

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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www.SACBC.org

July 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.



Last weekend, we attended the Arizona Buddhist Temple's Obon Odori and Hatsubon Service. Having spent five years of my life in Arizona for undergrad, I was excited to go back. It was nice to revisit the Grand Canyon state, since this is where I returned to Jodo Shinshu after taking a class on Japanese religions. It was hot, but I spent a lot of time indoors on our mini-vacation before the Temple activities began.

I was worried about the political climate there since we tend to wear our masks for my health, but I am also more likely to spread COVID. We have had experiences outside of the Bay Area where people gave us dirty looks, if not actually being rude to us, just for wearing masks. Based on previous experiences, there was a concern about how things would go in Arizona, but I only noticed one person glaring at us with our masks on. (People were looking at us oddly, with some disapproval, but only in anger once). It was obvious there were many American flag shirts and apparel on people's cars and clothing. Even in a local artist boutique, we found many items that were more right-leaning. However, when we asked for help, our interactions were different than what we experienced elsewhere. Surprisingly, we were treated pretty well overall in the mall and at restaurants during our mini-vacation.

People don't like to be judged, but at the same time, we all judge people based on their appearances and perceived associations. Being in Arizona for half a decade, I know it is conservative, at least in Tucson. I assumed I would get poor treatment as an Asian man in a mask. We tend to base our worldview on previous experiences, and this is how we keep ourselves safe. Yet there will be times when we judge people because

of this, even if they would not be guilty of doing something we think they will do based on past interactions.

Perhaps we need to (when safe) attempt to go outside our comfort zone and openly admit when we have made untrue assumptions about others or incorrectly judged someone. It is easy to make broad sweeping statements about things only being good or bad, but, in Shin Buddhism, we must address our own judgements since there will be times when we unfairly assume untrue things about others. The more we live within our teachings, the more I think we need to address our own imperfections, as this allows us to see why we cannot act as perfect human beings. It is unethical to judge others, and then we complain when we have been judged, as Buddhism does ask us to address our true nature. Specifically in Shin Buddhism, we know we can never fully perfect this practice as our egos (and past traumas) prevents us from being fully transparent in our judgements and actions. However, the more we begin to see our true selves, the hope is, there will be times when we hold off on judging someone too quickly. I believe it is then that we are able to better embody our religious principles.

**In gassho,
Landon**

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend the monthly memorial service for the following on **Sunday July 6, 2025 at 10:00 am**

DECEASED

1927 Hagi Arai
 1940 Shige Sekigahama
 1945 Eio Misaki
 1946 Yanazo Enta
 1955 Sakuichi Sekigahama
 1960 Hirokichi Asakawa
 1972 Aki & Takeshi Katsumoto
 Jusuke & Hideo Katsumoto
 1975 Asao Arthur Misaki
 1976 Kumezo Tsurui
 1976 Yasu Hashimoto
 1977 William Floyd Lindeborg
 1982 Travis Hideo Misaki
 1984 Kikuyo Sally Handa
 1985 Michi Nakamura
 1985 Ito Kishiyama
 1986 Allyce Suzuko Fujii
 1986 Misao Shimamura
 1986 Michael Dickson
 1990 Tamae Kawata
 1990 Suye Hatsushi

 1991 Norman Kiyoshi Yoritake
 1995 George Awamura
 1996 Estelle Biggs
 2001 Shigeo Kitani
 2001 Roy Inouye
 2002 Tadayoshi Kamimura
 2003 Paul Yoshio Takayama
 2003 Shizue Robertson
 2004 Toshiko Hirashima
 2005 Miyako Gatriex
 2005 Haruye Alice Arai
 2008 Yukie Nomura
 2010 Sadako Kawamoto
 2013 Yoshiko Furuyama
 2013 Minne F. Sakuma
 2014 Chimako Takayama
 2016 Harry Fujita
 2017 Shizuo Harada
 Risaburo Hashimoto
 2019 Haruko Kawahara
 2019 Doris A.S. Velasco
 2023 Takeko Maruyama
 2023 Hiroshi Teramura

FAMILY

Mr. Alan Arai & Mr. John Arai
 Sekigahama Family
 Ms. Karen Fujii
 Enta Family
 Mr. Harry Sekigahama
 Mrs. Neile Mori-Tang
 Dr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Katsumoto
 Dr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Katsumoto
 Ms. Karen Fujii & Ms. Stephanie Whiting
 Tsurui Family
 Hashimoto Family
 Lindeborg Family
 Mr. & Mrs. David Misaki & Karen Fujii
 Handa Family
 Mr. Stacy Nakamura
 Kishiyama Family
 Mr. Walter Fujii & Mr. Victor Fujii
 Ms. Merry Shimamura
 Mrs. Mederu Aiko Dickson
 Mrs. Charles Kawata
 Mrs. Yoko Hiramane &
 Mrs. Takiko Hatsushi
 Mr. Norman Yoritake Jr.
 Mrs. Shizuye Awamura
 Mr. Michael Biggs
 Kitani Family
 Mrs. Jenny Clark
 Mr. & Mrs. Hiroshi Teramura
 Mrs. Midori Hamamoto & Mr. Mike Takayama
 Mrs. Sadako Wong
 Ms. Nancy Teruko Dodd
 Gatriex Family
 Mr. Alan Arai & Mr. John Arai
 Mrs. Patricia Ueda & Mr. Ray Nomura
 Kawamoto Family
 Furuyama Family
 Ms. Susan Sakuma
 Mrs. Midori Hamamoto & Mr. Mike Takayama
 Fujita Family
 Mrs. Yuki Hayashi
 Ando Family
 Mr. Keith Kawahara
 Velasco/Kennedy Family
 Ms. Mitsuko Maruyama, Grace Joo & Sandy Maruyama
 Teramura Family

Memorial Service 2025

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 – 1st 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 the church office at (510) 471-2581 to schedule a memorial service.



Services for July 2025

Please join us in-person in the hondo or virtually via Zoom (hybrid service).
Masks are not required in the hondo; wearing one is optional.



July 6, 2025 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

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

July 13 & 20, 2025

No Service (Traditional “Bazaar Preparation & Bazaar Sunday”)

July 27, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

11 A.M. - Omigaki

Omigaki is the polishing of the ornaments in the Onaijin.
Please stay or come to the Hondo classrooms to join in cleaning and beautifying our
Onaijin.

Lunch will be provided.

OBON Cemetery Services

Saturday, July 26, 2025

9:00 AM	Mt. Eden Cemetery, Hayward
9:40 AM	Lone Tree Cemetery, Hayward
10:20 AM	Chapel of the Chimes, Hayward (Courage Mausoleum)
11:30 AM	Irvington Cemetery, Fremont
12:15 PM	Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, Fremont
1:15 PM	Oakhill Cemetery, San Jose

Save the Dates:

SACBC's OBON on Saturday, August 9, 2025! Food Sales at 5:30 pm. Dance 7 pm.
Dance practices (optional) in Sangha Hall @ 7 pm on July 29 & 31 and August 4, 6 & 7.

Sunday, August 10, 2025 - Hatsubon & Urabon-e Service

Mark Your Calendar:

Hiroshima Memorial Service: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 @ 4:15 P.M. (PDT)

On August 6th, 1945, at 8:15 AM (JST), the atomic bomb on Hiroshima city was dropped killing initially 140,000 people and affecting countless more lives. Sensei will conduct a brief service and ring the *kansho* in our reflection of hope for world peace.

Nagasaki Bomb Memorial Service: Friday, August 8, 2025 @ 7:02 P.M. (PDT)

On August 9th, 1945 at 11:02 AM (JST), the atomic bomb on Nagasaki city was dropped killing initially 70,000 people and affecting countless more lives. Sensei will conduct a brief service and ring the *kansho* in our reflection of hope for world peace.

June & July 2025 Birthdays!

Wishing you all many more years of good health and wonderful adventures!



Karen Suyama, Mitsuko Taniguchi, Aileen Hisaoka , Terry Sato, Hunter Chuang, Mitsuko Maruyama, Rev. Landon, Kyle Yamasaki, John Arai, Cathleen Yoshida

2024-2025 Graduates

Rylan Mori: Graduated from Logan High School. He will attend the University of the Pacific (UOP) in the pre-Dental program.

Natalie Murai: Bachelor's Degree in English from UCLA. She is currently taking a gap year while applying to Law School.

Emily Sekigahama: Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from San Jose State University.

Kylie Chan: Master's Degree in Coaching and Athletic Administration from Concordia University in Irvine. She is working at Francis Parker School as the Athletic Operations Manager in San Diego.

Neil Minamide: Master's in Library and Information Sciences from San Jose State University.

BWA – report by Karen Suyama

Please join us for our next meeting on August 10th at 9:00am.

Upcoming activities:

1. Rummage Sale – rescheduled to October 4th and 5th.

BAZAAR 2025

Meetings continue as we plan and get ready for our annual Bazaar which is scheduled for July 19th and 20th. 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.

OBON – August 9, 2025

Join us for obon dance practice on July 29, 31, August 4, 5 and 7. Obon night is Saturday August 9, at 7:00pm with the Chidori Band performing.

Obon/Urabon Service on Sunday August 10, at 10:00am.

Hello everyone,

Help is needed on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, to prepare the teriyaki chicken for SACBC's bazaar. The chicken needs to be washed and cleaned, and then the chicken will be marinated. Please come to help. Chicken prepping will start at 5 PM, and please wear clothes and shoes that you don't mind getting dirty, and bring a hat and sunscreen.

If you have any questions, please call Iris at 510-490-5870, or send an email to irisyakuma@gmail.com. Thank you.

Iris and Steve Yakuma

P.S. Dinner is served at 4:30 PM.

What's Up Dharma School? July 2025

Dharma School's last day was June 1, where we recognized the elementary grade students. The students had a bit a fun with Mrs. Cathleen and Josie Matsubayashi for the last day of Dharma class. Afterwards, we celebrated with an udon otoki luncheon. We did not have any high school graduates this year, but we hope we will see all our Dharma students again next school year.

With gratitude, we'd like to thank the following Sangha members for their help throughout the year.



- Rev. Miyaji's and Rev. Landon for their guidance in helping us plan our Dharma classes.
- Karen Fujii (BEC) for her support and working with Dharma school on the calendar/class days.
- Kathy Velasco for being our 'backup'.
- Josie Matsubayashi for helping us with lessons and classes.
- Dharma School's parents (and grandparents) for their time, to bring their child/grandchild to Dharma classes.
- To the students, thank you for your dedication and time to be part of Dharma School. Hope you had fun learning the dharma!

And lastly, thank you to our Sangha, for all your support and donations to help us pass down the teachings of the Dharma to the next generation. Special thank you to Mr. Miyasato and Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Minamoto for their generous donations to our dharma school.

We hope to see you at our Bazaar and Obon! Have a great summer!

In Gassho,
Cathleen and Betty

Some safety reminders from the City of Union City to enjoy your 4th of July celebration:

1. Deploy fireworks at least ten feet away from any dwelling or structure.
2. Use fireworks under adult supervision and keep a hose handy.
3. Spent (used) fireworks should be disposed of by soaking them in a bucket of water overnight, then double bagging and placing them in your landfill car.
4. Fireworks are not allowed east of Mission Blvd, in City parks, on school property, or on City streets.
5. "Safe and Sane" fireworks may be used from 8am-10pm, July 1-4 on your private property.

ENJOY A SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!

SACBC will be selling fireworks July 1-4, 9am to 9pm. Please contact John Arai if you would like to volunteer on any of these time slots.

BAZAAR MANJU 2025

Hi Everyone!

It's hard to believe our annual church bazaar is right around the corner! Here I am again requesting your help with manju. Last year we made 75# and we ran out of manju early Saturday. We had so many disappointed people. This year we decided to make more. Let's work together to keep this tradition going. We will be forming and baking the manju on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** starting at 9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars and come out to help. If you are able to confirm that you will be helping, please call/text me at (510) 506-4243. Not only would this help me, but it will help the crew that is preparing lunch.

I look forward to seeing you. Thank you!

Gassho, Jamie Nagata



Happy Independence Day!

Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 9am-9pm Fireworks sale 6:30 pm Scouts	2 9am-9pm Fireworks sale 3-5pm Taiko	3 9am-9pm Fireworks sale	4 9am-9pm Fireworks sale <i>Independence Day holiday</i>	5
6 10am Shotsuki Hoyo	7 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	8 6:30 pm Scouts	9 3-5pm Taiko	10	11 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo	12 <i>GC article deadline</i>
13 No service	14 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	15 6:30 pm Scouts	16 3-5pm Taiko	17	18 6am O-Jinjo 9am-5pm Bazaar prep	19 11am-7pm Bazaar festival
20 11am-3pm Bazaar festival No service	21 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	22 6:30 pm Scouts	23 3-5pm Taiko	24	25 6am O-Jinjo 5-9pm Bingo	26
27 10am Family Service 11am Omigaki	28 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	29 6:30 pm Scouts	30 3-5pm Taiko	31		

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

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JULY EVENTS

4 TH --FRI	<i>INDEPENDENCE DAY</i>
6th —SUN	SHOTSUKI HOYO
13th —SUN	NO SERVICE (BAZAAR PREP WEEK)
19th—SAT & 20 th --SUN	NO SUNDAY SERVICE <i>BAZAAR WEEKEND</i>
27TH-- SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504	