



# GATEWAY



May 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 5



*WCBT Fun Day and Family Reunion provided a chance for everyone, especially the children, to really enjoy themselves and renew old friendships and gain new friends.*

## ***Peace Comes Through Strength?***

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

*Please see PEACE, con’t on page 2*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 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 Buddhadharmā 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 Hanamatsui 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 Dharmākara Bodhisattva, that through their voices saying peace should be for all and the peace does *not* come through strength.







# 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 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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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, Cheryl Teragawa, Celina Meites, Ryden Harrison Meites, Ruby Kagawa, Jakob Yoshio Jucksch, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev. Bill Briones, Shinran Shonin





T H E G A T E W A Y

# WCBT Fun Day and Family Reunion



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











T H E G A T E W A Y

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.**

Inwindale Ave	<b>WCBT/ESGVJCC</b> <b>1203 West Puente Ave</b> <b>West Covina</b> 	Vincent Ave
Sunset Ave	West Puente Ave  San Bernardino (10) Freeway	
map not to scale	West Covina Fashion Plaza	

WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.





T H E G A T E W A Y

 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





# 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 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

e-mail: [wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com](mailto:wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com)

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



# T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month  
Peace cannot be kept  
by force; it can only be  
achieved by understanding.  
-Albert Einstein

(「平和」9ページからの続き)

の法則は、普遍的なものであり、この法則に従ふことは、自国の主権を維持し、他国と対等関係に立たうとする各国の責務であると信ずる。

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

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はこの前文は私たちに伝えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。

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ね。」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、私たちにほ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、また特定の人のみでの考えではなく、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して、実際に平和に結びついた紛争がいくつあったのでしょうか。

「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かと思います。







## T H E G A T E W A Y

## 力による平和 見義信香

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。

実は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る王でした。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はなく、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しまいます。

その矛盾に苦しむ中で出遇ったのが、世自在王仏であり世自在王仏から語られる仏法でありました。それは、力による平和の実現が唯一そして最善の方法と信じて疑わなかった王に、それを超える道を目覚めさせたはたらきでした。その目覚めは王にとって大きな悦びとなり、これこそが求めていた道であったと領き、法蔵菩薩となつてその道を歩む決心をされたのです。そのことを『大経』は「仏の説法を聞いて心に悦予を懐き、尋ち無上正眞道の意を発しき。」と表現し私たちに伝えてくれています。

もちろん法蔵菩薩は歴史上の人物ではありませんし、法蔵菩薩の物語も実際に起こったことではありません。けれども国王であった法蔵菩薩の苦悩と目覚めの内容は私たちにとっても、そしてこの現代社会においても、確かに真実であるというということがいえるのではないのでしょうか。

日本は第二次世界大戦において、日本の信じる形を世界に受け入れさせることこそが平和の実現であると信じて、持てる力の限りを尽くしました。結果として自国と他国の多くのひとの命を奪い、取り返しのつかない間違いを犯しました。その深い反省を通して、現在の日本国憲法は、力による平和の実現という方法こそが間違いであった、という目覚めをその礎としていると思うのです。日本国憲法の前文にはこのように記されています。

日本国民は、恒久の平和を念願し、人間相互の関係を支配する崇高な理想を深く自覚するのであつて、平和を愛する諸国民の公正と信義に信頼して、われらの安全と生存を保持しようと決意した。われらは、平和を維持し、専制と隷従、圧迫と偏狭を地上から永遠に除去しようと努めてゐる国際社会において、名誉ある地位を占めたいと思ふ。われらは、全世界の国民が、ひとしく恐怖と欠乏から免かれ、平和のうちに生存する権利を有することを確認する。  
われらは、いづれの国家も、自国のことのみを専念して他国を無視してはならないのであつて、政治道徳

(「平和」8ページに続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 母の日家族礼拝

5月14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21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勤修いたします。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24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。練習日は火曜日と木曜日、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	1日(木)
	6日(火)
	8日(木)
	13日(火)
	20日(火)
	22日(木)

(6月15日は練習はありません。)

### 6月祥月法要

6月1日(木)午後7時半  
午後7時30分より

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** 

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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/初参り法要
- 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

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驕りは人間を滅ぼし  
争いは世界を滅ぼす

西原恵照