

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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www.SACBC.org

November 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.



When I first learned of Miyaji Sensei's dissertation work, I was very intrigued as I saw the doctrine being put into daily application for everyday lives. Having a background in cultural anthropology, we were taught that everything that is used has some sort of function. If the society deemed it

not useful its use would cease. Religion was loosely explained as fulfilling the needs of the society in that it answered questions that humans could not answer themselves. Perhaps this is a very loose and somewhat biased answer, but we were only undergrads just being introduced to academia.

As I have mentioned previously, I returned to Jodo Shinshu due to my language replacement classes, where I fortunately got to study Jodo Shinshu for a third of the semester's curriculum. Not knowing ANYTHING the texts were saying I came back to ask questions such as: How could one go through ALL of Dharma School and not understand what our religion is?

The "practice" of Shin Buddhism in a very broad sweeping stroke, is we say the Nembutsu, in deep appreciation of Amida Buddha's 18th Vow, as Amida sends us or gifts us the karmic merit to become enlightened. Obviously, there is more going on there, but that's what I tell people when they asked me about our sect of Buddhism. Once in a while they engage me more citing ideas or concepts that only someone who has seriously studied Buddhism might say.

Studying is important in anything you do, BUT too much studying is not useful, particularly online. Sometimes a person will give very detailed doctrinal arguments and I personally feel these arguments are based on that person's ego, as THEY feel they are solely correct, and while I feel that does not really help anyone. Clearly, I am not saying doctrinal studies are unimportant

as we do need a basis for our understanding, and if the priests don't have some basis how can they teach anyone else?

While rare, I have met two people once on a plane and once my driver for a Lyft, who's friends were part of the Sangha in Mexico City, and a Temple somewhere in San Pao. One recognized the Wisteria Crest and the other, remembered hearing Namu Amida Butsu being recited. Once I met someone who studied the warrior monks that helped defend the Jodo Shinshu religion and its Temples and practitioners. Obviously, these people were highly interested in what I had to say, but maybe one out of five people really wanted to engage with me, and usually it was due to their own religious practices and understandings, OR because they appreciated the universal message of acceptance.

I try to lightly hint that our non-practice is also a "practice". We say Nembutsu, because the Shin religion is based on a supplementary Buddhist practice historically used to assist an individual in their primary Buddhist practice. That sort of practice is very difficult to achieve (at least for the average person). Our Shin practice is not a requirement or task, but more an acknowledgement and reflection on Amida's Great Compassion. Miyaji Sensei's work on ethics is important as it provides an explanation of how we can attempt to live our own daily lives. I believe Jodo Shinshu asks its practitioners, to begin to understand themselves. It does not specifically say one must do this, but in a roundabout way, if we really look at our doctrine, the foolish or evil self, is an idea that Master Shinran uses to describe himself. Our spiritual leader leads by example by not only admitting his faults, but by reflecting on them which deepens his relationship with Amida. We, in turn can learn from Master Shinran's profound experience.

In Gassho,
Rev. Landon

NOVEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service on
Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 10:00 AM

DECEASED

1958 Julie Ann Handa
1960 Shigezo Arai
1963 Yoshio Kamiji
1967 Umekichi Nomura
1967 Riyo Kushida
1973 Mitsuko Abe
1974 Keiko Sakamoto
1975 Jackson Kajikawa
1976 Imayo Enta
1977 Kikuzo Kawaguchi
1984 Yasu Kawamoto
1988 Tamotsu Miyakawa
1989 Kenji Kawase
2001 James Tsugio Sakata
2003 Toshio Hamamoto
2003 Kazuo Suyeyasu
2003 Marla Emi Hashimoto
2004 Masukuni Kitani
2004 Thudugalage Madurawathie
2005 Jimmy Kuwamoto
2006 Toshio Nagata
2007 Walter Okino
2007 Janet Mineishi
2007 Seiichi Kami
2008 Leo Ikeda
2011 Katsuro Yasuhiro
2012 Ben Arai
2013 Betty Tanaka
2014 Susan Iguchi
2017 Patsy Fujimoto
2018 Yukie Kawase
2018 Toyoko Fujita
2019 Shizuko Yamauchi
Toyoko Yoshioka
2022 Yoneo "Johnny" Uchida
2023 Maureen Nakano
Baby Handa
Matsue Handa
Susan Kato

FAMILY

Mrs. Michi Handa
Mr. John Arai & Mr. Alan Arai
Mrs. Sachi Fudenna & Mrs. Michi Handa
Nomura Family
Ms. Karen Fujii
Mr. David Abe
Mr. Paul Gan
Mrs. Ida Kajikawa
Enta Family
Kawaguchi Family
Mrs. Shiz Awamura
Mr. Yasuho Miyakawa
Ms. Patricia Kawase Taj
Sakata Family
Mrs. Haruko Hamamoto
Suyeyasu Family
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hashimoto
Mr. Jeff Kitani
Dr. Indira Jayaweera
Mrs. Hinako Kuwamoto
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nagata
Okino Family
Mrs. Jamie Nagata
Kami Family
Mrs. Karen Ballack
Mr. Philip Yasuhiro
Mr. John Arai & Mr. Alan Arai
Ms. Cynthia Kawamura
Mrs. Phyllis Takahashi
Mr. Yutaka Fujimoto
Ms. Patricia Kawase-Taj
Fujita Family
Ms. Nancy Teruko Dodd & Ms. Stacy Cole
Ms. June Gacad
Donna Hori/Uchida Family
Nakano Family
Handa Family (death yr unknown)
Mrs. Michi Handa (death yr. unknown)
Kato Family (death yr. unknown)

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

Memorial Service 2024

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 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 November 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.

November 3, 2024 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS (Set clocks back one hour)

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

November birthdays will be celebrated.

Keirokai (in-person) will follow service. By invitation and RSVP only.

November 10, 2024 – Family Service

10 A.M.

November 17, 2024 – Eitaikyo & Family Service

10 A.M.

Eitaikyo was originally intended to ensure that memorial services would
continue

even if there were no surviving relatives.

Eitaikyo reminds us that we should honor all who came before us while at
the same time, ensuring that the Buddha Dharma continues to flourish for
future generations to be able to hear. Your dana donations will help to
secure that future and we thank you for your continued support, which we
especially recognize at this time.

Dharma School will follow service.

Japanese service will follow the English Service.

November 24, 2024 – Family Service

10 A.M.

December 1, 2024 – No Service (Thanksgiving weekend)

December Shotsuki will be on December 8, 2024



Let us be grateful for the many causes and conditions
that make our lives possible.

Center for Buddhist Education

BYR & FRIENDS

FALL MINI RETREAT



Learning

Make New Friends

Fun

Jodo Shinshu Center

2140 Durant Ave, 94704

November 29 – December 1, 2024

ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGE WELCOME



REGISTRATION & MORE INFO HERE

<https://Tinyurl.com/BYRfall>

QUESTIONS? EMAIL:

bkmizushima@bcahq.org



Support the Stanley Family Christmas Tree Lots

Bob & Sherri Stanley have been a longtime SACBC member and generous contributors in our past silent auctions. We encourage you to visit and support their two other locations
**in Hayward (101 Harder Road) and
In Fremont (corner of Blacow & Stevenson next to Grocery Outlet).**

**The lots will be opening on Nov 29 (Friday),
10:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

7 days/week. For more info, please call (510) 502-6619.

Holiday Greetings in the Golden Chain

Send Sangha members your holiday wishes in the Golden Chain. **Greetings are limited to 2 lines only.** Can be in English or Japanese.

We will provide the graphic design in color. See sample below. **Call, email or mail your greetings to Emily by Friday, November 22, 2024.**

Suggested donation: \$20 for up to two lines.

- a. Check made out to SACBC.
- b. Cash
- c. Venmo or PayPal:
sacbc.treasurer1@gmail.com
- d. Donations can be made from our website: sacbc.org.
Reminder: If you donate (or make payments) **via Venmo**, select "friends and family". Selecting "friends and family" allows SACBC to receive 100% of the funds, otherwise a business processing fee is subtracted, and **SACBC** receives less.

Note: PayPal no longer allows "friends and family" option.

Order form:

1. Your Name:

2. Your holiday message, including how you want your greeting signed

3. Donation: \$ _____



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Good Cheers and best wishes,

The Samuel Family

**Wishing warmth and health to your family,
Season's greetings, Miles & Noelle**

**Merry tidings to your family,
Hope, Sue, Dave & Lily Smith**

**With love from all of us,
The Garcia Family**

BWA Report for November 2024

Thank you to everyone who helped at our BWA Rummage Sale on October 19th and 20th. We had a lot of people for setup and teardown, including the high school students, thanks to Karen Fujii contacting them.

*Reminder that our **BWA NEW YEARS LUNCHEON is scheduled for January 5th, 2025** and ask that you please put that in your calendar. Watch for an invitation letter in the mail and don't forget to give us your RSVP.*

Our next SACBC BWA Meeting will be held on Sunday November 17th. Join us as we plan for next year's activities.

SACBC continues to accept your electronic wastes for pick-up and recycle. Proceeds will be sent to SACBC.

**Car donation program through Harold's Car
Donation Service: 800-310-5274**

Website: haroldscardonationservice.com

Please mention donation is for SACBC so proceeds go to our church. Thank you for your support!



NOV. 11th
VETERANS DAY

Honoring All Who Served



Happy Thanksgiving!

NOV 2024

Events are subject to change.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 6am O-Jinjo 6-9pm AA practice | 2 8:30a-12pm JLS classes |
| 3 Daylight Saving Time Ends (set clocks back one hour) 10am Shotsuki 11:30-1:30pm Keiro Kai | 4 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice | 5 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9p AA practice | 6 3-5pm Taiko 6-9p AA practice | 7 11a-1pm JLS 6-9 AA practice | 8 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo 6-9pm AA practice | 9 8:30a-12pm JLS classes |
| 10 10am Family Service | 11 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA Veterans Day | 12 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9 AA practice | 13 3-5pm Taiko 6-9p AA practice | 14 11a-1pm JLS Golden Chain article deadline 6-9 AA practice | 15 6am O-Jinjo 6-9 AA practice | 16 8:30a-12pm JLS classes 2-8pm Private party |
| 17 10am Eitaikyo Service | 18 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9pm AA practice | 19 6:30-8:30 Scout 6-9 AA practice | 20 3-5pm Taiko 6-9p AA practice | 21 11a-1pm JLS 6-9pm AA practice | 22 6am O-Jinjo 5-9 Bingo 6-9pm AA practice | 23 8:30a-12pm JLS classes |
| 24 10am Family Service | 25 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 6-9p AA practice | 26 6:30-8:30p Scout 6-9 pm AA practice | 27 3-5pm Taiko 6-9p AA practice | 28 Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed) 6-9pm AA practice | 29 6am O-Jinjo Thanksgiving Holiday (office closed) 6-9pm AA practice | 30 |

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



NOVEMBER EVENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| 3RD — SUN | SHOTSUKI HOYO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS-SET CLOCKS ONE HOUR BACK |
| 10th — SUN | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 11th — MON | <i>VETERANS DAY</i> |
| 17th — SAT | EITAIKYO SERVICE |
| 24 th — SUN | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 28 TH – 29 TH THUR – FRI | <i>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)</i> |
| DEC 1 ST — SUN | <i>NO SERVICE (THANKSGIVING WEEKEND)</i> |
| <p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR ONLINE VIA ZOOM Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p> | |