



# GATEWAY



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



*Our dear old friend Rev. Fred attended WCBT Hatsubon Service on July 16 and shared his Dharma talk with the Sangha.*

## ***Compassion-‘Suffering With’***

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

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*





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 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.





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## T E M P L E N E W S

### “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

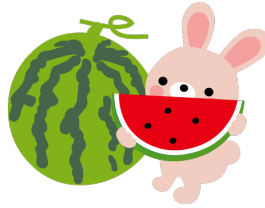
The September board meeting will be held on September 3 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00.

### 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

*Layout & Editing:* Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi, Richard Kagawa

*Contributors:* Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitsho, Michael Jitsho, Joanie Martinez, Phillip Underwood

*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:*

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
P. O. Box 1616  
West Covina, CA 91793  
(626) 689-1040

*Website:* [www.livingdharma.org](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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

*E-Mail:* [wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com](mailto:wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com)



### AUGUST

Barbara Shiota, Jon Shiota, Tom Ariza, Brittany Kato, Wesley Hamachi, K.C. Koga, Mark Mayeda, Brian Iwama, Aaron Aoki, Rick Fujimoto, Sachi Ezaki, James deLeon, Rene Kuwahara, Sharon Kuwahara, Chico Masai, Vickie Takemura, Joy Ormseth, Frederic Brenion, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata, Hideko Ikehara










T H E G A T E W A Y

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](mailto:lilnish77@gmail.com) or  
[joaniekmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:joaniekmartinez@gmail.com)



Irwindale Ave	<b>WCBT/ESGVJCC</b> <b>1203 West Puente Ave</b> <b>West Covina</b> 	Vincent Ave
Sunset Ave	West Puente Ave	
map not to scale	San Bernardino (10) Freeway	
	West Covina Fashion Plaza	

**NO HEELS for Ladies.**



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA  
HIGASHI HONGANJI  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

August 1, 2017

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.

門信徒の皆様へ

暑さがまだ続きますが皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて秋のお彼岸法要を下記の如くお勤め致しますのでご案内申し上げます。お彼岸は古く聖徳太子の時代より行われてきた伝統ある法要です。私ども先達はこの機会を仏様の教えを聞く良き機会としてまいりました。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

秋季彼岸法要（英語）

日 時 2017年9月17日 午後4時半

場 所 日系コミュニティセンター

\*法要後当番の皆様によるお齋がございます。

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister  
開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President  
理事長 マルチネズ ジョン

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





# T H E G A T E W A Y



## Buddhism Quiz

**Today's Buddhist quiz:**

**Difficulty Level: Requires a little bit of thought**

**Number the Four Noble Truths in chronological sequence.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Such suffering can be overcome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Life is full of suffering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Eightfold Path is the way to end suffering.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are causes to that suffering.

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

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

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



Quote of the Month  
 The free world  
 led by the U.S. fought  
 almost all regimes that  
 trampled on human rights.  
 -Liu Xiaobo



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 繋ぐ 見義信香

6月に急に引越しが決まり、ウェストコピ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煩ってしまい、引越しはもちろん別院のお盆も痛みと闘いながら過ごさなければなりませんでした。

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分かると言って、痛みを和らげる方法を伝授してくれたと聞いています。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方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は嫌なものですし、できれば避けたいことではあります。けれども、その経験が時に人と人とを強く結びつけて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を目の前にした時に、他人事ではない感情を私たちの中に呼び起こします。何をしてあげられるかということを考えて行動するのではなく、ただその人のそばに寄り添い、一緒に涙を流すとき、私たちはたしかに悲しみを通して繋がっていると言えるのではないでしょうか。あるいは、依存症から立ち直った人が、同じ依存症に苦しむ人の助けとなり活動している姿を見ます。その原動力となっているのは、その人の痛みへの共感であり、それは自身の痛みを通して得たものでありましょう。

嫌なこと、悲しいことを経験したくないと思うのは自然な感情です

し、だからこそそうしたことを起こらないようにしてくれるのが宗教だと考えがちです。しかし、仏教とは私たちが人生を思い通りにする手助けをしてくれるものではありません。むしろ、人生は思い通りにいかないことの連続である、と教えてくれているのです。

私たちの存在、起こること、それらそのものが縁起であり、因と縁は私たちの思いよりもずっと深く広いものであります。それはつまり、起こることを私たちが選ぶことはできないということです。起こることは選べませんが、起こったこととどう向き合っていくかの自由は私たちに託されています。自分の苦しみによって、他の人の悲しみに目が開かれ、その人と痛みを共有する歩みを始めるとき、悲しく辛い経験は人生から除かれるべき出来事ではなく、私たち自身の人生の一部となって受け止められていくのではないのでしょうか。

一方で仏教はまた、一人一人の悲しみや苦しみは決して一緒くたにできるものではなく、自分の気持ちと全く同じ気持ちを感じることでできる人はいないと同時に、私たちもまた人の気持ちをその人が感じているそのままに感じることはできない、ということを出し出させてくれる教えではないかと思うのです。

同じような出来事を経験しても感じ方は人それぞれです。「あなたの気持ちはよく分かる」と慰めてくれる人に対して、「誰にも私のこの気持ちは分からない」という思いを抱いた人は少なくないと思います。そしてその孤独が私たちにとってはもう一つの苦しみとなるのです。

仏教は分からない気持ちを分かるようにさせてくれる教えではなく、「分かることができない」という領きに私たちを立たせてくれる教えではないかと思っています。それは目の前で泣く人が抱いているのは別の苦しみであります。けれども、そ

の苦しみが実は目の前の人と私を繋いでくれるのではないのでしょうか。その人の苦しみをそのままに感じるができない。その事実立つとき、その事実が、分からないからこそそばに寄り添いたい、声を聞かせて欲しいという願いとなるのではないのでしょうか。苦しみと悲しみを縁としたその願いが、私たちと目の前の人とを深くそして強く結びつけるのではないかと感じています。



## お寺ニュース

### 日本語祥月法要 / 法話会

8月の日本語祥月法要並びに法話会は8月3日(木)午後7時半、9月の日本語祥月法要は9月7日(木)午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。どうぞご家族、ご友人とお誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいませよう、ご案内申し上げます。

### 秋季彼岸会法要 (英語)

本年度の秋季彼岸会法要は、9月17日(日)午後4時半より厳修いたします。法要後にはお齋が準備されます。どうぞ皆様でご参詣下さいませようお願い申し上げます。

### 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30日(土)午後7時半より開催されます。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.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790  
P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



# GATEWAY



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## 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

- 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日 日曜礼拝休み
- 20日 日曜礼拝休み
- 27日 日曜礼拝休み

## 9月行事予定

- 3日 午前8時半 理事会
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時半 法話会
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 17日 午後4時半 秋季彼岸法要
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 30日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス

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仏法とは諸君から仏を生み出す法、  
諸君をして仏たらしめる法である  
信國 淳『人倫の嘲けりを耻ぢず』