

# GATEWAY

March-April 2025 - - Vol. LIX No. 2



## WCBT Oldies Dance Is Back! *-In Memory of Joanie Martinez-*

It's been over 5 years since our last Oldies Dance. Covid has forever changed our world and lifestyle. However, we can still long for the good old days of music and fun. We are planning to revisit our Oldies dance (65) that we had planned for March 28, 2020. Please join us into the spring dance mode at our rejuvenated Oldies Dance of 2025.

A sad note is that we lost some friends along the journey including our dear Joanie Martinez who gave her all to our Oldies dances... 3 times a year for over 20 years. We would like to pay a special tribute to her that night and be thankful for our friends who can attend.

The dance will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 11:00 pm on April 5, 2025. There will be great music by High Resolution, line dancing instruction, and our 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$25.00/person, and drinks will be available for purchase.

If you are new or newer to our dances, we follow the center's rule of ladies not wearing higher-heeled shoes in order to protect the gym floor. The lower, wider-based heels are fine, and you will be good to go!

We appreciate your past enthusiasm for this event and this dance will be a great opportunity to revisit with old friends and make new ones. We look forward to sharing an evening of dance, music, and fun. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Hope to see you there!

Lillian Nishihara  
WCBT Oldies Committee Chair



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## What Kind of 'Peace' Are We Talking About?

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

*We have to wake up to the fact that everything is connected to everything else. Our safety and well-being cannot be individual matters anymore. If they are not safe, there is no way that we can be safe. Taking care of other people's safety is taking care of our own safety. To take care of their well-being is to take care of our own well-being. It is the mind of discrimination and separation that is at the foundation of all violence and hate.*

-Thich Nhat Hanh

These words are part of a speech given by Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Buddhist monk and one of the most influential Buddhists as a peace activist, at the United States Congress in 2003. The message was delivered at a time when, following the devastating terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the sentiment of "justice"

was rising, dividing the world into enemies and allies and thoroughly crushing enemies.

Twenty-two years have passed since then. Unfortunately, we continue to completely ignore the world of interconnectedness that Thich Nhat Hanh urged us to awaken to.

Recently, the word "peace" has been frequently heard from national leaders. On the other hand, tensions between countries are higher than ever, and we are apprehensive that peace is slipping farther away. Our ignorance of the fact that we are all interrelated creates further division by using the word "peace."

When we talk about peace from the logic of dividing people and countries between 'us' and 'them,' that peace is often simplified because it assumes that "my peace" is only for us. In other words, it is

a self-centered peace that stands on the sacrifices of those excluded, oppressed, and discriminated. As a result, the word "peace" is used as a tool to maximize one's own or one's country's interests, and power is exercised to achieve those interests. Peace achieved through power is merely a self-interest and always contains the contradiction of dividing those who benefit from that peace and those who are excluded from that peace.

In Buddhism, the divided world is called "*sahā*," and we are the ones who have created the society. Śākyamuni Buddha describes *sahā* as the world where 'the strong vanquish the weak.' Rev. Akira Yotsutsuji says, "In this place, people solely depend on power. If you have power, you can

*Please see PEACE, con't on page 4*

### DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Spring will soon be upon us as we observe the days getting longer and the flowers beginning to bloom in earnest. This is a very pleasant time of the year when we observe the spring equinox. The weather is not too cold nor too hot.

In March we have a special service to celebrate this time of the year. Spring Ohigan will be held on Sunday, March 16 at 4:30 pm.

April's special service is Hanamatsuri. On April 13 at 10 am, we will wish Baby Siddhartha a Happy Birthday with flowers and sweet tea.

#### **A little story for our Dharma School Students:**

*The two most pleasing times of the year are Spring Ohigan and Fall Ohigan. During these times we pause to show our gratitude to our family, friends, and Sangha. However, our gratitude can be extended to include everything around us.*

*Once, a long time ago, a sassy monkey and a vain peacock hopped on the back of a patient, old elephant. The weary elephant stopped to rest under a tree. The elephant said to the monkey and peacock, "You should be thankful that I'm letting you sit on my back."*

*Where upon the monkey and peacock retorted, "You should be thankful that we're keeping you company!"*

*The ancient tree thought, "you are all under my branches in the shade. Did you even think to thank me for that?"*

Sometimes we don't stop to think about being grateful for all the things that we have been given. Ohigan allows us the opportunity to think about our connections to everything around us.

Happy Spring!

Gassho,  
Claire Hansen



# 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.

### Spring Ohigan Service

The hybrid Spring Ohigan Service will be held on Sunday, March 16, at 4:30 pm. Our special guest Rev. Akiko Okada from Higashi Honganji Hawaii District Office will join us via Zoom. Please join us as we welcome Rev. Okada and listen to her thoughtful message. An otoki dinner will follow the service.

### Sunday Service and Workshop

The Temple Communication Staff will have an in-person Workshop with Occidental College Students on Sunday, March 23 and held in

conjunction with the Zoom Sunday Service. Different parts of the service will be explained and the Dharma Talk will give an explanation of Jodo Shinshu. A light lunch will be served followed by a workshop about chanting and altar accessories. The Workshop is not just for the Oxy students, but also for newer members or anyone who is interested in knowing more about Jodo Shinshu.

### WCBT Online Seminar

Our 2025 Online Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 29, at 1:00 pm featuring Dr. Franz Metcalf. We welcome back Dr. Metcalf as he discusses the theme "What Would Buddha Do In Our Changing Society?" For more information see page 5.

### LABTF Hanamatsuri

The Federation Hanamatsuri Service will be held in a hybrid format on Sunday, April 6 beginning at 1:00 pm. at Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin.

### WCBT Hanamatsuri

WCBT will hold its hybrid Hanamatsuri Service on April 13 at 10:00 am. We will have a special guest speaker Rev. Kenji Oyama, from Tokujoki, Kagawa, Japan. If you can attend this service in-person, we encourage you to bring flowers and help decorate the beautiful Hanamido.

## MARCH BIRTHDAY

Brandon Kawaguchi, Kendra Kagawa Jucksch, Brion Martinez, Brooks Martinez, Cathy Nakano, Karolyn Fujimoto, Mae Horie, Joy Kitaura, Kelley Sakoda, Kathy Masai, Danny Iwama, Lee Ezaki, Karen Ezaki, Andrew Kenji Ezaki, Claire Hansen, Dick Koga, Leo Kowalski, Miki Fukusumi, Tamara Teragawa, Alyssa Arnheim, Dana Yamada, Gavin

## 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)

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## APRIL BIRTHDAY

Kevin Kawawata, Tyler Koji Isaksen, Susan Oshima, Lauren Miyake, Randy Maekawa, Nancy Maekawa, Jacob Kato, Adriana Kochi, Kellie Komoda, Kristen Hiranaka, Tammy Lespron, Phillip Underwood, Tomomi Sagawa, Lexi Shams, Maria Whang, Yuechen Zhau Chen, Mario Alberto Gonzalez, Nancy Hombo, Maddie Akari Mayeda, Sienna Mirai Martinez, Stella Reynolds-Hale, Cole Reynolds-Hale, Shakyamuni Buddha



# T H E G A T E W A Y

*PEACE, con't from pg. 2*

dominate the center and rule the place. If you do not, you are neglected and exploited by the strong." In the *sahā* world, we adhere to our own benefit and struggle for power. At the same time, it is the world where we neglect the suffering of those we hurt with our own power. It is not a world of living together. Reflecting upon our society, we realize we are truly in the *sahā* world.

As Thich Nhat Hanh says, "To take care of their well-being is to take care of our own well-being," Buddhism clearly reveals that to pursue our own happiness dooms us to creating suffering, not only for others but also for ourselves.

Seeking the path of happiness of others directly becoming our own happiness is the core of Buddhist teachings. The peace reflected in the teachings, "living with all people," can be achieved by respecting both

oneself and others. It teaches us that world peace should never be appropriated. Buddhist ceaselessly encourages us to awaken to the world of interconnectedness because the awakening would lead us to true happiness and peace for all.

In order to awaken us to it, Buddhist teachings also illuminate how far our reality is from that way of life. It reveals that, while saying that peace is important, we go against the aspiration for peace, and to make matters worse, we do not even realize that we are doing so. The 2500-year history of Buddhism is a history of us continuously going against its teachings. At the same time, it is also a history of Buddhism tirelessly trusting us who have been ignorant of it. The Dharma is always with us working to awaken us who keep running away from its teachings. Long before we entrust ourselves to the Buddha, we are already trusted

by the Buddha. Buddhist teachings assure us that the profound wish for "peace for all people" is inherent in us, and we are trusted to awaken to that wish definitely.

We are urged to earnestly contemplate whether our ways of living, thinking, and relating to others are truly based on the wish for peace for all people. When each of us asks ourselves this question, we will realize that we are not in accordance with the path of peace for all people and become genuinely aware that walking that path is not as easy or simple as we say. Through that awakening, the call from Buddhism, wishing to seek happiness and peace for all, will be heard and resonate in our lives.



## Support Our Golf Classic

**Dr. Roy Takemura**  
**Golf Tournament Committee Chair**

West Covina Buddhist Temple will hold its 28th Annual Golf Classic on Monday, June 2, 2025. The tournament will return to Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, one of Southern California's premier golf courses.

The tournament format will be a 4-man scramble with a shotgun start at 10:00 am. Entry fee is \$225 per player, (deadline of May 12<sup>th</sup>) which will include putting contest, accuracy drive, closest to the pin, prizes, and award banquet.

Tee sponsors of various levels are available to support WCBT. The funds from your tee sponsorship will not subsidize the golf tournament.

You can also support this tournament by donating raffle prizes, such as golf balls, gift cards to favorite restaurants or other items or donating snacks for the players goodie bag.

For an entry/sponsorship form or for more information, please contact Roy Takemura at (909) 973-2580 or email: [wcbtgolf@gmail.com](mailto:wcbtgolf@gmail.com)





T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Presents

The 2025 Online Seminar:  
**“What Would Buddha Do  
 In Our Changing Society?”**

Lecturer: Dr. Franz Metcalf

**Date: Saturday, March 29, 2025, 1 pm**  
 (No Registration Fee)

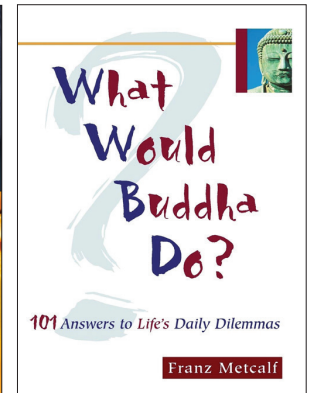
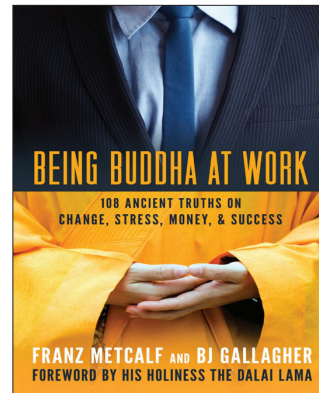
Pre-register by Google Form  
 (<https://forms.gle/Em2AbVaFscztNG3F8>) or scan  
 the QR code to be added to the Zoom meeting  
 invitation for the seminar.

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



◆ **About the Seminar**

Change, impermanence (anicca, mujō), is real; in fact, in a sense it’s all there is. We have to face it so that we can work with it. We need to evolve. When we stop evolving, we stop existing. This is true on all levels: physical, familial, communal, regional, national, and planetary. In the seminar I’ll share strategies that help me creatively evolve on these various levels (at least sometimes), and which I hope will help you, too. We have work to do.



◆ **About the Lecturer**

Please join us as we listen to WCBT returning guest speaker, Dr. Franz Metcalf, author of *What Would Buddha Do?*, *Being Buddha at Work*, *What Would Buddha Do at Work?*, *Buddha In Your Backpack*, *Just Add Buddha*. Franz is an editor at the *Journal of Global Buddhism* and at *H-Buddhism*, the leading informational forum for Buddhist studies, as well as a teacher at Cal State LA. His books apply Buddhism to everyday life. His most challenging current practice is being an empty-nester. He finds anti-racist work integral to being a good teacher, dad, white person, and Buddhist. He’s trying.

<b>Program: 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	
1:00-1:20	Welcome/Intro
1:20-2:00	Lecture
2:00-2:10	Break
2:10-2:40	Q&A/Discussion
2:40-3:00	Wrap-up

.....  
 \*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

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

OLDIES DANCE



"Let's do the twist, jerk & pony In memory of our friend Joanie!"

Saturday, April 5, 2025

7 pm to 11 pm

East Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina 91790

(Parking in the rear)

- ♥ Tickets: \$25/ticket deadline March 10 - after March 10 \$30/ticket
♥ Music by guest HIGH RESOLUTION
♥ Drinks available, must be 21 or older
♥ Dressy casual, dance shoes, ladies no high heels
♥ For tickets and/or info: call, text or email: Lillian Nishihara - (626) 780-9866; lilnish77@gmail.com Lee Ezaki - (626) 533-8359; samurai691@verizon.net
♥ Activities: Dancing, line dance instructions, 50/50 drawing, door prizes, and curry rice bowl served at 10 PM



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or phone # (required) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to reserve a table (s) \_\_\_\_\_ under the name of \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ticket (s) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 (after Mar. 10th \$30) = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to WCHHBT and mail no later than March 20, 2025 to:

Lillian Nishihara c/o OLDIES, 22627 Marjorie Ave Torrance, CA 90505



T H E G A T E W A Y



# T H E G A T E W A Y

(「願い」9頁からの続き)

ちを目覚めさせるはたらきとして仏法は常に私たちと共にあります。私たちが仏を信頼するよりもずっと以前に、私たちは仏から信頼されている身なのです。「あらゆる人にとっての平和」ということを私たちは深い願いとして共有している、そしていつか必ずその願いに目覚める身である、と信頼されているのです。

私たちの生き方、考え方、人との関わり方は、本当にあらゆる人にとっての平和という願いに立ったものになっているのでしょうか。一人一人が自分自身にそのことを問いかけてみる時、自らが抱えている矛盾に気づくことでしょうか。その目覚めを通して、「我も人も」という生き方に還れと願う仏教の声が熱をもった言葉として、私たちの生活の中に響いてくるのではないのでしょうか。



Quote of the Month  
Peace cannot be  
kept by force;  
it can only be achieved  
by understanding.  
-Albert Einstein

### **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

## 「我も人も」の願い 見義信香

私たちはあらゆるものが他との繋がりの中にあるということに目覚めなければなりません。私たちの安全や幸福はもはや個人の問題ではないのです。彼らが安全に暮らすことができないということは、私たちも安心して暮らせないということです。他の人々の安全に心を砕くことは、私たち自身の安全を実現するためでもあります。彼らの幸福を大切に思うことは、私たちが幸福に生きる道なのです。すべての暴力と憎しみの根源は、本来繋がっている物事を分け隔て、価値をつけて差別していく心なのです。

—ティク・ナット・ハン

この言葉は、ベトナム出身の禅僧であり、平和・人権運動家でもあったティク・ナット・ハン師が2003年、アメリカの連邦議会で行ったスピーチの一部です。2001年9月11日のアメリカ同時多発テロが発端となり、世界中を敵、味方に分けて、敵を徹底的に潰すことが「正義」であるという機運が高まっていた中でのメッセージです。

それから22年が経とうとしています。残念ながら私たちは相変わらず、師が目覚めを促している繋がりの世界から目を逸らし耳を塞ぎ続けています。

最近になって国の指導者の口から「平和」という言葉がよく聞かれるようになりました。反面、国同士の緊張はかつてないほど高まり、とても平和への道筋が開かれているようには感じられません。「平和」という言葉がさらなる分断を生みだしている、というのは、まさに私たちが繋がりの中にあるという事実の暗いということ

からきているのではないのでしょうか。

人や国を「我と他」とに分け、その論理から平和を語る時、それは必ず「私にとっての平和」という域を出ることはありません。それは言い換えるならば「私さえよければ」という自己中心的な思いに立った平和であり、いつもその裏側には、排除され攻撃され、屈服させられる人の犠牲の上にもみ成り立つという現実があります。結果として、「平和」という言葉が「自らの」あるいは「自国の」利益を最大限に得る道具として利用され、その獲得のために力が行使されるのです。力を使って獲得される平和は、自己関心の一つに過ぎず、その平和を享受する人とその平和のために排除される人とを分断するという矛盾を常に孕んでいるのです。

分断された世界を仏教では「娑婆世界」と呼びます。それは私たちが作り上げている社会そのものです。娑婆世界は「強き者は弱きを伏す(強者伏弱)」世界です。四衢亮氏はそれを、力を持った者が世の中の中心となり幅を利かせ、その一方力を持たない者は、力を持った者に利用され隅に追いやられる世界であると表現されています。そこは共に生きる世界ではなく、いかに自分の利益をより多く得るかに執着する世界です。そして同時に自らの持つ力によって傷つけている人々の苦しみに気づくことのできない世界です。

ティク・ナット・ハン師が「彼らの幸福を大切に思うことは、私たちが幸福に生きる道なのです」と語るように、自らの幸福のみに執着する道は、他も、そして自らをも苦しめる道である、と仏教は私たちに知らせてくれています。

「あらゆる人と共に」という道を尋ねていくことが仏教の教えの根幹です。「我も人も共に」という教えに立って語られる平和とは、自己と他を共に尊ぶことのできる道を願う歩みで

す。世界平和とは決して私物化してはいけないものである、ということを教えてくれています。

仏教の教えは私たちが還るべき生き方を知らせてくれると同時に、私たちの現実がいかにその生き方から遠く離れているかを照らし出しています。平和は大切だと言いながら、その願いに背き、かつ背いているという事実にも気づかない私たちの姿を明らかにしてくれるのです。仏教の2500年の歴史は、私たちが仏教の教えに背き続けてきた歴史と言えるでしょう。同時に背き続けてきた私たちに信頼し続ける仏教の歴史でもあります。教えから逃げ続ける私た

(「願い」8頁に続く)

## お寺ニュース

### 春のお彼岸法要

英語によるお彼岸法要は3月16日(日)午後4時半よりオンラインと対面のハイブリッド形式にてお勤めいたします。ハワイ開教区の岡田在子師のご法話を聴聞いたします。ご家族で是非お参りください。

4月の法話会祥月法要は4月3日(木)、5月の法話会祥月法要は5月1日(木)にお寺にてお勤めします。時間はいずれも午前10時です。

### 花まつり法要

本年の花まつり法要は4月13日(日)午前10時よりお勤めいたします。この花まつりでは、毎年皆さまにご持参頂いたお花で花御堂を飾り、お釈迦様の誕生をお祝いいたします。今年は香川県徳成寺の大山健児師をお招きし、ご法話を聴聞いたします。また4月6日(日)午後1時より、小東京の西本願寺羅府別院にて仏教連合会主催の花まつりがお勤めされます。ご家族お誘い合わせの上、ぜひご参詣下さい。

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

 **GATEWAY** 

March - April 2025 - - Vol. LIX No. 2

**March**

- 11 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 13 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 16 4:30 pm Spring Ohigan Service (hybrid)
- 20 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 23 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid) & Workshop (in-person)
- 25 6:00 pm Study Class (online)
- 27 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 29 1-3 pm WCBT Online Seminar
- 30 10:00 am Sunday Service (hybrid)

**April**

- 1 7:00 pm Board Meeting (online)
- 3 10:00 am Howakai Japanese Service
- 3 10:00 am Discussion Class (online)
- 5 7:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 6 10:00 am Sunday Service (online)
- 6 1:00 pm LABTF Hanamatsuri (hybrid)  
@ Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin
- 8 6:00 pm Study Class (online)

2025年3月行事予定

- 16日 午後4時半 春季彼岸法要  
(ハイブリッド)
- 23日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 & ワークショップ
- 29日 午後1時 オンラインセミナー (英語)
- 30日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

4月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時 理事会 (オンライン)
- 3日 午前10時 法話会
- 5日 午後7時 オールディーズダンス
- 6日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (オンライン)
- 6日 午後1時 仏連花まつり (於: 西別院)
- 13日 午前10時 花まつり (ハイブリッド)
- 20日 午前10時 祥月法要 (ハイブリッド)
- 27日 午前10時 日曜礼拝 (ハイブリッド)

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平和は微笑みから始まります。  
マザー・テレサ