

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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December 2024

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.



Last month I found myself dealing with an ethical dilemma outside the wrong Jack-in-The-Box drive-thru. Not eating all day, I went to the one on the same street, but in the wrong direction, but was too tired to drive to the safer area. A displaced man was asking for money in the drive-thru, and I just rolled up my windows as I felt it unsafe, physically but also assumed he had COVID. The car in front of me seemed to be looking at him, and I made the judgement based on the car and the baby on board sticker that it was a mom (but didn't see her). They paid and rolled their window up and I could see the passenger looking at the guy. I made more assumptions based on my working at the drug rehab and noticed his body language and guessed which drug he was on.

As the front car got its food, it stopped by him and gave him a dollar, and instantly I felt bad. I kept my window rolled up as he was standing next to my door, but after getting my food, my guilt took over and I gave him the \$2.00 I had left in my wallet. I had donated my change to the company's food-for-people-in-need hoping that I would feel better, but I did not, so I ended up giving him the money. I expected him to be ungrateful, but I could feel the gratitude in his voice, and that made me feel worse.

I drove home thinking about what Shin Buddhism says about this? My first minister told me that after being transferred to San Francisco, he ALWAYS kept loose bills in his pocket and would give to ANY person asking or who looked like they needed help. I asked, "Sensei what if they don't need it or use it for drugs?" He just told me it didn't matter, as they need it more than he needed a dollar. I try to give people food and sometimes give people money IF I feel like they won't use the money for something like drugs, but perhaps due to lack of sleep and not eating I got very teary-eyed.

A minister from abroad who was studying at IBS told me that my personal karma was to work with people with addictions. He said that in my past lives, I had been a hungry ghost, a being who acted selfishly in past lives, so now they could never get or eat enough. He said that that is why I ended up working in recovery and prevention services, why I wanted to do a thesis about drug addiction, and why I, too, think like an addict. Miyaji Sensei's work on ethics made me think about what if I had been an addict on the streets. Maybe just ONE change in my past and I could have been that homeless guy asking for money, and would I have hoped that someone would have helped me?

Miyaji Sensei's work deals with how we can live in accordance with the Jodo Shinshu teachings. WE are not required to do good acts, however from what I remember of his lectures, (it has been a few

years since I have heard it) I think he said that we should look at ourselves in order to understand our own imperfections, and thus appreciate the gift that Amida Buddha has given freely to us. Of course, this plays out for each of us differently. From that brief interaction I had, I felt guilty, so I tried to help. I'm not particularly altruistic. However, for whatever reason that interaction made me reflect on myself, and I saw myself in that person.

I assume this is not a likely scenario now, but one never knows how things will turn out. Perhaps, one more big accident, or one more needed surgery and it could be me addicted to pain meds. Or it could be that I'm just a jerk by assuming he wanted drugs, and not food. Lastly, what are the consequences of ignoring his need? Both for him and for me? I don't know that Jodo Shinshu can offer a single answer or that it is even meant to do so. Over these last few weeks of reflecting on it, I feel that I HAD to give him the money, because I saw myself in him. MY causes and conditions created a brief but strong karmic tie to him, not because I was a bad person if I didn't give him the money, but because like him I too struggle. He reminded me of why I needed to come and study the teachings of Shinran Shonin, so that I might learn how to better live my daily life.

In Gassho,
Rev. Landon

BWA ANNOUNCEMENT:

The BWA Beginning of the Year Luncheon date *has been changed to January 19th, 2025.* Please note: Invites for members and guests will be mailed in December. Details will be included in the invitation for the event.

RSVPs are due by January 5, 2025.

BWA Report for December 2024 GC

Our BWA Rummage Sale was a success! Thank you to everyone who donated/supported our fundraiser.

Our **BWA NEW YEARS LUNCHEON, is scheduled for January 19th, 2025** and ask that you please put that in your calendar. More information to follow.

Our next SACBC BWA Meeting will be held on Sunday December 15th. Come join us to see what else is happening.

DECEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on
Sunday, December 8, 2024 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
 2023 Jane Rice
 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
 Rice Family
 Tanaka Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Sakai
 Mr. Kyle Yamasaki
 Mrs. Jean Kotake

Memorial Service 2024

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2023 – 1st year	2012 – 13th year	1992 – 33rd year
2022 – 3rd year	2008 – 17th year	1975 – 50th year
2018 – 7th year	2000 – 25th year	1925 – 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 2024

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

December 1, 2024 – No Service (Thanksgiving weekend)

December 8, 2024 – 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.

Kieshiki service with Bishop Harada will be held for those who will receive a Buddhist name.
Japanese service will follow the English Service.

Dharma School will host a Mochitsuki and Otoki following service.

December 15, 2024 – Family Service
10 A.M.

Dharma School will follow service.

December 22, 2024 – Family Service
10 A.M.

December 29, 2024 – No Service

December 31, 2024 – New Year's Eve (Joya-e) Service
7 P.M. (Tuesday) (In-Person only Service)

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 service.

Toshikoshi soba will be served.

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

January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day (Shusho-e) Service
10 A.M. (Wednesday) (In-Person only Service)

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

After service, we will have a toast to welcome the new year.

SACBC Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 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?

Dec. 2024

We had a busy last couple of weeks! As part of our lesson on dana, the students decided to raise funds for the Red Cross. We had a very successful bake sale, raising over a little over \$300! We appreciate our sangha for your support! Thank you to the Htwe family, Minamoto-Mosier family, Miyaji family, Chuang family, Taniguchi family, Eileen Yoshida, Kathy Jang, Joann Rodgers, Cindy Sakihara, and Gail Minamoto for all the donations of baked goods!

We also successfully held our annual Keirokai event on Nov.3. Congratulations to Eleanor Sekigahama on turning 88 years young! Words cannot express how much 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 always amazed how things come together. We certainly hope our guests had a wonderful time!

Thank you to:

- Rev. Miyaji, Rev. Landon, Kyle Yamasaki for their participation and certificate preparation.
- Emily for taking the RSVPs and delivering food.
- Lani Uemura for the beautiful photobooth backdrop.
- Tet Uemura and Ray Sakihara for the photos.
- Yukiko Osaki for the table decorations.
- Dharma school students for snow globe & snowman decorations.
- Josie and Cathleen Matsubayashi for the snowflakes.
- Karen Fujii for the pine cones.
- Kyung Ja Kato for the persimmons.
- Kailen Mark for coordinating the snowball game and Josie, Brie Hornig, and Trent Osaki for assisting. The Dharma School students for calling the Bingo games.
- Curtis and Noreen Mark--our Kabocha master cutter & master cutter of all veggies! And making sure decorations and games are ready to go!
- Glenn Sekigahama for washing ALL of the dishes.
- Cindy Sakihara for MC-ing.
- Reina Fujii for helping coordinate the program and kitchen help.
- Kathy and Gordon Jang, Yukiko and Dean Osaki, Cindy Sakihara, & Kathy Velasco for their help in the kitchen and the decorations.
- Lindsay Minamoto and Kaori Miyaji for the favors.
- Our current Dharma school families and students (Htwe family, Chuang family, Taniguchi family, Yeh family, Minamoto-Mosier family, Miyaji family).

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.

We hope to see you all at Mochitsuki on Dec.8!

In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty

Red Cross and Temple Fundraiser



Keirokai 2024







BART Ticket Refund – Fundraiser – THANK YOU! KEEP THEM COMING!



As of November 2023, BART no longer accepts Paper Tickets. Riders must have a plastic Clipper Card.

Thank you for submitting your paper tickets.

In September & October 2024, SACBC received a total of \$500 from BART!!!

I have received more tickets and will submit them.

Please keep asking friends and family for their paper tickets.

I will keep submitting tickets to BART.

NON-PROFIT organizations can get a refund for all tickets (blue, green & red) submitted.

For more information: <https://www.bart.gov/tickets/sales/refunds>

Thank you for your support! Karen Fuji

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
RING IN NEW YEAR 2025!

Wishing you Peace,
Happiness and
Good Health for the
New Year!
Michi & JoAnn

*May infinite wisdom,
Compassion and
gratitude be with us all!*
Paul Gan

**Best Wishes to Everyone
this Holiday Season**
In Gassho, Takiko, Ted,
Ralph & Amy

Happy New Year!
From Shig & Judy Tokubo

**Best Wishes for a Happy
Holiday Season, and a
Joyous New Year!**
Paul & Yuki Nomura

Happy Holidays

*Looking
forward to a glitzy
2025!*

*Gassho,
Karen & Ken
Suyama*

*Best Wishes for
Happy, Healthy 2025!*
From Sawasaki Family

**Wishing you warmth
and
Inner happiness this
holiday.**
The Sakihara Family

Wishing you a healthy 2025
with many wonderful
adventures.
2025 - Year of the Snake:
Time for introspection,
intuition, and adaptability.
Karen Fujii



DEC 2024

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 No Service Thanksgiving 12-5pm AA/EBYAL Tournament	2 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	3 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	4 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	5 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	6 6am O-Jinjo Golden Chain Submission deadline 6-9pm AA practice	7 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
8 10am Shotsuki/ Bodhi Day Kieshiki Service Mochitsuki & Otoki after service 12-5pm AA/EBYAL Tournament	9 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	10 6:30-8:30pm Scout 6-9pm AA practice	11 3-5pm Taiko 7:30pm SACBC Board Meeting 6-9 AA practice	12 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	13 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo 6-9pm AA practice	14 8:30a-1pm JLS classes & Holiday party
15 10am Family Service 12-5pm AA/EBYAL Tournament	16 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	17 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	18 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	19 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	20 6am O-Jinjo 6-9 AA practice	21 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
22 10am Family Service	23 8:30am Qi-gong Office Mgr. on vacation 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	24 Office Mgr. on vacation 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9pm AA practice	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed) 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	26 11a-1pm JLS Office Mgr. on vacation 6-9pm AA practice	27 6am O-Jinjo Off Mgr. on vacation 5-9pm Bingo 6-9pm AA practice	28 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
29 No Service	30 8:30am Qi-gong Office Mgr on vacation 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	31 7pm Joya-e service Office Mgr on vacation 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	1 10am Shusho-e service Happy New Year! Office Mgr on vacation	2 Office Mgr. on vacation		

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 Union City, CA 94587-3165



DECEMBER EVENTS



1ST—SUN	NO SERVICE
8th—SUN	SHOTSUKI & BODHI DAY SERVICE <i>KIESHIKI SERVICE WITH BISHOP HARADA</i>
11TH—WED	SACBC BOARD MEETING ON ZOOM @ 7PM
15th—SAT	FAMILY SERVICE
22ND—SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
25th—WED	CHRISTMAS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
29 th —SUN	NO SERVICE
31 st —TUES	NEW YEAR'S EVE (JOYA-E SERVICE) @ 7PM (IN-PERSON ONLY SERVICE)
JAN 1 ST —WED	NEW YEAR'S DAY (SHUSHO-E SERVICE) @ 10AM (IN-PERSON ONLY SERVICE); (OFFICE CLOSED)
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR ONLINE</p> <p><i>Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300</i></p> <p><i>Passcode: 549504</i></p>	