



GATEWAY



August-September 2021 - - Vol. LVI No. 5



WCBT held it's first in-Temple service on Sunday, June 27, for the 2021 Manto-e Service. The small service was limited to a few members who were treated to a lovely display of Manto-e lanterns. A virtual service was held the day before for other Sangha members.



Unity in Diversity Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which were postponed for one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, finally kicked off on Friday, July 23, with the opening ceremony. Bill and I were amazed at 1,824 drones shaping the blue planet in the night sky. Unfortunately, the situation with COVID-19 in Japan is still far from being under control. Therefore, with the anxiety and concerns that pervaded among the people and the events themselves, the organizers of the games were compelled to modify the format, including holding games behind closed doors. Despite many changes and challenges, there are still some consistencies handed down from all past Olympics. They are the diligence and hospitality of the frontline staff and magnificent performances of athletes,

which powerfully moves us.

Looking at the website of this Olympics, we see the three core concepts of the events; "Achieving Personal Best: Striving for your personal best," "Unity in Diversity: Accepting one another," and "Connecting to Tomorrow: Passing on the legacy for the future." Among them, the second concept is described as follows;

"Unity in Diversity: Accepting one another"

Accepting and respecting differences in race, color, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, level of ability or other status allows peace to be maintained and society to continue to develop to flourish.

The Tokyo 2020 Game will foster

a welcoming environment and raise awareness of Unity in Diversity among citizens of the world.

Sadly, our society has flowed in the opposite direction from unity in diversity. We divide each other based on differences such as our race, color, religion, and political opinion. I believe that, in reflecting on the state of the world today, "Unity in Diversity" was chosen as a concept of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

This concept may remind you of our 12th World Dobo Gathering's theme in Los Angeles in 2016. The theme for the event was "Dobo: Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity." As well as the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, unity in diversity is also the basic

Please see Unity, con't on page 7



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Summer is certainly making its presence known. High temperatures with occasional bouts of humidity can make it uncomfortable for us all. Even though we're experiencing hot days, school is coming up soon. Some districts are opening fall semester in two weeks!

The Dharma School Staff is hoping that sometime during 2021 we can meet for class in person. In the meantime, keep safe!

The following is another Aesop's fable that has a lesson for all of us:

The Olive Tree and the Fig Tree

An olive tree and a fig tree lived next to each other. The olive tree always made fun of the fig tree because the fig tree loses its leaves during the winter. "You look so ugly without your leaves," said the olive tree, "and you have no protection from the cold. My beautiful leaves keep me cozy!"

The fig tree said nothing. It was used to the mean comments from the oak tree.

The winter that year was very harsh. It snowed and snowed leaving thick layers. The snow began to settle on the leaves of the olive tree. The snow was so heavy that the olive tree's branches began to break. Because the fig tree had no leaves, the snow fell harmlessly through its branches.

Once spring arrived, the fig tree was ready to grow again, but the olive tree was not able to recover.

The lesson of this Aesop's story is: "Pride goes before a fall."

What do you think this statement means? Share your thoughts with your parents and/or grandparent.

Have a good start of the new school year!

Gassho, Claire Hansen



Quote of the Month
In diversity
there is beauty
and there is strength.
-Maya Angelou

Rev. Paul Imahara graced us with his visit and thoughtful Dharma message from his home in Las Vegas at our virtual Obon/Hatsubon service. In addition he shared his collection of ceramics he has been creating and invited us to visit him in Las Vegas.



T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

Sunday Services

All Sunday services will be conducted via Zoom until further notice. Look for an email from Rev. Miyoshi or Rev. Fred inviting you to the services with the Zoom meeting ID and Password. If you have not received an email from them, please contact the temple wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com. The attendance for the services are growing every week and it's such a pleasure to see all the familiar faces so please join us!

August Schedule

WCBT usually takes a break during August but due to the great response we've had with Zoom services we will continue to have Sunday Services through the month of August and beyond.

However, the bi-monthly Tuesday evening Study Classes and the weekly Thursday morning Discussion Classes will take an August break and will reconvene in September.

Autumn Ohigan Service

Autumn Ohigan Service will be held on September 19 at **4:00 pm** via Zoom. Our special guest speaker will be Rimban William Briones from Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin. Join us as we welcome back Rimban Briones and reflect as he shares his thoughts with us.

Note: The change from our usual 10:00 am morning service is due to

a scheduling conflict with Nishi's Ohigan Service on the same day.



AUGUST BIRTHDAY

Barbara Shirota, Bob Kirk, Brittany Kato, Wesley Hamachi, Derek Hamachi, K.C. Koga, Mark Mayeda, Brian Iwama, Aaron Aoki, Rick Fujimoto, Sachi Ezaki, James deLeon, Rene Kuwahara, Sharon Kuwahara, Chico Masai, Vickie Takemura, Joy Ormseth, Frederic Brenion, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata, Hideko Ikehara, Kylie Noguchi, Garrett Godoy

Online Donations

Online donations continue to be accepted at the Living Dharma website at <https://livingdharma.org/index.php/donations/>. You can use PayPal, credit and debit cards to make donations to the temple with a few simple clicks. Checks are still and always accepted as well.

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/westcvinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitosho-Gonzalez, Lindsay Ogino (Fiske), Ted Kato, Oliver Reynolds-Hale, Evan Louise Yoburn, Cathy Nakano, Roy Takemura, Kevin Kuwahara, Brian Takahashi, Andrea Lespron, Catay Nakano, Toyomi Nakakihara, Miyoko Oshima, Leanne Komada, Sonali Ortiz, Erika Oshiro, Mei-Ling Chen, Edward Chen, Trina Sillona, Toshi Ikehara, Lauren Midori Jucksch, Rev. Etsuko Miyoshi, Yasmine Whang, Tomi Mukai



T H E G A T E W A Y

Record Number Tees Off at 24th Golf Classic

The 24th WCBT Golf Classic returned to Hacienda Golf Club on June 7th. A record 124 players teed it up to test their golfing skills on a beautifully manicured course. The June gloom lingered throughout the day preventing the sun to break through making it a comfortable day for golf.

Several commented how difficult the course played but praised its beauty and are eager to return next year.

The format of the tournament was essentially the same as previous tournaments with one exception. Due to the pandemic protocol, the after-tournament awards banquet was not permitted. Therefore, a virtual Zoom awards and raffle presentation replaced the banquet.

The team of Erick Liscio, Richie Schweitzer, Takashi Ena and Richard Li walked away with top honors as the low gross winners with a 12 under par score of 59.

The other winners are as follows:

1st low net (three-way tie) - Wayne Tamanaha, Norman Tamanaha, Davie Terukina, and Richard Terukina; George Sugimoto, Lisa Sugimoto, Don Nose, and Jeff Won;

Rev. Shumyo Kojima, George Komura, Ben Takagi, and Fumio Tanabe

4th low net - Richard Odagawa, Todd Odagawa, Glen Takahashi, Brandon Ito

Consolation (try bowling) - Kathy Taguchi, Lillian Nishihara, Jimmy Puzon, Roy Takemura

Men's accuracy drive - Rev. Shumyo Kojima

Women's accuracy drive - Susan Shirakawa

Men's long drive - Brandon Ito

Women's long drive - Cheryl Teragawa

Men's closest to pin - #4 Ritz Ito; #12 Ray Baysa; #16 Steve Underwood

Women's closest to pin - no winners.

Putting contest - Richie Schweitzer & Russell Nishida

A tournament of this magnitude cannot be a success without the help of many individuals. First a big thanks to all the on-course volunteers. They handled the registration of players, putting contest, buy a drive hole, and hole in one contest. The on-course volunteers were Alyssa Arnheim, Sumiye Arnheim, Mei-Ling Chin, Claudia and Richard Haraguchi, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Ruby & Richard Kagawa, Tanya Kato, Hisako Koga, Yukiko Kovacs, Haruko Maeda, Emily Santos-Tumale, Pat Sato, Barbara Shirota, Judy Takemura, Denise Underwood, Phil Underwood and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi. Also, thank you to all the Sangha members who donated snacks and other items for the player's "goodie" bags.

The Golf Classic is one of WCBT's major fundraiser. With the cancellation of the Oldies Dance, Obon and Kiku Crafts Fair, it was critical that this event be a financial success. Thanks to the support and generosity of all the tee sponsors, and players purchasing tickets for the split the pot raffle, it was a tremendous success!

Finally, a huge virtual hug to this year's golf committee – chair Roy Takemura, Barbara Shirota, Lillian Nishihara, Yukiko Kovacs, Judy Takemura, Denise and Steve Underwood, and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi.

The 25th "Silver Anniversary" Golf Classic is scheduled for **June 6, 2022**. Mark your calendars!



T H E G A T E W A Y

WCBT Golf Classic - A Resounding Success!

WCBT's 24th Golf Classic returned with a record 124 players who braved the brisk and overcast day making it perfect for our active golfers. The course at the Hacienda Golf Club is lush and beautiful but challenging for many. Sangha volunteers met in-person after more than a year in quarantine to help make this an enormous success!





T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA

HIGASHI HONGANJI

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

July 30, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Autumn Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021 via Zoom. The information for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021
 Time: **4:00 P.M.** (via Zoom)
 Dharma Message: Rimban William Briones
 (Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin)
 Meeting ID: 840 8085 8185
 Passcode: 485391

Higan, meaning the Other Shore (of enlightenment), is a service is conducted on or about the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. At these times of the year, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment of the Buddhist life.

門信徒の皆様へ

盛夏の候、皆様におかれましては健やかにお過ごしのことと存じます。さて少し早いお知らせではございますが、秋のお彼岸法要を下記の如くオンラインにてお勤め致しますのでご案内申し上げます。お彼岸は古く聖徳太子の時代より行われてきた伝統ある法要です。私ども先達はこの機会を仏様の教えを聞く良き機会としてまいりました。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

秋のお彼岸法要

日 時 2021年9月19日 午後4時 (Zoom にて)
 法 話 ブリオネス・ウィリアム輪番 (西本願寺羅府別院) (英語)
 ミーティング ID : 840 8085 8185
 パスコード : 485391

合 掌

Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister
 開教使 見義信香

Johnny Martinez, President
 理事長 ジャニー・マルティネス



T H E G A T E W A Y

Unity, con't from pg. 1

principle of Buddhism because it is the way to sustain our society. And most importantly, it is the way for us to liberate ourselves from suffering created by us.

"We are all different, therefore, we are equally invaluable"—this is what Buddhism tells us as the truth of our existence. The following passage in the *Amida Sutra* depicts this;

There are lotus flowers, as large as chariot wheels, growing in the pools. Those of blue color emit blue radiance; those of yellow color emit yellow radiance; those of red color emit red radiance; and those of white color emit white radiance. They are exquisite, wonderful, fragrant and pure.

The large size of those flowers symbolizes the depth of our lives. And as the various color of lotus flowers in the Pure Land, each of us is unique, and our lives are precious as if they emit brilliant light.

Buddhism also reveals that we are not aware of it even though it is the truth of our existence. When we are ignorant of our own preciousness, we do not respect others as invaluable ones as well. As a result, instead of respecting differences, we use them as a reason to discriminate or exclude others. It means, in return, we are also discriminated against and excluded by others for the same reason. Buddhism repeatedly emphasizes that this is how we harm others and society and create our suffering. Ignoring the concept of "unity in diversity," we treat others and ourselves the opposite way without knowing it. Therefore, the passage in the *Amida Sutra* works as a mirror for us and encourages us to be awake to how far we are from the path of unity in diversity. Facing our reality in front of us and thinking about it is painful, yet, without the process, our path toward unity in diversity is

never settled in us. In other words, when we genuinely accept the harsh reality and deeply regret our hypocrisy, we come to see the path on which to walk.

It is like going on a trip using a map to reach your destination. We can find the place we want to go to on the map. However, we do not know how to get there without first finding our current location. It is not until we see exactly where we are that the path to the destination is determined. In the same way, we may agree with the necessity of unity in diversity and praise it as our goal. However, it will end up merely as an idea with no substance unless we truly face the reality that we use our diversity to divide us. We deeply feel regretful about our insincerity. And as we struggle to accept this reality, it can actually motivate us to devote ourselves to seek unity in diversity.

Buddhism constantly reminds us that respecting differences and treating others as invaluable ones is the aspiration we all share deep within. That being so, the path to seeking unity in diversity is, in fact, the path to return to our innermost aspiration.

(「調和」9頁からの続き)

向き合った時に、理念が自らの課題となり、歩むべき道が明らかになるのです。仏法に背いている私たちの姿を教えるのは、私達を絶望させるためではありません。その姿に深く慙愧することが実はそのまま、生涯にかけて教えを聞き続け、歩み続ける力となるということを教えるためなのです。

仏教は違いを認めてお互いに尊ぶ生き方を大切に説いてきました。それは、それが相手を利することであり、社会を持続可能なものにしていく道であると同時に、何よりもそれが私達を苦しみから解放する道だからです。さらには、そのような生き方を願うその願いは私達一人一人がもっている深い願いである、と教えてくれています。自らの意識すら超えた心の奥にもつ願い、あらゆる人をつなげるその深い願いに還れという呼びかけを私達は仏法のはたらきとしていただいているのではないのでしょうか。



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You shop. Amazon gives.

The Temple has registered with the AmazonSmile donation program. For those of you who shop online with Amazon, the AmazonSmile foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Temple, at no cost to you. You just need to login to "smile.amazon.com" which will connect you to the same Amazon website you know. It will display the same products, same prices, and same service. On your first visit select 'West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple' as the organization that you wish to support. It's that easy.

Happy shopping!



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T H E R I N G

多様性と調和 見義信香

7月23日に東京オリンピック・パラリンピックがついに開催されました。ご自宅で観戦していらっしゃる方も多いのではないのでしょうか。新型コロナウイルスの世界的蔓延の影響で一年延期となった大会であり、現在もウイルス感染の流行が収束しない中で開催とあって、待ち遠しさ以上に「本当にできるのか？」という不安の中での開催となりました。史上初の無観客開催などこれまでのオリンピック・パラリンピックとは大きく異なった形ではありますが、一つ変わらないことがあるとすれば、それは全力で試合に臨む選手の姿であり、彼らから受ける大きな感動ではないかと思えます。

東京オリンピック・パラリンピックの大会ビジョンを見てみますと、「全員が自己ベスト」「多様性と調和」「未来への継承」の三つが基本コンセプトとしてあげられています。特にこの中の「多様性と調和」には次のような説明がされています。

「人種、肌の色、性別、性的指向、言語、宗教、政治、障がいの有無など、あらゆる面での違いを肯定し、自然に受け入れ、互いに認め合うことで社会は進歩。」

東京2020大会を、世界中の人々が多様性と調和の重要性を改めて認識し、共生社会をはぐくむ契機となるような大会とする。」

オリンピック・パラリンピックは文字通り異なる国や文化の人々との出会いを私たちに開き、その出会いが私たちの生活や考え方をより豊かなものにしてくれる、そのことを教えてくれる機会ではないのでしょうか。

同時に「多様性と調和」がますます世界全体の課題であるということを示してくれているように思います。そして今回のオリンピック・パラリンピック大会と同様に「多様性と調和」を常にその理念としているのが実は仏教の教えであると言えるでしょう。

仏教は私たちの存在の真実、つまりありのままの姿を表す教えです。それは「誰一人として同じ人間はいない」ということと「だからこそ一人一人がかかけがえない存在であり尊い」という事実です。違うことが当たり前である、という考えに立っているのが仏教の教えなのです。『阿彌陀經』の中で浄土に咲く蓮の華が「池の中の蓮華、大きさ車輪のごとし。青き色には青き光、黄なる色には黄なる光、赤き色には赤き光、白き色には白き光あり。微妙香潔なり」と表現されています。これは誰一人として同じ人はおらず、それぞれが輝きを放っているということ、そしてそのような存在の深さを大きな車輪の如しとして私達に知らしめてくれています。

浄土は私たちのあり方を映す鏡です。「青色青光、黄色黄光、赤色赤光、白色白光」は、それが本来の姿であるにも関わらず、そのことに気づいておらず、その事実を背き続けている私たちの姿を同時に照らし出してくれています。「多様性と調和」という理念もまた、それが実現されていない社会、世界中で意見や立場の違いによる分断や差別が一層激しくなっているという厳しい現実を顕しています。だからこそ、この理念が国を超えてあらゆる人々にとっての課題として掲げられているのでしょう。

違うことが当たり前であり、だからこそ一人一人が尊い存在である、という事実がゆえに、私達は自らを傷つけ、相手を傷つけ、社会を傷つけているのです。自分が本来の姿から遠く離れているがゆえに絶えず間なく自ら苦しみを作り出している、

そのことに気づけと促し続けてくれているのが仏教のはたらきであると思えます。

仏教は私達が歩むべき道を示してくれています。そしてその歩みは自らの現実のあり方に直面し、そのあり方を慙愧することから初めて始まるのです。

地図を手にして目的地の場所がわかっても、それだけではそこにたどり着くことはできません。最も大切なことは自分が今どこにいるのかを知ることです。現在地が明らかになった時にはじめて目的地への行き方が分かるのです。同じように、どのような素晴らしい理念であっても、その理念に背いているという自らの姿がはっきりと見えてこない、それはただの理想であり決して自らの課題にはなりません。自分の現実としっかり

(「調和」7頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

法話会祥月法要

8月の祥月法要は8月5日(木)、9月の祥月法要は9月2日(木)にお勤めします。いずれも午後7時よりオンラインにてお勤めいたします。

8月日曜礼拝

通常ですと8月は第一日曜日の祥月法要を除きお休みとなっていますが、昨年に続き今年も8月は毎週日曜日に日曜礼拝をお勤めいたします。いずれも午前10時よりオンラインにてお勤めいたします。

秋季彼岸法要（英語）

本年度の秋季彼岸法要は昨年に引き続きオンラインにてお勤めいたします。日時は9月19日(日)午後4時となっております。ご家族でご参加いただきますようお願い申し上げます。

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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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

August - September 2021 - - Vol. LVI No. 5

August

- 1 8:30 am Board Meeting-online
- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-online
- 5 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
-online
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service-online

September

- 2 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 2 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service
-online
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting-online
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-online
- 9 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 14 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 16 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 19 4:00 pm Autumn Ohigah Service-online

2021年8月行事予定

- 1日 午前8時半 理事会ーオンライン
- 1日 午前10時 祥月法要ーオンライン
- 5日 午後7時 法話会ーオンライン
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン

9月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時 法話会ーオンライン
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会ーオンライン
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要ーオンライン
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 19日 午後4時 秋季彼岸法要 (英語)
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1	Ohigan Service	6
D.S.News	2	Acknowledgments	8
Temple News	3	Japanese Page	9
Golf Tournament	4-5		

同一に念仏して別の道なきがゆえに。
遠く通ずるに、それ四海の内
みな兄弟とするなり

親鸞聖人