It was the first time that I know of, that there was a concern about rain during our Obon Festival! It was sprinkling in the morning, fortunately by the time we dried the chairs and tables in the yard, the sun came out, and it turned out to be the best weather for our festival. We are truly grateful to have had an incredibly successful Obon Festival this year.

Having an Obon Festival is a lot of work. As Obon approached, we were all stressed out. For a small temple, like us, one of the main concerns is the shortage of workforce. The Obon committee always tries all kind of things to reduce our burden. It is nice to see some of the younger generations jump in and work enthusiastically.

I genuinely feel that an Obon Festival bonds us in fellowship. It is a time to experience a strong relationship as a community. Moreover, it allows us to feel unceasing interconnection with those in the past and people yet to come. We are all connected through a profound aspiration to maintain this temple as a place to listen to the Buddhist teachings, which show us how to make our lives truly positive and meaningful. As time goes by, the scale and form of the Obon Festival may change, yet, the essence of this event remains the same.

I would like to thank the dedicated and hardworking Sangha members and their families and friends whose positive energy created a joyful festival atmosphere. Special thanks to members of Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple who willingly supported us and covered the shortage of workers at the shave ice and bingo booth. 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.

In Gassho,
Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi
Dharma School News

The Dharma School Children’s games booth was very successful this Obon Festival. The children had lots of fun playing the games and winning prizes. The children’s raffle was also very popular. Many thanks to the Sangha members who contributed toys for the raffle. Thank you, too, to the folks who manned the booth: Diane Hata, Leslie and Marty Ogino, and Laurie Kobayashi. We were very busy!

Thank you to Pat Sato for helping to organize the booth and the Dharma School Display. Special thanks to Laurie Kobayashi for creating the display. Hope you all had a chance to see what our students have been learning this year. They enjoyed the craft activities that reinforced the Buddhist concepts that they were taught. Hope to see more of you during next year’s Dharma School!

Our Obon/Hatsubon service will be held on July 14 at 4:30 pm. There will be a special Obon Dharma School lesson with an activity. It promises to be a fun project!

A reminder that Higashi’s Obon Festival will be celebrated on July 27 and 28. Hope to see all of you there!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

A Great Obon?

Obon Chair
Bruce Whang

Wow! Did we just experience a great Obon? No. It was AWESOME!. To me, it was the best Obon since I have been involved with the festival. As I walked around during my 25,230 step day, I was pleased to witness all the guests enjoying themselves and all that we had to offer. From tasty food and sweet desserts and shave ice, to challenging bingo and the special games for the kids and adults, and to the eye pleasing displays and entertaining demonstrations. But, to observe all the people participating is the main reason we were there, the Bon Odori, was truly rewarding! This awesome day would not have been possible without the exemplary and unselfish support of the Sanga, families, and friends! If I were to name all the people I would like to give thanks to, this brief article would be pages long. So, I extend a great big ARIGATO to all that made this AWESOME event possible. I can’t wait till next year!
The Study Class
The Study Class will meet on July 9 and 23 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 14 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. Paul Imahara.

Betsuin Obon Festival
The Betsuin Obon will be held on the weekend of July 27-28. 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.

Las Vegas Trip
Once again Pasadena Buddhist Temple has invited WCBT members to join their Las Vegas trip on August 2-4. For more information, please contact Jeannie Toshima at 562-305-6018 or jeannie_toshima@me.com.

August Schedule
The August board meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on August 4 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 11, 18 and 25. Services will resume again on September 1.

Happy Birthday
JULY
Sally Ariza, Mikio Earley, Jamie Nakatani, Sylvia Ena, Jaylene Gutierrez, Kevin Hata, Lauren Koga, Russell Martinez, Laura Miyake, Margaret Takemoto, Ryoko Kodama, Richard Haraguchi, Craig 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 2019!
More Obon 2019!
We Graduated From Dharma Seeds?

Joanie Martinez
2nd Generation Dharma Seeds

On Saturday, June 8, 2019, Phil Underwood and I had a special kataginu (shoulder sash) placed around our neck, instead of the usual diplomas one receives upon “graduation”. If you are not familiar with the Dharma Seeds Program, its objective is to create effective Dobo groups at the temples in our North America District. Because our Jodo Shinshu ministers are in short supply, the program nurtures lay Sangha members who can support the work of the ministers. There were 6 retreats in the series spread over 3 years in which representatives from the Betsuin, Newport, Berkeley, Chicago, and West Covina participated. Phil and I were part of the 2nd Generation, and we followed the very 1st participants in the program of a few years ago, 1st Generation Dharma Seeds: Reiko, Michelle, Anthony, and Johnny.

Our theme for this “last” retreat was “Sangha: Looking Back into the Past - Envisioning the Future”. The speakers, Bishop Ito and Bishop Kawawata, both talked about their own past, their beginnings in Shin Buddhism, and how circumstances and times have changed that not only have affected them personally but extend into issues that affect all our temples today. I truly enjoyed and learned from both these ministers’ reflections on how we must change and adapt. The challenge is in finding creative ways to meet the needs of our members and potential future members in our 21st century and beyond while honoring our traditions. Changes are often slow to come and they come in very small steps. However, even small steps are important because we are still going forward in a mindful direction. For example, Rev. Kawawata’s temple in Honolulu just changed the advertising of its annual Obon wording to “Festival”, and they sing a couple of the usual Japanese songs in English instead.

In keeping with the topic of moving forward and sharing challenges we face, each temple was asked what they were doing or how Dharma Seeds play a part in this. The Betsuin hosts seminars that are “spiritual but not religious,” having Coffee & Dharma discussions once a month; they also feel that they must overhaul their website, and are exploring new topics for seminars, i.e. social action. Because theirs is a large temple, they are also exploring a “Meet & Greet” type of committee whenever newcomers and guests come to the temple. Berkeley is exploring contemporary topics of discussion such as economics, societal issues, etc. all through a Buddhist lens. Dharma brunches, once/month movie nights with Buddhist perspective talks, and involving their youth group more by having them lead services sometimes are all being brainstormed. One of Newport’s challenges is that they only have a few English-speaking members. Still, they provide opportunities for gathering with monthly seminars, showing movies, computer classes, etc. with the hope that the participants might also take an interest in Buddhism. It has been difficult for them. Chicago uses their Dharma Seed much like West Covina in providing support in leading the Sunday services, chanting, giving Dharma messages, and helping in other temple events. Because of the shortage of ministers, and the fact that their minister may retire sometime in the near future, they are faced with the issue of replacement. Some people were surprised that West Covina has a discussion after service almost every Sunday. This works out well for us, as on any given Sunday a guest may appear and they can join in. I think that having this informal discussion after service each week is very valuable. Since I didn’t hear any other temple mention an off-site family and religious retreat, I think that West Covina is the only temple in our district that has one. It is a cherished tradition and one planned by our religious committee (Temple Communication Staff). I also shared that because our temple is small, we don’t really feel a need for a welcoming committee…someone always sits and talks with newcomers to make them feel more comfortable. We also continue on with a lecture series. A few years ago we started having a Family Fun Day inviting past younger members who now have families of their own and any other family members. Many live further away but we try and keep those ties alive with fun and games and food. As to that question of how to get people interested in returning, Phil said, “Just ask them what it is they are interested in hearing.”

Bishop Kawawata said that the Dharma seed we all possess can be nurtured through listening. Being an active member of a Sangha, which Shinran felt was most important in our Three Treasures, is the fertile soil that we need to sprout. Bishop Nori once went to listen to Thich Nhat Hanh, the very famous Vietnamese monk. He said that Thich Nhat Hanh told the audience that they were “lacking a Sangha.” It reminded me of Rev. Fred Brenion who said he was a “nightstand Buddhist” before he joined our Sangha. One can read many, many books on Buddhism but...
it’s still not the same as sharing in dialogue within a Sangha. Bishop Nori was really glad that Thich Nhat Hanh emphasized the Sangha, since it is through shared experiences that our seeds can take root and grow. I don’t think Phil and I really “graduated”, considering that the humble attitude in Shinshu is to live with the spirit of a lifelong student. Another reason I don’t feel like we’ve graduated, and that I don’t think our part in the Dharma Seeds’ responsibility is over, is because Osa Sensei also said that she’d like us all to continue on to meet.

As I reflect upon this last Dharma Seed retreat, it seems that no matter where our temples are located, very similar issues are faced at each one, such as declining membership. We are doing what we can within our busy lives to address this, to provide different and new opportunities for listening. It is amazing to realize that these Dobo groups (fellow travelers on the same path) have dialogue and study together just like in Shinran’s days over 800 years ago. We’re not in medieval Japan or wearing robes; instead, we’re thousands of miles of ocean away in the 21st century, but whether we are in Dharma Seeds or actively participating at our own temples, we are doing the same thing as Shinran’s early Dobo sanghas did in questioning, wondering, sharing thoughts about the life we live, and how to make Shinshu teachings more accessible to all.
2019 Golf Classic

Dr. Roy Takemura

The WCBT Golf Classic had a different look for 2019. It was held on a different date and golf course. It was moved from the first Friday in May to June 3rd and from Industry Hills Golf Resort to Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights. This was a major change and a gamble the committee made in hopes that it will make the Classic a better tournament. This gamble proved big for WCBT. This year’s event was the most successful in its 23 year history.

The field of 100 players enjoyed a perfect golf day. Players and volunteers were able to enjoy breakfast burritos and coffee before participating in the putting contest prior to the tournament. The course staff was kind enough to delay the scheduled 10 am shotgun start due to a few participants were lost due to road construction on Hacienda Blvd., a main road to the golf course. With all participants in their respected golf carts a massive exodus to their assigned starting hole began. As the chair of the golf committee it was a sight to behold, and it almost brought tears to my eyes.

The buffet style dinner award banquet immediately followed the tournament. On the menu was tri-tip cooked to perfection and moist braised baked fish with vegetables, salad and dessert. The awards to the winners were presented following the dinner and the day concluded with the raffle.

The winners for the 23rd Golf Classic were:

- Low gross team (63) – George Sugimoto, Jon Utsuomiya, Jeff Won, Bobby Jeffries
- Low net team (60.5) – Lisa Sugimoto, Mark Komoda, Terry Komatsu, Dick Goto
- “Old College Try” (second highest score) team: Lillian Nishihara, Kathy Taguchi, Marcus Nishihara, Tanner Logue
- Longest Drive: Men David Tanimoto; Women April Cho
- Accuracy Drive: Men Ryuji Hayashi; Women Chris Hankawa
- Closest to the pin winners:
  - Hole #4 - Men Todd Odagawa; Women Chris Hankawa
  - Hole #12 - Men Kenji Takeuchi; Women Tamako Kwon
  - Hole #16 - Men Dean Ozawa; Women Lisa Sugimoto

Congratulations to all the winners!

Any golf tournament could not happen without the number of volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers.

Registration: Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Richard & Ruby Kagawa, Tanya Kato, Hisako Koga, Yukiko & Jim Kovacs, Mitzi Oshita, Pat Sato, Judy Takemura, Denise Underwood, Emi Wexler

Hole in One observer: Reiko Ikehara-Nelson, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Tanya Kato, Pat Sato, Denise Underwood

Buy a drive hole: Judy Takemura, Trina Underwood
Banquet setup: Judy Takemura, Denise Underwood, Trina Underwood

To all our tee sponsors, raffle prize donors, sangha members for your contribution of snacks and items for the players goodie bag, the players’ who took time away from their personal schedules to come out to Hacienda Golf Club to participate and enjoy a round of golf – from the golf committee a big hug and thank you!

Organizing an event like our Golf Classic is not a one man job. It takes the hard work and dedication of a team of unselfish volunteers. I am so grateful to have these Sangha members on the team. Thank you to Lillian Nishihara, Yukiko Kovacs, Barbara & Jon Shirota, Denise & Steve Underwood, Jack Wear, Phil Underwood, Judy Takemura and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi.

The committee is looking forward to our 24th Annual Golf Classic on June 8, 2020, at Hacienda Golf Club.
June 28, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

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 14, 2019. 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 14, 2019
Time: 4:30 PM
Dharma Message: Rev. Paul Imahara (English)

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. John Martinez, President of the Board of Directors
FUNERAL SEMINAR PRESENTED BY
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE &
RUSSELL TAKASHI MARTINEZ of FUKUI MORTUARY

SUNDAY, JULY 21ST, 2019
11:30AM-1:00PM

WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE/ ESGVJCC
1203 W. PUENTE AVE.
WEST COVINA, CA 91790
*FREE ADMISSION*/OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- Buddhist Funerals/ Traditions
- What To Do When A Death Occurs?
- Tips On Preplanning & Locking In Prices
- How To Save $$$ At The Cemetery
- Question And Answer Session

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: (949) 400-9018
REVNOBUKO@GMAIL.COM  RUSSELLMARTINEZ722@GMAIL.COM
WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

MAKE YOUR MOVES ON THE FLOOR AT OLDIES LXIV (64)!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019
*NEW TIME! 7pm to 11pm

-at the ESGV Japanese Community Center
-
Tickets: $20 presale, $25 at the door
-
Music by guest HIGH RESOLUTION
-
Drinks available, must be 21 or over
-
Dressy Casual

For tickets and/or information Call or Text:
Joanie: (626) 300-8947 (calls only)
Lillian: (626) 780-9866
or email: lilnish77@gmail.com or joaniekmartinez@gmail.com

NO HEELS for Ladies.
Quote of the Month
It means a great deal to those who are oppressed to know that they are not alone. Never let anyone tell you that what you are doing is insignificant.
-Desmond Tutu

The Dharma School children, including Evan and Derek Hamachi, happily handed out bags of goodies to their father, Wesley.

The Ezaki family was in full support mode for Terri’s warm and humorous Father’s Day talk about father Lee Ezaki.
お盆まつりのお礼

今年は珍しく雨の心配をしたお盆祭りでした。辛い方には降った小雨もまもなく止み、開催が近づくにつれて天候も快となり、爽やかな気分の中でお盆祭りを開催することができました。おかげで今年は例年以上に多くの方々に足を運んでいただきました。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賛辞申し上げます。

ウェストコビナのように小さな寺院では、毎年人手不足に頭を悩ませます。お盆委員は少しでもお手伝いいただける人、物、若者がいることを願っています。また、大きな寺院ですので、訪問者を歓迎する委員会が設けられています。メンバーが言われ、訪問者を歓迎するということも大事だと思います。

お盆まつりの続

「ダルマセイ」卒業…？
ジョニー・マルティネス

6月8日（土）に第二期ダルマセイ最後の研修会が始まり、修了式で私とフィル・アンダーウッドは修了証の代わりとなる肩衣を授与されました。「ダルマセイプログラム」は各地の寺院における同朋の会の活動を推進することを目的としています。プログラムでは第6回の研修会が足掛け3年で行われました。別院、ニューポート、バークレー、シカゴ、そしてウェストコビナの参加者も深く交流を深めました。私とフィルは二期生にあたり、一期生としては礼子、ミシェル、アンソニー、ジャニーが参加していました。

第二期ダルマセイ最後の研修会では「僧伽：過去を振り返り未来を描く」テーマが掲げられました。講師はハワイ開教区の河和田監督と北米開教区の伊東監督でした。両監督は浄土真宗との出逢いをはじめ、時代や環境の変化が彼ら自身に与えた影響、そして寺院に与えた影響と課題についてお話しをいただきました。私たちも自身が変わっていくことや変化に適応していくことが大切だと学びました。伝統や歴史を大切にしつつ、新しい時代に生きる人々の求めることにも対応していくことがますます必要となっています。何かを変ええるということは簡単でなく、またその変化もまたゆっくりしたもので、けれども、その歩みがどれだけ遅いか、前進に進む経緯ということが大事だと思う。

研修会では各寺院の活動や直面している課題についても共有しました。別院はセミナーを企画したり、月一度のディスカッションの時間を続けています。また、大きな寺院ですので、訪問者を歓迎する委員会が設けられています。メンバーは大変努力してきました。プログラには多くの人にお寺に足を運んでもらう努力をしています。サクラのダルマセイは開教教のアシスタントを勤めています。ウェストコビナでは第週月曜日、礼拝の後にディスカッションの時間が設けられているのは導授の通りですが、そのことに驚く人もいました。この誰でも気軽に意見が言えるディスカッションの時間は各寺院の一部を参加しやすい雰囲気で、メンバーにとってはその人から話を聞くチャンスでもあります。またサンブランドオピボでの研修会もウェストコビナの特徴的な活動のひとつです。お寺の利を活かし、訪問者を歓迎し、必要に応じて説明をしたりすること

お盆 / 初盆法要

日本語によるお盆/初盆法要は、7月11日（木）午後7時半より、7月14日（日）午後4時半よりお勤めいたします。ご講師に今原ポール師をお招きいたしました。法要後にはお斎をご用意しております。ご家族、ご友人お招い合わせの上、是非お参り下さいようご案内申し上げます。

別院お盆まつり

来る7月27日（土）と28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を販売しております。ご多用中とは存じますが、どうぞお手伝いいただきますよう、よろしくお願い申し上げます。

お寺ニュース

お盆 / 初盆法要

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毎年のお盆祭りで感じることは、そこが先達の方々、今を生きる私たち、そして未来の世代をつなぐ場であることでしょう。異なる世代をつないでいるのが、創教が私たちの生活を大切であるということから、その根ざし、その願いを伝えていきたいという願いをはっきりと感じるのです。時代や状況によってお盆祭りの形は変わっていくかもしれませんが、前進を続けながらも、次の世代へ伝えたいという願いは絶えることはないと感じています。

改めて皆さまのご尽力、ご支援に深く感謝申し上げます。

見義信香
July 2019 - Vol. LIV No. 7

July
7  8:30 am  Board Meeting
7  10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
9  10:00 am  Study Class
11  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
14  4:30 pm  Obon/Hatsubon Service
21  10:00 am  Sunday Service
21  11:30 am  Workshop on Funeral
23  10:00 am  Study Class
27-28  1-9 pm  Betsuin Obon
28  10:00 am  Sunday Service

August
1  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
2-4  Las Vegas Trip
4  8:30 am  Board Meeting
4  10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
11  No Sunday Service
18  No Sunday Service
25  No Sunday Service

2019年7月行事予定
7日 午前8時半 理事会
7日 午前10時 祥月法要
11日 午後7時半 法話会
14日 午後4時半 お盆/初盆法要
21日 午前10時 日曜礼拝
21日 午前11時半 お葬式セミナー（英語）
27-28日 別院お盆まつり
28日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

8月行事予定
1日 午後7時半 法話会
2-4日 ラスベガス旅行
4日 午前8時半 理事会
4日 午前10時 祥月法要
11、18、25日 日曜礼拝休み

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凡夫が聖人に変身するのではありません。凡夫はいよいよ凡夫の身にかえらされるのです。
宮城 顕