Good morning everyone.
It is always a challenge to come here and speak but this was more difficult because I wasn’t given a theme. I don’t know how writers come up with stories to tell. I looked at this blank page and wrote “talk about what you know” which is the advice Karen Ezaki gave me long ago. But what do I know? Not very much. I know I need to listen, listen and listen some more. During last week’s lecture on Buddhism 101 I realized that I wasn’t applying what I’ve been learning these last 9 years.

Sensei referenced information from a children’s book about Buddha’s Teachings. The title was What is Evil? There was a list of bad things we must never do. Such as

- To kill living creatures unduly
- To steal – not just material items but time as well.
- To lie
- To spread false rumors
- To say mean things about people
- To use bad words

and so on.

After she read each item I found myself adding – like Trump after each line.

Then I caught myself. I realized I was doing exactly what the teachings tell us not to do which is to apply the lesson/teachings to others or judge others and not apply them to myself. The teachings are for me to realize, me to embrace, and me to apply to my daily life. At that moment I realized how much I still need to learn.

I’m no better than anyone else and I need to remind myself to treat people as a I or Thou, a living breathing person who deserves my attention and respect and not as an It or a non-being with no feelings.

As I sat in class, I thought of a former co-worker who was hard for me to work with. He was negative, he was difficult, he was a repetitive complainer. I didn’t like to be around him.

I realized over time I was treating...
him as an It. When I treated him as a person of value he became easier to work with. It didn’t happen overnight and it wasn’t easy trying to talk to him but slowly it became a much more enjoyable work environment. He turned out to be an extremely helpful and knowledgeable person and giving with his knowledge. What I learned from him years ago is now helping me out right now. It feels like a giant circle that is coming back around.

My favorite example from the Buddhism 101 class was a picture of a circle. Miyoshi Sensei drew a circle. It was complete and whole – she said this is how we imagine our life should be. Perfect and complete. Then she took out a section and it looked like a pie with a slice missing. This is how life actually looks. Life is never fully complete, it is never perfect – if we can accept that there will always be missing pieces and things that need to be done or issues we need to face, then maybe we’ll be able to enjoy our day to day life more. Every moment does not have to be perfect to enjoy the company of friends or enjoy the beauty of the day.

My niece Michelle asked a couple of weeks ago if life will get less hectic once she graduates from grad school and finds a job. I said no. Life will always be like this, it will always be a bit hectic. But it doesn’t mean you won’t be able to slow it down a bit and enjoy yourself.

I pinpoint my Buddhist journey 25 years ago when my father passed away at the age of 90. At his funeral service was the first time I remember hearing White Ashes. The words “Thus our bodies may be radiant with health in the morning, but by evening they may be white ashes.” stayed with me.

Ten years ago, my husband Ken passed away quite suddenly and I was a mess. He was in the middle of surgery to remove a pituitary tumor but there were complications and he never woke up. He was 49 years old. Ken’s passing was my greatest sorrow but in passing away he was also my greatest teacher. Those words from White Ashes 25 years ago brought me to this teaching.

Today, ten years later I am enjoying my life more and truly appreciate my friends and family. I still get annoyed with other drivers on the road and with my friends and family. I am frustrated with the bureaucracy when I try to help customers resolve their issues. And I still get stressed but over all my life has been pretty good. In the mornings I enjoy the time I spend outside as I eat my breakfast. I feel the sunshine, I admire the blue sky, I hear the birds, pet my cat and look at my flowers and vegetables. My mornings are my quiet time. Even the rumbling and honking horns from the freeway don’t disturb my mornings. This was not so 10 years ago.

I just want to say thank you to all of you. I couldn’t have imagined this life I have now. The Dharma has helped transform how I see my life and live my life. As a Sangha your example, your dedication and your laughter and joy is something I truly appreciate.

I am also grateful for all the Senseis that I have listened to. Hearing the different voices has helped me understand the teachings better. Thank you and I hope you have a great rest of the day.

**Quote of the Month**

Blindness
separates people from things;
deafness
separates people from people.

-Helen Keller
Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

WCBT will hold our 10th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 4, from 10 AM–3 PM. We will offer Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, original artwork to be purchased just in time for the holidays. And of course, lots of delicious food to be consumed. 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 AM. 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.

November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting

November Board Meeting will be held on November 11 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on November 13 & 27 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.

Ho-on-ko Service

Our Ho-on-ko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 18 at 4:30 PM. Our guest speaker will be Rimban William Briones from Los Angeles Nishi Hongwanji but we will also have several guest reverends, including Bishop Noriaki Ito, attending the service. The Dharma School staff will have a special lesson and activity focusing on Ho-on-ko for the children. Please join us as we welcome all the reverends 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 25 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.

Mochitsuki

WCBT’s annual Mochitsuki will be held on Sunday, December 9. The special mochi rice, which will be passsed 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 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 16 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

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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:
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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, Kaylyn Godoy, Kaz Uyechi, Shinuki Okamura, Brian Endo, Sany Nafarrete, Jordan Jucksch
拝啓

晩秋の候、皆さまにおかれましては元気にお過ごしのことと存じます。さて今年も報恩講の季節がやってまいりました。報恩講は親鸞聖人のご命日法要で私どもの信仰生活を見直す機会とされてまいりました。本年は左記の如く法話会におきまして日本語報恩講法要並び十一月祥月法要を併せて厳修いたしますのでご案内申しあげます。

日本語報恩講法要
二〇一八年十一月一日（木）
午後七時半

記

Hoonko is the annual memorial service of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin. Shinran lived from 1173-1262 and devoted his life to studying and sharing the teaching of Nembutsu. On this occasion we gather to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin.

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi
Johnny Martinez, President
Board of Directors
2018 MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of our paid 2018 members as of October 1, 2018. In the case of an inadvertent omission, please contact Rev. Miyoshi. Those listed below have already paid their 2018 membership dues. If you are not listed and would like to become a member, please use the application below.

M/M Ariza, Sally
M/M Arnheim, Bruce
Ms. Chen, Mei-Ling
M/M De Leon, James
M/M Earley, Jerry
M/M Earley, Mikio, Kimie & Kiyoshi
M/M Endo, Brian
M/M Ezaki, Leroy
Mr. Fujimoto, Glen
M/M Godoy, Jose
M/M Gonzalez, Mario
Ms. Hansen, Claire
M/M Haraguchi, Richard
Mr. Hatakeyama, Kris
M/M Hiroshima, Richard
M/M Hamo, Russell
M/M Horie, Mark
Mrs. Ikehara, Hideko
Ms. Ikehara-Nelson, Reiko
Mr. Ishikawa Tadashi & Ms. Kato, Kazuko
M/M Iwama, Danny
M/M Kagawa, Richard
M/M Kamimura, Akitoshi
M/M Kato, Ted
Mr. Kinjo, Katsuhide
Ms. Kinoshita, Sumie
Ms. Kobayashi, Sachiko
Ms. Kovacs, Yukiko
M/M Kuwahara, Steven
M/M Maekawa, Raymond
M/M Martinez, Johnny
M/M Masai, Chikara
Ms. Mayeda, Haruko
Ms. Mita, Susan
Mr. Miyashiro, Henry
M/M Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell
M/M Murakami, Akira (Supporting Membership)
M/M Nakaihara, Toyomi
M/M Nakasono, Eddie
Ms. Nishihara, Lillian
M/M Oda, Kazuo
M/M Oda, Yukio
M/M Ogino, Martin
Mr. Okamura, Shinyuki
M/M Okamura, Tatsuo
Ms. Oku, Michiko
M/M Ormseth, Tor
Mr. Ortiz, Manuel
Mr. Oshima, Eichi Larry
Ms. Oshima, Miyoko
M/M Oshita, Mitsuru
M/M Sakai, Masato
M/M Sato, Ken
M/M Shirota, Jon
Ms. Sommers, Jane
Ms. Takemoto, Margaret
M/M Takemoto, Takashi
Dr/M Takemura, Roy
Ms. Takemura, Vickie
Mr. Tanji, Frank T.
M/M Tawatari, Toshio
M/M Teragawa, David
M/M Underwood, Phillip
Ms. Uyechi, Kazumi
M/M Wear, Jack
M/M Wexler, Allan
M/M Yamashita, Bob

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

2018 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 (賛助護持会費) $______ (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)

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Today's Buddhist Quiz: Getting back to basics.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

When we deeply meditate on the transient nature of this world, we realize with sorrow that life is fleeting. It is like an illusion from beginning to end.

1. The previous passage is the opening two sentences from:
   a. The Coming Winds of Impermanence
   b. On White Ashes
   c. On Faith as Fundamental

2. The above passage was written by:
   a. Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu tradition
   b. Honen Shonin, Shinran’s teacher
   c. Rennyo Shonin, the eighth Abbot of the Honganji

Answers: b, c

Buddhism Quiz

Today’s Buddhist Quiz: Getting back to basics.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

When we deeply meditate on the transient nature of this world, we realize with sorrow that life is fleeting. It is like an illusion from beginning to end.

1. The previous passage is the opening two sentences from:
   a. The Coming Winds of Impermanence
   b. On White Ashes
   c. On Faith as Fundamental

2. The above passage was written by:
   a. Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu tradition
   b. Honen Shonin, Shinran’s teacher
   c. Rennyo Shonin, the eighth Abbot of the Honganji

Answers: b, c
おはようございます。
皆さんの前に立ってお話するのはいつも勇気のいることですが、今回は特に緊張しています。好きなことを話していいよ、と言われたからです。こういう状況になって、作家はどうしてストーリーを紡ぎ出すのだろう、と考えたりしました。真っ白なページに「私の知っていること」だけ書かれています。これは江崎カレンさんが随分前に私にアドバイスしてくれた言葉です。けれども、実際私が知っていることなど微々たるものだと感じています。

聞法が大切なことは知っています。聞けば聞くほどますます自分にとって必要だと思えてきます。先週は仏教入門講座がありました。仏教を学ぶようになって9年が経ちますが、これまで本当に生活の中で仏教を聞くということをしてこなかったということに気づかされました。講義では子供向けの仏教の本が紹介され、その中に「悪とは？」というコーナーがありました。それはきれいな丸の形でした。そして、これが私たちが期待している人生のあり方だという説明がありました。けれども、そのうち私は彼と同じ人として見ていない自分が気づきました。それから徐々に態度を変えるように気をつけました。そのうち一緒に仕事をする人が苦になりません。彼から学んだことが今私の役に立っています。ぐるりと巡る大きな輪の中にいるような気がしています。

私の仏教と出会ったのは、90歳（「如是我聞」6頁に続く）
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November
1 7:30 pm Howakai Shotsuki/Hoonko Service
3 10am-2pm Center Health Fair
4 10am-3pm Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
4 10:00 am Sunday Service
11 8:30 am Board Meeting
11 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
13 10:00 am Study Class
18 4:30 pm Hoonko Service
25 10:00 am Sunday Service/753 Service
27 10:00 am Study Class

December
2 8:30 am Board Meeting
2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service/Bodhi Day Service
6 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
9 7:00 am Mochitsuki
11 10:00 am Study Class
16 4:00 pm Year-end Service

2018年11月行事予定
1日 午後7時半 法話会報恩講法要
3日 午前10時 センターヘルスフェア
4日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア
4日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
11日 午前8時半 理事会
11日 午前10時 祥月法要
18日 午後4時半 報恩講法要（英語）
25日 午前10時 日曜礼拝／七五三法要

12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／成道会
6日 午後7時 法話会
9日 午前7時 もちつき
16日 午後4時 年末家族礼拝

煩は身をわずらわす
悩はこころをなやますという
親鸞聖人

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