



# GATEWAY



October 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 9



*A nice turn out of Sangha members came out to listen to Rev. Sekiya's Dharma talk where she recounted her own journey that brought her to become a Buddhist minister at last Sunday's Ohigan Service. The service was followed by a delicious pasta dinner prepared by Toban A.*

## Our Differences - Do They Matter?

Phillip Underwood  
WCBT Member

Good Morning,

You may find this hard to believe but we're all different. I'm different from you and you're all different from one another. Actually that's not really news but when we come here to listen to the Dharma I think the feeling is that we're all alike. Even I feel that way and I'm maybe the most different. I don't think about it that often, it usually takes others to point it out to me. Of all of the things that I may say about myself, when I tell people that I am Buddhist, that I attend this temple, and/or that I have my Homyo, 'Shaku Kyo Gu', the reaction is somewhere between disbelief and "there must be some kind of misunderstanding".

Now, not trying to be too criti-

cal or over generalizing, but the questions and comments that follow broadly depend on the race or religion of the person asking the questions or trying to "straighten me out". African Americans seem to be just a little condescending, and almost take pity because we all know that Buddhists worship idols, right? And Asians try to scrutinize me and figure out exactly what type of Buddhist I am, as they start throwing out terms for different types of practices to try to confuse me, I guess. Maybe by doing that, they can prove to me that I'm not really Buddhist, but some offshoot that just seems like what a Buddhist might be. And believe it or not, Whites usually have the least to say!

For my part, I answer a couple of questions and then I either lose interest or just get pissed and shut the conversation down because why I'm here really is none of their business. And even if it was, I'm not exactly sure what circumstances were in play that led me here, to this place, at this time of my life. Does it matter? I don't think so. I think of a lot of things but don't act on all of them. What's important is that I feel that I'm in the right place, at the right time in my life, for me. Roy Takemura had been my optometrist for well over twenty years and I had no idea that he was Buddhist until the Sunday three and a half years ago that we encountered each other in the

*Please see DIFFERENCES, con't on page 2*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Much of the western United States has recently experienced an extended period of dangerously hot days. At the same time, deadly and huge hurricanes have inundated much of the Caribbean, Texas, and Florida leaving a tremendous amount of damage. Global warming is causing climate change which is affecting most of our world. These real world events are examples of the Buddhist concepts of change and the interconnection among living things and the physical environment.

The Dharma School staff will be working with our students to help them become aware of these concepts using our changing climate as an example. We will be developing activities to help reinforce these ideas.

I found some proverbs about the Earth from Native Indian tribes. Please share them with your children in preparation for their lessons:

1. "The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives." (Sioux)
2. "Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it." (Arapaho)
3. "Listen to the voice of nature, for it holds treasures for you." (Huron)

Sunday, October 29th will be our Halloween party. Please come to service and enjoy our festivities!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

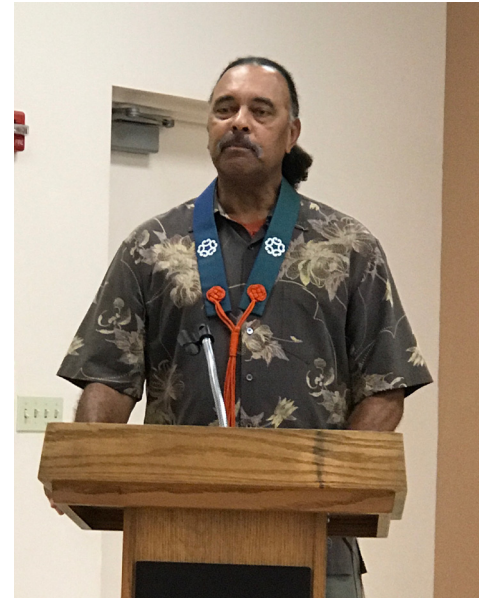


## *DIFFERENCES, con't from pg. 1*

parking lot outside. In fact, until that day, I had no idea that I had ever met a Buddhist in my life. Maybe that's because, of all the major religions that I'm aware of, Buddhist's seem to be the most low key and least demonstrative.

Getting back to the differences part, we're all here today just like any other Sunday, gathering together around the common tenets of compassion, enlightenment, the suffering that our minds' create, the Three Treasures, The Golden Chain and so on. Again, I'm the rookie here and I have a lot to learn but I know that we all apply the practices in our own unique ways. Some of us approach life in sweet gentle ways while others might nudge their way along a little more forcefully. Some of us can be pushy and a few of us cut and dry, direct and to the point...in other words "in your face". All different ways of dealing with what life presents us, and yet, all embracing the teachings of the Pure Land School which teaches that we are already enlightened whether we know it or not.

All life is a journey and there are no standard rules to navigate our way. We do the best we can. We live and learn if we're lucky. I'm grateful for every smooth path and every bump in the road and I try to learn from everything that goes right and everything that goes wrong. That principle was my North Star long before I found this temple, but it means more to me today than it has at any time in my life. I used to demand that of my crews at fire stations under my command long before I entered this temple!! "We are going to learn from everything that goes right and everything that goes wrong. That is the only way we're going to improve." I repeat that because, of all the acts of faith that bring us together, that one might be the biggest one. We are allowed and required to em-



brace all that goes right and all that goes wrong.

Some of you were born into this Sangha. Others maybe married into it, but me, I walked in. Today I would have trouble telling you exactly how that came about but it has been worth it. It's part of my journey and maybe the journey has just begun or maybe it's about to end, there's no way to tell. It's my journey alone and for that I'm grateful.

Thank you very much.



## Quote of the Month

A good leader  
can engage in a debate  
frankly and thoroughly,  
knowing that at the end  
he and the other side  
must be closer,  
and thus emerge stronger.  
You don't have that idea  
when you are arrogant,  
superficial, and uninformed.  
-Nelson Mandela



# T H E G A T E W A Y

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

### Fall Study Center Lecture Series

West Covina Buddhist Study Center & Dharma Seeds Program presents their Fall Lecture Series "Islam Today – Fact and Fiction" with special speaker Logan Siler. The series will be held on three consecutive Mondays, October 2, 9 & 16, from 7:30 – 9:00 PM at the Center in room 3. Please see page 4 for more details.

### Akimatsuri

The ESGVJCC Akimatsuri will be on Saturday, October 7, from 12:00-8:00 PM and WCBT will be in charge of the Teriyaki Barbecue. Sign-up sheet will be out for your signatures at upcoming services so please find a time when you can help.

We'd like to see everyone come out and support the Temple and the Center.

### The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on October 10 and 24 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.

### Halloween

Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 29. There will be lots of fun and games and prizes so come dressed in your favorite costumes and get in the Halloween spirit! There will be refreshments for everyone so join us in the fun!

### Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will sponsor our 9th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 5, from 10 AM–3 PM. Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, ceramics, original artwork (with several **new** and exciting vendors) and lots of delicious food will be offered for sale and consumptions. Each vendor will be

handling their own sales and not all take credit cards so come prepared. WCBT members are welcome to shop early from 9:30 AM. Come for some holiday shopping. Stay for the fun and food!

For more information or if you can help, please contact Hisako Koga 951-818-8740 or [hskoga@gmail.com](mailto:hskoga@gmail.com).

### November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting

November Board Meeting will be held on November 12 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

### Ho-on-ko Service

Our Ho-on-ko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 4:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Patti Usuki from San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple. Please join us as we welcome Rev. Usuki and stay for the complimentary *Otoko* dinner that will follow the service.

### 7-5-3 Service

7-5-3 or Shichi-go-san Service will be held on Sunday, November 26 at 10 AM. This special service is to recognize anyone who has reached the age of three, five or seven this year. Please inform Rev. Miyoshi if you have a family member or know of someone who will be the perfect age for this service.

## OCTOBER

Ethan Ezaki, Kelly Yamashita, Sachi Ena, Traci Takemura, Glenn Nakatani, Diane Hata, Jane Earley, Kimio Earley, Miyo Takahashi, Erik Akuna, Melissa Kozono, Lauren Yanase, Mitsue Oshita, Yukiko Kovacs, Yukiko Tsuruda, Tewlyn R. Underwood, Koa DeLeon, Chase Logue, Daren Godoy, Linda Nafarrete, Amelie Kagawa

## 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:*

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

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## SEPTEMBER

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitosh-Gonzalez, Lindsay Ogino (Fiske), Ted Kato, George Tamayose, Oliver Reynolds-Hale, Evan Louise Yoburn, Cathy Nakano, Roy Takemura, Kevin Kuwahara, Brian Takahashi, Andrea Lespron, Catay Nakano, Toyomi Nakakihara, Leanne Komada, Erika Oshiro, Mei-Ling Chen, Edward Chen, Toshi Ikehara, Rev. Etsuko Miyoshi, Yasmine Whang

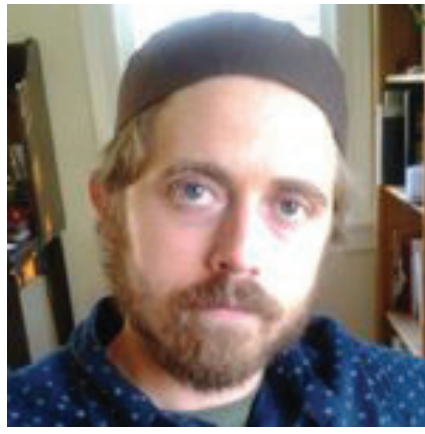


T H E G A T E W A Y

**The West Covina Buddhist Study Center  
&  
Dharma Seeds Program Present:**

**“Islam Today - Fact and Fiction”**

Speaker: Mr. Logan Siler



**Date:** Mondays, October 2, 9 & 16, 2017

**Time:** 7:30 pm~9:00 pm

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

**Fee:** \$30.00\*

**Info:** (626) 689-1040

**wcibt.livingdharma@gmail.com**

**About this lecture series:**

In this lecture series we will have an opportunity to study the Islamic faith. Islam is, at once, one of the great religions followed by millions of faithful worshipers, making it one of the most beloved and widely practiced faiths in the world. At the same time it is one of the least understood and, in today's atmosphere, one of the most feared and disliked religions, often blamed for causing harm and injury to innocent people and non-believers. How can this be? How can a religion based in peace seemingly be used as a motive to bring injury and harm to others? Please join us for a three-part lecture series that will highlight the beauty and wonder of Islam and attempt to address many other issues surrounding one of the world's great religious practices frankly and compassionately.

**About the lecturer:**

Logan Siler grew up in Fresno, CA. He holds a BA in World History from San Francisco State University and is currently earning his MA in Islamic Education from Bayan Claremont. He became an activist at 17 and over the past 14 years has worked with Food Not Bombs, co-founded the Collective for Arts Freedom and Ecology (an activist space in Fresno), and has worked as an outreach worker to the homeless in Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland and Pasadena where he currently lives with his wife and daughter. Logan is a musician, a gardener, and an avid hiker.

**About the Dharma Seeds Program:**

This is 3-year program under the theme of "Planting Nenbutsu Seeds in America." We are nurturing Shinshu students who listen and share the Buddhadharma with everyone through the Jodo Shinshu traditions.

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 "WCHHBT")*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

(「同じ」7頁からの続き)

をもらっているのだと思えるようになったのです。そうした考えは、仏教に出会う前、私が消防士としてチームを率いていたときも座右の銘としてありました。チームメイトに「成功と失敗、その両方から学んでいこうじゃないか。それが私たちを成長させてくれるはずだから。」と言っていたのを思い出します。その頃の思いと仏

教の教えが自然とひとつになって受け止められていきました。正しいことも間違ったこともすべてを受け止めてそこから学んでいく、それこそが願われている生き方であると確信しています。

このお寺のメンバーになった経緯はそれぞれだと思います。家族がすでにメンバーだった人、結婚を機にメンバーになった人、私のようにたまたま足を運んだ人

など、ここに至った道は様々です。不思議なご縁で今ここにいますが、人生においてなくてはならないご縁を賜ったと感じています。私の旅がまだ始まったばかりなのか、終着点に近づいているのかはわかりません。けれども、この道は私にしか歩けない道です。そしてその道が前に続いていることに深く感謝しています。

ありがとうございました。



*Rev. Sekiya from Gardena Buddhist Church was our guest speaker at the September 17 Ohigan Service.*



*Rev. Miyoshi was invited to speak at Hawaii Betsuin's Ho-on-ko Service on September 9 & 10. She was able to renew old friendships with Rev. Ken, Jeanne and Kevin Kawawata.*



## Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Sunday, November 5, 2017

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at ESGVJCC

**Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware,  
ceramics, original arts and delicious food!**

**Come for some holiday shopping,  
Stay for the fun and food!**

**There will be no central cashiering. Each vendor will  
handle their own sales and  
not all vendors take credit cards.**

**For info contact Hisako Koga: 951-818-8740  
hskoga@gmail.com**



T H E G A T E W A Y





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 同じじゃない -それがなにか？

アンダーウッド・フィリップ

\* 今月は9月10日の日曜礼拝でアンダーウッド氏が話してくださいました。感話を紹介いたします。

皆さんおはようございます。

私が今日ここに立っていることを見慣れないことだと思う方もいらっしゃるでしょう。けれども、異なるという点で言えば、誰一人として同じ人間はいないということが事実ではないでしょうか。私と皆さんは共通のことなどないように見えるかもしれませんが、ここにこうしてお参りをする時、私は皆さんとひとつだと感じるのです。見た目だけでいえば、確かに私はこのお寺では目立った存在かもしれませんが、それを認めた上で、それでも皆さんと通じるものを感じるのです。

仏教徒であるということは自分にとってはごく自然なことなのですが、周りからはそう見られないことが多々あります。仏教徒で、お寺に通って、「釈慶遇」という法名もいただいたと話した時の相手の反応は、信じられないと言われるか、何か聞き違いをしたに違いないという顔で見られることがほとんどです。

続いて受ける質問は、その人の人種や信じている宗教によって様々ですが、多くの場合、私を「正しい方向に」導いてあげよう、という意図が感じられます。相手がアフリカ系アメリカ人の場合、憐れみの目を向けられることがあります。それは仏教を偶像崇拜だと思ひ込み、だから仏教徒の私を下に見るからです。アジア系の人か

らは、私が仏教についてどれくらい知っているか試すような質問をされることがあります。そうした質問を通して、結局は「君は本当の仏教徒じゃない」と言いたいだけなのかもしれません。一方で驚くことに、白人の人からはほとんど質問を受けることはありません。

大抵の場合、2、3の質問に答えてうんざりしてしまいます。私が仏教徒であることは、彼らには直接なんの関係もないことだからです。

私自身、何がどうなって今ここにいるのか本当に不思議な思いがしています。けれども、原因をはっきりさせることはあまり重要ではありません。大事なことは、私が今ここにいるという事実、完璧なタイミングでいるべき場所に居合わせたということです。竹村ロイさんは私の検眼医で、その付き合いは20年以上になりますが、彼が仏教徒だということは、三年半前、私が初めてこのお寺に足を運んだ日に駐車場で偶然会うまで全く知りませんでした。こんな近くに仏教徒の人がいたなんて思いもしませんでした。おそらく主要な宗教の中で仏教は最も控えめで、他人に対してひけらかしたりはしないからかもしれません。

私たちは誰もが異なっている、ということに話を戻しましょう。バラバラな私たちが、お勤めや、三帰依文、または自らが作り上げたことに迷い苦しんでいるという事実を通して繋がっているのではないのでしょうか。お寺に通うようになってまだ日の浅い私ですので、まだまだ学ぶことはたくさんあります。けれども真実に出会い、目覚める道は自分の生活の中において他にはなく、そしてその出遇い方は人それぞれである

と感じています。こうすれば間違いない、という方法はない、ということをお寺から学びました。むしろ、正しい選択も、犯した間違いも、人生に起こることすべてが教えとなって転換されていくことを教えられました。

人生の旅路において私たちができることはベストを尽くすことだけです。人生における順風満帆な時期も、多くの問題に右往左往しているときも、それらをすべて自らの人生として引き受けて生きることで、人生のあらゆることに感謝できるようになりました。ひとつひとつのことから学ぶチャンス

(「同じ」5頁に続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 法話会報恩講 (日本語)

法話会では11月2日(木)午後7時半より、11月祥月法要と併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19日(日)午後4時半より、本年度の報恩講法要(英語)を厳修致します。講師としてサンフェルナンドバレー仏教会より宇宿パティ師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。

10月祥月法要 / 法話会

10月5日(木)

午後7時半より

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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



# GATEWAY



October 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 9

## October

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 2 7:30 pm Lecture Series 1  
"Islam Today - Fact & Fiction"
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 7 12:00 pm ESGVJCC Akimatsuri
- 7 1:00 pm Shinshu Center of America  
Public Lecture at Betsuin  
"Buddhism and Bioethics"  
by Dr. Mark L. Blum
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 9 7:30 pm Lecture Series 2
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 16 7:30 pm Lecture Series 3
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service/Halloween Party

## 2017年10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
- 5日 午後7時半 法話会
- 7日 正午 センター秋祭り
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/ハロウィーン

## 11月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会報恩講
- 4日 午前10時 センターヘルスフェア
- 5日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア
- 5日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 12日 午前8時半 理事会

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今の人「必然」ということを  
仏法では「自然」という

曾我量深