

# Golden Chain



www.SACBC.org

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

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**Resident Minister:** Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji  
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**MAY 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 hope you are all doing well and have been enjoying the warmer weather between our rainy weeks! It has been busy for me lately with different Temple events. Everything happens all at once, and it

started this January with planning a vacation for my family and friends. However, last-minute changes arose, so I had to prepare more work and have less vacation.

I was taking an "oxygen" break when a friend called me a second time that day. I missed his first call, but he did not leave a message. It occurred to me that he might have bad news, as he rarely calls, let alone twice. My suspicions were right: he let me know a childhood friend of ours passed that morning. Once I got the news, I coordinated with him and our other friends. We needed to figure out how to take care of his family.

I remember a sinking feeling of regret setting in that day, as for years my friend who passed would occasionally ask me for advice since I worked in a caring profession. He recently had asked if I could meet up with him and, for the dozenth time, wanted to hear my thoughts on Buddhism. His family came from a predominantly Buddhist country yet were not Buddhists. He was always doing some spiritual practice, stopping and starting again periodically over the years. Since I was busy, I did not meet with him to talk, I kept saying I would do it when I had more time.

Now, months later, I drove past his parents' house, and I was busy talking to my wife about other mutual friends. Passing by, I realized it was the first time I did without thinking about the memorial service that was held for him in the tradition of his family's religion. Unfortunately, I missed the funeral due to a schedule conflict. My wife asked if I was ok.

I was, but only because my mind was elsewhere at that moment. I was thinking of an acquaintance of mine who was always kind to me at parties. I told my wife I was good, not because I did not miss my friend but because, at that moment, my mind was focused on their kindness toward me. He owed me nothing, yet he treated me like a close friend.

I told her this is an aspect of Buddhism. We, as Buddhists, do *not* lose our suffering and attachments. We can be taught to see how things are connected and how to create more and more possibilities in our minds, but something must teach us how to do this. This is the opposite of black-and-white thinking, as the more open we are to having a traumatic episode touch many different "boxes," we can learn to see how things are not just good or bad. We see the interconnectedness of our lives and how painful memories also are tied to ones of hope.

Losing a friend is hard, and yet that acquaintance's kindness paused my grieving for a moment. This does not arise on its own. We must reflect on the Buddhist teachings to be shown how to do this, but I did find solace briefly. Of course, the memories flooded back when I got to my parent's neighborhood, and I felt the sting of regret again for missing out on that last chance to talk with my friend. In writing this, I feel a mix of sadness and nostalgia for the fun times we shared. Perhaps for my next article, I will write about the *Naikan* therapy retreat we attended recently that uses Shin Buddhist ideology to help people heal, as it can be used to open our eyes to the nonduality of our own interactions.

In Gassho,

Landon

# MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on

**Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 10:00 AM.**

**DECEASED**

## FAMILY

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
2018	Ichizo Shikano
	Mae Sanaye Nishiguchi
	Fusa Kamimoto
2019	Ed Sakamoto
2020	Ayako Fujii
2020	Sayoko Tamura
2021	Masahito Hiramine
2023	Haruo Kasai

David Misaki & Karen Fujii  
David Misaki & Karen Fujii  
Mrs. Michiko Handa & JoAnn Rogers  
Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
Mrs. Arlyne Shibata  
Mr. Wayne Sakuda  
David Misaki and Karen Fujii  
Ikeda Family  
Maruyama Family  
Mr. Ben Shikano  
Maruyama Family  
Fudenna Family  
Mr. Wayne Sakuda  
Handa Family  
Maruyama Family  
Hamamoto Family  
Masamori Family  
Mrs. Paula Kato  
Sekigahama Family  
Mrs. Betty Hoang  
Mongi Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Tsuyoshi Teshirogi  
Mr. David Abe  
Mrs. Marcia Whitaker  
Shibuya Family  
Mrs. Patricia Takemoto  
Ms. Joy Hirabayashi-Dethier  
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; Mr. Yuzo Tamura &  
Ms. Lauren Yamasaki-Cramer  
Mrs. Yoko Hiramine  
Mrs. Grace Kasai

[illegible]

## Memorial Service 2025

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 the church office at (510) 471-2581 to schedule a memorial service.



## Services for May 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.

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### May 4, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M.

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

May birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

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### May 11, 2024 – Gotan-e and Gomeinichi Service

10 A.M.

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



### May 18, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Dharma School will follow service.

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### May 25, 2025 – Memorial Day & Family Service

10 A.M.

This service is to honor and remember those women and men who died while serving in the U.S. military.

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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!



### Clean Up! Saturday, May 10, 9 AM – Noon

In preparation for our annual bazaar, we need to clean up. The focus will be in Sangha Hall: store room, table tops, kitchen, and area outside of the "food service area."

## Hanamatsuri 2025



Rev. Takashi Miyaji officiated this service commemorating the birth of Gautama Siddhartha in Lumbini Garden. On this auspicious occasion, we remembered and paid homage to the founder who later discovered the Buddha Dharma, and brought to everyone the path to find true peace.



After service flowers from the Hanamido were shared by removing the oasis in which they were placed and put into containers.

Dharma School students made the signs that were put into each arrangement of flowers.

What a wonderful way to take home flowers that were reminiscent of those that burst into bloom when Gautama Siddhartha was born.

With so many flowers to share Karen Suyama (BWA President) and Karen Fujii (Buddhist Education Committee Chairperson) took flowers to Umenoki.

The residents and caregivers were happy to have their living room and dining tables enhanced with the beautiful and colorful flowers.



### **Upcoming events**

**Clean-up Day: May 10, 2025 (9-noon)**

**Next Board Meeting: June 11, 2025**

**Father's Day: June 15th**

**Next Bazaar Meetings: May 21 & June 18**

**2025 SACBC BAZAAR – July 19-20, 2025**



## What's Up Dharma School? May 2024

Thank you to those who were able to make it to the Hanamatsuri celebration weekend. A BIG thank you to

- Karen Fujii for arranging the prep and set up for the Hanamido.
- John Arai for picking up the flowers.
- Karen Fujii and Kathy Velasco for helping with Dharma students, with putting in signs for the flowers.
- Dharma School's parents helping with submissions for the Hanamatsuri video.
- Russell Yamasaki for the tech support and guest appearance on the video.

At our last Dharma class, in the upcoming celebration of Kodomonohi, kids were taught how to make samurai hats and make a cherry blossom origami gift box.

Upcoming event and classes:

- **May 3 (Sat)**-BDDSTL Beach Clean-up at Crown Beach
  - 8:45am-12:30pm meet at Crab Cove Visitor Center@1252 McKay Ave., Alameda
- **May 4** (Shotsuki Hoyo/birthday)
- **May 18** (Gotan-e Service)
- **June 2** (Shotsuki Hoyo/Last Day of Dharma class/graduation)
  - Dharma School will be hosting a light udon otoki lunch in celebration of the last day of Dharma school.

In gassho,  
Betty and Cathleen





# SILENT AUCTION

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BUDDHIST CHURCH



## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction - July 19 & 20, 2025

Spring is here and the 60th Annual SACBC Bazaar is getting closer. We are calling upon the Sangha to help us reach out to local businesses they regularly frequent and ask for donations. We appreciate any donation from businesses and "friends" of SACBC.

For the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction, we are asking SACBC organizations and affiliated organizations, as well as Sangha members for donations. We gladly accept donations of new items as well as gently used and precious older items. Items that attract interest and competitive bids are suggested below:

### TICKETS/GIFT CERTIFICATES

TICKETS to  
-Sporting Events  
-Amusement Parks  
-Interesting places in the Bay Area  
-Plays, musicals, movies

CERTIFICATES to  
-Restaurants  
-Specialty Shops

### ELECTRONICS

-Tablets  
-Headphones  
-Ear buds

-Video games  
-Video game gift cards  
-Gaming accessories (eg. controllers, mouse, headsets, carrying case, etc.)

### THEME BASKETS (examples)

SPORTS: Basketball, baseball, football, soccer, golf, tennis, fishing, etc. Include equipment, memorabilia, etc.

GIFT CARDS

CELEBRATIONS: Christmas, Valentines Day, Halloween, Birthday, Anniversary, etc.

"HIS", "HERS", "KIDS"

FOOD: Wine, Liquor, Samplers

ARTS & CRAFTS

PETS: Items for Dog, Cat, Fish, Birds, etc.

BOOKS

KIDS TOYS (new) that are popular right now

### OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

-Art: Paintings, Sculptures  
-Japanese art pieces  
-Collectibles (vases, ceramics, etc.)  
-Air Fryer  
-Small appliances

-Tools  
-Travel aids  
-Handcrafted items (knitted, crocheted, embroidered, woven, sewn, etc.)

To contribute to this year's Silent Auction, donations must be received by **June 15, 2025**.

Donations MUST be clean and in good, sellable condition. Dusty, dirty, or items needing repair will be returned.

PLEASE PUT DONOR'S NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #, & EMAIL ON ITEMS.

Donations can be left in the office starting in May. Contact information for potential donors is also appreciated. **THANK YOU!** We look forward to seeing you at the Bazaar.

Questions? Please contact Karen Fujii. OK to leave messages on Church Telephone: (510) 471-2581

## SACBC has a job opportunity for: Office Manager Position

**Description:** The Office Manager position at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church is a salaried part-time position that reports to the President and the Board.

**A) Qualifications:** The Office Manager position will require the skills of working with a computer (***MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, Publisher), Zoom, Email, Google Drive - Doc, Sheets, Slides, Forms***) and a copy machine. The position will require working part-time, performing the office duties, producing and distributing the newsletter and funeral programs, scheduling the use of the facility, and overseeing the maintenance and repair of the facility.

**B) Working Hours:** The position shall be part-time and shall require four hours a day Monday through Thursday. The suggested working hours shall be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Vacation leave:** 2 weeks per year; Paid Holidays- In accordance with the annual paid holiday schedule as set by the Board.

**C) Office Duties:** Office duties shall consist of performing the following:

- 1) Documents: Process church related letters, memos, and documents generated by the Minister and Board of Directors for approval and signature as required and completed in a timely manner. Provide assistance to the President, the Minister, Board of Directors, and affiliated organization representatives in copying and creating flyers, articles, and programs related to SACBC events or activities. All copies shall be electronically transferred, when possible, to the SACBC computer for production and future reference. The master files, such as the Golden Chain newsletter, funeral programs, bazaar duty roster, etc., shall be saved on the church computer and backed up on a regular basis.
- 2) Communication: Communicate and pass incoming and outgoing verbal, voice mail, and emails that are directed to, from, or between BCA, SACBC personnel and organization members.
- 3) Website Support: Assist in updating the SACBC website and social media pages to promote events and activities.
- 4) Professionalism Maintain the position of Office Manager in a professional manner in action, dress, speech, and deeds to all who contact SACBC.

**D) Golden Chain Newsletter:** Produce a quality monthly newsletter that will be informative to all of the membership. The Office Manager shall in a timely manner for publication and delivery:

- Format all articles for monthly publication.
  - Produce the monthly newsletter from beginning to completion
  - Maintain the mailing list and mail all newsletters to those on the mailing list.
  - Send digital copies each month to the person who maintains the SACBC website.
- 1) The newsletter shall basically consist of articles from the:
    - Minister
    - Officers and board of directors
    - Affiliated organizations
    - Sponsored organizations
    - Listing of monthly Shotsuki Hoyo family names (formal Shotsuki Hoyo letters to be mailed out before the newsletters are mailed), donation list and monthly event calendar.
  - 2) Sort and bunch newsletter by zip code as required by the post office. Fill out the bulk mail application. Transport and deliver the newsletter to the bulk post office.
  - 3) Consult the President and/or appropriate Board member(s) regarding resolution of any publication issues.

**For more detailed questions about the job duties or to express your interest, please contact the President, Kyle Yamasaki: [djyamix@gmail.com](mailto:djyamix@gmail.com) or call the Church office: 510-471-2581.**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER:** It is the policy of South Alameda Co. Buddhist Church to provide a work environment, which is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, marital status, age, gender, disability, medical condition or sexual orientation. The Church will make reasonable efforts in the process to accommodate persons with disabilities.





# SACBC BINGO

Bingo is one of the only ways to offset the church's large deficit, but we need your help to keep it running. Last Friday, we were short of volunteers and many people had to do multiple jobs. Please come out and support Bingo to keep our church thriving.

BINGO is on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. If you have helped before, please sign up on the Google Sheet or contact John Arai or Emily for the email link.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18ahyOFIhcJ3VZZonoN98o4t3zt2jSPkpqT\\_YTixib4s/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18ahyOFIhcJ3VZZonoN98o4t3zt2jSPkpqT_YTixib4s/edit?usp=sharing)

Now, if you have never helped before, please just show up and we will explain what needs to be done. No experience necessary. Come when you can and stay as long as you want. If you do arrive around 4:30pm, you can eat dinner with the rest of the volunteers. If not, the Kitchen crew will help you with your hunger needs.

If you are unable to volunteer, there are other way you can help. The Kitchen can use store bought desserts, candy bars, sodas, chips, etc.... Please coordinate with Sachi Abe or JoAnn Rogers.

Thank you to the following people for signing up when we started last September. Most of them have helped more than once:

Betty Yamasaki	Josie Matsubayashi	Noreen Osaki	Yvette Hornig
Bill Sawasaki	Judy Tokubo	Nori Sakamoto	Zoe Sekigahama
Bob Kitajima*	Karen Kitajima	Oscar Sakamoto	
Cathleen Yoshida	Karen Suyama	Pat Takemoto	+++++
Curtis Mark	Kathy Velasco	Paul Gan	A special thank you to
Dianna Nakashima	Kyle Yamasaki	Raymond Chiu	Onami Taiko for
Don Uriu	Larry Gissible*	Royce Mori	covering selected
Eric Tokubo	Lester Low	Sachi Abe*	Fridays as a donation
Gail Tomita	Lianne Tanouye	Sandy Maruyama	to the church.
Glen Sekigahama	Liz Gan	Scott Kitajima	+++++
Grace Joo	Masako Mori	Stan Miyasato	
Jessica Chuang	Michael Markantonis	Steve Sato	* dept. heads
JoAnn Rogers	Michi Handa	Terry Sato	
John Arai*	Nancy Dodd	Yuki Nomura	

Of course, you could also bring your family and play Bingo!



# MAY 2025

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 6-9pm <b>AA</b>	1 9a-2pm <b>Boutique</b> 11am-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>	2 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>	3 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
4 10am <b>Shotsuki Hoyo</b>	5 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b>	6 6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	7 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>	8 11a-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>	9 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b> 5-9pm <b>Bingo</b>	10 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b> 9-12 <b>Clean-up Day</b> 11-12 <b>JLS Grad Rehearsal (gym)</b> 2-9pm <b>Scout Dist. Dinner</b>
11 10am <b>Gotan-e &amp; Gomeinichi Service</b>  <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b>	13 <i>GC article submission deadline</i> 6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	14 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>	15 9a-2pm <b>Boutique</b> 11am-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>	16 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>	17 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b> 8-2 <b>JLS Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal (gym)</b>
18 10am <b>Family Service</b>	19 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b>	20 6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	21 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>	22 11a-1pm <b>JLS teacher prep</b>	23 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b> 5-9pm <b>Bingo</b>	24 8:30-Noon <b>JLS Classes</b>
25 10am <b>Memorial Day &amp; Family Service</b>	26 <b>Memorial Day observed (Office closed)</b> 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b>	27 <i>Office Manager On vacation</i> 6:30 pm <b>Scouts</b>	28 <i>Office Manager On vacation</i> 3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>	29 <i>Office Manager On vacation</i>	30 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b> <i>Office Manager On vacation Thru 6/10</i>	31 8-2pm <b>JLS Graduation Ceremony (gym &amp; kitchen)</b>

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



## MAY EVENTS

4 <sup>th</sup> —SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE
11 <sup>th</sup> —SAT	GOTAN-E & GOMEINICHI SERVICE  <i>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> —SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
25 <sup>st</sup> —SUN	MEMORIAL DAY & FAMILY SERVICE
26 <sup>th</sup> —MON	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED (OFFICE CLOSED)
<b>ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM</b> IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504	