



GATEWAY



April 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 4



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

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 ap-

pear 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

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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 Hongwanji 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.

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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-

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T E M P L E N E W S

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 and 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 Service.

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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APRIL

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tions by Rev. Marvin Harada on how the heart of the Dharma nurtures, supports, and helps us deal with life's difficulties. The next presentation 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 presentation by the IBS President David Matsumoto entitled "Conflict Resolution," 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 using 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 offsite gatherings, social dinners, or hospitality groups. One temple felt that more than seeking additional membership, 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 remaining and newer members were dedicated to sharing the Dharma. Other temples were attempting ideas of interaction, like community projects and feeding the homeless. One temple provides a temporary shelter for a homeless family by giving them sanctuary for one week at a designated site. They continue the following 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 everything 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 uncertainties is a basic teaching (causes and conditions) that we hear each week. We must regard challenges as opportunities, 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 wonder, and that we have that opportunity when we live the Dharma.

(「仏法」6ページからの続き)

一数の減少にも関わらず、お布施やお手伝いしてくれるメンバーの数は増えているという報告でした。

そのほか福祉活動を積極的に行っているお寺もありました。あるお寺では一週間ずつ一組のホームレスの家族を受け入れ、彼らがホームレスの状況から抜け出す支援をしているとのことでした。こうした活動は、戦後全てを失った人々のためにお寺を開放し、彼らの生活復興のために種々の支援を行なったお寺の歴史と重なります。こうした活動は仏法を基礎とする活動であると感じました。

3日間の研修会はその内容が盛りだくさんで、正直消化しきれない部分もありました。けれどもお寺の将来に対する希望と元気なお寺作りをしたいという願いをもった人たちと出遇えたことは素晴らしい経験でした。不安に立つということは仏教の教えの基本です。私たちは困難な状況を障害ではなく、よい機会と受け止めるべきではないでしょうか。仏教徒とは賜っている人生が当たり前ではないことに気づき、いのちの不思議に心から驚嘆する人であると学びました。仏法とともに生きる時、自らの人生に深く感動する機会を私たちはいただいているのだと感じます。



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



T H E G A T E W A Y

*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



T H E G A T E W A Y



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
- B. Right Effort
- C. Right Mindfulness
- D. Right Livelihood

- E. Right Thought
- F. Right Speech
- G. Right View
- H. Right Meditation

Answers: G, H, A, B

(「仏法」 7ページからの続き)

自国民である日系アメリカ人に対して不当な扱いをしたことを明らかにする、その運動に彼を携わらせてくれているように感じました。

翌日も講義が続きました。原田開教使は困難に直面した時、仏法がどのように私たちを支え助けてくれるかについて話してくださいました。またソーシャルメディアや最新のテクノロジーを使って活動するための基礎知識や、留意点も非常に実用的でした。

その後は小グループに分かれてディスカッションが行われ、各寺院の活動内容が紹介されました。そして共通の課題が、いかにお寺を活性化させていくか、ということであるということを確認しました。あるお寺は様々な社交活動を通してお寺に足を運んでもらう努力をしています。また別のお寺は、新規のメンバー獲得よりも、今いるメンバーにもっとお寺に関わってもらえるように力を入れていました。特に後者はメンバ

(「仏法」 4ページに続く)



T H E G A T E W A Y

仏法を宗（むね）として ジャーニー・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。パ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わけではありません。親鸞聖人の、そして聖人の教えをもっと知っていただきたい。聖人の「よき朋」になっていただきたいというのが、私の唯一の願いです」とおっしゃいました。

仏教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くおっしゃいました。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・スタンプル氏でした。BCA組織の概要についての説明の後、スタンプル氏は自らが浄土真宗に出遇うまでの道のりについてお話しくださいました。その話には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プル氏が大きな影響を受けた人は、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したこと、とりわけこの国で行われている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、ある日突然家を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も聞きました。祖父から受けた教えは、スタンプ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。

ある年の夏には、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。こうした活動を通してスタンプル氏は法律家を志すようになりました。彼の信条は「真の人間になるということは、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ずにはられませんでした。ティーンエイジャーの頃に祖父から聞いた日系アメリカ人の話が、めぐりめぐって当時の政府が

（「仏法」6ページに続く）

お寺ニュース

花まつり法要

本年の花まつり法要は4月14日（日）午前10時よりお勤めいたします。この花まつりでは、毎年皆様にご持参頂いたお花で花御堂を飾り、お釈迦様のご誕生をお祝いいたします。また4月7日午後1時半より、小東京の西本願寺別院にて仏教連合会主催の花まつりがお勤めされます。ご家族お誘い合わせの上、ぜひご参詣下さい。

WCBT 家族ファンデー

4月14日（日）の花祭り法要の後、家族ファンデーを開催します。ご家族やお友達をお誘い合わせの上、ぜひご参加ください。日曜の午後の楽しいひと時を皆さんと一緒に過ごせることを楽しみにしております。

親鸞聖人誕生会

並びに新生児初参り法要

本年の親鸞聖人誕生会並びに新生児初参り法要は、5月19日（日）午前10時より厳修いたします。親鸞聖人のご誕生をお祝いし、合わせて新生児の初参り法要をお勤めいたします。皆様のご家族、お知り合いの方に0歳から6歳までのお子さまがいらっしゃいましたら、どうぞお申し込み下さい。初参り参詣をご希望の方は、見義信香開教使までお知らせ下さい。

母の日家族礼拝

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のメッセージがございませす。どうぞ皆様一緒にお参り下さい。

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790
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GATEWAY

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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

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ない時にはじめて信が芽生えてくる

暁鳥 敏