

# Golden Chain



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www.SACBC.org

**MAY 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.*

This past month we observed Hanamatsuri on April 11<sup>th</sup>. The birth of the Buddha was an auspicious occasion and it is because of what Prince Siddhartha does with his life, that sentient beings have the opportunity to encounter Amida Buddha's Great Compassion.

This year's observance was not able to take place in the hondo and in person with the sangha. However, we were greatly fortunate to have as our special guest Cherry Blossomz, who provided a most exquisite musical tribute to this wondrous occasion. This group which consists of three brilliant and talented ladies, sang three musical pieces: "In Lumbini's Garden," "Namo Amida Butsu" (an original piece), and "Arigato" which was performed in Japanese. The videos were pre-recorded, and the visual settings added to the peaceful ambience of their musical voices. It was a great pleasure to have them as our musical guests and we look forward to their future endeavors and musical projects.



At the end of the service, I asked the group, who participated in our service, a number of different questions. One question I asked was how do you decide what songs to sing and what do you use as your inspiration? Lisa responded by saying, "We try to reflect and ask ourselves, 'What are some things that we really need to hear? What are some things that touch and connect to us?' We hope that if it helps heal us and remind ourselves of the teachings, then hopefully it will help all of you. Feeling our connection to that music is really important in conveying the message to everyone. It really helps that we personally connect to what we're singing."

I believe this is a really inspirational message because I believe this is also the appropriate approach to our spiritual paths. When we open our hearts and minds up to the message of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion, we awaken to the truth that we are embraced as we are in the world of warmth and light. When we encounter this joy, we naturally spread the message of the Nembutsu teaching to those around us. It is much like basking in the warmth and light of the sun. When we feel the warm embrace, we make it look so comfortable to others around us. In turn, they would want to join us in basking under the sun as well. But we first have to embrace this truth ourselves. The Buddha teaches us not to blindly believe; we should not just follow a teaching because people tell us to follow it. We must verify it with our own life experiences. Then, when we encounter this joy, we will naturally spread this message to others. We thank the Cherry Blossomz for a wonderful service together and their efforts to spread the teaching of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion. Namo Amida Butsu.

先月、4月11日にお花まつりの法事がありました。このお勤めはお釈迦様のご誕生を讃嘆するためのものです。お釈迦様のおかげで、我々は阿弥陀如来様の真実の教えと出あうことが可能になったからです。

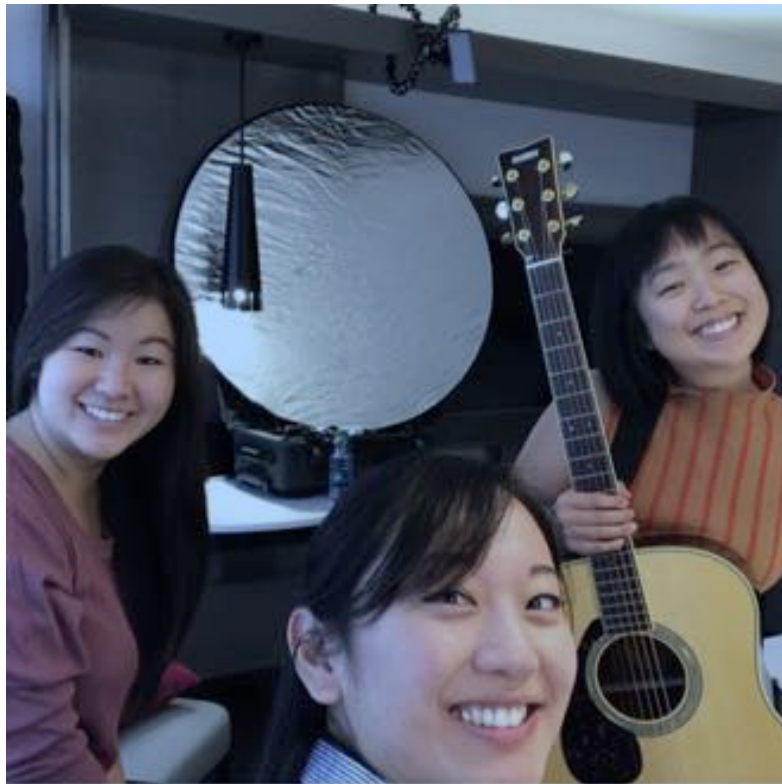
今年はお寺の本堂で皆さんと一緒に勤めをすることができませんでした。残念でしたが、この度「Cherry Blossomz」といった3人女性のメンバーの音楽グループが特別ゲストとして一緒に法要をすることができました。彼女たちには最も素敵な演奏をしていただきました。「In Lumbini's Garden」「南無阿弥陀仏」（オリジナル版）と「ありがとう」（日本語版）の三つの曲を前もって録画し、撮影した場所も音楽と伴い素敵な雰囲気でありました。聴いていると、とても穏やかな気持ちになりました。「Cherry Blossomz」の今後のパフォーマンスやご活躍を期待しております。

彼女たちはお参りに来てましたので、勤めの終わりのほうに少し対談をしました。その時、いくつか質問をしましたが、その中の一つはどのように歌う曲を選ぶのですかと尋ねました。メンバーの一人であるリサさんはこのように答えました。「自分たちが何が聞きたいのか、どのようなメッセージが私たちにとって必要なのかとまず考えますね。つまり、今悩んでいることに関して私たちにとって心にしっくりくるメッセージはなんなのか。そしてそのメッセージを他の人たちに役に立てばいいねと思い、それを歌います」と答えました。

私はこの答えが印象的でありました。つまり、このアプローチは我々が仏道を歩む「求道者」としての姿勢でもあると感じたからです。阿弥陀如来様の慈悲の世界に心を開くと、その明るい暖かい世界にありのままに包まれていることが分かります。そしてこの慶びに出あうと、その真実の教えを自然と周りの人たちに伝えていきたいと思えます。ちょうど日光浴みたいなものではないでしょうか。太陽のもとで気持ちよくリラックスしていると、周りの人たちもそれを見て、自分もやりたいなと思いはじめます。しかし、自分がまずその気持ちよさが分からないといけなわけです。つまり、仏様の教えはただ単に盲目的に信じるのが戒められているのです。その教えの真実さを自分の人生を通して確かめなければなりません。そして、その慶びと出あうと、その真実の教えを自ずから周りの人たちに伝えていきたいと思うのです。

今年のお花まつりのお勤めを「Cherry Blossomz」とご一緒にできて本当に貴重なご縁をいただきました。彼女たちが阿弥陀如来様の慈悲の教えを広めていこうとする尽力をありがたく感謝しております。合掌。

# Hanamatsuri





## Services for May 2021 – **Corrected on May 4, 2021**

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### **May 2, 2021 – Shotsuki Hoyo**

10 A.M.

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

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

May birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

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### **May 9, 2021 – Family Service**

10 A.M.

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

**happy  
mother's day!**

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### **May 16, 2021 – Gotan-e and Gomeinichi Service**

10 A.M.

Gotan-e is the observance of the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu.

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

Dharma School & Jr. YBA will host this service.

Dharma School will follow service.

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### **May 23, 2021 – Memorial Day & Family Service**

10 A.M.

Special tribute to those who served in the U.S. **Military**

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

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***May 30, 2021 – No Service this Sunday***

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## MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday May 2, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**



### DECEASED

1920 Shoichi Misaki  
1940 Takichi Misaki  
1941 Seizo Handa  
1945 Susumu Saito  
1947 Zenichiro Shibata  
1954 Sumiko Kato  
1954 Ito Misaki  
1964 Naoichi Ikeda  
1965 Katsujiro Maruyama  
1969 Tomie Shikano  
1976 Chikano Maruyama  
1977 Robert Kushida  
1978 Hamano Fudenna  
1987 Yasuto Kato  
1988 Barney Hachiro Handa  
1990 Yoshiko Sato  
1990 Haruto Hamamoto  
1991 Alyce Setsue Masamori  
1992 Kelvin Kato  
1993 Kimiyo Sekigahama  
1997 Scott Hoang  
1998 Bernice Emiko Mongi  
2003 Natsu Teshirogi  
2008 Toshiko Abe  
2008 Robert Whitaker  
2010 Robert Kinji Shibuya  
2012 Haruki Takemoto  
2013 Roy Hirabayashi  
2018 Katsumi Maruyama  
  
Ichizo Shikano  
Mae Sanaye Nishiguchi  
Fusa Kamimoto  
2019 Ed Sakamoto  
2020 Ayako Fujii  
2020 Sayoko Tamura

### FAMILY

Misaki Family  
Misaki Family  
Mr. Ace Handa  
Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
Mrs. Arlyne Shibata  
Mr. Wayne Sakuda  
Misaki Family  
Ikeda Family  
Mrs. Takeko Maruyama  
Mr. Ben Shikano  
Mrs. Takeko Maruyama  
Mrs. Mary Misaki  
Fudenna Family  
Mr. Wayne Sakuda  
Handa Family  
Mrs. Takeko Maruyama  
Hamamoto Family  
Masamori Family  
Mrs. Paula Kato  
Sekigahama Family  
Mrs. Betty Hoang  
Mongi Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
Mr. David Abe  
Mrs. Marcia Whitaker  
Mrs. Janet Shibuya & Ms. Michele Shibuya  
Mrs. Patricia Takemoto  
Mrs. Joyce Hirabayashi  
Mrs. Takeko Maruyama, Ms. Mitsuko Maruyama  
Mrs. Grace Joo, Ms. Sandy Maruyama  
Mr. Ben Shikano  
Mr. Don Nishiguchi  
Mr. & Mrs. Art Sakai  
Mrs. Marie Sakamoto  
Mrs. Karen Suyama  
Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Yamasaki

## Memorial Service 2021

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2020 – 1 year	2009 – 13 year	1989 – 33 year
2019 – 3 year	2005 – 17 year	1972 – 50 year
2015 – 7 year	1997 – 25 year	1922 – 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.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By now many of you have already seen Rev Miyaji's important and timely message about all the recent unfortunate events involving violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). I think that his message nicely reinforces how Buddhism can help us all cope with these troubling issues. Unfortunately, we all need to be aware and careful in our everyday lives now. While we'd like to think that news headlines won't impact us, there are too many local Bay Area incidents that can't be ignored. With Rev Miyaji's guidance, we can find relevance in the teachings of the Buddha and find individual strength to meet these challenging times.

In Gassho,  
Ken



### **Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji's Message:**

In viewing the recent increased attacks on Asian American individuals in various parts of the country as well as across the world, we are saddened by these senseless acts. Asian Americans have been the target of discrimination, ridicule, amusement, and now violence at the hands of many individuals of other ethnic backgrounds, yet are somehow expected to stay silent on their mistreatment.

As American Buddhists, this community is no stranger to ostracization and marginalization as was experienced by the incarceration of Japanese Americans in our recent history. Yet, our resilience and strength come not from anger and resentment, but rather, through the solidarity and self-reflection that humbles us to see the plight of the human condition.

As Buddhists, we center our lives on the Buddha Dharma, the world of Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion. Through this understanding, we are the first to admit our limitations as sentient beings who are ignorant of our ignorance, which makes us susceptible to blaming and hurting others for our misfortunes.

However, let us not respond with fueling the flames of anger with more anger, which is inextricably linked to ignorance. The Buddha teaches us that only love conquers hatred and enmity. What we as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists recognize is that this "love" that is being discussed here is first and foremost the Great Compassion of Amida Buddha. As such, it is on this fertile ground in which we take the first steps to extend our hearts out to others. It is on this unifying ground in which we identify the solidarity with other disenfranchised groups. It is on this sacred unity with all other beings that we remind ourselves that we are the links in Amida Buddha's Golden Chain. Finding solace in the ground of Great Compassion allows us to see more clearly the true state of the world we live in.

Namo Amida Butsu

□□□□□□

Dear SACBC,

Due to increasing financial challenges, friends and families of Umenoki are doing a GoFundMe campaign. As COVID-19 has forced a reduction in residents and made getting staff from Japan difficult, finances are becoming strained, Getting a PPP loan and restructuring the mortgage loan have helped but without Bingo contributions and limited residents, the budget remains very tight. With no immediate relief in sight, a group of Umenoki supporters led by Naoko Fujii are conducting a GoFundMe fundraiser.

Naoko Fujii is from Palo Alto Buddhist Church and a long-time friend of Umenoki. Her parents are former residents and she has been a very active supporter helping Umenoki out in many ways over the past years. The letter below has all the details and please consider a donation of any amount to help Umenoki continue operations for the benefit of our SACBC seniors.

Thank you for your consideration.

In Gassho,

Ken



Dear Friends and Supporters of Umenoki,

We are working to raise funds to help insure the survival of Umenoki for its current and future residents. Due to the reduction of residents to single rooms to protect against the spread of COVID-19, Umenoki's revenue has been greatly reduced and reserves depleted.

We are launching a **Go Fund Me Campaign** to raise a one-time amount of \$30,000 to help budget shortfalls caused by COVID-19.

We are grateful to the staff and Umenoki families for their care, compassion and kindness towards our parents, and hope Umenoki will be here to take care of us in the future. We would like to invite others to help support Umenoki and share this campaign with relatives and friends on social media.

Donations from Donor Advised Funds, 401K's, corporate matching programs or checks to avoid Go Fund Me processing fees can be made directly to Wisteria Gardens Inc. 32965 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City, CA 94587. Contact: Naoko Fujii, [nfujii888@gmail.com](mailto:nfujii888@gmail.com), +1-510-487-5001.

Many thanks from the Fundraising Team: Naoko and Chieko Fujii, daughters of Mr/Mrs Fujii; Vickie Yamaoka and Karen Whitworth, daughters of Mr/Mrs Nakano; June Matsueda and Lucy Hamai, daughters of Mrs Ikeda; Ken and Karen Suyama, son of Mr George Suyama and daughter of Mrs Ayako Fujii; and the Board members of Umenoki.

For any questions, please contact Naoko Fujii at [Nfujii888@gmail.com](mailto:Nfujii888@gmail.com).

We appreciate donations of any amount and are grateful for your support.

## *What's Up Dharma School?*

*March and April have been full of dana and celebration for the Dharma school students.*

*As a community building between the two grade levels, and keeping tradition that Cindy Sakihara started, the Jr/High students (broken into groups) did a Hanamatsuri egg hunt at the house of each of the elementary school kids. Each upper level student made a personalized egg with a surprise such as having a message, candy, and/or small bracelet inside the egg. Such fun to see the younger kids try to find the eggs and open them with the older kids.*

*In celebration of Hanamatsuri, the elementary class decorated small Hanamido (Cathleen Y. made them with a milk carton and painted it in gold) with paper flowers and placing the baby Buddha in it.*

*Dharma school was also busy preparing our first virtual Hanamatsuri presentation and Otoki. The Jr/High students helped with announcements and came together to put the otoki orders together. The handmade boxes were done by the Dharma students from last year. The tea represented the sweet tea and flowers when the baby Buddha was born.*

*A special thank you to*

- The families and students of Dharma school for agreeing to host*
- Senior outreach group and Victoria for helping with communications*
- Royce and crew for preparing the Udon otoki. In addition, we found out that Saturday morning, Royce also included the chicken/kabocha plate! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Many complements received!*
- SACBC for the bags and carnation for the Sangha*
- Rev.Miyaji and family for coming out to greet the Sangha during pick-up*
- Kyle Yamasaki being "voluntold" to be our back-up.*

*Stay safe and healthy!*

*In Gassho*

*Cathleen and Betty*

*Dharma School Co-Superintendent 2020-2021*





## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: JR YBA (Young Buddhist Association)

### Yumi Florando

Jr. YBA had always scared me; the kids seemed so much older and mature, and I was intimidated. Through volleyball, however, I was introduced to the wonderful environment of Jr. YBA.

I loved that even though at first, I didn't know the group that well, volleyball gave me an opportunity to work together with them and get to know them better. The whole group was very encouraging and made me feel included from the very beginning. I really enjoyed practicing and playing volleyball. I made a lot of mistakes at first but Auntie Lani was an amazing coach, offering advice and running drills that quickly helped me improve.

The first time I competed in the annual tournament, over lunch Garrett Osaki continued the tradition of going around and getting each person to share three highlights from their week which was harder than expected but got us all to laugh and learn more about each other. To finish out a fun-filled weekend, we ended up winning our division. It was truly a wonderful first experience to Jr. YBA.



2018 Bay District Jr. YBA  
Volleyball Tournament  
held at Alameda Point Gym,  
Alameda, CA  
Division B Champions



2018  
Auntie Lani Uemura  
coached our SACBC Jr.  
YBA Volleyball team



## Chance Tokubo

My favorite memory in Jr. YBA was definitely the All Nighter. Getting away from home for a night and playing games with my friends was really exciting. Some games that I played were NBA 2k on the Playstation, playing basketball in the gym, and various card games. We also got to eat lots of un-healthy (but good tasting) food like spam musubi, chips, and cookies. The best part of the night was meeting other alumni who had previously been a part of SACBC Jr. YBA. We were able to ask them questions about their time as Jr. YBA members and their current experiences in college. Even though there were many other great memories I had in Jr. YBA, the All Nighter is at the top of the list.



## Russell Yamasaki

A very fond moment for me in Jr. YBA is going to Fuddruckers with everyone after we finish our monthly Jr. YBA meeting. We would usually try to get the circular booth and just have fun enjoying each other's company. We also went around and shared 3 highlights or lowlights of our weeks. People would usually share highlights and there were some really funny stories about what happened during someone's week. Even though it's difficult now, to be all together in this current environment, I hope one day I will get to go back to Fuddruckers one more time with everyone!

## Emi Yamasaki

My favorite memory of Jr. YBA was attending leadership conferences and meeting people from other districts and chapters. Everyone was always really friendly and welcoming, and it was interesting to learn about others' unique experiences at their own temples. Even though we all come from different places and experience Buddhism in different ways, we are all still a part of the larger BCA and Jodo Shinshu community, and being able to come together, exchange ideas, and grow as Buddhists through workshops and conferences was something I found very valuable.

## Kyle Yamasaki

I have fond memories of being both an SACBC Jr.YBA member as well as now going full circle of being a parent and advisor to our SACBC Jr.YBA. Fresno's Central California district conference was one of my favorite events to attend as a youth as you were able to spend the night in Fresno and enjoy the dance social with fellow Jr. YBAers across California. My father, Mas Yamasaki, would always ask me, "who did you meet"? It was amazing that my dad would tell me who the parents of those kids that I met. Funny thing is that I find myself doing the same thing to my kids at their Jr. YBA conferences and volleyball tournaments that they attend. I cherish these memorable times and the friends that we make through the Jr. YBA organization.

## Noreen Osaki

I look back at my time in the Clovis YBA with such fondness because we got along like a family. I wanted that for my kids, so when I restarted the JrYBA in 2011, I had that upmost in my mind. We started out by calling all the parents "Aunties" and "Uncles" and all the members were newfound "Cousins". ("Can't date your cousin!") I really didn't know what to expect, but little did I know that I had the best group of kids -Dustin Uemura, Ruvan Jayaweera, Brie Hornig, Kaitlyn Jang, Kailen Mark, Brian Chew, Dylan Kennedy, and Brett Uemura. I got to watch them as they teased each other, laughed together, and accepted each other as a group.

When new members were added, I marveled at how the group stayed bonded. I noticed how the older members' personalities were rubbing off on the younger ones —

the same kind of teasing and the same kind of laughter. There was sadness as the kids graduated, but we continued on with fresh new faces.

I, too, have graduated out of JrYBA and cherish those memories. Now, whenever they call me, "Auntie", my heart fills with happiness for it reminds me of this special time I got to share with them.

### Kailen Mark

I joined the SACBC Jr. YBA in 2011 when my mom started it up again during my freshman year of high school. Although I grumbled at first because my mom was the organizer (I was a semi-rebellious teen), I enjoyed meeting new people and getting to know the ones from Dharma School. We all became good friends as we attended events such as our monthly meetings, various fundraisers, district conferences, and volleyball tournaments.

Some of my favorite memories from Jr. Y include:

- Kaitlyn being persuaded to put her hair down for our very first conference dance.
- Ruvan falling asleep during service, and Brett and Dustin flicking his ear to wake him up.
- Coming up with nicknames for the backs of our volleyball team shirts (Brie was BRIEyonce, I was ShaKAIRA).
- Joking that our chapter was the "social chapter," while in reality, most of the time we awkwardly stood on the side of the dance floor staring at each other.
- Practicing the Friendship Dance for the church's 50th Anniversary Party, and Ruvan making up a song for it (There is a bear in the forest / What does he care? He's a bear).
- Dustin drawing lines on our hands so that when our volleyball team was in the right positions, our fists made a fish.
- Spotting a blue sweatshirt bob past the Fresno Dharma Center windows, and realizing it was Ruvan jogging laps in the dark because he didn't want to dance. He also snuck away to the kitchen to wash dishes and hang out with the parents.
- Garrett and Trent chairing the overnigher service together by alternating every other word (Good... evening.. Welcome... to.. today's... service).
- Struggling to scoop the frozen hard green tea ice cream at Bazaar, and saying "Tip, Tip, Hooray!" whenever someone gave us a tip.



Now that we are Jr. YBA alumni, we still meet up every so often to help out at church or catch a movie. We also attend the College/Senior YBA conferences where we reconnect with friends from other chapters. I am grateful to be a part this community of young Buddhists, and I look forward to seeing everyone once we get our shots!





**OBITUARY**

Our Sangha extends our sincere condolences to the family of *Mr. Hisao “Bill” Yoko* who passed away on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the age of 95. A private service will be held with family members.

In lieu of koden, the family requested donations can be made to SACBC in honor of Mr. Yoko’s name. If you would like to send a card, please contact our office at (510)471-2581 or [sacbcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sacbcoffice@gmail.com)

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**CORRECTIONS**

Please note the following error in the April 2021 Golden Chain:

I credited Mary Nakagawa for the article on the SACBC Ukulele Club. The very interesting history of the founding and activities of the Ukulele Club was written by Diana Kitajima.

I apologize to both Diana and Mary for my error.

The Senior Outreach Team is led by Kyle Yamasaki. In the March 2021, it was mistakenly reported that Karen Fujii is the lead. Kyle is the dedicated, detailed, driving force behind the Senior Outreach Team.

Sincerely,  
Karen Fujii



## MAY EVENTS

- May 2/Sun. Shotsuki Hoyo, Birthday celebration, Dharma School  
May 9/Sun. Mother's Day, Family Service  
May 16/Sun. Gotan-E and Gomeinichi, Dharma School  
May 23/Sun. Memorial Day & Family Service  
May 30/Sun. **NO Family Service**  
May 31/Mon. Memorial Day

**ALL SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300

Passcode: 549504

