



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



T H E G A T E W A Y

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 enjoy 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 ojuzus 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 Logue
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 quiz: 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 Logue
Grandmother: Lillian Nishihara

Derrick Noguchi
Grandmother: Haruko Mayeda

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

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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/westcvinabuddhisttemple

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



T H E G A T E W A Y

2018 Kiku Crafts & Food Fair



The 10th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair turned out to be our biggest and the most successful one yet. We had more vendors with a variety of wonderful creations, we had authors signing books & doing readings from their books, customers doing some serious shopping, people enjoying the delicious food and some multi-taskers shopping 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 H E G A T E W A Y

Pics from HALLOWEEN 2018



Shichi-Go-San



Shichi-Go-San Service on November 25 recognized Children turning three, five and seven years old in 2018. Pictured from top left: Tyler Kobayashi; Top right: Jordan and mother Kendra Jucksch; Lower right: Riley Logue and grandmother Lillian Nishihara; Lower left: Jaydon Logue with Rev. Miyoshi.



T H E G A T E W A Y

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- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- Best Friends Animal Society
- American Cancer Society
- mikeroWOWORKS Foundation
- Against Malaria Foundation

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West Covina CA

Select

Move your cursor to Select and press Enter. Your Supporting field should now show West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple.



T H E G A T E W A 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



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(「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も教えます。つまり、そのような社会を作り上げているのは紛れもなく私達自身であるという事実を知らせるのです。「あらゆる人は平等である」ということは、私たちは誰もが生きている社会に対する責任を等しく負っているということです。

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。だからこそ、この教えを聞き続けていくことが大切なのではないのでしょうか。あらゆる人の平等を謳う教えに立つ時、私たちの時代や社会が抱える問題や過ちが見えてきます。そして、私自身もそれを作り出している一人であるという事実に領く時、その社会の中での生き方や歩みが定まるのではないのでしょうか。



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 H E G A T E W A 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います。

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のでしょうか。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が。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、力を持った者が世の中の中心となり幅を利かせ、その一方力を持たない者は、力を持った者に利用され隅に追いやられる世界である、と表現されています。私たちは力を奪い合うために争います。そこは共に生きる世界ではなく、いかに自分の利益をより多く得られるかに執着する世界です。そして同時に自らの持つ力によって傷つけている人々の苦しみに気づくことのできない世界です。

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力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、そこに平等な関係も、さらには人として敬う目線もありません。文字通りそれは人ではなく、利用すべき「モノ」なのです。必要な時だけ受け入れ、いらなくなったら切り捨てるだけの存在です。力の内容は変わっても、根本的な構造は何一つ変わっていません。親鸞聖人の社会を通して見える問題は、今を生きる私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すのでお手伝いをよろしくお願いいたします。持ち帰っていただいています餅米は一昼夜水につけた後当日持って来ていただきます。みんなで美味しいお餅をつきましょう。当日は当番Cによる朝食もごさいます。

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

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GATEWAY



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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

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

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

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』