



GATEWAY



August-September 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 8



The WCBT Sangha celebrated Obon/Hatsubon Service on July 17 with our special speaker and old friend Rev. Paul Imahara. It was followed by a delicious otoki prepared by Toban C.

‘Black Lives Matter to Us, Too’

Matthew Ormseth
WCBT Member

(This article was originally contributed to Rafu Shimpo on July 16, 2016.)

In the light of the terrible things that happened last week—shootings of black men in Baton Rouge and St. Paul, a sniper attack on police officers in Dallas—a group of Asian American activists penned and circulated an extraordinary letter that can be read anywhere, by anyone, as an open Google document.

The letter is titled: “Dear Mom, Dad, Uncle, Auntie: Black Lives Matter to Us, Too.” Intended for older-generation Asian Americans and Asian immigrants, it explains in 500 words why the Black Lives Matter movement is important to all people of color, not just black people.

The Google document was created by writer Christine Xu, who had seen

first-hand how the killing of an unarmed black man by NYPD cop Peter Liang pitted the Asian American community against other minority activists who protested Liang’s light sentence (community service and five years probation, but no jail time). “Asian Americans who support BLM, we need to get ahead of our community organizing another pro-Liang rally,” Xu tweeted after footage of the deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile surfaced online. “Talk to your families today.”

The letter raises some uncomfortable truths for Asian Americans; I felt a weird sense of guilt reading it, as if someone were dragging things I’d never been able to admit to myself out

into the light for all to see. “In fighting for their own rights, black activists have led the movement for opportunities not just for themselves, but for us as well,” it reads. “Black people have been beaten, jailed, even killed fighting for many of the rights that Asian Americans enjoy today.”

Asian Americans are in a strange position. We’re minorities, but treatment of minorities in this country is not even across the board. We’ve been called “the model minority,” and reductive and belittling and stupid as the term is, it affords us certain privileges. My parents never had to teach me to fear cops. I never had to put up with harassment and discrimination out of

Please see LIVES, con’t on page 2



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Summer is the season for vacation, baseball, and water sports. I hope our students are enjoying their time off from school. Since our temple will also be taking some time off, and we may not see many of our children during this month, I thought this little story can be shared by both parents and children. This short parable comes from a book called Kindness by Valerie Wahl. It is a collection of short stories of Buddhist wisdom.

The Worth of Cherry Blossoms

Two hundred years ago in Japan lived a Buddhist nun named Rengetsu. She worked as a potter, a poet, and an artist to support herself. She was famous for her beautiful poetry. She also moved from one place to another quite frequently.

Most of the money she earned, she gave away to needy people. She was a very kind and compassionate person.

Her poems reflected her travels. She described images of forests and mountains in them. Once, during spring time, she traveled to a remote village where she asked for a room in a small inn as night was rapidly approaching. Unfortunately the inn was already full.

She decided to spend the night in a nearby orchard sleeping on soft grass. In the middle of the night she was awakened by a bright light. It was the moon. As she gazed up at the moon, she realized that the cherry blossoms had opened while she slept. Rengetsu was given an unexpected gift of nature—this beautiful image could not compare with a comfortable room in the inn. She composed this poem:

Through their
Kindness in refusing
Me lodging

I found myself
Beneath the
Beautiful blossoms

On the night of the
Misty moon

Why was Rengetsu so thankful?
Have a fun and relaxing summer! Try to stay cool!!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

LIVES, con't from pg. 1

fear of getting tazed, beaten or shot. In New York, I've never been the recipient of a stop-n-frisk.

But that's not to say we haven't suffered discrimination. The internment camps are a reminder of that. The lynch mobs that killed 20 Chinese immigrants on the night of Oct. 24, 1871 in this very city are a reminder of that. We've suffered, and we continue to suffer, which is why this open letter is so important.

It's been translated into 14 mother tongues: Chinese and Japanese, Urdu and Tamil, Farsi, Hindi and Korean, among others. The letter voices addresses some of the views I've heard expressed far too often in the Asian American community. "When a policeman shoots a black person," it reads, "you might think it's the victim's fault because you see so many images of them in the media as thugs and criminals. After all, you might say, we managed to come to America with nothing and build good lives for ourselves despite discrimination, so why can't they?"

At an overwhelmingly Asian and Asian American high school, this was a common refrain—especially when it came to the issue of affirmative action.

Please see LIVES, con't on pg. 5





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

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.

September Board Meeting and Service

The September board meeting will be held on September 4 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00 AM

September Study Class

The Study Class will resume in September meeting on September 13 and 27 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.

Fall Ohigan

The Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 18 at 4:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Bishop Noriaki Ito. Please join us to welcome back Bishop Ito and stay for the complimentary *otoki* dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LV (55)

We'll be celebrating a milestone on Saturday, September 24, with "Come Feel The Vibe at Oldies LV (55)!" since it has been 25 years since we began these dances! It's our 55th Oldies Dance 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 will end at 11:30 PM 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. We will also be asking for dessert donations to celebrate our 25th year. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

GATEWAY Staff

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

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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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West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 689-1040

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

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Shirota, Jon Shirota, Tom Ariza, Brittany Kato, Wesley Hamachi, K.C. Koga, Mark Mayeda, Brian Iwama, Aaron Aoki, Rick Fujimoto, Sachi Ezaki, Rene Kuwahara, Sharon Kuwahara, Chico Masai, Vickie Takemura, Joy Ormseth, Frederic Brenion, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata, Hideko Ikehara

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitosh-Gonzalez, Lindsay Fiske, Ted Kato, Cathy Nakano, Roy Takemura, Kevin Kuwahara, Brian Takahashi, Andrea Lespron, Catay Nakano, Toyomi Nakahara, Leanne Komada, Erika Oshiro, Mei-Ling Chen, Edward Chen, Bob Stack, Toshi Ikehara, Rev. Etsuko Miyoshi, Yasmine Whang



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA
HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Dear Members and Friends:

Please join us on Sunday, September 18, 2016, from 4:30 PM for the AUTUMN OHIGAN SERVICE. Our guest speaker will be Bishop Noriaki Ito of Higashi Honganji North America District.

Otoki will be served after the service by Toban C.

ご門徒の皆様へ

暑さがまだ続きますが皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて秋のお彼岸法要を下記の如くお勤め致しますのでご案内申し上げます。お彼岸は古く聖徳太子の時代より行われてきた伝統ある法要です。私どもの先達はこの機会を仏様の教えを聞く良き機会としてまいりました。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

秋のお彼岸法要(英語)

日 時 2016年9月18日 午後4時半

場 所 日系コミュニティセンター

法 話 伊東憲昭北米開教監督

*法要後当番Cの皆様によるお齋がございませう。

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister
開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President
教団理事長 マルチネス ジョン

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793
Telephone (626) 689-1040



T H E G A T E W A Y

(「他人事」7頁からの続き)

ているからです。そして、「我々は裸一貫でこの国に来て、差別にも負けずに今の地位を築いた。彼らも同じ努力をすればいいだけだ」と。」

これは実際アジア系とアジア系アメリカ人が多数を占める高校でよく聞かれる声です。特に積極的優遇措置(affirmative action)の問題が取り上げられるたびに聞かれます。この措置のおかげでアジア系の学生は黒人の学生の何倍も努力しなければならない、だからこの措置はアジア系の学生にとっては不公平だ、という論理からです。けれどもそれは事実ではありません。

黒人の学生の多くは最初から差別の対象にあります。それは幼稚園からすでに始まっていることもあるのです。人種差別は彼らを学力的にも劣った者と位置付けます。また、厄介者、問題児として最初から見られることもしばしばです。私はこの目でそうしたことを何度も見てきましたし、それを

今でも忘れることはできません。

手紙はまたアジア系アメリカ人が黒人の人たちとは異なった評価を受けていると言います。「アジア系として私たちがこの国で差別に直面することがあるのは事実です。英語の発音を馬鹿にされることもあります。アジア系はリーダーシップに欠けるから、と指導的立場に就くことを見送られることもあります。私たちのことをテロリストだという人さえ皆無ではありません。けれどもほとんどの場合、ただ道を歩いているだけの私たちを「危険な犯罪者」だと見る人はいません。ただそこにいたという理由だけで警官に撃たれるという心配をしたことはありません。」

この国には様々なマイノリティのグループがあり、それぞれがステレオタイプのイメージをもたれています。どのステレオタイプがよくて、どれが悪いという問題ではないのです。けれどもその一方である種のステレオタイプが暴力を引き起こしているのも事実で

す。ミネソタ州で起きた警官による黒人男性の射殺事件の被害者となったフィランド・カステールさん。同乗していた恋人と娘の目の前で血まみれになって息絶える彼の映像を見たとき、白人ではないという理由だけで、こんな理不尽な扱いを受ける人がこの国に確かにいるのだということを痛切に思い知らされました。

どうかこの手紙“Dear Mom, Dad, Uncle, Auntie: Black Lives Matter To Us, Too”を読んでください。Googleで検索すればすぐ出てきます。そしてあなたの家族や友人にも教えてあげてください。70年前日系アメリカ人が生活や財産、そしてそれまで過ごしてきた日々の全てを奪われたとき、その差別に異議を唱え助けてくれる人は誰もいませんでした。その苦しみを私たちは知っています。そんな私たちだからこそ、今こそ立ち上がり今も続く差別の体制にNoと声を上げるべきなのではないでしょうか。



LIVES, con't from pg. 2

There was this widely held belief that Asian students had to work harder than black students to get into the same schools. If Asian had to earn their right to attend a good university, blacks were simply handed it. This is not true.

Black students are discriminated against from the get-go—sometimes as early as kindergarten. Racism in primary school is no thing of the past, and far too often black students are held to different—lower—expectations than their peers. They're frequently profiled as troublemakers, “problem children.” I know this because I saw it, and I still remember it.

The letter explains that Asians and Asian Americans are subjected to a

different type of profiling than blacks. “It’s true that we face discrimination for being Asian in his country,” it reads. “Sometimes people are rude to us about our accents, or withhold promotions because they don’t think of us as ‘leadership material.’ Some of us are told we’re terrorists. But for the most part, nobody thinks ‘dangerous criminal’ when we are walking down the street. The police do not gun down our children and parents for simply existing.”

The truth is that different minority group in America are subjected to different stereotypes, and while no one stereotype is necessarily worse than another, certain stereotypes are more likely to provoke violence. Certain

stereotypes have deadlier baggage attached. And when I watched the footage of Castile bleeding to death with his girlfriend beside him and young daughter in the backseat, I was reminded—again—of how cruelly, wantonly, this country treats its people when they are not white.

Read the letter—just google “Dear Mom, Dad, Uncle, Auntie: Black Lives Matter To Us, Too.” Show it to your family members, friends, whoever. Stand up against systematic racism; 70 years ago, JAs learned that it can take away your livelihood, your property and years of your life when no one else is willing to contest it.



T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Difficulty Level: Moderate
Today's Quiz is a simple True and False quiz.

_____ 1. In Mahayana Buddhism, the teachings of the Dharma such as The Eightfold Path and the Six Paramitas remind us to focus on our own behavior and how we live life.

_____ 2. In Mahayana Buddhism, following the precepts is an absolutely necessary path to attain Enlightenment.

_____ 3. Buddhism teaches us that ultimately Right and Wrong are absolute and universal concepts by which we must all live.

_____ 4. Bodhisattva refers to one who is able to attain Nirvana but delays doing so out of pure compassion in order to save suffering beings. This concept is unique to Mahayana Buddhism.

_____ 5. The Truth that the Buddha awakened to came from his own experiences of life, not from any revelation from the heavens.

Answers: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T, 5-T



We hope the happy memories of our Obon will linger in the hearts of our youngest Sangha members long after the food and the dancing are over.

Quote of the Month
There are many causes I would die for.
There is not a single cause I would kill for.
-Mahatma Gandhi



T H E G A T E W A Y

他人事にしない ということ オルムセス・マシュー

(今月はウェストコヴィナメンバーのオルムセスさんの寄稿文を紹介いたします。これは7月16日付の羅府新報に掲載されました。)

とても悲しい事件が先週起きました。バトン・ルージュとセントポールで起きた黒人射殺事件とダラスで起こった警官襲撃事件は全米に大きな衝撃を与えました。この一連の事件を受けてアジア系アメリカ人のグループが立ち上がりました。彼らは筆を取り、その手紙をインターネット上に公開し、誰もが目にできるようにしたのです。

手紙のタイトルは「お母さん、お父さん、叔父さん、そして叔母さんへ：黒人の人たちに起こっていることは他人事ではありません」。手紙はアジアからの移民の世代、そして年配のアジア系アメリカ人の人々へと向けられたものでした。500字ほどのその手紙には今アメリカで熱い話題となっているBlack Lives Matter運動が、なぜあらゆるマイノリティの人々にとっても重要なかが語られています。

この手紙の主はクリスティン・スー。ニューヨークの中国系警官ピーター・リャンが非武装の黒人男性を誤って射殺した事件が、アジア系アメリカ人のコミュニティと他のマイノリティグループ、とりわけリャン警官に対するあまりに軽い判決に抗議するグループとの間に対立を引き起こすのを肌で感じてきた人です。彼女はBLM運動を支持するアジア系アメリカ人

は、リャン警官を擁護するグループに先んじて声を上げること、特にこの問題に対して自分たちの家族と話をすることが必要だとツイッターで訴えました。

手紙にはあまり直視したくないアジア系アメリカ人の現実がはっきりと示されています。私自身この手紙を読んで言いようのない罪悪感にかられました。それはずっと認めたくなかった自分の恥ずべきことが、突然白日の下にさらされたような感覚でした。「黒人の公民権運動の活動家たちの努力は、自分たちだけではなく、私たちアジア系アメリカ人も含めたあらゆるアメリカ人が平等な機会と権利を得るための運動だったのです。」「私たちアジア系アメリカ人が享受している多くの権利を獲得するため、黒人の人たちは殴られ、投獄され、時には命さえ奪われてきたことを忘れないでください。」

この国のアジア系アメリカ人は奇妙な立場にいます。私たちは「模範的なマイノリティ」と呼ばれてきました。それは決していい意味ばかりではありませんが、それでもそのイメージから来る恩恵を受けてきたことは否めません。私たちは両親から「警官には気をつけろ」と教えられたことはありません。警官からいわれのない暴行を受けることもありません。今ニューヨークに住んでいますが、警官から不審者扱いされて所持品検査をされたことは一度もありません。

けれども、私たちもやはり差別に苦しんだ歴史をもっています。日系アメリカ人は戦時中に収容所に入れられました。1871年10月24日、ここロサンゼルスで大規模な中国人襲撃事件が発生し、20人の中国系移民の命が奪われました。

この国の歴史の一部は差別に苦しむ人々の歴史であり、それはまだ終わっていないのです。だからこそ、今回の手紙がとても重要な意味をもつのです。

手紙は中国語や日本語をはじめとして14ヶ国語に訳されました。そしてその中でアジア系アメリカ人のコミュニティ内でよく聞かれることを指摘しています。「警官が黒人の人を撃つたと聞くと、それは被害者が悪いんだろう、とあなたは言うかもしれません。なぜならメディアを通して黒人は犯罪者だというイメージができあがっ

(「他人事」5頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

日本語祥月法要 / 法話会

8月の日本語祥月法要並びに法話会は8月4日(木)午後7時半、9月の日本の祥月法要は9月1日(木)午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。どうぞご家族、ご友人とお誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいますよう、ご案内申し上げます。

秋季彼岸会法要 (英語)

本年度の秋季彼岸会法要は、9月18日(日)午後4時半より厳修いたします。法要後にはお斎が準備されます。どうぞ皆様でご参詣下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

基金募集

オールディーズ・ダンス

秋の基金募集オールディーズ・ダンスは、9月24日(土)午後7時半より開催されます。どなたでも歓迎致します。お気軽にご参加下さい。

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

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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 World Dobo Gathering
- 28 No Sunday Service

September

- 1 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 11 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 13 10:00 am Study Class
- 18 4:30 pm Autumn Ohigan Service
- 24 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

2016年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
- 21日 日曜礼拝休み
- 27-28日 世界同朋大会
- 28日 日曜礼拝休み

9月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時半 法話会
- 4日 午前8時半 理事会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 11日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 18日 午後4時半 秋季彼岸法要
- 24日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス

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お念仏は
讃嘆であり 懺悔である

金子大榮