



GATEWAY



March 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 3



The WCBT and the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Sanghas participated in a retreat in San Luis Obispo over the Presidents' Day weekend. Our guest lecturer was Rev. Mas Kodani who spoke on "Being Buddhist in America."

SLO Family Retreat

Haruko Mayeda

My first trip to San Luis Obispo was with my husband and two children many years ago. What I remembered from that trip was how beautiful the setting was and how much fun the children had climbing the trees and going on nature hikes. Now nearly 30 years later I returned to the site that held such good memories. At first I was a little reluctant to go, whom would I drive up with, what could I expect?

I was lucky to be able to hitch a ride with Lee Ezaki, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson and Taylor Saucedo. We left West Covina on Friday afternoon, but because of some traffic delays it took longer than expected and arrived at San Luis Obispo Temple at around

5:00pm. There were 34 participants from the West Covina and Berkeley Temples attending the retreat. Some of the participants roughed it and stayed at the beautiful temple and others stayed at a local motel.

On Saturday morning Merry and a group of early risers prepared breakfast, which included eggs, potatoes, oatmeal and delicious blueberry and savory scones that Hisako Koga made. Breakfast and a group photo followed morning service.

At 10:00 Rev. Mas Kodani (retired minister from Senshin) gave a lecture about "Being Buddhist in America." When he was young he first went to Evergreen Baptist Church but then changed to Buddhism. As a young

adult he wanted to learn more about Buddhism and asked Rev. Art Take-moto of Nishi for advice on where he could study. After 2 weeks Rev. Art told him, that everything was set for him to go to Japan to study. The young Kodani initially thinking he wanted to go somewhere back East in the United States but not Japan. Rev. Kodani said he was absolutely terrified to go to Japan but it was the best thing that could have happened to him and it changed his life. His lecture included the differences between the Theistic view of a single almighty God and non-theistic view such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. After his interesting lecture

Please see RETREAT, con't on page 2



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma School staff will be presenting the ancient story of the blind men and the elephant to our children. There will be several activities along with the story. The object of the lesson is to point out how our ego-self hinders us from looking at all points of view; to see reality objectively. This fits well with the meaning of our next special service—Spring Ohigan.

The beautiful flowering trees again remind me that the spring equinox is almost here. Ohigan service will be held on March 20th at 4:30 p.m. We hope you and your children/grandchildren can join us for this special event!

Happy March!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

RETREAT, con't from pg. 1

there was a question and answer session.

The members of Berkeley prepared lunch, sandwiches, salad and chips. After lunch we carpooled to Pismo beach and went on a nature walks on the Promenade trail. (Pismo beach is an important part of my family history. My parents were married in 1939 in Japan then soon after sailed to California and made Pismo Beach their home. They started the family. They lived there until the outbreak of WWII and then were relocated to Poston internment camp.) At the end of the nature walk we viewed thousands of Monarch butterflies in a eucalyptus tree grove at the end of the trail.

When we got back to the temple a group participated in QiGong a form of mild exercise. Evening service started at 5:30 followed by dinner. Dick Koga and his crew prepared a delicious meal, which included pasta, a special egg-plant dish, salad and garlic bread.

After dinner Pat Sato and Joanie Martinez led us in a game of charades using Buddhist themes. It was loads of fun and it was amazing how well everyone did. After charades we played Bingo with lots of prizes.

As a side note, I was pleased to see Ted and Alice Hamachi drive up in their



large RV to the retreat on their own. They carpooled with us to Pismo beach and walked the entire Promenade trail and then walked to the end of the long Pismo Beach pier. Ted and Alice are now in their late 80's and are so healthy and independent. They even provided us with such fun at Bingo, those tricky bingo cards could fool anybody. We can all be so lucky to be so active at that age.

On Sunday we had morning service, followed by breakfast, a second lecture by Rev. Kodani, closing service, and clean up followed by lunch. All the participants from West Covina and Berkeley made the retreat a huge success. A big thank you to Rev. Nobuko, Rev. Ken from Berkeley and Rev. Kodani and also the San Luis Obispo Temple. The setting, weather and food could not be more perfect. A special thank you goes out to Pat Sato chairman for the retreat and her great helpers.

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz asks about our Buddhist Observances.

Difficulty Level: Duck soup (maybe)

Match the following Buddhist observances and their descriptions.

- 1. _____ Hoonko
- 2. _____ Obon
- 3. _____ Ohigan
- 4. _____ Bodhi day
- 5. _____ Nirvana Day
- 6. _____ Hanamatsuri

- A. This service is in commemoration of the enlightenment of Guatama Buddha.
- B. This service is a celebration of the birth of the Buddha.
- C. This is a memorial service in which we reflect on our interdependence to our ancestors and rejoice in our opportunity to encounter the Dharma.
- D. This is the memorial service of Shinran Shonin.
- E. This is the memorial date of the passing of Sakyamuni Buddha.
- F. This is a service which is held on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes during which time we endeavor to strengthen our commitment to the Buddhist life.

Answers: 1-D, 2-C, 3-F, 4-A, 5-E, 6-B



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 March 8 and 22 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.

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 Jitoshō 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. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Frederick Brenion 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. The dance begins at 7:30 PM and ends at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. Please note the earlier hours which might give us less time to set up but, more importantly, 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 at 6 PM to help with the set-up and at 11:30 PM to help clean-up since we not longer have the Sabers available to help us. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

WCBT Hanamatsuri

West Covina’s Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 10, at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to arrive early with flowers to decorate the *Hanamido*. There will be a special performance by the Dharma school children and light refreshments will be served after the service. We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the Buddha’s birthday!

LABTF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service and will be held on the April 10 beginning at 1:00 PM at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service after WCBT Hanamatsuri 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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West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 689-1040

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MARCH BIRTHDAY

Brandon Kawaguchi, Kendra Kagawa, Brion Martinez, Edward Miyashiro, Cathy Nakano, Glen Fujimoto, Karolyn Fujimoto, Joy Kitaura, Kelley Sakoda, Kathy Masai, Bob Yamashita, Danny Iwama, Lee Ezaki, Karen Ezaki, Andrew Kenji Ezaki, Claire Hansen, Dick Koga, Leo Kowalski, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teregawa, Alyssa Arnheim, Dana Yamada, Gavin Godoy, John Erickson, Bruce Whang, Emi Wexler, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mitsuru Oshita, Tatsuo Okamura, Patricia Endo, Rev. Akira Miyoshi

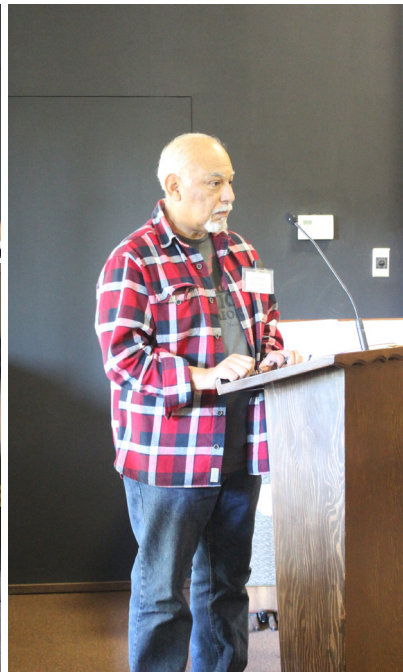
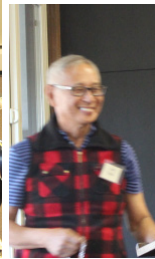


T H E G A T E W A Y

SLO Retreat 2016

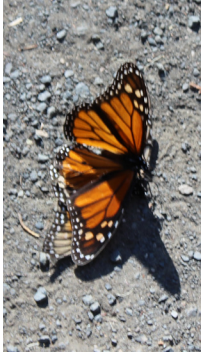


The WCBT Annual Family retreat, including our Berkeley BT guests, took place at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple surrounded by the quiet beauty of the Central California coast. It was indeed the ideal location to listen to the Dharma message shared by Rev. Mas Kodani as well as to appreciate the great food, the outdoor nature walks, and the warm camaraderie of fellow Sangha members.

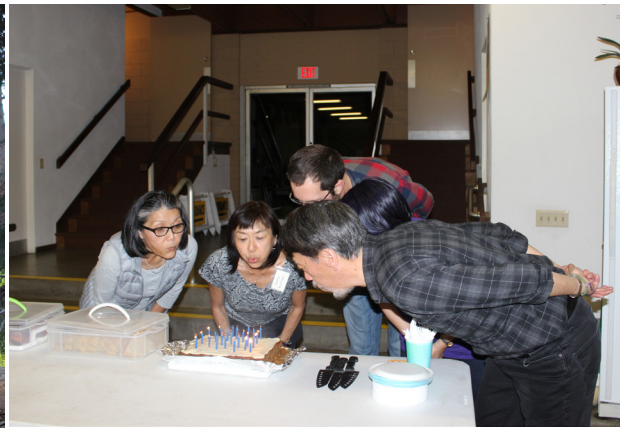




T H E G A T E W A Y



*Migrating monarchs
Dancing in Pismo
Beach warmth
We seek refuge, too*



*Laughing and learning
Guessing at Buddhist charades
Playing in Pure Land*





T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA
HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February 22, 2016

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Spring Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2016. The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2016
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Dharma Message: Rev. Frederick Brenion
(Associate Minister of North America District)

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

Higan, meaning the Other Shore (of enlightenment), is a service is conducted on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment of the Buddhist life.

門信徒の皆様へ

春を感じる今日このごろ皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて春のお彼岸法要を下記の如くお勤め致しますのでご案内申し上げます。お彼岸は古く聖徳太子の時代より行われてきた伝統ある法要です。私ども先達はこの機会を仏様の教えを聞く良き機会としてまいりました。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

春のお彼岸法要

日 時 2016年3月20日 午後4時半

場 所 日系コミュニティセンター

法 話 ブレニオン・フレデリック師 (北米開教区開教係)

*法要後当番の皆様によるお齋がございます。

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President

理事長 マルチネズ ジョン



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

Come Dance with me at Oldies LIII (53)!

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

NEW TIME
7:30 to 11:30pm



- At the ESGV Japanese Community Center
- Tickets: **\$20 presale**, \$25 at the door
- Music by High Resolution
- Drinks available, must be 21 or over
- Dressy Casual
- For tickets and/or information
Call or Text:

Joanie: **(626)300-8947** (calls only)
 Lillian: **(626)780-9866**
 or email: **wfescrow@aol.com**

Irwindale Ave	WCBT/ESGVJCC 1203 West Puente Ave West Covina	Vincent Ave
Sunset Ave	West Puente Ave	
	San Bernardino (10) Freeway	
map not to scale	West Covina Fashion Plaza	

NO HEELS for Ladies.

WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.



T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month
Nothing is worse than now
Nothing is better than now
This is only we get.
-Rev. Mas Kodani



T H E G A T E W A Y

家族リトリート 前田春子

私が初めてサンルイスオビスポを訪れたのはもう何年も前のことです。夫と二人の子供を連れての家族旅行でした。思い出すのは日没の美しさと木登りやハイキングに大喜びの子供達の姿です。それから30年近くが経ち、その時の思い出と一緒に再びサンルイスオビスポを訪れることになりました。今回は一人です。ドライブのことやどんなリトリートになるのかしら、と最初は参加を躊躇したのが正直なところです。

江崎リー氏の車に同乗させてもらうことになりました。私の他に礼子さんやティラーも一緒です。金曜日の午後にウェストコヴィナを出た私たちでしたが、渋滞につかまり、サンルイスオビスポのお寺に到着したのは予定よりも遅れた午後5時過ぎでした。今回はウェストコヴィナとバークレーから34名が参加すると聞きました。宿泊はお寺と近くのモーターです。

土曜日の朝、朝食担当のメリーさんとそのグループは他の人よりも早起きをして朝食の準備に取り掛かりました。卵やポテト、オートミールが並びます。古閑寿子さん手作りのスコーンも焼き上がりました。朝食後はグループ写真を撮りました。

今年は長年洗心寺でお勤めの小谷先生を講師としてお迎えしました。午前10時から講義が始まりました。テーマは“Being Buddhist in America”です。ご自身の体験を交えながらの講義に参加者は熱心に耳を傾けていました。

小谷先生は小さい頃はエヴァグリーンのバプテスト教会に通い、後に仏教のお寺とご縁をいただいた方です。仏教に興味をもった先生は大学卒業後の進路として仏教を学べるころはないかと当時お西のお寺にいらっしゃった竹本先生に相談したそうです。竹本先生は2週間後にもう

一度いらっしゃいとおっしゃった後、その2週間の間に小谷先生が京都の龍谷大学で勉強する準備をすべて整えてくださいました。ところがそれは小谷先生にとっては思ってもいないことでした。せいぜい東海岸のどこかの大学で勉強を、と思っており、まさか自分が日本に行くことになるとは夢にも思っておりませんでした。何も分からずこわごわ飛び込んだ日本でしたが、その経験がご自分の人生を変えた、とおっしゃっていました。

先生の講義では一神教の世界観と、それとは全く異なる仏教や儒教、道教の世界観について、その違いにも触れました。講義の後は様々な質問が出て活発な意見交換も行われました。

昼食はバークレーの方達が準備してくれました。ランチの後の野外散策ではピスモビーチにある遊歩道を散歩して穏やかな天気と美しい自然を満喫しました。遊歩道の終わりにはユーカリの林があり、何千というオオカバマダラチョウを見ることができました。

実はピスモビーチは私にとって特に思い入れのある場所です。1939年に日本で結婚した私の両親はすぐにカリフォルニアに渡り、ピスモビーチに居を構えました。ここは私たち家族の始まりの場所なのです。第二次世界大戦が始まり、ポストンの収容所に入るまで両親はこのピスモビーチに住んでいました。

お寺に戻ると気功のワークショップに参加しました。夕事勤行は5時半に始まり、その後夕食をいただきました。古閑ディック氏と彼のグループによるパスタをはじめ、ナスのチーズオープン焼き、新鮮なサラダやガーリックブレッドに舌鼓を打ちました。

ディナーの後は佐藤パットさんとマルティネス・ジョニーさんを中心にゲームタイトビンゴが開催されました。

今回のリトリートには浜地テッド、アリス夫妻も参加していまし

た。所有のキャンピングカーを運転してこられたとのことで、お二人にお会いできたことをとても嬉しく思いました。

日曜日もお朝事から始まり、朝食、そして再び講義を受けました。参加者の皆さんのおかげで本当に素晴らしいリトリートになったと思います。また、施設を貸して下さったサンルイスオビスポのお寺の方々にも感謝したいと思います。気候、食事、プログラム、どれをとっても素晴らしい2日間でした。

最後にこのリトリートを企画準備してくれた佐藤パットさんと委員の方々にも心からお礼を申し上げます。ありがとうございました。

お寺ニュース

日本語春のお彼岸法要

日本語春のお彼岸法要は3月法話会、祥月法要を兼ねて3月3日午後7時よりお勤め致します。

また英語によるお彼岸法要は3月20日午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。ブレニオン・フレデリック師をお招きして法話を聴聞します。英語法要にもご家族では是非お参りください。

センター桜まつり

今年のセンターの桜祭りは3月19日(土)に開催されます。今年も会場をSouth Hills Plaza(1420 S. Azusa Ave.)に移して開催されます。お寺は例年同様、この桜祭りに照り焼きチキンとお寿司をもって参加致します。この行事をもって寺の基金募集並びに地元への宣伝も兼ねて行うことができますと思います。つきましては皆様にお寿司の協力をお願い申し上げます。巻寿司でもお稲荷さんどちらでも結構です。当日朝午前11時半までにお寺に届けていただければ幸いです。ご協力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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

March 2016 - - Vol. 11 No. 3

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 Ohigan Service
- 22 10:00 am Study Class
- 26 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 27 10:00 am Sunday Service

2015年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 春季彼岸法要
- 26日 午後7時半 オールディーズ・ダンス
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

April

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 10 10:00 am WCBT Hanamatsuri Service
- 10 1:00 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri Service
(at JACCC in Little Tokyo)

4月行事予定

- 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 花祭り
- 10日 午後1時 仏連花祭り (於 JACCC)

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自分がここにこうして
息せしめられているだけで
すばらしい

米沢英雄