

Golden Chain



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

Office: 510-471-2581
Email: sacbcoffice@gmail.com

Resident Minister: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji
Mobile: 253.640.4224 / Email: gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com

www.SACBC.org

September, 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.

Hello Sangha families,

I would like to inform you of an important update regarding our resident minister, Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji. Effective August 1, 2024, Rev. Dr. Miyaji will be transitioning from his current part-time 50/50 role with SACBC and Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), to working approximately 1/4 time at SACBC and 3/4 time at IBS. This change is being made as he takes on a new and exciting opportunity as the Dean of IBS.

Rev. Dr. Miyaji has been a dedicated and inspiring leader for our Sangha, and this new role reflects his commitment to the broader Buddhist community. While his time with us will be reduced, he will continue to offer valuable guidance and support during his part-time tenure. Rev. Dr. Miyaji and family will continue to reside at SACBC's parsonage and participate at SACBC.

I am excited for Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji as he embarks on this new chapter and look forward to continuing our journey together with his ongoing support and leadership. Please join me in celebrating this new opportunity and in extending your warmest congratulatory messages.

I am pleased to announce that Rev. Landon Yamaoka (of Palo Alto Buddhist Temple) will be stepping in as a part-time minister at SACBC starting on September 1, working one Sunday a month overseeing our monthly Shotsuki Hoyo service and will be partnering with our Buddhist Education Committee (BEC) to invite guest speakers for our Dharma Family Services going forward.

I am thrilled to have Rev. Landon as part of our Sangha and look forward to working closely with him. Please join me in extending your warm welcome to Rev. Landon.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our Sangha.

Gassho,

Kyle Yamasaki



Hello! My name is Landon Yamaoka and I would like to give you some information about myself. I attended the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, and I have ties to the San Jose Betsuin. I don't remember hearing much about Jodo Shinshu growing up. I did pay attention to the stories Abiko Sensei taught about Siddhartha Gautama, learning from these stories' life lessons in "morality" or so I thought. Today I would use the term "ethics" how I understand Jodo Shinshu as guiding my life.

I grew up having some Asian friends through the temple, but not as many outside Temple. I was more-or-less Asian culturally but not totally. I mentioned last month that I re discovered Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in a comparative religion class on Japanese religions. I called my mom to confirm we WERE really Jodo Shinshu! Most of the class knew about of Zen and Shinto, but no one had heard of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

I asked Abiko Sensei why I knew nothing in the class. He urged me to a great book, stating "It would speak to me". It was "The Evil Person; Essays on Shin Buddhism", by Shuichi Maida, translation done by Nobuo Haneda. This book blew my mind! I did not know, that Amida Buddha's compassion is targeted towards the Evil Person first and foremost. I didn't totally buy into this idea and I still struggle with it in regards to "logical" thinking. This did not fit my own understanding of how the world works. It has been explained in various ways over the years by different ministers, and while I trusted Abiko Sensei and the other minister's explanations it was still hard buy into it. But, Abiko Sensei was right! I was interested in this Jodo Shinshu doctrine.

What helped me somewhat start to understand this idea was an Anime called Dragonball Z. My Japanese history class professor one day called me out for wearing a bright yellow Dragonball Z shirt. He informed us THIS anime was loosely based on a Chinese Story, Journey to the West, in which the Monkey King (the character Goku in the Anime) went to look for Amida Buddha. The Monkey King (or Goku) had to battle various enemies, but sometimes after defeating some of them, he gave them the chance to work with him. I believe Goku does this as he too was bad early on but was given a second chance, so he passes this compassion onto others when possible.

Studying cultural anthropology this idea continued to pop up while trying to understand Jodo Shinshu. While Dragonball Z is not is not specifically Jodo Shinshu, here was part of the Japanese culture I had not really understood but observed ideas in this growing up. This idea of viewing the self WHILE in relationship to those around you was something I had learned subconsciously. Goku's actions are based in Buddhist ideology, we cannot separate Buddhism from Japanese culture. This is not to say one must be Japanese to understand Jodo Shinshu. However, we can slowly start to bridge the gap between at least black and white ideas and learn to search for a middle area. Not just things as good or just bad, but to see things in some grey area. I feel then we can continue on our own Journey to the West, looking out to Amida Buddha. We are all moving on our own path of spirituality, learning to appreciate our Shin teachings in new and different ways. I think when I can start to tie what I think I know to real life situations, I feel that I better understand Amida's Great Compassion. This is how one really deepens their own understanding of what spirituality means in our own Jodo Shinshu religion.

In Gassho,
Rev. Landon





Services for September 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.

September 1, 2024 – The BCA's 125th Celebration

The service will be held at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco &
will be available via the link below.

Please come to SACBC to attend this hybrid service together in our hondo.

<https://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/125>

September 8, 2024 – No Service

September 15, 2024 – Shotsuki Hoyo & “Victims of War Memorial Service”:

Chidori ga fuchi (千鳥ヶ淵戦没追悼法要)

10 A.M. Hybrid Service

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

The Chidori ga fuchi service is a memorial for all those who have passed away in all wars. This
is a service done in conjunction with the Nishi Hongwanji in Japan, where the service is
conducted at the National Cemetery in Tokyo.

Japanese service will follow.

Appreciation Luncheon: After service in the Reception Room @ 12 Noon

All members and “friends of SACBC” who have supported the church since September 2023 are
invited to lunch. This is a way to show our gratitude for their outreach.

September 22, 2024 – Family Service

10 A.M. Hybrid Service

August & September birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma School Registration & First day of classes.

Note: Registration information can be obtained by email or in person.

September 28, 2024 (Saturday) Fall Seminar

3 PM.

Documentary “Carving the Divine”

See Flyer for details: Tickets on tinyurl.com/pcxd38kw \$20/\$30 at the door.

BENTO: pre-order by Sept. 20 at sacbcoffice@gmail.com: Chicken or vegetarian \$18.

September 29, 2024 – Fall Ohigan with Socho-ki (BCA Bishops' and Passed SACBC minister's Memorial Service)

10 A.M. Hybrid Service

"Traditionally, at Higan, the emphasis is placed on the observance of the Six Paramitas which
brings us to the “other shore” of Enlightenment.

In Jodo Shinshu, the Six Paramitas are not considered to be the practices necessary for
attaining Enlightenment, but are acts of gratitude for living this moment in interconnectedness
with all living beings."

This Memorial Service is dedicated to all bishops of the
Buddhist Churches of America and Resident Ministers of SACBC
who have been born in the Pure Land.

Dharma School will follow service.

SACBC Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 PM on ZOOM.

Hatsubon and Urabon-e Service 2024

A significant part of our Obon observance was on August 11, 2024. A Hatsubon and Urabon-e service was held for the twelve SACBC members and a member of our broader community who passed to the Pure Land since August 2023.

The service opened with a candle being lit by a family member or friend of each beloved one and placed in a lantern. A homyo card (Buddhist name) was put in front of the respective lantern. The photo shows better than words can describe the special remembrance.



Those remembered:

Takeko Maruyama	Maureen Nakano
Hiroshi Teramura	Tomiko Kawaguchi
Joan Wong	Jane Rice
Satoshi Sekgahama	Yoshiharu Yoshimitsu
Yoshio Hisaoka	Naotaka Kitagawa
Karen Morliengo	James Yoshiyama

Julius Zamora

What's Up Dharma School? September 2024

First day of Dharma School 2024-2025 on **Sept.22, 2024**(Sunday).
Dharma school will be in person. For this day we will have

- The first day of Dharma class
- Registration
- Parent meeting

Registration can be done ahead of time with the QR code below.



Looking ahead, these are tentative Dharma school dates and events for 2024 (subject to change). As of now, we are planning to meet in person.

Sept.22-First Day/registration/class for Dharma School & Aug/Sept Birthday celebration

Sept.29-Dharma Class

Oct.6-Dharma Class & Oct birthday celebration

Oct.27-Dharma School bake sale (tentative)

Nov.2-Keirokai prep

Nov.3-Keirokai & Nov birthday celebration

Nov.17-Dharma Class

Dec.8-Mochitsuki & Dec. birthday celebration

Dec.15-Dharma Class

If you know any other family that might be interested, please email Betty Yamasaki (at b_yamasaki@yahoo.com) or Cathleen Yoshida-Matsubayashi (cathleenandken@yahoo.com) and we will email them a registration link.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Again, stay safe and healthy!

In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty



Thank You to the Bazaar
Chicken Volunteers

We would like to thank all of the great volunteers who helped to prepare the chicken, to make the marinade, to cook the chicken, and to clean-up. It seems that SACBC's bazaar's chicken is renowned for the quality and tastiness, and I think the quality of the chicken shows the effort and commitment of all of the volunteers.

The volunteers were :

Mike James
Kathy Jang
Kathy Jang's sister, Eileen
Gary Kihara
Kesai Miyaji
Mio, a relative of the Miyajis
Rylan Mori
Garret, Kathy, Natalie, and Tyler Murai
Paul Nomura
Hideo, Sho, and Ken Okada
Nick Sadeghi, an Irvington HS student
Art Sakai
Steve Sato
Kyle, Betty, and Russell Yamasaki
Don and Steven Uriu

If I have missed someone, I apologize.

Thank you very much.

Iris and Steve Yakuma

ARIGATO FROM BOUTIQUE
2024

We had another successful year thanks to all your donations to Boutique. Whether it was fabric, thread, bias tapes, buttons, dishes, etc., we appreciated it very much. **Thank you** to the following people for your 2024 donations:

Gayle Horikoshi
Jean Yamamoto
Arlyne Shibata
Kathy Naruo
Stan Miyasato
Nina Sawasaki
Christine Tanizawa
Gail Tomita
Lani Uemura
Iris Yakuma
Judy Tokubo

Please let us know if we inadvertently missed someone. We received a lot of donations during crunch time and things got a little crazy. We certainly want to make sure everyone is acknowledged.

A special thank **you to Terry Sato and Michi Handa** for their beautiful work embroidering the dish towels. Thank you to **Kailen Mark** for the origami cranes on a stick that both children and adults enjoy and for the beautiful earrings she made.

Did you see the gorgeous greeting cards that were handcrafted by **Nina Sawasaki**? She donated 100 cards and they sold out. Thank you, **Nina**!

Congratulations to **JoAnn Rogers**, the winner of this year's Boutique Quilt Raffle. The beautiful Asian quilt was sewn and donated by **Gail Tomita** and hand quilted by **Sachi Abe**. Thank you, Gail and Sachi!

Thank you everyone for your generosity.

In Gassho,
Jamie Nagata
On Behalf of the Boutique
Committee

THANK YOU!

I am so thankful to EVERYONE, who took the time out of their busy schedules, to come out to help set up, make, bake, and pack the manju on Manju day. A special thank you to Stan Miyasato who did all the baking and to Glen Sekigahama, who supervised the cooling of the manju and helped me whenever I needed something done (and there was a lot!).

My goodness... There were more than 30 helpers that day and it was so nice to see people enjoying visiting with each other while working. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

The manju turned out really good and we sold out early on Saturday. That means next year we will have to make more and I truly hope I can count on all of you again. So, rest up, stay well and most importantly again, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

In Gassho,
JAMIE NAGATA

FOOD LINE CASHIERS

A Big Thank you to: : Lani Uemura, Terry Sato, Gail Tomita, Pat Takamoto and Ellen Shiromizu.

Our Bazaar's success could not only happen with your support. Also, I want to thank the 9 additional Non-member volunteers who assist every year to with our Church's largest fundraiser.

BAKED GOODS

We had another sellout year with cookies, brownies and rice Krispy treats. A special thank you to our bakers: Lani Uemura, Kristin Jang, Bill Sawasaki, Ginger Sekigahama, and Natelie (Amy's Friend).

Gassho, JoAnn Rogers

SACBC Bazaar Bookstore News from Judy K. Tokubo

Generous donations by the SACBC Sangha, as well as extended family and friends are greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Peter Hisaoka Family (sister Kay Hisaoka, and cousin JoAnn Rogers), Karen Fujii, Cindy Sakihara, Janet Hatano, Jackie Abad, Judy Tokubo, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, Newark Library League, and anonymous donors.

Many thanks to students from Logan, American, and Irvington High Schools (Jason, Hark, Kaysi, Nic, Kaitlyn, Allie) for their help during prep week to setup bookstore tables, sort books and media donations, and display items for sale. Kudos to Karen Fujii for coordinating the student volunteers. A special thanks to Kaori Miyaji for organizing the donations in Japanese.

Thank you to the conscientious and dedicated bookstore staff: Emily Carpio, Janet Hatano, Ken Bredlau, Sharon Hsia-Tokubo, and Allie Woo. Weekend sales went well, especially "manga", vintage books in Japanese, children's picture books, and fiction by Asian authors, but overall sales seemed down from last year.

Cleanup was handled quickly and efficiently by student volunteers, as well as Todd Tokubo and other available SACBC adults. Unsold books, etc. are now stored behind the Sangha Hall, while sets of books about Buddhism, along with candles, incense, onenju, religious jewelry, "obutsudan" and specialty items are kept in the office.

Books and other bookstore donations are already being accepted in the SACBC office for next year's bazaar. Books about Buddhism and those in Japanese are always welcome. Also of interest are writings by Japanese-American authors, as well as topics or themes related to Buddhism and Japanese or Japanese-American history, culture, or literature for adults and children. Any donations will be considered for the Sangha Library too...See you in July 2025!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WE HAD A SUCCESSFUL 2024 BAZAAR

On behalf of the SACBC Bazaar Committee, we would like to thank you for coming out and supporting the most important fundraiser of the year. Again, we sold out of all the food on both days, and over the moon that so many people came to our bazaar. Another warm weekend had the Shave Ice booth working overtime to keep up with the demand. Our new Beer Garden gave us a way to enjoy a frosty beverage.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came out every day to work on something to get us ready. Your commitment to this event helped make our bazaar a HUGE success. As a member of our SACBC village, it took everyone's help and support to make our fundraiser a successful one! And because of your unselfish time and energy, giving us a few hours of your help made all the difference in the world so we were ready for the crowds.

We thank all of our volunteers (family, friends and schools) who came out to help us during the construction/prep week, and during the entire bazaar weekend. We truly needed their help.

And a gigantic THANK YOU to everyone who attended the meetings (your input was valuable), everyone who came early and stayed late every day of the week through Sunday when we closed. Thankfully we closed Sunday at 3:00pm and that helped for doing some cleanup during the daylight. Thanks again to our little elves and fairies who magically get things done when we're not looking, and those who worked on projects (boutique-I'm talking about you) during the year to get us through the weekend!

WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Hontoni Arigato Gozaimasu!

ありがとう

Thank you

With Gassho, John Arai and Karen Suyama, Bazaar Co-Chairs

Bazaar Appreciation Luncheon – Sunday September 15

To our members and volunteers:

Please join us for the Bazaar Appreciation Luncheon that will be held after service on Sunday September 15th. Please RSVP to Emily in the office (510-471-2581, or by email at sacbcoffice@gmail.com) to let us know you will be attending. **RSVPs are due Wednesday September 11th.**

BWA Report for September GC

Our BWA is looking at some fun projects to work on and share. How about a knitting class or another social? What would you like us to share with you? A cooking class? What about a surfing class – just kidding. Let me know so we can plan some fun.

The FBWA Conference will be held in San Jose this year, October 4-6. Grace Joo and I will represent our chapter at this conference. Join us, Terry Sato and Kathy Velasco to see some old friends and meet new ones. Registration is \$300 and we will pay for half of the fee for our BWA members.

Our year-end luncheon has turned into a **BWA NEW YEARS LUNCHEON, scheduled for January 5th, 2025** and ask that you please put that in your calendar. More information to follow.

Bay District BWL Meeting will be September 14th in Sebastopol. Please let me know if you would like to attend the meeting with me/us. Email karensuyama@yahoo.com, or call me at 1-510-304-2013.

Our next SACBC BWA Meeting will be held on Saturday September 15th. Come join us to see what else is happening.

BWA Rummage Sale – October 19-20, 2024

Reminder about donations, please note that we will only accept the below items. Items should be clean and in good working order. (would you buy something that is broken???)

If you have a question about what can be donated, please email me at karensuyama@yahoo.com

We **cannot accept** donations from non-members of the temple.

We will accept the following items:

- Men/Women/Children/Baby clothing, CLEAN please
- Shoes, purses, tote bags
- Luggage pieces
- **Small** kitchen appliances, clean utensils
- Dishes/drinking glasses/tableware
- Books, CD, DVD, Record albums
- Children's toys (not broken or missing parts, for obvious reasons)
- Clean sheets, blankets, bedspreads
- Baby stroller
- Fabric scraps (minimum half yard)
- Tools: hand tools including electric ones
- Collectibles

We can NO LONGER ACCEPT:

- Furniture, file cabinets, large pieces of anything
- Baby car seats, car booster seats, cribs or mattresses
- Computers
- Bicycles, tires
- Refrigerators

BWA Rummage Sale – October 19-20, 2024 (cont'd)

PLEASE DROP OFF ITEMS DURING OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS BY October 15th, 2024. Monday thru Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm

If after hours, let Karen Suyama know you have donation items to Drop Off.

PLEASE BE KIND: If you wouldn't like to buy something broken, missing pieces or filthy dirty, then DO NOT donate to us.

Thanks for the Paint!

After Sangha Hall was constructed in the early 1970's, Sat Sekigahama built more than a dozen of these versatile "stands". These are used for multiple purposes all year round! Two student volunteers refreshed them with a new coat of paint.

Why a different color? Several members preparing for the bazaar suggested grey.



Note: Apologies for the objects in the photos not being focused "straight up and down". It's the way the pictures were taken. You aren't dizzy. You don't need your glasses checked. Karen Fujii



SACBC BINGO RETURNS THIS SEPTEMBER...
COME PLAY EACH 2ND & 4TH FRIDAY.
DOOR OPENS 5:30PM. GAMES BEGIN 6:30 PM.
BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY
FOR A FUN FRIDAY!

"CARVING THE DIVINE" showing on Saturday, September 28, 2014 @ 3 PM

"Carving the Divine" is a documentary film by Director Yujiro Seki. The film presents a rare look into the 1400-year-old craft of sculpting from wood Japanese Buddhist statues and images. It follows the lives of both the master teachers and their apprentices who struggle to preserve the art, skills, and tradition of the *Busshi*.

Following the film, there will be a wonderful opportunity to ask questions of and exchange thoughts with Director Yujiro Seki.



REFLECTIONS upon seeing this documentary:

Carving the Divine is a movie that highlights the life of individuals who dedicate themselves to carving wooden sculptures of Buddhas and bodhisattvas. These images are very dear and important to a Buddhist practitioner's religious life. When we see just how much detail and labor goes into depicting the divine, we can get a sense of just how difficult it is for the world of truth to manifest itself to the beings of this world. And yet, here we have the world of truth depicted in form to connect and embrace us. When we see these images as they are presented to us, we cannot help but feel deep gratitude and humility in the presence of something so sacred and divine. Reflection from Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji

"Saw 'Carving the Divine', a beautifully-made documentary by Yujiro Seki. I thoroughly enjoyed this beautiful documentary. My compliments to the director. He has beautifully portrayed the spiritual aspect of Buddhism through the learning of the sculptures and the evolution of both Master and apprentice in the art of sculpting as well as in the realization of the deep spirituality inherent in that art form and the deep understanding of Buddhism both Indian as well as Japanese. It is a feast for the eyes, mind and soul. My compliments to all who are associated with creating such a beautiful work of art."

Reflection sent to Director Yujiro Seki from: Tushar Gandhi, the great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi

To me, the tale of Busshi and their art is an excuse to take a look deeply into our own lives. Busshi carves Buddhist statues, but we carve ourselves. In the end, we may be able to discover who we truly are. This is my best wish that more people can have that special experience for themselves. Director Yujiro Seki

- Time: Starts at 3 PM. Doors open at 2:30 pm. People from the community are welcome!
- Location: Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
32975 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587
- Tickets: \$20 pre-purchased on EventBrite. tinyurl.com/pcxd38kw \$30 at the door.
- Bentos: preorder by September 20. Available after the film including a live exchange with Director Seki.
Chicken or Vegetarian: \$18 each



SEP 2024

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong Labor Day Holiday Office Closed	3 6:30-8:30 Scout	4	5 6am O-Jinjo 10-12pm AA 11a-1pm JLS	6 6am O-Jinjo 10-12pm AA 5-7 AA	7 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
8 No Sunday Service	9 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	10 6:30-8:30 Scout	11 3-5pm Taiko 7:30 Board Meeting (Zoom)	12 6am O-Jinjo 11a-1pm JLS	13 6am O-Jinjo 5:30pm Bingo reopening	14 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
15 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Golden Chain article deadline	16 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	17 6:30-8:30 Scout	18 3-5pm Taiko	19 6am O-Jinjo 11a-1pm JLS	20 6am O-Jinjo Last day to order bento for " Carving the Divine " film showing	21 8:30a-12pm JLS classes
22 10am Sunday Service <i>Autumn begins</i>	23 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	24 6:30-8:30 Scout	25 3-5pm Taiko	26 6am O-Jinjo 11a-1pm JLS	27 6am O-Jinjo 5:30pm Bingo	28 8:30a-12pm JLS classes 3pm " Carving the Divine " film showing
29 10am Fall Ohigan	30 6am O-Jinjo 8:30am Qi-gong 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)					

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



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

1st—SUN	BCA 125 TH CELEBRATION
2nd—MON	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
8th—SUN	NO SUNDAY SERVICE
13th—FRI	BINGO REOPENS
15TH--SUN	SHOTSUKI HOYO
22 ND --SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
28 TH —SAT	“CARVING THE DIVINE” FILM SHOWING @ 3PM
29TH—SUN	FALL OHIGAN WITH SOCHO-KI
<p>SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM (IN-PERSON & ON ZOOM) Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504</p>	