



GATEWAY



January 2020 - - Vol. LV No. 1



Our annual mochitsuki was another successful event. The children enjoyed pounding the sweet steamed rice into mochi which were then kneaded and formed into little white mounds of dango.

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.

As you may know, I am to assume the position of Abbot of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha as of July 1 this year. In the past years since I was appointed as Overseas District Abbot, I have been given precious opportunities to meet many of you in overseas districts. From then on, while bearing those experiences firmly in mind, I will take on the new responsibility as Abbot to welcome all of you to the Shinshū Honbyō (our mother temple), the spiritual focus for us Shinshū followers. As we sit together with our hands in *gasshō* in front of the image of Shinran



Shōnin, I will continue to reflect deeply on the spirit of his teaching which says "throughout the world, we are all brothers and sisters."

In April this year, the 13th World

Dōbō Gathering will be held at the Shinshū Honbyō. I sincerely look forward to seeing all of you again at this event to share the joy of listening to the teaching of the *nenbutsu* with you.

I wish to conclude my New Year's message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the calling of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.

Temple Event Highlights:

- Jan 1 New Year's Service
- Jan. 5 Shotsuki Service
- Jan. 26 Eitaikyo/Gen. Mtg
- Feb 15-16 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 first extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in our overseas districts. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

Since July last year, our denomination has been actively preparing for the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shōnin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū to be held in 2023. I have heard that the planning for many kinds of preparatory activities for the main event has begun in each district.

The purpose of holding those anniversaries is primarily to realize our debt of gratitude for our having been able to



encounter the teaching. It is my heartfelt wish that this celebration will be an opportunity for us to deepen our appreciation that Shinran Shōnin was born into

this world and that subsequently, Jōdo Shinshū, a most profound form of Mahayana Buddhism, was established.

It is no exaggeration to say that those events will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our denomination. I sincerely wish that all of us who have had the opportunity to encounter the teaching of Shinran Shōnin will reconfirm our commitment as members of our denomination and take firm steps forward to deeply reflect on the main theme of this celebration, "*Namu Amida Butsu—To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings.*"

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

Thank you.

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we began the New Year, Bill and I hope that this New Year will be filled with memorable and meaningful moments for you and your family.

Reflecting upon 2019, various natural disasters had an overwhelming influence all over the world. Several typhoons caused major floods in Japan, and the Amazon rainforest wildfire was too massive to control. More and more people are concerned about climate change, and we are getting to share the common understanding that global warming is one of the causes of this climate change. How can we work together to deal with the urgent issue of global warming before it is too late?

On the other hand, hearing about global warming so often, we became numb to the issue. And some may feel that it is hard to imagine how global warming actually affects their daily lives and societies. Nonetheless, because global warming is

causing various changes to existing systems on the earth, there is no doubt that it will influence all who live on this planet.

Severe flooding and drought caused by climate change have already destroyed people's lives. Moreover, often times such disasters make the area uninhabitable. Those who were affected were forced to move to other places as refugees. Even if those areas can recover from devastation, not everyone can afford to return to their normal way of life. As a result, climate change causing various natural disasters could widen economic disparities. We are all subject to become a victim of a disaster and most importantly, we should not neglect those who are currently struggling with the effects of a natural disaster. When we are only concerned with our own lives and safety, we often pay little attention to those who are suffering. Our ignorance derives from such self-centered interest, and it makes our world narrow and dark.

In the *Contemplation Sūtra*, Śākyamuni Buddha calls Queen Vaidehī as "*bonbu* (an ordinary person)," and describes *bonbu* as "a person who has yet to acquire divine sight and is unable to see that which is distant." This reveals that we believe what we see is the absolute and we only concern ourselves. The sūtra lets us know that this is the ignorance we all have. Instead of accusing us as ignorant *bonbu*, Buddhism is sincerely longing for our awakening to the ignorance. This awakening can break our self-centered narrow world and lead us to realize the world around us. It is the time when we are finally able to become aware of the pains and struggling of those people and see them as our own matters. This interconnectedness becomes profound aspiration emerging within us to strive for true happiness for everyone.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my

Please see New Year, con't on pg. 8



T H E 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 Wednesday, January 1, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you're planning to attend.



Board Meeting & Shotsuki Service

The January 2020 board meeting will be held on Sunday, January 5 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 26 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 Lee Ezaki or a Toban B member. Choose between teriyaki chicken or salmon bentos and they will be \$12 each. Join us for our yearly service and enjoy the delicious bento.

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on January 14 and January 28 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 (626) 689-1040.

Family Retreat

Our annual Family Retreat will be held this year on February 15-16, at the beautiful San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. Join us as Rev. Ken Yamada speaks on "Namu Amida Butsu", *Here and Now*.

Be part of another great weekend with stimulating discussions, quality time with sangha friends and as always, too much food, all set in the serene and scenic setting of the Central Coast. The fee for adults is \$45, \$20 for students, 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 23 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/westcovinabuddhisttemple

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, Eddie Nakasone, Lisa Nakasone

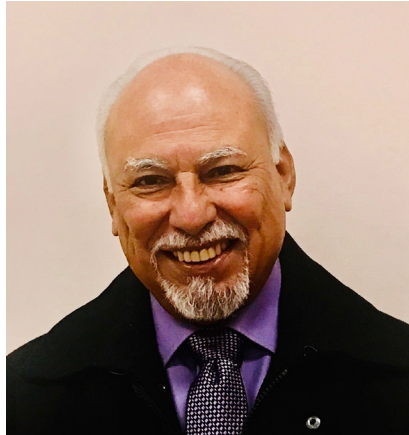


T H E G A T E W A Y

Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

Johnny Martinez, President

Squeak , squeak, squeak to everyone! This is the Year of the Mouse or Rat depending on which calendar you use. People born in the Year of the Mouse are said to be optimistic, energetic, adaptable, and liked by all; yet, they can also be sensitive, stubborn, impolite, and stingy. Like any one of us, we have strong and weak points. The Dharma gives us the chance, if not to change a lot, at least improve ourselves and our lives. We should not wait for a whole year to make resolutions, but do so with each opportunity presented...that is living in the moment. Each morning when I awake, I have the chance to learn from my mistakes, which are many, and sometimes painful and embarrassing. It appears that the older I get, the deeper my ignorance is revealed to me. But then, so is the opportunity to learn, grow, and become a better person with the help of the sangha. May we all live, learn, and share the Dharma together in this new year 2020!



New Year's Greetings from the Gateway Staff

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.

DHARMA SCHOOL

Happy New Year!

Our Year-End service and potluck went very well. Sensei's message was one of gratitude expressed at the end of the year and a reminder that everything that we have accomplished is a result of support from many others. This tied in well with what came next!

The Dharma School presentation was rather chaotic, but fun, with lots of audience participation. The point of this chaos was to illustrate how complicated even a simple ecosystem is. The interdependence of the organisms is a great example of one of the tenets of Buddhism. I think the tangled yarn may have "driven the point home," the point of interconnectivity among all living and nonliving things. The students were a delightful part of this example. A big Thank You to all those who helped us with our performance!

Again, wishing you all a happy and healthy 2020!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen





T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS Dr. Roy Takemura



First and foremost, on behalf of the Toban Chairs: Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto – A; Lee Ezaki – B; Dick Koga – C, a heartfelt thank you to all the Sangha members who unselfishly helped with all the toban duties.

2019 has come to an end, concluding the first decade of the 21st century. WCBT has prospered well and we look forward to the second decade by welcoming in the new year.

Coining a military phrase, we have no doubt the Sangha will “answer the call of duty” to assure our temple will continue as a place we can listen to the Dharma.

To you and your families, a very Happy New Year – 2020!

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) (July–September)

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) (January–March, October–December)

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) (April–June)

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



Our sangha celebrated our Year-End party with Rev. Miyoshi's usual thought provoking Dharma message, a visual demonstration of interconnectedness by the Dharma School kids and a fabulous potluck provided by everyone. It was a most enjoyable evening!

(「新年」9頁からの続き)

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。

2019年は様々な形で自然が猛威を振るった年でした。日本は度重なる台風に見舞われ、洪水による甚大な被害を被りました。アマゾン熱帯雨林の大規模火災は深刻な森林破壊を引き起こしています。こうした災害は地球温暖化による気候変動が引き起こしたという認識はますます多くの人の間で共有され、今や地球温暖化対策は世界中が取り組むべき最重要課題のひとつとなっています。

一方で温暖化の問題はその規模の大きさから、個人の生活との関わりを感じにくい人もいるかもしれません。けれどもこの問題は確実に私たちの社会に大きな影響を及ぼします。

気候変動が引き起こした洪水や旱魃はそこに住む人々の生活を破壊します。さらにその土地そのものがもはや居住不可能となった時、人々は難民としての生活を強

いられることとなります。また被災地の全ての人々が経済的に生活の再建が可能とは限りません。結果として社会では経済の格差がさらに拡大します。地球温暖化は環境問題にとどまらず、経済や人口流動、私たちの社会全体に関わる問題であります。そしてなによりも大切なことは、今まさに日常生活を奪われ苦しんでいる人々がいるという事実です。

自分はとりあえず大丈夫だからという自己中心的な見方に閉じこもる時、私たちはそうした人々の苦しみが見えません。そしてその私たちの無明性が問題を助長しさらに深刻な状態へと導いていくのではないのでしょうか。

『観無量寿経』において釈尊は韋提希に「汝はこれ凡夫なり」と呼びかけられ、その凡夫の姿を「未だ天眼を得ず、遠く観ることあたわず」と表現されています。これは、自分の目で見ているものを世界の全てと勘違いしている姿、そして自分の身近なことだけに関心を寄せている姿を表し

ているのでしょう。仏教はその姿を非難するのではなく、それこそが私たちのあり方である、と目の前に明らかにしてくれる教えです。自分さえよければそれでいいという狭い世界に閉じこもっているという事実が目覚めた時、私たちは初めてその世界の外に生きる多くの人の悲しみと痛みを目覚めることができるのではないのでしょうか。そしてその目覚めこそが、世界の人たちとともに生きたいという願いとなって、私たちを歩ませる力になるのではないかと思います。

世の中がますます分断と格差を助長する方向に向かっている今だからこそ、その問題を知らせ続ける教えを聞き続けていくことが一層大切になってきています。

本年もどうぞよろしく願いいたします。

合 掌



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 2020 Family Retreat: “Namu Amida Butsu” *Here and Now*

Lecturer: Rev. Ken Yamada

Date: Feb. 15 (Sat.)~16 (Sun.), 2020

(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

The Nenbutsu, “Namu Amida Butsu,” is recited for various reasons. Primary among them is “birth in Pure Land.” This brings up a fundamental question: Where do I go when I die? The answer—the Pure Land. What does this mean? The thought of going to the Pure Land indeed is attractive and may serve as a source of peace, for example, thinking we re-unite with loved ones and friends. I’ve been told it’s better to say those things because that’s what people want to hear. If that’s the case, what’s to distinguish Pure Land with “heaven” found in Christianity and Islam. Another expression, “here and now” perhaps is more appropriate. In Buddhism, we are concerned with “here and now.” We might also say, “There’s no reincarnation in Buddhism.” How can those statements

provide comfort or peace of mind? Ultimately the answer circles back to the Nenbutsu. We’ll explore these problems, explore how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism answers, and how to find meaning in our lives “here and now.”

- ◆ Rev. Ken Yamada was born in Oakland, California and attended Berkeley Higashi Honganji temple as a child. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a major in sociology focused on Kamakura period Buddhism. He attended the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, and Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin in Kyoto, but couldn’t understand Buddhism and dropped out. He worked as a newspaper reporter in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco, and later became a magazine editor. He rediscovered Buddhism, re-entered the ministry and served 13 years at the Berkeley temple. Two years ago, he became editor of Higashi’s Shinshu Center of America, overseeing English publications.

- ◆ 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

*New Year, con't from pg. 2*

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 Mrs. Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mr. Phillip Underwood, Mrs. Joanie Martinez, and other Dharma Seeds members for planning and organizing our lecture series as well as taking care of Sunday services while I was out of town.

As we enter 2020, I would like to continue to listen with all of you to the teachings which direct us to truly live harmonious and fulfilling lives.

Gassho

Quote of the Month
Weapons and tanks
don't solve problems.
The revival of farming
is the cornerstone of
Afghanistan's recovery.
-Dr. Tetsu Nakamura



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、皆さまご存知のとおり、私は本年7月1日をもって真宗大谷派門首の地位を継承することとなりました。これまでいただいてまいりました開教区でのご縁を今一度心中にきざみ、今後は全ての人たちの帰依処であるここ真宗本廟で皆さまをお迎えし、ともどもに御真影に手を合わせ、改めて

「遠く通ずるに、それ四海のみな兄弟とするなり」と願われた宗祖の眼差しを受け止めさせていただきたく存じます。

また、本年4月には、第13回目を迎える世界同朋大会が京都の真宗本廟にて開催されます。皆さま方との再会を待望しつつ、この大会がともに本願念仏のみ教えに出遇う喜びを分かち合う場となることを願いたします。

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。



pixta.jp - 12340221

年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 但馬 弘

2020年の年頭にあたり、開教区の皆さまにご挨拶を申し上げます。

改めまして、皆さまにおかれましては平素より聞法精進の生活を送っていただいておりますこと、心よりお慶び申し上げます。

さて、宗門では昨年7月より本格的に、2023年にお迎えする宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要に向けた取り組みが始まっております。開教区の皆さまにおかれましては、お待ち受けをはじめ、法要にむけてすでに様々な取り組みを進められておることと拝察いたします。

慶讃法要をお勤めすることとは、教えに出遇い得た者の報恩の営みに他なりません。このたびの法要が、開教区の皆さまをはじめとしたあらゆる方々と共に、親鸞聖人のご誕生と、大乘の至極たる浄土真宗の立教開宗を慶び、讃嘆してまいりたいと心より願うものであります。

このたびの法要に向けた取り組みが宗門の将来を左右するといっても過言ではありません。宗祖の教えに出遇った私たち一人ひとりがそれぞれの立場で宗門の使命を担い、慶讃テーマ「南無阿弥陀仏人として生まれた意味をたずねていこう」と掲げた願いに触れ、人と生まれたことの意味をたずねていく確かな歩みとなっていくことを心から願うものであります。

本年も、どうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

新年のご挨拶 見義信香

新年あけましておめでとうございます。

旧年中はマルティネス・ジャーニー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を率先してお手伝いいただき、不在時には日曜礼拝を勤めてくださった池原-ネルソン・礼子

(「新年」6頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

修正会法要

修正会法要は2020年1月1日(水曜日)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

2020年度永代経法要は1月26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15日(土)-16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 2020 - - Vol. LV No. 1

January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 9 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 19 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

February

- 2 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 9 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 15-16 WCBT Family Retreat
- 23 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 25 10:00 am Study Class

2020年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 8日 午後7時半 法話会
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 19日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 26日 午前10時 永代経法要／総会新年会

2月行事予定

- 2日 午前8時半 理事会
- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 15日-16日 家族リトリート
- 23日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 / ペット追悼法要

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信頼関係があること、
これが武器よりも一番たいせつなこと

中村 哲