

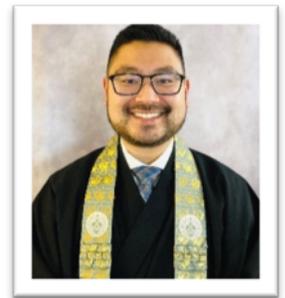


JULY 2023

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.

Stone of Tears

The Bay District organized a group to visit Japan for the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the founding of the Jodo Shinshu tradition. The group also went to the island of Kyushu, visiting different cities such as Hakata, Ibusuki, Chiran, and Kagoshima. One of the sites I would like to introduce is Kagoshima Betsuin which is located right in the heart of Kagoshima city.



The magnificent building looks amazing from the outside, and the scale of the *hondo* was beyond compare. Rev. Adams of the San Mateo Buddhist Church led the sutra chanting, and it was nice to feel a sense of familiarity in a such a grand temple far, far away from our home in California. After the sutra chanting, a representative of the Betsuin by the name of Rev. Chiba, gave us a lecture explaining the history of the temple but also, of the *kakure nembutsu*, which literally means "hiding nembutsu."

Long ago, the region of Kagoshima, known as Satsuma at the time, outlawed the Jodo Shinshu religion and the practice of it, because they saw it as having too much influence over its people. Those who were in power were worried that these devout followers would not follow their local lords and the laws of the domain, so they forcibly banished this religion. However, the Nembutsu followers devoted themselves to continue to hear the teachings of the Buddha Dharma, so they hid in various locations and carried out their services in secret locations tucked away from prying eyes. These followers sometimes went to the extent of not telling their children where they would gather and worship for fear that the young children might inadvertently give away the location of their secret meeting areas.



涙石

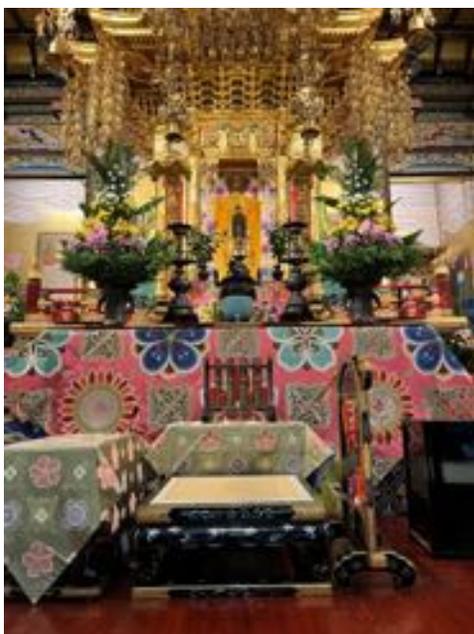
Stone of Tears



Kagoshima Betsuin

Inevitably, some individuals were caught and forced to confess their faith in the Jodo Shinshu tradition. They were tortured and some were killed in public for practicing their religion. In one such case of torture, the individual would be forced to sit in *seiza*, or on one's knees, on top of triangular shaped poles. There, a heavy boulder would be placed on the person's lap, forcing the shins of the person's legs to dig into the angular poles. Needless to say, the pain would have been excruciating. These individuals would sit in this position for hours on end and their tears would flow from their faces and drop down to the heavy rock. This rock later became known as *namidaishi*, or "stone of tears." That stone still exists and it is on display on the grounds of the Betsuin. The stone might be difficult to see, but it rests on a pillar holding it up prominently for better visibility.

When we see this rock, it is a symbol of the struggle that these individuals had to endure so that the next generation would be able to receive the Buddha Dharma. It is because of their perseverance through this horrendous ordeal that we are able to hear and receive the message of Amida Buddha's Boundless Wisdom and Compassion today. Let us look upon the rock not just as the symbol of the struggle that these individuals had to endure, but also as the symbol of the undying and unbreakable devotion they had to the spread of the Nembutsu teaching. Gassho.



涙石

今年の5月6日から19日にかけて、桑湾教区の38名が日本に行き、本願寺へ参拝させていただきました。この度は、親鸞聖人のご誕生の850周年、そして浄土真宗の教えが始まってから「立教開宗」の800周年記念となります。また同時に国際仏教婦人会大会が京都で行われました。法要後、団体旅行として九州の方へ回ってきました。博博多、指宿、知覧、そして鹿児島といった九州の最南の地方を見学してきました。今回は、その中の鹿児島別院を紹介させていただきます。

鹿児島市内の中心に立派な建物がそびえています、それが鹿児島別院です。外から見るだけで圧倒されました。そして、本堂の方へ進んでいきますと、なんと驚くほど立派なお内陣が光り輝いておりました。本堂に入り、サンマテオ仏教会の開教使アダムズ先生のリードで皆でお勤めをさせていただきました。私にとって、初めての鹿児島別院でしたが、お経の声を聴くと、突然違和感が解けたような感じがしました。とても和やかな心温まるひと時でした。お勤めの後、別院の千葉先生から別院の紹介と「隠れ念仏」の話聞かせていただきました。

ご承知だと思いますが、鹿児島の地域は、昔「薩摩」と呼んでいました。この地は長年島津氏の領内でしたが、長年浄土真宗の教えが禁制されました。ここの真宗の信者は、とても熱心な方が多く、権力者の言うことを聞かないという恐れで浄土真宗を抑制したのです。しかし、多く信者の方は、この教えを生きる拠り所としていたため、密かに阿弥陀如来様を拝み続けたそうです。地下まで掘って造った洞窟など、周りの目にバレないように、秘密の場所でお勤めをしていたそうです。また、信者たちは、このような場所が見つからないように、子供にも内緒にしたという説明も聞きました。

しかし、浄土真宗の信者だったことが分かった時、この人たちはひどい目にあわされたそうです。一つの例は、「涙石」という話です。三角形になった棒のいくつかが並べられた板の上に信者たちが正座させられて、その人たちの膝の上に大きな石を載せて、何時間も座らせたそうです。とんでもない痛さによってその人が涙を石の上にこぼしたそうです。これを「涙石」といったのです。そしてその涙石が実は残っていて、それが別院の境内にあります。これを見ただけで、その激しい痛みがひしひしと伝わってくるような気がしました。

この石を拝見しますと、当時の念仏者がいかに苦痛に耐えて御念仏を護っていかれたことかがありありと目に浮かんできます。私たちが今お念仏の教えが聴けるのは、この時代の念仏者のお陰でだと胸深く思わされました。私たちとは遠く離れた昔の人たちとのことだと、ご縁がないと思いがちかも知れませんが、しかし、この方々の言語を絶する忍耐によって浄土真宗が今まで時代の流れの中で消えなかったのです。我々も、次の世代のために、なぜ自分は浄土真宗の信者であるのか、そしてこの教えがなぜ今私にとって必要なのかと、言うことを改めて真剣に考えなければならぬと思わされました。そうでなければ、浄土真宗を伝えていく必要がなくなるのではないのでしょうか。この涙石を思い出しながら、私自身にその問いを聞かせていただいたことでした。合掌



California Department of Public Health: Starting April 3.

Based on the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels, our area is Low.

People can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by their own personal level of risk.

July 2, 2023 - No Service



July 9 & 16, 2023

No Service (Traditional "Bazaar Preparation & Bazaar Sunday")

July 23, 2023 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M.

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

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

July 30, 2023 – Family Service

10 A.M.

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

11 A.M - Omigaki

Omigaki is the polishing of the ornaments in the Onaijin.

Please stay or come to the Hondo classrooms to join in cleaning and beautifying our Onaijin.

OBON Cemetery Visitations

Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023



9:00 AM	Mt. Eden Cemetery, Hayward
9:40 AM	Lone Tree Cemetery, Hayward
10:20 AM	Chapel of the Chimes, Hayward (Courage Mausoleum)
11:30 AM	Irvington Cemetery, Fremont
12:15 PM	Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, Fremont
1:15 PM	Oakhill Cemetery, San Jose

Save the Date:

SACBC's OBON on Saturday, August 12, 2023! Food Sales: 5pm • Dancing: 7pm.

Dance practices (optional) in Sangha Hall at 7:30 pm on August 1, 3, 8, & 10.

Mark Your Calendar:

Hiroshima Memorial Service: Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 4:15 P.M.

On August 6th, 1945, at 8:15 AM (JST), the atomic bomb on Hiroshima city was dropped killing initially 140,000 people and affecting countless more lives. Sensei will conduct a brief service and ring the *kansho* in our reflection of hope for world peace.

What's Up Dharma School? June 2023

Our last day with the Dharma School students was the first Sunday of June. Congratulations to the following students for attendance awards: Keisai Miyaji, Mia Mosier, Ami Mosier, and Kara Tokubo.

We did not have any high school graduates this year, however, we recognized a few of our former Dharma School students graduating from college.

Griffin Kennedy graduated from CSU Chico with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice. He plans to continue to serve in the Army National Guard.

Trent Osaki is graduating from San Jose State with a degree in Animation and Illustration.

Brent Sakihara is graduating from UC Riverside with a degree in Computer Science. Brent also plans to visit Japan this summer. In August, Brent will relocate to Seattle and work at Expedia.

Emi Yamasaki is graduating from UC Irvine this spring with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychological Science and a minor in Japanese Studies. She plans to go to Japan over the summer and volunteer abroad as a Group Leader with the GPI Global Studies Program. Afterwards, Emi plans on working and taking a gap year or so before considering graduate school in the field of Education.

Thank you to Karen Fujii (BEC) for her support. We are very grateful and thankful for Rev. Miyaji's guidance in helping us plan our Dharma classes. We also would like to thank the parents (and grandparents) for their time, to bring your child/grandchild to Dharma classes. To the students, thank you for your dedication and time to be part of Dharma School and making it fun for us. Hope you had fun learning the dharma as well!

We will start up Dharma classes in September. We hope to see you at our Bazaar and Obon! Have a great summer!

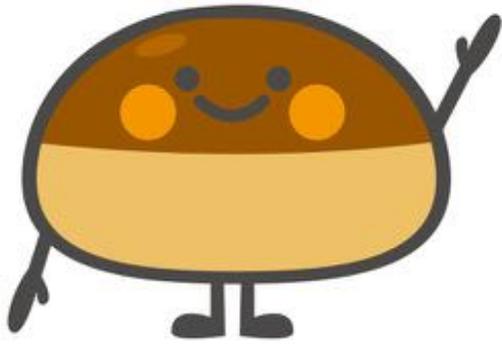
In Gassho,
Cathleen and Betty





Wanted: Vintage SACBC Happi Coats

Jerry Tahira remembers that many years ago, there were happi coats with SACBC printed on them. If you have one that you are willing to give up, please take it to the office before July 15. Jerry would like people working to wear an SACBC happi coat at the bazaar.



Bazaar Manju Baking Day

Tuesday, July 11th

8:30AM Kitchen Helpers

9AM Manju Makers

Come out and visit old friends while making manju for the Bazaar. We will be baking a limited supply and plan to finish forming the manju by noon.

If you would like to help in the kitchen with the mixing and measuring, then please arrive promptly by 8:30AM. Everyone else can come by 9AM.

We hope to continue this tradition in the future, but it all depends on how much help we get this year, so bring out your family and friends.

Hope to see you there. It has been a long time and we miss you!

BAZAAR UPDATES BY KAREN SUYAMA

2023 Bazaar

The Duty Roster has been mailed out. Please, please come out to support our temple's largest fundraiser. Please help by taking a 3-hour shift so someone else doesn't have to work for 6-hours. If you can help in multiple places even for a couple of hours, we would love to have your help. Let John Arai or Karen Suyama know you can provide relief for someone who has been on their feet for hours. We haven't held our bazaar since 2019 and are expecting a large crowd to come to SACBC.

Raffle tickets have also been distributed so let us know if you need more tickets to sell. Please return your ticket stubs and money (and any unsold tickets) to the church office or the information booth during bazaar BEFORE 12:00noon on Sunday July 16th. The drawing is at 3:00pm on Sunday. Let's sell every one of our raffle tickets this year – and make it a first!

BWA – report by Karen Suyama

Please join us at our next meeting on September 10th at 9:00am. Let's talk about some fun activities that we can do before the end of the year.

Your kind donations are always appreciated.

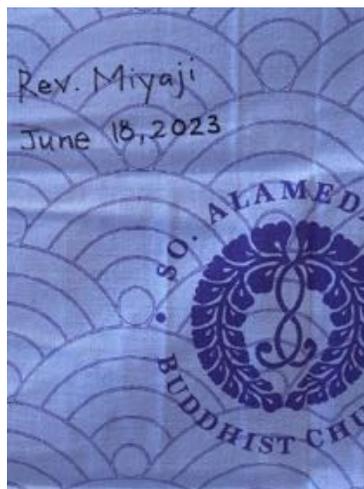
SACBC's Tenugui!

On June 18, 2023, tenugui (towels) arrived from Japan. Rev. Takashi Miyaji opened the box at the end of service. Those attending this hybrid service were the first to see the tenugui that were designed by Joyce Davis and Karen Suyama. My cousin who lives in Saitama, Japan, found the company that silk-screened the towels. She shipped them to us in time for our 2023 bazaar and obon festivities. The very FIRST tenugui out of the box was auctioned off. The winner was Lauren Yamasaki Cramer! Sensei authenticated this tenugui by signing it in Japanese and English and dating it.

Thank you, Joyce and Karen, for the beautiful design! Thank you, Lauren, for your generous donation!

These especially beautiful tenugui will be on sale at the bazaar on July 15 & 16, and at obon dance practices and obon while supply lasts. \$10.

By Karen Fujii



Donations for Kids Game Prize Booth @ Bazaar

We need your help!

The Kids Prize Booth for the Bazaar is asking for donations for the following:

- *New Kids toys (Ages 1-16 years)
- *Unused Birthday/Christmas gifts
- *Small Business or Corporate donations
- *Monetary donations
- *Toy donations must be NEW

Please drop off or send donations to the SACBC office.

Monetary donations can be made on the sacbcoffice@gmail.com.

Please provide your name or donor's name and address on all donations for recognition.

Thank you! Reina Fujii

FIREWORKS SALE

SACBC will once again be selling Fireworks

from July 1st – July 4th. There will be (4) shifts each day:

9am – noon

Noon – 3 pm

3pm – 6 pm

6pm – 9 pm

There are multiple slots for each shift. It will be filled on a first come-first serve basis. The profits from the Fireworks sales will be split in half. Half of the profits will go to the church. The other half will go to any SACBC organizations providing help.

Volunteers can designate any SACBC organization to receive their proceeds, that includes: Dharma School, Jr. YBA, BWA, Scouts, AA, Taiko, Kendo or JLS. You can also designate Umenoki or SACBC.

Thanks, John Arai, johnmarai1428@gmail.com

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

JULY EVENTS

2nd—SUN	NO SERVICE – INDEPENDENCE DAY
4TH—TUES	OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY
9th—SUN	NO SERVICE (BAZAAR PREPARATION)
15TH—SAT	<i>BAZAAR 11AM-7PM</i>
16th--SUN	NO SERVICE <i>BAZAAR 11AM-3PM</i>
23rd--SUN	SHOTSUKI (HYBRID SERVICE)
30th-- SUN	FAMILY SERVICE (HYBRID SERVICE)
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p>	