



# GATEWAY



January 2015 -- Vol. L No. 1



*On December 21 Sangha members gathered to celebrate the Year-End and Oseibo service with a scrumptious potluck and a delightful program of musical entertainment.*

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

**Choyu Otani**  
Overseas District Abbot

In appreciation for this opportunity, I extend my New Year's Greetings to all of our Dharma friends who reside in our three overseas districts. I am so happy to be able to welcome in the New Year together with all of you who continue on an everyday basis to listen to the Buddhadharma.

In April of last year, it was formally announced that I have been selected to be the successor to the position of Abbot of our denomination. I humbly accepted the appointment from the Honzan. I am, however, aware of the weight of that responsibility.

Up until this point in my life, I was raised in Brazil, a country where customs and culture are so different from Japan. To be honest, therefore, I face some anxiety as to whether I will



be able to take on such an important role.

However, it is precisely because of that fact that I wish to spend this year to verify with my entire being the truth that the Shinshū teaching is truly a great and universal path that can

bring serve to true meaning to the lives of all people regardless of differences in ethnicity and lifestyles.

What is important is that each and every one of us, regardless of whether we are inside or outside of Japan, continue our efforts to listen to the Buddhadharma and awaken to the depth of our lives. With wishes that we go forward on the path to confirm the deep ties that we have to all of life, I offer my best wishes for a wonderful year.

As we welcome in the year 2015, I ask for your continued support and guidance.

Gassho,  
Chōyū Ōtani  
Overseas District Abbot





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



The Dharma School children's performance during the Year End service was very good! Even with no rehearsals, the children did well. We presented a story about kindness and interdependence—a fitting topic for our world today. A big Thank You to

Laurie Kobayashi for creating the cute stick puppets used during our performance.

In January, the children will continue to learn about the life of the Buddha. They will be introduced to the lessons of the Four Gates and the

ascetic life that the Buddha experienced. These lessons will be designed to be simple and at the level of young children.

We will also do a fun project on the Year of the Ram. It is said that Ram people are artistic, considerate and sensitive. In addition, each child will learn about the animal which represents the year in which he/she was born.

The Dharma School Staff wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

Greetings to  
our West Covina Sangha  
Johnny Martinez, President

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE GATEWAY STAFF

The Gateway Staff wishes to extend our warmest New Year's greetings to all our Sangha members. We hope to continue to share with you the words of the Bud-dhadharma as well as news of temple activities in the coming year.



I hope that the beginning of the New Year finds you in good or improving health. Many people begin the year with a resolution or promise to become better in one capacity or another. I have frequently done this and then later regained the weight faster than I had lost it. But as they

Please see *PRESIDENT, con't* on pg. 4





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

### New Year's Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Thursday, January 1, 2015, at 11:00 AM. The traditional New Year's Day *ozoni* will be served so please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

### Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2015 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 4 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service for January. New Year's Day *ozoni* will be served following the service.

### Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 10 AM. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale only so make sure you contact Dick Koga to get your Eitaikyo lunch tickets. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

### The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 13 and 27 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected articles that vary from week to week. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.



### Pet Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 8 at 10:00 AM to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day.

### WCBT Family Retreat

The 2015 Family Retreat will be held on President's Day weekend, February 14-15, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Temple. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Marvin Harada from Orange County Buddhist Temple who will help us discuss the theme "The Primal Vow- Living with a Deep Wish for Life". We have invited members from Betsuin, Berkeley and Newport temples to join us this year.

Don't miss out on this memorable experience. It's always the perfect weekend getaway set in a beautiful location, with stimulating discussions with friends and outdoor activities, and plenty of delicious food. The fee for adults is \$35 and discounted fees for children, which include all meals and free lodging at the temple, or you may wish to stay at a nearby motel at your own expense. See Rev. Miyoshi for more info.

### GATEWAY Staff

*Layout & Editing:* Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi, Richard Kagawa

*Contributors:* Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitosh, Michael Jitosh, Joanie Martinez

*Circulation:* Joy Kitaura

*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) 689-1040

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

*Facebook:* [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)



### JANUARY

Tami Kitaura, Casey Hansen, Kevin Maekawa, Carol Oshima, Kathy Oshima, Neil Kato, Cora Ormseth, Matthew Ormseth, Kristen Nakano, Jesse Sakaue, Aiko Yep, Don Frack, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Andrew Kobayashi





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

**Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi**

Happy New Year!

As we enter the year 2015, Bill and I hope that the New Year will be filled with memorable and meaningful moments for you and your family.

Reflecting upon 2014, there is no doubt that this year was a turning point in my life. In February, my new path as the resident minister at West Covina Buddhist Temple began. Throughout the past year, I was truly amazed with our members' enthusiasm as they listened to the teachings. It was their enthusiasm that also manifested as their desire to maintain this temple as *Monpō Dōjō* (a gathering place for listening to the teachings) through various events. Everyone I met proved that the teachings truly influenced their life. I am truly fortunate and grateful that I am surrounded by those people, and have received their support, guidance, and encouragement all the time.

If there is only one way I can repay all of you for what I have received, it is to keep listening to the teachings and words of Shinran Shonin. I have found myself as one who tirelessly wishes to live with the Nembutsu teachings. When I devote myself to the wish, I will be able to encounter many more the words of Shinran Shonin and the teachings in my own life.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your generous support and friendship. It is difficult to express my appreciation to the temple president, Mr. Johnny Martinez, and the Board of Directors for their support and guidance throughout the past year. I would also like to thank Mrs. Merry Jitoshō and Mr. Michael Jitoshō for their untiring assistance and their kind patience.

I am truly looking forward to working together and listening to the teachings with all of you this New Year.

In Gassho

*PRESIDENT, con't from pg. 2*

say, hope springs eternal and with it, the opportunity to continue and improve.

At the beginning of every month, we at WCBT, have two reminders of impermanence. The first is the Shotsuki list to recall and remember the bonds and debts of gratitude to our deceased family members. The second is our monthly birthday list, where we joyfully take note of the passing of time with one another. Both remind me that my life is finite and precious. I am reminded not to waste time on foolish endeavors and to truly reflect upon my own words and actions.

In this spirit, I would like to thank the Sangha members and friends for their support and devotion to the temple. Many of you and your families have given years and decades of service to WCBT. We ask all of you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and generosity in the coming year of temple activities. We encourage your regular attendance and active participation. In this way, we find we can truly appreciate our Three Treasures.

In Gassho

## Happy Holidays Fellow iBuddhists and Future iBuddhists!

**Michael Jitoshō**

We were all thrilled to have finally been able to form a group within the Sangha just for us in 2014. It was difficult for many of us to connect with the Sangha because many of us have matured well beyond the years of Dharma school, Sangha Teens and Jr. YBA. But we are not yet at the age of the current baby boomers, so our group of iBuddhists is a must. In the first few months we began in the shallow waters of just getting to know one another and began making connections with our fellow iBuddhists. We went out for a cold cup of boba at a nearby café in West Covina and then to a Filipino BBQ restaurant for lunch. We put on our adventurer hats and hiked down and eventually back up to Sturtevant Falls near Monrovia.

We have lots planned for the New Year in 2015 which includes a gathering with other young adult Buddhist groups from the Nishi Honganji Buddhist temples, visiting other faith denomination temples and churches in the Los Angeles area, white water rafting and visiting Kevin Kawawata and his family in Hawaii in the summer of 2015. Hope everyone has a pleasant end of the year and is ready to bring in a fresh and new year.

If you are interested in joining iBuddhists please contact Michael Jitoshō at [mjitosh@gmail.com](mailto:mjitosh@gmail.com)



T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

The 2015 Family Retreat:
The Primal Vow
-Living with a Deep Wish for Our Life-

Lecturer: Rev. Marvin Harada
(Orange County Buddhist Church)

Date: Feb. 14 (Sat.)~15 (Sun.), 2015

Location: San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple
6996 Ontario Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Fee: \$35.00/adults; discounted fees for children

More Info: (626)689-1040
dharma@livingdharma.org



- \* WCBT's 2015 Family Retreat will be held over President's Day Weekend, February 14~15, at the picturesque San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. It is a great opportunity to indulge in beautiful nature and Dharma. This year's theme is "The Primal Vow-Living with a Deep Wish for Our Life." The Larger Sutra tells a dynamic story of a truth seeker, Bodhisattva Dharmakara, who brought forth his deepest innermost aspiration, to become a Buddha and to save all sentient beings. What does it mean to live with an innermost aspiration for one's life? In this retreat we will reflect on the meaning of "hongan" (the Primal Vow-innermost aspiration) and how it relates to our own life.
\* Rev. Marvin Harada is minister of Orange County Buddhist Church and Co-director of the Buddhist Churches of America's Center for Buddhist Education. He received his MA from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. He has served at Orange County Buddhist Church since 1986.
\* The \$35.00 fee includes all meals, and there is free lodging available at the temple (though space is limited and you must bring a sleeping bag); nearby motels are also available.
\* Contact the Temple or see Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi for more info.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone\*: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

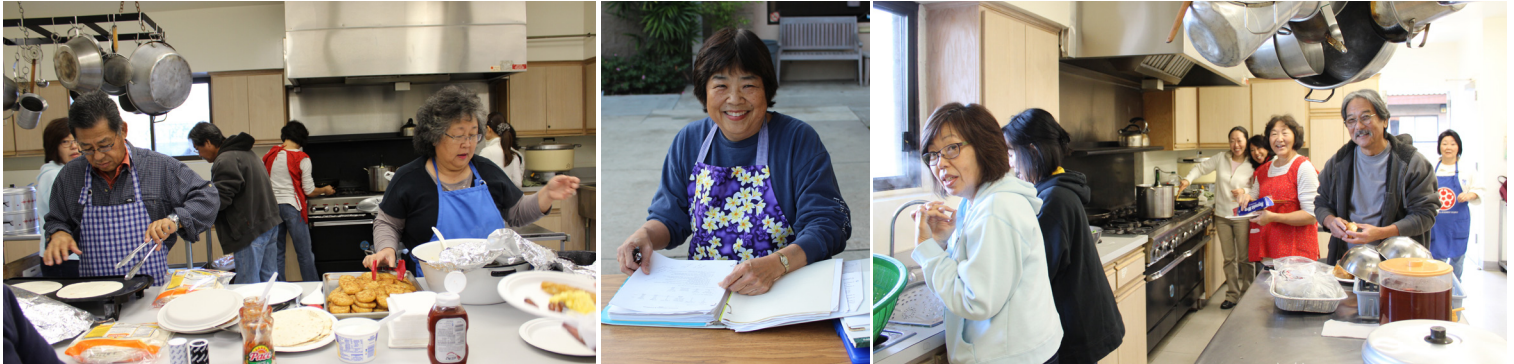
\*Please provide instead of home/landline number for communications at the retreat.





T H E G A T E W A Y

# 2014 MOCHITSUKI



*Mochitsuki 2014 began with breakfast provided by Toban B. Pounding the mochi was a group effort with everyone taking turns with the mallet. Then the mochi was kneaded and shaped into their perfect "mochi" shapes. Then they were lined up to cool before being packaged and distributed to the participating Sangha members.*



**Happy New Year 2015!**







T H E G A T E W A Y

YEAR-END AND OSEIBO



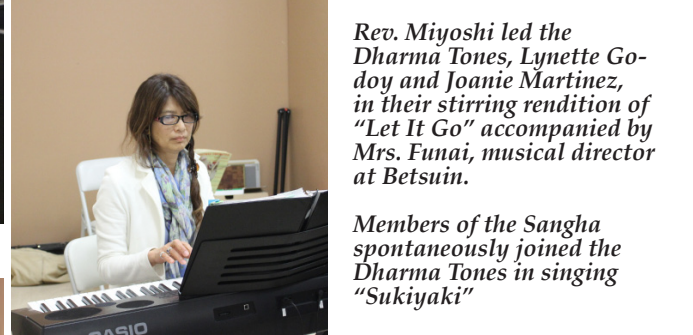
Oseibo gift recipients. Top row: Michael Jitosh, Merry Jitosh, Bruce Whang, Frank Tanji, Roy Takemura, Richard Kagawa, Hisako Koga, Ruby Kagawa and Claudia Haraguchi. Bottom row: Rev. Miyoshi, Johnny & Joan Martinez, Dick Koga, Barbara Shirota, Pat Sato and Claire Hansen.



Rev. Miyoshi presents Oseibo gifts to co-Dharma School Superintendents Claire Hansen & Merry Jitosh.



The Dharma School children charmed their audience with their stick puppet story. Virtuoso Bob Stack led the Sangha in holiday tunes on his clarinet.



Rev. Miyoshi led the Dharma Tones, Lynette Godoy and Joanie Martinez, in their stirring rendition of "Let It Go" accompanied by Mrs. Funai, musical director at Betsuin.

Members of the Sangha spontaneously joined the Dharma Tones in singing "Sukiyaki"



Howakai members celebrated their Year-End with their annual sashimi dinner.





# T H E G A T E W A Y



## Buddhism Quiz

This month will begin another series on "How well you know your Buddhism." We hope that it will continue to be informative and entertaining for our readers.

**Difficulty Level: Easy, Easy, Oh, So Easy**

1. Sutras are
  - a. The recorded sermons of Shakyamuni Buddha
  - b. Old folk songs about Shinran Shonen and his teachings
  - c. Ancient poems about Buddhism
  
2. Shin Buddhism, founded by Shinran is, based on three sutras:
  - a. The Larger Sutra, the Smaller Sutra, the Pure Land Sutra
  - b. The Larger Sutra, the Smaller Sutra, the Meditation Sutra
  - c. The Larger Sutra, the Medium Sutra, the Smaller Sutra

Answers: a, b

Quote of the Month  
 The life of Namu Amida  
 Butsu endows us with an  
 everlasting foundation.  
 -Shojun Bando





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 年頭の挨拶 開教司教

謹んで、海外に住まう全ての同朋の皆さまに年始のご挨拶を申し上げます。

皆さま方におかれましては、日ごろより仏法聴聞一方ならぬことと拝察し、ともに新たな年を迎えられたことを心よりお慶び申し上げます。

さて、昨年4月、私は門首後継者に選定されたとのお知らせを本山からいただき、慎んでこれをお受けいたしました。責任の重さに身が引き締まる思いであります。

日本とは文化も習慣も異なるブラジルに育った私に、このような重責を担うことができるか、今もって不安が去来する日々であるのが、正直なところであります。

しかし、であるからこそ、真宗の教えが、民族も国境も越え、人類平等の救いを全うする普遍の大道であったことを、私自身の身とおして、一日一日証しつつ歩む一年としてまいりたいと思っております。

私たち一人一人がいよいよ聞法精進し、海の内外のへだてなく、ともに深いいのちにめざめ、広きいのちにいきる絆を確かめる生活を共に歩むことを念願し、年頭を臨んでのご挨拶とさせていただきます。

本年もよろしく願い申し上げます。

開教司教  
大谷暢裕

## 新年のご挨拶 見義信香

新年あけましておめでとうございます。

旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまならびにウェストコヴィナメンバーの皆さまには大変お世話になりました。また一年を通して陰日なたとなって支えてくださった地頭所メリーさん、法要の準備や後片付けなど率先してお手伝いくださった地頭所マイケルさんにも心からお礼申し上げます。皆さまに支えられ、叱咤激励されながらどうか歩み続けた一年ではなかったと思います。この場をお借りして心より感謝申し上げます。

昨年を振り返りますと、私にとっては一つの節目の年であったといえるかと思えます。二月よりウェストコヴィナ東本願寺の開教使として新たな一步を踏み出すことができました。一年近くの自身の歩みを振り返りますと、一步一步を踏み出す力となっていたのは私自身の能力や努力をはるかに超えたはたらきではなかったかと感じずにはられません。それは「願い」と言い換えることができるかもしれません。仏法に、そして親鸞聖人の言葉に出会い続けてほしいという願いが、私が出遇わせていただいたあらゆる方々の身を通して、私の身にまで到り届いているといえるのではないのでしょうか。ウェストコヴィナの皆さんと時間を共にする中で、聞法道場としてのお寺を大切に作る生き活きとした姿や聞法を喜ぶに姿勢に頭がさがるとともに、改めて私が開教使として勤めさせていただくその責任を確認させていただ

た思いであります。

かけ続けていただいている願いの大きさに身の引き締まる思いが致します。同時に、私が戴いているものをほんの少しでもお返しすることができるのであれば、やはりそれは今まで以上に聞法に真剣であり続けるということしかないのではないかと思っております。

本年も何卒よろしく願い致します。

合掌

## お寺ニュース

### 修正会法要

修正会法要は2015年1月1日（木曜日）午前11時よりお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてののお参りにご家族お揃いでお参りください。

### 永代経法要・教団総会

2015年度永代経法要は1月18日午前10時より厳修されます。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。お寺の大事な総会です。どうぞ法要、総会にご出席ください。

### お寺家族リトリート

来る2月14日（土）-15日（日）家族リトリートをサンルイスオビスポ西本願寺にて開催いたします。日常を離れ仏法にじっくりと耳を傾けるよい機会です。どうぞお誘い合わせの上ご参加ください。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお尋ねください。

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** 

January 2015 - - Vol. L No. 1

**January**

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 4 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 11 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 13 10:00 am Study Class
- 18 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

**February**

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 13-15 WCBT Family Retreat
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class

**2015年1月行事予定**

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 4日 午前8時半 理事会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 8日 午後7時半 法話会
- 11日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 18日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会
- 25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

**2月行事予定**

- 1日 午前8時半 理事会
- 1日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 5日 午後7時半 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/ペット追悼法要
- 13日-15日 家族リトリート
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| New Year's Greetings from Overseas District | Temple News          | 3 |
| Abbot                                       | New Year's Greetings | 4 |
| D.S.News                                    | Mochitsuki Pics      | 6 |
|   | Acknowledgments      | 8 |

永遠の拠り所を与えてくださるのが  
南無阿弥陀の生活である

坂東性純