



JANUARY 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.*

## SACBC Celebrates 125 Years of BCA



On December 8, 2024, Bodhi Day, SACBC held a special service to commemorate the Buddhist Churches of America's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the 850<sup>th</sup> of Shinran Shonin's Birth, and 800<sup>th</sup> of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. We invited a special guest speaker, Bishop Marvin Harada, who is our spiritual leader of the BCA. We were very honored to have him and his special friend "Freddy the Frog" join us in celebrating this day. Following the service, the Bishop conducted a *Kieshiki* or Affirmation service, where the participants affirmed their faith and religious identity as Nembutsu practitioners. During this service, they received their Dharma Name, or *Homyo*. A *homyo* is considered a very sacred gift that is bestowed upon the individual. It is something that they take with them for the rest of their lives. When someone receives their Dharma Name, it is a goal that one aspires to become and endeavors to fulfill while in this life. Then, upon returning to the Pure Land at the end of one's life, that individual will indeed embody that attribute and return to this world to teach and guide others to follow the Nembutsu Path.

For example, one of the applicant's Dharma Name was "Shaku 釋淨薰 JO-KUN, which translates to "Pure fragrance." Fragrance is a metaphor for how the Dharma spreads and transforms us. Just like a pure fragrance changes the atmosphere of a room, the Dharma transforms us from being deluded to being true and real. Yet another one is "Shaku 慶教 – KEI-KYO, which translates to "Joy of the teachings." The teachings are the source of our spiritual happiness and joy. When we come to realize that, then we never tire of listening to the teachings, studying the teachings, or sharing the teachings with others. In this way, when a Dharma Name is given to an individual, that person aspires to fulfill that name in their spiritual journey ahead. It is something to take with you for the rest of your life and beyond.

It is truly a joy to see our SACBC members come together to receive their Dharma Names. What better way to commemorate the people who came before us and wanted us to share in the joy of the Nembutsu teaching than by having the present generation come before the Buddha to affirm our faith in the Buddha Dharma. All the smiling faces and people coming together: this is why we come to temple. This is why the temple is a sacred place. In a time of endless Zoom meetings, where even though the dangers of the pandemic have subsided, we still find it preferable to sit in the comfort of our homes talking to each other through the screen, is there not something missing? This past commemorative service serves as a reminder of the importance of in-person activities and the sangha. Thank you for that reminder. Gassho.





Bishop Marvin Harada with pal Freddy the Frog



# **JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO**

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM; (In-person or on Zoom).**

## **DECEASED**

1937 Chizuko Sekigahama  
1958 Sakue Kamiji  
1960 Tsuru Nomura  
1965 Hichizo Ota  
1966 Ruriko Kataoka  
1968 Koyuri Shibata  
1976 Moto Tsurui  
1978 Haruyo Kawaguchi  
1986 Taijuu Kato  
1993 Tsuyuko Suzuki  
1996 Richard Sakakida  
1999 Christopher Takayama  
1999 Tsugiko Hayashi  
1999 Chiyemi Sakuda  
2000 Dennis James Hatakeda  
2000 Kathleen Marie Dupler  
2002 Toshiharu Okada  
2003 Katsunori Hatsushi  
2005 Tsugio Nishimura  
2006 Yoshiko Kawaguchi  
2006 John Nagata  
2007 Marie Payne  
2007 Hosshi Shingetsu Akahoshi  
2008 Ken Okubo  
2011 June Okino  
2011 Yuka Matoba  
2011 Jon Nakamoto  
2014 Moss Fujii  
2014 Molly Kitajima  
2018 Ronald Misaki  
2020 Anne Tanaka  
Keiko Okubo  
Harry Mark  
2021 Haruko Hamamoto  
2021 Shigeyo Imahara  
2022 Mary Misaki

## **FAMILY**

Sekigahama Family  
Mrs. Sachi Fudenna & Mrs. Michi Handa  
Nomura Family  
Ota Family  
Kataoka Family  
Shibata Family  
Tsurui Family  
Kawaguchi Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda  
Suzuki Family  
Sakakida Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Takayama  
Mr. Richard Hayashi  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sakuda  
Mr. Harold Hatakeda  
Mr. Ron Dupler  
Mr. & Mrs. Hideo Okada  
Mrs. Kyoko Hatsushi  
Mr. & Mrs. Fujio Yamamoto  
Kawaguchi Family  
Mrs. Jamie Nagata  
Mrs. Nancy Camacho  
Akahoshi Family  
Mr. Patrick Okubo  
Okino Family  
Mrs. Haru Hamamoto  
Nakamoto Family  
Fujii Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Kitajima  
Ms. Joslynn Browne & Ms. Tiffany Misaki Ratliff  
Mr. Gary Tanaka  
Mr. Patrick Okubo  
Dr. Curtis Mark & Noreen Osaki  
Mr. Gary Hamamoto  
Mr. Alan Imahara  
Ms. Karen Fujii & David Misaki

Yoshimitsu Ushijima (death yr unk)

Mrs. Yoshie Yamada

Ichitaro Yamasaki (death yr unk)

Mr. Kyle Yamasaki

Matsue Yamasaki (death yr unk)

Mr. Kyle Yamasaki

Machi Doami (death yr unk)

Doami Family

Marcus Susumu Hishinuma (death yr unk)

Mr. & Mrs. Sabu Hishinuma

Edward Cuccia (death yr unk)

Cuccia Family

## **Memorial Service 2025**

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 – 1 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 or [sacbcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sacbcoffice@gmail.com).

CORRECTIONS made  
12/21/24 after the Golden  
Chain was printed and  
mailed.



*Happy New Year!*

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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**January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day (Shusho-e) Service  
Wednesday 10 A.M.**

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **In-Person** service.

Following service, we will welcome 2025 with a "toast".

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**January 5, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo  
10 A.M.**

Rev. Landon will officiate this HYBRID service.

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

January birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School will follow service.

***RSVPs for the BWA Luncheon on January 19 are due today to Emily.***

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**January 12, 2025 – Family Service  
10 A.M. HYBRID service.**

Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano will be the guest speaker.

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**January 18, 2025 (Saturday) Winter Seminar  
1:30-4:30 P.M. Hybrid Lecture**

"Dealing with Difficulties and Experiencing Greater Joy in Life:  
A Shin Buddhist Way for Today"

Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka

Tanaka sensei will give a lecture addressing Jodo Shinshu and our society today. His easy-going approach coupled with years of experience as an academic instructor and teacher of the Buddha Dharma will create a wonderful opportunity for the sangha to engage with a Dharma more intimately. We highly encourage you to come join us and listen to the Dharma during the Ho'onko season.

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**January 19, 2025 – Ho'onko Service  
10 A.M. HYBRID service.**

This is the memorial service for Shinran Shonin, founder of Jodo Shinshu.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this service.

Rev. Ken Tanaka will be the guest speaker.

**BWA's Luncheon follows the service.**

**RSVPs were due by January 5th**

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**January 26, 2025 – Family Service  
10 A.M. HYBRID service.**

The SACBC Board of Directors will be installed.

Dharma School will follow service.

*The General Meeting will be held after service. A quorum is needed, so please attend in-person, on Zoom, or sign a proxy. A quorum is needed to approve the 2025 budget and motions that guide the Board in the coming year.*

**To attend on Zoom, stay on Zoom after service or sign into the same**

**Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 810 8914 1838 Passcode: 710132**

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# What's Up Dharma School?

January 2025

Dharma School, along with the BWA, hosted Mochitsuki on Dec.8th. It was a busy day with many events. But it was wonderful to see that the sangha was able to enjoy the variety of 'toppings', appetizers, friendship fruit salad, warm freshly pounded mochi, and enjoy each other's company for the afternoon. We are truly grateful to those of you who were able to join us to make this another memorable and successful Mochitsuki.

A very big thank you to Karen Fujii for donating 25 lbs. of mochigome for this event!

We would especially like to thank:

- Rev. Miyaji and Rev. Landon for their guidance and support
- Karen Suyama for making the kagamimochi for the altar and for helping with the mochi 'line'.
- Japanese Language School and Betty Yamasaki for the use of their machines.
- Garret Murai, our Mochi-Usu master
- Dharma school families and BWA for donating fruit. Such a variety of fruit!
- Kaori Miyaji for leading us in gassho, and helping with the students during service along with the other parents.
- Grace Joo, Mistuko Maruyama, Sandy Maruyama, Cindy Sakihara, Natalie Murai, Lindsay Minamoto, Joann Rodgers, Kaori Miyaji, and John Arai for helping in the kitchen and with the mochi.
- Glen Sekighama for helping with the mochi, cooking, and washing dishes (for 5 hours!!)

Looking ahead, Dharma School classes is scheduled for:

- Jan.5, 2025
- Jan.26, 2025

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

In gassho,

Cathleen and Betty







Invites have been sent to all BWA members for the BWA Beginning of the Year Luncheon set on January 19. If you are a member and have not received an invitation, please contact Emily at the office. Remember that the deadline to RSVP is January 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks so much and Happy Holidays. Cindy Sakihara

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# Winter Seminar



## “Dealing with Difficulties And Experiencing Greater Joy in Life:

A Shin Buddhist Way for  
Today”

by Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka

**January 18, 2025**  
Winter Seminar  
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
Hybrid Lecture

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**Zoom link:** [tinyurl.com/75mavrsp](https://tinyurl.com/75mavrsp)  
Meeting ID: 861 4248 4991  
Passcode: 326850

Tanaka sensei will give a lecture addressing Jodo Shinshu and our society today. His easy-going approach, coupled with years of experience as an academic instructor and teacher of the Buddha Dharma, will create a wonderful opportunity for the sangha to engage with the Dharma more intimately. We highly encourage you to come join us in the Hondo or online and listen to the Dharma during the Ho'onko season.

For further information, please contact the temple at: [sacboffice@gmail.com](mailto:sacboffice@gmail.com)

Donations are welcome. Seminar is open to the public.





**CORRECTIONS** made 12/21/24  
after Golden Chain was mailed.

# JAN 2025

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		31  7pm <b>Joya-e service (In-person only)</b>	1 10am <b>Shusho-e service (In-person only)</b>  New Year's Day <b>Office closed</b>  6-9 <b>AA practice</b>	2  <b>JLS winter break</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	3 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	4  <b>JLS winter break</b>
5 10am <b>Shotsuki</b>  <i>Deadline to RSVP for BWA luncheon(1/19/25) Pre-pay appreciated.</i>	6 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	7  6:30-8:30pm <b>Scout</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	8  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>  7:30pm <b>SACBC Board Meeting</b>  6-9 <b>AA practice</b>	9  11a-1pm <b>JLS</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	10 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>  5-9pm <b>Bingo</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	11  8:30a-1pm <b>JLS classes &amp;</b>
12 10am <b>Family Service</b>	13 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b> 6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	14  6:30-8:30p <b>Scout</b> 6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	15  <b>GC submission deadline</b>  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>  6-9 <b>AA practice</b>	16  11a-1pm <b>JLS</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	17 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>  6-9 <b>AA practice</b>	18 8:30a-12pm <b>JLS classes</b>  1:30-4:30 <b>Winter Seminar with Rev. Tanaka (hybrid)</b>
19 10am <b>Hoonko Service</b> <b>BWA Luncheon follows service</b>	20 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b> 6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	21  6:30-8:30 <b>Scout</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	22  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	23  11a-1pm <b>JLS</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	24 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>  5-9pm <b>Bingo</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	25  8:30a-12pm <b>JLS classes</b>
26 10am <b>Family Service</b>  <b>Board Installation</b> <b>SACBC General Meeting</b>	27 8:30am <b>Qi-gong</b>  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b> 4-5pm <b>Taiko (beginner)</b> 6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	28  6:30-8:30p <b>Scout</b> 6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	29  3-5pm <b>Taiko</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	30  11a-1pm <b>JLS</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	31 6am <b>O-Jinjo</b>  6-9pm <b>AA practice</b>	

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



## JANUARY EVENTS

1st–WED	SHUSHO-E (NEW YEAR’S DAY) SERVICE; OFFICE CLOSED
5th–SUN	SHOTSUKI SERVICE
12th–SUN	HOONKO SERVICE
18th–SAT	<i>WINTER SEMINAR WITH REV. KEN TANAKA: “DEALING WITH DIFFICULTIES &amp; EXPERIENCING GREATER JOY IN LIFE”</i>
19th–SUN	FAMILY SERVICE <i>BWA LUNCHEON FOLLOWING THE SERVICE</i>
20th–MON	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HOLIDAY; OFFICE CLOSED
26th–SUN	FAMILY SERVICE <i>SACBC GENERAL MEETING FOLLOWS THE SERVICE</i>
<p><b>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM</b>          Join Zoom Meeting for Sunday Services:          Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300          PASSCODE: 549504</p>	