



GATEWAY



June 2015 -- Vol. L No. 6



The newest members of our Sangha, Amelie Kagawa and Derek Hamachi, celebrated their Hatsumairi (First Visitation) with their family at our Temple on May 17, 2015.

Listening

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

As term paper season approaches, I often receive requests from students for an interview or to come observe our Sunday service. Talking with students is actually a great opportunity for me to learn more about what the Jodo Shinshu teaching is about.

Generally speaking the image of a Buddhist in America is a monk who shaves his head and wears saffron robes, or those who devote themselves

to meditation practices. Therefore, in many cases, students look surprised when I introduce myself as a minister. I do not shave my hair, just wear regular clothes, and above all, I am female.

Many students show their interest when I tell them that Jodo Shinshu does not set any routine as a particular practice to follow, and explain the reason. Conversations with students are always fun and I often find myself the one who is given a chance to contemplate the teaching of Jodo Shinshu through the questions they ask.

As you know, strictly speaking, Jodo Shinshu does not meditate or do any religious practice. Yet, I can say there is one practice we are all encouraged to do ...that is, listening. Jodo Shinshu teachings emphasize

listening to others, and looking inward instead of blaming others. Jodo Shinshu always encourages us to look inward which causes us to realize how much our self-centered point of view of absolute right and good, isolates us from others. Listening to others sounds very easy and it seems that everyone does it in their everyday lives. However, once we seriously see ourselves, we find ourselves not listening at all. Even to the people closest to us, such as good friends and family. We often listen the way we want to, rather than making a real effort to really listen to what they are saying. Therefore, only those who realize that they do *not* really listen, will be fully aware of the importance of listening. And this awareness may transform their perspectives and lives into more

Temple Event Highlights:

- June 6 Oldies Dance
- June 21 Father's Day Family Service
- June 26 Obon Set-up
- June 27 Obon Festival
- June 28 Obon Clean-up

Please see LISTENING, con't on page 6



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Dharma school will like to congratulate all those who have or will graduate in 2015. We also want to wish all the Dads a "Happy Father's Day".

June is a busy month for West Covina. We are getting ready for our Obon festival which will be held on June 27 this year. The Dharma school students will display their projects in the gym and will run the game booth. This year we will have 5 games for children to play. The new game is one "based on archaeology" and will be a bit of a "treasure hunt". We hope that this will be fun for the children! We will also continue with the children's raffle.

The students will be introduced to the meaning of Obon. We will emphasize that Obon is a time when we honor those who have passed away. It is also the time when we give thanks for all the support and life lessons that we have received from them. The concepts of interdependence and impermanence will be incorporated into this lesson.

See you at our Obon Festival!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



Team WCBT attended the local retreat at Newport Beach Higashi Honganji.

North America District Retreat

Johnny Martinez

On Saturday, May 2, 2015, a North America District Retreat was held at Newport Beach Higashi Honganji. This was a local retreat attended by members from our mother temple L.A. Bet-suin, WCBT, and Newport Beach. The purpose was for the deepening and enrichment of our knowledge of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

The English portion of the retreat was led by Rev. Peter Hata. I will briefly cover a portion of what I gleaned from Rev. Hata's presentation on "Buddhism and Practice."

First, he explained that the core teachings in all the Buddhist schools are the same. The differences lie in the practices or paths taken in attaining enlightenment. Three major examples covered were Vipassana, Zen, and Tibetan. There is no right or wrong practice, just different paths available in crossing over towards enlightenment. The opportunity is open for all to find a life of deep meaning and purpose.

The next topic covered Shan-Tao's "Parable of the White Path" written in the 7th century. This parable still resonates to the problems we continue to face in our daily lives. The essence of this parable is that we, as travelers, often lead our lives in self-centered delusion (ego). Ego leads us to believe

we are in control until we encounter a crisis in our lives. Problems on this shore (our life) appear to arise from the "outside," when in reality, it is an internal struggle. Blind passions, anxieties of greed and anger, are represented by a river of fire

and water. Staying on this shore and doing nothing is to die, as well as to go back and continuing to do what we were doing is to die. We become aware that the possibility of escape and safety exists by crossing a narrow white path that goes towards the other shore. The path can only be crossed by self-examination and letting go of preconceived notions that we previously had relied on. Listening and responding to the Buddha's compassion calling out to us from the other shore allows us the opportunity to save ourselves. Changing the ways we view and conduct our lives gives us the chance for true liberation and awareness of our dualistic attachments. If we have the aspiration to truly seek, we will be able to cross safely. Opening our eyes and hearts to compassion, allows us to bow our heads to the humanity and Buddha nature of all things.

Finally, in the afternoon, Rev. Hata planned an activity which illustrated the dynamic flow of impermanence that allowed us to experience being a part of that flow. It involved rhythm and music where we were all given percussion instruments such as maracas, guidos, wood blocks, and tambourines. Rev. Hata explained and demonstrated how to use the instruments in keeping time by listening to the beat of a song. The focus was in attempting to match and blend in with the Carlos Santana song "Oye, Como Va." I realize that in the joint participation that the musical experience was enhanced. On a personal level, I felt as if I was carried along by the rhythmic efforts of the others. I guess this is possibly how musicians can get lost in their music together. Being part of a Sangha could possibly be like joining a band. On Sundays I have the opportunity to experience this flow when we chant and share the Dharma together.



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 June 9 and 23 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

Oldies Dance LI (51)

"Continue the Fun at Oldies LI (51)!" will be held on Saturday, June 6. It's our 51st 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 \$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 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 Sunday service.

Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 21, at 10:00 AM. All graduates will be honored so please contact Rev. Miyoshi (626) 689-1040 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 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19 and 23. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

OBON FESTIVAL!

Obon 2015, on June 27, is almost here! Preparations are in the work but there's still much to do to make this exciting annual event a success.

Set-up will begin on Friday, June 26, 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. Raffle tickets will be sent out and don't forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out. Volunteers are needed to stuff the seasoned rice into the purchased *age* at 9AM at the Center on Saturday morning.

The Obon officially is 1:00 – 9:00 PM on Saturday but we all know that it's an all-day event and requires a commitment of friendship, hard work and interdependence with a whole lot of fun thrown in. Sign-up sheets will be on the welcome table at Sunday Service awaiting your signature so please take a look and see where you can help. Contact Merry (714) 271-3803 if you have any questions.

Obon clean-up will be Sunday, June 28, at 9:00 AM.

Obon & Hatsubon Service

Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 19 at 4:30 PM. Come and join us for this important Service and remain for the complimentary *otoki* dinner that will follow the service.

Betsuin Obon Festival

The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 25-26. WCBT will again be selling our delicious tamales. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming services so please find a time you can help out in the tamale booth and join in the dancing and festivities at the Betsuin Obon.

Las Vegas Trip

WCBT will be sponsoring its annual fundraising trip to Las Vegas on the weekend of August 7-9. The \$160 per person fee, for double occupancy, will include round-trip bus fare, two nights at the Main Street Station, Bell captain tips and lots of fun and games. A beverage will be served on the ride to Las Vegas as well as all the snacks that everyone brings to share.

The Las Vegas Obon will be on Saturday, August 8. Please let us know if you are planning to attend and need transportation.

The bus will depart on Friday,

GATEWAY Staff

Layout & Editing: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi, Richard Kagawa

Contributors: Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitosh, Michael 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
(626) 689-1040

Website: www.livingdharma.org

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

August 7 promptly at 1:00 PM from ESGVJCC. The return bus will leave from the California Hotel on Sunday, August 9, promptly at 11:00 AM.

Please contact Merry Jitosh (714) 271-3803 for more information.



JUNE

Laurie Hansen, Terri Takemura, Joshua Gutierrez, Kay Yamashita, Ray Maekawa, Sam Meites, Mia Lynn Meites, Justin Toshiro Ezaki, Kiyoshi Earley, Jerry Earley, Nicholas Ishibashi Jung, Noah Kowalski, Terri Takemura, Tor Ormseth, Craig Yanase, Richard Nakawatase, Andrew Jung, Ikuo Matsukiyo, Linda Chen, Mitchell Kozono, Joshua Gutierrez, Mark Masai, Sumie Kinoshita, Toshio Tawatari, Allan Wexler, Jeanne Kawawata



T H E G A T E W A Y

RAIN, RAIN Go Away, Come Again on a Non-Golf Day by Roy Takemura

RDespite a moderate rain the 19th Annual Golf Classic was held on Friday, May 8, on the “Babe” Zaharias course at Pacific Palms Resort. Seventy-one golfers were putting on rain gear and covers for their golf clubs preparing to play in the rain. Canceling the tournament was not an option. However, mother-nature cooperated, the rain stopped and the tournament was played under dry conditions.

The players also had a chance to win at various contests such as the mega putting, hole-in-one, closest to the pin, longest drive and most accurate drive.

The golf committee would like to thank the following volunteers for assisting on the day of the tournament. Registering the players were Richard and Ruby Kagawa, Barbara and Jon Shirota, Sumiye Arnheim, Emi Wexler, Mitzi Oshita, Joy Kitaura, Lillian Nishihara, Ron Yamasaki and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi. Witnesses for the hole-in-one contest were Richard Ha-

raguchi and Rev. Miyoshi. Collecting money at the “125 yard” hole were Judy Takemura and Hiroko Takemoto. Spam musubi were made by Lillian Nishihara, Ruby Kagawa, Hiroko Takemoto, Nancy Maekawa and Joy Kitaura. Thank you to Sangha members that donated goodies for the player’s bags.

The financial success of the tournament is because of all our sponsors and supporters. Thank you to the following individuals and companies for their generous contributions.

Platinum Plus Sponsors (\$800): George and Ruri Sugimoto, Jon & Barbara Shirota Family; Jack Wear & Julie Griffith; Lillian Nishihara Family; Hatakeyama Family

Platinum Sponsors (\$500): First Allied Securities - Richard Nakawatase; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center; Rimban William Briones & Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi Briones; Fukui Mortuary, Inc. - Russell Martinez; Takemura & Hashimoto Optometry, Inc.
Gold Sponsors (\$300): Mits & Mitzi Oshita Family



Roy Takemura and Jack Wear spearheaded WCBT's fun and profitable Annual Golf Classic.

Silver Sponsors (\$125): Miyashiro, Escaño, Whang & Wexler Families; Sabers/Saberettes Youth Basketball Organization; Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple; Higashi Honganji North America District; Newport Beach Higashi Temple; J & S Auto Service - Dan Iwama; Frank Tanji & Merry Jitosh; ESGVJCC Ballroom Dance Club; Hansen & Martinez Families; Richard and Claudia Haraguchi Family; Ted & Mary Kato Family; Bob & Kay Yamashita Family; David & Kathy Ikeda Family; Dick & Hisako Koga Family; Richard & Ruby Kagawa Family; Larry Oshima Family; Bishop Noriaki and Janet Ito; Aihara Insurance Agency - Doug Aihara; Rev. Toshihisa Enoki; San Gabriel Valley JAACL; Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, Inc.; Tokio Marine Management - David Teragawa; Kishin Daiko; Pacific Commerce Bank; Glenn Nakatani, Attorney (Double Silver Sponsor)
Patrons (\$25): Tropical Plaza Nursery; ESGVJCC Gakuen; ESGVJCC Leisure Club; ESGVJCC Karaoke Club; ESGVJCC Boomers; ESGVJCC Ayame-Kai; Mark III Properties - Cheryl Teragawa; Lee & Karen Ezaki Family; Golftech - Aki Kamimura; Eibukan Karate.

Hole-In-One Sponsor: Tsuneishi In-



The Martinez brothers, Russell and Brion, and a friend participated in the WCBT Golf Tournament at the Pacific Palms Resort



T H E G A T E W A Y

surance Agency, Inc.

Raffle Prize Donors: California Hotel & Casino Las Vegas; Aquarium of the Pacific; Industry Hills Golf Club; Los Angeles Zoo; Tokio Marine Management; Ken & Pat Sato; Ron Sato; Mits & Mitzi Oshita; Steve, Denise & Sean Underwood; Jon & Barbara Shirota; Golftech; JSL Food Co.; Jurupa Hills Golf Course; San Dimas Golf Course; San Diego Zoo Global; Allan & Emi Wexler; Bob & Kay Yamashita; Richard & Ruby Kagawa; Bruce & Sumiye Arnheim; Roy Takemura; Jack Wear & Julie Griffith; Bishop Noriaki and Janet Ito; Red Shell Foods, Inc. - donation of miso salad dressing

The tournament results were:

Low gross team: Dick Goto, Terry Komatsu, Bobby Jeffries & Bob Okada

Low net team: Merry Jitoshu, Richard Hiroshima & Frank Tanji

Group #1 team: Phil Underwood & Roy Takemura

Group #2 team: Jerome Thibodeau, James Thibodeau, Kevin Hashimoto & Fred Ige

Group #3 team: Wes Nobuta, Gary Takamatsu, Lee Ezaki & Tom Yano

Putting Contest: Richard Nakawatase

Longest Drive: Women - Kathy Taguchi; Men - Mark Komoda

Accuracy Drive: Women - Lisa Sugimoto; Men - David Yamada

Closest to the Pin: Women - Lisa Sugimoto; Men - #14 Roy Takemura & #17 Gary Zakem

High net team: (in golf low score is good) Mickey Komai, Chris Komai, Neil Komai & David Yamada
Congratulations to all the winners.

The golf committee put in many hours to organize this tournament. Thank you to Barbara Shirota, Lillian Nishihara, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Steve & Denise Underwood and Jack Wear. We are looking forward to our 20th Golf Classic in 2016.



Frank Tanji shared poignant memories of his mother for our Mother's Day Service.



Reiko Ikehara-Nelson and Anthony Gutierrez were the 2 lay speakers at the Dharma Seeds Lecture Series. They shared their personal history and connection with the Dharma.



T H E G A T E W A Y

LISTENING, con't from pg. 1
open and respectful ones.

It can also be said that peace is not a new concept, considering many people think peace is synonymous with Buddhism. As Buddhism always tells us, the way to achieve world peace is by mutual understanding and respect. In other words, it is impossible to achieve the goal "to live in a peaceful world with everyone" by certain groups of people or one country forcing others to follow its values or its own way.

It is not difficult to understand this at all. However, we should seriously consider why Buddhism keeps reminding us of this simple idea. The only reason is because we do not live in a peaceful world.

Buddhism also reveals our reality, that is, we are the ones who create discord among ourselves and others' peace by not listening to each other or respecting each other. What we need to do is to stop blaming others for making our world full of fear, hostility, and distrust. Instead, we should start to look inward to make it clear where conflicts and troubles come from.

Our differences with others do not cause conflicts. Conflicts are always caused by our self-centered perspectives that cannot accept any other way but our own. Not listening is the attitude that makes our world narrow and exclusive. Our history shows us that we have been ignorant about our self which has not really cared about peace even though we always talk about world peace.

Buddhism teaches us that the truth always makes sense to us, consequently we think that there is nothing new or special about the teachings. However, it is difficult for us to live our lives in accordance with the truth. Rather, we would prefer to neglect or go against it both consciously and unconsciously. For example, intellectually it is not difficult for us to understand the truth of impermanence, yet, from the bottom of our heart we wish to be an exception to that truth. We desire youth, health, and life for ourselves and for our loved ones, and try to keep them as long as possible.

This is why, in the Amida Sutra, Śākyamuni Buddha says, "I have, for the sake of living beings,

expounded this Dharma that is so difficult to believe in. This was a most difficult task." The message that we should receive from it is not that the teachings are too complicated for us to understand, rather, it shows us the reality of ourselves, that we are the ones who reject the teaching to live by.

Both listening to others and living in a peaceful world sounds like a "no brainer." Because of that, it really does not mean anything to us until we sincerely reflect upon ourselves, and make it work within our own lives. And once we come to realize that we are far from the simple truth, then, we finally realize the meaning and significance of it for each of us.

Jodo Shinshu ceaselessly sheds light on us to reveal our true self as neglecting and betraying the teaching. Only through facing our true self, we are able to receive opportunities to return to the teaching and listen to it once again. In other words, it is the teaching of Jodo Shinshu that is specifically for those who are furthest away from Buddhism. It calls out to us in our everyday life to reflect and truly listen to the teachings.



Obon - Breaking News!!

The Obon committee made a decision to prohibit the practice of reserving parking spaces for other family members and friends. If a pylon or a chair is used to reserve a space, they will be removed immediately. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

However, a few spaces on the west side near the gym door will be designated for loading and unloading only. Also, there will be four handicap parking spaces made available. Thank you for your cooperation.

Quote of the Month

I am standing here with tears of joy and truly understand the sacrifices they made for a better life for their children.

If you are listening,
thanks, Mom.

-Frank Tanji



T H E G A T E W A Y

 WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

Obon

FESTIVAL 2015

BON ODORI DANCING
public invited to participate

**MARTIAL ARTS
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**CULTURAL EXHIBITS
AND ENTERTAINMENT**

TAIKO DRUMMING

**DELICIOUS FOOD
GAMES • PRIZES**

**JUNE 27 SATURDAY
1 PM TO 9 PM**



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



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 Tuesday, June 2.
- **WHERE:** the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center parking lot, 1203 West Puente Avenue, West Covina, 91790
- **THE OBON FESTIVAL:** Saturday, June 27, 1-9 pm



- **Contact Info:**
 phone: 626 689-1040
 website: www.livingdharma.org
 e-mail: dharma@livingdharma.org



T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA H. H. BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS



VEGAS WEEKEND "FUN"-draiser!
Main Street Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV

AUGUST 7, 8 & 9, 2015



DEPARTURE:

The bus departs promptly on Friday, August 7, 2015, at the "new time" of 1:00 p.m. from East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (ESGVJCC), 1203 West Puente Ave., West Covina, CA



RETURN:

The return bus departs promptly on Sunday, August 9, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. from Main Street Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV.



COST:

\$160.00 per person/double occupancy. Price includes bus transportation, bell captain's tip and driver's tip. We'll have lots of games and prizes on the drive to Vegas.

- * PLEASE KEEP YOUR SAME SEAT ON THE TRIP TO VEGAS AND THE RETURN TRIP TO ESGVJCC
- * FEEL FREE TO BRING SNACKS & MUNCHIES FOR YOURSELF AND SHARING
- * PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION BY JULY 27, 2015, for more information and/or questions, please contact Frank T. Tanji at 714-271-3398 or email his at fttanji@gmail.com

Make checks payable to *West Covina H. H. Buddhist Temple*
Mail to: WCHHBT c/o Frank Tanji, PO Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

Name: _____

Number of Person in room _____ Email/Phone _____

Name of roommate(s): _____

TOTAL AMOUNT REMITTED: \$ _____

NO refunds – NO cancellations: Please try and find your own replacements. If you need help, please call Frank at 714-271-3398. Thank you.



T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Here is another one of our quizzes to test you on "How well you know your Buddhism." We hope that it will continue to be informative and entertaining for our readers.

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

1. The following statement, "Life is Full of Suffering," is part of
 - a. The Eightfold Noble Path
 - b. The Six Paramitas
 - c. The Four Noble Truths

2. The Three Dharma Seals (Sanbo-in) are common to the entire diversity of Buddhism around the world. They are: (1) All things are impermanent (2) the absence of a permanent self or ego, and (3)...
 - a. Nirvana is peace
 - b. Dharmacakra (Wheel of Dharma) is always in motion
 - c. The cause of suffering is ignorance

Answers: c, a



T H E G A T E W A Y

「聞く」ということ 見義信香

4月に入る頃から学生の訪問やインタビューを受ける機会が多くなっていきます。学生との会話を通して私自身学びの機会をいただいているということを常に感じます。

アメリカで多くの人々がもつ仏教のイメージは剃髪してサフラン色の衣で身を包んだ僧侶であったり、座禅の修行を勤める人の姿であったりします。ですから、電話で予約をした学生に自己紹介をすると、大抵驚いた顔をします。さらに、浄土真宗では座禅のような修行を定めていないという話をすると、その目が驚きでますます大きくなります。興味をもっていろいろな質問をする学生との会話は本当に楽しく、時には時間を忘れて話し込むこともあります。そうした出会いのたびにいつも感じることは、私が彼らに仏教の教えを説くというよりは、彼らを通して、実は私自身が浄土真宗の教えとは何か、という問いを問いかけているのだということです。

浄土真宗の教えは私たちに聞くことの大切さ、そして自分自身を見つめることを説く教えといえるでしょう。浄土真宗は都合の悪いことが起こって苦しんだり悩んだりする時、残念ながらそれを一刻も早く解決する方法を教えてください。起きている事実を「都合の悪いこと」と見てしまう、逆の言い方をすれば、常に自分にとって都合のよいことばかりを望んでいる私たちの生き方にこそ問題があるということさらけ出す教えがあります。聞くことの大切さを説く教えは、同時に聞けていない私たち自身の姿をどこまでも明らかにする教えといえるでしょう。

特に「聞く」ということは別段難しいことのように感じないかもしれませんが、誰もが「そんなことは毎日普通にやっていることだ」と思うかもしれませんが、しかしながら、本当に相手の声を聞いているかと改めて自分に問いかけた時、自分の聞きたい言葉を聞きたいように聞いているに過ぎない自己の姿が見えてくるのではないのでしょうか。家族や友人など最も親しい人の言

葉ですら、時としてそのまま受け入れることができないのが私たちです。それなのに、誤解や衝突の原因を「相手が自分の言うことを全然聞いてくれないからだ」というように自分以外にその責任を被せようとしているのです。ですから、浄土真宗において聞くことの重要性、大切さを痛感するのは、聞けていない自分と向き合った時に初めて可能になるといえるでしょう。

同じように、「平和」も私たちにとっては耳慣れた言葉であります。取り立てて珍しい課題でもないかもしれませんが、しかしながら、私たちが考えるべきことは、なぜ私たちが歴史を通じて常に平和を願い続けなければいけないのか、ということではないかと思うのです。それは耳慣れたその言葉の重要性、意味を見過ごし、全く自分自身の課題として受け止めていない私たちの現実をそのまま映し出しているように思えるのです。平和について異議を唱える人はほとんどいないでしょう。しかしながら、私たちの生き方、考え方、人との関わり方は、本当に平和の願いに立ったものになっているのでしょうか。むしろその願いを無視し、時には平気で踏み込んでいるのが私たちではないのでしょうか。

仏教においては、真理というのは決して難解なものではありません。むしろ水が高いところから低いところへと流れるように、誰にとっても当たり前で、自然に理解できるのが真理であります。しかしながら、仏教はその一方で、頭でその真理を理解することは容易ですが、その真理のままに生きることがなかなかできないのが私たちである、とも教えてくれています。「聞く」ということも「あらゆる人とともに生きる平和を願う」ということも、自然に理解できます。しかし、それを生活の中で実現することがなかなかできません。そしてほとんどの場合、その矛盾に気づかず、口では大切だといながら平気でそれに背き続けているのです。

阿弥陀経の最後に釈尊は「爲一切世間説此難信之法 是爲甚難（一切世間のために、この難信の法を説く。これをはなはだ難しとす。）」と述べておられます。これは、教えが私たちに理解できないほど難解であるということではなく、むしろ、その教えに背き続けている私たちの身の事実を明ら

かにしている言葉といえるでしょう。

私たちが教えを無視し、背き続けているという事実立った時、同時にそのような私こそが教えに出会うよう願いをかけられ続けている身であったという事実が目覚めることができるのではないのでしょうか。自らの身の事実を痛みを感じるとき、初めてその身に一瞬もたゆまずにはたらきかけ続けている教えの輝きと熱に全身をあげて傾くことができるのでしょうか。

お寺ニュース

盆踊り練習

本年度の当寺院のお盆祭り（6月27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 2日（火） 5日（金）
9日（火） 12日（金）
16日（火） 19日（金）
23日（火）

（6月26日は練習はありません。）

父の日・卒業記念家族礼拝

6月21日（日）午前10時より、父の日・卒業記念家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。お父さんや今年卒業式を迎えられるお子様には、お寺より記念品を贈呈いたします。卒業を迎えるお子様がおられましたら、是非お寺までご連絡下さい。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

お盆フェスティバル

今年のお盆フェスティバルは6月27日（土）に開催いたします。本年も法話会の皆様にはそうめんとお寿司のご協力をお願い申し上げます。詳しくは、別便のお願いの案内状にてご案内いたします。どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

また、28日（日）午前9時より後片付けを予定しています。お力添えをいただければと思います。

お盆フェスティバルは、お寺の大切な基金募集行事です。ご協力賜りますようお願い申し上げます。

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



June 2015 - - Vol. L No. 6

June

- 2 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 4 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 6 8:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 9 10:00 am Study Class
- 9 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 12 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 14 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 14 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 16 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 19 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 21 10:00 am Father's Day Family Service
- 23 10:00 am Study Class
- 23 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 26 1:00 pm Obon Set-up
- 27 1-9 pm Obon Festival
- 28 9:00 am Obon Clean-up

2015年6月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 4日 午後7時半 法話会
- 5日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 6日 午後8時 オールディーズダンス
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 9日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 12日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 14日 午前8時半 理事会
- 14日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 16日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 19日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 21日 午前10時 父の日/卒業祝い家族礼拝
- 23日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 27日 午後1時~9時 お盆フェスティバル

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1	Golf Report	4
D.S.News	2	Acknowledgments	10
Local Retreat	2	Japanese Page	11
Temple News	3		

役に立たなくていいです。
人は何かの役に立つために
生まれてくるのじゃないのです。
祖父江文宏