



GATEWAY



January 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 1



The WCBT Sangha poses for a serious group photo just before celebrating the End of 2017 with a rousing party of good food shared with good friends.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Chōyū Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot, Shinshu Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming in the new year together with you.

Having completed the renovation project of the Founder's Hall and the Amida Hall at our Honzan, our denomination has opened a new chapter in our history to work toward the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shōnin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023 together with our fellow followers.

Since last year, I have begun attending services held at the Betsuin temples in Japan. It will take four more years to finish all the visitations. After I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot in 2011, I visited all overseas districts and



had the chance to meet many sangha members. Through such experiences, I realized the significance of the long history of nenbutsu followers and of our denomination, the preciousness of that

history, and the importance of sharing the experiences of listening to the teaching with each other. For the next few years, I look forward to sharing my understanding of the Dharma with sangha members in Japan.

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.

Temple Event Highlights:

- Jan 1 New Year's Service
- Jan. 7 Shotsuki Service
- Jan. 14 Eitaikyo/Gen. Mtg
- Feb 17-18 SLOBT Retreat
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



Pat Sato, Claire Hansen and Ruby Kagawa comprise our dedicated and hard working Dharma School staff. They welcome all your young children and grandchildren to become part of WCBT's fun Dharma School!

The Dharma School children performed admirably during the Year End service. Our West Covina "Junior Comedy Central" members did great as budding stand-up comedians! This performance encouraged audience participation and it was lots of fun. Thank you to Koa, Jacob, Jordan, Andy, and Tyler!

Welcome to the New Year—2018. Best wishes to all who were born in the year of the dog. The Chinese zodiac says that dog people are independent, sincere, loyal, and decisive.

Hope all of you have a Happy New Year!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

Johnny Martinez, President

Bow wow! Woof! Arf Arf to Everyone! This is the Year of the Dog. People born in the Year of the Dog are said to be sincere, loyal, lively, and courageous; yet, they can also be too sensitive, stubborn, and too emotional. Like anyone of us, we have stronger and weaker points. The Dharma gives us the opportunity, if not to change a lot, at least improve ourselves and our lives. We should not wait for a whole year to make resolutions, but do so with each opportunity presented...that is living in the moment. Each morning when I awake, I have the chance to learn from my mistakes, which are many, and sometimes painful and embarrassing. It appears that the older I get, the more my ignorance is revealed to me. But then, so is the opportunity to learn, grow, and become a better person. May we all live, learn, and share the Dharma together in this new year 2018!





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

New Year's Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Monday, January 1, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

Board Meeting &

Shotsuki Service

The January 2018 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 7 at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Shotsuki Service for January. We will also have a special New Years treat of *sashimi* after the service.

Eitaikyo &

General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 14 at 10 a.m. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale so please order your Eitaikyo bentos by contacting Denise Underwood or a Toban C member. The bentos will be \$15. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.



The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 9 and January 23 at 10:00 a.m.. 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.

Family Retreat

Our annual Family Retreat will be held this year on February 17-18, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. Rev. Jon Turner, from Orange County Buddhist Church, will be our guest lecturer and speak on "Diversity and Me." This year's retreat will be open to other Higashi temples and friends.

Join us for another great weekend with stimulating discussions, quality time with sangha friends, access to the beach and as always, too much food, all set in the serene and scenic setting of the Central Coast. The fee for adults is \$35 (discounted fees for children) and includes meals and available temple lodging. For more information see the flyer on page 7.



Pet Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 25 at 10:00 a.m. to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day.

GATEWAY Staff

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

Contributors: Claire Hansen, Merry Hiroshima, Michael Jitosh, Joanie Martinez, Phillip Underwood

Circulation: Rev. Fred Brenion, 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

Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhist-temple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

Happy Birthday ♪



JANUARY

Tami Kitaura, Casey Hansen, Kevin Maekawa, Carol Oshima, Kathy Oshima, Neil Kato, Cora Ormseth, Matthew Ormseth, Kristen Nakano, Hidemi Ena, Jesse Sakaue, Aya Kamimura, Aiko Yep, Don Frack, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase, Andrew Kobayashi, Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams, Matthew Musselwhite, Ryan Musselwhite, Maebyn Yoburn



T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we began the year 2018, Bill and I hope that the New Year will bring you and your family joy and meaningful moments.

Reflecting upon 2017, we have witnessed the views and actions throughout the world contradicting the Buddhist teachings, which aspire for peace and equality of all beings. We heard the tragedy of terrorist attacks more than ever before. The growing international tension has fueled our fears and distrust. And as the fear and distrust mount there are leaders that will loudly proclaim that the solution is to defeat and exclude our enemy completely in order to protect our peace. It is sad to see those who are willingly instigating this action are no longer a minority.

As Buddhists, we cannot agree with this viewpoint. Buddhism as a Universal Truth teaches us that regardless of the time and place, our opinion or action does not necessarily lead us in the right direction. Drawing a clear line between those who agree or disagrees with us does not bring us peace but creates a chain of hatred and revenge.

Therefore, it may be natural for us to criticize some political leaders who are very ego-centric and inflame our hostility and conflicts, or simply blame it on the society. We can immediately notice mistakes of others, and blaming them often makes us feel better.

However, what Shinran Shonin tries to remind us here is that, if we criticize someone without self-reflection, such criticism is based on our self-righteousness and we judge the person as wrong and exclude him/her. As a result, we also fall into the same problem and to make matters worse, we do not realize it.

Shinran Shonin encountered the teachings which sees the world and society as mirrors of those who live it. In other words, this world manifests our values and ideas, and we are the ones who make it as is. Buddhism says, "If you see a problem in your society, you are part of that problem."

Awakening to the truth means deeply accepting this as true and real. This is truly awakening to our self. This realization gives us a new perspective and elicits a sincere sense of responsibility to our society and the world within us. We are always surrounded by opportunities of such awakening.

When we focus our criticism on those who go against everything that we hold dear and near, that person is a subject to be judged and dismissed. However, if we ponder whether we also make the same mistakes and reflect upon our own behavior and the relationship with our families and friends, then the person and his/her shortcomings becomes our teacher. This is what listening to the teachings in our daily life truly means.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Temple President, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all our members for their generous support and guidance. I would also like to thank Mrs. Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mr. Phillip Underwood, Mrs. Joanie Martinez, and other Dharma Seeds members for planning and organizing our lecture series as well as helping me with setting up services on Sunday. I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr. Michael Jitsho for his assistance.

As we enter 2018, I would like to continue to listen to the teachings and

walk the Path of Nembutsu with all of you.

Gassho,
Nobuko Miyoshi



(「新年」11頁からの続き)

ちのそのような姿を同時に明らかにしているということなのです。

聞法とは仏法に照らされた自らの姿に目覚めるということであると思います。そしてその目覚めを通して、仏法が初めて真の抛り所として領かれていくのではないのでしょうか。それが、今の時代の中で、自らの生活を通して仏法に出会い続けていく歩みではないかと思えます。仏法の願う世から逸脱しているということが誰の目から見ても明らかな現代であります。仏教が日常生活に生きる教えとなるのか、それとも単なる知識や個人の心の癒しに矮小化されてしまうのか、仏教の将来はそのような現代を生きる私たち一人一人に託されているということを感じています。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願い致します。

合 掌



12月7日に行われた法話会の忘年会にて



T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS

The responsibilities and tasks to run a successful temple are divided among the members of the Sangha by the Toban system. At WCBT, as you know, our system consists of three Toban groups designated as Toban A, B and C chaired by Roy Takemura/Joy Kitaura, Merry Jitosho Hiroshima and Dick Koga respectively.

The various tasks such as setting up and breaking down for each Sunday service, preparing otoki for our special services and assisting in all the fundraisers, just to mention a few, are delegated to each Toban. Although each Toban is responsible to a specific job, members from the other two Toban groups never hesitate to help when needed. Therefore, at WCBT the three Tobans actually overlap so it is as if we have one Toban.

On behalf of the Toban chairs, I would like to thank the Sangha for your unselfish dedication and help throughout the year. With all your efforts, 2017 was a very successful and gratifying year for our temple. The year 2017 has come to an end and we welcome a new year. According to the Chinese Zodiac 2018 is the year of the Dog. The Chinese horoscope predicts that 2018 will be a good year in all respects, but it will be an exhausting year! Based on this prediction we will all need to work hard to make it another successful year for WCBT.

From Roy/Joy, Merry and Dick, wishing you and your entire family a very Happy and Prosperous 2018! "Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu"



Dick Koga (Toban C), Merry Hiroshima (Toban B) and Roy Takemura (Toban A)

TOBAN LIST

Tobans are responsible for providing obuppan/flowers for all services and a chairperson for major and Shotuki services

Toban C (Dick Koga) **(January–March,** **October–December)**

Godoy, Jose & Lynette
Hansen, Claire
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia
Kato, Ted & Mary
Koga, Dick & Hisako
Kovacs, Yukiko
Kowalski, Kurt
Martinez, Johnny & Joanne
Ogino, Martin & Leslie
Ormseth, Tor & Diana
Oshita, Mitsuru & Mitsu
Underwood, Steve & Denise
Wexler, Alan & Emi
Whang, Bruce
Yamashita, Bob & Kay

Toban A **(Roy Takemura/Joy Kitaura)** **(April–June)**

Akune, Denise
Ariza, Tom & Edith
Fujimoto, Glen
Hamachi, Wesley & Connie
Kagawa, Richard & Ruby
Kitaura, Joy
Maekawa, Raymond & Nancy
Nakatani, Glenn & Jean
Nishihara, Lillian
Sato, Ken & Pat
Shirota, Jon & Barbara
Takahashi, Miyo
Takemoto, Takashi & Hiroko
Takemura, Roy & Judy
Takemura, Vicki
Teragawa, David & Cheryl
Underwood, Phillip & Autrina
Yamasaki, Ron

Toban B (Merry Hiroshima) **(July – September)**

Chen, Mei Ling
Earley, Jerry & Jane
Ezaki, Lee & Karen
Gonzalez, Mario & Stephanie
Harrison, Michelle
Hiroshima, Merry
Ikehara–Nelson, Reiko
Mayeda, Haruko
Oshima, Larry
Tanji, Frank

THANK YOU!



T H E G A T E W A Y

NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT REPORT

Bishop Noriaki Ito

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our very best New Year's greetings to you all. On behalf of our temple staff and leadership, I thank you for the support you extended to us during the previous year, and ask for your continued cooperation and guidance in 2018 as well.

In comparison to 2016 when we hosted the World Dobo Gathering here in Los Angeles, 2017 was a more normal year for our Betsuin. With education as part of our core emphasis, both the Betsuin and the North America District hosted many such events throughout the year.

We are extremely appreciative of the core leadership here at our Betsuin. The Board of Directors continues to be proactive in making sure that our temple is in good shape both physically and spiritually. However, as we age, we realize the importance of continuing the process of handing over the reins to the next generation. In order to do that, we need to make the temple more accessible and meaningful to the youth. We must continue to think about what we need to do to establish a bright future for our Higashi Honganji.

On a personal note, I experienced my first major health setback in the fall. I wish to thank our ministers, our office staff, and our volunteers for their support during my recovery.

I sincerely hope that 2018 will be a year filled with learning experiences and happiness for all of us. I look forward to continuing to listen to the Buddhadharma with you.

Best wishes,
Noriaki Ito

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE GATEWAY STAFF



The WCBT Gateway staff wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the sangha for their support during the past year.

It is our hope that together we will continue to listen to and share the teachings of the Nenbutsu with all our readers and fellow sangha members through our newsletter.





T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

The 2018 Family Retreat: Diversity and Me

Lecturer: Rev. Jon Turner

Date: Feb. 17 (Sat.)~18 (Sun.), 2018

(Presidents' Day Weekend)

Location: San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple
6996 Ontario Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Fee: \$35.00/adults; discounted fees for children

Checks payable to: WCHHBT

Mail to: West Covina Buddhist Temple

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793



More Info: (626)689-1040

revnobuko@gmail.com (Rev. Miyoshi) or pishsato@gmail.com (Pat Sato)



Fallacies of Othering

No-Self is one of the main teachings of Buddhism. Through self-reflection, we can discover that the Self does not actually exist in any concrete or substantial way. Rather the Self is a construction within our own minds. Included in this process is the creation of the Other. The Self and Other both arise simultaneously in relation to one another - this process is mutually re-enforcing. During this retreat, we will attempt to also deconstruct the Other by examining the fallacies used to sustain it. Thus, showing that it too does not actually exist in any meaningful way though its effects can also be profoundly damaging.

Rev. Jon Turner is a full-time minister at the Orange County Buddhist Church. He graduated from UCLA with a BS in mathematics and a MS in computer science, and has been employed as a computer programmer for over 30 years. He later earned a MA in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley. He was fully ordained as a Kyoshi minister in 2012. Rev. Jon currently leads services, writes essays and teaches at OCBC.

The \$35.00 fee includes all meals, and there is free lodging available at the temple (though space is limited and you must bring a sleeping bag); nearby motels are also available.

Name(s): _____

Number of Attendees: _____ E-mail: _____

Cell phone*: _____

*Please provide instead of home/landline number for communications at the retreat.



T H E G A T E W A Y

Mochitsuki 2017!





T H E G A T E W A Y

Year-End 2017!





T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month

Those times
when you get up early and
you work hard. Those times
you stay up late and
you work hard.

Those times
when you don't feel like
working. You're too tired.
You don't want to push
yourself, but you do it
anyway...

That is actually the dream.

-Kobe Bryant



T H E G A T E W A Y

年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷暢裕

海外に住まう全ての同朋の皆さまに年始のご挨拶を申し上げます。

ともに新たな年を迎えられたことを心よりお慶び申し上げます。

宗派では、真宗本廟両堂等の御修復を終え、いよいよ法義相続・本廟護持に努められた先達の篤い想いを胸に、2023年にお迎えする宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要に向け、その歩みをすべてのご門徒と共に始めることとなりました。

私もまた、昨年より4カ年の時間をいただき、日本全国の別院にお参りさせていただくこととなりました。これまで開教司教として、海外三開教区を巡回させていただく中で、皆様お一人おひとりの顔を拝見しその長きにわたる信仰の歴史、宗門のあゆみの重さ、その尊さを感じ、共に聞法することの大切を感じさせていただきました。

皆様に気づかせていただいた、この想いを、今度は日本全国のご門徒と共に確かめてまいりたいと思います。

皆で手を取り、私たち一人ひとりの上に、如来からの呼びかけが開かれていくことを心より願って年頭の挨拶とさせていただきます。

本年もよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

新年のご挨拶 見義信香

新年あけましておめでとうございます。

旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまならびにウェストコヴィナメンバーの皆さまには大変お世話になりました。また法要の準備や後片付けなど率先してお手伝いいただき、不在時には日曜礼拝を勤めくださった池原-ネルソン・礼子さんやアンダーウッド・フィリップさん、マルティネス・ジョニーさんなどダルマ・シーズの方、地頭所マイケルさんにも心からお礼申し上げます。

2017年を振り返ってみますと、世の中は仏教が願う平和と共存からますます離れた方向へと歩みを進めているように感じます。世界中で繰り返されるテロ、国家間の緊張など、不安と不信を煽る出来事が毎日のように報道されています。人々を敵と味方に分け、自らを守るためには相手を打ち負かし排除しなければならない、という論理が「時代に合ったやり方」であると見なされるようになってきました。

親鸞聖人は私たちの世を照らすことが仏法のはたらきである、と領かれた方でした。「照らす」とは明らかにするということです。

「あらゆる人とともに」を基本とする仏法に照らされた時、その「時代に合ったやり方」が私たちを平和から遠ざけ、争いと憎しみの連鎖を生み出しているという事実が明らかになるのです。そのような世を憂い、未来に大きな不安を抱く人は少なくないと思います。

しかしながら、ここで私たちは今一度親鸞聖人の問いかけに耳を傾けなければならないのではないのでしょうか。それは「そのような世の中を作り出しているのは誰なのか？」という問いかけです。今の世は今を生きている私たちが作り出しているのです。それにもかかわらず、世の中で起こっていることを他人事としたり、問題を誰かのせいにしていたりしている。仏法は私たちのそうした姿勢こそが問題の根源であるということをお教えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。つまり、世を照らすとは私た

(「新年」4頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

修正会法要

修正会法要は2018年1月1日(月)午前11時よりお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにご家族お揃いでお参りください。

永代経法要・教団総会

2018年度永代経法要は1月14日(日)午前10時より厳修されます。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。お寺の大事な総会です。どうぞ法要、総会にご出席ください。

お寺家族リトリート

来る2月17日(土)-18日(日)家族リトリートをサンルイスオビスポ西本願寺にて開催いたします。日常を離れ仏法にじっくりと耳を傾けるよい機会です。どうぞお誘い合わせの上ご参加ください。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお尋ねください。

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

January 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 1

January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 4 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 7 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 9 10:00 am Study Class
- 14 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting
- 21 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 23 10:00 am Study Class
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service

2018年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 4日 午後7時 法話会
- 7日 午前8時半 理事会
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 14日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会
- 21日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

February

- 1 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 4 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 11 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 13 10:00 am Study Class
- 17-18 WCBT Family Retreat
- 25 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

2月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時 法話会
- 4日 午前8時半 理事会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 11日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 17日-18日 家族リトリート

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Year's Greetings from Overseas District	Abbot	D.S.News	Temple News	New Year's Greetings	Mochitsuki Pics	Acknowledgments	3	4	8	10
---	-------	----------	-------------	----------------------	-----------------	-----------------	---	---	---	----

人の世に熱あれ、
人間に光あれ

『全国水平社創立宣言』