



# GATEWAY



July 2012 -- Vol. XLVI No. 7

*Living Dharma News*  
[www.livingdharma.org](http://www.livingdharma.org)

In progress is a redo of the "Favorite Buddhist Movie" survey, which has been on the website's homepage for quite awhile. We continue to receive votes, which I will tabulate shortly and publish on the site (and here). The survey has been very popular, but to try something a little different, I think I will change it to a "Favorite Buddhist Song" survey, which should get many responses!

Gassho,  
 Peter Hata

**Selected E-mail**

From: Amber Holland  
 Subject: Re: Hi again  
 To: The Living Dharma Website

Hello! I don't know if you remember me, but I emailed you 2 years ago about Buddhism. I reread the email and I am shocked in a good way to see where I came. I want to thank you! I did deepen in my Christian faith to the point where miracles happen and I now experience and share love and peace. I don't even know if you still have this email but thank you for answering my question and inspiring me to seek wisdom. God used Buddha to get my attention. I enjoy reading the beautiful teachings of Buddhism and still plan

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



*Above: WCBT honored its very happy graduates at the 2012 Father's Day/Graduates Sunday Service on June 17, 2012; (l-r) Rev. Hata, Michael Jitosh, Stephanie Jitosh, Kevin Kawawata, Jonathan Ogino, Kevin Maekawa, Rev. Kawawata, President Johnny Martinez, Erik Akune, Rev. Brenion*

## Bodhi Tree Band Performs at 2012 Monterey Park PlayDays

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, WCBT's Bodhi Tree Band performed a well-received set at the City of Monterey Park's PlayDays. PlayDays is an annual city-sponsored event that celebrates the birthday of Monterey Park and is held at Barnes Park. The band also performed last year at this event, so it was significant that they

were invited back and actually given a longer, one-hour time slot (last year, they performed for 30 minutes).

They began their set with "Sweet Child of Mine," the ever-popular song by Guns n' Roses, with lead vocals by Matthew Orms-

eth and harmony vocals by Yazmin Whang. This was followed by a wonderful rendition of "Ganjin's Journey" (Ganjin was the Chinese monk who brought the Buddha-Dharma to Japan, braving stormy seas) which was sung by Yazmin. She followed that with a rousing version of "I'm A Link In the Golden Chain," which got the crowd's toes tapping and also featured guitar

*Please see BODHI TREE, con't on page 4*



*Above: At the 2012 PlayDays Festival, Bodhi Tree singer Yazmin Whang gives an animated performance on the rockin' "Rhythm of Love."*

### Temple Event Highlights:

- July 8 Shotsuki Service
- July 22, Obon/Hatsu Bon Service
- Aug. 10-12, Las Vegas Trip
- Please See Temple News



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

## Oldies Dance 42/JUNE '12

It's always a challenge to get the dads together in one place to wish them well on their special day. Our young Dharma School students seemed to enjoy passing out the festive treats to all the dads and grand dads.

What made Father's Day extraordinary was that we also had the opportunity to congratulate the following graduates and post graduates: Erik Akune, Aiko Enoki, Michael Jitosh, Stephanie Jitosh, Kevin Kawawata, Kimberly Kitaura, Kevin Maekawa, Randy Maekawa, Jaime Nakatani, and Jonathan Ogino. If these names sound familiar to you, it's due to the fact that some of these fine individuals were running around the temple as either Dharma School or Jr. YBA students about 5 to 10 years ago! Hopefully WCBT has provided them with the Dharma as well as a unique social outlet. See you all at the Obon!

With Gassho,  
Diane Hata



### Quote of the Month

I have collected true words to aid others in their practice for attaining birth, in order that the process be made continuous, without end and without interruption, by which those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before. This is so that the boundless ocean of birth-and-death be exhausted.

-Shinran Shonin (end of the Kyo-Gyo-Shin-Sho)





# 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 22 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 28-29 and WCBT will be selling our delicious tamales. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming services so please find a time you can help out 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 10-12, The \$140 per person fee, for double occupancy, will include round-trip bus fare, two nights at the California Hotel, Bell captain tips and lots of fun and games. A light dinner and beverage will be served on the ride to Las Vegas. Feel free to bring snacks

for sharing.

The Las Vegas Obon will be on Saturday, August 11. Please let us know if you are planning to attend and need transportation.

The bus departs on Friday, August 10 promptly at 4:30 PM from ESGVJCC. The return bus departs on Sunday, August 12 promptly at 11:30 AM from the California Hotel.

For application forms and more information, please contact Ted Kato (626-918-2680) or Lillian Nishihara (626-780-9866).

### Summer Schedule

We will be taking our annual summer break so there will be no Sunday Services on August 2, 19, 26 and September 2. Service will begin on September 9 at 10AM. The September board meeting will also be on September 9 at 8:30AM.



### GATEWAY Staff

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

*Contributors:* Frederick Brenion, Diane Hata, Merry Jitosh, Tor Ormseth, Joanie Martinez

*Circulation:* Mary Hatakeyama

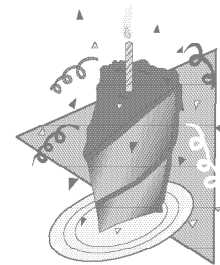
*West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:*  
In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

*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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

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



Above: Despite the June Oldies Dance usually being less well-attended, WCBT's Oldies Dance 42 enjoyed a great turnout; in the photo above, instructor Akimi Watanabe teaches dancers a hip new line dance.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

**BODHI TREE, con't from page 1**



*Above: Yazmin and Matthew sing in harmony on the set's finale, "Kids," while the rhythm section of Leo, Sean, and Noah drive the beat.*

solos by Matthew and guitarist Leo Kowalski.

Next, Matthew sang "Simply To Forget," a song which encourages us all to work to make the world a better place. Matthew then sang "Imagine," one of the most well-known songs by John Lennon, and certainly a relevant song in our turbulent 21st century.

Bodhi Tree lightened the mood considerably with "Rhythm of Love," a very catchy love song sung with lots of energy by Yazmin. Recently, Yazmin has really begun to be more comfortable with performing and is fun to watch. Yazmin then sang the classic "Sukiyaki." WCBT members might remember that the Lotus Band sang this virtually throughout their 10 or so years of performing, but it is a new song for Bodhi Tree, and their version is quite different.

Next, Matthew sang the very provocative "If Tomorrow Never Comes," which touches on the Buddhist truth of impermanence and which seems to give voice to the unspoken private

thoughts of today's youth:

*If tomorrow never comes,  
today was burned in my memory.  
If tomorrow never comes,  
I did the best I could.  
I hope that you agree.*

The group then raised the energy level and finished their set with another new tune for them, the Santana classic "Oye Como Va" (featuring a guitar solo by Matthew and an organ solo by Noah Kowalski) and the strong "Kids"—albeit a song with somewhat curious lyrics ("a family of trees wanted, to be haunted...")—with its rhythmically driving bass drum (performed by drummer Sean Underwood).

Bodhi Tree's very first gig was at WCBT's 2007 Ho-onko Service, and therefore, this November 17-18, when the North American District will observe Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial, Bodhi Tree will also observe their own (slightly less auspicious) Fifth Anniversary.

The Bodhi Tree Band will be performing at the WCBT Obon on Saturday, June 30, and at the Higashi Hongaji Betsuin's Obon on Saturday, July 28. Please come out and support them if you can.

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

to visit temples. Jesus encourages me to spread love and seek wisdom. You are a person that helped start my abundant journey. Thank you!!!

*Dear Amber,  
Thank you so much for writing back. I often wonder if my email responses actually do any good and I'm so glad that they did for you! It is a great privilege for me to know that you have found and deepened your own path. We are all fellow travelers. Each of us see different parts of the road from different perspectives. Each is seeing vistas that are unique and meaningful. When we compare notes we discover that the road we travel on is greater than we thought. Is the road any better if we give it a label that says Christian or Buddhist? No, it is simply*

*Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 5*



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

*the road, the way. Did you know that the original name used by the disciples of Jesus for their movement was "the Way"? Christian was a made-up word used by their opponents. Buddhism, as well, is a made-up word given by Christian scholars in Europe to pigeon-hole those who simply follow the buddhadharma, the teaching, the way, of the Buddha. What is important is the spreading of love / compassion and wisdom. Amber, please continue to grow, explore, love, and to be wise. Don't settle down. The important point of walking the way is to walk, not to set up camp and stay put! Write back and let us know how you're doing. Visit our temples when you get the chance and enjoy the vistas we have to offer, and if what you gain helps you to deepen more and to be a better Christian then I think that Buddha will tell us we've done a good job. And then he'd tell us to keep walking too!*

*With great appreciation,  
Frederick  
The Living Dharma Website*

From = Ayame Vest  
Subject = Buddhist Music  
Message = Dear Peter Hata,  
I was hoping you could tell me a little about the music ministry at your temple. I am a member of the San Fernando temple and sing with the choir. I am interested in arranging and composing music for Jodo Shinshu temples. I would like to know more about what is currently being done at various temples as well as learn about the history of music in Jodo Shinshu temples in America. I have a BA in Music History from UC Davis and am preparing to apply to graduate school in choral conducting, and am interested in starting a bell choir. I would very much like to hear about your music.  
Thanks

*Dear Ayame,  
Thank you for your interest. Good luck with your future plans. As far as my music activities, it's probably easiest to direct you to various web pages, where you can see and hear various examples.  
Since about 2000, I've been directing youth bands here at WCBT. You can see quite a few articles on the Lotus Band in our website's Kids Pages. Since about 2007, I've also*

*directed a younger band, the Bodhi Tree Band. You can see pics of their performance at our 50th anniversary (and also the Lotus Band) on our 50th Anniversary Page. Bodhi Tree also performed the music for a music video we made called Three Gathas and the video is on the website. I also created the music for the Brief History of Shin Buddhism From Shakyamuni to Today video we made for the 50th. Currently, I also direct an adult choir, The Dharmatones. You may also be interested in a series of "Buddhism and Music" classes I taught at OCBC (in the Real World Buddhism section). Recently, because I personally also find shomyo (Buddhist chanting music) quite meaningful, I wrote my thesis for Kyoshi ordination on the shomyo of Higashi Honganji. As far as the history of Shin temple music in America, check out the online video recordings of the 2009 Institute of Buddhist Studies Symposium, "The Great Sound of Enlightenment: Shin Buddhist Music Through the Ages." They are in the podcast section of the IBS site (in the archives, use the "select speaker" pull-down). There were four speakers: Rev. Mas Kodani, who spoke on "Horaku: The History and Development of Buddhist Music," Dr. Scott Mitchell spoke on the "Historical development of American Shin Buddhist Gathas," Rev. Harry Bridge spoke about "Non-representational Buddhist Music," and I spoke about "Buddhism and Jazz."  
Best Wishes,  
Rev. Peter Hata*

*Ed. Note: The following e-mail is from Monica Waraich, of the MAPS 4 College youth seminar that Rev. Peter Hata was a presenter at.  
To: dharma@livingdharma.org  
Hello Reverend Peter,  
How are you? I am a current MBA student with Hope International University and I am emailing you today to ask if you would like to take part in helping me with my assignment for my class. I would love feedback and help from someone of your status that is running a successful faith-based organization like yours. My concentration in my degree is in non-profit management and my current class is called contemporary issues in non-profits. As part of our assignment we are to email non-profit and faith leaders and ask them questions in regards to the issues they face*

*in their own organizations. The questions are below.*

*Questions to answer:*

- 1) What are the major issues that you feel and face in the Living Dharma? (ex: volunteer recruitment, funding, grant writing, staffing)*
- 2) What resources have/will use to help solve the issue?*
- 3) What ways have you responded to the issue?*

*If you can please provide as much detail as possible that would be wonderful. If you would like to meet or talk over the phone I am available anytime as well. Thank you so much for your time, support and help! Your efforts will be greatly appreciated.*

*Ms. Monica Waraich,  
maps4college.org*

*Hi Monica,  
I would be happy to help you in your class assignment. Besides assisting in our Sunday Services, my ongoing responsibilities include managing the temple's website, editing their monthly newsletter, The Gateway, and serving on committees. I am also a musician and music lecturer, and because of my music background, I also direct our high-school aged youth band and our adult choir.*

*Regarding our issues, as a non-profit religious organization, we face the same basic challenges all such organizations face, the most time-consuming probably being fund-raising. We have fundraisers going on practically year-round. I would say however that probably our biggest challenge is charting our direction for the future. Our particular tradition, Jodo Shinshu, or Shin Buddhism, was founded in 13th century Japan and came here to the U.S. with the Japanese immigrants in the early 20th century. The challenge, as you might imagine, is that, because of cultural and language problems, our Shin tradition has struggled to communicate its message outside the ethnically Japanese community. Not only have the majority of our Shin ministers been Japanese-born, due to its history of interment camp incarceration during WWII, the Japanese-American sangha itself has had difficulty truly opening its doors in America. We are making progress, but we face many challenges. In a nutshell, it is difficult for*

*Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 6*



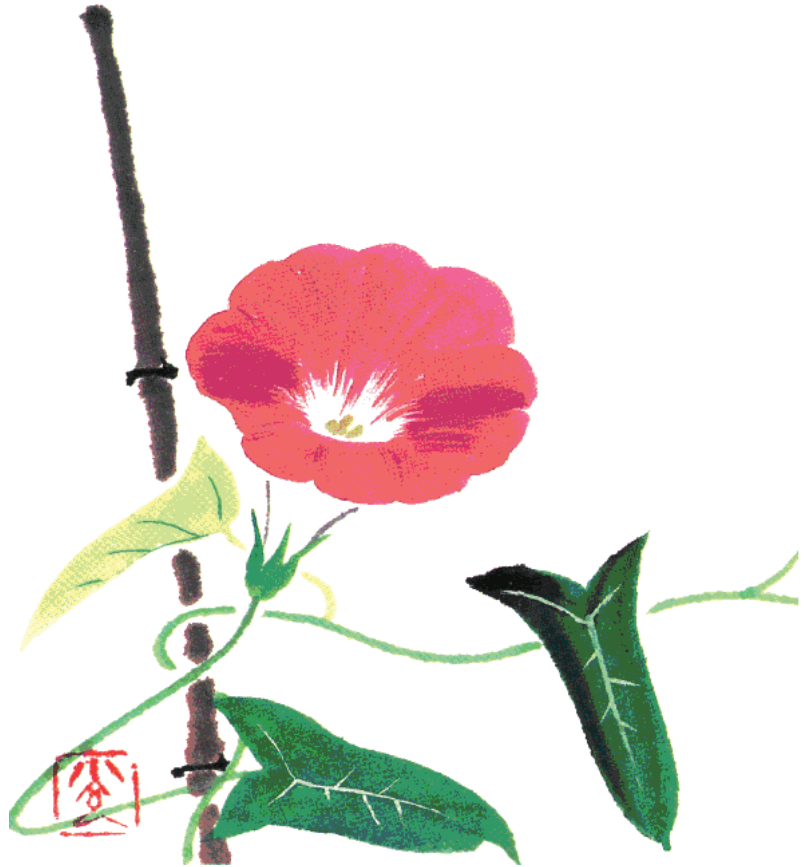
# T H E G A T E W A Y

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

an 800-year old tradition imported from Japan to change the "way things are done" here in America. Our headquarters are still in Japan, and so we have to make effective changes here at the same time maintaining valuable ties with our tradition's roots.

To aid us in meeting our challenges, we are currently engaged in the processes non-profit organizations probably must undertake when they perceive themselves to be at a crossroads: looking back and deeply examining the roots of why the organization was formed in the first place is the only way to find the direction forward. In our Shin tradition, we call these roots the Dharma, or the teaching itself. Even though we still get asked sometimes by visitors to our website (who can see our membership is predominantly of Japanese ethnicity), "Can I attend your service if I'm not Japanese?," the Dharma itself has nothing to do with being Japanese. The essence of the Dharma is the truth of the impermanence, preciousness, and interdependence of all life. Incidentally, in the Buddhist sense of interdependence, I would not have spoken at your seminar if you had not invited me—and been so insistent about it! Thank you again, Monica. Somehow, you were also able to appreciate the value of this message for young people, and so in a sense, we were both moved by the same truth.

Are far as our strategies going forward, one increasingly widespread—and probably inevitable—strategy among American Shin temples, and one which I am personally a beneficiary of, has been to initiate in the last 10 years or so, domestic ministerial training programs here in the States so that new ministers can be trained in Buddhist doctrine and ritual without having to go to Japan. We still go to Japan for some additional training and ordination, but mostly it is done here in English. Another related strategy has been to address the problems newcomers have relating to the rituals in the Shin Buddhist service by endeavoring to share the Buddhist teachings outside the Sunday Service in weekday evening classes. Since people sit behind desks in these classes facing an instructor—and there is no incense, ritual bowing, chanting in Japanese, etc.—these classes offer a non-intimidating way to learn more about Buddhism in a familiar Western-style setting. One other strategy is of course, our website. Since its inception in 1997, it has been the primary way new



members have found our temple. It is written in everyday English and mostly without using hard-to-understand terms and phrases. Also, in keeping with our roots of being a "Western-friendly" temple, we try to make our site as accessible as possible and emphasize the universal relevance of the teachings in our everyday lives. Actually, many Americans have already been exposed to the Buddhist teachings without realizing it. For example, we are the only Shin Buddhist site that features reviews of Buddhistic movies such as *Little Buddha*, *Groundhog Day*, *Star Wars*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *American Beauty*.

Well, that's all, Monica. I hope this can help you in your assignment. Good luck in your studies. I know you will do well because you are already a good student.  
Best Wishes,  
Rev. Peter Hata

Subject: Re: Hi Reverend!  
From: Monica Waraich  
Hi Rev. Peter,  
Wow, thank you so much for taking the time to help me! This was very helpful and insightful! Please have an awesome weekend!



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 自然より学ぶ

河和田賢淳

毎年8月、仏教徒子供キャンプがサンバナデノの山の中で行われます。今年も早その準備が始まりました。毎年このキャンプには160-70名ほどの子供達が各お寺より参加し、一週間キャンプ生活をたのしみます。このキャンプはもう60年近くの歴史があり、参加した子供達が大人に成ると次々とキャンプスタッフに成り、その奉仕で成り立っているキャンプなのです。スタッフは皆、一週間休暇を取り子供のカウンセラーやその他のスタッフとして奉仕されます。キャンプ自体がスタッフをまたこのキャンプを通して人間が作られてゆく素晴らしさを感じさせられます。此のキャンプでの私ども僧侶の役割は、朝のお参りし、その年のキャンプのテーマについて法話をする事、プログラム中の仏教の時間を担当し、解りやすく仏教を伝える事、そして夜歩く禅を指導することの3つです。

私はこのキャンプに行くとき必ずオーバーナイトに子供たち一緒に出かけます。少しハイキングをして一晩野宿し自然の中で過ごすのです。皆とご飯を作ったり、自然を観察したり、そして夜は木々の間から星空を見ながら寝るのです。

自然の中に居るといろいろなものが美しく見えます。高い木々の荘厳さ、野に咲く花々の可憐さ、そして緑の美しさ、都会にはない清浄な空気と静けさの中で過ごすとき本来のあるべき人間、自分の姿が見える様な気がします。

こうして自然を見るときに私どもは清浄で美しいと感じます。山の自然は木々や草や花の集まりです。人間の手を借りず自然に出来たものなのです。それを美しいと感ずるのは、私どもがそのままその有り様を受け入れている

からです。山の中のほとんどの草はいわゆる野草がほとんどです。時としてその野草を雑草と呼んでいるのは人間なのです。山の中では美しいと見えた野草を自分の庭の芝生の中でみつけると、醜いといって摘み取ってしまうのが私どもです。同じ草花を自分の都合で、ある時は美しいといい、条件が変わると醜いと言う。それはいつも見たそのものを受け入れられない自己中心主義の私が居る事に気づかされるのです。草花はそこにただ咲いているだけです。そしてそれぞれの独自のいのちをそのまま一所懸命いき輝いているのです。それは私どもいのちも同じく一人一人異なった光を放っていることに気づかされます。そこには比べる必要のない平等ないのちがあるだけなのです。自然の中に帰ったときその自然が本来あるべき自分の姿を教えてください。合掌

## お寺ニュース

### 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。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。

### お盆・初盆法要

今年のお盆・初盆法要は7月22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

C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せようご案内申し上げます。

### 別院お盆フェスティバル

来る7月28日29日、別院お盆フェスティバルが開催されます。お寺では毎年タマレを販売しております。皆様方のお手伝いをお願いもうしあげます。

### ラスベガス基金募集旅行

来る8月10日-12日お寺のラスベガス旅行が行なわれます。8月10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メインストリートステーションホテルです。参加費は交通費、宿泊費が含まれます。概算ですが参加費は140ドル前後となるようです。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。

### 7月祥月法要

#### 法話会

7月5日

午後7時半

### お盆/初盆法要

#### ご案内

7月22日(日)

午後4時半

法話：小谷正雄師

(洗心寺)

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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# GATEWAY

July 2012 - - Vol. XLVI No. 7

July 1 9:00 am Obon Festival Clean-up  
5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service  
8 8:30 am Board Meeting  
8 10:00 am Shotsuki Service  
10 10:00 am Bonbu Class  
15 10:00 am Sunday Service  
22 4:30 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service  
24 10:00 am Bonbu Class  
28 Betsuin Obon Festival  
29 10:00 am Sunday Service  
29 Betsuin Obon Festival

August  
2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service  
5 8:30 am Board Meeting  
5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service  
10-12 Las Vegas Trip  
12 No Sunday Service  
19 No Sunday Service  
26 No Sunday Service

## 7月行事予定

1日 午後 1時 盆フェスティバル後片付け  
5日 午後7時半 法話会  
8日 午前8時半 理事会  
8日 午前10時 祥月法要  
15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝  
22日 午後4時半 お盆・初盆法要  
28日 別院お盆フェスティバル  
29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝  
29日 別院お盆フェスティバル

## 8月行事予定

2日 午後7時半 法話会  
5日 午前8時半 理事会  
5日 午前10時 祥月法要  
10-12日 ラスベガス旅行基金募集  
12日 日曜礼拝お休み  
19日 日曜礼拝お休み  
26日 日曜礼拝お休み

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今、いのちが

あなたを

生きている

宗祖親鸞聖人750回御遠忌テーマ