



GATEWAY



July 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 7



WCBT enjoyed another successful OBON celebration with Bon Odori, fabulous foods, cultural exhibits and demonstrations, children's games and all around fun for Sangha families and friends.

Dharma Seeds Retreat-Exploring the Origin of Shakyamuni

Phillip Underwood

On Saturday June 10th, the second retreat for the Dharma Seeds Program II "Planting Nenbutsu Seeds in America" was held at the Los Angeles Betsuin, focusing on the theme "General History of Mahayana Buddhism". At our February retreat in Berkeley a few members were unable to attend. That was not the case in Los Angeles as all 12 members and 7 ministers made the gathering.

The activities began with an Opening Service and Shoshin-ge Dobo Hosan led by West Covina members Joanie Martinez and myself. The opening and welcoming remarks were presented by Bishop Ito, after which we assembled in the social hall of the temple.

After brief introductions, the morning session was an in-depth review of

Under the clear summer sky, the WCBT had an extremely successful Obon Festival on Saturday, June 24th. We were fortunate to see many people with their children and grandchildren enjoying shave ice, chicken teriyaki, cultural demonstrations, games and of course Bon Odori.

This year's Manto-e service, there were more people than I expected. Some of the participants were non-members and just happened to know and attended the service to show their respect and gratitude to their loved ones. They reminded us that the Obon Festival is not only a cultural event, but also a religious one that widely offers an opportunity to experience a sense of interconnectedness to everyone.

I would like to thank the dedicated and hardworking Sangha members and their families and friends whose positive energy created a joyful atmosphere for the festival. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the Obon co-chair, Mr. Bruce Whang and Mrs. Merry Hiroshima (Jitosho), and the Obon committee for their tireless work and devotion.

*In Gassho,
Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi*

Please see SHAKYAMUNI, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma School game booth was very busy during Obon. Children enjoyed the various games and the challenge of winning the “big prizes”. The stuffed animals (especially the cute turtles) were sought after eagerly. The children’s raffle was also a big hit. Thank you to all the Sangha members who contributed to our raffle.

We appreciate the help of Mrs. Deanna Ormseth, Mrs. Diana Hata, Mrs. Laurie Kobayashi, Joy Ormseth, Jonathan Ogino, and Andy and Tyler Kobayashi. A special thank you to Lauren and Brian Yanase who were very instrumental in setting up the booth and working during the entire Obon. They all did a superb job on a very hot Saturday!

Dharma School also had a display in the gym. It explained the activities of the children during the year and had pictures of various functions. Thank you to Mrs. Laurie Kobayashi for creating the display!

During this Obon season we are reminded of our departed loved ones. We are grateful for their love and guidance and thank them for being our teachers. The concepts of interdependence and impermanence are what our Dharma School will emphasize during the lessons of the summer. We hope you all have a chance to attend other Obon festivities!

Happy Summer and try to stay cool!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen





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 July 11 and 25 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. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

Obon & Hatsubon Service

Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 16 at 4:30 PM. Come and join us for this important Service and remain for the complimentary *otoki* dinner that will follow the service.

Betsuin Obon Festival

The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 29-30. WCBT will again be selling our delicious tamales. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming services so please find a time you can help out in the tamale booth and join in the dancing and festivities at the Betsuin Obon.

Las Vegas Trip

Once again Pasadena Buddhist Temple has invited WCBT members to join their Las Vegas trip on August 4-6. The price of \$205 (double occupancy) or \$225 (single occupancy) will include bus transportation, driver tips, games and cash prizes on bus trip, 2-nights accommodations at California Club Hotel and Casino and **meal coupons** (for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners that can be used at Cal Club or Main Street). Luggage handling also included.

The bus will depart from Pasadena Buddhist Church on Friday, August 4 at 8:30AM and will stop at ESGVJCC at 9:15AM. 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 by July 1 if you are interested in going.

August Schedule

The August board meeting will be held 8:30 AM on **July 30**. August Shotsuki Service will be held on August 6 at 10:00 AM. We will then take our annual summer break so there are no Sunday Services on August 13, 20 and 27. Services will resume again on September 3.



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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Happy Birthday ♪



JULY

Jamie Nakatani, Sylvia Ena, Jaylene Gutierrez, Kevin Hata, Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez, Laura Miyake, Margaret Takemoto, Ryoko Kodama, Richard Haraguchi, Craig Taguchi, Corey Taguchi, Pat Sato, Garrett Kawaguchi, Tyler Kobayashi, Steven Kuwahara, Marcus Nishihara, Lillian Nishihara, Kurt Kowalski, Jamie Teragawa, Jonathan Hoey, Jeffrey Akune, Anthony Gutierrez, Sam Kozono, Susie Kozono, Sayo Kikunaga



T H E G A T E W A Y

SHAKYAMUNI, con't from pg. 1

the previous retreat. Our moderator, Rev. Peter Hata, presented a thorough reappraisal of the material we received from Dr. Michael Conway. Rev. Hata did an excellent job of condensing over 8 hours of lectures into a 2-hour session. The main focus of Dr. Conway's presentation was the early transformation and awakening of the Buddha. And contrary to popular belief, the emphasis of the teaching of the Buddha was not to calm us or make us feel good. According to Dr. Conway, the teaching of Buddhism is to basically make us feel uncomfortable; to make us look within ourselves to see our own delusions, and to encourage us to see how easily we see faults in others but ignore those same faults within ourselves. I can attest to that in my own personal journey. Looking inside ourselves is difficult and, in my case, very often painful. I've learned that it's almost impossible to see others if I can't see myself, and that's hard. Buddhism is not a teaching to change someone else; it's to change us. That may be why the phrase "Buddhism is a tough sell" was coined by 1st Dharma Seeds Program member (and West Covina Temple President) Johnny Martinez.

Late in the morning session Rev. Hata reviewed the conflict between Siddhartha and Mara the Tempter under the Bodhi tree. The battle for Siddhartha's mind was fierce and Mara employed his sons and daughters as well as many other weapons to disturb the mind and concentration of Siddhartha, but he remained calm. When Mara faced Siddhartha, he faced not only an adversary, but he faced his own extinction, if defeated. But when Siddhartha faced Mara, he faced himself and saw his own ignorance and ego. In spite of the many attacks he was able to ignore the defilements, deceptions, and temptations employed by Mara to prevent him from completing his meditation and obtaining enlightenment.

During the afternoon session, presented by Rev. Fredrick Brenion, we were asked to consider the concepts of convention and truth. As it was

presented to us, we contemplated what is and what is not. And, if that wasn't enough, we were asked to consider what both is and is not, and what neither is and is not. Needless to say, the session was very challenging and difficult to grasp. But Rev. Brenion was patient, energetic, and very animated in his presentation, which made the material easier to understand.

With a short amount of time remaining before the afternoon service Rev. Brenion opened up the floor to questions and that is when the session became very spirited. One of the Berkeley members expressed concerns about the practice of the reciting the Nembutsu; what it means and what it says about us as Buddhists. Before Rev. Brenion could reply several other members expressed similar concerns and I found myself listening to a passionate discussion of one of the basic tenets of our tradition. Several members and ministers commented on the topic and all made valid points. I can only imagine the Dharma messages that many temple Sangha's will benefit from as a result of the discussions that afternoon.

Being relatively new to Buddhism as a teaching there are many things that I don't clearly understand, so it was enlightening to learn that I'm not alone in my confusion about what some of the practices and traditions are about. Not only that, but it was reassuring that no one said that anyone was wrong for expressing the way they felt. That was refreshing because being from a Christian background there were any number of practices that I was told to do and that bad things or negative consequences would certainly occur if I didn't do as I was told. Buddhism isn't like that and for that I'm grateful.

(「釈尊」9頁からの続き)

ついてそれぞれが考える時間を得ました。内容は決して容易なものではなく、概念のイメージをつかむのに大変苦勞しました。ブレニオン開教係は辛抱強く、様々な表現を用いて私たちの理解を助けて

くれました。

午後の部も終わりに近づいた頃、参加者の一人から質問が出ましたが、それが一気に会場を活発な意見交換の場にしてくれました。それはバークレーからの参加者の念仏に関する疑問でした。浄土真宗の根本が称名念仏であると学んでいるが、はっきり言ってその念仏がわからない、ということでした。すると、私も同じような思いを抱いているという声があちらこちらから上がったのです。それから、他の参加者や僧侶がそれぞれの思いを発言してくれました。参加者の意見を非常に興味深く聞きながら、法話を聴聞することを通して得られることが、こうした形で意見を交換し合い、理解を深めていくことを通して得ることもできるのだと感じました。

仏教を学び始めて日の浅い私にとっては、講義の内容全てを理解することはできませんでした。だからこそ、私だけでなく他の参加者も私が抱いたことと同じ疑問をもっているのだ、とわかったことは大きな収穫でした。また、各自が思っていることを自由に表現できること、そして誰もその正誤を批評しないということの素晴らしさを再確認しました。それはキリスト教徒として育てられ、何をすべきかを常にはっきりと示されて、それに従わなければこんな罰が待っている、と終始言われてきた私にとっては目から鱗の体験です。今まで知らなかった自由な教えに出遇えたことをとても有難く思っています。





T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA
Higashi Honganji
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Dear Members and Friends,

June 29, 2017

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Obon and Hatsubon Service which will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 16, 2017. This is a combined memorial service not only for those members who specifically have lost a loved one in the previous 12 months (Hatsubon means "first Obon service"), but also a universal memorial service for all our loved ones who have passed on.

The schedule for the service is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Date: | Sunday, July 16, 2017 |
| Time: | 4:30 PM |
| Dharma Message: | Rev. Frederick Brenion (English) Associate Minister of North America District |

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

The Obon Service is held to remember our ancestors and to celebrate our life and is one of the most important observances of the year. Please join and gather again this year to resolve to deepen our understanding of Buddhism.

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

Mr. John Martinez, President of the Board of Directors



T H E G A T E W A Y

OBON 2017

Obon co-chair
Bruce Whang

WOW! We did it! The Sangha of West Covina Buddhist Temple just experienced an epic Obon! On behalf of Merry Hiroshima (Jitoshō) and myself, we would like to overwhelmingly give thanks to the various Obon Committee members for an awesome task, well executed! As always, everyone gives 110% + for one day of celebration. This year was well above expectations!

I have to say that on Saturday, the day of Obon, I had some concerns whether or not we would be ready on time. For me, the major tasks were completed; the yagura, lights, and lanterns were in place. A big thanks to the men that came to my rescue, as always. With their assistance, the yagura and lights looked great. Tor Ormseth, Danny Iwama, Mark Yoshihara, Phil Underwood, and Michael Jitoshō (Thanks for the dismantling of the yagura and lights!), a big THANK YOU for ALWAYS being there when I need assistance. And Johnny, you are my go to Bro! A personal thanks to my cousin Craig, for coming down and helping me, again, with set up! I'll try to make it to your Oregon Obon, on the first Saturday in August.

My charge was booths and lighting and whatever else needed to be taken care of. But again, a big thanks to those with booths who set up their own with what they needed. Not only did the booths take care of themselves, but every station took charge of what they needed to do and did it brilliantly. You are all great.

A special acknowledgment to the most experienced members of our Sangha that handled the information booth. Barbara Shirota, Larry Oshima, Ted Hamachi, and Henry Miyashiro. For the duration of the Obon, and before and after, they prepared and directed people to where they wanted to go, prepared for raffle events, and other unnoticeable services that aided in our Obon's success! Thank you for your efforts and dedication. Others that I would also like to acknowledge for their dedication and unwavering support are as follows: Tina Asano for her wonderful support and assistance throughout the event, Jennifer Higa(WCBT), Gail Kusano(OCBC), Pat Kasahara(SFBC) for their graceful dance instruction, George Abe for keeping the rhythm for the many dancers with his taiko drum magic, Richard Hiroshima for documenting our Obon festival with his awesome photography skills, Brittany and Jillian Kato, Allysa Arnheim, Nick Rossenblum, Issac Jacquez, Adolfo Rodriguez, and Yazmín and Stephanie Whang, the young ones who made sure the food orders were delivered expeditiously.

The dedication and effort of each member of the Sangha who participated in Obon is truly exemplary and should be applauded. Everyone knows his or her job and what needs to be done. Do I really need to be there?

As I walked around during Obon, it was very satisfying to see the young to the more mature, smiling and enjoying time with family and friends. I don't think I even heard one crying child, or adult. Moreover, it was not just temple family members that attended Obon, but people from the community. People visiting with those friends not seen in a while, enjoying the festivities and each other's company. Some were on the grassy area, others were engaged in bingo and eating excellent food in the social hall. But all seemed to be happy and content.

Obon: The celebration and honoring of those who have come before us, that have helped us to know and develop our ways of thinking and living.

We have done something to be proud of!

To the members and family of the West Covina Buddhist Temple Sangha and volunteers that made our Obon so successful, a heartfelt THANK YOU!

P.S. To our fearless leader, Reverend Miyoshi and Dick and Hisako Koga: Our Obon wouldn't be the same without you!



T H E G A T E W A Y

Scenes from OBON 2017!





T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month
It is time for parents
to teach young people
early on that in diversity
there is beauty
and
there is strength.
-Maya Angelou



T H E G A T E W A Y

釈尊の源泉を尋ねて (ダルマ・シーズ研修会)

アンダーウッド・フィリップ

6月10日に別院で開会された第2回ダルマ・シーズ研修会に参加してきました。今回のテーマは「大乘仏教歴史概論」でした。先の2月にバークレーで行われた第1回研修会では仕事の都合などで参加できなかった人もいましたが、今回は12名の参加者全員が揃いました。

開会式では正信偈がお勤めされ、ウェストコヴィナからの参加者であるマルティネス・ジョニーと私が調声とキン役を勤めさせてもらいました。伊東監督からの挨拶の後、一同は階下に移り日程が始まりました。

午前の部は前回の研修会の復習です。幡開教使が進行役を務め、前回の講師であるコンウェイ・マイケル氏の講義内容を振り返りました。8時間に及ぶコンウェイ氏の講義を2時間でまとめ

ることは容易なことではありませんが、幡開教使は要点を見事に押さえてくれました。「大方が仏教に抱くイメージに反して、仏教は気持ちを穏やかにしたり、癒しを与えてくれる教えではない」とコンウェイ氏は強調しました。むしろ、仏教とは私たちがあまり聞きたくないことを明らかにする教えである、と。氏は、自身に目を向け、私たちが執着している迷いに目を覚まさせることが仏教の教えであるということを明確にしてくれました。迷いは私たちの目を曇らせ、その結果相手の間違いははっきりと見えて批判するのに、自分が同じ間違いをしていることに一向に気がつかない、それが私たちの姿です。その姿に正面から向き合うよう促してくれるのが仏教であると教えてもらいました。講義を聞きながら改めて私自身の姿勢が問われているような気がしました。自己を見つめるということは言葉でいう以上に難しいことです。私にとってはたいていの場合それは痛みを伴うような経験です。自分を明らかにすることがな

ければ、人をありのままに見ることも到底叶わないということを学びました。仏教は他人を変える教えではなく、自らが変わる教えだからです。ダルマ・シーズの第1期生であるジャーニー・マルティネス氏の「仏教は“売り込みがとても難しい”」という言葉の思い出します。

幡開教使はシッダールタとマラーの対決のシーンを紹介してくれました。シッダールタがマラーと対面した時、そこに見えたのは自身の無明性と我執でした。それは本当に対峙すべき問題の本質が彼の中で明らかになった瞬間でした。

午後の部はブレニオン・フレデリック開教使の講義を聴講しました。講義では因習と本質の概念に

(「釈尊」4頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

お盆 / 初盆法要

日本語によるお盆 / 初盆法要は、7月6日(木)午後7時半より7月祥月法要と併せてお勤めいたします。

また英語によるお盆 / 初盆法要は、7月16日(日)午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。ご講師にはブレニオン・フレデリック講師をお招きいたします。法要後にはお齋をご用意しております。ご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、是非お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

別院お盆フェスティバル

来る7月29日(土)と30日(日)の両日、ロサンゼルス別院お盆フェスティバルが開催されます。当寺院では例年フードブースにてtamaleを販売しております。ご多用中とは存じますが、どうぞお手伝いいただきますよう、よろしく願い申し上げます。

お盆まつりのお礼

6月24日に開催されましたお盆まつりは、例年以上の大盛況で終えることができました。これもひとえに皆さまのご尽力の賜物と思っております。普段お寺に足を運んでくださっている方はもちろんのこと、そのご家族、お友達までが駆けつけ、厳しい暑さの中汗を流して働いてくださっている姿に頭が下がる思いです。それは先達の方々も身をもって私たちに示してくださったお姿を確かに受け取っておられる証であります。お盆まつりを通して改めて時代を超えた人とのつながりを確認させていただきました。

この場をお借りしまして、お手伝いいただきました全ての皆さまに心から厚く御礼申し上げます。

本当にありがとうございました。

見義信香

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
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P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

July 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 7

July

- 2 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 9 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 16 4:30 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service
- 23 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 25 10:00 am Study Class
- 29-30 12-9 pm Betsuin Obon
- 30 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 30 10:00 am Sunday Service

August

- 3 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4-6 Las Vegas Trip
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 13 No Sunday Service
- 20 No Sunday Service
- 27 No Sunday Service

2017年7月行事予定

- 2日 午前8時半 理事会
- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 16日 午後4時半 お盆/初盆法要
- 23日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 29-30日 別院お盆フェスティバル
- 30日 午前8時半 理事会
- 30日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

8月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時半 法話会
- 4-6日 ラスベガス旅行
- 6日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 13、20、27日 日曜礼拝休み

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拝まない者も おがまれている
拝まないときも おがまれている

東井義雄