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.

Social Justice and Buddhism
SLO Family Retreat
Michelle Harrison
WCBT Member

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-
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 Obon 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.

Please see RETREAT, con’t on pg. 4
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 ESVGJCC 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 LA Betsuin in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service.

MARCH BIRTHDAY
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 judgments 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 judgments, 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.
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事と存知ます。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。ご家族でご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斎がございます。

合掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister
John Martinez, President
開教使 見義信香
理事長 マルチネズ ジョン

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793
Telephone (626) 689-1040
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.
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

Come feel the mix at OLDIES LUI (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: llnish77@gmail.com or joaniekmartinez@gmail.com

NO HEELS for Ladies.
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!
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。ビーチでの2.5マイルを散策したり（ちょく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なので、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い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たので、すが、本当にたまたま、今回の道中ではそのことについて話していたのです。それに、本当にたまたま、今回の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じました。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。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が、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信じています。それが仏教に教えてくれたのです。一緒という言葉が私たちに表現されていてくれる世界がそれなのかかもしれない。あらゆる人、あらゆる物事と私たちは繋がって今こ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思いが私たちを動かす一歩となるのではないか。前学期に受けたスピーチのクラスの期末発表では私はアンジェロ・マヤの“Human Family”という詩を選びました。今この社会的、政治的現状にひたりだったからです。同時にこの詩の最後の一文「友人とは違うところよりも、似ているところの方が多いのです」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の道を求めることができるのでは、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います。

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。原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
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
   (于西本願寺羅府別院)
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

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』

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