

Golden Chain



Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
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www.SACBC.org

June 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.



I hope that everyone is doing well and is in good health!

Self-reflection is present in all kinds of Buddhist practices, regardless of sect. In Shin Buddhism, there is one difference in this self-reflection and how it ties back to our “practice”. We are given our enlightenment by Amida Buddha, so the difference is, we do not self-reflect to then move to training ourselves to “be better”. Instead, we reflect on the fact that we cannot do much to make ourselves “good”. The teachings and the Dharma provide insight for us to come to understand and feel why Amida’s compassion is there for us. Something hopefully pushes us to understand and appreciate this.

In the last several years, our house has had some major issues. It was redone a decade ago, but not very well, it seems. The half-dozen or so issues we’ve had, were not disclosed to us when we bought the home. These things take time and money to fix. I am the stay-at-home person, so this is my “job”: talking with the contractors. Most of the time, once they start working, each situation is worse than estimated, which is deeply frustrating.

Where Buddhism and self-reflection come into play here is that *I* need to make sure I don’t displace or project this anger onto the wrong people. It would be easy enough to take out the anger on the contractors, or their workers. I have done day labor work; it is not easy. I have worked

for people who took advantage of me, who I thought would have

taken care of me, only to find out I was expendable. These feelings arise as I am reminded of this, watching these Latino men work tirelessly to try to keep things on schedule.

I am *not* happy with this current situation, but Buddhism has shown me that I have wrongly lashed out at others before, and today, I *cannot* do it to these guys. Their boss thanks me for letting his crew use our restroom, for bringing them coffee, water, and Gatorade, and for getting their lunch. This is not a “good” Buddhist practice for gaining karmic merit. It *is* a “practice” that the Buddha’s teachings urge me to do, because I recall working jobs like this *and* being used with no care for anything other than profit. So ethically, I can only treat these guys better than I have been treated in the past.

Shin Buddhism doesn’t require us to be “good,” but I believe that, through a transformative process, we do learn to uncover negative feelings. This process forces us to reflect inwards, making sure we are not treating others poorly due to our own unrelated emotions. We are not socialized to do this, and *this* is why we need to come to Temple: to hear the teachings. It is due to our foolish nature that Amida’s Vow is all the more directed towards us.

In gassho,
Landon



Services for June 2025

Please join us in-person in the hondo or virtually via Zoom (hybrid service).

June 1, 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 June.

Dharma School End-of-Year Recognitions.

June & July Birthdays will be celebrated.

Dharma will follow service.

Dharma school is hosting an “Udon Otoki” following service.

June 8, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

June 15, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M. (Hybrid)



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June 22, 2025 – Family Service

10 A.M. (Hybrid)

June 29, 2025 – Eshinni and Kakushinni Memorial Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Elaine Donlin will be the guest speaker.

BWA will host this service.



Eshinni was Shinran Shonin’s wife. She wrote many letters that became crucial in understanding life at the time they lived. She was also a devout Shin follower.

Kakushinni was Eshinni and Shinran’s daughter. She was instrumental in establishing the initial stages of Shinran’s mausoleum and the foundations of the Hongwanji.

Board meeting Wednesday, June 11, 7:30 pm - Zoom

May 2025 Birthday Celebrants! Best wishes for many more!



Glen Sekigahama, Jim Hiramine (Kathy Murai's brother), Garret Murai, Keisai Miyaji,
Joyce Kiehl (Kathy Murai's sister) Rev. Landon

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? June 2025

The Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League (FDSTL) had their annual conference at the Gardena Buddhist Church. The theme was "Acceptance, Understanding, and Respect". Rev. Ko'e Umezu was the keynote speaker. We enjoyed the conference (in person and online) and are excited to apply what we learned.

The Bay District Dharma School Teachers' League (BDDSTL) held a beach clean-up at Crown Beach on May 3rd. Lots of interesting trash was picked up (Cathleen found a dust pan hidden in the boulders!) and sadly a lot of microplastics were found along the shore. It was an eye-opening experience for both the students and teachers.

For children's day (May 4th service), Karen Suyama headed up putting up the Hinamatsuri display and Kaori Miyaji kindly brought her Boy's Day display for the students and sangha to enjoy. For class, the students had lots of fun painting their Mother's Day gifts. Big thank you to our alumni students, Josie Matsubayashi and Russell Yamasaki, for helping with the class.

To celebrate the end of the Dharma School year, we'd like to invite the Sangha for a light udon otoki on June 1st after service. We hope you can join us!

Remaining Dharma School day:

- June 1 (Shotsuki Hoyo/Last Day of Dharma class/graduation/June and July birthday celebration/otoki)

In gassho,
Betty and Cathleen





SILENT AUCTION

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BUDDHIST CHURCH



14th Annual Silent Auction - July 19-20, 2025

Spring is here and the 60th Annual SACBC Bazaar is getting closer. We are calling upon the Sangha to help us reach out to local businesses they regularly frequent and ask for donations. We appreciate any donation from businesses and “friends” of SACBC.

For the 14th Annual Silent Auction, we are asking SACBC organizations and affiliated organizations, as well as Sangha members for donations. We gladly accept donations of new items as well as gently used and precious older items. Items that attract interest and competitive bids are suggested below:

TICKETS/GIFT CERTIFICATES

TICKETS to

- Sporting Events
- Amusement Parks
- Interesting places in the Bay Area
- Plays, musicals, movies

CERTIFICATES to

- Spas
- Restaurants
- Specialty Shops

ELECTRONICS

- Tablets
- Headphones
- Ear buds

- Video games
- Video game gift cards
- Gaming accessories (eg. controllers, mouse, headsets, carrying case, etc.)

THEME BASKETS (examples)

SPORTS: Basketball, baseball, football, soccer, golf, tennis, fishing, etc. Include equipment, memorabilia, etc.

GIFT CARDS

CELEBRATIONS: Christmas, Valentines Day, Halloween, Birthday, Anniversary, etc.

“HIS”, “HERS”, “KIDS”

FOOD: Wine, Liquor, Samplers (Crackers, Pasta, Chocolates)

ARTS & CRAFTS

PETS: Items for Dog, Cat, Fish, Birds, etc.

BOOKS

KIDS TOYS that are popular right now

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Art: Paintings, Sculptures
- Japanese art pieces
- Collectibles (vases, ceramics, etc.)
- Air Fryer
- Small appliances

- Tools
- Travel aids
- Handcrafted items (knitted, crocheted, embroidered, woven, sewn, etc.)

To contribute to this year’s Silent Auction, donations must be received by **June 15, 2024**.

Donations MUST be clean and in good sellable condition. Dusty, dirty, or items needing repair will be returned.

Donations can be left in the office starting in May. Contact information for potential donors is also appreciated. **THANK YOU!** We look forward to seeing you at the Bazaar.

Questions? Please contact Karen Fujii. OK to leave messages on Church Telephone: (510) 471-2581.

SACBC has a job opportunity for: Office Manager Position

Description: The Office Manager position at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church is a salaried part-time position that reports to the President and the Board.

A) Qualifications: The Office Manager position will require the skills of working with a computer (*MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, Publisher), Zoom, Email, Google Drive - Doc, Sheets, Slides, Forms*) and a copy machine. The position will require working part-time, performing the office duties, producing and distributing the newsletter and funeral programs, scheduling the use of the facility, and overseeing the maintenance and repair of the facility.

B) Working Hours: The position shall be part-time and shall require four hours a day Monday through Thursday. The suggested working hours shall be from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Vacation leave:** 2 weeks per year; Paid Holidays- In accordance with the annual paid holiday schedule as set by the Board.

C) Office Duties: Office duties shall consist of performing the following:

- 1) **Documents:** Process church related letters, memos, and documents generated by the Minister and Board of Directors for approval and signature as required and completed in a timely manner. Provide assistance to the President, the Minister, Board of Directors, and affiliated organization representatives in copying and creating flyers, articles, and programs related to SACBC events or activities. All copies shall be electronically transferred, when possible, to the SACBC computer for production and future reference. The master files, such as the Golden Chain newsletter, funeral programs, bazaar duty roster, etc., shall be saved on the church computer and backed up on a regular basis.
- 2) **Communication:** Communicate and pass incoming and outgoing verbal, voice mail, and emails that are directed to, from, or between BCA, SACBC personnel and organization members.
- 3) **Website Support:** Assist in updating the SACBC website and social media pages to promote events and activities.
- 4) **Professionalism** Maintain the position of Office Manager in a professional manner in action, dress, speech, and deeds to all who contact SACBC.

D) Golden Chain Newsletter: Produce a quality monthly newsletter that will be informative to all of the membership. The Office Manager shall in a timely manner for publication and delivery:

- Format all articles for monthly publication.
 - Produce the monthly newsletter from beginning to completion
 - Maintain the mailing list and mail all newsletters to those on the mailing list.
 - Send digital copies each month to the person who maintains the SACBC website.
- 1) The newsletter shall basically consist of articles from the:
 - Minister
 - Officers and board of directors
 - Affiliated organizations
 - Sponsored organizations
 - Listing of monthly Shotsuki Hoyo family names (formal Shotsuki Hoyo letters to be mailed out before the newsletters are mailed), donation list and monthly event calendar.
 - 2) Sort and bunch newsletter by zip code as required by the post office. Fill out the bulk mail application. Transport and deliver the newsletter to the bulk post office.
 - 3) Consult the President and/or appropriate Board member(s) regarding resolution of any publication issues.

For more detailed questions about the job duties or to express your interest, please contact the President, Kyle Yamasaki: djyamix@gmail.com or call the Church office: 510-471-2581.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: It is the policy of South Alameda Co. Buddhist Church to provide a work environment, which is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, marital status, age, gender, disability, medical condition or sexual orientation. The Church will make reasonable efforts in the process to accommodate persons with disabilities.



FIREWORKS BOOTH

*We will be selling Fireworks at SACBC again this year from July 1st – July 4th. **The shifts will be the same as last year: 9 am – noon, noon – 3 pm, 3 pm – 6 pm and 6 pm – 9 pm.** The sign-ups will also be going out to all of the SACBC organizations, but if anyone would like to volunteer, please let me know.*

Thanks

John

BAZAAR MANJU 2025

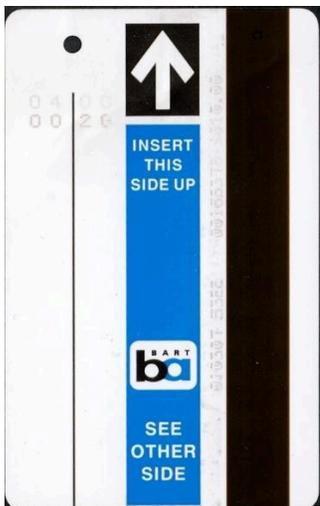
Hi Everyone!

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

BART Ticket Refund - Fundraiser



As of November 2023, BART no longer accepts Paper Tickets. Riders must have a Clipper Card.

BART will refund amounts that are on paper tickets. I submitted 10 tickets and, after 5 months, received a check! (If there is a "c" on your ticket, it means you paid with a credit card. Those ticket values will be refunded to your credit card.

If you have any paper tickets that might be blue, red, or green, please consider sending or leaving them in the church office. I will submit them for a refund as a fundraiser for our church.

Tickets must have a value of at least \$1 if you submit them personally, **HOWEVER, NON-PROFIT organizations can get a refund for all tickets including those with less than \$1 on them.** So, please consider giving any and all paper BART tickets to the church.

For more information: <https://www.bart.gov/tickets/sales/refunds>

Thank you for your support!

Karen Fuji

Happy Father's Day



Events are subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Dharma School graduation Udon otoki to follow service	2 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) Office Manager On vacation	3 6:30 pm Scouts Office Manager On vacation	4 3-5pm Taiko 5-7pm AA summer clinic Office Manager On vacation	5 9-2pm- Boutique Office Manager On vacation	6 6am O-Jinjo Office Manager On vacation	7
8 10am Family Service	9 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner) Office Manager On vacation	10 6:30 pm Scouts Office Manager On vacation	11 3-5pm Taiko 7:30pm Board Meeting (Zoom)	12	13 6am O-Jinjo 5-9 Bingo	14 GC article deadline
15 10am Family Service Father's Day Silent Auction donation deadline	16 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	17 6:30 pm Scouts	18 3-5pm Taiko 7pm Bazaar Meeting (Zoom)	19 9-2pm- Boutique	20 6am O-Jinjo Summer solstice	21
22 10am Family Service	23 3-5pm Taiko 4-5pm Taiko (beginner)	24 6:30 pm Scouts	25 3-5pm Taiko	26	27 6am O-Jinjo 5-9 Bingo	28
29 10am ESHINNI AND KAKUSHINNI SERVICE	30	JULY 1 Fireworks sale	JULY 2 Fireworks sale	JULY 3 Fireworks sale	JULY 4 Fireworks sale Independence Day holiday	

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JUNE EVENTS

1st —SUN	SHOTSUKI HOYO DHARMA SCHOOL GRADUATION/RECOGNITION
8th —SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
11th—WED	BOARD MEETING (7:30 PM VIA ZOOM)
15th--SUN	FAMILY SERVICE <i>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!</i>
20th —FRI	SUMMER SOLSTICE
22nd-- SUN	FAMILY SERVICE
29th--SUN	ESHINNI AND KAKUSHINNI SERVICE
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300 PASSCODE: 549504	