



# GATEWAY



June 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 6



*Olivia Miya Gonzalez was welcomed to WCBT at her Hatsumairi with parents Stephanie and Mario and uncles Frank Tanji and Michael Jitsho.*

## When the Time Comes...

Phillip Underwood

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

*Please see TIME, don't on page 7*

### Temple Event Highlights:

- Jun. 2 Oldies Dance
- Jun.10 Board Meeting
- Jun. 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 & 21 Bon Odori Practice
- Jun. 23 OBON FESTIVAL
- Please See Temple News



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2 to 9pm** and share the "Gathering of Joy" with us.

### DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

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.



*Lillian Nishihara gave a wonderful Mother's Day message to remind all of us to appreciate our mothers, always!*







# T H E G A T E W A Y

## T E M P L E N E W S

### 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 desserts 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 [bwchang@earthlink.net](mailto:bwchang@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.



## GATEWAY Staff

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

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*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/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)

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

*Happy Birthday ♪*



## JUNE

Laurie Hansen, Joshua Gutierrez, Kay Yamashita, Ray Maekawa, Sam Meites, Mia Lynn Meites, Justin Toshiro Ezaki, Kiyoshi Earley, Jerry Earley, Nicholas Ishibashi Jung, Noah Kowalski, Terri Shams, Tor Ormseth, Craig Yanase, Richard Nakawatase, Andrew Jung, Ikuo Matsukiyo, Linda Chen, Mitchell Kozono, Mark Masai, Sumie Kinoshita, Toshio Tawatari, Allan Wexler, Xavier Godoy, Sadako Sogioka, Jeanne Kawawata



# T H E G A T E W A Y

## A “Successfore” Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

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 Shiota, 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 Shiota, 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 Shiota, 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.







# T H E G A T E W A Y

## 2018 WCBT Golf Classic Sponsors

### Platinum Plus - \$800

kgs Electronics – George Sugimoto  
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 Hatakeyama Family  
 Lillian Nishihara & Family  
 Ron Sato & Ken Sato Families  
 Tanaka Farms – Glenn Tanaka  
 Fukui Mortuary, Inc. – Russell Martinez  
 Level Four Wealth Mgmt. – Mark Mitamura

### Platinum – \$500

East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center  
 Rimban William Briones & Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi Briones  
 Takemura & Hashimoto Optometry, Inc.

### Gold – \$300

Tokio Marine America – David Teragawa  
 Kamimura & Takemoto Families  
 Phillip & Autrina Underwood  
 Mits & Mitzi Oshita & Family

### Silver Plus – \$200

Kubota Nikkei Mortuary, Inc.  
 Glenn Nakatani, Attorney

### Silver – \$125

Miyashiro, Escaño, Whang & Wexler Families	David & Kathy Ikeda
Sabers/Saberettes Youth Basketball Organization	Bishop Noriaki & Janet Ito
Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple	Sean Underwood
Higashi Honganji North America District	Newport Beach Higashi Honganji
J&S Auto Service – Dan Iwama	San Gabriel Valley JACL
ESGVJCC Ballroom Dance Club	Chuck & Trish Nicholson
Aihara Insurance Agency	Lee & Karen Ezaki
Hansen & Martinez Families	Dick Koga Family
Richard Haraguchi Family	Kishin Daiko
Richard Kagawa Family	Larry Oshima Family
Ted Kato Family	ESGVJCC Yoga Class
Bob Yamashita Family	Eibukan Goju Ryu Karate
Rev. Toshihisa Enoki	ESGVJCC Leisure Club

### Patrons

ESGVJCC Gakuen	Kimekomi Doll Class
Mark III Properties	ESGVJCC Karaoke Club
	ESGVJCC Ayame-Kai

**Hole In One Sponsor – Tsuneishi Insurance Agency, Inc.**





# T H E G A T E W A Y

## WCBT Fun Day 2018!







# T H E G A T E W A Y

*TIME, con't from pg. 1*

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.



(「葬儀」11ページからの続き)

こともあります。いっぽうで、心を開きその人との関係を見つめ直すこともできます。どちらが自分をより苦しめるか、時がそれを教えてくれるでしょう。



Quote of the Month  
Guarding knowledge  
is not a good way  
to understand.  
Understanding means  
to throw away  
your knowledge.  
-Thich Nhat Hanh

## Buddhism Quiz

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

**Difficulty Level: Easy-ish**

- The Shinshu Otani-ha (Higashi Honganji) traces its beginning to the teachings of
  - Siddharta Gautama
  - Shinran Shonin
  - Honen Shonin
- The Jodo Shinshu movement in the United States had its beginning in
  - The mid 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - The late 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - The early 20<sup>th</sup> century





# T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

# Obon

FESTIVAL 2018

**BON ODORI DANCING**

*public invited to participate*

**MARTIAL ARTS  
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**CULTURAL EXHIBITS  
AND ENTERTAINMENT**

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**JUNE 23 SATURDAY  
2 PM TO 9 PM**



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

## 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](http://www.livingdharma.org)  
e-mail: [wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com](mailto:wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](https://facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple)



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



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!





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

## 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のでしょうか。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人以上の知り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イモン氏、もうひとりは高校時代の友人のビビアンでした。

デイモンは自宅のアパートで亡くなったのですが、妹が彼の遺体を見つけ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。彼女の死を教えてくれた共通の友人はとても取り乱していて、あんなに優秀で人気者だった彼女が、どうしてこんな死に方をして、葬儀もしないなんて寂しすぎると言っていました。ビビアンの死は彼女にとっては受け入れ難いものだったようで、数年前の私だったら同じ思いをしていたと思います。多くの知り合いの死に直面して、仏教との出遇いがわたしの見方や考え方を変えたということを実感しました。葬儀という儀式を通して親しい友人に最後の別れをしたいと思うのは自然な気持ちです。けれども、それは私たちの都合でしかないかもしれません。ご家族がどのように彼女の死を受け止め、なぜ葬儀を行わないとしたのか、そこには私たちにはわからない大切な思いがあったかもしれません。そうした気持ちを葬儀を行

わない家族に対して不満を抱く友人に話しました。

歳を重ねれば、葬儀に参列する機会も増えます。私はキリスト教やカトリックの葬儀、稀にですがユダヤ教の葬儀、エホバの証人やイスラム教の葬儀に参列したことはありますが、仏教の葬儀はまだ一度も経験したことがありません。どの葬儀でも形式はそれぞれですが死者は敬意をもって丁重に扱われていました。時に自分はどんな葬儀を望むのか、誰に來て欲しいのかと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闘病生活を送っていた女性の葬儀に参列しました。その葬儀に長年の友人は参列しませんでした。数年前に喧嘩をし、その友人は結局その時のわだかまりを水に流すことができなかったということでした。二人は友人のはずでしたが、病床の彼女が常に与える側でした。そして、これ以上友人の期待には応えられないと告げたことが、その友人をひどく怒らせたのです。

仲の良い友人同士だと思っていただけに、彼女の話には私はひどく驚き、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を考えました。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、行動を決める時なるべく偏見のない心、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した。いつも正しい選択をすることは限りません。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です。葬儀に2度目はありません。一度きりなのです。

自分の葬儀に來て欲しい人は誰ですか？ 來て欲しくない人はいますか？

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)

## お寺ニュース

### 盆踊り練習

本年度の当寺院のお盆祭り（6月23日）もいよいよ近づいて参りました。今年の盆踊り練習は以下の予定にて行われます。練習日は火曜日と木曜日、時間は午後7時から8時半までを予定しております。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、お気軽にご参加下さい。

#### 練習日

6月 5日（火） 7日（木）  
12日（火） 14日（木）  
19日（火） 21日（木）

### 父の日・卒業記念家族礼拝

6月17日（日）午前10時より、父の日・卒業記念家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。お父さんや今年卒業式を迎えられるお子様には、お寺より記念品を贈呈いたします。卒業を迎えるお子様がおられましたら、是非お寺までご連絡下さい。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、ご参詣下さいますようお願い申し上げます。

### お盆祭り

今年のお盆祭りは6月23日（土）に開催いたします。本年も法話会の皆様にはそうめんのご協力をお願い申し上げます。詳しくは、別便のお盆の案内状にてご案内いたします。どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

また、24日（日）午前9時より後片付けを予定しています。お力添えをいただければと思います。

お盆祭りは、お寺の大切な基金募集行事です。ご協力賜りますようお願い申し上げます。

### 6月祥月法要 / 法話会

6月7日（木）

午後7時半より

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

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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てる。

高光大船