

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587

Office: 510-471-2581
Email: sacbcoffice@gmail.com

Resident Minister: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
Mobile: 253.640.4224 / Email: gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com

www.SACBC.org

MARCH 2022

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.

Let's Stay Connected

What does it mean for us to stay connected? For me, staying connected is about journeying on the path of the Buddha Dharma. In this growing tech world, we can have all sorts of information and knowledge given right to us at the click of a button and in the convenience of our own homes.

I recently saw a News clip regarding the “metaverse” that many tech companies are investing a lot of time and money into nowadays. The narrator in this news segment creates an avatar of herself and carries out her day in this metaverse.

She has meetings with her colleagues at her company, goes to restaurants and bars, and socializes with her friends through this virtual reality. For her avatar, she can choose her hair color, skin color, what to wear, her look, and even the body-type that she wants, all at the click of a button.



If you think about this, everything can now be done in this virtual world. Shopping for clothes, buying insurance, taking one's kids to school, all of these things are done via the metaverse. I am already having a hard time comprehending this, let alone understanding the world 30 years from now! The world we know of right now is going to be completely different soon enough.

I recently read a book that talks about various Buddhist scholars and their perspectives on the changing world. One person explained that the world of the internet, being online, and now especially with this metaverse, is essentially the world of *saha* within the world of *saha*. In other words, it's the world of delusion within the world of delusion—let's call it “delusion 2.0.” So within this world of chaos and confusion, we have created another world of what will be chaos and confusion to come. Recently, I read that a popular game called Roblox is having issues with avatars committing lewd acts and obscene comments being made between participants, many of which children have access to these venues. My son just the other day was asking if we can get that very game. But, then again, I remember when the game Mortal Kombat was extremely controversial for its grotesque imagery of violence.

My intention of pointing this out is that the world of confusion has existed since the beginningless past and it will continue on, just in new and “innovative” ways. So then, what is the solution? Where can we find solace and respite, haven and comfort, or simply peace of mind? We need to quickly turn to the Buddha Dharma and seek the guidance of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion. Whether it is online, in the new metaverse, come what may in “whatever-verse,” or the real world, the Buddha's teachings is the rope that will pull us out of the quicksand, the buoy out of the frigid cold water, or the roots that ground the tree. Let us look to this spiritual path that will keep us connected to the world of absolute truth. Gassho.

1. My Personal Podcast Covering Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/no-doubt-a-shin-buddhist-approach/id1511351502>

2. Our Weekly Sunday Services Can Be Found Here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/shin-buddhist-sangha-services/id1517181914>

「メタバース」と仏の世界

現在の IT 社会がますます進歩していく中で、我々人間が追い抜かれていく感じがします。果たして人間そのものがいつか時代遅れとなるのでしょうか？そのようなことを考えてみますと、やはり「自我」や「自」と「他」との関係を考えなおさなければならないと思います。私はこの問題を仏法を通して深く考え直すことができると信じますので、そのことについて少し述べてみます。

この間、ニュース番組を見ていましたら、多くの大企業が「メタバース（インターネット上に構築された仮想空間）」といった、「バーチャル・リアリティ」から創りだされた新しい世界というものにどんどん投資しているというのです。これからこの「メタバース」の世界の中で、全てのライフスタイルが創り出されていくところとなっていくと予測されています。職場、遊ぶ場所、住まい、旅行などのことが全部この「メタバース」の中ですることが可能となります。自分の分身も、これは「アバター」と言いますが、自分で作り上げていくことができます。自己の存在そのものを新たに創造していくのであります。このような世界を考えるだけで私の心はもう精一杯になってしまいます。今後の世界はどのようにになっていくのかが全く想像が付きません。

この間、仏教学者の何人かがインターネットまたは「メタバース」についての意見を述べていました。その中の一人がこう答えています。オンライン社会は娑婆世界の中の娑婆世界だというのです。つまり、この迷いの世界の中に、さらに迷いの世界が形成されてくるというのです。したがって、今後の世界は本当に恐ろしいものだと思念の声を発していました。それは確かにそうなのですが、このような迷いの世界は人間にとって初めての経験なのではないでしょうか。

私はそうではないと思うのです。なぜならば、仏様の目から見れば迷いの世界は「無始よりこのかた」からあるのです。今後もそれが続くのが仏教から見たら当たり前のことでしょう。「メタバース」といった新たな世界が形成されたとしても、迷いの世界のあり方がもう一つ余計に出たに過ぎないことでしょう。オンラインであれ、「メタバース」であれ、この現実の世界であれ、どれも迷いの世界な訳です。新しく作り上げた「メタバース」によって理想的な世界が可能になるという考えは、大間違いだと思います。そのような新しい世界のなかでも差別、いじめ、良し悪し、喧嘩などといった「苦」しみが無くなるというのではなく、それらのものは永遠に続きます。ですから、この世でも、あの世でも（メタバース）、どんな世界が出てきてもやはり仏法を拠りどころとしていく必要があります。

阿弥陀如来の光明は無辺であると説明されます。「無辺」はこの場合は「どの世界でも」ということです。ですから「メタバース」の中にも、阿弥陀如来の真実の智慧と慈悲が届くのが当然です。このことを念頭に置いて人類の将来に関して考えていかねばならないと思います。合掌。



Services for March 2022

March 6, 2022 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M.

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

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

March birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will meet in-person - TBD.

March 13, 2022 - BCA Eitaikyo Service

10 A.M.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins

This service will be conducted by the BCA from the National Council Meeting. All members are encouraged to participate in this service. The link is found below. Scroll down to March 13 and click on the JOIN EVENT button:

<https://www.bcancm.org/workshops>

There will not be a separate service from SACBC.

March 20, 2022 – Family Service

10 A.M.

This service will be on YouTube.

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

March 27, 2022

Spring Ohigan Service in conjunction with Lady Takeko Kujo & Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service on Zoom.

Lady Yoshiko Ohtani (1887-1928) founded the BWA to promote the status of Buddhist women.

Lady Takeko Kujo (1918-2000) revitalized the BWA and started the BWA World conferences.

Ohigan marks the Spring or Vernal Equinox. This is the time when the Earth and the Sun are situated such that the hours of Daylight are equal to the hours of Night.

Because the weather is fairest during these times of year, it is convenient to come to the temple and listen to the teachings of the Buddha Dharma.

Happy Girls' Day (Hinamatsuri)

Hinamatsuri, also called “Doll’s Day” or “Girls’ Day”, is a special day in Japan. It is celebrated on March 3rd (the third day of the third month) of each year with platforms covered with a red material to display a set of ornamental dolls representing the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the Heian period.

*Dolls were a donation from
Mrs. Takako Sloniker*



SACBC OFFICER ON THE SPOTLIGHT:

Please join us in congratulating Joh Arai on being awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the Boy Scouts of America



The **Silver Beaver Award** is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not seek it.

John is being recognized for his many years of service to:

Troop 20: Assistant Scoutmaster (12 years), Scoutmaster (24 years) and Merit Badge Counselor (36 years). John is the only person that has been continuously registered with Troop 20 since its founding in 1982. He went from a Scout to Assistant Scoutmaster to Scoutmaster. He has led the troop to several Nembutsu camporees and contingents to 4 Nippon National Jamborees in Japan.

Mission Peak District: Cub Scout Day Camp staff (5 years), Tiger Cub Pumpkin Patch staff and Cub Scout Games organizer and staff (23 years).

San Francisco Bay Area Council: Waterfront Director at Wente Scout Reservation (9 years and over 15,000 scouts and scouters), Family Camp staff (4 years), Camping Connection staff (3 years) and Tiger Cub Safari staff.

SACBC: President (5 years), VP Operations (15 years), Fireworks Coordinator (5 years), Bazaar Co-chair, Athletic Association President / Coach and Funeral Committee.

BCA Bay District: President (3 years) and Cabinet (3 years).

This year there were only 2 scouters selected from the Mission Peak District (our local district which serves 50 cub scout and boy scout units in Union City, Newark and Fremont). John will join 8 other recipients from our new council, the Golden Gate Area Council which serves over 20,000 youth in 7 bay area counties.



Hisaye "Mary" Misaki (1919 – 2022)

It is with profound sadness that we announce Hisaye "Mary" Misaki passed away on January 29th, at the age of 102 years. She was a long-time member, respected temple leader, and cherished friend to many. Our sincere condolences to Karen Fujii and family, David Misaki and family and the entire Misaki/Kushida family. A small family service was held with a hybrid on Zoom.

In lieu of koden, the family suggests donations can be made to the "Tak and Mary Misaki Buddhist Youth Award" and sent to SACBC with a note in the memo line to direct the funds to that award. Also, donations can be made on PayPal at sacbc.org. Drop down menu allows you to specify the "Tak and Mary Misaki Buddhist Youth Award".



Tak & Mary Misaki Buddhist Youth Award

Takao and Hisaye "Mary" Misaki studied, taught, and lived the Dharma. They believed that learning the Dharma should begin at infancy and continue through life.

The purpose of this award is to recognize the outstanding and commendable Buddhist life exemplified by the recipient and reestablish the Tak Misaki Buddhist Youth Award as the "Tak & Mary Misaki Buddhist Youth Award".

Criteria to be met by recipient:

- Parent or guardian is a member of SACBC and has been for at least 4 years. Families that move to the SACBC area in fewer than 4 years must have been a member of a BCA temple for at least 4 years (other temple + SACBC = 4 years minimum)
- Regular attendance at SACBC temple services including Dharma School
- Participation in the SACBC Jr. YBA
- Attendance at BCA conferences, seminars, retreats, etc.
- Participation in and support of SACBC activities
- Participation in SACBC affiliated or sponsored organizations
- Service to the community
- Demonstration of the seeking to understand the Buddha's teaching and applying it to daily life.

The award is a certificate and \$500.

Tak & Mary Misaki Buddhist Youth Award

(Continued)

Administration: Tak & Mary's children and grandchildren will donate monies to SACBC to reestablish this award. Family and friends will be encouraged to donate to SACBC and designate their donations to this award.

The SACBC Treasurer will route designated donations to this award, keep an accounting of the funds, and issue the award from the church checking account. No separate bank account is needed.

The family will provide the Certificate.

The award will be initially funded with \$5,000 and maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

Determining the recipient:

- David Misaki (son), Karen Misaki Fujii (daughter), and/or any of the six grandchildren will meet with Dharma School teacher(s), Jr. YBA advisor(s), and Sensei to determine the recipient. If more than one person is identified as meeting the criteria, more than one award can be given in a calendar year.

Eligible applicants: Students in the last year of high school. Students who have not previously received the award and are attending a post high school occupational training program, college, or university. Applicants must meet the criteria above.

Timeline: March 2022 – Announce to the SACBC Sangha Information about the Award
June – Recipient announced at the last Dharma School class of the school year.



A BWA MESSAGE

PLEASE—PLEASE

Do not bring stuff to the church for any future BWA rummage sale.

It has taken more than two (2) years to diminish items from our March 2020 sale.

Judy Tokubo has taken more than 46 boxes to donate. At this point, we are beginning to throw items away. Please donate your goods to a local charity of your choice. The leftovers have begun to be a safety and fire hazard.

Sincerely,
Nancy Minamide

What's Up Dharma School?

What words come to mind associated with the temple with the letter 'O'? The Elementary Dharma class can tell you!...It's "Oshoko" and "Obon"! They made origami lanterns, like the one we dance under during Obon. They also had a book reading, Suki's Kimono by Chieri Uegaki and Stephane Jorisch.

The Jr/High school students debriefed on Rev.Miyaji's talk about お陰様で (Okagesamade) and made a small picture frame, learning how to write Japanese. For some, it was their first time doing Japanese 'calligraphy' (well...with a sharpie...).

The students also came together as one class to share (funny) stories about their current/past pets during our cookie decorating. This year, students also got to experiment with fondant! Thank you to the parents for allowing your child to have dessert before lunch...we hope you were able to use their new found energy to help around the house, at least for a little bit.

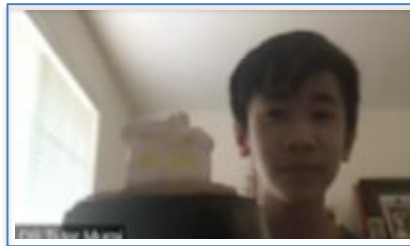
The following are remaining (tentative) dates for Dharma school. Parent-please keep an eye out for our emails, especially during March, for there may be some last-minute changes we may need to inform you on.

- March 6, 2022 (TBD)
- March 13, 2022--BCA Council
- April 3, 2022
- April 10, 2022--Hanamatsuri
- May 1, 2022
- May 15, 2022
- June 5, 2022--graduation



In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty





OPEN TO ALL BCA MEMBERS

Saturday, March 5

10:15 AM PST Town Hall Meeting

(Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America) "Messaging and Membership"
The town hall will focus on how to grow our membership, one of the greatest challenges that faces our BCA, local churches and temples.

1:00 PM PST Youth Protection Presentation (Terri Omori, BCA President Elect)

To Protect Our Youth and Those Who Serve Them
This workshop will include information on how to develop and initiate policies and procedures and information regarding the process to comply with the new California Assembly Bill 506.

2:00 PM PST BCA Music Committee Presentation

(Kemi Nakabayashi, Chairman, with supporting members of the BCA Music Committee) Enhancing Temple Services and Engaging Your Sangha Through Music
This workshop is intended to provide some "how to" ideas and resources for the sanghas, to support temple services and engage all members.

3:00 PM PST Endowment Foundation/Dharma Forward

This workshop will cover Campaign goals, messaging, strategy, and tax-advantaged methods for donors to support the Campaign.

4:00 PM PST Endowment Foundation

(Koichi Sayano and Steve Terusaki)

This workshop will focus on the value and benefits of investing temple funds with the Endowment Foundation.

Sunday, March 13

10:00 AM PDT (Daylight Savings Time) Buddhist Churches of America Eitaikyo Service
Guest Speaker: Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, BCA minister emeritus

The above programs are free and open to all BCA members. Go to bcancm.org/workshops for more information and to join the events

SACBC Bento Fundraiser by Chef Royce Mori

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

Order deadline: Mondays at NOON

Pick Up: Wednesdays, 3PM – 4 PM

SACBC, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587

Payment: There are five options for paying:

- PayPal or Venmo: sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com
- Credit card: VISA, Mastercard (will be processed onsite during pick up)
- **Check** made out to: **SACBC** or Cash (Exact amount pls) in a sealed envelope with your name and address on the outside.

MARCH BENTO MENU

	Meat	Vegetarian/Pescatarian	Notes/comments
March 2nd	Chicken Karaage Chopped Green Salad w/Creamy Sesame Dressing Sesame Green Beans Sauteed Mushrooms Yaki Soba Steamed White Rice \$18	Vegetable Curry Udon Chopped Green Salad w/Creamy Sesame Dressing Soft Boiled Egg, Corn, Green Onions, Shimejii Mushrooms \$18	
March 9th	Tonkotsu Ramen Chashu Pork Belly, Corn, Spinach, Soft Boiled Egg, Green Onions 2 Spam Musubi \$17	Ramen Salad Dashi Braised Eggplant, Corn, Spinach, Soft Boiled Egg, Green Onions, Crispy Shallots, Sesame-soy Vinaigrette 2 Age Musubi \$16	
March 16th	Korean Style Garlic Pork Belly Sesame-soy Spinach Sesame Bean Sprouts Japchae Kimchee Fried Rice \$18	Crispy Garlic Soy Cod Sesame-soy Spinach Sesame Bean Sprouts Japchae Kimchee Fried Rice \$18	
March 23rd	Loco Moco (Chef Royce Style) Specially Seasoned Hamburger Patty over Garlic Rice and topped with two Over Easy Eggs and Brown Gravy, Portuguese Sausage and Mac Salad \$18	Island Style Garlic Shrimp Mac Salad Sauteed Corn Steamed Broccoli Steamed White Rice \$18	
March 30th	Miso Roasted St. Louis Ribs Cabbage Salad w/Sesame-soy Vinaigrette Soy-braised Vegetables Wok-Fired Ginger Choy Sum Steamed White Rice \$18	Miso Glazed Eggplant & Mushrooms Cabbage Salad w/Sesame-soy Vinaigrette Soy-braised Vegetables Wok-Fired Ginger Choy Sum Steamed White Rice \$17	

MARCH EVENTS

- Sunday, March 6th Shotsuki Hoyo; service will be on Zoom
- Sunday, March 13th BCA Eitaikyo Service (<https://www.bcancm.org/workshops>)
No SACBC Service
Daylight Savings Time begins; set clocks one hour forward
- Sunday, March 20th Family Service will be posted on YouTube
- Sunday, March 27th Spring Ohigan Service in conjunction with
Lady Takeko Kujo & Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service
Service will be on Zoom



Sunday, March 13th