



GATEWAY



February 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 2



The newly elected 2017 Board of Directors of the West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple took their oath of office at the Eitaikyo Service and meeting on January 15, 2017.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Chōyū Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with you as a member of the sangha.

Last year, in comparison to past years, there were more opportunities to listen to the Dharma together with you in the overseas districts. There was the 12th World Dōbō Gathering held in the North America District in the summer, and the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shōnin held in the Hawaii District in conjunction with the Hawaii Betsuin Centennial in the fall, in addition to the Hōonkō Services in each district. I sincerely appreci-



ated those precious opportunities. I especially enjoyed meeting with our fellow followers from all over-

seas districts at the Gathering in Los Angeles together with many participants from Japan. Those experiences have deepened my appreciation of how inconceivable the working of the Light of Amida is in uniting us beyond the boundaries of nationality and language.

I have come to feel that it is the responsibility of us Shinshū followers living in this modern society who have fortunately encountered this rare teaching to share the joy of the encounter with people around the world. I am convinced that only in the sharing of the teaching can we help to find rays of hope amidst the

Please see ABBOT, con't on page 2



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It's been a cold and rainy couple of weeks. The weather has been a great help to reduce our persistent drought, and even though it's been inconvenient, this rain has been wonderful for California.

The climate changes in Southern California can be a great way to explain impermanence and interdependence to our Dharma School students. We plan to use examples of different organisms to show how climate change can affect the populations of those living things. In addition, the students will see how the interactions of different populations can change.

If any of you have suffered the loss of a pet this past year, please bring a picture or some other remembrance that can represent your pet to temple on February 26. We will remember them during our Pet Memorial Service on that Sunday. You can also email your pictures to earleyjane@gmail.com to be included in a Pet Memorial Powerpoint presentation.

Hope you will be able to attend the annual family retreat in San Luis Obispo. It will be held on the weekend of February 10-12. It is always a great experience for everyone!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Bishop Hiroshi Tajima
Chief Administrator, Shinshu Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts.

My name is Hiroshi Tajima and I have been assigned as Chief Administrator of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha as of the end of last year. Since we have finished the renovation project of the buildings at the Shinshū Honbyō by observing the Commemoration Service of the Completion of the Renovation in November last year, we must now move ahead towards the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shōnin's Birth which will be celebrated together with the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023. As the new Chief Administrator, I will carry on the wish of the former Bishop Kōi Sato'o, who strongly encouraged us to open up a new horizon for our entire denomination in preparation for those major events. I realize the huge responsibility I have just assumed. I wish to ask all of you in our overseas districts for your continued support of our denomination.

On the occasion of the New Year, I asked myself, "What is the spirit of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha?" My response was that it is the aspiration to create a sangha based on the teaching of the nenbutsu, just as Shinran Shōnin expressed in the postscript of the Kyōgyōshinshō, "Those who are born earlier guide the succeeding generations and those who are born later learn from those who precede them."

Right at this moment, there are always intensifying conflicts in areas around the world. Those conflicts are caused by such attitudes as self-justification, and placing blame on others. As long as our minds are bound by differences in nationality, culture, and religion, those horrible incidents will never subside. Because we live in such a world, it is even more important for us to revive the spirit of the nenbutsu



sangha where anyone can live together in mutual respect as fellow travelers beyond any boundaries.

I sincerely wish that all of us will deepen our appreciation of each other as members of the sangha walking the broad path to Buddhahood together this year.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.
Thank you.

ABBOT, con't from pg. 1

dark clouds of the world we live in.

Shandao, one of the Seven Patriarchs, expresses in one of his works as follows:

"We vow to give equally to all people around the world,
This joy of encountering the teaching,
Together to realize our innermost aspiration to become a buddha,
And to awaken to the spirit of the Land of Peace and Happiness created by Amida Buddha.

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on February 14 and 28 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.

Cherry Blossom Festival

The West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 18, from 12 noon – 6:00 PM and will be held at the South Hills Plaza (1420 S. Azusa Ave., West Covina) on the corner of Azusa Ave. and Aroma Dr. Although the Temple will NOT be selling anything this year ESGVJCC will need help setting up and breaking down after the festival. Please come out to support the Center.

Pet Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 26 at 10:00 AM to remember our animal friends. All who have lost pets are invited to pay tribute to them on this special day. Jane Earley has graciously volunteered to create a Powerpoint presentation with pictures of our beloved pets so please

send your pictures to earleyjane@gmail.com.

2017 Lecture Series

West Covina Buddhist Study Center & Dharma Seeds Program will present the first Lecture Series of 2017, "Finding Pure Land in America," beginning on Monday February 27. The speakers will be Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Joanie Martinez and Anthony Gutierrez. The lectures will be held on three consecutive Mondays; February 27, March 6 and 13, from 7:30 -9:00 PM, at ESGVJCC in room 3. Please see the flyer on page 6 for more information.

Spring Ohigan Service

Spring Ohigan will be observed on March 19 at 4:30 PM. We will have a special guest speaker so please join us for this special service and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LVI (56)

"Get Your Kicks @ Oldies LVI (56)!" will be held on Saturday, March 25. It's our 56th Oldies with DJ Willie Nagami filling in for Steve Kikuchi who was unavailable due to a prior commitment. Willie is from OCBC and will provide our favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. We are planning to begin the dance at 7:30 PM and end at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance. With a few more helping hands, the clean-up will go faster and everyone will be able to go home earlier.

Presale tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the door. For info and song requests, call Joanie at (626) 300-8947 or Lillian at (626) 780-9866. Your Toban chairs will contact you about work shifts and assignments. Plan to come by the center about 6 PM to help with the set-up. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

GATEWAY Staff

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

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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



FEBRUARY

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Yoshitaka Ena, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosh, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, Joanie Martinez, Deanna Ormseth, Sophia Saucedo, Jose Godoy, Kiyoko Nakakihara, Matthew Woo, Glenn Tomita, Ryan Shimomura, Judy Tawatari, Connie Hamachi, Amanda Jean Underwood



T H E G A T E W A Y

NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT REPORT

Bishop Noriaki Ito

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of the members of our North America District temples a Happy New Year. Also, on behalf of our staff, I wish to thank you for your guidance and support during the previous year. We hope that the New Year brings much happiness and meaning to you and your family.

Last year, on August 27 and 28, we were given the opportunity to host the 12th World Dōbō Gathering at the Hilton Los Angeles Universal City Hotel and at the Los Angeles Betsuin. We had over 300 participants from Japan, Hawaii, South America, and from our North America district temples. Although such a big undertaking requires a lot of planning and many people to succeed, through the support we received from our temples and our members, it turned out to be a resounding success. We thank you for your guidance, your support, and your participation.

2016 also marked the completion of the inaugural Dharma Seeds program in which representatives from our temples participated in retreats and seminars for over two years. In addition to participating in those events, the members worked with their ministers to serve their temples in various capacities. In addition, we were able to have our Overseas District Abbot Choyū Ōtani come again to officiate at the Los Angeles Betsuin HOONKO Service that was held on November 13.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and participation in all of the district's activities. We ask for your continued support during 2017 as well.

At our office in Los Angeles, in addition to the North America District office, we also have the Shinshu Center of America which is the educational arm of our English-speaking districts. Its role is to disseminate the Shin Buddhist teachings not only to our members but to anyone who is interested. A major part of that work is to publish books on our teaching in English primarily in the form of digital publishing or what are called eBooks. Currently we have books being sold on Kindle which is the bookshop on the Amazon website. The six presently available are *A Thinking Person's Guide to Shin Buddhism*, *The Art of Listening: A Buddhist Guide to Happiness*, *A Portrait of Shinran: As Presented in Kakunyo's Three Classics*, *The Life and Thought of Shinran Shōnin: He Who Walked the Path Before Us*, and also 3 books in paper format, *December Fan (Writings of Manshi Kiyozawa)*, and 2 of the 3 graphic novel series, *The Seeker: The Life Story of Shinran Shōnin*, volumes 2 and 3 (vol. 1 will be reprinted in the near future). These can be ordered through our office. The Kindle books are all available for the very affordable price of \$2.99 each. We encourage you to purchase and read these books on our Shin Buddhist tradition.

The work of our temples, the North America District, and the Shinshu Center of America can only proceed and succeed with your support and encouragement. We ask, therefore, for your continued guidance and support of the important work of sharing the teaching of the Nenbutsu with your family and friends. Best wishes for a wonderful 2017.

The Gateway would like to set the record straight in regards to our December 2016 Buddhism Quiz. There are two questions in the December 2016 Quiz that need clarification.

Question #1 A homyo means one has become a disciple of the Buddha. (True)

Homyo means Dharma name. The assumption is that one receives a homyo after one becomes a disciple of the Buddha. Therefore, the True statement. But we agree that the sentence should have been written more clearly to avoid a misunderstanding.

Question #5 Shaku and Shakuni mean the same thing. (True)

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, Buddhist names all begin with either "Shaku" used by males or "Shakuni" used by females to signify that they are disciples of Shakyamuni Buddha. Although the terms differentiate gender, the more significant meaning of both is the same, that they are disciples of the Buddha. Therefore the True statement. This question also could have been written more clearly since gender is indeed a difference.

The Gateway staff apologizes for the error, misunderstanding, and the need for clarification.



T H E G A T E W A Y

2017 Eitaikyo Service & General Meeting



Johnny Martinez conducted the General Meeting on January 15. Rev. Miyoshi installed the 2017 WCBT Board of Directors and also gave a State of the Temple message to the Sangha. Frank Tanji gave the financial State of the Temple report and his summary was that the Temple is financially sound. The Eitaikyo Book on display holds the names of the families who requested to be remembered in the Eitaikyo Memorial Service. Everyone enjoyed the delicious catered Eitaikyo bento.





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

*To All Past And Current WCBT
Members*

And Their Families

SAVE THE DATE!

WCBT FAMILY REUNION

*Join us for an afternoon
Full of Fun, Food and Good Times!*



Sunday, April 30, 2017

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

West Covina Buddhist Temple

(Social Hall)

1203 West Puente Ave.

West Covina, CA



T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month
When the powerful
use their position
to bully others,
we all lose.
-Meryl Streep



T H E G A T E W A Y

年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷暢裕

海外に住まう全ての同朋の皆さまに年始のご挨拶を申し上げます。

ともに新たな年を迎えられたことを心よりお慶び申し上げます。

さて、昨年は毎年の各開教区別院報恩講に加え、夏には北米での世界同朋大会、秋にはハワイ御遠忌法要（兼別院設立100周年記念法要）と、例年以上に皆さんと聞法できる場をいただけたことを、心よりうれしく思っております。特に世界同朋大会において、日本でご縁をいただいたたくさんの方々と、ともにアメリカの地で3開教区の皆さまと交流できたことは、本当に素晴らしい経験でした。今さらながら、国や言葉の壁を超え、阿弥陀仏のみ光をともに喜ぶ場に出遇えたご縁の不思議さを感じずにおられません。

様々な違いを超えて、遇いがたきこのみ教えに出遇えた私たちが、改めて今この時代社会から求められているのは、この喜びをさらに世界中の方々と共有していくことではないかと改めて感じます。そこにこそ、この悲劇の時代と表現するしかない世界の中で、一筋の光明を見いだす端緒があるのではないのでしょうか。

「願わくは 一切世界の人々と この出会いの喜びを 皆平等に分ち合い ともに仏になる心発して 阿弥陀みほとけの 安楽国に生れ 生きてはたらく身とならん」。私たち一人ひとりに呼びかけられる如来からの声に、すべての人々が開かれていくことを心より願い、年頭の挨拶とさせていただきます。

本年もよろしくお祝い申し上げます。

年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 但馬 弘

2017年の年頭にあたり、開教区の皆様にご挨拶を申し上げます。

真宗本廟両堂等御修復事業が完了し、昨年11月に御修復完了奉告法要をお勤めしたことを受け、「2023年にお迎えをする宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生八五〇年・立教開宗八〇〇年慶讃法要に向けて、宗門の新たな展望を開くべき」との前里雄宗務総長の固いご意志を継承し、この度、宗務総長の任に就かせていただくこととなりました但馬弘（たじまひろし）と申します。今はただ、たまわった役目の重責に身の震える思いであります。開教区の皆さまにはよろしくお祝い申し上げます。

さて、新年にあたり、改めて「真宗大谷派なる精神とはなんであるか」を問うならば、「前に生まれん者は後を導き、後に生まれん者は前を訪え」と『教行信証』の末尾に宗祖がお示しいただいたとおり、念仏のサンガを希求する精神と受け止めるものであります。

今こうしている間にも、己を正義とし、他を悪として起きる争いは激しさを増しています。国家、文化、そして宗教。自己と他者の相違に囚われ続ける限り、目を背けたくなるような痛ましい悲劇は今後も止むことはないでしょう。このような時代状況であるからこそ、相違を超えて今日の前の人を‘とも’と見いだす念仏のサ

ンガの再興が私たちに求められているのだと強く思います。

新たな年を迎え、私たち一人一人が、如来本願の大道をともに歩むサンガであることを、ともに確かめる一年としてまいりたいと存じます。

本年も、どうぞ宜しくお祝いいたします。



お寺ニュース

2月・3月日本語祥月法要 法話会

2月の法話会並びに祥月法要は来る2月2日（木曜日）午後7時より、また3月の法話会は3月2日（木）同じく午後7時よりお勤めします。どうぞご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

お寺家族リトリート

来る2月11日（土）～12日（日）に家族リトリートをサンルイス・オビスポ仏教会にて開催いたします。参加費は35ドル、宿泊費はお寺に宿泊される場合は無料です（近隣のモーターにも宿泊可能ですが、別途宿泊費がかかります）。日常の喧噪を離れ、仏法に耳を傾ける絶好の機会です。是非お誘い合わせの上ご参加下さい。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお問い合わせ下さい。

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

February 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 2

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
- 27 7:30 pm Lecture Series 1
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

March

- 2 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:30 pm Lecture Series 2
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 13 7:30 pm Lecture Series 3
- 14 10:00 am Study Class

2017年2月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 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

3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
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 18日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 19日 午後4時半 お彼岸法要
- 25日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス

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五人は五人ながら、
意巧にきく物なり。
能く能く談合すべき

『蓮如上人御一代聞書』