



# GATEWAY



November 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 10



Mr. Logan Siler, a teacher of Islamic Studies, spoke at our recent Lecture Series. (See Michelle Harrison's article.) He gave a fascinating look at the often misunderstood Islamic religion.

## *Understanding Islam in the Modern World*

Michelle Harrison

WCBT Member

An important part of the Buddha's teachings come from the Eightfold Path. The Eightfold Path is right views, right thoughts, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, and right mindfulness. These teachings are part of what guides us to act and live in the most righteous way possible as Buddhists. Part of what attracted me to Buddhism was the inclusivity and compassion of the religion, which extends to every living thing on the planet. This openness encourages us to participate in events like interfaith discussions, which helps us to better understand others and leads us to practice all the steps of the Eightfold Path. So when West Covina Buddhist Temple set up a lecture series with Mr. Logan Siler, who is both a Muslim and student of Islam, I was so excited to attend. With

all the division in the world right now I feel that it is more important than ever to come together as people and create spaces for open dialogue.

Over the course of three short sessions, Mr. Siler explained the beliefs and practices of Islam in as much detail as possible. Islam can be broken down into three categories: Islam, Iman, and Ihsan. The first part, Islam, contains the Five Pillars of Islam, which are defined as Shahada, a testimony of faith; Prayer, which is done five times a day in a specific way; Zakat, which is charity; Ramadan, which is in the 9th month of the Islamic (Luna) calendar during which adult Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset; and Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca that is made once in a lifetime. The second part, Iman, is recognizing that "there is no God but God". The

third part is Ihsan, the idea that God is imminent and to see God in everything you do. Those three ideas make up the basic, fundamental beliefs and practices of Islam. There are two texts used in Islam: the Quran is the word of God, while the Hadith is comprised of stories of the prophet Muhammad. The Quran was revealed over the course of 22 years to the prophet Muhammad from the angel Gabriel. Taking into account the historical events and content recorded in the Quran, it is highly contextual. Because of this, there are a number of controversial lines in the Quran, which when taken out of context can sound frightening and questionable. However, there are individuals called Fiqh Scholars whose job it is to interpret the Quran in the context of

*Please see ISLAM, con't on page 4*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma school staff and Rev. Miyoshi will be sending Dharma school students and families special emails to share our upcoming events and activities. You should have already received our first one announcing the Halloween party. Look out for future emails!

This month, in addition to celebrating Thanksgiving, our temple will commemorate the anniversary of the passing of our sect's founder, Shinran Shonin. This special service will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 4:30 pm. Dharma school is planning on a short Hoonko activity. We hope that you can join us for that evening service.

We are also planning a Thanksgiving activity and lesson on November 12 at 10 am.

Look for our special emails!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



The Temple has registered with the AmazonSmile donation program. For those of you who shop online with Amazon, the AmazonSmile foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Temple, at no cost to you. You just need to login to "smile.amazon.com" which will connect you to the same Amazon website you know. It will display the same products, same prices, and same service. On your first visit select 'West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple' as the organization that you wish to support. It's that easy.

Happy shopping!



*Above: Taylor Saucedo with her family after her confirmation ceremony at the Betsuin.*



*Left: A big thanks to the hard working WCBT crew at Akimatsuri.*



*Right: Rev. Ken Yamada was our special guest speaker at the October 8 Sunday service. He gave an impressive slide show presentation of his trip to India with a small group of Berkeley sangha members to visit the holy cities where the Buddha began his journey.*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

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

### 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 a.m. 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-onko Service

Our Hoonko 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 *Otoki* 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.

### The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on November 28 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.

### Mochitsuki

WCBT's annual *Mochitsuki* will be held on Sunday, December 10. The special *mochi* rice, which will be passed out to Sangha members beforehand, should be washed and soaked the night before and brought to the Temple ready for steaming at 7:00AM. When the mochi rice is steamed to perfection it is ready to be poked and pounded and eventually shaped into smooth traditional *mochis*. 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 17 at 4:00 PM. Entertainment will be provided by the Dharma School and other members of the Sangha. 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.

## GATEWAY Staff

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

*Contributors:* Rev. Fred Brenion, Claire Hansen, Merry Jitosh, Michael Jitosh, 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.

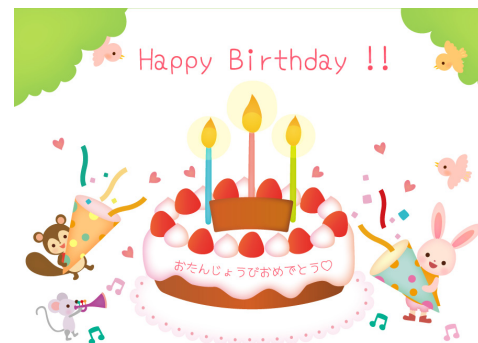
*The Temple's mailing address is:*

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)



## NOVEMBER

Travis Hamachi, Erika Haraguchi Haines, Kyle Sato, Brandon Kanemaru, Jennifer Higa, Michelle Harrison, Jill Kato, Jean Nakatani, Hiroko Takemoto, Wesley Kawaguchi, Frank Tanji, Andrew Kochi, Lauren Oshiro, Lynette Godoy, Kaz Uyechi, Shinuki Okamura, Brian Endo, Sany Nafarrete,



# T H E G A T E W A Y

*ISLAM, con't from pg. 1*

tradition and what is logical. Despite this, there are still people who wrongly use the Quran to justify acts of terror or violence. These individuals and acts are condemned by Muslims and non-Muslims alike across the world. This condemnation unites us and beckons us to stand in solidarity against hatred, violence, and bigotry.

People have waged wars in the name of religion throughout history. It is an unfortunate reality, but it is a reminder of how important it is to recognize our interconnectedness. Our fate as humanity and as individuals is reliant upon our ability to recognize our oneness over our differences. Buddhism teaches us these ideas, and Islam teaches these ideas through compassion and loving others as you love yourself. Mr. Silar discussed the similarities between Islam and other

major religions such as Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism. He also recommended a book titled, "*Common Ground Between Islam and Buddhism*" by Hamza Yusuf and Reza Shah-Kazemi that I look forward to reading. Additionally, the Quran mentions 25 prophets and the Hadith mentions 124,000 prophets, meaning that many of the world's religions are recognized as valid by Islam. This certainly alleviates tension and feelings of exclusivity that religion can often have, and highlights the inclusiveness of Islam.

Although my introduction to Islam was brief, I hope to continue keeping my ego at bay and having an open mind so I can attend more interfaith discussions, and I hope you will too. Islam has been an incredibly hot topic in the news, and I understand that going into uncharted territory is scary. From headlines claiming that Muslim

immigrants plan to implement Sharia Law to Trump's Muslim ban, the issues Americans have with Islam all seem to stem from the challenge of understanding Islam in its many contexts. There is rarely anything in the news that focuses on the views of Muslims in America, and radical views are presented as universal. While there is no doubt that countries that enforce Islamic law have many, many problems, this article is not about that. It is about bridging the gaps between communities and recognizing the oneness and interconnectedness of beliefs. As Buddhists, I feel that it is important to practice teachings like the Eightfold Path and recognize when the Three Poisons (greed, anger, and ignorance) are preventing us from seeking the truth. Ultimately, it is up to us as individuals to choose love, truth, and knowledge and progress, over fear, lies, and ignorance and remain divided.

## Confirmation Ceremony

**Taylor Kimiko Saucedo**

WCBT Member

Growing up, my grandma forced me to come to Temple and attend Dharma school every Sunday. As a kid, I didn't appreciate the service or the teachings because all I wanted to do was play with my friends. I remember going to Temple and Dharma school every week, but still felt like I didn't really know anything about Buddhism. Then when I was in elementary school my grandparents passed away. Aside from the Obon festival, my grandma was the main reason why my sisters and I went to Temple. Since their passing I didn't have the urge to go anymore. It wasn't until my uncle Ken passed away years later when I realized I wanted to reconnect with the people from my childhood, which included getting involved in the Temple again. I wanted to learn more about my family through people who knew them in ways that I didn't. Also, as I was getting older and beginning to socialize with a more diverse group of people, I realized I did retain a lot of the Buddha's teachings after all and wanted to learn more.

Five years ago, I ended up getting involved with the Junior YBA and went on the Hoshidan Japan trip. Our group was scheduled to get our Buddhist confirmations at the Honzan in Japan, but my mom thought it was too soon for me to get it. I was disappointed at first, but as I was taking the steps to go through my confirmation this past September, I was finally thankful that she made me wait. My motivation to be confirmed did not come from an urge to get it done while I was in Japan with my friends, but because I reflected on how Buddhism has impacted my life so much over the years.

Nori sensei (Bishop Ito) made a good point that Buddhism acknowledges that life is interdependent but independent at the same time. I do not use Buddhism as an answer for my problems, but as a guide to live my life. The days approaching the ceremony, I remember feeling nervous. Like I had to be an expert of Buddhism in order to go through the confirmation, and I am far from an expert. But his talk as well as meeting with Miyoshi sensei reminded me why I decided to stay in the Temple and why this religion works so well for me. It's a religion that teaches people to be brave, open minded, understanding, realistic and honest, all traits I value very much.

On the day of the ceremony I was excited to learn what my name would be. Miyoshi sensei picked Shakuni Ken-Sho as my Dharma Name, meaning a person who expresses the essence of Buddhist teachings in her life. She told me that because I actively express myself, I then become proof of the teaching. My family likes to tease me that I'm bossy so that's how they choose to interpret the name, but I was so happy to know that Miyoshi sensei thinks of me as a bold and influential person. I remember Miyoshi sensei said that there is no Buddhist teaching without action. I love the reminder that Buddhism is a verb and the fact that this teaching is a part of my name means a lot to me.

Buddhism has helped me think clearly in so many situations of my life. I've become a happier and more peaceful person because of these teachings and I'm excited to keep growing on this journey.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of our paid 2017 members as of October 1, 2017. In the case of an inadvertent omission, please contact Rev. Miyoshi. Those listed below have already paid their 2017 membership dues. If you are not listed and would like to become a member, please use the application below.

M/M Ariza, Sally	Ms. Kinoshita, Sumie	Ms. Oshima, Miyoko
M/M Ariza, Tom	Ms. Kobayashi, Sachiko	M/M Oshita, Mitsuru
M/M Arnheim, Bruce	M/M Koga, Dick	M/M Sakaue, Masato
Ms. Chen, Mei-Ling	Ms. Kovacs, Yukiko	Ms. Sakaue, Satsue
M/M De Leon, James	M/M Maekawa, Raymond	M/M Sato, Ken
M/M Ezaki, Leroy	M/M Martinez, Johnny	M/M Shiota, Jon
Mr. Fujimoto, Glen	M/M Masai, Chikara	Ms. Sogioka, Sadako
M/M Godoy, Jose	Ms. Mayeda, Haruko	Ms. Takemoto, Margaret
M/M Gonzalez, Mario	Ms. Mita, Susan	M/M Takemoto, Takashi
M/M Hamachi, Ted	Mr. Miyashiro, Henry	Dr/M Takemura, Roy
Ms. Hansen, Claire	M/M Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell	Ms. Takemura, Vickie
M/M Haraguchi, Richard	M/M Murakami, Akira (Supporting Membership)	Mr. Tanji, Frank T.
Mr. Hatakeyama, Kris	M/M Nakakihara, Toyomi	M/M Tawatari, Toshio
M/M Horie, Mark	M/M Nakasone, Eddie	M/M Teragawa, David
Ms. Ikehara, Hideko	M/M Oda, Kazuo	M/M Underwood, Phillip
Ms. Ikehara-Nelson, Reiko	M/M Oda, Yukio	M/M Underwood, Steve
M/M Iwama, Danny	Mr. Okamura, Shinyuki	Ms. Uyechi, Kazumi
Ms. Jitoshio, Merry & Family	M/M Okamura, Tatsuo	M/M Wear, Jack
M/M Kagawa, Richard	Ms. Oku, Michiko	M/M Wexler, Allan
M/M Kamimura, Akitoshi	M/M Ormseth, Tor	M/M Yamashita, Bob
M/M Kato, Ted	Mr. Oshima, Eichi Larry	

\*Please make your check payable to WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE

### 2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	(家族護持会費)	\$ 125 ( New / Renewal )
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	(個人護持会費)	\$ 100 ( New / Renewal )
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP	(贊助護持会費)	\$_____ ( New / Renewal )
NAME:(名前)	_____	Birth Month _____
Husband/Wife:(夫・妻)	_____	Birth Month _____
Children:(子供)	_____	Birth Month(s) _____
ADDRESS:(住所)	_____	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:	_____	
TELEPHONE #:(電話番号)( )	E-Mail: _____	

\*Would you like to receive the "Gateway" and other announcements by E-Mail instead of mail? ( Yes / No )



# T H E G A T E W A Y



pixta.jp - 25649708

Quote of the Month  
 Words are singularly  
 the most powerful force  
 available to humanity.  
 We can choose to use  
 this force constructively  
 with words of  
 encouragement,  
 or destructively  
 using words of despair.  
 Words have energy and  
 power with the ability  
 to help, to heal, to hinder,  
 to hurt, to harm,  
 to humiliate and to humble.  
 -Yehuda Berg

(「イスラム」7頁からの続き)

領令まで、アメリカが抱えるイスラムの問題は、あらゆる側面においてイスラムに対する無理解と、それゆえの虚偽のイメージによるものではないかと感じています。その証拠にメディアではほとんどアメリカに住むイスラム教徒の生の声は報道されません。そして、過激な意見が人々の耳目を集め、それが広く受け入れられているというのが現状です。

イスラム法を文字通りに施行している国々を見ると、そこに多くの問題があるということは否めません。けれども、今ここで考えるべきことは、異なる宗教背景をもつコミュニティ同士が、どうしたらその溝を埋めることができるのかということ、そして同じ信仰者として手をつなぎ共に歩んでいく道を模索していくことではないでしょうか。仏教徒として、八正道を通して自らの行動を再確認し、いかに私たちの三毒（貪欲、瞋恚、無明）が真理を求める道の妨げとなっているのかをはっきりと認識することが大切です。恐れや、嘘、無知と分断を超えるべく、愛と真実、正しい学びと一步を踏み出す勇気を選ぶかどうかは、私たち一人ひとりの決断に委ねられているのだと思うのです。

### Temple Event Highlights:

- Nov. 12 Shotsuki Service
- Nov. 19 Hoonko Service
- Nov. 26 7-5-3 Service
- Dec. 10 Mochitsuki
- Dec. 17 Year-end Service
- Please See Temple News



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## イスラム世界との 出会い ハリソン・ミシェル

仏教の大切な教えの中に八正道があります。正見、正思惟、正語、正業、正命、正精進、正念、正定の八正道は正覚を得るための実践道です。この教えは、仏教徒としてどのような生き方が願われているのかを私たちに示してくれています。私が仏教の教えに惹かれるのは、それがあらゆる生きとし生けるものを包む深い慈悲の教えだからです。何ものも排除しないという教えは、宗教間対話を大切にします。対話は相手をより理解する機会となり、八正道を日常生活で実践する場となってくれていると思います。ですから、お寺がイスラム教を学ぶレクチャーを開催したときは、すぐに参加を決めました。差別と分断が進む今の社会において、異なる宗教背景をもった人と出会うということは、殊に大切なことだと感じているからです。

講師であるサイラー・ローガン氏はイスラム教の研究者であると同時に、自身もイスラム教徒として教えを信仰しています。サイラー氏は丁寧にイスラム教の教えと行を説明してくださいました。五行（信仰告白、礼拝、断食、喜捨、巡礼）はイスラム教徒の信仰の実践の基本です。1日5回の礼拝、年に一度イスラム暦の9月に行われる断食は夜明けから日没まで行われます。そして、聖地メッカへの巡礼は一生に一度行うことを勧められているということでした。また、アッラーの他に神はなしという信条、そして行いの全てに神は宿っているという教えを知りました。コーランは、預言者ム

ハンマドが神からの啓示を受けたとき、天使ガブリエルを通して伝えられた神の言葉であること。一方、預言者ムハンマドの言行をまとめた伝承はハディースと呼ばれているということなど、一つ一つが新鮮な学びの体験でした。また、コーランの教えをその時代に即した形で解釈し、人々に伝えていた人々の功績も学びました。コーランには25名の預言者の名前がありますが、ハディースには12万4千人もの預言者の名前が連なっているといわれています。それは、イスラム教が、イスラム教以外の教えを異端として排除するのではなく、あらゆる宗教を包み込む教えであるということを表しているのです。一方、そうした時代や社会の中でコーランを聞き直す作業を否定し、前後の文脈を無視し、自己正当化のためコーランの言葉を利用する人々によって、イスラム教の教えが非常に暴力的なイメージを持たれてしまっているという問題も指摘されました。そしてそうした行為は、イスラム教徒から、そしてイスラム教徒以外の全世界の人々から非難されるべき行為であると断言されていました。こうした毅然とした非難を通して、イスラム教徒と私たちは手を結び、憎しみと暴力、偏見を共に乗り越えることができるのではないかと感じました。

私たちの歴史は、宗教の名の下に戦争を繰り返してきた歴史でもあります。これは非常に悲しい現実です。けれども、同時にその争いの歴史は、私たちにあらゆる人たちとつながりの中で生きることの尊さを教えてくれているようにも感じます。未来は私たちがあらゆる違いを超えて、共通の側面を見出し、それを尊ぶことによって開かれていくのではないのでしょうか。仏教もイスラム教も慈悲と愛の教えを通して、そうした未来へ

と私たちを促してくれているのだと思います。

今回私が学んだことは、イスラム教のほんのさわりにすぎないことは十分承知しています。だからこそ今後もこのような機会を持ち続けていきたいと思っています。

イスラムに関する出来事が連日ニュースで報道されている昨今です。未知の分野に踏み込むこと、未知との遭遇は不安と恐怖を伴います。イスラム系移民がイスラム法 (Sharia Law) をアメリカで実施しようという動きを見せているという報道から、トランプ大統領のイスラム教徒の入国禁止の大統

(「イスラム」6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、ご参詣下さいます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、お斎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。

12月祥月法要 / 法話会  
12月7日(木)  
午後7時より

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 38  
Covina, CA 91722

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



# GATEWAY



November 2017 - - Vol. LII No. 10

## November

- 2 7:30 pm Howakai Shotsuki/Hoonko Service
- 4 10am-2pm Center Health Fair
- 5 10am-3pm Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
- 5 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 12 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 12 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 19 4:30 pm Hoonko Service
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service/753 Service
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

## December

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service/Bodhi Day Service
- 7 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 10 7:00 am Mochitsuki
- 12 10:00 am Study Class

## 2017年11月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会報恩講法要
- 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
- 12日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 19日 午後4時半 報恩講法要 (英語)
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/七五三法要

## 12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/成道会
- 7日 午後7時 法話会
- 10日 午前7時 もちつき

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1	2017 Membership	5
D.S.News	2	Acknowledgments	6
Temple News	3	Japanese Page	7
Confirmation Ceremony	4		

私たちが人生で求め続けるものは  
自分自身への深い納得であり、  
うなずきにある

平野 修『民衆の中の親鸞』