



GATEWAY



May 2012 -- Vol. XLVI No. 5

Living Dharma News www.livingdharma.org

Many books have recently been added to the Living Dharma website's Bookstore. Of course, though our bookstore by no means offers a comprehensive selection, what it does offer is a choice selection of some of the finest books on Buddhism that are currently available. Some of the books are ones we stock at WCBT, such as the Shinshu Center of America's excellent new publication of *The Seeker* (the story of Shinran's life).

Most of the books however are available in association with Amazon.com (if you buy through our Bookstore, we get a small percentage of each sale), and include excellent introductory books like Huston Smith's *Buddhism: A Concise Introduction* and Walpola Rahula's *What the Buddha Taught*, down-

Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 8

Awakening the Student Within: A Report on the MAPS 4 College Youth Seminar by Rev. Peter Hata

Recently, MAPS 4 College contacted WCBT through our Living Dharma Website and invited us to participate in their 2012 Teen Summit Conference. MAPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to "helping students graduate from high school, succeed in college, and professionally." MAPS is an acronym that stands for "Motivate to strive for excellence, Achieve to help the community, Personal commitment to transcend perceived limits, Speak the truth, change the world" (note the bodhisattva overtones). The event, which was titled "What Would Youth Do?" was held on March 24, 2012 at the Julia McNeil Senior Center in Baldwin Park, CA, which is less than two miles from West Covina Buddhist Temple.

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Above: At WCBT's 2012 Hanamatsuri Service, The Dharmatones perform well-received versions of "Seiya" and "Shinshu Shuka."

The Dharmatones Debut at Hanamatsuri!

West Covina Buddhist Temple's 2012 Hanamatsuri Service celebrated the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, and for this special occasion the Hanamido was beautifully decorated with colorful flowers. In his Dharma talk, Rev. Kawawata emphasized that, in a spiritual sense, Hanamatsuri also celebrates our "birth." When we take the Buddha's teachings to heart, everyday is a new beginning.

And, speaking of new beginnings, at this service there was a "birth" of a different kind that we also should celebrate: WCBT has a newly-formed choir, The Dharmatones. In their performance, they sang two gathas not usually performed at WCBT, "Seiya," the poignant song with lyrics by Lady Kujo Takeko (1887-1928), and "Shinshu Shuka," known as the "Jodo Shinshu gatha." The latter was also interesting because the accompaniment was not

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The Hoonko Hoshidan Tour

By Merry Jitoshō

The Hoonko Hoshidan tour during Shinran Shonin's 750th memorial (Goenki) was the most impressive ceremonial service I have ever witnessed. The services were filled with precise ceremonial rituals and extremely lengthy and some fast-paced chanting of Shinran's sutras and wasans, which were all lead by the Abbott Otani. What an honor it was to be in attendance with several hundred Higashi Honganji followers, mostly from Japan for these

Please see HOSHIDAN, con't on page 6

Temple Event Highlights:

- May 13, Mother's Day Family Service
- May 20, Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
- June 30, WCBT Obon Festival
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

In keeping with the spirit of Earth Day, we wish to thank all of you who continue to recycle at home as well as save the pull-tabs from aluminum cans. Recently, I had the opportunity to drop off all our collected tabs at the Ronald McDonald House in Redlands. Ronald was happy to pose for a picture.



Speaking of recycling, our Dharma School students are utilizing empty water bottles for a special project to be presented to all of our moms and grandmas who attend Sunday service on May 13th.

June will be here before we know it, so please and thank you to all who can help us gather new, unwrapped toys, games, or crafts for the children's raffle at our up and coming Obon (last Saturday of June!). The targeted ages are from 4 - 12 years. These donated prizes may be given to Rev. Kawawata or Diane Hata.

With Gassho,
Diane Hata

Quote of the Month

We are like silkworms who make cocoons and who live within the cocoons we ourselves make.

-Rev. Rijin Yasuda

HANAMATSURI '12



OLDIES DANCE 03/24/'12





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 13, at 10:00 AM. One of our Sangha members will give a special tribute to their mother so don't miss this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 20 at 10:00 A.M. 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.

Oldies Dance

Next Oldies Dance is set for Saturday, June 2. 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.

Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 17, at 10:00 AM. All graduates will be honored so

please contact Diane Hata or Rev. Ken with the names of graduates in your family.

Join us for this special event.

Obon Odori Practice

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* (castanets) and *tenugui* (Japanese towel) or fabric of equivalent size. The fans will be provided. The dates again are June 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22 and 26. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

OBON FESTIVAL!

Hard to believe but Obon 2012, June 30, is just a few weeks away. Preparations are beginning but much work is still needed to make this exciting annual event a success.

Set-up will begin on Friday, June 29, at 1:00 PM. We'll need help setting up outside and inside the gym as well as food prep and general hands-on help.

In the mean time, we are accepting donations for rice, chili and children's and regular raffle prizes. *Age for inari-zushi* will be passed out before Obon for those volunteering to make *sushi*. Raffle tickets will be sent out and don't forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around at Sunday Services or contact Lillian (626) 780-9866 to see how you can help.

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

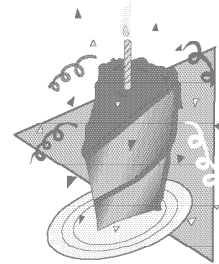
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MAY BIRTHDAYS

Dina Mayeda, Stacey Miyashiro, Teri Ezaki, Say Masai, Ted Hamachi, Peter Hata, Mary Hatakeyama, Cal Kitaura, Kay Sakaue, Garrett Hamachi, Kaylin Kanemaru, Claudia Haraguchi, Sara Kawai, Chimako Matsukiyo, Cheryl Teragawa





T H E G A T E W A Y

MAPS, con't from page 1

Because of the proximity of this event to WCBT and the issue our temple has of being “hidden” within a Japanese community center—most temples and churches are visible from the street and have appropriate signage—I gave the invitation serious thought. Our unique strategic issue necessitates us going beyond the walls of the center and developing ties with the immediate and regional communities of which we are a part. We are fortunate in that regard to at least have a website and it was through our web presence that MAPS 4 College in turn reached out to us.

But it is also significant that Baldwin Park is a predominantly Latino community (78%, according to the Los Angeles Times), so the idea of WCBT actually being invited to participate in that community was, to say the least, eye-opening. It never occurred to me that there could be interest for Buddhism in Baldwin Park and, in this respect, I found their invitation humbling—could it be that “they” are actually more open-minded than I am as a Buddhist?

But also, how can one not admire the youthful optimism and stated commitment of MAPS to young people? Remembering how some of our members have criticized WCBT for not addressing the issues of young people, this event sounded like something our temple should try to be involved in. Apparently, other organizations felt similarly, as their corporate sponsors include Kaiser Permanente, Legoland, Starbucks, AADAP (Asian-American Drug Abuse Program), and restaurant chains such as Cheesecake Factory, Elephant Bar, and Olive Garden. In

addition, major support was provided by the City of Baldwin Park.

The pre-event communication was between myself and the event coordinator, Ms. Monica Waraich, an



enthusiastic and gracious young lady, who went out of her way to make sure my presentation equipment requests were met. But more importantly, she reassured me that, even though we were a Buddhist organization and MAPS is of course a secular non-profit, MAPS felt that our universal message could benefit young people. To be honest, though I've given Dharma talks outside WCBT at other Buddhist temples and seminars, giving what would essentially be a Dharma talk at such a civic event concerned me. No other religious organizations were presenting. But Ms. Waraich was positive that our message would benefit teens and so, I committed to being a presenter.

Besides my presentation and the various college counseling sessions, there were many other presentations as well, such as “Knowing the Importance of Food and Water Sustainability,” “The Gamble of Life” (i.e., making better life choices), “The Facts of Teen Suicide,” “The Rise and Power of Misused

Words” (cyber-bullying, the rising use of profanity, etc.), and “21st Century Activism” (all about the “99 percent”). Great, highly relevant topics for youth, to be sure.

My presentation was entitled, “Awakening the Student Within,” and essentially I structured it around the short trailer to the movie, *The Buddha*, the PBS-produced documentary narrated by Richard Gere. In my opinion, even though the trailer is only 5 minutes, it manages to introduce the three core teachings of Buddhism: the universal truth of impermanence, the Buddhist insight that our suffering is

not impermanence-caused but self or ego-caused, and that the Buddha was a human being who was fully awake to these truths and, as a “perfect,” or humble, student and seeker, lived a dynamic, creative, and compassionate life.

Before showing the trailer, I gave the students a short introduction to Buddhism by illustrating these three truths with simple, everyday experiences. For example, regarding impermanence, the vast majority of the 50 or so kids in the room acknowledged they had experienced the death of a loved one—and of course, that they were aware of the recent untimely deaths of so many celebrities. Regardless of our religious affiliation, one thing we all share is that none of us wants to die. However, where Buddhism is a “radical” truth—and, I said, this is the second truth of Buddhism and the part that many people have difficulty accepting—is that it teaches that it is this ego or

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attachment-caused "resistance" to impermanence that actually causes our suffering, not impermanence itself. I think they all understood, at least intellectually, my example that getting angry while driving on the San Bernardino Freeway at rush hour is ultimately not caused by all the other drivers or even those who cut in front of me, but by my own egocentric thoughts like, "Everything would be fine if only *they* would all just get out of my way."

To hint at the third Buddhist truth that the view of events our ego provides is not in fact, "real," and that we are asleep to the greater reality beyond the ego, I asked if any of them had experienced "losing themselves" while listening to their favorite music. Not surprisingly, all the teens nodded. Buddhism of course says that this experience shows that "we" are only that which we are currently experiencing in the moment. The experience itself is in fact, the true reality, while the ego is ultimately an illusion. That statement seemed to result in many shocked young faces. To help clarify what the ego "is," I used the example of the ongoing inner chatter of our ego-mind. "Right now," I observed, "I'm sharing with you these timeless teachings, but I bet many of you are thinking to yourself,



MAPS Coordinator Monica Waraich and Rev. Peter Hata

'Gee, I wonder what they have here for lunch?,' 'Hmmm...how much more homework do I have this weekend?' or, 'Is this guy ever going to end?'" Of course, the polite, "nervous" laughter heard throughout the room showed me I'm not the riveting speaker I thought I was! In any case, I clarified that the point is not to "get rid of" the ego, since it reminds us to lock our car when we park it or to try to eat more healthfully. Rather, it is to receive the insight that the constant, often dualistic, judgments provided by our ego should be questioned. I think this honest self-awareness is the starting point of the lifestyle of the student and seeker.

After showing the trailer, I discussed one of its most powerful scenes. This occurs when psychiatrist Dr. Mark Epstein (*Thoughts Without a Thinker*) movingly illustrates this third key teaching of Buddhism, that the ultimate goal is to transcend the ego and see impermanence from the awakened view of a buddha:

What [the Buddha] actually said was that life is blissful. There's joy everywhere only we're closed off to it. His teachings were actually about opening up the joyful or blissful nature of reality, but the bliss and the joy is in the transitoriness. Do you see this glass? I love this glass. It holds the water admirably. When I tap it, it has a lovely ring. When the sun shines on it, it reflects the light beautifully. But when the wind blows and the glass falls off the shelf and breaks or if my elbow hits it and it falls to the ground I say, "of course." But when I know that the glass is already broken every minute with it is precious.

I pointed out to the students that the "glass" referred to in the film is really a metaphor for our lives, and I said, "Even though you are all still very young, your glass is 'already broken'—because of the truth of impermanence, we know that we all will become old, get ill, and ultimately die." And therefore, "Your life and all life that supports you is precious and should

not be wasted. Awakening to this teaching is what it means to 'awaken the student within.'"

Though the message of Buddhism seems negative, as my time came to an end, there were signs that some students might have been able to appreciate its ultimate positive benefit. For example, some thanked me while others seemed to be deep in thought. As they were leaving the classroom, I wished them all good luck. I sincerely hope they can carry with them the seed of the Dharma, and that it might guide them and help them lead dynamic, creative, and compassionate lives.

Postscript

Subject: Thanks

From: Monica Waraich

To: The Living Dharma Website

Hi Reverend Peter,

On Behalf of MAPS 4 College and the City of Baldwin Park, we wanted to thank you for taking your time this Saturday to spend with our students! Also, regarding your concern that some people might have taken exception to the inclusion of a Buddhist presentation since it was the only such organization, there was not one complaint about any of the workshops except that they wished they were longer! All the reviews were very positive. The students enjoyed learning something new. They really liked your video. We had an awesome turnout and this event was made a success by people like you! Thank you so much for participating, motivating, informing, and educating the future adults of our world. Let's hope we made a difference!
Monica Waraich
Special Event Coordinator
www.maps4college.org
Baldwin Park, CA





T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMATONES, con't from page 1

acoustic piano but an R&B-style track reharmonized by the Dharmatones' director, Peter Hata. The Dharmatones currently consist of sopranos Edith Ariza, Aiko Enoki, Lynette Godoy, and Yazmin Whang, altos Diane Hata, Merry Jitosh, Jeanne Kawawata, and Joannie Martinez, and bass-baritones Rev. Ken Kawawata and Peter Hata.

Why identify a singing group as "tones"? After a mass of back and forth e-mails where many group names were discussed, this idea seemed to be the one that resonated the most with the members. Actually, such a moniker is quite common; you might remember—or not—such groups as Mel Torme and the Mel-tones, The Metropolitones, The Mastertones, The Mellotones, The Silvertones, The Touchtones, The Hi-Tones, The Shy-Tones, The Love Tones...well, you get the idea. But also, from a Buddhist perspective, using the word "tones" instead of "choir," "singers," or "voices" is interesting because it serves to indicate a singer is not really a "singer" or even a "voice" as much as they are the "tones" themselves that are produced. Isn't this the Buddhist teaching of "no-self," the idea that we are not our egos but only our current activity, only what we are now doing? And—going the "other way" as it were—from a Shin perspective, "Dharmatones" are those Dharma-relevant tones or teachings we listen to, find inspirational, and that make us want to sing. So perhaps, from the standpoint of a singing group, Higashi Honganji's 750th Memorial catchphrase of "Now, Life is Living You" could be *slightly* modified to, "Now, Life is Singing You." "Dharmatones" are those "tones"—words, concepts, teachings, sounds—that we sing but that also "sing us."

The group is currently practicing new material to add to its repertoire, and their upcoming performances will be announced at temple services and in The Gateway. If you're interested in joining the group, please contact Peter Hata. You don't need any musical training, just the desire to sing.

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various services.

I chose to receive my Buddhist name in front of Shinran's altar at this occasion. It was extremely meaningful to accept my Buddhist name and vow to continue listening and studying Shinran's teachings.

Being able to chant some of the sutras and sing the gathas with the sangha brought the feeling of oneness amongst the participants despite the language barriers and huge hondo that I am not accustomed to. The bitter cold temperatures in the hondos did not prevent me from enjoying the experience, because we were prepared with our thermals, extra layers of clothing, scarves, gloves, extra socks and warm fleece blankets. Most of us did not attempt the seiza sitting position during the services.

During our mini tours of Kyoto, I saw many historical Shinran landmarks and temples. The most impressive one was his cemetery. What an inconceivable feeling it was to learn his ashes from over 750 years ago still exist at this site. And many other Higashi followers have also had their ashes placed together with his.

I met many familiar as well as new faces while at Honzan, such as Rev. Ken's older brother and his wife; Chikako Kiyota (our former minister's wife); Rev. Hosokawa (Mishima)'s younger brother; Rev. Yuki; Bishop Mine (from Hawaii); Kisa Ito and Rev. Ryoko Osa (now residing in Hawaii).

We became one family with the other North American District members being together for the week. In our group were Janet Ito and Wayne Itoga from Betsuin, Chico Kodama from Newport Beach, Irving Yamashita and his three stuffed animal "kids" from Berkeley, Peggy Waters from Chicago, CharlAnn Nakamoto from Kaneohe, Hawaii and Noko and Steve Yoshida from Hilo, Hawaii and Minako Ito from Honolulu, Hawaii. Also joining us were three ministers assigned to the Hawaii district: Hiroko Maeda, Marcos Sawada and Makoto Honda. We shared our temple and personal experiences

to help strengthen each other and our temples. I personally had to overcome several technical challenges during the trip. I can now tell you how to operate the remote control on the airplane, how to turn on the room lights and bathroom lights in the Toyoko Inn and snap on Irving's camera lens cover. Toward the end of the trip we simply enjoyed each other's company and parted with hopes to continue our dialog and friendship in the future.

Rev. Peter Lait, our lecturer, provided the opportunity to learn the dharma from each other. A brief summary from our discussion and Rev. Marvin Harada and Dr. Nobuo Haneda's lectures: Buddhism is not a religion, but a way of life. Some events in your life cannot be controlled. If you try to control it, then you will encounter suffering. By learning to accept the impermanence of life, you will endure less suffering. Also by decreasing the strong attachments and a strong ego mind will also allow for acceptance of life as it is. Thus the theme, "Now, Life is living you." Let Life live you, don't try to control how your life is lived. I was chosen to share my story with the sangha after being chosen to give the dreaded kanwa from the North American District.

The highlights of this trip was viewing the Hoonko services, receiving my Buddhist name, shopping at Kiyomizu and Teramachi and seeing old friends and having a special moment during one of the services while singing "Shinshu Shuka," I could feel my Mom singing with me.

I would like to express a special thank you to Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev. Ryoko Osa and Bishop Nori Ito for guiding us around Japan and Honzan and providing translations and interpretations along the way. Also thank you to the Dobo Kaikan, the retreat center for their hospitality and to Rev. Matsuda for the cheery personality and for taking care of us during our stay at the retreat center. I fully enjoyed the experience of the retreat life style having heard about it from Stephanie, Michael
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T H E G A T E W A Y

Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with Tanjo-e Service

Sunday May 20, 2012 10:00 am

Message : Rev. Kenjun Kawawata



親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2012年5月20日 午前10時

法話：河和田賢淳開教使

A ceremony for infants and children up to 6 years of age who shall be presented initially before the Buddha. It signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life.

初参りは、新しいいのちの誕生を祝う儀式です。6才までのお子さんを受け付け致します。お早めにお寺まで申し込んでください。



Child's Name

Birthday

Age

S e x

M F

Parent's Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone


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



T H E G A T E W A Y

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and Frank such as the surprisingly delicious vegetarian meals, the community baths and assigned chores for us were bathroom clean up and raking leaves outside.

Thank you to the North America District for funding this extraordinary trip for me. 

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to-earth essays on everyday Buddhism such as Steve Hagen's *Buddhism Plain and Simple* and Jean Smith's *Radiant Mind*, and classic, college-level texts like Paul Williams' *Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations*, and James Dobbins' *Jodo Shinshu*.

Gassho,
Peter Hata

Selected E-mail

From = Levi Sara

Subject = Interested in Buddhism

Message = Hello, I am 13 years of age and I am currently looking into Buddhism. I am very interested in it and I wanted to ask if you could tell me where to begin my journey, what books to read and what to look at.

Thank you heaps,
Levi Sara

Dear Levi Sara,

I want to commend you for your question! It's been a long time since I was 13, but even at that age I had already developed an interest in world religions. Learning about others, being willing to explore different traditions and ways of thinking and living, will help you to be open and to expand your horizons. I am a librarian, so I know a lot about books. You'll find many excellent materials in your school library and your public library. If they don't have anything on Buddhism then ask your librarians if they can find something for you on inter-library loan. Also look at books on World Religions. Most of them will have a chapter on Buddhism. If you want something with pictures I have found that National Geographic had some excellent books on Religions. One book for young people I really like is called "The Buddha Way" by William Corlett and John Moore. It's designed



for Junior High School. I think you can handle it! Now I will warn you that a lot of Buddhist books get pretty intellectual, and very technical. If you're not ready for those then wait. There will be time enough for those later after you get a good foundation. Also you will find that many books are from different schools of Buddhism, which can be confusing, but that's o.k. You'll learn about Theravada, Mahayana, Tibetan, Zen, and Pure Land, and many others. I follow Pure Land, in a school known as Shin Buddhism or Jodo Shinshu. All these schools will have something interesting and important to teach you.

One Buddhist book I really love I read when I was younger than 13. It's called "The Cat who went to Heaven" by Elizabeth Coatsworth. It won the Newberry Award for Best Children's Book in 1931. It's a story set in Japan, about a painter, his cat, and the Buddha. I think you will love it! Just about every library should have this book. If you want your own copy to own, get it in hardcover. The pictures are so much better! Now it is not enough to just read books. You'll want in time to visit temples and see how Buddhists live and deal with their problems. Many temples have different

backgrounds and will often reflect different ethnic heritages. Some will do services in a foreign language, others will have services in English. Just be open, listen, and learn. Look for temples where everyone, including their ministers, consider themselves students and are always learning and always being open. Some temples, I'm afraid, get into what I call "guruism" where you have to obey someone without question. I would be very careful about that. Some people may need that, but you, I think, want to learn, challenge, and expand! Look for temples that will help you do that.

There's more I could probably share, but this is probably enough for now. Make sure you talk with your parents about this to. Don't be pushy, and watch out for getting arrogant. Young people tend to think in absolute black and white terms. Reality can be very grey at times. Buddhism is about living from black to white through the greys and then back again. Now I think that's enough! Good luck, take care, and write back if you have more questions! I'd love to see how you grow through all this!
Sincerely,
Frederick



T H E G A T E W A Y

報恩講奉仕団に参加して 地頭所メリー

このたびの親鸞聖人 750 回御遠忌報恩講は私が今まで参詣させていただいた法要の中で最も思い深い法要となりました。ご門首が導師となった報恩講和讃は美しく正確にお勤めされました。日本全国からの数百名の同朋と一緒にこの報恩講の法要に参詣ができたことに心から感動いたしました。

今回の上山で私は親鸞聖人の御前で帰敬式を受け法名をいただきました。法名を頂戴しこれから親鸞聖人の御教えを聞き続けると誓うことは私にとりまして意義深いことでありました。広大な御影堂は私の小さなお寺とは違って緊張しましたが、日本の方々と一緒に正信偈をお勤めし、真宗宗歌と恩徳讃を歌うと、言語の違いを超えてそこにいる方々と一つになった思いがしました。厚着と他の色々な防寒具のお陰で御影堂の寒さも気にならず法要に集中することができました。法要中は、私たちは無理をして正座することはせずイスを使わせてもらいました。

京都では親鸞聖人のご旧跡を訪ねました。なかでも大谷祖廟で、750 年前の親鸞聖人のお骨が今もそこに安置されておりそちらに多くのご門徒のご遺骨と一緒に収められるとお聞きして驚きました。

また本山にいる間は新しい出会いだけでなく懐かしい方々との再会がありました。河和田開教使のお兄様夫妻、清田前開教使の奥様のちかこさん、三島前々開教使の弟さん、結城さん、ハワイの峰監督、伊東紀瑛さん、今はハワイにいる長さん。多くの方と会えました。そして一週間を通して私たちの班はまるで一つの家族のようになりました。ロサンゼルス別院からは伊東ジャネットと糸賀ウェイン、ニューポート東本願寺からは児玉嘉彦、パークレー

東本願寺からは（いつも 3 匹のぬいぐるみと一緒に写真を撮っていた）山下アーヴィングとその 3 匹のこどもたち、シカゴ仏教会からウォターズペギー、ハワイのカネオへ東本願寺からなかもとシャーアン、ヒロ東本願寺から吉田スティーブ、吉田のぶこ、ハワイ別院から伊藤みなこ。さらにはハワイ開教区開教使候補者の 3 名、前田寛子、沢田マルコス、本多誠と一緒に参加されました。

参加者のそれぞれの開教寺院と自分自身の個人的経験をお互いに話しあうことで情報と思いを共有し合い今後に生かそうとしました。

この旅行中、実は秘かに一人でいくつかの小さなことに奮闘していました。でももう今は、飛行機の座席のリモコンの操作や、ホテル東横インのお風呂と部屋の電気のつけ方、アーヴィンのカメラのレンズケースの閉め方を他の人にちゃんと教えることができます。そんなこともありました。研修旅行の最後はただただこの仲間と一緒にいることを楽しみ、これからもこの付き合いが続くことを願いながらお別れしました。（次号に続く）注：地頭所メリー夫人は昨年 11 月に報恩講奉仕団に参加されました。



お寺ニュース

母の日家族礼拝

5 月 13 日（日）午前 10 時より母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年のごとく会員の方の母の日メッセージがごございます。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参りのお母さん、おばあちゃんに用意しております。みなさんでお参りください。

親鸞聖人誕生会

並び新生児初参り法要

今年の親鸞聖人誕生会並び新生児初参り法要は 5 月 20 日午前 10 時より厳修致します。親鸞聖人のご誕生をお祝いし、またあわせて新生児初参りをお勤めいたしますので、みなさまのご家族またお知り合いの 0 歳から 6 歳までの子供さんにお薦めください。お申し込みは河和田開教使まで。（626）913-0622

盆踊り練習

来月はもう 6 月、お寺のお盆が近づいてまいりましたが、今年の盆踊り練習は 6 月 4 日（火）午後 7 時よりおこなわれます。今年も畠山メリー、比嘉ジェニファー両夫人、また昨年より新たに加わった地頭所ステファニー嬢の指導の下 6 月中の毎火曜日並び金曜日 6 月 26 日まで午後 7 時よりセンター駐車場にて行われます。盆踊りの不得意な河和田開教使も練習に参加します。恥ずかしがらず一緒に練習いたしましょう。



5 月祥月法要

法話会

5 月 3 日

午後 7 時半

日本語座談会ご案内

5 月 8 日並び 22 日

午後 1 時

センターダイニングルーム

気軽に参加出来る座談会です。
お友達をお誘いの上お出で下さ

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

May 2012 - - Vol. XLVI No. 5

May

- 3 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 13 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
- 20 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
- 22 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 27 10:00 am Sunday Service

June

- 2 8:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 10 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 10 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 12 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 12 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 12 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 15 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 17 10:00 am Father's Day Family Service
- 19 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 22 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Bonbu Class
- 26 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 29 1:00 pm Obon Festival Set-up

5月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時半 法話会
- 6日 午前8時半 理事会
- 6日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 8日 午後1時 同信会座談会
- 13日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
- 20日 午前10時 親鸞聖人誕生会/初参り法要
- 22日 午後1時 同信会座談会
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

6月行事予定

- 2日 午後8時 ダンス基金募集
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 5日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 8日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 10日 午前8時半 理事会
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 12日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 15日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 17日 午前10時 父の日家族礼拝
- 19日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 22日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 26日 午後7時 盆踊り練習
- 29日 午後1時 盆フェスティバル準備
- 30日 午後1時 盆フェスティバル

I N S I D E T H I S I S S U E

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今、いのちが

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生きている

宗祖親鸞聖人750回御遠忌テーマ