



# GATEWAY



December 2016 - - Vol. LI No. 11



WCBT Sangha members Phillip Underwood and Lynette Godoy received their Homyō at their recent Kikyōshiki ceremony from the Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani at the Los Angeles Betsuin.

## Confirmation Ceremony

Lynette Godoy  
WCBT Member

Have you ever been so overwhelmed with happiness and a feeling of gratitude?

It was an incredible, moving moment for me as Philip Underwood and I received our Dharma Name (Homyō) at the confirmation ceremony known as Kikyōshiki on Sunday, November 13, 2016. It was held at the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles. The Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani presided as the official representative for Abbot Chōken Ōtani. There were two members, Anna and George Hightower, from the Berkley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and Mr. Tadanari Ochi from the Keiro Retirement Home, who also received their Dharma Names.

When we receive our Dharma Name, it is our formal commitment to

strive to lead our lives according to the teachings of the Buddhadharma and to take refuge in The Three Treasures. For years I struggled with trying to understand human nature and the environment around me. It wasn't until the death of my father and mother that I became more interested in the teachings of the Buddha. As a child, I was introduced to the Shotsuki service but really nothing more. Since their passing, it has made me more aware of the teaching of impermanence and to live my life to the fullest. Realizing the desire to live my life by the teachings of Namu Amida Butsu, it seemed an appropriate time for me to follow my path in search of living.

Chills ran up and down my spine creating goosebumps all over when I felt a gentle touch on my shoulder and

a motion above my head signifying the ritual of the shaving of the head (leaving behind our self-centered thinking). Although my hair remained intact, I wrestled with emotion from within.

Then the Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani gave his formal address and presented us with our Dharma Name. We were given a white envelope with an official certificate of our name inside. I felt so honored and excited, it slipped my mind to look inside to see what name I was given.

As the ceremony progressed with the chanting of the Shōshinge and Bishop Ito's message of the significance and relationship of The Three Treasures in receiving our Dharma Name, I felt calm and at peace. I thought about living life and seeking refuge in the  
*Please see CONFIRMATION, con't on page 2*





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Our Shichi-Go-San ceremony was held on November 27 honoring the Dharma School students who are 3, 5, or 7 years old this year. The children and their parent(s) or grandparent(s) offered incense and then the children were given an ojuzu and a small gift commemorating their ages. In East Asian countries, the odd years are lucky. A wish for a long and healthy life is represented by a long red and white candy and depictions of a crane and turtle.

This year, the three year olds who were honored are Riley Logue, Ryden Meites, and Evan Louise Yoburn. The five year olds are Tyler Kobayashi, Jayden Logue, Mia Meites, Tristan Miyashiro, Derrick Noguchi, and Cayla James Yoburn. The seven year olds are Andrew Kobayashi and Matthew Andrew Musselwhite. Congratulations to all our children!

The holidays are upon us and we are excited to participate in the Mochitsuki activities and the Year End Service. The Dharma School students will be performing during the Year End. We hope you enjoy our presentation.

Hoping that you all have a wonderful holiday and wishing you a happy and healthy 2017 (Year of the Chicken)!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



### CONFIRMATION, *con't from pg. 1*

Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha.

It wasn't long after the ceremony ended that Rev. Miyoshi translated and described my Dharma Name for me...Shakuni Ke-Yō. All Dharma Names begin with Shaku (disciple of the Buddha), the Ni signifies the female gender, Ke-Yō (according to the Kanji) translates to brilliance, as in intense brightness of light, and the lotus flower. At that moment, knowing Rev. Miyoshi gave much time and thought to select my Dharma Name, and how this confirmation would begin a continuous new path confirming my thoughts of life, I became very emotional and cried in happiness.

So for me, not only did I receive my Dharma Name, it was a day I can truly say I was living my life to the fullest!!

In gassho.



*Our little ones celebrated Shichi-Go-San, a Rite of Passage ceremony which symbolizes the wish for good health and long life for our 3, 5, and 7 year olds. Each child received a colorful onenju as a commemorative gift.*



**Quote of the Month**  
The right of others is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary men.  
-Prince Shotoku



# 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 December 13 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month but will meet only once in December. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

### December Shotsuki

#### Bodhi Day Service & Board Meeting

The December Board Meeting will be cancelled. The Shotsuki and Bodhi Day service will be held on December 4 at 10:00 AM.

### Mochitsuki

WCBT's annual *Mochitsuki* will be held on Sunday, December 11. The special *mochi* rice was passed out to Sangha members on November 27. This rice will be washed and soaked the night before and beginning at 7:00AM it 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 18 at 4:00 PM. Entertainment will be provided by the Dharma School. If you have a talent you'd like to share, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.

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.

### New Years Day Service

A special service to commemorate the new year will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2017, at 11:00 AM. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

### Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2017 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service for January.

### Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 15 at 10 a.m. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale only so make sure you contact Toban B to get your Eitaikyo lunch tickets. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

## 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

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

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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Allison Haraguchi, Kyle Kagawa, Aki Kamimura, Chris Nakano, Denise Underwood, Larry Oshima, Susan Iwama, Johnny Martinez, Tristan Miyashiro, Helen Nakawatase, Sandra Nakano, Jonathan Ogino, Kristin Dubble, Merry Jitosh, Jessica Saucedo, Taylor Saucedo, Katrena Sakaue, Brandon Kwan, Brett Miyamoto, Chau Chen, Wesley Zhao Chen, Julie Griffith, Jack Wear, Dawn Masai, Sean Underwood, Richard Kagawa, Autrina Underwood, Takashi Takemoto, Michiko Oku, Stephanie Akune



The Howakai group celebrated their Year End gathering on December 1 by sharing scrumptious potluck feast which included their annual platter of fresh sashimi.





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## Kiku Crafts & Food Fair 2016!



*Our annual Kiku Crafts Fair,  
under the hardworking  
chairmanship of Hisako Koga,  
was another great success  
this year!  
Kiku's crafters and vendors offered  
a variety of quality goods  
as well as our famous  
WCBT menu of delicious foods which,  
of course, sold out!*







T H E G A T E W A Y

**WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY**

***EAST MEETS WEST***

***Dharmathon with Higashi and Nishi Ministers***

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017**

**9:00 am - 4:30 pm (Doors open at 8:30 am)**

**Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

**815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

***DHARMATHON: A SERIES OF DHARMA MESSAGES  
FEATURING MINISTERS FROM BOTH TRADITIONS***

***IN ENGLISH***

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop,  
Buddhist Churches of America  
Rev. Noriaki Ito, Bishop,  
Higashi Honganji North American District

Rev. Kenji Akahoshi  
Rev. Fred Brenion  
Rev. Bill Briones  
Rev. Greg Gibbs  
Rev. Marvin Harada  
Rev. Peter Hata

Rev. John Iwohara  
Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi  
Rev. Kory Quon  
Rev. Jon Turner  
Rev. Fumiaki Usuki  
Rev. Patti Usuki

***IN JAPANESE***

Rev. Masashi Fujii  
Rev. Ryuta Furumoto  
Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa  
Rev. Nobuo Miyaji  
Rev. Kazuaki Nakata  
Rev. Ryoko Osa  
Rev. Koho Takata  
Rev. Masanori Watanabe  
Rev. Mutsumi Wondra

**REGISTRATION: \$40 (Includes lunch) DEADLINE: JANUARY 19, 2017**

For registration information contact **Rev. Koho Takata** at  
***NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com*** or call **(213) 680-9130**

*Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies,  
Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education & Shinshu Center of America*  
**Hosted by the BCA Southern District Ministers Association & Buddhist Education Committee**



# T H E G A T E W A Y



## Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz is a review of the recent ceremony in which two of WCBT's sangha members pledged to become disciples of Shakyamuni Buddha.

**Difficulty Level: Moderate**  
**True or False**

- \_\_\_ 1. A homyo means one has become a disciple of the Buddha.
- \_\_\_ 2. A homyo can be presented to a Shin Buddhist even after death.
- \_\_\_ 3. The confirmation ceremony in which a person receives his/her homyo is called Kikyoshiki.
- \_\_\_ 4. The homyo can only be conferred by the Gomonsu or spiritual head of the Jodo Shinshu denomination.
- \_\_\_ 5. Shaku and Shakuni mean the same thing.
- \_\_\_ 6. In Shin Buddhism, a homyo consists of one Chinese character preceded by one word which signifies that one is a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Answers: 1-T, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F



WCBT was honored to have nine Higashi ministers, including Overseas District Abbot Chōyū Ōtani and his wife Mrs. Satika, at our November Hoonko Service.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 帰敬式を受式して ゴドイ・リネット

皆さんは幸せと感謝の気持ちが身から溢れるような感動的な経験をされたことはありますか？

11月13日の日曜日、私は同じくウェストコヴィナのお寺のメンバーであるフィリップ・アンダーウッドさんと一緒に帰敬式を受式し、法名をいただきました。それはかけがえのない本当に素晴らしい体験でした。帰敬式は別院で行われ、大谷暢裕開教司教に執行していただきました。今回の帰敬式には私たちの他に、バークレーからアナ、ジョージ・ハイタワー夫妻、敬老リタイアメントホームから越智忠成氏も受式されました。

帰敬式を受式し、法名をたまわるということは、仏法僧の三宝に帰依し、仏法を拠り所として人生を生き尽くす生活を始めるという私たちの宣言です。私は人間の性や周りの環境や状況をどのように受け止めればいいのか、長い間苦勞してきました。両親の死に直面して初めて仏教にじっくりと向き合いたいと思うようになりました。子供の頃からお寺にはご縁がありましたが、祥月法要にお参りするだけで、聴聞には正直それほど興味はなかったのです。両親が亡くなったことをきっかけに、諸行無常の教えに頷くことができ、賜った人生を精一杯に生きることの大切さに目が覚めた思いがしました。お念仏の教えを聞き続ける生活がしたいという思いが強くなり、今回帰敬式を受式することを決心しました。

帰敬式では剃刀の儀という儀式があります。姿勢を正すよう促さ

れ、剃刀がそっと私の髪に触れた時、背筋にピリッとした緊張が走り、全身に鳥肌が立ちました。剃刀の儀は、自分の思いを中心とした迷いの生活を離れる、という象徴的な意味があるということを知っていただきました。実際に髪を下ろしたのではないのですが、それだけにこの儀式の意味を心の中で改めて思い返しました。

大谷暢裕開教司教より執行の辞をいただいた後、私たちはひとりひとり法名をたまわりました。法名は真っ白な紙に包まれ非常に厳粛な重みを感じました。どんな法名をいただいたのか、ありがたい気持ちと共にとても興奮したのを覚えています。

帰敬式では最後に「正信偈」を全員でお勤めし、伊東憲昭北米監督の法話を聴聞しました。伊東監督は法名をいただくにあたり、改めて三宝がそれぞれに関わりあっていること、そして三宝に帰依することの意義についてお話くださいました。法話を聞きながら心が穏やかで落ち着いた気持ちになっているのを感じました。そして仏法僧に帰依する生活について思いを馳せました。

家族や親しい人たちに見守られて帰敬式は無事終了しました。見義先生が私の法名を英語に訳して説明してくれました。私がいただいた法名は「釈尼華耀（しゃくにけよう）」です。法名は真宗大谷派の場合は男性なら「釈」、女性ならば「釈尼」ではじまっています。「華耀」は輝く蓮の華のような人、そしてその光で周りの人を輝かせる人、と教えてもらいました。そのような人として生きることが願いとしていただいているのを感じる時、この帰敬式から新しい生き方、歩みが始まったのだと思いました。感動と喜びで思わ

ず涙が出てきました。

帰敬式を受式し、法名をたまわったその日、私はかけがえのないその一日を精一杯尽くしたと胸を張って言えます。

合 掌

## お寺ニュース

### 餅つき

今年の餅つきは12月11日（日）午前7時より行われます。200ポンドの餅米をつきますのでお手伝いを宜しく願いいたします。持ち帰っていただいています餅米は一昼夜水につけた後当日持って来ていただきます。みんなで美味しいお餅をつきましょう。当日は当番Aによる朝食もごぞいます。

### 修正会法要

修正会法要は2017年1月1日（日）午前11時よりお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにご家族お揃いでお参りください。

### 永代経法要・教団総会

2017年度永代経法要は1月15日午前10時より厳修されます。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。お寺の大事な総会です。どうぞ法要、総会にご出席ください。

### お寺家族リトリート

来る2月11日（土）-12日（日）家族リトリートをサンルイスオビスポ西本願寺にて開催いたします。日常を離れ仏法にじっくりと耳を傾けるよい機会です。どうぞお誘い合わせの上ご参加ください。詳しくは見義信香開教使まで。



East San Gabriel Valley  
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
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# GATEWAY



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## December

- 1 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service  
Bodhi Day Service
- 11 7:00 am Mochitsuki
- 13 10:00 am Study Class
- 18 4:00 pm Year-end Service

## 12月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時 法話会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要／涅槃会
- 11日 午前7時 もちつき
- 18日 午後4時 年末家族礼拝

## January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 5 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 8 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 15 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service

## 2017年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 5日 午後7時 法話会
- 8日 午前8時半 理事会
- 8日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 15日 午前10時 永代経法要 / 総会 / 新年会
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

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いま光がとどいたのではない  
光に遇わなかっただけだ

吉田妙子