

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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FEBRUARY 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.



I hope that everyone had a good Holiday Season and spent time with family and friends!

I have mentioned before how we live in a Christian Society, and are taught Christian values and world

views. This occurs explicitly being taught by Christians their rules, or socializing us, which often are subconscious things we learn but perhaps are overtly conscious of why we do things the way we do. Language is a major part in spreading our cultural values, so just by speaking English we are taught in a spectrum of understanding, Christianity.

I am NOT against Christian thinking, nor do I think this is wrong or bad, but by breaking down these differences, we can better understand how they are very different religious or cultural understandings of how to understand the world. In comparison to perhaps a person who grew up in Japan, speaking Japanese, and whose family for generations has been Buddhist, would pass on different perspectives.

Having an undergrad degree focused on cultural anthropology, I would like to share some of my understandings of how to understand culture to all of you. I recently had a lively discussion with a good friend Professor Thomas Calobrisi at the Jodo Shinshu Center. We were both asked to present on a panel discussion as former students at the Institute of Buddhist Studies seventhly-fifth anniversary. Professor Thom was my unofficial proofreader on my thesis. We had not been able to celebrate my graduation in the spring properly, so we went out and then got into a discussion about Jodo Shinshu.

We discussed how religion (to the best of my memory post celebrating) provides us a lens into our own spirituality. We as foolish beings, or people who have and will do harmful karmic acts, are given a different holistic lens into Buddhism because of Amida Buddha's Eighteenth Vow. We are provided the karmic merit in Jodo Shinshu because we can't attain enlightenment on our own, due to our foolish nature, or as we do not uphold the difficult practices monks and nuns do. Professor Thom and I have spent years discussing this fact, but he personally had told me he felt he was too "bad" to be able to be Jodo Shinshu. While this idea may be found in other sects of Buddhism, the holistic approach Shinran Shonin teaches, is that Amida's Vow was created for those who could NOT do the more difficult Buddhist practices.

Prof Thom to my surprise before the IBS event started, decided to get his Buddhist name, like the ceremony held at SACBC in December. He had been thinking about his own appreciation and understanding of Jodo Shinshu in the recent months, and said, he recently started re-reading Shinran Shonin's works after we had finished working on my thesis. He randomly read passages and felt something different when reading them, so he said he felt he was ready to admit (what I had said all along), he is in fact Jodo Shinshu. This warmed my heart, and we spent time talking about how Jodo Shinshu allows one to see their truth self, AND when we understand why Amida Buddha wanted to ensure all beings would be embraced in the Pure Land, our imperfections become the reason we can have such a prolific appreciation of this type of Buddhism. We did debate which language should be used, Ethics versus Morals, and Prof Thom, being way more articulate than me, explained his views which aligned with

mine. We see how we are not perfect, because Amida's compassion for us, is so great nothing prevents us from being reborn in the Pure Land, so in our everyday lives, we reflect on our own actions. Not because we must be perfect, rather so we don't do things to others we know are harmful (knowing we will eventually have slip ups).

Amida's working safely reminds us about our true natures, and in around about way, not any different from any other Buddhist practice's practice, or even other religions' guidelines. It is an end to a means, by which we hopefully treat others the way we wish to be treated, and are reminded to not do something to someone, that we ourselves would not wish to be done to us. I explained why I try to not use morals, as living in a Christian society, we have been socialized to use this word, but also it also buys into the Christian world view and rules. I see this as having someone saying "I am morally right" or acting as if THEY are the white knight riding in to save the day.

In Jodo Shinshu, I think the mindset is to see we are NOT perfect, and yet are embraced, so we are to be grateful for a religious teaching, accepting us as we are. Prof Thom and I both defined the

outcomes and understanding the same, but I explained how one may hear morals who is a covert and could shut down due their own experiences making them leave the Christian Church.

When defined in length, he and I were on the same page, just a different way of saying the same thing. I don't care what religion people are, Buddhist or Christian, I think the hope is, we can all at the end of the day, find something spiritual that helps us treat those around us, better, as well as something that also provides us hope and comfort. We are in the season of celebrating a Christian Holiday and while it comes from a very different religious perspective, I hope we as Buddhist, can appreciate at least the idea of giving, kindness, and love for those around us. I think as Buddhists this is a good time for us to examine our own religious beliefs and reflect on how we understand it tying into a Christian holiday. Perhaps we can use this time to remember what is important to us, and use the holiday cheer, to consider what is important to us as Buddhists, and find a working balance between what we think Buddhism is, while having space to also appreciate a different religion's celebration.

Gassho
Rev. Landon

January 2025 Birthdays!

Best wishes for many more celebrations!



Rev. Miyaji: Celebrants: Judy Tokubo, Noreen Osaki, Sandy Maruyama, Mia Mosier, Ami Mosier, and Jim Nakamoto: Rev. Landon

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 10:00 AM; (In-person or on Zoom).**

DECEASED

1921 Fumiko Tomotoshi
 1941 George Enta
 1949 Shinsuke Nakamura
 1952 Ichi Shikano
 1964 Masako Inao
 1965 Heizo Hashimoto

 1966 Shinichi Mukai
 1968 Uka Inao
 1972 Fred Chiaki Teshima
 1975 Masao Babaoka
 1975 Kinnosuke Yasuhiro
 1985 Masuko Kitayama
 1985 Lynnsey Akemi Hisaoka
 1991 Miyoshi Kishi
 1992 Matsuko Suyama
 1992 Satori Sekigahama
 1993 Fred Ichio Sakuda
 1994 Yoshiye Shibata
 1995 Masao Yamauchi
 1998 George Hatakeda
 2000 Nicolas Hideo Chu
 2002 Yasuko Suyeyasu
 2004 Edward Isamu Nomura
 2004 Ruby Noma
 2005 Reiko Kato
 2006 Oriye Ushijima
 2006 Kazuo Shikano
 2007 Setsuye Shikano
 2008 Kenji Fujii
 2009 Masao Tomotoshi
 2010 James 'Bo' Kataoka
 2011 Yasuo Hatsushi
 2014 Bessie Harada
 2015 Masaru Yamasaki

 2018 Betty Kitani
 2018 Sumie Suyeyasu
 2019 Fujio Yamamoto
 2019 Teruo Kaneko
 2020 Sadie Yamamoto
 2021 Ted Shigeru Sato
 2021 Alfred Fujikawa
 Kino Kawaguchi (death yr unknown)
 Katsu Kato (death yr unknown)

FAMILY

Tomotoshi Family
 Kitajima Family
 Mr. Stacy Nakamura
 Mr. Ben Shikano
 Ms. Nancy Teruko Dodd
 Dr. Walter Hashimoto &
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hashimoto
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mayeda
 Ms. Nancy Teruko Dodd
 Ms. Paige Ajimura
 Ms. Paige Ajimura
 Mr. Philip Yasuhiro
 Mrs. Heidi Kitayama
 Mrs. Pattie Hisaoka
 Kishi Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Suyama
 Sekigahama Family
 Mr. Wayne Sakuda
 Mrs. Arlyne Shibata
 Ms. Nancy Teruko Dodd
 Mr. Glenn Nitta
 Chu Family
 Suyeyasu Family
 Mr. Ray Nomura
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Quan
 Kato Family
 Mrs. Yoshie Yamada
 Mr. Ben Shikano
 Mr. Ben Shikano
 Mr. Victor Fujii & Mr. Walter Fujii
 Mrs. Patricia Carter
 Mr. Jeff Kataoka
 Mrs. Takiko Hatsushi & Mrs. Yoko Hiramine
 Harada Family
 Ms. Lauren Yamasaki
 Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Yamasaki
 Mr. Jeff Kitani
 Ms. Nadine Suyeyasu
 Ms. Ellen Yamamoto
 Kaneko Family
 William Masters
 Terry Sato
 Linda Fujikawa
 Kawaguchi Family
 Mr. Wayne Sakuda

Memorial Service 2025

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 – 1 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 or sacbcoffice@gmail.com.



Services for February 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.

February 2, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo & Nirvana Day Service 10 A.M. (Hybrid)

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 service.

February birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

Japanese service will follow the English service.

February 9, 2025 – Family Service & Pet Memorial Service 10 A.M. (Hybrid)

If you would like your pet remembered, please send a picture or the name to Emily by Feb 3. If later than that, best efforts will be made to include your pet.

Dharma School will follow service.

February 16, 2025 – Family Service 10 A.M.(Hybrid)

February 23, 2025 – Family Service 10 A.M.(Hybrid)

Boy Scouts will chair this service to honor **National Boy Scouts Day!**



What's Up Dharma School?

February 2025

Here are the remaining days of Dharma Classes for 2024-2025

Jan. 26, 2025

Feb.2, 2025 (Nirvana Day /Shotsuki Hoyo/Birthdays)

Feb.9, 2025 (Pet Memorial Service)

March 9, 2025 (Shotsuki Hoyo/Birthdays)

April 5, 2025 * (Sat-Hanamido preparation)

April 6, 2025 (Hanamatsuri/Birthdays)

April 20, 2025

May 4, 2025 (Shotsuki Hoyo/Birthdays)

May 18, 2025 (Gotan-e Service)

June 1, 2025 (Shotsuki Hoyo/Last day of Dharma School)



BWA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year! I hope 2025 will be a healthy, safe and fun-filled year for everyone.

Our first activity of the year will be a New Year's luncheon on January 19th. I know we usually have a year-end luncheon, but with so much happening, we could not squeeze it into December.

Below you will find some of our upcoming activities:

January 19th, 10:00am – please join us for service and then our BWA luncheon to welcome in the new year.

January 26th, 9:00am BWA meeting, then 10:00am Installation and temple general meeting.

February 16, 9:00am – BWA meeting, service at 10:00am

February 22, Bay District BWL meeting in Oakland at 11:00am. I would like to have a couple of members to join me at this meeting.

March 8-9, our first rummage sale. Set up will be on Friday March 7th, from 1:00-5:00pm.

The first Bay District BWL meeting will be on February 22 in Oakland. Please let me know if you would like to join me at this meeting. Karen Suyama

Start cleaning out closets, cupboards, garages, attics, yards, bedrooms, basements, kitchens for the

SACBC Rummage Sale

Saturday March 8, 10:00am–3:00pm

Sunday March 9, 2025, 11:00am–3:00pm

Last day we are accepting donations is February 21, 2025.

Suggested items for donation:

Clean, wearable clothing, items in good working order: TV's, microwaves, radios, lamps, sewing machines, musical instruments, books in good condition, jewelry, picture frames, old wedding gifts you never used, antiques, Asian dishes that just sit on the shelf, games, toys, puzzles, old tools, futons, kitchenware: kitchen gadgets, pots and pans, dishes, utensils, vases, fabric you meant to use but never got around to using, yarn, records, cd's, audio tapes, self-help books and tapes, humidifiers, tote bags, purses, framed paintings, gardening tools, dolls, ukeleles, kimonos, wall hangings, scarves, organizer items, etc....

We cannot accept donations from non-members.



FREE E-WASTE PICK UP to benefit Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church

Go to 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!

CAR DONATION PROGRAM



Donate your unwanted car, truck or van. Receive a tax deduction and help SACBC.

Running or not, even wrecks are accepted. DMV paperwork will be handled by Harold's.

It is fast and easy. Towing is free! For more info or to schedule a pick-up call:

Harold's Car Donation Service

800-310-5274

Website: haroldscardonationservice.com

Don't forget to mention that the donation is for SACBC, so the proceeds from the sale go to our church.

2025

BCA Ministers Association and
National Council Meeting



A Promised Shared

Saturday, February 22, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. PT

Virtual Public Workshops

Workshop Tracks:

- Buddhist Education
- Organizational Sustainability
- Developing our Leaders
- Investing in Our Future

Sunday, February 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT

BCA Townhall Featuring Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada

Sunday, March 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. PT

BCA Eitaikyo Service

and National Council Meeting Closing Program

Hosted by the Bay District Temples



For more info: <https://links.bcancm.org/events>



FEB 2025

Events are subject to change

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30a-1pm JLS classes
2 10am Shotsuki & Nirvana Service	3 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	4 6:30-8:30pm Scout 6-9pm AA practice	5 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	6 9a-2p Boutique 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	7 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice	8 8:30a-1pm JLS classes
9 10am Family Service	10 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	11 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	12 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	13 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	14 6am O-Jinjo <i>GC submission Deadline for March issue</i> 5-9pm Bingo	15 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
16 10am Family Service 8a-4p Private party	17 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	18 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9pm AA practice	19 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	20 9a-2p Boutique 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	21 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice	22 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
23 10am Family Service	24 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	25 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	26 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	27 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	28 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo	

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FEBRUARY EVENTS

2nd – SUN	NIRVANA AND SHOTSUKI SERVICE
9th – SUN	PET MEMORIAL / FAMILY SERVICE
16th – SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
17th – MON	PRESIDENT’S DAY OBSERVED (OFFICE CLOSED)
23rd – SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting for Sunday Services</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/yc6us7yy</p> <p>Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p>	



FEBRUARY 17th