Within the last “100 Days” many of us have felt a sense of apprehension. International tensions have been extremely escalating lately, especially, as the world watches closely to every word and deed of North Korea and United States. In order to deal with the international situation, the Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had a meeting in Japan on Tuesday, April 18th. They agreed that it would be necessary for them to put pressure on North Korea so that they will come forward and engage in serious dialogue. In the meeting, the prime minister said, “Dialogue for the sake of dialogue is valueless” and the Vice President said, “We seek peace always as a country, as does Japan, but as you know, the United States knows, peace comes through strength and we will stand strongly with Japan and strongly with our allies for a peace and security in this region.”

“Using our strength, such as power and force, in order to achieve peace” seems to be the dominant political strategy in the current situation, to be sure there are others who support this, both in Japan and United States.

However, such “peace” has been simplified, because it assumes that “my peace” is only for us and for those who follow us. Peace coming through strength always creates victims, because it is used to exclude, oppress, or discriminate. The peace they seek is fraught with such fundamental contradiction.

It is easy to criticize their idea, however, Buddhism also reminds us that it is not an extreme idea of some politicians, but we all have relied on our strength to accomplish peace from the beginning of our human history. It is our reality that we are indifferent to other’s peace in making efforts to win our own peace through the strength we have.

It is the Larger Sūtra which reveals this problem to us through the story of Dharmākara Bodhisattva who became Amida Buddha. In the story, Dharmākara Bodhisattva was a king before he became a monk. Although the sūtra does not give us further detail, Shinran sees him as ‘King of this world’ who had sole responsibility to rule the world.

Peace Comes Through Strength?

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi
Dharma School News

Our Sangha celebrated Hanamatsuri on April 9 honoring Prince Siddhartha’s birthday. We all placed flowers on the Hanamido and poured sweet tea over the statue of the Baby Buddha. The Dharma school students put together a small gift of tea, sugar, and a cherry blossom for everyone who attended the service. We all sang “Happy Birthday” and had delicious cake. Thank you to Mrs. Denise Underwood for decorating the beautiful cake! As always, this was a lovely and joyous event.

On April 30, Mrs. Pat Sato organized a wonderful temple reunion. After service, we all enjoyed appetizers while meeting old and new friends, participated in fun activities (thank you Mrs. Haruko Mayeda!), and had a delicious luncheon prepared by the Kato Family. Special thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Higa and Mrs. Denise Underwood!

Dharma school had a few games for the children. It was great to see the children participating so enthusiastically. We thank Mrs. Mayeda for the fun parachute activities! The children enjoyed everything.

It’s almost Obon time. It seems that time just flies. Dharma School will have a display in the gym and our usual game booth. We would like to ask the Sangha to donate a small toy for our Children’s Raffle. We greatly appreciate your donations every year. The “little” guests at our Obon love to participate in the raffle.

Dharma school will concentrate on honoring our Moms in the next few Sundays. We send all our Mothers a Happy Mother’s Day!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

PEACE, con’t from pg. 1

‘King of this world’ also means that he had all the power he needed and by using the power, he devoted himself to make this world a peaceful place for all. However, as long as he relied on his power, it is inevitable to divide people between those who received the benefit of the power and those who were suppressed by it. As a result, he struggled with the reality that his power did not lead him to his ideal but created more conflicts and contradictions.

The king had strongly believed that only through the use of strength he was able to achieve peace. It was when he encountered the Buddha through his teacher, Lokśvararāja Buddha, which finally broke his belief and awaken him to the way to seek peace without relying on his power. It was the teaching he never expected, yet he was firmly convinced that that is the teaching he needed to listen to. Expressing his astonishment and deep joy, the Larger Sūtra says, “At that time there was a king who, having heard Lokśvararāja Buddha’s exposition of the Dharma, rejoiced in his heart he awakened aspiration for the highest, perfect Enlightenment.”

Needless to say, the story is myth, however, the message in the story is true and real for us.

During World War II, no doubt Japan felt its way was the best and only way to bring peace to the world. So Japan exhausted all its strength in order to accomplish it. It resulted, however, in sacrificing enormous numbers of people’s lives both in Japan and other countries. Relying on its power was a terrible mistake. The Constitution of Japan, which was enacted on May 3, 1947, is based on awakening to this mistake which resulted in deep shame and self-reproach.

In the Preamble of the Constitution, it says as follows;

We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.

We believe that no nation should solely indulge itself in its self-interest and sacrifice other countries for it. Laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations who would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationship with other nations.

We, the Japanese people, pledge our national honor to accomplish these high ideals and purposes with all our resources.

This clearly declares that real peace cannot be accomplished by political power or intimidating someone or countries we do not agree with.

When I visited Kei-Ai Lincoln Park with ministers of Los Angeles Buddhist Federation on the occasion of Hanamatsuri service, a lady said, “After the war, for over seventy years, no one in Japan had to take another person’s life and no family lost a loved one from war. Isn’t that great?” Until recently, Japan has at least tried to respect and follow this ideal.

Albert Einstein also said, “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.”

As we know, hardly any conflicts have been resolved that has led to peace by means of force. Currently as we sense the danger of things slipping out of control, let us reflect on the essence of the story of Dharmakara Bodhisattva, that through their voices saying peace should be for all and the peace does not come through strength.
The Study Class
The Study Class will meet on May 9 and 23 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 (213) 219-6140.

Mother’s Day Service
A Mother’s Day family service will be held on May 14 at 10:00 AM. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented with Joy Kitaura as our special guest speaker so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi
The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 21 at 10:00 A.M. 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 LVII (57)
“Come Dance to the Tune at the Oldies in June!” will be held on Saturday, June 3. It’s our 57th 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. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance.

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 5 PM to help with the set-up and at 11:30 PM to help clean-up since we no 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 18, 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 Thursday, 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 1, 6, 8, 13, 20 and 22. There is no practice on June 15. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

OBON FESTIVAL!
Our 2017 Obon will be on June 24 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 23, 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 or co-chair Bruce at bwhang@earthlink.net 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
Website: www.livingdharma.org
Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple
E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

MAY
Thank you to everyone for making this a successful event and in between so many other events at the center and WCBT.

Special thanks to Haruko Mayeda for planning the activities for both the adults and children. Everyone seemed to enjoy them as we were able to get to know one another a little more.

Special thanks, also, to Denise Underwood and Jennifer Higa for the event flyer, for planning the luncheon and for enlisting their family members to prep and clean the kitchen.

Although the number of attendees may have been smaller than we hoped for, it was a good attempt to bring us together.

With sincere appreciation and Gassho,

Pat Sato
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

Come Dance to the Tune at the Oldies in June!

SATURDAY, June 3, 2017, 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: lilnish77@gmail.com or joaniekmartinez@gmail.com

NO HEELS for Ladies.
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

OBON

FESTIVAL 2017

BON ODORI DANCING
public invited to participate

MARTIAL ARTS
DEMONSTRATIONS

CULTURAL EXHIBITS
AND ENTERTAINMENT

TAIKO DRUMMING

DELICIOUS FOOD
GAMES • PRIZES

JUNE 24 SATURDAY
1 PM TO 9 PM

1203 W. Puente Ave, West Covina 91790
626.689.1040
wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com • www.livingdharma.org
facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple
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 Thursday (except Thu. June 15), 7-8:30 pm starting Thursday, June 1.
- WHERE: the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center parking lot, 1203 West Puente Avenue, West Covina, 91790
- THE OBON FESTIVAL: Saturday, June 24, 1-9 pm

Contact Info:
phone: 626 689-1040
website: www.livingdharma.org
e-mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple
世界平和とは決して私物化してはいけないものであるということをこの前文は私たちに伝えてくれているのではないでしようか。

ロサンゼルス仏教連合会では毎年敬愛ホームなどの養護施設で花祭りをお祝いしています。今年そこである方が「日本は戦後70年以上、誰の命も奪っていないし誰も戦争で家族を殺されていない。とてもいいことです。」と何気なく私に語ってくださいました。

その方の言葉と日本国憲法の前文、そして法蔵菩薩の物語がひとつとなって、あらゆるひとの自由と平等に生きようとする願いとして、私たちはたらきかけているのを感じます。

「平和は力によってのみ達成される」という考えは新しいものでも、また特定の人のみの考えではなく、国や時代を超えて私たちが常にもち続けている考えであることを仏法は教えてくれています。そしてその考えに頼ることで、私たちが何度も間違いを犯してきたことは、歴史が証明しています。

武力という力をもって解決しようとすると、実際に平和に結びつけた紛争がいくつあったでしょうか。

「平和は力によってのみ達成される」ということが現在の情勢に最も適った方法だと受け止められている今こそ、それに正面から疑問を投げかける教えを聞き直していくことが願われているのではないでしょうか。

(「平和」9ページからの続き)

の法則は、普遍的なものであり、この法則に従ることは、自国の主権を維持し、他国と対等関係に立つとすると各国の責任であると信ずる。

日本国民は、国家の名誉にかけ、全力をあげてこの崇拝な理想と目的を達成することを誓ふ。

Quote of the Month
Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.
-Albert Einstein
国家間の緊張がかつてないほど高まっています。特に昨今は北朝鮮と米国の一挙手一投足に世界が注目していま
す。そんな中、ペンス米副大統領が日本の安倍晋三首相と4月18日に会談、安倍首相は「対話のための対話
は意味がない」と指摘し、ペンス副大統領も「我々は常に平和を追求するが、平和は力によって達成される」と
語り、日米で北朝鮮に対する圧力を強める方針を確認しました。

力を持つ者がその力を「正しく」使
うことで平和な世の中が実現する。そ
れが平和実現への唯一の道であるとい
うゆるぎない信念がこの会談から感じ
られます。同時にそれは今の緊張した
世界情勢に合った方法であると、多く
の人が賛同しています。

けれどもここで語られている平和は
「自国の」あるいは「自分たちと意見
や行動を同じくする人の」平和という
限定を決して出ることはありません。
そしていつもその裏側には、排除され
攻撃され、屈服させられる人の犠牲の
上にのみ成り立つという現実がありま
す。つまり力を使って獲得される平和
は、自己関心の一つに過ぎず、その平
和を享受する人とその平和のために排
除される人とを分断するという矛盾を
常に孕んでいるのです。実際その矛盾に深く悩まれたのが法
蔵菩薩ではなかったかと思うのです。
『大無量寿経』で「時に国王ましまし
き」と語られるように、法蔵菩薩は師
である世自在王仏を通して仏法に出遇
い仏道を歩む決心をする前は国を治め
た国王でした。親鸞聖人は法蔵菩薩を
「娑婆世界王」と見ておられました。
つまりある国の一国王でなく、世界
を治めるために必要なあらゆる力を備
えた世界の王であったと受け止めてお
られたのです。そしてその力を尽くし
て世界の平和を実現しようとした人で
あった、と。けれども、力による平和
の実現は、その力によって平和が奪わ
れる人を常に作り出しています。
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May
4 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
5 11:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament
7 8:30 am Board Meeting
7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
9 10:00 am Study Class
14 10:00 am Mother’s Day Family Service
21 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
23 10:00 am Study Class
28 10:00 am Sunday Service

June
1 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
1 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
3 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
6 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
8 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
11 8:30 am Board Meeting
11 10:00 am Sunday Service
13 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice

2017年5月行事予定
4日 午後7時半 法話会
5日 午前11時 ゴルフトーナメント
7日 午前8時半 理事会
7日 午前10時 祥月法要
14日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
21日 午前10時 誕生会／初参里法要
28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

6月行事予定
1日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
1日 午後7時半 法話会
3日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス
4日 午前10時 祥月法要
6日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
8日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会

骄りは人間を滅ぼし
争いは世界を滅ぼす
西原恵照