

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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www.SACBC.org

JANUARY 2021

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.

“New Year’s Greeting”

Greetings and Happy New Year! Along with my family, we are happy to be able to start this new year together with our newly found friends at the temple. We look forward to listening to the Buddha Dharma with you.

Due to the coronavirus and the stay-at-home order, most of my time is spent with my family. Through this, I especially notice that my son picks up many of his parents’ mannerisms, especially me. This particularly frightens me, in a humorous way. For example, when I speak to my wife, I try to use Japanese exclusively because I do not want to lose the ability to speak the language. But there are times when I don’t know how to say something in Japanese so I will mix Japanese and English. My son hears this and I can tell when he mixes Japanese and English as well. I flex my muscles (or lack thereof) in front of the mirror many times. My son sees this and tries to do that as well. There is a phrase that I say in jest that I actually probably took from my father and it’s said, “*an-da-sutando denki-sutando*”? (Understand *denki* (Japanese for light) stand?) The phrase is complete gibberish in English but it rolls off the tongue in Japanese and my son tries to copy this too. I guess the apple does not fall far from the tree after all... this makes me especially worried when I think about my situation with my father.



Recently, I saw a commercial by the insurance company Progressive about how a person grows up to become like their dad and starts to say dad-like things. Phrases like, “I refer to every child as ‘chief’ now,” or “The best defense is the best offense,” or “Why would I replace my phone with a new one? It’s not broken,” are good examples. These commercials depict how I feel from time to time, which is that I feel like I’m turning into my dad. I once remember my father saying he could not find his glasses, but they were on his head the whole time. I am bound to be like this someday, and my son will be the one who will then roll his eyes at me.

As with any parent, I want the best for my child. As such, I want him to be the ideal me, not the real me. I try my best to keep my thoughts, actions, and words controlled, collected, and appropriate for my child just like how the “Golden Chain” recommends. But no matter how much I tell myself that I need to watch and do what I say in front of my child, my true self will come out whether I like it or not. No matter how much I try to control my actions or my emotions, there will always be a limit as to what I can keep from him. More broadly, no matter how much I may try to “clean” myself up, purify my deluded self and attachments, or extinguish all the things that I think are bad about myself, I will always fail to meet up to my own high expectations of my ideal self.

This is where Amida Buddha's compassion becomes very important. With Amida Buddha, there is no condition or requirement that I have to match in order to be accepted. The goal in Shin Buddhism is not to make oneself attain a special higher state of being or to try and extinguish all blind passions. Instead, the goal is to awaken to the understanding that although I may fall at times, there is the ground of Amida's compassion that is always there to catch me. It is the net that catches the acrobat when he misses the swinging bar; it is the light that comes on when walking in a dark unknown room; it is the mirror that reflects my true naked self. In Shin, there is no condition on our part to meet, there is only the awakening to the understanding that we are all embraced in infinite compassion.

Gassho,
Rev. Miyaji

しんねん あいさつ
「新年のご挨拶」

しんねん ことし みなさま いっしょ ぶつぼう ちょうもん おも
新年あけましておめでとうございます。今年も皆様と一緒に仏法を聴聞させていただきたいと思
います。

きょねん えいぎょう いちにちじゅうかぞく いっしょ す おお いっしょ じかん
去年はコロナの影響で、一日中家族と一緒に過ごすことが多くなりました。ずっと一緒に時間を
過ごす、息子が色々両親の真似をすることがあると感じます。特にお父さんの真似をするので
すが、これを見て私は彼の将来のことを心配します。例えば、妻と話をする時、私は練習の
ために出来るだけ日本語で喋ります。しかし、日本語で何かを表現できない場合、日本語と英語
を混ぜます。息子がこれを見て聞いて同じく両語を使うことがあります。また、鏡の前でいろんな
ポーズをとって自分の姿をじっくりと見るがあります。そして息子がそれを見て真似をしま
す。私は面白がって「アンダースタンド、電気スタンド？」と言うと、息子もそのセリフを真似
します。カエルの子はカエルと言いますが、このことをよく考えてみますと、私と私の父親はど
れだけ似てるのでしょうか？すごく不安になります....

とき ちち し わたし あたま
ある時に、父が「おい、わしのメガネを知らないか」ときいたことがあります。私はすぐに「頭
の上にあるやん！」と答えたことがありました。こんなふうになら私もこうなり、そして我が
子が自分に対して怒るんだなと思いました。

おや じぶん こ そだ おも げんじつ じぶん
どの親でも自分の子がちゃんと育ててほしいと思うでしょう。そのため、現実の自分よりも
、理想的な「自分」を真似して育ててほしいのです。私の身（体の行動）・口（話す
ことば）・意（考える思い）全てを子供の前ではうまくコントロールしたいと思ひます。しかし、
いくら頑張っても自分のする行動を抑えてみても、どこがで知らない内に自分の本音が出ています。
同じように自分の心をいくら磨こうとしても、清浄にしようとしても、そして煩惱を消滅しよう
としても、やはり無理があるようです。

あみだによらい じひ たいせつ あみだによらい われわれ なに じょうけん
ここで阿弥陀如来のお慈悲が大切になってくるのであります。阿弥陀如来は我々に何かの条件を
あたえ、そして私たちがそれに応えたら救ってくださるというのではありません。浄土真宗では、

われわれ しゅぎょう ところ みが にんげん ぼんのう
我々は修行をして心を磨き、よりよい人間になることではありません。また煩悩というものを
しょうめつ もくてき
消滅することも目的ではありません。むしろ、ゴールがあるとしたら、それは自分が転んでも受
け取ってくれる地面がある、つまり私のために阿弥陀如来のお慈悲があるのだと気づくのだとい
うことであります。まるでアクロバットの人が失敗して落ちてしまった時に、その人を救ってくれ
る網が下にあるようなものです。これが阿弥陀如来のお慈悲であります。また、暗い部屋に入った
とき スイッチをつけて明るくするようなものであります。あるいは、自分の本当の姿を写してく
ださる鏡のようなものであります。浄土真宗では、私が何かの条件を満たして救われていくの
ではなく、一切のものがお慈悲に抱かれているということに気づくのがその目的であります。

ことし いちねん みなさま とともに あみださま じひ ちょうもん おも
今年一年皆様と共にこの阿弥陀様のお慈悲を聴聞させていただきたいと思ひます。よろしくお
ねが 願ひします。合掌。



Dear Golden Chain Readers,

In the past we've included personal donation information including Shotsuki donations in our monthly Golden Chain newsletter. Now that the Golden Chain is online on our website, having this personal information available to the general public could be a potential privacy concern. So, starting in January, we will include donation information only in the print version of the Golden Chain and not on the online version. Members can still get donation information from their printed copy as before but it will be deleted from the online version. Maintaining privacy is an ongoing challenge these days and I hope that this will ease some of your concerns.

In Gassho,
Ken

SACBC-BEC Bookstore



For the convenience of our Sangha, we have ojuzu's, incense, candles and an assortment of books including the Collected Works of Shinran, Ocean and many more available for purchase in the SACBC Office. Please see Larry Gissible or Victoria Consul regarding these items.



Happy New Year!



January 1, 2021 – New Year's Day (Shusho-e) Service
Friday 10 A.M.

Rev. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on ZOOM.

January 3, 2021 – Shotsuki Hoyo
10 A.M.

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 English service.

Rev. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on ZOOM.

January birthdays will be celebrated.
Dharma School will follow service.

January 10, 2021 – Hoonko Service
10 A.M.

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

Rev. Takashi Miyaji will post this service on YouTube.

January 17, 2021 – Family Service
10 A.M.

Rev. Takashi Miyaji will post this service on YouTube.

January 24, 2021 – Family Service
10 A.M.

Rev. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on ZOOM.

Dharma School will follow service.
Jr YBA will meet after Dharma School.

Join Zoom Meeting for Sunday Services

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81878696300?pwd=VjdpdC8rNmN4U2Y1VFVqdXUrY0xrdz09>

Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300

Passcode: 549504

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,81878696300#,,,,,0#,,549504# US (San Jose)



JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on **Sunday, January 3rd at 10:00 AM via Zoom.**

Deceased

Family

1937	Chizuko Sekigahama	Sekigahama Family
1958	Sakue Kamiji	Mrs. Sachi Fudenna & Mrs. Michi Handa
1960	Tsuru Nomura	Nomura Family
1965	Hichizo Ota	Ota Family
1966	Ruriko Kataoka	Kataoka Family
1968	Koyuri Shibata	Shibata Family
1976	Moto Tsurui	Tsurui Family
1978	Haruyo Kawaguchi	Kawaguchi Family
1986	Taijuu Kato	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda
1993	Tsuyuko Suzuki	Suzuki Family
2000	Dennis James Hatakeda	Mr. Harold Hatakeda
2002	Toshiharu Okada	Mr. & Mrs. Hideo Okada
2003	Katsunori Hatsushi	Mrs. Kyoko Hatsushi
2005	Tsugio Nishimura	Mr. & Mrs. Fujio Yamamoto
2006	Yoshiko Kawaguchi	Kawaguchi Family
2006	John Nagata	Mrs. Jamie Nagata
2007	Marie Payne	Mrs. Nancy Camacho
2007	Hosshi Shingetsu Akahoshi	Mr. Hiro Akahoshi
2008	Ken Okubo	Mrs. Keiko Okubo
2011	June Okino	Okino Family
2011	Yuka Matoba	Mrs. Haru Hamamoto
2011	Jon Nakamoto	Mr. & Mrs. Seiji Nakamoto
2014	Moss Fujii	Fujii Family
2014	Molly Kitajima	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kitajima
2018	Ronald Misaki	Ms. Joslynn Browne & Ms. Tiffany Misaki Holly
	Yoshimitsu Ushijima	Mr. & Mrs. Yasushi Yamada
	Chiyemi Sakuda	Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda
	Christopher Takayama	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Takayama
	Ichitaro Yamasaki	Mr. Kyle Yamasaki
	Matsue Yamasaki	Mr. Kyle Yamasaki
	Kathleen Marie Dupler	Mr. Ron Dupler
	Machi Doami	Doami Family
	Marcus Susumu Hishinuma	Mr. & Mrs. Sabu Hishinuma
	Richard Sakakida	Sakakida Family
	Tsugiko Hayashi	Mr. Richard Hayashi
	Edward Cuccia	Ms. Ann Cuccia
2020	Anne Tanaka	Mr. John Tanaka and Mr. Gary Tanaka

Memorial Service 2020

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2019 – 1 year	2008 – 13 year	1988– 33 year
2018 – 3 year	2004 – 17 year	1971 – 50 year
2014 – 7 year	1996 – 25 year	1921 – 100 year

If this is a special service year for a departed relative, please contact the church office at (510) 471-2581 to schedule a memorial service.

2021 President's Message

Dear SACBC Sangha,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope that everyone is having safe holidays! 2020 has been a very difficult year for everyone including SACBC. COVID has interrupted or cancelled most of our activities for just about the entire year. Even basic things like Sunday service have been impacted not to mention our major Bazaar and Bingo fundraisers. Most of our groups have been dormant as well for much of the year. In spite of everything, there were some bright spots in 2020.

- We welcomed our new minister Rev Miyaji who will be our foundation for SACBC growth into the future. His energetic approach and Dharma talks have been very popular and well received by all. We look forward to getting to know him better and hearing more from him in 2021.
- Our COVID Task Force led by Kyle Yamasaki has proactively addressed the many challenges faced by SACBC. Plans were developed and supplies purchased to prepare for when we can re-open our church.
- Our Senior Outreach Team led by Karen Fujii has not only connected seniors during the pandemic but has also re-connected many old friends who haven't been to church in awhile.
- Bento Program – Royce Mori and his team have successfully served 200+ bento dinners each week providing delicious meals in this new age of take out dining. It has been our only sustained fundraiser during the shutdown.
- A very successful Keiro Kai was held thanks to hard work by Dharma School led by Betty Yamasaki & Cathleen Yoshida with an assist from Jr YBA led by Kyle Yamasaki. It was great to see our younger and older members interacting with each other in a creative virtual event.

Thanks for all your votes during our recent Board elections and your 2021 Board is listed elsewhere in this Golden Chain. With your support, our 2021 Board will work to meet the many challenges that SACBC will face as we all embark on a new journey after COVID is in our rear view mirror.

Again Happy New Year and hope that 2021 will be a much better year for everyone!

In Gassho,

Ken Suyama
SACBC Board President

2021 SACBC Board of Directors

2021 Officers

President	Ken Suyama
VP Operations	John Arai
VP Religious Activities	Karen Fujii
Recording Secretary	Karen Suyama
Treasurer	Larry Gissible
Membership Treasurer	Yvette Hornig
Equipment Treasurer	Iris Yakuma
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Takemoto
General Counsel	Garret Murai
Past President	Ken Suyama

Honorary Advisor

Dr Walter Hashimoto

2021 Elected Board Members

Dave Abe	Kathy Murai
John Arai	Paul Nakao
Nancy Dodd	Jamie Nagata
Karen Fujii	Hideo Okada
Reina Fujii	Neil Okamura
Larry Gissible	Noreen Osaki
Yvette Horning	JoAnn Rogers
Palitha Jayaweera	Mark Shimomura
Noel Lowe	Karen Suyama
Curtis Mark	Pat Takemoto
Ken Matsubayashi	Katherine Velasco
Royce Mori	Iris Yakuma

2021 Organization Representatives

BWA	Nancy Minamide
Dharma School	Betty Yamasaki & Cathleen Yoshida
Jr YBA	Kyle Yamasaki
AA	Royce Mori
Cub/Boy Scout	Patrick Kogoma
O Nami Taiko	Bob Kitajima
Japanese Language School	Garret Murai
Kendo	Dr. Walter Hashimoto
Bingo	George Nakamura

OFFICE NOTES:

***** Calendars from BCA are NOT available for 2021**

***** Office is closed January 1 (NY day) and 18 (MLK day)**

CAR DONATION PROGRAM

**** Donate your unwanted car, truck or van**

**** Receive a tax deduction and help SACBC**

**** Running or not, even wrecks are accepted**

**** We handle all DMV paperwork**

**** It is fast and easy**

**** Towing is free!**



For more info and to schedule a pick up call:

Harold's Car Donation Service

800-310-5274

Website: haroldscardonationsservice.com

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



SACBC Bento Fundraiser by Chef Royce Mori

Wednesdays: January 6, 13, 20, 27 @ 3 – 4 PM

SACBC and Chef Royce are continuing the Pick-Up Bento service to SACBC Members (Wednesdays only).

To order: Call and leave a message at church: 510-471-2581 or Email: SACBCOffice@gmail.com

Order deadline: Mondays at NOON! No late orders, please.

Pick Up: Wednesdays, 3PM – 4 PM. Sangha Hall Lobby (Runners will bring food out to the cars), SACBC, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA

Payment: There are five options for paying:

- Paypal: sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com
- Venmo: [@sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com](https://venmo.com/sacbc.treasurer1)
- Credit card: VISA, Mastercard
- Check made out to: SACBC in a sealed envelope with your name & address on the outside.
- Cash: Exact amount in a sealed envelope with your name and address on the outside.

To avoid handling of cash, the exact amount is expected and NO change will be given.

JANUARY MENU

PICK UP	MEAT	VEGETARIAN
Jan. 6	Udon & Teri Beef Katsu \$17 Wakame Salad Pan Fried Vegetable Gyoza Wok Fired Baby Choy Sum Steamed White Rice	Udon w/Shiitake Dashi & Eggplant Kushiage \$16 Wakame Salad Pan Fried Vegetable Gyoza Wok Fired Baby Choy Sum Steamed White Rice
Jan. 13	Pork Rib Stew w/Daikon & Kabocha \$16 Mixed Green Salad w/Sesame Dressing Korokke (potato croquette) Steamed White Rice	Japanese Vegetable Stew w/Miso Broth \$16 Mixed Green Salad w/Sesame Dressing Korokke (potato croquette) Steamed White Rice
Jan. 20	Chicken Kara-age \$16 Mixed Green Salad w/Ume Dressing Miso Glazed Eggplant Roasted Broccoli w/Bacon & Caramelized Onions Steamed White Rice	Hamachi Kama (Pescatarian Meal) \$17 Mixed Green Salad w/Ume Dressing Miso Glazed Eggplant Roasted Broccoli & Caramelized Onions Steamed White Rice Notes: Served with Oroshi, Lemon and Ponzu
Jan. 27	Beef & Shrimp Yosenabe \$17 (Soy-Ginger Hot Pot) Baby Spinach Salad w/Miso Dressing Prime Grade Beef, Tiger Prawns, Napa Cabbage, Bok Choy, Shimejii & Shiitake Mushrooms, Tofu and Kamaboko Steamed White Rice	Vegetable Yosenabe (Soy-Ginger Hot Pot) \$15 Baby Spinach Salad w/Miso Dressing Crispy Tofu, Eggplant, Napa Cabbage, Bok Choy, Shimejii & Shiitake Mushrooms, Taro, Bamboo Shoots Steamed White Rice Notes: Broth will be served on the side but all food will be previously cooked.

ON THE SPOTLIGHT: O' NAMI TAIKO



BOB KITAJI MA

I had joined Onami Taiko in 2002 to learn how to play taiko. Little did I know that was just the beginning. Molly was my teacher learn the basics to learn how to play taiko correctly. It was not just beating a drum with wooden sticks, but an art & a style that no other percussion instrument has. I have studied music 5 years to become a teacher of music and voice. There is no other instrument that I have learned to play in my music carrier.

After practicing taiko for 3 months, then they expected me to perform with the regular performing group.

Molly knew I did a lot of wood work in high school. She had me start building drum stands for the group and that also wanted me to learning to build taiko drums out of wine barrels. I research how to build wine barrels from scratch and how to put cow hide skins on the barrels. Our initial taiko drums where too large for the women to handle and there dropped quit often. I designed a smaller drum so the women can handle the drums a lot easier without dropping them.

Now I am one of the beginning teachers to teach new student and recruit new players for our group.

AMY HATSUHI -HUGHES

I joined ONami Taiko about twenty years ago. ONami had been formed in 1997 after Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka suggested it as an outreach program of the Buddhist Educational Committee. I had always loved watching taiko, and wanted to learn how to play. At the time, I was very shy (hard to believe, huh?) and I was not really interested in performing. I went through the beginners' class, and met three people who would literally change my life, Molly Kitajima, Tatsue Alameda, and Annie Ong. I guess I was somewhat reserved in the beginning, and told Molly I didn't want to perform at the annual taiko festival in Morgan Hill. She would have none of that, and pushed me until I

finally gave in and took the stage at the festival. I learned two things during those first several weeks. One, you just didn't say "no" to Ms. Molly, and two, my three new friends made taiko so much fun, and so rewarding, that I never wanted to stop playing. I've met so many fascinating and wonderful people during my years playing taiko, including my other best friends, Vero Leo and Virginia Ong, and I owe all of it to Ms. Molly. Years ago, it was Molly who "volunteered" me to go with her to buy Bazaar Bingo Prizes, and then "volunteered" us all, and ever since ONami has run bingo at the bazaar. You just couldn't say "no" to Ms. Molly!

VIRGINIA ONG

I am a member of the Omani Taiko group for as long as 2005. I still enjoy being connected w/ the Chirch group & being a member of the Taiko group. It's been the most exciting group that we have & not only that being able to know the Church group partipating in Bingo. Hopefully waiting to get back into the social group.

ANNIE ONG

I've been a member of the ONami Taiko Class for over 20 years. I'm 87 years old and Taiko has been one of my best experience. One of my favorite things that I was able to do was to co-teach a Taiko Class with Amy Hatsushi for the church Dharma children. Their ages were around 6 to 12. To watch their excitement and enthusiasm to play the drums gave us so much pleasure and joy. They had a few performances that showed how talented they were. We were happy recipients of their thank you notes that they made with awesome artwork. Am anxious to be able to resume our twice weekly Taiko Class.

VERA LEO

In 2002 I had a family reunion and Molly Kitajima and friends played taiko at this event. I was so impressed that Molly Kitajima and Tatsue Alameda came driving up in two pickup trucks with taiko drums in the back. They were both in their 70's. I was always drawn to taiko drums and the powerful sound. I was 59 at the time and I said to my sister "if they can play taiko at 70, we can also learn to play". I convinced my sister, Virginia Ong to join the beginning class at SACBC. I was only planning to take the beginning class because it was in Union City and I had to drive from Oakland. Well, 20 years have gone by and I've been driving to Union City at least 2-3 times/week. Due to Covid,we haven't practiced since March. Taiko has been wonderful for me, it provided music, memory, exercise and friendship. Friendship has been the most important piece of this adventure. I was able to spend time with my sister and met other 'sisters' who have become my family. Thank you, Molly and Tatsue for your inspiration.

Thomas Fortunak

I don't remember when I joined, it was either 2014 or 2015. When I first tried to join, Molly had just passed away and I had to wait a few months while they rehearsed a song in her memory. When I was eventually able to join, I really enjoyed it. I ended up staying until I went away to college in the fall of 2019. Overall, the experience was really fun and I'm glad I got to make a lot of friends.

JANICE CHONG

In 2003, I met the incredible Molly Kitajima, Amy Hatsushi and Vera Leo at Narita airport. Taiko players throughout the US and Canada assembled to live for a short five days as apprentices with the international famous Kodo Taiko of Sado Island. A magical time was had and bonded us through the years.

The founder of the taiko group I played with in Hawaii retired three years ago. With no group to play with and the desire to live a bi-coastal life between Hawaii and California things just happened serendipitously. My friend was renting her duplex in Oakland and it was close to Vera's home. Lucky me, Vera was my ride to Southern Alameda Buddhist Church for taiko practice, temple festivals, special performances in the gym, fireworks sales, bingo, new friends, and lots of delicious food.

I would be invited to Onami practice through the years when I traveled to California. It was during these times I experienced the teaching of Sensei Shohei Takatani. Dream come true. I am so grateful to have been able to experience his amazing character and kind innovative way of teaching. The lessons where not only technically helpful but Shohei Sensei did much to teach us the philosophy and subtleties of performing taiko. I miss taiko with Onami as I have returned to Hawaii full time due to the pandemic and birth of my seven month old granddaughter. I still practice taiko and it is not the same as it would be with Onami.



Mochitsuki at SACBC

by Karen Fujii

Mochitsuki is a traditional Japanese activity that is hundreds of years old. Mochi is made by steaming and pounding “sweet rice” and shaping it into “cakes.”

Mochi continues to be one of the traditional foods eaten around Japanese New Year, as it is sold and consumed in abundance around this time. A special type, called *kagami mochi* (mirror mochi), is placed on family altars on [December 28](#) each year. *Kagami mochi* is composed of two spheres of *mochi* stacked on top of one another, topped with an orange.” (from Wikipedia)



In 1990, when Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka was our resident minister, he asked me to organize a mochitsuki. His vision was for the Sangha to see how mochi is made, help make it, and sample eating it. This began our having mochitsuki each year usually after our Bodhi Day service.

The preparations began. Rev. Tanaka learned that a member, Mr. Okimura, had his parent’s *usu* and two *kine*. I used my notes from having participated in mochitsukis with the Fujii family (Karen Fujii Suyama was there!) and Handa (Michi & JoAnn were there) family, and having organized them at Daruma No Gakko in El Cerrito in the 1970’s and ‘80’s. [I’m sorry, I don’t remember Mr. Okimura’s first name. Is it, “Ray”?]

The *usu* is the large “bowl” or mortar that the mochi is placed in to be pounded. They are usually made of hollowed-out granite or a hollowed-out tree stump. Mr. Okimura’s *usu* is made of granite. At that first mochitsuki, I was with my mother, Mary Misaki, as we watched the steamed rice being put into the *usu*. I told her that it belonged to Mr. Okimura. She gasped and told me why. She was born and raised in Florin, California on a farm. As a child, her parents would take her and her two brothers to the Okimura’s nearby farm

for mochitsuki. She said, “That must be the same usu that we used to make mochi back then.” Back then would have been in the 1920’s and/or 1930’s.

The usu sits on a stand made of wood. The original stand has been repaired with some parts replaced. Mr. Okimura was in the military. He got transferred. When he moved away, he left the usu and kine with SACBC.

The *kine* are the very large things that look like hammers. They are the pestles used to pound the mochi. The Okimura’s *kine* wore out and broke from age and use. They have been replaced.

Thank you, Cathleen Yoshida, for encouraging me to share this history of the usu we have seen and used at mochitsuki for the past 30 years at SACBC.



SAVE THESE DATES!



2021 CBE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

JANUARY ~ APRIL All events listed in Pacific Time.

<p>Saturday January 9 11am - 1pm Register online</p>	<p>Shin Buddhism and Science Fiction Speakers: Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland Rev. Jon Turner Orange County Buddhist Church & Rev. Landon Yamaoka Palo Alto Buddhist Temple <i>Venture into dharma explorations inspired by science fiction films.</i></p>
<p>Sunday January 10 1 pm</p>	<p>BCA Youth Concert! Jodo Shinshu Artists & Musicians Showcase (JAMS) Enjoy a variety of performances by BCA youth.</p>
<p>Saturday January 30 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>Relevant American Buddhists (RAB) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka Musashino University <i>Who and what were the RAB? Stories from BCA's 1970s program for young adults.</i></p>
<p>Saturday February 6 10 am - 11:30 am Register online</p>	<p>Every Day Buddhism Book Talk "Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life" Speaker/author: Rev. Marvin Harada BCA Bishop <i>Listen to the stories behind this collection of heartwarming essays.</i></p>
<p>Saturday February 13 11am - 1pm Register online</p>	<p>"Honen as Religious Revolutionary: The person who defined the Buddhism we identify as Japanese today." Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum University of California at Berkeley</p>
<p>Saturday March 6 11am - 1pm Register online</p>	<p>Zen & Shin Buddhism - Part 1 "Letting Go: A Zen & Shin Approach to Liberation" Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams Author, <i>American Sutra</i></p>
<p>Saturday March 13 11am - 1pm Register online</p>	<p>Zen & Shin Buddhism -- Part 2 (Please note change of date) "Zen Practice" Speaker: Rev. Anton Tenkei Coppens Roshi Zen River Temple, Netherlands</p>
<p>Saturday April 10 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>Socially Engaged Buddhism Speakers: Prof. Mitsuya Dake Ryukoku University Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara Berkeley Buddhist Temple</p>

VISIT BCA WEBSITE FOR UPDATES: FLYER, FREE REGISTRATION LINKS & TO DONATE (OPTIONAL)
BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG EMAIL: CBE@BCAHQ.ORG TEL: 510.809.1460



Akemashite Gozaimasu! Minasan Corona ni makenai yoni. Ganbatte kudasai! Takiko Hatsushi

**From The Miyaji Family
Takashi, Kaori and Keisai**

**Wishing you a Healthy & Happy New Year!
Ken and Karen Suyama**

**Happy New Year!
Jr YBA**

**Stay safe in 2021!
John Arai**

**Happy New Year!
The Murai Family**

**Wishing you joy & good health!
Michi & Joann**

**Happy Holidays!
From the Yamasaki Ohana**

**HINDSIGHT IS 2020
Josie, Allison, Cathleen & Ken**

**Wishing you a safe & healthy year!
Bill & Nina Sawasaki**

**Happy New Year! Omedetou!
Iris & Steve Yakuma**

**Happy "safe" Holidays!
From Kasai Family**

**With Love from all of us,
Walter & Diana Kitajima**

**Have a safe and Happy New Year!
From the Sakihara Family**



Wishing everyone the best of health & happiness!

Jim & Elly Sekigahama

May you have hope, joy & good health!

Paul & Yuki Nomura

Greetings to all!

George & Nancy Takahashi

Happy New Year!

Masahito & Yoko Hiramine

Wishing the Sangha a happy &

safe NY! Art & Jessie Sakai

From Nancy Dodd, Stacy & Adam Cole

In loving memory of Shizuko Yamauchi

Wishing a safe holiday season!

The T. Uemura Family

Wishing all a bright & happy new year!

Mahalo, Ruth & Stan Miyasato

Happy New Year!

The Mori Family

Wishing a safe & healthy 2021!

Jean Kotake

With Metta,

Shig & Judy Tokubo

May the New Year bring you all good health & happiness!

Ellen Yamamoto

Wishing everyone a healthy & safe 2021!

Ralph & Amy Hughes, Ted Hughes

Okay, 2021. The bar is low ... Happy New Year!

From Curtis, Noreen, Kailen & Garrett

2021! May it be a great one!

Mary Misaki & Karen Fujii



JANUARY 2021 EVENTS

Jan. 1, Friday	New Year's day service 10am on Zoom – Office closed
Jan. 3, Sunday	Sotsuki Hoyo on Zoom, Jan. birthdays, Dharma School
Jan. 10, Sunday	Hoonko service on YouTube
Jan. 17, Sunday	Family service on YouTube, Dharma School, JrYBA meeting
Jan. 18, Monday	Office Closed – Martin Luther Kings Jr. Day
Jan. 24, Sunday	Family service on Zoom, Dharma School, JrYBA meeting
Jan. 31, Sunday	Family service on Zoom, General Meeting, Board of Directors Installation