



GATEWAY



February 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 2



At the 2016 ESGVJCC's Installation Dinner on January 23, Kim and Mary Hatakeyama and Frank and Hisa Konno were posthumously honored with the Center's Distinguished Member Award for 2016. Nancy Maekawa and Joy Kitaura, and Paul Konno were present to receive the award for their parents.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

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

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you, the members and friends of the Higashi Honganji overseas district temples.

Throughout last year, many parts of the world continued to be ravaged by wars and conflicts such as the coordinated terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris last November. Those incidents clearly illustrate that our world is assuming an even more serious aspect of the Latter Dharma Age (*mappō*), as pointed out in deep lament by Shinran Shōnin. Being beset by the complex historical circumstances, there seems to be no end to the endless cycle of retaliation. When faced with those realities, I



cannot help but think of the darkness of the limitations of human wisdom from which no one can escape. Just

like the traveler in the parable of the "Two Rivers and White Path," we are standing dazed and confused at the sight of the River of Water and the River of Fire, which signify our greed and anger respectively.

Shinran Shōnin has shown us that there is always the White Path leading to the Pure Land in the midst of the raging water and scorching fire of the river. Even though we have been given this teaching, we are helplessly wandering about losing sight of the path that always lies ahead of us and are unaware of the light that constantly illuminates us.

At our mother temple, we have been able to complete the twelve-year

Please see SOCHO, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma School children are being presented with short stories from the Jataka Tales, Aesop’s fables, and other Buddhist tales. Their first story comes from Aesop: “A Bell for the Cat”. The Dharma School staff will use this story to illustrate how the mice had to think hard about the consequences of “belling a cat”. We hope the children will think about causes and conditions in their own lives. We encourage parents and grandparents to reread this fable and discuss with their children about the dilemma of the mice!

On February 21 we will be holding our annual pet memorial service. If any of you have lost a pet during the past year, please bring a picture or some other remembrance of your pet to our service.

If you are planning to attend the San Luis Obispo retreat on Presidents’ weekend (February 12-14) with your youngsters, we will have activities and projects for them. We hope that many of you will be able to participate in this great experience.

Enjoy the retreat!!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

NEW YEAR’S GREETINGS

Chōyū Ōtani
Overseas District Abbot, Shinshu Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

I take this opportunity to wish all of you in the overseas districts a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with all of our fellow followers of the teaching of the Buddha.

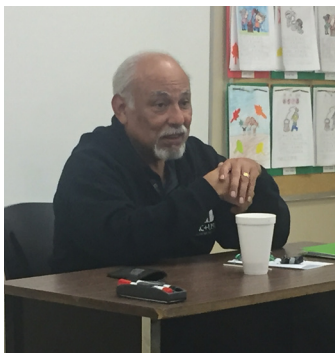
Last year, I officially moved to Japan. For me, having grown up in Brazil, life in Japan is full of opportunities to reflect upon myself since the culture and customs are totally different from those I am accustomed to. On the other hand, I also realize that the differences in nationality or language are of no significance from the perspective of the Nenbutsu teaching which directs us to the truth in life.

When looking outside at the world, we cannot avoid seeing the escalation of the conflicts in the Middle East and the acts of inhumanity that occur all over the world. In this modern age, the darkness of human wisdom has created international and ethnic conflicts in which so many precious lives are being lost. The Buddha has told us, “We must not kill, and must prevent others from killing.” It is up to us as Shinshū followers to confirm whether the Buddhist teaching has significance in this modern society in which the preciousness of human life can be easily neglected.

This year, at the 12th World Dōbō Gathering that will be held in Los Angeles in August, I hope to realize the importance of living as a Shinshū follower in today’s world through sharing the joy of having encountered the teaching of the Nenbutsu.

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.



Johnny Martinez and Michelle Harrison were the speakers at our most recent lecture series titled “Being Buddhist in America.” The well attended event was well received with many meaningful comments made by the attendants.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on February 9 and 23 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. Mas 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.

There will be an orientation meeting for the retreat on Sunday, February 7, after Temple Service. For more information contact Rev. Miyoshi.

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.



Cherry Blossom Festival

The West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 19, 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 20 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 LIII(53)

"Come Dance With Me @ Oldies LIII!" will be held on Saturday, March 26. It's our 53rd Oldies with Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. We are planning to begin the dance at 7:30 PM and end at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it a easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance. With a few more helping hands, the clean-up will go faster and everyone will be able to go home earlier.

Presale tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the door. 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 drinks will be at our Sunday service.

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:

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FEBRUARY

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Yoshitaka Ena, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosh, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, Joanie Martinez, Deanna Ormseth, Sophia Saucedo, Jose Godoy, Kiyoko Nakakihara, Matthew Woo, Glenn Tomita, Luke Shimomura, Judy Tawatari, Connie Hamachi, Amanda Jean Underwood



T H E G A T E W A Y

Socho, con't from pg. 1

renovation project of the Founder's Hall and Amida Hall last December thanks to the wholehearted support given by our members and friends from across Japan and overseas districts. I express my sincerest appreciation for your support. At the same time, I humbly accept the completion of the renovation project of the two halls, which serve as the link between the Buddha and us, as well as the responsibility of maintaining the place where we can encounter the Buddha's teaching and establish a true foundation in life. As I welcome the new year and sit in front of Shinran Shōnin's image in the newly-renovated Founder's Hall, I renew my commitment to share with all of you the significance of the fact that all of us, beyond the boundaries of nationality and language, are fellow travelers who walk the broad path of the Nenbutsu together, guided by Amida Buddha's voice from the other shore and encouraged by Shakamuni's voice from this shore.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Quote of the Month

Good should be promoted, but we should not take pride in our good; rather, if we do not cry over our own evil from having seen the evil in others, we will never become aware that we are keeping alive that same flame of evil in our hearts.

Those who do not reflect on their own evil nature are likely to exaggerate the little good that they do.

-Lady Takeko Kujo

NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT REPORT

Bishop Noriaki Ito

On behalf of Rev. Ryoko Osa, Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa, and myself, I wish to extend our best wishes for a very Happy New Year to all of our members of the temples of our district. Also, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and guidance you have extended to us during the previous year.

One of the most memorable experiences was to invite Rev. Tatsuru Kigoshi to serve as our guest speaker at a series of seminars and retreats in March 2015. Those my age and older will remember that Rev. Kigoshi was a minister here back in the 1960s, serving as minister at the Berkeley temple for many years. He and his wife were able to rekindle their friendship with some of the elders at our temples.

Among the retreats he spoke at was at a session of the Dharma Seeds educational program with representatives from our four temples. They have completed two years of the three-year program now, and will be having our 5th retreat in February at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

As most of you know, we will be the hosts of the 12th World Dobo Gathering that will be held on August 27-28 at the Los Angeles Hilton/Universal City and at the Betsuin. The Dharma Seeds will be taking a leading role in the program. With some 250 people from Japan and from the other overseas districts of South America and Brazil, we are already busy preparing for the event.

Registration for the gathering has already started and so we encourage you to sign-up as soon as possible. If you wish to take advantage of the \$50 subsidy for full-fledged members, please contact your temple minister. The deadline for early registration is 3/31/16. Availability is limited and so please sign up as early as possible.

Our wish is to share the history of our Higashi Honganji here in the North America district, to introduce to them the current activities and programs at our temples, and to think collectively about how we can ensure a bright future for our temples here, in Japan, and in all of the areas that our Shinshū Ōtani-ha denomination is active.

We look forward to your continued participation in all of our activities, and ask for your continued support and guidance. Best wishes for a wonderful 2016.

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz asks about time.

Difficulty Level: Easy- Peazy

- Match the following Buddhist teachers and the general time period in which they lived and spread the Dharma.

_____	Shinran Shonin	A. ca 560 B.C.E.
_____	Honen	B. 1130 – 1212
_____	Sakyamuni Buddha	C. 1173 – 1262
- In the recitation of the Three Treasures, the Leader says, "The incomparable, deep and profound Dharma is difficult to encounter, even through countless ages of kalpas." Buddhism does not use the concept of infinity. However, kalpa is a Sanskrit word
 - which describes a period of time required for one to take away all the poppy seeds in a 10-mile square city filled from corner to corner with the seeds if one took away one seed every three years.
 - which denotes a period of time unfathomable by us.
 - Both of the above

Answers: C-B-A, c



T H E G A T E W A Y

Hoonko Tour Report

Monic Gutierrez

Hello Dharma friends,

I would first like to thank everyone who made this Hoonko retreat happen. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. Being a mother of four kids is lots of work so taking this opportunity to learn and to experience new things gave me a timeout from my mommy duties. The first day in Kyoto was so surreal; I kept looking back saying to myself, "You have no kids right now", and I felt a little sad but I kept thinking that I'm going to see a lot of awesome sites. Sure enough, as soon as we started going on our tour my sadness turned into excitement. The first place we went to visit was the Honzan. All I can say is it was so big and beautiful and as we went inside the temple the more beautiful it was. The altar was decorated with lots of colorful flowers. I could not help think "man, I'm lucky I am going to be staying here." As soon as we were done we kept on schedule. We visited historical sites and one that stood out to me was Shoren-in (Shirakawa-bo) where Shinran Shonin got ordained. It was nice to see his life story in paintings and to be able to set foot in the same place he once stood. I have to say the most memorable time in the Hoonko retreat was staying in the Honzan Retreat Center. At first I was very nervous staying there but as soon as we got to meet other members from different temples it was like my nerves settled. All the staff there were so kind they made me feel at home. As we settled in the first day I was excited for Rev. Conway's lecture. The first day in lecture class we got to share a little about our self and it was mind blowing hearing from people from all different walks of life who come and listen to the Dharma. As the days went on it came time for the Bando Bushi. I got the privilege to sit in the front row next to the Naijin. I got to see all the movements made by the chorus of priests and got to see the Abbot chant. This made the 2 hours of sitting in seiza worth it even though I couldn't get up at the end because my legs went numb when it was over. After we went to pack up our luggage we got news that we were going to meet up with the Abbot and his wife. I have to say that he and his wife are the most kind and humble people. I thought it was so nice that they took time out of their busy schedule to meet us. So in all, my trip was amazing making new friends and sharing the Dharma. Once again thank you every one.

With gassho,
Monic Gutierrez

20th Annual Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

The year was 1996! That was the year West Covina Buddhist Temple held its 1st Golf Classic at Upland Hills Country Club. Twenty years later WCBT continues its Annual Golf Classic. The venue and format have changed over the span of twenty years but the spirit of the tournament has remained the same, friendly competition with loads of fun.

WCBT's **20th Annual Golf Classic** will be held on Friday, May 6, on the Eisenhower "Ike" Course at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. The format will be a scramble format with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Registration will begin at 11:00 am with a putting contest prior to the start of the tournament.

"How can I help to make this landmark event a huge success?" 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 6, 2016.**

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



T H E G A T E W A Y

Recent Events at WCBT



One of the many highlights of Monic Gutierrez's memorable Hoonko trip to Kyoto was cleaning the beautiful garden around the Founder's Hall. To read a full account of her trip see page 5.



The 2016 Eitaikyo Service and General Meeting: The newly elected 2016 Board of Directors was installed; President Johnny Martinez thanked everyone for their continued support; Rev. Miyoshi gave a State of the Temple report; Treasure Frank Tanji gave a financial report on the Temple's financial status; Sangha members enjoyed a delicious traditional bento.



At the January 3, New Years Service, the star of the event was the mouth watering sashimi which required several trips to fully savor the essence of the sashimi....

WCBT members attended the Center's installation dinner and enjoyed the wonderful dinner prepared by professional Chef Ryo Sato.



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





T H E G A T E W A Y

年頭の挨拶

宗務総長 里雄康意

2016年の年頭にあたり、開教区の皆様にご挨拶を申しあげます。

昨年はパリ同時多発テロをはじめ、世界各地に争いがあふれ、まさに親鸞聖人が嘆かれた末法の様相をますます色濃くしています。複雑な歴史と事情を抱え、報復の連鎖を止めることができない現実、人として抱えざるを得ない闇を思わずにおれません。まさに私たちは、今、貪愛（むさぼりとりわれる心）、瞋憎（いかりにくしむ心）の水火の大河を前に茫然と立ち尽くしているのです。

宗祖は、水の河に脅かされ、火の河に焼かれながらも、二つの河の間に細く白い一筋の道が伸びていることを示してくださいました。それにもかかわらず、目の前の道を見失い、照らされているはずの光に気づかずに当てもなくさまよっているのが私たちの偽らざる姿なのでしょう。

本山では、日本・海外を問わない尊いみなさまのご懇念により、昨年12月末をもって、12年間に及ぶ真宗本廟両堂等御修復工事が完了いたしました。厚く御礼申し上げますとともに、仏様と人間の接点であります両堂のご修復事業の完遂は、如来教化に遇う場、自らの身を据える場が手渡されたことと改めて受け止めます。新たな年を迎え、修復なった御影堂で宗祖の御真影の前に身を据えるとき、私たち一人ひとりが、国境や言語の差異を超えて、彼の岸から呼ばわれ、此の岸から押し勧められて、如来本願の大道をともに歩む「同行」であることを、ともに確かめる一年としてまいりたいと

強く思います。

本年も、どうぞ宜しくお願いいたします。

年頭の挨拶

開教司教 大谷暢裕

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。

日ごろ仏法を聴聞いただいている皆さま方におかれましては、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、私は正式に日本へ移住いたしました。ブラジルで育った私にとって、文化や習慣が違う日本での生活は改めて自分自身を見直す機会となりました。一方で、国や言葉の違いなど真実の教えたるお念仏のみ教えにとっては、瑣末なことであることも日々実感する日々であります。

しかし、世界に目を向けると、中東の戦乱はいよいよ混乱を深め、テロリズムの横行など世界各地では暴力の嵐が吹き荒れております。まさに、人知の闇は国や民族の対立を生み、多くの尊い命が奪われる社会となりました。「殺してはならぬ。殺さしめてはならぬ」。あらゆる命が軽んじられていく現代社会に仏教が存在し続ける意義を、私たち真宗門徒はその身に於いて証していくことが求められているのでしょう。

本年8月に北米ロサンゼルスで行われる第12回世界同朋大会で、皆さまとともに本願念仏の教えに出遇えた喜びを分かち合うことをとおして、真宗門徒としてこの現代に生きることの意義を確かめてまいりたいと思います。

私たち一人ひとりに、如来からの呼びかけが開かれていくことを

心より願い、年頭の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。

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4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（土）～14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。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（近隣のモーター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19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、お手伝いいただ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。

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
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P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

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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
- 21 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 23 10:00 am Study Class
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service

March

- 3 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00 am Study Class
- 13 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 19 12:00 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 20 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service
- 22 10:00 am Study Class
- 26 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 24 10:00 am Study Class

2016年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
- 21日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 / ペット追悼法要
- 28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

3月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時 法話会
- 6日 午前8時半 理事会
- 6日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 13日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 19日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 20日 午後4時半 お彼岸法要
- 26日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス

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私たちの人生の争いは、
いつも善と善との争いだ

宮城 顛