



GATEWAY



March 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 3



This year WCBT and Berkeley Otani Buddhist Temple enjoyed our annual WCHHBT Retreat at the tranquil San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple.

SLO Family Retreat 2018

Lee Ezaki

WCBT Member

The 2018 WCBT Family Retreat was again held at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple on February 17 & 18. All participants enjoyed a beautiful, scenic ride along the beaches of the Pacific Ocean and mountainous route to San Luis Obispo. The weather this year was outstanding in terms of sunshine and warmth and perfect for a nature walk on Saturday afternoon. The food was again scrumptious and delicious for all our meals.

The lecture this year was given by Reverend Jon Turner from the Orange County Buddhist Church who spoke on the challenging topic of Diversity and Me. I will only highlight a por-

tion of his presentation in this report.

He discussed the subtle process called the confirmation bias. This is where we only notice things that we agree with and what we believe in. For example, if we believe that a certain breed of dog is hard to train then we only notice them when they are barking. We do not notice that they were quiet 90% of the time.

We had a discussion on how our personality is developed. Some believe it is developed at birth by the DNA genes that we inherit. Others believe our personality is developed over time by the environment we grow up in. Rev. Turner believes it is a very complex issue that is a com-

bination of both but favors the belief that the environment helps shape our personality. For example, Japanese culture helped shape the practice of not eating the last cookie or allowing guests to eat first without a word being spoken. People just tended to learn this by observing this practice. This practice will remain the same as long as the situation remains the same. But this practice may change when new people come and interact differently than what was the norm. Who we are and what we are is constantly changing with our situation and environment. We should not condemn the person that takes the

Please see RETREAT, con't on page 6



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The spring equinox is just around the corner. This year we will be celebrating Ohigan on Sunday, March 18th at 4:30 in the afternoon.

The Dharma school staff plans to introduce the meaning of Ohigan with a story and an activity. The children will be presented a simplified version of the two shores and river metaphor.

We will also start to prepare for the celebration of Hanamatsuri. The staff continues to encourage parents and grandparents to bring their youngsters to our services!

Happy Spring to all!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

What is the Point?

Yukiko Kovacs

I have been a member of the West Covina Temple for the length of time it takes to attend 3 San Luis Obispo retreats. I enjoy getting to know other members, listening to the Dharma, and having the opportunity to join in discussions. I have been searching for the answer to "What is the point?" of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. I am now ready to share some of my thoughts. Please keep in mind that it is OK to disagree with me.

I don't believe that the goal of our religion is enlightenment. Shinran Shonin realized that achieving enlightenment is all but impossible. He wanted to make Buddhism available to everyone, not just for monks or the wealthy. Perhaps our goal is listening and awakening to the truth of the Dharma (birth in the Pure Land). The goal is definitely not material gain.

Hopefully, one can improve one's own life by changing one's own way of thinking:

- To broaden one's horizons
- To get along better with others
- To be less selfish and less angry
- To live a life of appreciation

To clarify the best part about Jodo Shinshu; no one is telling you what to do or how to live your life, no one is saying to go to service every Sunday, no one is forcing you to do anything. The gift of awakening is given to you (other power). You are not required to perform any specific practices in order to awaken to the truth of the Dharma.

Namu Amida Butsu

22nd Annual Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

The 2018 Annual Golf Classic will be held on the Babe Zaharias Course at Industry Hills Golf Club at Pacific Palms in the City of Industry on Friday, May 11.

The format will be a four man scramble with a shotgun start. Registration will begin at 11:00 am and the tournament will begin at 1:00 pm. The awards dinner and raffle will begin immediately following the tournament. Golf and sponsorship entry forms will be available soon

As a golfer or non-golfer you can support WCBT with your sponsorship, donation of raffle prizes, snacks for the golfer's goodie bag or making spam musubi. Go beyond your personal support and ask your doctor, dentist, optometrist, hair stylist, employer or favorite restaurant for a sponsorship or a raffle prize. The committee would like to make it clear that your sponsorship goes to the temple's general fund and does not in any way fund the golf tournament. In addition to your generous monetary donation you can volunteer to assist on the day of the tournament at the golf course.

Golfers mark your calendar, Friday, May 11th and come out for a fun day of golf! If you are not a golfer, invite your golfing relatives and or friends to participate. Golfers who do not have a four man team will be placed on a team.

Golf and sponsorship entry forms will be available soon.

For more information please contact any of the golf committee members: Roy Takemura, Barbara Shirota, Lillian Nishihara, Denise and Steve Underwood, Jack Wear, Phil Underwood or Rev. Miyoshi.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on March 13 and 27 at 10:00 AM. 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.

Cherry Blossom Festival

The 2018 West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 17, from 12 noon – 6:00 PM and will be held at the Plaza West Covina, 112 Plaza Dr. Although the Temple will NOT be selling anything this year ESGVJCC will need help setting up and breaking down after the festival. Please come out to support the Center.

Spring Ohigan Service

Spring Ohigan will be observed on March 18 at 4:30 PM. Rev. Fred Brenion will be our special guest speaker so please join us for this special service and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LIX (59)

"Oldies LIX (59)!! Superfine!" will be held on Saturday, March 24. It's our 59th Oldies with our favorite Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing our favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. We will begin the dance at 7:30 PM and end at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance. With a few more helping hands, the clean-up will go faster and everyone will be able to go home earlier.

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 by the center about 6 PM to help with the set-up. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

WCBT Hanamatsuri

West Covina's Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 8, at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to arrive early with flowers to decorate the Hanamido. There will be a special performance by the Dharma school children and light refreshments will be served after the service. We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the Buddha's birthday!

LABTF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service and will be held on the April 8 beginning at 1:30 PM at the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (Nishi Betsuin) in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service after WCBT Hanamatsuri Service.



WCBT Fun Day

A WCBT Fun Day is being planned for Sunday, April 29, 11:00 AM–3:00 PM at the Center Social Hall. All current and past WCBT members and their families are invited for an afternoon of games, potluck lunch and good times so mark your calendars and save the date. Hope to see you there!

GATEWAY Staff

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

Contributors: Claire Hansen, Michael Jitosho, 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/westcovinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com



MARCH

Brandon Kawaguchi, Kendra Kagawa, Brion Martinez, Edward Miyashiro, Cathy Nakano, Glen Fujimoto, Karolyn Fujimoto, Joy Kitaura, Kelley Sakoda, Kathy Masai, Bob Yamashita, Danny Iwama, Lee Ezaki, Karen Ezaki, Andrew Kenji Ezaki, Claire Hansen, Dick Koga, Leo Kowalski, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teragawa, Alyssa Arnheim, Dana Yamada, Gavin Godoy, John Erickson, Bruce Whang, Emi Wexler, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mitsuru Oshita, Tatsuo Okamura, Patricia Endo, Steve Underwood, Rev. Akira Miyoshi



T H E G A T E W A Y

2018 San Luis Obispo Retreat



At this year's retreat we were joined by four members of the Berkeley Otani Temple.

The weekend was filled with thought provoking as well as fun activities that kept our mind and body engaged and focused.

The day's activities included Rev. Jon's lectures, a walk to the beach and Avila Farms, preparing meals, unique (sometimes strenuous) games, learning line dancing, sharing meals and conversations with Sangha members and Tai-chi, a form of meditative exercise.





T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

RETREAT, *con't from pg. 1*

last cookie or gets in line first. This is impermanence. There is no right or wrong only the belief of what is right or wrong.

We can understand more of our changing personality if we are able to "frame" the situation to look and examine it and even interact with it. Remember, we must be able to change and adjust with life and not just stand against that which is different.

Another observation presented was how we view obstacles and impediments while minimizing the importance of actions that help us. The example given was that a jogger does not realize how much a tail wind is helping until he/she reverses direction and heads into the wind. Now the wind is recognized as a stronger obstacle than when it was appreciated as a tail wind. The same wind is perceived differently. There are many obstacles we all focus on in our daily life but fail to recognize all the positive actions that are benefiting us.

I know I have omitted many important topics that were presented at the retreat. But one important lesson that I learned is if we learn to accept feeling of "wrongness" and "uncomfortableness" that are products of our past experiences, then we have come a long way to accepting diversity.

Rev. Turner passed out this poem by Chanie Gorkin called the Worst Day Ever (See "Quote of the Month"). It helps illustrate that one can have a good or a bad day depending on how you read the same words. Read it from top and then from the bottom up.

A selected reading that Pat Sato read on diversity:

It is not our differences that divide us, it is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences.

-Andre Lorde

Quote of the Month

Worst Day Ever?

By Chanie Gorkin

Today was the absolute worst day ever
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day
Because, when you take a close look,
This world is a pretty evil place.
Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good
It's not true that good exists
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude
It's all beyond my control
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
Today was a good day

Now read from the bottom to top.

Buddhism Quiz

Since this is the beginning of the New Year we have decided to do some basic review of Buddhism.

Difficulty Level: Easy, Peazy

- One of the following statements concerning the basic tenets of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is False. Which one is it?
 - Suffering is not the result of external forces in our life.
 - Life is constant.
 - Impermanence causes suffering.
 - Impermanence is neutral.
- Which of the following statements is False?
 - The cause of suffering is never our own fault.
 - The cause of suffering is due to our reactions to changes all around us.
 - The cause of suffering is due to our ignorance of the reality of impermanence.
 - (One way) to overcome suffering is to attend WCHHBT every Sunday and listen to the Dharma talk.



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA
HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February 27, 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Spring Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018. The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, March 18, 2018
Time: 4:30 P.M.
Dharma Message: Rev. Frederick Brenion

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

春を感じる今日このごろ皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて春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

春のお彼岸法要

日 時 2018年3月18日 午後4時半
場 所 日系コミュニティセンター
法 話 ブレニオン・フレデリック師（英語）

*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









T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

OLDIES LIX (59)!! SUPERFINE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018
7:30 to 11:30pm

-  At the ESGV Japanese Community Center
-  Tickets: **\$20 presale**, \$25 at the door
-  Music by guest **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

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| Inwindale Ave | WCBT/ESGVJCC 1203 West Puente Ave West Covina | |
| Sunset Ave | West Puente Ave | Vincent Ave |
| | San Bernardino (10) Freeway | |
| map not to scale | West Covina Fashion Plaza | |

WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.

NO HEELS for Ladies





T H E G A T E W A Y

*To All Past And Current WCBT Members,
Families and Friends*

SAVE THE DATE!

SANGHA REUNION/FUN DAY

*Join us for an afternoon
Full of Fun, Food and Good Times!*

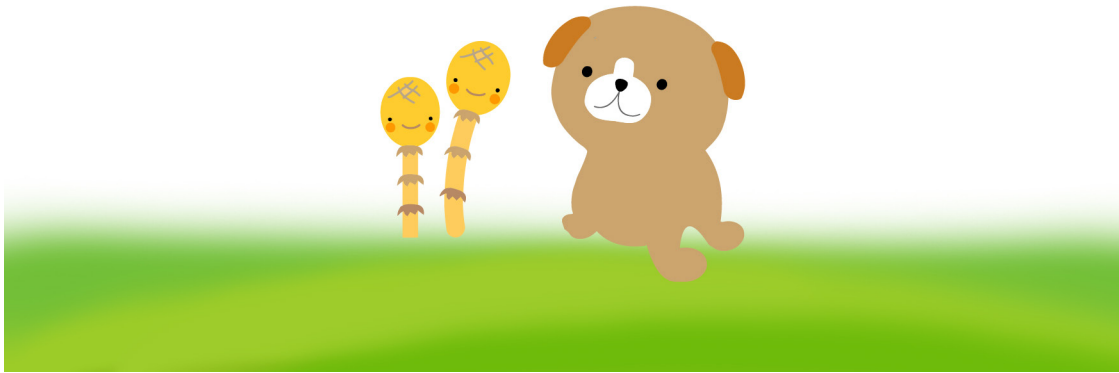


*Sunday, April 29, 2018,
11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
West Covina Buddhist Temple (Social Hall)
1203 West Puente Ave.,
West Covina, CA*

**More information coming regarding food
and the format of the event*



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

家族リトリート 江崎リー

毎年恒例となっているウェストコビナの家族リトリートが今年も2月17日と18日の2日間にわたってサンルイスオビスポ仏教会で開催されました。参加者は道中も眼前に広がる太平洋や美しい景色を車中から楽しみました。天候は申し分なく、土曜の午後の散策は暖かな陽気の中で行われました。食事もういつも通り大変美味しく、参加者のお腹を満たしてくれました。

今年はオレンジカウンティ仏教会からターナー・ジョン開教使を講師としてお招きし、“Diversity and Me”というテーマのもとお話いただきました。

ターナー氏は「確証バイアス」ということについて、そしてそのプロセスについて話されました。それは、私たちの認識プロセスのことで、自分が受け入れていること、あるいは信じていることをもとにして、その場を判断したり人の価値を決めたりしているということです。例えば、躰に手を焼いている犬を飼っているとします。「言うことのきかない犬」という判断を通して見るとき、結果としてその犬が言うことを聞いてくれずに吠える場面ばかりを記憶してしまうのです。たとえ、全体的に見てほとんどの場合はおとなしいとしても、です。

また、私たちのパーソナリティーがどのようにして形成されるのかということについて様々な見方があることが紹介されました。パーソナリティーは遺伝子によって生まれたときから決まっているという説、成長時の環境の影響を受けるという説などです。もちろん、どちらが正しいかというよりも、いろいろな要因が複雑に影響しあってパーソナリティーは形成されるのですが、ターナー氏は置かれた環境がパーソナリ

ティー形成に大きな影響を与えるということは重要な意味があるとおっしゃいました。例えば日本文化の中で育てば、他の人の行動を観察することを通して「日本的な習慣」を学びます。食事のとき最後に残ったものには遠慮して手をつけない、というのは、日本文化の中で育った人にとっては自然なマナーですが、それ以外の人には通用しません。私たちはいろいろな側面をもっていますが、それは置かれている環境や状況によって絶えず変化します。私たちは自分たちが慣れ親しんだ習慣に依って、何が正しく何が間違っているかの判断をします。けれども、絶対的な正や間違いはないのでしょうか。そこにあるのは、何かを正しいとし、何かを間違っているとする私たちの思いだけです。

また、私たちは障害となることに目が行きがちな一方、私たちを支えてくれているものにはあまり意識を向けていないということを、ターナー氏の話を通して気付かされました。そのことを氏はジョギングのときの追い風と向かい風の例をとって説明してくださいました。同じ風ですが、自分がどこに向かうかによってそれは追い風になり、向かい風になります。そして多くの場合、私たちは走りの妨げとなる向かい風に意識が向きます。私たちの日々の生活も同じかもしれません。厄介なこと邪魔なことにばかり心をかけ悩み、今の私を生かしてくれている多くの有り難いことには目が向いていないのかもしれません。

今回のリトリートで私が学んだ大切なことは、過去の経験からくる間違いや、意見の違いなどから生じる居心地の悪い感覚を排除したり無視する代わりに受け入れるということの大切さでした。それがあらゆる違いを受け入れる第一歩になるのではないかと感じました。

ターナー氏が紹介してくださった詩“Worst Day Ever”（英語欄Quote of the Month参照）は非常に深い意味のある詩です。その日が素晴らし

い日か最悪の日か、それは私たちが世界をどう見るかで変わることであることを教えてくれています。ぜひ上から読んだ後、もう一度今度は下から読んでみてください。

最後に、このリトリートのまとめ役を務めてくれた佐藤パットさんが朝の勤行時に紹介してくれた言葉を紹介します。

差異が私たちを隔てるのではない。
差異を認めず、受け入れず、尊ぶことのできない私たちの心が私たちを分断するのだ。

ロルド・アンドレ



お寺ニュース

日本語春のお彼岸法要

日本語春のお彼岸法要は3月法話会、祥月法要を兼ねて3月1日（木）午後7時よりお勤めいたします。

また英語によるお彼岸法要は3月18日（日）午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。ブレニオン・フレデリック師をお招きして法話を聴聞します。英語法要にもご家族では是非お参りください。

4月の祥月法要は4月5日（木）午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。

Temple Event Highlights:
•March 4 Shotsuki Service
•March 18 Ohigan Service
•March 24 Oldies Dance
•April 8 Hanamatsuri
•Please See Temple News

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

March 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 3

March

- 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 12:00 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 18 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service
- 24 7:30 pm Oldies Dance
- 25 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00 am Study Class

April

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 10:00 am Hanamatsuri Service
- 8 1:30 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri
(@Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin)
- 10 10:00 am Study Class

2018年3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
- 17日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 18日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要
- 24日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス
- 25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

4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
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 花祭り法要
- 8日 午後1時半 仏連花祭り

(於西本願寺羅府別院)

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つくべき縁あればともない、
はなるべき縁あれば、はなる

『歎異抄』