



GATEWAY



January 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 1



WCBT's Year End & Oseibo Service had a great turnout. Everyone posed patiently before stampeding to the Potluck feast.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we began the New Year, Bill and I hope that this New Year will be full of meaningful moments for all of you.

This year, the 12th World Dōbō Gathering will be held in Los Angeles from August 27th to 28th. The theme of the upcoming meeting is "Dōbō: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity," with the accompanying slogan, "Learning from the Past-Living in the Present-Envisioning the Future." It is a great opportunity to meet members and ministers of Japan, Hawaii, North America, and South America and deepen our understanding of the Jodo Shinshu teachings. I hope many of you will join us for this auspicious occasion.

Reflecting upon 2015, I realize that I have received many opportunities to listen to the teachings from all of you. In general, many of us may think that Sunday Services and study classes are the time given by ministers to members to listen to the teachings. However, it is not true for me. Every time before Sunday Services and study classes, I feel like I am the one who is a student given an assignment. "How do you listen to the teachings?"-this is the assignment I received from you. Sunday Services and study classes are, therefore, opportunities you give me to share my thoughts about how I listen to the teachings. I am a minister, but I do not think I am a teacher. Rather, I am a student who wishes to listen to the teachings

throughout my life.

I am very fortunate that I am surrounded by many people who inspire me to diligently listen to the teachings. I find that Sunday Services, study classes, and even personal conversations lead me to Shinran Shonin and his teachings. Moreover, through your dedication and smiles, I see Jodo Shinshu

Please see MIYOSHI, con't on page 4

Temple Event Highlights:
•Jan 1 New Year's Service
•Jan. 3 Shotsuki Service
•Jan. 12&19 Lecture Series
•Jan. 17 Eitaikyo/Gen. Mtg
•Feb 13-14 SLOBT Retreat
•Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



size the concepts of impermanence, compassion, tolerance, and mindfulness. We encourage and welcome parents and grandparents to bring their children to temple!

2016 is the Year of the Monkey. It is said that Monkey people are lively, clever, quick-witted, and enthusiastic! The Dharma School staff wishes everyone (including Monkey People!) a very Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

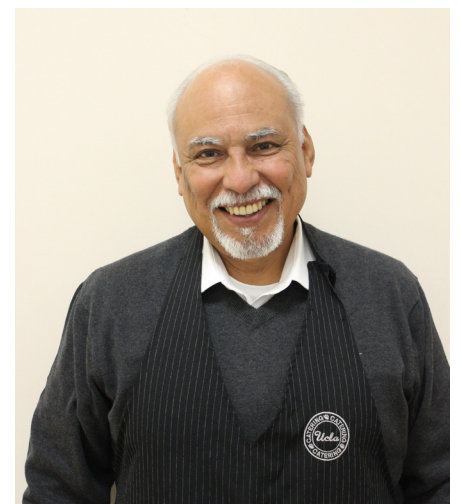
Greetings to
our West Covina Sangha
Johnny Martinez, President



The performance by the Dharma School children at the Year End Service was enthusiastic and well done! The meaning of the story of the little frog was to look at himself realistically and to accept himself as who he is. I would like to again thank Laurie Kobayashi for making the stick puppets used in the performance. Her helpers, Andy and Tyler, colored many of the puppets.

The Dharma School teachers will continue to use books to illustrate and instruct what the Buddha taught. We will empha-

Claire Hansen, Dharma School Superintendent and Ruby Kagawa, Teacher's helper. Not pictured Pat Sato, DS teacher.



Each year I seek to start fresh and anew. Usually I am intent on improvement by using what I have learned and experienced during the previous year and not repeating the same mistakes. But that is very difficult because I am a creature of habit. Sometimes when I am embarrassed, I ignore or forget previous lessons and end up repeating the same mistakes (like a true bombu). No matter how long I live, putting lessons learned in life and temple are

Please see PRESIDENT, con't on pg. 4

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE GATEWAY STAFF



The Gateway Staff extends our warmest New Year's greetings to the WCBT Sangha. We hope to continue to share with you the words of the Buddhaharma as well as to share life experiences of sangha members along with the news of Temple events for the coming year.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E M E N T S

New Years Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Friday, January 1, 2016, at 11:00 AM. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2016 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 3 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service for January.

Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 17 at 10 AM. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale only so make sure you get your Eitaikyo lunch tickets by contacting a Toban A member who will be selling lunch tickets for \$10. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 12 and January 26 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

Family Retreat

Our annual Family Retreat will again be held on President's Day Weekend, February 13-14, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. Rev. Masao Kodani will be our guest lecturer and speak on the theme "Being Buddhist in America." We are inviting members of other Higashi temples to join us this year.

Join us for another great weekend with stimulating discussions, quality time with sangha friends, access to the beach and as always, too much food. All set in the serene and scenic setting of the Central Coast. The fee for adults is \$35 (discounted fees for children) and includes meals and available temple lodging. For more information see the flyer on page 5.



Pet Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 21 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.



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

Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org



JANUARY

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



T H E G A T E W A Y

MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 1

teachings is vibrantly alive within each of you and gives you strength to keep walking your path positively and firmly.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our temple president, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all our members for their generous support and kindness. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Michael Jitoshu for his untiring assistance.

As we enter 2016, I would like to continue to listen to Shinran Shonin and walk the Path of Nembutsu with all of you.

In Gassho



PRESIDENT, con't from pg. 2

often hard to put into practice. In the New Year may we all, as a temple, look forward to learning and sharing the Dharma. Time is one thing we cannot stop or save, therefore, we should not waste it. Song writer Carly Simon put the thought very clearly in lyrics when she simply wrote, "These are the good old days." Being in the moment is the most fulfilling way to live. It is with the greatest of anticipation and gratitude that I look forward to the New Year and more moments spent with the Sangha, our wonderful family. Hopefully, I will make fewer of the same mistakes but also make room for some new ones to come. With the support of all the members, may the temple continue to flourish as we continue to share life.

In Gassho

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBANS
Merry Jitoshu

Akemashite Omedeto
Gozaimasu!

On behalf of Toban A, B, and C, I wish you a very Happy New Year. I thank Toban volunteers for their continued hard work under dire conditions. This past year serving otoki "under water" was a very memorable challenge. Look forward to our Toban temple events in 2016.

Dick Koga, Toban C and Merry Jitoshu, Toban B. Not pictured Joy Kitaura, Toban A.



Happy New Year!

Reiko Ikehara-Nelson
Dharma Seeds

Happy New Year everyone from West Covina's Dharma Seeds! 2016 will be an exciting and challenging one for us as we'll be active participants in the World Dobo Gathering this August. For me personally, this program has stretched me in ways that I could not imagine two years ago. I truly have a greater appreciation for those who listen and live the Dharma whether it is a minister or fellow sangha member. There is much to absorb and understand as we continue to grow. We thank you and appreciate your support and guidance this year.



The West Covina Buddhist Study
Center & Dharma Seeds Program
Present:
"Being Buddhist in America"

Date: Tuesdays, January 12 & 19
Time: 7:15 - 8:45 pm
Place: ESGVJCC, Room 3
Speakers: Michelle Harrison
(January 12)
Johnny Martinez
(January 19)
Fee: \$20.00



T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

The 2016 Family Retreat:
Being Buddhist in America

Lecturer: Rev. Masao Kodani

Date: Feb. 13 (Sat.)~14 (Sun.), 2016 (President's Day Weekend)

Location: San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple

6996 Ontario Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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

Checks payable to: WCHHBT

Mail to: West Covina Buddhist Temple

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793



More Info: (626)689-1040

revnobuko@gmail.com (Rev. Miyoshi) or pishsato@gmail.com (Pat Sato)



◆ Rev. Masao Kodani will talk about "Being Buddhist in Christian America" and he will cover and discuss the following four points:

- 1. If you are born and raised in America, you are Christian in culture, attitudes, value judgments, etc., regardless of what religion you might profess.
2. If you profess to being Buddhist but can see not real appreciable difference from other Americans, how then does Buddhism affect your life? Especially since Buddhism, along with Hinduism, Confucianism, and Taoism are religions fundamentally different from the great theistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
3. What are the differences, and how do these differences, if accepted, change our lives in world view and attitudes from Christianity?
4. How do we plug into the Buddhist view of life that necessarily must change our way of life?

◆ Rev. Masao Kodani is a former resident minister of Senshin Buddhist Temple and co-founder of Kinnara Taiko - the second taiko group established in the United States and the first Japanese American Buddhist group. He was born and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from UC Santa Barbara in East Asian Studies and later earned a M.A. degree from Ryukoku University in Kyoto. He served at Senshin Buddhist Temple from 1968 until he retired in 2013.

◆ 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.

Name(s): _____

Number of Attendees: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell phone*: _____

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



T H E G A T E W A Y

Mochitsuki





T H E G A T E W A Y

Year End & Oseibo



Dharma School children did a puppet story of a little frog.



Toban C members organized the year end potluck buffet.



Rev. Miyoshi reminisced about the events of the past year.



"Jichan" Richard holds the newest sangha member, Jordan Kiyomi Jucksch.



Our annual Year End potluck Feast!



T H E G A T H E R I N G



12th World Dobo Gathering August 27/28, 2016

The 12th World Dōbō Gathering will be held on the weekend of August 27/28, 2016 at the Hilton Hotel Los Angeles/Universal City and at the Los Angeles Betsuin. It is anticipated that approximately 360 people will gather from the three overseas districts and Japan. The theme of the upcoming meeting is "Dōbō: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity," with the accompanying slogan, "Learning from the Past – Living in the Present – Envisioning the Future." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Unno, associate professor and head of the Religious Studies department at the University of Oregon. We hope that all of you will join us for this historic event.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fee: \$250.00

Application period: 1/1/16~6/15/16

Fee includes full participation at the event, transportation and admission to JANM, as well as two lunches and the dinner banquet

Registration Deadline: 6/15/16

JTB Registration webpage: <http://online.jtbusa.com/group/DOBO/>

WDG Updated information site: <http://higashihonganji.org>

Members-Only Early Registration Fee - \$200

Available for full-fledged paid members of Higashi Honganji Temples (Betsuin, Berkeley, West Covina, Newport Beach)

This discount is available only to those verified as paid members by each temple.

To take advantage of this offer: 1) Submit your name and email address to your minister, 2) The minister will then submit your name to the NAD office, 3) An email will be sent directly from JTB to each applicant with a link to the discounted rate registration page.

A limited number of subsidies are available and offered at a first-come first-served basis. As a result, this Early Registration may not be available during the entire 3-month period.

Registration for this discounted rate will only be available from 1/1/16 to 3/31/16.

Cancellation Policy:

No refund if cancelled on/after June 1, 2016

Aug 27 Banquet only Participants

We want everyone to participate fully in the Gathering. However, for various reasons, there may be those who cannot attend the entire program but wish to come only to the banquet. The banquet-only option, therefore, is being made available to those people who cannot attend the entire event.

Dinner cost: \$120 – Child meal available (10 and younger): \$48

Hilton Los Angeles / Universal City room rates (does not include breakfast)

Single/Double Occupancy \$290

Triple Occupancy \$335

Quad Occupancy \$380

Hotel Parking Rates:

Overnight self parking (hotel guests) - \$24.00 – One-day Self parking - \$12.00

Overnight valet parking (hotel guests) - \$28.00 – One-day Valet parking - \$20.00

All parking rates are subject to 10% applicable tax (as of Dec 2015 – subject to change)





T H E G A T E W A Y

WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies,
BCA Center for Buddhist Education & Shinshu Center of America

EAST MEETS WEST

Jodo Shinshu from the Higashi and Nishi Perspectives

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016

9:00 am - 4:30 pm (Doors open at 8:30 am - LA Homba Hongwanji)

THIS SEMINAR TAKES PLACE AT TWO HISTORIC TEMPLES IN LA'S LITTLE TOKYO.

Registration, morning sessions & lunch are at LA Homba Hongwanji. Afternoon sessions are at Higashi Honganji.

**Los Angeles
Homba Hongwanji
Buddhist Temple**

815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Higashi
Honganji
Buddhist Temple**

505 East Third Street Los Angeles, CA 90013

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PANELISTS:

Dr. Mark Blum Japanese Studies, University of California, Berkeley (English/Japanese)

Rev. Henry Adams Resident Minister, San Mateo Buddhist Temple (Japanese/English)

"THE HISTORY OF THE SPLIT" PRESENTED BY:

Rev. David Matsumoto Director, Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies, IBS (English)

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara Co-Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education (Japanese)

PANEL IN ENGLISH:

Dr. Mark Blum - Keynote Speaker

Rev. Noriaki Ito - Bishop, Higashi Honganji North American District

Rev. Marvin Harada - Orange County Buddhist Church

Moderated by Rev. Matsumoto

PANEL IN JAPANESE:

Rev. Henry Adams - Keynote Speaker

Rev. Kodo Umezu - Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi - West Covina Buddhist Temple

Moderated by Rev. Kuwahara

REGISTRATION: \$40 (Includes lunch) DEADLINE: JANUARY 21, 2016

Southern District Temple members: Please register through your temple.

Checks are payable to "SD BEC" Memo: "Winter Pacific Seminar 2016" Mail to LA Homba Hongwanji at the address above.

Contact: Rev. William Briones Email: malik615@msn.com Ph: (213) 680-9130

General Registration:

Visit www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org for online registration, forms and schedule.

Hosted by the BCA Southern District Ministers Association & Buddhist Education Committee



T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz tests your memory of our often recited Shoshinge, Wasan, and Eko.

Difficulty Level: Moderate (You are on your honor not to peek at the Service book)

In the last four lines of Eko that we chant at WCBT, the leader chants:

Gan Ni Shi Ku Doku

The Sangha responds by chanting the following three lines. Number the lines in the order that we chant them.

- _____ Do Ho Bo Dai Shin
- _____ O Jo An Ra Ko
- _____ Byo Do Se Is Sai

Hint:

We vow to give equally to all,
This meritorious truth,
Together to raise the mind of
Bodhi
And awaken to the Realm of
Serenity and Joy.

Answer: 2-3-1

Quote of the Month
If you truly loved yourself,
you could never
hurt another.
-Gautama Buddha



T H E G A T E W A Y

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。

今年は第12回世界同朋大会がロサンゼルスにて開催されます。8月27、28日の2日間の日程で開催される本大会は、日本をはじめハワイやブラジルで親鸞聖人の教えに出会い、そのことを慶ぶ方々と言葉を交わし友好を深める素晴らしい機会であります。皆さまのご参加を楽しみにしております。

2015年を振り返ってみますと、仏法を聞き続けるよう願われている身であったということに改めて気づかされます。日曜礼拝や火曜日の勉強会は、ご門徒が僧侶から聞法の機会をいただいていると思われがちです。しかしながら、私にとってみますと、そのような時間は、むしろ私にご門徒の皆さんからいただいている時間のように感じられるのです。「どのように法を聞いていますか」「親鸞聖人と出遇っていますか」おひとりおひとりから絶えず問われてい続けているそのような問いに応える場が、私にとっては日曜礼拝であり、勉強会の場であったのではないかと思うのです。

2016年も、そのように問われ続け、親鸞聖人の言葉に出会い続けてほしいと深く願われている身であるということに還り続ける歩みでありたいと願っております。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願い致します。

合掌



お寺ニュース

永代経法要・教団総会

2016年度永代経法要は1月17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13日(土)-14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。

法話会 1月祥月法要

1月7日(木) 午後7時

2月祥月法要

2月4日(木) 午後7時



12月3日に行われた忘年会
新鮮なお刺身と皆さんが腕を振った自慢料理に舌鼓を打ちました。
今年も法話会で皆さんの元気なお姿にお会いできるのを楽しみにしています。

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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

January 2016 - - Vol. 11 No. 1

January

- 1 11:00 am **New Year's Day Service**
- 3 8:30 am **Board Meeting**
- 3 10:00 am **Shotsuki Service**
- 7 7:00 pm **Howakai Japanese Service**
- 10 10:00 am **Sunday Service**
- 12 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 12 7:15 pm **Lecture Series 1**
- 17 10:00 am **Eitai-kyo Service/General Meeting**
- 19 7:15 pm **Lecture Series 2**
- 24 10:00 am **Sunday Service**
- 26 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 31 10:00 am **Sunday Service**

February

- 4 7:00 pm **Howakai Japanese Service**
- 7 8:30 am **Board Meeting**
- 7 10:00 am **Shotsuki Service**
- 9 10:00 am **Study Class**
- 13-14 **WCBT Family Retreat**

2016年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 3日 午前8時半 理事会
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 17日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 31日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

2月行事予定

- 4日 午後7時 法話会
- 7日 午前8時半 理事会
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 13日-14日 家族リトリート

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

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全宇宙が全協力をあげて
私一人を生かそうとして、
瞬時も休まず働き続けておられる。
米沢英雄『愚夫愚婦の教え』より