



GATEWAY



April 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 4



"Come Dance with Me at Oldies LIII (53)" was a great success as many friends and fellow dancers showed up with wings on their feet at our recent spring event.

Mirrors

Michael Jitosh

I came across a story by Chana Sharfstein called "The Mirror" that I would like to share parts of it with you now. This is the story about a very beautiful and very special mirror that hung on a wall in the palace of a very rich man. Before this man, named Abraham, was rich he was poor. He owned a small store and he earned just enough money to take care of his family. Abraham was happy with his very simple life. He had many visitors because everyone knew that he was kind and helped all in need.

One day he hosted a guest of great wisdom and holiness. After the priest's visit, his store grew in popularity and in fortune. Abraham quickly rose in status and wealth. He was able to afford many great things

with his wealth including an ornate mirror that included every embellishment. The priest that helped turn his store around had returned to see what had become of the now rich Abraham for he had heard rumors that Abraham who was once known for his heart of gold now had a heart of stone.

The priest was welcomed into Abraham's new palace and was struck by the beautiful mirror. Abraham and his guest then walked over to the window next to the mirror. The priest pushed aside the drapes and instructed Abraham to look out at the town he had been ignoring. Abraham knew almost all the people walking past his house. Then the Priest said to Abraham, "It is strange, is it not? A mirror and a

window are both made of glass and yet they are very different." The priest continued, "when you looked in the mirror you could only see yourself and the things that belong to you. You could see much more when you looked out the window. Then you could see all your neighbors and friends from the whole town."

"That is true," said Abraham. "A mirror and a window are both made from glass. The window is transparent. Light can pass right through it. It is clear and you can see everything through it. The mirror, on the other hand, is covered with silver on one side. The rays of light cannot pass through, and therefore a mirror can only reflect what is in front of it."

Please see MIRRORS, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The cherry blossoms in Japan and Washington D.C. have been in the news recently. What a beautiful way to start the season of spring! We will be celebrating our own Hanamatsuri on April 10 this year in honor of the birth of Siddhartha.

The Dharma school staff will continue to present stories and activities that emphasize the teachings of Buddhism. Also please consider including your children/grandchildren in the children's program during the World Dobo Gathering this August. It sounds like a very wonderful experience for our youth. See Rev. Miyoshi for more information.

Hope to see all of you at the Hanamatsuri service to wish Prince Siddhartha a Happy Birthday!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



The Sangha was happy to see our dear old friend, Rev. Fred Brenion, who returned to WCBT for our Spring Ohigan Service to share his insightful Dharma message.

Dharma Seeds Retreat

Michelle Harrison

For the weekend of February 27th-28th, as a part of the Dharma Seeds group, I participated in the fifth of six retreats, hosted this year at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA. We had fantastic accommodations there and were treated to breakfast, lunch, and dinner by sangha members from Berkeley Buddhist temple. We were also shown around Berkeley and were invited to join Sunday service at Rev. Ken Yamada's temple. I loved hearing about its history and was in awe that the temple members built it themselves! Thank you Berkeley for your hospitality!

It is hard to believe that our once dreaded three year program is coming to a grand end as we help plan the World Dobo Gathering. What exciting times! When I was initially approached by Rev. Miyoshi to join the Dharma Seeds, I, like many others, had no idea it was a three year commitment. Even though we all joke about being tricked into joining Dharma Seeds, it has been a very humbling, and I daresay enlightening, experience. I am humbled by the amount of wisdom in the group and how expansive their knowledge and understanding is of Buddhism. Going on these retreats reminds me that I am a bombu, or what we young kids like to call, an idiot. Jokes aside, being a part of the Dharma Seeds, helps me remember to look past my daily struggles and embrace the Dharma.

Additionally, we have the rare opportunity this year to take part in a gathering of hundreds of Buddhists from all over the world and present them with something moving, educational, and cross-cultural. If that is not a humbling experience, then I don't know what is! Although we as a group tend to get caught up in details and conflicting opinions when discussing issues, we are (almost) always able to come to a common understanding and move forward together, which is what is most important. Our theme this year at the World Dobo Gathering is Buddhism in America: Past, Present, and Future. Truthfully told, our project is daunting and time seems to be running out, but as long as we take advantage of the present, the attendees of the World Dobo Gathering will be in for a treat!



The 5th Dharma Seeds Retreat was held at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Rev. Miyoshi, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Johnny Martinez, Anthony Gutierrez, and Michelle Harrison represented WCBT.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

LABTF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service and will be held on the April 3 beginning at 1:00 PM at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF Hanamatsuri 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!

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on April 12 and 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.

WCBT 20th Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will be holding their 20th Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 6, at the Industry Hills Golf Club at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. Registration begins at 11:00 AM and the Shotgun Start begins at 1:00 PM. The entry fee of \$160 will include golf, cart, contests, snacks, dinner and prizes. Entry forms and sponsorship forms have been mailed to Temple members. If you are able to help on the day of the golf tournament or have any questions, please call Roy

Takemura at (909) 594-3600 (office) or (909) 973-2580 (cell). For more information see page 4.

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 8, 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 15 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.

Higashi Honganji
12th World Dōbō Gathering
August 27-28, 2016
Theme: Dōbō: Seeking Unity
in the Midst of Diversity

FOR THE RECORD
The Haikus that were included with the SLO retreat pictures published in last month's issue of the Gateway were written by Joanie Martinez.

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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P. O. Box 1616
West Covina, CA 91793
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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, Phillip Underwood, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Shakyamuni Buddha



T H E G A T E W A Y

MIRRORS, *con't from pg. 1*

"I see," said the priest and nodded his head. "I see. The piece of glass that is plain is clear through and through, allowing you to see others and their lives. But when it is covered with silver, then you can see only yourself. Hmm, very interesting. It is really quite fantastic, isn't it? Now do you think it will work the other way too? Could you take a mirror and scrape off the silver so that you would be able to see everyone else instead of yourself?"

Abraham feeling so disgusted finally realized what his wealth had done to him. That evening at a party held for the entire town, Abraham asked for everyone's forgiveness. He promised to return to his old ways of kindness. After the party was over, Abraham scraped off the silver covering in a corner of his most prized possession, the mirror. He did not stop until he could see the town on the other side.

From then on every guest that came to visit would see the mirror. They admired it, but everyone also noticed that it was imperfect. People would praise it for its beauty,

then say, "Oh, what a pity! Too bad the mirror is damaged." The ornate mirror in this story is used both as an introspective/reflective source as well as an obstacle to the real world just outside his luxurious palace. He lost sight of who he truly was before he acquired fame and fortune. The now "imperfect" mirror with a corner of the silver lining removed now served as a reminder to Abraham about the lesson he had encountered and a message he could share with all his guests.

When we look into a mirror we see who we present ourselves to be on the outside. We see more and more wrinkles, gray hairs, zits and dry skin than we care to accept in our forever aging faces. When we look deeper, we can see beyond our aesthetic blemishes, taking the time to see who we truly are inside. These types of mirrors come in a variety of shapes and sizes and in various moments in our lives. Every moment that we are fortunate enough to fill our lungs with oxygen and nourish all the cells in our body is an opportunity to get to know ourselves. Just as Abraham displayed

his heart of gold while helping those in need despite how little he had and ignored them as he acquired his wealth.



Recently, I have been doing a lot of spring cleaning. In all the de-cluttering, cleaning and painting I have also seen that every one of my actions is a reflection of my self. Whether I chose to recycle to limit landfill waste or just throw it in the trash, my actions reflect who I am.

In conclusion mirrors are reflective. They can help us see who we really are if we can be honest enough with ourselves to see what is in the mirror. Mirrors are everywhere; in every moment, in every experience, every relationship. They are present in every action we take whether we notice them or not. Mirrors can also be obstructive, blocking our perception of the world around us hindering our ability to see the world beyond our own existence preventing us from seeing that we do not live alone in this world. We are all interconnected.

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



These are some of the many hard working volunteers who came out to help at the WCBT's chicken teriyaki booth during the ESGVJCC Cherry Blossom Festival on March 19.



Scenes from our Oldies 53!





T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz is about the birth of the Buddha.

Difficulty Level: Super-Duck soup

1. The Buddha's name at birth was
 - a. Sakyamuni Buddha
 - b. Amida Buddha
 - c. Siddhartha Gautama
 - d. All of the above

2. The Buddha was born in the springtime around 563 B.C.
 - a. in the beautiful Royal Palace of the Gautama clan in the Sakyas kingdom located on the border of present day Nepal and India.
 - b. in a simple and humble temple in present day Nepal.
 - c. in a beautiful park in Lumbini near Kapilavastu in Northern India to Queen (Maha)maya as she was passing through on her way home

Answers: c, c

Quote of the Month
 People sometimes imagine nibbana like a faraway city, then try to get there. As long as the aspiration is projected outside, we remain dissatisfied and suffering.
 -Ayya Tathaaloka



T H E G A T E W A Y

鏡 地頭所マイケル

今日はチャナ・シャーフスタインの『鏡』というお話を皆さんにご紹介したいと思います。

これは大金持ちの男の豪邸に飾られている鏡の話です。それは特別な装飾が施されたとても美しい鏡でした。この男の名前はエイブラハムといますが、実はもともと裕福なわけではありませんでした。小さな店を持っていた彼の収入は家族がやっと食べていけるほどのささやかなものでした。けれども彼はその質素な暮らしに満足していました。また彼は親切で困っている人を見ると助けずにはいられない性格でしたので、そんな彼を慕って多くの人が彼の元を訪れました。

ある日彼は深い智慧をもった聖者を客人として迎えました。不思議なことにその聖人をもてなした後、店は大繁盛、縁起の良いことが立て続けに起こりました。エイブラハムはあっという間に大きな富を手に入れたのです。手に入らないものが何もないほどの大金持ちになった彼は次々と高価で珍しいものを手に入れました。美しい鏡もそのひとつでした。

富を手にしたエイブラハムはすっかり変わってしまったと人々は噂しました。あの親切で優しいエイブラハムはもうどこにもいません。そんな噂を聞きつけて、あの聖者がエイブラハムの元を再び訪れました。

エイブラハムは彼の訪問を喜び、自分の新しい大豪邸に招き入れました。そこで聖者の目を惹きつけたのは例の鏡でした。鏡のすぐ横には窓がありました。聖者は窓にかかっていたカーテンを開き、エイブラハムに外の景色を見るように促しました。それはエイブラハムが富を手に入れてから気にかけることを忘れてしまった街の景色とそこに生活する人たちの姿でした。家の前を通る人たちは誰もがよく知っている人たちでした。

聖者は静かにエイブラハムに語りかけました。「おもしろいとおもいませんか？鏡も窓もどちらもガラスでできていますが、役割は全く違う。鏡はあなたとあなたが身につけているものを映してくれます。でも、逆の言い方をすればあなたのことしか映してくれない。窓を見ると、窓を通してこの町にいるあなたの友達やあなたの家の周りの人たちを見ることが出来ます。」

「その通りですね」とエイブラハムは答えました。「鏡も窓もガラスでできて

います。でも窓は透き通っていて、光を通してくれます。透き通った窓越しにあらゆることを見ることが出来る。一方鏡は片側が銀で覆われています。だから光は通ることができない。目の前にあるものしか映すことができない。」

「どうですか。あなたにとっては、今が鏡を覆っていた銀を取り去って、自分のことだけでなく、周りの人のことを見る時ではないですか。」

聖者に言われて彼は初めて富と引き換えに自分が失ったものに気づきました。その晩、彼は町の人を夕食に招き今まで自分がしたことを心から謝りました。そして以前のように誰に対しても親切に接することを誓いました。皆が帰った後、彼は鏡を手に取り、向こう側が見えるようになるまで鏡の裏の銀を削り続けました。

それから彼の家を訪れる人は必ず鏡に目を留めます。そして必ずこう口にするのでした。「とても美しい鏡なのに残念ですね。壊れているなんて」と。

この鏡は自分のことを知る手段となっている反面、彼の豪邸の外の世界を見えなくしてしまっていました。彼は困っている人に常に手を差し伸べる人間でした。しかし大きな富を得た時、その他人に対する思いやりの気持ちと態度をすっかり失ってしまったと同時に、失ったという事実にも気がつかないのです。

「壊れてしまった」鏡は、彼にそのことを常に思い出させてくれるのでした。

鏡は人が自分をどう見ているのか、その姿を映してくれず。シワや白髪など見たくない現実を容赦なく見せつけます。けれどもそうした外見以上に、内面のありのままの姿を見せてくれる鏡を私たちはもっています。それは日常のあらゆる所であらゆる形となって私たちに真の姿を教えてくれるのです。生かされているという事実のありがたさを教えてくれるのも、こうした鏡のはたらきと言えるでしょう。一方で鏡を自分の見たいものだけを映す道具として利用した時、私たちは多くの事実を見逃してしまうでしょう。あらゆる人やものとのつながりの中で私という存在があるという事実を目をつぶった時、世の中の真実も、そして自分自身の本当の姿も見えなくなってしまうのではないかと思うのです。

お寺ニュース

花まつり法要

本年の花まつり法要は4月10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、お釈迦様の誕生日をお祝いいたします。また4月3日(日)午後1時より、日米文化会館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7日(木)午後7時半の祥月法要のあとに花御堂を供え、お釈迦様の誕生日をお祝いします。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20回基金募集ゴルフ大会が、5月6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、よろしくお願ひ申し上げます。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8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ぞいます。どうぞ皆様と一緒に参り下さい。

親鸞聖人誕生会

並びに新生児初参り法要

本年の親鸞聖人誕生会並びに新生児初参り法要は、5月15日(日)午前10時より厳修いたします。親鸞聖人のご誕生をお祝いし、合わせて新生児の初参り法要をお勤めいたします。皆様のご家族、お知り合いの方に0歳から6歳までのお子様がいらっしゃいましたら、どうぞお申し込み下さい。初参り参詣をご希望の方は、見義信香開教使までお知らせ下さい。

4月祥月法要

日本語花まつり

4月7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



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April

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 3 1:00 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri
(at JACCC in Little Tokyo)
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 10 10:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 12 10:00 am Study Class
- 17 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Study Class
- 30 9:30 am NAD Local Retreat

May

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 11:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament
- 8 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class

2016年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
- 3日 午後1時 仏教連合会花まつり法要
(於 JACCC)
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 10日 午前10時 花まつり法要
- 17日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 30日 午前9時半 NAD 南カリトリート

5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時半 法話会
- 6日 午前11時 ゴルフトーナメント

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外物を追うは貪慾の源なり。

他人に従うは瞋恚の源なり。

清沢満之『定本 清澤満之文集』より