



GATEWAY



September-October 2015 -- Vol. L No. 9



On a balmy evening, on the 13th of September, the WCBT Sangha observed its Fall Ohigan Service.

The Way to Happiness

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Bill and I had a chance to stay in Santa Barbara for a couple of days and were able to go on a long hike and savor wine in the beautiful weather. Because Bill has been so busy especially since becoming Rimban, we appreciated this short getaway giving us time to revitalize ourselves.

Another highlight of this summer was that Bill was invited to the Church of Scientology in Hollywood to give a short presentation about Buddhism for their seminar series. As soon as he told me about this invitation, I asked him if I could go with him because there are not many opportunities to visit the Church of Scientology.

Before the seminar started, a member of the committee of the event showed us around the building. She

also introduced some of their programs that involve the community, such as rehabilitation for drug intoxicated persons and disaster-relief activities. In the conversation, we found this seminar was hosted by a foundation under Scientology called "The Way to Happiness."

"The Way to Happiness"— sounds very appealing to us. We all agree that everyone wants to be happy. "I want to be happy," is the common wish we may all have. Most people expect that religions should teach a way to achieve happiness, and in actuality, many religions try to respond to the expectations of finding happiness. Not only Scientology, in this sense, most religions can show us their way to happiness.

How can Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism show us the way to happiness? I think the Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism

response is a little unique and perhaps it is much different from our general understanding of happiness.

Obviously we all wish to live in happiness. However, we are not really sure what truly makes us happy. Our problem is we do not know what to pursue. As a result, we create an image of happiness, strongly believing that our image of happiness is real. Our goal then is to do what it takes to

Please see HAPPINESS, con't on page 2

Temple Event Highlights:

- Sep. 26 Oldies Dance
- Oct. 1 Howakai Service
- Oct. 3 Akimatsuri
- Oct. 4 Board Mtg
- Oct. 4 Shotsuki Service
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

With the end of summer fast approaching, Dharma School classes are resuming again. Hope to see many of you every Sunday! This year we are continuing to explore the life of Prince Siddhartha and the beginning of Buddhism.

Our Obon booth was a success this year! Thanks to the hard work of the Dharma School students, parents, and staff, everyone had lots of fun playing our games. Boys and girls who were lucky enough to win the children's raffle prizes were excited—thank you to the entire Sangha for donating the prizes! Special thanks to the Ormseth family and the Godoy grandsons for manning the booth all day!!

A belated “Happy Grandparents Day” to all the grandparents at our center. The Dharma School hopes that you enjoyed the little treat that we put together for you! We thank you for all your support and love.

Halloween is just around the corner. Please remember to wear your costumes for a fun time on Sunday, October 25th.

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



Rev. Futoshi Takehashi, a researcher at the Shinshu Otani-ha Research Institute in Japan was the guest speaker at our Fall Ohigan Service.

HAPPINESS, con't from pg. 1

satisfy our image. Unfortunately, when we do attain this perfect imagine of happiness, we may not feel as happy as we expected, or the feeling of happiness does not last long. We then start to look for something else that will make us happy. In the end, we could spend a lifetime pursuing the illusion of what we think will make us happy.

Buddhism is not a religion which helps us to gain things that will bring us happiness. Rather, Buddhism teaches us that our image of happiness does not truly make us happy. Instead of showing us how to get to the goal, Buddhism teaches us that the goal we set is actually an illusion.

Seeking the way to happiness often means seeking a better life and a better self.

We imagine a better life, a life which is under our control and a better self as someone who can overcome one's weaknesses and shortcomings. In other words, we are not satisfied with

our life or self as they are.

However, if we feel our happiness can only be accomplished by attaining a better life and self, then the path to happiness will seem like an endless trial. Because no matter how careful we are or how well prepared we think we are, it is inevitable that we will face unwelcomed or unforeseen events in our life.

Shinran Shonin describes that people who cannot accept their lives or self, are living in vain, wasting their life trying to control a fleeting illusion. Shinran Shonin shows us that it is these efforts that are actually pushing us away from happiness, which in actuality creates our suffering. It is highly important here to say that Shinran Shonin also realized that he too was living life in vain. Encountering the teachings of Jodo Shinshu enabled him to be awakened to such a grave mistake. For Shinran Shonin, the Jodo Shinshu teachings reveals what he is doing, rather than a religion telling him what to do.

Through his own life, Shinran Shonin shows us that to be aware of what we are doing is truly important in our life. It is the realization that the goal we set is not necessary to make us happy. Jodo Shinshu sheds light upon our mistakes and gives us strength to accept our life and self as they are. There is no other life we live and no one else we need to be. This awareness becomes a driving force for living our lives to the fullest with every step.

Then happiness is no longer the goal that we have been blindly grasping for, rather it is Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu that transform “the way to happiness” into “my life is filled with happiness.”



Toban B provided a colorful and delicious otoki for the Sangha to enjoy after the service.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Akimatsuri

The ESGVJCC Akimatsuri will be on Saturday, October 3, from 12:00-8:00 PM and WCBT will be in charge of the Teriyaki Barbecue. Sign-up sheet will be out for your signatures at upcoming services so please find a time when you can help.

We'd like to see everyone come out and support the Temple and the Center.



The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on October 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 (626) 689-1040.

Halloween

Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 25. There will be fun and games and prizes so get in the Halloween spirit and come dressed in your favorite costumes. There will be refreshments for everyone so join us in the fun!



Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will sponsor our 7th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 1, from 10 AM-3 PM. Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, framed artwork and lots of delicious food will be offered. Each vendor will be handling their own sales and not all take credit cards so come prepared. WCBT members are welcome to shop early from 9:30 AM. Come for some holiday shopping. Stay for the fun and food!

For more information or if you can help, please contact Hisako Koga 909-626-6131 or hskoga@gmail.com.



Ho-onko Service

Our Ho-onko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 8 at 4:30 PM. Please join us as we welcome our special speaker Rev. Ken Yamada from Berkeley Higashi Honganji and stay for the complimentary *Otoki* dinner that will follow the service.

November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting

November Board Meeting will be held on November 15 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

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

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

Ethan Ezaki, Kelly Yamashita, Sachi Ena, Traci Takemura, Glenn Nakatani, Diane Hata, Jane Earley, Kimio Earley, Miyo Takahashi, Erik Akuna, Melissa Kozono, Lauren Yanase, Mitsue Oshita, Yukiko Tsuruda



T H E G A T E W A Y

2015 Las Vegas Trip Reports

Jennifer Higa

It was August 7, 2015, 10:30 a.m. when the 2015 WCBT Las Vegas Bus Trip started for the Kato clan. Yes, 10:30 a.m. - - my sister Denise and bro-in-law Steve Underwood, my cousin Karen Escano (who is also married to our amazing driver, Mario), my son Brandon, my mom and Mrs. Kay Yamashita gathered to pack 44 lunches/bentos for the bus trip. Of course the morning would not be complete without good ole dad, Ted Kato, yelling: "We better be cleaned up and done by noon OR THE BUS IS GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT US!" Needless to say, Denise kicked dad and his faithful sidekick, Mr. Bob Yamashita, outside, and we were done and cleaned up within an hour.

Once we arrived at church, we all loaded onto the bus. The bentos were passed out, Mario started his engine, and we were off! Before reaching the I-15, it was a "food fest on steroids" — sushi, pastries of all kinds, Chinese chicken salad, chips, fruit, water bottles and the "other water" (beer) were being passed throughout the bus. Amongst the plentiful of yummys and the "other water," we played games and watched a movie. It was just like a Las Vegas buffet with free drinks and the keno girl approaching your table. Play and Eat, Play and Eat all the way to Vegas! It definitely made the 6 hour ride go by faster. (I know what you're thinking, 6 hours — Honestly, given the fact there was construction on I-15, and a myriad of vehicles, we made excellent time.)

Once Mario pulled into the driveway at the Main Street Station and stopped his engine, I was gone! I didn't go to the Vegas Obon, since I'm still rehabilitating from surgery on my left shoulder, but I did manage to get some form of exercise to help the healing process for next year's

Please see HIGA, con't on pg. 5

Frank T. Tanji

There were 41, no 40, adventurous souls depending on if you were coming or going. The reason why I say this is because I counted 41 people joining our trip to Vegas, but on our return trip we only had 40 people and no one was missing. This meant yours truly miscounted in the beginning.

We started off with playing Bingo games, horse racing game and guessing the arrival times. The big Bingo winner was Karen Escano. She won the black out game. In the horse race game, down the stretch it was a close finish between two horses,. Horse #4, Hakuchikara, and Horse #1, Bud Lightning. Coming from behind, the winner was horse #1, Bud Lightning. The owners were Roy and Jen Higa, Josie Ogawa, Steve and Denise Underwood., who were the winners. The guessing arrival time winners were: Mary Kato for the arrival time at Barstow and Bea Okamoto for the arrival time at Las Vegas. On the return leg, Jocelyn Okamoto had the best guess for arriving at Barstow and Dick Koga for the arrival time at West Covina. Dick could have been our first double winner, if it wasn't for the stop that Mario, our driver had to make.

On Saturday morning, we had our Slot Tournament, which we had 23 participants. We broke up into two groups one played at 9:00 AM and another played at 9:30 AM. After the first group played, I spoke with Richard Kagawa, who had the philosophy that a slot machine that did poorly in the 1st round will rebound and do good the next round. My Capt Frank's philosophy was that a good slot machine will always be a good slot machine. The results were on slot machine #8 that came in 2nd to the last place at the 9:00 AM session, but rebounded at the 9:30 session coming in 2nd place overall. Capt Frank noticed slot machine #33 scored very

Please see TANJI, con't on pg. 5

Merry Jitosho

The Vegas obon....we were amongst the 21 temples to join the Las Vegas obon. This crowd gets larger every year. They sold over 1,000 bentos; containing beef teriyaki, mochiko chicken, chirashi and rice. There were also side dishes of spam musubi, egg rolls, shaved ice and lots of desserts. And also tables of crafts and ojuzus to purchase.

We sat back to enjoy their entertainment of taiko and Hawaiian dancers. The crowd went wild when three sangha men came out dressed in yukatas with huge flowers and decorations attached to the yukata and head pieces. Only Vegas obon could provide this Vegas style performance.

I also enjoyed dancing their style of tanko bushi. First round was the traditional odori and the second verse was a Japanese song, sung by a Sangha

Please see JITOSHO, con't on pg. 5



Las Vegas style Bon Odori!



T H E G A T E W A Y



Barbara and Jon Shirota always enjoy watching Las Vegas Obon dancers.

HIGA, con't from pg. 4

Obon season. I walked up and down Fremont Street, visited with friends staying at the other Casinos and played the slots. It's amazing how you can travel 6 hours to another state to find yourself bumping into people that you know who live in L.A. Yes, those myriad of vehicles transported the many people who went to the Vegas Obon or had kids who played in the Dodgers Basketball tournament - only in Vegas.

Needless to say, although it was a lot of work, all in all, the trip was definitely a "FUNraiser"! (Especially when the "Lucky Tree" slot machine decided to give me gold coins - chaching!) From leaving West Covina, to returning, this trip was definitely a trip of "Dana". Everyone was so generous with their sharing homemade treats, laughing and making all feel

so welcomed. I too felt the Dana in the air, since I had no problem giving money to the casinos in Downtown Vegas. Rev. Miyoshi, "you would be proud!"

TANJI, con't from pg. 4

high at the 9:00 AM session, so I decided to sit in front of slot machine #33 and play it at the 9:30 AM session, because I had the inside information.

Well, what happened to Capt Frank's philosophy is that I ended up in the middle of the pack. In other words, it was Capt Frank's follies and Richard is the true prophet guru. The Slot Tournament winners were: 2nd to the last, Hiroko Takemoto; in the middle of the pack, Steve Underwood; in 3rd place, Richard Haraguchi; in 2nd place, Karen Escano; and in 1st place, Kazuko Yonemitsu with a score of 22,322. After the Slot Tournament, 11 of us plus another group of 6 from the outside went to the Las Vegas Obon. The Las Vegas Obon has been growing and growing and it was very crowded.

I am glad no one got lost and we all had fun. Special thanks to all who prepared their special snacks for the Las Vegas trip.

JITOSHO, con't from pg. 4

member while we still danced the tanko bushi dance steps. It was an enjoyable workout!!

The highlight of our bus trip was the games created by Frank Tanji...WCBT Vegas horse race. It was a very interactive way to have everyone's participation, throwing the sponge dices, moving the horses around the race track (our seats) and getting bending exercises by getting the dice out from under our seats. And watch out for those flying dice that hit your head. Congratulations to the winners, Jen and Roy Higa, Denise and Steve Underwood and Josie Ogawa. Sorry Ted,



Haruko Mayeda, Mark Nakatani, and the Toyoshima's were happy to take a break from the Obon dancing.

no prizes for SHOW or PLACE. This isn't Santa Anita Race Track. Maybe next year...

Then there was all this commotion for who won "guessing the time of arrival" at Barstow and the Center. Dick Koga was so close to the Barstow arrival time....but due to circumstances out of Mario's control, our bus driver, Dick lost only by two minutes. When you got to go, you got to go, sorry Dick. Then as we approach the Center and Dick Koga again was up and running for the closest time of arrival at the Center. He had four minutes to spare, butthere was a van blocking the driveway to the entrance of the Center. Judo was unloading their mats. We were in an uproar of laughter as we sat in the bus waiting. The countdown began, 3 min. 2 min, 1 min and then no time left and Judo's van was still blocking the entrance. We couldn't disappoint Dick twice on one trip. So we decided Dick would be our winner. Congrats, Dick.

It was a fun way to end our 2015 Vegas trip. A special thank you to Mario, our driver and all the people preparing our delicious bento and all the homemade and store bought snacks. Didn't hear of any big time gambling winners this year. Oh well.... until next year. Las Vegas, WCBT will be back in 2016.



The WCBT Sangha proudly showed off their new happi coats as they lined up to dance at the Las Vegas Obon



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y



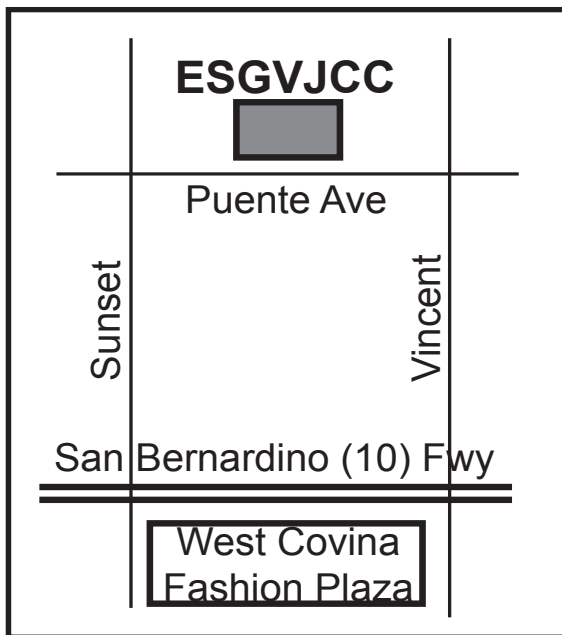
Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

**Sunday, November 1, 2015
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Asian inspired crafts,
clothing, jewelry, giftware, unique
wood items and delicious food!**

**Come for some holiday shopping,
Stay for the fun and food!**



There will be no central cashiering. Each vendor will handle their own sales and not all vendors take credit cards.

**East San Gabriel Valley Japanese
Community Center (ESGVJCC)
1203 West Puente Ave
West Covina, California**

For more information go to:
livingdharma.org/CurrentEventsWCBT.html
or call 909-626-6131



T H E G A T E W A Y

(「幸せ」9頁からの続き)

への道はほとんど到達不可能なほど遠く厳しいものだと言わざるを得ません。なぜなら生きるということは、思いもかけない出来事が起こり、予想もしていない自分の姿に直面するということだからです。ひとつ物事が思い通りになったと思ったら、また別の出来事が起こる。ひとつ自分の欠点が直ったと思ったら、別の欠点が気になってくる。そうした繰り返しの中で気がつくとい生が終わってしまうのです。

親鸞聖人は思い通りの人生、理想通りの自分を得ようとして一生を費やす生き方を「空過（くうか）：空しく過ごす」と表現し、それこそが私たちを幸せから遠ざけている根本の原因であると明らかにしておられます。親鸞聖人にとって仏教とは「どうすればよいのか」という道を示す教えではなく、「今なにをしているのか」を明らかにしてくれる教えではなかったのでしょうか。幸せを願いながら、ありのままの自分、ありのままの人生を否定することによって、自分自身を幸せから遠ざけている、そうした間違いに気づかせてくれるのが、親鸞聖人にとっての仏教ではなかったかと思うのです。

「今なにをしているのか」とい

うことが明らかになれば、次の一歩は自然と定まるのでしょうか。自分の歩みの方向が間違っていることに気付いた時、不完全な自分、思い通りにならない人生を、それ以外にないと引き受けることができるのではないのでしょうか。仏法に出会う、真宗の教えに出会うということは、今の自分、生きている人生にしっかりと立ち、そこから歩き出す力、生きる力を賜るということではないかと思うのです。

そうした歩みが始まった時、幸せとはまだ得ぬ未来のゴールではなくなります。人生の一步一步の歩みに満足する生き方が始まるの

です。それは「幸せへの道」から「幸せの道」への転換と言えるのではないのでしょうか。



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: Super-duper easy review

1. In a Jodo Shinshu temple the main hall is referred to as the _____.
 - a. Nenju
 - b. Hondo
 - c. Gejin
2. The alter or the _____ in a Jodo Shinshu temple is a symbol of the beauty of the Pure Land, the world of Enlightenment, and is thus beautiful and ornate.
 - a. Naijin
 - b. Nenju
 - c. ninjin

Quote of the Month
 When you talk,
 you are only repeating
 what you already know.
 But when you listen,
 you may learn
 something new.
 -Dalai Lama



T H E G A T E W A Y

幸せへの道 見義信香

8月の中旬、夫のブリオネスがハリウッドにあるサイエントロジーの教会に招待されました。他の宗教への理解を深めることを目的として三回のシリーズが開催され、その最後が東洋宗教でした。そこで仏教についてお話をする機会をいただいたのです。キリスト教を含め、他の宗教施設に足を運ぶ機会はなかなかありません。サイエントロジーについても名前を知っているだけで、実際に信仰している方とお会いしたことはありませんでした。そこで、私も一緒に参加させていただいたのです。

セミナーが始まる前に今回のイベントを企画した委員の方が教会内を案内してくださいました。麻薬中毒患者のリハビリ活動や、災害復興支援などそれぞれが大きな組織として活発に活動しているというお話も聞きました。

今回のセミナーはサイエントロジー内の「しあわせへの道」という財団が主催ということでした。セミナー中はこの財団の活動も紹介されました。

「幸せへの道」とは実に魅力的な言葉です。「幸せになりたい」というのは誰もがもっている願いです。私たちの多くは「どうしたら幸せになれるのか?」という問いに対する答えを宗教に求めてきました。そしてその願いに様々な形で応えてきたのが宗教ではなかったのでしょうか。つまりサイエントロジーに限らず、おおよそ宗教とは「幸せへの道」を私たちに示してくれているといえるでしょう。

では、浄土真宗はどのような幸

せへの道を私たちに示してくれているのでしょうか。残念ながら浄土真宗は「どうしたら幸せになりますか?」という問いに直接明快な答えを出してくれる教えではありません。

私たちは誰もが幸せに生きたいと願っています。けれども同時にどうすることが幸せに生きることなのかがよくわからないという問題も抱えています。結果としてわたしたちはそれぞれに幸せのイメージをもち、そのイメージを満たすことに一生懸命になります。しかしそれはあくまでも私たちが抱く期待にすぎません。実際にイメージ通りの生活を実現したとしても、本当に幸せになれるか保証はないのです。「こんなはずではなかった」と思うかもしれません。また実現直後は大きな幸福感に包まれても、その生活に慣れていくにしたがって幸せの感覚が色あせていくこともあります。そうすると私たちはまた別の幸せのイメージを描き、「今度こそ」という大きな期待をもってそこに邁進していくのです。そうした生き方は砂漠の中で蜃気楼を追い求め続ける旅人のようです。

仏教とは、期待する幸せに私たちが近づく手助けをしてくれるのではなく、その幸せそのものを問い直すところから始まる教えではないかと思うのです。

幸せへの道を求める人は、自分流の幸せのイメージを描いている人であると同時に、今のままの自分、今のままの人生では「幸せではない」と感じている人であると言えるのではないのでしょうか。それは今の自分、今の人生には何か足りないもの、欠けているものがあるという思いからくるのでしょうか。だから、幸せはその足りないものや欠けている部分を埋めるこ

とによって得られると考えるのです。私たちの日々の努力のほとんどが、実は足りないも部分を埋めてよりよい自分、より完全に近い人生を手に入れるための作業であるといえます。けれどもそれは裏を返せば、今の自分、生きている人生を受け止められていない私たちの姿を表しているのではないのでしょうか。不完全な自分、思い通りにいかない人生に他でもない私たち自身が「ダメな自分」「不幸な人生」というレッテルを貼って、そこから逃げ出そうともがいているのです。

しかしながら、よりよい自分、完璧な人生を達成することが幸せの実現であるとすれば、その幸せ

(「幸せ」8頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

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26日(土)午後8時より開催されます。どなたでも歓迎致します。お気軽にご参加下さい。



10月祥月法要 / 法話会

10月1日(木)

午後7時半より

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



September - October 2015 - - Vol. L No. 9

September

- 26 8:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 27 10:00 am Sunday Service

October

- 1 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 3 12:00 pm Akimatsuri
- 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 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service/Halloween Party
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

November

- 1 10:00 am Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
- 1 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 5 7:00 pm Howakai Hoonko Service
- 8 4:30 pm Hoonko Service

2015年9月行事予定

- 26日 午後8時 オールディーズダンス
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

10月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時半 法話会
- 3日 正午 秋祭り
- 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 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

ハロウィーンパーティ

11月行事予定

- 1日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア
- 1日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

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仏様をはなれて自分はなく、
自分をはなれて仏はない

曾我量深