



*December 2023*

*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.*

## What Buddhists in December Do

In December, we observe two important events as we close the year. The first is Bodhi Day (*Jodo-e*), which is on December 8, and the second is the New Year's Eve service (*Joya-e*). Bodhi Day is the time when the historical Buddha Śākyamuni is said to have attained awakening under the Bodhi tree at the break of dawn. This is the day in which he awakened to the universal principle of Wisdom and Compassion, thus showing us the path to spiritual liberation where any and all human beings can be freed from the bondage of suffering.

On the Year End service, we recall the past year and all of the experiences that we have underwent. There might have been happy and joyous moments, frustrating, sad, or other times that have evoked an array of emotions. Still, they are all moments that have contributed to our karmic development, and as such, they are indispensable experiences. As Buddhists, we should label these moments not so much as "good" or "bad," "positive" or "negative," but rather, see them as opportunities that have helped us to encounter the truth of the Buddha

Dharma and to verify the Buddha's teachings. For example, if we have experienced a loss of a loved one, this



experience brings us to question what is the meaning of life and to see the Buddha Dharma as a source of solace and comfort. At the end of this service, we ring the large bell 108 times to remind us of the amount of blind passions that each of us is said to have. The ritual ringing of the bell should serve as a reminder that no one is perfect, but that my very attachments can become the source of my joy in awakening to the Buddha Dharma, which is Amida Buddha's Boundless Wisdom and Compassion.

It's common for us to think of Santa Claus in the month of December. But let's not forget our roots, and pay tribute and honor the founder of our religion, Śākyamuni Buddha. Let's use this time to remember that the Buddha Dharma is the path to find true peace of mind, and that the close of a chapter is the beginning to a new one.

***Namo Amida Butsu***

## 1 2月の行事

12月は、1年を締めくくる二つの重要な行事があります。一つは12月8日の「成道会<sup>じょうどうえ</sup>」、もう一つは年末の「除夜会<sup>じよやえ</sup>」です。成道会とは、釈迦牟尼仏が夜明けに菩提樹の下で覚りを開いたとされる日です。この日、釈尊は智慧と慈悲という普遍的な原理に目覚め、あらゆる衆生が苦悩の世界から解脱する方法をお示しになられたのです。

除夜会では、この一年、私たちが経験したすべてのことを振り返ります。嬉しかったこと、楽しかったこと、悔しかったこと、悲しかったこと、さまざまな感情を呼び起こす出来事があったかもしれません。しかし、それらはすべて私たちを養う業の積み重ねであり、欠かすことのできない大切な経験でもあります。仏教徒として、これらの経験してきたものを「良い」「悪い」、「都合のいい」「都合の悪い」と判断するよりも、仏法と出逢う貴重な機縁として見なす方がいいのではないのでしょうか。例えば、この一年の間、身近な人を亡くしたならば、その経験は私たちに人生の意味を問いかけ、そして仏法が伝えようとしている安穩の世界を示そうとしているのが分かるようになるかも知れません。

このお勤めの最後に、鐘を108回鳴らします。これは私たち一人一人が抱えている煩悩を象徴している数です。鐘を鳴らす儀式は、自分は最も優れた人でないが、しかしそのまま阿弥陀仏のはたらきに抱かれてい

ることを思い出すためのものです。詳しく言えば、自分の煩悩そのものが、阿弥陀仏の智慧と慈悲に抱かれている救いの証拠となるものだとわかるためのものであります。

12月になるとサンタクロースを思い浮かぶのが一般的です。しかし、この時こそ我々仏教の開祖である釈尊を敬う大切な時期だと思ふ必要があります。そして  
仏法は心の拠り所であることを改めて思いたいところです。南無阿弥陀仏。

### 1. My Personal Podcast Covering Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/no-doubt-a-shin-buddhist-approach/id1511351502>

### 2. Our Weekly Sunday Services Can Be Found Here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/shin-buddhist-sangha-services/id1517181914>

# DECEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM.**

## DECEASED

1935 Jutarō Suyeyasu  
 1952 Matsukichi Hamamoto  
 1958 Naoko Asada  
 1965 Sadaichi Kawaguchi  
 1971 Taki Tsuyuki  
 1974 Shuzo Wazaki  
 1976 Robert Yoshio Mitsutome  
 1977 Shigenobu Tamasu  
 1977 Tomeko Murakami  
 1979 Mieko Kitani  
 1980 Kesao Sato  
 1980 Jennifer Hall  
 1988 Yoko Kitagawa  
 1988 Michie Suyeyasu  
 1989 Ichiro Baba  
 1995 Katsuya Yasuda  
 1995 Asako Teshima  
 2000 Jukichi Furuyama  
 2003 Clifton Hoang  
 2003 Aiko Hatakeda  
 2003 Takefumi Mineishi  
 2003 Lewis Yamamoto  
 2004 Kazuho Kawaguchi  
 2004 Charles Hatakeda  
 2005 Tsuruo Enta  
 2006 Ronald Minamide

2006 George Shimamura  
 2006 Bumpei Morimi  
 2007 Haruye Stroy  
 2008 Henry Otani  
 2010 Shiro Handa  
 2017 Jane Sato  
 2017 Kazuo Hatsushi  
 2018 Wakae Usui  
 2019 Rev. Doie Fujii  
 2020 Seiji Nakamoto  
 2020 Joyce Hirabayashi  
 2021 Ruth Miyasato  
 2022 Hirofumi Akahoshi

Yoshinobu Tanaka (death yr. unknown)  
 Tsutomu Sakai (death yr. unknown)  
 Taeko Tashiro (death yr. unknown)  
 Kingo Kotake (death yr. unknown)

## FAMILY

Suyeyasu Family  
 Hamamoto Family  
 Asada Family  
 Kawaguchi Family  
 Saito Family  
 Hamamoto Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Yoichi Mitsutome  
 Mr. & Mrs. Koji Tamasu  
 Murakami Family  
 Kitani Family  
 Maruyama Family  
 Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hall  
 Mr. Naotaka Kitagawa  
 Mr. Shigenobu Suyeyasu  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
 Mrs. Miyako Yasuda  
 Ms. Paige Ajimura  
 Mr. Matsuo Furuyama  
 Mrs. Betty Hoang  
 Mr. Glenn Nitta  
 Mrs. Jamie Nagata  
 Yamamoto Family  
 Kawaguchi Family  
 Mrs. Dorothy Sato & Mr. Richard Kaku  
 Enta Family  
 Mrs. Nancy Minamide &  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Minamide  
 Mr. Dave Shimamura  
 Mrs. Fumiko Boushehri  
 Ms. Mayumi Stroy  
 Mr. Richard Otani  
 Mrs. Lucille Misaki  
 Mr. Alan Sato  
 Mrs. Takiko Hatsushi & Amy Hatsushi Hughes  
 Ms. Etsuko Miyazono  
 Mrs. Michiko Fujii  
 Mrs. Emilie Nakamoto  
 Ms. Joy Hirabayashi Deither  
 Miyasato Family  
 Akahoshi Family  
 Tanaka Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Sakai  
 Mr. Kyle Yamasaki  
 Mrs. Jean Kotake

## Memorial Service 2023

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2022 – 1st year	2011 – 13th year	1991 – 33rd year
2021 – 3rd year	2007 – 17th year	1974 – 50th year
2017 – 7th year	1999 – 25th year	1924 – 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 December 2023

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

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### **December 3, 2023 – Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service** 10 A.M.

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

**Bodhi Day** will be observed.

Bodhi Day is when we commemorate Śākyamuni Buddha's attainment of awakening. This day signifies the dawn of humanity's universal emancipation from suffering and unawareness.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will conduct this hybrid service.

December birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will host a Mochitsuki and Otoki following service.  
Come swing the “kine” (mallet) to pound the rice in the “usu”!

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### **December 10, 2023 – BWA Memorial Service** 10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will conduct this hybrid service.  
Jr. YBA will meet after service.

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### **December 17, 2023 – Family Service** 10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will conduct this hybrid service.  
Dharma School will follow service.

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### **December 24, 2023 – No Service**

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### **December 31, 2023 – New Year's Eve (Joya-e) Service** 7 P.M. (Sunday)

Joya-e service is a time to recollect the countless kindnesses and compassion received throughout the year and to be grateful for the many causes and conditions that make our lives possible.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will conduct this in-person service.  
Toshikoshi soba will be served.

At this service, everyone in-person will join in ringing the bell 108 times.

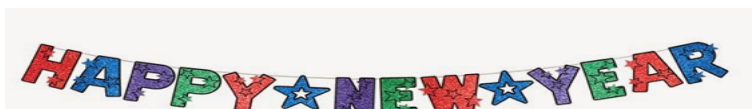
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### **January 1, 2024 – New Year's Day (Shusho-e) Service** 10 A.M. (Monday)

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will conduct this hybrid service.  
After service, we will have a toast to welcome the new year.

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**SACBC Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 PM on ZOOM.**  
**Members are welcome to join on ZOOM. The link will be sent in an email blast.**



# What's up Dharma School?

December, 2023

For Halloween, the Dharma school students made gratitude pumpkins. Very creative pumpkins!

We also successfully held our annual Keirokai event on Nov.5. We are always amazed how things come together. Congratulations to the special seniors who turned 88 this year: Rev. Matsubayashi, Mary Nakagawa, Jane Rice, and Nancy Takahashi. Arlyne Shibata turned 100!! We appreciate the generous time and effort from our current Dharma families, but also the continuous support from our alumni Dharma school parents and students. We are grateful for all the help. A BIG THANK YOU to the following (in no particular order):

- Rev. Miyaji for his guidance and participation. (Sensei's idea was the inspiration for the theme "Colors of Amida Buddha").
- John Arai...as always, helping us with ALL aspects of this event and being a 'soundboard' for Betty.
- Kyle Yamasaki (food purchase and certificates).
- Mrs. Yamada for providing the entertainment along with singers Karen Suyama, Mitsuko Maruyama, Grace Joo, Sandy Maruyama, Rev. Matsubayashi, Rev. Miyaji. Ukulele group: Diana Kitajima, Trent Osaki and Garet Mark.
- Reina Fujii for being our MC.
- Tet Uemura for taking photos.
- Josie Matsubayashi, Mia and Adam Mosier for helping with the games.
- Kristin Jang and Kara Tokubo for running Bingo along with Kathy Velasco and John Arai.
- Karen Suyama for the very thoughtful and cut hashi holder/covers.
- Mr. & Mrs. Sakai for donating the apples.
- Kaori (and Keisai) for arranging the live performances from Oterakai families.
- Yukio Osaki and Lindsay Minamoto for arranging the manju (favors).
- Berkeley Bowl for the furikake and marmalade donation.
- In addition, thank you to the food prep and decorating crew: Kaori M, Tomoko (Kaori's friend), Cathleen, Josie M, Lani & Tet Uemura, Noreen & Garret & Curtis & Kailyn Mark, Dean & Trent & Yukiko Osaki, Joann Rogers, Glenn & Zoe Sekigahama, Kathy & Gordon & Kristen Jang, Kathy Velasco, Kathy Murai, Reina Fujii, Dali & Escher Yeh, Mitsuko & Akaly Taniguchi, and Ken Matsubayashi.

Please forgive us and let us know if we missed anyone. In addition, thank you very much to those who made a donation to the Dharma School. We are again, very grateful and appreciative.

Here are the remaining Dharma class dates for 2023 (subject to change):

- Dec.3, 2023-Dharma activity (Bodhi Day and Mochitsuki)/Birthday Celebration
- Dec.17, 2023-Dharma Class

In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty



## SACBC'S MRS. MASUKO KITAYAMA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2023

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church is inviting high school seniors to apply for the Mrs. Masuko Kitayama Memorial Scholarship. The late Union City Mayor Tom Kitayama donated the funds for this scholarship in memory of his mother. This scholarship is awarded to deserving Shin Buddhist youth in their pursuit of higher education and to enhance their practice and commitment to Buddhist principles throughout their lifetime.

Applicant's immediate family must be a current Temple member, not an Associate member, of the SACBC and have been a member for at least 5 years. An exception can be made for an applicant whose immediate family is a current SACBC member and was a member at another Buddhist Temple for a combined total of 5 years. Scholarships are awarded without regard to sex, race, nationality or national origin.

The following criteria will be used to judge each applicant: (A) GPA 25% (no minimum GPA); (B) SAT or ACT scores 25% (no minimum score); (C) Essay 20%; (D) SACBC Activities 30%

Applicants must prepare an essay, not less than 1 double-spaced typed page nor more than 2 double-spaced typed pages, addressing how Buddhism or Buddhist practice relates to their career or educational goals. Examples of topics for this essay might be: "Buddhist Compassion and My Career", "How my Religious Activities at SACBC have guided me to my Career Goal". Students are encouraged to be creative with their choice of topic. The only stipulation is that students relate some aspect of their Buddhist religion to their educational or career goals.

**For an Application:** please contact Betty Yamasaki, SACBC Scholarship Committee Chairperson by email to: [b\\_yamasaki@yahoo.com](mailto:b_yamasaki@yahoo.com).

Please submit all material **on or before May 1, 2024:**

- Completed Application Form
- Copy of High School Transcripts,
- Evidence of Scores Received in either SAT or ACT if taken
- Copy of Essay

Scholarship Committee; 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd; Union City, CA 94587 or by email to: [sacboffice@gmail.com](mailto:sacboffice@gmail.com). Following the Committee's selection, applicants will receive written notification.

If there are any questions, applicants or their families may contact Betty Yamasaki, Scholarship Committee Chairperson at [b\\_yamasaki@yahoo.com](mailto:b_yamasaki@yahoo.com)

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL MATERIAL:  
on or before MAY 1, 2024**

**BWA – report by Karen Suyama**

**Year End and Memorial Service – December 10**

Let’s get together to remember some of our members who have passed away this past year and enjoy some time together. Your RSVP was due November 30<sup>th</sup>, but if you forgot, let me know by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you need a ride, please let us know and we would be happy to bring you to service and our luncheon.

Reminder, if you are not already a member, please consider joining the BWA. Anyone and any age can become a member for a nominal fee of \$15.00 per year. We are looking forward to planning some exciting activities in 2024.... A cooking class, a cardmaking class, a knit/crochet class and an outing to a place you didn’t even know existed in Union City/Fremont.

Please join us at our next meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Everyone is invited.

**Upcoming activities:**

- BWA Year End and Memorial Service – December 10, 2023 service at 10:00am, lunch 11:45am
- BWA meeting – December 17, 2023 at 9:00am
- Rummage Sale – March 2-3, 2024

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**Looking for a Piano Player**



**Do you play the piano and can help us at some of the Sunday Services? If we can get a few people to volunteer, we can make a flexible schedule and use our technology to supplement. Mrs. Yamada would like someone else to alternate on Sundays, and will work with you on what we need.**

**Please contact Karen Suyama at [sacbcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sacbcoffice@gmail.com) or leave a message at 510-471-2581 if you can help us out.**



**BRING BINGO BACK!**

We need help from you as members to help start up bingo again on Friday nights.

We are only going to run bingo on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. We need help with the kitchen works during bingo, cashiers to receive money from bingo players, help on the floor to sell light games, and oversee all-American trivia games and pull tabs.

We are only going to try to start with only 2 bingo games a month. The funds will help add to our operating expense account.

If you can help, please contact John or Bob and let us know where you could help and how long. Or leave a message at 510-471-2581.





# December 2023

Events subject to change

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 10am <b>Shotsuki Hoyo Bodhi Day Service</b>	4 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	5  6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	6  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	7 11am-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	8  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	9 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
10 10am <b>Family Service/BWA Memorial Lunch to follow</b>	11 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	12  6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	13  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	14 11am-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	15 <b>GC article(s) deadline</b>  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	16 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
17 10am <b>Family Service</b>	18 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	19  6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	20  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	21  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	22  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	23 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
24  <b>No service</b>	25 <b>OFFICE CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	26  6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	27  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	28 11am-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>  4-6pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	29  6-9pm <b>AA</b>	30 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
31  7pm <b>Joya-e Service</b>	Jan 1  10am <b>Shusho-e Service</b>					

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



## DECEMBER EVENTS

<b>3rd – SUN</b>	SHOTSUKI HOYO & BODHI DAY SERVICE
<b>10th – SUN</b>	FAMILY SERVICE/BWA MEMORIAL <i>BWA YEAR END LUNCH TO FOLLOW</i>
<b>17th -- SUN</b>	FAMILY SERVICE
<b>24th -- SUN</b>	NO SERVICE
<b>31st – SUN</b>	JOYA-E SERVICE @ 7pm
<b>JAN 1st – MON</b>	SHUSHO-E SERVICE @10am
<p><b>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM</b>  <b>Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300</b>  <b>PASSCODE: 549504</b></p>	