
GOLDEN CHAIN

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.

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Rev. Landon Yamaoka

I hope everyone has had some time to rest after the Obon Season. I know I'm tired and still have two more weekends between here and Palo Alto. I made a joke to a member about waiting to drive home in an hour of traffic, sitting in the air conditioning, waiting, and having an "adult soda," versus waiting in traffic, since they had driven 2 hours to get to the temple that morning. He laughed and said I was good at rationalizing (I can be sneaky if I want to), but I said half joking, "NO! This is Self-Care!" He looked at me and asked if I had been practicing self-care, which I said I hadn't really been, and everyone laughed.

At Palo Alto, I always helped out during Obon and Bazaar, setting up the speaker system, so that was the one job I kept up with while I was here. Despite being very tired, I agreed to help again this year. However, the person I assisted with didn't know I had paid my handyman to drive me down and help set up the speakers. I paid him to drive me in part because I know his family is struggling as refugees from the war in Afghanistan, he was a maintenance worker, translator, and driver for the UN, but also because he plays in a band and actually understands how to set up speakers.

We got into Palo Alto faster than expected and got drinks nearby. I needed help at the shop where we stopped because they had installed a self-checkout that wasn't working. The manager seemed concerned about me. Initially, she helped but kept looking over my shoulder, which I assumed was to make sure I wasn't stealing. I sometimes get annoyed by this, but I was too tired. I did make sure to move slowly to make it easier to see that I wasn't trying to hide anything. My handyman and I were talking about the snacks for his kids to try, and our snacks and for the temple work, and then the system stopped again.

She prepped the system to take my card, but I mentioned we planned to grab one more bag, and she turned and smiled at me, which kind of shocked me. She said she gave us the bags for free and to take another. I had no idea what happened or why our interactions had changed, but they had.

In that moment, I was too tired to care that she initially didn't like me, but thanks to semi-listening to my body's needs, and also knowing my brain's typical response, I stayed calm, and something changed in our interactions. I did not try to get her to like me, and while I did do some small things to preserve my own strength and sanity like paying someone to drive and help me work so in that moment I did not become angry, I believe something else shifted her perspective. While it is a stretch, I've heard this explained as Amida working through you. This notion is not accepted in the orthodox, but it is a way to explain these potential lived religious experiences. I didn't get upset with her but also didn't do anything good either, but she ended up doing the "right thing." Amida's Other Power may have reached her because it was surrounding me, and she had the change of perspective. I was just trying to survive the afternoon!

This is what we can "try" to do: show up, and on our best days, maybe we are aware enough of our own issues, we don't create more problems for others, and they have the shift in perspective because we don't act in the way they had projected we would. I am reminded of Amida's compassionate work. Through her actions, I felt the warmth of the Nembutsu's meaning. Until I got to the temple and heard some upsetting news about an issue I'd been trying to work on, then used "choice" language around some of the little kids who were fulfilling their family's volunteer hours... It's so easy to go from feeling Amida's embrace to falling back into despair in this world of suffering. We should take care to be more in tune with ourselves, so we can better feel Amida's compassion.

In Gassho,
Landon



September Service

Masks are not required in the hondo; wearing one is optional. Masks are available.

September 6, 2026 –No Service (Labor Day Weekend)

September 13, 2026 – Shotsuki Hoyo & "Victims of War Memorial Service":

Chidori ga fuchi Service (千鳥ヶ淵全戦没者追悼法要)

10 A.M.(Hybrid)

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.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this 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.

Appreciation Lunch: 12 noon, Sangha Hall

September 20, 2026 – Family Service 10 A.M. (Hybrid)

Rev. Landon will officiate this service.

- Dharma School will follow service.

September 27, 2026 – Fall Ohigan & BCA Bishop's & Passed SACBC Ministers Memorial Service

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

Rev. Dr. Miyaji will officiate this 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.

September 27 – BWA Card Making Workshop (after service)

SACBC Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 7:30PM on Zoom

September Shotsuki Hoyo

Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 10:00 am

Family, relatives, and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following:

DECEASED

FAMILY

1943	KEN ENTA	ENTA FAMILY
1963	SENZABURO KOTAKE	MRS. JEAN KOTAKE
1968	SUEKICHI SHIMAMURA	MS. MERRY SHIMAMURA
1969	SHIZUE TANAKA	KITANI FAMILY
1986	DOROTHY KISHIYAMA	KISHIYAMA FAMILY
1986	CORY KENJI NARUO	MR. & MRS. GERALD NARUO
1987	CHUCK SHIKANO	SHIKANO FAMILY
1989	YONETARO TSURUI	MRS. ALICE NAGATA
1990	HIDEKO KAJIKAWA	KAJIWARA FAMILY
1990	YUTAKA HANDA	HANDA FAMILY
1990	MARY SHIMAMURA	MR. DAVE SHIMAMURA
1991	ELSIE HAMANO	DR. & MRS. KENNETH HALL
2000	FUMIYO HISAOKA	HISAOKA FAMILY
2001	FRANK FUJITANI	FUJITANI FAMILY
2004	FUSAKO SHINAGAWA	MR. ROY SHINAGAWA & MRS. BRAD MYERS
2005	TAKASHI FRED TSURUI	MRS. JOY TSURUI
2008	AYAKO HASHIMOTO	DR. WALTER HASHIMOTO
2009	TED INOUE	MRS. JENNY CLARK
2009	MURIEL SYDNEY BROZOWSKI	MRS. LAURA BRONZOWSKI
2009	KARI MARIYE MORITA	OKUBO FAMILY
2011	MASAKO KATO	MRS. KYUNG JA KATO
2013	EDWIN TANAKA	MR. MIKE TANAKA
2016	IPPEI USUI	USUI FAMILY & MS. ETSUKO MIYAZONO
2017	MICHIWO NAKASHIMA	MRS. DIANNA NAKASHIMA
2023	SATOSHI SEKIGAHAMA	MRS. KATHY JANG & SEKIGAHAMA FAMILY
2024	JANE HISAOKA	HISAOKA FAMILY
UNKNOWN	KYUTA KISHIYAMA	KISHIYAMA FAMILY
UNKNOWN	CHUJIRO KAMIMOTO	MR. & MRS. ART SAKAI

MEMORIAL SERVICES 2026

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2025 - 1 st year 2022 - 3 rd year 2019 - 7 th year	2013 - 13 th year 2009 - 17 th year 2001 - 25 th year	1993 - 33 rd year 1976 - 50 th year 1926 - 100 th year
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I would like to thank everyone who came out and purchased Bentos on Saturday August 8th. We made over 300 Bentos and sold all of them. I would like to thank **Chef Royce Mori** and the entire crew who came out to make this possible. **Don and Steven Uriu, Kathy Velasco, Masako and Nolan Mori, Christina Yung, Sachi Abe, Jerry Tahira, Betty and Russel Yamasaki, Jo Ann Rogers and Nori Sakamoto.** A special thanks goes out to Chef Royce, Nolan, Masako, Don and Steven for coming to the church Friday evening to help prepare some of the food to make things much easier on Saturday.

John Arai

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. SACBC's bazaar is known for quality and tastiness of its chicken, and we think the quality of the chicken shows the commitment and hard work of all of the volunteers.

Rishi Hashimoto, Rishi Shyam, Nolan Mori, Jacob Odiwe, Steve Sato, Betty Yamasaki, Cathleen Yoshida, Yuchen Liu, Ryan Shiba, Jennifer John, Mike and Zach James, Nate, Dottie, and Aidan Tanabe, Azlan Anees, Hideo, Sho, Ken, Chrysanthé, and Rui Okada, Laura Vander Veen, Don and Steve Uriu

If we have missed someone, our sincere apologies.
Thank you very much.

Iris and Steve Yakuma



THANK YOU FROM MANJU!

Hi Everyone!

Thanks to all of you who came out to help set up, make, bake, and pack the manju on manju day. I truly appreciated your help and couldn't have finished in one day without it. The fear of the possibility of having to camp out in the Sangha Hall always seems to cross my mind! Lol!

Getting ready for manju day takes a lot of work. A SPECIAL THANK YOU to **GLEN SEKIGAHAMA** who worked so hard washing all the racks (which are also used by sushi after manju is done with them), the baking trays and cooling racks, the green trays, and the cleaning of the cooling fans and setting up the cooling station. He also was our "baker" who braved the heat in front of the ovens all day! Thank you Glen! A shout out also to **Bill Sawasaki** who supervised the cooling of the manju, making sure the manju was completely cool to pack. It's an important job because we don't want soggy manju! I know it was a long day. Thank you Bill!

We can't forget to thank **Betty Yamasaki** for her delicious meals all week. We appreciated your taking care of us!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the manju. We had very little left to sell. I hope I can count on all of you again next year. Rest up, stay well and most importantly, THANK YOU.

In Gassho,
Jamie Nagata

THANK YOU FROM BOUTIQUE 2026!

Our sincere thank you for your donations that enabled us to have another successful year. Thank you for keeping us in mind whether it was fabric, zippers, bias tapes, buttons, etc., we appreciated it very much. Thank you to the following people for your 2026 donations:

Gayle Horikoshi, Sachi Abe, Pat Takemoto, Helen Moriyama, Nina Sawasaki, Gail Tomita, Iris Yakuma, Judy Tokubo, Lindsay Minamoto, Kailen Mark, Jamie Nagata

Please let us know if we inadvertently missed someone. We want to make sure everyone is acknowledged.

A special thank you to **Irene Yamane** for her generous donation and for purchasing the beautiful quilt made by Gail Tomita and hand quilted by Sachi Abe. Thank you to Nina Sawasaki for the beautiful greeting cards that were handcrafted by Nina herself. Nina donated 100 cards and again, they sold out. Thank you Nina! Did you see the beautiful hand embroidered flour sack dish towels? They were embroidered by Terry Sato. If you didn't see them, next time you've got to stop by our booth early as they sell out fast. Thank you **Terry!**

Thank you everyone for your continuing generosity!

In Gassho,
Jamie Nagata
On Behalf of the Boutique Committee

PARKING LOT SECURITY SIGNAGE UPDATE

Hi Everyone,

We are pleased to share that new "Private Property / No Trespassing / Unauthorized Parking or Loitering" signs have been installed at three locations in the temple parking lot. An additional sign will also be installed at the entrance to the temple property in the near future. These signs were generously donated by Karen Fujii, and we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for her thoughtful gift and continued support of our temple. Her generosity helps us maintain a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for everyone who visits.

Thank you, Karen, for your kindness and generosity!

Gassho,
Kyle Yamasaki

HELPFUL MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

Sangha people would like to be mobile, but prohibited due to physical constraints. For those who cannot walk distances, there are aids available to help besides mobile scooters.



One such aid I found is the motor assist wheelchair. They are TSA approved for travels, turn on a dime at 360 degrees, transportable to doctor's appointments, shopping and just simply out and about. There are a zillion brands out in the market. The one I decided on is Kerdon DX07.

If you want information about stair lifts, I had one installed at my house, please email me at paulgan@comcast.net

In Gassho,
Paul Gosho Gan

The first annual Kiku Summer Program was held at Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church from July 20-24th. Hosted by SACBC, along with support from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Center for Buddhist Education, and Jodo Shinshu International Office, the summer program was initiated with the intention to bring young students back to the temple. Rev. Takashi Miyaji, Koichi Mizushima, and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara wanted to initiate a summer youth program in the East Bay that would incorporate Buddhist teachings and values into cultural activities. With the help of Reina Fujii of SACBC, the program was off to a solid start.

The Kiku summer program is not the first of its kind. Miyaji worked closely with the leaders of the Wisteria Chugakko, another summer youth program involving junior high school aged students, held at Gardena Buddhist Church. "I was really inspired to see what Rev. Iwihara and Charlene Hirotsu started at Gardena. I thought we needed something like that up in the bay area as well, because we have seen a dramatic drop in youth coming to the temple, especially after the pandemic. I wanted this program to be a good way to get kids involved and see that the temple is a special place to nurture one's spiritual self," says Miyaji. He himself is a product of the long-running summer program Saishin Dojo, which was held at the Los Angeles Betsuin. In addition, he was influenced by Medaka no Gakko held at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.

The Kiku summer program has a three-pronged approach of learning about basic Buddhist teachings, Japanese cultural activities, and "life skills" that are not typically taught at grade school. With these three types of activities in mind, the aim was to teach kids the importance of having a balanced life focused on social learning, spiritual awareness, and cultural activities. "Kids today are constantly looking at their iPhones and iPads, with less opportunities for good ole fashioned socializing, and playing outside. There is even less emphasis on considering one's spiritual self. I think these things are causing an increase in anxiety and stress rates amongst the youth," explains Koichi.



The week-long activities brought in instructors from many of the Bay district temples. Hitomi Kuwahara of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple taught Japanese language and etiquette; Rev. Kuwahara talked about car maintenance; Joyce and Dii made intricate tie-dyes; Carl Yanari from the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple brought his crew to teach Bonsai; Jane Naito of the Alameda Buddhist Temple showed Ikebana; Miharu Okamura of the Oakland Buddhist temple talked about songwriting and the group Bonbu Stories; and Rev. Opel along with Becca talked about the history of the San Francisco Buddhist Church as well as the topic of mental health.

The Kiku organizers felt that this was a good opportunity to have active members of the bay district temples get a chance to get together in a collaborative effort to share their knowledge with the youth.

In addition, SACBC's very own were able to showcase their skills as well. Karen Fujii and Pat Takemoto shared their sewing expertise; Mitsuko Maruyama teamed up with Jane and shared her Ikebana knowledge; John Arai talked about Emergency Preparedness; JoAnn Rogers talked about Hawaiian culture through making lei; and Kyle Yamasaki, president of SACBC, shared his DJ skills on the "wheels of steel." All of the varieties of activities enabled a chance for the kids to be exposed to many different interests. Special recognition must be made to Betty Yamasaki who assisted in making the meals for everyone involved throughout the week.

One parent wrote, "The kids told me every single day that it was by far the 'best camp ever!' They loved all the activities, learned something new each day, and had such a wonderful time with the amazing teachers and friends." In yet another account, Michiko Inanaga writes, "One of the most meaningful parts of the week was watching the transformation in the students. It was truly heartwarming to witness the friendships they formed, the confidence they gained, and the personal growth that took place in such a short time."

The Kiku Summer Program will continue next year near the end of July. Youth who are going to be in the 7th, 8th, or 9th grades are eligible to join, and they do not need to be temple members. "I want the Dharma School, Jr YBA, and other youth to feel happy when they come to the temple. I want them to see the significance of the hondo, not the gym," Miyaji explains. The organizers are looking forward to next year and are excited for the support of the wider sangha of BCA.



September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:30-8:30pm Scouts 5-10pm AA	2 3-5 pm Taiko 5-10pm AA	3 5-10pm AA	4 5-10pm AA	5 8:30-3pm JLS
6 No Service	7 3-5 pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 5-10pm AA	8 6:30-8:30pm Scouts 5-10pm AA	9 3-5 pm Taiko 5-10pm AA	10 5-10pm AA	11  5pm - 10pm	12 8:30-3pm JLS
13 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Victims of War Memorial Service	14 3-5 pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 5-10pm AA	15 6:30-8:30pm Scouts 5-10pm AA	16 3-5 pm Taiko 5-10pm AA	17 5-10pm AA	18 5-10pm AA	19 8:30-3pm JLS
20 10am Family Service	21 3-5 pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 5-10pm AA	22 6:30-8:30pm Scouts 5-10pm AA	23 3-5 pm Taiko 5-10pm AA	24 5-10pm AA	25  5pm - 10pm	26 8:30-3pm JLS
27 10am Fall Ohigan & BCA Bishop's Memorial & Passed SACBC Ministers	28 3-5 pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) 5-10pm AA	29 6:30-8:30pm Scouts 5-10pm AA	30 3-5 pm Taiko 5-10pm AA			

AA - Athletic Association
JLS - Japanese Language School
DS - Dharma School



**Southern
Alameda County
Buddhist Church**

BWA - Buddhist Women's Association

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



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

6TH – SUNDAY | NO SERVICE

13TH – SUNDAY | SHOTSUKI HOYO/VIVTIMS OF WAR
MEMORIAL SERVICE

20TH – SUNDAY | FAMILY SERVICE

27TH – SUNDAY | FALL OHIGAN/ BCA BISHOPS' &
PASSED SACBC MINISTER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

ALL Sunday Service Start at: 10:00 AM PST

ZOOM Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 | **Passcode:** 549504