



# GATEWAY



March-April 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 2



The WCBT Board of Directors for 2023 was elected and installed at our annual General Meeting on January 22. This year we added two new board members, Tanya Kato and Gil Correa.

## Thoughts on Sangha

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

"Sangha" is a familiar term for Buddhists, and the most common image of sangha might be a group of Buddhists gathering at a temple. This type of sangha is called "Genzen Sangha," a sangha appearing in front of us. Our West Covina members are "Genzen Sangha."

Sangha is also expressed as "Shihō Sangha," a sangha of four directions. "Four directions" means everywhere, therefore, this term explains that Sangha can grow boundlessly. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Zen master and global spiritual leader, expresses this Sangha as follows;

*I know the sangha body is in me and around me. The trees, the grass, the blue sky, and the flowers are all elements of my sangha. And you are my sangha body. You take care of me.*

His profound appreciation of sangha lets us reflect upon our sangha and also allows us to consider what sangha really means

Sangha has two roles: one is to awaken us, and the other role is to be our home where we can return anytime, just as we are.

Truth in the Buddhist Teachings is our reality, and therefore, at the moment of awakening, we genuinely accept what Buddhism talks about as our own reality. It must be clarified that knowing Buddhist teaching intellectually and experiencing it as our own truth are two different things. We can learn about Buddhism and its teachings, such as impermanence and interconnectedness, by reading books in our rooms. However, our hearts and minds do not relate to the teachings until we experience them. That is the moment we genuinely encoun-

ter the teachings.

Moreover, through the experience, we become aware that it was those who had already encountered the teachings that led us to listen to the teachings. Sharing their passion, enthusiasm, understanding, and perspectives show us the teachings continue to actively work in our daily lives. Those who enable us to awaken to the truth through their own lives are called sangha to us.

For Shinran Shonin, it was his teacher Honen Shonin and his Nenbutsu community who proved that Buddhism can become a power and strength in everyone's lives. Shinran Shonin was convinced that "Buddhism is open to everyone and liberates them" was not only an ideal but true and real. This experience enabled him to choose the Nenbutsu



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Winter is on its way out and Spring is waiting to bring warmer temperatures with new flowers and plant growth. We will be celebrating two important special services—one in March and the other in April.

On March 19 we will observe our Spring Ohigan. At this time of the year, when the equinox is upon us and the weather is ideal, we will have the opportunity to express our gratitude to all who have come before us.

The Hanamatsuri service will be held on April 16 this year. This is the beautiful celebration of the birth of Prince Siddhartha. We will honor him with flowers and sweet tea, and will again tell the story of his birth.

The Dharma School staff will start introducing some of the teachings of the Buddha to our students in the coming weeks and months. The lessons will continue to be through mailings or in the Gateway. We would like to start with compassion.

A definition of compassion that our students can understand is “the desire to help someone who is in distress”. We know that children can be thoughtlessly cruel at times to others who may be perceived to be different. As a retired teacher, I have witnessed acts of cruelty and compassion in my classrooms. It was always gratifying to see how kind gestures eased the sadness of a classmate.

Here are some examples of compassion: speaking kindly, listening without judgment, encouraging others, apologizing when appropriate, and accepting people for who they are.

We will be using stories and other means to explain why compassion is so important to all of us. Stay tuned!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



## 26th Annual WCBT Golf Classic

The 26th Annual Golf Classic will return to one of the premier golf course in Southern California, Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights on Monday, June 5th.

This annual golf tournament is one of WCBT's major fundraiser of the year. It has always been a big success, but its success depends on the support of the Sangha. There are several ways you can help support this event. If you are a golfer, we welcome you to enter the tournament with friends and/or relatives to test your skills on this most challenging course.

There are several other ways you can support this fundraiser. You can be a tee sponsor at various levels from Patron to Platinum Plus. Also consider asking your favorite restaurants, professionals and other businesses to be a proud tee sponsor. You can also donate raffle prizes and items for the player's goodie bags. Last but certainly not least, you can volunteer to assist on the day of the tournament.

More details will become available in the near future. So, mark your calendar for Monday, June 5!

WCBT Golf Classic





## 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 are asked to submit proof of vaccination to the Community Center and masks are now optional. 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. Whichever 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 Thursday morning Discussion Class to join us. The Study Classes will focus on the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu. 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.

**WCBT Seminar Postponed**

WCBT's virtual seminar with Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, which was scheduled for February 11, 2023, has been postponed to a later date. Emails will be sent out as soon as a new date is confirmed.

**Spring Ohigan Service**

Spring Ohigan Service will be on

Sunday, March 19, at 4:30 pm. The guest speaker will be Rev. Akiko Okada from Higashi Honganji Mission of Hawaii. Please join us as we welcome Rev. Okada and listen to her thoughtful message.

**LABTF Hanamatsuri**

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service will be held in a hybrid format on April 9 beginning at 10:00 am at Nishi Honganji.

**WCBT Hanamatsuri**

WCBT will hold its Hanamatsuri Service on April 16 at 10:00 am. If you can attend this service in-person, we encourage you to bring flowers and help decorate the beautiful Hanamido.

**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.

**APRIL BIRTHDAY**

Kevin Kawawata, Tyler Koji Isaksen, Susan Oshima, Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Nancy Maekawa, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellie Komoda, Kristen Hiranaka, Tammy Lespron, Phillip Underwood, Lexi Shams, Maria Whang, Yuechen Zhau Chen, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Nancy Hombo, Maddie Akari Mayeda, Sienna Mirai Martinez, Shakyamuni Buddha

**GATEWAY Staff**

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

*Contributors:* Claire Hansen, Joanie Martinez, Lee Ezaki, Tanya Kato

*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)

**MARCH BIRTHDAY**

Brandon Kawaguchi, Kendra Kagawa Jucksch, Brion Martinez, Brooks Martinez, Edward Miyashiro, Cathy Nakano, Glen Fujimoto, Karolyn Fujimoto, Mae Horie, Joy Kitaura, Kelley Sakoda, Kathy Masai, Danny Iwama, Lee Ezaki, Karen Ezaki, Andrew Kenji Ezaki, Claire Hansen, Dick Koga, Leo Kowalski, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teragawa, Alyssa Arnheim, Dana Yamada, Gavin Godoy, Kai Godoy, John Erickson, Bruce Whang, Emi Wexler, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Mitsuru Oshita, Tatsuo Okamura, Manuel Ortiz, Oscar Rodriguez, Patricia Endo, Steve Underwood, Cayla James Yoburn, Donatello Yasuo Elmatari, Rev. Akira Miyoshi



# T H E G A T E W A Y



pixta.jp - 6422584



# T H E G A T E W A Y

*SANGHA, con't from pg. 1*

path, and throughout his life, he constantly faced his true self illuminated by the teachings.

Shinran Shonin shows us that awakening to our true selves means finally recognizing our selfishness, imperfection, and limited perspectives. When we see people and things happening around us, we immediately judge them based on our bias. Because everyone has their preference and prejudice, we see the same situation differently. But that is not the problem. The real problem is that we firmly believe that our ideas and perspective are the only and absolute ones. This delusional idea about self often brings hatred against those with different opinions and excludes and discriminates against them. Buddhism calls this our ignorance, and it is the ignorance that causes us great suffering.

A sangha should be where those with various backgrounds and viewpoints can live together by helping each other grow. Facing someone with different ideas is not threatening but a great opportunity to be aware of our limited minds. Once we realize that our view is NOT the only one or absolute right, then we are finally ready to listen to others. Listening to each other with respect will broaden our horizons. We are all different, yet we can live together.

If our sangha is inclusive, it can be a place like home where we can return anytime as we are. Buddhism tells us that having such a place is truly important for us to strive to live our lives. Because we can relax and feel comfortable expressing ourselves, we can speak of our anxiety and distress and share them with others. Issues we face may not be resolved immediately simply by sharing them. Nonetheless, having a place to express ourselves greatly helps us. We come to realize that we are not alone and many people care for us. This realization brings us the strength to deal with hardships and becomes the courage to live with them. In other words, if we do not have anyone in whom we can trust and have no place to express our pain, a sense of disconnectedness will lead us to a destructive state, and

it will plunge us into deep despair.

Master Genshin, one of the Seven Pure Land Masters, says this desperation is equivalent to the anguish we go through in the most painful hell. In his writing, “,” Genshin tells of a man, who fell into hell and express his unbearable suffering as “I, now, have no place to return. No one accompanies me, and I feel absolute loneliness.”

“*Genzen Sangha*” and “*Shihō Sangha*” are not two separate sangha. We encounter the teaching and experience it through “*Genzen Sangha*.” At the same time, the sangha keeps expanding broader and deeper through those who are awakened to the truth. When we genuinely enjoy listening to the teaching and express joy, our expression of joy and gratitude affects other people and opens a door for them to encounter the teachings. Through our lives, sangha reaches many people. This is “*Shihō Sangha*,” and this sangha has no boundaries. Each of us is indeed a part of the working of the sangha. Because the teaching is always with us, the sangha can expand through us, no matter where we are.





T H E G A T E W A Y

# WEST COVINA

HIGASHI HONGANJI

## BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February 21, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Spring Ohigan Service which will be held on Sunday, March 19, 2023 with both in-person and Zoom. The information for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023  
 Time: 4:30 P.M.  
 Dharma Message: Rev. Akiko Okada  
 (Higashi Honganji Mission of Hawaii)

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

Meeting ID: 862 7943 7255  
 Passcode: 154914

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

立春が過ぎましたが朝晩気温の低い日が続いています。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。春のお彼岸法要を下記の如くオンラインと対面のハイブリッド形式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

### 春のお彼岸法要

日 時 2023年3月19日(日) 午後4時半

法 話 岡田在子師 (ハワイ開教区) (英語)

ミーティング ID: 862 7943 7255

パスコード: 154914

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 H E R I N G

## 現前僧伽と四方僧伽 見義信香

「僧伽(さんが)」という言葉は仏教徒にはとても聞き慣れた言葉です。一般的にはお寺を中心とする共同体を指す言葉として使われています。

僧伽には「現前僧伽」と「四方僧伽」という二つの言葉があります。「現前僧伽」とは一つのお寺に集う仏教徒の人々という意味で、各お寺のメンバーはこの「現前僧伽」です。一方で「四方僧伽」とは僧伽が「四方」つまりあらゆる場所に広がっていることを表します。ティク・ナット・ハン禅師はこの四方僧伽を次のように表現しています。

「僧伽とは私の中にあり、私の周りに満ちているのです。草木や青空、花々すべてが僧伽の要素です。あなたも私の僧伽です。私を大切に育ててくれているのですから。」

彼のこの言葉は私たちに「僧伽とは何か?」ということ、そして私たちのお寺は、そして私たちは自身は僧伽としてのはたらきをしているだろうか、ということをも改めて考えさせてくれます。

僧伽とは私たちを目覚めさせるはたらきであり、また私たちがいつでもありのままで還ることのできる場所、と言えるのではないのでしょうか。

目覚めとは仏教の説く真理が間違いない私自身の事実を言い当てていく、と深く頷くことです。そしてその目覚めの経験は、聞法を重ねる人たちの姿からいただくことが多くあります。その意味で仏教を知識として学ぶことは一人でもできます。けれども仏法に出会うという体験は人との出遇いを通して開かれてくるものではないのでしょうか。

親鸞聖人は比叡山で20年間仏教を学んでこられました。けれども法然上人との出遇いを通して聖人は初めて仏法が人々の生きる力になっていくということを実感したのではないで

しょうか。親鸞聖人が生涯にわたって仏法に照らされた自らを見つめ続けるという仏道を歩み続けたのは、法然上人の僧伽が聖人を目覚めさせたからではなかったのでしょうか。

また目覚めとは自分の思いの狭さを知らされる、ということでもあります。私たちは自分の目を通してしかものを見ることができませんし、自分の耳を通してしか聞くことはできません。そこにはいつも自分の思い込みや都合が影響します。結果として同じものを見ていてもそれぞれに違う意見をもつことが多くあります。仏教の僧伽はそれぞれが異なる意見をもつことを問題だとはみなしません。皆が違って当たり前なのです。問題は自分の見方や考え方を絶対として、それと異なる意見を間違いや悪と断じて排除しようとすることにあります。僧伽の人々との関わりの中で私たちは自らの思いに固執して他を傷つけていた自分の思いの狭さに気付かされます。その気づきを通して改めて他の人の声を聞くという歩みが始まるのです。「私の意見が絶対に正しい」という思いから自由になった時、意見の違いは恐るべきものでも厄介な問題でもなくなります。むしろ異なる意見に耳を傾けることで、互いが成長し、見ている世界が少し広がっていくのです。

僧伽が私たちにとってそのようなはたらきをする時、そこは私たちがありのままでいられる場所となるのでしょうか。元来お寺は人々が生活の中の苦しみや、愚痴や、痛みをもちよることのできる場所でした。すぐに状況が改善するわけではありません。けれども、人とその痛みを共有し、自分だけではない、と感じることは、その人が苦勞の多い人生をもう一歩歩んでいこうと思う、そういう力になったのではないのでしょうか。問題を共有すること、相手に共感することによってその人とのつながりが生まれます。それはある人が直面している問題が自分自身の問題として響いてくる、ということです。そしてそのつながりこそが私たちの生きる力となるので

はないのでしょうか。

親鸞聖人が深く尊敬された七高僧のひとり源信という方は『往生要集』という御著書の中で最も苦しみ深い地獄に堕ちた人間について次のように表現されておられます。

「我、今帰する所なく、孤独にして同伴なし」と。

これは裏を返せば、いつでもありのままで還る場所があり、一人ぼっちではない、ということが知らされれば、決して絶望することはない。どのような状況にあってもそれを引き受けて生きていく力を賜る、ということを教えているのです。

「現前僧伽」と「四方僧伽」という二つの別々の僧伽があるというわけではないと思うのです。僧伽とは第一義には「現前僧伽」としてのお寺とそこに集う人々のことです。同時に私たちの姿勢や生き方、そして仏法に出会ったことの喜びの表現が、仏法に出遇う縁を他の人に開いていく。現前僧伽としてのお寺という枠を超えて、一人一人の身を通して無限に広がり続けていく世界を四方僧伽と呼ぶのではないのでしょうか。

僧伽に帰依するとは、そのような僧伽のはたらきを信頼する、ということではないかと思うのです。

## お寺ニュース 日本語春のお彼岸法要

日本語春のお彼岸法要は3月法話会、祥月法要を兼ねて3月2日(木)午前10時よりお寺にてお勤めいたします。

また英語によるお彼岸法要は3月19日(日)午後4時半よりオンラインと対面のハイブリッド形式にてお勤めいたします。ハワイ教区の岡田在子師のご法話をオンラインにて聴聞します。英語法要にもご家族で是非お参りください。

4月の法話会祥月法要は4月6日(木)午前10時よりお寺にてお勤めいたします。

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

# GATEWAY

March - April 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 2

## March

- 2 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 2 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service (hybrid)
- 7 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 9 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)
- 14 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 16 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 19 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service (hybrid)
- 23 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)
- 28 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 30 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)

## April

- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service (hybrid)
- 4 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 6 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 6 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 9 10:00 am LABTF Hanamatsuri (hybrid)

## 2023年3月行事予定

- 2日 午前10時 法話会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 7日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 19日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要  
(ハイブリッド)
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

## 4月行事予定

- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 4日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 6日 午前10時 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 仏連花まつり (於西本願寺)  
(ハイブリッド)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Main	1	Acknowledgments	4
D.S.News	2	Spring Ohigan Service	6
Temple News	3	Japanese Page	7

世界の運命を暴力によって  
蹂躪させない唯一の方法は、  
私たち一人ひとりがあらゆる暴力を  
肯定しないことにある。

マハトマ・ガンジー