



# GATEWAY



January-February 2024 - - Vol. LVIII No. 1



*Our sangha enjoyed good weather, a delicious breakfast provided by Toban B and did some serious mochi pounding on Mochitsuki Day. Everyone had fun and took home a bagful of mochi to welcome in the New Year!*

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Yul Ōtani

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

To our fellow seekers in our overseas districts, I send my warmest wishes for a Happy New Year. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for your continued efforts in learning the Dharma, as well as in maintaining our Sangha and teaching tradition.

In 2019, the Covid-19 began to cause indescribable anxieties all over the world. Amid the dire situation, Russia began to invade Ukraine and thousands of precious lives have continued to be lost in which there still seems to be no end in sight. To make the situation even worse, another series of large-scale conflicts have been taking place between Israel and Palestinian militant groups.

In this world filled with never-ending wars and conflicts, what can



we do and how should we live our lives? I cannot help but reflect on my responsibility as a nenbutsu practitioner. I earnestly wish that peace will be restored as soon as possible in the lives of all of the people who have been undergoing the fear and sorrow

caused by war.

At our mother temple in Kyoto, the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū were observed successfully last year. We were joined by so many of our Sangha members not only from across Japan, but also from the overseas districts, at the Celebration. I am truly grateful for having been able to celebrate those historical events together with many of you.

Upon reflection of the main theme for the Celebration, "Namu Amida Butsu: To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings," I believe that we are at a point where we must raise awareness about the preciousness of our lives and the

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



# 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 everyone in our overseas districts, I wish to extend my New Year's greetings for the year 2024. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support you continue to give to our district activities. The Covid-19 pandemic, which began to rage across the globe in 2019, has finally been diminishing. Because of that, the city of Kyoto is now bustling with countless numbers of tourists again.

In April last year, the 850th Celebration of the Birth of Shinran Shōnin and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū were wonderfully celebrated at our mother temple. So many of our Sangha members, not only from across Japan but also from the overseas districts, were able to join in the Celebration. As I mentioned in my greetings at the Hōonkō Service last year, because of the pandemic, we were unable to meet together in person to listen to



the teachings for such a long period of time. Then I believe many of us subconsciously had the desire to "gather and listen to the teachings together." Since the Celebration was the first major event since the beginning of the pandemic, I was truly grateful for being able to "gather and listen to the Dharma together."

In our overseas districts, we are

planning upcoming Dharma events such as the Celebration and the World Dōbō Gathering in a few years. On such occasions, let us once again remind ourselves of how precious such opportunities are, and renew our commitment to listen to the teaching of the nenbutsu together.

If you have a chance to visit Kyoto in the near future, please come to the Shinshū Honbyō to encounter the image of Shinran Shōnin and to refresh your appreciation of the teaching of the nenbutsu here. When you return home, please share your appreciation of the teaching with your family and friends. It is in that way that we can carry on our tradition. This is my sincere wish for the coming year.

In closing, I ask for your continued support and guidance as we begin the New Year.

### Greetings From Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Happy New Year to everyone. As we begin the New Year, Bill and I hope that this New Year will be full of meaningful and joyous moments for all of you.

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 friendship and encouragement became a part of me and enabled me to fulfill my duties as a minister. Many thanks to the members of each Toban group. As the temple resumed its activities and events, the responsibilities of the Toban group have increased. I was truly grateful they were fully involved in those du-

ties without hesitation. I would also like to thank Rev. Frederick Brenion for leading a discussion class once a month and emailing the information on temple events to our members.

Reflecting upon 2023, we could not help but seriously consider the meaning of "peace." While we proclaimed the virtue of peace, in actuality, we have plunged toward the destruction of it. The growing international tension has fueled our fears and distrust, and we are creating a world that contradicts the Buddhist teachings, which aspire for peace for all beings.

Peace is never accomplished by judging who is right. Therefore, Buddhism does not give us an answer about who or what side is right.

Instead, Buddhist teachings make us aware that a severe problem will be caused when we place ourselves on the right side. Belief in self-righteousness hinders us from acknowledging the lives of others as precious ones. Once we regard others as "our enemies," we do not hesitate to inflict cruelty on them for "our peace." This is our delusion called "ignorance," which creates a chain of conflict and hatred and entangles us into the world of suffering.

When the working of the Buddhist teachings activates within us, what we urgently need to do is illuminated. It is to see the world through the eyes of the most vulnerable people. It is the time when their

*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 are currently 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.

**New Year's Day Service**

An in-person only service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Monday, January 1, 2024, at 11:00 am. Rev. Miyoshi will prepare a special New Year's treat so please let her know if you are planning to attend in-person.

**January Shotsuki Service**

Our January Shotsuki Service will be held on January 7, 2024. Since it will be our first service of the New Year, there will be a special otoki luncheon

with sashimi and sake generously provided by Rev. Miyoshi to celebrate the occasion. Join us for this delicious treat as we welcome the New Year!

**Eitaikyo & General Meeting**

Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, January 21, at 10 am. followed by the General Meeting. An Eitaikyo bento lunch will be provided for \$10 with the Temple subsidizing the remainder of the cost. To ensure there will be enough bentos please place your order by contacting Rev. Miyoshi or Dick Koga @ (213) 305-2545 or [dickkoga@gmail.com](mailto:dickkoga@gmail.com). Join us for our yearly service and the delicious bentos to enjoy with the Sangha or take home.

**WCBT Online Seminar**

WCBT will have its Online Seminar on Saturday, February 10, 2024 with Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, former minister of San Diego Buddhist Temple and now retired. Please see page 9 for more information.

**Pet Memorial Service.**

A special hybrid service will be held on February 25 at 10:00 am. to remember our animal friends. Everyone who has lost a pet is invited to pay tribute to them on this special day. We invite anyone who has lost a pet recently to share pictures and/or stories of them.

**Online Donations**

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.

**GATEWAY Staff**

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

*Contributors:* Claire Hansen, 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/westcvinabuddhisttemple](https://facebook.com/westcvinabuddhisttemple)

*E-Mail:* [wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com](mailto:wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com)

**JANUARY BIRTHDAY**

Tami Kitaura, Ty Tamo Le, Tanya Kato, 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, Miles Kai Kagawa, Maya Hendrickson, Stephanie Whang, 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, Mia Kikuye Kaneko

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY**

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosho, Hisako Koga, Luke Takeshi Shimomura, Evan Okamura, 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

**Johnny Martinez, President**

Dear Members and Friends,

Hello and Happy New Year to everyone. This past year had its painful and positive moments, leaving us with many memories and lessons that we will carry into the next year. I once heard someone say, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, the only thing we truly have is the present". We must not waste the time we have.

As the new year begins, we are given the opportunity to start again. During the past year some of our members have suffered losses due to death or illnesses, while others experienced new beginnings with weddings or births. Every morning I wake and have the opportunity to learn and grow from my mistakes. This is where the temple gives us opportunities to self-reflect. None of us are perfect and we are all ongoing works of beings living in the Dharma; we are accepted just the way we are. How wonderful!

Life continues to send us challenges and reminders of how ill-prepared we truly are, whether it is a case of politics, 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. I experience compassion daily, and 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. How lucky I am to share this present moment with all of you, and be embraced by love and the Dharma.

Thank you to Rev. Miyoshi and all of the sangha members who have been supportive throughout the year. Please remain safe. I look forward with gratitude and anticipation for the New Year to be filled with opportunities for all of us to become true human beings.

With Gassho, Johnny Martinez



## DHARMA SCHOOL

Happy New Year!

Our temple had a busy December. We had the Bodhi Day Service early in the month followed by a well attended and fun mochitsuki. Finally, we had our Year End Service and Oseibo on the 17th. The pot luck dinner was delicious and everyone had a wonderful time!

January events include New Year's Day and Eitaikyo services. Our online seminar and pet memorial service will take place in February. Hope to see you at our special services!

2024 is the year of the Dragon according to Asian Astrology. There are 12 animal symbols in the zodiac, so every 12th year an animal symbol is repeated. The next dragon year will be in 2036! Most Asian countries celebrate the new year according to the lunar calendar. This year New Year's Day will be on February 10.

Japan, however, celebrates the new year on January 1. This is because during the Meiji Restoration, Japan decided to adopt the Western Gregorian calendar (of which we are all familiar) instead of the lunar calendar. Previous to this change, Japan had celebrated the new year according to the lunar calendar for many years.

According to Asian astrology, dragon people are said to be noble, honorable, powerful, intelligent, lucky, and successful—quite a lot of good attributes! But, they also have a reputation of sometimes being a hot head with a sharp tongue!

Some famous dragon people are John Lennon, Martin Luther King, Robert Oppenheimer, Dr. Seuss, Bruce Lee, and Rihanna.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS

**Dr. Roy Takemura**

The year 2023 has ended and now we are all looking forward to 2024 with great anticipation. Although COVID is still prevalent, we can have more in person activities. Along with hybrid Sunday services, we resumed providing otoki after our major services like Ohigan and Hoonko, which is great. However, this also adds to the responsibilities of each Toban group.

In the past, with a much larger sangha, there were four Toban groups and each assisted Rev. Miyoshi three months out of the year. Now, we are down to three Toban groups with fewer people in each group. This in turn results in one group assigned to six months every three years. Occasionally, a Toban will be short-handed and may ask other members for assistance. Please do not hesitate to give your assistance. Thank you.

As we turn the calendar to a bright and prosperous 2024, we extend a heartfelt Happy New Year to you and your entire family. We look forward to working with you to make the upcoming year a great success.

Your Toban chairs: Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto-Toban A; Lee Ezaki-Toban B; Dick Koga-Toban C



## TOBAN LIST

Tobans are responsible for providing obuppan/flowers and Zoom for all services and a chairperson for major and Shotuki services

### **Toban A (Joy Kitaura/Hiroko Takemoto) (April-June)**

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  
Yamasaki, Ron

### **Toban B (Lee Ezaki) (July-September)**

Correa, Gilbert  
Chen, Mei Ling  
de Leon, Sachi & James  
Earley, Jerry & Jane  
Ezaki, Lee & Karen  
Fujii, Carol  
Harrison, Michelle  
Ikehara-Nelson, Reiko  
Kato, Tanya  
Kovacs, Yukiko  
Mayeda, Haruko  
Nakatani, Mark  
Rodriguez, Oscar

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

Godoy, Jose & Lynette  
Hansen, Claire  
Haraguchi, Richard & Claudia  
Kato, Ted  
Koga, Dick & Hisako  
Kovacs, Yukiko  
Kowalski, Kurt  
Martinez, Johnny  
Ogino, Leslie  
Ormseth, Tor & Diana  
Oshita, Mitsuru & Mitsu  
Underwood, Steve & Denise  
Wexler, Alan & Emi  
Whang, Bruce  
Yamashita, Kay

## THANK YOU!





# T H E G A T E W A Y

*ODA, con't from pg. 1*

deep interconnection among all people in the world through the teaching of the nenbutsu.

Even though I have assumed the position of the Overseas District Abbot since 2020, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, I had been unable to travel to overseas districts for a long period of time. However, I was finally able to observe the Hōonkō Service together with you in person in the previous year. Those opportunities have reinforced my realization that we are all fellow seekers deeply interconnected with each other by the nenbutsu. Even though we live far away from each other, we are connected as stated in the phrase, "There are no boundaries between the oceans of the world."

I sincerely look forward to seeing you all in person again at the celebratory events to be held in each overseas district and the World Dōbō Gathering in the near future.

In closing, I ask for your continued support as we begin the New Year.

*MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 2*

tears become our pain. Through this pain, we come to recognize the significance of "aspire for peace for all beings," and our efforts to walk on the path of peace will start.

Hearing sad news and tragedy is sometimes overwhelming to us. We do not want to hear or see terrible news because it is really uncomfortable. We close our eyes and try to focus on our own peace, saying, "It is awful about those things, but I am happy as long as my family and I are fine." It is something like we seclude ourselves in a small room to shut down outside noises and savor comfort and serenity. It is comfortable but truly selfish. Not only that, but such indifference is also part of the cause of the calamities happening

**Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Treasurer**

Happy New Year!

2023 has been a year of new and renewed experiences. Starting with the Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> celebration that I was able to attend in Kyoto, enjoying our Obon Festival with a plate of chicken teriyaki and a fun Obon Odori again, meeting our Overseas District Abbot during Ho-on-ko and ending with a busy December with mochitsuki and our Year End gathering.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with our major Temple fundraisers starting with our annual Golf Tournament, Obon Festival and Kiku Craft and Food Fair. The success of these events is a reflection of a Sangha that comes together and plays together.

I look forward to 2024, as the re-awakening of the Temple continues with renewed strength and vitality as the year of the Dragon begins.

In Gassho,  
Reiko Ikehara-Nelson

today.

Buddhism does not help to make us comfortable in this sense. Encountering the teachings is the experience of being dragged out of our comfortable room. Relating to the suffering of others is definitely uncomfortable and heartbreaking. Yet, through the painful awakening, we genuinely accept that all our lives are equally precious. The path of peace will be revealed when we are fully aware of the reality of others as invaluable and respect each other. Listening to the teachings is experiencing the working of the teachings, which encourages us to keep walking the uncomfortable and painful path altogether.

Gassho



(「司教」11頁からの続き)

赴くことができませんでしたが、昨年からようやく各開教区で皆様と共に報恩講をお勤めすることができ、「海の内外のへだてなく」の言葉のとおり、私たちはその身を置いている場所は離れていても、お念仏で繋がり合うことができる「御同朋」であることを確かめさせていただいたこととございます。

今後は、各開教区での慶讃法要、世界同朋大会など、多くのご縁を皆様と共にできることをお願いいたしまして、新年のご挨拶とさせていただきます。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。



## New Year's Greetings from the Gateway Staff

The WCBT Gateway Staff extends our deepest gratitude to the Sangha during the past year and for their continued support for the upcoming Year of the Dragon.





T H E G A T E W A Y

# WEST COVINA HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Dear Members and Friends:

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe New Year, and to thank everyone for your past support. This is also a reminder that the 2024 membership dues are now being accepted.

Family Membership is \$125, and Single Membership is \$100. To friends who wish to support our Temple, we have a special Supporting Membership, in which the contributing amount is left up to the individual.

As you know, membership dues pay only part of the expenses needed to run the temple and its programs. They are, nevertheless, a very important, indispensable part of our budget.

Please check one of the following categories and make your check payable to WEST COVINA HH BUD-  
DHIST TEMPLE.

If you already paid your membership for this year, please disregard this letter.

Thank you very much.

ご門徒の皆様へ

新年明けましておめでとうございます。

なにかとご多忙な毎日をお過ごしのことと拝察いたします。

お蔭様で当ウェストコビナ東本願寺は昨年も充実した一年を送ることができました。法話会、毎週の英語日曜礼拝、お彼岸、お盆など様々な行事を無事勤修いたしました。これらの活動は皆様より毎年頂きます護持会費(メンバーシップ)により支えられています。今年もまたお寺が人々の心に法灯をともし続けることができますよう何卒、2024年度護持会費をお納めいただけますようお願い申し上げます。また有縁の方々のための賛助会員費をもうけさせていただいております。賛助会員費は下記の金額でなくとも結構です。皆様のご友人、他のお寺、教会の会員の方々にも賛助会員となつてご支援頂くよう宜しくお願い申し上げます。

すでにお納めいただいた方にはこの場をお借りして心より御礼申し上げます。

2024年度護持会費は次の通りです。

家族護持会費 125ドル

個人護持会費 100ドル

皆様のご理解とご協力に厚く御礼申し上げます。

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President

教団理事長 マルチネス ジョン

\*チェックの宛名は"WEST COVINA HH BUDDHIST TEMPLE" をお願いいたします。

## 2024 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 )



T H E G A T E W A Y

# WEST COVINA HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

January 2, 2024

The Board of Directors of the West Covina Buddhist Temple  
cordially invites you to attend our annual  
Eitaikyo Service and Temple General Meeting with both in-person and Zoom:

## Eitaikyo Service

Sunday, January 21, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Dharma Message : Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

## Annual Temple General Meeting

11:30 A.M.

Meeting ID: 813 4736 1275

Passcode: 005986

Members of Toban C will be providing a delicious bento lunch.  
Tickets are available for sale, \$10.00.

Gassho,  
John Martinez, President  
Board of Directors

## 永代経法要 / 教団総会 / 新年会 御案内

月 日 : 2024年1月21日 (日曜日)  
時 間 : 午前10時  
法 話 : 見義信香師

本年度の永代経法要を上記の予定で厳修いたします。法要後11時半より教団総会が開催されます。共に対面とオンラインでお勤め、開催いたします。オンラインでの参加のインフォメーションは上記の通りです。新年会では当番Cの皆さんによる美味しいお弁当を準備しております。お斎のチケットは10ドルです。ご家族、ご友人お誘い合わせの上、お参り下さいますようご案内申し上げます。

合掌

ウェストコビナ東本願寺  
理事長 マルチネス ジョン





# T H E G A T E W A Y

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 2024 Online Seminar: “Gratitude – The Shin Path of Waking Up”

Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

**Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024**

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

(No Registration Fee)

**Pre-register by Google Form**

(<https://forms.gle/QiBBpgzvha2PiTWD9>) to  
be added to the Zoom meeting invitation  
for the seminar.

More Info: [revnobuko@gmail.com](mailto:revnobuko@gmail.com) (Rev. Miyoshi) or  
[pishsato@gmail.com](mailto:pishsato@gmail.com) (Pat Sato)

### ◆ *About the Seminar*

Shin Buddhism has been in America for over 120 years. Yet, compared with other sects of Buddhism in America, we have not attracted many from outside the Nikkei community. We will examine some causes of this, such as the difficulty of relating traditional words to our contemporary lives. We will also present a practice of daily gratitude that can lead to a deep appreciation of the Nembutsu.

### ◆ *About the Lecturer*

Former private practice dentist in San Jose (UCSF Dental School).

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin – Board President for 2 years.

Santa Clara Co. Juvenile Hall – Buddhist Chaplain for 7 years.

Shin Buddhist Retreats – originated and conducted annually in California, Washington, and Hawaii since 1998.

MATP, master's degree from Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, CA.

MBS, Master of Buddhist Study from Institute of Buddhist Studies of Berkeley, CA.

Resident minister of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for 8 years. Recently retired.

Currently teaching classes for minister's assistants for BCA & Hawaii Kyodan.

Dharma Forward Campaign: heading the Minister's Support Pillar.

Developing programs for BCA Propagation & Membership Committee for temples to attract new members.



### 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



(「見義」11頁からの続き)

もお礼申し上げます。月一度ディスカッションのクラスを担当し、ハイブリッドで勤められる法要やオンラインによる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っています。お寺とメンバーの橋渡しを担ってくださっていますこと大変ありがたく思います。

昨年を振り返ってみますと、これほどまでに私たちが唱える「平和」という言葉が虚しく響いたことはなかったのではないかと、思わずにはいられません。仏教はあらゆる人と共に生きる世の中を願う教えですが、私たちはその願いからますます離れた方向へと歩みを進めているように感じます。

仏教はどの立場が「正しい」のかを教える教えではありません。なぜなら自分を正義の立場に置いた時、立場や意見の異なる相手が同じ一人の人間であるということに思いが至らなくなるからで

す。結果として「敵」と判断した相手に対してはどのような残酷な行為にもたまりが生じなくなります。仏教はそれを私たちの無明性と説き、それこそが争いと憎しみの連鎖を生み出し、苦しみを生み出す根本である、と教えています。

私たちを正しい立場に置くのではなく、最も弱い立場の人たちの目線まで私たちを引き下げるのが仏法のはたらきではないのでしょうか。その人たちから見える世界が見えたとき、彼らの流す涙を痛みとすることができなのでしょう。その痛みを感じる時、はじめて「あらゆる人と共に生きる」ということが私たち自身の願いとなるのでしょうか。

その意味で仏教は「世界ではいろいろなことが起こっているけれども、とりあえず私や私の家族は大丈夫だから幸せだ」という個人の安心に私たちを眠らせてしまう教えではありません。むしろ

人々の悲しみや苦しみへと私たちを引き戻す教えです。それはこの世の中がそこに生きる私たち一人ひとりによって作り上げられているという事実、そして今を生きる私たちの責任に目覚めさせる教えです。その目覚めは決して心地のよいものではないでしょう。けれどもその目覚めを通して私たちははじめてあらゆる人の命は等しく尊いという事実に領けるのではないのでしょうか。平和とはあらゆる人の尊い存在が見えるところから始まる歩みではないかと思います。痛みと悲しみ、苦しみのその歩みを私たちに進ませるはたらき、それを私たちは仏法のはたらきとして信頼し、聞き続けていくのです。

本年もどうぞよろしくお願いいたします。

合掌



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

## 年頭の挨拶 開教司教 大谷 裕

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。

皆さま方には、平素より仏法聴聞につとめられ、法義相続・本廟護持の尊い御懇念を賜っておりますこと、厚く御礼申し上げます。

2019年からの新型コロナウイルス感染症の拡大により世界中の人々が見えない不安に襲われていた中ではじまったロシア連邦によるウクライナへの軍事的侵攻。多くの尊い命が犠牲になっているこの争いも未だ終わりが見えません。さらに昨年からは、追い打ちをかけるようにイスラエル、パレスチナにおける大規模な軍事衝突が起きました。

この争いが絶えない世界を生きる一念仏者として、自身に何ができるのか、どのように向き合えばよいのか、とても多くのことを考えさせられます。

今なお恐怖と悲しみのただなかにいる方々が、一日も早く平穏な日常を取り戻せることを心より願うばかりです。

昨年は「宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要」を無事お迎えすることができ、日本国内のみならず、海外開教区からも多くの方にご参拝いただきました。

私も皆さまと共に、宗祖のご誕生と立教開宗を慶ぶご縁をいただきましたことを嬉しく思います。

今、あらためてこのたびの慶讃法要を思う時、この法要のテーマ「南無阿弥陀仏 人と生まれたことの意味をたずねていこう」の願いのもと、私たちはあらためてお念仏をとおして気づかされる「いのち」の尊さ、互いの「いのち」が繋がることの有難さを全世界に届けなければならぬのではないのでしょうか。

2020年に父より開教司教のお役目を譲り受けながら、新型コロナウイルス感染症の影響により、長らく開教区へ

(「司教」6頁に続く)

## 年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 木越 渉

2024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、平素より各開教区での活動にご尽力いただいておりますこと厚く御礼申し上げます。

さて、2019年より猛威を振るった新型コロナウイルス感染症の影響も落ち着きをみせ、京都も沢山の人があふれるようになってまいりました。

昨年4月には宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要が円成し、日本のみならず、海外からも多くのご参拝をいただきました。昨年の報恩講の挨拶でもお伝えさせていただいたように、長期間、仏法聴聞に集う場を開くことが難しい状況が続きましたが、慶讃法要がお勤まりになったことで、無意識の内に渴望してきた「集い聞く」尊さを、あらためて実感することができたこととございます。

今後、各開教区で厳修される慶讃法要、世界同朋大会の開催など、様々なかけがえのない御仏事をいただく中で相共にお念仏を申してまいりましょう。

そして、是非京都にお見えの際には、親鸞聖人の御真影がおわします真宗本廟にお参りいただき、その御もとであらためてお念仏のみ教えに出遇いなおし、信心の灯を生活の場に持ち帰り、相続していただくことをお念じ申し上げ、新年の挨拶とかえさせていただきます。

本年も、どうぞ宜しく願いいたします。



pixta.jp - 12340221

## 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。

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。昨年はお寺が以前に近い状態で活動することができました。それに従いご門徒の皆さまのお手をお借りする機会も増えました。ご負担が増える中でも幸い皆さまが積極的に活動再開に尽力してくださったおかげで、私も皆さまと共に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

(「見義」10頁に続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 修正会法要

2024年の修正会法要は1月1日(月)午前11時よりお勤めいたします。新しい年を迎えて初めてのお参りにご家族お揃いでお参りください。

### 永代経法要・教団総会

2024年永代経法要は1月21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します。法要後教団総会が開かれ新年度の役員が選出されます。ぜひご参加ください。

### 法話会

新年1月の法話会は1月11日(木)にお勤めします。また2月の法話会は2月1日(木)です。時間はいずれも午前10時、お寺でお勤めいたします。皆さまのご参拝をお待ちしております。

### お寺オンラインセミナー

2024年のオンラインセミナーが2月10日(土)午後1時から3時に開催されます。詳細は9ページの案内をご参照ください。



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Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple  
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# GATEWAY

January - February 2024 - - Vol. LVIII No. 1

## January

- 1 11:00 am New Year's Day Service
- 4 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service (hybrid)
- 9 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 11 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 11 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 14 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)
- 18 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 21 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting (hybrid)
- 23 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 25 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)

## February

- 1 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 1 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 4 10:00 am Shotsuki Service (hybrid)
- 6 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 8 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)

## 2024年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会法要
- 7日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 9日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 11日 午前10時 法話会
- 14日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 21日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会 (ハイブリッド)
- 28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

## 2月行事予定

- 1日 午前10時 法話会
- 4日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 6日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 10日 午後1~3時 オンラインセミナー
- 11日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

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南無阿弥陀仏をいただくと  
娑婆においても浄土の旅

曾我量深