



GATEWAY



November 2013 -- Vol. XLVII No. 11

Living Dharma News
www.livingdharma.org

You've probably noticed that our website receives certain types of questions more than others. For example, we often receive questions from students, and this month is no exception. I thank Rev. Fred Brenion for his help in answering many of these questions. But there's usually also an "unusual" question or comment in the "e-mail bag" and I think Rev. Fred would agree these surprises make responding to the e-mail particularly interesting.

Gassho,
 Rev. Peter Hata

Selected E-mail

To: Rev. Peter Hata
 Hello there Peter!

I've been thinking a lot about the story of the Four Gates this last week. For my work, I keep in contact with several volunteers who moderate our forums. They are from as far away as Malaysia, and from all sorts of backgrounds. We chat over skype about the games we play and our everyday lives, but this last week I feel like I had a similar experience that Siddhartha did as a

Please see L.D. NEWS, con't on page 4



Above: Bartenders Kimio Earley, Michael Jitosh, Ryan Chow, Richard Haraguchi, Eugene "I always wanted to be photographed behind the bar" Chow pose at WCBT's Oldies Dance 46

Hello to Our Young Adult Buddhists

Recently, an e-mail request was initially sent to a couple of dozen or so of our current young adult members (which includes some of our former Jr. YBA members) to see if there is interest in establishing a young adult Buddhist group at WCBT. To my knowledge, even though there are of course friendships that exist outside our Sunday

Services, and that most of these young adults still live in the area, there has never been an active young adult group with regular meetings and activities at WCBT. After our young people graduate from high school, that's pretty much the end of their relationship with the temple.

Interestingly however, to this latest query, there was some encouraging interest and thanks to those of you that responded. I'll keep you informed as we go forward. But those of you that did not respond are probably wonder-

Please see YOUNG ADULTS, con't on page 4

New Dharma School Sunday Service

By Diane Hata, WCBT Dharma School

Traditionally, Sunday mornings are synonymous with waking up on time to attend service at the temple. For those of you who are experienced parents, encouraging the kids to get up on Sunday morning can feel like an act of Congress (oh, maybe not that bad!) Thus, taking into consideration the stage at which our new and potential Dharma School students are, we will dedicate the last Sunday of the month especially for our youngsters who range from 1-7 years of age.

We plan to have a "read-aloud"

given by one of our Dharma School teachers, followed by a short sermon delivered by Rev. Peter. The children will then be dismissed to their class where they will do a hands-on activity and, of course, get the chance to stretch their legs by playing outdoors, weather permitting.

The Golden Chain is the overarching theme that we hope to include in everything we do with the children. Please join us to take part in the chain that "stretches around the world."

Temple Event Highlights:

- Nov. 3 Kiku Craft&Food Fair
- Nov. 11 Buddhism & Christianity Lectures
- Nov. 17 Hoonko Service
- Dec. 8 Mochitsuki
- Dec. 15 Year-End & Oseibo
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

One of our youngest members of Dharma School is not even a year old. But as you can see, Josaia is raring to go. He along with our other young students thoroughly enjoyed the reading of Crankenstein, which was read by Ms



Claire Hansen before our traditional Halloween party on Oct. 27th. Our next issue of the Gateway should have some terrific pictures to share.

Before you know it, Thanksgiving celebrations will be taking place. As we had mentioned before, the last Sunday of the month's service will feature a read-aloud geared for the young children in our Sangha. There will be no real turkeys to take home, but the families can expect something festive for their home...

With Gassho,
Diane Hata



Quote of the Month

It is time for the great American experiment in freedom, born in the hot revolution of 1776 and nurtured by the outer modernity of the European Enlightenment, to grow to maturity in the cool revolution of the Path and the inner modernity of Buddhist enlightenment.

-Robert Thurman

A Wish List for West Covina Buddhist Temple

As the year end fast approaches, it has come to our attention that many people are faced with the dilemma of what to give for this year's Oseibo gift. Unlike a Christmas present, an Oseibo gift is an expression of gratitude for the hard work, support and generosity they have received. In this same spirit of Oseibo giving, this year we thought instead of or in addition to the monetary donations that our Sangha generously gives to our Temple, that we have a West Covina Buddhist Temple Wish List. (Remember your children's elementary school teachers' wish list? Same concept!) Rev. Peter, the board, Dharma School teachers and the chairpersons for our annual Temple activities (think Obon, Hanamatsuri, Ohigan, Oldies Dances, Gateway, etc.)

will make a list of things WCBT needs to help the Temple fulfill its potential by improving our Temple operations. For example, Rev. Peter and Richard Kagawa are installing new lights for the altar to enhance the appearance of the altar items. They have already installed a portable vac to expedite the cleaning of the altar. The new lighting will cost \$200. Sangha members may wish to donate to a fund to this specific item or any other item on the wish list.

We understand that these are hard times. The Temple does need your support in anyway you can offer it; if not in monetary terms, then in terms of volunteering your time to the Temple.

With our profound and sincere appreciation,

The Gateway Staff



Clockwise from top: Kevin Kawawata spoke about his experience in Japan on October 13; Lillian Nishihara with Richard Hiroshima and Frank Tanji, the lucky raffle winners of the lanterns at the Oldies and dancers having a great time at Oldies 46





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will sponsor our 4th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 3 from 10am–3pm. 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 welcomed to shop early from 9:30 a.m.

We hope you can help by signing up to help or if you can't be here perhaps you can bring homemade baked goods on Saturday or Sunday to the Center. And of course we invite everyone to come shop and eat.

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.

November Shotsuki & Board Meeting

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

Omigaki

On Sunday, Nov. 10, please try to stay a little while after service to help with the altar cleaning, known as *omigaki*. The Sangha cleans and polishes the altar pieces for the upcoming Hoonko Service, the most important service of the year.

Fall Lecture Series

West Covina Buddhist Study Center presents "Buddhism and Christianity: Our Common Spiritual Quest" with special lecturer Rev. James Fredericks, Ph.D on November 11, 18 and 25, 2013. The fee for the three lectures is \$30.

See page 5 for more details.

The Study Class

The Study Class (formerly known as Bonbu Class) will meet on November 12 and 26 at 10:00 AM. Discussions

will continue to focus on the Sho Shin Ge. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please call Rev. Peter, (626) 337-8373

Ho-onko Service

Our Ho-onko Service will be held on Sunday, November 17, at 4:30 pm with Rinban Noriaki Ito as our special speaker. Please join us as we welcome back Rinban Nori and stay for the complimentary Otoki dinner that will follow the service.

Mochitsuki

WCBT's annual Mochitsuki will be held on Sunday, December 8. Beginning at 7:00AM, the special mochi rice, which will be sent home to be washed and soaked the night before, will be steamed until it is ready to be poked and pounded and eventually molded into smooth mochi shapes. Some are filled with sweet bean an and others are made into the traditional New Years symbolic offering, okasane. Come and join us in this annual tradition.

Year-end Service & Oseibo

Our Year-end Service, Oseibo gift presentation and potluck dinner will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 PM. Entertainment will be provided by the Dharma School, youth organizations and other members of the Sangha. If you have a talent you'd like to share, please contact Diane Hata or Rev. Peter

The potluck assignments are as follows: If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a main dish and a salad; L-N, bring a main dish and rice dish; O-Y, bring a main dish and a dessert.

Please join us for a fun evening of entertainment and feasting on the delicious potluck spread from the West Covina Temple members.

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.

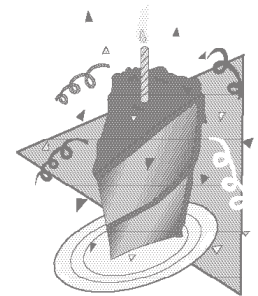
The Temple's mailing address is:

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

E-Mail: dharma@livingdharma.org



NOVEMBER

Travis Hamachi, Erika Haraguchi, Kyle Sato, Brandon Kanemaru, Jennifer Higa, Hisa Konno, Jill Kato, Jean Nakatani, Wesley Kawaguchi, Frank Tanji, Andrew Kochi, Lauren Oshiro, Lynette Godoy, Sany Nafarrete





T H E G A T E W A Y

YOUNG ADULTS, *con't from pg. 1*

ing, "Why?," especially since, as mentioned, our young people attend temple regularly only through high school, then basically they are not expected to attend after that. Two exceptions were the Lotus Band's coming together again after college, along with many of our former Jr. YBA, for WCBT's 50th anniversary, and also, how the temple received much-needed help from its former Jr. YBA members at our Obon Festival. Thank you very much for your help. But actually, when I saw all the help we did receive from our former teen members at Obon, I was a bit dismayed to think that, though you are still helping the temple, the temple is no longer helping you. You are no longer an active beneficiary of the Three Treasures.

But for the most part, it is true that Shin Buddhist temples tend to lose the participation of their young adults. Of course, at this stage of your life, you are very busy with building your careers and for some of you, also raising a family. Perhaps you also feel there's no place in your contemporary urban lifestyle for "religion." But I would like to ask you to consider first that Buddhism is not technically a "religion," at least in the key sense that there is no creator deity at its center. Rather, at the center of Buddhism is the Dharma, the teaching of truth; the reality that all life is both impermanent and interdependent.

Consider how you became the person you are today. Looking calmly at your life so far, isn't it true that you were born because of a multitude of interwoven, singular events such as how and why your parents met, how and why your four grandparents and eight grandparents met, and so forth? Isn't it also true that things have not always gone the way you wanted them to? You were not the best looking, most athletic, most artistically talented, smartest, or wealthiest person amongst your peer group (I apologize to those of you that were!) so you had to somehow get to a place of self-acceptance, develop your unique gifts, and live your own life. Maybe you tried to

achieve certain goals but didn't, which probably resulted in disappointment, but which maybe also made you a little wiser and more appreciative of what you already have. Or sadly, you've no doubt witnessed the passing of many people close to you even at your young age; grandparents, maybe parents for some of you, probably even a few of your peers. This is the reality of all our lives. But then, if you are one of those young adults who has come to not only accept but actually appreciate these life lessons and how they've made you "grow up," does the urge ever arise to somehow share what you've learned—your appreciation of your life—with others? The ways in which you could share are only limited by your imagination and passion. These twin aspects of being deeply touched by the reality of life, and yet simultaneously moved to somehow help others is the heart of Namu Amida Butsu.

As a start, please consider simply coming to an initial meeting at your convenience—it does not have to be Sunday morning and could be Sunday afternoon, Saturday morning, a weekday evening, etc. Let me know your preference. Also I welcome any suggestions about what kinds of activities such a group might do. It could include a wide range of activities from purely social gatherings, to activist-types of projects (political, green, careers, healthy lifestyles, parenting resources, etc.), to more purely Dharma-centered gatherings like lectures, Buddhist film/music trips, and small group discussions.

Aren't you curious what might happen if you could get together under the guidance of the Dharma, but not as Dharma-school kids or teens, but now as mature, thoughtful adults? (sorry, some of you were actually thoughtful teens!).

I personally feel that we—many Shin Buddhist temple leaders in America—have it all wrong if we think Buddhism is "not relevant" to young adults, or that they're too busy, or that they all think of religion as being

"uncool." Young adults may actually be at a special age where they are old enough to have been deeply touched by the Dharma and yet also young, creative, curious, and energetic enough to be very interested in studying and, together with their peers, sharing the Dharma with others.

Gassho, Rev. Peter

L.D. NEWS, con't from pg. 1
young man.

One of them is in the hospital, suffering the after-effects of a infection from last year that caused some memory loss and poor health. One of them is from a low income background, struggling to support her and her father on a small part time wage. And just this last week I found out for the first time that one that I had often disagreed and argued with had lost their fiance in a tragic accident years ago.

Somehow, in a roundabout fashion I am seeing the suffering of these people I have grown to know and was profoundly moved by the experience. I realized how fortunate I am to be alive and healthy, and about how transient those can be.

I wanted to thank you for the class Heather and I took at West Covina, and pass along that I am trying to use what I learned!

Steve Toyoshima

Dear Steve,

Thanks for your message. I'm glad to hear the dharma is beginning to come alive for you and is not just a bunch of doctrines. Do you mind if we print your message in our "Living Dharma News" column of the Gateway? I think your message will resonate with our readers.

Alternatively, if you like writing and sharing, you're welcome to write a short essay for our "Living Dharma" column, which only runs occasionally. I attached a couple of past Gateway issues as examples.

I know you are a member of the Betsuin, but since the Intro class was here at WCBT, I think you can write for us.

Best Wishes,

Please see *L.D. NEWS, con't on pg. 7*



T H E G A T E W A Y

**The West Covina Buddhist Study Center Presents:
Buddhism and Christianity:
Our Common Spiritual Quest
Lecturer: Rev. James Fredericks, Ph.D**

Date: Mondays; Nov. 11, 18, & 25, 2013

Time: 7:00 pm~8:30 pm

Place: East San Gabriel Valley Japanese
Community Center, Room 3
1203 West Puente Ave.,
West Covina, CA 91790

Fee: \$30.00*

Info: (626) 337-8373
dharma@livingdharma.org



About the lecture series:

To most Americans, it might not seem obvious that Buddhists and Christians share a common quest, or that if there is one, it must have something to do with reincarnation or an eternal afterlife. There is however a common spiritual quest shared by these two great traditions, and it is one that can in fact positively affect our everyday lives in the here and now.

About the lecturer:

Jim Fredericks is a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and a member of the Department of Theological Studies of Loyola Marymount University. He is a specialist in inter-religious dialogue, especially the dialogue between Buddhism and Christianity. He has worked as a Fulbright Scholar in Kyoto, Japan and is a member of the Los Angeles Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue and the Bay Area Chan, Zen, Catholic Dialogue. In addition to many articles, he is the author of *Buddhists and Christians: Through Comparative Theology to a New Solidarity (Orbis)* and *Faith Among Faiths: Christian Theology and The Non-Christian Religions (Paulist)*. He has lectured on inter-religious understanding in Kyoto, Tehran, Rome, Vienna, Beijing and other parts of the world.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

**Pre-registration is requested; but fee is payable either with pre-registration or at 1st class (make check payable to "WCBT")*

West Covina Buddhist Temple
P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91790
Telephone (626) 337-8373
www.livingdharma.org



T H E G A T E W A Y

L.D. NEWS, con't from pg. 7

Rev. Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple

Subject: Re: Four Gates Experience
From: Steven Toyoshima
To: Peter Hata,
Sure, you can reprint for the Living
Dharma News! I might also take you
up on the offer to do some writing.

From = (Name Withheld)
Subject = Becoming a Buddhist
Message = Hello, I have been dealing
with issues of depression and anxiety
over the past few years, which have left
me in difficult places at times. A couple
of days ago I lost my father to cancer
and I have had trouble dealing with
that as well. I just need to find some
kind of centeredness to bring peace to
my life, soul, and mind. I happened
upon your website and, as cliché as
this may sound, I felt a welcoming and
comfortable vibe from your temple.
I would like to visit. I do not speak
Japanese (although I'm part Japanese). I
hope this will be OK.
Will I be welcome to attend services?
Thank you for your time and attention.
Best,
(Name Withheld)

Dear (Name Withheld),

Thanks for visiting our Living Dharma
Website. Our condolences to you for your
loss. All of us have experienced the loss of
a loved one and have also found it difficult.
I'm glad you found something beneficial on
our website.

As to your question, yes, you are
welcome to attend any of our services.
We are probably a 90% English-speaking
temple in terms of our members but since
Jodo Shinshu Buddhism came here with
the Issei immigrants, there are still some
remnants of Japanese language, especially
in our chanting rituals and in a few gathas
(songs). I think we're kind of reluctant to
change these because, even though they
pose some difficulty for Americans, they
also provide a meaningful link back to the
13th century founder of our tradition,
Shinran Shonin. For that matter, we also

recite a small part of the Three Treasures
(universal Buddhist pledge) in Pali, which
is an even older language dating back 2500
years to the founder of Buddhism, Shakya-
muni Buddha (actually, Pali is probably
easier than Japanese to pronounce even for
Americans). But you do not have to partic-
ipate in any of this unless you want to.
Most newcomers become familiar with our
rituals little by little, which is fine.

Please check our calendar for days and
times (<http://www.livingdharma.org/Calendar.html>).

By the way, we only have one Japanese
language service, which is our Howakai
service on the first Thursday of the month
(2 days from now), but even there, when
English-speaking people have shown up,
we will also provide an English dharma

message. But yes, everything else on our
calendar is for English-speaking people.

Best Wishes,
Rev. Peter Hata
The Living Dharma Website
West Covina Buddhist Temple





T H E G A T E W A Y

報恩講 報恩

恩という字の成り立ちをみると、「因」については「いたむ」という意味があり、恩は「いたむところ」がもともとの意味であるといわれます。つまり、ただ恵みがあってうれしいということではなく、そこに「いたむところ」のあること、言いかえれば、悲願のあることを知ること、それが恩を知ることになるのでしょうか。

私たちは、ともすると報恩講は御恩報謝することだと考えて、どうしたら本当の報恩になるだろうかと考えます。自分なりになんとか仏の心に叶うような報恩の仕方を考えます。しかし、実はそのことが如来の恩（＝いたむところ）を知らぬ姿でしょう。私たちの凡夫のところで如来のところに報いようとする、その善人意識が如来の恩とかけはなれているのです。私たちが知らなければならぬのは恩の報い方ではなく、如来の恩そのものなのです。

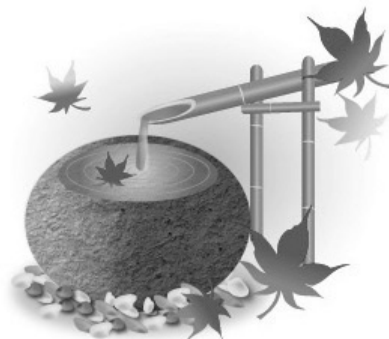
そして、如来のいたむところに叶うのは「逆謗」の自覚のみです。なぜかといえば、如来がいたむのは私たちが逆謗の徒（ともがら）にほかならないからです。しかし、その自覚となると難しく、常にとりかえしのつか

ぬところで知られるものです。考えてみますと、逆謗の徒によって傷つけられる父も母も阿羅漢（あらかん）も和合僧（わごうそう）も仏も仏法も、自らを傷つけてくるものを深くいとおしむものばかりです。そのいとおしむものが罪を犯してしまったことをいたむ。逆謗の罪とはこの「いたむところ」にふれた時、初めて慚愧となって深く知られるものであります。

「仏は三千大千世界に芥子粒程も身命すてたまわざることなし」と言われます。それは仏が勝手に身命をすてたものではありません。私たちが仏法を信じないからでしょう。私たちが理屈ばかりを言って念仏を申さないからでしょう。身を粉にし骨を砕いているのは如来の方なのです。

ここに、報じ難き仏恩の深遠なることを信知する時が到来し、逆謗の徒とは仏恩報ずる思いなきわれらであると知られるのです。

（2005年版「真宗の生活」
- 東本願寺発行 - より引用）



お寺ニュース

法話会報恩講（日本語）

法話会では11月7日（木）午後7時30分より、11月祥月法要と合わせて報恩講を厳修致します。報恩講は親鸞聖人への報恩謝徳の為に行われる最も大切な仏事です。どうぞ皆様お誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいませようご案内申し上げます。

報恩講（英語）

11月17日（日）午後4時30分より、本年度の当寺院報恩講（英語）を厳修致します。講師として伊東憲昭ロサンゼルス別院輪番をお招きしております。法要後には、お齋をご用意いたしております。報恩講は一年の節目となる最も大切な法要です。どうぞ皆様でご参詣下さい。



11月祥月法要並びに
法話会報恩講

11月7日（木）
午後7時30分より

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



GATEWAY



November 2013 - - Vol. XLVII No. 11

November

- 2 10:00 am Center Health Fair
- 3 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 3 10:00 am Kiku Craft Fair
- 7 7:30 pm Howakai Hoonko Service
- 10 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 10 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Study Class
- 17 4:30 pm WCBT Hoonko Service
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Study Class

December

- 1 8:30 am Board Mtg
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service & Bodhi Day
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Year-End Party
- 8 7:00 am Mochitsuki
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 15 4:00 pm Year-End & Oseibo Service

11月行事予定

- 3日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 3日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア
- 7日 午前7時半 日本語法話会報恩講 / 祥月法要
- 10日 午前8時半 理事会
- 10日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 17日 午前10時 LA 別院報恩講
- 17日 午後4時半 報恩講 (英語)
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

12月行事予定

- 1日 午前8時半 理事会
- 1日 午前10時 祥月法要 / 成道会
- 5日 午前7時半 日本語法話会忘年会
- 8日 午後 7時 餅つき
- 15日 午後 4時 年末法要 / 忘年会

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宗祖親鸞聖人750回御遠忌テーマ