



GATEWAY



June 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 6



*We welcomed two new members to our Temple at the May 15th Hatsumairi Service.
Center left, Jordan Kiyomi Jucksch (Kagawa family) and center right, Max Yasuo Shimomura (Kitaura family).*

Dharma Seeds Prepare for 2016 World Dobo Gathering

Anthony Gutierrez

On May 21st and 22nd, members of the Dharma Seeds gathered at LA Betsuin for the last Retreat of our 3 year program. In this meeting we continued our discussion and preparation of the Dharma Seeds presentation for the 12th World Dobo Gathering, which will take place on August 27th and 28th, 2016. Although some of the discussions often seem to go off topic and may seem like we are going in circles, we are making great progress. It is great to see how much care there is for the present and future plans of our temples and that we are open and willing to change to make the temple more attractive, accessible and welcoming to more people.

The presentation we are preparing for the World Dobo Gathering is starting to come together and we are trying to make this, as one Reverend

from overseas requested from the Dharma Seeds, "not boring." I myself am very excited to see all the interviews come together in a complete edit. All the interviewees had excellent content and just to see the past, present and future come together looks amazing. You will not want to miss the 12th World Dobo Gathering because it is going to be an exciting event to attend and remember.

After the morning service and message from Rinban Ito, each member of the Dharma Seeds was asked to give a Kanwa about their experience in the Dharma Seeds Program. Each member had a heartfelt message and even though it is always nerve wracking to get up and speak, all the Kanwas came out great. But the message that everyone seemed to agree with was from Johnny Martinez

when he said "all these people in the front that are here (Dharma Seeds) are here because they care about the temple."

At the end of our meeting at Betsuin, I was lucky enough to be chosen to lead the chanting of the Tanbutsuge. Of course when leading chanting I try to remember from the other Dharma Seeds retreat how to properly gassho, hit the gong and how loud the pitch should be and that makes me extra nervous, but I made it through. After chanting we concluded with each of the Dharma Seeds receiving a special sash called a "Monto Kataginu," Monto means Jodo Shinshu followers, especially lay followers. Kata means shoulder and Ginu means cloth. This represented the completion of the 3 year program
Please see DHARMA SEEDS, con't on page 2



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

June is an exciting and busy month for our temple. Father's Day will be celebrated on June 19 this year. Dharma School will honor all our fathers with a small gift of appreciation. Our graduates will also be recognized on this day.

Obon is coming up soon. The date for our Obon is June 25. The Dharma School's game booth will be in operation and we will have our annual children's raffle. We are asking the Sangha to donate a toy or book for our raffle. We appreciate your generous support! Dharma School will also have a display in the gym. We welcome everyone to visit it.

During the Obon season, we remember with gratitude and love those who have passed on before us. It is the special time of the year that reminds us of how much we appreciate the Buddhist teachings of interdependence and impermanence. Looking forward to seeing you at our Obon festival!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



JUNE BIRTHDAY

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 Shams, Tor Ormseth, Craig Yanase, Richard Nakawatase, Andrew Jung, Ikuo Matsukiyo, Linda Chen, Mitchell Kozono, Joshua Gutierrez, Mark Masai, Sumie Kinoshita, Toshio Tawatari, Allan Wexler, Xavier Godoy, Sadako Sogioka, Jeanne Kawawata

DHARMA SEEDS, *con't from pg. 1*

and the members will wear this at each of our Sunday services and special events. With the training we've received we are able to better assist our reverends with service and help to welcome and answer questions anyone may have about our Jodo Shinshu tradition.

Although this was the end of the program, it is only the beginning of our journey. We hope to see a second Dharma Seeds program in the future and who knows, maybe YOU will be the next seed to sprout. Thank you.



NAD Local Retreat Report

Lee Ezaki

I was asked to give a report on Higashi Honganji North America District Local Dobo Retreat presentation on Dharma Encounters: Ancient to Modern: presented by Reverend Peter Hata at the LA Betsuin. His presentation was five plus hours long so I will have choose what I thought were the highlights. The Dobo movement in America started in 1991. Dobo means friends of the Dharma or seekers of the Dharma.

The Ancient portion of his lecture began with the birth of the Prince Siddhartha over 2500 years ago. At his birth a seer predicted the Prince would grow up to be a religious leader or a great king. His father, the present king, did not want Siddhartha to be a religious leader so he kept his son sequestered and pampered in the castle for 29 years. But the young Prince became restless and wanted to see the world outside the castle.

The Prince makes 3 trips outside the castle and is shocked when he sees the sufferings of an old man, a sick man, then a corpse. On his fourth trip he encounters a spiritual

seeking priest (Story of the Four Gates). The Prince, motivated by seeing the world of suffering, renounces his pampered way of life and becomes a spiritual seeker. During the next 6 years he becomes a monk and endures the ravages of severe ascetic practice which did not relieve his suffering mind. Then he decides to sit under a Bodhi tree and try deep meditation.

During this period of meditation at the age of 35, he experiences Enlightenment (Awakening). He realized that his ego of ignorance and arrogance (his own self) was the demon and that desire was a cause for much of his suffering. He awakened to the realization that all life was based on impermanence. Other descriptions frequently used for Awakening include: no-self, selflessness, no suffering, constant change and become one with impermanence.

Reverend Hata made an interesting point that the Buddha now, after receiving Enlightenment, did not know what to do with his new understand-

Please see NAD, con't on pg. 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

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!

Oldies Dance LIV (54)

"Come Dance Some More at Oldies LIV (54)!" will be held on Saturday, June 4. It's our 54th 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 5 PM to help with the set-up and at 11:30 PM to help clean-up. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheet for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on June 14 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.

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.

OBON FESTIVAL!

Our 2016 Obon will be on June 25 and is just a few weeks away. It's time for everyone to come together for this festive event that combines our past and present. There's something about the smell of teriyaki that brings back all those memories of Obons past and will forever remind you of the excitement and hard work you shared with fellow temple members and friends. Preparations are in the works but there's still a lot to do to make this 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, cans of 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.

Manto-e lanterns will again be available for those wishing to honor the memory of departed relatives and friends. A custom made Japanese lantern will be personalized with the name of your loved one with each \$20 donation.

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

Obon & Hatsubon Service

Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 17 at 4:30 PM. Come and

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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:

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Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

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 30-31. 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.

Quote of the Month
America did not invent
human rights.

In a very real sense
human rights invented
America.

-Jimmy Carter



T H E G A T E W A Y

NAD, con't from pg. 2

ing of wisdom and compassion which he now possessed for a period of 49 days. What should he do with the new feeling of great bliss and happiness he had gained? He did not have to share the realization that suffering from ego-centered attachments to self arises from myriads of interrelated causes and conditions.

But the Buddha chose to become a Bodhisattva (a person who shares his teachings) Bodhi means "mind of awakening" and sattva means "person". So the Buddha wanted to share his "Awakening" or Bodhi mind not just for himself but for all sentient beings. His goal was for everyone to attain "nirvana". Nirvana being the state of mind where ego-centered problems cease to exist. After listening to the profound teachings of the awakened Buddha, his disciples felt more alive because they also understood his message of impermanence and the importance of living in the present.

Advancing to the 13th century, Shinran Shonin promoted Pureland Buddhism which he helped make available to both genders and all classes of people which was not the norm during this period. Accord-

ing to Shinran Shonin the Dharma is available to everyone but we must be ready to receive it.

Reverend Peter Hata then gave examples of modern encounters with Buddhism.

Musician David Bowie once said, "I have always followed the tenets of Buddhism, especially the one about change. What came from my Buddhist bumbblings is that change is our river. I keep coming back to that, and it means a lot to me."

The gifted poet Jane Hirschfield, once commented that because we find impermanence difficult, we tend to "filter our experience, sort it into likes and dislikes, things we want to repeat and things we want to avoid." But the task, she says, is not to discriminate, but simply to "see what is for precisely what it is."

In 1974 Bernard Ighner wrote the song "Everything Must Change". The following is a portion of the lyrics:

Everything must change
Nothing stays the same
Everyone will change
Nothing stays the same

The young become old
Mysteries do unfold



Cause that's the way of time
Nothing and no one goes
unchanged

Author Joanna Macy presented several key concepts in "The Work that Reconnects 21st Century Mahayana Buddhism". A true believer should feel gratitude and appreciate all the blessings that he or she enjoys. A true believer should be able to "honor the pain" by acknowledging the suffering of oneself and that of others. Then one can see through new "awakened" eyes, that impermanence is the cause and condition of this suffering.

And so, in reviewing Dharma Encounters from ancient to modern times, the most important dynamic of the new found compassion and appreciation is to answer this call for action by going forth and sharing your understanding. The sense of gratitude and understanding from your heart should serve to motivate oneself to contribute in some measure to society. Answer the call by doing something knowing you can't do it all. It could be to share the Dharma with others or contribute time or other resources, such as, to help the homeless. From your own past experiences, let the feeling of dana manifest it itself with action. Commit to help others and be part of the solution. If you can respond to this inner call, you will be one with interdependency.

Namu Amida Butsu



An enthusiastic group from WCBT were there to support Rev. Peter at the Higashi Honganji North America District Local Dobo Retreat.



T H E G A T E W A Y

The 20th Annual Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

The 20th Annual Golf Classic was held on Friday, May 6, 2016, on the Eisenhower "Ike" course at the Industry Hills Golf Resort. The weather was a factor with a threat of rain when the tournament started. Standing on the fairway with the light rain falling, it reminded me of Sakyamuni Buddha's birth in Lumbini's Garden with light sweet rain falling. However, the light rain soon became a downpour and all thoughts of the Buddha's birth were soon forgotten and my thoughts were now on how to keep my clubs and I dry. Fortunately, the rain did stop and the tournament was completed followed by the awards dinner.

The results of the tournament are as follows:

Low gross team: Lisa Sugimoto, Dick Goto, Mark Komoda & Bobby Jeffries

Low net team: Merry Jitoshio, Frank Tanji, Ron Hiroshima & Doug Iwanaga

High gross team: Tom Yano, Dennis Oshiro, Gene Sakamoto & Yoji Niho

Closest to the Pin Men: #13 Mark Komoda

#15 Steve Underwood

Longest Drive: Men, Todd Odagawa; Women, Lisa Sugimoto

Accuracy Drive: Men, Kris Hatakeyama; Women, Lisa Sugimoto

Putting Contest: Aki Kamimura

On behalf of the tournament committee, thank you to all the participants, tee sponsors and raffle prize donors for your support to make our tournament a big success.

I would like to thank the following volunteers who helped with the registration, selling of raffle tickets and passing out the player's goodie bags. They were Barbara & Jon Shiota, Emi Wexler, Mitzi Oshita, Richard Kagawa, Richard Haraguchi & Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi. Our on course volunteers were Richard Haraguchi and Rev. Miyoshi at the Hole in One hole and Judy Takemura at the Buy a Drive hole. Thank you for staying out on the course bearing the rain, wind and cold.

Thank you to all the Sangha members who donated items or making spam musubi for the player's goodie bags. This year the bags were filled with items from the Northern Trust Open, a PGA Golf Tournament held at Riviera Country Club. The items included rain poncho, golf cap and umbrella, all appropriate for the elements the golfers faced. These items were obtained by Steve Underwood who has been a volunteer for over 30 years at that tournament. Thank you, Steve.

This year the proceeds from the raffle drawing will be donated to the Kumamoto Earthquake Relief Efforts. As of this writing, the total proceeds are well over \$1,000. The winner of the first prize, an iPad Mini was Kris Hatakeyama and the second prize, a 32" TV was TV was Bishop Noriaki Ito. The iPad was purchased by WCBT and the 32" TV was donated by Steve, Denise and Sean Underwood.

In closing, my personal thanks to the committee members: Barbara Shiota, Sumiye Arnheim, Lillian Nishihara, Phil Underwood, Jack Wear, Steve & Denise Underwood and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi.



L to R: Barbara Shiota, Roy Takemura and Mitzi Oshita



L to R: Joy Kitaura and Cheryl Teragawa



L to R: Jack Weir, Rev. Miyoshi and Phillip Underwood



T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

Obon

FESTIVAL 2016

BON ODORI DANCING

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T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Announces Bon Odori Dance Practices

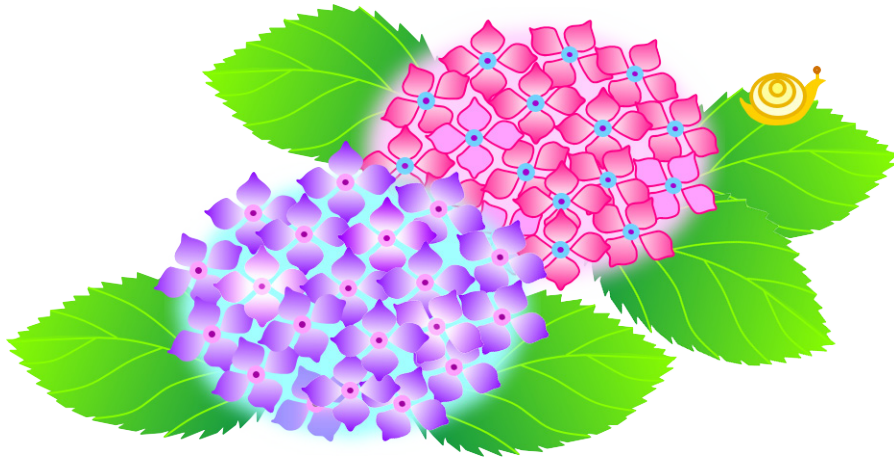
- **WHAT:** The Bon Odori dancing is the highlight of the Obon because, as a celebratory “group dance,” it symbolizes the world of oneness that is the goal of the Buddhist teaching. It's also just a lot of fun! The public is invited to learn the specific moves of each dance at the free and popular public 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
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T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz asks about symbols of Buddhism.

Difficulty Level: Easy

1. Which of the following statements is NOT True about the nenju and juzu.
 - a. They are different words for the same meditation beads used in Gassho.
 - b. They are symbols of unity and harmony.
 - c. The words nenju and juzu are often preceded by the honorific "o" — "onenju" and "ojuzu."
 - d. The onenju is used only by Buddhist priests and the ojuzu is used by the lay sangha.
2. There are three crests which are associated with Higashi Honganji temple. Which one is NOT part of our temple.
 - a. The Peony Crest
 - b. The The Five-Circle Crest
 - c. The Sakura Crest
 - d. The Eight-Wisteria Crest

Answers: d, c



Las Vegas Trip Change

This year we will be joining Pasadena Buddhist Church for our annual Las Vegas trip on August 5-7 and since this is Pasadena's first time, the incomparable Frank Tanji will be helping with the games. The cost of \$200 (double occupancy) or \$220 (single occupancy) will include bus transportation, driver tips, games and prizes on the bus, 2 nights accommodations at the California Club Hotel & Casino and meal tickets (2 bkfst, 2 lunch, & 2 dinner) that can be used at the California or Main Street casinos.

The bus will depart from Pasadena Buddhist Church on Friday, August 5 at 9:00AM and will stop at ESGVJCC at 9:30AM. On Saturday, the bus will be taking those who want to attend the Las Vegas Obon. On Sunday, the bus will leave the California Hotel promptly at 11:00AM for the return trip. For more information, please contact Jeannie Toshima at 562-305-6018 or jeannie_toshima@me.com.



T H E G A T E W A Y

芽吹きの時

グティエレス・アンソニー

5月21日、22日の二日間、別院にてダルマ・シードプログラムの研修会がありました。3年に渡って続いたこのプログラムは、この研修会をもって修了します。研修会のほとんどの時間は8月27日と28日に開催される第12回世界同朋大会で行われるダルマ・シードプログラムの発表の準備に充てられました。何をどのような形で発表するか、ということから話し合い、それを一つの形にしていくのはとても困難な作業でした。長時間の話し合いの途中では、横道に逸れたり、議論が堂々巡りをすることもありましたが、参加者全員が真剣に関わりました。お寺に対する強い思いがあるという点では全員が共通しています。だからこそ見えてくる課題と将来への展望を話し合う中で、私たちが共通に感じたことはお寺をもっと魅力的な場所にすること、多くの人に関かれた場所となるよう、時には勇気をもって今までのやり方を変えることも必要だということでした。

世界同朋大会で私たちが行うプレゼンテーションが、この二日間です。ようやく形になってきました。参加者の一人がブラジルの開教使から「退屈させるなよ!」と言われたことを紹介したのを機に、できるだけみんなが興味を持ってくれるようなプレゼンテーションにするよう知恵を絞りました。

また各お寺のダルマ・シードの参加者はそれに加えて、それぞれにビデオプレゼンテーションを製作します。ウェストコヴィナは北米開教区の「現在」に関するビデオを作っていますが、教区内のお寺のメンバーの人へのインタビューをメインとしました。仕上がりがとても楽しみです。インタビューを通して過去、現在、そして未来がしっかりとつなが

っていることを実感できるからです。一人でも多くの方が今回の世界同朋大会に参加してくれることを願っています。きっと一生思い出に残る素晴らしい大会となることと思います。

22日は別院の日曜礼拝に参加しました。伊東輪番のお話の後、ダルマ・シードのメンバー全員が感話でこのプログラムで学んだことを話しました。人前で立って話をするなどということは、本当に慣れないことですが、どのメンバーの感話も心に響く素晴らしいものでした。特にマルティネス・ジョニー氏が語った「ダルマ・シードとして今ここにいるということは、みんながどれほどお寺のことを大切に思っているかということの証拠です」という言葉には、そこにいた全員が感動しました。

研修会の閉会式で、私は光栄なことに嘆仏偈の調声を勤めることになりました。調声の仕方やマナーなどは以前の研修会で学びました。けれども、いざ自分が勤めるとなると、合掌の仕方やキンの打ち方、声の大きさや高さなど、いろいろなことに気持ちがいくほど緊張の度合いも増していきました。なんとか終えた時には本当にホッとしました。

式の最後にはプログラム修了の記念としてメンバー一人一人に門徒肩衣が手渡されました。これからは、お寺での法要の時などに是非その肩衣をつけて参詣してくださいという言葉を送りました。

足掛け3年にわたって続いたこのプログラムを通して私たちは多くのことを学びました。今後はそれぞれが所属するお寺で開教使と一緒にあってお寺を支え、お寺に足を運ぶ人たちの質問などを受けて、浄土真宗の教えをたくさんの人に伝えるお手伝いをしていきたいと思っています。

プログラムは修了しましたが、私たちのダルマ・シードとしての旅は始まったばかりです。第2期のダルマ・シードのプログラムがまた始まります。今度はあなたが仏法の種を

芽吹かせ育てる一人となるかもしれません。

合 掌

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。）

父の日・卒業記念家族礼拝

6月19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25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、別便のお盆の案内状にてご案内いたします。どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

また、26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

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

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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 Sunday Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 14 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 17 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 19 10:00 am Father's Day Family Service
- 21 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 24 1:00 pm Obon Set-up
- 25 1-9 pm OBON FESTIVAL
- 26 9:00 am Obon Clean-up

2016年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
- 12日 午前8時半 理事会
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 14日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 17日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 19日 午前10時 父の日家族礼拝
- 21日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 24日 午後1時 お盆祭り準備
- 25日 午後1時—9時 お盆フェスティバル

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命には形がないんです。
だから命には、
大きいも小さいもないんです。

仲野良俊