



# GATEWAY



March 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 3



*Our annual SLO Retreat was favored by good weather, good food, and good camaraderie.*

## *Social Justice and Buddhism*

SLO Family Retreat

**Michelle Harrison**

WCBT Member

During the weekend of February 10-12 the Sangha of West Covina Buddhist Temple traveled to San Luis Obispo for our annual family retreat. This retreat was a lot different from the six I previously attended. We had our exciting and hilarious game night, which never ceases to impress me, but a lot of things had changed. Structurally, we had a lot more free time and time to relax in the environment, which was great because the natural beauty surrounding the San Luis Obispo Temple has the potential to enlighten you. We were also a lot more physical this year. Not only did we take a lovely, 2.5 mile walk to the beach (just missing the rain),

but we also did Qigong (“Life Energy”), which worked our muscles and minds, and kept us from falling asleep during discussion (with the exception of Merry who seemed very sleepy, indeed). The last change involved the way in which our guest speaker, Rimban Briones, presented the topic and allowed for all of us to question and comment at any point during the lecture. I really enjoyed this change because it created a space for all of us to be heard and I felt a lot more engaged throughout the weekend. Overall, this retreat was highly interactive and we could not have experienced it without the efforts and participation of the entire Sangha.

It was very fitting that the theme of this retreat was Social Justice and Buddhism, given the current state of the country. My auntie Reiko, cousin Taylor, and I happened to discuss a lot of social issues during the drive to SLO, not knowing that it was the theme of the weekend. I am sure the topic has been on everyone’s mind. We all certainly had opinions to share about social justice issues and how to cope with all of the changes happening in the country. Although political issues are always a sensitive subject, we managed to have a lively, but respectful discussion without any yelling or tears. The common ques-

*Please see SOCIAL, con’t on page 4*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Spring is just around the corner. My small peach tree reminded me of that with its swelling buds. A few days later the buds burst into beautiful, delicate pink flowers. After all the rain and the cold temperatures, that was a welcomed sight!

The days are getting longer. Soon we will be celebrating our Spring Ohigan when the daylight hours and night hours are equal in length. It is the time when we express our gratitude to Amida Buddha for the boundless compassion and wisdom that is given to us. It will be a good opportunity to encourage our Dharma School students to be grateful for all that they have.

Please encourage your children or grandchildren to attend the Sunday services. Dharma School will be getting ready for the Hanamatsuri service in April and we teachers would like to include all our youngsters in its celebration. It will be a fun event!

Happy Spring to All!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



*The Haraguchis would like to give a shout out "Thank you" to the Sangha member who donated the San Diego Wild Animal Park tickets for our Oldies Dance raffle prize. We enjoyed a perfectly lovely day with these magnificent animals.*

## WCBT Retreat 2017

**Taylor Kimiko Saucedo**

WCBT Member

As I get busier and busier with work and college, I rarely make any time for temple. Aside from the annual Mochitsuki and Obon, I try to make sure that I at least make time for the annual sangha retreat.

This year's retreat was definitely something that I needed. My last year in college has been busy enough, but I would say the election has been the most draining. During my kanwa I briefly spoke about the social justice and advocacy work that I do at one of my jobs. At Cal State Fullerton I am the student assistant for the Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers, and in my position we work really hard to provide equity for students in need. We oversee five of the identity based student resource centers on our campus, but I specifically work at our Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center.

Given the recent political climate, students have been coming to our centers seeking advice, a space to vent, and people to lean on for support as they process through the results of the new administration. More importantly, students come to us asking for help because they are fearful of what might happen to them in the future, or students are already experiencing oppressive behaviour from their colleagues.

With this line of work, political activism is something that I quickly grew a passion for, but I never really shared these thoughts or experiences with any of the sangha members before. I am usually the youngest one in the sangha, so during discussions I try to just sit back and listen. Also, I never thought that anyone in the sangha would want to ever talk about something like politics on a retreat. Although, given this specific political climate, it was clear that avoiding the topic throughout the weekend would be nearly impossible to do. I grew up with most of the sangha members my entire life, but never have I seen them have such an open and dynamic discussion. What I really enjoyed most about the discussion was the fact that you could feel this shared struggle in the room that we were trying to hold onto our Buddhist values, while also fighting for what we believe to be right.

This concept of balancing the values as a Buddhist social activist is something that I personally had been struggling with for a couple years now. On one hand I felt as if I was too judgemental or not easy-going enough to be a true Buddhist, especially since I was going out and advocating for social justice issues, or challenging people to critical dialogue. Then on the other hand, I would get called out for not being "enough of an advocate" because I was not very radical with my advocacy.

I value as a Buddhist to not judge people. So if I avoid people from my life based on the political decisions they make, am I being a hypocrite and not being understanding enough? Or am I just choosing to satisfy my own feelings? I feel extremely privileged that my experiences in life have not been so harsh to the point where I have to disengage from people based on their opposing views, but I definitely understand why some people do it. It's not a matter of being any less open minded than someone else. It's a matter of self-care and understanding that everyone has different life experiences. Since I am in a position where I can safely listen to both sides, I try my best to do that. But at the same time, I do not want to inflict that responsibility on anyone else, or expect that it's just as easy to have these open conversations for everyone.

Listening to others speak up really empowered me to do the same. Something I appreciate about the sangha is their comfort with discomfort. Being open to discomfort, and open minded in general has really helped me progress in my journey not only as a person, but as an advocate and an ally. Not only did I get to process some of my struggles in a safe environment, but I was able to gain insight into a piece of my family history that I never asked about before, the Japanese internment camps.

*Please see RETREAT, con't on pg. 4*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## T E M P L E M E N T S

### The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on March 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.

### 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.

### Spring Ohigan

Spring Ohigan will be observed on March 19 at 4:30 PM. We will have Rev. Paul Imahara as 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)

"Come Feel the Mix @ 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.

### WCBT Hanamatsuri

West Covina's Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 9, at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to arrive early with flowers to decorate the *Hanamido*. There will be a special performance by the Dharma school children and light refreshments will be served after the service. We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the Buddha's birthday!

### LABTF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service and will be held on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 1:00 PM at Nishi Hongwanji LABetsuin in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service.

### WCBT Family Reunion

A WCBT Family Reunion and Fun Day is being planned for Sunday, April 30, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Center Social Hall. All current and past WCBT members and their families are invited for an afternoon of games, potluck lunch and good times so mark your calendars and save the date. Hope to see you there! See the flyer on page 9 for all the info.



## GATEWAY Staff

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

*Contributors:* Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitosh, Michael Jitosh, 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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

*E-Mail:* [dharma@livingdharma.org](mailto:dharma@livingdharma.org)

## MARCH BIRTHDAY

Brandon Kawaguchi, Kendra Kagawa, Brion Martinez, Edward Miyashiro, Cathy Nakano, Glen Fujimoto, Karolyn Fujimoto, Joy Kitaura, Kelley Sakoda, Kathy Masai, Bob Yamashita, Danny Iwama, Lee Ezaki, Karen Ezaki, Andrew Kenji Ezaki, Claire Hansen, Dick Koga, Leo Kowalski, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teragawa, Alyssa Arnheim, Dana Yamada, Gavin Godoy, John Erickson, Bruce Whang, Emi Wexler, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mitsuru Oshita, Tatsuo Okamura, Patricia Endo, Rev. Akira Miyoshi



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## *SOCIAL, con't from pg. 1*

tion seemed to be this: how do we approach cultural and political differences with others as Shin Buddhists? Rimban Briones answered this question in a really profound way. He stressed that Buddhism is centered on equality, which is depicted in the 48 Vows: "If, when I attain Buddhahood, humans and devas in my land should not all be the color of pure gold, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment." In other words, one cannot attain enlightenment unless all beings are seen as equal. The extraneous judgements we put on others are a result of our egos and highlight the shortcomings of human beings. Through the 48 Vows, it is apparent that Buddhism calls for humanity to look within themselves and understand that everyone is the same once you strip away the judgements, desires, and evils of human existence. The goal is interconnectedness, not otherness.

After the compelling lecture/

discussion and wild game night later in the evening I came to a realization. This retreat felt fundamentally different from the rest. Not because of the structure and content of the retreat, but because of how everything felt. I can't say whether the change was external or internal, but I felt more connected to the rest of the Sangha than ever. This could be a sign that after my twenty-five years of life I am no longer a child. It could also be that after three years of working in customer service I feel comfortable talking to anyone. Above all, I think that Buddhism has taught me that you can relate to anyone regardless of their race, age, socioeconomic status, or beliefs. The concept of "Oneness" embodies this idea. Everything and everyone is interconnected in this life and in recognizing this we can strive to create a better future for the Earth and for Humanity. For my final in my speech class last semester I chose to memorize a poem of Maya Angelou's

called "Human Family". This poem could not be more relevant in today's social and political climate, and it brought me back to the Dharma as I read the final lines: "We are more alike my friends than we are unlike." As long as we emphasize our similarities over our differences, or "seek unity in the midst of diversity", we can all come out the other side as better human beings.



## *RETREAT, con't from pg. 2*

The complexity and balance between my Buddhism and activism is something that I'm still figuring out, but the discussion during this retreat helped me reflect on myself a lot. It's odd to say that I feel refreshed by an emotional political dialogue, but I really did. I hope to have more meaningful conversations like this in the future.

## 21st Annual Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

The 21st Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday, May 5th, at Industry Hills Golf Club at Pacific Palms. This year the tournament will be played on the Babe Zaharias Course.

The entry fee is \$160 per player which includes your green fee, cart, putting contest, accuracy drive contest, longest drive contest, closest to the pin contest, hole-in-one on each par three, pre-tournament snacks, award dinner and prizes. Players will have the option to purchase "Mulligans" or do over shots. Dinner for non-golfers is \$45 per person.

The format will be a four man scramble with a shotgun start. Registration will begin at 11:00 am and the tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. The awards dinner and raffle will begin immediately following the tournament.

Golfers mark your calendar, Friday, May 5th and come out for a fun day of golf! If you do not golf, invite your golfing relatives and or friends.

As a golfer or non-golfer you can support WCBT with your sponsorship, donation of raffle prizes, snacks for the golfer's goodie bag or making spam musubi. Go beyond your personal support and ask your doctor, dentist, optometrist, hair stylist, employer or favorite restaurant for a sponsorship. The committee would like to make it clear that your sponsorship goes to the temple's general fund and does not in any way fund the golf tournament. In addition to your generous monetary donation you can volunteer to assist on the day of the tournament at the golf course.

For more information please contact any of the golf committee members: Roy Takemura, Barbara Shirota, Lillian Nishihara, Denise and Steve Underwood, Jack Wear, Phil Underwood or Rev. Miyoshi.



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA  
HIGASHI HONGANJI  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February 28, 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Spring Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2017. The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, March 19, 2017  
Time: 4:30 P.M.  
Dharma Message: Rev. Paul Imahara

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

Higan, meaning the Other Shore (of enlightenment), is a service is conducted on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment of the Buddhist life.

門信徒の皆様へ

春を感じる今日このごろ皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて春のお彼岸法要を下記の如くお勤め致しますのでご案内申し上げます。お彼岸は古く聖徳太子の時代より行われてきた伝統ある法要です。私ども先達はこの機会を仏様の教えを聞く良き機会としてまいりました。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

春のお彼岸法要

日 時 2017年3月19日 午後4時半

場 所 日系コミュニティセンター

法 話 今原ポール師 (英語)

\*法要後当番の皆様によるお齋がございます。

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister  
開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President  
理事長 マルチネス ジョン

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



T H E G A T E W A Y

# 2017 San Luis Obispo Retreat



*We began our annual SLO retreat on Friday night with a dinner at the Madonna Inn. Sangha members lead us in Shoshin-ge, gave kanwas and listened to Rimban Briones in an interactive dialog. The day's activities included a walk to the beach and Avila Farms, preparing meals, unique (sometimes strenuous) games, learning the "cha-cha", sharing meals and conversations with Sangha members and Qigong, a form of meditative exercise.*





T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y









WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

# Come feel the mix at **OLDIES LVI (56)!**

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

7:30 to 11:30pm

-  At the ESGV Japanese Community Center
-  Tickets: **\$20 presale**, \$25 at the door
-  Music by guest **DJ Willie Nagami**
-  Drinks available, must be 21 or over
-  Dressy Casual
-  For tickets and/or information

Call or Text:

Joanie: **(626)300-8947** (calls only)

Lillian: **(626)780-9866**

or email: **lilnish77@gmail.com** or

**joaniekmartinez@gmail.com**



WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.

**NO HEELS for Ladies.**







T H E G A T E W A Y

WCBT FAMILY  
REUNION

*Calling All Past and Current  
WCBT Members and their families!*



*You are all invited to join us for an  
afternoon of Games, Potluck Lunch  
and Good Times!*

Date: Sunday, April 30, 2017  
Service: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Fun & Food: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Place: West Covina Buddhist Temple  
(Social Hall)  
1203 West Puente Ave. West Covina, CA

Potluck Lunch

For More Information Contact: Pat Sato 626-330-4822  
pishsato@gmail.com

*HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL!*



T H E G A T E W A Y





## T H E G A T E W A Y

## 社会正義と仏教

ハリソン・ミシェル

2月10日から12日にかけての週末、今年もウェストコビナのリトリートがサン・ルイス・オビスポ仏教会で開催されました。今まで6回参加しましたが、今回は少し趣が違っていました。夕食後のゲーム大会が大いに盛り上がるのは今までと同じですが、一方で変わったなと思うところもありました。まず気づいたことは、スケジュールにとっても余裕があったことです。おかげでリラックスしてサン・ルイス・オビスポの美しい自然を楽しんだり、自分の時間を過ごす時間が十分にありました。また体を動かす時間がたくさんあったことも新鮮でした。ビーチまでの2.5マイルを散策したり（ちょうど雨に遭わずにもすみました）、気功で筋肉と気持ちをリラックスさせる時間も楽しかったです。さらに、これまでとの一番の違いは、講義のスタイルでした。今回はロサンゼルス西本願寺のブリオネス輪番が講師でしたが、選ばれたトピックは私たち誰もが関心を持っていたことだったので、それぞれが質問やコメントを出しやすい雰囲気を感じました。個人的にはこの変化は大歓迎でした。みんながお互いの思っていることを聞くことができたし、自分が積極的にこのリトリートに関わっていると実感することができたからです。参加者の熱意や努力のおかげでとても意義深い週末を過ごすことができました。

講義のテーマは「社会正義と仏教」で、まさに今私たちが置かれている状況に沿った内容でした。叔母と従姉妹のテイラーも一緒に参加していましたが、本当にたまたま、今回の道中ではそのことについて話をしていたところでした。今アメリカに住む誰もがこのことを考えていることと思います。だからこそ、誰もが自分の意見を持っていましたし、今の社会の変化にどう対応していくべきかということも真剣に話し合われました。もちろん政治的な問題は非常に微妙で話し合いが難しい問題でもあります。それだけに、参加者はお互いの意見に敬意を表し、それぞれの意見に真剣に耳を傾けていま

した。そこで話し合われたことの根本には私たちの誰もがもっている次のような疑問があったのではないのでしょうか。それは「正宗門徒として、文化や政治的な違いにどう向き合うべきか」という問題です。ブリオネス輪番はこの疑問に対して、仏教の根本は平等であるということを強調しました。そして、それが表現されている法蔵菩薩の48願のひとつ、「たとい我、仏を得んに、国の中の人天、ことごとく真金色ならずんば、正覚を取らじ。（第三願）」を紹介してくれました。これは言い換えれば、あらゆる人が平等の輝きに目覚めるとき、菩薩が悟りを得て仏になれるということをはっきりと宣言しているのです。逆に言うとこれは、私たちが自分の思い込みで常に人を批判してしまっているという問題を浮かび上がらせてくれているのではないかと思います。四十八の願を貫いている願いは、私たちは誰もが同じ問題をもっているし、同時に誰もが同じ輝きをもっている存在であるということ、そして私たちが自己に目を向け、自分勝手な思いや価値判断から解放された時、初めてこのことに気づくことができるということを教えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。

土曜日の日程を終えて、私はひとつのことに気がつきました。今回のリトリートは今までとは違う、と。なぜ違うと感じたのか、ということ考えた時、日程のスタイルが変わったというよりも、私自身の感じ方が変わったからではないか、と思ったのです。その変化がどこからもたらされたのかはわかりませんが、今回はお寺のメンバーの人たちに今までにないほど深い繋がりを感しました。25歳になってようやく大人の仲間入りをしたのかもしれませんが、また、3年間仕事を通して色々なお客さんと関わった経験によって、人と話すことに慣れたということもあるかもしれません。いずれにせよ、人種や年齢、社会的地位や信条などの違いに関わらず、私たちは人と通じ合うことができるのだということを、仏教は私に教えてくれました。一如という言葉が私たちに表現してくれている世界がそれなのかもしれません。あらゆる人、あらゆる物事と私たちは繋がって今の命を生きていま

す。そのことに本当に目覚めた時、地球や人類の未来をよりよくしたいという願いが私たちを動かす一歩となるのではないのでしょうか。前学期に受けたスピーチのクラスの期末発表で私はアンジェロウ・マヤの“Human Family”という詩を選びました。今の社会的、政治的現状にぴったりだと思ったからです。同時にその詩の最後の一文「友人とは違うところよりも、似ていることの方が多いのです」は、私を仏法へと呼び戻してくれました。私たちが互いの違いを超えて、共通の部分に目を向けることができれば、あるいは多様の世界の中で繋がりや道を求めることができれば、相手を思いやりより良い人間に近づくことができるのではないかと思うのです。

## お寺ニュース

## 日本語春のお彼岸法要

日本語春のお彼岸法要は3月法話会、祥月法要を兼ねて3月2日（木）午後7時よりお勤めいたします。

また英語によるお彼岸法要は3月19日（日）午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。今原ポール師をお招きして法話を聴聞します。英語法要にもご家族では是非お参りください。

4月の祥月法要は4月6日（木）午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。

Quote of the Month  
It is impossible to struggle  
for civil rights,  
equal rights for blacks,  
without including whites.  
Because equal rights,  
fair play, justice,  
are all like the air: we all  
have it, or none of us has it.  
That is the truth of it.  
-Maya Angelou

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** 

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**March**

- 2 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 18 12:00 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 19 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service
- 25 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

**April**

- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 1:00 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri  
(@Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin)
- 9 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 9 10:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class

2017年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
- 18日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 19日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要
- 25日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

4月行事予定

- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 8日 午後1時 仏連花祭り  
(於西本願寺羅府別院)
- 9日 午前8時半 理事会
- 9日 午前10時 花祭り法要

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本当に自分を知るには、  
やはり人という鏡がなくてはならない  
高光大船『道ここに在り』