I attended a workshop on February 1-3, 2019 at the impressive Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California along with approximately 25 other participants. This workshop with the topic of “Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership” was sponsored by the BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) with Nishi temples mostly from the bay area. Representatives from the Northwest (Spokane) and NorCal (Sacramento) were also present. An invitation was extended to the Higashi Honganji temples of Newport Beach, West Covina, Berkeley, and the LA Higashi Betsuin. All of our temples are different in size, origin, and location, and yet, many have the same fundamental challenges. The main problems appear to be in declining membership, shortage of ministers, financial and internal politics, or factions within a Sangha.

Bishop Umezu of the BCA gave a warm, wonderful greeting, “Your participation is in itself a sign of a good leader.” He reminded us that our life here is due to billions of years of light that brought us to this moment and to not waste this opportunity. But more importantly he stated, “I do not expect you to be a good leader. I would like to see you wanting to know more about Shinran Shonin and his message. I would like to see you become good friends with him. I expect nothing more and nothing less.” Rev. Marvin Harada, the BCA’s co-director for the Center for Buddhist Education or CBE, greeted us with encouragement. He said that the key to our success is Buddhist education, developing programs that will excite sangha members and draw new people to the temple and to Shin Buddhism. Rev. Marv has been very successful in developing effective academic and multimedia programs at OCBC. Rinban Nori Ito of Higashi also gave a short message to the participants. He emphasized that we must focus on the teachings through participation, not just as board members. Earlier in the evening there was an example of us being viewed as patients and the Buddha as a physician providing us with the medicine (the Buddhadharma) that we need.

At our Ohigan Service, the sangha listened to Rev. Fred Brenion’s thoughtful Dharma Talk, enjoyed the delicious otoki provided by Toban A, and delighted in the beautiful cherry blossoms that welcomed the spring season.

A Weekend in Berkeley

Johnny Martinez
WCBT President

Please see WEEKEND, con’t on page 2
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Dharma School children had a fun activity following a short lesson on the meaning of Ohigan on March 17. The activity was a project for the 2019 Hanamatsuri Art Contest sponsored by the Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation. The theme of this year’s contest was “Fun Time”. The students’ efforts will be on display at Nishi Hongwan-ji on April 7 during the Federation service. The children certainly had a great time putting together their artistic endeavors!

Our temple’s Hanamatsuri service will be held on April 14, 2019 starting at 10 a.m. In conjunction with our service, we will have our annual Temple Fun Day immediately following service. There will be activities directed by Mrs. Haruko Mayeda, a special art project put together by Mrs. Pat Sato, and, of course, lunch! It promises to be a wonderful time for children and adults.

We hope you can come to the birthday celebration for the Baby Buddha and our annual fun day! See you there!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

23rd Annual Golf Classic
NEW DAY, TIME & COURSE!!

DATE: Monday, June 3rd, 2019
PLACE: Hacienda Country Club in La Habra Heights
8:00 am Registration
8:30 - 9:30 am Putting Contest
10:00 am Shotgun Start

Golf and sponsorship entry forms will be available soon.

WEEKEND, con’t from pg. 1
to survive. The last speaker of the evening was the current BCA President Mr. Rick Stambul who gave an overview of the BCA organization. This was followed by a deep and moving speech entitled, “My Journey to Shin Buddhism.” His parents were Jewish and moved to California when he was 5 years old. But every summer he returned to the Catskills to visit his grandfather on the farm. During these visits, he learned from his grandfather about the injustices in the United States. One of the stories he heard was of a Japanese American citizen who was incarcerated and lost his home. It was not for what this citizen did, but because of his ancestry. Another time he was told of the story of a young man who was arrested and later lynched after being wrongly accused for accosting a white woman. These lessons imparted in him a desire to do something to help. One summer instead of going to the farm, with the aid of his grandfather, he went to Washington D.C. and marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Later, he went to the South to protest and help sign up people for voter registration. During these times, along with his friends, they encountered racism and violence that was rampant in the South. They were threatened, harassed, chased, and beaten; unfortunately, some were killed. This activism inspired Mr. Stambul to seek an education in law. He realized that to be human is to feel the humanity of others, even among the worst of us. After attending law school, he began working for a law firm in Los Angeles to gain experience. He was involved in one of the cases of illegal incarceration of Japanese Americans. Life appears to have brought him to a full circle. The circle began as a young teenager at his grandfather’s farm, learning about the injustices; then to becoming involved in the government’s admission of illegal mistreatment of its own innocent citizens. This presentation was the last of our first evening (Friday), giving us so much to consider, and the sense of purpose for which we gathered.

All day Saturday we had presenta-
The Study Class
The Study Class will meet on April 9 and 23 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.

LABTF Hanamatsuri
The Federation Hanamatsuri Service will be held on the April 7 beginning at 1:30 PM at the Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin in LA. Everyone is encouraged to attend the LABTF after WCBT Shotsuki Sevice.

SoCal Local Dobo Retreat
The 2019 Southern California Local Dobo Retreat of Higashi Honganji NAD will be on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM at Higashi Honganji LA Betsuin. The lecture and discussion sessions will be given in English and Japanese with “Questions, Creating Our Journeys: Explorations that Lead to the Buddhist Path” being the theme for the English group.

There is a $12.00 fee which includes lunch, payable to Higashi Honganji North American District.

Please contact Rev. Miyoshi by April 6 to attend.

WCBT Hanamatsuri and Fun Day
West Covina’s Hanamatsuri Service will be held on Sunday, April 14, at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to arrive early with flowers to decorate the Hanamido. There will be a special performance by the Dharma school children. We invite you to come and join us to celebrate the Buddha’s birthday and stay for WCBT annual Fun Day which will follow.

WCBT Fun Day
WCBT Fun Day will be on Sunday, April 14, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Center Social Hall following the Hanamatsuri Service. All current and past WCBT members and their families are invited for an afternoon of games, potluck lunch and good times.

We’re asking everyone to bring finger food or salads to add to the pizzas and drinks which will be provided. There will also be a special birthday cake for baby Buddha. Hope to see you there!

Mother’s Day Service
A Mother’s Day family service will be held on May 12, at 10:00 AM. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi
The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 19 at 10:00 AM. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Miyoshi if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

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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(626) 689-1040
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APRIL
Kevin Kawawata, Tyler Koji Isaksen, Susan Oshima, Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Nancy Maekawa, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellie Komoda, Kristen Hiranaka, Tammy Lespron, Phillip Underwood, Lexi Shams, Maria Whang, Yuechen Zhau, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Nancy Hombo, Shakyamuni Buddha
tions by Rev. Marvin Harada on how
the heart of the Dharma nurtures,
supports, and helps us deal with
life’s difficulties. The next presenta-
tion was by Rev. Jon Turner on some
of the educational courses online,
videos, and public lectures. He then
gave a lecture on the symbolism in
the Buddha’s story and the deeper
meanings influenced by the Indian
culture. The fundamental context of
Buddhism is not creating good but
realizing it. We also had a presen-
tation by the IBS President David
Matsumoto entitled “Conflict Reso-
lution,” a Shin Buddhist approach.

The next lecture was given by Matt
May, a Minister’s Assistant from the
Seattle Buddhist Temple on Outreach
& Technology: Basic Technology for
Temples. It covered how to set up us-
ing social media, podcast, streaming,
videos, and some precautions that
need to be considered for the safety
of the sangha. Another limitation
to this approach, besides the labor
involved, is the price, since much of
the hardware required can be quite
costly.

Finally, members broke up into
smaller groups to discuss activities
and approaches within each temple.

The common thread of concern was
seeking ways to help our temples
thrive. Some temples are attempting
outreach in various ways like onsite
gatherings, social dinners, or hospi-
tality groups. One temple felt that
more than seeking additional mem-
bership, that sangha-building was
more important. In their case, even
after their membership dropped, the
finances and support grew. They felt
some of the older members attended
out of obligation, and that the re-
main ing and newer members were
dedicated to sharing the Dharma.

Other temples were attempting ideas
of interaction, like community proj-
ects and feeding the homeless. One
temple provides a temporary shelter
for a homeless family by giving them
sanctuary for one week at a design-
nated site. They continue the fol-
low ing week with the same offer to a
different family who is attempting to
exit the cycle of homelessness. I felt
in awe of this project and remarked
of how it reminded me of when the
temples after WWII opened their
doors, sheltered, and fed many of
the sangha members who lost every-
ting due to the war. To me, this project
was a true legacy to that spirit of the
Dharma.

The weekend was packed, intense,
and sometimes overwhelming. But
having encountered members who
share the hope and desire for their
temples to grow was a wonderful
experience. Dealing with uncertain-
ties is a basic teaching (causes and
conditions) that we hear each week.
We must regard challenges as oppor-
tunities, not just obstacles. Rev. Ken
Kuwahara from Utah remarked that
we need to seek people who look at
life with wonder, and not those who
“know it all.” I feel we must become
the people who look at life with won-
der, and that we have that opportu-
nity when we live the Dharma.

Quote of the Month
I spent my boyhood
behind the barbed wire
fences of American
internment camps
and that part of my life is
something that I wanted to
share with more people.
-George Takei
Calling All Current and Past WCBT Members Bring Your Family and Friends

WCBT Sangha & Friends Fun Day
You are all invited to join us to celebrate
Baby Buddha’s Birthday
Games, Potluck Lunch and Good Times!

Date: Sunday, April 14, 2019
Hanamatsuri Service: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Fun & Food: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Finger Food Potluck Lunch
Share Your Favorite
Pupus/Tapas/Appetizers/Salads/Your choice
Pizza, Drinks and Cake will be provided

Place: West Covina Buddhist Temple
(Social Hall)
1203 West Puente Ave. West Covina, CA

For More Information Contact: Pat Sato 626-826-7386  pishsato@gmail.com
Buddhism Quiz

Today’s Buddhism Quiz: Match the Eightfold Path with its definition (First half):
Difficulty Level: Easy… maybe

1. ___ to keep ourselves free from prejudice, superstitions, delusions
2. ___ to concentrate our will on the Buddha, his life and his teachings
3. ___ to confirm that our deeds are peaceful, benevolent, compassionate, and pure to live the teachings every day
4. ___ to direct our efforts continually to the overcoming of ignorance and craving desires

A. Right conduct  E. Right Thought
B. Right Effort  F. Right Speech
C. Right Mindfulness  G. Right View
D. Right Livelihood  H. Right Meditation

(「仏法」4ページに続く)
仏法を宗（むね）として
ジャニー・マルティネス

2月1日から3日間の日程で行われた研修会に参加させていただきました。バークレーにある浄土真宗センターの会場にはおよそ25名の参加者が集いました。「仏法を中心とした推進員の養成」というテーマが掲げられた研修は、本願寺派の米国仏教団（BCA）の主催でしたので、参加者のほとんどはお西のメンバーの方たちでした。大谷派の各寺院からも私を含めて1名ずつが参加しました。それぞれのお寺はその規模や立地など様々ですが、門徒数の減少や開教使の不足、経済的な問題やメンバー内の人間関係など、共通する課題も多くありました。

BCAの梅津総長は開会の挨拶で次のように述べ、私たちの参加を歓迎してくださいました。「あなた方が参加されたということそのものが、皆さんがよいリーダーであるということの証です」と。総長の言葉は、数えきれないご縁によって私たちの人生があり、今こうしてこの研修会に参加できることの有り難さを思い出させてくれました。だからこそ、このいただいた機会を決して無駄にしないようにしようと思いました。

総長はまた「私は皆さんに「よいリーダー」になってもらうことを期待している」と言いました。その言葉は、私たちの人生や仕事、皆さんが取り組むべきことの重要性を示すものでした。

仏法教育センターの原田マーヴィン開教使は、お寺の活性化は仏教教育やお寺の内外の人を引き付けるような充実したプログラムの構築にかかっていると強調してきました。実際原田師の勤めるオレンジカウンティ仏教会では仏教講座やマルチメディアを利用したプログラムなどで大きな成功を収めているということでした。

初日最後に壇に上がったのはBCAの教団理事長であるリック・スタンブル氏でした。バークレーの組織の概要についての説明の後、スタンブル氏は自身が浄土真宗に出遇うまでの道のりについてお話くださいました。その話に私は深く感動しました。ユダヤ教徒の両親のもとに生まれたスタンブル氏が大きな影響を受けたのは、彼の祖父でした。夏休みになると祖父に会いに行くのが家族の恒例行事でしたが、そこで彼は祖父からたくさんのこと、とりわけこの国の不正義について学びました。日系アメリカ人が、何の罪も犯していないのに祖先が日本人であるという理由だけで、ある日に突然家の奪われ強制収容所に送られたことを教えてくれたのも祖父でした。また、黒人の青年が白人女性に声をかけたとあらぬ疑いをかけられた挙句、逮捕されリンチを受けたという話を聞きました。祖父から受けた教えは、スタンブル氏の誰かのことを助けたいという思いにつながりました。

ある夏には、祖父と共にワシントンに行き、マーティン・ルーサー・キング・ジュニア牧師率いる行進にも参加しました。また、南部では有権者登録の申請の支援にも関わりました。当時公民権運動に関わる活動は常に差別や暴力に晒されていました。彼の友人の中には脅しや嫌がらせを受けた者、暴力を受けた者、さらには命を落とす者もいました。こうした活動を通じてスタンブル氏は法律家を志すようになりました。彼の信条は「真の人間になると、どんな人間の中にも人間性を見出すことだ」ということでした。こうして法律家として活躍するようになった彼がある日出遇った案件が、日系アメリカ人の強制収容に関するものだったのです。彼は人生の不思議を感じてこそいいませんでした。ティーンエイジャーの頃、祖父から聞いた日系アメリカ人の話を、めぐりめぐって当時の政府が5月12日（日）午前10時より、母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年のように、メンバーの方による母の日メッセージがございます。どうぞ皆様ご一読にご参り下さい。
April

4  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
7  8:30 am  Board Meeting
7  10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
7  1:30 pm  LABTF Hanamatsuri
        @ Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin
9  10:00 am  Study Class
13 9:30 am  NAD Local Retreat
14 10:00 am  Hanamatsuri Service
14 11:00 am  WCBT Sangha & Friends Fun Day
21 10:00 am  Sunday Service
23 10:00 am  Study Class
28 10:00 am  Sunday Service

May

2  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
5  8:30 am  Board Meeting
5  10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
12 10:00 am  Mother’s Day Family Service
14 10:00 am  Study Class

2019年4月行事予定

4日 午後7時半 法話会
7日 午前8時半 理事会
7日 午前10時 祥月法要
7日 午後1時半 仏連花祭り
（於 西本願寺羅府別院）
13日 午前9時半 南加地区同朋研修会
14日 午前10時 花祭り法要
14日 午前11時 お寺ファンデー
21日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

5月行事予定

2日 午後7時半 法話会
5日 午前8時半 理事会
5日 午前10時 祥月法要

疑い疑い、疑いぬいて、疑う余地の
ない時にはじめて信が芽生えてくる

暁鳥 敏