Our hearts are with the victims and survivors of the Japan earthquake disaster. Namu Amida Butsu. If you’d like to donate, the homepage of the website has links to www.redcross.org (you can designate that your funds go to the “Japan earthquake and Pacific tsunami”) and to www.interaction.org (the site officially recommended by President Obama) for links to about 3 dozen other respected global aid organizations such as AmeriCares, UNICEF and Habitat for Humanity. To donate specifically to the hard hit Higashi Temples in the Tohoku region, please make your check out to “Higashi Hon-gaji.” Rev. Ken will see that they are delivered to our District office.

New on the Living Dharma Website is the report (published last month) on our SLO retreat, which featured the Dharma talk of Rev. Mas Kodani. There is a certain directness in his message which seems to flow from his insights into the core teachings of impermanence, non-duality, and non-self, and through which, we can sense the power of the Dharma. If Kodani sensei’s message resonated with you, check out one of his most memorable talks (also in our Library), “Discovering the Profoundly Beautiful.”

The WCBT Golf Tournament is one of our annual fundraisers, and it also has a connection to the Buddhist teachings. As Rev. Gyoko Saito once said, “The golf game is Buddhism. Our golf ball and our game don’t always go the way we wish they would, and neither does our life. That’s why we need the Buddhist teachings. We listen to the Buddha’s teaching for every thing in our life, so the golf game gives us the teaching of Buddha too.” Read more about this crucial connection between the teaching and our lives in Rev.

Please see L.D. NEWS, con’t on page 4

Then to her father, “Please come back alive, Dad!”

This episode reminded me that they are human beings and victims themselves of the tragedy. Some may have lost homes, family members, and yet they persevere willingly in inhuman conditions for the sake of the entire country...for the sake of the people in neighboring countries like Korea and China, even for us here in the United States.
The unimaginable circumstances facing the victims of the earthquake/tsunami in Japan have left us in disbelief with the overall feeling of helplessness. Our Dharma students may not be able to participate in monetary donations, but they can share feelings of sorrow and sympathy. We would like to invite all of our children to bring in drawings illustrating their friendship and concern for the surviving children of this catastrophic event.

Rev. Kawawata’s family’s temple is in the Kanto area of Japan, which is relatively close to the March 11th earthquake. With Sensei’s help, we will be able to send the drawings as encouragement to the children of the temple’s families.

With Gassho,
Diane Hata

Quote of the Month
Educated people, who look down on the illiterate, find, ultimately, that their knowledge is unreliable and useless. And the so-called foolish ones have the same worries as the well educated. Either way, we cannot separate ourselves from this, our actual world, and neither can we find true settlement in this, our actual world.

There is then no other way but to live this life with nembutsu, by entrusting in the Primal Vow. This is what Shinran realized through his own experience.

-Daiei Kaneko
WCBT Hanamatsuri

West Covina’s Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 3, 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 Bodhi Tree Band, and light refreshments will be served after the service. We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the Buddha’s birthday!

LABCF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service and Lectures “Omoiyari, Thoughtfulness” will be held on the April 10 beginning at 1:00 PM at Nishi Honganji in downtown LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABCF service after our Shotsuki Service.

Study Center Lecture Series

The Study Center Lecture Series continues in April with “Modern Thinkers of Shin Buddhism.” Rev. Nobuki Miyoshi will give the lectures on April 5th & 12th and Bishop Noriaki Ito will continue on April 19th & 26th. The lectures will be held every Tuesday evenings in April at 7:00 PM. For more information contact Rev. Ken.

Golf Classic

Mark your calendars for WCBT’s 15th Annual Golf Classic which will be held on Friday, May 6, at the Pacific Palms Golf Course in the City of Industry. It will be a shot-gun start at 1:00 PM. For more information contact Jack or Julie.

Mother’s Day Service

A Mother’s Day family service will be held on May 8, at 10:00 AM. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 29 at 10:00 A.M. with special guest speaker Rev. Ryoko Osa. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Ken if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Susan Oshima, Nancy Maekawa, Kevin Kawawata, Tommy Lespron, Yaeko Davis, Kristen Hiranoaka, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellis Komoda, Shakyakamuni Buddha
I was reminded of the story of Dharmākara Bodhisattva in the Larger Sutra of Eternal Life who raises 48 vows in order to establish the Pure Land before becoming Amida Buddha. In what we call the Primal Vow, he says, “I will not receive true enlightenment unless all sentient beings are delivered to the land of happiness.” In other words, he is saying that he will not enjoy enlightenment, he will not quit, until the suffering of all living beings is overcome.

In Mahayana Buddhism, such a promise is called the Bodhisattva vow. It is the example of true compassion, of promise is called the Bodhisattva vow. In what we call the Primal Vow, he says, “I will not receive true enlightenment unless all sentient beings are delivered to the land of happiness.” In other words, he is saying that he will not enjoy enlightenment, he will not quit, until the suffering of all living beings is overcome.

In Mahayana Buddhism, such a promise is called the Bodhisattva vow. It is the example of true compassion, of true dana or giving, the first of the teaching of the Six Paramitas. The ultimate gift we can give is to go to the extreme of giving up one’s life for the sake of others.

Upon reflection, therefore, I now think of those workers being subjected to conditions that likely will lead to severe illness and possibly death as true examples of Bodhisattvas. We all hope that they will succeed in their mission to prevent massive radioactive fallout. But even if they fail, they will be remembered as true heroes and heroines, as true examples of Bodhisattvas. Their stories inspire all of us, and give us hope for the future not only of Japan but for the entire world.

L.D. NEWS, con’t from page 1

Kawawata’s “Golf and Buddhism” sermon in our Library.

Gassho,

Peter Hata

Selected E-mail

From = [name withheld]
Subject = Video at Higashi 2/27
Message = Hi Peter,
You did an excellent job conducting the singing at Higashi and I enjoyed participating in the event. Will it available for purchase or can we later view at The Living Dharma or HHBT website?

Dear [name withheld],
I’m sure it will be available, but not where or how. Back in the fall of 2010, the impetus for this project originally was to present, through gatha singing, our North American District members to everyone at the Shinran Goenki Memorial in Osaka, Japan in May. So, as far as “when,” I think it’s safe to say this project will be finished before then!

Best Wishes,
Peter Hata

The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple

[Ed. Note: Despite the cancellation of the Japan program, the DVD will be completed soon and will definitely be shown at least at WCBT using the Center’s state of the art projector. DVD copies might be made, depending on demand.]

Hello Peter,
I was visiting the Watsonville Buddhist Temple a few weeks back and they were playing a wonderful CD of gathas. They told me the artist was Peter Hata. Would that be you? I would like to buy a copy for our temple (San Jose Betsuin) and for myself. Can you tell me where I could buy a copy, either on line, or in the Bay Area? I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Janice Doi

Hi Janice,
That would be me--I think some Watsonville people attended the 2010 Baby Boomer Seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center, where I presented those arrangements. Give me your address, and I’ll send you a copy. There’s no charge. In general, a gatha, like the Buddhadharma itself, is given away freely.

Gassho,

Peter Hata

From = Ben Vinluan
Subject = Invitation to Peace Pole dedication
Message = Rev. Kawawata: Please come to our dedication of the Peace Pole on April 3, at 10:30. We would like that the honor of your presence would enrich the experience of all - we will have Christian, Jewish, Muslim and also Buddhist to be present there. Thank you, and please get back to me soon! Dr. Ben Vinluan, Covina United Methodist Church, Covina, CA

Dear Ben Vinluan,
I’m very sorry for the delay in responding, and perhaps you’ve already finalized your program. My name is Peter Hata, and I’m a Minister’s Assistant at West Covina Buddhist Temple. I don’t believe Rev. Kawawata has responded to you yet, but if he has, you can disregard this message. Rev. Kawawata has been very busy lately because one of our sister temples in Newport Beach has had administrative issues requiring Kawawata-sensei’s intervention. The problems are still ongoing, and I don’t believe he will be available on April 3. However, the last time I spoke with him about your invitation, he said WCBT would be happy to attend, though we’d have to see who might be able to go. Your event coincides with our Sunday Service, for which we already needed to find a substitute for Rev. Kawawata!

If your invitation still holds, let me know, and I will see to it that either myself, our other Minister’s Assistant, or one of our active Sangha (congregation) members will definitely attend.

Thank you, and once again my apologies for the delay.
Peter Hata

Subject: Re: Invitation to Peace Pole dedication
From: Ben & Gerda Vinluan
To: The Living Dharma Website
Dear Mr. Hata:
Thank you so much for your response to my previous email to Rev. Kawawata. I’m so sorry to know that Rev. Kawawata is having to serve beyond his usual task, but I’m hopeful and praying that he will be able to help resolve the problems he is being called upon to help resolve. Thank you for being so gracious to offer to find someone else to take his place to respond to our invitation. However, I was so concerned when I failed to hear from him and, therefore, scrambled to find other possibilities. I therefore found someone else to pick up the slack. I’m sure there will be
other times when we could make con-
tact with you again for possible coop-
erative endeavor, for the sake of peace
and understanding in our communities
and the world.
Again thank you, and may God bless
you and the congregation at West Co-
vina Buddhist Temple. Kindly convey
to Rev. Kawawata my warm greetings.
Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Ben Vinluan

From = Jason Higgins
Subject = Living with monks
Message = Hello, I’m not sure really
how to ask this but I will try. Buddhism
has always interested me. Recently I
was involved in an accident and it had
made me see life differently. I stand to
get some compensation and with this
money would like to travel. Even more
so, I would like to live with Buddhist
monks and learn their ways without
becoming one. Is this possible? If so,
please could you help me find how to
go about it, as I can find nothing on the
Internet but articles!
Many thanks
Jason Higgins

Dear Jason,
Like you, Buddhism interests me greatly.
Like you, I was in an accident some time
ago. It affirmed dramatically the truth of
Buddhist impermanence! Now, to answer
your question: Yes. It is possible to live
with Buddhist monks without being one.
Many temples and monasteries offer the
possibilities of attending retreats, which I
highly recommend. You do not say where
you live, so I will point you to two web
buddhanet.info and <http://www.dharma-
et.org>www.dharmnet.org -- they both
have excellent directories to various temples
and centers. You will discover that there is
immense variety in Buddhist schools. Some
are very colorful, some austere. Many are
ethnic oriented, but the good ones will be
open to all.
Now you need to do some homework. You
are planning on committing your time,
and finances -- most temples, retreats,
will expect (encourage) donations to cover
your room and board. You need to choose
wisely. Is there a particular tradition that
you are curious about, or that would fit
your needs? There’s Zen, Tibetan, Ther-
avadin, and so on. Are there techniques
you want to explore? There’s Vipasanna,
Metta, Koan, Sitting, and so on. But much
more importantly, you need to think about
what your motivation is. What is it you
really want to do and why? Many flee to
a monastery thinking they can avoid the
distractions of the world, but they find that
they brought the world with them anyway.
There’s no escaping it. A fundamental Bud-
dhist truth is that your mind IS the world.
Buddhism is not about getting away from
distractions. It is about dealing with dis-
tractions. What is enlightenment? If your
bowl is dirty then you clean it. That’s it.
Do what needs to be done. Give attention
to what needs to be attended to. “After the
ecstasy, the laundry.” Buddhism is about
living your life, not running away from it.
Having said all this, let me recommend that
you seek a nearby temple to attend. Get to
know the people, hear the teachings, learn
to listen. Beware of “guruism”. You do not
want to be caught up in slavishly follow-
ing any teacher. You want to know if your
teacher is a student too. That he/she is open
to learning. Once you’ve settled within a
Sangha the opportunities of a retreat will be
more meaningful for you.
As you’ve written our website, let me share
a little about us. We don’t have monks
or monasteries. Not all of Buddhism is
monastically driven. Jodo Shinshu, or Shin
Buddhism, is lay oriented, family oriented,
living the Dharma in the world. We do offer
retreats. Our temple just held one recently.
I am attaching a copy of our newsletter
dealing with our retreat in order to give
you an idea of what is talked about and
shared. You might find it interesting, I hope
inspiring! Anyway, I think if you really
want to get to know Buddhism you should
find a temple, a sangha, to be with, the rest
will follow.
Good fortune to you! Let us know how it
goes.
Gassho,
Fred Brennon

From = George

Subject = Obon
Message = When is the event scheduled
for 2011? Do you teach obon dancing
prior the the festival?

Dear George,
Our Obon festival is scheduled for Satur-
day, June 25. And yes, there are classes for
the Obon dancing! Obon Odori (dance)
practice will begin in June, every Tuesday
and Friday, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. All you
need to bring are your kachi-kachi (casta-
nets) and tenugui (Japanese towel) or fabric
equivalent size. The fans will be provid-
ed. Everyone is invited to join in the fun.
I hope you will enjoy our coming Obon. It is
a lot of fun, with many activities, excellent
food, and good people to meet!
Gassho,
Fred Brennon

From = Eric Matsumoto
Subject = Visiting the Temple
Message = Hello, my name is Eric
Matsumoto, and I’m a senior at Azusa
Pacific University. I am a co-leader
for a missions team of 7 people going
to Japan this summer, and we would
like to visit a local Japanese Buddhist
temple to learn more about Buddhism
and Japanese culture, and experience it
firsthand so we can better understand
the context of the Japanese people.
However, we do not wish to intrude or
disrupt anything uninvited, and there-
fore we would like to ask if it is pos-
sible for us to visit your temple service
prior the the festival?

Dear Eric,
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L.D. NEWS, cont from page 4

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L.D. NEWS, cont from page 4

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a lot of fun, with many activities, excellent
food, and good people to meet!
Gassho,
Fred Brennon

From = George
L.D. NEWS, con’t from page 9

Website. As to your question, we get regular visitors from your school. In fact, we just had several students visit this past Sunday. You are welcome to come to any service (http://www.livingdharma.org/Calendar.html), and after most services, we have an informal discussion group when you can ask questions.

Best Wishes,
Peter Hata

To: dharma@livingdharma.org
From: “Bobbi Allan”
Subject: Stillness in Action news Jan 2011

Mindfulness for School teachers: During the past six months I have been researching the benefits of introducing Mindfulness training into schools. Focused awareness, as cultivated through mindfulness, helps students by improving attention, promoting academic achievement, reducing problem behaviours and increasing enthusiasm for learning. But the greater educational potential of mindfulness goes beyond raising test scores. Mindfulness has much to offer as educators address other intractable problems of education through facilitating the flexible transfer of skills and knowledge to new contexts, developing deep understanding of student motivation and engagement, strengthening critical and creative thinking, and fostering more self-directed learners.

As the problems caused by climate change and the depletion of the earth’s resources become increasingly urgent, we will all need to know how to manage our minds, our thoughts and emotions. We will need enormous amounts of patience, steadiness, flexibility, creativity and resourcefulness. Introducing Mindfulness training to schools will help the next generations to stay calm, and to think and act creatively and collaboratively.

As I write that, the poet Deena Metzger’s words come to mind:
We are setting fire to our world.
We are in danger.
There is time only to work slowly.
There is no time not to love.

There are schools around the world with Mindfulness programs, and the body of research supporting the benefits is growing. I want to support this movement, but as my skills are in working with adults, not children, I am focusing on introducing mindfulness to teachers.

Bobbi Allen
www.stillnessinaction.net
東日本大震災に寄せて

ロサンゼルス東本願寺別院
輪番 伊東憲昭

日本の大地震と津波による被害そして人々の苦しみの姿は、連日私たちの目に焼き付いております。被災者や原発事故の恐怖に直面している方々に対し、私たちは太平洋を境にしてなすべきもなく無力さを感じております。この記事を書いている今、死者数は1万人に近づくところとなっています。

政府や発電所の職員がこれ以上の被災を食い止めてくれるように、報道ニュースを見ながら願っています。

ツイッターに作業員の娘からのこんなつぶやきがありました。

「お父さん原発行っちゃったよ。母さんがあんなに泣いたの初めて聞いた。原発の人たちは自分を犠牲にみんなを守ろうと必死なんだよ みんな生きてほんとに生きて 原発の人たちは無駄にしないで お父さん生きて戻ってきてくれ。」

危険な作業に命を掛けて立ち向かう技術者について、この言葉を読んで私は初めて一人一人の人間を想像しました。作業を行っているのはロボットではなく一人の人間なのです。しかも、大災害の被災者であり、中には家や家族を失ったかもおられるでしょう。このような悲惨きわまりない状況下に耐えて、日本のためにまた近隣の韓国や中国のために、そしてここアメリカのために最前線で努力を続けています。

お寺ニュース

花祭り法要

花祭り法要は4月4日午前10時より厳修いたします。この花祭りでは毎年皆様にお花をお持ちください。花御堂をお飾りし、お釈迦さまの誕生を祝います。法要後、日曜学校子ども達の物語などがあります。その後リフレッシュメントもございます。ご家族でお参りください。

WCBT ゴルフ基金募集

今年のお寺のゴルフ大会は5月6日午後1時よりインダストリーヒルスゴルフクラブにて開催されます。参加者、またティースポンサーおよびブックレットの広告を募集しております。みなさまのご協力をお願い申し上げます。参加費は一人160ドルで大会後の夕食が含まれております。この大会はお寺の大事な基金募集一つであります。どうぞお知り合いの方にもお知らせください。626-913-0622

母の日家族礼拝

5月7日（日）午前10時より母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年にごくも会員の方の母の日メッセージがございます。また青年会では母の日朝食を用意し、ダルマスクールでは素敵なプレゼントをお作りのお母さん、おばあちゃんに用意しております。みなさまお参りください。

WCBT スタディーセンター

春のレクチャー

前号にてお知らせしましたが、この4月5日より恒例の春のレクチャーが行われます。この度は別院より見義信

4月祥月法要

法話会花まつり法要

4月7日 午後7時半
April
3  8:30 am  Board Meeting
3  10:00 am  WCBT Hanamatsuri Service
5  7:00 pm  WCBT Study Center Lecture
7  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
10 10:00 am  Shotoku Service
10 1:00 pm  LABCW Hanamatsuri @Nishi Honganji
12 10:00 am  Bonbu Class
12  7:00 pm  WCBT Study Center Lecture
17 10:00 am  Sunday Service
19  7:00 pm  WCBT Study Center Lecture
24 10:00 am  Sunday Service
25 10:00 am  Bonbu Class
26  7:00 pm  WCBT Study Center Lecture

May
1  8:30 am  Board Meeting
1 10:00 am  Shotoku Service
5  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
6  1:00 pm  WCBT Golf Tournament
8 10:00 am  Mother's Day Family Service
10 10:00 am  Bonbu Class
15 10:00 am  Sunday Service
22 10:00 am  Sunday Service
29 10:00 am  Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
31 10:00 am  Bonbu Class

4月行事予定

3日  午前8時半  理事会
3日  午前10時  花祭り法要
7日  午後7時半  法話会
10日 午前10時  祥月法要

12日 午後1時  同信会座談会
17日 午前10時  日曜法要
24日 午前10時  日曜礼拝
26日 午後1時  同信会座談会

5月行事予定

1日  午前8時半  理事会
1日 午前10時  祥月法要
5日 午後7時半  法話会
6日 午後1時  ゴルフトーナメント
8日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
10日 午後1時  同信会座談会
15日 午前10時  日曜礼拝
22日 午前10時  日曜礼拝
29日 午前10時  親鸞聖人誕生会／初参り法要
31日 午後1時  同信会座談会