



The Padma



February 2024

Berkeley Buddhist Temple Newsletter

Web-Edition

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Guidelines

The Padma welcomes articles from sangha members.

Articles should be around 500-600 words typed. Word documents are best; PDF documents are discouraged.

Please include your name, a title for the article, and include any photos. Cite references if quotes are used.

Articles will be reviewed for content and length, and should contain information relevant to Buddhist teachings, the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, and/or the Buddhist Churches of America. Publication will be at the discretion of the editorial board.

Email submissions to padma@BerkeleyBuddhistTemple.org

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2024 新年会

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION
Sun. January 28th, 2024
after the service

Join us in celebrating the New Year with Mochitsuki, Taiko Performance, Bounce House for children and New Year bites!

www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

February Dharma Message Theme

Dying, Pali Nirvana, Impermanence

The theme for this month's Dharma messages aligns with the special Nirvana Day service on Sunday, February 11th, commemorating of the death of the historical Buddha and his entry into complete Nirvana.

Our Vision

A Community Where Our Spiritual Life and True Self Can Be Realized

Our Mission

To Live A Life Of Joy In The Nembutsu And Share The Dharma With Others

February 2024

the Padma



BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2121 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Berkeley Buddhist Temple (510) 841-1356 berkeleybuddhisttemple.org info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org facebook.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple youtube.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple				1	2	3
					6:00p College Welcome Night	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30a Virtual & In-person Dharma Family & Shotsuki Memorial Service 1:30p Taiko Class			7:00p Virtual Meditation			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30a Virtual & In-person Dharma Family & Nirvana Day Service 1:30p Taiko Class		7:00p Board of Directors Mtg				<i>Padma Articles Due</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30a Virtual & In-person Dharma Family & Dana Day Service 1:30p Taiko Class		Padma Newsletter Production	7:00p Virtual Meditation			
25	26	27	28	29		
10:00a BCA Eitaikyo Service (Temple Closed) 1:30p Taiko Class				6:30p Virtual Dharmanar		



Future Dates to Remember

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Fri 2 Feb	In-person College Welcome Night
Sun 4 Feb	Livestream & In-person Shotsuki Memorial Service
Wed 7 Feb	Virtual Meditation & Discussion
Sun 11 Feb	Livestream & In-person Nirvana Day Service
Sun 18 Feb	Livestream & In-person Dana Day High School Service
Wed 21 Feb	Virtual Meditation & Discussion
Sun 25 Feb	Temple Closed (BCA Eitaikyo Service)
Thu 29 Feb	Online Study Session BBT Dharmanar (Topic: TBA)

J
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N
E

2024: Save-the-Date
 Rev. Dr. David Ryoe Matsumoto
 Tribute & Retirement Celebration
 Mountain View Buddhist Temple



Berkeley Buddhist Temple UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 3, 17

WED. 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Sign up at:
<https://sanghaevents.info/meditation>

MEDITATION & DISCUSSION

Join us for an evening of online silent meditation led by our minister, Rev. Kuwahara. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience needed. We will have a short discussion after. All are welcome!

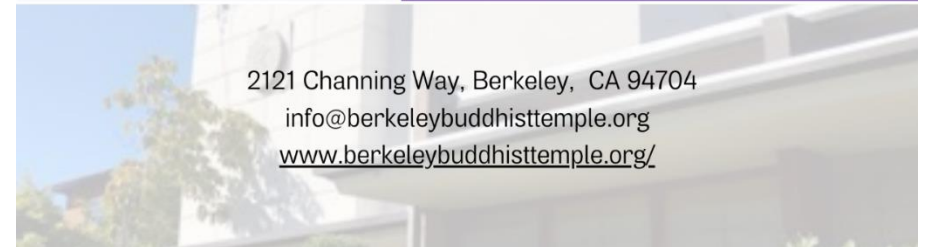
JANUARY 25

THU 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Sign up at:
sanghaevents.info/dharmanar

DHARMANAR

Join us for BBT's monthly online study session. Rev. Kuwahara, Rev. CJ, and Rev. Tanis Moore will be presenting. Then we will discuss it after. Everyone is welcome!



2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

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www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org/



Ven. Shinran - A Married Buddhist Monk



Happy New Year! I hope you have had a good start to the year 2024. As resident minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your support and dedication during the last year. Because of your support, BBT was able to hold regular meaningful Sunday services, develop various programs, and hold our first in-person bazaar after three years of COVID-19 restraint. It is my sincere hope that we will continue to move forward in the year 2024 as well!

In January we observed Ven. Shinran's annual memorial service (Jpn. *Hoonko*). Ven. Shinran is the founder of our school Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and this makes *Hoonko* one of the most important services in our tradition. Therefore, the Dharma theme for January was the life and teaching of Ven. Shinran Shonin.

Ven. Shinran was a dedicated Buddhist monk and a serious seeker. He had a deep and profound understanding of Buddhism. During his long life in 13th century medieval Japan, he faced many situations which allowed him to deepen his appreciation of the Buddha Dharma. One of these unique life events was his decision to marry.

Buddhist precepts preclude monks and nuns from marrying. Ven. Shinran, however, decided to marry Eshinni and have a family. It is said that he was the first Buddhist monk to officially announce his marriage. Of course, before making this decision, I assume he struggled between observing Buddhist precepts and following a natural desire as a young man. What was it that made him decide to marry? It was the teaching of Amida Buddha. Ven. Shinran received guidance from Master Honen. Master Honen practiced the Nembutsu recitation with such dedication that he is said to have done so 60,000 or 70,000 times a day. He was not only a dedicated Nembutsu practitioner, but one of the most scholarly monks in those days, with broad knowledge and deep understanding of the Buddhist doctrine. With his understanding of Amida Buddha's deep compassion and unconditional acceptance, he advised Ven. Shinran as follows,

"One should not marry if marriage distracts one from appreciating the Dharma and reciting the Nembutsu. However, one may marry if marriage is not an obstacle for appreciating the Dharma and one can continue to recite the Nembutsu."

Both Ven. Shinran and Master Honen followed the path of Amida Buddha, with his great aspiration to guide and embrace all sentient beings. In other Buddhist paths, it matters whether one is celibate or not because of the precepts. However, for Amida Buddha, this is not a concern; nor is one's social status, financial situation, or the state of one's health. No matter what kind of life one may live, Amida Buddha's aspiration is to provide the guidance of wisdom and compassionate embrace. This is a broad safety net that accommodates all beings. We are not required to change ourselves to fulfill the requirements of a particular Buddhist path. All we need

to do is to truly realize Buddha's compassionate acceptance and entrust ourselves to it. As we voice the Nembutsu recitation we express our grateful response to the Buddha's acceptance.

Amida Buddha's unconditional acceptance abandons no one. This gave Ven. Shinran the confidence to enter into and declare his marriage. It also gave him the strength to deal with the many other challenges he encountered in his 90-year life.

It is my sincere hope that each of us will continue to listen to the teaching deeply and leads a spiritually fulfilled life this year as well.

In gassho (palms together),

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara



“Why Is Life Such a Mess?”

by Diane Ames

“All right, the First Noble Truth is true,” I complained, “Life is fundamentally unsatisfactory. My poor husband, Bill, has been a textbook example. Since the end of November, he has suffered the Pain of Losing What He Values, namely his health; the Pain of Getting What He Does Not Want, namely pneumonia complicated by an empyema, leading to the Pain of Association with What He Hates, namely this hospital room for forty days; the Pain of Not Getting What He Wants, namely a quick recovery; and let us not forget the Pain of Pain Itself, both caused by the pneumonia and inflicted by some of the treatments he got in the hospital. Yes, I know that troubles like this, in various forms, happen to everybody sooner or later. But why? Why is life such a mess?”



“First, because of impermanence,” my protective Gandharva explained. “Everything fades away in time, including Bill’s eighty-one-year-old immune system that had become too weak to prevent this. Second, you are not in control. Everything that happens in your world is due to myriad causes and conditions, most of which you cannot control. Your own actions are one of the factors affecting things, but their effect is often more limited than you would wish. For example, Bill undoubtedly saved his life by telling you to call 911, but he could not get cured in less than forty unpleasant days.”

“What about me?” said Death, appearing at the door looking stereotypic in his black cape, though hospital rules compelled him to wear a mask and visitor’s badge and leave his scythe at home. “I didn’t get this sick octogenarian who should have been easy prey! These interfering doctors!”

“Life has its good side too!” said a doctor. “I’ve found Bill fit to go home.”



Temple News & Announcements

Seattle Betsuin Arson Restoration Fund

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple needs our help! Please consider supporting them as they recover from [*the tragic arson event*](#). The Seattle Betsuin is accepting donations to help rebuilding efforts.

∨

You can donate here: seattlebetsuin.org/fire

Donations can also be made via check. Please make checks payable to “Seattle Buddhist Church” and include “Arson Restoration Fund” in the memo line.

The address is: Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main St., Seattle, WA 98144.

The 2024 BBT Board and Executive Committee

The January 7th service included the announcement of the BBT Board members beginning their new 3-year terms and the installation of the 2024 Officers.

Duane Yamasaki is a newly elected Board member. Lorin Bond, Tony Hale, Judy Kono, Wayne Sugihara, and Karen Sugiyama were elected to new terms.

The 2024 Officers are: Bradley Menda, President, Lorin Bond, 1st VP, Religious, Robin McGuire and Lena Yin, co-2nd VP, Community Affairs, Mimi Kagehiro, 3rd VP, Membership, Eric Lindquist, Finance Mgr., Sandra Takeda and Andy Mayeda, co-Treasurers, and Karen Sugiyama, Recording Secretary.



From left to right: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Lorin Bond, Mimi Kagehiro, Lena Yin, Bradley Menda, Karen Sugiyama, Sandra Takeda, Eric Lindquist, and Andy Mayeda. Photo courtesy of Jon Kawamoto.

2024 Social Events – Save the Dates

The 2024 Annual Camping Trip is scheduled for July 25th – 28th.



Oakland A's Tailgate with Shohei Ohtani, Yoshi Yamamoto and LA Dodgers on Aug. 4



Yoshinobu Yamamoto, Chef Nobuyuki "Nobu" Matsuhisa and Shohei Ohtani at Matsuhisa Beverly Hills. (Instagram/@TheRealNobu)

This year's BBT Oakland A's tailgate should really be special. It's your chance to see Shohei Ohtani, Yoshi Yamamoto and the Los Angeles Dodgers!

A deposit for the Sunday, Aug. 4 game has been secured.

We will be sitting in the same upper deck section in the shade. Because the Dodgers are a popular ticket, prices have gone up.

We think it's a great deal if you want to see Shohei Ohtani and — maybe, just maybe — Yoshi Yamamoto will pitch that day.

Tickets will be priced at \$39 each. Parking passes will remain the same and discounted at \$20 each.

We will order bentos from Musashi for anyone interested.

The deadlines for the tickets and parking passes and Musashi orders will be announced at a later date, along with payment information.

We realize there's a BBT Shotsuki Service that day, but the game doesn't begin till 1 p.m., so there's time enough to attend the service and to see the game!

If you have any questions, please contact Jon Kawamoto at jonkawamoto@gmail.com or text or call 510-386-7122.

Opening Day for the 2024 season isn't till late March — but play ball!



Community Outreach & BLEND



COLLEGE WELCOME NIGHT!

Fri. February 2nd, 6:00pm
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

All are welcome!

This is an in-person event to welcome college aged young people to the temple. There will be a short service, an ice breaker, activities led by Berkeley Nikkei Student Union and food! Hope you can join us!

RSVP

<https://sanghaevents.info/collegewelcome>

Berkeley Buddhist Temple
2121 Channing Way, Berkeley CA 94704



info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org



berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Dharma School Newsletter

February 2024



Students find out what happens when a jar of compassion is poured into a jar of the world's suffering .

A New Year, A New Dana

The Dharma School kicked off the New Year by discussing who or what in our world needs our help. We created a tree that contains the “leaves” of all of those who need our help, from our parents to the unhoused to places around the world experiencing war or natural disasters. Next, the Dharma School students can choose and design a community service project to practice acts of kindness and compassion. Above is a photo of Stacy using a chemistry experiment in jars to demonstrate how the Buddha’s wisdom and compassion can help to end the suffering in our world.

February Schedule

2/4/2024	Regular Dharma School classes
2/11/2024	Regular Dharma School classes - art project!
2/18/2024	Wonderful high school students lead service; regular Dharma School classes
2/25/2024	No Dharma School classes; suggestion to families to virtually attend BCA Eitai-kyo Service

Pizza, pizza!

During January, the Dharma School students made handmade pizzas to serve after the service. We hope you were able to enjoy a slice!



BBT Dharma School students have fun and welcome everyone!

Your Family Is Always Welcome to BBT

Remember: ALL ARE WELCOME to the BBT Dharma School! Please refer to this quick [FAQs sheet](#) with general information about the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Dharma School. Parents, guardians, and grandparents are welcome to observe and/or accompany their children to class. Just ask to speak to Stacy, Karen, Irene, or Joyce before the Dharma Family Service.

Namo Amida Butsu

BCA / CBE Announcements



SOUTHERN DISTRICT/CBE/IBS/JSIO

WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR
JANUARY 27, 2024

BUDDHISM AND WAR

“May there be peace in the world.” - Shinran Shonin

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT (9AM - 12PM)

Keynote Speaker (In English and Japanese)



REV DR KEN TANAKA

English Speakers

Rev Iwohara
Rev Turner
Rev Quon

Japanese Speakers

Rev Wondra
Rev Furumoto

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

1517 WEST 166TH ST, GARDENA, CA 90247

REGISTRATION INFO & IN-PERSON BENTO ORDER:

<https://tinyurl.com/WINTERPACSEM>

SAVE THE DATE...

BCA YOUTH EVENTS



BYR & FRIENDS REUNION EVENT

11/25/23 9am - 7pm

Jodo Shinshu Center
High School & College Age

BYR - SEATTLE EVENT

5/24/24 - 5/26/24

Seattle Betsuin
High School & College Age

BYR SUMMER RETREAT

6/23/24 - 6/29/24

Jodo Shinshu Center
High School age first time
participants only



BCA YOUTH RETREAT PROGRAM
Questions: bkmizushima@bcahq.org



Community Announcements



Reach out and grab a bite!



J-Sei's 33rd Annual Crab Feed

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Fratellanza Club, 1140 66th Street, Oakland

(1 block east of J-Sei with on-site parking)

Dinner 5:00 to 6:30 pm  Live band & no-host bar 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Reserve J-Sei Crab Feed Tickets

Our annual crab feed will be held at the Fratellanza Club, 1140 66th Street (1 block east of J-Sei),

Enjoy fresh Dungeness crab, Asian salad, garlic noodles, rolls, desserts, and beverages with your family and friends at J-Sei's in-person, sit-down, family-style crab feed!

Dinner tickets: adults \$70, children 12 & under \$25

Please RSVP by Sunday, January 28th. A very limited number of dinners may be bought at the door. Sorry, no "to-go" meals available.

Buy tickets online: <https://j-sei.org/2023/12/31/33rd-annual-crab-feed/>

Download form: [2024-Crab flyer.pdf \(j-sei.org\)](https://j-sei.org/2024-Crab-flyer.pdf)

Mail form & check to J-Sei, 1285 66th Street, Emeryville CA 94608

COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, February 4, 2024
9:30 AM

Live Stream: <https://www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org/dharma-live>

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki Hoyo (monthly memorial service) for
February.

Toshiyo Adachi	Shigeichi Iwasaki	Kozo Nitta
James Asami	Michiye Izumi	Chise Nitta
Ofui Baba	Saki Jio	Haruko Okawa
Machiko Yamada Barber	George Teruo Kagawa	Kazuo Onitsuka
Donald Phillip Delcollo	Junichi Kami	Tsutano Ouye
Hanae Doi	Jiro Kato	Chiyomi Pohan
Shizuyo Doi	Kiyoko Kato	Steve Sasaki
Sakuichi Egawa	Tsuto Kawakami	Gary Hiroshi Sasaki
Amy Melissa Erickson	Tamai Kenyon	Faith Sasaki
Nicholas Fernandez	Matsuji Kikawa	Elaine Emiko Sato
Arata Fujikawa	Mary Teruko Kurokawa	Mary Hifuno Suto
Masako Fujikawa	Yunosuke Kusayanagi	Hirao Tabuchi
Sugino Fukumori	Katie Fumiko Matsubara	Shizue Tabuchi
Taro Fukumori	Chiyoko Matsunaga	Yoshiko Katayanagi Takahashi
Sawae Sandy Futatsuki	Grace Shizuko Matsuoka	Kenji Takamoto
Sadako Hammonds	Misako Matsuoka	Shizutoshi Takeda
Leonard Yuji Haraguchi	Mokutaro Morimoto	Mae Tokiye Takeda
Masako Hayashida	Yoshitaro Morishita	Tsuneyo Takita
AshNoi Hirahara	Uta Morishita	Jennifer Sayuri Tasaka
Kinji Hiramoto	Emiko Morishita	Ruth Matsumoto Uchiumi
Sannosuke Hiraoka	Taki Morishita	Roy Wakida
Norman Hirose	Edwin Akiyoshi Mutobe	Ichiro Yamasaki
Chiyeko Hori	James Yutaka Nakabayashi	Dennis Yee
Denzo Horiike	Sadao Nakagaki	Kasumi Yonekura
Koichi Ichiyasu	Harry Yoshito Nakahara	Yoshio Harry Yoshimura
Takeko Ikeda	Kameo Nakamura	Yasu Yoshiura
Rose Michie Ikeda	Kujuro Nishimoto	Nobuko Yoshiura
Shintaro Imazumi		

Note: If there are any additions, corrections, or deletions to the above list, please notify the Berkeley Buddhist Temple at 510-841-1356.



Membership & Toban

Membership Pledges

The temple would like to gratefully acknowledge the following members for their generous contributions:

For 2023 (Receiving Period: 12/8/2023 – 12/31/2023)

Don & Joanie Hamasaki
Dennis Sakurai
David & Emily Ushijima

For 2024 (Receiving Period: 12/8/2023 – 1/12/2024)

Tony Hale & Stacy Uyeda
Yo Hiraoka
Sara Jotoku & Paul Nolan
Eric & Mary Lindquist
Bob Matsueda & Ranko Yamada

If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Team at membership@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org or 510-841-1356.

TOBAN

Coordinators - Lena Yin & Pat Takeda

January 2024	February 2024
Chair - Tony Hale Cochair - Scott Wakida *Adachi, Dick Akiyama, Devon Cox, Tory Fukumori, Noreen Gabriel, Susan Hale, Tony & Stacy Uyeda Ide, Ritsuko *Kamimura, Yoshio & Junko Lin, Sherry Masuda, Rev Will & Kiyo (SoCal) Nishihara, Alan Sugihara, Wayne *Taketa, Mieko Umemoto, Tara Uyeda-Hale, Zora Wakida, Scott & Sheila	Chair – Akemi Hamai Cochair - Bob Matsueda *Ames, Diane Fukumori, Naomi Gwaltney, Jon Hamai, Akemi & Amy Haruyama *Hamai, Lucy Hirokane Payton, Dani Horstein, Scott & Antonia Glenn *Kami, Frank *Kawakami, Keiko Matsueda, Bob & Ranko Yamada Nolan, Paul & Sara Jotoku Omori, Laurie Roueche, Akira Sakurai, Dennis *Shinsako, Glenn & Amy *Wakida, Alice *Yedlosky, Yae

** Denotes disabled and/or elderly. Toban optional.*



Condolences

Berkeley Buddhist Temple expresses condolences and deep sympathy

To the Family of
Mr. Ittsei Nakagawa
January 5, 1930 – November 18, 2023

To the Family of
Mrs. Nancy Kakigi
April 13, 1945 - December 27, 2023

<https://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?l=LS000206080837>

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu



The following is a list of special service years.
If you have a departed relative who has passed away
in any of the listed years,
and would like to make arrangements
for a memorial service,
please contact Rev. Kuwahara at [\(510\) 841-1356](tel:5108411356).

2024 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2023	1 st Year
2022	3 rd Year
2018	7 th Year
2012	13 th Year
2008	17 th Year
2000	25 th Year
1992	33 rd Year
1975	50 th Year
1925	100 th Year

Services

Our regular Sunday program consists of a Family Service at 9:30am. An adult Dharma talk is available after the Family Service while Dharma School classes are convened for students.

Special Services

January 1 Service	Gantan-e	New Year's Day
February	Nehan-e	Nirvana Day
March	Ohigan	Spring Equinox
April	Hanamatsuri	Flower Festival
May	Gotan-e	Birthday of Shinran
July	Kangi-e	Obon
September	Ohigan	Autumn Equinox
November Memorial	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin
December	Jodo-e	Bodhi Day
December 31	Joya-e	Year End Service

A Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial) Service is held the first Sunday of each month.

Dharma School

Our Dharma School (Sunday School) has classes from preschool through high school. Our teachers are happy to discuss the appropriate level of spiritual enrichment for your student.

Monthly Discussions

In our discussions, we strive to experience the Buddha-Dharma with our entire selves – with our bodies (quiet sitting and other forms of meditation), voices (chanting and other liturgy) and minds (study and discussion).

Our sessions focus on ways in which Buddhist teaching and practice can impact our everyday lives. Each session will take up a different topic and you are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Visitor Information

Please feel free to ask any of our greeters for information. We are here to assist you with whatever level of participation you may be seeking.

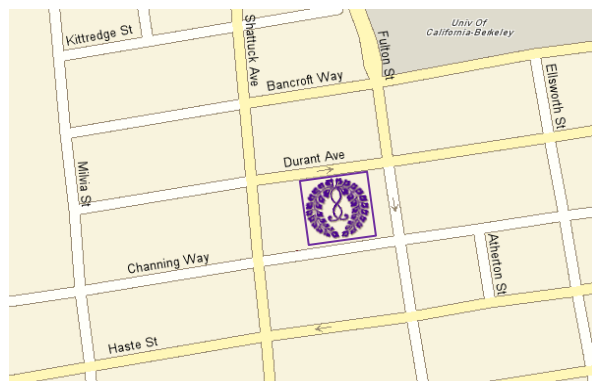
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

Membership Information

Membership is open to all who view the Temple as their spiritual home and seek the Buddha-Dharma.

Kindly complete a [Membership Form](#), have your name entered in the membership roll and support the Temple through a pledge and participation.

For more information about becoming a member, visit our [Registration](#) page, or contact our [Membership Chair](#).



Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2121 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
10:00am – 1:00pm

[510-841-1356](tel:510-841-1356)

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