



GATEWAY



February 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 2



After the January Shotsuki Service, Sangha members enjoyed some delicious hamachi and ahi tuna generously provided by Rev. Miyoshi, along with bottles of delicious Shirataki Junmai Ginjo Sake. Also in January, the new 2019 Board of Directors for our Temple was installed at our Eitaikyo Service.

A New Chapter for My Story

Phillip Underwood
WCBT Member

In 2014 I published a fiction novel that I had written over the past few years, and since joining WCBT I've contributed several articles for the Gateway Newsletter, so you'd be safe in assuming that I'm a writer, but I'm not. At least in my mind I'm not. In my mind I think myself as more of a storyteller. I love to hear a good story and, likewise, I love to tell a good story. And saying all of that, the story I know the best and, hopefully tell the best, is my own. From the easy things like high school athletics, my Naval service, my fire department career and my kids and grandkids to the more difficult things like my mother's premature death and my first wife's terminal cancer. And I can't leave out the journey to

find and attend a Buddhist Temple; all parts of my story.

Well my story has a new chapter! It's called the 2018 Hoonko Hoshidan Tour and it was added during the last week of November. But let me back-up because all of this began months before. Long before I'd ever even heard of Hoonko, members of our Sangha, unbeknownst to me, considered me worthy of the experience of attending the Hoonko Hoshidan Tour in Kyoto, Japan. I have no idea how or why that happened, but it did, and for that I'm eternally grateful. When I was informed of the decision by Rev. Miyoshi I thanked her but had no idea what was in store for me, so I set out to educate myself as best as I could. Still I was unprepared for

what lay ahead.

I attended the Tour with 3 other travelers: Joseph (Joey) Deschenes from Berkeley, Nicole Shrieves from Higashi, and Lynnell Long from Chicago. Our Tour Guide was Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa from Higashi. Nicole left 2 days earlier to tour Tokyo and stayed an extra day to see more of Kyoto so we didn't travel with her, and Rev. Hasegawa stayed on a few days extra so he could visit his family as well.

We left LAX Saturday morning on a 12-hour flight to Haneda Airport in Tokyo, and then took a 1-hour flight to Itami Airport in Osaka, and finally a 1-hour bus ride from Osaka to Kyoto. We checked in at the San

Please see STORY, con't on page 4



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

After the long, hot summer months, it's been good to experience cooler temperatures and rainy days! February promises to continue with the cool, rainy weather (according to the Farmer's Almanac), so bundle up when visiting San Luis Obispo.

We hope that many of you will be able to take the opportunity to attend our annual Presidents' Day weekend retreat to that beautiful Central California temple. It's always a wonderful way to have fun while learning and sharing the Dharma. There will be activities for children who will attend this event.

On the 24th of February, we will be remembering our pets who have passed away during the past 12 months. Please bring a photo or some remembrance of your pet so that we can honor him/her during our service.

On March 17, our Spring Ohigan service will be observed. The Dharma School staff will have a lesson and activity for our youngsters. Please look for our email blast for further details about this special evening service.

Keep warm and dry, and have a great time in San Luis Obispo!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

23rd Annual Golf Classic "Comics"



DATE: Monday, June 3rd, 2019

PLACE: Hacienda Country Club in La Habra Heights

Mark Your Calendar!



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 February 12 and 26 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.

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, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213)219-6140.

Pet Memorial Service

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

Cherry Blossom Festival

The 2019 West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00-4:00 PM and will be held at the Plaza West Covina, 112 Plaza Dr. The Temple will not have a booth but ESGVJCC will need help setting up and breaking down after the festival. Please come out to support the Center.

Spring Ohigan Service

Spring Ohigan will be observed on March 17 at 4:30 PM. We will have a special guest speaker so please join us for this special service and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

Oldies Dance LXII (62)

"Dancing Anew @ Oldies LXII (62)!" will be held on Saturday, March 23. It's our 62nd Oldies with Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Please note the **new hours**. The dance will begin at **7:00 PM** and end at **11:00 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 4:30 PM to help with the set-up and at 11:00 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 services.



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



FEBRUARY

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Yoshitaka Ena, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosho, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, Joanie Martinez, Deanna Ormseth, Sophia Saucedo, Jose Godoy, Kiyoko Nakakihara, Matthew Woo, Glenn Tomita, Ryan Shimomura, Judy Tawatari, Connie Hamachi, Amanda Jean Underwood



T H E G A T E W A Y

STORY, con't from pg. 1

Crane Hotel about a half-mile (a short walk!) from Higashi Honganji, and we briefly visited Higashi Honganji on Sunday.

But the real touring and sightseeing started in earnest on Monday. We took a cab to Ginkakuji "Silver Palace", and then walked to Anrakuji and Higashi Honganji Okazaki Bet-suin (Shinran's residence). Throughout the week I was able to get many photos of temple exteriors and the surrounding grounds but unfortunately photos were not allowed inside the structures of the altars nor of the artwork.

On Tuesday we undertook our most ambitious and physically challenging touring efforts. We visited Shoren'-in, Chion'-in, Maruyama Park (Yoshimizu Sangha), Otani Sobyō, Kodaiji and Kiyomizu-dera (a shopping area beautifully lit up at night). That evening we had dinner at Ten-ichi Restaurant (tempura) with Higashi Honganji Diet Members. Needless to say we all slept pretty well that night at the San Crane Hotel.

Also on Tuesday we checked out of the San Crane and into Higashi Honganji for the retreat program. For the next 2 days and nights we ate, slept, worshiped and studied there. Dr. Michael Conway (Otani University) was our lecturer and his main subject was the Nembutsu, its origin, meaning and impact. In our classroom we were unexpectedly treated to a huge box of snacks and

goodies to eat from the family of Rev. Miyoshi, and although we tried our best, we (the four students and five ministers) could not consume all of the tasty contents. We donated what remained to the coffee room in the annex building.

Also, on Wed. Nov. 28th we attended the final Hoonko Service held at the Honzan. It was a very memorable experience to hear the chanting but the more impressive part was seeing the monks on the floor in front of the Naijin and Gejin swaying and gesturing in unison. The ceremony lasted over 90 minutes and we were seated on the floor along with thousand's of other observers. There were no empty spaces for seating or even standing, so many people could not physically endure the entire experience and began to leave early. I'm not sure but I imagine that they continued to observe the service from the video monitors placed inside and outside of the Honzan.

On Thursday morning we also attended the Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony where nearly 20 people received their Homyo (or dharma name). Nicole, Joey, and Lynnell all took part. Nicole was the first person called to sit at the front of the altar and she took an honorary oath on behalf of the many other members. Having had my ceremony two years ago I watched in admiration. Later that morning we met with Overseas District Abbot Choyu Otani and his son, who had performed the ceremony earlier that day. It was a great honor to be in their presence in a private meeting. They were very down to earth in their interaction with us.

One of the requirements of staying at Higashi is participating in clean up duties. From what I'd heard a lot of the assignments are tedious and weary so I expected nothing less than scrubbing floors on



our hands and knees. I was pleasantly surprised when our responsibility turned out to be cleaning an outdoor area in Shosei-en Garden, a park located two-blocks away from the Temple. We swept and raked a portion of the park until all of the dead leaves on the ground were removed. To me it really didn't seem like work because all we did was make a beautiful place even more beautiful.

One of the most significant places we visited was the one that we visited last. A Japanese National Treasure named Rengeo-in Temple or as it's commonly known as Sanjusangendo or 1000 Buddha's. 1001 statues of the Buddhist Deity, Juichimen-senjusengen Kanzeon, which is most often called by the simplified name "Kannon". There are 1000 standing images of Kannon surrounding a gigantic seated statue. All of these are recognized as National Treasures. Placed in front of these 1001 statues are 28 other larger than life images of guardian deities. For me the entire display was overwhelming and quite unexpectedly I became very emotional and broke into tears as dozens of other tourists walked past me. After a few moments I recovered and was able to finish the exhibit.

Please see STORY, con't on pg. 5





T H E G A T E W A Y

STORY, con't from pg. 4

From there we took cabs back to Kyoto Station and walked to the iconic Kyoto Tower to get an unprecedented view of the city and foothills. The view from the tower literally took our breaths away. We could clearly see several temple grounds, park areas and noted buildings and it was yet another view of places we had hiked to and through. With such a commanding perspective, Rev. Hasegawa explained exactly how the Nishi and Higashi Temples came to be located where they are. Two brothers founded the temples and it seems that there was a slightly bitter element to their relationship. I guess that no matter how high-ranking or important we become, ordinary emotions and human nature remain embedded within us.



A few hours later we had taken the limo bus from Kyoto to Osaka and after a short wait, departed for Tokyo and the final return flight to LAX. After passing through customs I was home a little over an hour.

Needless to say, I've changed. I am not the same person that left for Tokyo on November 24th, but just how I've evolved isn't clear to me yet. Things that used to be important to me are still important, but some are more important and others are less. I have a deeper admiration for family and an appreciation for the journey that each person is upon. As I said at the outset of this article the observance of Hoonko has added another chapter to my life and story, but it's not the final chapter, there's more to come. We'll just have to wait and see.

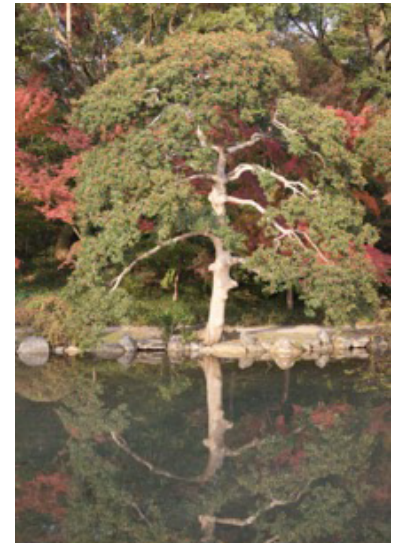
(「旅」 9ページからの続き)

突然感動の波が訪れて涙が溢れ、しばらくそこを動くことができませんでした。

旅の締めくくりに京都タワーに登りました。景色も良く京都の街並みが一望できました。ここに立って、長谷川先生の説明を聞いて初めて、なぜ大谷派が東と呼ばれ

て本願寺派が西と呼ばれるのか納得しました。

奉仕団に参加する前と後で自分自身が変わったと実感します。ただ、どのように変わったのかと言われるとまだはっきりと説明ができません。今まで大切に思っていたことは、依然として大切なままです。けれども、どれほど大切か、それは物事によって多少の変化が起こったように感じます。家族に対する尊敬の念が深まりました。それぞれの人が歩む人生にも深い敬意を払います。今回の報恩講奉仕団は私の人生の新たな一ページとなりました。これからも様々な経験が私の人生となっていくことでしょう。こうした経験がこれからの人生でどのように生きてくるのか、それがとても楽しみです。



Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz: Vocabulary related to Buddhism:

Difficulty Level: Easy... maybe

1. ____ Bodhi Day (Dec. 08) A. New Year's Day Service
2. ____ Hoonko (Nov. 28) B. This service is a commemoration of the enlightenment of Gautama Buddha.
3. ____ Shusho-E C. Memorial service for Shinran Shonin
4. ____ Joya-E D. This is a general memorial service for all our sangha members who have passed away.
5. ____ Eitaikyo E. This service takes place on Dec. 31 when the sangha gathers to express gratitude to our Dharma friends for their kindness throughout the year.

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-E, 5-D

Our deepest condolences to the family and relatives of...

Mrs. Kikuye Koga (94)
December 20, 2018

Mrs. Etsuko Omagari (79)
January 18, 2019

Namu Amida Butsu









T H E G A T E W A Y




WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

DANCING ANEW @ OLDIES LXII (62)!!

SATURDAY, March 23, 2019
7:00 to 11:00pm (NEW TIME!)

-  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

Inwindle Ave	WCBT/ESGVJCC 1203 West Puente Ave West Covina 	Vincent Ave
Sunset Ave	West Puente Ave San Bernardino (10) Freeway	
map not to scale	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

*To All Past And Current WCBT Members,
Families and Friends*

SAVE THE DATE!

**BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR BABY BUDDHA
(OR SANGHA REUNION/FUN DAY)**

*Join us for an afternoon
Full of Fun, Food and Good Times!*



*Sunday, April 14, 2019,
(Following Hanamatsuri Service)
11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
West Covina Buddhist Temple (Social Hall)
1203 West Puente Ave.,
West Covina, CA*

**More information coming regarding food
and the format of the event*



T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month

If you live long enough,
you'll make mistakes.
But if you learn from them,
you'll be a better person.
It's how you handle adversity,
not how it affects you.
The main thing is
never quit, never quit, never quit.
-Bill Clinton



T H E G A T E W A Y

始まりの旅

アンダーウッド・フィリップ

昨年11月の報恩講奉仕団は私の人生に新たな物語を加えてくれました。

お寺の代表としてこの奉仕団に参加させてもらえると分かった時はとても驚いたと同時にありがたく感じました。正直この奉仕団にどのような心持ちで望めばよいのかはよくわかりませんでした。自分なりに精一杯準備をしました。

今回の奉仕団には私の他にバーレーのジョーイさん、別院のニコールさん、そしてシカゴからリネルさんが参加しました。長谷川先生が引率を勤めてくださいました。

ロサンゼルス空港から12時間の空の旅を経て私たちは羽田空港に到着しました。そこから乗り継ぎ便に乗って伊丹空港まで移動し、さらにバスで1時間かけてようやく京都に到着しました。真宗本廟から半マイル離れたホテルにチェックインをして、少しだけ本山に寄って、長かった1日が終わりました。

翌日は長谷川先生が京都観光を予定してくださいました。まず訪れたのは銀閣寺です。その後は安楽寺と岡崎別院に行きました。ホテルから銀閣寺まではタクシーで移動しましたが、その後はひたすら徒歩でした。期間中数え切れないほどの写真を撮りましたが、ひとつ残念だったことはほとんどのお寺では内部の撮影ができなかったことでした。

初日もずいぶん歩きましたが、2日目はその比ではないぐらいの距離を歩くことになります。訪れ

た場所は青蓮院、知恩院、円山公園、大谷祖廟、高台寺、清水寺です。夕食は天ぷらのお店で大谷派の議員の方々と一緒に食事をいただきました。その日は言うまでもなくホテルに戻ると気を失うように眠りにつきました。

翌日からは奉仕団が始まります。ホテルをチェックアウトして研修会場である真宗本廟に移動しました。奉仕団では文字通り参加者と寝食を共にする3日間を過ごしました。講師は大谷大学のコンウェイ・マイケル先生で、念仏の起源と意味、そして影響について講義をしていただきました。見義先生のお母様からお菓子の入った大きな差し入れの箱が私たち宛に届けられていました。日程中存分に楽しみ、食べ切れなかった分は後の方達へと置いていくことにしました。

11月28日(水)は報恩講法要の御満座がお勤めされました。声明の響きもさることながら、僧侶の一体となったダイナミックな動きは一生忘れられない思い出となりました。1時間半を超える法要に何千人もの人たちと一緒に参加をさせてもらいました。御影堂は隙間が全くないほどの満堂で、一旦は中で座ったものの身体の都合で退出する人も見かけました。多くの方がお堂の内外に設置されたテレビのモニターを通して法要を見守っていました。

木曜日は帰敬式があり20名近くが受式されていました。その中には北米からの参加者ニコール、ジョーイ、リネルもいました。そのうちニコールは受式者を代表して誓いの言葉を述べました。彼らの帰敬式を見守りながら、私は2年前に受けた帰敬式のことを思い出していました。同じ日の午前中には、大谷暢裕開教司教とご子息

の裕さんへご挨拶に伺いました。非常に光栄なことであると同時に、お二人がとても気さくに話しかけてくださったことが印象に残りました。

奉仕団の日程中に清掃奉仕の時間がありました。床磨きのような掃除を予想していたのですが、私たちに割り当てられたのは渉成園の庭の掃き掃除でした。すでに美しい庭の景色を楽しみながら、さらに美しくするお手伝いを少しだけさせてもらいました。

今回の旅行で訪れた場所で最も思い出深かったところの一つが、最終日に訪れた三十三間堂でした。千体もの千手観音像を目の前にした光景は圧巻の一言でした。

(「旅」5ページに続く)

お寺ニュース

2月・3月日本語祥月法要 法話会

2月の法話会並びに祥月法要は来る2月7日(木曜日)午後7時より、また3月の法話会は3月7日(木)同じく午後7時よりお勤めします。どうぞご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

お寺家族リトリート

来る2月16日(土)～17日(日)に家族リトリートをサンルイス・オビスポ仏教会にて開催いたします。参加費は45ドル、宿泊費はお寺に宿泊される場合は無料です(近隣のモーテルにも宿泊可能ですが、別途宿泊費がかかります)。日常の喧噪を離れ、仏法に耳を傾ける絶好の機会です。是非お誘い合わせの上ご参加下さい。詳しくは見義信香開教使までお問い合わせ下さい。

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

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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

March

- 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
- 16 10am-4pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 17 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service
- 23 7:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service

2019年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
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 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

3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
- 10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 16日 午前10時 センター桜祭り
- 17日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要
- 23日 午後7時 オールディーズダンス

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軽蔑するものは軽蔑され、
拝むものは拝まれる
毎田周一『片片』