

# Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church  
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www.SACBC.org

**MAY 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.*

## Finding Home

In listening to a conversation the other day between veteran ministers who have many years of experience in this profession, one of them told a very moving story. He tells about an episode involving a previous minister at the temple he was working. Once, there was a boy who would come to service on a weekly basis, but did so reluctantly. This is a very familiar story, is it not?

Every time, when the service would end, the minister would see that child leaving the temple, and he would ask the boy, "Do you know your way home"?

The boy would always answer back, "Yes, I know my way home." And the conversation would end.

The next week, the boy would, again, reluctantly come to the temple service. When the service would end and the boy would go home, the minister would ask him upon seeing him, "Boy, do you know your way home"? It soon became a regular routine. Upon seeing the child, the minister would ask him the same question. Over time, the boy got frustrated with the same repetitious question and he would answer back in a very curt and annoyed manner, "Yes! I know my way home!"

Some years later, the boy grew up and eventually stopped coming to the temple. Another all-too-familiar story. However, after many years, the boy—now a grown man who has experienced much in his life—comes to the temple through some causal connection. As he sits in the hondo, he recalls his past memories of growing up at the temple. It is in this time of quiet reflection that he suddenly hears the voice of the old minister, who has long since passed, asking him the same question once again, "Boy, do you know your way home"? To which he finally understood what the minister meant by asking him that same question all those years ago.

Only after so many years did the boy finally understand what Sensei meant by asking him if he knew the way home. It wasn't about finding his way back to his house that he lived in at the time he was a boy.

How about you, do you know your way home?

We have no idea just how much we are being nurtured, cared for, and guided by the Buddha Dharma and those who come before us. Such a simple story that has an immensely profound meaning and insight to the spiritual paths we walk on as Nembutsu practitioners. Let us walk together as we head to our home in the Pure Land. Gassho.



## 「坊や、帰り道分かるか」

これはベテラン開教使の先生から聞いたお話です。その先生が昔就任していたお寺での出来事です。前にいた開教使と子供のやり取りについてのエピソードです。その子は、毎週の日曜礼拝に仕方なくお参りに来ていたそうです。そして、お勤めが終わる度に、その子はすぐ帰ったそうです。

しかし、帰る時にその先生がいつも子供に声を掛けたそうです。「坊や、帰り道分かるか」と。当時、まだ幼かった彼は「わかってるよ」と答えたそうです。そして、毎週のお勤めにその子がお参りに来ると、帰る時に、先生は必ず同じ質問をされたそうです。「坊や、帰り道はわかっているのか」と。この会話は日曜礼拝の度に、毎回繰り返されたそうです。

その後、この男の子が青年になると、お寺に来なくなりました。そして、何十年か経った時、彼が何かのご縁でお寺にやって来たのです。その頃にはもう、その先生は亡くなっていました。とっくにいい歳の大人になった彼は、本堂の中に座って、懐かしく子供の頃を思い出していました。すると突然、あの昔の先生の声が心の中に浮かんできました。

「坊や、帰り道分かるか」

その時、やっと彼は分かったそうです。先生が彼に問いかけてくださっていたのは、家までの帰り道ではないことに、やっと気が付いたのです。

彼が聞かれていた先生からの質問は、あなたへの質問でもあるということをお気づきですか。その言葉があなたに届いていますか？

私たちは数えきれないほど、計り知ることのできないほど、阿弥陀如来様の無量のはたらきによって育てられているのです。このはたらきを通して私たちは真実の世界に還<sup>かえ</sup>ることができます。皆さんと一緒にお念仏の帰り道を歩んで、共に浄土にいきたいと思います。合掌

### 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>



## Services in May 2022 are Hybrid

Please join us in-person in the Hondo or virtually via Zoom!  
Masks are highly recommended to attend in-person.

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### May 1, 2022 – 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 **Hybrid** service.

May birthdays will be celebrated.  
Dharma School will follow service.  
Children's Day will be recognized.

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### May 8, 2022 – Family Service

10 A.M.

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



### May 15, 2022 – Gotan-e and Gomeinichi Service

10 A.M. Hosted by the JrYBA

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

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

Dharma School will follow service. JrYBA will meet after Dharma School.

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### May 22, 2022 – 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 **Hybrid** service.



### May 29, 2022 – No Service this Sunday

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Shinran Shonin's actual birthday is on May 21, 1173. He was born in Kyoto, Japan. Because of Shinran's efforts to spread the Nembutsu teaching, this tradition has been passed down to us for over 800 years! The message of Amida Buddha's Great Compassion is spreading throughout the world in other parts of Asia, Europe, South America, and here in North America as well. Let us proudly remember our founder and celebrate his birthday together!



## MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday May 1, 2022 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  
 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  
 2021 Masahito Hiramine

### FAMILY

Ms. Karen Fijii  
 Ms. Karen Fijii  
 Mrs. Michiko Handa  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
 Mrs. Arlyne Shibata  
 Mr. Wayne Sakuda  
 Ms. Karen Fijii  
 Ikeda Family  
 Mrs. Takeko Maruyama  
 Mr. Ben Shikano  
 Mrs. Takeko Maruyama  
 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  
 Ms. Joy Hirabayashi-Dethier  
 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  
 Mrs. Yoko Hiramine

## Memorial Service 2022

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2021 – 1st year	2010 – 13th year	1990 – 33rd year
2020 – 3rd year	2006 – 17th year	1973 – 50th year
2016 – 7th year	1998 – 25th year	1923 – 100th 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.



IN MEMORIAM

**SACBC wishes to express its heartfelt sadness to announce that long-time member, Dr. Shiogi Kimura passed away on March 25, 2022. Our condolences to the Kimura Family.**

## **Job Announcement (REVISED)**

Buddhist Churches of America has an immediate opening for an Administrative Assistant to work at the national headquarters office at 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, or at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA.

This full-time nonexempt position reports to the Director of Operations. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, administrative support for the Director of Operations, preparations for national meetings, light accounting support, and receptionist duties such as handling incoming phone calls and emails to the national headquarters / forwarding to the appropriate staff person, and processing the daily mail.

Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. though some evening and weekend hours may be required.

### Requirements:

- High School diploma, bachelor's degree or some college preferred
- 2-3 years prior experience in a similar capacity
- Strong interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills
- Ability to exercise discretion and maintain confidentiality
- Experience working with Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, and Adobe Acrobat
- Excellent organizational skills

The Administrative Assistant interfaces with the general public, BCA staff, BCA lay leadership, ministers, and temple leaders throughout the national organization as well as leaders from affiliated organizations and other global Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha overseas districts. The ideal candidate will have the ability and flexibility to work well in a dynamic professional environment, to take initiative while working within the chain of command, and to meet critical deadlines.

Familiarity with the BCA national organization is desirable but will train. Experience using other Adobe software such as Photoshop and InDesign as well as having Japanese language skills are all a plus though not essential.

For more information or if you are interested in applying, contact Gayle Noguchi, Director of Operations, at [gnoguchi@bcahq.org](mailto:gnoguchi@bcahq.org), subject line "Job." This position is open until filled.

Employment with Buddhist Churches of America is at will. Salary commensurate with experience. BCA provides a full benefits package that includes paid leave, medical benefits, and retirement plan. Free parking provided at the BCA Headquarters office.

## MAY EVENTS

- May 1 – SUN**      **Shotsuki Hoyo, Birthday celebration; Hybrid Service, Dharma School**
- May 8 – SUN**      **Family Service; Hybrid Service; (Happy Mother’s Day)** 🌻
- May 15 – SUN**      **Gotan-E and Gomeinichi; Hybrid Service, Dharma School, Jr. YBA meet**
- May 22 – SUN**      **Memorial Day & Family Service; Hybrid Service**
- May 29 – SUN**      **No Service**
- May 30 – MON**      **Memorial Day Holiday (OFFICE CLOSED)**

**ALL SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM**

Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300

Passcode: 549504

