*GATEWAY

July 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 7





Many people danced joyously at the WCBT's Obon Festival. They also enjoyed great food, drinks, cultural displays, Japanese dances and martial arts demonstrations.

It is truly grateful to say that we had another very successful Obon Festival. The weather was not too harsh this year, so we saw many people enjoying the nice breeze with a cold beverage, delicious chicken teriyaki, and of course Bon Odori.

The Manto-e service held right before Bon Odori reminds me that the Obon Festival is not only a fundraising event but also a religious one that gives us a precious opportunity to awaken to what we have received from our loved ones.

Having an Obon Festival is a lot of work. Nevertheless, WCBT festival has endured for over 50 years. This proves that there were those in the past who put so much effort into this event and their enthusiasm became a part of us. They showed us the importance of what they received through the temple. This realization became a profound aspiration to maintain this temple as a place to listen to the Buddhist teachings so that many people in the future could also receive the benefit. Through the Obon Festival, we have received their wishes. I truly feel that all of us realize that it is now our turn to hand their wishes down to the next generations.

I would like to thank the dedicated and hardworking Sangha members and their families and friends whose positive energy created a joyful festival atmosphere. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the Obon chair, Mr. Bruce Whang, and the Obon committee for their tireless work and devotion. ARIGATO GOZAIMASHITA.

In Gassho, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi Page 2 July 2018



$T \quad H \quad E \qquad G \quad A \quad T \quad E \quad W \quad A \quad Y$

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma School game booth was a hub of lively activity during the Obon festival this year! The children selected from five different games to play and all seemed to be having a great time. So many children came to play, that we ran out of prizes toward the end of the festival. All in all, I think we had a very successful and fun time this year.

Many thanks to the Sangha members who donated wonderful prizes for the Children's Raffle. The young-sters were eager to try their luck and all winners were pleased with what they selected. Thank you, too, to the hard workers in our very warm and busy booth: the Saucedo sisters, Diane Hata, and Marty and Jonathan Ogino. Thank you to Denise Underwood for creating the special ojuzu display in the gym. The pictures of each Dharma School student on the beads of the ojuzu were very cute! Thank you to Pat Sato for helping to set up the booth and for keeping me "in check". Finally, thank you to Laurie Kobayashi for making the signs for our booth and the Dharma School display in the gym.

Obon is a special time to remember our relatives and friends who have passed. With gratitude and love, we gather once a year to honor our loved ones.

Gassho, Claire Hansen

















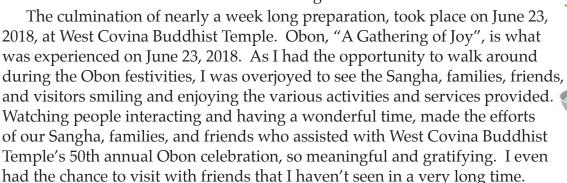












A great big ARIGATOGOZAIMASHITA to the West Covina Buddhist Temple's Sangha, families, and friends that volunteered their time and efforts in making our 2018 Obon a great success. This event would not have been as well received without your help. Without a doubt, 2018 Obon ran more smoothly and calmly because of everyone's hard work and unconditional efforts. I can hardly wait until next year!

















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T E M P L E N E W S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on July 10 and 24 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. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

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. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa.

Betsuin Obon Festival

The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 28-29. WCBT will again be selling our delicious tamales. Signup 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.



Las Vegas Trip

Once again Pasadena Buddhist Temple has invited WCBT members to join their Las Vegas trip on August 3-5. The price of \$210 (double occupancy) or \$235 (single occupancy) will include bus transportation, driver tips, games and cash prizes on bus trip, 2-nights accommodations at California Club Hotel and Casino and meal coupons (for 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners that can be used at Cal Club. Fremont or Main Street). Luggage handling also included.

The bus will depart from Pasadena Buddhist Church on Friday, August 3 at 8:30AM and will stop at ESGVJCC at 9:15AM. On Sunday, the bus will leave the California Hotel promptly at 10:45AM for the return trip. Contact Jeannie Toshima at 562-305-6018 or jeannie_toshima@me.com by July 1 if you are interested in going.

August Schedule

The August board meeting will be held 8:30 AM on August 5 followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10:00 AM. We will then take our annual summer break so there are no Sunday Services on August 12, 19 and 26. Services will resume again on September 2.

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.

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JULY

Jamie Nakatani, Sylvia Ena,
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Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez,
Laura Miyake, Margaret
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Taguchi, Corey Taguchi, Pat
Sato, Garrett Kawaguchi, Tyler
Kobayashi, Steven Kuwahara,
Marcus Nishihara, Lillian
Nishihara, Kurt Kowalski,
Jamie Teragawa, Jonathan
Hoey, Jeffrey Akune, Anthony
Gutierrez, Sam Kozono, Susie
Kozono



Obon 2018!























More Obon 2018!





























Memories of My "Otōsan"

Dr. Roy Takemura

When I first learned that I would be making today's Father's Day message, I was totally at a loss as to what I could say to you that was meaningful.

Let me first start by saying that in our family our father was referred to as "Otōsan", which is father in Japanese. Even today when my four sisters and brother talk about our father he is "Otōsan". Rev. Miyoshi most likely realized this at Otōsan's 50th Memorial service this past April. Yes, it has been 49 years since the passing of Otōsan in April of 1969. I am 70 years of age, so if you do the math, Otōsan was alive for only 21 years of my life. And, out of the 21 years, 2 were spent away in the Army. Therefore, I had to call upon my four older sisters and younger brother to share their recollections of Otōsan.

Otōsan was an Issei, coming from Japan to achieve a better life for himself. From what my sisters tell me, he was a teacher in Japan before leaving for the States. He settled in Seattle with his brother before moving to the Los Angeles area where he purchased a hotel on 7th Street. When WWII broke out he, along with Okāsan and the three oldest daughters were interned to relocation camps. Of course, like all Japanese Americans, he lost his hotel. To make matters worse. Otōsan was "arrested" first and was sent to North Dakota while Okāsan and my three older sisters were taken to Gila, AZ. They were separated for two years then reunited in Crystal City, TX where my fourth sister was born. After the war the family settled in Los Angeles and Otōsan purchased a hotel on Maple Ave. near 5th St., in the heart of skid row. Unlike my friends, we lived in a hotel and the parking lots in the area were our playgrounds. Now, if

it was like the Hilton or Marriott and living in the penthouse, things would not have been so bad and instead of being an optometrist, today I might have become a hotel tycoon and who knows maybe in the White House.

As I read the emails from my siblings reflecting on their memories of Otōsan, there seems to be a common thread. We all saw him as a very stern but fair compassionate and humorous man with strong work ethics. Education was very important to him and he emphasized this to all of us.

He was a very hard working and somewhat frugal man having to provide for six kids, including our selfish wants and of course college tuitions. He would walk, did not drive nor owned a car until 1957 (I was already 10), seven or so blocks to Grand Central Market because the prices were cheaper. Occasionally, we would accompany him so we did a lot of walking. His frugal ways paid off because he was able to purchase two apartments. One apartment was on Hoover Ave. just south of the Coliseum and the other near Pico and La Brea on the Westside. He now had to manage and maintain three businesses. To cut costs, he did all the cleaning and repairs instead of hiring a service or handy man. I remember he would pack all the necessary items he needed and his lunch into a shopping bag and take the bus to either apartment 2 to 3 times a week. Learning to drive made the commute much less stressful for him but not so for the other drivers on the road.

Otōsan was, as mentioned earlier, very stern and sometimes very stubborn. My brother shared this with me in his email. One day he went with Otōsan to the Hoover apartments to help, but that day my brother was dragging his butt and working

haphazardly. Otōsan got so mad that he actually drove my brother all the way back home.

Another example of his stubbornness was when an organization wanted to sponsor my oldest sister to run for Miss Nisei Week Queen, but for several years he refused to allow her to run. Finally, he relented but still not happy about it. When she was 1st runner up, he beamed from ear to ear and bragged to his friends and relatives.

In Judo there is a traditional and proper way of folding your "gi". One night after practice, I did not fold it the proper way but rolled it up like a sleeping bag like the other guys did. On our way home I sensed tension in the car and he did not speak one word. Once home he took me into his bedroom grabbed my "gi" unrolled it and refolded it the traditional way and handed it back to me and told me never to roll my "gi" again. You guessed it; my "gi" never looked like a sleeping bag again. Otōsan was not the "huggy" "touchy" feeling kind of a person, but you knew he was caring and compassionate.

My third oldest sister was about 10 or 11 at the time. Her best friend had a bike and they were riding around the neighborhood with my sister sitting on the back fender. One day, to her surprise, Otōsan came home riding a blue girl's bike for her. That summer she and her best friend rode around the neighborhood each with their own bike. Speaking of bikes, I had to ride a girl's bike for years before I finally was given a brand new Schwinn of my own. And, until I was 5, that was also true for swimsuits.

When I was drafted into the



FATHER, con't from pg. 6

Army, according to my sister, we had a family dinner at a restaurant as a farewell to me. Honestly, I cannot recall this dinner. It could be I was so preoccupied knowing I would be spending the next two years away from home with the possibility I would be in the jungles of Viet Nam. As Otōsan said his "farewell" and well wishes to me, he had tears in his eyes. My sister said she never saw him show his tearful emotions before and it was very touching to see the softer side of Otōsan.

Earlier I mentioned that he was a teacher back in Japan. He had a strong conviction about education and encouraged, almost demanded we all go to college. Fortunately, Otosan lived long enough to see five of his children graduate from college. Unfortunately he did not live long enough to attend my graduation from optometry school.

When I was stationed in Okinawa, I wrote a letter in Japanese to my parents. I used the little I remembered from Japanese school and wrote a letter thinking they would be very surprised and pleased. A week or so later I received a letter from Otōsan and as I opened it I anticipated how appreciative they would be to receive my Japanese written letter. To my surprise I found my own letter to them with several red ink marks by Otōsan correcting all my mistakes. I guess you can take the teacher out of Japan, but you cannot take the teacher out of Otosan.

Otōsan was a very hard working man, as I mentioned earlier, but occasionally he did relax and enjoyed a day at the beach or park. We had an annual BBQ beach outing with my cousins and family friends. It was nice to see him grill hot dogs and ribs or take a leisure swim in the ocean. We also went to Lincoln Park for the day. At the park there was a merrygo-round and he always let us ride



the merry-go-round and afterwards treated us to a double scoop ice cream cone. However, these double scoop cones were not what you see today where the scoops are placed on the top of each other, but the scoops were side by side.

With five siblings I can go on and on about all the experiences good and bad about Otōsan, but we have things to do and places to go today.

Although Otōsan was physically in my life for only 21 yrs., he has been alive in my heart for 70. Rev. Miyoshi has reminded us that memorial services are not for our departed relatives but they are for us. It is a time for us to reflect back on the life they lived and the lessons we learned by their words and actions. I am so grateful that we at WCBT conduct shotsuki service every month. Although shotsuki service for our departed relative is held only once a vear, each shotsuki service is a reminder for me to take time to reflect on how their lives played an important part in my life.

Thank you for listening to my message, and say thank you to your Otōsan or father for all the encouragement, compassion and support he has given or continues to give to you, not only today on Father's Day but every day.

(「父の日」11頁からの続き)

たのは1957年のことで、私は もう10歳になっていました。そ れまでは7ブロック以上も離れた マーケットに、値段が安いからと いう理由で徒歩で通っていたので す。たまに子供も一緒について行 ったことがありますから、それが どれだけの距離かは知っていま す。コツコツと貯めたお金で父は アパートを2軒購入しました。節 約のため、3軒の不動産の管理は 清掃や修理も含めて全て父が自分 で行なっていました。その日に使 う道具をカバンに詰め、ランチを 買い物袋に入れてバスに乗って仕 事に向かう父のことを今でも覚え ています。

厳格な父は時にとても頑固でし た。弟が父の手伝いを嫌がってい い加減な仕事をした時の父の怒り ようは大変なもので、そのまま家 に送り返したこともありました。 また一番上の姉が二世クイーンの コンテストに出場することに最後 まで反対していたのも父でした。 何年も説得を続け、ようやく折れ たものの、それでも渋々でした。 けれども、姉が優勝した時は満面 の笑みで周りの人や親戚に自慢し て回っていました。私が怒られた ことで今でも覚えているのは、柔 道着の畳み方でした。ある日丸め た道着を帯で括っていました。友 達もみんなそうしていたからで す。迎えに来てくれた父の顔色 がその道着を見た瞬間変わりまし た。車の中にはなんとも言えない 緊張感が走り私は身を固くしまし た。家に帰るなり父は私を寝室に 連れて行き、道着をたたみ直しま した。そして、二度と道着を丸め るなと叱られました。それ以来私 の道着がくるくると丸められるこ

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(「父の日」7 頁からの続き)

とはありませんでした。

父はスキンシップを通しての愛情表現が得意な人間ではありませんでしたが、私たちは父からの愛情を強く感じて育ちました。

私が徴兵された時、家族がレストランで送別会を開いてくれました。実はこれは姉から聞いた話なのです。私はそのディナーのことは全く覚えていません。多分、これからの2年間の生活、家族トと離れて、そしてもしかしたらかもよれないということで頭がいっぱいれないということで頭がいっぱい

だったからだと思います。父が私 にお別れと激励の言葉を贈ってく れた時、父は泣いていたと姉は言 っています。そして、あんな父は 見たことがなかった、とも。父が 柔らかな一面を見せた時でした。

日本で教師をしていた父は、教育の大切さを私たちに教え、全員が大学に進学するよう強く勧めてくれました。早くに亡くなった父でしたが、5人の子供の卒業式に参列できました。ただ、検眼医の学校を卒業した私の姿を見せることができなかったのは残念です。

沖縄の基地に駐屯していた時です。日本語で両親に手紙を書きられると思った。喜んでくれると思ったら手が送られてきました。両親からの感謝の手紙を期待して封を開けた私の目に飛び込んできたのは、赤へと私が送った手紙でした。赤へとでびっしりと訂正がされていました。父の教師としての一面を見せられたようでした。

働き者の父でしたが、ゆっくりとした時間を楽しむこともありました。家族とビーチに行ってバーベキューを楽しむのが唯一の息抜きでした。またリンカーンパーク

に連れて行ってもらったこともあります。当時その公園にはメリーゴーランドがありました。その公園に行くと父はいつも私たちをそのメリーゴーランドに乗せてくれたのです。そして2段重ねのアイスクリームを買ってくれました。

父が私と過ごした時間はほんの 21年間でした。けれども70年 の私の人生を思うと、父はいつも 私と一緒にいてくれていると感じ ます。法要は亡き人のためではな く、生きている私たちのための時 間だと教えられました。亡き人の 人生を通して教えられていること に耳を傾ける時間だ、と。お寺で 毎月祥月法要が勤められているこ とを大変ありがたく思います。実 際の家族の祥月は年に一回かもし れません。けれども、祥月法要に お参りするたびに、先達の人生が 私にとってどれほど大切な位置を 占めているかを思い出します。

父の日にこのようにお話をする 機会をいただけたことを感謝しま す。いつも子供を励まし、慈し み、支えてくれている全てのお父 さんに心からありがとうを伝えた いと思います。





(left) Koa DeLeon, our lone Dharma School student passed out gifts to all the dads and potential dads in the Sangha on Father's Day. (right) Congratulatory High-5's went to Taylor Saucedo and Sophia Saucedo who recently graduated from college and high school respectively.



W

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Dear Members and Friends, June 28, 2018

The West Covina Buddhist Temple and its Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Obon and Hatsubon Service which will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 15, 2018. This is a combined memorial service not only for those members who specifically have lost a loved one in the previous 12 months (Hatsubon means "first Obon service"), but also a universal memorial service for all our loved ones who have passed on.

The schedule for the service is as follows:

Date: Sunday, July 15, 2018

Time: 4:30 PM

Dharma Message: Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa (English)

Higashi Honganji North America District

We will be serving Otoki dinner immediately following the service.

The Obon Service is held to remember our ancestors and to celebrate our life and is one of the most important observances of the year. Please join and gather again this year to resolve to deepen our understanding of Buddhism.

Gassho,

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Minister

Mr. Johnny Martinez, President of the Board of Directors





Quote of the Month
Faults are like a hill;
we stand on
top of our own
and talk about
those of other people.
-An African Proverb

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhist quiz: Getting back to basics.

Difficulty Level: Easy-Peazy

- 1. Obon is
 - a. A Buddhist Memorial Day
 - b. A time when we reflect with gratitude on our interdependence to our ancestors and rejoice in our chance to encounter the Buddha's teachings
 - c. The joyous celebration to greet the spirits of our ancestors who return from the Other Shore
 - d. a and b
 - e. a and c
 - f. b and c
 - g. all of the above

Answer: d



父の日に寄せて 竹村ロイ

父は日本から移民した一世でした。多くの一世がそうだったように、よりより生活のチャンスを求

めてというのが渡米の理由でし た。姉から聞いた話によると、父 は日本では教師をしていたという ことでした。兄とともにシアトル からやがてロサンゼルスへと移っ てきた父は7番街のホテルを購入 しました。しかし第二次世界大戦 が始まると、両親は3人の娘と一 緒に収容所に送られ、ホテルも手 放さなければなりませんでした。 しかも、父は最初スパイ容疑をか けられて「逮捕」されたためノー スダコタに送られ、アリゾナ州ヒ ラに収容された家族とは2年間離 れ離れの生活でした。その後家族 はテキサス州クリスタルシティで 再会し、4人目の姉はそこで生ま れました。戦争が終わると一家は ロサンゼルスに戻り、父はメイプ ルアベニューにあったホテルを購 入しました。5番街から近いその エリアは当時スキッドローのど真 ん中にありました。私の子供時代で友達と少し変わったところといえば、ホテルに住み、駐車場が遊び場だったことでしょうか。

今回姉弟から送られてきた父の 思い出を読んでいるうちに、父こ ついて共通の想いをもっても厳格 とに気づきました。とても厳格たとに気づきました。とでも とは同時にいつむも公平でした。 そして思いやりをもちユーに信る には同時になりませな強いため に大切さを誰よりも理解していた との大切さを誰よりもとを常に たくれていました。 なてくれていました。

父はとても勤勉な人間で、6人 の子供を養い大学に行かせるため に自身は本当に質素な生活をして いました。父がようやく車を持っ

(「父の日」7 頁に続く)

お寺ニュース

お盆/初盆法要

日本語によるお盆/初盆法要は、7月5日(木)午後7時半より7月祥月法要と併せてお勤めいたします。

別院お盆まつり

来る7月28日(土)と29日(日)の両日、ロサンゼルス別院お盆まつりが開催されます。当寺院では例年フードブースにてtamaleを販売しておりまどうであ用中とは存じますが、よう、ぞお手伝いいただきますようしくお願い申し上げます。

お盆まつりのお礼

6月23日に開催されましたお盆まつりは今年も大盛況でした。盆踊りにも多くの方が参加してくださり、大変賑やかなイベントとなりました。当日の運営を始め、準備や後片付けに汗を流してくださいましたメンバーの皆さま、そのご家族やご友人に、この場をお借りして心より御礼申し上げます。

盆踊りの前に勤められる万灯会法要を通して、このお盆ま付かられる万灯会は暴であることに改めてりが先達の方々な体業にも関わらず毎年この行事にも関いて大ださいたちにといて大力ではない。おきではない。おきではないではないではないではないではないではないではないがあるということではないます。そのようなながしているのというであれたちがもます。そのようでは私たちがもというであれたちがよるというであれたちが先を歩く者というであれたちが先を歩しているの責任が託されているの原は私たちが先を歩していく、その責任が記されているととを感じます。

改めまして皆さまのご尽力、ご支援に深く感謝申し上げます。 ありがとうございました。

見義信香

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

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THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

*GATEWAY

July 2018 - - Vol. LIII No. 7

July

1 8:30 am Board Meeting

1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service

1 11:30 am Workshop on First Aid

5 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service

8 10:00 am Sunday Service

10 10:00 am Study Class

15 4:30 pm Obon/Hatsubon Service

22 10:00 am Sunday Service

24 10:00 am Study Class

28-29 1-9 pm Betsuin Obon

29 10:00 am Sunday Service

August

2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service

3-5 Las Vegas Trip

5 8:30 am Board Meeting

5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service

12 No Sunday Service

19 No Sunday Service

26 No Sunday Service

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2018年7月行事予定

1日 午前8時半 理事会

1日 午前10時 祥月法要

5日 午後7時半 法話会

8日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

15日 午後4時半 お盆/初盆法要

22日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

28-29日 別院お盆まつり

29日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

8月行事予定

2日 午後7時半 法話会

3-5日 ラスベガス旅行

5日 午前8時半 理事会

5日 午前10時 祥月法要

12、19、26日 日曜礼拝休み

人のわろき事は、能く能くみゆるなり。 わがみのわろき事は、覚えざるものなり。 『蓮如上人御一代記聞書』