



# GATEWAY



February 2020 - - Vol. LV No. 2



*The West Covina Buddhist Temple Eitaikyo Lunch and General Meeting was held on January 26. At the meeting, the 2020 Board of Directors were induced into office. Rev. Miyoshi reported that the state of our temple is strong with numerous spiritual classes/re retreats and fund raising projects. Treasurer Reiko Ikehara-Nelson reported on the very positive financial growth of our temple. High Five, WCBT!*

## *Hoonko Hoshidan Tour: Tears for Fears and Moments of Reflection*

**Tanya Kato**  
WCBT Member

During the last week of November 2019, I traveled to Kyoto, Japan for the Hoonko Hoshidan tour. I was very excited for this trip since it was going to be my first visit to Japan.

Reverend Tomoyuki Hasegawa led our group. The other North America District participants were Anna Hightower, Penny Murata, and Shigeo Nagayama, representing the Higashi Honganji temples of Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Newport Beach, respectively.

The day before we started the retreat, we visited the Honzan to pay our respects. When we arrived at the Founder's Hall Gate, I was in disbelief. I was not expecting the gate to be so big. I was a bit awe struck as we passed underneath it. A few days

later, as part of our cleaning duties during our stay at the Dobo Retreat Center, we got to climb the steep stairs up to the top of the gate where statues of Ananda, Shakyamuni, and the Bodhisattva Maitreya are housed.

After passing under the Founder's Hall Gate, I was in further awe seeing the Goei-do, or the Founder's Hall and walking up its steps. I had looked at pictures of it online, but nothing I saw online prepared me for the sheer size of the building. It made me think about all of the people who contributed to the construction of the building and the other structures on the grounds.

On the morning that we began our stay at the retreat center, Ray and Fay Uyema, Akiko Tapp, Susan Lit-

teral, Douglas and Jean Crosier and Daniel Abramowicz, of the Hawaii District, along with Reverend Koen Kikuchi, who led their group, met us in the lobby of the Hotel San Crane and we walked to the Honzan together.

After the first day at the retreat center, I had many doubts running through my mind. I questioned whether I was dedicated enough to be on the tour, representing the West Covina sangha. I doubted my ability to comprehend Dr. Michael Conway's lectures. I especially doubted my decision to go through the Kikyoshiki confirmation ceremony. I began thinking that I should have waited to make the decision to go through

*Please see HOSHIDAN, con't on page 6*



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Year of the Rat!

According to Chinese Astrology, people born in the year of the rat are charming, clever, optimistic, sensitive, and kind. They are also rather stingy, sometimes lacking in courage, and may not be great leaders!

The Dharma School Staff will be instructing our students about the parts of the obutsudan and their respective meanings. There will be worksheets provided to reinforce what they are learning. The lessons will culminate with an activity during which the children will construct their own obutsudan.

February is a busy month! Our yearly retreat in San Luis Obispo will happen during Presidents' week-end—the 14th through the 16th. Lessons for children will be included. The pet memorial service will be on February 23. Please let Sensei or me know if you have lost a pet during the past year. We would like to honor them.

Hope you will be able to attend our annual retreat!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SANGHA REUNION & FAMILY FUN DAY**



*Join us for a day*

*Full of Fun, Food and Good Times*

*Sunday, May 17, 2020*

*10am - 2pm*

*Murata Farms*

*400 La Vista Ave.*

*Somis, CA 93066*

*(Near Camarillo Premium Outlets)*

Temple may be chartering a bus from ESGVJCC to Murata Farms

More information to come





# 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 11 and 25 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 14-16, 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.

### 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.

### Cherry Blossom Festival

The 202 West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival will be on Saturday, March 21, from 12:00-6:00 PM and will be held at the West Covina Civic Center. 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 22 at 4:30 PM. Rev. Frederick Brenion will

be our special guest speaker so please join Rev. Fred and us for this special service and stay for the complimentary otoki dinner following the service.

### Oldies Dance LXV (65)

"Oldies LXV (65), Let's Dance and Thrive!" will be held on Saturday, March 28. It's our 65th 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 service.

### "Save the Date"

Mark your calendar for WCBT Fun Day on Sunday, May 17, 2020. We invite all past and current WCBT members, families and friends to join us for a day of fun, food and good times as we spend the day at Murata Farms in Somis (near Camarillo Premium Outlets). The Temple may be chartering a bus from ESGVJCC to Murata Farms so stay tuned for more updates in the next Gateway.

## GATEWAY Staff

*Layout & Editing:* Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Hisako Koga, Claudia Haraguchi, Richard Kagawa

*Contributors:* Claire Hansen, 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

*Facebook:* [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)

*E-Mail:* [wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com](mailto: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, Dan Elmatari, Judy Tawatari, Connie Hamachi, Amanda Jean Underwood, Vicky Miyashiro, Kara Miyashiro



# T H E G A T E W A Y



## SA SHI MI

*Temple members enjoyed WCBT's annual January Shotsuki Sashimi lunch with sake toasts and delicious zenzai to round out the delicious meal.*

### Buddhism Quiz

**Buddhist Quiz:** Today's Quiz is about the Buddhist altar.

Wisdom  
Amida Buddha  
Shinran Shonin  
Impermanence

Compassion  
Renny Shonin  
Interdependence

1. The image to the left of the Central altar is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The image to the right of the Central altar is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Amitabha is the symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The two pillars of Buddhism are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: 1. Renny Shonin 2. Shinran Shonin 3. Wisdom and Compassion 4. Wisdom and Compassion





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

# OLDIES LXV(65)! LET'S DANCE AND THRIVE!!

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**  
**7pm to 11pm**

 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](mailto:lilnish77@gmail.com) or  
[joaniekmartinez@gmail.com](mailto:joaniekmartinez@gmail.com)

Irwindale Ave	<b>WCBT/ESGVJCC</b> <b>1203 West Puente Ave</b> <b>West Covina</b>	
Sunset Ave	<b>West Puente Ave</b>	Vincent 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

## *HOSHIDAN, con't from pg. 1*

the ceremony until after I returned from the Hoshidan tour. I slightly panicked and thought that maybe I had made the decision too hastily, but then I thought that I would probably regret not taking this once in a lifetime opportunity.

While many people talked about the Bando-bushi leading up to the trip, what made an impression on me was the gagaku, or court music at the Hoonko service. While I wished that I could see the individuals playing the instruments, this is what made the service memorable for me. The sounds transported me back in time, it had me thinking of all the generations that came before me and generated a thread to my Japanese ancestry.

During the Kikyoshiki ceremony, I was fortunate to sit next to Doug and Jean from the Kaneohe temple. A moment that I will treasure from the ceremony is when the three of us shared a sheet of paper with the words to Shinshu Shuka. I felt connected with them as we sat in front of Shinran's statue in the Goei-do reading from the same piece of paper. I later heard similar sentiments from Doug and Jean about sharing the experience together, as well as their own doubts going through the confirmation ceremony. Although I was feeling more confident with my decision to go through the ceremony when the time came, it was nice to know that I was not the only one feeling the same way.

At the end of our stay at the Honzan, we met with the Overseas District Abbot Choyu Otani and his son, Yul Otani. I really appreciated their candor and frankness. As with the other ministers that I interacted with during the retreat, it reminded me that they too, are going through this journey of life, as we all are. Like other teachers that I have had in my life, especially during grade school,

it's sometimes surprising for me to hear that ministers have lives beyond their ministerial duties and temples, such as my grade school teachers have lives outside of the classroom. They, too, experience challenges and strained relationships; they are not exempt from the difficulties of life. The more I hear about their own struggles, I think of how any of us could easily be in the same position or find ourselves in similar situations. We may be more connected by our shared experiences than we may know.

Some of my most emotional times on the trip were the hours that I would wake up between 3am and 5am at the Hotel San Crane. I would cry thinking about various life events and the difficult relationship with my late grandmother. One afternoon, I was in my hotel room and the thought of my mortality hit me. Intellectually, I know that I am going to die one day, but the realization that my time is limited and that I am only here for a temporary span of time really struck me. I remember walking downstairs to the lobby of the hotel where Fay, from the Hawaii Betsuin, saw my face. She thought that it was from not feeling well, but my puffy face was from the tears confronting my mortality and thinking that when my time comes, that's it. When Fay asked about my wellbeing, I mis-spoke and said that it was because of the realization of my immortality. I then quickly corrected myself and said that it was because of the realization of my mortality. I started thinking later, however, that there is an immortal aspect of myself that will continue even after I am gone as a result of my time spent as a living being.

Even though I had only been formally introduced to Reverend Hasegawa fairly recently and had not had much interaction with him prior to the Hoshidan trip, I could

see that he took his role as a minister very seriously and I was moved by his chanting when he participated in West Covina's Hoonko service before we left for Japan. Because of this, I asked if he would be willing to officiate with Reverend Miyoshi at my funeral when the time comes. He said yes. He then asked if I could put my request in writing. Even though I have voiced my wishes to include Reverend Hasegawa in co-officiating, to my mom and my friend, Josefina, I hope this newsletter article will suffice in stating my wishes.

The Homyo or dharma name Reverend Miyoshi chose for me is Shaku-ni Mon-etsu. Shaku-ni meaning disciple of the Buddha, mon meaning to hear, and etsu meaning joy, thus one who experiences joy in hearing [the teachings]. As I walked with Susan, of the Hilo temple, on our last day of the retreat, she told me that she could see the joy in me.

As I reflect back on my trip, I recall a time when I was a child that I told my uncle that I didn't want to be Japanese because I was different from the other children and that I was teased for being Asian. I just remember him becoming angry with me for saying such a thing. After returning from the Hoshidan tour, my appreciation for my Japanese heritage has deepened and grown. For without it, I do not know how I would have encountered the teachings.

In closing, I would like to thank Reverend Miyoshi, the West Covina sangha, the North America District, and the Los Angeles Betsuin for their support and words of encouragement. I would also like to thank the Honzan and the ministers and staff that made our stay and learning experience possible.







# T H E   G A T E W A Y



(「奉仕団」9ページからの続き)

共有することで人はこれほどまでに強い結びつきを感じることができるものかと驚きました。

この旅行の期間中最も感情的になったのは早朝の3時から5時、ホテルでのことでした。これまでの人生で起こった色々なことや関係が良好ではなかった今は亡き祖母とのことなどを思い出し、泣きくなったのです。またある日の午後、ホテルの部屋で一人でいた時いきなり自分が死ぬべき身であるという事実打ちのめされました。いつか死ぬということは、もちろん頭ではわかっていました。でもこの時まで実感として感

じることはありませんでした。自分の時間が限られていること、ここにこうして存在するのはほんの束の間であるということに気づいたのです。ホテルのロビーに降りるとハワイ別院からの参加者のフェイがいました。私の顔を見て最初は気分が悪いのかと思ったようですが、涙で腫らした目を見てそうではないことに

気づきました。私はフェイに自分の感情を伝えました。彼女と言葉を交わすことで、自分の有限性についての考えを整理していくようになりました。今は、限りのある時間で肉体としての私がいなくなったとしても、なにか伝わり続けるものがあるのではないか、と感じています。

今回の奉仕団で初めて長谷川先生と親しくお話をすることができました。僧侶としてのお仕事に真摯に向き合っておられる姿に感銘を受けましたし、なにより声明の素晴らしさに感動しました。先生の声明のファンになった私は、今回仲良くなれたことからこんなお願いをしました。自分の葬儀の時には見義先生と一緒に勤めてほしい、と。長谷川先生は承諾してくださいました。寺報に載せることで私のこの遺言を親しい人に知ってもらえることでしょう。

私が選んでいた法名は「釋尼聞悦」です。仏法を聞くことを悦ぶ身となつてほしいという願いが込められていると聞かせてもらいました。最終日に隣を歩いていたヒロからの

参加者スーザンが、私の顔に喜びが表れている、と言ってくれたことが嬉しかったです。

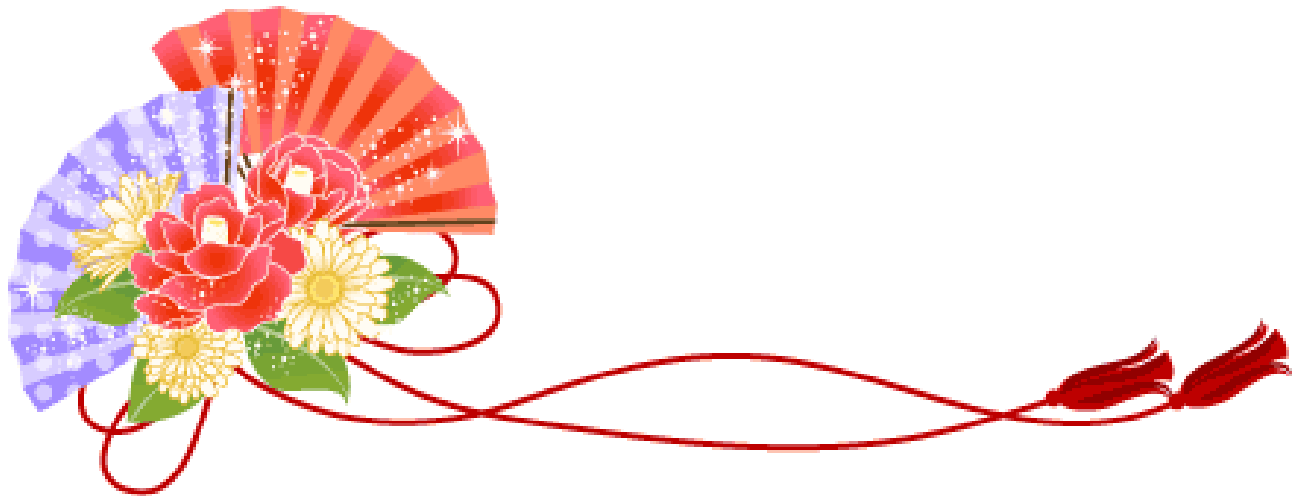
報恩講奉仕団を終えて、私は昔叔父に言ったことを思い出しました。日本人に生まれてきたくなんかなかった。そうすればみんなと同じでアジア人だからとからかわれることもなかったのに、と言ったのです。叔父がとても怒ったのを覚えています。今は日本人の血が流れていることに対する感謝の気持ちが自分の中に深く広がっているを感じています。日系アメリカ人として生まれたからこそ教えに出遇うことができたからです。

最後にこのかけがえのない経験ができるよう尽力してくださった見義先生をはじめ、ウェストコヴィナの皆さん、監督部の方々、そしてロサンゼルス別院に心から感謝します。また本山のスタッフの方々、僧侶の皆さんのおかげでこの度の滞在が思い出深く、学びの多い時間となったことに深くお礼申し上げます。





# T H E G A T E W A Y



Quote of the Month  
I don't want to be  
the next Michael Jordan,  
I only want to be  
Kobe Bryant.  
-Kobe Bryant





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 報恩講奉仕団 – 不安の涙と内省の時 カトウ・ターニャ

11月の最終週、私は報恩講奉仕団に参加するために京都に向かいました。初めての日本にとってもワクワクしていました。

ツアーの引率は長谷川智行先生でした。今回北米開教区から参加したのはバークレーのハイタワー・アナさん、別院の村田ペニーさん、ニューポートビーチの永山繁雄さんと私の4名でした。

奉仕団の前日に真宗本廟に参拝しました。御影堂門の前に立って信じられない思いでした。これほど大きな門だとは思っていなかったからです。門をくぐるのが畏れ多いと感じるほどでした。奉仕団の日程中に掃除の時間がありました。その時は急な階段を登ってその門の中に入ることができました。上層には釈迦如来、弥勒菩薩、阿難尊者の三尊の立像が安置されていました。

御影堂門を抜けて目にした御影堂にはさらに息を飲みました。ネット検索で御影堂の写真は見ていました。でも実物のスケールをその写真から感じることはできなかったのです。この荘厳な建物は私にその建設に携わった多くの人の努力と熱意の深さを感じさせました。

奉仕団参加初日の朝にはハワイのグループと合流しました。引率は菊地香円先生、参加者はレイさん、フェイさん、あきこさん、スーザンさん、ダグラスさん、ジーンさん、そしてダニエルさんの7名です。ホテルのロビーで集合して徒歩で同朋会館に向かいました。

初日の日程が終わり、心の中に色々な不安が湧き上がりました。自分自身がウェストコビナの代表としてこの奉仕団に参加するのに相応し

い人間だったのだろうか、という不安です。また講師の講義の内容を理解する能力が自分には十分にならないような気もしました。特に心配になったのは帰敬式受式のことです。時期尚早だったのではないかと、奉仕団から戻って熟考してからでもよかったのではないかと、思い始めたのです。不安のあまり少しパニックになりました。でもずっと考えていくと、もし今回受けなかったとしたら、それはそれで一生に一度の機会を逃したと後悔したかもしれない、と思うようになりました。

有名な坂東曲を間近で見られることは奉仕団参加のハイライトのひとつです。同時に私を感動させたのは雅楽の音色でした。法要をより荘厳なものにしているそれぞれの奏者をもっと近くで見られたら、と思いました。雅楽の調べは私を遙か昔に連れて行ってくれました。私が生まれるずっと前の人々であり、日本人をルーツにもつ私につながっている人々のことに思いを馳せました。

帰敬式ではカネオへ東本願寺のダグとジーンの隣に座りました。そして真宗宗歌の歌詞を一緒に見ました。親鸞聖人の御真影の前に座り、歌詞が書かれた紙と一緒に見ていると、彼らと私の間のつながりを感じました。彼らも同じ気持ちだったことを後から聞きました。さらには、彼らも私と同じように帰敬式を受けることに不安を感じていたということも知りました。帰敬式の時間が近づくにつれ、受式を決めたことに自信がもてるようになっていました。それでも、同じ気持ちの人がいたことに救われた思いがしたのも事実です。

奉仕団の最終日には大谷暢裕開

教司教とそのご子息裕さんとお会いすることができました。お二人の率直さと親しみやすさにとっても感激しました。今回多くの僧侶の方々と接する機会にも恵まれました。その中で気づいたことは彼らもまた私たちと同じように様々な悩みを抱えながら生きているということです。小学校の時、先生にも普通の生活があることなどほとんど想像できませんでした。同じように僧侶の方々にもお寺の外に生活があるということは今まであまり考えませんでした。彼らも悩んだり人間関係に苦勞する私たちと同じ人間でした。生きることの苦しみや悩みの免除者ではありませんでした。今回僧侶の方からも自身の苦しみや悩みを聞かせていただくことができて、その痛みを

(「奉仕団」7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6日(木曜日)午後7時より、また3月の法話会は3月5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、お参り下さいませようご案内申し上げます。

### お寺家族リトリート

来る2月15(土)～16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(近隣のモーター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

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

# GATEWAY

February 2020 - - Vol. LV No. 2

## February

- 2 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 6 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 9 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 14-16 WCBT Family Retreat
- 23 10:00 am Pet Memorial Service
- 25 10:00 am Study Class

## March

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 10 10:00 am Study Class
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 21 12-6 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
- 22 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service
- 24 10:00 am Study Class

## 2020年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 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 14日-16日 家族リトリート
- 23日 午前10時 ペット追悼法要

## 3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
- 5日 午後7時 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
- 21日 正午 センター桜祭り
- 22日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1	Oldies Dance	5
D.S.News	2	Acknowledgments	8
Family Fun Day	2	Japanese Page	9
Temple News	3		

信心というものは若返るものである。  
死ぬ準備ではない。

安田理深