



GATEWAY



August-September 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 8



Sangha members observed the Obon/Hatsubon Service on July 15, with special speaker, Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa.

"How Can We Encounter the Teachings?"

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

One of the benefits to be married to a minister is that I can be the first person to read his articles. I am always happy to translate Bill's articles into Japanese so that he can also share his thoughts with Japanese speaking members at his temple. Most recently, he wrote on "Contemporary Issues" for the temple newsletter. In the article, he says, "As I became more interested in Jodo Shinshu, I began to wonder how one would incorporate the Teachings into everyday living or respond to contemporary social issues." And he admits that it was the sixties which nurtured the sense of responsibilities to society. Reading his article made me reflect upon my views on the teachings and where they came from.

Buddhism is a teaching of free-

dom and equality for all people. For me, this is more than just good words or lofty ideals. Rather, it always reminds me of the reality of society where we are still far away from accomplishing it. It was a movie "Cry Freedom" which showed me this reality for the first time. I watched the movie with my father when I was sixteen. The film was set in late-1970s apartheid-era South Africa. Denzel Washington starred as Steve Biko, a South African anti-apartheid activist. The film shows that following his arrest in 1977, Biko was severely beaten by state security officers and died. It was almost the first time for me to know that some people die for their freedom and equality. Honestly speaking, though, I never thought about the teaching of Buddhism then.

Throughout history, as I saw many more people fight for freedom and equality, not only for themselves but for all people, their life and death proved to me that the teaching of Buddhism is true and real and it is through them which profoundly relates the teaching to me.

Other people who greatly influenced me and led me to this path were my parents and Bill. They are the ones who directly opened the door to the teachings.

It was not until I was a junior in college that I talked about Buddhism with my parents. One of the classes I took was "Contemporary Issues in the U.S." We learned about cultural, economic, and political systems and various issues that minorities faced

Please see TEACHINGS, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Summer has arrived in a blaze of heat! Hoping all of you are keeping cool!

Our temple will be on vacation for most of August, so our staff would like the parents and/or grandparents of our students to share the following Aesop's fable with their youngsters:

The Boys and the Frogs

One day, some boys began to play near a frog pond. They began skipping stones on the surface of the pond.

As the stones were flying into the pond, the frogs became very frightened. Some frogs were struck by the stones and were injured. The boys were having a fun time unaware of what they were doing to the frogs.

Finally, the biggest and oldest frog bravely popped his head out of the water and pleaded, "Boys, please stop your game. It may be fun for you, but it is hurting us and may even kill us!"

The moral of the story according to Aesop is: Stop and think that your fun may be the cause of unhappiness of others.

In Buddhism, this little story is an example of mindfulness. To be mindful is to bring one's complete attention to the present on a moment-to-moment basis (or at least we try to be mindful!)

Have a great summer vacation. See you in September!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Ready For Rental!



After 5 months of hard work, the temple residence is now ready to rent.

Many kudos to Richard and Claudia for the many hours spent in supervising the contractors and obtaining the kitchen appliances and flooring material required to make the residence rentable.

Also many thanks to the clean-up crew from the sangha that put the finishing touches to the residence.





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

August Schedule

The August Board meeting and Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, August 5. We will then take our annual summer break so there will be no Sunday Services on August 12, 19 & 26. Services will resume on September 2.

September Board Meeting and Service

The September board meeting will be held on September 2 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00.

September Study Class

The Study Class will resume in September meeting on September 11 and 25 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.

Fall Ohigan

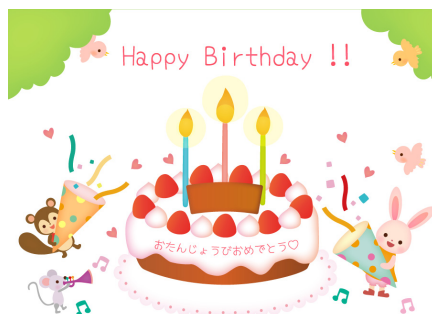
The Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 16 at 4:30 PM with a very special guest speaker Rev. Paul Imahara. Please join us and stay for the complimentary *otoki* dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LXI (61)

"Son of a Gun, It's Time for Oldies LXI (61)!" will be held on Saturday, September 29. It's our 61st Oldies with Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. The dance begins at 7:30 PM and ends at 11:30 PM with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-

up after the dance.

Presale tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the door. For info and song requests, contact Joanie at (626) 300-8947, joaniekmartinez@gmail.com or Lillian at (626) 780-9866, lilnish77@gmail.com. Your Toban chairs will contact you about work shifts and assignments. Plan to come to the Center by 6 PM (or before depending on last basketball team) to help with the set-up and at 11:30 PM to help clean-up since we may not have help available to us. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

**SEPTEMBER**

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitoshogonzalez, 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

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

AUGUST

Barbara Shiota, Jon Shiota, Brittany Kato, Wesley Hamachi, Derek Hamachi, K.C. Koga, Mark Mayeda, Brian Iwama, Aaron Aoki, Rick Fujimoto, Sachi Ezaki, James deLeon, Rene Kuwahara, Sharon Kuwahara, Chico Masai, Vickie Takemura, Joy Ormseth, Frederic Brenion, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata, Hideko Ikehara, Kylie Noguchi



T H E G A T E W A Y

TEACHINGS, *con't from pg. 1*

such as discrimination, the jury system, capital punishment, and so on. Every week students were required to submit a report, and at the beginning of each class, the professor introduced some of them. One day, a report he presented was written by a student who was a Christian. It was about how she can see an issue through Christian viewpoints. Listening to her report, I wondered how Buddhism would respond to it. This became opportunities to talk with my parents about Buddhism either on the phone or at dinner when I went back home during breaks.

Through conversations with my parents, I came to realize that the teachings of Buddhism are really like a mirror. It shows us the problems our societies have. At the same time, the teachings reveal that those problems are actually our problems because we are the ones who create these societies. Buddhism opens our eyes and ears to critical issues that we have. Facing those matters made my parents return to the teachings to listen to them again and again. This on-



Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa spoke at our Obon/Hatsubon Service.

going process became my foundation as a minister now. I see that Buddhist teachings are not in a textbook but are alive in the life of my parents.

When I met Bill, he had already decided to become a Jodo Shinshu minister. Although he was born and raised as a Catholic, he was firmly convinced that Jodo Shinshu was the path for him to walk. He often told me how much he was moved by the teaching of the Primal Vow of Amida which does not discriminate between young and old, good and evil, male or female, or American or Japanese.

His diligence was contagious and made me more interested in Jodo Shinshu teachings.

As I considered my path, I became aware that it was those who already encountered the teachings that lead me to listen to the teachings. Sharing their passion, enthusiasm, understanding, and perspectives, showed me what I would learn from Jodo Shinshu.

I believe there are many ways to encounter the teachings because everyone has different backgrounds, thoughts and circumstances. Therefore, there is no one absolute answer to "How can we encounter the teachings?" For Shinran Shonin, it was his teacher, Honen Shonin, who transmitted the teachings to him. Although he sincerely appreciated his teacher, Shinran Shonin did not emphasize that his way was the way for everyone. He understood that each of us should have our way. One thing he was undoubtedly convinced about was that we all inevitably have an opportunity to listen to the teachings. This means that the teachings are with our life continuously. It is Jodo Shinshu which profoundly entrusts us to be able to hear the teachings in this very life.

The moment that our hearts and minds relate to the teachings may occur unexpectedly, because it is beyond our prediction and calculation. All causes and conditions which work to make this encountering arise are, therefore, passed on as "Other Power" in the history of Jodo Shinshu.



Sangha member Phil Underwood, his paramedic associate Keith Deslonde and surgical ICU nurse Belinda Deslonde presented a class on "After You Call 911." It gave us vital information on what we can do to increase our chances of survival after calling 911 and before help arrives.





T H E G A T E W A Y

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

Introduction to Buddhism

“What is Buddhism?”

“How Does It Relate to My Life?”

Speaker: Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi



Date: Fridays, September 7, 14 & 21, 2018

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Place: East San Gabriel Valley Japanese

Community Center, Room 3

1203 West Puente Ave.,

West Covina, CA 91790

Fee: \$30.00*

For More Information:

(626) 689-1040 or dharma@livingdharma.org

About the lecture series:

2,500 years ago, a seeker awakened to a reality of self and his life. The seeker was called 'Buddha' (Awakened One). The reality the Buddha awakened to is also the truth within all of us. Buddhism has traveled through India, China, Japan and now in North America. His teachings greatly help us to understand ourselves and lead us to live a meaningful life. In this Lecture Series, we will learn the fundamental teachings of Buddhism and how they relate to our everyday life. Discussion is encouraged.



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 "WCHHB")



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA

HIGASHI HONGANJI

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

July 26, 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Autumn Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2018. Our guest The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2018
 Time: 4:30 PM
 Dharma Message: Rev. Paul Imahara

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

暑さがまだ続きますが皆様にはお元気でお過ごしのことと存じます。さて秋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

秋季彼岸法要（英語）

日 時 2018年9月16日 午後4時半

場 所 日系コミュニティセンター

法 話 今原ポール師

*法要後当番の皆様によるお斎がございます。

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President

理事長 マルチネス ジョン



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

SON OF A GUN, IT'S TIME FOR OLDIES LXI (61)!

SATURDAY, September 29, 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	Vincent Ave
Sunset Ave	West Puente Ave	
map not to scale	San Bernardino (10) Freeway	
	West Covina Fashion Plaza	

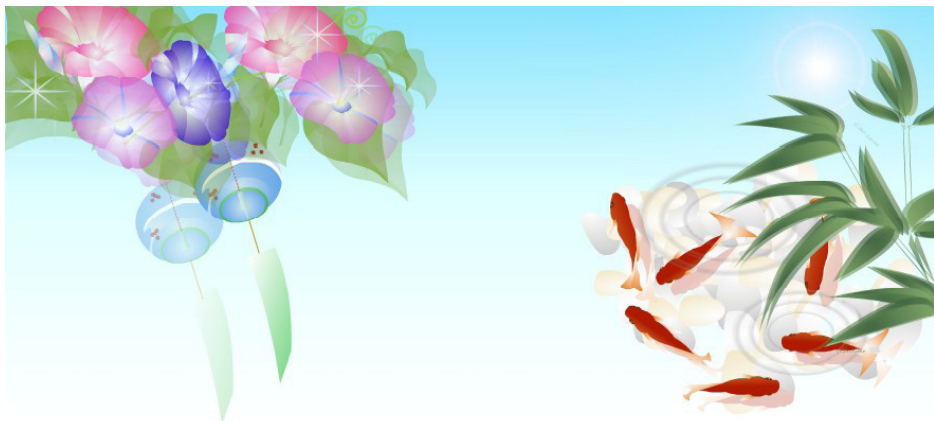
WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.

NO HEELS for Ladies.





T H E G A T E W A Y



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz: *Getting back to basics.*

Difficulty Level: Easy-Peazy

The Buddha gave his first sermon in beautiful Deer Park near Benares, India. This sermon contained the foundation of the Buddhist teachings which is

- a. Six Paramitas
- b. The Four Noble Truths
- c. The Eightfold Path
- d. The Larger Sutra of Eternal Life

Answers: b

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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 web-site 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!

Quote of the Month
Usually when we hear
or read something new,
we just compare it
to our own ideas.
If it is the same,
we accept it and say
that it is correct.
If it is not,
we say it is incorrect.
In either case,
we learn nothing.
-Thich Nhat Hanh



T H E G A T E W A Y

仏法との出遇い 見義信香

先日寺報に載せる夫の原稿を日本語に訳していました。それは「時事問題と仏法」というテーマで、その中で彼は「生活と真宗の教えをどのように結びつけていくのか、そして教えを通してどのように現代の問題に对应していくべきか」ということはいつも私の課題であります。」と語っていました。そしてそうした彼の聞法の姿勢は、60年代という激動の時代に経験したこと、感じたことに大きな影響を受けているとも述べていました。夫の言葉を読みながら、私自身の仏法との出遇いについて改めて考えていました。

衝撃を受けた体験として私が今でも覚えているのは、高校1年の時父に連れて行ってもらい観た『遠い夜明け』という映画でした。70年代の南アフリカ共和国のアパルトヘイト政策と活動家スティーブ・ビコについて描かれた映画です。人は平等であるということが当たり前ではない社会に初めて触れたという感覚でした。長い間このとき感じたことと仏法とのつながりについては考えたことはありませんでした。けれども、一切衆生は自由であり平等であるということを説く浄土真宗の教えを単なる理念や理想ではなく、深い願いとして、そして真理として頷くことができたのは、その時の体験があったからではないか、と思っています。

そして、仏法との出遇いについて考えた時、その門を開いてくれたのは両親と夫であったと思うのです。

高校を卒業して富山から静岡の

大学に進学しました。そこで「アメリカ現代論」という授業をとりました。そのクラスはアメリカの時事問題を扱い、毎週その問題についての自分の視点をレポートにして提出するというものでした。授業の始めには教授が何人かのレポートを紹介します。ある日、「キリスト教徒としてこの問題を見る」という視点で書かれたレポートが読まれました。その時初めて仏教徒としての私ということ意識したのです。それから、毎週のように実家に電話をして両親と様々な時事問題について話し、仏教徒としてその問題をどう捉えるかということについて多くを両親から学びました。生活や社会の課題を通して改めて仏法を聞き直していくという私の基本姿勢は、両親の姿から培われたものであると感じています。

夫は私が出会った時にはすでに浄土真宗の僧侶になると決めて学びを始めていました。真宗の教えに対する信頼は厚く、「この道こそ私が歩む道だ」という熱意に驚かされました。カトリックの家庭で育った彼を何がここまでにさせたのか、それを知りたいと思ったのが、真宗の教えをもっと学びたいと思ったきっかけの一つでした。

こうして考えてみますと、私は人との出遇いを通して仏法と出遇うことができたのだと気づかされます。そしてその人の姿が仏法を学ぶ私自身の姿勢を育ててくれました。

仏法との出遇い方はひとつではない、と私は思います。親鸞聖人のように師を通して真宗の教えに出遇う人もいるでしょう。学校での学びが文字通り出遇いとなることももちろんあります。また、すでに教えに生きる人の生き方が、

自分が教えに向き合うきっかけとなることもあるでしょう。実生活の課題が、改めてお寺で聞いてきた教えと出遇い直すきっかけとなることもあると思います。ですから、「どうやったら出会えますか?」という問いに答えはありません。答えがないということは、あらゆることが仏法に出遇う縁となるということなのです。それは仏法が私たちの周りに常に満ちているということの証でしょう。

真宗の教えとは、必ず仏法に出遇う身である、と私たちを深く信頼している教えであります。そして私を仏法に出遇わせてくれるはたらきを、真宗では「他力」という言葉で表現してきたのではないのでしょうか。

お寺ニュース

日本語祥月法要 / 法話会

8月の日本語祥月法要並びに法話会は8月2日(木)午後7時半、9月の日本語祥月法要は9月6日(木)午後7時半よりお勤めいたします。どうぞご家族、ご友人とお誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいますよう、ご案内申し上げます。

秋季彼岸会法要(英語)

本年度の秋季彼岸会法要は、9月16日(日)午後4時半より勤修いたします。法要後にはお斎が準備されます。どうぞ皆さまでご参詣下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

オールディーズ・ダンス

秋の基金募集オールディーズ・ダンスは、9月29日(土)午後7時半より開催されます。どなたでも歓迎致します。お気軽にご参加下さい。

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

August - September 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 8

August

2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
3-5 Las Vegas Trip
5 8:30 am Board Meeting
5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
12, 19 & 26 No Sunday Service

September

2 8:30 am Board Meeting
2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
7 7:30 pm Introduction to Buddhism 1
9 10:00 am Sunday Service
11 10:00 am Study Class
14 7:30 pm Introduction to Buddhism 2
16 4:30 pm Fall Ohigan Service
21 7:30 pm Introduction to Buddhism 3
23 10:00 am Sunday Service
25 10:00 am Study Class
29 7:30 pm Oldies Dance

2018年8月行事予定

2日 午後7時半 法話会
3-5日 ラスベガス旅行
5日 午前8時半 理事会
5日 午前10時 祥月法要
12、19、26日 日曜礼拝休み

9月行事予定

2日 午前8時半 理事会
2日 午前10時 祥月法要
6日 午後7時半 法話会
9日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
16日 午後4時半 秋季彼岸法要
23日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
29日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス

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一切は 縁において生まれ
縁においてあり
縁において去っていく

宮城 顓