



GATEWAY



April 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 4



At the recent WCBT Spring Ohigan Service our dear friend Rev. Fred Brenion shared his Dharma message with our Sangha. Among our invited guests were Bishop Hitoshi Doi, a cabinet member from the Shinshu Otani-ha along with Revs. Fujita and Suwa from Kyoto and Revs. Hasegawa, Fujii, and Okada from NAD.

“I Alone, am the World-Honored One”

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Hanamatsuri is a service to celebrate the birth of Śākyamuni Buddha. On April 8 the Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation is commemorating this event at Nishi Hongwanji. This year's theme is “I Alone, Am the Honored One...Means You and Me.” The birth of Śākyamuni Buddha is accompanied by many legends. Among them, one of the most famous stories is the story of the baby Buddha taking seven steps, pointing his right hand to the sky and his left hand to the earth, and saying, “Above and below the heavens, I alone, am the World-Honored One.”

For some people, this might sound very arrogant, however, that is not what it meant. When he declared this, the ‘I’ indicates not only himself but also each of us. Śākyamuni Buddha was the one who sought the Truth of

all human existence and awakened to it. Throughout Śākyamuni's spiritual journey, it was not for his personal concerns or issues but for all of us in order to find the true meaning of our lives. Therefore, this passage talks not only of Śākyamuni Buddha but also of every one of us. In other words, this mythical story teaches us the Truth that each of us is precious, irreplaceable, and ultimately valuable just as we are.

In actuality, when we hear that “You are all receiving precious life and are living at this moment, it clearly shows us that our existence is irreplaceable and ultimately precious,” it may not be that difficult to agree with it. On the other hand, it is much more difficult for us to deeply accept it with our heart and body and take refuge in it. Rather, we often say that “I think I am precious and

proud of myself because...” and make every effort to find the words that can complete this sentence.

For example, to have a high educational background, to work hard, or to try to be kind to people, can be reasons to verify the meaning of your existence. The Truth always tells us that nothing is necessary to show your preciousness, yet we tend to look for proof to validate our significance. That is to say, it is us who do not want to accept the Truth and rather try to ignore it. Instead of focusing on being just as we are, we would rather focus on ideal images of ourselves. We create all kinds of images that we want to be or we should be, and try to satisfy that the image. As a result, as long as we fulfill the ideal image, we are able to think of

Please see ALONE, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

About 2500 years ago, near the Himalaya Mountains in a grove called Lumbini, was born a baby who was named Siddhartha. His mother, Queen Maya, and the infant were showered with blossoms and sweet water from the sky. This little baby became the Buddha. In our tradition, we honor the birth of Siddhartha by offering flowers and sweet tea to commemorate this happy day, April 8.

The Dharma School children will honor Prince Siddhartha with birthday cards that they have fashioned. They will place the cards near the Hanamido when offering flowers and sweet tea. Their cards will be displayed so that everyone in the Sangha can enjoy them. The staff asks that parents and/or grandparents help their children to make their birthday cards—Thank you!

April 29th will be our WCBT Fun Day. We hope you can attend service that Sunday and join in the festivities. There will be activities planned and pizza and drinks will be provided. Please bring finger food to share—desserts, appetizers, etc.

The Dharma School staff encourages families to bring their children to Dharma School. We have activities, stories, and lessons that we would love to share with our youngsters!

Hope to see all of you at our Hanamatsuri and the WCBT Fun Day!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



WCBT Family & Friends Fun Day

After Temple Service on Sunday, April 29, WCBT has planned a Family & Friends Fun Day from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Center Social Hall. All current and past WCBT members and their families and friends are invited for an afternoon of games, lunch and good times. Come meet new members and reacquaint with past Dharma friends. Activities will be planned for young and old. See flyer for schedule, lunch plans and contact information. Hope to see you there!

IT'S TEE TIME!

WCBT will be holding its 22nd annual golf tournament on Friday, May 11th, 2018 at the Pacific Palms Golf Course (Industry Hills). We will be providing goodie bags for our golfers, therefore we are asking our Sangha to donate items to fill these bags. We are expecting 75-80 golfers, but any quantity of donated items is appreciated. Please bring your donations to Temple on Sunday, May 6th, 2018.

- 1) Some of the items we need are:
- 2) Granola bars
- 3) Nuts
- 4) Gum
- 5) Mints
- 6) Crackers
- 7) Cookies
- 8) Fruit snacks
- 9) Pens, hand sanitizer, etc.
- 10) Golf or non- golf item of your choice



***Please NO CHOCOLATE! (sticky fingers)

Thank you for your support. The success of our golf tournament relies on the support of our Sangha.

Gassho,
Golf Committee



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

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 Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF service after WCBT Hanamatsuri Service.



The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on April 10 and 24 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.

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 and friends are invited for an afternoon of games, lunch and good times so mark your calendars and save the date. Hope to see you there!

WCBT 22nd Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will be holding their 22nd Annual Golf Classic on Friday, May 11, on the Babe Zaharias Course at Industry Hills Golf Club at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. Registration begins at 11:00 am and the tournament will begin at 1:00 pm.

Entry forms and sponsorship forms have been mailed to Temple members. If you are able to help on the day of the golf tournament or have any questions, please call Roy Takemura at (909) 594-3600 (office) or (909) 973-2580.

For more information see the article on page 2.

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 13, at 10:00 am. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 20 at 10:00 am. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Miyoshi if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

GATEWAY Staff

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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



APRIL

Kevin Kawawata, Tyler Koji Isaksen, Susan Oshima, Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Nancy Maekawa, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellie Komoda, Kristen Hiranaka, Tammy Lespron, Yaeko Davis, Phillip Underwood, Lexi Shams, Maria Whang, Yuechen Zhau, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Shakyamuni Buddha



T H E G A T E W A Y

ALONE, *con't from pg. 1*

ourselves as precious or valuable.

Unfortunately, however, there is no guarantee that we are always able to follow those images that we create of ourselves. A person who makes a healthy body a criterion to prove himself/herself could become very ill. Another person whose ideal image is to be productive in society would eventually become older, making it harder and harder to fulfill the image. As a result, when we cannot satisfy our images as we desire, nothing but despair is left. Therefore, unable to validate ourselves, we no longer feel that our existence is precious and significant anymore. In other words, when we lose things to be relied on to prove the meaning of our existence, we cannot help but be disappointed in ourselves and cannot find any hope for ourselves.

Conversely, to deeply accept our original preciousness with our heart and body, and to take refuge in it, will guarantee that we will never be disappointed in ourselves. "Just as we are" may be far from any image that we want to be or should be. However, no matter who you are, or what happens, the Truth about our preciousness will never waver. Nothing can destroy this Truth. As a result, realizing our own preciousness just as we are, we will never be disappointed, or abandon ourselves. This is the moment when we are finally able to believe in the importance of our life.

Moreover, those who come to realize their own invaluable existence are able to realize the invaluable preciousness of each single life, of all sentient beings. When each of us can declare that, "I alone, am the World-Honored One," simultaneously, we become aware of the countless number of voices from all sentient beings also saying, "I alone, am the World-Honored One." Therefore, the Truth reveals to us that the lives of all living beings are as equally precious as my life. Being aware of the Truth, we also come to sense that

each of us is connected with all sentient beings in respect to receiving precious life and living at this moment. This is the world of *warera*, "we" or "us" for Shinran Shonin, and the true meaning of "I" in Śākyamuni's words.

Here, I would like to introduce my favorite poet, Tomihiro Hoshino, because his poetry and paintings clearly show us such a world. One such poem is entitled "Licorice."

*Once I saw a weed
Waving in the wind
I felt its weakness
Today I see a weed
Waving in the wind
I realize its strength*

Hoshino is completely paralyzed from his neck down due to a terrible accident when he was a gymnastic teacher. In the hospital, he started to write and draw holding a pen in his mouth. A museum for his works was established in 1991, and today many people visit there and are inspired by his poetry and paintings.

However, he is special and precious not because he can paint and write beautiful poetry holding a pen with his mouth, or because his works move our heart. Rather, it is him who became aware of his own preciousness and great joy in living at this moment. He is paralyzed and needs help from others for his everyday living. Yet, his health condition does not cause any doubt and negation about the preciousness of his life. Moreover, such awareness lets him realize the invaluable existence of all living beings that surround him. The world of true equality, and the deep connection with all sentient being, that is, the world of "*warera*" according to Shinran Shonin, is revealed in him. It must be this world that becomes his strength and enables him to write inspirational poetry and create beautiful paintings. When we are touched by his work, I believe that they show us this world. This means

that, through Hoshino's poetry and paintings, Shinran Shonin's words, and Śākyamuni's life, each of us are also deeply inspired to encounter this unlimited and boundless world.



(「唯尊い」 9ページからの続き)

言葉に込められている願いではないでしょうか。

私の大好きな詩人の一人に星野富弘という方がいらっしゃいます。彼の書く詩や草花の絵は、まさにこの「われら」の世界を私たちに示してくれているように思います。たとえば次のような詩があります。

「やぶかんぞう」
いつか草が
風に揺れるのを見て
弱さを思った
今日
草が風に揺れるのを見て
強さを知った

彼は教師時代の事故で首から下の自由を失いました。その後入院中に口に筆をくわえて詩や絵を描き始めます。現在はその作品を収めた美術館も建てられ、多くの人の心をとらえています。

しかし、口に筆をくわえて絵が描けるから、あるいは、人を感動させるような詩を紡ぎ出すことができるから彼は価値のある人間で、尊い人間なのではありません。そうではなく、動けない自分、人の助けを借りなければ生きることもしんどい自分が、その身を今生きている、そのかけがえのなさ、今生きているという事実において私自身が尊いという真実に気づいた。その気づきがまわりの草花に対して「われら」と呼びかける世界を開き、その「われら」の世界が彼に詩画を描かせる力となり、その力がその詩画に出遇った私たちの心を揺さぶるのではないのでしょうか。そして忘れてはならないことは、私たちひとりひとりもそのような広大で深い世界に出遇うことを願われ続けている存在であるということではないかと思うのです。



T H E G A T E W A Y

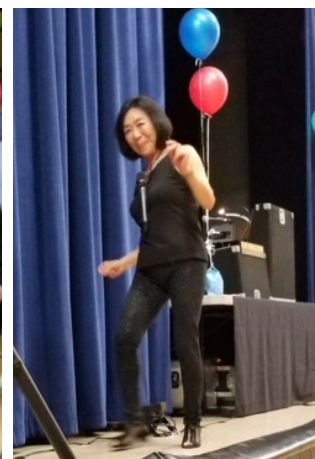
Spring Ohigan & Oldies Pics



Rev. Fred Brenion spoke at our Spring Ohigan Service where we were joined by special guests from the Honzan and Betsuin. They were served delicate cups of tea by Yukiko Kovacs. The special otoki that followed was highlighted with an amazing presentation of kamaboko created by Denise Underwood. A special thanks to Toban C!



Oldies 59 was another fun-filled evening of great music, "groovy" dancing, some imbibing & lots of laughter. The Sangha members who work behind the scenes always seem to have as much fun as the dancers who come for a good time.





T H E G A T E W A Y

*Calling All Current and Past WCBT
Members Bring Your Family and Friends*



WCBT FAMILY & FRIENDS FUN DAY

*You are all invited to join us for
an afternoon of Games,
Potluck Lunch and Good Times!*

Date: Sunday, April 29, 2018

Service: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Fun & Food: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Snacks/Mingle: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 am

Activities: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Finger Food Potluck Lunch

Share Your Favorite

Pupus/Tapas/Appetizers/Desserts/Your choice

Pizza and Drinks will be provided

Activity/Social Hour: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Place: West Covina Buddhist Temple
(Social Hall)

1203 West Puente Ave. West Covina, CA

For More Information Contact: Pat Sato 626-826-7386 pishsato@gmail.com



T H E G A T E W A Y

HIGASHI HONGANJI NORTH AMERICA DISTRICT

2018

Southern California Local Dōbō Retreat

We wish to invite you to attend the 2018 Southern California Local Dōbō Retreat of the Higashi Honganji North America District. The lecture and discussion sessions will be given separately in English and Japanese. The theme for this year's English group is "Questions, Creating Our Journeys: Explorations that Lead to the Buddhist Path." To register, please send the application form below to your local temple.



Date

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time

9:30 am — 4:00 pm

Speaker—English Group

Rev. Frederick Brenion (Los Angeles Betsuin)

Speaker—Japanese Group

Rev. Akinori Imai (North America District)

Location

Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin
505 East Third Street, Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone: (213) 626-4200

Fee

\$12.00 (Lunch included)
Please make your check payable to
Higashi Honganji North America District.



If you have any questions, please contact your local temple or the district office at:

Higashi Honganji North America District Office
505 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, California 90013
Phone: (213) 621-4064 / Email: northamerica@higashihonganji.org

----- Detach Here -----

I would like to participate in the SoCal Dobo Local Retreat (English Group).

Name _____

Phone # or email _____

Fill out the form below and send it to your temple by April 7 (Sat).



T H E G A T E W A Y



This will be Frank Tanji's last treasurer's report for Gateway.

Our dear Sangha member has retired from his position after many years of dedicated service to our WCHHBT.

We extend to him our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz: Happy Hanamatsuri!

Difficulty Level: It's not Rocket Science!

1. Hanamatsuri celebrates the birth of
 - a. Siddharta Gautama
 - b. Shinran
 - c. Shakyamuni Buddha
 - d. Amida Buddha
2. Hanamatsuri always falls on
 - a. The first Sunday in April
 - b. The first Sunday after the full moon that occurs after the Spring Ohigan
 - c. April 8
 - d. April 1

Answers: a & c, c

Quote of the Month
 There are two great days
 in a person's life -
 the day we are born
 and the day
 we discover why.
 -William Barclay



T H E G A T H E R I N G

唯尊いということ 見義信香

四月八日は釈尊がお生まれになった日とされ、ここロサンゼルスでも八日に仏教連合会主催の花祭りが西本願寺でお勤めされます。後に釈尊となられるゴータマ・シッダールタ王子は誕生してすぐに七歩あゆまれて天と地を指さし、「天上天下唯我独尊」と言われた、と伝えられており、これは今年度の仏教連合会の花祭りのテーマとなっています。これは決して「世界中で一番偉いのはこの私だ」という傲慢な言葉ではありません。釈尊は人間存在そのものについての課題に正面から向き合い、そしていのちの根底に流れる真理に目覚められた方です。同様に、人として生まれた時、私たちもまた釈尊と同じ課題を担っているといえます。私たちはそれぞれ誰も代わるることのできないかけがえのないいのちを生きている存在です。そのことを私たちに教えているのが「天上天下唯我独尊」というこの言葉なのです。ですから、釈尊が「我」と言われる時、それはただ単に釈尊個人を指し示しているのではなく、私たちひとりひとりを指す言葉となっているといえます。言い換えれば、「天上天下唯我独尊」とは釈尊ただひとりが尊いということではなく、私たちすべてが掛け値なしの尊い存在であるという動かしがたい真実であるといえるでしょう。

「かけがえのないいのちを戴いて今こうして生きている。その事実だけであなたは掛け値なしに尊い存在なのです」頭で理解することはできても、この身がなかなかこの言葉に従えないのが私たちの姿ではないのでしょうか。だからこそ、「あなたの尊さを証明するための条件など何もいらない」と言われているにもかかわらず、尊い存在だと自分を納得させるための条件を必死になって探しているのでしょうか。「私は自分を価値のある人間だと思う。なぜなら・・・」この後に続くものを私たちは常に求めています。それは、ある人にとっては病気をしない身体をもっ

ていることかもしれません。学校で優秀な成績を修めたことかもしれません。一生懸命に働いて生活に困らない十分な財産を築いたことかもしれません。あるいは、社会の役に立っていること、日常生活を誰の手も借りずにできること、常に人に優しく接しようとして心がけていること、などを理由としてあげる人もいます。これらのすべてに共通していることは、こうありたい、あるいはこうあるべき自分の姿を思い描いているという点です。そして、思い通りの自分の姿に沿っている間は自分自身を認めることができます。これは、他の誰でもない、この私自身が「唯尊い」という事実を認めていないということを実に表しているといえるのではないのでしょうか。残念ながら自分の思い描く姿通りでい続けられる保証はどこにもありません。健康を自分は価値ある存在だと思うためのよりどころとしている人が病に倒れることもあります。社会に役立つ人間であることを自身の価値のよりどころとしている人にも老いは訪れ、若いときと同じように社会に貢献することはもはや難しくなります。そして、自分の価値を定める基準が崩れた時、絶望が訪れます。自分自身がもはや尊い存在と思えなくなるからです。そのような絶望を味わいたくないから、私たちは次々と自分の価値を決めてくれる基準を手に入れようと一生懸命になるのかもしれません。

「唯我独尊」という言葉に私たちの身が従うということは、決して自分に絶望しないということではないのでしょうか。どんなことがあっても、どんな自分の姿が明らかになっても、決して自分自身を見捨てない、ということだと思ふのです。「唯尊い」という真実を揺るがすものはなにもありません。私たちひとりひとりの存在は「・・・だから、尊い」のではないのです。

さらに、自分自身のかけがえのなさ、尊さに気づいた時に初めて私たちは同じようにまわりのあらゆる生きとし生けるものの尊さに目が開くのではないのでしょうか。つまり、私が全身で「唯我独尊」と宣言した瞬間に数えきれないほどのいのちそれぞれの「唯我独尊」という声が聞こ

えてくるのでしょうか。「私だけが尊い」のではなく「私が尊いと同じようにいのちを生きるものそれぞれが尊い存在である」ということに目覚めたなら、それぞれの存在が独特の光を放って輝きながら、しかも「唯尊い」という一点においてつながっている世界が目の前に開けてくるに違いありません。これが親鸞聖人が「われら」という言葉で示されている世界であり、釈尊の「我」という

(「唯尊い」4ページに続く)

お寺ニュース

花まつり法要

本年の花まつり法要は4月8日(日)午前10時よりお勤めいたします。この花まつりでは、毎年皆様にご持参頂いたお花で花御堂を飾り、お釈迦様のご誕生をお祝いいたします。また同日午後1時半より、小東京の西本願寺別院にて仏教連合会主催の花まつりがお勤めされます。ご家族お誘い合わせの上、ぜひご参詣下さい。

WCBT 基金募集ゴルフ大会

お寺の第22回基金募集ゴルフ大会が、5月11日(金)、インダストリー・ヒルズ・ゴルフクラブにて開催されます。午前11時より受付開始、午後1時よりショットガンスタートとなります。

参加費はお一人160ドルで、夕食費などが含まれております。ただ今参加者とティースポンサー、そしてブックレットの広告を募集しております。大会の収益はお寺の青少年教化活動や寺院維持費に使用させていただきます。皆様のご協力を賜りますよう、よろしくお願い申し上げます。詳しくは、見義信香開教使までお問い合わせ下さい。

母の日家族礼拝

5月13日(日)午前10時より、母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年のように、メンバーの方による母の日のメッセージがございませう。どうぞ皆様一緒にお参り下さい。

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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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
- 14 9:30 am NAD Local Retreat
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 29 11:00 am WCBT Family & Friends Fun Day

May

- 3 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00 am Study Class
- 11 11:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament

2018年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
- 5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)
- 14日 午前9時半 南加地区同朋研修会
- 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
- 29日 午前11時 お寺家族パーティ

5月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時半 法話会
- 6日 午前8時半 理事会

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どこまでしあわせの道具をそろえたら
人間はしあわせですと
いうのでしょうか

金子大榮