



GATEWAY



August 2011 -- Vol. XLV No. 8

Living Dharma News

www.livingdharma.org

At the July 17 Obon Service, the Sangha enjoyed watching the movie *Three Gathas*, which was produced by members of WCBT and features the singing of our four North American District Sanghas—Los Angeles Betsuin, Newport Beach, Berkeley, and WCBT. It really looked and sounded great on the Community Center's state of the art LCD projection system. There were lots of smiles (and some outright laughs) as our members viewed the movie. If you missed it, perhaps it can be shown again at a later date. Alternatively, I may be able to put a web-friendly version of it on our website.

In other news, I heard that Rev. Kodo Umezu, Director of the Jodo Shinshu Center's Center for Buddhist

Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 3



Fred Brenion, with wife Antoinette, and Peter Hata, with wife Diane, were congratulated by Rev. Ken Kawawata and the WCBT Sangha for their Tokudo Ordination on July 12, 2011 (see more tokudo pics on page 2)

Obon Festival 2011 By Lilian Nishihara

What a wonderful time we all had as many friends and families gathered at our Obon 2011 to observe the deep appreciation for our ancestors. Great food and entertainment were enjoyed by all.



WCBT's Joanie Martinez (with wireless mic and shades) did a great job as the announcer for the Bon Odori dancing!

Our food booths had a fresh savory look as we set up our just-purchased pop-up tents with surrounding mesh to ensure healthy handling of our delicious food. The Beer Garden looked inviting as always for our adult guests. The gym was once again filled with various displays of flower arrangements and traditional Japanese arts and crafts. We were also treated to demonstrations from the rigorous martial arts to the tenderly-performed classical Japanese odori and Japanese Minyo folk dancing. Bingo also had a new look as our former Jr.YBA members showed leadership and responsibility of running a very successful bingo. The social hall was occupied most of the time as many players enjoyed dining and playing at the same time. It seems that interest in bingo increased proportionately with the increased jackpot prize money.

Manto-e service provided a pause to give us a moment to think about the

meaning of Obon. As Rev. Ken performed the service, many people were left to reflect upon our appreciation of the ancestors who gave us life and culture. Then a record number of dancers lined up in the parking lot ready for the highlight of the evening: Bon Odori. This year we had the pleasure of having our own Joanie Martinez reading the description of each song and giving us a deeper appreciation for the music and the dance. It was obvious that Jen-

Please see OBON, con't on page 6

Temple Event Highlights:

- Aug. 7, Shotsuki Service
- Aug. 12-14, Las Vegas Trip
- Sept. 11 Shotsuki Service
- Sept. 18, Ohigan Service
- Sept. 24, Oldies Dance
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Thoughts

A Child's Point of View
 Yeah! No summer school!
 Play, run, sing, dance, skate, swim,
 ride...
 What? Tired? Me? No way!

Parent's Point of View

Too muggy, so hot!
 Give us a break, kids, ok?
 Relax and drink some water.

Teen's Point of View

Wh-a-at?! Why summer school?
 Time for my brain to chill out!
 D'you see my cell phone?

Gassho,
 Diane Hata



Shinran Shonin

Quote of the Month

Life is short and no one knows what the next moment will bring. Open your mind while you have the opportunity, thereby gaining the treasures of wisdom, which in turn you can share abundantly with others, bringing them happiness.

-Dogen

TOKUDO ORDINATION PICS



Clockwise: Fred & Peter say "sayonara" to Rev. Ken @ LAX; Okamisori!; wearing the jo-e (burlap robes) at start of ordination

Above: Honzan's Oshinden Hall, where 95 ordination candidates received homyo/tokudo certificates
 Below: Peter, Fred, Socho Ko Yasuhara, Bishop Nori Ito in the Socho's office after ceremony.



Left: Peter & Fred pose for Ito-sensei's camera in front of the Honzan's courtyard; at right, the two say "Hello" to Rev. Ken @ LAX!





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Las Vegas Trip

WCBT will be sponsoring a fundraising trip to Las Vegas on the weekend of August 12-14. We will be trying a different venue this year, the Imperial Palace, one of Caesars Entertainment Hotels, located on the Strip. It is nestled between Harrah's and the Flamingo Hotel and walking distance to Bally's, Paris, Planet Hollywood and Caesars Palace. The New Miracle Mile Shops in Planet Hollywood, Hotel Aria next to the Bellagio with its famous fountain are all within walking distance from the Imperial Palace. (Remember, if you get tired, there's the monorail for \$5.00) Our own "bus run" to the Premium Outlet will be scheduled on Saturday from approximately 10 – 3. Last but not least, Smokey Robinson presents Human Nature (the Australian Jersey Boys who sing Motown hits) may also be available on Saturday night if there is enough interest.

The \$140 per person fee for double occupancy will include round-trip bus fare, two nights at the Imperial Palace, driver's tip and lots of fun and games. A light dinner and beverage will be served on the ride to Las Vegas. As always, feel free to bring snacks for sharing.

The bus departs on Friday, August 12 promptly at 4:00 PM from ESGVJCC. The return bus departs on Sunday, August 14 promptly at 11:30 AM from the Imperial Palace.

August Schedule

The August board meeting will be held 8:30 AM on August 7 followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00 AM. We will then take our annual summer break so there are no Sunday Services on August 14, 21, 28 and September 4. Regular services will resume again on September 11.

Fall Ohigan

The Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 18 at 4:30 PM. Joining us, as our special speaker, will be Rev. Peter Hata and Rev. Fred Brenion. Please help us welcome our new reverends and stay for the complimentary *otoki* dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance XXXX

"10 Four's, We'll Dance Some More" is set for Saturday, September 24. Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution will provide our favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. The dance begins at 8:00 PM and will end at 12:00 AM with lots of good fun in between. Presale tickets are \$12 or \$15 at the door. For info and song requests, call Joanie at (626) 284-8192 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 the Sunday service.

GATEWAY Staff

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West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:

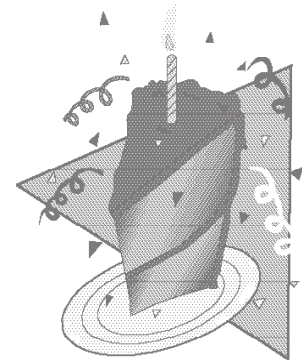
In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

The Temple's mailing address is:

West Covina Buddhist Temple
P. O. Box 1616
West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 913-0622

Website: www.livingdharma.org

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org



Left: At WCBT's Obon/Hatsubon Service on July 19, 2011, Rev. Mas Kodani spoke about the Bon Odori and our ego self; right, our two new reverends, Rev. Peter and Rev. Fred

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS
Brittany Kato, Wesley Hamachi, K.C. Koga, Mark Mayeda, Brian Iwama, Aaron Aoki, Rick Fujimoto, Sachi Ezaki, Sharon Kuwahara, Chico Masai, Vicki Takemura, Joy Ormseth, Frederic Brenion, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata



T H E G A T E W A Y

OBON FESTIVAL 2011





T H E G A T E W A Y

OBON FESTIVAL 2011





T H E G A T E W A Y

OBON, con't from page 1

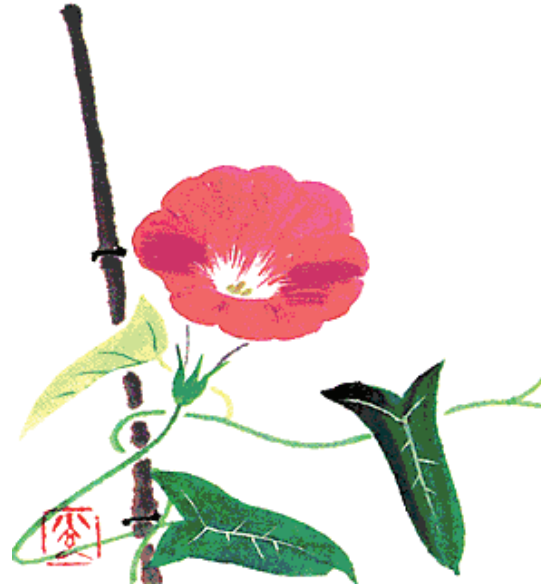
nifer Higa did a great job of teaching the Bon dances in the previous weeks as we observed the enchanting sight of dancers, both young and old, joyfully dancing to the music and the beat of the taiko drum.

We also had the great fortune of receiving a lot of help from many outside sources: various companies that donated tons of fruit and veggies via Dick Koga; outside vendors and demonstrators who added creativity and tradition to the festivities; Gail of OCBC (WCBC's Stephanie Jitoshō also helped teach the bon dances), the Minyo dance members who helped Jennifer with the Bon Odori, and the list goes on. Of course, our Obon could never take place without the unrelenting dedication and hard work of our own temple family members who volunteer their precious time year after year. It is truly amazing to see all of us coming together to endure and accomplish one formidable task after another during the Obon season. I feel fortunate to always have this opportunity to work with individuals like you who do it because "it's our job." I hope the feeling of thankfulness and gratitude reaches your heart, and please know that each and everyone of you are very much appreciated.

In Gassho,
Lillian Nishihara
Obon Chair

L.D. NEWS, con't from page 1

Education, was recently invited to give a talk at the United Nations in New York City for their observance of Vesak, commemorating the 2600th year of the Buddha's Enlightenment, a very auspicious occasion. I asked him for a copy of his talk, entitled "Peace, Harmony, and Co-Existence" to share with our website visitors, and he kindly obliged. Interestingly, he said that even at the UN, things did not go smoothly, "We were given a ten-minute time frame, but some other speakers took too much time. So in order to keep peace, harmony, and co-existence with the other



speakers, I cut my message short." But regardless of short or long, I think it's great that Shinshu is slowly becoming a little more well-known in the West, not to mention internationally at the U.N. Look for Umezu-sensei's talk in our website's Real World Section.

Gassho,
Peter Hata

Selected E-mail

From: Virginia Cain
Subject: Info
To: dharma@livingdharma.org
Dear To Whom This May Concern,
Hello. I am an anthropology major at Cal Poly Pomona and for my Religion Anthropology class I have a participant-observation assignment where I explore a ceremony of a different religion. Can you please give me more info on up coming ceremonies and best days to observe ceremonies and tour information. Also, is there a dress code when visiting and if I bring my Buddha statue may it be blessed? Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your help and time.
Sincerely,
Virginia C.

Dear Virginia,

Please check the temple calendar on our website (livingdharma.org). You are welcome to attend any of our services; our rituals vary somewhat from service to service, but the essential rituals are always present. There is no formal dress code, but in practice it might be best described as "business casual" or "dressy casual"; in other words, no different from most other churches or temples.

Regarding your statue, our Shin tradition does not "bless" objects of worship per se. However, if you attend our service and hear some aspect of the Buddhist teachings that you find meaningful, your statue will automatically have more meaning to you. In that sense, your personal listening to the teachings, is the best "blessing" your statue could possibly receive.

Gassho,
Peter Hata

From = Sofan Chan
Subject = Buddha Paintings
Message = Hello there,
I'm Sofan Chan a painter and I came across your very informative website and I was wondering if you would like to use any of my Buddha paintings on your posts and articles or as a resource material: <http://www.theartofhappiness.net/buddha-paintings.htm>



T H E G A T E W A Y

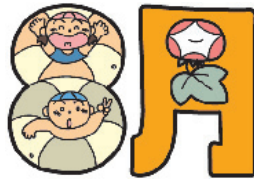
得度お祝い

河和田賢淳

去る7月7日、ウエストコピナ東本願寺のご門徒の幡ピーター氏並びブレニオンフレッド氏が京都の東本願寺において得度式を受けられ、真宗大谷派の僧侶となりました。両氏は長きに渡り当寺のご門徒として仏法聴聞並びに積極的にお寺の教化活動に中心となって活動されて参りました。お寺では教化委員会が10数年前に組織され両氏ともに委員長を務められました。また同じ頃ご門徒の方々が日曜礼拝時にお話をするプログラムも始められ、お二人は何度もこのプログラムに参加されてお話をされておりました。その後2007年より開教使アシスタントの養成プログラムが始まりました。このプログラムでは仏教、浄土真宗の教えまたお読経の練習がカリキュラムとして生まれ、もっと積極的にお寺をまた開教使の援助をしたいとの願いを持ってこのプログラムに参加されました。お二人共に2009年このプログラムを終えられの当寺50周年慶讃法要の折にその終了証が授与されました。両氏はその後さらに真宗の僧侶となりまた大谷派の教師資格を取得しお寺やこの北米開教区のお手伝いをされたという願いをもたれ、その後3回の研修（一回3日間泊まり込みの研修）を受けられ教師取得を目指しておられます。この度は得度式にてお剃刀をうけられ正式な大谷派僧侶として新たなる歩みを始められました。またこの後論文を提出しその審査の後、来年には再度

本山にて研修を受けられ大谷派教師の資格を取得される予定です。

このアメリカの地よりこの国で生まれ育った方が僧侶になられ多くの方が親鸞聖人の教えを聞かれ、お念仏の教えが広く聞かれるように念じます。お二人に心からお祝いを申し上げます。またウエストコピナ東本願寺の新たなる時代の始まりとなる事です。これからお二人をまた今まで同様にご協力をお願い申し上げます。



お寺ニュース

8月日本語祥月・法話会

定例日本語祥月法要並び法話会は8月4日午後7時半よりお参りされます。どうぞお友達をお誘いの上お参りください。

お彼岸法要

秋のお彼岸法要は9月18日（日）午後4時半よりお参り致します。どうぞ今から予定に入れておいて下さい。法要後お斎の接待もごございます。

オールディーズダンス基金募集

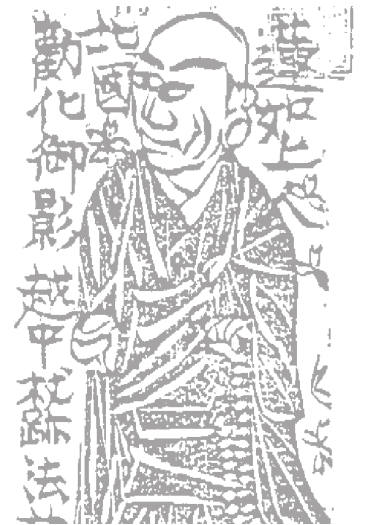
秋のオールディーズダンス基金募集は9月25日（土）午後8時より開催されます。若い方々にお薦めいただきますようお願い致します。

ラスベガス基金募集旅行

前号にてお知らせしましたが8月12日ー14日お寺のラスベガス旅行が行なわれます。8月8日午後4時センターよりバスが発致します。今年の宿泊はストリップ街にあるインペリアルパレスです。参加費は交通費、宿泊費が含まれ140ドルです。まだ少し座席がごございますのでご参加ください。申し込みは西原リリアン夫人（626）780-9866または河和田開教使までご連絡ください。

日本語座談会開催

来る9月より日本語座談会を再会致したいと思います。この座談会は第二火曜日第三火曜日の午後1時よりセンターで行われます。テキストとして「親鸞、生涯と教え」を使用いたします。どうぞご参加ください。



8月法話会／祥月法要

8月4日

午後7時半

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
1203 West Puente Avenue
West Covina, California 91790
(626) 913-0622

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GATEWAY

August 2011 - - Vol. XLV No. 8

August

- 4 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 7 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12-14 Las Vegas Trip
- 14 No Sunday Service
- 21 No Sunday Service
- 28 No Sunday Service

September

- 1 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 No Sunday Service
- 11 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 11 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 13 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 18 4:30 pm Ohigan Service
- 24 8:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00 am Bonbu Class

8月行事予定

- 4日 午後7時半 法話会
- 7日 午前8時半 理事会
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 12-14日 ラスベガス旅行基金募集
- 14日 日曜礼拝お休み
- 21日 日曜礼拝お休み
- 28日 日曜礼拝お休み

9月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時半 法話会
- 4日 日曜礼拝お休み
- 11日 午前8時半 理事会
- 11日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 18日 午後4時半 お彼岸法要
- 24日 午後8時 オールディスダンス
- 25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Living Dharma News	1	Quote of the Month	2
Obon Report	1	Temple News	3
Tokudo Pics	2	Acknowledgments	6
D.S.News	2	Japanese Page	7

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あなたを

生きている

宗祖親鸞聖人750回御遠忌テーマ