



GATEWAY



October 2014 -- Vol. XLIX No. 10



The WCBT Sangha gathered to give a warm welcome to Rev. Miyoshi's parents who came over from Japan in late August.

Śākyamuni Buddha as "An Awakened One"

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

As we begin our regular Sunday services after the unusually hot summer break, I have many fun and memorable moments from my parents visited from Toyama, Japan around Labor Day. Bill and I drove them up to Berkeley, Napa and Mountain View. When we returned they had an opportunity to meet members of WCBT.

They attended both the Japanese Howakai service on Thursday and English Shotsuki Service on Sunday. At the Howakai service, they were welcomed with warm smiles and afterwards with delicious homemade Japanese dishes. For some reason, Mr. Oda and my father, immediately got along with each other and they enjoyed talking, even as my mother gave her Dharma message. My mother and I could see that my father had a good time and the time he

spent with members of Howakai group truly energized him.

On Sunday after the Shotsuki Service, a welcome luncheon was held for my parents. Tables were full of delicious dishes brought by members. A potluck party was not familiar to them so they were so surprised and took many pictures.

What impressed my parents the most, was an abundance of positive energy our members had. My mother kept saying, "They have such bright smiles!" This is exactly how I felt the first time I met with the West Covina members.

Ever since I became interested in Jodo Shinshu and becoming a minister, my parents have been more than parents. They have been my teachers and Dharma friends with whom I

have been able to share my thoughts. I have especially learned much from my mother during our conversations. Her thoughts and perspectives about teachings of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu have always inspired me and have given me eye-opening experiences. Such an occasion happened recently while she was preparing for her Dharma

Please see BUDDHA, con't on page 2

Temple Event Highlights:

- Oct. 4 Akimatsuri
- Oct. 5 Shotsuki Service
- Nov. 2 Kiku Craft Fair
- Nov. 9 Shotsuki Service
- Nov. 16 Hoonko Service
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

After the very hot weather that we've had, I hope the start of fall will bring us cooler temperatures! I'm sure that all the school age children are hard at work in their classes. It's an exciting time of the year.

The Dharma School teachers are also busily preparing for a new academic year. We have decided to use "The Life of the Buddha" as our theme. We will explore the important events in the Buddha's life with stories, projects, songs, and audiovisuals.

It is our goal to put together a portfolio of the children's works that will be given to them at the end of the year. In the portfolio will be a timeline of the important events in the Buddha's life with the older children's illustrations decorating it.

We teachers encourage families with school age children to come to the Dharma School classes as often as you can. We think that your children will have a valuable and fun experience. We look forward to seeing you!!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



Fall Ohigan Service



BUDDHA, con't from pg. 1

message. She introduced me to a new perspective on Śākyamuni Buddha.

We all know Śākyamuni Buddha as an awakened one and we have some image of him. Our image of the Buddha is usually the one who has attained enlightenment. However, we hardly think of what it really means.

The wisdom that Buddhism teaches us is to use the eye to see everything as it is. It also works as a mirror reflecting ourselves as one who is unable to see things as they really are. Whenever we see things and people, our judgments are based on our preferences and biases. Our perspectives are always distorted by them. However, we do not realize it and insist that 'my way' is 'the right way.' The suffering and frustration we struggle with derive from conflicts of 'our right way.' We are unable to see things or people as they really are.

Śākyamuni Buddha awakened to the wisdom and lived in accordance with it and reveals to us where our suffering comes from. In this sense, he was not divine or superman, but the one who saw things and people as they really were.

Previously my image of Śākyamuni Buddha was that I set 'things and people' outside of him. It was because I thought that attaining enlightenment made him perfect. However, my mother suggested that attaining enlightenment does not necessarily mean becoming perfect. Rather, receiving the

eye of wisdom enabled him to accept his imperfection as it was and learn from it. The eye of wisdom should also see within him.

Moreover, if he became perfect, Śākyamuni Buddha no longer needs to learn. However, Buddhism always encourages us to continuously learn in our lives. That is why the life as a Buddhist is expressed as walking on the path of teachings. And Śākyamuni Buddha manifests how Buddhists live their lives. In this sense, the journey of teaching should be the journey of learning for him.

Through his journey of teaching, Śākyamuni Buddha must have encountered countless numbers of people. Some might face challenges and hardships that he never imagined. By encountering people, then, he also faced his issues and challenges. That was how he was able to relate to all other people. Seeing people as they are means respecting them as his buddhas who made him realize his issues and gave opportunities to learn more and helped him to walk on the path of teachings.

It was not until I talked with my mother that I saw Śākyamuni Buddha as the one who ceaselessly learned and kept walking on the path of teachings.

My parents safely arrived home and my life is back to normal. We live far away from each other, yet, I feel their diligence and enthusiasm stimulate me all the time.



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 4, 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.

Halloween

Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 26. 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!

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on October 14 and 28 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will continue to focus on the Shoshinge. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will sponsor our 5th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 2, from 10 AM–3 PM at ESGVJCC. Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, unique wood items 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. For more information or if you can help, please contact Hisako Koga 909-626-6131 or hskoga@gmail.com.

November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting

November Board Meeting will be held on November 9 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

Ho-onko Service

Our Ho-onko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 16 at 4:30pm. Please join us as we welcome our special speaker and stay for the complimentary *Otoki* dinner that will follow the service.

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.
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RECIPES FROM THE SANGHA

It is a well known fact that WCBT has good cooks. Our potluck spreads are a feast for both the eyes and the palate. So in keeping with our desire to share with the sangha, Gateway will, from time to time, print recipes from our potlock otoki which are requested by our sangha members. The following recipe is from Haruko Mayeda who made this wonderful salad for the potluck luncheon to welcome Rev. Miyoshi's parents.

Haruko's Chinese Pasta Salad

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 6 cups Rotelle pasta cooked and cooled (about 1 box) | ½ teaspoon salt |
| ¼ cup sesame seeds | ¼ teaspoon pepper |
| ½ cup salad oil | 3 cups cold shredded chicken |
| 1/3 cup soy sauce | 8 cups spinach |
| 1/3 cup white wine vinegar | ½ cup chopped parsley |
| 3 Tablespoon sugar | ½ cup diced green onion |

In a small frying pan combine sesame seeds and ¼ cup oil; stir until seeds are golden about 2 minutes.

Let cool, stir in remaining oil, soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, salt/pepper. Pour over cooked pasta, add chicken, toss gently, cover and chill 2 hours. To serve: add parsley, green onion, and spinach and toss gently.

OCTOBER

Ethan Ezaki, Kelly Yamashita, Traci Takemura, Glenn Nakatani, Diane Hata, Jane Earley, Kimio Earley, Miyo Takahashi, Erik Akuna, Melissa Kozono, Lauren Yanase

Quote of the Month

In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took your breath away
 - Shing Xiong



T H E G A T E W A Y

Remembering Arne...

WCBT lost a long time sangha member with the passing of Arne Hansen. Although he was not one who regularly attended our weekly Sunday services, Arne worked tirelessly behind the scenes. He was part of the sangha who, like the large wooden pillar that supports and keeps a temple from falling over, worked quietly and diligently to help the temple do the things it needed to do.

He was a craftsman who made new mallets and repaired the old ones for pounding mochi for New Years every year. Arne built beautiful wooden lanterns as well as other wood products such as writing desks, tables, chairs, cabinets and beautiful, intricately designed trivets. Many of these items he donated regularly to raffle off at our 3 times a year Oldies dances which helped raise funds. At Obon he replaced and labeled the *yagura* (obon festival tower) so that the workers would have an easier time putting together the tower around which we all danced. When the holder for the sutra

chanting gong broke, the first person the temple called was Arne to repair and paint it to make it new again. Arne was asked to design and build the cabinet for our *onaijin* (altar) which we open every Sunday for service.

The list is endless. Arne was a Sangha member who always thought of helping others first before himself. He left us much too early. He will be missed. WCBT sends our condolences to Claire, and the entire family.



Honzan Officials Visit WCBT

On August 26, three administrators from our Kyoto Honzan came to visit WCBT. Bishop Taijo Tomita (CFO), Rev. Tetsushi Fujita (Supervisor of Dept. of Organizational Affairs), and Rev. Makoto Mine (Head of International Office) stopped by at WCBT on their way to a meeting at Newport Buddhist

Temple. Since Rev. Miyoshi was on vacation in Japan, Bishop Ito and Rev. Osa asked Johnny & Joanie Martinez if they could be present to welcome them. The *onaijin* (altar) was opened for them and they offered incense. Bishop Ito and Rev. Osa explained a little of WCBT's *mezurashii* (unique) history, and Bishop

Tomita (it was his first visit to the USA) asked questions regarding our active membership. Bishop Ito explained that unlike most other Buddhist temples in America that were started by the *Issei* (first generation Japanese immigrants), WCBT was formed by *Nisei* (second generation) immigrants. Rev. Osa explained how our membership is more diverse in race and ethnicity than other temples. Johnny commented even though our temple was started by *Nisei*, they still had the wishes and dreams of their *Issei* parents in mind. Johnny also said that though the ocean separates us from those in Kyoto, we are still learning the same Dharma, that brings us together as one. Bishop Tomita remarked how WCBT really seems to be a model here for our Higashi temples in America. On behalf of the Honzan, they presented us with a donation.





T H E G A T E W A Y

WCBT Welcomes the Revs. Miyoshi



Clockwise from top-left: Fun at the Getty posing as their favorite painting; Revs. Nobuko and Etsuko Miyoshi give the Dharma talk at the Shotsuki Service; Rev. Akira Miyoshi and Glenn Fujimoto enjoy a friendly chat at the welcome luncheon; Rev. Nobuko with her "okusan" aka Merry, the Miyoshi family enjoys a cool refreshment; and the Howakai members turn out to welcome the Miyoshi family at their Shotsuki Service.





T H E G A T E W A Y

Buddhism Quiz

This is October's 2014's "How well you know your Buddhism." We hope it will be interesting and informative for our readers.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

1. When Shinran was 29 years old he met Honen Shonin. The encounter was life changing for Shinran. At the time Honen was teaching

- a. The Nembutsu (the Recitation of the Name of Amida Buddha)
- b. The Contemplative Sutra
- c. The Larger Sutra

2. Due to the immense popularity of Honen and his teachings, in 1207 the government exiled him to Tosa (in Shikoku)

- a. while Shinran was left to wander from town to town to carry on the teachings alone.
- b. while Shinran secluded himself on Mt. Hiei to continue his studies.
- c. and Shinran was exiled to Echigo (present day Niigata) and never met Honen again.



Answers: a, c



Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Sunday, November 2, 2014

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at ESGVJCC

**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.

For info contact Hisako Koga: 951-818-8740
hskoga@gmail.com



T H E G A T E W A Y

釈尊：目覚めた人 見義信香

今年の夏は両親が来訪し、ウェストコヴィナの皆さんとお会いすることがかなったうれしい夏となりました。

法話会の方々と過ごした時間は、特に父にとっては本当に楽しい時間だったようです。ホテルに戻ってからも興奮冷めやらぬ雰囲気だった、と翌日母から聞きました。2週間近い滞在の中での手作りの日本食の味も格別だったようです。

日曜日は祥月法要の後、歓迎昼食会を開いていただきました。持ち寄りスタイルのパーティはそういえば日本ではあまり馴染みがありません。テーブルに溢れんばかりに並ぶ料理に驚き、写真を何枚も撮っていました。

料理もさることながら、両親はメンバーの活気とエネルギーに感動していました。母の「皆さん、本当に笑顔が輝いているね」という言葉がその感動を表しているように感じます。

両親と会うときのなによりの楽しみは、いろいろな話ができるということです。私にとっては両親であると同時に、尊敬する存在であり、同じ真宗の教えを喜ぶ同朋であります。特に母は私が今まで考えもしなかったような新しい視点をいつも開いてくれます。まさに目から鱗が落ちるような経験が毎回あるのです。

今回母は「釈尊が目覚めた人であるということ、どういうことなのか」という問いから出発して釈尊という人を見直すということの大切さを教えてくれました。

私たちは「釈尊は覚りを得た人

である」ということを自明のこととしています。逆に言う「覚りを得るということはどういう人生を歩むことなのか」ということをほとんど考えたことがなかったのではないのでしょうか。

覚りを得た人のイメージはどこか完成された人のイメージと重なります。あるいは覚りを得ていない私たちとはかけ離れた人、というイメージもあるかもしれません。私たちはそうしたぼんやりとしたイメージで何となく仏としての釈尊を理解しているような気持ちになってはいなかったのでしょうか。

私たちは自分の都合や思い、好き嫌いを基準にして物事や人、そして自分自身を見ていきます。それは物事や相手のありのままを見ることができないということの意味しています。それが様々な衝突や苦しみを生み出している元であるということを知って教えるのが仏教の教えであります。そして仏とはその教えを身をもって私たちに示してくれる人なのです。そのように考えた時、仏とはそうした私たちの間違いに目覚め、物事をありのままに見ることのできる人と言えるのではないのでしょうか。目覚めた人である釈尊は、神でもなければ超人的な存在でもありません。物事をありのままに見通すことで、好き嫌いですべてを判断していく私たちの間違いや苦しみを教えてくれているのです。

私は今までその「物事」を釈尊の外に置いて考えていました。完成された人として釈尊を見ていたからです。しかし、ありのままを見通す目というのは、自らにも向けられていたのではないかと、というのが母から教えられた視点でした。

生きるということは人と出会う

ということです。釈尊のご生涯は出遇いの人生であったと思います。人との関わりの中を生きる時、様々な問題や課題に直面します。自分が抱えている問題をごまかすことなく引き受けることができる、それが目覚めた人の具体的な姿ではないのでしょうか。そしてそうした問題を教えてくれた人を敬い、その人から学んでいける人と言えるのではないのでしょうか。目覚めた人としての釈尊が、完成された存在ではなく人との関わりの中で常に学び続け、歩み続けることのできる人として初めて見えてきました。

思えば仏教とはとどまるということ嫌う教えです。自分は今これで十分学んだ、完璧だという思いをもつと、私たちはその場にとどまってしまい、学びも歩みもやめてしまいます。生きている限り、学び続け、歩み続けることを私たちに促すのが仏教の教えであるならば、仏である釈尊の生涯も一生歩み続ける人生であったのでしょうか。釈尊を「完成された人」と見る時、その歩みを私たちは見逃してしまっていたのではないのでしょうか。

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28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。



East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

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❁ **GATEWAY** ❁

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October

- 2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 12-8 pm Akimatsuri
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 19 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service/Halloween Party
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

November

- 2 10am-3pm Kiku Craft Fair
- 2 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Hoonko Service
- 9 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 9 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 16 4:30 pm Hoonko Service
- 23 10:00 am Sunday Service

2014年10月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会
- 4日 正午-8時 センター秋祭り
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 19日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 26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

- 2日 午前10時-午後3時 菊クラフトフェア
- 2日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 9日 午前8時半 理事会
- 9日 午前10時 祥月法要

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念仏者とは一切衆生を

「御同朋」として見出していく存在

一宮城顛