



GATEWAY



July 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 7



The WCBT once again culminated its tireless planning and tremendous amount of sweat and effort with another wonderfully successful Obon.

The Path to Peace

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

On Friday, May 27, President Obama became the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, Japan, where the United States dropped an atomic bomb in 1945. His visit was brief but historic, therefore, it made headlines not only in Japan and the United States, but also throughout the world. Some took a favorable view of his visit, others expressed their concerns and criticized it. A group of people who felt that the US was justified dropping atomic bombs opposed the president's visit. They were concerned that the President might express an apology about dropping the atomic bomb



Thanks to the dedication and hardworking Sangha members, their families and friends, the West Covina Buddhist Temple had another very successful Obon Festival on Saturday, June 25th. Although those who worked in the cooking area had to struggle with relentless heat all day long, we were delighted to see people enjoying delicious Obon food such as chicken teriyaki, chow mein, and chashu pork bowl. We hope our Obon Festival offered many people a place to bond together, experience a joyful atmosphere, and feel the comradery of our Buddhist community.

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Obon co-chairs, Mrs. Merry Jitoshio and Mr. Bruce Whang, members of the Obon committee, and all the members and friends of West Covina Buddhist Temple for their devotion and commitment.



Please see PEACE, con't on page 2



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Many thanks to all who helped in the Dharma School Game booth during our Obon Festival! Special thanks to Lauren and Brian Yanase, Deanna, Joy, Matthew, and Tor Ormseth, Diane Hata, and Laurie Kobayashi for your tireless enthusiasm during such a hot afternoon. A very special thank you to Pat Sato for helping to coordinate the games and prizes—couldn't have done it without you.

The Dharma School was overwhelmed by the generosity of our Sangha. We received so many wonderful prizes for our children's raffle—thank you for making the many winners of our raffle so happy! Our game booth was well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time.

Obon is a time for remembering our loved ones who have passed away. We remember them with gratitude and love. The season of obon makes us mindful of the interdependence of life and how profound our connections with one another are.

Have a fun and relaxing summer!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



PEACE, con't from pg. 1
in Hiroshima. For them it meant the legitimacy of dropping the bomb would be undermined. They claimed that it was the atomic bomb that brought an early end to the war saving many Americans lives.

Other concerns were heard from neighboring countries of Japan. They were apprehensive that Japan might emphasize only the aspect as the victim and ignore the fact that Japan caused unbearable suffering to their countries. They asserted that they were the true victims, not Japan.

"Is dropping atomic bomb right or wrong?" "Is Japan the victim or victimizer?"—These arguments have been ongoing and we all try to make an either-or decision. However, the reality of wars is not that simple. The problem of those arguments is that they are based on

the idea that one action leads to one solid answer. Our actions, though, have various aspects. One action looks completely different depending on how we see it and where we see it. It is not a black and white situation.

There is no doubt that dropping the atomic bomb ended the war early, thereby saving many American soldiers. However, this can never be the legitimate reason to take more than 100,000 people's lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 'Saving American lives' and 'taking Japanese lives'—both are facts that dropping the atomic bombs created. In the same way, even though atomic bombs caused massive devastation in Japan, this cannot undo what Japan did to people in China and Korea.

In his speech at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, President Obama expresses this reality as 'humanity's core contradiction.'

"In the image of a mushroom cloud that rose into these skies, we are most starkly reminded of humanity's core contradiction.....How easily we learn to justify violence in the name of some higher cause.....Nations arises telling a story that binds people together in sacrifice and cooperation, allowing for remarkable feats. But those same stories have so often been used to oppress and dehumanize those who are different."

Please see PEACE, con't on pg. 8



The Dharma School game booth was very popular with the children who attended our Obon this year. The games provided many hours of fun and excitement for the little ones.



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 July 12 and 26 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 (213) 219-6140.

Obon & Hatsubon Service

Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 17 at 4:30 PM. Rev. Paul Imahara will be our special speaker. Please help us welcome Rev. Imahara at 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.

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. Contact Jeannie Toshima at 562-305-6018 or jeannie_toshima@me.com if you are interested in going.

August Schedule

The August board meeting will be held 8:30 AM on **July 31**. The August Shotsuki Service will be held at 10:00 AM on August 7. We will then take our annual summer break so there are no Sunday Services on August 14, 21 and 28 (World Dobo Gathering). Services will resume again on September 4.

12th World Dobo Gathering

The 12th World Gathering will be held on the weekend of August 27-28 at the Hilton Hotel Los Angeles / Universal City and at the Los Angeles Betsuin. It is anticipated that approximately 300 people will gather from the three overseas districts and Japan. The theme of the upcoming meeting is "Dobo: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity," with the accompanying slogan, "Learning from the Past – Living in the Present – Envisioning the Future." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Unno, associate professor and head of the Religious Studies department at the University of Oregon. We hope that all of you will join us for this historic event.

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:

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JULY

Jamie Nakatani, Sylvia Ena, Jaylene Gutierrez, Kevin Hata, Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez, Laura Miyake, Margaret Takemoto, Ryoko Kodama, Richard Haraguchi, Craig Taguchi, Corey Taguchi, Pat Sato, Garrett Kawaguchi, Tyler Kobayashi, Marcus Nishihara, Lillian Nishihara, Kurt Kowalski, Jamie Teragawa, Jonathan Hoey, Jeffrey Akune, Anthony Gutierrez, Sam Kozono, Susie Kozono, Sayo Kikunaga



T H E G A T E W A Y

Reflections of Obon 2016

By Bruce Whang

Another successful Obon celebration has come to pass! Successful, not in the sense of monetary gains, but in the sense of how our members, families, and friends came together for a wonderful day in celebration of those loved ones who have passed away. As I participate in each annual Obon, I continue to be impressed by the members of our small temple, especially the members that are my senior, of how we accomplish so much in such a short amount of time.

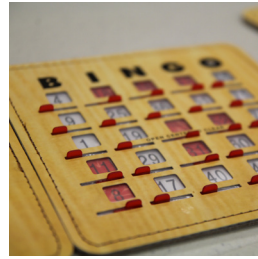
Each member has a given task, or is willing to assist where help is needed, without reservation or complaint. Each member knows what needs to be accomplished in each booth or activity and does so skillfully. Obon brings families and friends together for a special moment in time. At times, it is overwhelming when thinking of all the little, and big, tasks that must be taken care of before the last Saturday in June... but it always comes together. The comradery and commitment, before, during, and after, is truly enlightening.

While speaking with the President of our temple, and remembering what the First Lady of the temple said, Obon is about the celebration of our passed family members through the act of dance. The happiness and joy on the faces of the dancers is what Obon is all about. It's not about the food, which is delicious, or the demonstrations, which are awesome, or the exhibits, which are wonderful; Obon is about the uniting of the members of a temple for the common purpose of remembrance. Everything else is just a bonus. A great big THANK YOU to those who participated in this year's Obon!





T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA
Higashi Honganji
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Dear Members and Friends,

June 29, 2016

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Obon and Hatsubon Service which will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 17, 2016. This is a combined memorial service not only for those members who specifically have lost a loved one in the previous 12 months (Hatsubon means "first Obon service"), but also a universal memorial service for all our loved ones who have passed on.

The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date:	Sunday, July 17, 2016
Time:	4:30 PM
Dharma Message:	Rev. Paul Imahara (English)

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

The Obon Service is held to remember our ancestors and to celebrate our life and is one of the most important observances of the year. Please join and gather again this year to resolve to deepen our understanding of Buddhism.

Gassho,
Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister
Mr. John Martinez, President of the Board of Directors



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

PEACE, con't from pg. 2

This contradiction is the reality of not one country or of an 'evil' people, but each of us. The message from the Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum is that anyone could make irreversible mistakes when causes and conditions are matured. The Peace Memorial is not the place to condemn certain country or people. On the contrary, the Peace Memorial Museum shows us what peace should be. We cannot talk about peace until we truly realize we ourselves

can deviate from it.

We are the ones who destroy the world and cause tremendous suffering to both people who are against us, and those who live in our own country. And at the same time, there is no one else but us who can work for peace. Why then, even though everyone agrees with the importance of peace, do wars never end in our world? When this contradiction becomes the issue for us, the first step on the path of peace will begin.



On June 13, the esteemed staff members from the Shinshu Otani-ha headquarters in Kyoto came to visit and meet with a few members at WCBT. Among them was Bishop Mochizuki (seated first row center) who is the first female cabinet member of our Higashi denomination.

Buddhism Quiz

Difficulty Level: Easy

In our Temple we encounter many words that refer to Buddhist teachings.

Match the word and its closest meaning.

1. ____ Bodhisattva 2. ____ Dharma 3. ____ Pure land
4. ____ Shinjin 5. ____ Karma 6. ____ Nirvana 7. ____ Shoshin-ge

- A. Not a physical place to be realized or sought after death.
B. True trusting that through the Nembutsu we can realize true compassion as expressed in Amida's Primal Vow.
C. the ultimate goal of Buddhist aspiration and practice
D. One who has entered the path to enlightenment for others as well as for oneself.
E. The fundamental spiritual truth that is the source of enlightenment.
F. The concept that everything in life is due to accumulated causes, conditions, and efforts from the beginning of time
G. The Gatha of the Nembutsu of True Awakening.

Answers: D-E-A-B-F-C-G

Quote of the Month
What keeps me going
is goals
-Muhammad Ali



T H E G A T E W A Y

平和への歩み
見義信香

今年のお盆フェスティバルは6月25日に開催されました。今年は厳しい暑さの中での開催となりましたが、例年以上に多くの皆さまからご尽力を賜り、大盛況のうちに終えることができました。お盆フェスティバル委員の方々をはじめ、お手伝いいただきました全ての皆さまに、この場をお借りして心から深く御礼申し上げます。本当にありがとうございました。

5月27日、オバマ大統領が現職のアメリカ合衆国大統領として初めて被爆地・広島を訪問しました。

このオバマ大統領の広島訪問は、日米はもちろん世界的にも大きな話題となりました。同時にこの訪問をめぐる様々な意見が交わされました。

オバマ大統領の訪問を歓迎する声がある一方で、否定的な意見も見られました。原爆投下を正当化する人々はその功績と正当性を主張します。戦争を早く終結させることによってたくさんのアメリカ人の命が救われたのだと。そのような人々からは、オバマ大統領が謝罪の意思を示し、投下の正当性を否定するのではと危惧する声が上がりました。また、日本の隣国からは日本は被害国ではなく加害国なのに、大統領の広島訪問によって、日本の被害国としての部分ばかりが強調されてしまうのではという不満の声も聞こえてきました。

原爆投下を正当化する人、日本は被害国ではなく加害国であると主張する人、そのどちらも、「正/誤」「加害/被害」という二者択一の中で、日本やアメリカという国、そして原爆投下という事実を判断しようとしているように思えます。

確かに私たちが受ける教育はほとんどが「一つの正しい答え」を見つけることを目的としています。学校で解く問題には必ず正解があります。ですから、先の人々の判断というのはごく自然なことなのかもしれません。

けれども、私たちの現実社会はそれほど単純なものではありません。一歩学校の外を出ると私たちは多くの問題に直面します。そしてそのほとんどに「これさえすれば間違いない」という答えは存在しないということを痛感するのです。

そして特に戦争がもつ問題は「正しいか間違いか」「加害者か被害者か」という論理からは決して見えてこないのではないかと思います。

原爆投下が戦争を早く終わらせることによって多くのアメリカ人の命を救ったということは本当でしょう。けれども、それは何十万人という広島と長崎の人々の命を奪って当然の理由には決してならないのです。どちらが正しいのか、ではなく、どちらも原爆投下の事実なのです。同時に、原爆投下によって甚大な被害を被り、多くの国民の命が奪われたからといって、隣国の人々に与えた苦しみは帳消しになるということは決してありません。大切な人を守るという行為が、そのまま誰かの大切な人の命を奪う行為となる、それが戦争の現実ではないでしょうか。

オバマ大統領はそのことを広島でのスピーチでこう語っています。

「空を突き上げるように広がるキノコ雲の映像は、人間がもつ根本的な矛盾をまざまざと私たちに知らしめています。・・・私たちは大義という名のもと、いとも簡単に暴力を正当化してきました。・・・国は同じ国の人々を強く結びつけます。私たちは自分の国のためには犠牲と協力を惜しみません。その努力によって輝かしい功績を手にもすることもできるでしょう。けれども、その原動力そのものが、一方では自分たちと異なる人々を抑圧し、人間としての尊厳を奪う剣となるのです。」

「どちらが被害者でどちらが加害者か」「どちらが正しくどちらが間違っていたのか」という議論からは何も生み出されません。他人や他国を批判することからは平和への歩みは決して始まらないからです。戦争が私たちに知らしめているのは、ある特定の国の罪や間違いではなく、人間である限り私たちの誰もがもつ危うさであります。

ですから広島平和記念公園も平和記念資料館も、アメリカという一国を

弾劾することがその目的ではないと思っています。私たちの誰もが、縁さえ整えばこれほどに取り返しのつかない間違いを犯すのだということを、訪れるあらゆる人々に気づいてもらうことが、そこに込められているメッセージではないかと思うのです。それは平和も戦争も決して他人事ではないということです。

広島平和記念資料館は「平和とはこういうものです」という形を示してはいません。そうではなく、私たちがどれだけ平和に背き、その道から逸れ続けているのか、言い換えるなら私たちの事実をはっきりと知らしめることを通して、平和ということをはっきりと知らしめてくれているのではないのでしょうか。

誰もが「平和を願う」と口にしてはいるのに、未だに戦火が止むことはありません。それはこの世界の大きな矛盾です。同時にそれは、そうした世界を作り出している私たち一人ひとりの矛盾なのです。平和や戦争が他人事であるとは、そうした自らの矛盾に暗いということでもあります。平和への歩みとは、その矛盾に目が開き、その矛盾が自らの痛みとなる時に初めてその一歩が始まるのではないのでしょうか。

お寺ニュース

お盆 / 初盆法要

日本語によるお盆 / 初盆法要は、7月7日(木)午後7時半より7月半月法要と併せてお勤めいたします。

また英語によるお盆 / 初盆法要は、7月17日(日)午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。ご講師には今原ポール師をお招きいたします。法要後にはお齋をご用意しております。ご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、是非お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

別院お盆フェスティバル

来る7月30日(土)と31日(日)の両日、ロサンゼルス別院お盆フェスティバルが開催されます。当寺院では例年フードブースにて tamale を販売しております。ご多用中とは存じますが、どうぞお手伝いいただきますよう、よろしく申し上げます。

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

❁ **GATEWAY** ❁

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July

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 10 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 12 10:00 am Study Class
- 17 4:30 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Study Class
- 30-31 12-9 pm Betsuin Obon
- 31 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 31 10:00 am Sunday Service

August

- 4 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 5-7 Las Vegas Trip
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 14 No Sunday Service
- 21 No Sunday Service
- 27-28 12th World Dobo Gathering
- 28 No Sunday Service

2015年7月行事予定

- 3日 午前8時半 理事会
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 17日 午後4時半 お盆/初盆法要
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 30-31日 別院お盆フェスティバル
- 31日 午前8時半 理事会
- 31日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

8月行事予定

- 4日 午後7時半 法話会
- 5-7日 ラスベガス旅行
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 14日 日曜礼拝休み

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信心獲得したということと、
煩惱があるということは、
何も矛盾せん

安田理深『安田理深集 下』より