



GATEWAY



May-June 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 3



The West Covina sangha poured sweet tea over the Baby Buddha under the beautiful Hanamido as we celebrated Hanamatsuri 2023.

2023 WCBT OBON FESTIVAL

Dear Families and Friends of WCBT,

I hope this message finds everyone healthy and happy!

This year, the West Covina Buddhist Temple will be hosting our Comeback Obon Festival on **Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in an abbreviated format. The day for honoring our past loved ones will commence with a Manto-e service at 6:30 p.m. Our food booth will be offering a scaled down menu, but the beer booth and Bon Odori will be in full force. Bon Odori, with Kishin Daiko on the drums, will follow the Manto-e service at 7:00 p.m. As for the food booth, this year the temple will be offering a Chicken Teriyaki Plate and a new a la carte menu, which will include our Chicken Chow Mein.

To place an order for food, go to: <https://forms.gle/rQMjJA6pvCumUt5y5> or scan the QR code. Please order your food by June 17, 2023. Walk-up orders are also welcomed and will be available the day of Obon until sold out. For any additional questions, please check out the West Covina Buddhist Temple's website (livingdharma.org).

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Gassho,
Bruce Whang
WCBT Obon Chair





T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

May and June are busy months celebrating Mother's Day, Father's Day, Tanjo-e, Hatsumairi, and Obon. For this report, Mother's Day will be featured.

Early in the 20th century, an American woman named Anne Jarvis had an idea to celebrate all mothers on a special day. She wanted to honor mothers for their love and caring of their children. Nine years of her effort finally paid off when President Woodrow Wilson declared the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. This happened in 1914 and we have honored our mothers ever since. This year Mother's Day will be on May 14.

The following is an old story from Japan that tells about a mother's love for her son:

Long ago in a region of Japan, the crops failed and people didn't have enough to eat. The cruel leader of this region decided that old people were not contributing to the community. He ordered that all old people be put to death because they were useless and a burden.

A young man was filled with sorrow, but he had to obey the law. He decided to carry his elderly mother up a perilous mountain and make her as comfortable as possible before she passed away. The path up the mountain was very difficult. His elderly mother realized that her son would have a hard time going back down to his home, so she broke the branches of bushes to leave a trail for him to follow back down the mountain. The young man noticed that even in this terrible journey for his mother, she did her best to protect him. Realizing how much she loved him, he could not leave her on the mountain. He carried her back home and hid her until the heartless law was finally overturned.

A mother's love is why we celebrate Mother's Day.

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Reiko, Claire and Leslie enjoyed exploring the Arashiyama bamboo forest during their visit to Kyoto.



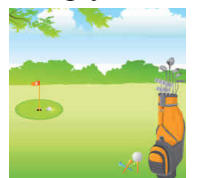
Support Your Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura
Golf Tournament Committee Chair

The 26th Golf Classic is just around the corner, and we need your support! You can support the tournament as a tee sponsor at various levels. The deadline for sponsors is May 22nd.

We are also requesting donations for the players' goodie bags and raffle prizes! We can use chips, nuts, cookies, granola bars and items like that. However, please **no chocolates** because they tend to melt and make a gooey mess. For raffle prizes, gift cards to your favorite restaurant or store are excellent prizes. Your donations should be at the temple by Sunday, May 28th. If you cannot drop off your donation at the Center, please call Roy Takemura at 1 (909) 973-2580, (yes, you must dial a 1 first). Arrangements will be made to pick up your donations.

On behalf of the Golf Classic committee, thank you for your consideration and support.





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.

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 14, at 10:00 am. A tribute to mothers will be presented by guest speaker Gil Correa so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May

21 at 10:00 am. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Miyoshi if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

WCBT 26th Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will hold its 25th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 6, at the Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights. Entry forms and sponsorship forms have been mailed to Temple members. Donations are being requested for snacks (no chocolate) for the golfers' goodie bags as well as raffle prizes, such as gift cards, and can be left at the temple by Sunday May 28th. If you can help on the day of the golf tournament or have any questions, please call Roy Takemura at 1 (909) 973-2580. For more details see the flyer on page 2.

Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 18, at 10:00 am. All graduates will be honored so please contact Rev. Miyoshi (213) 219-6140 with the names of graduates in your family. Join us for this special event.

Obon 2023!

We're excited to announce our Comback Obon Festival on Saturday, June 24, from 4:00 - 9:00pm. The hours will be slightly shorter along with the food menu, but we will again be able to commemorate and celebrate together with our sangha. For all the details please see the page 1 & 5.



MAY BIRTHDAY

Dina Mayeda, Stacey Miyashiro, Teri Ezaki, Takashi Ena, Say Masai, Ted Hamachi, Warren Hamachi, Evan Hamachi, Kay Sakaue, Garrett Hamachi, Kaylin Kanemaru, Claudia Haraguchi,

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

Facebook: facebook.com/westcvinabuddhisttemple

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JUNE BIRTHDAY

Laurie Hansen, Kiyoshi Earley, Joshua Gutierrez, Lynne Chiao, Gilbert Correa, Spencer Correa, Kay Yamashita, Ray Maekawa, Sam Meites, Mia Lynn Meites, Justin Toshiro Ezaki, Kiyoshi Earley, Jerry Earley, Nicholas Ishibashi Jung, Noah Kowalski, Terri Shams, Tor Ormseth, Craig Yanase, Richard Nakawatase, Andrew Jung, Ikuro Matsukiyo, Linda Chen, Sora Zhao Chen, Mitchell Kozono, Mark Masai, Sumie Kinoshita, Toshio Tawatari, Allan Wexler, Xavier Godoy, Sadako Sogioka, Jeanne Kawawata, Kalia Hendrickson, Robert Di Santo



T H E G A T E W A Y

Dharma Seeds 3rd Generation Report

Lee Ezaki

On March 4th Lee Ezaki and Tanya Kato attended the Dharma Seeds 3rd Generation hybrid meeting at the Higashi Honganji Betsuin. Representing Berkeley was Elsie Lum and Arthur Yamashita and Leslie Wong and Nancy Kurihara-Johnson represented the Betsuin. Also there were several other 3rd Generation Dharma Seeds attending online. In person, there were many reverends from the various temples.

To my serious consternation, Reverend Miyoshi informed me that I was to lead the group in chanting the Shoshinge for opening service. I was very nervous because I have never led a group in chanting the Shoshinge and I had to do it front of many reverends. Fortunately, Reverend Miyoshi offered to coach me prior to the start of the service. She taught me how, when and how loud to ring the bell. Sensei also taught me how to pronounce and stretch-out the words as it should be done. With sensei's assistance, I managed to lead the chanting without totally embarrassing myself.

The main feature of the program was the power-point presentation by Reverend Fred Brenion on "Who is Takagi Kenmyo?" I will try to highlight the main points in Reverend Brenion's lecture on Takagi Kenmyo (1864-1914) which covered about 90 minutes of information. I had never heard of Takagi Kenmyo but what caught my attention was that he was involved in the Taigyaku- "Great High Treason Incident" which was a rare example of Buddhist resistance to government militarism and imperialism for which he was severely punished.

In 1880 at the age of 16 he entered Owari Junior School in Nagoya to be certified as a teacher. He accepted Tokudo ordination and given the

priestly name of Kenmyo. From this time, he worked at various temples and was promoted over the years. Then in 1893 he was adopted by the Takagi family and took the name Takagi Kenmyo. Then in 1899, he was assigned to be in charge of Josen-ji Temple. At this temple he was now in charge of 180 families of which 120 were Burakamin, socially discriminated people considered to do "dirty" or "impure" work such as fishing, butchering, tanning, undertaking and prostitution. Until this time, Kenmyo had only served generally rich people. At first Kenmyo was enraged he was working with "peasants." Over a short transitional time, he realized the genuine needs of these people were as great as the rich people if not more. As had Shinran, Kenmyo realized the need to serve the Burakumin and became a forthright advocate for those who had no one to speak for them.

As time passed Kenmyo became more aware of the plight of the Burakumin and saw their acceptance into society without being viewed as "dirty" and "impure." He had discussions with Buddhist ministers and some Christian ministers that shared similar views on social reform. As a Shin Buddhist, his view on social reform was way ahead of his time.

From 1904 to 1905 The Russo-Japanese War was fought between the Empire of Japan and the Russian Empire. Surprisingly Japan won and this fueled military ambitions for many leaders in Japan. Kenmyo refused to celebrate the Japanese victories nor raise funds to support the war effort. He strongly supported the Buddhist teachings of respecting your fellow human beings. He especially was empathetic for the Burakumin who had to bear the burden of raising funds to support the war

effort which imposed severe hardships on their living standards. The Imperial Government expected the laity to pray, pay and obey to support the war effort. Anyone opposing the war effort was considered a traitor. During this time, Kenmyo recognized the needs of the destitute and composed his greatest work – "My Socialism." Kenmyo did not publish this paper but kept it in his temple study perhaps knowing the resulting consequences of doing so.

In 1905 in order to encourage the War Effort, the government decided to legalize prostitution so that service men, as well as the government workers might receive 'comfort.' Kenmyo saw that many of the women who were expected to perform this 'patriotic duty' were Burakumin from his temple. Therefore, Kenmyo was opposed to this government action.

In 1910 The Taigyaku Incident – 'The High Treason Incident' occurred. A young lumbermill employee was found with materials that could be used to build bombs. He and 25 additional people were arrested, investigated and brought to trial. Takagi Kenmyo was arrested along with this group and his papers were confiscated. One of the incriminating documents was his paper "My Socialism." During this time Higashi revoked Kenmyo's position as head of Josen-ji temple and he was later defrocked as a Higashi priest.

On January 19, 1911, three weeks after the trial started, 24 of the 26 men were sentenced to death by the government in a secret trial. Among them was Takagi Kenmyo. However on the same day, through the Meiji Emperor's 'Gracious Order' 12, including Kenmyo, were given commutation to life imprisonment because they could not be directly connected

Please see DHARMA, con't on pg. 6



T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Obon

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023
4:00 - 9:00PM

MANTO-E SERVICE 6:30pm

BON ODORI 7:00-9:00pm

BON ODORI PRACTICE:

June 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 and 22 | 7:00-8:30pm

To place an order for food, go to: <https://forms.gle/rQMijA6pvCumUt5y5>
or scan this QR code.

This year the temple
will be offering
a Chicken Teriyaki Plate
and a new a la carte menu,
which will include our
Chicken Chow Mein



Pre-Order Pick Up is between 4:00pm-7:00pm

*Walk Up Orders will be limited, but available until closing

1203 W Puente Ave, West Covina, CA 91790 | (626)689-1040
wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

<https://livingdharma.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/WestCovinaBuddhistTemple>



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA, con't from pg. 4

to the High Treason incident. Higashi then excommunicated Takagi Kenmyo. One day later Higashi issued an edict to the sangha basically saying that priests and laity must obey the government laws.

During his imprisonment, tragedy struck his family. When he was arrested, his wife and daughter were immediately thrown out of their home. Destitute, they made their way to Nagoya to live with her sister. Faced with extreme poverty and social censure, his daughter was sold as a geisha in the entertainment district of Nagoya. Everything he did not want to happen to the Burukumin happened to his family. On June 21, 1911, shortly after meeting with his wife in prison and learning of their plight, Tagaki Kenmyo was found hanged in his cell.

In 1959 the government and court papers were opened dealing with the High Treason Incident. It was revealed that the whole investigation and trial were a complete sham in order to get rid of troublesome people. Also during the trial reexamination, Kenmyo's essay "My Socialism" came to light finally published for all to read.

Higashi Honganji also had to examine its role on how it handled the case of Takagi Kenmyo. Probably Takagi Kenmyo had some influence in the passing of the Shinshu Otani-ha "No-more-war Resolution." On April 1, 1996 Takagi Kenmyo's excommunication was posthumously lifted and his priesthood reinstated.

After the publication of "My Socialism" Takagi Kenmyo was recognized by Higashi for his contribution for teaching Shin Buddhism to the Burukumin and taking a stance against war. Like Shinran, he embraced the common people and taught them the doctrine and power of reciting Namu Amida Butsu. He said this about war "I am against war.

I do not feel that a person of the Land of Bliss should take part in warfare."

We closed the program by having a question-and-answer session led by Reverend Hasegawa on how the Dharma Seeds Program can be improved.



(「ダルマ」9頁からの続き)

逮捕者26名のうち24名に死刑判決が出されました。高木顕明氏も死刑判決に処されましたが後に無期懲役に減刑されます。高木氏を切り捨てた大谷派はこの時僧俗共に政府に従うよう通達を出しています。

この事件は高木氏本人だけではなく家族にも悲劇をもたらしました。彼の逮捕を受けて一家は浄泉寺から退去させられました。貧困と厳しい社会の目に晒され、娘は遊郭に行かざるを得ませんでした。1911年6月21日、高木顕明氏は服役中に自殺しました。

後にこの大逆事件は政府に都合の悪い人物を取り締まるためのでっち上げであったことが明らかになります。そして、『余が社会主義』に改めて光が当てられ出版されたのでした。

大谷派は高木顕明氏に対する当派の処遇が不当なものであったことを認め、氏の僧籍復歸の名誉回復がなされました。さらに高木顕明氏の精神は大谷派の「不戦決議」に影響を与えました。

浄土真宗の教えに立って被差別部落の人々の地位向上に奮闘し、非戦主義を貫いた高木氏の功績は彼の『余が社会主義』の出版とともに高く評価されま

した。親鸞聖人と同じく高木顕明氏は普通の人々とともに生き、彼らに南無阿弥陀仏の力を伝えた人でした。彼は戦争についてこのように述べています。「余は非開戦論者である。戦争は極楽の分人の成すことではない」と。

ダルマシーズ研修会では、講義のあと質疑応答の時間が設けられ、長谷川先生が中心となって今後のダルマシーズの活動についての話し合いが行われました。



**Thank you for your volunteer work on the
Center's Cleanup Day.**

**Gil Correa
Joy Kitaura
Johnny Martinez**

**Lee Ezaki
Ray Maekawa**



T H E G A T E W A Y



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T H E G A T E W A Y

2023 Celebration Japan Tour





T H E G A T E W A Y

今年のお盆祭りについて

今年のお盆まつりは6月24日(土)に開催いたします。時間は午後4時から9時までです。万灯会法要は同日午後6時半にお勤めし、法要の後午後7時より盆踊りが始まります。

食べ物は例年よりメニューの種類を減らして販売しますが、恒例の照り焼きチキンはもちろんございます。当日もご購入いただけますが、オンラインによる事前注文をお勧めしています。

<https://forms.gle/rQMjJA6pvCumUt5y5> からもしくは下記のQRコードを読み取ってご注文ください。

皆さまとお盆まつりでお会いできるのを楽しみにしております。

合掌
ウォン・ブルース



ダルマシーズ研修会 江崎リー

第3期ダルマシーズ参加者のための研修会が3月4日に開かれました。研修はハイブリッド形式で別院にて行われ、ウェストコビナからは加藤ターニャさんと私が参加しました。バークレーからはラム・エルシーさん、山下アーサーさん、別院からはウォン・レスリーさん、栗原-ジョンソン・ナンシーさんという顔ぶれです。またそのほか何名かがオンラインで参加しました。僧侶の皆さんも別院に來られました。

事前に見義先生から開会式での正信偈の調声を担当するよう言われたのには仰天しました。調声など一度も経験がありませんし、ましてやたくさんの方の前で勤めることを考えてとても緊張しました。幸い見義先生が当日の開会式の前に指導をしてくださいました。鑿を打つ強さやタイミングなどを学びました。また正信偈の発音や音の長さなども教わりました。おかげでなんとか役を勤めることができました。

今回の研修会はブレニオン・フレッド開教系のプレゼンテーションがメインで、高木顕明氏(1864~1914)について学びました。高木氏については全く知りませんでしたが、大逆事件に関与した

とされたこと、当時の軍国主義や帝国主義に異を唱えた稀有な仏教徒であったこと、それによって大きな犠牲を払わなければならなかったことなどを知ってとても興味を持ちました。

高木顕明氏は1880年、16歳で名古屋の尾張中学に入学し教員免許を取得します。また得度をして顕明を名のります。その後いくつかのお寺で僧侶として勤めます。1893年に高木家の養子となりそれ以降高木顕明となります。そして1899年に浄泉寺の住職となります。浄泉寺の門徒180家族のうち120家族は被差別部落の人々でした。それまでの高木氏は比較的裕福な人々の中で生活していました。初めて接する田舎の農民たちに戸惑っていた高木氏でしたが、次第にそのような人々こそ本当に救いを必要とする人々であると確信します。親鸞聖人がそうであったように、彼らを支え、彼らの声なき声を代弁することの必要性を痛感したのです。

被差別部落の人々の窮状を目の当たりにし、彼らが社会で受け入れられるように奔走した高木氏はやがて他の宗派の仏教僧侶やキリスト教の聖職者など同じ社会改革の理念をもつ人々との交

流を深めていきます。彼の社会改革の理念は時代に先んじていました。

1904年に始まった日露戦争で日本は意外な勝利を収めました。この勝利は日本の軍国主義を推し進めるきっかけとなったのです。そのような風潮にあつて高木氏はあらゆる人々を敬う仏教の精神に立っていました。そこから見た景色は虐げられた上に戦争を支援するための寄付という名でさらに搾取される被差別部落の人々の姿でした。当時国策としての戦争に反対することは国に対する反逆者とみなされました。高木氏が『余が社会主義』を著したのはこのような時でしたが、高木氏にこれを世に出す意図はありませんでした。

戦争を推し進める政府は「公娼制度」を導入し多くの女性が「お国のため」という旗印のもと犠牲となっていました。高木氏はこの制度にも反対しました。

こうした中1910年の「大逆事件」が起こります。26名が逮捕され、高木氏もその一人でした。首謀者とされた人との関わりを疑われたためです。また自宅から『余が社会主義』も見つかりました。高木氏の逮捕を受け大谷派は高木顕明氏の僧籍を剥奪したのです。

(「ダルマ」6頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

盆踊り練習

今年の盆踊り練習は以下の予定にて行われます。練習日は火曜日と木曜日、会場は駐車場、時間は午後7時から8時半までです。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、お気軽にご参加下さい。

練習日

6月 1日(木)	6日(火)
8日(木)	13日(火)
15日(木)	20日(火)
22日(木)	

法話会祥月法要

6月の法話会の祥月法要は6月1日(木)、7月の法話会祥月法要は7月6日(木)にお寺でお勤めします。時間はいずれも午前10時です。皆さまのご参詣をお待ちしております。

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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

May - June 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 3

May

- 14 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
-hybrid
- 18 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 21 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service-hybrid
- 23 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 25 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid

June

- 1 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 1 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 1 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-hybrid
- 5 WCBT Golf Tournament
- 6 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 7 7:00 pm Board Meeting-online
- 8 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 8 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 11 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 13 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice

2023年5月行事予定

- 14日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
ーハイブリッド
- 21日 午前10時 誕生会／初参り法要
ーハイブリッド
- 28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド

6月行事予定

- 1日 午前10時 法話会
- 1日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要ーハイブリッド
- 5日 ゴルフトーナメント
- 6日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 7日 午後7時 理事会ーオンライン
- 8日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 11日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド

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すべての自力は、
他力にささえられてあったんだ

鈴木章子『還るところはみなひとつ』