



GATEWAY



April 2015 - - Vol. L No. 4



More than 250 people had a blast at our Hawaiian themed Oldies Five-0. Each attendee was presented with a mini-bento box as a "mahalo" for helping us celebrate our 50th milestone.

The Real Principle of 'America'

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

President Barack Obama delivered a speech in Selma, Alabama, on Saturday, March 7 for the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," the famed civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery which resulted in a violent police action against non-violent protesters on the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Bill, my husband, strongly recommended that I should listen to his speech, not just read the script. So I did and realized that he was right. The President's speech was passionate and sincere. I was deeply moved by his words, even though I am not an American nor was I even born at that time.

President Obama often used the term 'America' in his speech, but the 'America' he referred to was not a geographical place or the 'United States of America' in 2015. It is the place that

manifests hopes and aspirations that this country was founded on. It is the sincerest dream that everyone in this country lives equally, and receives the same opportunities for a better life. This is the wellspring of 'America' in his speech. He honored the men and women in Selma of fifty years ago who took that step to make the idea of America true and real.

".....It is the idea held by generations of citizens who believed that America is a constant work in progress; who believed that loving this country requires more than singing its praises or avoiding uncomfortable truths. It requires the occasional disruption, the willingness to speak out for what is right and shake up the status quo.

That is what makes us unique, and

cements our reputation as a beacon of opportunity. Young people behind the Iron Curtain would see Selma and eventually tear down a wall. Young people in Soweto would hear Bobby Kennedy talk about ripples of hope and eventually banish the scourge of apartheid. Young people in Burma went to prison rather than submit to military rule. From the streets of Tunis to the

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- Temple Event Highlights:**
- April 5 Shotsuki Service
 - April 12 Hanamatsuri
 - April 12 LABTF Hanamatsuri
 - May 8 WCBT Golf Tournament
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T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma school children have been busy getting ready for Hanamatsuri. The teachers have read the story of the birth of Prince Siddhartha explaining the significance of Queen Maya's dream of the white elephant, Lumbini's Garden, and the little prince's edifying words as lotus blossoms appeared in his footsteps.

As part of the celebration of Prince Siddhartha's birth, the children have been preparing a surprise for the little prince on his special day. They have been working hard on this project and hope that the Sangha will enjoy what they've created!

The teachers will continue to explain the concept of the Middle Way and will introduce the idea of the Buddha's awakening under the Bodhi tree. These are difficult ideas for little ones (and big grownups, too!), so we hope that our parents will help us to reinforce these concepts.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our Hanamatsuri!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Dharma Seeds Retreat 3

Anthony Gutierrez

The 3rd Dharma Seeds Retreat was held at the Betsuin in Los Angeles and our speaker for this event was Rev. Tatsuru Kigoshi from Japan. Although he mostly spoke Japanese during the sessions, his stories of his experiences kept us all hooked waiting to hear the next translation.

One story that caught my attention was of Rev. Daiei Kaneko, a student of Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa. He and a group of others, some from India, were traveling to a volcano in Japan. Rev. Kaneko was a little unsure about what Amida meant at the time. So they had finally reached the top of the volcano, as he and another began to look into the volcano the person from India was saying "amita, amita, amita!" He would come to understand that "Amida is that which has no Limitations." The A in Amida means no or without, and mita means measure or limits. We sometime hear the Amitayus (Buddha of Infinite Compassion) or Amitabha (Buddha of Infinite Light). Anyhow, at that time he

came to an understanding of the name Amida Buddha, The Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Light. I think it is amazing how an answer to a question we may have can appear to us at any time, we just have to Listen.

Rev. Kigoshi spoke of several people like, Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa, Rev. Haya Akegarasu, Rev. Kaneko, a pious Shinshu Follower (*Myōkōnin*) Saichi Asahara and others, one which was D.T. Suzuki a famous Zen Master. He told us that D.T. Suzuki was a professor at Otani University for 20 years. While he was there he was translating Jodo Shinshu teachings and began to have a great understanding of them, he has even said that he may have led people down the wrong path.

All of these people shared a common ground, they all lived the true essence of Jodo Shinshu which he quoted from Rev. Ryojin Soga as "The true essence of Shinshu is to be giving the opportunity to move toward

Please see DHARMA SEEDS, con't on pg. 5



West Covina Buddhist Temple

19th Annual GOLF CLASSIC

Friday, May 8, 2015

Industry Hills Golf Club - "Babe" Zaharias Course

1:00 pm shotgun start

Show your support for West Covina Buddhist Temple by becoming a tee sponsor. Have your company or family name on one of our tee signs placed on the golf course and recognition in our golf program.

Proceeds from all levels of sponsorship will **NOT** be used to fund the tournament, but will go toward the financing of temple programs and activities.

You can also volunteer on the day of the tournament at the golf course.

For more information call Roy Takemura at (909) 973-2580 or email: rktakemura915@gmail.com





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

WCBT Hanamatsuri

West Covina's Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 12, 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 12 beginning at 1:00 PM at the Koyasan Buddhist Temple in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service after WCBT Hanamatsuri Service.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on April 28 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.



Michael J., Rev. Fred, and Rev. Miyoshi presided at the WCBT's Ohigan Service on March 15.

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 10, at 10:00 AM. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 17 at 10:00 AM. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Miyoshi if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

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



APRIL

Kevin Kawawata, Tyler Koji Isaksen, Susan Oshima, Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Nancy Maekawa, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellie Komoda, Kristen Hiranaka, Tammy Lespron, Yaeko Davis, Shakyamuni Buddha



Above: WCBT hosted dinner for Rev. and Mrs. Kigoshi on March 21.

Right: Merry Jitosh presented a nenju to Rev. and Mrs. Kigoshi. Rev. Kigoshi was the minister at Berkeley Higashi Honganji when she attended the temple. Their friendship has continued for over forty years.





T H E G A T E W A Y



OLDIES FIVE-O!



Clockwise from top left: Dancers swing their hips to the Hukilau at Oldies Five-O; Fearless Oldies Leader Joanie Martinez poses under palm tree with Fearless Spiritual Leader Rev. Miyoshi; Many Sangha members worked hard at the reception table, sold drink and raffle tickets, tended bar and slaved tirelessly in the kitchen to create the delicious mini bentos.



First, second and third place winners of our 50-50 raffle pose with Rev. Miyoshi.





T H E G A T E W A Y

AMERICA, con't from pg. 1

Maidan in Ukraine, this generation of young people can draw strength from this place, where the powerless could change the world's greatest superpower, and push their leaders to expand the boundaries of freedom.

They saw that idea made real in Selma, Alabama. They saw it made real in America...."

The history of Selma is the history of people who truly relied on the founding spirit of America, inspired by it and expressed the idea through their action. President Obama also mentioned that through their life, the principle of this country has reached many more people beyond time and place. It is they who prove the principle of this country has a universal truth.

At the same time, he honestly admitted that progress has been made, but their work is not finished yet. It was amazing that he stressed that American needs to be self-critical, and face their imperfections because that is the way for them to continuously keep marching and remake this nation to more closely align with ideals of this country.

The real principle of the America President Obama addressed truly reminded me of the 17th Vow of Dharmākara Bodhisattva. This vow is called "Vow of Praise of Amida's Name by All the Buddhas (*shobutsu shōmyō no gan*)," and states as follows;

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the innumerable Buddhas throughout the worlds in the ten quarters do not all praise and say my Name, may I not attain the supreme enlightenment.

Apparently, this sounds mythical and, therefore, it is difficult for us to relate to it. However, Rev. Ryōjin Soga states that Shinran Shonin found the wellspring of the history of Nembutsu in this vow. This is the vow about people who encounter the Primal Vow through Nembutsu. Once we are deeply moved by the aspiration of the Primal Vow, we cannot help but live in accordance with it. 'Praise and say my Name' is a symbol of our action how we live our lives reflected by the Vow. And this way of our life becomes an opportunity for many more people to encounter the aspiration of the Vow and give them strength to move forward. What this vow reveals to us is the moment of birth of those who express the aspiration of the Primal Vow.

The true principle of America in President Obama's speech truly reflects the content of Nembutsu which has been carried on by countless numbers of people and handed down through the history of Buddhism.

Well...do I think President Obama is Buddhist? I do not think he ever claims so, but that does not matter. What matters is, through him and his speech, I was able to encounter the teachings which have been actively alive in this country.



DHARMA SEEDS, con't from pg. 2

Buddhahood through the Nembutsu." We just have to listen to the teaching of the people who have come before us to reach Buddhahood. Rev. Kigoshi gave an example from the saying on all the US Dollar Bill and also on Coins, "In God we Trust" instead it should be "In me God Trusts" or "In me Amida Trusts." Instead we are resistant to just letting go and taking the easy path, we want to trust our own selves, our own human wisdom over the Buddha's Wisdom. No matter what we choose Amida is always there and trusts in us and the decision we make.

Although there is a lot more than just my little memory of things, the above is what stood out to me, just Listen. The last thing I wanted to add was a few of the names mentioned were part of the Dobo Kai movement and the goal of this movement is to "Get us into the same mode of Listening to the Buddhadharma always."

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

(「諸仏称名」7頁からの続き)

現は未だ道半ばであると告白しています。そしてその道への歩みは、現実のこのアメリカという国がその願いから未だ遠く離れているという事実を痛みをもって受け止めることよってのみ続いていく、と。

オバマ大統領の演説はアメリカ人ではない私の心にも深く響きました。それは親鸞聖人が出遇われた本願の世界が、大統領が深く信頼するアメリカの願いという形となって私に到り届いたということではないか、と感じています。

BUDDHISM QUIZ

1. Which of the following statements is not true:

Shinran's understanding of Pure Land Buddhism was that

- a. Amida was a mythical Buddha who promised salvation to anyone who repeated his name.
- b. it was a path that showed that awakening was available to anyone who is struggling to survive but who does not have the time or opportunities to study and train in monasteries.
- c. it is a teaching which brings about a true understanding of a life of suffering and the ignorance that creates it.
- d. Amida was a symbol of the Dharma itself.

2. Shinran Shonen was born in:

- a. 1173 in the village of Hino.
- b. 1573 in the city of Kyoto.
- c. 973 in the city of Osaka.
- d. 1373 on Mt. Hiei.



T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month
Knowledge speaks,
but wisdom listens
-Jimi Hendrix



T H E G A T E W A Y

諸仏称名の願 見義信香

アメリカで黒人の地位向上のきっかけとなった「セルマ大行進」から50年目を迎えた3月7日、オバマ大統領が舞台となったアラバマ州セルマを訪れ演説を行いました。

私は夫に強く勧められてインターネットを通してその演説を聞きました。大統領の演説は熱と真摯さに溢れ、心を揺さぶるようなエネルギーを感じました。

大統領は「America」という言葉を何度も口にします。しかしそれは地理的な場所としてのアメリカではなく、また今のアメリカという国の現状をそのまま肯定した言葉でもないように思えました。彼が語る「アメリカ」とは建国の願いが形をとって顕れる場であります。あらゆる人々が平等の権利と機会を与えられ、この国に生まれたことを心から喜べる、それがアメリカの原点でありましょう。

「アメリカは常に前進し続けます。その歩みは人々の愛国心によって突き動かされる歩みです。愛国心とはただ無批判にこの国の状況を讚美することではありません。この国の理念と願いにしっかりと立ったときに見えてくる矛盾、間違いに「違う！」と声をあげることなのです。

これが他の国に並ぶことのないアメリカの特徴なのです。鉄のカーテンの向こう側にいた若者はセルマの人々を見てその壁を打ち崩したではありませんか。ソウェトの若者に希望の声が届いた時、それはアパルトヘイトを撤廃する力となりました。ビルマの若者は軍の支配に身を任せるより、誇りをもって投獄されることを選びました。ウクライナの若者がその精神に触れた時、力をもたない人々が大きな権力に立ち向かい自由を勝ち取る強さとなりました。

彼らはセルマの信念、願いが真実であるということを証明しているのです。

アメリカの理念が真実であるということ
を証明しているのです。」

セルマの歴史は、アメリカの原点を真理として深く頷き、その願いによって一歩を踏み出した人々の歴史である、と大統領は受け止めました。そしてその願いはそれによって動かされた人々の姿を通して、アメリカという国を超えて世界に広がっていくのです。それこそがアメリカの理念が普遍的なメッセージをもって
いることの証明であります。

大統領のこの演説を聞いた時、私の中で大統領の言葉と法蔵菩薩の第十七願が重なって響いてきました。「諸仏称名の願」と呼ばれるこの誓願はこのように誓われています。

「たとい我、仏を得んに、十方世界の無量の諸仏、ことごとく咨嗟して、我が名を称ぜざれば、正覚を取らじ。」

これは一読すると、たくさんの仏たちがワッショイワッショイと阿弥陀仏をもちあげて、褒め称えているという神話的なイメージをもつかもたないかもしれません。けれども、曾我量深氏はこの願に念仏の歴史の源流を見ました。第十七願は、本願に念仏という形を通して触れた人が、その願いに深く頷き、出遇った感動によってその身を動かされていく。そして自らの身を通して願いを表現していく人々の姿が、さらに周りの人々の歩みを後押ししていく。そのようなはたらきを私たちに伝えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。それは、まさに本願の表現者の誕生の瞬間であります。そして、その誕生は時を超え、場所を超えて広がっていくということでありましょう。本願が真実であるということは、そうした表現者の誕生が証明していくのです。それはまさに50年前にセルマで一歩を踏み出した人々の姿であり、その姿を通してまた新たに自由と平等に生きたいと願う人が誕生し続けていったセルマの歴史と重なります。

大統領はまた、アメリカの願いの実
（「諸仏称名」5頁に続く）

お寺ニュース

花まつり法要

本年の花まつり法要は4月12日(日)午前10時よりお勤めいたします。この花まつりでは、毎年皆様にご持参頂いたお花で花御堂を飾り、お釈迦様のご誕生をお祝いいたします。また同日午後1時より、高野山米国別院にて仏教連合会合同の花まつりがお勤めされます。ご家族お誘い合わせの上、ぜひご参詣下さい。

法話会では4月2日(木)午後7時半の祥月法要のあとに花御堂を供え、お釈迦様の誕生をお祝いします。花御堂に飾るお花を少しおもちいただければ幸いです。

皆さまのご参詣をお待ちしております。

WCBT 基金募集ゴルフ大会

お寺の第19回基金募集ゴルフ大会が、5月8日(金)、インダストリー・ヒルズ・ゴルフクラブにて開催されます。午前11時より受付開始、午後1時よりショットガンスタートとなります。

参加費はお一人160ドルで、夕食費などが含まれております。ただ今参加者とティースポンサー、そしてブックレットの広告を募集しております。大会の収益はお寺の青少年教化活動や寺院維持費に使用させていただきます。皆様のご協力を賜りますよう、よろしく願い申し上げます。詳しくは、見義信香開教使までお問い合わせ下さい。

母の日家族礼拝

5月10日(日)午前10時より、母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年のように、メンバーの方による母の日のメッセージがございます。どうぞ皆様一緒にお参り下さい。

4月祥月法要

日本語花まつり

4月2日(木)午後7時半

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** 

A p r i l 2 0 1 5 - - V o l . L N o . 4

April

- 2 7:30 pm Howakai Shotsuki/Hanamatsuri
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 12 1:00 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri Service
@Koyasan Buddhist Temple
- 19 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 10:00 am Study Class
- 28 7:00 pm Lecture Series 1

May

- 2 9:30 am NAD Local Retreat
- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 pm Lecture Series 2
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 11:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament
- 10 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
- 12 10:00 am Study Class

2015年4月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会祥月/花まつり
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 12日 午前10時 花まつり法要
- 12日 午後1時 仏連花まつり
於高野山米国別院
- 19日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

5月行事予定

- 2日 午前9時半 南カリトリート
- 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
- 8日 午前11時 ゴルフトーナメント

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死んで往ける道は
そのまま
生きてゆく道です

東昇