

GATEWAY

January-February 2025 - - Vol. LIX No. 1



Our sangha enjoyed good weather, a delicious breakfast provided by Toban C, some mochi pounding and some serious sake tasting with sake provided by our Rev. Miyoshi and Prez Johnny (Note all the happy tasters around the sake table!) Everyone had a magnificent time and took home 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 wish to offer my warmest greetings for the 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 teaching tradition and Sangha.

When we turn our eyes to the world, we see horrible scenes of armed conflict and civil war, as well as acts of terrorism and riots such as the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and the large-scale battles in Israel and Palestine. Some media have reported that the year 2023 saw the most armed conflicts around the world since the end of World War II. When we think about the fact that there are always people who are being tormented and overcome by suffering and grief in such situations, we



cannot help but feel how powerless we are as individuals to help them. All we can do now is to wish that peace will be brought to all people around the globe as soon as possible. In Japan, the Hokuriku region's Noto Peninsula was also struck by a major

earthquake on January 1, 2024. So many people fell victim to the disaster and even today are still forced to live in difficult conditions. I had a chance to visit the affected areas and talk to many of our temple members who suffered from the quake there. Despite the difficulties they are facing, they are trying to live their lives to the fullest based on the teaching of Jōdo Shinshū. Once again, they made me feel strongly that we must carry the torch of the nenbutsu in the stricken land of Noto. On behalf of our denomination, I ask for your continued support of the relief efforts for the earthquake victims.

Since my appointment as the Overseas District Abbot, I have attended all of the Hōonkō services

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 warmest New Year's greetings for the year 2025. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support you continue to give to our district activities.

In 2023, the 850th Celebration of Shinran's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū were successfully held at our mother temple in Kyoto after the long lockdown period. We realized once again how important it was to gather together to listen to the teaching. Our Celebration then began to be held in each district in Japan and overseas. On January 1, 2024, however, a massive earthquake devastated Hokuriku, the central-western region in Japan.

The region affected by the quake is a major stronghold of our tradition where so many Shinshū followers have been produced in history. The Noto Peninsula in the region has especially suffered from earthquakes repeatedly in recent years. To make



matters worse, the peninsula was the epicenter of the massive earthquake in 2024. So many temples and followers' homes were destroyed and the victims of it are still trapped in a dire situation even though it has been almost one year since the devastation of the quake. I wish to extend my sincerest sympathies to all those who have been affected by the disaster. We of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha will continue to give them as much support as we can to protect their precious lives and the tradition of the nen-

butsu which has been handed down through generations of ardent followers.

In our overseas districts, we will finally hold a World Dōbō Gathering in 2026 after an interval of ten years. We are preparing for this event and will begin advertising for participants this year. The Gathering will be held under the same theme for the 2024 Celebration, "Namu Amida Butsu: To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings." We sincerely wish that, as stated in the theme, this Gathering will be an opportunity for us to appreciate the meaning of having been born as human beings and to share the profound joy of living with all of you in the overseas districts. It is also our wish that the Gathering will be a major step forward toward holding a Celebration in each overseas district. Please participate in the event together with your family and friends.

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. I hope you had a joyous holiday season and 2025 got off to a wonderful beginning. As we begin the New Year, Bill and I hope that this New Year will bring you and your family good health and meaningful moments.

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 dedication, enthusiasm, smiles, and laughter made the temple really come alive. I would also like to thank

Rev. Frederick Brenion for leading a discussion class once a month and conducting Sunday Services online while I was out of town.

Reviewing my greetings for the last year, I saw the following passage.

"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."

One year has passed, and sadly, I must admit that we did not do a very good job of improving the situation. Differences are used to divide people and isolate each other more than ever. We see and hear more contempt towards groups of people due to differences in religion, race, and ideology. Buddhism teaches us that we are all invaluable individuals no matter what differences we have. "My peace" should not conflict with "your peace," and mutual understanding and respect are the path of peace for all. What Buddhism illuminates is, though, that we tend to seek

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 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.

New Year's Day Service

An in-person only service to commemorate the New Year will be held on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 11:00 am. Rev. Miyoshi will prepare her special New Year's ozoni, a traditional New Year's dish, so please let her know if you are planning to attend.

January Shotsuki Service

Our January Shotsuki Service will be held on January 5, 2025 at 10 am. 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 19, at 10 am followed by the General Meeting. An Eitaikyo bento lunch will be provided for \$12. Please place your order by contacting Rev. Miyoshi or Joy Kitaura to ensure that you will receive a bento. Join us for our yearly service and the delicious bentos to enjoy with the Sangha or take home.

Pet Memorial Service

A special hybrid service will be held on February 23 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.



pixta.jp - 12340221

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, Maya Hendrickson, Miles Kai Kawaga, Stephanie Whang, Brian Yanase, Kelly Nakawatase, Andrew Kobayashi,

GATEWAY Staff

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

Contributors: Claire Hansen, Lee Ezaki, Tanya Kato, Gilbert Correa, Carol Fujii

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

Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhist-temple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

Ron Yamasaki, Gavin Shams, Matthew Musselwhite, Ryan Musselwhite, Maebyn Yoburn, Eddie Nakasone, Lisa Nakasone, Mayson Godoy, Angelina Wu, George Wu, Mia Kikuye Kaneko, Amie Bissot, Erin Bissot

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY

Sumiye Arnheim, Edith Ariza, Lily Kodama, Paul Konno, Jacob Gutierrez, Michael Jitosh, 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,



The Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, opens with, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness." These words ring true even today, yet for me another word has even more meaning. That word is gratitude, for having encountered the Dharma. I am grateful to be part of a temple during this time of turmoil. But most of all to be accepted as part of the Sangha.

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. Just as the new year begins, we are given the opportunities. 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 wonder-

ful).

Life continues to send us challenges and reminders of how ill-prepared we truly are. Everyday I experience compassion 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. 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 filled with opportunities to become true human beings.

With Gassho, Johnny Martinez

DHARMA SCHOOL

It is with great sadness that Dharma School announces the passing of Mrs. Ruby Kagawa. Mrs. Kagawa was an integral part of our Dharma School staff. With her warm and kind way, she helped our youngsters learn about the Buddhadharma during our in-person lessons. Her sense of humor made the lessons fun.

Mrs. Pat Sato and I valued her help with lesson preparations. Her attention to details and her meticulous way of organizing activities was most appreciated by us.

A mainstay at our temple, Mrs. Kagawa was famous for her baking. Her tasty cookies and luscious mini cherry cheesecakes were enjoyed by the Sangha for many years.

Our heartfelt condolences to the Kagawa family. To Richard, Kendra, Kyle, Randy, Lisette, Jake, Amelie, Jordan, Lauren, and Miles, we send our love and friendship. We will miss Ruby dearly.

Gassho,
Claire Hansen





T H E G A T E W A Y

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM TOBAN LEADERS
"World Series Toban Managers"
Dr. Roy Takemura

Manager Dave Roberts led the L.A. Dodgers to a World Series Championship this past year. From Little League to Major League Baseball, when a team wins a championship, the manager receives all the accolades. But, when they come up short, the manager is analyzed and criticized to no end.

After winning the World Series, reporters asked manager Dave Roberts, "How did you express your gratitude for a successful year and encourage the team members for the upcoming year"?

Here at WCBT, we have three world series winning Toban managers. The same question was asked to each of the Toban managers. Here are their responses.



Joy Kitaura-Toban A *"Thank you all for an incredible year of help and togetherness...all your time and effort have been invaluable.....Hope to see you all next year 😊(starting January 😊)"*

Lee Ezaki-Toban B *"I would like to express my gratitude to all the Toban B members for their more than generous contributions of their time and support for the Temple. We seem to work very well together as a team. I am lucky I can make the assignments, and you performed the required duties to keep the Temple operating smoothly. Special thanks to Haruko Maeda for coordinating all the otoki preparations."*

Dick Koga-Toban C *"I would like to express my appreciation to the members of Toban C for their support in making sure everything went smoothly during our months our Toban was in charge. Toban C, let's keep the strong teamwork throughout 2025!"*

On behalf of the Toban chairs, to all our Sangha members, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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)
(January-March, October-December)

Akune, Denise
 Hamachi, Wesley & Connie
 Kagawa, Richard
 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)
(April-June)

Correa, Gilbert
 Chen, Mei Ling
 de Leon, Sachí & James
 Earley, Jerry & Jane
 Ezaki, Lee & Karen
 Fujii, Carol
 Ikehara-Nelson, Reiko
 Kato, Tanya
 Kovacs, Yukiko
 Mayeda, Haruko
 Nakatani, Mark
 Sagawa, Tomomi

**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)
(July-September)

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

THANK YOU!



T H E G A T E W A Y

ODA, con't from pg. 1

held at the Betsuins of the North America, Hawaii, and South America districts. Last year I visited the North America District to attend the Hōonkō and the 120th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Betsuin, where I was able to see many of you again. Through the experience, I strongly felt that I would like to stay in the overseas districts for an extended period to share with you the life of revering the Buddha and listening to the teaching. With the firm support of many members, I have been staying in the Hawaii District since December last year. Although I will be able to stay in the district for only a few months, I will try to make the most of my stay here to reflect deeply upon what I should do to fulfill my role as the Overseas District Abbot through meeting as many members as I can. After finishing my stay in Hawaii, I plan to be in the South America and North America districts as well. I ask you for your support and understanding then.

In 2026, the World Dōbō Gathering will be held, for the first time in the last ten years, in South America District under the main theme, "Namu Amida Butsu: To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings." It is my dearest wish that the event will be an opportunity for us to appreciate meeting with our fellow seekers from around the world and to share our appreciation with other participants. I ask you for your participation in the event together with your family and friends.

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

MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 2

"my peace," which sacrifices others. As a result, aspiring for peace, we go further from achieving it.

The same problem lies when we seek happiness. We work hard to ob-

Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Treasurer

Happy New Year Everyone!

With the closing of 2024 and the start of 2025, I realize how much the Sangha is the core of the Temple. The generous spirit with which Sangha members share their time, energy, dedication, experiences, support, kindness, and laughter are continuously on display. Just making mochi together brings out all these qualities. We start early at 6 am on a cold Sunday morning to get set up, enjoy breakfast by the Toban and then work, chat and snack making mochi to enjoy with friends and family at home.

So, thank you to everyone who has helped with WCBT's fundraisers - Golf Tournament, Obon, and Kiku Craft & Food Fair. It was a very good year. I look forward to the Year of the Snake and the opportunity, renewal and potential it brings.

In Gassho, Reiko Ikehara-Nelson



tain happiness, but it is merely "my happiness," which is based on the sacrifice of others. As we disparately pursue only our own benefits, we can only trust ourselves and see others as rivals or enemies.

We constantly play the game of power and are urged to be the winner. When we win the game and gain what we want, we feel successful and develop a positive view of ourselves. Society encourages us to be winners and gain more, saying that such success brings us happiness. Being selfish and exploiting others are given as excuses to earn happiness. Our relationship with others is more prejudiced, exclusive, competitive, and self-serving.

Unfortunately, none of us can keep winning. Getting old, sick, and dying are inevitable for everyone, so all the power we rely on is eventually deprived from us. Someday, we will lose the game and be overwhelmed by despair and loneliness. At that moment, we will finally realize that what we have frantically chased did not lead us to true happiness. The more we focus on our benefits, the more we harm others and ourselves. The society we have created is ignorant of this truth, and through the year 2024, this critical problem was clearly revealed.

It sounds very pessimistic. However, Shinran Shonin assures us that being able to see problems truly is a meaningful opportunity for us to return to the teachings to which we can genuinely entrust ourselves.

In Shinran's time, "everyone is equally invaluable" was not common sense. The society was ruled by a small group of people who had power. The disparity between haves and have-nots was unbridgeable. Most people were regarded as valueless as "stones and tiles and pebbles." The society completely contradicted the Buddhist teachings. Because of that, however, the truth of the teachings, "Everyone is equally precious," captured Shinran, and he experienced the teachings resonated within him.

Through encountering the teachings, Shinran finally saw society and himself as is. The teachings revealed to him that people rely on what is unreliable, and therefore, pursuing happiness doomed them to suffering. He also realized that he himself was undoubtedly one of them. He deeply relied on the teachings not because it helped him get what he wanted but because it clearly awakened him to his shortcomings and mistakes. From this point, he realized that the time he lived was the only place to

Please see MIYOSHI, con't on pg. 7



T H E G A T E W A Y

MIYOSHI, con't from pg. 6

encounter the teachings. Shinran expresses his rejoicing at encountering the teachings amid the society of *mappō* (the last dharma-age) as "[T]he true essence of the Pure Land way is the path to realization now vital and flourishing."

Looking into the serious issues our society faces, we come to realize that there is no difference between Shinran's time and our time. That being so, this challenging society is the only place for us to encounter the teachings and have us return to what we should firmly rely on. His "now" is indeed our "now," too.

As we enter 2025, I feel that Shinran Shonin encourages us to listen to the teachings that ceaselessly bring us back to the Path of Nembutsu in our daily lives.



Gassho

(「司教」11頁からの続き)

置きたいとの思いを強くいたしました。このたび多くの方々のご助力のもと、昨年12月よりハワイ開教区に滞在しております。数ヶ月の短い期間ではございますが、さらなる方々とも出遇いをいただきながら語り合いをとおし、あらためて自らを確かめ、開教司教としていただいたお役目をいかに果たしていくべきか憶念してまいりたく存じます。

今後は、ハワイ開教区のみならず、南米開教区、北米開教区にも赴くことを予定してまいりたく存じますので、どうぞよろしく願いいたします。

そして、いよいよ来年2026年には、南米開教区を会所に約10年ぶりの世界同朋大会が開催されます。あらためて「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、世界中の御同朋との「有り難い」出遇いを、共に慶び合う大切なご縁として、ご家族、ご友人をお誘いあわせのうえ、ご参加のご検討をいただきますようお願い申し上げます。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願いいたします。

(「総長」11頁からの続き)

と、世界中の方々と共に生まれた意義と生きる喜びを真摯に確かめ合う集いとなるよう、そして、今後の開教区における慶讃法要厳修の勝縁となる大会となつていただきたいと念願しております。是非奮ってご参加のほどお願いいたします。

本年も、どうぞ宜しくお願いいたします。

(「見義」11頁からの続き)

昨年(2023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。

それから一年が経ちましたが、状況が明るい方へ向かったと言える人は残念ながらほとんどいないのではないのでしょうか。宗教や思想、民族や肌の色の違いが相互理解のチャンスではなく、分断と争いの口実に利用される現実は、ますますその深刻の度合いを増しています。また競争に勝つ人間、他よりも多くのものを持っている人間が成功者として尊ばれる流れがますます強くなっています。人間としての価値を勝者であること、強者であることに置いた時、当然ですがその手段として利己的であることはむしろ当たり前として受け入れられるようになっていきます。けれども当然ですが勝者であり続けることはほとんど不可能です。老いや病、死は誰に対しても平等で、否応なくそれまで自分の価値として大切にしてきた力や能力を奪っていきます。その先にあるのは、自らに存在の価値を見出せない絶望と、信頼し支え合う関係を失った深い孤独です。幸せを追求しているはずが、私たちは絶望と孤独の苦しみに邁進しているのではないのでしょうか。2024年は社会が、そしてその社会を作り出している私たちが抱える問題を一層はつきりと明らかに

した年であったと感じています。

そうした問題を直視し、私たちの現実として受け入れることは易しいことではありません。けれども、見たくない現実、受け入れたくない真実に目を開かせ、向き合わせる力を仏法のはたらきとしていただいた方が親鸞聖人ではなかったかと思うのです。聞法とは仏法に照らされた自らの姿に目覚めるといふことであると思います。そしてその目覚めを通して、仏法が初めて真の拠り所として頷かれていくのではないのでしょうか。それが、今の時代の中で、自らの生活を通して仏法に出遇い続けていく歩みではないかと思います。仏法の願う世から逸脱しているということが誰の目から見ても明らかな現代であります。けれどもそのことに気付いたということは、それはそのまま私たちが今仏法に出遇っているという証でもあるのです。あらゆる人と共に生きたいという願いは意識しないほど深いところにある誰もがもっている願ひである、ということをお教は私たちに教えています。その願ひに背き、その願ひから遠く離れた社会が、実はその願ひに私たちが還らせるはたらきに出遇う場であるのです。そのことを聖人は、末法の世こそが「浄土の真宗は証道いま盛なり」と感動をもって私たちに教えてくれているのではないのでしょうか。親鸞聖人にとっての「いま」は私たちにとっての「いま」でもあります。共に末法に生きる者としての聖人からの呼びかけの声が聞こえてきます。

本年もどうぞよろしく願いいたします。
合掌





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 and happy New Year, and to thank everyone for your past support. This is also a reminder that the 2025 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 BUDDHIST 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。

なにかとご多用な毎日をお過ごしのことと拝察いたします。

お蔭様で当ウエ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、2025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っ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。

2025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

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

開教使 見義信香

John Martinez, President

教団理事長 マルチネズ ジョン

皆様のご理解とご協力に厚く御礼申し上げます。

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

2025 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, 2025

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 19, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

Dharma Message : Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

Annual Temple General Meeting

11:30 A.M.

Meeting ID: 824 8417 3986

Passcode: 858963

Members of Toban A will be providing a delicious bento lunch.
Tickets are available for sale, \$12.00.

Gassho,
John Martinez, President
Board of Director

永代経法要 / 教団総会 / 新年会 御案内

月 日：2025年1月19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Aの皆さんによる美味しいお弁当を準備しております。お齋のチケットは12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 マルチネズ ジョン



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

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。

まず初めに、ロシア連邦によるウクライナへの軍事的侵攻、イスラエル、パレスチナにおける大規模な軍事衝突をはじめとし、世界各地で紛争や内戦、テロ、暴動などが起こっています。2023年は第2次世界大戦以降、最大の紛争数であったとの報道も目にいたしました。その中で苦痛に苛まれ、悲しみに打ちひしがれている方々がそこにおられることの実を思うとき、一人の無力さを思い知らされると共に、世界中の人々が安心して過ごすことができる日々を手にすることを念じずにはおられません。

また、日本においては2024年1月1日に発生した令和6年能登半島地震において多くの方が被災され、今なお困難な生活を送られておられます。私自身、被災地を訪問した際、多くのご門徒とお話しをさせていただきましたが、度重なる困難にあわけてもなお、真宗の教えを糧として生活されている皆様と出遇い、改めて、能登の地からお念仏の声を絶やしてはならないと強く思いをいたしました。引き続きのできる限りの支援の大切さを感じております。皆様の絶大なるご支援を引き続きお願い申し上げます。

さて、開教司教の役をいただいて以来、これまでに北米、ハワイ、南米の三開教区すべての別院の報恩講にお参りすることができました。また昨年は北米開教区へ赴きまして、ロサンゼルス別院報恩講と別院創立120周年記念法要にも遇わせていただきました。そこでは皆様をはじめとする多くの方々のご縁をとおり、あらためて私自身、皆様と共に仏祖を崇敬し、聞法を共にした日々の生活に身を

(「司教」7頁に続く)

年頭の挨拶 宗務総長 木越 渉

2025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。

一昨年に、真宗本廟での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、「集い聞く」大切さも確かめ合うことができました。そして、いよいよ日本各地はもとより開教区でも、宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生八百五十年・立教開宗八百年慶讃法要をそれぞれ開いていただくとしている最中、昨年1月1日に令和6年能登半島地震という大きな災害が発生いたしました。

このたびの地震の影響を受けた北陸の地は真宗門徒の多い地域であります。とりわけ震源地である能登地方は、近年たび重なる地震により、何度も苦しい思いをされていた中での巨大地震発生であります。多くの寺院・ご門徒が甚大な被害を受け、発災から1年が経過した今もなお困難な生活を過ごされております。

あらためまして、被害に遭われました寺院・教会、ご門徒をはじめとする全ての被災者の方々に対し、衷心よりお見舞いを申し上げます。

真宗大谷派は、被災された方々に寄り添い、繋がれた尊い命や連綿とつながってきたお念仏の教えを何としても守り抜くため、これからも変わらぬ支援を続けてまいります。

さて、開教区におきましては、いよいよ2026年に約10年ぶりとなる世界同朋大会をお迎えすることとなり、本年より募集が開始できるよう準備を整えてまいります。先ほども触れましたが、真宗本廟での宗祖親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要を経て開催されるこの度の世界同朋大会は、是非とも慶讃法要テーマである「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

(「総長」7頁に続く)

新年のご挨拶 見義信香

新年あけましておめでとうございます。

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ならびにウェストコヴィナメンバーの皆さまには大変お世話になりました。おかげさまでお寺は全ての行事、法要を滞りなく勤めることができました。この場をお借りして心より御礼申し上げます。どの行事も準備から後片付けまで多くの労力を必要とします。大変な作業の中でも皆さんが笑顔でいらっしやったこと、笑い声があちこちで聞こえてきたことがとても印象的でした。お寺が息吹を取り戻したような思いでとても嬉しく思いました。またブレニオン・フレデリック開教係にもお礼申し上げます。昨年も月一度ディスカッションのクラスを担当してくださり、また私が不在の時はオンラインで日曜礼拝を勤めてくださいました。

昨年の年頭の挨拶を改めて見返すと、次のような言葉が綴られていました。

(「見義」7頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

修正会法要

2025年の修正会法要は1月1日(水)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

2025年永代経法要は1月19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9日(木)にお勤めします。また2月の法話会は2月6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。

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** 

January - February 2025 - - Vol. LIX No. 1

January

- 1 11:00 am **New Year's Day Service**
- 5 10:00 am **Shotsuki Service (hybrid)**
- 7 7:00 pm **Board Meeting (online)**
- 9 10:00 am **Howakai Japanese Service**
- 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 10:00 am **Eitaikyo Service/General Meeting (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)**

February

- 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)**

2025年1月行事予定

- 1日 午前11時 修正会
- 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)
- 9日 午前10時 法話会
- 12日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 19日 午前10時 永代経法要/総会新年会 (ハイブリッド)
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

2月行事予定

- 2日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (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 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)
- 23日 午前10時 ペット追悼法要 (ハイブリッド)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Year's Greetings from Overseas District	Temple News	3
Abbot	Eitaikyo Service	9
New Year's Greetings	Acknowledgments	10
	Japanese Page	11

「今、ここ」があつてこそ、
過去に学び
未来に責任を持てるのです。

四衢 亮