

Golden Chain



www.SACBC.org

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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MARCH 2025

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.

I have been thinking about Buddhism and how we rely on Amida Buddha's unconditional compassion, as we cannot attain enlightenment on our own. I believe Jodo Shinshu is the right path for me, as I know I cannot gain enlightenment with my own accord. Shinran Shonin discusses not knowing true good or true evil and while I think we should try to go good acts, we also cannot make up for the harmful ones we do. We are not inherently evil, but as humans we learn throughout our lives, how to mark things as good, or bad. We cannot help having these biases in our lives, it is how we make sense of the world around us, keeping us from danger.

However, there are times, when we make judgments, later realizing we were wrong. I have been thinking about a friend from high school who was the reason I started really getting into anime via Dragonball Z, referenced in a fall article. Ironically, he and I started off disliking one another, but his friends group met mine and would randomly have to interact. We both believed the other person to be fake and ingenuine, so we just ignored each other when together. I'm usually good at evaluating people, but was so wrong.

At the end of our freshman year, another freshman decided to tell people I was gossiping about him and while not true, everyone believed him. He convinced the juniors and seniors they should all beat me up. This freshman thought this girl he liked was talking to me, but really, she was talking to my friend, but this is how drama often starts. The upper classmen already didn't like me from having Black and Latino friends from the football team. The whole school found out about

this, and it was to be the first big fight of the year. My mom recalls this story as "the gang riot", as several gangs came to observe this fight, to ensure it was a fair fight.

I was scared to fight but some gang member told me they would keep it fair, but if I lost, they would beat me up. The upperclassmen didn't show up, and I found out later that my future friend walked right up to their leader and said, "Pick on someone your own size!", and got pushed down. The upperclassman did not realize this little kid was one of the people who called one of the gangs to observe this fight. This was enough proof the upperclassmen were going to jump me, and stepped in to protect my future friend. I also got a very sincere apology that day.

I later asked my friend, why he would risk getting beat up by huge upperclassmen, while he weighted ninety pounds, and especially for someone he didn't like, knowing I didn't like him either. He admitted to not liking me, but said, "It wasn't right, what they were going to do to you. And while I didn't like you, my friends did like you and your group of friends so it was the right thing to do".

We became super close after that, and I owed him for his kindness, because I never would have walked into potential danger for someone I didn't know. This was an example of me thinking I knew something to be true, but had horribly misjudged him. The crazy thing was some of the seniors who wanted to fight me, I had worked on their Eagle Scout projects. I couldn't believe they didn't like me, but in the end people I thought who would have tried to speak out for me, wanted to cause me harm. The one person I would have bet

money wouldn't have cared about my safety put himself in harm's way to do the right thing.

I believe this is what Shinran is talking about, we are so limited in understanding the world, we often can't see the truth. This is why we must accept Amida's infinite wisdom in our lives. Our ability to know right and wrong is limited, it is based on our current understanding of the world. I do believe while we will never totally get it right, experiences like this can help us understand why we need to reflect on the Buddha's teachings. Not to become good people, but at least to prevent us from making wrong judgements about other people, at least we can then embody a little better the practices of Jodo Shinshu.

Gassho
Rev. Landon

BWA March 2025

Spring is on the way.....

Just a reminder that our **Spring Rummage Sale** will be held on **March 8th and 9th**. Set up will be on Friday March 7th, from 1:00 to 5:00pm. We will accept your treasures any time before, and ask that you call Emily in the office to arrange for a good time to drop them off. We also ask that you not donate broken items, or things that are missing crucial parts. Things should be clean so that we can put them out on the floor when we set up. We welcome your help on Friday March 7th, from 1:00-5:00pm to help us set up everything that will help us bring the neighborhood come to purchase useful things. Some of us even find treasures for ourselves.

Please join us for the a special **BWA Service at 10:00am on March 23** that will honor Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Yoshiko Ohtani. Come find out who they were, and why they are important to us. They didn't live so long ago that we may not have seen them in our lifetime.

*We are sad to announce that **Mrs. Yoshie Yamada** passed away on January 12, 2025.
Services have been held.*

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to her daughter:

*Mrs. Yukiko Osaki
5094 Hummingbird Rd.
Pleasanton, CA 94566*

*Gassho,
Karen Suyama*

MARCH 2025 SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on
Sunday, March 9th at 10:00 AM.

DECEASED

FAMILY

	1956	Saburo Koyama	Koyama Family
	1962	Teisuke Nishi	Nishi Family
	1968	Minoru Ando	Ando Family
Hatsushi	1969	Keiji Hatsushi	Mrs.Yoko Hiramine & Mrs.Takiko
	1973	Tomoe Tanaka	Tanaka & Shibata Family
	1980	Eiichi Kobayashi	Mrs. Nancy Minamide
	2000	Toshiaki Abe	Mr. David Abe
	2002	William Pong	Mr. & Mrs. Martin Shiba
	2003	Christine Nishihira	Mr. Thomas Nishihira
	2005	Renee Yonekura	Mrs. Toyoko Yoshioka
	2005	Robert Kitajima	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kitajima
	2006	Kimiyo Asakawa	Mrs. Neile Mori-Tang
	2007	June Handa	Mr. Bill Handa
	2011	Shiro Sakaki	Mrs. Noriko Sakaki & Mr. & Mrs. Tetsuji Uemura
	2013	Kenji Neyama	Mrs. Aileen Hisaoka
	2014	Stanley Sakuma	Ms. Susan Sakuma
	2015	Claire Teshima	Ms. Paige Ajimura
	2016	Kay Otani	Mr. Richard Otani & Ms. Debbie
Yamaoka			
	2016	Roy Nakagawa	Mrs. Mary Nakagawa
		Sadao Hirabayashi	Ms. Joy Hirabayashi-Dethier
	2017	Hajime Ota	Mrs. Jean Kotake & Mrs. Sally Hinson
	2018	Kiyoko Neyama	Mrs. Aileen Hisaoka
	2022	Taeko Wakamatsu	Ms. Cathy Matsubara
		Shioji Kimura	Kimura Family
	2023	Yoshiharu Yoshimitsu	Yoshimitsu Family
		Aiko Yamaguchi (death yr unknown)	Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi
		Jo Kamiji (death yr unknown)	Mrs. Sachi Fudenna & Mrs. Michi Handa
		Yoshiharu Mori (death yr unknown)	Wong Family

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Memorial Service 2025

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 – 1st year	2013 – 13th year	1993 – 33rd year
2023 – 3rd year	2009 – 17th year	1976 – 50th year
2019 – 7th year	2001 – 25th year	1926 – 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 March 2025

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

March 2, 2025 –BCA Eitaikyo Joint Service 10 A.M. – in-person at SACBC to join on ZOOM.

You can access the service at home using the following ZOOM link or QR code
or
Join the Sangha in the hondo.

Link: <https://links.bcancm.org/eitaikyo2025>



March 9, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo 10 A.M. Hybrid Service

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins: Spring forward.

At this monthly memorial service, we will honor those loved ones
who passed away in the month of March.
March birthdays will be celebrated. Dharma School will follow service.

March 16, 2025 – Family Service 10 A.M. Hybrid Service

March 23, 2025 Lady Takeko Kujo & Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service Spring Ohigan Service 10 A.M. Hybrid Service

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

March 30, 2025 – Family Service 10 A.M. Hybrid Service

Happy Girls' Day (Hinamatsuri)

Hinamatsuri, also called “Girls’ Day” or “Dolls’ 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*



2025 SACBC Board of Directors

2025 Officers

President	Kyle Yamasaki
VP Operations	John Arai
VP Religious Activities	Karen Fujii
Recording Secretary	Karen Suyama
Treasurer	Ken Matsubayashi
Membership Treasurer	Yvette Hornig
Corresponding Secretary	JoAnn Rogers
General Counsel	Garret Murai
Past President	Kyle Yamasaki

Honorary Advisor

Ken Suyama

2025 Elected Board Members

Dave Abe	Jamie Nagata
Nancy Dodd	Paul Nakao
Reina Fujii	Dr. Neil Okamura
Larry Gissible	Noreen Osaki
Dr. Palitha Jayaweera	JoAnn Rogers
Noel Lowe	Cindy Sakihara
Dr. Curtis Mark	Mark Shimomura
Kathy Murai	Katherine Velasco

2025 Organization Representatives

BWA	Karen Suyama
Dharma School	Betty Yamasaki & Cathleen Yoshida
Jr YBA	Kyle Yamasaki
AA	Nate Tanabe
Cub/Boy Scout	Patrick Kogoma
O Nami Taiko	Bob Kitajima
Japanese Language School	Garret Murai
Kendo	Hideo Okada
Bingo	John Arai
Umenoki	Ken Suyama

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

*A memorial service for **Harry Tanouye** will be held on May 24, 2025, 3pm at the SACBC hondo.*

Send your RSVP or any question to Randy Tanouye 510-825-3295

Please RSVP by May 1.

Got Stuff?

Do you have a closet full of fabrics for projects that you never got around to starting? Or do you have a box of pretty scraps that you can't throw away? How about donating them to our **BOUTIQUE**.

Pat Takemoto and Arlene Shibata have done it. They are no longer weighed down by guilt for unfinished projects and know it's going to a good cause.

Here's a list of items we need:

- Asian fabrics for aprons
- Asian fabric scraps larger than 3"x3"
- Solid cotton fabrics
- Bias tape
- Thread
- Zippers - any size
- 3/4"-1" D rings
- Plastic Canvas Sheets
- Ripstop fabric for bags
- Empty water chestnut cans
- Buttons - larger than a nickel but smaller than a quarter

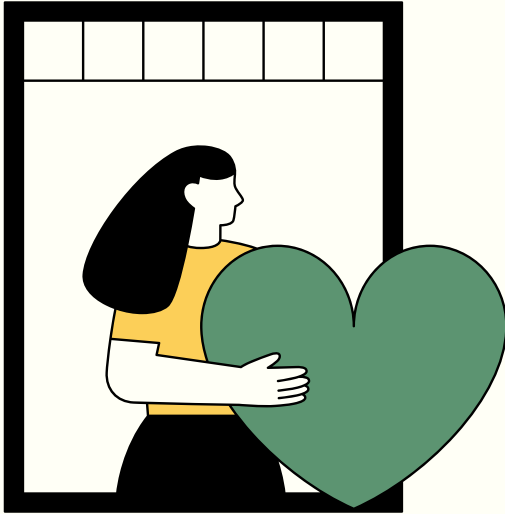
We can also use your help. Our group meets the first and third Thursdays of the month. The next gathering will be March 6th. We start at 9AM and finish at 2PM. Stay for as long as you want. Bring lunch if you stay the whole day.

If you have any questions, contact Jamie Nagata, Sachi Abe or Noreen Osaki. Thanks!

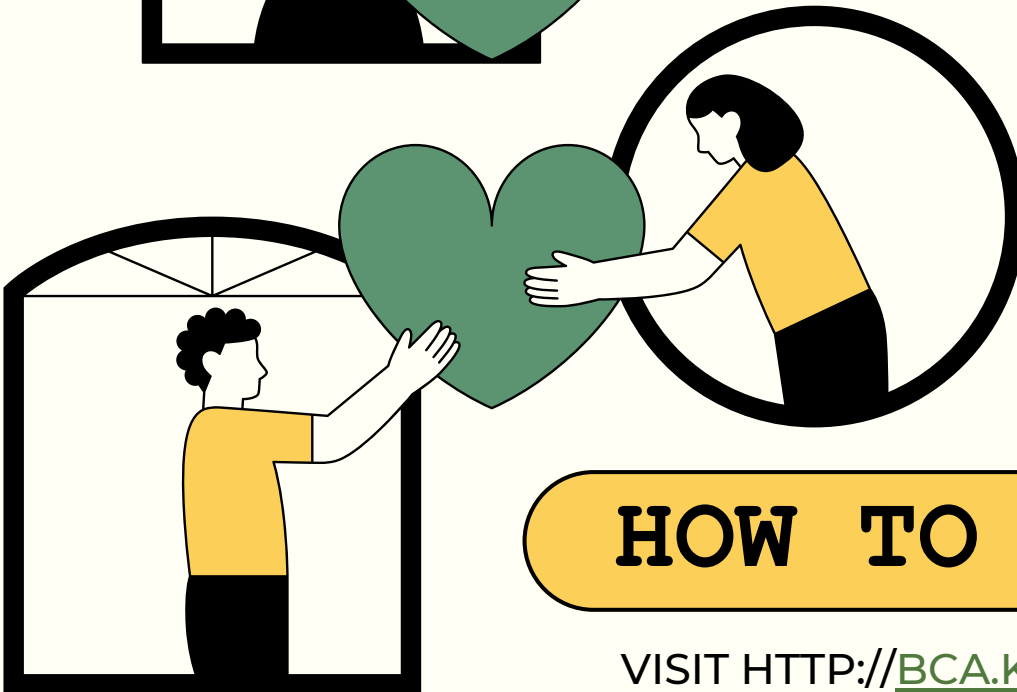
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RELIEF



BCA SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



Support those affected by the Wildfires to assist Southern District temple members and community support efforts!



HOW TO HELP!

VISIT [HTTP://BCA.KINDFUL.COM](http://BCA.KINDFUL.COM)
SELECT "SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE RELIEF" OR

MAIL A CHECK MADE OUT TO BCAEF
2140 DURANT AVE
BERKELEY, CA 94704
NOTE: WILDFIRES



MAR 2025

“Spring Forward” is here!

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
2 10am BCA Eitaikyo Service (Zoom service at SACBC)	3 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	4 6:30-8:30pm Scout 6-9pm AA practice	5 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	6 9-2p Boutique 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	7 6am O-Jinjo 1-5pm Rummage Sale Prep day	8 8:30a-1pm JLS classes 10-3pm Rummage Sale
9 Daylight Savings Time (advance clocks 1 hour) 10am Shotsuki Service 11-3pm Rummage Sale	10 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	11 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	12 3-5pm Taiko 6-9 AA practice	13 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	14 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo <i>Last day to submit GC article</i>	15 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
16 10am Family Service	17 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	18 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9pm AA practice	19 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	20 9-2p Boutique 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice	21 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice	22 8:30a-12pm JLS classes Hanamatsuri Tournament
23 10am Spring Ohigan Service Hanamatsuri Tournament	24 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice	25 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9pm AA practice	26 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA practice	27 11a-1pm JLS	28 5-9pm Bingo	29 8:30a-12pm JLS classes 12-3pm JLS teachers' meet
30 10am Family Service	31 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice					

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



MARCH EVENTS

2nd—SUN	BCA EITAIKYO JOINT SERVICE
8th—SAT	RUMMAGE SALE: 10AM-3PM INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
9th—SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE RUMMAGE SALE: 11AM-3PM <i>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME (Advance clocks one hour)</i>
16th—SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
22nd – 23rd	HANAMATSURI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
23rd—SUN	LADY TAKEKO KUJO & LADY YOSHIKO OHTANI MEMORIAL SERVICE
30th—SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
<p><i>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR ONLINE VIA ZOOM</i></p> <p><i>Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300</i> <i>PASSCODE: 549504</i></p>	