



GATEWAY



May 2014 -- Vol. XLVIII No. 5



“iBuddhists”

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

“iBuddhists” is the newest group at our temple. I like its catchy name. You can guess that it is named after ‘iPhone’ and ‘iPad.’ Members of iBuddhists are young adults around 25 years old. They use their Facebook page as a communication tool. We can see their activities from posted pictures and enjoy their comments. It helps them for outreach purposes and enables them to connect those who are also interested in Buddhism.

In addition to communicating through the internet, they also focus on achieving face-to-face relationships. The group is trying to meet on a monthly basis to do some activities together. In April, they joined the LA city event, CicLAvia, and cycled 18 miles throughout the Los Angeles area. Later this month they are planning to go on a hike.

Please see iBuddhists, con’t on page 6

Hanamatsuri Service

Claudia Haraguchi

Although Hanamatsuri is on April 8, WCBT had its Hanamatsuri celebration on Sunday April 6, 2014 with a lively chorus of Happy Birthday Śākyamuni Buddha which could be heard far and wide. Volunteers arrived early to decorate the hanamido (canopy) with an array of fragrant and vibrant colored flowers brought in by sangha members. Each year the hanamido looks beautiful, but just a little different depending on the assortment of flowers that are donated. This year’s hanamido was exceptionally lovely for our special celebration. The baby Buddha was placed under the hanamido, which represents Lumbini Garden in the springtime, and sangha members, each in turn, poured sweet tea over the symbolic baby Buddha. The tea represented the sweet and gentle rain that fell on Queen Maya and her newborn Prince Siddhartha Guatama

in that flower garden in Lumbini 2500 years ago.

Miyoshi sensei spoke about the significance of Hanamatsuri. Often times in Buddhism, stories are told not as literal events, but as analogies to teach great truths. It is hoped, she said, that the sangha listens with mindfulness and is able to recognize and accept the significant truth imbedded in the mythical story of the Buddha’s birth. Miyoshi sensei also

Please see Hanamatsuri, con’t on page 6

Temple Event Highlights:

- May 1 Howakai
- May 4 Shotsuki Service
- May 9 Golf Tournament
- May 11 Mother’s Day Family Service
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

2014 Cherry Blossom Festival Report

Merry Jitoshō

“April showers bring May flowers” --That old saying is true-- flowers are blooming abundantly everywhere ushering in warmer days. In preparation for Mother’s Day on May 11, the Dharma school is busy creating Mother’s Day gifts to thank and honor all the Moms at our temple.

The children are continuing to study the meaning of The Golden Chain. They are learning ways in which we are all dependent upon one another.

The month of May is also when we celebrate Shinran Shonin’s birthday. Born on May 21, 1173 in Kyoto, Japan, he was named Matsuwakamaru. Losing his parents at a young age, he became acutely aware of the impermanence of life. This led him to enter the Shoren-in temple at the tender age of 9. At age 29, he met his teacher Honen who greatly influenced him. Shinran is the founder of our Jodo-Shinshu (Pure Land) Sect and we celebrate his birthday with a special service called Tanjo-e. This year it will be on May 18. Hope you all can attend.

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



Quote of the Month
We condemn others for their wrongdoings, yet we remain unaware of our own.
-Nario Ohira

WCBT participated in the West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival with our famous and delicious chicken teriyaki and sushi booth. Thank you to all our hard working temple members who came out early that Saturday morning to help set up the festival and start preparing to cook and serve the teriyaki chicken. And those who were there at the end to clean up.

This year we had lot of inari and makisushi prepared by our Howakai members. Thank you, ladies for waking up early to make all the sushi. The temple is a small group but we love to participate in fundraisers. At one point during that afternoon, there were thirty members there to support the temple. Our teriyaki chicken would not sell out without our own master chef, Dick Koga. Thank you, Dick for preparing the marinade, our side dishes

and running the booth. We enjoyed all the performances during the day, one highlight was June Kuramoto, on the koto. And the other highlight was our new minister, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi jumping right in and started serving. Her special added sales pitch was her beautiful smile. And as a result, we sold out by 4:30 pm, way ahead of the 6 pm closing time. Now, everyone is warmed up for our obon, just around the corner, June 28th.



Cooking and Selling BBQ Teriyaki Chicken at the Cherry Blossom Festival on March 29





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E M E N T S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on May 13 and 27 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will continue to focus on the Shoshinge. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

WCBT 18th Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will be holding their 18th Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 9, at the Industry Hills Golf Club at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. Registration begins at 11:00 AM, the Putting Contest is from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM and the Shotgun Start begins at 1:00 PM. The entry fee of \$160 will include green fees, cart, snack bags, and dinner. The format will be Scramble and optional 3 Mulligans are \$30. Entry forms and sponsorship forms will be 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).

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 11, 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 18 at 10:00 A.M.

Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Osa from the North American District office.

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.

Oldies Dance XLVIII

"Make it a Date with Oldies XLVIII!" will be held on Saturday, June 7. It's our 48th Oldies with Steve Kikuchi &

High Resolution 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 are \$15 or \$18 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 the preceding Sunday service.

Bon Odori Practices

Bon Odori (dance) practice will begin in June, every Tuesday and Friday, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. All you need to bring are your kachi-kachi (castanets) and tenugui (Japanese towel) or fabric of equivalent size. The fans will be provided. The dates again are June 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20 and 24.

Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 15, at 10:00 AM. All graduates will be honored so please contact Rev. Miyoshi (213) 219-6140 with the names of graduates in your family.

Join us for this special event.

OBON FESTIVAL!

Our 2014 Obon will be on June 28 and is just a few weeks away. Preparations are beginning but much work is still needed to make this exciting annual event a success.

Set-up will begin on Friday, June 27, at 1:00 PM. We'll need help setting up outside and inside the gym as well as food prep and general hands-on help.

In the mean time, we are accepting donations for rice, chili and children's and regular raffle prizes. Age for inarizushi will be passed out before Obon for those volunteering to make sushi.

GATEWAY Staff

Layout & Editing: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi
Contributors: Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry 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

Website: www.livingdharma.org
Facebook: [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)
E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

Raffle tickets will be sent out and don't forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around at Sunday Services or contact Merry (714) 271-3803 to see how you can help.



MAY

Dina Mayeda, Stacey Miyashiro, Teri Ezaki, Say Masai, Ted Hamachi, Kay Sakaue, Garrett Hamachi, Kaylin Kanemaru, Claudia Haraguchi, Sara Kawai, Chimako Matsukiyo, Cheryl Teragawa, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev. Bill Briones, Shinran Shonin



T H E G A T E W A Y



iBuddhists enjoyed their CicLAvia bike ride



iBuddhists Angelica Gamboa

The Millennials, or in our case the iBuddhists of the West Covina Buddhist Temple, have recently begun to connect more closely as a group. By connecting I don't simply mean through the social media but in person too! As a new member to the Temple, this group has fittingly provided a safe, healthy and inclusive outlet in which I to listen to the Dharma.

Among the teachings that have influenced me, I would like to make the following affirmation: I am open and non-judgmental of others and myself. In our always seeking journey, this openness is complemented with the interconnected nature we are actively deepening. What better way to begin the connection than with a boba run turned lunch outing. It was there that we bonded and discussed upcoming events like Ciclavia, ice skating, and hiking.

Please join us. Our next outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. We plan on immersing ourselves in nature by going on a hike. Details to come.



This was our first event as iBuddhist group at West Covina. 9 people including myself (Michael Jitosh). Had Boba and Black and White and then ate Filipino food nearby. It was a good event to get to know each other and plan for other events in the future.





T H E G A T E W A Y

Report: A DANCIN' and a REVVIN' at OLDIES XLVII (47)!!

Joanie Martinez

Arigato, muchas gracias, and merci beaucoup for the success of our recent dance on March 22. With around 200 participants dancing in the gym, enjoying and reuniting with friends, we can all feel good that our 47th fundraiser dance provided a happy place for all our guests! Even Rimban Briones was in the house and got in a few dances with Miyoshi Sensei! West Covina Buddhist Temple Sangha's support was amazing. New to this dance was our 50/50 raffle...actually it was a 60/40 raffle, which was even better for our raffle ticket buyers. The total amount of raffle tickets purchased (a shout out to Lillian Nishihara for encouraging all to try their luck) was counted near the end of the evening. Three winners split 60% of this pot, and WCBT received 40%. We divided it in this way this particular time to encourage people to purchase more tickets. It made it more exciting... and yes, they did buy, knowing each ticket holder had a very, very good chance of winning something at this dance. Thank you Sangha members for the bonsai (Mits Oshita), gift cards to Starbucks, Trader Joe's, See's, etc, and all the other gifts that provided excitement to people as they heard their numbers being called (drum roll courtesy of DJ Steve Kikuchi). Thank you for all the drink donations from water to liquor, and thank you Barbara Shirota for securing the liquor license



again. All the tobans did their part to physically set up, decorate, bag goodies, work the reception tables, sell drink and raffle tickets, and work the bar (Johnny Martinez, Jerry Early, Richard Haraguchi, Michael Jitosh and his friend Brian, Kimio Early, and Dick Koga). Frank Tanji, our meticulous treasurer, had the enormous job of counting, recounting, and recording our finances. His bar graph of the comparative profit earnings of Oldies dances over the years is impressive. Jane Early provided all the wonderfully colorful fresh floral touches in lovely vases that were also given out as prizes. Much appreciation

goes to the Hansens for their generous monetary donation. We appreciate all that everyone did and continue to do to make this all work.

Great teamwork everyone. The next Oldies fundraiser is on June 7, same place, same time, and once again, the temple asks for the same kind of support that its members always provide. We are a small temple that puts on this kind of fundraiser three times a year, but the dedication to our mission goals, the generosity, the close friendships we develop and find in our Sangha, and the fun-loving enthusiastic attitude make any work we do together more enjoyable. Once such example of selfless dedication is Reiko Ikehara-Nelson. She came out at 6:00 pm to help with setting up the tables, chairs, filling the goodie bags, and putting up decorations. Then she went home and then drove back at midnight at the end of the dance to help us with the clean up. That, is an epitome of dana. Thank

you Reiko. Again, with gassho, arigato, muchas gracias, merci beaucoup, and grazie to everyone who came out to help at our WCBT Oldies. We hope to see all of you at our next Oldies in June!





T H E G A T E W A Y

iBuddhists, con't from pg. 1

The core members of iBuddhists are very active in the temple. Without hesitation, they have jumped into temple events, such as the Oldies Dance and the Cherry Blossom Festival. I remember at the Cherry Blossom Festival, iBuddhists members showed up in the morning to help us to pack the maki sushi and inari sushi that Howakai members made and delivered. They worked hard and had a good time even though one of girls had never seen or tasted inari sushi before. It is so nice to see that they have bonded together through these activities and events.

However, the most important element that connects them to each other, is their religious quest. Some are members of our temple with their families, but others have recently joined us on their own. Their jobs, life style, and family background vary, but one commonality is that they all share a serious interest in learning about Buddhism. We see them at our services almost every Sunday. They joined our Family Retreat in San Luis Obispo and we have just begun a Buddhism 101 Lecture Series in April which was requested by iBuddhists members.

I hope the temple can offer the iBuddhists group a spiritual home where they can feel comfortable, sharing their thoughts and listening to others. In the history of Jodo Shinshu, those places have been called "monpō dōjō (a place for listening to the teachings)," and those who share the teachings there have been regarded as Dharma friends, sangha, or 'true friends.'

In Buddhism, having true friends and being a true friend to someone is one of the greatest benefits bestowed by listening to the teachings. Learning Buddhism is fun, and learning Buddhism with friends and discussing it is even more fun. Our friends always stimulate us and help us come to a deeper understand of the teachings. Also, true friends are with us not only during the fun times, but also when we have to go through hardships.

We feel that they wholeheartedly sympathize with us, and we know they never judge us. The relationship with them is always based on trust and respect. Therefore, the presence of true friends gives us strength to live our life especially when we face difficulties and hardships.

With the various activities and gatherings, the bond between the iBuddhists members has deepened. I hope the friendships they have developed during this relatively short time, will assure that they have found their spiritual home. It is where they always see their friends relating with each other based on the teachings. This is the original form of sangha, and iBuddhists make us realize how important Dharma friends and sangha are in our life.

Hanamatsuri, con't from pg. 1

spoke of the need for each of us to express our gratitude to Śākyamuni Buddha by reciting Namu Amida Butsu. Gratitude can also be expressed by simply placing our hands together in gassho and saying, "Thank you." When said with mindfulness, it is a simple, but profound truth.

Afterwards, Toban C provided a birthday cake for Śākyamuni Buddha's birthday to share with everyone. Miyoshi sensei was able to obtain a special, naturally sweet tea (not readily available at supermarkets) from Rev. Kako who is from the Koyasan Buddhist temple. Miyoshi sensei brewed this special tea and gave out samples to all who wanted to taste it. Most Buddhist temples use regular tea at Hanamatsuri. It has been only two months since Miyoshi Sensei came to WCBT. She expressed her appreciation for the support she has received by the large turnout of sangha members not only for this

Hanamatsuri celebration, but also for many of our Sunday services. We hope many more of you will join us for our weekly services and become active sangha members in our WCBT family.

The Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation Hanamatsuri

Merry Jitoshō

On April 6, 2014, the Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation celebrated Hanamatsuri at Higashi Betsuin. The Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation consists of the following temples: Jodoshu North America Buddhist Missions, Koyasan Buddhist Temple, Long Beach Buddhist Church, Nichiren-shu Buddhist Temple, Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin, Zenshuji Soto Mission and Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple. Every year they take turns hosting the joint Hanamatsuri celebration and this year Higashi was the host. The theme was "Responding to the Wishes of the Buddha." The focus was a musical celebration followed by group participation/discussion. The Otani Gakuen beautifully sang gathas in between the various sutra chantings and sweet tea offerings. Rinban Noriaki Ito gave a dharma message on his thoughts regarding the theme and members from four temples presented their reflections.





T H E G A T E W A Y

More Pictures from the Oldies, Hanamatsuri, and Dharma School!



Our Howakai group celebrated Hanamatsuri on April 3.



A few of the iBuddhists members posed with the lovely Hanamido.



The Sangha sampled the special sweet tea after the Hanamatsuri Service.



The early rising, hard working volunteers decorated this year's Hanamido



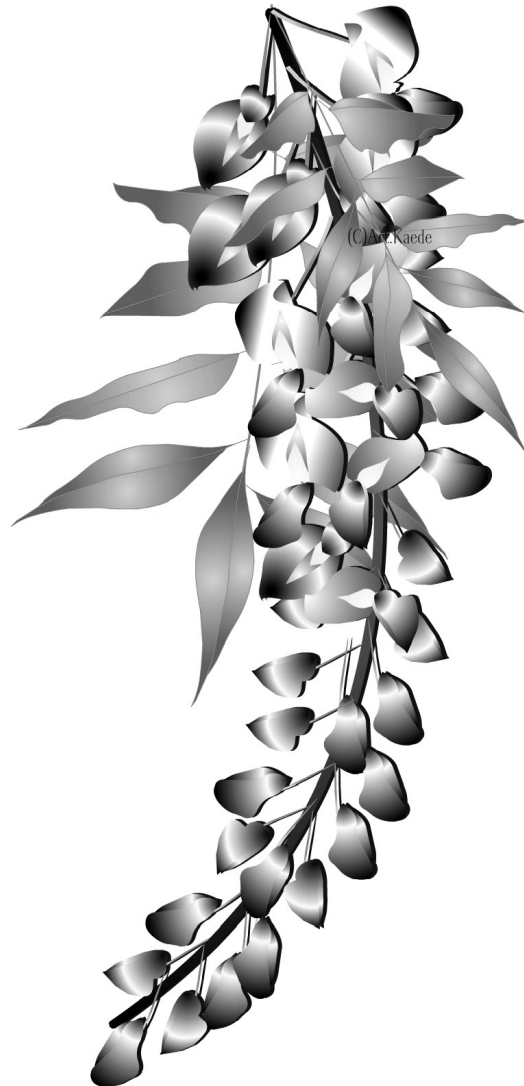
The lucky winners of our 60/40 raffle at our April Oldies Dance



The bountiful plantings from the garden project based on "The Empty Pot" story



T H E G A T E W A Y



BUDDHISM QUIZ

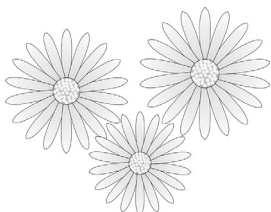
This is May 2014's "How well you know your Buddhism." We hope it will be interesting and informative for our readers.

Difficulty Level: Duck Soup

1. Sakyamuni Buddha explained the Four Noble Truths as: Life is suffering; there is causes to that suffering; there can be an end to suffering; and
 - a. That an end to suffering is possible only by renouncing all worldly passions.
 - b. That there is a path leading to the end of suffering.
 - c. That suffering builds good character.

2. The original word for suffering is
 - a. dummy
 - b. dukkha
 - c. doofus

Answers: b, c





T H E G A T E W A Y

"iBuddhists" 始動！ 見義信香

皆さんはお寺に“iBuddhists”というグループがあるのをご存知ですか。

ごく最近結成された平均年齢25歳のグループで、「仏教のことを知りたい、学びたい」という思いが開いた出遇いです。私が彼らと同じ年齢の頃は、正直仏教にも真宗にもそれほど興味がなかったことを思い出すと、本当に恥ずかしくなるのですが、それほどに熱心な人達です。毎週の日曜礼拝はもちろん、勉強会や研修にも積極的に参加します。4月に3回にわたって開かれた仏教入門講座も、実は彼らの要望に応える形で実現したものです。

また、オールディーズダンスや桜まつりなど、お寺の行事にも彼らの姿がありました。桜まつりでは法話会の方が持ち寄ってくれた巻き寿司といなり寿司を詰める作業を手伝ってくれたのですが、メンバーの一人はいなり寿司を見たことがありませんでした。余ったいなり寿司を味見するまで、彼女にとっては完全に「謎の食べ物」だったことが分かって大笑いしました。

さらにiBuddhistsの活動はお寺の外にも広がっています。月に一度のペースでイベントを企画しています。市主催のサイクリングイベントに参加したり、次はハイキングを計画しているそうです。

今はインターネットが非常に発達していますから、同じ興味をもつ人を捜すことはそれほど難しいことではなくなってきました。仏教についても同じことが言えます。iBuddhistsもFacebookを通して多くの人とつながっています。同時に、お寺に足を運び実際に顔を合せ、おしゃべりをし、一緒に出掛けることを通してそのつながりを深めることをとても楽しんでます。彼らの姿を見ていると、仏教を学ぶというのは、決して知識を得るだけではなく、人との出会いやつながりの中で仏教に学び、その学びを深めていく歩みであるということに改めて頷かされます。

普段の生活の場が異なる人達が、その生活の中で改めて仏教について感じる問いや疑問を持ち寄れる場所、自分が感じた思いや理解を自由に語り合える場所がiBuddhistsとして開かれているのではないのでしょうか。それは信頼できる友を賜る場であるといえるでしょう。聞法や求道において友を賜るということはとても大切なことです。もつというならば、心から信頼できる友達の存在は私たちが生きるうえで大きな力になります。辛い経験や悲しい出来事もそれを共有してくれる人がいる限り、その出来事に絶望することなく生きていけるのではないのでしょうか。

僧伽や同朋は「本当の友達」と言えるかもしれません。本当の友達とは、ただいつも面白おかしく過ごすということではないはず。自分が気付かなかったことを気付かせてくれる存在であり、時には一番聞きたくないことを言ってくれる相手ではないでしょうか。相手のことを真剣に思っているのは時には厳しいものです。だからこそ、それをあえて言う、そしてその言葉を聞くという関係は、信頼関係が成り立って初めて実現することではないのでしょうか。そのような信頼関係が聞法を通して実現していくのが、僧伽であり、同朋という関わりではないかと思うのです。そこはそのままの自分が受け入れられる場であり、いつでも還っていける場でありましょう。還る場所がはっきりした時、私たちは初めて自分のいただいている場で精一杯身を尽くすという生き方ができるのではないかと思うのです。

そう考えますと、お寺で最も新しいiBuddhistsの活動や歩みは、まさに僧伽のあり方を私たちに教えてくれているように感じます。

5月祥月法要 / 法話会

5月1日(木)

午後7時30分より

お寺ニュース

母の日家族礼拝

5月11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。皆さまのご参詣をお待ちしております。

親鸞聖人誕生会

並びに新生児初参り法要

来る5月18日(日)午前10時より親鸞聖人誕生会並びに新生児初参り法要をお勤めいたします。北米開教監督部より長良子師をお招きします。親鸞聖人の誕生をお祝いし、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。

盆踊り練習

本年度の当寺院のお盆祭り(6月28日)もいよいよ近づいて参りました。今年の盆踊り練習は以下の予定にて行われます。練習日は火曜日と金曜日、時間は午後7時から8時30分までを予定しております。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、お気軽にご参加下さい。

6月 3日(火)

6日(金)

10日(火)

13日(金)

17日(火)

20日(金)

24日(火)

(6月27日は練習はありません。)

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 38
Covina, CA 91722

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

May 2014 - - Vol. XLVIII No. 5

May

- 1 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 9 11:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament
- 11 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
- 13 10:00 am Study Class
- 18 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

June

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 3 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 7 8:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 10 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice

2014年5月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時半 法話会/祥月法要
- 4日 午前8時半 理事会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 9日 午前11時 ゴルフトーナメント
- 11日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
- 18日 午前10時 誕生会/初参り法要
- 25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

6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
- 3日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 5日 午後7時半 法話会/祥月法要
- 6日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 7日 午後8時 オールディーズ・ダンス

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hanamatsuri Report	1	iBuddhists	4
Cherry Blossom Festival	2	Oldies Dance	5
D.S.News	2	Acknowledgments	8
Temple News	3	Japanese Page	9

自分を本当に大事にするということが
みんなを大事にする
ということになるんです
竹中智秀