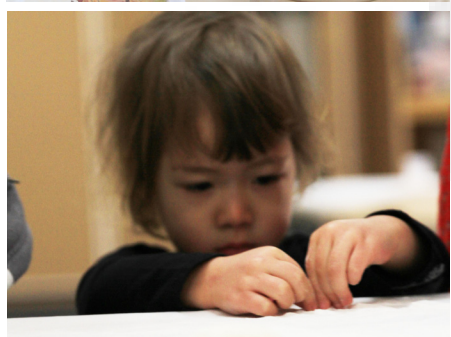




GATEWAY



January 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 1



Our annual Mochitsuki event was another pounding success! Both children and adults enjoyed participating in the kneading, pounding, and shaping of the delicious mochi for the coming New Year's festivities.

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Chōyū Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with you as a member of the sangha.

It has already been seven years since I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot. I have been given precious opportunities to listen to the teaching together with you at the Hōonkō services of the temples in your districts. Recently, I also have had the chances to welcome you at the Honzan during your visit to Kyoto for Hōshidan tours or other activities. When I see those of you who came all the way from Brazil, North America, and Hawaii at our spiritual home, the Shinshū Honbyō, and pay our respects in front of Shinran Shōnin's image



together, I always find myself embraced by the spirit of the Shōnin's teaching that "throughout the world, we are all brothers and sisters" with a renewed feeling of deep appreciation.

In the spring of 2020, the 13th

World Dōbō Gathering will be held in Kyoto. I sincerely look forward to sharing the joy of listening to the teaching with as many of you as possible at that event.

I wish to conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.

Temple Event Highlights:

- Jan 1 New Year's Service
- Jan. 6 Shotsuki Service
- Jan. 13 Eitaikyo/Gen. Mtg
- Feb 16-17 SLOBT Retreat
- Please See Temple News



T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Bishop Hiroshi Tajima
Chief Administrator, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts. I would also like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

As you may know, our denomination has already begun preparations for the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shōnin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023. I have come to realize that the purpose of celebrating the birth of the Shōnin and the establishment of the teaching is that I, myself, must become one who can truly appreciate the meaning of my life and share that appreciation with other people. I believe this is the only way I can live up to the wishes of the Shōnin who expressed his gratitude



for Amida Buddha's Original Vow of liberating all sentient beings through the words, "I am convinced that it was for me, Shinran, alone!"

In other words, for us who have been so fortunate to encounter the Shōnin's teaching, the celebration of those anniversaries is none other

than the act of repaying our debt of gratitude to him. I sincerely wish that this auspicious occasion will become the opportunity for all of us to deepen our appreciation for the Shōnin's birth and his establishment of the teaching of Jōdo Shinshū as the broadest path to Buddhahood, together with our sangha members.

It is no exaggeration to say that those events will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our denomination. Each of us, as one who has encountered the teaching, needs to take on the responsibility as a member of the denomination to truly realize a sangha of the nenbutsu where everyone can live together with mutual respect.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone!

As we enter the year 2019, Bill and I hope that the New Year will bring you and your family much joy and meaningful moments.

It is impressive to see the current brilliant innovation of technology. We all receive the benefits of the improvement, and our lifestyle has been more and more convenient and comfortable. Many of us assume that such a convenient life should bring us a bright future and happiness. Therefore, even though it seems that we almost achieve our ideal life, our desire for convenience shows no sign of slowing down.

On the other hand, it is Buddhism which always reminds us that pursuing a comfortable life does not necessarily lead us to a fulfilled life. Buddhism expresses our world of delusion with the "Six Realms"-

-the world of hell, hungry ghosts, animals, humans, asuras, and gods. Among them, the realm of gods, symbolizes where we achieve the ultimate convenience. We can leave any troublesome thing to others so that we can indulge ourselves in our own pleasure. This is exactly the life we are eager for. It is significant, therefore, that Buddhism sees such an ideal life as the life of suffering also.

When we solely seek personal gain and comfort, we are often ignorant of sacrifices of others. We care only about ourselves. Not only that, because everyone is so selfish, we have to live with fears that someone might take advantage of us. We no longer trust anyone and suffer from great desolation. This is what the realm of gods reveals to us.

The realm of gods simultaneously awakens us to the pain of others and liberates us from self-centeredness

and brings us back to the world of interconnectedness. It also shows us that having people whom we can sincerely trust, truly enhances our life.

We are in the midst of the world which vigorously pushes us forward toward self-convenience and benefits. All the more reasons why it is essential for us to listen to the teachings of Buddhism which directs us to experience truly meaningful and fulfilling lives.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Temple President, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all our members for their continued support and guidance. I would also like to thank our Dharma Seeds members, Mrs. Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mr. Phillip Underwood, Mrs. Joanie Martinez, and Mr. Johnny Martinez

Please see MIYOSHI, con't on pg. 8



G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

New Years Day Service

A special service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. 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 a.m. followed by the Shotsuki Service for January. We will also have a special New Years treat of *sashimi* after the service.

Eitaikyo & General Meeting

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

A bento lunch will be provided by presale so please order your Eitaikyo bentos by contacting Joy Kitaura or a Toban A member. The bentos will be \$10. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 8 and January 22 at 10:00 a.m.. 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.

Family Retreat

Our annual Family Retreat will be held this year on February 15-17, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. Join us as we have a *Dynamic Dialogue* with Rev. Tetsuo Unno who will be speaking on "How Buddhism Enriches My Life."

Be part of another great weekend with stimulating discussions, quality time with Sangha friends, access to the beach and as always, too much food, all set in the serene and scenic setting of the Central Coast. The fee for adults is \$45 (discounted fees for children) and includes meals and available temple lodging. For more information see the flyer on page 7.



Pet Memorial Service

A special service will be held on February 24 at 10:00 a.m. to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day.

GATEWAY Staff

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

Contributors: Claire Hansen, Michael Jitosho, Joanie Martinez, Phillip Underwood

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

Facebook: facebook.com/westcvinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com



JANUARY

Tami Kitaura, Casey Hansen, Kevin Maekawa, Carol Oshima, Kathy Oshima, Neil Kato, Cora Ormseth, Matthew Ormseth, Kristen Nakano, Hidemi Ena, Jesse Sakaue, Aya Kamimura, Aiko Yep, Don Frack, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase, Andrew Kobayashi, Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams, Matthew Musselwhite, Ryan Musselwhite, Maebyn Yoburn



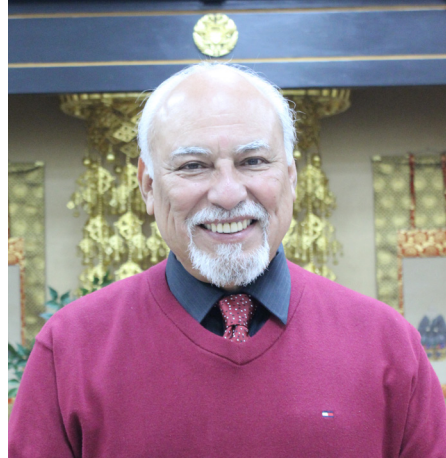
T H E G A T E W A Y

Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

Johnny Martinez, President

Happy New Year Everyone.

Welcome to the year of my Chinese zodiac sign, the boar or pig depending upon which calendar you use. From this clue, one can easily figure out my age...but more importantly is how I feel. The feeling I have is being fortunate, or perhaps as a Christian would say, "blessed" in my having encountered the Dharma. I experience it frequently in the temple through my interactions with the Sangha. No matter what the challenge or difficulty, members step up, volunteer, and freely give of themselves to benefit the temple. I cannot help but be inspired by the warmth and encouragement provided by Sensei and the members at all our encounters. When tragedy and loss occurs, I have found it to be a



place of support and deep compassion. I look forward to the coming year, and sharing all that life will provide with this family that is the Sangha.

In Gassho,
Johnny Martinez

DHARMA SCHOOL



The Dharma School students presented five cute "Knock-Knock" riddles for the Sangha during our Year-End service. They did a good job with their signs and questions with the help of Mrs. Sato and Mrs. Kagawa. I think we fooled most of the Sangha with our riddles! The taco feast, delicious salads, and yummy desserts were enjoyed by everyone during this fun event!

2019 is the Asian Year of the Boar. If you were born in the years 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, or 2007, you are a Boar! You are said to be laid-back, affable, and friendly. You love company and are popular according to Asian astrology.

Hope you had a great Holiday Season! Wishing you a healthy, happy, and wonderful New Year!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

New Year's Greetings from the Gateway Staff



The Gateway staff: Claudia Haraguchi, Rev. Miyoshi and Richard Kagawa (not pictured is Hisako Koga).

The WCBT Gateway staff wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the Sangha for their support during the past year.

It is our hope that together we will continue to listen to and share the teachings of the Nenbutsu with all our readers and fellow sangha

members through our newsletter.



Our adorable Dharma School children entertained the Sangha with a series of "Knock-Knock" riddles.



T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS



We present you the Toban chairs for 2019:

*(Toban A) Roy Takemura standing in for co-chairs Joy Kitaura and Hiroko Takemoto;
(Toban B) Lee Ezaki; (Toban C) Johnny Martinez standing in for Dick Koga.*

As 2018 comes to and end the Toban chairs, Joy Kitaura & Hiroko Takemoto (toban A), Lee Ezaki (toban B) and Dick Koga (toban C), extend a big thank you to the Sangha for assisting when called upon. Without your cooperation and unselfish willingness to help set up the hondo for Sunday services, preparing otoki for our special services and assisting with our various fund raisers, our temple would not be what it is today.

"Feliz Ano Nuevo", "Gong Hei Fat Choy", Hau' oli makahiki hou", "Felice Anno Nuovo", "Akemashite omedoto"

Bringing in the new year is celebrated by people of different ethnicities and cultures worldwide. A diverse group of people wishing all a Happy

New Year and world of compassion and peace. As your toban chairs, we wish you and your family a very happy and prosperous 2019!

TOBAN LIST

Tobans are responsible for providing obuppan/flowers for all services and a chairperson for major and Shotuki services

Toban A (Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto) (January–March, October–December)

Akune, Denise
Ariza, Edith
Fujimoto, Glen
Hamachi, Wesley & Connie
Kagawa, Richard & Ruby
Kitaura, Joy
Maekawa, Raymond & Nancy
Nakatani, Glenn & Jean
Nishihara, Lillian
Sato, Ken & Pat
Shirota, Jon & Barbara
Takahashi, Miyo
Takemoto, Takashi & Hiroko
Takemura, Roy & Judy
Takemura, Vicki
Teragawa, David & Cheryl
Underwood, Phillip & Autrina
Yamasaki, Ron

Toban B (Lee Ezaki) (April–June)

Chen, Mei Ling
Earley, Jerry & Jane
Ezaki, Lee & Karen
Gonzalez, Mario & Stephanie
Harrison, Michelle
Ikehara–Nelson, Reiko
Kato, Tanya
Kovacs, Yukiko
Mayeda, Haruko
Oshima, Larry

Toban C (Dick Koga) (July–September)

Godoy, Jose & Lynette
Hansen, Claire
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia
Kato, Ted
Koga, Dick & Hisako
Kovacs, Yukiko
Kowalski, Kurt
Martinez, Johnny & Joanne
Ogino, Martin & Leslie
Ormseth, Tor & Diana
Oshita, Mitsuru & Mitsu
Underwood, Steve & Denise
Wexler, Alan & Emi
Whang, Bruce
Yamashita, Bob & Kay

THANK YOU!



T H E G A T E W A Y

Mochitsuki & Year-End 2018!



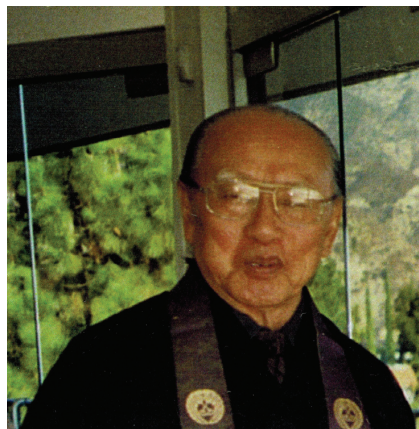


T H E G A T E W A Y

W e s t C o v i n a B u d d h i s t T e m p l e P r e s e n t s

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 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



MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 2

for organizing our lecture series as well as taking care of Sunday services while I was out of town.

I sincerely hope that 2019 will be filled with learning experiences for all of us. I look forward to listening to the words of Shinran Shonin with you.

Gassho,
Nobuko Miyoshi

(「新年」9頁からの続き)



くれる声に耳を傾けていきたいと思
います。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

合 掌

Quote of the Month

For almost 20 years
I have witnessed war crimes
committed against women,
girls and even baby girls
not only in my country,
the Democratic Republic of
Congo, but also in many other
countries, to the survivors
from all over the world,
I would like to tell you that
through this prize,
the world is listening to you and
refusing to remain indifferent. The
world refuses to sit idly
in the face of your suffering.
– Denis Mukwege
(Nobel Peace Prize 2018 Winner)



T H E G A T E W A Y

年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷暢裕

海外に住まう全ての同朋の皆さまに年始のご挨拶を申し上げます。

皆さまとともに、また新たな年を迎えられたことを心より嬉しく思います。

さて、開教司教というお役目をいただき、早7年余りが経過しようとしています。皆さまにはこれまで、毎年の別院報恩講をはじめとして、それぞれのお寺でともに聞法させていただき貴重なご縁をいただいてまいりました。開教区でのご縁に加えて、最近では、参拝や奉仕団などで上山される皆さまを、ここ東本願寺でお迎えするご縁にあずかることも多くなってきました。ブラジルやアメリカ西海岸、ハワイでお会いした皆さまを、全ての人たちの帰依処であるここ真宗本廟でお迎えし、ともどもに御真影に手を合わせるとき、改めて「遠く通ずるに、それ四海の内みな兄弟とするなり」と願われた宗祖の眼差しを、新鮮な感動をもって受け止めさせていただいております。

来る2020年春には、13回目となる世界同朋大会が予定されております。一人でも多くの方がこの大会に参加され、ともどもにこの真宗本廟に集い、本願念仏のみ教えに出会う喜びを分かち合うことができたなら、私にとってこれほどの幸せはありません。

私たち一人ひとりに、如来からの呼びかけが開かれていくことを心より願い、年頭の挨拶とさせていただきます。

本年もよろしくお願い申し上げます。



新年のご挨拶 見義信香

謹んで新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまならびにウェストコヴィナメンバーの皆さまには大変お世話になりました。また法要の準備や後片付けなど率先してお手伝いいただき、不在時には日曜礼拝を勤めくださった池原・ネルソン・礼子さんやアンダーウッド・フィリップさん、マルティネス・ジョニーさんなどダルマ・シーズの方にも心からお礼申し上げます。

昨今のテクノロジーの技術躍進には目を見張るものがあります。私たちの誰もがその恩恵に預かり、生活はますます便利で快適になっています。「もっと便利に」「もっと快適に」という欲求はとどまるところを知りません。

一方で仏教は、便利で快適な生活を追求することが、必ずしも幸せな生き方とは結びつかないということを教えてくれているように思えます。仏教は六道（地獄、餓鬼、畜生、阿修羅、人、天）という世界観を通して私たちの迷いの世界を表現していますが、そのうちの天とは私たちの欲求が全て叶う世界です。ここでは面倒なことは全て他の人がやってくれます。まさに便利で快適な生活の究極のあり方といえます。しかし、今の私たちがまさに望んでいる生活であるにも関わらず、仏教はこの世界もまた私たちの迷いの世界だと言います。

天界が自らの快適さと利益をもっぱら追求する世界であるということは、そのために利用する他の多くの人の犠牲の上に実現する世界であるということです。そして、その事実を当たり前とするかまったく気づかないのです。そして同じように自ら

の利益を追求する人によって今度は自分が利用されるのではないかと、という不安と隣り合わせとなります。結果として心から信頼する人間関係を築くことはできません。つまり仏教は人の痛みや苦しみに無頓着であること、そして人を信頼できないということ、私たち自身の苦しみの根源と見ているのです。

これは裏を返せば、痛みや苦しみを通して人と繋がること、そして信頼する人との出遇いが私たちの人生を真に豊かなものにしてくれるということを教えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。

世界中を挙げて便利さと快適さに向かって邁進している今だからこそ、私たちの人生にとって何が本当に大切なことなのかを立ち止まって考える時間が必要なのだと思います。聞法を通して私も人も共に賜った人生を生き活きと歩む道を教えて

(「新年」8頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

修正会法要

修正会法要は2019年1月1日（火曜日）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年の永代経法要は1月13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お尋ねください。

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

January 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 1

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

February

- 3 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 10 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 12 10:00 am Study Class
- 15-17 WCBT Family Retreat
- 24 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 26 10:00 am Study Class

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

2月行事予定

- 3日 午前8時半 理事会
- 3日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 7日 午後7時 法話会
- 15日-17日 家族リトリート
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 / ペット追悼法要

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汝、無量寿に帰れ。

無量寿に帰って、無量寿を生きよ。

信國 淳『寿命』