



GATEWAY



September-October 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 5



Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Sunday, November 12, 2023

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at ESGVJCC

**Featuring Asian inspired crafts, kids & adult clothing,
jewelry, ceramics, giftware, original artwork
and delicious food!**

**Come for some holiday shopping,
Stay for the fun and food!**

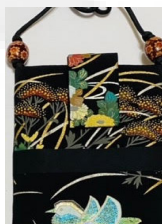
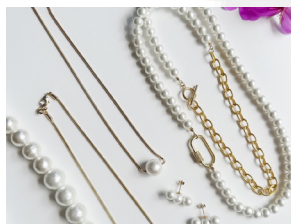
Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 12**, for a fun day of shopping and feasting at our annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair 2023.

Join us as we greet some familiar and favorite vendors and welcome many new vendors as well. New this year are beautiful ceramic pieces, girls & toddler dresses in original Japanese inspired prints and a selection of amazing jewelry.

We will also have our delicious chicken teriyaki plate, chicken chow mein and more to enjoy here or take home.

Please note that traditionally Kiku is held on the first Sunday of November but this year we are on the second Sunday, on November 12, 2023.

For more info, please contact Hisako Koga at 951-818-8740 or hskoga@gmail.com





T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Fall! It will be a relief to welcome cooler weather after a very hot summer! Our Fall Ohigan service will be held on September 17 at 4:30. This, and the Spring Ohigan in March are the two times when there are equal numbers of day and night hours. These two times of equinox are said to be when the weather is neither too hot nor too cold.

The special Sunday in October will be the 29th. This service will include our temple's Halloween party. Hope to see all of you in funny, scary, or silly costumes!

The following is a Jataka tale for our Dharma School students:

"The Brave Little Parrot"

One day in a forest, a lightning bolt hit an old, dead tree. The tree quickly caught on fire. The fire spread through the forest. The terrified animals ran as quickly as they could toward the river. However, many animals were still trapped by the flames and could not get to the river.

A little parrot who reached the river tried to get his friends to go back to help the trapped animals. His frightened friends refused. The parrot did the only thing he could do to help. He dove into the river and flew back into the burning forest. He shook his feathers releasing little drops of water onto the fire. Over and over again the exhausted parrot dove into the river and flew into the forest to release the drops of water.

Suddenly a large storm appeared. Rain poured from the sky putting the fire out! The trapped animals were saved! They showed their gratitude to the brave and compassionate little parrot with cheers.

The Jataka tale's lesson is: "No matter how small, a being with a heart of compassion can have a great effect on the world."

What do you think about this tale?

Adapted from Buddhism For Kids by Emily Griffith Burke. (2019)

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

Japan Trip

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

This year's summer vacation was truly delightful and memorable. Bill and I took a trip to Japan and had a great time. The most enjoyable part of this trip was that we spent considerable time sitting and talking with my family, our friends, and many other Jodo Shinshu followers.

It was the first time Bill took a two-week vacation since he became Rimban, and he had not seen my family in almost ten years. My family in Toyama was excited to see him and invited him as a guest speaker at their temple's Obon Service. In his Dharma message he spoke of his understanding of the meaning of Obon in the relationship with our loved ones. His talk resonated with members and gave them an opportunity to

reflect on their relationship with their loved ones. Bill also introduced his Betsuin's Obon Festival by showing a slideshow. It was the first time for most of them to see an Obon Festival in the U.S.. They were so surprised by the vibrant event. In the Q & A session following his talk, Bill received quite a few questions, and conversation with them continued during *otoki*.

My family was eager to talk with Bill, especially my mother. She wanted to discuss the teaching of Jodo Shinshu with him, such as "What do you understand about the Pure Land?" He also expected and was looking forward to talking with her, so both of them kept me busy interpreting for them during dinner.

An intimate conversation with my family let us know the issue both Nishi and Higashi denominations face in Japan. My brother expounded on the restructuring and consolidation of Higashi districts in each prefecture. This movement causes the integration of the Betsuin, which is the direct branch temple of Shinshu Otani-ha, Kyoto, and is also regarded as a head temple in each district. Ministers and members consider and discuss the role of Betsuin through the shifting. My brother was interested in the relationship between our Betsuin and other local temples and their members and what we think about the role of the Betsuin in our overseas district. "What makes Bet-

Please see TRIP, con't on page 8



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. 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.

Autumn Ohigan Service

The hybrid Fall Ohigan Service will be held on September 17 at 4:30 PM with special guest speaker Rev. Peter Hata. Please help us welcome back our friend Rev. Peter and join us for our first post-Covid eat-in Otoki. Please RSVP to Toban A if you plan to be there.

Family Fun Day

Sunday, Sept. 24, 10am-3pm at HHBT: 505 E. 3rd St. L.A. 90013. Food, activities, fun for family and friends!
RSVP by Sept 15 to INFO@HHBT-LA.ORG or 213-626-4200. \$5 pp for main part of lunch can be paid at event.
Also, please share a dish. Last name begins A-K: dessert / fruit L-Z: salad / veggies
Questions, contact 626-689-1040 or revnobuko@gmail.com (Rev. Miyoshi) or pishsato@gmail.com (Pat Sato)

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair 2023

The 2023 Kiku Crafts & Food Fair will be held on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Please note that this year the event will be held on the second Sunday of November instead of the traditional first Sunday.
Join us as we greet some familiar and favorite vendors and welcome many new vendors as well.
See page 1 for more information.

Halloween???

The decision to have a Halloween party after the Sunday Service on October 29 is still being discussed.

Ho-onko

A Hybrid Ho-onko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 5 at 4:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Rimban William Briones from LA Nishi Betsuin. Please join us as we welcome Rimban Bill for this special service. Otoki will be served after the service.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitosho-Gonzalez, Lindsay

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/westcovinabuddhisttemple

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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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

Ethan Ezaki, Kelly Yamashita, Sachi Ena, Traci Takemura, Glenn Nakatani, Diane Hata, Jane Earley, Kimio Earley, Miyo Takahashi, David Teragawa, Erik Akuna, Melissa Kozono, Lauren Yanase, Mitsue Oshita, Yukiko Kovacs, Yukiko Tsuruda, Tewlyn R. Underwood, Koa DeLeon, Chase Logue, Darren Godoy, Linda Nafarrete, Amelie Kagawa



T H E G A T E W A Y

WEST COVINA HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

September 8, 2023

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 17, 2023 with both in-person and Zoom. The information for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, September 17, 2023
 Time: 4:30 P.M. (hybrid)
 Dharma Message: Rev. Peter Hata
 Meeting ID: 850 5199 6007
 Passcode: 454346

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

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

九月に入りましても厳しい残暑が続いておりますが、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。秋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。法要後のお斎の接待も再開いたします。ご家族で一緒にお参り下さい。

記

秋のお彼岸法要

日 時 2023年9月17日(日) 午後4時半

法 話 幡ピーター師(英語)

ミーティングID: 850 5199 6007

パスコード: 454346

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

WEST COVINA

Higashi Honganji

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

September 8, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invite you to attend the Ho-on-ko Service which will be held on Sunday, November 5, 2023 with both in-person and Zoom. The information for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, November 5, 2023
 Time: 4:30 P.M. (hybrid)
 Dharma Message: Rimban William Briones
 (Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple)
 Meeting ID: 880 1990 8881
 Passcode: 452895

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

Ho-on-ko is the annual memorial service of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin. Shinran lived from 1173-1262 and devoted his life to studying and sharing the teaching of Nembutsu. On this occasion we gather to express our appreciation to Shinran Shonin.

Gassho,
 Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi
 Johnny Martinez, President
 Board of Directors

拝啓
 残暑厳しい折、皆さまにおかれましては健やかに
 お過ごしのことと存じます。さて今年も報恩講の
 季節がやってまいります。報恩講は親鸞聖人のご
 命日法要で私どもの信仰生活を見直す機会とされ
 てまいりました。本年は左記の如く法話会におき
 まして日本語報恩講法要並びに十一月祥月法要を
 併せて厳修いたしますのでご案内申し上げます。

記

日本語報恩講法要

二〇二三年十一月二日(木)

午前十時

法話 見義信香師

前述の予定となっております。どうぞご家族お揃
 いで法要にお参りください。

合掌

ウエストコビナ東本願寺

開教使 見義信香

理事長 マルチネス ジャニー



T H E G A T E W A Y

Please Support the WCBT Membership!

Dear Sangha, Family & Friends,

As I write this request, we are already into September again. Time flies even during these stressful and momentous times of our history. I hope you and your loved ones are well and keeping safe from all that continues to go on right now.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their membership dues for the 2023 year. We also express our appreciation to all of you whose donations have helped keep WCBT independent and running.

This is a gentle reminder for those who would like to be part of the WCBT sangha membership for this 2023 year. Compared to other temples, we have kept our dues low, trying to keep it reasonable and affordable. It is \$125/couple/family; \$100 for a single. We appreciate your support and participation in sustaining our spiritual home.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to join our educational programs, not only our weekly Sunday services, but also the classes and discussions being offered Thursday morning @ 10 a.m. and every second and fourth Tuesday evening @ 6 pm. via Zoom. For those that work during the day, please consider this evening option. Rev. Miyoshi is an awesome teacher who instructs and guides us into very friendly, stimulating, thought-provoking discussions. We have warmly connected with friends/family and even former sangha members who have moved to other parts of the country. "The gates of Dharma are manifold," please enter one and join us. We would love to see you.

With Gassho,
Johnny Martinez, President

With Gassho,

2023 MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of our paid 2023 members as of August 31, 2023. In the case of an inadvertent omission, please contact Rev. Miyoshi. Those listed below have already paid their 2023 membership dues. If you are not listed and would like to become a member, please use the application on page 8.





T H E G A T E W A Y



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.



T H E G A T E W A Y

TRIP, con't from pg. 2

suin as Betsuin?"—Honestly speaking, I had hardly ever thought about it until he asked us.

After spending five days with my family in Toyama, we stopped by Kyoto and then headed for Kagoshima. In Kagoshima, we visited a cave that was a hidden gathering place for Nenbutsu followers around the 16th through 19th centuries when Jodo Shinshu teaching was strictly banned by the feudal lord of the Kagoshima area. Rev. Zesho Teramoto, a minister in Kagoshima and a friend of my mother, offered to take us there as a guide. We heard the detailed history of persecution of Nenbutsu teaching in Kagoshima from him. It is impressive that, despite the brutal persecution, Jodo Shinshu teachings had been maintained and handed down for about three hundred years. Jodo Shinshu followers in Kagoshima chose not to resort to force to achieve their religious freedom, while they never gave up their spiritual ground. Rev. Teramoto sees Shinran's teaching manifested as the strength and the

true pacifism in them.

We had a great time with Rev. Teramoto. He wanted to know the significance of Jodo Shinshu teaching for Bill. Rev. Teramoto enjoyed exchanging his understanding and thoughts with Bill. Rev. Teramoto surprised Bill when he made a bow and said, "On behalf of the Japanese, I apologize to you for Pearl Harbor. We made a mistake." And he also said, "However, dropping the Atomic Bomb was also a terrible mistake." At his favorite *izakaya* restaurant, we talked about various things, from Jodo Shinshu teachings to silly topics, with a great deal of laughter.

I am grateful for having a wonderful and meaningful time with Bill in Japan. It was truly relaxing and enjoyable. I realized we were comfortable expressing our thoughts freely and honestly because we knew they also openly expressed themselves. We were not afraid of having different views or opinions and never worried about judgment from them. I felt we were in a relationship based on trust. Those we met and talked to

were open and gave their full attention to us. Their sincerity and seriousness allowed us to have an intimate conversation with them, bringing us great joy. With a trusting relationship, our differences do not have to disturb our mutual understanding. We may be surprised by those differences, but at the same time, we respect them because we can learn from them, and they will make our world broader. Our thoughts, ideas, experiences, and backgrounds are naturally different. If we see the commonality beyond all differences, it would be a great delight for us. It would also become a profound joy when we experience that encountering differences motivates us to aspire to listen to others more diligently. Our differences should not work to create division but to connect us. This is the relationship Jodo Shinshu reveals to us. It shows us the world where we can unite while respecting all differences.



2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| FAMILY MEMBERSHIP | (家族護持会費) | \$ 125 (New / Renewal) |
| SINGLE MEMBERSHIP | (個人護持会費) | \$ 100 (New / Renewal) |
| SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP | (賛助護持会費) | \$_____ (New / Renewal) |
| NAME:(名前) | | Birth Month _____ |
| Husband/Wife:(夫・妻) | | Birth Month _____ |
| Children:(子供) | | Birth Month(s) _____ |
| ADDRESS:(住所) _____ | | |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____ | | |
| TELEPHONE #:(電話番号)() | | E-Mail: _____ |

*Would you like to receive the "Gateway" and other announcements by E-Mail instead of mail? (Yes / No)

*Please make your check payable to WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793
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www.livingdharma.org/wcwt.livingdharma@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple



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

語り合える慶び
見義信香

今年の夏は夫が輪番になって初めてまとまった休みを取ることができましたので、実家のお寺のお盆法要に合わせて富山に帰り、その後九州にも足を延ばすことにしました。多くの方と語り合う時間をいただいた旅行となりました。

お盆法要での話を頼まれていた夫は、アメリカでのお盆、特にお盆まつりの様子を紹介し、お盆を通して亡くなった方と今を生きる私たちとの関係をどういただいているか、という話をしました。暑い中にも関わらずご門徒の方々は夫の話を熱心に聞いてくださり、質問も多く出ました。アメリカと日本のお寺の違いに驚いたり、その一方で国を超えて同じ真宗の教えを聞いていることを喜び、親しみを感じてくださった姿が印象的でした。

帰省する楽しみのひとつは家族との団欒なのですが、今回は夫とその時間を共有することができたことをとても嬉しく思いました。夫が私の家族に会うのはほぼ10年ぶりです。母は彼と真宗について語ることをとても楽しみにしていたようで、「浄土についてどう思うか？」など真宗の教えについての様々な質問をしていました。弟からは「アメリカで別院とはどのような存在で、どんな役割を担っているのか？」と聞かれました。そして日本では教区の改編が進んでいることによって、地域における別院の役割が大きな課題となっているという現状を教えてくださいました。日本にいながらアメリカの開教の状況を知ることがなかなか難しいのと同様に、アメリカにいる私が日本の現場で何が大きな課題となっているのか、ということを知る機会はありません。だからこそ、お互いの現場の課題や状

況について直接話す時間はとても貴重で、相手の話から改めて自分の現場を振り返る、という機会にもなりました。

鹿児島では母の友人で同じく大谷派の僧侶である寺本是精氏がかくれ念仏ゆかりの地である立山念仏洞を案内してくださいました。道中ではかくれ念仏の歴史や背景、弾圧に遭いながら力で抵抗するという道を選ばなかった当時の真宗門徒のことなどをお聞きすることができました。

初日にお会いして行きつけの居酒屋に連れていってくださった時のことです。席に着いて一通り自己紹介が終わるとすぐに寺本氏は夫に頭を下げてこうおっしゃいました。「パールハーバーの襲撃は大変申し訳ありませんでした。日本人を代表してどうしても謝りたかった」と。同時に「でも原爆はやっぱり間違っていたと思います」とも。戦争とは遠い過去に終わった出来事ではなく、今にも続き、今を生きる私たちが考え続けなければいけないことなのだと教えられたようでした。

僧侶である寺本氏は私の母と同じく夫と真宗について語り合っていました。「あなたにとって浄土真宗とはどのような教えですか？」というストレートな質問から会話が続きしました。

今回の旅行で過ごした時間を振り返ったとき、「こんなことを言ったら間違っていると言われるのではないか」などという心配を一切することがなかったということに気づきました。夫も私も相手が真剣に問いかけてくれているから、自分も真剣に向き合い自分の思いを表現したいと思いました。そしてそれは本当に楽しい時間でした。自分の考えを恐れずに表現できる、もっと言うなら伝えたいと思えるということは、私たちが信頼の関係をその場に賜っているということの証ではないでしょうか。浄土真宗の教えは異なった経験や意見

や生活環境の人たちがどこで繋がっていけるかを丁寧に問い続けている教えではないかと思います。そしてお寺とは様々な違いをもった人同士が出会うことのできる場であります。出会いに驚き、その出会いを喜ぶことで、相手の言葉を聞くことが自分や自分の世界を開ききっかけとなるのではないかと思うのです。違いは必ずしも人との分断を生むものではなく、むしろもっとその人の言葉を聞き意見を交わしたいという熱になる、そのような関係性の世界があるということ、私たちは真宗の歴史から教えられているのではないかと思うのです。その世界に触れる機会をいただくことのできた今回の旅行でした。



お寺ニュース

法話会祥月法要

10月の祥月法要は10月5日(木) 11月の祥月法要は11月2日(木)にお勤めします。いずれも時間は午前10時です。

秋季彼岸法要(英語)

本年度の秋季彼岸法要は対面とオンラインのハイブリッド形式にてお勤めいたします。日時は9月17日(日)午後4時半となっております。

報恩講法要(英語)

本年度の報恩講法要は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。日時は11月5日(日)午後4時半となっております。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

September - October 2023 - - Vol. LVII No. 5

September

- 17 4:30 pm Autumn Ohigan Service-hybrid
- 21 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 24 Betsuin & WCBT Family Fun Day
- 26 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 28 10:00 am Discussion Class-online

October

- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-hybrid
- 3 7:00 pm Board Meeting-online
- 5 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 10 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 12 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 15 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 19 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service-online
- 24 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 26 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid

2023年9月行事予定

- 17日 午後4時半 秋季彼岸法要ーハイブリッド
- 24日 ファミリーファンデー (於別院)

10月行事予定

- 1日 午前10時 祥月法要ーハイブリッド
- 3日 午後7時 理事会ーオンライン
- 5日 午前10時 法話会
- 8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド
- 15日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド
- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド

ハロウィーンパーティ

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古人の跡を求めず
古人の求めたところを求めよ

松尾芭蕉