



GATEWAY



July-August 2022 - - Vol. LVII No. 4



WCBT members were excited to participate in the Bon Odori after a two year absence. Everyone was thrilled to see each other again on a hot June afternoon.

OBON 2022

Bruce Whang
WCBT Obon Chair

June 25, Obon 2022! What a wonderful day. I feel it was one of the most successful and fulfilling events that we have had in a long time. Not in the monetary sense, but in the sense of satisfaction of seeing friends that we haven't seen in person for a long time. This year's Obon seems to have embodied what the true meaning Obon is, a festival to celebrate and remember our loved ones that are not physically with us. The service began with the ringing of the bell. Then the service, with an inspiring Dharma message, followed by a candle offering for those loved ones that have passed during the year. The social hall was cleaned up quickly, thanks to the helping hands of the members and their families. Then the dancing began with only minor technical difficulties. The smiling faces and unequalled enthusiasm was a sight to see! Following the dancing, a delicious otoki was provided. Thank you Lilian for arranging the tasty meal. The members and families enjoyed each others' company and talked of past events. A quick clean-up, aided by the attendees, and this year's Obon had reached its delightful conclusion. Afterwards, I was reflecting on the days activities, and it came to me that it was a very satisfying day. Like the Obon scene from Karate Kid in Okinawa, the days festivities were centered around the Bon Odori. There were no distractions. There were no exhibitions, no bingo, no games or raffles, just the Manto-e service, dancing, and good food with family and friends. The level of participation and excitement was truly enlightening to the meaning of Obon.



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Summer to All!

Five graduates were honored during the Father's Day service. They are Ollie Reynolds-Hale from kindergarten, Lexie Shams from elementary school, Gavin Shams from middle school, Bryan Yanase from high school, and Sophia Saucedo from Cal State Fullerton. They each received a card and gift from our temple. Congratulations Graduates!

Here is another Aesop's Fable for our youngsters:

"The Boys and the Frogs"

Some boys were throwing stones in a pond where frogs lived. The boys were having fun while scaring the poor frogs.

Finally one brave frog lifted its head out of the water and said, "Please boys, you may be having fun, but the stones you are throwing thoughtlessly are frightening and hurting me and my family!"

Aesop's Lesson:

Always stop to think whether your fun might cause another's unhappiness.

Buddhism teaches us that we are all connected to one another and our whole environment. It is important that we are mindful of this truth. This is called interconnectedness.

Enjoy your summer vacation!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



"Does Everyon Become Buddha?"

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

This year, West Covina Buddhist Temple respectfully conducted its Manto-e Service on Saturday, June 25th. With a little over fifty members, the service was held in the Social Hall with both in-person and online, followed by Bon Odori in the parking lot. After a two-year hiatus, we were able to enjoy familiar dances, such as Tanko Bushi and Shiawase Samba. It was also an excellent opportunity for our members to get together in person. Although it was a hot day, we all had a relaxing and delightful time. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Bruce Whang, the Obon Chair, for organizing this year's Obon events and to members of Toban B who worked hard to set up and clean up.

As many of you remember, Betsuin and WCBT hold a Manto-e Service during their Obon Festivals every year. Manto-e Service allows us to honor and express our gratitude to our loved ones. "Manto-e" literally means "a gathering of ten thousand lanterns." It embodies the truth of our existence, acknowledging that we all live in a world of interconnectedness.

The service begins with a candle offering, and anyone who lost a loved one since the last Obon may participate in the service. Yet, some people are not sure if they are allowed to offer a candle in the service, and they often ask me, "Neither my loved one nor myself are Buddhist. Can I still join the service?" Another question I receive, especially from non-Buddhists, is, "What does it mean our loved ones are Buddha. Does anyone become Buddha?" In my short message during the service, they are surprised to hear that we respect our loved ones as Buddhas.

"Can I join the Manto-e service even though our loved one was not Buddhist?" and "Does anyone become Buddha?"—these questions are crucial

to consider "Who is Buddha?" or "What is Buddha?"

Many people may imagine Buddha as one who attains enlightenment as a result of his/her long and rigorous Buddhist practices. According to this image, our self-efforts, devotion, and individual capability should determine whether we can become Buddha or not. Needless to say, not everyone can renounce their family and worldly life to dedicate themselves entirely to Buddhist practices. This being the case, the path to becoming a Buddha is not open to everyone, therefore, the answer to the question, "Can anyone become Buddha?" is "No."

On the other hand, when we regard Buddhas as ones who urge us to awaken to the teaching, we come to realize that our loved ones are definitely Buddhas for us.

Facing the passing of our loved ones, we receive an opportunity to reflect upon the entire life of our loved ones. This is also the opportunity to reflect upon our own lives. How they lived their lives becomes a profound message and illuminates our lives. We admit that their lives were not always easy and happy. Their lives were often beyond their control, and they faced many hardships. Yet, we see the strength that enables them to accept good and challenging things in their lives. They saw their lives as is and firmly settled down to the ground and simply did what they had to. They show a great example of how we should live our lives. In contrast, many of us believe it is an inconvenience, discomfort, and unwilling incidents that prevent us from being happy. We want to control our lives because we tend to think that our lives should be filled with only good things. We do not realize that such an idea about our lives is

Please see BUDDHA, 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 are now hybrid with both in-person and Zoom participation. In-person participants must submit proof of vaccination to the Community Center or a negative Covid-19 test 72 hours prior to Service. A temperature check will also be given when entering the Social Hall. If you're not quite ready for social contact just look for an email from Rev. Miyoshi or Rev. Fred inviting you to the services with the Zoom meeting ID and password. Which ever way you decide, please join us because it's always a pleasure to see all of your familiar faces!

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

A virtual evening Study Class is held every second and fourth Tuesday of each 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 will be held on July 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, or to get an email invitation, please contact Rev. Miyoshi.

Obon/Hatsubon Service

A Obon/Hatsubon Service will be held on Sunday, July 17 at 4:00 pm in-person and via Zoom. Please join us as we welcome our special guest speaker Rev. Kensho Goto from the North American District office. We look forward to listening to Rev. Goto's Obon message.

August Schedule

WCBT will be taking a summer break this August and there will be no Sunday Services on August 14, 21 and 28. All Thursday morning Discussions Classes as well as the bi-weekly Tuesday evening Study Classes will be taking August off. Enjoy your summer holiday break!

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.

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, Gregory Williams, Bill Dubble, Karleigh Nakata, Hideko Ikehara, Kylie Noguchi, Garrett Godoy, Rev. Frederic Brenion

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:

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JULY BIRTHDAY

Sally Ariza, Mikio Earley, Jamie Nakatani, Sylvia Ena, Jaylene Gutierrez, Kevin Hata, Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez, Merrick Martinez, Laura Miyake, Margaret Takemoto, Ryoko Kodama, Richard Haraguchi, Elijah Godoy, Craig Taguchi, Corey Taguchi, Pat Sato, Garrett Kawaguchi, Tyler Kobayashi, Steven Kuwahara, Marcus Nishihara, Lillian Nishihara, Kurt Kowalski, Jamie Teragawa, Jonathan Hoey, Jeffrey Akune, Anthony Gutierrez, Sam Kozono, Susie Kozono, Emi Haraguchi Calvo



T H E G A T E W A Y



25th Silver Anniversary Golf Classic A Record Breaking Success

As the early morning June gloom cleared, a record 127 golfers were in their golf carts anticipating the start of WCBT's 25th Silver Anniversary Golf Classic. It was held at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights on Monday, June 26.

Prior to the start of the tournament, participants had the opportunity to test their putting skills in a 3 hole contest. The tournament was a team format but included individual contest holes, such as closest to the pin, hole in one with a \$10,000 cash award, longest drive and straightest drive.

Last year due to the COVID pandemic restrictions, the awards and raffle were presented via ZOOM. With the lifting of the restrictions, an in person award banquet was possible.

Tournament results:

1st place team - Erick Liscio, Monica Poomchareon, Eric Bunge, Kyle Haas (upper right picture) 2nd place team - Cheryl Teragawa, Maki Schultz, Trevor Schultz, Aki Kamimura

3rd place team - George Sugimoto, Lisa Sugimoto, Don Nose, Jeff Won

4th place team - Doug Aihara, Rick Katsuki, Craig Osugi, Russell Nishida

Consultation (2nd highest score) - Lillian Nishihara, Kathy Taguchi, Eunice Morita, Lu Tambara On course contests:

Straightest Drive	Men – Fumio Tanabe	Women – Dee Ishida
Longest Drive	Men – Stacy Wells	Women – Monica Poomchareon
Closest to the Pin #4	Men – Don Nose	Women – Monica Poomchareon
Closest to the Pin #12	Men – Don Nose	Women – Chris Hankawa
Closest to the Pin #16	Men – Bill Gorman	Women – Chris Hankawa

Congratulations to all the winners!

On behalf of the golf committee, a huge thank you to the volunteers assisting on tournament day.

Player registration volunteers were Richard and Ruby Kagawa, Hisako Koga, Reiko Nelson-Ikehara, Tanya Kato, Phil Underwood and Bruce Whang. At the putting contest were Haruko Mayeda and Steve Underwood. On course volunteers (stayed throughout the tournament) were Richard & Claudia Haraguchi, Tanya Kato, Rev. Miyoshi, Denise Underwood and Judy Takemura.

Thank you to the many members of the sangha for your donations of snacks for the player's "swag" bags and/or raffle prizes.

Last but definitely not least, to all our tee sponsors for their generous monetary contributions, thank you very much.

The 25th Silver Anniversary Golf Classic committee included Roy Takemura (Chair), Barbara Shirota, Yukiko Kovacs, Lillian Nishihara, Denise & Steve Underwood, Judy Takemura and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi



T H E G A T E W A Y

A Fresh Obon Debut in 2022!





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

BUDDHA, *con't from pg. 2*

actually a delusion, and real life never works as we expected. We struggle and suffer when facing reality because we firmly attach to the delusional image of our ideal lives, and we cannot accept hardships as a part of our lives.

Profoundly reflecting on our loved ones and their lives, our perspectives on our lives are transformed, and we come to realize that all the things that happen in our lives are indispensable. It is the moment when we are finally liberated from our attachment to our delusional ideas about our lives. And we find the strength within us to accept our lives no matter what happens. It is the same strength activated in our loved ones' lives. This realization will lead us to true happiness. Through our loved ones, we encounter the teaching and capture a glimpse of reality. This is the reason why we respect our loved ones as Buddhas.

Therefore, it does not matter whether the person went through Buddhist practices or not. Anyone, even if the person was not Buddhist or a young child, can be a Buddha when we receive profound wishes regarding how we live our lives.

Buddhism constantly reminds us that we are able to receive the teaching from anyone and anything. Your family, friends, and happy moments can be an opportunity to encounter the teachings. At the same time, the harshest experiences, frustrated concerns, and even your opponent can be great teachers that lead us to awaken to the truth. Therefore, in Buddhism, "Buddha is also called 'hell,' 'hungry ghost,' 'beast,' 'human being,' and 'deva.'"

At the end of his eighty-year life, Śākyamuni Buddha said, "What a beautiful place this world is! How sweet our life is!" He was the one who awakened to the preciousness of all people and all things and showed his sincere respect to them. What he said also indicates that our lives are filled with Buddhas who encourage us to awaken

to the truth and liberate us from suffering created by our own self-delusion. When we experience the teaching, our eyes open, and we are aware that our world is beautiful and life is sweet. Śākyamuni Buddha's encouragement is handed down to us through our loved ones.

Manto-e Service is an opportunity for us to encounter our loved ones as Buddhas and show our sincere appreciation and respect to them.



(「仏」9頁からの続き)

えます。そしてあらゆる人、出来事を私たちに目覚めを促す師、歩みを勧める朋として深く敬っていく人のことです。お釈迦様が見られた世界はまさしく仏に満ち溢れた世界であり、その世界こそが私たちが生きる場である、ということを「この世はなんと美しい処であろうか」というお言葉で知らせてくださっているのではないのでしょうか。

教えを聞くことができた時、私たちもまたこの世の美しさに目覚めることができるのでしょうか。それは私たちの人生の歩みが真に充足したものとなる、その第一歩です。そして、その出遇いの縁となってくださった方を私たちは仏として敬い、儀式を通して深い感謝の気持ちを表現していくのです。万灯会法要とはそのような仏事の一つ、と言えると思います。

さて、冒頭の「誰もが仏になれるのでしょうか?」「故人も私も仏教徒ではないのですが万灯会法要に参加することはできますか?」という質問についてですが、二つとも私は「はい。もちろんです。」と、お応えします。



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Happy shopping!



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA
Higashi Honganji
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

July 7, 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Obon and Hatsubon Service which will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 17, 2022 with both in-person and Zoom. This is a combined memorial service not only for those members who specifically have lost a loved one in the previous 12 months (Hatsubon means "first Obon service"), but also a universal memorial service for all our loved ones who have passed on.

The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date:	Sunday, July 17, 2022
Time:	4:00 PM
Dharma Message:	Rev. Kensho Goto (English) Higashi Honganji North America District

Following are the Meeting ID and Passcode for joining the service via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 852 1097 2415

Passcode: 882996

We regret to inform you that there is no Otoki this year.

The Obon Service is held to remember our ancestors and to celebrate our life and is one of the most important observances of the year. Please join and gather again this year to resolve to deepen our understanding of Buddhism.

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

Mr. John Martinez, President of the Board of Directors



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

仏のはたらき 見義信香

ウェストコヴィナ東本願寺では、去る6月25日(土)に万灯会法要がお勤めされました。法要の後は盆踊りとお斎の時間も設けられ、50名を超えるご門徒の方々が集いました。暑い屋外での開催となりましたが、久しぶりの再会を誰もが喜び、また通常のお盆祭りの忙しさとは異なるリラックスしたメンバーの方々の姿も印象的でした。お盆委員会委員長のウォン・ブルースさん、準備や後片付けにご尽力くださった皆さんにこの場をお借りして心より感謝申し上げます。

お盆祭りでは、万灯会法要が盆踊りの直前に勤められていることはご記憶のことと思います。法要は亡くなった方々を偲ぶ献灯から始まります。昨年のお盆からの一年で大切な方を亡くされた方が僧侶と一緒に御本尊前まで列を作りキャンドルをお供えします。にぎやかなお祭りの最中にあって、この時だけは静かな空気が場を包みます。

お祭りには仏教徒ではない方も多く参加します。そしてその中にはやはり大切なご家族やご友人を亡くされた方もいらっしゃいます。そのような方々から毎年のように「故人も私も仏教徒ではないのですが万灯会法要に参加して献灯できますか?」と聞かれます。またその法要が仏教との初めての出遇いの方もいらっしゃいます。そのため法要の後に「誰もが仏様になれるのでしょうか?」と尋ねられることもあります。

「誰もが仏になれるのでしょうか?」「故人も私も仏教徒ではないのですが万灯会法要に参加することはできますか?」—この二つはとても大切な問いだと思えます。それはこの二つ

が「仏とはなにか?」という問題に関わるからです。

仏が厳しい修行を重ね、自らの努力の成果として悟りの境地へと達した人のことだけを指すのであれば、全ての人が仏になるとは残念ながら言い難いでしょう。仏になる可能性が本人の努力や才能に依る限り、全ての人に平等に開かれている道とは言えません。また、多くの人にとってはそのような修行を行う環境に身を置くことすら簡単なことではありませんから、仏になる可能性をもつのはほんの一握りの限られた人であり、その他の多くの人にとっては関わりをもつことすらできない道となります。したがってこの場合は「誰もが仏になれるのでしょうか?」に対する答えは「否」ということになります。

一方で仏とはどのようなはたらきをする存在か、ということを考えた時、私たちに目覚めを促す存在が仏である、ということが言えます。

亡き人と過ごした時間、その方の生き方、そして死、それらを深く振り返る時、私たちは実に多くの教えをいただいていることに気がつくでしょう。亡き人の全人生が「あなたはどうか生きるのですか?」という声となって問いかけられているのです。その声が聞こえた時、思い通りの人生こそが幸せな人生だと思っていた私が、初めて人生の良いことも悪いことも私の人生と言える力を賜るのです。それは仏法との出遇いであり、亡き人をご縁として実現した出遇いなのです。だからこそ、ご縁をもった人との時間やその人の人生を通して教えに出遇うことができた時、私たちにとってその人は間違いなく仏である、ということが言えるのです。

したがってその人が修行に努めた人か、お寺に足を運んでいた人か、さらには仏教徒かどうか問題にはならないのです。最も大切なことは私たちがその方から、その方の生と死

を含めた全人生から、何を聞き届けるとかということではないでしょうか。

教えは私たちを取り巻くあらゆる人を通して、さらには私の人生に起こるあらゆる出来事を通して私を目覚めさせるはたらきとして至り届いているのです。それは幸せな出来事や大切な人を通して私たちにはたらきかけます。同時に最も厳しい体験や意見の合わない人からも教えを受け取ることができる、ということでもあるのです。だからこそ仏教では仏を「仏をまた「地獄・餓鬼・畜生・人・天」と名づく」と表現されるのです。

お釈迦様は臨終に際し「ああ、この世はなんと美しい処であろうか。人生はなんと甘美なものでであろうか」と語られたと言われています。これを私はこの世には仏が満ち満ちているということ私たちに知らせる言葉として受け止めます。「目覚めた人」である仏とはあらゆる人、あらゆる出来事をありのままに見ることのできる目が開かれた人のことです。つまり願望や好き嫌いといった自分中心の思いを通してしか人や周りを見ることのできないあり方から解放された人とも言

(「仏」6頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

お盆 / 初盆法要

また英語によるお盆 / 初盆法要は、7月17日(日)午後4時より対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式でお勤めいたします。ご講師には北米開教監督部より後藤謙彰師をお招きいたします。ご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、是非お参り下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

法話会祥月法要

8月の祥月法要は8月4日(木)、9月の祥月法要は9月1日(木)にお勤めします。いずれも時間は午前10時です。

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

July - August 2022 - - Vol. LVII No. 4

July

- 10 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-hybrid
- 12 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 14 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 17 4:00 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service-hybrid
- 21 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 26 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 28 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 31 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid

August

- 2 7:00 pm Board Meeting-online
- 4 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-hybrid
- 14 No Sunday Service
- 21 No Sunday Service
- 28 No Sunday Service

2022年7月行事予定

- 10日 午前10時 祥月法要ーハイブリッド
- 17日 午後4時 お盆／初盆法要
ーハイブリッド
- 24日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド
- 31日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド

8月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時 理事会ーオンライン
- 4日 午前10時 法話会
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要ーハイブリッド
- 14日 日曜礼拝お休み
- 21日 日曜礼拝お休み
- 28日 日曜礼拝お休み

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あらゆる人たちは、
すべて阿弥陀仏によって信頼もされ、
尊敬もされ呼びかけられている
竹中智秀『浄土を本国としてこの世を生きる』