

# 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 thought, 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

## Amida Buddha's Other Power

Buddhist stories help guide us to a deeper understanding of the world around us and provide insight into our own lives. Two difficult aspects of our religion to navigate, I think, are why we need to rely on Amida Buddha's Other Power and why we can't achieve enlightenment on our own.

As a Buddhist, I recognize that I am limited in my abilities; this does not mean I can't accomplish things, make progress in life, reach my goals, help others, or even help myself. I am capable of these things.

Nevertheless, as a Shin Buddhist, it is essential to acknowledge that I am limited, incapable of achieving any type of Ultimate Good in my spiritual practice. Now, if I had to figure out enlightenment purely on my own, relying on my ability to do good, I would fall short and, more often than not, wouldn't even try.

I wouldn't say I am a good Buddhist, because at the end of the day, the real world is tiring and stressful. I do want to give back, but I spend a lot of time trying to find time just for me. Amida Buddha created the Vow of Compassion with this in mind, as not everyone has the conditions to become enlightened on their own, and this is what makes Shin Buddhism so prolific. Enlightenment that is given... Easy to say, yet this is something I often forget.

Today, my yard, which has been in disrepair since March, was worked on yet again. The crew who came to work did not confirm they were coming today, and I had forgotten it was even a possibility. Since it was a hot day, I knew I had to get the crew some drinks, even while I had plenty of errands to run, like getting gas, dropping off my church clothes at the cleaners, and washing my car. Quickly, I got behind on my day's to-do list. But that's the real world; things come up at a moment's notice, just when you least expect them.

At the car wash, I was so distracted that I didn't recognize the guy who sometimes wipes the water off my windows. He saw me and gestured for me to wait so he could grab a clean towel. I was annoyed; I needed to get moving. Since I often tipped them a few bucks, he must have recognized me. Today, he really spent time wiping, and I just wanted to get going. Today, out of all days, when I really needed to go, someone was really cleaning it. Many guys at the car wash just do a quick and sloppy job. But, since I assume this is a work program, I always give a tip. They could be out there doing less than legitimate work. Today, I just wanted to go; I was tired and feeling over the day that had barely even started.

I felt bad; he was working so hard in the sun, so I gave him an extra dollar. When I opened the door, I realized it was the guy who often helps me. I was so distracted, I didn't recognize him, but he looked sad today; usually, he has a very tough look on his face. He said, "I appreciate you," which in slang means "thank you so much," but it was the tone of his words that I could feel. I was taken aback and simply said, "I appreciate you," but my words lacked meaning behind them. He looked like he was starting to get emotional, so I just drove off.

I gave him one extra dollar. While I do tip every time he must have been going through something to say "thanks" the way he did. His tone and deep gratitude shamed me, as I did not recognize him today and got annoyed. He was showing me thanks for tipping him, and maybe for the extra dollar, too. In that moment, his gratitude made me uncomfortable, but later, it made me feel ashamed. I didn't appreciate his hard work, and when he thanked me, I barely acknowledged it. If I couldn't accept his thanks, how then can I understand my own relationship with Amida's compassion given to me?

Today was a harsh reminder of my own imperfections, but I am also grateful to him for giving me the opportunity to reflect on why I need Amida's compassion, given freely, because I often forget to cultivate gratitude in my life.

In gassho,  
Landon

## November Services

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

### November 2, 2025 | 10 A.M. – Shotsuki Hoyo 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.

Dharma School has class.

**Keirokai** (in-person) will follow service.

Sangha members 70 years and older will be honored. (By invitation and RSVP only.)

### November 9, 2025 | 10 A.M. – Family Service

Dharma School has class.

\*\*Personal Emergency Preparation @ 12 noon\* (in-person & on ZOOM)  
Lite lunch will be served between service & training.

### November 16, 2025 | 10 A.M. – Eitaikyo & Family Service

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.

Japanese service will follow the English Service.

### November 23, 2025 | 10 A.M. – Family Service

### November 30, 2025 – NO Service

Thanksgiving Weekend

\*\*Mr. Paul George of the Alameda County Fire Community Emergency Response Team  
(CERT) Program Manager will train on how YOU CAN GET PREPARED for an emergency.

**November Shōtsuki Hoyo**  
**Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 10:00 am**

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

**DECEASED**

1958	JULIE ANN HANNA
1960	SHIGEZO ARAI
1963	YOSHIO KAMIJI
1967	UMEKICHI NOMURA
1967	RIYO KUSHIDA
1973	MITSUKO ABE
1974	KEIKO SAKAMOTO
1976	IMAYO ENTA
1977	KIKUZO KAWAGUCHI
1984	YASU KAWAMOTO
1988	TAMOTSU MIYAKAWA
1989	KENJI KAWASE
2001	JAMES TSUGIO SAKATA
2003	TOSHIO HAMAMOTO
2003	KAZUO SUYEPASU
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
2019	TOYOKO YOSHIOKA
2022	YONEO "JOHNNY" UCHIDA
2023	MAUREEN NAKANO
2025	SHIZ AWAMURA
UNKNOWN	BABY HANNA
UNKNOWN	MATSUE HANNA
UNKNOWN	SUSAN KATO

**FAMILY**

MRS. MICHI HANNA
MR. JOHN ARAI & MR. ALAN ARAI
MRS. SACHI FUDENNA & MRS. MICHI HANNA
NOMURA FAMILY
MS. KAREN FUJII
MR. DAVID ABE
MR. PAUL GAN
ENTA FAMILY
KAWAGUCHI FAMILY
<b>PENDING NAME</b>
MR. YASUHO MIYAKAWA
MS. PATRICIA KAWASE TAJ
SAKATA FAMILY
MRS. HARUKO HAMAMOTO
SUYEPASU FAMILY
DR. & MRS. RICHARD HASHIMOTO
MR. JEFF KITANI
DR. INDRA JAYAWEEERA
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
<b>PENDING NAME</b>
BILL HANNA
KATO FAMILY

**MEMORIAL SERVICES 2025**

Memorial year for those who passed away in:

2024 - 1 <sup>st</sup> year 2023 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> year 2019 - 7 <sup>th</sup> year	2013 - 13 <sup>th</sup> year 2009 - 17 <sup>th</sup> year 2001 - 25 <sup>th</sup> year	1993 - 33 <sup>rd</sup> year 1976 - 50 <sup>th</sup> year 1926 - 100 <sup>th</sup> year
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## WHAT'S UP? Dharma School



Hi all-

Our theme for the 2025-2026 year will be "Our Temple" where we will continue to learn about the temple services and traditions, practicing the four key characteristics of Myokonin (joy, deep gratitude, humility, and indebtedness). We started to work on centerpieces for our upcoming Keirokai and in our last class, our students had a chance to practice ringing the kansho with Kathy Velasco and Rev. Landon.

Bay District Dharma School Teacher League rotates among our temples every two years.

Congratulations Cathleen for graciously taking on the role of presidency on behalf of SACBC DS!

We are still welcoming new students!

Looking forward to Keirokai!

In Gassho,  
Betty and Cathleen

### Upcoming:

- Nov.2 Keirokai/Students will be at service before Keirokai/Birthday Celebration for Nov.
- Nov.9 Dharma classes
- Dec.7 Dharma classes/Birthday celebration for Dec./Mochitsuki
- Dec.14 Dharma classes



Would you like an 8x10 copy of this photo? We have six available! email or call the office to reserve your copy.

### Got two hours to spare for Bingo?

From 5-7PM, help is needed in the front selling daubers and Hot Ball.

FROM 7-9PM, HELP IS NEEDED VERIFYING BINGOS.

email the office at: [office@sacbc.org](mailto:office@sacbc.org) to sign up

**FREE!** To any sangha member who may consider or in need of a nearly new, slightly used, four wheel walker.

Please contact the SACBC office by calling:  
510-471-2581 or  
email: [office@sacbc.org](mailto:office@sacbc.org)



A special shout out to **Joyce Okimoto** who sewed all the dog bone pillows that Boutique sold at Bazaar.

**Thanks, Joyce,** for all your hard work!