

Golden Chain



www.SACBC.org

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587

Office: 510-471-2581
Email: sacbcoffice@gmail.com

Resident Minister: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
Mobile: 253.640.4224 / Email: gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com

APRIL 2025

I am a link in the Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others. May every link in the Buddha's golden chain of love become bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace.

"Following the Light" was my youth Shotsuki talk. I referenced how *Star Wars* intersects with Shin. If you have not heard, George Lucas' Buddhist mentor, Joseph Campbell, has written about Shin as his mentor interviewed a BCA minister while working in Japan. I believe these comparisons are purposely made but I cannot prove this.

I wanted to lightly focus on the lights in the Altar... but in all seriousness! The idea from *Star Wars* is that a new practice for the Jedi emerges: a meditation technique to become "One with the Force" after passing. This technique allows them to return after death as Force Ghosts to mentor other Jedi. In Shin, "going and returning" is the idea that we are compassionately guided by Amida to the Pure Land and become Bodhisattvas who return here to guide others to Amida.

In my talk, I discussed how Yoda is called by an old friend who has passed. While this Jedi did not finish training, he talks to Yoda, eventually appears to Yoda as floating lights, and Yoda guides him to perfect the meditation technique. The lights are important, as Amida is referred to as the Buddha of inconceivable light. From an anthropologist's perspective, I see the lights and imagery in the altar as having a "use function," since they draw our attention to a representation of the Pure Land. In anthropology, this is used to mean something that addresses a certain need of the culture. Why is this necessary?

As I gave this talk referencing doctrine and *Star Wars*, I wondered if the examples I used missed their mark. We need to focus on the altar, the deeper spiritual meaning behind the Pure Land *IS* important, and yet many do not know, understand, or care about the

philosophical aspects of our religion, which is ok. Many of us in the United States have faced obstacles, mainly language barriers and the cultural shifts after World War II, that prevent us from learning our religion. I do believe that *if* we do take the time to go deeper into our religion, there is a prolific shift that can happen. But of course, not everyone can just put their lives on hold to go to study in seminary, attend lectures, or read books that even I struggle with.

Doctrine is important, but the lived religious experience is equally important. The values like compassion, empathy, and kindness, we see in the members at Temple are still a part of our Jodo Shinshu experience. By showing up to Temple, even though we may not understand what exactly Shinran Shonin is saying, we learn values through being around people who have been around longer than us, and who emulate the lived values of Jodo Shinshu. Following the Light is part of our lived religious experience, and the altar serves as a metaphor for what Amida, and the Pure Land represent. They serve as a guide, slowly grabbing our attention so subconsciously to aid our understanding of the Buddhist Teachings. We all need small, little nudges to help us open our minds and hearts. I hope when you sit in front of the altar, the light catches your eye, pulling your attention and helping to create a state of mind that allows for the teachings to reach out to you. The altar is calling our attention there, and we should follow the light that leads to the Pure Land.

In gassho,
Rev Landon

APRIL 2025 SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on
Sunday, April 13th at 10:00 AM.

DECEASED

1948 Magoichi Kawamoto
1953 Hiroshi Sekigahama
1962 Yasujiro Asano
1979 Yoshie Kitani
1982 Hanako Arai
1982 Koomei George Kato
1985 Iwanari Kajikawa
1995 Eiichi Takayama
1997 Mitsuko Tanaka
2001 Mitsuye Yamahara
2003 Tokiyo Kawaguchi
2005 George Kawamoto
2006 Shimako Naruo
2006 Bessie Shimoyo Karamatsu
2007 Edward Ng
2007 Mieko Yoko

2008 Yoshiye Nagata
2008 Yoshito Yakuma
2008 Kenji Osaki
2009 May Mark
2009 Yukie Nakano
2009 Yutaka Kotake
2009 George Kawaguchi
2012 Joe Kimura
2014 Itsuko Uemura
2016 Nikki Fudenna
2016 Rie Ando
2019 Robert Iguchi
2019 Chieko Uchida
2021 Hisao Yoko

2022 Yasushi Yamada
Tomiko Hayakawa (death yr unknown)

FAMILY

Mrs. Shizuye Awamura
Mr. Harry Sekigahama
Mr. Alan Arai & Mr. John Arai
Kitani Family
Mr. Alan Arai & Mr. John Arai
Mrs. Terry Sato
Kajikawa Family
Takayama Family
Tanaka Family
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Chun
Kawaguchi Family
Ms. Ann Kawamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Naruo
Mrs. Iris Yakuma
Mr. Scott Ng & Mrs. Charisse Feldman
Mr. Jerry Morino; Mr. & Mrs. Ron Oye &
Ms. Edna Onodera
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nagata & Mr. Frank Nagata
Mr. Steve Yakuma
Ms. Noreen Osaki & Dr. Curtis Mark
Dr. Curtis Mark & Ms. Noreen Osaki
Mrs. Patricia Takemoto
Mrs. Jean Kotake
Mrs. Tomiko Kawaguchi
Kimura Family
Mr. & Mrs. Tetsuji Uemura
Mrs. Sachi Fudenna
Mr. Stan Ando & Mrs. Yumiko Fujii
Jenna and Chris Iguchi
Ms. Donna Hori
Ms. Edna Onodera
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Oye & Jerry Morino
Yamada & Osaki family
Mrs. Haru Hamamoto

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU
NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO
AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA
BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU
NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

Memorial Service 2025

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 – 1st year	2013 – 13th year	1993 – 33rd year
2023 – 3rd year	2009 – 17th year	1976 – 50th year
2019 – 7th year	2001 – 25th year	1926 – 100th year

If this is a special service year for a departed relative, please contact (510) 471-2581 to schedule a memorial service.



Services for April 2025

Please join us in-person in the hondo or virtually via Zoom (hybrid service).
Masks are not required but strongly recommended in the hondo.

April 5, 2025, Saturday– Hanamido Preparation

1 P.M. Hondo Classrooms (See details below.)

April 6, 2025 – Hanamatsuri

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

Hanamatsuri is the commemoration of the birth of
Gautama Siddhartha in Lumbini Garden.
On this auspicious occasion, we remember and pay homage to
the founder who later discovered the Buddha Dharma, and
brought to everyone the path to find true peace.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **hybrid service**.

April birthdays will be celebrated.
BEC & BWA will host lunch following service.

April 13, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

At this monthly memorial service, we will honor those loved ones
who passed away in the month of April.

Rev. Landon will officiate this **hybrid service**.
Dharma School will follow service.

April 20, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Mr. Koichi Mizushima will be the guest speaker.
Rev. Landon will officiate this **hybrid service**.

April 27, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Landon will officiate this **hybrid service**.

SACBC Hanamido



Dharma School students will be decorating
our Hanamido for our Hybrid Hanamatsuri
service this year!

**Come help on Saturday, April 5, 1 pm,
Hondo classrooms.
Please bring any flowers you have from
your garden!**

Those attending the Hanamatsuri service
in-person, will be able to pour sweet tea
on the image of the baby Buddha.



B-I-N-G-O

Please take the time to sign up to volunteer for the Bingo every second and fourth Friday of the month. The sign-up sheet is in SACBC google docs; you may reach out to John Arai or to the office for the direct link to the sign-up sheet. The Bingo needs 12-15 people to run the event.

Upcoming events

2025 SACBC BAZAAR - July 19th-20th

Saturday, July 19, 10:00am-7:00pm

Sunday, July 20, 11:00am – 3:00pm

RAFFLE TICKETS HAVE BEEN MAILED TO CHURCH MEMBERS EARLY FEBRUARY.

The BWA spring social will be held April 13th, after the Sunday Service.

All BWA members and any church member interested in joining the BWA are welcome!

Hello Sangha families,

I would like to inform you that our SACBC Office Manager, Emily Caprio, has informed the board that this will be her last year as SACBC Office Manager. Emily has expressed her desire to do some "serious traveling" next year and wants to make a smooth transition and will work until a replacement is found and the new office manager is fully trained.

Emily has worked as SACBC's Office Manager since September 2021. She brought her eagerness and enthusiasm to the office manager role! I appreciate Emily's help as our office manager through the shut down during the pandemic and through the reopening of the temple and helping with church activities, such as the Bazaar, year-end activities, and fundraising events such as our dances.

While Emily's departure date is to be determined, I will be actively searching for a new office manager to fill the open position and have a small panel of board members to interview and evaluate the potential candidates. If you have someone in mind that would be a good fit for the position, please have them send their resume to sacbcoffice@gmail.com, attn. Office Manager Position

Below is the Office Manager's [job description](#).

Gassho, Kyle Yamasaki



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
32975 Alvarado Niles Road
Union City, California 94587

Office Manager Position Description

The Office Manager position at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church is a salaried part-time position that reports to the President and the Board.

A) Qualifications The Office Manager position will require the skills of working with a computer (***MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, Publisher), Zoom, Email, Google Drive - Doc, Sheets, Slides, Forms***) and a copy machine. The position will require working part-time, performing the office duties, producing and distributing the newsletter and funeral programs, scheduling the use of the facility, and overseeing the maintenance and repair of the facility.

B) Working Hours The position shall be part-time and shall require four hours a day Monday through Thursday. The suggested working hours shall be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

1) Leave: Vacation-2 weeks per year

Paid Holidays- In accordance with the annual paid holiday schedule as set by the Board.

C) Office Duties Office duties shall consist of performing the following:

- 1) **Documents**: Process church related letters, memos, and documents generated by the Minister and Board of Directors for approval and signature as required and completed in a timely manner. Provide assistance to the President, the Minister, Board of Directors, and affiliated organization representatives in copying and creating flyers, articles, and programs related to SACBC events or activities. All copies shall be electronically transferred, when possible, to the SACBC computer for production and future reference. The master files, such as the Golden Chain newsletter, funeral programs, bazaar duty roster, etc., shall be saved on the church computer and backed up on a regular basis.

- 2) Communication: Communicate and pass incoming and outgoing verbal, voice mail, and emails that are directed to, from, or between BCA, SACBC personnel and organization members.
- 3) Website Support: Assist in updating the SACBC website and social media pages to promote events and activities.
- 4) Professionalism: Maintain the position of Office Manager in a professional manner in action, dress, speech, and deeds to all who contact SACBC.

D) Golden Chain Newsletter

- 1) Produce a quality monthly newsletter that will be informative to all of the membership. The Office Manager shall in a timely manner for publication and delivery:
 - Format all articles for monthly publication.
 - Produce the monthly newsletter from beginning to completion
 - Maintain the mailing list and mail all newsletters to those on the mailing list.
 - Send digital copies each month to the person who maintains the SACBC website.
- 2) The newsletter shall basically consist of articles from the:
 - Minister
 - Officers and board of directors
 - Affiliated organizations
 - Sponsored organizations
 - Listing of monthly Shotsuki Hoyo family names (formal Shotsuki Hoyo letters to be mailed out before the newsletters are mailed).
 - Monthly Special and Memorial donation list
 - Monthly Calendar
- 3) Sort and bunch newsletter by zip code as required by the post office. Fill out the bulk mail application. Transport and deliver the newsletter to the bulk post office.
- 4) Consult the President and/or appropriate Board member(s) regarding resolution of any publication issues.

E) Funerals

- 1) The Office Manager shall format and produce the funeral program with the assistance of the Minister and Funeral Committee.

F) Use of Facility

- 1) Receive facility request application forms for Annual and One Time Use facility requests, check for completeness, and check availability on master calendar.
- 2) Coordinate requests with the VP of Operations to send approvals by the Board.
- 3) Maintain a master schedule of facility usage for all approved events.

G) Facility Maintenance & Repair

- 1) Check the security of the facility and the gas valves in the kitchen on a regular basis.
- 2) Notify VP of Operations of any facility maintenance and repair issues.
- 3) Coordinate garbage pickup including additional dumpsters for special events.
- 4) Accommodate contractors and vendors who come to inspect to make bids and/or perform work.

H) Key Inventory and Control

- 1) Maintain and control inventory of all facility keys under the direction of the President.

I) Questions

When a question arises concerning Office Manager duties, contact the President, for a resolution.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: It is the policy of South Alameda Co. Buddhist Church to provide a work environment, which is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, marital status, age, gender, disability, medical condition or sexual orientation. The Church will make reasonable efforts in the process to accommodate persons with disabilities.



APR 2025

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:30-8:30pm Scout 6-9pm AA practice	2 6-9pm AA practice	3 9-2p Boutique 6-9pm AA practice	4 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice	5 8:30a-1pm JLS classes 1pm Hanamido prep
6 10am Hanamatsuri Service BEC & BWA host lunch after service	7 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	8 6:30-8:30pm Scout 6-9pm AA practice	9 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	10 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	11 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo	12 8:30a-1pm JLS classes 1-6pm AA end-of-yr banquet
13 10am Shotsuki Service BWA lunch social event follows after service.	14 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	15 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice <i>Last day to submit GC article</i>	16 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	17 9-2p Boutique 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	18 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice	19 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
20 10am Family Service	21 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	22 Earth Day 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9pm AA practice	23 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	24 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	25 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo	26 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
27 10am Spring Ohigan Service	28 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	29 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	30 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice			

Southern Alameda Co. Buddhist Church
32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd.
Union City, CA 94587-3165



APRIL EVENTS

5TH—SAT	HANAMIDO PREPARATION @ 1PM
6TH—SUN	HANAMATSURI SERVICE; BEC & BWA LUNCH FOLLOWS
13th—SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE; BWA
20th—SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
22th—TUES	EARTH DAY
27TH—SUN	SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE
<p><i>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR ONLINE VIA</i> <i>Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300</i> <i>PASSCODE: 549504</i></p>	