1-B, 2-D, 3-A, 4-E, 5-C, 6-F



T H E G A T E W A Y

新年のご挨拶 見義信香

謹んで新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまならびにウェストコヴィナメンバーの皆さまには大変お世話になりました。この場をお借りして心より御礼申し上げます。

昨年は第12回世界同朋大会が8月にロサンゼルスにて開催されました。日本をはじめハワイやブラジルで親鸞聖人の教えに出会い、そのことを慶ぶ方々との友好を深める素晴らしい機会となりました。大会の準備や実行、班の引率などにご尽力くださったボランティアの皆さまには改めて深く感謝申し上げます。また、ダルマシーズの方々は多くの時間を費やしビデオプレゼンテーションの作成に携わってくださいました。紹介されたビデオは参加者の皆さまに大変好評でした。

今回の世界同朋大会のテーマは「Dōbō～多様な世界の中で」でありました。大会は国や言葉、文化の違いを超えて、文字通り親鸞聖人の教えに出会った同朋としての深い繋がりを感じる場となりました。

一方世界や国内に目を向けますと、宗教や思想、民族や肌の色の違いが相互理解のチャンスではなく、分断と争いの口実に利用される現実、ますますその深刻の度合いを増しています。そうした現実、真宗門徒を名告る者同士として和やかで楽しい時間を過ごした私たちに、そこに満足して座り込ませない厳しさをもって、「多様な世界の中での同朋とは？」ということに改めて私たちに問いかけているように感じます。

「同朋」とは「浄土真宗」という共通認識をもつ人同士だけを内輪にまとめるための言葉ではないはず。むしろ、今回の大会で様々な違いを超えて出遇えた私たちが、多様な世界というそれぞれの現場に戻った時に、異なる考えや立場の人たちとどこで「同朋」という関係が築けるのか、そのことを課題とし続けて欲しいという願いの言葉ではないかと思うのです。そのように思う時、「同朋」という言葉はふんわりとした温かな言葉ではなく、私たちの現実を照らす厳しく熱い言葉として響くのを感じるのです。

2017年は「同朋」という言葉を通して、改めて親鸞聖人が出遇われた世界を聞き続けていきたいと思っております。

本年もどうぞよろしく願いいたします。

合 掌



お寺ニュース

修正会法要

修正会法要は2017年1月1日（日曜日）午前11時よりお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにご家族お揃いでお参りください。

永代経法要・教団総会

2017年度永代経法要は1月15日午前10時より厳修されます。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。お寺の大事な総会です。どうぞ法要、総会にご出席ください。

お寺家族リトリート

来る2月11日（土）-12日（日）家族リトリートをサンルイスオビスポ西本願寺にて開催いたします。日常を離れ仏法にじっくりと耳を傾けるよい機会です。どうぞお誘い合わせの上ご参加ください。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお尋ねください。

法話会 1月祥月法要

1月5日（木）午後7時

2月祥月法要

2月2日（木）午後7時

Quote of the Month
It's OK to freak out, grieve,
and vent for a while.
Holds each others' hands.
Then we can get back to
work, as always,
for the good.
-Norman Fischer

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790
P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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 **GATEWAY** 

January 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 1

January

- 1 11:00 am **New Year's Day Service**
- 5 7:00 pm **Howakai Japanese Service**
- 8 8:30 am **Board Meeting**
- 8 10:00 am **Shotsuki Service**
- 10 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 15 10:00 am **Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting**
- 22 10:00 am **Sunday Service**
- 24 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 29 10:00 am **Sunday Service**

February

- 2 7:00 pm **Howakai Japanese Service**
- 5 8:30 am **Board Meeting**
- 5 10:00 am **Shotsuki Service**
- 11-12 **WCBT Family Retreat**
- 14 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 19 10:00 am **Sunday Service**
- 26 10:00 am **Pet Memorial Service**
- 28 10:00 am **Study Class**

2017年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 5日 午後7時 法話会
- 8日 午前8時半 理事会
- 8日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 15日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

2月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時 法話会
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 11日-12日 家族リトリート
- 19日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/ペット追悼法要

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浄土は万人一に帰するところ

金子大榮