In the beginning of June, Bill and I received notice that we needed to vacate from our residence within 30 days. Fortunately we were able to find a house to rent just up the street from us. We started packing right after the WCBT Obon Festival. It was extremely difficult time especially for Bill because Nishi’s Obon was right around the corner and to make matters worse, he was suffering from sciatica.

Upon hearing or seeing Bill limp along the temple, his members came knocking on his office door, one after another to share their ‘secret remedy’ with him. Bill was so surprised that so many people had experienced the same excruciating pain as he and he truly appreciated their suggestions and sympathy.

There is no doubt that we do not want to experience any pain or suffering. Many people assume that ‘a good life’ should be a life without such unwelcome experiences, and some people even expect their religion to protect them from painful things from happening in their lives. Buddhism on the other hand, tries to remind us of the reality of our lives, that is, things happen to us that are not under our control. Due to causes and conditions, at times we have to face tough experiences no matter how much we do not want them. Our lives consist of everything that happens to us, both good things and not so good things.

Buddhism also shows us that sometimes it is our painful experiences that enable us to connect us to others. Our suffering opens our eyes to other people’s agony.

Losing a loved one is the most painful experience. However, having the experience helps us to feel the sense of sorrow of our friends who also suffer from their loved ones passing. At the moment, we are closely connected to each other through our pain.

We also see those who have recovered from addiction and are now actively involved in supporting programs to help others who are struggling with the same addiction problem they had. They take patients’ afflictions as their own. Their enthusiasm and energy derive from empathy and understanding through their own experiences.

We cannot pick and choose what happens in our lives. Yet, when unexpected things happen, how we

Please see COMPASSION, con’t on page 2
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It’s already August and school will be starting soon for many of our students. Our own temple will be on vacation for most of August, so, keep cool and enjoy the few remaining weeks of the summer break.

Since Dharma School will not be meeting for a number of weeks, I encourage parents to share this little story with their children. Aesop was a man who lived about 600 years BCE (before common era). He was probably a slave from Turkey who worked for a wealthy Greek family. It is thought that he loved to tell stories with moral lessons. Here is one:

The Lion and the Mouse

A little mouse accidentally encountered a sleeping lion. In her panic, she ran across one of the lion’s paws awakening him. The angry lion captured the mouse and was about to kill her when the mouse pleaded with him to let her go. She said that one day she would repay his kindness.

The Lion was greatly amused by this little mouse’s statement and let her go.

A few weeks later, the lion was caught in a trap that some farmers had made. He was not able to get out of a net of ropes and roared with anger and frustration. The little mouse recognized the roar and went to the trapped lion. In her compassion and gratitude, she started to gnaw at the ropes. In time, she was able to cut through the rope with her teeth and release the lion.

The mouse said to the lion, “You laughed at me, but now you know that even a little creature can help a large and powerful one.” The lion was grateful for the mouse’s help.

Lesson of the story: A kindness is never wasted.

Have a fun and restful August. We will see you in September!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

The West Covina Tamale brigade stand ready to sell their tasty tamales at the Betsuin Obon.

COMPASSION, con’t from pg. 1

deal with them is all up to us. We can live our life trying to eliminate things we do not like. Unfortunately, those efforts would end up in vain. Or we can accept hardships as the part of our life. In doing so, we come to realize that those experiences make us aware of pain and suffering of others. Awakening to the essence of Buddhism is awakening to the essence of our life, that is, nothing is to be wasted.

Buddhism also reminds us of another reality—No one is the same. In this sense, there is no one who can feel exactly the same as how I feel. We often say or hear that “I know how you feel.” When we say it to someone, we imagine their feeling based on our own experience. However, it does not mean that we are able to know how they actually feel. The deeper our sorrow is, the more lonely we feel, because we know that no one can understand how we feel, and this loneliness gives us more suffering. At the same time, when we face someone who is devastated by grief, there is no words to say. All we know is their suffering is beyond our imagination. Unable to feel and share their suffering is truly painful. It is a different type of suffering we struggle.

Buddhism is a teaching that enables us to realize our limitations, that ‘we cannot feel the exact sense of others.’ As unpleasant things help us to connect with others, this awareness transforms into sincere aspiration to simply be there for them and listen to their grief. This is the relationship of compassion. The origin of the meaning of compassion is ‘suffer with.’ It shows that compassion is not something that one side helps and the other just receives it. The relationship of compassion is suffering with others, and that makes for a stronger and more profound relationship.
“We Bogeyed”
In the last issue of the Gateway, we omitted Platinum ($500) Sponsorship from the Kamimura and Takemoto Families. Our sincere apologies to the Kamimura and Takemoto families. Please see Acknowledgements on page 6 for all the corrections.
-Submitted by the Golf Committee.

August Schedule
The August Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, August 6 at 10 AM. We will then take our annual summer break in August so there are no Sunday Services on August 13, 20 and 27.
Services will resume again on September 3.

September Board Meeting and Service
The September board meeting will be held on September 3 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00.

September Study Class
The Study Class will resume in September meeting on September 12 and 26 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 (213) 219-6140.

Fall Ohigan
The Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 17 at 4:30 PM with a very special guest speaker. Please join us and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LVII (58)
“Remember September! Still Great...Oldies LVIII (58)!" will be held on Saturday, September 30. It’s our 58th Oldies with Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing favorite hits from the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s. The dance begins at 7:30 PM and ends at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance.
Presale tickets are $20 or $25 at the door. For info and song requests, call Joanie at (626) 300-8947 or Lillian at (626) 780-9866. Your Toban chairs will contact you about work shifts and assignments. Plan to come to the Center by 6 PM (or before depending on last basketball team) to help with the set-up and at 11:30 PM to help clean-up since we may not have help available to us. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

GATEWAY Staff
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Circulation: Joy Kitaura
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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West Covina, CA  91793
(626) 689-1040
Website: www.livingdharma.org
Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhist-temple
E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

AUGUST
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER ... STILL GREAT!
OLDIES LVIII (58!)

SATURDAY, September 30, 2017, 7:30 to 11:30pm

At the ESGV Japanese Community Center
Tickets: $20 presale, $25 at the door
Music by High Resolution
Drinks available, must be 21 or over
Dressy Casual

For tickets and/or information
Call or Text:
Joanie:  (626)300-8947 (calls only)
Lillian:  (626)780-9866
or email: lilnish77@gmail.com or joaniekmartinez@gmail.com

Remember September ... Still Great!
Oldies LVIII (58!)
Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Fall Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017. The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2017
Time: 4:30 P.M.

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

Higan, meaning the Other Shore (of enlightenment), is a service is conducted on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment of the Buddhist life.

*法要後当番の皆様によるお斎がございます。
合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister  
John Martinez, President

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793  
Telephone (626) 689-1040
Buddhism Quiz

Today’s Buddhist quiz:
Difficulty Level: Requires a little bit of thought
Number the Four Noble Truths in chronological sequence.

1. Such suffering can be overcome.
2. Life is full of suffering.
3. The Eightfold Path is the way to end suffering.
4. There are causes to that suffering.

Identify the following statements as either T (True) or F (False).

1. One undeniable truth is that life is impermanent.
2. We are fundamentally good people. Other bad people/events cause our suffering.
3. Impermanence is neutral; changes in our lives are not necessarily good nor bad in and of themselves.
4. Suffering is caused by our reactions to those changes.
5. The way to overcome that suffering is the Four Noble Truth.

Answers: 3-1-4-2

Quote of the Month

The free world led by the U.S. fought almost all regimes that trampled on human rights.

-Liu Xiaobo
繋ぐ
見義信香

6月に急に引越しの決まり、ウェストコビナのお盆が終わってすぐに引越しの準備に追われました。気の毒なことに夫はその時期に座骨神経痛を発し、引越しは別院のお盆も痛みと闘いながら過ごさなければならないでした。

夫の身体の事情はすぐに別院のメンバーの方々の知るところとなり、入れ替わり立ち替わり彼のオフィスを訪れ、自分も経験したから苦労は想像できると聞いていました。夫はメンバーの皆さんの気遣いに感謝するとともに、こんなにたくさんの人が自分と同じ痛みを経験していたことを初めて知ったと驚いていました。

もちろん痛みや苦しみは私たちにとって嫌なものですし、避けたいことではあります。けれども、その経験が時と時を繋いでくれるということを仏教は教えてくれています。

大切な家族を失った悲しみは、同じ経験に驚き苦しむ人の前にしにした時に、他事ではない感情が私たちは感じることであります。けれども、その悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しみを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲し
# GateWay

**August-September 2017** - - *Vol.LII No.8*

## 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

## September
- **3** 8:30 am Board Meeting
- **3** 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- **7** 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- **10** 10:00 am Sunday Service
- **12** 10:00 am Study Class
- **17** 4:30 pm Fall Ohigan Service
- **24** 10:00 am Sunday Service
- **26** 10:00 am Study Class
- **30** 7:30 pm Oldies Dance

## 2017年8月行事予定

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<td>4-6日</td>
<td>ラスベガス旅行</td>
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<tr>
<td>6日</td>
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<td>13日</td>
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<td>20日</td>
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