* GATEWAY

December 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 11



Rimban Briones from the Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin gave the Dharma message at our recent Hoonko Service on November 18. The Sangha listened to his thoughtful message on social changes and Buddhism and also enjoyed a delicious otoki provided by Toban C.

"We Are All Equal"

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Buddhism declares that "All of us are equally precious" as the universal truth. This statement seems to be widely accepted in our society. Some may even feel that it is so obvious and nothing special. However, when we look back on our history this principle may not have been accurate all the time.

During Shinran Shonin's time, the value of people was determined by birth and occupation. No one ever imagined that an aristocrat landowner and a peasant or fisherman were equal. It is truly remarkable that Shinran Shonin relied on the teaching of equality which was contrary to common belief at his time.

Many of us feel fortunate that we are in the 21st century when equality is regarded as a virtue. However,

our society does not truly reflect this quality. Achievement of equality for all, is still a long way off. We sometimes forget and are indifferent to those who struggle for their dignity. It is delusional to think that our society is more advanced than the time of Shinran Shonin. In actuality, the problem we have is as critical as it was during his time.

In Buddhism, our world is called sahā. Śākyamuni Buddha describes sahā as the world where 'the strong vanquish the weak.' Rev. Akira Yotsutsuji says, "In this place, people solely depend on power. If you have power, you can be a center and rule the place. If you do not, you are neglected and exploited by the strong." In sahā world, people adhere to their own benefit and struggle for

power. Reflecting upon our society, we realize that we are truly in the *sahā* world.

What gives you the power might have varied according to the times. Birth and occupation gave you the power as in Shinran Shonin's time. Today, the numbers of nuclear weapons determine the strength of countries. More so, economic power is what everyone and every country is vying for.

Regarding the economy, immigrants are often seen as cheap labor. The strong do not hesitate to use them to make more profit. There is no equal relationship and they are not treated as human beings but just like tools to use.

The idea of equality is contrary

Please see EQUAL, con't on page 2

E W

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Hope all of you had a good Thanksgiving! This month will be very busy with mochitsuki and the Year-end service. The Dharma School students will give a short presentation to the Sangha during the Year-end. We hope you will eniov it!

The children experienced a fun activity during the Hoonko service. Mrs. Sato put together a kit that the students used to make a Shinran Shonin figure. They were told about the life of Shinran and then proceeded with the activity. They did a good job. Mrs. Sato even made miniature oiuzus for the Shinran figures. Thank you Pat!

On November 25 the children who turned 3, 5, or 7 during 2018 were honored by our temple. They each received a gift in recognition of their respective milestone years.

Congratulations to:

3 years old

Jordan Kiyomi Jucksch Parents: Kendra & Randy

Jucksch

Grandparents: Ruby & Richard Kagawa

Ollie Reynolds-Hale Parents: Lauren and Vere Reymonds-Hale

Grandparents: Hisako &

Dick Koga

5 years old

Riley Logue

Parents: Stacy & Tanner

Loaue

Grandmother: Lillian

Nishihara

EQUAL, con't from pg. 1

to the power game. Therefore, even though many of us know the meaning of equality, we hardly consider the significance of it in our lives.

Our society undermines the teaching, "All of us are equally precious." And we are so ignorant about the pains and suffering of others created by this distraction. It is Buddhism that illuminates this reality as a serious problem. The teaching of equality also reminds us that we are equally responsible to society because the society has been created by those who live there, that is, all of us.

Because our society behaves unlike the teaching of Buddhism, it is critical that we listen to the teachings of the Buddha. Buddhism is not to make us feel good or satisfy our expectation. Instead, Buddhism awakens us to our problems.

Relying upon the teachings of equality, we come to realize the serious issues we face. When this realization brings us a sense of responsibility to our own society, our path would be more clearly defined to achieve the goal of "All of us are equally precious."

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist guiz: Getting back to basics.

Difficulty Level: Easy Peasy

- 1. Hoonko service at Higashi Honganji began around 1294 on the occasion of Shinran's 33rd Memorial Service. Hoonko is also called
 - a. Wasan
 - b. Bando Bushi
 - c. Goshoki
- 2. Hoonko service at Higashi Honganji in Kyoto is observed annually:
 - a. For seven days and nights from November 21 -28.
 - b. On the second Sunday evening in November.
 - c. For three consecutive days in September.

Answers: c, a

Evan Louise Yoburn Grandfather: Phillip

Underwood

7 years old

Jayden Loque Grandmother: Lillian

Nishihara

Derrick Noguchi Grandmother: Haruko

Maveda

Cayla James Yoburn Grandfather: Phillip

Underwood

Tyler Kobayashi

Parents: Laurie and Bill

Kobayashi

Grandmother: Claire Hansen

Hope to see you on December 9 for mochitsuki and on December 16 for our Year-end service. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Gassho. Claire Hansen

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 December 11 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.

Mochitsuki

WCBT's annual Mochitsuki will be held on Sunday, December 9. The special *mochi* rice, which will be passed 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 an and others are made into the traditional New Years symbolic offering, okasane. Breakfast will be provided so come and join us in this annual tradition.

Year-end Service & Oseibo

Our Year-end Service, Oseibo gift presentation and 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. This year the Center kitchen will be under renovation so we are changing our usual pot luck dinner for Taqueros who will provide tacos, beans

& rice. Toban C will provide salads, desserts and drinks. We are asking everyone to donate \$5 to offset the cost. If you're planning to come please contact Dick Koga at (213) 305-2545 or dickkoga@gmail.com so we will know how many tacos we'll need.

Please join us for a fun evening of entertainment and feasting.

New Years Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 1, 2019, at 11:00 AM. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.

Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2019 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service for January.

Eitaikyo & General Meeting

Eitaikyo will be held on Sunday, January 13 at 10 AM. followed by the General Meeting.

A bento lunch will be provided by presale so please order your Eitaikyo lunch tickets by contacting Rev. Miyoshi or a Toban A member who will be selling lunch tickets to be determined. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

GATEWAY Staff

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

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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 Faebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhist-temple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Allison Haraguchi, Kyle Kagawa, Aki Kamimura, Chris Nakano, Denise Underwood, Larry Oshima, Susan Iwama, Johnny Martinez, Tristan Miyashiro, Helen Nakawatase, Sandra Nakano, Jonathan Ogino, Kristin Dubble, Merry Jitosho, Jessica Saucedo, Taylor Saucedo, Katrena Sakaue, Brandon Kwan, Brett Miyamoto, Chau Chen, Wesley Zhao Chen, Julie Griffith, Jack Wear, Dawn Masai, Sean Underwood, Richard Kagawa, Autrina Underwood, Takashi Takemoto, Michiko Oku, Stephanie Akune

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$T \quad H \quad E \qquad G \quad A \quad T \quad E \quad W \quad A \quad Y$

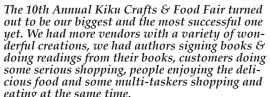
2018 Kiku Crafts & Food Fair











eating at the same mutti-taskers snopping and eating at the same time. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this fundraiser and invited their friends to come as well. A special thanks to Dickie Koga and Jen Higa and the entire kitchen crew for their organization and hard work, and to the purple Kiku crew for their support and enthusiasm.











$T \quad H \quad E \quad G \quad A \quad T \quad E \quad W \quad A \quad Y$

Pics from HALLOWEEN 2018









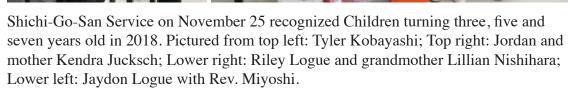


Shichi-Go-San









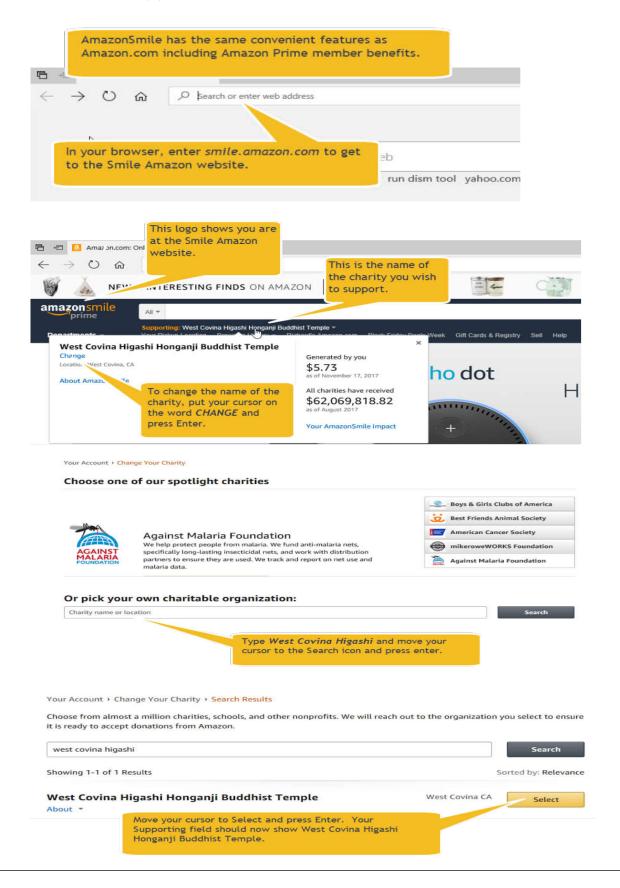






T H E G A T E W A Y

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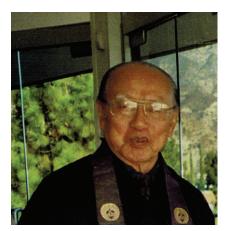
$T \quad H \quad E \quad G \quad A \quad T \quad E \quad W \quad A \quad Y$

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

The 2019 Family Retreat: How Buddhism Enriches My Life

A Dynamic Dialogue with Rev. Unno

Lecturer: Rev. Tetsuo Unno



Date: Feb. 16 (Sat.)~17 (Sun.), 2019 (Presidents' Day Weekend)

Location: San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple

6996 Ontario Road

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

Fee: \$45.00/adults; \$20/students (including college)

children under 12 are free

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)







▲ About the Lecture

Rev. Unno will explain, with the use of familiar, everyday examples, key terms of Shin Buddhism Shin such as Amida, Faith ("Shinjin"), Salvation ("Sukui"), Pure Land and Nenbutsu. Following his lecture, the floor will then be open for a free-flowing discussion, with ample time for Questions and Answers with regard to the explanations that had been put forth at the beginning of the lecture or any questions about Shin Buddhism.

- Rev. Tetsuo Unno was born in 1933 in Fukuoka, Japan and raised in the U.S.. He studied at UC Berkeley, Ryukoku University, Tokyo University, and UCLA. He has taught at CSU Northridge and Long Beach in the Department of Religious Studies. He served as a minister at the Seattle Betsuin, Senshin Buddhist Temple and is currently working part-time at Pasadena Buddhist Temple. Rev. Unno also works energetically on translations and editorials and participates as a speaker or a lecturer on Panel Discussions at Religious Conferences at UC campuses (Berkeley, Irvine, etc.), CSU campuses (Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, etc.), Colleges (Whitman, Smith, etc.) and private institutions (USC, Harvard).
- ◆ The \$45.00 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



pixta.jp - 25691481

(「教え」9ページからの続き) が仏法のはたらきなのです。仏法 はまた社会とそこに生きる私たち は不可分であるということ社会を は不可分であるとのような社会を 作り上げているのは紛れもなくも 達自身であるという事実を知ら 達自身であるというある人は平ち るのです。「あらゆる人はである」といるとは、私た対と ある」といる社会にさ ある」が生きしく あるしたです。

一切平等の教えは決して私達の 生き方となっていません。だけ らこそ、この教えを聞き続けで いくことが大切なのではないで ようか。あらゆる人の平等を 教えに立つ時、私たちの時代でも 教えに立つ時、私にもが見えれられる とが抱える問題やが見えれを ます。そして、私自身もそれで り出している一人であるという 実に頷く時、その社会のではない しようか。

Quote of the Month
I have a dream that
my four little children will
one day live in
a nation where
they will not be judged
by the color of their skin,
but by the content
of their character.
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

$T \quad H \quad E \qquad G \quad A \quad T \quad E \quad W \quad A \quad Y$

一切平等を説く教え 見義信香

仏教はあらゆる人は等しく尊い ということを真理として説く教え です。「全ての人は平等である」 この言葉は私たちにとっては耳慣 れたものです。けれども、およそ 800年前の日本、親鸞聖人の時 代は、人は生まれや職業によって その価値が決められ、それが当た り前の社会でした。そのような時 代の中であらゆる人が平等である という教えを真実として聞き続け ていかれたのが親鸞聖人という方 でありました。その方を祖師とし て仰ぐということは、私たちもま たその教えを聞き続けていくとい うことであり、それが真宗門徒と しての歩みとなるのではないかと 思うのです。

親鸞聖人の時代と21世紀の私 達の時代は違う、と多くの人が思 うことでしょう。たしかに「人は 平等である」という考えは今や広 く受け入れられているように見え ます。表立って異論を唱える人は 少ないでしょう。けれども、私た ちは本当にこの真理に基づいた社 会を作り出しているか、と聞かれ ると自信をもって答えられる人は ほとんどいないのではないでしょ うか。その意味では、「あらゆる 人は平等である」という言葉は理 念としては知っているし、反論も しない。けれども生活とは特に関 わりのない耳障りのいい言葉でし かないのかもしれません。それは つまり私たちもまた一切平等が当 たり前ではない社会に生きてい る、ということなのです。

仏教では、私達の生きる娑婆世界とは「強き者は弱きを伏す(強者伏弱)」世界であると示してい

ます。四衢亮氏はそれを、力を持を出てれるとなり幅高氏はそれをなり相がせる。これである世界である。と表すいます。と表すいます。となります。となります。となります。となります。というないはいたのではなく、いるのではないによりないはいる。というない世界ではなく。というない世界です。

なにを最も有効な力とするかは 時代によって変わります。出自や 職業が文字通り権力を示すことも あります。国レベルでは、核爆弾 を含む兵器をどれほど多く所有す るかで国の力を示してきました。 そして今は個人においても、国家 間においても経済力が何よりの のバロメーターになっています。

力の奪い合いに必死な世界においては、平等は相容れない考えです。ですからそれは隅に追いやられ顧みられることはありません。

外国の人を「安価な労働力」と して見る時、そこに平等う関係 も、さらには人として敬う目は も、かりません。文字通りそイノ」 ではなく、利用すだけ受けるです。必要な時だけ受けるだけ のでなくなったら切り捨てるわだった。 力の存在です。力の内容は変われだけ の存在です。対してしても、根本的な構造は何一つ社会を して見える問題は、今を生きる 達の問題でもあるのです。

「あらゆる人は平等であり、敬われるべき存在である」という仏教の教えに真っ向から背いているのが私達の社会です。そしてそれがどれほどの苦しみを生み出しているかに全く気づいていません。その社会の間違いに気付かせるの

(「教え/8頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

餅つき

今年の餅つきは12月9日 (日)午前7時より行われます。 150ポンドの餅米をつきま原 のでお手伝いをよろしておりたいます いたします。持ち帰って水にだいています餅米は一昼夜水にだけた後当日持って来ていただきます。 当日は当番Cによる朝食もございます。

修正会法要

修正会法要は2019年1月 1日(火)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

2019年度永代経法要は1 月13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16日(土)-17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。

1月祥月法要 / 法話会 1月3日 (木) 午後7時より 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

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



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December

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

January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 3 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00 am Study Class
- 13 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting
- 20 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 22 10:00 am Study Class
- 27 10:00 am Sunday Service

2018年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
- 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

2019年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 3日 午後7時 法話会
- 6日 午前8時半 理事会
- 6日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 13日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会
- 20日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

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平和のために何をしたらよいか。 君自身が平和の人となり給へ。

毎田周一『片片』