New on our website is that seemingly ubiquitous tiny little “f” icon; yes, WCBT now has an official Facebook page. I hope our Facebook page will prove to be a valuable tool for increasing the visibility of the temple. As opposed to our website, not only can anyone post comments, photos, and videos, but everyone who has “liked” the page receives instant notification when new content is added. Please “like it” if you are on Facebook! There are other interesting ways we can use Facebook (e.g., Chat, Groups, etc.), which we can consider going forward. Thanks to my son Dean for helping me set up the page and to Don and Gigi Frack for emphasizing the urgency of getting it online.

Interestingly, in my unofficial survey of U.S. Shin Buddhist temple websites (including BCA temples), only about 25% have a Facebook presence, and

We celebrated another successful Obon as many friends and families gathered at our 2012 festival to observe the deep appreciation for our ancestors and enjoy a day of delicious food and entertainment.

The air was filled with the smells of Obon with teriyaki barbecue, chow mein, okonomiyaki and of course, tamales. 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 demonstration from the rigorous martial arts to the tenderly performed classical Japanese odori, our own Bodhi Tree Band and Kishin-Daiko. The Ezaki girls took over Bingo enlisting the help of past Jr YBA members and ran a very successful bingo game. The social hall was occupied most of the time as many players enjoyed dining and playing at the same time especially with desserts, sushi, somen and chicken salad just a few steps away.

Manto-e service provided a pause to give us a moment to think about the meaning of our event. This year Reverend Fred Brenion gave a Manto-e Dharma talk and Rev. Kawawata performed the service. Many people were left to reflect upon our appreciation of the ancestors who gave us life and culture. Then record number of dancers lined up in the parking lot ready for the highlight of the evening….Bon Odori. This year we again had the pleasure of having our own Joanie Martinez reading the description of each song giving us deeper appreciation for the music and the dance. It was obvious that Jennifer Higa did a great job of teaching
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

For many students a “Welcome back!” greeting is way late. Many students began their academic studies several weeks ago. However, our Dharma School staff is anxious to welcome all students in grades Pre-kinder to 5th grade back into their classes each Sunday following the regular 10:00 a.m. service. Our goal continues to be to provide a welcoming environment to encourage friendships amongst themselves as well as exposure to the Dharma through hands-on activities. We are aware of the varying age levels which do change from time to time and can adapt our lessons to a broad range of attention spans (adults need this one as well!).

See you on September 9 and don’t forget to wish “Happy Grandparents Day!” to those special family members.

With Gassho,
Diane Hata

Quote of the Month
Math and science are secondary; the purpose of life is to produce art, music and dance. This is because art and music express that which is beautiful. Art is the expression of our religious connection. Take art seriously. We cannot live without it.

-Rev. Mas Kodani
September Service
Our first service back from our summer break will be on September 9. We will be treated to a special presentation from the Jr. YBA members who went to Japan and Okinawa in July.

Fall Ohigan
The Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 23 at 4:30pm. Joining us as our special speaker will be Lee Rosenthal from Pasadena Buddhist Temple. Please help us welcome Rev. Rosenthal and as always stay for the complimentary otoke dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance XLIII
“Dance With Me at Oldies XLIII” will be held on Saturday, September 22. Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution will provide our favorite hits from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. The dance begins at 8:00pm and will end at 12:00am with lots of good fun in between. Presale tickets are $12 or $15 at the door. Remember spiked heels are not allowed due to the new gym floor. For info and song requests, call Joanie at (626) 300-8947 or Lillian at (626) 780-9866.

It is yet to be determined whether the Sangha’s help is needed for tarp, table and chairs setup and clean-up, or if WCBT will pay for this service so your Toban chairs will contact you about the time, work shifts and assignments. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at the Sunday service.

Akimatsuri
The EGVJCC Akimatsuri will be on Saturday, October 6 from 12:00-8:00pm and WCBT will be in charge of the Teriyaki Barbecue. Sign-up sheet will be out for your signatures at upcoming services so please find a time when you can help. We’d like to see everyone come out and support the Temple and the Center.

Halloween
Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 28. There will be fun and games and prizes so get in the Halloween spirit and come dressed in your favorite costumes. There’s also refreshments for everyone so join us in the fun!

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
WCBT will sponsor our 4th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 4 from 10am-3pm. Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, unique wood items and lots of delicious food will be offered. Each vendor will be handling their own sales and not all take credit cards so come prepared. WCBT members are welcomed to shop early from 9:30 a.m. Come for some holiday shopping. Stay for the fun and food!

For more info please contact Hisako, 909-626-6131 or hskoga@gmail.com.

NAD Dobo Conference
North American District Dobo Conference will be held on November 17-18 to commemorate Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial. The conference will be held at Higashi Honganji Temple. See page 1 for more information.

GATEWAY Staff
Layout & Editing: Peter Hata, Hisako Koga, Rev. Kenjun Kawawata
Contributors: Frederick Brevision, Diane Hata, Merry Jitosho, 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 E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

The Bodhi Tree Band (l-r): Leo Kowalski, Sean Underwood, Yazmin Whang, Noah Kowalski, Matthew Ormseth
GOENKI, con’t from page 1

Among the highlights planned are lectures and panel discussions on Saturday the 17th with noted Shin scholars Dr. Nobuo Haneda (author of *Dharma Breeze: Essays on Shin Buddhism*) and Dr. Mark Blum (author of *Cultivating Spirituality: A Modern Shin Buddhist Anthology*). Also featured will be Dr. Jessica Main, chair of the Buddhism and Contemporary Society Department at the University of British Columbia. Her research concerns modern Buddhist ethics and social action. In the evening, the Goenki Banquet will take place at the beautiful Quiet Cannon Banquet Facility in nearby Montebello, CA.

On Sunday, participants will experience a most auspicious Goenki Memorial Service for Shinran. Present will be special guests Socho Ko Yasuhara, Bucho Rev. Fujita, Bishop Kikuchi of the Brazil District, Overseas District Abbot Rev. Choyu Otani (who will also officiate the Kikyoshiki ceremony), plus of course, all the ministers of the Higashi Honganji North American District.

Shinran passed away in 1262 and yet, his profound interpretation of the Buddha’s teaching continues to resonate today. Through both what promise to be informative and thought-provoking Dharma talks, and the moving rituals of Higashi Honganji, through the twin vehicles of listening and praising, the Goenki Weekend promises to offer a rare opportunity to reflect personally on the relevance of Shinran Shonin to us today, on the path from “struggle to awakening.”

L.D. NEWS, con’t from page 1

Select E-mail
From = Linda Fairall
Subject = Beginning Buddhism
Message = Good Morning, My name is Linda Fairall, I am 30 years old and was raised Catholic until I was about 17 when I started to question the faith and the church and realized that that wasn’t what I chose to believe in. Since then I have not been an active follower of any religion until just recently when I started to study Buddhism. I have become very interested in living my life in a more positive way. I most recently read 2 “Introduction to Buddhism” books that I felt very informative. I am sure that this Buddhism is the path for me but before I can call myself a Buddhist I know I need to become a bit more informed. I have not started any meditation and I have not visited any Buddhist Temples as of yet. I am very anxious to start both. I was hoping that maybe you can help me with this. I would like to know if there is anyone specific that I need to speak to or what you would suggest that I do next in order to obtain the information that I am looking for. I look forward to hearing from you.
Linda Fairall

Dear Linda,
Thank you for writing. I remember going through similar steps as you in your progress into Buddhism. Introduction books are good to a point. They’re brief and basic and try to get right to the core. But, when you eat an apple you don’t eat the core, you eat the juicy fruit around it. You look at the skin of the apple for its appeal, and you feel the apple for bruises. The core supports the fruit, helps give it shape. You need to start moving out into the actual tasting of Buddhism. Thus your desire to move forward towards meditation and finding a temple. There is a depth to Buddhism that is incredibly rich, complex, and dynamic, all up held by the core of the Four-fold Noble Truths and the Eight-fold Noble Path. (O.K. Metaphors can only be pushed so far. In this case you do eat the Buddhist core!) Of course you’ll want to keep up on your studies, but don’t confuse theory with fact. Buddha’s constant refrain to his followers was to try it out, see if it works. If it doesn’t, fix it or try something different. Buddhism is not a “complete revelation” like what other religions claim to be, it is a work in progress. You’re going to want to explore the various schools of Buddhism, see which is the best fit for you to start with, grow with. There’s Theravada, Mahayana with it’s major groups like Zen, Tibetan, Pure Land - like Jodo Shinshu which is the school I belong to. Take it all in, take your time, taste and see. Now just as the many denominations of Christianity reflect the ethnic cultural groups of Europe, you will find that many Buddhist groups will reflect the same of Asia. This is to be expected. Buddhism came to America by way of Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and more. You may find language or cultural differences, but you will also find that many Buddhist groups are eager to express the Dharma in a western way. The water of the Dharma is the same everywhere, it is the containers that will look different to the eye, much like those apples! So you will find services and Dharma talks in English. One point
Please see L.D. NEWS, con’t on page 5
Dear Melvyn,

Thank you for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, sometimes private memorial services are held, perhaps even in someone’s home for example. I think there are some circumstances when a family might want privacy. But based on your phone number (do you live in Hawaii?), I don’t think we could help you, but you should be able to go into any temple and make a request from the minister. Of course, in our tradition, such services usually are held in the temple, and anyone can attend them. We recently observed two Obon services here at West Covina Buddhist Temple. The most recent was at our annual Halsunon Service where families who had recently lost a loved one offered incense and candles in honor of the deceased. The other one, our Manto-e Service, was during our Obon Festival itself, and it was held outdoors in front of hundreds of people. Actually, at our Manto-e we invite (over our PA) anyone to make offerings; they don’t even have to be Buddhist. I think the reason for us quite clearly “sharing” memorial services with others is because in Buddhism, the reality of death, or impermanence, is a fundamental teaching that we all need to hear. Only when we truly hear it can we, paradoxically, appreciate life.

Here are our Higashi Honganji affiliated temples in Hawaii:

Higashi Honganji Mission, 1685 Alano Street Honolulu, HI 96817; 808-531-9088
Kenoehe Higashi Honganji, 45-520 Keahalaha Rd, Kaneohe, HI 96744; (808) 247-2661
Higashi Honganji Mission, 216 Mohouli St, Hilo, HI 96720, (808) 935-8968
Palolo Higashi Honganji, 1641 Palolo Ave, 96816-2584 Honolulu, HI; 808-732-1491
Waimea Higashi, 9554 Kaumualii Highway, Waimea, HI 96796; (808) 338-1847

Let us know if we can be of any other assistance.

Best Wishes,

Rev. Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple

Dear Joseph,

I am curious because I may suggest this idea to the temple I go to. In gassho, Joseph.

Dear Joseph,

Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, Bodhi Tree’s book currently has over 15 songs in it, and I’ll just highlight a few. They range from Buddhist gathas like “I’m a Link in the Golden Chain,” to pop songs like John Lennon’s “Imagine.” Both those songs have a clear Buddhist message, but they also do contemporary radio-oriented songs like “Rhythm of Love,” or “Sweet Child of Mine” because, well, they like those songs. As their musical director, I’m OK with that—as long as they’re having fun playing together, that activity in and of itself is supported by Buddhism. There isn’t any preconceived limit on what songs they can or should play. Basically, the deciding factors are usually the meaning of the song (we may discuss the lyrics in the context of Buddhist teachings), the level of musicianship required for the particular song, and of course, whether or not everyone in the group relates to the song—they will not practice music they don’t like.

Actually, Bodhi Tree is the second youth band I’ve directed. The first was the Lotus Band, and they played over a period of about 10 years (including a tour of Japan). At last count, their book contained about 40 songs, and included other very Buddhistic songs like Green Day’s “Time of Your Life” and LeAnn Rimes’s “I Hope You Dance,” as well as musically advanced pieces from groups like Steely Dan, John Mayer, Santana, and The Rippingtons, and 3 and 4-part vocal harmonies in tunes like “California Dreamin’” and “She’s Not There.” So, the song isn’t as important as factors like the particular tastes of the musicians, how long they are together, and their group practice ethic.

Getting back to your question of Bodhi Tree’s songlist, if you are considering starting a youth band at your temple—given that no two musicians or groups of musicians have the same tastes—I suggest you build a list from scratch based on the tastes songs do the Bodhi Tree band play. I am curious because I may suggest this idea to the temple I go to. In gassho, Joseph.
and inherent talents of your musicians. The first two or three songs you choose to learn are most important. They should be great tunes but ones that aren’t too difficult to learn, so as to fire the group’s enthusiasm and establish a forward momentum. After that, work with your temple’s minister to find ways for the group to perform as often as possible in the temple’s services, festivals, and special occasions. I’m glad to hear of your interest in Bodhi Tree Band; music is a wonderful Dharma activity.

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

From = Name Withheld
Subject = Information
Message = I have been very interested in Pure Land Buddhism for a long time. While living in Japan I got to know a professor from Otani University in Kyoto and had interesting discussions on religion with him. I graduated from a Protestant theological seminary, but I don’t think my Christian background conflicts with Pure Land Buddhist teachings. I believe that Truth is Truth no matter what name you give it. And all my life I have been a seeker of Truth. I am very impressed with the information on your web-site and would like to visit your temple. I notice that you do not have a Sunday service again until September 9. So I will try to visit then or some time after that. I live near Riverside, so it is not too long a drive to get there.

Dear [Name Withheld],
Thank you for writing. I too live out in the Inland Empire. I don’t find it to be a long drive in order to hear the Dharma. I appreciate your spirit in approaching Pure Land. Paul Tillich, a giant of modern theology, had important dialogues regarding Pure Land in his visits to Kyoto too. I am glad you enjoy our web-site. I shall look forward to meeting you!
Gassho, (I place my hands together and bow to you!)
_/\_
Rev. Frederick Brenion

The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple

From = Selena
Subject = Sunday Services
Message = Hello, My son and I are interested in attending your Sunday Service. Since we have never attended a Buddhist Service, we are not sure what it will be like. Could you please give us an idea of what we should expect so we feel more comfortable? Thank you!

Dear Selena,
Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma Website. As to your question, it’s one we hear quite often. Basically, our services are in English and, on the surface at least, aren’t that much different from a typical Christian service. I’ve included a complete rundown of a typical service but actually, you don’t need to know any of this on your first visit; one of our members would be happy to actively lead you throughout the service if you’d like. Or, if you’re the kind of person who likes to figure things out on their own, you can simply follow the instructions of the chairperson, and/or observe what others around you are doing. Actually, we regularly have “walk-in” visitors usually with no prior Buddhist experience, and they seem to do fine.
Rev. Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple
東本願寺北米教区
親鸞聖人750回御遠忌法要

昨年、2011年4月並び5月に京都のご本山東本願寺におきまして親鸞聖人750回ご遠忌法要が厳修され、多くの方々が参列されました。その後各教区、寺院におきまして、親鸞聖人750回ご遠忌がお勤めされております。

この北米教区におきまして、来る11月18日午前10時より親鸞聖人750回御遠忌法要が東本願寺ロスアンゼルス別院に於いて厳修されます。当日はご本山よりこのたび開教司教に就任された大谷暢裕師、安原晃宗務総長をお迎えし厳修される予定です。また法要後お楽しみとり、帰敬式（仏弟子となり法名を頂く儀式）が大谷開教司教の司式の下にお勤めされます。この縁に皆様に帰敬式の受式をお薦め致します。

また前日11月17日午前9時半より別院におきまして750回ご遠忌を記念して北米教区同朋大会が開催されます。大会にはバークレーの毎田センターより羽田信生博士並びニューヨーク大学のブラムマーク博士をお招きし、大会テーマ“苦悩から目覚めへ”下お話をいただきます。この帰敬式に出席の皆様へ心よりお礼申し上げます。

お寺ニュース

日曜学校新学期

学校もいよいよ新学期が始まりますがお寺のダルマスクール（日曜学校）も9月9日の祥月法要より新学期が始まります。毎週法要後いろいろな活動が行われており、楽しく仏教学ぶ機会となっております。また高校生年代にはジュニア仏教青年会の活動も活発に行われておりますので、どうぞお孫さん子供さんにお勧めください。

お彼岸法要

法話会秋のお彼岸法要は9月6日午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。また秋の英語のお彼岸法要は9月23日（日）午後4時半よりお参り致します。法話はパサデナ西本願寺のヒューロールリー師をお招きしております。どうぞお誘いの上お参りください。法要後お斎の接待もございます。

オールディーズダンス基金募集

前号にてお知らせ致しましたが秋のオールディーズダンス基金募集は9月22日（土）午後8時より開催されます。若い方々にお勧めいたしますようお願い致します。

日本語座談会開催

9月より日本語座談会を再開致します。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』を使用いたします。参加ご希望の方は河和田開教使までご連絡ください。（626）913-0622

センター秋祭り

センター秋祭りが10月6日（土）に開催されます。本年お寺は照り焼きチキンを担当しております。法話会の皆様には照り焼きのお手伝いのお願い申し上げます。この秋祭りの収益金はセンターの維持費、並びお寺の教化活動、運営費等に使用させて頂きます。お忙しい事とは思いますがご協力のほどお願い致します。

9月法話会祥月法要
秋期お彼岸法要
9月6日
午後7時半
## September 2012 - - Vol. XLVI No. 9

### September

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<td>9</td>
<td>8:30 am Board Meeting</td>
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<td>10:00 am Shotsuki Service</td>
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<td>10:00 am Bonbu Class</td>
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### September行事予定

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### October行事予定

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### Living Dharma News

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2. Temple News
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4. Japanese Page