



**APRIL 2021**

*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.*

## Together on the Nembutsu Path

Have you ever heard of the phrase, “The apple does not fall far from the tree”? Well, I was given first-hand knowledge about this the other day. As you may or may not know, my son is a very playful child. He likes to joke and do silly things to make people laugh. We have this thing where if he falls on his own, or he trips over his own feet and falls down, I point and laugh at him. Because of his fun nature, he won't think anything of it and he just laughs along with me. We would get a small kick out of it and that would be the end of it.

However, the other day we went to a park in San Francisco. As I was watching my son from a distance, he was playing with a small group of children. Well sure enough, one child trips over his own shoes and falls down. My son saw what happened, turned and pointed at the child, and proceeded to laugh at him in a playful way! To my horror, I was really embarrassed of what just transpired. Luckily, the child didn't really seem to be paying attention to my son, or maybe he didn't hear, but it did not seem like his feelings were hurt. When I do this with my son it is all in good fun. However, if I were that parent's child, I probably would not have understood the situation, and I think would have been pretty upset with what some random kid was doing to my own child. Context is very important, I thought to myself.

That same day, I saw a very good picture on Facebook. It was a picture of a boy bullying another child, but the bully's parent was standing right behind him. Her tongue extended out all the way through the bully's mouth. This was to show that a bully learns that behavior from the parent(s) in the household. I thought this was a powerful picture and I wish I had kept it. Nevertheless, I will have to watch what I say in front of my child! Although context is very important, I should keep in mind that my actions will affect and influence the people around me.

My son will be my reminder of the impact of my actions and the truth of interdependency, the Buddhist principle that our actions affect everything around us. In the same manner, we are affected by our environment and the people around us. We should be careful with whom we associate with. This is why Shinran Shonin also encourages us to be with people who share the same values of holding the nembutsu teaching dear to our hearts. By doing so, we will carry along together as a sangha on the nembutsu path. Let us remember the benefit of our causal connections with one another, as well as the sense of responsibility that we should have with our actions. Gassho.



## 念仏の道を共に歩む

英語では「リンゴは木からそう遠いところには落ちない」と言った表現があり、これは日本語では「似た者同士の親子だ」の意味に近いと思います。このことについて少しお話しさせていただきます。この間、このことを直接経験することができました。私には一人息子がいますが、その子はひょうきん者で、ふざけたり、いたずらをよくするようになりました。そして、その子がこけたり、靴が引っかかって転んだりしますが、その時に私が指さして面白がって笑います。彼もその乗りで、私と一緒に笑います。

しかし、この間息子を連れてサンフランシスコの公園に遊びに行きました。息子がそこにいた子供たちと遊んでいて、その時一人の子が足が引っかかって転びました。息子がその子を見て指さして笑いはじめた。私はそれを遠くから見ていて、とても恥ずかしかったのです。幸いなことに、そのこけた子は息子が笑ったのに気づいていないか、無視したか分かりませんが、気が落ち込まず、何もなかったかのようにまた遊びはじめました。自分が息子に対して笑うときは、いじめのつもりで全くやっていませんが、他の人がそれを見たらだいたい違う印象を受けるだろうなと思いました。気をつけないといけないね～と思いました。

そして、たまたまですが、その同じ日に FaceBook を見ていたら、ある写真が出ていました。ある子がもう一人の子に対して指さして笑っている姿です。そして、そのいじめっ子の後ろに親が立っていて、その親の舌がどんと伸び出て、その子の口にまで達していたのです。要するに、いじめっ子は親からそのことを習うんだという写真でした。とても印象深い写真でしたが、残念ながら保存できませんでした。我が子に対して言うことを本当に注意しないといけないな～と感じさせられました。

自分の息子は私にとって仏教がいう「縁起」を教えてくれるレマインダーです。それは自分が起こす行動は、他人に対して大きく影響を与えるということです。同じく周りの人たちが起こす行動も、自分に対して大きく影響を与えます。ですから、周りに誰がいるのかが非常に大事なのでしょうね。ご開山が、念仏の教えを大切に  
する人たちと一緒にいたほうがいいですよと、勧められるのもまさにこのことなのでしょう。このように、皆さんと共に念仏の道を歩むことが大事なのでしょう。ですから、他人との繋がりを大切にし、また自分の起こす行動の責任を感じていきたい  
と思います。 合掌。

\*\*\*\*\*



## Services for April 2021

---

### April 4, 2021 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M.

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

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

Japanese Dharma message follows the English service.

---

### April 11, 2021 – Hanamatsuri

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

Buddha's birthday is celebrated with music by the Cherry Blossomz.

*Dharma School is hosting Udon pick up "Udon pick up" on Saturday, April 10.*

*(Order deadline was March 28).*

*Please have the gift box from the Udon pick up ready to open during this Zoom service.*

April birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

---

### April 18, 2021 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

---

### April 25, 2021 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

Dharma School will follow service.

---

#### SACBC Hanamido



#### The Cherry Blossomz



The Cherry Blossomz is a singing trio who will share beautiful music during our April 11 Hanamatsuri service.

The musical selections are:

*Namo Amida Butsu* (original Gatha)

*In Lumbini's Garden*

*Arigato* (in English)

You are invited! SACBC's Hanamatsuri Service features



Gathas by

# THE CHERRY BLOSSOMZ

SACBC Zoom Hanamatsuri Service

Sunday, April 11, 2021, 10AM

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/SACBC-Hanamatsuri>

<https://sacbc.org/>





## Asian Americans Experiencing Attacks

Since coronavirus shutdowns began in March 2020, thousands of Asian Americans have faced racist verbal and physical attacks or have been shunned by others, according to a study by Stop AAPI Hate.

Studies document 3,795 racially motivated attacks against Asian Americans from March 2020 to February 2021, noting that the number is likely a fraction of the attacks that occurred, because many were not reported. In response to the recent violent attacks locally and in Georgia, the following information might be helpful.

**StopAAPIHate** (Stop Asian American Pacific Islander) is affiliated with many of our local Asian community civil rights groups. Here is their website: <https://stopaapihate.org/safetytipsenglish/>

On the website are “5 Safety tips when out and about” and “5 Ways to Help if You Witness Hate”.

Another source of helpful information is from the **Asian Health Services**. Here are two links to resources including health, safety, and legal information.

<https://asianhealthservices.org/communityresource-legal-tax-services/>

<https://asianhealthservices.org/community-resources-covid19/>



### **BWA NEWS** by Nancy Minamide

BWA thanks the Boy Scouts for taking over a hundred bags of clothing and dry goods for their clothing drive last winter. Thank you to Judy Tokubo for delivering boxes of books, toys and kitchen goods to various charity groups. We were fortunate to have our March rummage sale prior to covid restrictions. So far, we do not foresee any further sales this year. If county restrictions allow, our first event will be a book exchange and hopefully we can have our year end celebration in December.

Thank you for remitting your membership dues. We welcome seven new members: Linda Fujikawa, Walter Fujii, Karen Morliengo, Kathy Murai, Paul Nomura, Cindy Sakihara and Sherri Stanley. If you have forgotten to send your dues, do so now. Remember, our dues are \$15.

Also, thank you to Emilie Nakamoto, Bob and Karen Kitajima and Haruo and Grace Kasai for their generous donations to our organization. Please continue to stay safe and healthy.

# SACBC's Hanamido History

by: Karen Fujii

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church was founded in 1962. Every year since then the birth of Siddhartha Gautama has been celebrated in April. Church members decorate the Hanamido with flowers which symbolize Lumbini garden. In the center a small statue of Buddha is placed in a shallow metal bowl filled with sweet tea. Followers of the Dharma pour sweet tea on the statue which represents the rain which lore says fell when Siddhartha was born.

After over fifty years, the Hanamido showed signs of aging. At the base of the Hanamido is a raised "stage" where the metal bowl is set and surrounded by flowers. The wood warped creating an uneven surface. Other signs of aging included a column coming loose, trim on the roof falling off, and paint chipping. Two Board members, Bob Kitajima and Paul Nakao, used their wood crafting skills and made a new "stage", replaced the columns, and reattached the trim. Sangha member, Steve Sanders, gave the Hanamido a new coat of paint.

When Bob and Paul turned the base of the Hanamido over, Japanese writing or kanji was discovered on the underside of the boards.



Showa 40 is based on Emperor Hirohito's calendar. The Hanamido was built in 1965.

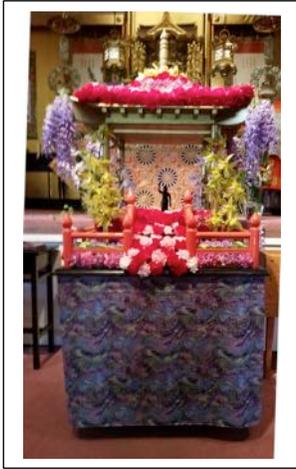


Tenjō tenka; tada ware dokuson. In the heaven above and the earth below, I alone am holy. According to Buddhist, lore these words were uttered by Siddhartha immediately after his birth. These boards were replaced and now hang in the hondo.



Mr. Yoshio Tamura built the hanamido. This is his name written in kanji.

What a discovery! It is so impressive that Mr. Tamura would write the sacred words Siddhartha spoke on the underside of the boards where his statue is placed. Now we know who built the Hanamido and when. This Hanamido has been at every Hanamatsuri since 1965!



More improvements have been made. For decades the Hanamido rested precariously on a now-antique metal typewriter table with the side arms up for support. It would take at least six people to move it from storage to the Hondo. At least two people would carefully lift the roof off the altar and carry it while one person held open the doors. These two would return with two more carrying the base while sixth person rushed ahead with the typewriter table. In all the years, there were no accidents! A friend of the Sangha, Ronald Ulrich, made a sturdy cart from reclaimed wood when a local high school was torn down and rebuilt. The cart is customized so the Hanamido sits firmly on it and rolls securely on the big wheels. A new “skirt” wraps around the base.

*Thank you to Rev. Dr. Ronald Nakasone for translating the kanji.*



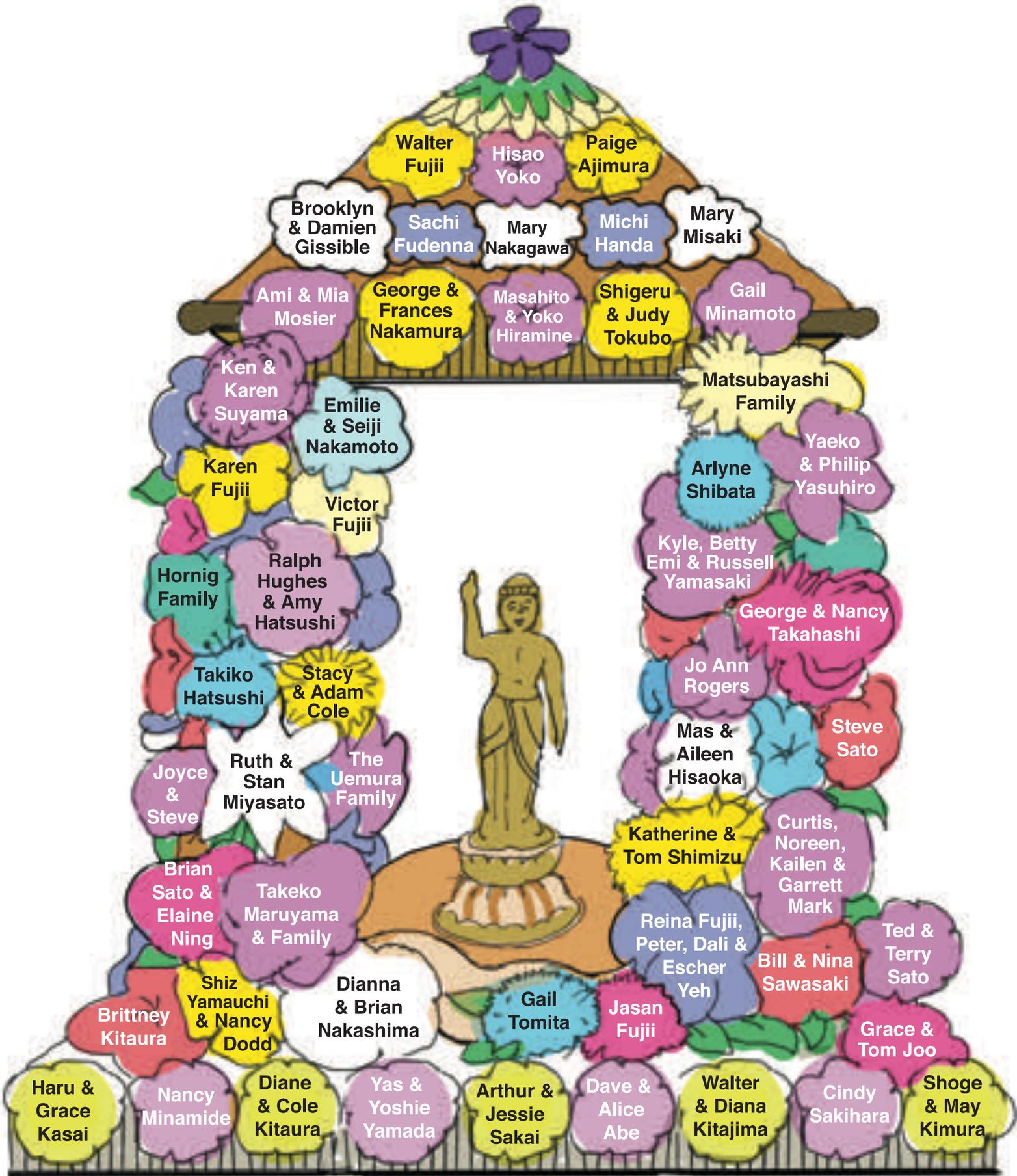
## HANAMATSURI CELEBRATION

April 11, 2021 (SUNDAY)

Thank you for those who signed up and are able to pick up an otoki and join us for the Hanamatsuri Celebration on April 11, 2021. There will also be a short presentation by the Dharma students.

Just a reminder, Udon Otoki **pick up** will be between **12:00pm–1:00pm** at SACBC on **April 10th (SAT)** with a small “gift” to open on April 11 as a sangha during service. Again, please do not open the handmade box by the dharma school students until April 11 at service.

Thanks to everyone who helped "decorate" our virtual Hanamido with flower donations.  
We all wish Buddha a Happy Birthday!





## SACBC UKELELE CLUB

The ukulele is a member of the lute family of instruments. It generally employs four nylon strings. The ukulele is a small guitar-like instrument, which was introduced to Hawaii by Portuguese immigrants from Madeira. [Wikipedia](#)

[String instrument](#) (plucked, nylon stringed instrument usually played with the bare thumb and/or fingertips, or a felt pick)

The *ukulele* is an instrument that is rich with history and tradition. First appearing in Hawaii in the 1800s, the 'uke' has found a unique home for itself. (Guitar Center)

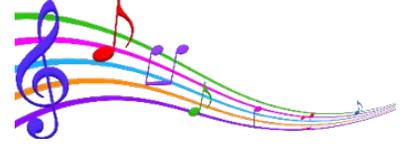
Diana Kitajima:

The SACBC Ukulele Club got its start in 2012 when Mrs. Yoshie Yamada gave her 12-year old grandson, Trent Osaki, and his friend, Garrett Mark, three short lessons. They were naturals! They debuted on stage that year at our annual Bazaar. Then, she recruited Janet Shibuya, Moss Fujii, and George Takahashi, who were all playing semi-professionally with the Kaleponi Strings, and Curtis Mark, who used to jam in his college days. Their first “gig” was accompanying the church choir entertaining at the SACBC 50th Anniversary celebration at the Newark Hilton. Their “Pearly Shells” and “Tiny Bubbles” added musical color to that special day. Soon, Fujio Yamamoto and Diana Kitajima joined the group. They met at Mrs. Yamada's to practice. She arranged events for them, and they played at the Bazaars, Keirokai luncheons and Dharma School special services. Some families even requested the group for funeral services. Being a part of the SACBC Ukulele Club gave us a chance to hone our uke skills, learn many new songs and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow musicians. We are all grateful to Mrs. Yamada for always sending us new lyrics and soundtracks and encouraging us to make music a part of our lives.





## SACBC



What is music? It's challenging to truly describe music in words. We all know how it makes us feel, and we know what we like when we hear it, but actually communicating this is the hard part. Author Victor Hugo wrote that "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow describe it as "the universal language of mankind." (by Terry Paglusch)

The SACBC Choir is an example of a dictionary's definition of music: an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color. While we recall and reflect on the beautiful music the voices of the choir have sung to our ears and hearts, they remember their joy of singing and the wonderful friendships they made while joining their voices together.

Here are the memories of choir members who have shared their love of music and singing talents with us.

### Grace Joo:

I love to sing. Singing always brought happiness and warmth to my heart. My body just automatically sways and brings a smile to my face. Back in the '70's, the first SACBC choir was formed. Reverend and Mrs. Yukawa encouraged members to join so we had Bass, Alto and Soprano. Mrs. Iwanaga came to our church to help our choir. I remember Yutaka Handa, Reverend Yukawa, Mrs. Yukawa, Emilie Nakamoto, Mitsuko Maruyama and me. I'm sure I missed some members, please forgive me. Choir is about harmony: you have to listen to each other. This lesson still resonates through my life. Thanks to Mrs. Yamada, choir is back and my body is swaying again. Can't wait to sing at the church and see everyone in person.

### Nancy Dodd:

Music and singing have always been a part of my upbringing. In 1960's, Cleveland, I started playing piano for church services, alternating months with two other teens. I remember during Sunday School Teachers' Conference one year we had learned new Japanese children's songs to choreography. Entering high school, I became involved in Wickliffe High's choir, and during my college years, was a part of the Up with People patriotic musical group, local Sing Out Cincinnati and Sing Out Sacramento. These singing experiences really gave me confidence, as well as broadened my horizons.

Since joining SACBC, I remember that Mrs. Yamada held concerts at church, featuring her group, Petite Harmony, and other vocalists. In 2011, SACBC was having a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, and word went out in the Golden Chain that a choir was being formed for the auspicious event. How exciting was this?! Mrs. Yamada held practices for months to ensure we would be ready! The songs chosen were so wonderful and meaningful; it was very rewarding to sing for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, the culmination of our hard work! It also gave me a sense of peace, when singing with the Choir during special services through the years. Although I took a leave of absence due to family obligations, I have now returned to sing. It has been challenging this past year, with Zoom – But! I have been learning to adjust. 'With a little help from my friends and family!

### Emilie Nakamoto:

1. I joined the church choir in September of 2011. Our church pianist, Mrs. Yamada, approached me and Mary Nakagawa to ask us if we would be interested in joining the choir that she would like to organize. We both gave an enthusiastic response, and we both were eager to meet our fellow singers. Her directorship enabled us to give our best try so that good results followed.
2. We enthusiastically practiced the songs that were to be sung at the forthcoming SACBC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Newark Hilton Hotel.
3. Further on, we were invited to sing at the Choir Festival (Western) hosted by the Mountain View Buddhist Church. We were eagerly looking forward to hearing the different musical selections presented!!
4. We are indeed fortunate to have Mrs. Yamada as our choir director.

The following list is of the names of singers who are current singers in the choir and those who used to sing with us. If your name was inadvertently omitted, please excuse my error.

Grace Joo, Sandy Maruyama, Mitsuko Maruyama, Karen Suyama, Hiroko Kimotsuki, Karen Teramura, Emilie Nakamoto, Mary Nakagawa, Yoshi Mayeda, Fran Nakamura, Nancy Dodd, Kathy Velasco, Noreen Osaki, Terry Sato, Mas Yamasaki, Ellen Shiromizu, Lauren Yamasaki.

### Karen Suyama:

When I was young and attending Sunday School, Mrs. Etsuko Steimetz started a children's choir (ages 6-12?) at Berkeley Sangha in the mid 1960's. I liked to sing and joined. We learned Mrs. Jane Imamura's simple children's gathas and sang at some Sunday services. I even remember our choir once travelled to Sacramento to sing.

Fast forward..... I think there was a SACBC Choir group before Mrs. Yamada started one again around 2012. She drafted some temple members (Noreen, come back) to start learning the gathas and we began singing at major services. Happily, I knew some of the gathas she chose and began learning the harmonizing alto parts. Since I could not read music, I memorized both the music and lyrics the best I could. I think we are one of the only temple choirs without any male voices.... voices.... hint, hint. We also enjoyed representing SACBC at a choir festival in Mountain View a few years

years ago with about 6-7 other temple choirs. Such diversity in music and sound made that day very enjoyable.

The SACBC choir group is meeting via Zoom to hear and learn some brand new gathas. We cannot wait until the day we can practice together and sing with everyone again, and to share our voices at a Sunday service.

A really ***BIG thank you to Mrs. Yamada*** for being so patient and teaching us the new gathas.

Noreen Osaki:

Why is my stomach doing backflips? We are here at the Mt. View Buddhist Temple to perform in the 2016 Choir Festival. My ears are ringing with blended harmony as Mrs. Yamada is running us through our final practice. Next to me is Karen Suyama who's as cool as a cucumber (how does she do that?), and Terry Sato who's beaming with excitement. A part of me wants to start mouthing the words so I don't mess up. Why are my palms sweating? This should be a piece of cake since we have the lovely voices of the Maruyama Sisters – Mitsuko, Grace, and Sandy. I can't disappoint them and Mrs. Yamada for they deserve perfection.

As we take the stage, Yamada Sensei tells us to smile and look happy because we look rather terrified. Geez, I wonder why. Yet when our music begins, I'm suddenly swaying with our voices and having fun. What a thrill, and what a payoff after all those hours of practice. I'm so grateful to have been a part of such a memorable day.

Sandy Maruyama:

Music has always been a part of our family, so when the choir was organized in 2014, and my sisters said they were going to join the choir, I wanted to join too. Getting together with the ladies is always fun and it is nice to hear the progression of the blending of our voices through all of the practices.

Even through the pandemic, Mrs. Yamada has been conducting practices through Zoom so we don't lose our singing voice so we will be in perfect harmony when we can, once again, sing together at church service. Thank you, Mrs. Yamada.





## SACBC Bento Fundraiser by Chef Royce Mori

Wednesdays: April 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 3 – 4 PM

SACBC and Chef Royce are continuing the Pick-Up Bento service to SACBC Members (Wednesdays only).

**To order:** Call and leave a message at church: 510-471-2581 or Email: SACBCOffice@gmail.com

**Order deadline: Mondays at NOON! No late orders, please.**

**Pick Up:** Wednesdays, 3PM – 4 PM. Sangha Hall Lobby (Runners will bring food out to the cars), SACBC, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA

**Payment:** There are five options for paying:

- Paypal: [sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com)
  - Venmo: [@sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com](https://venmo.com/sacbc.treasurer1)
  - Credit card: VISA, Mastercard
  - Check made out to: SACBC in a sealed envelope with your name & address on the outside.
  - Cash: Exact amount in a sealed envelope with your name and address on the outside.
- To avoid handling of cash, the exact amount is expected and NO change will be given.**

## APRIL MENU

PICK UP	MEAT	VEGETARIAN
April 7	<b>Udon &amp; Chicken Karaage</b> \$16 Pan Fried Pork Gyoza Wok Fired Baby Bok Choy Steamed White Rice	<b>Hamachi Kama</b> \$17 <i>(Hamachi served with Oroshi, Lemon &amp; Ponzu)</i> Miso Glazed Eggplant Wok Fired Baby Bok Choy Steamed White Rice
April 14	<b>Huli Huli Chicken</b> \$17 Island Style Beef Chili Wok Fired Napa Cabbage & Bacon Steamed White Rice	<b>Miso Ramen</b> \$16 Kikurage ( <i>wood ear mushroom</i> ), Soft-Boiled Egg, Spinach, Corn, Menma ( <i>bamboo shoots</i> )  2 Inari Musubi
April 21	<b>Tonkotsu Ramen</b> \$16 Chashu Pork Belly, Corn, Spinach, Soft-Boiled Egg, Green Onions  2 Spam musubi	<b>Crispy Garlic Soy Cod</b> \$17 Mixed Green Salad w/Sesame Dressing Vegetable Jap Chae Wok Fired Baby Bok Choy Housemade Kimchee ( <i>mild</i> ) Steamed White Rice
April 28	<b>Japanese Beef Stew</b> \$17 Mixed Green Salad w/Sesame Dressing Sautéed Mushrooms Green Beans Steamed White Rice	<b>Salmon Shioyaki</b> \$17 <i>(Salmon Shioyaki served with Oroshi, Lemon &amp; Ponzu)</i> Sautéed Mushrooms Green Beans White Rice Sunomono



## APRIL EVENTS

- April 4 – SUN SHOTSUKI HOYO – Japanese Dharma Message
- April 10 – SAT OTOKI PICK UP Sponsored by Dharma School
- April 11 – SUN HANAMATSURI CELEBRATION  
Dharma School After Service
- April 18 – SUN FAMILY SERVICE
- April 25 – SUN FAMILY SERVICE  
Dharma School After Service

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM

**Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300**

**Passcode: 549504**