



GATEWAY



February 2015 -- Vol. L No. 2

Aloha from Rev.... (Oops!) Bishop Kawawata



The Haraguchis and the Kogas have separately visited Bishop Kawawata, Jeanne and Kevin in Hawaii. They have adjusted well to their new home and are enjoying the island lifestyle.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Bishop Kōi Sato'o
Chief Administrator, Shinshu Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

I wish all of you in the South America, Hawaii, and North America overseas districts a Happy New Year. I also wish to express my deepest appreciation for the wholehearted support you continue to give to our Sangha.

In many parts of today's world, there seems to be no end to horrible tragedies, such as the chaotic situation in the Middle East and the outbreaks of conflicts in many other regions. It may not be an overstatement to say that the history of human beings is none other than the history of conflict.

In the face of such challenging situations, each of us, as followers of the Buddha's teaching, as one who lives according to the teachings of



Jōdo Shinshū, now have to reevaluate how we have lived, and must take on the responsibility to engage in our organization's mission by transmitting the teaching effectively and expressing

it by our actions.

It is for that reason that I proposed the theme of "transmitting," which means to carry on the tradition and to hand over the teaching, as the focus of our administrative duties in the message I gave at the beginning of last year.

Looking back on the last year's activities, I realize how difficult it is to "transmit" those teachings in today's world. However, I have become all the more motivated to take on the task of "transmitting."

In order to realize the idea of "transmitting," in keeping with the realities of society today, I will promote ties and exchanges among people

Please see BISHOP, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

This month (February 8) we will be holding a memorial service for our pets which have passed away in the previous year. If you want to participate in the memorial, please bring a photo, drawing, or some memento of your pet.

The San Luis Obispo retreat will be held on Presidents' Day weekend—February 13, 14, and 15. There will be some activities or projects geared for children. Please sign up. It's always a beautiful, peaceful, and fun time for all ages!

The Dharma School children will continue to learn about the life of Siddhartha and his encounter with the four gates. The teachers have some beautifully illustrated books to share with the children.

For our February project, we will work on Valentines. Hope our parents will like our creative designs!

Have a wonderful and relaxing time during the retreat!!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



Quote of the Month
"Society" is a creation of the minds of those who inhabit it; it always has been and always will be. Thus, we have always been and will always be empowered to change society for the better.
-Ethan Nichtern

19th Annual Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura



"FORE!"It's the golfer's call of the wild.

WCBT's 19th Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday, May 8, on the "Babe" course at Industry Hills. Registration for the tournament will be at 11:00 am with a 1:00 pm shotgun start. The tournament will be followed by the awards dinner. Tournament format will be a scramble.

We are asking for the Sangha's help to make this year's tournament more successful than last year. "How can I help?" you ask. There are several ways. If you golf, of course you should participate and encourage your fellow golfing buddies to join in the fun. If not a golfer, get your golfing relatives and friends to play. You can also be a tee sponsor at the Silver, Gold or Platinum level, donate raffle prizes or donate items for the player's goodie bag. On the day of the tournament you can volunteer to help. Tournament and Sponsorship forms will be available soon.

So, SAVE THE DATE – Friday, May 8, 2015.

If you have any questions, ask any of our committee members: Roy Takemura (Chair), Barbara Shirota, Lillian Nishihara, Jack Wear, Denise and Steve Underwood and Rev. Miyoshi.





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

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 it on this special day.

Family Retreat

The 2015 Family Retreat will be held on President's Day weekend, February 13-15, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist 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 for this unforgettable weekend.

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.

There will be an orientation meeting for the retreat on Sunday, February 8, after Temple Service. For more information contact Rev. Miyoshi.

Sushi Class

If you've always wanted to make sushi but didn't know where to start, come and attend a one-day workshop taught by Toyoshima Family Sushi. Since 1999, the Toyoshima family has taught sushi classes in Whittier, Brea and Little Tokyo. They have shared their sushi knowledge with people of all walks of life who are interested in Japanese cooking.

Their next class will be held at ESGVJCC on Saturday, February 21, at 1:30 PM. During the three-hour workshop, you will learn how to cook the sushi rice, prepare the ingredients and learn how to roll makizushi. The fee for the class is \$40 and each student will be making two small hosomaki

rolls and two large futomaki rolls. It's recommended you bring an appetite! Toyoshima Family Sushi is donating a portion of the proceeds to WCBT so please come out and support this fun event. Space is limited to maximum of 20 students. Please bring an apron and writing utensils. All the sushi ingredients will be provided. To register for the class, please email tfssushi@gmail.com with "Sushi Class Registration" on the subject line.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on February 10 and 24 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

Cherry Blossom Festival

The West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 21, from 12 noon-6:00 PM and will be held at the South Hills Plaza (1420 S. Azusa Ave., West Covina) on the corner of Azusa Ave. and Aroma Dr. The Temple will be selling delicious chicken teriyaki as a fundraiser. Work schedule sheets will be available for sign-up at the services or contact Merry Jitosh for more information. Keep that day open and come out to support the Temple and the Center.

Spring Ohigan Service

Spring Ohigan will be observed on March 15 at 4:30 PM. We will have a special guest speaker so please join us for this special service and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance Five-0

"Yo! It's Oldies Five-0!" will be held on Saturday, March 28 and believe it or not, it's our 50th Oldies! We are celebrating this auspicious occasion with a Hawaiian theme (Hawaii Five-0... Get it?), appetizers and much more. We're asking all Sangha members to bring their Aloha spirit and wear their Hawaiian attire.

Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution

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
P. O. Box 1616
West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 689-1040

Website: www.livingdharma.org

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

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

will again be providing 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 dancing and fun in between. Presale tickets for this dance are \$20 or \$25 at the door and this includes a small appetizer plate. For info and song requests, call Joanie at (626) 300-8947 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 drink donations will be at the Sunday service.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sumiye Arnheim, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosh, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, Joanie Martinez, Deanna Ormseth, Sophia Saucedo, Jose Godoy, Matthew Woo, Glenn Tomita



T H E G A T E W A Y

NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT REPORT

Bishop Noriaki Ito

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of the members of our North America District temples. Also, we take this opportunity to thank you for the support and guidance you gave to us in the previous year. We hope that 2015 is a wonderful year for you all.

In looking back at 2014, we had our joint district retreats in both English and Japanese in April under the theme, “Finding Sakyamuni and Shinran in Everyday Life,” with ever-popular Dr. Nobuo Haneda as our speaker. In July, nine high school and college age youths participated in the Youth Hoshidan Tour to Japan. They learned about the tradition and teachings at the Retreat Center at the Kyoto Honzan, then continued their study tour with a homestay at a temple in Hiroshima, and visited the Hawaii Betsuin on their way back to the States.

In September and October, we inaugurated the Dharma Seeds Educational Program with representatives from each temple who will participate in this new three-year program. Then on November 9, we observed the Betsuin HOONKO Service with Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani and his wife, Satika, who were here to join us again for this most important gathering.

We thank you for participating in and helping with the preparations for the various district-sponsored events during the previous year, and ask for your continued support this year as well.

Here in the North America District, there is also the entity called Shinshu Center of America which was created as a research center and educational facility for the sharing of the Jōdo Shinshū tradition. Among the accomplishments during 2014 are publications of 4 digital books being sold on Amazon’s Kindle library, three volumes of which are part of the series called “A Portrait of Shinran”: “Kudensho,” “Shujisho,” and “Gaijasho.” The fourth book is Yoshikiyo Hachiya’s “The Art of Listening: A Buddhist Guide to Happiness.” The one book that came out in hard copy format is the long-awaited second printing of “December Fan” which is a book of selected articles by Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa as translated by Dr. Nobuo Haneda. There are plans for other books to be released in 2015 as well.

There are plans to host public lectures in 2015 as well. In April of this year, there is a plan for overseas ministers of our Higashi Honganji temples to participate in a joint retreat with ministers from the various districts of Nishi Hongwanji, a first-of-its-kind event.

These activities of the North America District, the Shinshu Center of America and of the district temples are made possible because of the tremendous support we received from all of you. We hope that you will continue to participate in and support the programs for 2015. In this way, we can continue to listen to the Nenbutsu teachings and walk on the path of the Buddhadharma together.

BISHOP, con't from pg. 1

based on the teaching of Shinshū and the spirit of fellow followers this year.

Last April, the Rev. Chōyū Ōtani, a Kagi-yaku (a family member of the Abbot entrusted with the key to the image of Shinran’s image) and Overseas District Abbot, was formally nominated to become the successor to the Abbot. This is an excellent opportunity for us to reconfirm the fundamental principle of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha Constitution which designates the Shinshū Honbyō (Honzan – the spiritual focus of our denomination) as the center of our entire organization. At the same time, I sincerely hope that the appointment of Rev. Ōtani, who has been listening to the teaching together with members of the overseas Sanghas, will develop a deeper relationship among members in overseas districts and those in Japan.

It is our administration’s hope that all of us this year will find ourselves illuminated by the teaching and deepen our relationship as “Dōbō,” fellow followers, not restricted at all by national, linguistic, nor cultural boundaries that might otherwise divide us.

In closing, I wish to ask for your support and cooperation in this endeavor.



Buddhism Quiz

This is another in our series on “How well you know your Buddhism.” We hope that it will continue to be informative and entertaining for our readers.

Difficulty Level: Let me think about this a little bit:

1. The Buddha attained his enlightenment and thereafter shared his understanding of life with everyone he met. The truths he awakened to came from his own life experiences. As a result, which of the following statements is/are true?
 - a. There is no acknowledgement of gods.
 - b. Buddhism focuses on life as we live it and has no definitive view of creation or afterlife.
 - c. Heaven and hell are conditions we create here and now, not a reward or punishment after death.
 - d. All of the above.

2. Namu Amida Butsu means:
 - a. I take refuge in Amida Buddha.
 - b. I am a faithful Buddhist.
 - c. Amida Buddha, please save me and take me to the Pure Land.



T H E G A T E W A Y

2015 Eitaikyo Service and General Meeting



On January 18, 2015 WCBT held its Eitaikyo Service followed by the annual Temple General Meeting of its sangha members.



Frank Tanji, our hard working treasurer, presented the Temple budget for 2015



The Sangha listened intently to Rev. Miyoshi's explanation of the meaning and the reason for eitaikyo



The new 2015 WCBT Board of Directors was installed at the recent Eitaikyo Service and General Meeting. Top row: John Martinez, Joy Kitaura, Richard & Ruby Kagawa, Steve Underwood, Dick Koga, Frank Tanji, Roy Takemura and Richard Haraguchi. Bottom row: Joanie Martinez, Claire Hansen, Rev. Miyoshi, Michael Jitoshu, Hisako Koga, Denise Underwood and Claudia Haraguchi.





T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

年頭の挨拶 宗務総長

新たな年を迎え、南米開教区・北米開教区・ハワイ開教区の皆さまに年頭のご挨拶を申し上げます。

皆さま方におかれましては、日ごろより宗門に対しまして、一方ならぬご理解とご協力を賜っておりますこと心より厚く御礼を申し上げます。

さて、中東の混迷や各地で勃発する紛争など、昨今の世界の情勢は誠に痛ましく、人間の歴史とは争いそのものであると言っても過言でない様相であります。

このような時代状況にあって、私たちは、今こそ一人の「仏教徒」として、浄土の真宗に生きんとする者として、自身の生き方を問い直し、宗門が現代に存立する意義を、伝える言葉と行動で表現する、その使命と責任を重く受け止めなければならないと思います。

そのような思いから、私は昨年の年頭のご挨拶で、伝統・伝承・伝道の意義を込めて、宗務執行の基本を「伝える」という一語に託したいと申し上げました。

いま一年を歩ませていただき、改めて「伝える」ことが如何に難しい現状であるかを知らされると同時に、その大切さに思いを新たにするところであります。

現状を踏まえた思いを具現化すべく、私が託した「伝える」という一語の展開として、真宗の教えに基づく人と人との交わり、御同朋・御同行の精神による交流促進が深められる取り組みを、今年一年真摯に進めていきたい

存じます。

昨年4月、鍵役・開教司教である大谷暢裕氏が、門首後継者として選定されました。このたび門首後継者が決定されたことは、真宗本廟を宗門の中心と定める宗憲立憲の精神を今一度確認する勝縁であります。

と同時に、海外開教区において僧侶及び門徒の代表として、同朋とともに教法を聞信する大谷暢裕開教司教が門首後継者に選定されたことが、日本と海外の同朋をつなぐまたとない機縁となることを願ってやみません。

内局といたしましては、国や言語、文化を超え、ともに宗祖のみ教えに生きる「Dōbō」として、私たち一人ひとりが教えに照らし出されていく存在であることを確かめ合う一年といたしたいと思う次第であります。

本年も皆さまがたのご理解とご協力を切にお願い申し上げます。

宗務総長
里 雄 康 意



お寺ニュース

2月日本語祥月法要／法話会

2月の法話会並びに祥月法要は来る2月5日（木曜日）午後7時よりお勤めします。どうぞご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

お寺家族リトリート

来る2月13日（金）～15日（日）に家族リトリートをサンルイス・オビスポ仏教会にて開催いたします。ご講師としてオレンジ仏教会の原田マーヴィン氏をお招きし、「本願」をテーマとしてお話いただく予定です。講義、座談、野外活動などご家族で楽しめるプログラムとなっております。参加費は35ドル、宿泊費はお寺に宿泊される場合は無料です（近隣のモータルにも宿泊可能ですが、別途宿泊費がかかります）。日常の喧噪を離れ、仏法に耳を傾ける絶好の機会です。是非お誘い合わせの上ご参加下さい。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお問い合わせ下さい。

センター桜祭り

コミュニティセンターの桜祭りが3月21日（土）に開催されます。今年もお寺は照り焼きチキンとお寿司の担当として参加いたします。この桜祭りへの参加によって、お寺の基金募集と地元の方々への広報とを兼ねて行いたいと思います。つきましては、皆様にお寿司（巻き寿司でも稲荷寿司でも結構です）をお持ち頂き、お手伝い頂きますようお願い申し上げます。当日の午前11時頃までにお寺に届けて頂ければ幸いです。皆様のご協力を何卒よろしくお願い申し上げます。

2月祥月法要

2月5日（木）午後7時

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** 

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February

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 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

March

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 15 4:30 pm Ohigan Service
- 21 12:00 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class
- 28 8:00 pm Oldies Dance

2015年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 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

3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 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 15日 午後4時半 お彼岸法要
- 21日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

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鈴と、小鳥と、それから私、
みんなちがって みんないい

金子みすず