



GATEWAY



July 2011 -- Vol. XLV No. 7

Living Dharma News
www.livingdharma.org

By the time you read this, our 2011 Obon Festival will be behind us, and I certainly hope that it will have turned out to be a success. We usually think of "success" in material terms, especially since the Obon is our primary fundraiser. But the underlying reason why we should care about our fundraisers is because they support our efforts to study and share the Shinshu teachings with others. These timeless teachings themselves have a significance that transcends even the concerns most community organizations view as crucial to their success, such financial budgets and cultural values.

With this bigger picture in mind, new on the website is a timely article by Dr. Alfred Bloom, "Issues in Propagation of Shin Buddhism in the West." Dr. Bloom is one of the teachers most influential to the Living Dharma Website. It could be said that our website was created precisely for the reasons outlined in his article. For example, he notes the 2004 research (published by Tricycle Magazine) of Princeton University sociologist Dr. Robert Wuthnow, which estimated the number of people expressing an interest in Buddhism at approximately 12% of the U.S. population. In a local sense, that means that one out of every eight houses in any neighborhood is sympathetic to the Buddhist teachings, which is an incredibly high number of people. I would venture a guess that this far exceeds the number of people that might express an interest in say, Japanese culture. But then the obvious question he asks is, "In view of this extensive impact of Buddhism on contemporary society, we must examine the reasons for the decline of interest that the Japan-based sects [i.e., the two Hon-ganjis] have experienced. Originally, they accompanied the contract laborers



Above: At WCBT's Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service, Rev. Ryoko Osa and Rev. Ken Kawawata pose with Hatsumairi participant Ella Tomita and proud dad Glen.

2011 Obon "Thanks"

While we usually delay the publishing of the July *Gateway* in order to include coverage of the Obon Festival, due to schedule conflicts the staff needed to publish the July issue before the Obon. Still, since the event will have concluded by the time this issue is read, on behalf of Obon Chair Lillian Nishi-

hara and Temple President Johnny Martinez, we'd like to take this opportunity to "prematurely" (albeit sincerely) thank all of our temple members, friends, and supporters. Thank you all for all hard work!

Full coverage will be included in our August issue.

who came to Hawaii, the US mainland and Canada in the 19th century. Why are they not benefiting from the current rise in Buddhist popularity?," in other words, why is membership generally shrinking?

Even though the Living Dharma Website was formed in 1997, we (i.e., the committee headed by Rev. Motohiro Kiyota, WCBT's minister at the time) had the same issues back then. In those days, we noted the significant use of Buddhist themes in mainstream American movies of the 1990s such as *Little Buddha*, *Seven Years in Tibet*, *Kundun*,

Groundhog Day, and *American Beauty* (see these and more Buddhist Movie Reviews in the Real World section of

Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 4

Temple Event Highlights:

- July 3 Shotsuki Service
- July 17, Obon/Hatsu Bon Service
- Aug. 12-14, Las Vegas Trip
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It is amazing to watch all the Sangha members who come together to prepare and then work at our annual Obon festival. What is equally amazing is the tremendous dana in the form of wonderful prizes and tasty candies, which eventually wind up in the hands of all the kids who play our games and/or participate in the children's raffle. We extend a special thanks to the Sr. YBA who shared their accumulation of toys with the Dharma school.

Hopefully we will all be rejuvenated enough in the coming weeks to help other temples dance the night away to the beat of the taiko and the wonderful sounds with which many of us grew up hearing! Cho-chon, ga-chon!

With Gassho,
Diane Hata

FATHER'S DAY 2011!



OLDIES DANCE JUNE 2011!



Quote of the Month

The spirit and ideal of Shin Buddhism offers a world of equality, a life of meaning and a goal of peace. When its spirit is released into the world, the Vow will become a force to advance the life of all people. This is our mission; this is the meaning of propagation.

-Dr. Alfred Bloom





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Obon & Hatsubon Service

Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 17 at 4:30 PM. Come and join us as we welcome the popular Rev. Masao Kodani and share in the Dharma as he gives his engaging Obon talk. Please remain for the complimentary *otoki* dinner that will follow the service.

Betsuin Obon Festival

The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 30-31. WCBT will again be selling our popular tamales. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming services so please find a time you can help in the tamale booth and join in the dancing and festivities at the Betsuin Obon.

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 t 11:30 AM from the Imperial Palace.

There are only two spaces left so if you're interested in going please contact Lillian Nishihara (626-780-9866) or Ted Kato (626) 918-2680 for applications.

GATEWAY Staff

Layout & Editing: Peter Hata, Hisako Koga, Rev. Kenjun Kawawata

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Circulation: Mary Hatakeyama

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

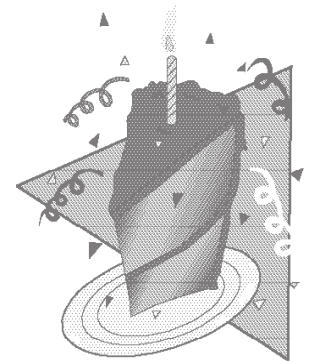
Website: www.livingdharma.org

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

Bodhi Tree Band@Monterey Park PlayDays!



Clockwise from left: Bodhi Tree@WCBT rehearsal; Leo Kowalski, Matt Ormseth; Sean Underwood; Yazmin Whang; Noah Kowalski; Peter Hata introduces the band (at Barnes Park)



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jamie Nakatani, Kevin Hata, Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez, Lori Haitzuka, Laura Miyake, Margaret Takemoto, Ryoko Kodama, Richard Haraguchi, Craig Taguchi, Corey Taguchi, Terri Takemura, Malee Cordova, Ralph Cordova, Pat Sato, Garrett Kawaguchi, Marcus Nishihara, Lillian Nishihara, Vincent Lespron, Kurt Kowalski, Jamie Teragawa, Jonathan Hoey, Jeffrey Akune



T H E G A T E W A Y

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

the website). At the same time, with a few exceptions, there seemed to be no such "buzz" amongst our predominantly Japanese-American Shin Sanghas.

Dr. Bloom feels that the solution to this issue is that "Japan-based Buddhism must transform from a Japanese religion to an American religion." He is not, of course, calling for some kind of "patriotic Buddhism" (an oxymoron, to be sure), or suggesting that American Shin Buddhists should arrogantly "proclaim" the virtues of Shinshu over those of other teachings and faiths. Rather, he's simply stating that emphasis should be placed, in everyday language, on communicating the universal relevance of Shinshu in order that it may resonate beyond the "walls" that our traditionally Japanese-centric terms, rituals, and ceremonies often create for non-Japanese visitors.

This is one reason why some temples, including WCBT, are instituting new Western-style lecture classes in order to make the teaching more accessible. Also on the positive side, Dr. Bloom cites other signs of progress towards this goal, such as the domestic Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) designed to train Shin laity. Thanks to Rev. Kawawata's guidance, both Fred Brenion and myself have participated in this program. Of course, since Fred and I have gone on to seek Tokudo, we still must receive this ordination at the Honzan in Kyoto. Yet it is a clear sign of progress that Americans wishing to serve Shinshu can receive most of their training here in the Los Angeles area (or all of it, in the case of the MAP).

Dr. Bloom discusses many valuable suggestions to help guide our Sanghas as we strive to share the teachings in America. Overall, I think what distinguishes his call to action from the often-heard and sometimes even desperate call to "build Sangha" is his deep insight into the teaching as being a life-long process of learning, and his sincere personal gratitude for the positive role the teachings have played in his own life. Jodo Shinshu is a pre-

vious teaching that should have wider exposure in America so that people can reflect on its teachings, decide for themselves to follow it, and receive its benefits.

Gassho,
Peter Hata

Selected E-mail

Dear Living Dharma,
Hello. My name is Christian. I'm a 26 year old man from the city of Covina. I've been studying Buddhism on my own for a few years. I first read "The Naked Buddha" by Ven. Adrienne Howley. Then I started listening to online radio teachings and a podcast called "Audio Dharma" from the Insight Meditation Center in Redwood City, CA. Now I'm looking for a class and a teacher locally, to learn more about meditation and other Buddhist practices.

I have searched online and clicked on many links to Buddhist places locally, however all of them only have classes on the weekend and I work far away Friday-Sunday.

In short; Can you please help me find any Buddhist classes locally that are held anytime during the week (Monday through Thursday)? By locally, I mean within a 30 minute drive from the city of Covina, CA.

Thank you for you time,
Christian

*Dear Christian,
Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, the only such classes I'm aware of locally are the "Bombu" classes held at our own West Covina Buddhist Temple. Here are the upcoming classes. See our Calendar Page for more info (<http://www.livingdharma.org/Calendar.html>). There is no charge for the classes, which are taught by our resident minister, Rev. Kawawata.*

*June 28 @ 10:00 am, Bombu Class
July 12 @ 10:00 am, Bombu Class
July 26 @ 10:00 am, Bombu Class
Best Wishes,
Peter Hata*

*The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple*

Peter,
Thank you so much for your reply! I plan on attending this class starting July 12th. I look forward to meeting Rev. Kawawata and the rest of the people at the West Covina Buddhist Temple. Your advice has been very useful to me.
Thanks again!
Christian

To: dharma@livingdharma.org
From = Mz Corazon Cruz
Subject = Hello
Message = please place me on your mailing list for family / cultural / educational events. Thank you.

To: dharma@livingdharma.org
From = Emmanuel
Subject = Ful Medames seeds
Message = Rev. Gyoko T. Saito. How can I get some Ful Medames seeds? Egyptian fava. Thanks

From = lawrence
Subject = urgent help
Message = Could you please help me to publish my latest Buddhist book which written in Sinhala?

*Dear Lawrence,
Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, I'm sorry but we do not have the resources to help you. I suggest you contact publishers in Sri Lanka, since Sinhala is the language of Sri Lanka. Also, because Sri Lanka is a predominantly Buddhist nation (70%) — thanks to the great Buddhist propagator King Ashoka (3rd cent. BCE)—I would think you will find support for your project with a Sri Lankan publisher.
Best Wishes,
Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple*

To: dharma@livingdharma.org
From = James Chen Ball
Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 5



T H E G A T E W A Y

L.D. NEWS, con't from page 4

Subject = Buddhist Community Forum
Message = Dear Dharma/Dhamma Friend,

I am James, the founder of a new Internet based non-profit organization called BuddhismIS (<http://buddhismis.com>). What is it? an open Buddhist discussion community forum that does not restrict itself to one school, tradition or sect of Buddhism.

Our main goal, simply is - to provide a community and a place to discuss the many forms of Buddhism, in one place! We are moderated and maintained by volunteer members of the lay community and sangha from around the world of which are currently in the progress of transcribing an archive of audio Dhamma teachings to provide further accesibility of the Dhamma.

We would gratefully receive any assistance you would give us and ask that you place a reciprocal link to our forum on your website to help improve our visibility - we will of course link back to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. The forum can be found here: <http://buddhismis.com>

Yours in Dhamma
James Chen Ball
Founder of Buddhism IS

Subject = Steven Jobs
Message = This was so touching, I told my son to look it up and read it. This has opened my eyes wide. Thank you, Steve Jobs, for sharing your story. [Ed. Note: Bren is referring to Apple CEO Steve Jobs 2005 Commencement Address at Stanford soon after his near-death experience with pancreatic cancer]

From = avinash sukhdeve
Subject = education
Message = please send me your news letter regularly

Dear Avinash,
Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, you can download the current issue of our newsletter, *The Gateway*, at our website. Each month, usually by or slightly before the

first of the month, we will add the latest edition:

<http://www.livingdharma.org/Gateway.html>

Best Wishes,
Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple

From = Bren
From = Craig Cooper
Subject = The Little Buddha eBook
Message = Hi I'm proud to have recently published "The Little Buddha" in ebook form. It's a charming and inspirational story suitable for all ages about a Little Buddha and his travels and the people and stories he encounters on his travels. I notice in your real world section that you feature related things such as books and I wondered whether you would consider reviewing *The Little Buddha*. I would of course send you a free copy in whichever format you preferred (such as .pdf or .doc if needed to be read on a PC). Many Thanks for your time.
Craig

Dear Craig,
Thank you for writing and for offering to share your publication. We would be interested in examining it. If we do review, it will most likely appear either in our monthly newsletter, *The Gateway*, or on our website, "Livingdharma.org". If you could send the "*The Little Buddha* as a pdf file that would be most convenient.
Sincerely,
Frederick Brenion

From: "john bush"
Subject: Buddha Standard Time
To: dharma@livingdharma.org
My dear friend Lama Surya Das, who contributed to the script of the Journey Into Buddhism films, has written this brilliant new book. It is deeply wise and elegantly practical, and has the remarkable quality of giving you both greater amounts of time and timelessness. A gift for anyone. From the book: "From early morning to late at night, from preschool to retirement, we rush

through our lives in order to scrimp on time. But what if time did not control us? What if we felt that our time and our lives were our own?" Discover the Power of Living Fully in the Now!
BUDDHA STANDARD TIME

Awakening to the Infinite Possibilities of Now, By Lama Surya Das. Life in the 21st century moves at break-neck speed. Yet despite our slavish dependency on instant coffee, express buses, ATMs, and 140 character tweets, we're all strapped for time and desperately wish for more hours in the day. What if someone had a solution for how busy and stressed out we've all become? Now in **BUDDHA STANDARD TIME: Awakening to the Infinite Possibilities of Now**, Lama Surya Das, national best-selling author and one of the foremost Western Buddhist teachers, offers an alternative to the ceaseless hustle and bustle of modern American life.

The problem begins, Surya Das says, with our relationship to time—we experience it linearly by moving forward doing and accomplishing things. But we are human beings not human doings, and the thinner we spread ourselves the more disconnected we become. That leaves us vulnerable to high blood pressure, heart attacks, stroke, insomnia, digestive ailments, and depression. We must eschew the notion that stress will melt away if only we could adapt to the frenetic pace of life. Instead the aim is to experience the Eternal Now, or what Surya Das calls "Buddha Standard Time"—the realm of timelessness where every choice, every action, and every breath can be one of renewal and infinite possibilities. With "Mindful Moments" exercises and "Time Out" meditations, Surya Das equips readers with tools to cure the "disease to please," kick addictions, reconnect with nature, and gracefully embrace loss, sickness, and death. When we incorporate Buddha Standard Time, stress melts away, and we find greater focus, fulfillment, creativity and even wisdom. Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike will find inner peace and

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T H E G A T E W A Y

L.D. NEWS, con't from page 5

live more sanely and joyously by realizing we have all the time in the world.

To: dharma@livingdharma.org

Subject = Your website has inspiring content

Message = I hope everything's well at your end. I wrote because I have just visited the Living Dharma website and found that my website might be of interest to you and your site visitors and I was wondering if you would consider a mutually beneficial link exchange and be part of your links page?

My web site is about spreading peace and serenity through inspirational art. I am Rochman Reese, a sculptor and together with my wife Painter Sofan Chan, our mission is to spread love, happiness and inspiration through our art works and writings at our website, The Art Of Happiness <<http://www.theartofhappiness.net/>>.

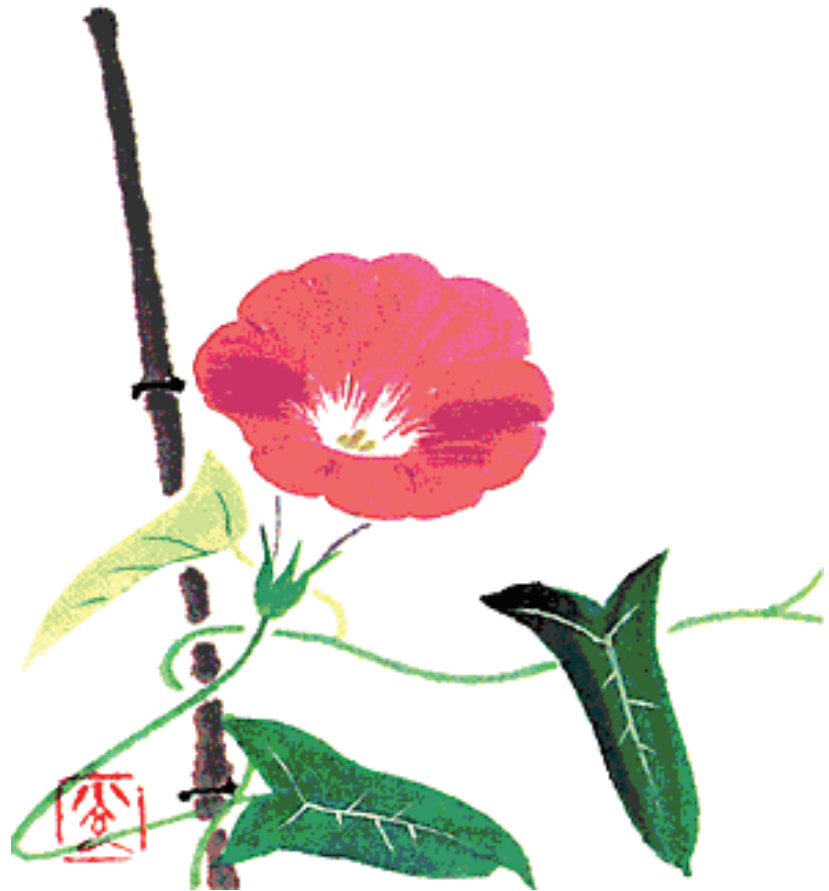
Besides our inspirational artwork about Buddha and meditation, there are also a wide variety of free eBooks, inspirational quotes and articles about love happiness and inspiration which may be of interest to your site's visitors. Please feel free to browse some of our artworks and the stories behind each of them at our homepage.

Unlike so many link requests that you probably get, this one is not automated and is also not a waste of your time, <http://www.theartofhappiness.net> <<http://www.theartofhappiness.net/>> has been online for many years and currently has a Google PR 4 (and hopefully soon to be PR 5 website).

We are not collecting thousands of unrelated links, and burying them in a directory somewhere 10 pages deep in the back of our website that no one ever sees. Our link back to you will be surrounded by other quality links on a page accessed directly from the home page and will allow visitors to easily see your link.

Our links page is at <http://www.theartofhappiness.net/inspirational-links.php>

Here are the link details for my website:



URL: <http://www.theartofhappiness.net/>

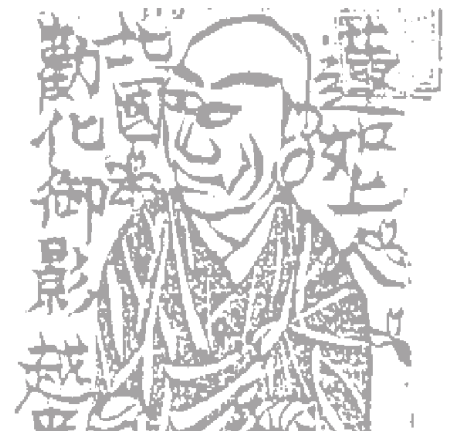
Title - Art of Happiness - Inspirational Art

Description - Looking for ways to be inspired by Buddha? Find love, happiness and inspiration through our Buddha paintings and sculptures, Inspirational gifts and inspiring articles.

I believe that a link exchange is beneficial for both of our websites and I hope you'll consider my request. If you have any questions, please contact me at inspiration@theartofhappiness.net and I will be so happy to add you on our list of more online inspiration.

May your life be filled with love and happiness!

Rochman Reese





T H E G A T E W A Y

無 縁

一楽 真
(大谷大学教授)

「無縁社会」という言葉で最近よく耳にするようになった「無縁」。地縁や血縁が希薄になり、「孤独死」する人が多くなった現代日本の大きな問題として取り上げられている。「無縁死」という言い方まで出てきた。

すでに「無縁墓」や「無縁仏」という言葉も、かなり以前から使われている。その意味では「無縁社会」も間違った使い方とはいえない。ただ、それが元々の意味と大きくへだたっていることには、いささか注意をしておく必要がある。

仏教で「無縁」という場合、縁がないという意味ではない。縁を「条件」と訳してみれば、よく分かる。無条件、つまり条件に関わらないことを意味している。その代表が「無縁の大悲」と言われる仏の慈悲である。相手が誰であろうと、差別することのない平等の心である。

慈悲の心は人間にもないわけではないが、人間はどうしても条件づけを離れられない。自分と関係が近きときには、慈しみ、悲しむ心が起こる。逆に関係が遠いと、関心も薄れる。それは人間のもって生まれた性分であろう。ただ、人間の慈悲の狭さを知っておかねばならない。血縁だけにこだわったり、地縁による結びつきを強調するならば、その縁に加われない人を必ず排除していく。それが人間の慈悲の本質である。

かつて網野善彦氏が提起したように、日本の中世における「無縁」

は、世俗の権力や支配の及ばない場所を意味した。そこは、地縁や血縁を超えた独自の関係が結ばれ、自由で明るい世界だった。人は決して孤立していなかったのである。このような意味での「無縁」が、少なくとも中世までは存在し、言葉としても用いられていたのである。

「無縁社会」は現代の世相をよく表わしているかもしれない。しかし、助け合い、支え合う関係が切れているというのなら、「無援社会」と言うべきではなからうか。そして忘れてならないのは、その無援の社会を作っているのは、私たち自身であるということである。関わりを断つのが「無縁」ではない。分け隔てなくつながっていく方向を示す言葉なのである。



お寺ニュース

お盆・初盆法要

お盆・初盆法要は7月17日(日)午後4時半より厳修致します。ご講師には英語法話には洗心仏教会の小谷政雄師をお招きしております。皆様お揃いでお参りください。法要後当番Aの皆様により美味しいおときが用意されます。ご家族でお参りくださいますようご案内申し上げます。

お盆フェスティバル御礼

今年もお寺のお盆フェスティバルに対し、みなさまの多大なるご協力頂きました。法話会の皆様には

はソーメンの準備を前日の夜7時から遅くまでしていただきました。また当日には朝早くから巻きずし、並びいなり寿司を皆様ご多忙にもかかわらず調理しお届け下さいました。そしてその箱詰め、販売にご協力いただきました事、御礼申し上げます。いただきます。お疲れさまでした。皆様に心より御礼申し上げます。

ラスベガス基金募集旅行

来る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出発します。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。



東本願寺

7月法話会／祥月法要

7月7日

午後7時半

お盆／初盆法要ご案内

7月17日 午後4時半

法話：小谷正雄師

(洗心仏教会)

法要後おときの接待がございました。

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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

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July

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 12 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 17 4:30 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 30 Betsuin Obon Festival
- 31 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 31 Betsuin Obon Festival

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

7月行事予定

- 3日 午前8時半 理事会
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 17日 午後4時半 お盆・初盆法要
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 31日 別院お盆フェスティバル
- 31日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 31日 別院お盆フェスティバル

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

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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