



# GATEWAY



January-February 2022 - - Vol. LVII No. 1

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Yul Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)

To our fellow seekers in the overseas districts, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

It has been almost one year since my appointment as the Overseas District Abbot. Despite the assignment, however, I have not had a chance to join you in person in any Dharma activities, even at your *Hōonkō* services due to the continuation of the pandemic. I truly miss the opportunities to meet all of you in person.

Many of our temples in the overseas districts have utilized the internet to hold new types of Dharma sharing activities. I am so happy to hear that you have made such efforts to devise ways to share the teaching in this difficult situation.

With the increasing number of



virtually held events such as memorial services, seminars, and study classes, people who had never accessed our temples before, some even from outside of the country. Such

activities have allowed us to share the teaching of the *nenbutsu* in ways we have not been able to before. Such experiences offer the prospect of a new type of Dharma sharing for the future. At the same time, however, I strongly feel that it is still important for us to have a "place" where we can physically "get together" with each other to listen to, to learn, and to share the teaching of the *nenbutsu* together. It is my wish that you will continue to find a way to maintain a "place" where the *nenbutsu* sangha continues to grow at the Betsuin and at all of our temples.

We are approaching the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shōnin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the

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

## Eitaikyo Service & General Meeting

Eitaikyo and General Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23 at 10:00 am. We are planning our first hybrid service with both in-person participation and Zoom service on this day. We will be following the guidelines of the Community Center, which include proof of vaccination that must be submitted to the Center ahead of time. We strongly encourage attendees to be fully vaccinated and ask those who are not vaccinated to attend the service via Zoom or until we are ready to offer a rapid test at the door. Masking and spacing will also be necessary during the service.

Bento lunches will be available to take home for \$15. Please contact Joy Kitaura ([joy.mk8@gmail.com](mailto:joy.mk8@gmail.com)) for more information and to place your order.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

**Bishop Wataru Kigoshi**  
**Chief Administrator, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)**

To all of you in our overseas districts, I wish to extend my New Year's greetings for the year of 2022. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

My name is Wataru Kigoshi. I was appointed as the Chief Administrator as of October 15, 2021. I am from a temple in the Kanazawa District in Ishikawa prefecture. But when my father was assigned as resident minister of the Berkeley Higashi Honganji, we moved to the temple where I spent my early years of my childhood.

At the time, the first generation (*issei*) of Japanese immigrants were active at the temple. They would gather to talk about and appreciate their ancestral lineage in Japan. Members of each family would come together to the temple to attend the Sunday services. My father



would give a Dharma talk in English, which would be followed by a talk on the same topic in Japanese. After the Dharma talks, the attendees would break up into age groups and learn the Japanese language as well as the teachings of Shinran Shōnin. They were a closely knit community which shared their appreciation

of Japanese culture while learning the Buddhist teaching and its tradition.

I truly feel that I owe what I am today to the support and guidance the temple members in the United States and Japan extended to me. With those experiences in mind, I have always reminded myself of the importance of "walking the Buddhist path together with our fellow seekers."

As many of you heard, Bishop Hiroshi Tajima, the former Chief Administrator and my immediate predecessor, passed away in September 2021.

The late Bishop Tajima had devoted himself to steering our denomination in the right direction despite the unprecedented problems caused by the pandemic. He had always envisioned what the future of our denomination should be and actively took on the leadership in realizing

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

### Greetings From Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Wishing all the West Covina Buddhist Temple members and friends a Happy New Year. As we begin the year 2022, Bill and I hope that the New Year will bring you and your family good health and meaningful moments.

When we finally entered 2021 after a long and challenging 2020, I had hoped that things would get better in the new year. Unfortunately, the virus does not care whether we start a new year or not, and COVID-19 and its variants continued to affect us throughout 2021.

The temple remained closed, and most fundraisers and events had to be canceled again. We kept physically isolated from each other, yet these challenging times brought our Sangha members closer. Sunday services, study classes, and various meetings were held on Zoom, and

many members were actively involved in them. I feel that the temple, which is the place to listen to the teachings, now extends to our houses, and we are finally able to experience the teachings in our actual lives.

Buddhism always encourages us to consider others. Our words and actions affect other people because we live in a world of interconnectedness. We have listened to the teaching of interconnectedness so many times and think we understand it. Nevertheless, it was not until COVID-19 dominated the world that we genuinely experienced the teaching. I believe many of you have been more cautious about your action more than ever. "Not to harm others or self" is a fundamental practice of Buddhism, and the pandemic allowed us to practice it in our daily lives.

At the same time, Buddhism

reveals that no matter how much we try to care for others, our selfishness is deeply engrained. When we are thrown into an unexpected situation, we quickly put ourselves first and leave others behind, and this is also our reality.

Imagine if we attended a party and later found out that one of the attendees tested positive. Our first concern is our family and our health. At the same time, we may worry about our work schedule and feel frustrated because we may be forced to change or cancel them. We might even become angry over the inconvenience that it may cause. And maybe, just maybe we might feel concerned about the person who actually got infected with the coronavirus.

Instead of condemning our self-centeredness, Buddhism urges us

*Please see MIYOSHI, con't on pg. 6*



# 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](mailto:wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com).

### Discussion Class

The weekly discussion class will be every Thursday at 10 am via Zoom. There is a different topic of discussion each week and a lively dialogue with a growing number of participants. Look for the email invitation with meeting ID and password or contact Rev. Miyoshi for the information.

### Study Class

An evening Study Class is held every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm and we invite those who are unable to attend the morning Discussion Class to join us. The Study Classes will focus on the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu and starting in the New Year it will be held on January 12 and 26. If you are interested in purchasing "The Teaching of Jodo Shinshu and the History of the Honganji Community" book which will be used as reference, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.

### New Year's Day Service

A special online service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Saturday, January 1, 2022, at 11:00 am.

### Sunday Service

There will be no Sunday Service on January 2 since the New Year's Day Service will be the day before.

**Board Meeting and Shotsuki Service**  
January Board Meeting and Shotsuki

Service will be held on Sunday, January 9, 2022.

### WCBT Seminar

WCBT will again have a virtual seminar on February 5, 2022 with Josh Hernandez Morse, head of The Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu, Hawaii, the first Shin Buddhist college prep school in the U.S. See page 7 for more information.

### Pet Memorial Service

A special online service will be held on February 27 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. We will update you if this will be a hybrid service.

### Online Donations

The Living Dharma website now has a link <https://livingdharma.org/index.php/donations/> for donations. You can use PayPal, credit or debit cards to make donations to the temple with a few simple clicks. Checks are still and always accepted as well for the traditionalist.

### JANUARY BIRTHDAY

Tami Kitaura, Ty Tamo Le, 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,

### 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:*

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)

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Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase, Andrew Kobayashi, Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams, Matthew Musselwhite, Ryan Musselwhite, Maebyn Yoburn, Eddie Nakasone, Lisa Nakasone, Mayson Godoy, Angelina Wu, George Wu

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

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

## Greetings to our West Covina Sangha

### DHARMA SCHOOL

Happy New Year! 2022 is the Year of the Tiger in Asian astrology. People born this year are said to be



very independent, enthusiastic, lively, and cheerful. They love adventures. Steve Irwin, Queen Elizabeth II, and Lady Gaga are Tiger people. Do you know anyone born in a Tiger year—1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, or 2010?

The following is a Tiger story from the Jakata Tales:

#### ***The Wind and the Moon***

*Long ago there lived a tiger and a lion whose home was in the shade of a large rock. They had known each other since they were little cubs and grew up with each other. They were best friends. They lived peacefully with a monk who also lived in the shade of the large rock.*

*One day the tiger and the lion began to argue. The tiger said that cold temperatures came when the moon changed from full to new (when the moon is not visible in the sky). The lion disagreed. He said that cold temperatures came when the moon changed from new to full. They became angry and called each other names.*

*Finally, they decided to ask the monk about who had the correct explanation of when cold temperatures came. The monk thought for a while. He finally told them that the wind brought the cold. He told them that each was correct and neither was wrong in their observations. Sometimes the cold comes when the*

*Please see DS, con't on pg. 6*

### Johnny Martinez, President

Dear Members and Friends,

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone. It almost feels as if the premise of the movie “Groundhog Day” was stretched out over a year, and that here we are again because of the surge of the new variant Omicron. However, unlike any movie, the reality of losing loved ones brings us back to reality. This past year with its painful and positive moments, has left us with many memories and lessons that we will carry into the next year.

As the new year begins, so many extreme words come to my mind. We are inundated with words of intolerance, violence, hate, global warming, pandemics, conspiracies, betrayal, etc. We put labels on ourselves and others in an attempt to clarify or explain. We have focussed so much on our differences and being right, that we have neglected to regard and respect our common humanity.

Life continues to send us challenges and reminders of how ill-prepared we truly are, whether it is a case of viruses, earthquakes or tornadoes. Yet even when these types of catastrophes occur they bring out our best in what Abraham Lincoln described as the better angels of our nature, or what we call compassion. When I experience compassion, gratitude naturally follows, which encourages me to open up and help others. I am grateful for a temple and sangha where I can find refuge, even in the darkest of days. A place where respect, sympathy, warmth, laughter and support are freely given without hesitation. I can listen to the Dharma, as I continue to experience, learn, and encounter meaning in my life. I am so grateful to all of you who have given me the most precious of gifts, friendship and acceptance. For me this would not be possible without a temple.

Thank you to Rev. Miyoshi and all the members who have been supportive throughout the year. I look forward with gratitude and anticipation for the New Year, with the hope that we might be able to gather together in person again.

With Gassho,  
Johnny Martinez



### Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Treasurer

Happy New Year Everyone!

The June 2021 WCBT Golf Tournament was the bright spot of the year fundraising wise. It was the first time many sangha members were able to see each other in person. I forgot how much I enjoy the camaraderie of others, laughing together, and working with each other. It was a joyful moment. I look forward to having more of these moments in 2022.

Stay safe and well until we meet again soon.



# T H E G A T E W A Y

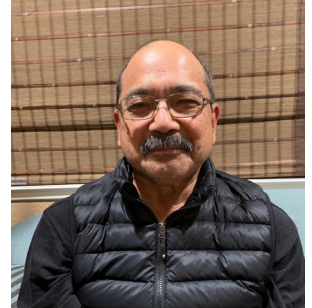
## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS

**Dr. Roy Takemura**

When you google the definition of Toban, the first link refers to it as a Japanese ceramic skillet. With further research, Toban literally means "on duty" and it is also referred to as a volunteer work group.

Due to the pandemic in 2020, our Sunday services and all other temple activities were canceled. Therefore, our Toban groups were "off duty". With vaccines and infection and death rates declining, it was anticipated with much hopeful enthusiasm that we will be able to resume in person Sunday services and temple activities and fundraisers in 2021. Discussions at Board meetings included a possibility to have in person Sunday services with video feed. There was even talk about holding the Kiku Craft and Food Fair. Our Toban groups would be back "on duty" again.

However, the Delta variant followed by the Omicron variant, raised their ugly heads and infection cases and death rates increased. Therefore, it was decided to forego in person services and all our



other activities. The Toban groups continued to be "off duty" in 2021.

After almost two years of Sunday services via Zoom, the temple will have an in-person hybrid Eitaikyo service on January 23, 2022. If successful, more likely in person Sunday services will continue and other temple activities will resume. This means the Toban groups will be back "ON DUTY". In last year's message I mentioned that secretly I was happy that we were "off duty", but then mentioned I would be the first to shout "hooray" from the top of my lungs when the Toban groups are back. Don't be

surprised if you hear a loud shoutout of "hooray" on January 23rd.

As customary, Year End and New Year messages will thank the many people for their hard work and dedication. Due to our inactivity, on behalf of the Toban chairs (Joy Kitaura - A, Dick Koga - B, Lee Ezaki - C), thank you for patiently waiting in the wings for our temple to resume more in person activities and looking forward to working with you to keep WCBT well and alive! A very Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your families. May 2022, be the return to a pandemic free life!

## 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) (January-March, October-December)**

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, Barbara  
Takahashi, Miyo  
Takemoto, Takashi & Hiroko  
Takemura, Roy & Judy  
Takemura, Vicki  
Teragawa, David & Cheryl  
Underwood, Phillip  
Yamasaki, Ron

### **Toban B (Lee Ezaki) (April-June)**

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

*\*If you do not see your name here and would like to join one of our Tobans, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.*

### **Toban C (Dick Koga) (July-September)**

Godoy, Jose & Lynette  
Hansen, Claire  
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia  
Kato, Ted  
Koga, Dick & Hisako  
Kovacs, Yukiko  
Kowalski, Kurt  
Martinez, Johnny & Joanie  
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 H E W A Y

*ODA, con't from pg. 1*

Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū which will be held in 2023 at our mother temple in Kyoto. Steady progress is being made in the preparation for those major events. I sincerely look forward to sharing the opportunity with all of you in person to celebrate the birth of Shinran Shōnin.

Thank you.

*SOCHO, con't from pg. 2*

the vision for our denomination. It was so regrettable that he suddenly passed away during his term of office. Once again, I express my sincerest appreciation for his tremendous contributions to our denomination in addition to my deepest condolences on his passing. Keeping Bishop Tajima's wishes in mind, I will abide by his cabinet's directions and enforce the administrative policies that they had developed.

As of now, there seems to be no end in sight to the coronavirus pandemic which wreaked havoc to the world for the past two years. After the peak last summer, the situation seems to have reached a moderate level in Japan. However, I have heard that the people in our overseas districts continue to struggle with dire situations. Since last year, it has become normal to hold temple events using online streaming without in-person attendance. In a sense, it was as if our entire denomination was challenged to devise more effective ways to share our teaching even in normal times.

In such difficult circumstances, I am convinced that it is even more crucial for us to revive the *nenbutsu* sangha where all of us can rediscover each other as "spiritual friends" in a spirit of mutual respect.

On this occasion, I express my sincerest wish that we will awaken together to our deepest wishes to live together as a sangha in accordance with the Tathāgatha's Original Vow.

In conclusion, I wish to ask for your continued support as we begin the new year.

Thank you.

*MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 2*

to be fully aware of it. Facing our selfishness is painful. However, once we sincerely accept it as our reality, the realization transforms into a profound aspiration to live according to the teachings, which shows us the path to living together harmoniously.

There is no doubt that these past two years were challenging, yet we come to realize that it is these difficult times when we genuinely experience the teaching of Buddhism. Learning from this challenging past will give us strength and resilience to live in the present. And if we are able to live each moment to the fullest, our future will be bright and positive.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our Temple President, Mr. Johnny Martinez, members of the Board of Directors, and all our members for their generous support and guidance. Their dedication, enthusiasm, and encouragement enabled me to fulfill my duties as a minister. I would also like to thank Rev. Frederick Brenion for sending the temple events' information to our members via email.

The temple is currently planning to reopen our in-person services on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> on the occasion of Eitaikyo Service and General Meeting. We will be following the guidelines of the ESGVJCC and the service will be held with hybrid format.

As we enter 2022, I would like to continue to listen to the teachings and walk the Path of Nembutsu with all of you.

Gassho

*DS, con't from pg. 4*

*moon changes from full to new, and sometimes it comes when the moon changes from new to full.*

*The monk explained that their friendship was a beautiful thing and that to live in unity is most important. He said quarreling about petty things*

*was not good. The tiger and the lion thanked the monk and continued to live happily and peacefully again.*

Is there something else that the tiger and the lion learned? Discuss this with your parents or grandparents! (Hint: Can this have something to do with a "point of view"?)

Keep safe and have a wonderful year!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen

(「新年」8頁からの続き)

を、「共に生きる」道を探す生き方を始め、前に進んでいくことが願われているのではないのでしょうか。

最後になりましたが、旧年中はマルティネス・ジョン理事長をはじめ理事会の皆さまには多大なお力添えとご指導を賜りました。常に信頼し支え続けてくださった皆さまのおかげで僧侶としての勤めを果たすことができました。この場をお借りして深く感謝申し上げます。またブレニオン・フレデリック開教係にもお礼申し上げます。オンラインでの法要や学習会の案内を毎週メンバーの方にメールでお知らせくださいました。お寺とメンバーの橋渡しを担ってくださいありがとうございました。

お寺の再開は1月23日(日)を現在のところ予定しております。当日は永代経法要が勤められ、総会が開会されます。法要、総会は対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式となります。

2022年も引き続き大きな変化の年となるでしょう。今こそ過去から学び、今できることを精一杯尽くし、未来へとつなげていくことが大切だと感じています。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

合 掌





# T H E L I V I N G D H A R M A

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 2022 Online Seminar: “Living Dharma In Education And In Our Lives”

Lecturer: Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse  
(Head of School of Pacific Buddhist Academy, Honolulu)

**Date: Saturday, February 5, 2022**

**Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm (PST)**

(No Registration Fee)

Pre-register by email to  
[wbtlivingdharma@gmail.com](mailto:wbtlivingdharma@gmail.com) to be added  
to the Zoom meeting invitation for the  
seminar.

More Info: (626)689-1040

[revnobuko@gmail.com](mailto:revnobuko@gmail.com) (Rev. Miyoshi) or

[pishsato@gmail.com](mailto:pishsato@gmail.com) (Pat Sato)

### ◆ About the Seminar

How do Buddhist values get integrated into the curricula of The Pacific Buddhist Academy, the first Shin Buddhist college prep school in the U.S.? Can the universal values of compassion, gratitude and interdependence lead us towards peace and contentment as individuals and further influence the community and world around us?

This is an excellent opportunity to learn how we can activate the teachings of Buddhism in our lives. Please join us as we listen to and explore a novel approach to answer these questions.

### ◆ About the Lecturer

Mr. Josh Hernandez Morse has over 20 years of educational experience at the secondary and university levels in Oregon, Central America and Hawaii. He has been at the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu, HI since 2003 and has been serving as the head of the academy since 2014. The academy is the first college preparatory Shin Buddhist high school in the U.S. He attended the University of Oregon and received his Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and his Master's degree in Creative Writing. He was selected for a William J. Fulbright Award to Nicaragua. At the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he was a Masters of Education candidate.



### Program: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

1:00-1:10 Welcome/Intro

1:10-2:10 Lecture

2:10-2:20 Break

2:20-2:55 Q&A/Discussion

2:55-3:00 Closing

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\*If you wish to make a donation, The Living Dharma website now has a link (<https://livingdharma.org/index.php/donations/>) for donations and membership dues. 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 for the traditionalist. Please make your check payable to WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE, and mail to P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793. We truly appreciate your generous support.



## T H E G A T E W A Y



(「総長」9頁からの続き)

おける突然のご命終は、まことに痛惜の極みであります。あらためまして生前の多大なる御功績に深甚の謝意を申し上げ、謹んでお悔やみを申し上げますとともに、但馬前総長の思いを引き継ぎ、各施策において、基本的に前内局における執行方針を継承して進めてまいりたいと考えております。

今、新型コロナウイルス感染症の世界的拡大はとどまるところを知らず、昨年中も大変甚大な影響を及ぼしました。日本においては夏を最後のピークとして一定程度、鎮静化しているものの、開教区においては未だ厳しい状況が続いていると聞き及んでおります。昨年から報恩講などの諸行事をオンライン配信して人が集まらないことが当たり前となりつつある中で、より効果的な教化活動について、宗門全体をとおして問いかけられるような一年間であったかのように思います。

このような時代状況であるからこそ、相違を超えてお互いを“とも”と見いだす念仏のサンガの再興が私たちに求められているのだと強く思います。

新たな年を迎え、私たち一人一人が、如来本願の大道をともに歩むサンガを賜っていることを、ともに確かめ合える一年としてまいりたいと存じます。

本年も、どうぞ宜しくお願いいた

します。

(「新年」9頁からの続き)

る一年でした。

一昨年に引き続き昨年もついにお寺の再開はかないませんでした。けれどもオンラインでの活動は活発に行われました。実際にお会いしてお喋りをする喜びにはかなわないとはいえ、毎週のように日曜礼拝や学習会でメンバーの方々のお顔を見て共に時間を過ごすことで、ウェストコビナの絆の強さを再確認できました。

不安な状況の中に投げ出されると、私たちがいかに自己中心的に物事を考えているかが露わになります。集まりの場で会った人が感染したと分かった時、私たちが真っ先に考えるのは自分や家族の感染の可能性、そして予定していた仕事や行事を変更しなければならないかもしれないことに対するフラストレーションではないでしょうか。それはおそらく自然な反応なのかもしれません。仏教はどこまでも自分本位に物事を見るのが私たちの姿だと繰り返し説いています。その教えを理解することはそれほど難しいことはありません。一方で、それがまぎれもなく自分自身のことだと深く領くことはなかなかできません。この二年間を通して、自分の都合を中心とした考えや行動は他を傷つけるだけではなく、結局自分すらも守ることはできない、ということに私たちはようやく気づくことができなのではないでしょうか。

コロナウィルスの世界的流行は、私たちが自分自身の姿に出会うきっかけとなりました。それはそのまま仏法を聞き直す縁となってくれたと思うのです。だからこそ私たちは以前に戻るのではなく、新しい生き方

(「新年」6頁に続く)





## T H E G A T E W A Y

## 年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷 祐

海外在住の全ての同朋の皆さまに新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

さて、開教司教というお役目をいただいて一年余りが経ちました。就任以来、コロナウイルスの感染症拡大の影響もあり、別院報恩講をはじめとして、それぞれのお寺でともに聞法させていただくようなことができておらず、非常に残念に思います。

開教区の皆様においては、インターネットなどを利用した新たな形での聞法活動を積極的に行っているということで、厳しい状況の中で様々な工夫をしながら活動されていること、とてもうれしく思います。

最近ではオンラインでの法事や研修会、聞法会などが数多く開かれ、これまで参加することのなかった方々が、ある時には国を超えて、ともにお念仏をいただくことのできる環境が生まれてきたことは新しい法座のありようを感じさせることでした。ただし、やはり相對してともに念仏申し、ともに聞法する、そういう「ともに」ということを感応しあえる「場」が必要であることも同時に痛切に感じています。今後も工夫しながら、是非別院や寺院を中心にそれぞれの「場」、お念仏のサンガ（交わり）を開いていっていただきたいと思います。

いよいよ来年2023年には、慶讃法要をお迎えすることとなり、その準備が進められています。皆さまとともに、親鸞聖人のご誕生を喜びあえる時と場をお迎えする日を心待ちにしております。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

## 年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 木越 渉

2022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。

皆さまにおかれましては、平素より聞法精進の生活をお送りいただいておりますことと、拝察いたします。

このたび、2021年10月15日をもって、新たに宗務総長に指名されました、木越渉と申します。石川県の金沢教区出身ですが、幼少期は父に連れられてアメリカのバークレーにある寺院にて過ごしておりました。

当時は日系一世もおられ、自分のルーツが日本にあることを、寺に集い、ご門徒みなさんで確かめていた時代でした。日曜学校（礼拝）には一家そろってお参りをされ、父は英語で法話をし、その後、同じ話を日本語で行い、あとは各年代に分かれ、日本語や親鸞聖人の教えを習いました。みんな肩寄せ合い、日本のことを思い、学びを深めていきました。

私はアメリカや日本において、本當にご門徒方に大きなお育てを頂いたと強く感じます。これらの経験から、「共に歩む」ということを大切に、常に保っていきたいと思っております。

さて、皆様ご承知のことかと存じますが、2021年9月に但馬前宗務総長がご逝去されました。

但馬前総長には、未曾有の事態であるコロナウイルス感染症の拡大の渦中における宗門運営をはじめ、常にあるべき宗門の姿を憶念され、未来志向で宗務を力強く牽引いただけてきたことであり、任期中に

（「総長」8頁に続く）

## 新年のご挨拶 見義信香

謹んで新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

2021年が始まった時、少しだけホッとしたことを覚えています。年が改まり私たちの気持ちが新たになったことで、ようやくこの状況が好転するのではないか、という希望を抱いたからです。しかしながら、当然のことですがウィルスに年末年始は関係ありません。その後も変異株の流行など感染状況に一喜一憂す

（「新年」8頁に続く）

## お寺ニュース

### 修正会法要

修正会法要は2022年1月1日（土）午前11時よりオンラインにてお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにぜひお参りください。

### 永代経法要・教団総会

2022年度永代経法要は1月23日（日）午前10時より対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式にてお勤めする予定です。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。お寺に参拝される場合のガイドラインについては英語欄をご参照ください。

### 法話会

法話会は現在オンラインでお勤めしています。新年1月の法話会は1月6日（木）午後7時となっております。2月3日（木）の法話会はお寺でお勤めすることを予定しております。時間は午後7時です。詳細につきましては法話会案内として皆さんのお手元に郵送でお届けいたします。

East San Gabriel Valley  
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
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# GATEWAY

January - February 2022 - Vol. LVII No. 1

## January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service-online
- 6 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 6 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service-online
- 9 8:30 am Board Meeting-online
- 9 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-online
- 11 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 13 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 16 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 20 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 22 10:00 am NAD Seminar 1-online
- 23 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting  
-hybrid
- 25 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 27 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 30 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid

## February

- 3 7:00 pm Howakai Japanese Service  
-in-person (tentative)

## 2022年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要ーオンライン
- 9日 午前8時半 理事会ーオンライン
- 9日 午前10時 祥月法要ーオンライン
- 6日 午後7時 法話会ーオンライン
- 16日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 24日 午前10時 永代経法要／総会  
ーハイブリッド (予定)
- 30日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド  
(予定)

## 2月行事予定

- 3日 午後7時 法話会ー対面 (予定)

\*Emailをお使いの方はメールアドレスをお寺までお知らせください。(wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com)  
オンラインでの日曜礼拝のご案内、最新の情報をお送りいたします。

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うけがたきは人身、  
あいがたきは仏法なり  
蓮如上人