

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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www.SACBC.org

January 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.

Happy New Year!



I hope you had a nice holiday season, and on behalf of SACBC I would like to wish you a Happy New Year. In 2023, our mother temple observed the 850th

Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of this tradition. The Bay District was able to gather a group of enthusiastic individuals who went to the headquarters in Kyoto, Japan, as well as see many of the beautiful sites all throughout the country. It also helped that the yen was weaker than the dollar, making things easier on our pockets. 2023 was a fun year, and things seemed hopeful as we were coming out of the pandemic. Now, I hardly hear anybody worrying about COVID-19, despite its sporadic resurgence here and there. It is interesting how quickly things can change over a short period of time.

However, this past year also brought about much confusion, worries, and anxieties as well. We are all well aware of the situation taking place in Ukraine, as well as the devastation we are watching in real time regarding Palestine and Israel. There are many days where I feel helpless about the many occurrences that are taking place in those parts of the world.

Meanwhile, we hear about the growing wage gap and homelessness in America, the greater divide between Americans on the political and social fronts, and the eroding trust we have in the efficacy of our governmental institutions and our way of life. The rise in inflation and crime are creating even more reasons for people to feel

isolated from each other and not willing to trust other people in our society. How do we cope with living in this situation?

In my humble opinion, our society is growing neglectful of our spiritual lives. The latest Pew Research shows that there is a growing disinterest in organized religion and people belonging to religious organizations. From a certain perspective, I completely understand why this is the case. As a millennial, I grew up enjoying video games and watching Disney movies—you know, back when they were original and not just doing remakes. Terminator 2 and Back to the Future are movies where I know from memory all the lines spoken. As such, the topic of religion was always on the back burner—if that. However, as I get older, I realize there's only so much glasses of wine I can drink, movies I can watch, trips I can take, basketball and football games I can watch before I start to naturally wonder: is this all there is to life? What is the meaning of all this? Am I just supposed to consume a bunch of stuff, own a bunch of things, then get old and die?

Buddhism teaches me that there's much more to this life than just what we see in front of us. The incessant nature of our human ego leads to constant struggle and conflict. Rather than to rely on the ego-self, Buddhism provides us with a path of relying on something that is permanent, unchanging, and true: Amida Buddha's boundless Wisdom and Compassion. With this new worldview, we can live a life of deep gratitude and hope, despite the many struggles that we might witness and experience in this turbulent world. Let us walk together on the Nembutsu path forward in 2024. Gassho.

謹賀新年

新年明けましておめでとうございます。今年もどうぞよろしくお願ひ致します。2023年、西本願寺の本山で、親鸞聖人のご生誕（降誕とも呼びます）の850周年、並びに立教開宗の800周年を迎えました。SACBCが所属している桑湾教区から約40名の代表者が京都の本山へ参拝させていただきました。京都、東京、及び九州の地域を巡って、各地の美しい名所を見学することができました。2023年は楽しい年であり、パンデミックから回復しつつ雰囲気が楽観的になってきていました。COVID-19に関する恐れもだいぶ治まってきたようです。短い時間の間に色々な変化が起きる可能性があることが改めて感じさせていただきました。

しかし、もう一方では2023年は大変な年でもありました。世界中に起きている問題を見ていくと、色々な混乱、心配や、不安もありました。ウクライナで起きた問題や、パレスチナとイスラエルの問題が深刻化していき、解決が見つからないことが念頭に残ります。自分が何もできないという絶望的な考えに陥ることがよくあります。

そしてさらに、アメリカでは経済的格差や、ホームレス問題が深刻化し、政治的・社会的な面でアメリカ人の間にある緊張感、さらに政府機関や私たちの生活様式に対する信頼が損なわれています。インフレと犯罪の増加は、人々を互いに孤立させ、他人同士お互いに信頼しづらくなっていることも感じます。このような状況の中で、私たちはどのように対処すればいいのでしょうか。

現代社会において、私たちの心の精神的・宗教的な部分が軽視されるようになってきたのではないのでしょうか。最新のピュー・リサーチによれば、ここ数年の間、宗教団体に属する人々の数値が圧倒的に減少してきました。この事実に関して筆者は分からないものでもないのです。私は1980年代に生まれ、子供の時ファミコンやディズニー等の映画をたくさん見てきました。このように楽しい時間を過ごす中で、宗教に対して全く興味はありませんでした。私の友人や少し年下の知り合いを見ても、やはり同じようなパターンです。宗教は私にとって関係ないと思っているのが普通です。しかし、少しずつ歳を重ねていながら、いつも飲んで暴れていても大丈夫なのでしょう。いつまで映画を見たり、旅行に行ったり、お笑いの番組をテレビで見たりしているのでしょうか。人生にはこれだけなのか？私はただたくさんものを消費し、たくさんものを所有し、年老いて死ぬだけなのだろうか？これが人生の意味なのだろうか？

仏教は、この人生はそんなに甘くないものだよと教えていただくためのものです。そのお伝え方は厳しくと優しく教えてくれる二つの方法がございます。我々浄土真宗は後者の優しい教え方です。そして、この人生には目の前にあるもの以上のものがあると教えてくれます。人間の自己中心的という変わらない性質は、自分と他人にどうしようもない苦難を起こします。阿弥陀如来様は、その自己に頼るのではなく、無量で変わることはない真実のものに頼れと教えてくださるのです。つまり、阿弥陀如来様の限りない智慧と慈悲を拠り所としなさいと優しく呼びかけています。そして、この新しい世の中の見方によって、どんな苦難なことが起きても、決して自分の精神の土台が崩れず、希望と感謝の生活を送ることができるのです。皆さんと共に、2024年にこんな念仏の道を歩んでまいりたいと思います。合掌。

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM; (In-person or on Zoom).**

DECEASED

1937 Chizuko Sekigahama
1958 Sakue Kamiji
1960 Tsuru Nomura
1965 Hichizo Ota
1966 Ruriko Kataoka
1968 Koyuri Shibata
1976 Moto Tsurui
1978 Haruyo Kawaguchi
1986 Taijuu Kato
1993 Tsuyuko Suzuki
1996 Lt. Col. Richard Sakakida
1999 Christopher Takayama
1999 Tsugiko Hayashi
1999 Chiyemi Sakuda
2000 Dennis James Hatakeda
2000 Kathleen Marie Dupler
2002 Toshiharu Okada
2003 Katsunori Hatsushi
2005 Tsugio Nishimura
2006 Yoshiko Kawaguchi
2006 John Nagata
2007 Marie Payne
2007 Hosshi Shingetsu Akahoshi
2008 Ken Okubo
2011 June Okino
2011 Yuka Matoba
2011 Jon Nakamoto
2014 Moss Fujii
2014 Molly Kitajima
2018 Ronald Misaki
2020 Anne Tanaka
Keiko Okubo
Harry Mark
2021 Haruko Hamamoto
2021 Imahara, Shigeyo
2022 Misaki, Mary

FAMILY

Sekigahama Family
Mrs. Sachi Fudenna & Mrs. Michi Handa
Nomura Family
Ota Family
Kataoka Family
Shibata Family
Tsurui Family
Kawaguchi Family
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda
Suzuki Family
Sakakida Family
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Takayama
Mr. Richard Hayashi
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda
Mr. Harold Hatakeda
Mr. Ron Dupler
Mr. & Mrs. Hideo Okada
Mrs. Kyoko Hatsushi
Mr. & Mrs. Fujio Yamamoto
Kawaguchi Family
Mrs. Jamie Nagata
Mrs. Nancy Camacho
Akahoshi Family
Mr. Patrick Okubo
Okino Family
Mrs. Haru Hamamoto
Nakamoto Family
Fujii Family
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kitajima
Ms. Joslynn Browne & Ms. Tiffany Misaki Ratliff
Mr. Gary Tanaka
Mr. Patrick Okubo
Dr. Curtis Mark & Noreen Osaki
Mr. Gary Hamamoto
Mr. Alan Imahara
Ms. Karen Fujii & David Misaki

Yoshimitsu Ushijima (death yr unk) Mrs. Yoshie Yamada
Ichitaro Yamasaki (death yr unk) Mr. Kyle Yamasaki
Matsue Yamasaki (death yr unk) Mr. Kyle Yamasaki
Machi Doami (death yr unk) Doami Family
Marcus Susumu Hishinuma (death yr unk) Mr. & Mrs. Sabu Hishinuma
Edward Cuccia (death yr unk) Cuccia Family

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Memorial Service 2024

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2023 – 1 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
or sacboffice@gmail.com.

Happy New Year!



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

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

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **HYBRID** service.

Following service, we will welcome 2024 with a “toast”.

**January 7, 2024 – Shotsuki Hoyo
10 A.M.**

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **HYBRID** service.

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

Dharma message in Japanese will be given after the English service.

January birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

**January 14, 2024 – Hoonko Service
10 A.M.**

This is the memorial service for Shinran Shonin, founder of Jodo Shinshu.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **HYBRID** service.

Dharma School will follow service.

Please join your Dharma friends in the Reception Room for Otoki after the service.

**January 21, 2024 – Family Service
10 A.M.**

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will pre-record this service and post it on our YouTube
channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SouthernAlamedaCountyBuddhistChurch>

Please note, service will NOT be held in person.

**January 28, 2024 – Family Service
10 A.M.**

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **HYBRID** service.

- The SACBC Board of Directors will be installed.
 - *The General Meeting will be held after service. A quorum is needed, so please attend in-person, on Zoom, or sign a proxy. A quorum is needed to approve the 2024 budget and motions that guide the Board in the coming year.*
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Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

GOOD CHEERS & BEST WISHES! PAUL & YUKI NOMURA

WITH LOVE FOR ALL OF US, THE KITAJIMA FAMILY

WISHING YOU ALL HAPPINESS & GOOD HEALTH FOR THE 366 DAYS OF 2024! Karen Fujii

"A warm thank you for your support in 2023 and a joyful welcome to the New Year! Looking forward to your continued friendship in 2024. Gassho." Miyaji Family

Happy Holidays! Wishing you all the best in the new year! The Murai Family

Wishing you a New Year touched with kindness and compassion. Sakihara Family

Happy New Year to all! Morliengo Family

May the Dharma be with you always. Happy Holidays! The Gan Family

Happy Holidays to all! George & Nancy Takahashi

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year! Michi & JoAnn

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Iris & Steve Yakuma

Wishing you and happy and healthy 2024! Bill Sawasaki

Stay safe, well, sane and optimistic! With metta, from Shig & Judy Tokubo

Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year! Arlyne Shibata, Phil & Yvette Hornig

Best wishes for a healthy & happy 2024! Art & Jessie Sakai



Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu
With Gassho, Karen & Ken Suyama

What's up Dharma School?

January 2024

Dharma School, along with BEC and BWA, hosted Mochitsuki on Dec.3. Oterakai also joined us for the festivity (thank you for the fruits and help with clean up!). Usu-to-be master, Tyler Murai, skillfully turned the mochi while the Sangha pounded the mochi. I'm sure master Garret was proud, knowing that Tyler didn't lose a finger!

We had a variety of 'toppings', appetizers, and fresh and warm pounded mochi, enjoying each other's company for the afternoon. We truly thank those who were able to join us to make this another memorable and successful event.

We would especially like to thank:

- Rev.Miyaji for his guidance and support
- Karen Suyama and Grace Joo for making the kagamimochi for the altar.
- Japanese Language School, Karen Fuji, and Betty Yamasaki for their use of their machine.
- Mochi-Usu master Tyler and Garret Murai
- BEC for the donation of the mochigome
- Dharma school families, past and present, for donating the many varieties of fruits, and jumping in to help from prepping, serving, and cleaning up.

Looking ahead, Dharma classes is scheduled for:

- Jan.7, 2023
- Jan. 14, 2023

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

In gassho,

Cathleen and Betty



FAVORITE RECIPES – WANTED !!!

for Cookbook #3

It's time to update our recipes! In 1975, the (then) Fujinkai produced "Favorite Recipes – Book I" [of SACBC]. In 1987, "Favorite Recipes – Book II" was made. In 2020, a few members began working on Book III. Time has come to continue working on Book III as a fundraiser for the church. Much needed are funds to replace the leaky roof on Sangha Hall as well as other maintenance projects.

Book III will have recipes from Book I & Book II as well as your latest, greatest, and tastiest ones.

Categories: Appetizers, Beverages, One-dish Meals, Meat-Fish-Poultry, Bread-Rolls, Desserts, Miscellaneous (Popcorn Mix, jams & jellies, snacks, etc.), and Asian. Also, please submit any "tips" or "hints" you have for cooking, baking, storing ingredients and food, removing stains, etc.

When the first books were made, the committee thought having a section specifically for Japanese and other Asian recipes would be a way to pass down family recipes and be a marketing attraction. Please include your Japanese/Asian Fusion recipes. Even submit the notes you wrote when your mother or grandmother said, "Add a hand full of this and a pinch of that" which resulted in the most delicious thing to eat or drink!

Please send your favorite recipes by email to Emily at SACBCOffice@gmail.com OR mail or drop off hard copies. Emily has graciously agreed to lead this project.

Be sure to include your name or the name of the person whose recipe is being submitted.

Deadline is March 1, 2024. The goal is to have Book III printed and ready to sell by Bazaar 2024.

If you know someone who has coordinated a cookbook project or a publishing/printing company that prints books, please let Emily know. 510-471-2581

Pet Memorial

To honor the pets that shared their lives with you, the annual Pet Memorial Service will be Sunday, February 11, 2024. Please email, send, or drop off pictures with names of your pets that you would like remembered during this service. The deadline is February 1, 2024. Be sure to include your name(s). If sending or providing hardcopies, please include your name and contact information so the pictures can be returned to you.

SACBC BINGO

SACBC Members

After almost 4 years of COVID-19, we will be bringing back BINGO early in 2024. BINGO has been a very important fundraiser for SACBC since 1989. Initially, we will only run BINGO on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

Friday's will probably start around 4 pm or so to start to get everything ready. We will probably open the doors for customers around 5 pm.

Please contact Bob Kitajima or John Arai if you are willing and able to help once we start running BINGO.

Thanks

John Arai and the BINGO committee

Qigong In-Person Class – Saturday, January 20

The QIGONG classes have been held for a full year on Monday mornings in the Sangha Hall Reception room via ZOOM. Sangha members, all Seniors, have enjoyed and benefitted from the class.

Jim Patton will be holding an in-person class on Saturday, January 20, from 1-3 PM in the Sangha Hall Gym. Church members and Associate members are welcome to attend. An orei/donation of \$20 is appreciated. No special clothing or equipment is needed. Please bring you own water bottle.

Please call or email Emily if you plan to attend. 510-471-2581; Sacbcoffice@gmail.com

BWA – report by Karen Suyama.

We held our Year End and Memorial Service on December 10, with about 60 people attending both service and the luncheon. We recognized some new members, which happened to mostly be men – so a hearty welcome to you!!! Cindy Sakihara organized some games for us, and Dharma School helped serve the bentos and hot tea. Thank you for your help and support.

It's time to become a member of the SACBC BWA. Dues are only \$15.00 per year and we look forward to having some exciting activities for 2024. Please let me know what you would like to do. How about a cooking class? Or a card making workshop. What about planning an outing to see a Japanese Garden, or take a train ride. Or, a recipe exchange by bringing a finished product for us to taste. Then we'll keep the recipe for the new recipe book we are trying to complete by May 2024. Think about it and let me know what we should do.

Please join us at our next meeting on January 14th at 9:00am. Then stay for Hoonko Service.

Upcoming activities:

Rummage Sale — March 2 – 3, 2024

Bazaar Report

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 25th at 7:00pm. Let's take a look at what we need to do for our upcoming fundraiser. A reminder email will be sent the beginning of January. See you then.

Hondo Kitchen Remodeled!

With gratitude to Mrs. Takiko Hatsushi, the Sangha will be enjoying the remodel of the kitchen in the hondo. Her daughter, Amy, and son-in-law Ralph Hughes have designed and managed this project. Ralph built all the cabinets from Cherry wood. Mrs. Hatsushi's son, Ted, helped with the demolition of the old plus preparation & installation of the new. Sangha members who helped clear out the old cupboards, "demo" the old, and bring in the new include: John Arai, Karen Fujii, Paul Gan, Jeff Handa, Hideo Okada, JoAnn Rogers, Glen Sekigahama, & Karen Suyama.

The upgrade of the kitchen is in memory of Mr. Kazuo Hatsushi, who is Mrs. Hatsushi's husband, Amy & Ted's father, and Ralph Hughes's father-in-law. Amy said he loved to get people together and having a very beautiful and functional kitchen would be the place to enjoy their company. He passed to the Pure Land on Christmas Day; the kitchen will be completed by that significant day.

Please come January 1, 2024, to welcome the New Year in the "new" kitchen!

Below is the original kitchen built in 1962 —



Before

After





JANUARY • 2024

Events subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 10am Shusho-e Service 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA	2 6:30 pm Scouts	3 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA	4 11am-1pm JLS winter break 6-9pm AA 7pm Kendo	5 6-9pm AA	6 8:30-noon JLS winter break
7 10am Shotsuki Hoyo	8 6AM O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA	9 6:30 pm Scouts	10 6am O-Jinjo 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA	11 6am O-Jinjo 11am-1pm JLS Winter break 6-9pm AA 7pm Kendo	12 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA	13 8:30-Noon JLS Classes Mochi making
14 9am BWA meeting 10am Hoonko Service Otoki after service	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday OFFICE CLOSED GC article(s) deadline 6AM O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA	16 6:30 pm Scouts	17 6am O-Jinjo 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA	18 6am O-Jinjo 11am-1pm JLS teacher prep 6-9pm AA 7pm Kendo	19 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA	20 8:30-Noon JLS Classes <i>Unconfirmed</i> <i>Qigong In-</i> <i>person Class</i> <i>1-3pm, Sangha</i> <i>Hall</i>
21 Family Service On YouTube	22 6AM O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5PM Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA	23 6:30 pm Scouts	24 6am O-Jinjo 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA	25 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA 7pm Kendo	26 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA	27 8:30-Noon JLS Classes
28 10am Family service General Meeting after the service. Please attend or sign proxy.	29 6AM O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA	30 6:30 pm Scouts	31 6am O-Jinjo 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA			

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



JANUARY 2024 EVENTS

1st – MON	SHUSHO-E (NEW YEAR'S DAY) SERVICE; OFFICE CLOSED
7th – SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE
14th – SUN	HOONKO SERVICE <i>BWA MEETING (9AM)</i>
15th – MON	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY; OFFICE CLOSED
21st – SUN	FAMILY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE (NO IN-PERSON SERVICE)
28th – SUN	FAMILY SERVICE SACBC GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWS THE SERVICE
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM Join Zoom Meeting for Sunday Services Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p>	