

# Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church  
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*February 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.*

## Our Spiritual Founder, Our Spiritual Foundation



I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of SACBC for another New Year together. In last month's edition, we had a message from His Eminence Kojun Ohtani, our spiritual leader of the Nishi Hongwanji organization, our mother temple in Kyoto, Japan. As we enter a new year, let us re-focus our sincerest gratitude to our spiritual head priest, who continues to guide the Hongwanji today. This year in May, the Bay District will be going as a group to celebrate the observance of the 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, and the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of this religious tradition. We are very much looking forward to spending this time with our brothers and sisters on the other side of the Pacific Ocean to share in this auspicious occasion.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, there will be an opportunity for the Bay District to have a service in commemoration of this event. This is known as the *omachiuke* service, or pre-commemorative service. All members of the Bay District are encouraged to attend in person if possible.

On this joyous event, I think it is important to keep in mind Shinran Shonin's life goal, which was to share to the world the teaching of Amida Buddha's Boundless Wisdom and Compassion provided to us through the Nembutsu. When we think about our world today, all we have to do is look at our television, TikTok, and YouTube shorts to see how much of the streaming information is about unchecked and unbridled consumerism, self-aggrandizing, and unrealistic expectations that we are encouraged to have of each other and ourselves. Not too long ago, an extremely famous "influencer," as it is called, by the name of Andrew Tate was arrested for charges of sexual assault. It not only concerns me about this person and his unfortunate views he has of the world, but it troubles me even more that there is a very wide audience that thirsts for his kind of worldview. It amazes me how many people, particularly young impressionable males, who have bought into his vision of sadism, control, and rewarding of egocentric behavior. Yet, as Buddhists this comes as no surprise. In many respects, this world is nothing different from the one that Shinran Shonin lived through, as Japan was being war-torn with feudal conflicts between rivaling shoguns who were vying for power and control of the nation. We can take that even further back to the time of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin are asking us, "What are you using as your source for spiritual foundation? When this world sways to and fro—with false leaders who are using their egocentric worldviews to make empty promises of fame and fortune to the masses—what will you use instead to anchor your hearts to get passed the world full of confusion and deceit?" This is what we must reconsider during the time of this auspicious occasion of the 850<sup>th</sup>/800<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Service. Let us use this opportunity to put our hands together and humbly say Namō Amida Butsu, and be shown the profound path to true spiritual liberation unfettered by the lies of the world of delusion. Gassho



# 除夜会

2022年の除夜会、宮地信雄先生をお招きしました。

## 報恩講



ご講師：ブライアン・ナガタ先生



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>





## Services for February 2023

Alameda County is now **"Yellow - Medium"** for COVID. Cases are rising rapidly.  
Wearing a mask in the hondo or Sangha Hall is **strongly recommended**.

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### **February 5, 2023 – Shotsuki Hoyo & Nirvana Day Service** 10 A.M.

At this monthly memorial service, we will honor those loved ones who passed away in the month of February.  
Nirvana Service is the observance of Shakyamuni Buddha's death.  
Rev. Dr. Takashi. Miyaji will officiate this hybrid service.  
February birthdays will be celebrated.  
Dharma School will follow service.

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### **February 12, 2023 – Family Service & Pet Memorial Service** 10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi. Miyaji will officiate this hybrid service.  
If you would like your pet remembered, please send a picture or the name to Emily by Feb 6. If later than that, best efforts will be made to include your pet.  
Dharma School will follow service.

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### **February 19, 2023 – Family Service** 10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi. Miyaji will officiate this hybrid service.  
**Boy Scouts** will chair this service in honor of **National Boy Scouts Day!**

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### **February 26, 2023 – No Family Service at SACBC**

Across the BCA will be an Eitaikyo Service online. All are encouraged to attend.  
The link will be sent out as soon as it is ready. Thank you for your patience.

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# What's Up Dharma School?

## February 2023

Dharma school worked on the letter "U" as a continuation of the elementary student's alphabet book. With the upcoming lunar year, we commemorated the year of the "Usagi" (Rabbit) by making a snack holder, making decorative kamaboko designs, and eating udon for the first class of the new year.

Some of our Dharma students (current and former) also helped and participated in our first temple fundraiser of 2023, "Forever Young". Although most of the students didn't know the music being played from the 70's-90's, they seemed to enjoy the company, appetizers, and especially Rev. Bridge's bass performance with Rev. Miyaji mixing at the turn tables. The "Party Starter", Ms. Mitsuko Maruyama, got the older Dharma students (and Sangha!) to get onto the dance floor. A wonderful reminder for all to be in the moment and enjoy the time being with the Sangha when the opportunity is given to us.

The Dharma class also was treated to a special guest speaker, Rev. Brian Nagata and his friend "Taro" the beaver, the next day about the Lunar calendar. Highly recommend for those who could not attend to watch the Dharma talk when it gets posted on-line.

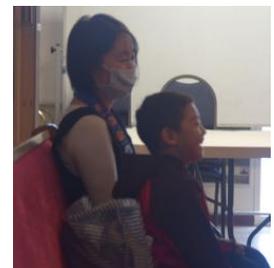
Here are the remaining days of Dharma classes for the 2022-2023:

- Feb.5
- Feb.12
- \*March 12 (@Palo Alto Temple for BCA Eitaikyo Service-more info later about possible Dharma class)
- March 26
- April 2
- \*April 8 (Hanamido decorating)
- April 9 (Hanamatsuri Service)
- May 21
- June 4
- June 11 - Last Day of Dharma Class
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Stay safe and healthy,

In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty



## “Irish Twins”

*Irish twins* is a slang expression for siblings born less than a year apart from each other... [dictionary.com] While we aren't biological or adopted siblings, we call ourselves "Irish Twins". We were born less than a year apart, had careers as teachers, and spend retirement time helping at the church. Look at us and decide or agree that we look like twins!



Judy Tokubo & Karen Fujii

## IN MEMORIAM

*SACBC Sangha extends its sincere condolences to the families of the late **Hirofumi Akahoshi**. He passed away December 30, 2022.*

*A private service had been held.*

### FREE E-WASTE PICK UP

to benefit Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church

Go to [www.eWaste4good.com](http://www.eWaste4good.com) and fill in your information. Enter our organization as the beneficiary. Within a few days, a dispatcher will call you to schedule an at home or office pickup date. Then, your electronics will be picked up, recycled and the proceeds will be sent to our organization. You can also call eWaste4good at 800-317-3112.

Thank you for supporting SACBC!

## ***“Forever Young Reunion Dance” held January 14, 2023***

**SACBC held its first social event** in a few years, after a long break of activity. With some friends from our sister temples (Oakland, Palo Alto, Mountain View, San Jose) and many friends of SACBC, we began the year 2023 with a dance and a BANG. OK, we had soooo much fun!!!

There was food, music, friends, dancing and some **special guest DJ’s** spinning the tunes. We welcomed DJ NinoYello (Kreations From Above), Rystylz (KZSU’s Art of the Breaks), DJ Taka (Rev. Takashi Miyaji,) and DJ Yamix (Kyle Yamasaki) with guest bassist, Rev. Harry Bridge (Buddhist Church of Oakland) for a jam session with DJ Taka. Oooh he did a rocked-out version of “Shinran Sama” that we couldn’t help but to sing along with him ...it was too good.

The night began with some pupus (appetizers) and a few beverages, you know just to hang loose with friends. With a little special mood lighting and some great music, everyone soon began to dance to tunes from the 1960’s through the 2000’s. You could sing along and get out on the dance floor or play games. There was something for everyone, and **it was a blast!!!**

**Thank you to everyone** who came out to help set up, volunteer in the kitchen, greeters at our front door, covering the bar and clean up (took only minutes with everyone’s help). A **special thank you** to our DJ’s and Guest DJ’s up on the stage to make the night an enjoyable event. Very professional.

We look forward to planning another event soon and invite you to join us, so keep those dancing shoes ready. **Thank you to everyone** for a successful event with your donations and support.

**SACBC Event Committee: Rev. Takashi Miyaji, John Arai, Karen Suyama, Kyle Yamasaki**



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## FEBRUARY EVENTS

5th SUN	SHOTSUKI HOYO & NIRVANA DAY SERVICE
12 <sup>TH</sup> SUN	FAMILY SERVICE & PET MEMORIAL SERVICE ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
19 <sup>TH</sup> SUN	FAMILY SERVICE; BOYS SCOUTS WILL CHAIR SERVICE
20 <sup>TH</sup> MON	PRESIDENT'S DAY OBSERVED—OFFICE CLOSED
26 <sup>TH</sup> SUN	NO FAMILY SERVICE @ SACBC
MARCH	COMING UP MARCH 3 <sup>RD</sup> (FRI) & 4 <sup>TH</sup> (SAT): HANAMATSURI TOURNAMENT
<b>ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM</b>  Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504	

