*GATEWAY

November 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 10



West Covina's littlest Howling Halloween Hijinkers!

Report of Rev. Kodani's "Why I Think Jodo Shinshu Is Going to Disappear"

Joanie Martinez

WCBT Member

Such a jarring title for our October lecture series brought many curious WCBT Sangha members (& Kathy Ikeda from Higashi!) together to listen to what Rev. Mas Kodani had to say on Oct 7 and Oct 14. Rev. Kodani cited how the number of BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) resident ministers has dwindled so drastically (he compared it to 1968), that many ministers are doing double, and sometimes triple duty in order to cover temples' needs. Today there are 60 BCA temples with 30 resident ministers, and 36 of these temples "rent" or share ministers. He said this means that half of the temples are mostly empty. Often times these

temples might meet once a month (or less) with a minister, depending on the availability. This is most apparent in California's Central Valley farming communities, where many empty temples (with parsonages) have used one over-worked minister for the whole valley! We have heard that in its heyday, all the many individual farm temples thrived and were able to provide residences for their ministers, and each had their own Obon. Through their activities they formed their own community identities. As with many communities experiencing the various changes that occur through time, i.e. people moving away, lifestyles, etc., temples

have been dying (in the form we know). The Minister's Assistance Program was one way to address this issue. Also, the practical idea of smaller temples joining together as one temple, such as smaller temples combining with the Fresno Betsuin had been suggested, but it faced much resistance. Joining with other temples is giving up one's long-held identity that is attached to ways of doing things. Perhaps that ties into what Rev. Kodani said about us being control freaks. We don't like change, we want to feel comfortable with the people we know, we often might think our way is the better way, and

Please see KODANI, con't on page 4



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It's hard to believe that November and the start of the holiday season is upon us! The fall colors are finally starting to appear and (off and on) the weather is getting a bit cooler.

The Halloween party was a success! There were fun games, candy, pizza, salad, sundaes, and root beer floats. The costumes were adorable and scary, and everyone had a great time.

Thank you Toban A!

November is a busy month with the Kiku Craft Fair, the special Hoonko service, and the Shichi-Go-San celebration. The Kiku Craft Fair offers unique items for sale and WCBT will prepare and offer delicious foods for sale.

Our Hoonko service will be held on November 17 at 4:30 p.m. Dharma School will have a lesson on interdependence and a fun activity for the children. There will be otoki after the service. Hope all of you can attend.

Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you have a youngster who is or will be 3, 5, or 7 years old during 2019. We would like to honor them during the November 24th service for the Shichi-Go-San ceremony.

The children will be recognized and presented with a gift.

Lastly, wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Gassho, Claire Hansen

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November Shotsuki Service & **Board Meeting**

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November Board Meeting will be held on November 10 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

Ho-on-ko Service

Our Ho-on-ko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 4:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Rev. Akiko Okada from NAD.

Please join us as we welcome Rev. Okada and stay for the complimentary Otoki dinner that will follow the service.

7-5-3 Service

7-5-3 or Shichi-go-san Service will be held on Sunday, November 24 at 10 AM. This special service is to recognize anyone who has reached the age of three, five or seven this year. Please inform Rev. Miyoshi if you have a family member or know of someone who will be the perfect age for this service.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on November 12 and 26 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

Mochitsuki

WCBT's annual Mochitsuki will be held on Sunday, December 8. The special *mochi* rice, which will be passsed 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 Year's symbolic offering, okasane. Come and join us in this annual tradition.

Year-end Service & Oseibo

Our Year-end Service, Oseibo gift presentation and potluck dinner will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 PM.

Entertainment will be provided by the Dharma School and other members of the Sangha. If you have a talent you'd like to share, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.

The potluck assignments are as follows: If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a main dish and a salad; L-N, bring a main dish and rice dish; O-Y, bring a main dish and a dessert.

Please join us for a fun evening of entertainment and feasting on the delicious potluck spread from the West Covina Temple members.

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 dynami-

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/westcovinabuddhist-

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com



NOVEMBER

Travis Hamachi, Erika Haraguchi Haines, Kyle Sato, Brandon Kanemaru, Jennifer Higa, Michelle Harrison, Jill Kato, Jean Nakatani, Hiroko Takemoto, Wesley Kawaguchi, Frank Tanji, Andrew Kochi, Lauren Oshiro, Lynette Godoy, Kaylyn Godoy, Kaz Uyechi, Shinuki Okamura, Metzli Ortiz, Brian Endo, Sany Nafarrete, Jordan Jucksch, Thomas Le

KODANI, con't from pg. 1 don't want to give up that sense of familiarity we've had. All things change, and Buddhism and Jodo

Shinshu in America are no excep-

Throughout his talk, Rev. Kodani made many interesting comments. One was that he felt that the purpose of a Bodhisattva's endeavors is "to play." He cited the example of when one watches a child playing with their dog...there is no ego in the interaction. The child is totally at one with his dog, truly enjoying that experience in the moment (Nirvana). Another example was when Rev. Furumoto from Senshin took some Jr. YBA members to Japan. He surprised them by asking them to separately get lunch all by themselves. They had to give up control and comfort by not being allowed to go with friends (for support and help) to a restaurant. They had to open up and rely on the kindness of others to order a meal. From this they gained an unforgettable experience as well as gratitude. He said that to be in control all the time is taxing, but by giving up control one can appreciate life and that it can change the way you experience things. According to Rev. Kodani, it's good to be put in uncomfortable situations now and then, to change things up from the very familiar. He suggested that it would be good to change things up even in temple services, to make us more present and alive.

Rev. Kodani also expressed that a living temple is one where regular interactions take place among Sangha members. All our temple activities and fundraisers are part of our Jodo Shinshu history and tradition here in America. It is where Sangha bonding occurs. They are vital in our learning about and connecting with one another. If we can truly enjoy one another, laughing and joking around while working hard at our fundrais-

ers and all our activities, Rev. Kodani considers this as Bodhisattva play (or Nirvana). We are fortunate to be able to witness this often at West Covina. We see true interdependence in all the tasks that must be done at each of our fundraisers and activities...whether you're a chairperson or worker bee, each and every person is equally important in contributing towards its success. We grow closer experiencing this firsthand. We don't have to agree with one another to appreciate one another. In fact, dealing with views different from our own is a reality to be embraced and to learn from. Conflict is a reality however uncomfortable it may feel. In Buddhism, seeing our own selfcenteredness and ugliness, and also realizing our not wanting to see it, is real but necessary for awakening (to our own ignorance). The spirit of all this is what keeps a temple alive and thriving. The Sangha is the heart of Iodo Shinshu.

Rev. Kodani distributed and explained a two-columned paper contrasting Christianity and Buddhism. He said that it is very important for us as individuals, parents, and teachers, to really be able to understand and clarify the differences. To remain viable in the future, it is most important that we communicate "Why is

Jodo Shinshu important to me?" to our children, to our students, to all those who walk into our temples, and to one another. We learn from one another. We have a better chance of survival if we can see how Iodo Shinshu is different from Christianity. In Rev. Kodani's view, perhaps some of those temples that have died or are dying, had/have become more Christianized in their thinking so that Jodo Shinshu's uniqueness in what it can offer has perhaps gotten lost. We live in America, a basically Christian country, so it is only natural that we all have learned Christian words, concepts and ways. How can we not? In its early history here in America, Jodo Shinshu temples copied the Christian format, some of the vocabulary and concepts. Post-war, we were trying to assimilate, trying not to feel so foreign. Yet, Christianity and Buddhism are very different. We face that challenge, as well as needing to pay attention to becoming more Buddhist vs Japanese. However, he also stated that we must know (and teach) the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist vocabulary which of course includes Japanese language. "Itadakimasu" and "Gochisosama" are good examples of the gratitude in Buddhist thinking...appreciating others' contributions. He felt it was important





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KODANI, con't from pg. 4

that we know and participate in all our special Buddhist observances (Ohigan, Hanamatsuri, Hoonko, etc) as they also are opportunities to experience rituals that emphasize gratitude to others and their efforts. They keep us from concentrating just on our own ego and our selfishness. Rev. Kodani suggested that temples that pay attention to all these kinds of things might survive longer. It is also his opinion that childrens' programs and experiences such as the "Saishin Dojo," a Jodo Shinshu temple-sponsored month long summer daycamp, seem to have more of an impact in their learning of Japanese culture and Buddhism.

Rev. Mas stated that the only absolute in Buddhism is impermanence. What is West Covina Buddhist Temple's future? All we know for sure is that it will change. It will likely be a gradual thing, not an abrupt thing. Whether we join with another temple, stay in the community in a different form, or in any other form, we will need to be open to change in spite of our attachments. We hope that we will find a way to meet and interact with others as a Sangha, and that we can continue to experience what the Jodo Shinshu teachings can mean to us all. In the meantime, we will continue to be a living temple. We will meet weekly, stay active and interactive, ask Sensei questions, participate in retreats, fundraisers, etc, and we will be there for one another as a Sangha, especially when we face difficulties. We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming Sunday services, the special Hoonko and Oseibo services, as well as our annual Mochitsuki event, all the while living and sharing the Dharma.





Jack Sparrow AKA Dr. Roy is at the helm as he steers the WCBT Halloweeners on a howling Halloween hijinks filled celebration!

(「小谷」9頁からの続き)

キリスト教と仏教を対比させたプリント が配られました。小谷先生は、私たち 誰もがまずはこの二つの宗教の違いを 明確に理解することが大変重要だと言 われました。浄土真宗の将来は、「なぜ 私にとって浄土真宗が大切な教えなの か?」という問いを自分自身に問い続け、 同時に子供や生徒や同じ道を歩む人た ちと語り合うことができるかどうにかかっ ています。浄土真宗とキリスト教との違 いをはっきりさせることで、真宗がこの 国で生き残るチャンスは増えます。この 違いにあまり目を向けず、あるいは意識 的にキリスト教のスタイルに近づけてい くと、遅かれ早かれキリスト教文化に飲 み込まれ、真宗は消滅していくことにな るだろう、と小谷先生は言われました。 キリスト教が基礎となっているアメリカ に生活する私たちは、誰もがキリスト教 の概念や価値観を共有しています。かつ てはこの国に受け入れられるために、あ えてキリスト教のスタイルを取り入れた 時期もありました。けれども実質この二

つの宗教は大変異なっていて、並列で 比べることもできないほどです。キリスト 教と真宗の違いを明らかにすることが 大切な課題です。

同時に仏教と日本文化も時には分け て考える必要があります。「いただきま す」や「ごちそうさま」のように日本語の 多くが仏教の考えに影響を受けている のは間違いありません。だからこそ「お 彼岸」や「報恩講」などの言葉をただの 日本語の単語として覚えるのではなく、 その根底にある仏教の教えを探ってい き学ぶ作業が大切なのです。年間を通 して勤められる大きな法要は、自分を超 えた人々への感謝を表現した儀式を体 験する場であり、自己中心的な想いから 解放される時間なのです。法要や儀式 の意味を丁寧に尋ね、大切にするお寺 はより長く続いていくと思う、と小谷先 生は言われました。

「あらゆるものは変わっていく」という ことだけが変わらない真実だ、と小谷 先生は強調されました。セミナーを受 けてこのお寺の将来について考えまし た。変化を経験することに間違いはな いでしょう。それは徐々に変わっていく ことかもしれませんし、急激なものかも しれません。簡単なことではありません が、どんな変化にも前向きに対応するこ とが必要なのでしょう。そして、どのよう な形であれ、僧伽の人々との繋がりを もち続けていければと思います。それが 真宗の教えが私たちにどのような意味 をもたらすのかを教え続けてくれる道 だからです。同時に私たちは自分たちの 活動を通してお寺を「生きたお寺」にし ていきたいと思います。困難に直面する 時、僧伽の一員であること、多くの人が 僧伽となってくれていることに励まされ ることでしょう。日曜礼拝や報恩講、餅 つきなどのイベントを多くの人と参加で きることを楽しみにしています。そして何 よりも仏法と生活し、仏法を多くの人と 一緒に聞き続けることができるのを楽 しみにしています。



WEST COVINA Higashi Honganji BUDDHIST TEMPLE

October 28, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invite you to attend the Hoonko Service which will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019. The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, November 17, 2019

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Dharma Message: Rev. Akiko Okada

(Higashi Honganji North America District)

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

Hoonko is the annual memorial service of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin. Shinran lived from 1173-1262 and devoted his life to studying and sharing the teaching of Nembutsu. On this occasion we gather to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin.

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi Johnny Martinez, President Board of Directors

話 岡田在子師(北米開教監督

法

二〇一九年十一月七日(本日本語報恩講法要

記

て厳修いたしますのでご案内申しあげます。で、とを存じます。さて今年も報恩講法要がわってまいりました。本年は左記の如く法話会におきままいりました。本年は左記の如く法話会におきままいりました。本年は左記の如く法話会におきまでのこのことと存じます。さて今年も報恩講の季節でしていたしますのでご案内申しあげます。



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2019 MEMBERSHIP

*Please make your check payable to <u>WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE</u>

	2019 MEMBERSHII	P APPLICATION
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	(家族護持会費)	\$ 125 (New / Renewal)
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	(個人護持会費)	\$ 100 (New / Renewal)
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP	(賛助護持会費)	\$ (New / Renewal)
NAME:(名前)		Birth Month
Husband/Wife:(夫•妻)		Birth Month
Children:(子供)		Birth Month(s)
ADDRESS:(住所)		
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE:		
TELEPHONE #:(電話番号)()	E-Mail:
*Would you like to receive the "G	ateway" and other announc	cements by E-Mail instead of mail? (Yes / No)
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Happy shopping!

Quote of the Month
Every time
something bad
happens to me,
I don't ask the question,
'Why did it happen to me?'
The question I ask is,
'Why did it happen for me?'
-Elijah Cummings



秋季セミナーレポート 「なぜアメリカで 真宗がなくなっていくと 思うのか」 ジョニー・マルティネス

小谷政雄師による10月のセミナーに はこんな衝撃的なタイトルがつけられま した。でも逆に私たちの興味を引き、ウェ ストコビナはもとより別院からも参加者 が足を運びました。

小谷先生はまず現在のBCA (Buddhist Churches of America) の開教使 数の減少を紹介し、結果としてひとりの 開教使が複数のお寺の世話をしなけれ ばいけない現状を話しました。約半数の お寺が現在駐在開教使不在の状況との ことでした。そうしたお寺は世話役の開 教使のスケジュールに合わせ、月一でそ の先生をお呼びしているということでし た。特にカリフォルニア中部では開教使 不足が深刻であると聞き、私たちは驚き ました。というのも、私たちはその全盛期 を知っているからです。各お寺でお盆が 賑やかに開催されていた頃を思い出しま した。お盆をはじめとする様々な活動を 通して、お寺はコミュニティとして機能し ていました。けれども時を経て、人々が 地域を離れ、ライフスタイルが変わるな どの変化に直面し、多くのお寺はこれま での形を維持することが難しくなってい ます。Minister's Assistance Program は開教使不足という課題に直面するな かで考えられた打開策のひとつなので しょう。また、お寺の統合の話も出てくる ようになりました。けれどもこれを実現 するのはかなり困難です。自分たちのお 寺に愛着のある人にとっては、そのお寺 が自らのアイデンティティの一部になっ ているからです。またそれは、小谷先生 の言葉を借りれば私たち誰もがもつ執 着の問題でもあります。小谷先生は、私 たちは常に物事を思い通りにしたいと思 い、変化を嫌います。馴染みの人と馴染 みのある場所で過ごすことを好み、今ま でやってきた自分のやり方が最善の方

法であると思いたがります。そしてそうした居心地の良い状態を手放そうとはしません。けれども、アメリカにおける仏教や浄土真宗も当たり前ですが諸行無常の真理の例外ではないのです。

小谷先生は多くの非常に興味深い 意見を話されました。そのうちのひとつ は菩薩の修行についてで、その目的は 「遊ぶ」ことだ、と言われました。それを 子供が犬と戯れているシーンに例え、 その時子供が無心になって遊んでいる のが、菩薩の境地を表現していると言わ れました。その瞬間に全身全霊で没頭す る時、涅槃を体験するのです。

また、洗心仏教会の現開教使である 古本先生がアメリカの高校生たちを日 本に連れて行った時の話をしてください ました。古本先生は参加した子供たちに 別々にお店に入って昼食をとるように指 示しました。日本語も、日本の文化にも 不慣れな彼らですから、手伝ってくれる 友達なしで一人きりでお店に入ることに 大変戸惑ったそうです。結局自力でなん とかしようとする思いを捨てて、その場に いる人たちに頼るしかありませんでした。 どの子もお店の人やお客さんに大変良く してもらい、無事注文をして美味しい昼 食をいただきました。この体験は子供た ちが周りの多くの人に支えられていると いう事実に気がつくことができた忘れ られない体験となりました。すべてを思 い通りにしようとすることは大変骨の折 れることです。けれども一旦「思い通りに しなければ」という気持ちを捨てた時、 私たちは人生をありがたいと感謝する ことができ、経験することに対する見方 も変わるのではないでしょうか。

小谷先生は物事に変化を加えるために、居心地の悪い状況に時々身を置くことは大切だと教えてくださいました。ずっと続いてきた日曜礼拝のスタイルを今の私たちに合うように変えてみるのもそのひとつです。

活き活きとしたお寺には必ずメンバー同士の活発な交流がある、と小谷先生はおっしゃいます。お寺で行われる種々の活動や基金集めのイベントはアメリカにおける浄土真宗寺院の歴史と伝

統の一部です。そこはメンバー同士の繋がりを強く感じる場です。お寺のイベントに汗を流しながら、一緒に働く人たちと笑ったり冗談を言い合ったりして過で時、それは菩薩の遊行に近いものを感じる、と小谷先生は言われました。ウェストコビナの種々の行事を思い返でまれてそのような時間を過ごしていることに気がつきます。どのイベントもいることに気がつきます。どのイベントもいることに気がつきます。どのイベントもいることに気がつきます。どのイベントもいることに気がつきます。どのイベントもいることではありません。お互いを信頼し、それぞれが役割を担ってくれるからこそ成し遂げられるのです。僧伽が浄土真宗の中心なのです。

また、尊敬し合う関係とは必ずしも一心同体である必要がないことを教えられました。むしろ、異なる考えをもつ人がいるということが当たり前である、と知ることでそこから学ぶことができるのです。意見の違いは心地の良いものではないかもしれませんが、それが現実なのです。仏教では、自らの自己中心性や醜さ、見たくない自身の姿を見て、それが事実であるという頷くことが目覚めなのです。

(「小谷」 5 頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

法話会報恩講 (日本語)

10月14日の2度目のセミナーでは、

法話会では11月7日(木)午後7時より、11月祥月法要と併せて報恩講を厳修致します。報恩講は親鸞聖人への報恩謝徳の為に行われる最も大切な仏事です。どうぞ皆様お誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

報恩講 (英語)

11月17日(日)午後4時半より、本年度の報恩講法要(英語)を厳修致します。講師として北米開教監督部より岡田在子師をお招きしております。法要後にはお斎をご用意いたしております。報恩講は一年の節目となる最も大切な法要です。どうぞ皆様でご参詣下さい。

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 NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 38 Covina, CA 91722

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



November 2019 -- Vol.LIV No.10

November

2 10am-2pm Center Health Fair

3 10am-3pm Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

3 10:00 am Sunday Service

7 7:00 pm Howakai Shotsuki/Hoonko Service

Service

10 8:30 am Board Meeting

10 10:00 am Shotsuki Service

12 10:00 am Study Class

17 4:30 pm Hoonko Service

24 10:00 am Sunday Service/753 Service

26 10:00 am Study Class

December

1 8:30 am Board Meeting

1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service/Bodhi Day

Service

5 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service

8 7:00 am Mochitsuki

10 10:00 am Study Class

15 4:00 pm Year-end Service

2019年11月行事予定

2日 午前10時 センターヘルスフェア

3日 午前10時 菊クラフトフェア

3日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

7日 午後7時 法話会報恩講法要

10日 午前8時半 理事会

10日 午前10時 祥月法要

17日 午後4時半 報恩講法要(英語)

24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝/七五三法要

12月行事予定

1日午前8時半理事会

1日午前10時祥月法要/成道会

5日 午後7時 法話会

8日 午前7時 もちつき

15日 午後4時 年末家族礼拝

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生きることと死ぬことを もっておるものそれが人間である

藤元正樹『地上に立つ宗教』