We all know that death is a certain part of life but I know that, at least for me, I don’t look for it to turn up as often as it sometimes can. I’m sure that people in the funeral business wouldn’t agree with me but I’d like it to be spaced out a bit. In early November, an LAFD Captain who had only been in our department for two years was injured in a motorcycle accident suffering a severe brain injury. He lived for about three weeks, passing away in early December. From that time until the beginning of January, we were notified that seven more people that my family knew had also passed away. Trina and I only attended four funerals. I say only because two of the deceased didn’t have services. One was Damon my mentor, who took me under his wing when I only had about two years on the job, and the other was my high school girlfriend, Vivian.

His sister found Damon, alone in his apartment and in horrible condition several days after he had passed away. Vivian passed away in a convalescent home and a mutual friend, who actually notified me of her passing, was very upset that the bright, popular person that we remembered could die in such circumstances, in a convalescent home and no funeral service. To our friend that meant an awful ending and a few years ago I might have been persuaded to feel the same way. But after four years of listening to the Dharma, I see things differently and I tried my best to get her to consider that maybe Vivian’s family is very private and wanted her services for the family only. Unless I find out otherwise, and even if I do, that outlook gives me peace.

We’ve all been to many funeral services in our lives, some touching, some okay, and some just so-so. In other words we don’t know what to expect. I’ve never been to any type of Buddhist service, so in that respect I wouldn’t know what to expect. But I’ve been to many Christian services and I think I understand better now. When the Time Comes...

Phillip Underwood

Olivia Miya Gonzalez was welcomed to WCBT at her Hatsamairi with parents Stephanie and Mario and uncles Frank Tanji and Michael Jitosho.
WCBT OBON FESTIVITIES
June 23, 2018
Mark Your Calendars!

As the weather warms from spring into summer one of the annual rituals of Buddhist temples is the celebration of Obon. Traditionally, Obon is the time when family return to ancestral homes to visit and tend to their ancestor’s graves. However, it is also a time when Buddhists reflect on and feel deep gratitude for our ancestors and joyously embrace the teachings of the Dharma.

Instead of the recognition being sad or solemn, Obon has become known as the “Gathering of Joy” and the main attraction of the festival is the dancing, known as Bon Odori. Dancers from West Covina Buddhist Temple and all around the surrounding neighborhood will gather in large circles around the yagura, a raised platform in the center of the yard with a taiko drum, and the celebration will begin. The dances tell the stories of the work that was done in Japan, such as fishing and farming. Participants dress in kimonos, colorful yukatas, or Happi coats representing other Buddhist temples. You don’t have to be a Buddhist or have any dancing ability to join in. The main thing is to show your joy and gratitude for life and for your loved one’s, who’ve passed on.

West Covina Buddhist Temple will also offer demonstrations of various Asian art forms, ranging from different martial arts forms and Japanese dancing, to name a few. And when you get hungry the Temple will be serving some of the best teriyaki chicken around and other tasty foods and desserts, as well as shaved ice. Also, a variety of adult beverages will be available.

So please come to the WCBT Obon Festival on June 23rd from 2 to 9pm and share the “Gathering of Joy” with us.

Koa DeLeon (Ezaki grandson) helped Dharma School superintendent Pat Sato, to pass out beautiful carnations to all the mothers in the Sangha on Mother’s Day.
The Study Class
The Study Class will meet on June 12 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month but will meet only once in June. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (626) 689-1040.

Dads & Grads Family Service
A Father’s Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 17, at 10:00 AM. All graduates will be honored so please contact Rev. Miyoshi (626) 689-1040 with the names of graduates in your family. Join us for this special event.

Bon Odori Practices
Bon Odori (dance) practice will begin in June, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. All you need to bring are your kachi-kachi (castanets) and tenugui (Japanese towel) or fabric of equivalent size. The fans will be provided. The dates again are June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 and 21. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

2018 OBON FESTIVAL!
WCBT 2018 Obon is just a few weeks away and we can feel the excitement building. We can already hear the festive music, smell the teriyaki in the air and taste the delicious assortment of flavors from the sweet deserts to the savory Asian dishes. We can anticipate the fun spending time with family and old friends but there’s still a lot to do to make this exciting annual event a success.

Obon is officially Saturday, June 23, from 2-9 PM but set-up will begin on Friday, June 22, at 1:00 PM. We’ll need help setting up inside the gym, social hall and parking lot. We’ll also need help in the kitchen with food preparation.

In the mean time, we are accepting donations for rice, chili and children’s and regular raffle prizes. Raffle tickets have been sent out and don’t forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out for our famous West Covina Dessert Booth.

Clean-up will be Sunday morning, June 24.
Sign-up sheets will be passed around at Sunday Services or contact Bruce at bwhang@earthlink.net to see how you can help.

Obon & Hatsubon Service
Obon & Hatsubon Service will be held on July 15 at 4:30 PM. Come and join us for this important Service and remain for the complimentary otoki dinner that will follow the service.

Betsuin Obon Festival
The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 28-29. WCBT will again be selling our delicious tamales. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming services so please find a time you can help out in the tamale booth and join in the dancing and festivities at the Betsuin Obon.
The 22nd Annual WCBT Golf Classic was a big success! Eighty golfers participated in this year’s tournament held on the Babe Zaharias course at the Industry Hills Golf Resort on May 11th. Despite an overcast and chilly day, everyone had a good time and a good day of golf.

The Golf Classic committee consisted of Barbara Shirota, Denise and Steve Underwood, Lillian Nishihara, Phil Underwood, Jack Wear and Rev. Miyoshi. Thank you for all the hard work you put into making this tournament one of our more successful events.

On behalf of the committee, thank you to the sangha members and friends for assisting on the day of the tournament. At the registration table were Barbara Shirota, Yuki Kovacs, Richard and Ruby Kagawa, Reiko Ikehara Nelson, Sumiye Arnheim, Hiroko Takemoto and Hisako Koga.

On course volunteers were Rev. Miyoshi and Richard Haraguchi at the Hole in One contest hole and Judy Takemura at the Buy a Drive hole. They stayed out on the course all day in the chilly weather condition.

Spam musubi was provided to all the players prior to the tournament. Thank you to Joy Kitaura, Hiroko Takemoto, Nancy Maekawa, Barbara Shirota, Hisako Koga and Claudia Haraguchi for preparing over 100 musubi. The players not only enjoyed spam musubi, but also many different snacks donated by various sangha members, thank you. Apples, oranges and bananas were donated by Dick Koga. Avocados were distributed to all those attending the award dinner and were graciously donated by Higashi member Steve Murata.

Without the tee sponsors this event would not be a financial success. Thank you to all levels of sponsorships. Your support and generosity is gratefully appreciated.

The tournament results are as follows:

Low gross team (60) - Mark Mitamura, David Choi, Richard Nakawatase, Derek Nakawatase
2nd low gross team - Bobby Jeffries, Jeff Won, Roger Nakano, Lisa Sugimoto
Sportsperson team (second highest gross) - Lillian Nishihara, Kathy Taguchi, Joyce Tanimoto, MaryJane Baysa

Unfortunately, the individual contest (closest to the pin, putting, longest drive & accuracy drive) winners are not available due to my forgetfulness not to record the results. However, congratulations to all the winners!

The wheels are already turning to make improvements for our 23rd Annual Golf Classic in 2019.
2018 WCBT Golf Classic Sponsors

**Platinum Plus - $800**
- kgs Electronics – George Sugimoto
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- Hatakeyama Family
- Lillian Nishihara & Family
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- Fukui Mortuary, Inc. – Russell Martinez
- Level Four Wealth Mgmt. – Mark Mitamura

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- Rimban William Briones & Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi Briones
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- Sean Underwood
- Newport Beach Higashi Honganji
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- Lee & Karen Ezaki
- Dick Koga Family
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- Larry Oshima Family
- ESGVJCC Yoga Class
- Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate
- ESGVJCC Leisure Club

**Patrons**
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- Kimekomi Doll Class
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- ESGVJCC Ayame-Kai

**Hole In One Sponsor** – Tsuneishi Insurance Agency, Inc.
WCBT Fun Day 2018!
and Catholic services. And I’ve been to a few Jewish services, two Jehovah’s Witnesses services and one Muslim service. All different but the one thing in common is that all the deceased were honorably cared for. And I’ve been to enough fire department related services to tell you, and my wife will confirm, that I DO NOT want bagpipes at my service; maybe an alto sax.

But getting back to the services themselves, say it was your funeral; would you know what you’d want to occur? Would you leave it to others or would you cover every detail in advance? And just as important…who would you expect to attend your funeral?

I thought of that because last month one of the services I attended was for a woman who’d had 4 bouts with cancer during the last few years. She fought the best she could but in the end was unable to survive. And even with all that, her life long best friend wasn’t there because they had had a quarrel a couple of years ago and feelings were still pretty hard. Now before I continue let me say that their relationship was a classic case of the giver and the taker; the taker always wanted more and the giver could never give enough. Their latest spat was when the giver finally said that she’d had enough and was sick of trying to please the taker and the taker was never able to forgive the giver. Needless to say, it was the giver who’d passed away and for the taker a weekend in Laughlin, Nevada with relatives was too important to pass up.

I was surprised and disappointed because they had been such close friends for so long but I tried to keep an open mind and remain compassionate because I’ve made decisions in my life and have had to live with the consequences. Some of those decisions have helped me to grow (or made me grow) but some decisions caused mistakes and those mistakes made me wish I could have a do-over but do-over’s are rare. There is no do-over for a funeral. As the saying goes, you can always have another birthday or anniversary or even a grad party. But you only get one funeral. That’s it, one and done.

So again, my question is, if it were your funeral who would you want to attend? Or who would you expect to attend? Or more importantly, is there anyone you wouldn’t want to attend?

As Reverend Miyoshi always says, maybe yes…maybe no. Or, it could be good or could be bad. Depending on the situation I think that means don’t be too hard on yourself or don’t jump to conclusions or keep an open mind…because time will tell; it always does, and for that I’m grateful.

**Buddhism Quiz**

**Today’s Buddhist quiz: Getting back to basics.**

**Difficulty Level: Easy-ish**

1. The Shinshu Otani-ha (Higashi Honganji) traces its beginning to the teachings of 
   a. Siddharta Gautama  
   b. Shinran Shonin  
   c. Honen Shonin

2. The Jodo Shinshu movement in the United States had its beginning in 
   a. The mid 19th century  
   b. The late 19th century  
   c. The early 20th century

**Quote of the Month**

Guarding knowledge is not a good way to understand.

Understanding means to throw away your knowledge.

- Thich Nhat Hanh
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

OBON FESTIVAL 2018

BON ODORI DANCING
public invited to participate

MARTIAL ARTS
DEMONSTRATIONS

CULTURAL EXHIBITS
AND ENTERTAINMENT

TAIKO DRUMMING

DELICIOUS FOOD
GAMES • PRIZES

JUNE 23 SATURDAY
2 PM TO 9 PM

1203 W. Puente Ave, West Covina 91790
626.689.1040
wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com • www.livingdharma.org
facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple
West Covina Buddhist Temple Announces Bon Odori Dance Practices

• WHAT: The Bon Odori dancing is the highlight of the Obon because, as a celebratory “group dance,” it symbolizes the world of oneness that is the goal of the Buddhist teaching. It’s also just a lot of fun! The public is invited to learn the specific moves of each dance at the free and popular public dance instruction practices.

• WHEN: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7-8:30 pm starting Tuesday, June 5. (June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 & 21)

• WHERE: the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center parking lot, 1203 West Puente Avenue, West Covina, 91790

• THE OBON FESTIVAL: Saturday, June 23, 2-9 pm

• Contact Info:
  phone: 626 689-1040
  website: www.livingdharma.org
  e-mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com
  Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple
The Temple has registered with the AmazonSmile donation program. For those of you who shop online with Amazon, the AmazonSmile foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Temple, at no cost to you. You just need to login to "smile.amazon.com" which will connect you to the same Amazon website you know. It will display the same products, same prices, and same service. On your first visit select ‘West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple’ as the organization that you wish to support. It’s that easy.

Happy shopping!
葬儀を縁として思う
アンダーウッド・フィリップ

死が人生の一部であることは誰もが知っています。けれどもいずれ必ず訪れる死に対しての心構えが十分にできている人はそれほどいないのではないでしょうか。少なくとも私は普段はあまり考えないようにしていることは確かです。

昨年の11月の初め、ロサンゼルス消防局の隊長で私の元同僚がバイク事故に遭ったという知らせを受けました。脳に損傷を受けた彼は3週間後に息を引き取りました。それから1月の初めまで、7人以上の知合いが亡くなりました。私と妻はそのうちの4人の葬儀に参列しました。2人は葬儀を行いませんでした。ひとりは私の指導官だったディモン氏、もうひとりは高校時代の友人の作為ビビアンでした。

ディモンは自宅のアパートで亡くなったのですが、妹が彼の遺体を発見した時にはすでに死後数日が経っていました。ビビアンは療養所で亡くなりました。彼女の死を知っても彼が来たことはありません。彼女は敬いをもって丁重に扱われていました。時には自分はどんな葬儀を望むのか、誰に来て欲しいのかを考えたり妻と話したりすることもあります。1月にガンと診断され閉病生活を送っていた女性の葬儀に参列しました。彼女は長年にわたる友人を喪に送りました。数年前に妻と妻と結婚してからも、二人は友人でございませんでした。二人は友人ではないことがなかったが、病床の彼女が常にいる側でした。そして、これ以上友人の期待には応えられないことを知ったのが、その友人をひとり怒らせたのです。

仲の良い友人同士だと思っていただけに、彼女の話に私はひどく驚き、同時にがっかりしました。そして自分の人生や人との関係について考えました。生きていく上で私たちは多くの選択をします。そしてその決定に責任を持たなければなりません。だからこそ、行動を決める時ならこそ偏見のない心、思いやりをその決定の基礎にするようにしたいと思います。いつも正しい選択をするとは限りません。時には大きく成長するきっかけになることもあるでしょう。反対に間違った選択をしてしまうこともあります。そんなとき、もう一度チャンスが欲しいと思うもの。葬儀は2度目はありません。一度きりなのです。

自分の葬儀に来て欲しい人は誰ですか？来ても欲しい人はいますか？

人との関わりは大切なものです。一時の感情に任せてその関係を絶つ（‘葬儀’7ページに続く）
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June

2  7:30 pm Oldies Dance
3  10:00 am Shotsuki Service
5  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
7  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
7  7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
10 8:30 am Board Meeting
10 10:00 am Sunday Service
12 10:00 am Study Class
12  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
14  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
17 10:00 am Father’s Day Family Service
19  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
21  7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
22 1:00 pm Obon Set-up
23  2-9 pm OBON FESTIVAL
24  9:00 am Obon Clean-up

2018年6月行事予定

2日 午後7時半 オールディーズダンス
3日 午前10時 祥月法要
5日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
7日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
7日 午後7時半 法話会
10日 午前8時半 理事会
10日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
12日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
14日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
17日 午前10時 父の日家族礼拝
19日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
21日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
22日 午後1時 お盆祭り準備
23日 午後2時〜9時 お盆祭り
24日 午前9時 お盆祭り後片付け

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人は法を求めるに止まって、法に生きることを忘れている。
高光大船