



# GATEWAY



May 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 5



Our Dharma School children entertained the Sangha with their delightful flower puppetry at our Hanamatsuri celebration.

## ***“Difficult is it to receive life in human form, now we are living it”***

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

*“Difficult is it to receive life in human form, now we are living it.”*

The Three Treasures we recite during Sunday services begins with the above sentence. The Three Treasures is our affirmation as Buddhists that we live our lives taking refuge in the Buddha, the teacher, the Dharma, the teachings and the Sangha, the community.

As the Three Treasures states, our lives began even before we are aware of it. No one remembers the moment when we were born. Also, many of us are not consciously concerned whether we can sustain our lives at this moment. For us, being born and alive seem to be nothing special. On the other hand, the Three Treasures states that it is so special for each of

us. The reason the passages begin with this statement is that our path as Buddhists starts only when we are truly awakened to the truth of this statement.

Buddhism assures us that being born in this world is rare and the most difficult thing to happen. Let us think about our own birth then, with calculating the number of people who are actually involved in our birth.

Obviously, the people directly involved with our birth are our parents. However, in order for our parents to exist, they have to have a mother and father. In this sense, without our grandparents, it is impossible for us to be born. As we calculate the number of the people involved in our birth, the number gets bigger and bigger. Can you imagine how many

people that are involved with our birth if we go back thirty generations, which is about eight hundred years, around Kamakura era in Japan when Shinran Shonin was alive? The number goes up to 2 billion 147 million 483 thousand 646! It is an enormous number of people, and even more amazingly, our birth would never had happened if we had missed only one person among them.

Of course one can say, “I do not think there were that many people on earth, and definitely not in Japan, eight hundred years ago.” As the current world population is about 7.5 billion, it does not make too much sense to us. Does Buddhism lie to us then? I do not think so. In fact, I am convinced that it is this seemingly

*Please see TREASURES, con't on page 2*



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It was wonderful to see so many children at our Hanamatsuri service! They did an excellent job of wishing Baby Siddhartha a happy birthday. Thank you to Laurie Kobayashi for making the birthday sign!

The Dharma School children will be crafting Mother's Day cards for their moms. They will also help fashion small gifts for all the Mothers on May 8. Hope to see all of you in the next weeks.

Shinran Shonin's birthday (Tanjo-e) will be celebrated on May 15. The children will participate in a short activity about the life of Shinran.

Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful Moms!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

TREASURES, con't from pg. 1

unrealistic number, shows that Buddhism tells us truth.

It is inconceivable to imagine that two billion people ever existed eight hundred years ago. However, that is not the point. What we should read from this number is that the thought of our birth never comes up in this enormous number. In other words, as long as we rely on our knowledge and calculations, the possibility of our birth is '0' percent. Nevertheless, we were born and no one can deny it. We come to realize that our birth is truly beyond our calculation, comprehension and efforts. It is difficult to comprehend this phenomena, yet we all know it happened ... truly, "difficult is it to receive life in human form, now we are living it." And the inconceivable working that makes our birth possible has been expressed as the deep aspiration or Amida Buddha in Jodo Shinshu.

The sentence is followed by, "Difficult is it to hear the Buddhadharma, now we hear it." This makes us realize the reason why we were born. Buddhism ensures us that we deserve to live our life to the fullest. Such a life cannot become true by satisfying our desires or cravings. What makes our life truly positive and happy is awakening to the preciousness of our life and the life of others. Once we become aware of this truth, our birth and our life, should not be taken for granted, each moment becomes an invaluable gift no matter what happens. It is hearing the Buddhadharma that leads us to awakening. The Three Treasures asserts that living a meaningful and thoughtful life can happen when our eyes open to the value of what we already have. This is the way of life as Buddhists.





# 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 May 10 and 24 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 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will be holding their 20<sup>th</sup> 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).

### Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 8, at 10:00 AM. Reiko Ikehara-Nelson will share a special Mother's Day message with us 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.

### Oldies Dance LIV (54)

"Come Dance Some More at Oldies LIV (54)!" will be held on Saturday, June 4. 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 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.

### Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 19, 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.

### 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, 7, 10, 14, 17 and 21. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

### OBON FESTIVAL!

Our 2016 Obon will be on June 25 and is just a few weeks away. Preparations are in the works but there's still a lot to do to make this exciting annual event a success.

Set-up will begin on Friday, June 24, at 1:00 PM. We'll need help setting up inside the gym, social hall and parking lot. We'll also need help in the kitchen with food preparation.

In the mean time, we are accepting donations for rice, chili and children's and regular raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be sent out and don't forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out for our famous West Covina Dessert Booth.

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

## 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:*

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
P. O. Box 1616  
West Covina, CA 91793  
(626) 689-1040

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*Facebook:* [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)

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## MAY

Dina Mayeda, Stacey Miyashiro, Teri Ezaki, Takashi Ena, Say Masai, Ted Hamachi, Kay Sakaue, Garrett Hamachi, Kaylin Kanemaru, Sachiko Kobayashi, Claudia Haraguchi, Sara Kawai, Chimako Matsukiyo, Susan Mita, Derek Nakawatase, Terri Shams, Cheryl Teragawa, Celina Meites, Ryden Harrison Meites, Susan Mita, Ruby Kagawa, Jakob Yoshio Jucksch, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev. Bill Briones, Shinran Shonin



T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

# Obon

FESTIVAL 2016

**BON ODORI DANCING**  
*public invited to participate*

**MARTIAL ARTS  
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**CULTURAL EXHIBITS  
AND ENTERTAINMENT**

**TAIKO DRUMMING**

**DELICIOUS FOOD  
GAMES • PRIZES**

**JUNE 25 SATURDAY  
1 PM TO 9 PM**



**1203 W. Puente Ave, West Covina 91790  
626.689.1040**

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# T H E G A T E W A Y

## West Covina Buddhist Temple Announces **Bon Odori Dance Practices**

- **WHAT:** The Bon Odori dancing is the highlight of the Obon because, as a celebratory “group dance,” it symbolizes the world of oneness that is the goal of the Buddhist teaching. It's also just a lot of fun! The public is invited to learn the specific moves of each dance at the free and popular public dance instruction practices.
- **WHEN:** Every Tuesday and Friday, 7-8:30 pm starting Friday, June 3.
- **WHERE:** the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center parking lot, 1203 West Puente Avenue, West Covina, 91790
- **THE OBON FESTIVAL:** Saturday, June 25, 1-9 pm



- **Contact Info:**  
 phone: 626 689-1040  
 website: [www.livingdharma.org](http://www.livingdharma.org)  
 e-mail: [dharma@livingdharma.org](mailto:dharma@livingdharma.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)



# T H E G A T E W A Y

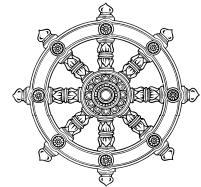


## Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz asks about a symbol of Buddhism.

Difficulty Level: Easy

1. The name for the eight spoked Dharma Wheel is called
  - a. Dharmahachi
  - b. Dharmacakra
  - c. Dharmahachimon
  - d. Dharmacarrera
  
2. Which of the following statements is True?
  - a. The Wheel of Dharma symbolizes the teaching of the Eightfold Path.
  - b. The hub or center of the Dharma Wheel represents Truth.
  - c. Just as in Life, the Wheel is always in motion.
  - d. All of the above.



Answers: b, a

Quote of the Month  
 Good parents give their children roots and wings.  
 Roots to know where home is, wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them.  
 -Jonas Salk



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 人身受け難し、 いますでに受く 見義信香

「人身受け難し、いますでに受く」これは、「三帰依文」の冒頭の言葉です。三帰依文とは仏・法・僧の三宝に帰依します（依り処とします）という私たちの宣言文であり、いわば仏教徒としての歩みをここから始めますという誓いの言葉であります。

私たちは気づいた時にはもうこの世に生まれています。そして今この瞬間生きていうことも特別なことと感ずることはあまりありません。しかしながら、三帰依文が先の言葉から始まっているということは、言い換えれば、仏教徒としての歩みは私が生まれたということ、そして今生きていうことの有り難さに目覚めることから始まるということなのではないでしょうか。

「有り難い」という言葉は文字通り有ること、起こることが難しいということでもあります。そしてなにが起こることが難しいのかといえば、なによりも私たちが生まれるということが難しいということなのです。

例えば、私がこの世に生まれるために何人の人を必要とするのか、ということを考えてみます。当然最も直接的な人は両親です。しかし、その両親も、互いの両親がいなければ生まれることはできません。つまり私たちにとって祖父母がいなければ、両親も生まれず、したがって私も生まれることができないのです。ですから、祖父母も私が生まれるためにはいなくてならない人ということになります。同様に祖父母にその両親がいなければ祖父母は生まれることができず、したがって私も生まれることができない・・・というように、私の誕生のために必要とされる人の数はどんどん増えていきます。このように繰り返していき、三十代遡ったとしましょう。これはおよそ日本では鎌倉時代まで遡ることになります。その三十代目の人から私たちの両親まですべて加えると、その数はどのぐらいになるか想像できますか？

なんと21億4千748万3646人という膨

大な数になるそうです。そしてそのうちのたった一人でも欠けてしまえば、私たちは生まれることがかなわなかったのです。

ここで次のように尋ねる人がいるかもしれません。「鎌倉時代の日本に21億もの人がいたのだろうか。」と。確かに現在の日本の人口が一億二千万強であることを考えれば、それと比べてもこの数は途方もない数字といわざるをえません。しかしながら、私はむしろこのあり得ない数字こそ、仏教が私たちに教えてくれていることが真実だと示してくれているように思えます。

もちろん、鎌倉時代の日本に21億もの人がいたはずがありません。ではそれはどういうことなのか。それは、計算上はどうあっても私たちは生まれるはずがないということなのです。つまり、私たちが自分たちの知恵や知識に依ったとき、そこから導き出される答えは、私たちの誕生は不可能であるということ以外にないのです。私たちの誕生は計算によって導き出されるものでもなければ、求めて得られるものでもありません。にもかかわらず、私たちは生まれ、生きています。まさに、「人身受け難し、いますでに受く」という事実を私たち一人ひとりがこの身で証明しているのです。

三帰依文はさらに「仏法聞き難し、いますでに聞く」と続いています。生まれることが本当に難しい私たちが今生まれたということは、計算や思いや知識を超えたところにはたらく願いを私たちがこの身で受けているということであるといえるでしょう。私たちの誕生の事実、深く大きな願いのはたらしきを感じとっていくことが仏教の視点であるということがいえるかと思えます。そしてその願いとは、なによりも仏法に出遇って欲しいという願いであったということでしょう。仏法との出遇いを通して、私たちは初めて自分の誕生の有り難さに目覚めることができ、その目覚めを通して生まれた意義を見出すことができるのではないのでしょうか。そしてそのなかで、かけがえのない自分の人生を、同じくかけがえのない尊い人生を受けた人とともに精一杯生きていくという歩みが始まっていくことでしょう。

## お寺ニュース

### 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15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。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25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時半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。

#### 練習日

6月	3日（金）
	7日（火）
	10日（金）
	14日（火）
	17日（金）
	21日（火）

（6月24日は練習はありません。）

### 5月祥月法要

#### 親鸞聖人誕生会法要 （日本語）

5月5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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

May 2016 - - Vol. LI - No. 5

**May**

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 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
- 15 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service

**June**

- 2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 3 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 4 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 10 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 12 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 12 10:00 am Sunay Service

**2016年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
- 8日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
- 15日 午前10時 誕生会/初参り法要
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

**6月行事予定**

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会
- 3日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 4日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 10日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会

**I N S I D E T H I S I S S U E**

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にんげんはねえ  
 人から点数をつけられるために  
 この世に生まれてきたのではないんだよ  
 にんげんがさき 点数があと  
 相田みつを