



GATEWAY



September-October 2024 - - Vol. LVIII No. 5



WCBT was delighted to host Rev. Furumoto from Senshin Buddhist Temple who spoke at this year's Hatsubon Service. The service was followed by a delicious otoki provided by Toban B.

“Unity” or “Diversity”...?

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

As I write this article, the presidential election is less than two months away. Our members, as well as Americans across the country, will be paying close attention to the presidential debate. During the presidential campaign, we often hear the term “unity” in their speech. Despite our political stance, we all share a common understanding that our society is divided, which creates a significant problem. As both candidates call upon us to unite, we have a positive image of “unity” and look for it. Yet, at the same time, we constantly separate ourselves from those with different ideas and thoughts. Where does this discrepancy come from?

Sometimes, “unity” describes a group of people united with the same idea. Therefore, sharing the

same idea is the most important thing that should unite us. On the other hand, “diversity” is often regarded as an obstacle to accomplishing this logic. Also, the problem lies here: “Which idea should we follow?” We tend to see our idea as right and the only idea, so we expect others to follow ‘my’ idea. Not surprisingly, each group believes that ‘their’ idea is the best for everyone to follow and plays the game of “with us or against us.” As a result, for those eager to unite people under the idea they have, their enthusiasm and passion work positively inside. In contrast, the very same energy turns into negative power to criticize the concept of “diversity” and exclude those outside their community. This is the underlying cause of our divided

society.

Are “unity” and “diversity” irreconcilable ideas?

It is not “either ... or.” Buddhism gives us a different view of the relationship between these two ideas and reconciles them.

Buddhism sees “diversity” as the reality of our existence. It is neither positive nor negative, good nor bad. We are all different, and that is how we are. Being different is not the real problem of separation. Our real problem, illuminated by the teachings, is that we are ignorant of our reality and cannot respectfully accept our differences. The stronger we hold on to our ideas and thoughts, the less we listen to others. We often judge others as friends or enemies based on whether they

Please see UNITY, con't on page 6



T H E G A T E W A Y

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings to all! Thankfully the temperature has become more bearable. Hopefully the daily heat grind has ended just in time for the fall equinox when the night and day hours are almost the same, and the weather is neither too hot nor too cold.

In September our special service is the Fall Ohigan. It's the time we remember our ancestors with gratitude and reflect upon the concept of interconnectedness.

Our October special day is Halloween. This year it will be held on October 27 at 10 am. Hope to see you there (in costume?)!

Dear Dharma School students, do you know what interconnectedness means? It's a long word which means that everyone and everything is connected. To give you an example: in nature all organisms are connected in many ways. For instance, think about a bat and its connections. Most bats eat insects. They live in dark places like caves. They fly in the air. They are active at night. They live very close together (upside down) in colonies. They produce poop that is wonderful fertilizer that helps plants grow which feeds insects which bats eat, and so on. Can you see how bats are connected to the environment? Think about it!

I have an assignment for you. Think of yourself. Can you list 10 or 15 things (both living and nonliving) that are connected to you? I would be very interested to see your list! Why do you think understanding connections is important?

Gassho,
Claire Hansen



pixta.jp - 7929319



Kiku Crafts & Food Fair

Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple

Sunday, November 3, 2024

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at ESGVJCC

Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry,
giftware, ceramics, original arts
and delicious food!

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

**WCBT members are welcome to shop
early from 9:30 a.m.*

There will be no central cashiering. Each vendor will
handle their own sales and
not all vendors take credit cards.

For info contact Hisako Koga: 951-818-8740
hskoga@gmail.com



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. Look for an email from Rev. Miyoshi or Rev. Fred inviting you to the services with the Zoom meeting ID and password. 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 Autumn Ohigan Service will be held on September 15 at 4:30 PM with special guest speaker Rev. Ryoko Osa via Zoom. Please help us welcome Rev. Osa and join us for Otoki after the service.

Family Fun Day

A joint Family fun day with Betsuin will be held on Sunday, September 29 at Murata Ranch in Camarillo. Please see page 5 for more details.

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair 2024

WCBT's annual 2024 Kiku Crafts & Food Fair will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Please see page 2 for more details.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Dean Hata, Marc-Mitchell Miyashiro, Callen & Kimberley Kitaura, Stephanie Jitosh-Gonzalez, Lindsay Ogino (Fiske), 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 Juksch, Rev. Etsuko Miyoshi, Yasmine Whang, Tomi Mukai

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

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com



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

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 2024 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 2024 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





T H E G A T E W A Y

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
JOINT EVENT WITH WEST COVINA HIGASHI

A DAY AT THE RANCH!

COME SEE WHERE
YOUR SUNDAY
AVOCADOS AND
OBON LEMONADE
COME FROM



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

AT THE MURATA FAMILY RANCH

10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM | SERVICE | ACTIVITIES | BBQ LUNCH

INVITE YOUR
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS

THE MAIN PART OF THE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED, BUT
WE ASK FAMILIES TO BRING THE FOLLOWING EXTRAS:

A - K | DESSERTS OR FRUIT

L - Z | SALADS

MURATA FAMILY RANCH

4000 LA VISTA AVENUE
CAMARILLO, CA 93066

THANK YOU!

DIRECTIONS

101 NORTH, JUST PAST CAMARILLO, EXIT CENTRAL,
RIGHT AT CENTRAL,
3RD SIGNAL RIGHT AT SANTA CLARA (118),
LEFT ON LA VISTA AVENUE,
RANCH IS ON THE RIGHT SIDE

**PLEASE WEAR CLOSED TOE SHOES
AND RANCH APPROPRIATE ATTIRE!**

OF RSVPS _____ COST \$10/PERSON

I WILL BRING: _____

NAME(S): _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

RSVP BY SEPT 22ND TO THE HHBT TEMPLE OFFICE

213-626-4200 | INFO@HHBT-LA.ORG



T H E G A T E W A Y

UNITY, con't from pg. 1

agree with us. Our judgment is selfish and subjective, and dividing us with our judgment makes our world narrow and full of hostility.

In Buddhism, we hear "just as we are." A place where we can be just as we are makes us genuinely aware of our own preciousness no matter what we are or how our lives are. And this realization opens our eyes to the preciousness of others. With respect and trust, we can work together for happiness and peace for all. "Just as we are" expresses the reality of our existence and shows us that "unity" and "diversity" can go together for our harmonious world. Unity does not necessarily mean that we all should be the same or that individual uniqueness should be ignored.

Many of you may remember that the 12th World Dobo Gathering was held in Los Angeles in 2018, and its theme was "Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity." On the

last day of the program, Johnny Martinez, a member of WCBT, made a speech and said:

"I have realized that, in spite of the vast oceans between us, as well as the differences in race, language, culture, and gender, that I am accepted, imperfect and flawed, "sono mama" just as I am."

Respecting each other's differences as their beauty and seeking the path to live together is not as simple as it sounds. We may disappoint some people and ourselves when we admit we are far from it. Nonetheless, Jodo Shinshu teaches us that it is not merely a flowery ideal but the innermost aspiration we all have. We want to live just as we are, and, sharing tears and joy, we want to live with all other living beings. This is the deep aspiration that Jodo Shinshu sees within us even before we are aware of it. Beyond all differences, this profound

wish connects us. Encountering Jodo Shinshu enables us to awaken to the aspiration that has been with us but has not yet been realized. This awakening becomes a power for us to live with the aspiration in our everyday lives. No matter how far and hard we reach it, knowing that we are not alone, we are able to walk the path to seek unity tirelessly.



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.

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)

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

P.O. Box 1616 West Covina, CA 91793
 Telephone (626) 689-1040
www.livingdharma.org/wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple



T H E G A T E W A Y





T H E G A T E W A Y

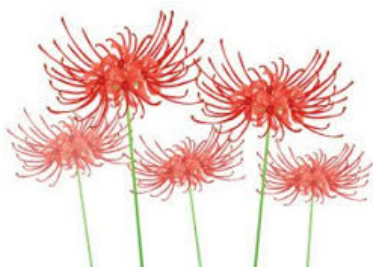
(「Unity」9頁からの続き)

入れられる場所は、私のそのままが尊ばれる場所です。そしてそのことの大切さに目が覚めるとき、周りの人も自分と同じく尊い存在であるということに気がつくのです。そこに異なりの中で共に生きるという道が開かれてくるのではないのでしょうか。

2018年に北米開教区で開催された第12回世界同朋大会では“Seeking Unity in the Midst of Diversity (多様な世界の中で)”というテーマが掲げられました。最終日のプレゼンテーションでお寺のマルティネス・ジャーニー氏は次のように語ってくれました。

「大海が私たちを隔て、言葉の壁が立ちはだかり、人種や文化、性別の違いがあります。けれどもそうしたあらゆる違いにもかかわらず、私は欠点も多い不完全な自分が、その身そのまま受け入れられている、ということを実感しています。」

違いを尊び、共に生きるという道は果てしがないほど遠い道のように思えます。けれども、真宗の教えはそのままの自分があらゆる人と共に生きるということが、実は私たち誰もがもっている深い願いである、ということを私たちに教えてくれているのです。そしてその願いが、さまざまな違いを超えて私たちを一つに繋げてくれている、と。仏法に出会うとは、自分が気づいていなかったその願いに目覚めるということではないのでしょうか。そして私をその願いに目覚めさせたはたらきが、果てしなく険しい道を一步一步歩ませ続ける力となってくれているのではないかと思うのです。



Buddhism Quiz

On most Thursdays Rev. Miyoshi leads a Discussion class on various topics on Buddhism. One such discussion talked about Dharma and Karma.

Identify the following descriptions/definitions as either Dharma or Karma.

1. Describes workings of cause and effect.
2. "...is always present, whether or not there is a Buddha to preach it or a sangha to practice it."
3. "...is the teachings delivered by the Buddha and added to by countless generations of accomplished and realized men and women."
4. "...Every action is conditioned by an interdependent set of previous actions, and every action provokes a subsequent cascade of resulting actions."

Answers: Karma: 1, 4 Dharma: 2, 3



Quote of the Month
The (agitating) thought that your mind is *not* the Buddha mind is *also* the Buddha mind.
-Robert Wolfe



T H E G A T E W A Y

“Unity” と “Diversity” 見義信香

大統領選挙まであと2ヶ月弱となりました。演説では各候補者から“unity”という言葉がよく聞かれることがあります。アメリカで分断がとても深刻な問題となっているということが共通認識としてある、ということの表れだと感じています。ですから多くの場合この“unity”という言葉はポジティブな理念として使われています。それは、なんとなくのイメージでみんなが「それっていいよね」という意見で一致していることなのでしょう。けれどもこの言葉がよく使われ、結構なことだと多くの人が思っている一方で、人々の間で分断ということがますます深くなっている、という奇妙な矛盾が起こっているのを肌で感じています。その矛盾がどこから来ているのか、ということを考えるためにはこの言葉がどのような内容をもって使われているのか、ということを探査する必要があるのではないかと思います。

通常“unity”は「統一」という日本語に訳されます。「まとまり」や「結束」とも訳されますから、候補者がよく使うのも納得です。同時にこの言葉が“diversity (多様性)”の対立語として使われていることがあるということにも気がつきます。つまり“diversity”である状態は統一された国の在り方を目指すときの阻害要素として受け止められていることがあるということです。その場合の“unity”とはすべての人が同じ意見に賛同して結束するということになり、異なる意見を持つことはその実現の邪魔

ということになります。さらに「同じ意見」という時大抵の場合「私の意見」あるいは「私が賛同する意見」ということです。ですから“unity”という社会が実現するためには、異なる意見を持つ人に自分の意見を受け入れさせるか、あるいはそうした人々たちを結束の邪魔者として排除することが必要とされるのです。同じ意見を持つ人同士の結束が強くなる一方で、その結束のエネルギーがそのまま意見の異なる人を批判し排除する力となって働いている、ということが今の深刻な分断を招いているのではないかと思います。

けれども“unity”と“diversity”は本当に相容れない考えなのではないでしょうか。

“unity”と“diversity”の「どちらがいいのか」、という議論を超えてこの二つの概念を捉えているのが、私は仏教の教えだと感じています。

仏教では誰一人として同じ存在はいない、ということをお私たちの事実として押さえてくれています。つまり“diversity”とは良いか悪いか、ということをお判断するものではなく、私たちの在り方そのものであるということです。そして同時に仏教は、あらゆる人が異なるということは当たり前前の事実であるにもかかわらず、その事実を受け入れることができずに、自分の見方や考え方に固執して、それに基づいて相手を仲間とみなしたり敵とみなしたり、というように判断している私たちの姿も明らかにしてくれています。

“unity”が異なる意見の相手を打ち負かして自分の意見を通すことで実現するゴールとなるとき、誰の考えに統一するのか、というゲームが始まり、私たちはそ

のゲームの勝者になることに一生懸命になるのです。結果として自分たちをますます共生の世界から遠ざけてしまっているのです。

“unity”と“diversity”が対立する概念ではない、ということはお私たちがあらゆる人と共に生きる社会を目指すとき、「違う」ということが問題なのではない、ということです。共生の世界を願いながら分断の社会を作り上げている、それは、違いを受け入れられない私たちの狭さから来る問題なのです。そしてそのことを仏教は繰り返し私たちに教えてくれているのです。

仏教では「そのまま」という言葉がよく使われます。この言葉が“unity”と“diversity”は対立する考えではないということをおよく表しているのではないかと思います。私があるのまま受け

(「Unity」8頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

法話会祥月法要

10月の祥月法要は10月3日(木)11月の祥月法要は11月7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15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10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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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE



GATEWAY



September - October 2024 - - Vol. LVIII No. 5

September

- 19 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 24 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 26 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 29 Betsuin & WCBT
- Joint Family Fun Day
- 29 No Sunday Service

October

- 1 7:00 pm Board Meeting-online
- 3 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 3 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 6 10:00 am Shotsuki Service-hybrid
- 8 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 10 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 13 10:00 am Sunday Service-hybrid
- 17 10:00 am Discussion Class-online
- 20 10:30 am Sunday Service-online
- 22 6:00 pm Study Class-online
- 24 10:00 am Discussion Class-online

2024年9月行事予定

- 22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド
- 29日 別院 & ウェストコビナ
ファミリーファンデー
- 29日 日曜礼拝お休み

10月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時 理事会ーオンライン
- 3日 午前10時 法話会
- 6日 午前10時 祥月法要ーハイブリッド
- 13日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド
- 20日 午前10時半 日曜礼拝ーオンライン
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝ーハイブリッド

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自分さえよければいい
この悲しさ

浅田正作