GOLDEN CHAIN

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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Supervising Minister: Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto **February 2019**

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.

Nirvana Day

We come to February and look to see if there may be signs of the end of the winter season. Signs of the seasons also allow us to recognize the cycles of nature and life rather than the here to there, beginning to end perspective that we often fall into. The cycles of the seasons is more than moving from football to basketball to baseball. We can be reminded of our parents and grandparents who may have worked the land in harmony with nature much more than we need to at the computer stations of today.

The grounding nature of the Nembutsu path is as valuable as ever as we find our way through cyber isolation and the separation from the family base of days past. We seek connection. We seek to identify the self with the greater whole. The Nembutsu provides this connection and identification as we link ourselves to the infinite.

Here at the temple we nurture our spiritual growth as individuals, as families, and as community. We do this by providing our services, our activities, and our events. We encourage participation and membership because we don't connect while standing in isolation. We welcome everyone both veteran and new to come to our major services as it provides the best way to come to know the traditions of Shin Buddhism and the Nembutsu path.

Nirvana Day is the day the historical Buddha Siddhartha Gautama passed away. Each year we observe his birthday, Hanamatsuri, the day he became enlightened, Bodhi Day, and the day of his death, Nirvana Day. Although he had become enlightened earlier in his life, the Buddha was still attached to this world through the needs and limitations of his physical form. At death he was free of the final ties to this world of Samsara.

There are various paintings depicting the death scene of the Buddha. He is seen surrounded by lay followers, fellow monks, and bodhisattvas. Even animals such as birds, rabbits and deer came out of the forest to recognize the loss of such a special man of peace and harmony. Most of them are saddened and shedding tears. But the bodhisattvas appear calm, knowing the truth of impermanence and the temporary nature of our lives. They know that the truth of the Dharma will still be with us even though the life of the Buddha will be lost. This year Nirvana Day will be observed February 10. Please make effort to attend our Nirvana Day Service.

Also this month is our Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani Service, on February 17. We honor these key women of our Jodo Shinshu tradition. Their lives continue to be a source of inspiration to many throughout the world. They serve as wonderful role models for all of us today. Please make effort to attend both these special services.

Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto

Welcome to February 2019!

Kathy Velasco here; taking a turn at Golden Chain writing. Now that we all have had some time to recuperate from the high holiday gauntlet—Nov.28 to Dec.8 to Jan.1—we are just in time for February's events. Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, Nirvana Day, Valentine's Day, and President's Day are all packed into this 28-day span. Even as we indulge in the traditional weather-prediction by furry animal and the various romantic and patriotic activities of the month, I find this is also an appropriate time to revisit my Happy New Year resolutions.

One of my 2019 resolutions was: "Be better about checking e-mail." Notice the past tense. If I really wanted to do this, I would wake up early by an hour every day and address this challenge until I reduced my +20,000 unread messages to zero. (Not happening yet.) My February revision is: "Get good enough about checking e-mail." Last Sunday, a lady on the radio (PBS) was talking about 'Inbox Infinity." Who knew this was a real thing? At least, now I know that I'm not alone in my ambivalence over deleting potentially important e-mail alerts. Hey, I got scolded by a fortune cookie: "An important message is waiting for you—check your e-mail." True story.

Of course, there is seldom a good time to reflect on one's perceived failings. Still, Jodo Shinshu practice relies on self-reflection. And, as we know from many sermons, self-reflection is the path to gratitude. Similarly, self-observation can be the path to personal change. Shin Buddhists recognize February 8 as Nirvana Day, the day that Shakyamuni Buddha left this samsaric existence and entered nirvana. More significantly, he told his followers not to lament; he had accomplished much; and he was ready to move on. Amid the challenges, drama, and sometimes trauma of our daily life, let's try to find time to reflect upon those best intentions for 2019 and choose to do that which will put us on the path to the Pure Land with a plan for our own eventual Nirvana Day.

Thank you!

Many "thanks" to the Sangha members who helped Rev. Himaka's family clear out the house December 26-29, 2018. One of the monumental tasks was sorting through the hundreds of books of many genres that Sensei had in her library. Judy Tokubo led the task with the help of Noreen Osaki, Kailen Mark, Lani Uemura, Brett Uemura, Cindy Sakihara, and Yas Yamada. After the books were sorted, Judy and Yas took over 50 boxes of books to the Newark Public Library and Half Price Books. Rev. Himaka's family generously donated the money from the sales of the books at "HPB" to the church. Bishop Umezu asked that religious books be saved and made available to BCA ministers and students. Many books have been saved for the Bazaar Bookstore.
More "thanks" to Nancy Minamide who provided the family with a home-cooked lunch on Wednesday and to Dali Yeh and Karen Fujii who delivered pizza on Thursday and Subway on Friday.
A huge "thanks" to Bill Sawasaki who ordered and coordinated the details of the delivery and pick up of the big dumpster that the family needed. And "thanks" to John Arai who, as always, checked in daily to help wherever help was needed.

Thank you for your time and support given to helping Sensei's family and taking care of the minister's residence.

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on Sunday, February , 2019 at 10:00 am.

	Deceased	**Family**
1921	Fumiko Tomotoshi	Tomotoshi Family
1941	George Enta	Kitajima Family
1949	Shinsuke Nakamura	Mr. Stacy Nakamura
1952	Ichi Shikano	Mr. Ben Shikano
1964	Masako Inao	Mrs. Shiz Yamauchi
1965	Heizo Hashimoto	Dr. Walter Hashimoto & Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hashimoto
1966	Shinichi Mukai	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mayeda
1968	Uka Inao	Mrs. Shiz Yamauchi
1972	Fred Chiaki Teshima	Ms. Paige Ajimura
1975	Masao Babaoka	Ms. Paige Ajimura
1975	Kinnosuke Yasuhiro	Yasuhiro Family
1985	Masuko Kitayama	Mrs. Heidi Kitayama
1985	Lynnsey Akemi Hisaoka	Mr. & Mrs. Tadao Hisaoka
1991	Miyoshi Kishi	Kishi Family
1992	Matsuko Suyama	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Suyama
1992	Satori Sekigahama	Sekigahama Family
1993	Fred Ichio Sakuda	Mr. Wayne Sakuda
1994	Yoshiye Shibata	Mrs. Arlyne Shibata
1995	Masao Yamauchi	Mrs. Shiz Yamauchi
1998	George Hatakeda	Mr. Glenn Nitta
2002	Yasuko Suyeyasu	Ms. Sumie Suyeyasu
2004	Edward Isamu Nomura	Mr. Ray Nomura
2004	Ruby Noma	Mr. Nobuo Noma & Mr. & Mrs. Edward Quan
2005	Reiko Kato	Kato Family
2006	Oriye Ushijima	Mr. & Mrs. Yasushi Yamada
2006	Kazuo Shikano	Mr. Ben Shikano
2007	Setsuye Shikano	Mr. Ben Shikano
2008	Kenji Fujii	Mr. Victor Fujii & Mr. Walter Fujii
2009	Masao Tomotoshi	Mrs. Patricia Carter
2010	James 'Bo' Kataoka	Mr. Jeff Kataoka
2011	Yasuo Hatsushi	Mr. Kazuo Hatsushi & Mrs. Yoko Hiramine
2014	Bessie Harada	Mr. Shizuo Harada
2015	Masaru Yamasaki	Ms. Lauren Yamasaki Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Yamasaki
2018	Betty Kitani	Mr. Jeff Kitani
2018	Sumi Suyeyasu	Suyeyasu Family
	Nicolas Hideo Chu	Chu Family
	Kino Kawaguchi	Kawaguchi Family
	Katsu Kato	Mr. Wayne Sakuda

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Memorial Service 2019

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2018 – 1 year	2007 – 13 year	1987– 33 year
2017 – 3 year	2003 – 17 year	1970 – 50 year
2013 – 7 year	1995 – 25 year	1920 – 100 year

If this is a special service year for a departed relative, please contact the church office at (510) 364-5611 to schedule a memorial service.

BWA NEWS by Nancy Minamide

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!. We had a joyful year end celebration with remembering our past BWA members. Thank you to Pat Takemoto and Jaime Nagata for helping with the favors. Thank you to Terry Sato for buying all the raffle prizes. A special thank you to Bill and Nina Sawasaki who came early to help set up the tables, chairs and decorations.

It's that time of year to clean out your closets, cabinets and the garage. Our rummage sale is on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. Place your donations on or in front of the bazaar food counter.

REMEMBER: NO FURNITURE, BABY CAR SEATS OR LARGE STUFFED ANIMALS.

We need help to set up items before the sale on Saturday, 7:00 am to 9 am and on Sunday to clean up, 3:00 to 4:30, Please come to help, If you can also help from opening and closing of each day, we would really, really appreciate your help.

We will be collecting dues for our organization. I encourage all ladies of SACBC to join BWA. This is an important year since the BWA World Conference will be held in San Francisco, August 30 to September 1. It's time to meet the ladies from the 5 Kyodans – Japan, Hawaii, Brazil, Canada and USA. We have 12 from our church who have notified me that they wish to attend this event. The registration date has been extended so we do not need monies at this time. Please let me know if you wish to participate.

I am sorry I missed the JANUARY deadline but my best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy 2019.

Services for February 2019

February 3, 2019 – Shotsuki Hoyo
10 A.M.

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

Rev. Dr. Hoshu Matsubayashi will officiate this service.
February birthdays will be celebrated.

^^

February 10, 2019 – Nirvana Day
10 A.M.

Nirvana Service is the observance of Shakyumuni Buddha's death.

Rev. Will Masuda will officiate this service

February birthdays will be celebrated.

After service, lunch will be served to start the Dharma Discussion.
Rev. Will Masuda will lead the Dharma Discussion.
"The Dharma Guides Our Daily Lives"

Please RSVP to Bill Sawasaki (510-471-2581) or sacbc@sbcglobal.net by February 5.

^^

February 17, 2019 – Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani Service
10 A.M.
The BWA will chair this service which honors
Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani who founded the Buddhist Women's Association.

Rev. Dr. Ronald Nakasone will officiate this service.

^^

February 24, 2019 – Family Service
10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Hoshu Matsubayashi will officiate this service.

^^

REV CAROL SAN DIEGO UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

Rev. Carol's family was up here over the holidays and cleared out the house. They are happy to report that she continues to make progress at a care facility in San Diego and is doing well. She is receiving speech and physical therapy. She participates in craft activities and enjoys interactions with other residents.

Her speech has improved and she can now speak in complete sentences and carries on meaningful conversations. Her strength and coordination have improved to where she can stand with a walker and move from her wheelchair to another chair with minimal assistance. This is a big improvement over her condition when she left here two months ago.

We are planning on having a fund raiser for her as a part of our Luau on Saturday April 13th. Hopefully, she will be able to make a trip back here for a proper farewell. In the meantime, any donations or cards will be appreciated and can still be sent in care of her sister, Lynn Fuchigami, 13956 Chancellor Way, Poway, CA 92064.

It is heart-warming to see the love and support she is getting from her family. They are grateful for all the support Rev Carol and they have received from the BCA, the SACBC Sangha, and her Bay Area friends. If anyone is planning to be in the San Diego area, please visit her.

In Gassho,
Ken

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church

gratefully acknowledges

Memorial & Special Donations - December 2018

Donor	Dana	In memory of
Memorial Donations		
Aileen Hisaokoa	$20.00	BWA Memorial Service
Richard Kaku	$100.00	In memory of Charles Hatakeda
Yoshimasa & Dorothy Sato	$100.00	In memory of Charles Hatakeda
Takiko Hatsushi	$500.00	1st Year Memorial - Kazuo Hatsushi
Amy Hatsushi & Ralph Hughes	$200.00	1st Year Memorial - Kazuo Hatsushi
Takiko Hatsushi	$200.00	Shotsuki Hoyo - Kazuo Hatsushi
Amy Hatsushi & Ralph Hughes	$100.00	Shotsuki Hoyo - Kazuo Hatsushi
Patricia Kawase Taj	$50.00	In memory of Yukie Kawase
Naotaka Kitagawa	$100.00	In memory of Yoko Kitagawa
Taka, Norton & Terry Kitagawa	$50.00	In memory of Yoko Kitagawa
Jean Kotake	$10.00	In memory of Mrs. S. Kotake
Jean Kotake	$10.00	In memory of Kingo Kotake
Nancy Minamide	$50.00	In memory of Ronald Minamide
Douglas Minamide & Eyonne Tsou	$20.00	In memory of Ronald Minamide
Pat Takemoto	$20.00	In memory of Ronald Minamide
Jamie Nagata	$25.00	In memory of Takefumi Mineishi
Paul Nakao & Devon Hollander	$20.00	In memory of Takashi Nakao
Paul Nakao & Devon Hollander	$20.00	In memory of Margaret Nakao-Kubota
Jean Kotake	$20.00	In memory of Hajime Ota
Wilfred & Sally Hinson	$20.00	In memory of Hajime Ota
April Toy	$15.00	In memory of Hajime Ota
Jean Kotake	$10.00	In memory of Mrs. K. Otani
April Toy	$15.00	In memory of Mrs. K. Otani
Jean Kotake	$10.00	In memory of Henry Otani
Arthur & Jessie Sakai, Alan Sakai, Derrick & Cindy Chan	$50.00	In memory of Tsutomu Sakai
Takeko Maruyama	$20.00	In memory of Kesao Sato
Shigeru & Teruko Sato	$25.00	In memory of Jane Sato
Alan Sato	$100.00	In memory of Jane Sato
James & Eleanor Sekigahama	$30.00	In memory of Kimiyo Sekigahama
Arlyne Shibata	$50.00	In memory of Mrs. K. Shibata & Mrs. T. Tanaka
Dave & Lauren Shimamura	$75.00	In memory of George & Mary Shimamura
Kyle & Betty Yamasaki	$20.00	In memory of Taeko Tashiro
Etsuko Miyazono	$500.00	Funeral Service for Wakae Usui
Miyoko Yasuda	$20.00	In memory of Katsuya Yasuda

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Donor	Dana	Description
Shigeru & Judy Tokubo	$50.00	Obon dana
Hisao Yoko	$30.00	Eitaikyo dana
Kimiko Sekigahama	$50.00	In gratitude for well wishes & gift card
Rev. Kenneth & Miyuki Fujimoto	$50.00	In appreciation for the gift & kind thoughts
Boy Scout family	$500.00	In appreciation - use of Sangha Hall
Heiwa Taiko	$500.00	Orei
Ted Sato	$500.00	Car donation (Sales Amount)
TAT LLC	$1,500.00	Car donation (Sales Amount)

THANK YOU for your Dana!

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church

gratefully acknowledges Bodhi Day Donations

Donor	Dana	Donor	Dana
Paige Ajimura	$10.00	Paul & Yukimi Nomura	$25.00
Hirofumi & Miyoko Akahoshi	$20.00	Fred & Joyce Okimoto	$25.00
Shizuye Awamura	$20.00	Arthur & Jessie Sakai	$20.00
Nancy Dodd	$25.00	Ted & Terry Sato	$20.00
Nancy Dodd	$20.00	Arlyne Shibata	$25.00
Sachi Fudenna	$20.00	Janet Shibuya	$20.00
Yutaka Fujimoto	$30.00	Jerry & Joyce Tahira	$20.00
Isao & Michiko Handa	$20.00	Patricia Kawase Taj	$20.00
Takiko Hatsushi	$25.00	Joy Tsurui	$20.00
Haruko Kawahara	$20.00	Yoneo & Chieko Uchida	$25.00
Masato & Hiroko Kimotsuki	$20.00	Yasushi & Yoshie Yamada	$20.00
Walter & Diana Kitajima	$25.00	Kyle & Betty Yamasaki	$20.00
Curtis Mark & Noreen Osaki	$50.00	Lauren Yamasaki-Cramer	$20.00
Mary Nakagawa	$20.00	Shizuko Yamauchi	$20.00
Seiji & Emilie Nakamoto	$20.00	Yaeko Yasuhiro	$25.00
George & Frances Nakamura	$50.00	R George & Noriko Yoshidome	$20.00

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!! SAVE THE DATE !!

The 2019 SACBC LUAU FUNDRAISER will be on Saturday April 13th. Last year's luau was a big success so we will again need everyone's help to make this year's even better. Please save the date, more details to follow.

FEBRUARY 2019

SACBC ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:00p Bingo (NACHC JLN) 7:30p Venture Scouts	2 9:00a JLS
3 10:00a Dharma Family Service Shotsuki Hoyo	4 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	5 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	6 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	7 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	8 5:00p Bingo (Berkeley JACL) 7:30p Venture Scouts	9 9:00a JLS
10 10:00a Nirvana Day Service 11:30a Dharma Discussion	11 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	12 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	13 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko 12:00p Golden Chain Deadline	14 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	15 5:00p Bingo (Logan HS) 7:30p Venture Scouts	16 9:00a JLS
17 10:00a Lady Kujo/Lady Ohtani Service	18 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	19 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	20 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	21 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	22 5:00p Bingo (O Nami Taiko) 7:30p Venture Scouts	23 9:00a JLS 1:00p Scouts' Lei making class
24 10:00a Dharma Family Service	25 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	26 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	27 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	28 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo		

MARCH 2019

TENTATIVE-SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:00p Bingo (San Leandro United)	**2** 9:00a JLS BWA Rummage Sale
3 10:00a Dharma Family Service Shotsuki Hoyo BWA Rummage Sale	**4** 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	**5** 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	**6** 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	**7** 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	**8** 5:00p Bingo (SACBC) 7:30p Venture	**9** 9:00a JLS AA Basketball Tournament
10 10:00a Dharma Family Service AA Basketball Tournament	**11** 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	**12** 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	**13** 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	**14** 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	**15** 5:00p Bingo (American HS) 7:30p Venture	**16** 9:00a JLS AA Basketball Tournament
17 10:00a Spring Ohigan Service AA Basketball Tournament	**18** 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	**19** 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	**20** 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko 12:00p Golden Chain Deadline	**21** 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	**22** 5:00p Bingo (Heiwa) 7:30p Venture Scouts	**23** 9:00a JLS
24 10:00a Dharma Family Service	**25** 7:30p Kendo 7:30p Taiko	**26** 5:30p AA 7:30p Scouts	**27** 5:30p AA 7:30p Taiko	**28** 5:30p AA 7:30p Kendo	**29** 5:00p Bingo (Community Academy) 7:30p Venture	**30** 9:00a JLS
31 10:00a Dharma Family Service						

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING GOLDEN CHAIN ARTICLES

- All church organizations and members are welcome to submit articles for the monthly newsletter.
- Articles are due to the church office by 12 noon on the third Wednesday of the month. Those received after that time will be published in the following month's newsletter.
- Articles must be submitted "**COPY READY**" (ready to print). The office does not type, re-type, or proof read them. Handwritten articles will not be accepted.
- Submitting articles in Microsoft Word format is preferred. In some cases articles may have to be re-configured for space purposes.
- Advertisements for private businesses or political purposes can not be accepted.

MOVING?

Are you moving soon? Please notify the church office. Our monthly newsletter and other information notices are mailed 3rd class so the post office will not forward them to your new location. If you do not inform the office, you may miss out on the latest church news. You can contact us at sacbc@sbcglobal.net or 510-471-2581 (weekdays between 10am & 2pm).

GOT E-MAIL?

If you haven't already done so, please send your e-mail address to the church office so we can include you in our group membership mailing list. This is the only way we have of reaching our members for last minute announcements. You can send your e-mail address to the church office at sacbc@sbcglobal.net

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3, 10:00 AM

NIRVANA DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 10:00 AM

DHARMA DISCUSSION
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 11:30 AM

LADY KUJO/LADY OHTANI SERVICE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 10:00 AM

SCOUTS LEI MAKING CLASS
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1:00 PM