



MAY 2024

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.

“Human Being” or “Authentic Self”?

As the Spring season is fully underway, there is a renewed sense of energy and life in the air. It is during this time that I get excited to think of the different things I can do with my family and friends. Perhaps I'll go on a trip to another country over the summer. Maybe I can enjoy spending time outdoors more or venturing off to various restaurants and other parts of town that I would normally not go. This is a time for new adventures.



In times like these, I am reminded of a poem that reads as follows:

「人間に生まれるのはむずかしい でも人として生きていくのは もっとむずかしい」

“To be born as a human being is difficult. But to live as an authentic self is even more difficult.”

What this Buddhist poem is trying to say is that in the cycle of birth-and-death we have come into many existences before coming to this one. We are now living as sentient beings. However, what is even more difficult than to have this opportunity to enter this world as a human being, is to be able to live as an authentic self. This distinction between “human being” and “authentic self” is something worth thinking about. What do you think makes this difference?

From a Jodo Shinshu standpoint, all sentient beings live within this world of blind passions. We are meandering, trying to find the meaning of life, but it is hard to find because many of us look to and rely on things that are impermanent. However, when we encounter the great life source that sustains everyone and everything, including all sentient beings, we no longer meander. Our hearts become anchored by the world of Great Wisdom and Compassion, where we are now able to live fully and authentically. We are no longer sentient beings that are wandering, but rather, living truly as authentic individuals supported by the great sustaining life source.

Do we want to live meandering in the world of delusion, holding onto things in this world that will only give us temporary satisfaction? As was once told to me, “You can buy that Tesla, but you can't take it with you when you die.” Or do we want to live spiritually anchored? It is a life defined not by the things we own, but rather, where we realize that every moment lived is an indispensable and invaluable one. If so, let's embark on the Nembutsu path together! Gassho.

「人間」対「人」

春の陽気になり暖かくなってくると、みなさんは家族や友人との計画を立てることが多くなるのではないのでしょうか。私この時期になると、いろんな所に行きたくなり、近くても遠くでも、とにかく色々な場所に行きたいと思うようになります。そんな時、次の文章が思い浮かびます。

「人間に生まれるのはむずかしい　でも人として生きていくのは　もっと
むずかしい」

“To be born as a human being is difficult. But to live as an authentic self is even more difficult.”

みなさんはこれを読んで、どのようなことを考えられるのでしょうか。私たちは遠い昔から今まで生死というものを繰り返してきました。そしてついに、人間としてこの世に現れました。その出来事は、大変稀なことですが、それより稀なものがあります。それは、本当の「人」として生きることが、さらに稀なことだと仏教が教えてくれています。この「人間」と「人」の違いはどこにあるのでしょうか。

浄土真宗では、一切の衆生は煩悩を抱えながらこの世を生きていると説きます。この世をぶらぶらと歩くような感じで、人生の意味をあっちこっちに行ったり来たりして探しています。しかし、抛りどころとするものが無常のものである限り、その本当の意味を見出すことができないのです。全ての命を支えてくれる無限のはたらきと出逢うことによるのみ、心のブレがなくなります。これは煩悩が消えるということではなく、煩悩を抱えながら、その煩悩が真実の世界との出逢いの障りにならなくなるということです。そして限りない智慧と慈悲の世界が私の支えとなり、「自分らしい」私として生きていくことが可能となるのです。

では皆さん、どのように生きていきたいと思いますか。煩悩の悩みに惑わされ、意味なくあっちへ行ったりこっちへ来たりするような生き方をしたいのですか。それとも、煩悩よりも無限の智慧と慈悲のはたらきに身を委ね、自分らしく生きるような人生を送りたいのでしょうか。そうであるならば、ぜひこのお念仏の道を、共に歩んでいこうではありませんか。合掌。

MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on
Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

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

FAMILY

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 2024

2023 – 1st year	2012 – 13th year	1992 – 33rd year
2022 – 3rd year	2008 – 17th year	1975 – 50th year
2018 – 7th year	2000 – 25th year	1925 – 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 2024

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

May 5, 2024 – 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 message in Japanese will follow the English service.

Dharma School will follow service.

Jr. YBA will meet after service.

May 12, 2024 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will pre-record this service and post it on our YouTube channel.

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

Please note: Service will NOT be held in-person.



May 19, 2024 – Gotan-e and Ochigo Service

10 A.M.

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

Dharma School kids will participate in Ochigo.

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

Dharma School will follow service.

May 26, 2024 – Memorial Day & Family Service

10 A.M.

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

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!



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.
- John Arai for picking up the flowers.
- Hatsushi family for refinishing the hanamido and alstroemeria.
- Mia and her dad, Adam Mosier, for helping with decorating the Hanamido.
- Daniel and Maya Polo Carres for joining in on the decoration.

We appreciate the Sangha for your kind words of appreciation for the Hanamatsuri performance by the Dharma class (Josie, Kara, Mia, Ami, Akari, Keisai) with a song and dance of “Buddha Loves You” and “Special Place”

After Rev.Miyaji’s dharma message, the elementary students decorated bags in preparation for our annual Hanamatsuri egg hunt while the Jr/High School students hid the eggs. It was very entertaining to see the younger students try to find the eggs since this time the older students decided to hide the eggs in not so obvious places! (I think we ended up not finding one egg!).

After the class/service, we co-hosted an Udon otoki with BWA. We are very grateful for all the fruit and dessert donations from the Dharma School parents and BWA! We’d like to thank our alumni DS parents, Glen Sekigahama and JoAnn Rogers for helping with the prep during service.

Our next event will be on May 11 (Sat.) where the Bay District Dharma School Teacher League will be hosting a day at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum.

In gassho,

Betty and Cathleen

Remaining classes:

- May 5 (Shotsuki/birthday)
- May 19 (Gotan-e Service)
- June 2 (shotsuki/graduation)



**HANAMIDO for HANAMATSURI:
BEAUTIFUL!!!**

On April 7, the birth of Gautama Siddhartha in Lumbini Garden was commemorated.

Amy Hatsushi, Ralph Hughes, and Ted Hatsushi refurbished our Hanamido. They rebuilt and replaced parts, including the columns. A new coat of paint was given to the entire structure. Per John Arai's suggestion, they attached the Hanamido to the base which creates one structure with wheels. This allows the safe movement from storage in the Sangha Hall to the Hondo for Hanamatsuri.

Thank you, Amy, Ralph, Ted, and John!

Several members decorated with flowers. Orchids from Stan Miyasato & wisteria from our pergola enhanced the beauty of the hundreds of carnations.

Thank you to all who patiently decorated the Hanamido.

Thank you, Betty Yamasaki, Karen Suyama, JoAnn Rogers, and others for preparing the delicious otoki after service.



Dear Sangha,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as SACBC Treasurer since 2010. Time flies. I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their very kind remarks on my retirement as Treasurer. It is truly appreciated. I would especially like to thank Ken Matsubayashi for taking over as SACBC Treasurer. It is challenging, but I know he will do an outstanding job. THANK YOU. I will continue as a Board member and active member of SACBC.

Metta,
Larry Gissible

BWA – report by Karen Suyama

We had a roomful of people from both temple and our oterakai to make ribbon leis last month, just in time for some graduations. Some of the children from oterakai worked on Easter baskets which got filled with grass and candy when completed.

Hope you joined our Baklava cooking class. Thanks to Karen Fujii for an easy and delicious recipe.

Please join us for our next meeting on May 19th at 9:00am.

Upcoming activities:

1. Still collecting recipes for our new cookbook. Send yours in now.
2. Bay District Buddhist Women's League Conference, May 18 at Enmanji Buddhist Temple.
3. Rummage Sale – rescheduled to October 19-20.

BAZAAR 2024

Meetings continue as we plan and get ready for our annual Bazaar which is scheduled for July 20th and 21st. Please be ready to help and support us with our largest fundraiser for the temple. Be on the lookout for the roster, coming soon to your mailbox.

In Memoriam

Mr. Yoshiharu Yoshimitsu passed away on March 13, 2024.
Services have been held.

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to his wife:

Mrs. Tsuyako Yoshimitsu
2447 Regal Drive
Union City, CA 94587

LEI MAKING CLASS

On March 30, the BWA hosted a class taught by JoAnn Rogers on how to “braid” ribbon into leis. 24 adults and 2 Oterakai youngsters learned to make leis.

Here are samples of leis that those with nimble fingers can make.



BASKET DECORATING CLASS

On March 30, while the Lei Class was in session, 8 Oterakai youngsters, with the help of 3 moms, decorated strawberry baskets and made them into Easter baskets.



CLEAN UP!!!

On April 13, during Clean Up, many members, Logan student volunteers, and Oterakai youngsters were very busy focusing the cleaning on tables and floors, because it was raining outside.

Here is Glen Sekigahama coaching the “mop gang” on getting the gym floor clean!

THANK YOU! to all who helped with Spring Cleaning!





SILENT AUCTION

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BUDDHIST CHURCH



13th Annual Silent Auction - July 20-21, 2024

Spring is here and the 59th 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 13th 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

- Spas
- Restaurants
- Specialty Shops

ELECTRONICS

- Tablets
- Headphones
- Ear buds

- Video games
- Video game gift cards (eg. Roblox, Call of Duty)
- 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.

FOOD: Wine, Liquor, Samplers (Crackers, Pasta, Chocolates)

GIFT CARDS

ARTS & CRAFTS

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

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

“HIS”, “HERS”, “KIDS”

BOOKS

KIDS TOYS 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 participate in this year’s Silent Auction, donations must be received by **July 1, 2024**. 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.

Ochigo

お稚児



In conjunction with Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin's Birthday Service) which will be observed on May 19th, we will conduct Ochigo, where Dharma School students of elementary school age, will dress up in traditional outfits for the service. There will also be a small procession in and around the temple. If you would like your child to participate in this once in a lifetime event for them, please contact Emily: sacbcoffice@gmail.com. Please provide the child's age and height.

Upcoming events

Next Board Meeting: June 12, 2024

Father's Day: June 16th

Next Bazaar Meeting: June 19, 2024

2024 SACBC BAZAAR – July 20-21, 2024



MAY 2024


Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 3-5pm Taiko 6-9pm AA	2 6am O-Jinjo 11am-1pm JLS teacher prep 7pm Kendo	3 6am O-Jinjo	4 8:30-Noon JLS Classes 2:30-4:30 PM Mochi Making (hondo)
5 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Noon-5pm Scout Court of Honor (gym & kitchen)	6 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	7 6:30 pm Scouts	8 3-5pm Taiko	9 6am O-Jinjo 9a-2pm Boutique 11a-1pm JLS teacher prep 7pm Kendo	10 6am O-Jinjo	11 11-Noon JLS Graduation Ceremony Rehearsal (gym) 8:30-Noon JLS Classes
12 10am Family Service (No in-person) <i>Mother's Day</i>	13 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	14 6:30 pm Scouts	15 <i>GC article deadline</i> 3-5pm Taiko	16 6am O-Jinjo Gomeinichi 11am-1pm JLS teacher prep 7pm Kendo	17 6am O-Jinjo	18 8:30-Noon JLS Classes
19 10am Gotan-e & Ochigo Service	20 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	21 6:30 pm Scouts	22 3-5pm Taiko	23 6am O-Jinjo 9a-2pm Boutique 11a-1pm JLS teacher prep 7pm Kendo	24 6am O-Jinjo	25 8:30-Noon JLS Classes
26 10am Family Service	27 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong <i>Memorial Day observed</i> <i>(Office closed)</i> 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	29 6:30 pm Scouts	30 3-5pm Taiko			

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



MAY EVENTS

5th SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE
12 th SAT	FAMILY SERVICE (PRE-RECORDED; available on YouTube) No In-person service <i>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</i> 
19 th SUN	GOTAN-E & OCHIGO SERVICE
26 st SUN	MEMORIAL DAY & FAMILY SERVICE
27 th MON	MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED (OFFICE CLOSED)
<p>ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p>	