Alameda Tonarigumi Markers
Life That Connects Us All
REVISED 8/26/2022
Sign Trim Size: 66”(w) x 38”(h)
Bleed Size: 67.5” (w) x 39.5”(h)

Approved By: _____
(Please Print)
Signature: _____
Date: _____

Alameda’s Historic Japantown

Tonarigumi

Life That Connects Us All

We strive to practice gratitude and compassion and to understand the interdependence of life that connects us all.

Our mission is to experience and share the teachings of the Buddha with others in a welcoming and supportive community.

Buddhist Temple of Alameda

This storefront in Alameda was the first rented space for our services.

In 1916, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda became an independent temple under the name A-shi Bukkyokai. It marked the official establishment of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda under the auspices of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. This storefront was rented and used for services.

In 1919, a Victorian mansion was purchased from a former mayor of Alameda. With the addition of a social hall in 1926 and periodic remodeling since then, the original structure has served the members well over the many years.

Prior to World War II, the Japanese community was concentrated in the blocks around the Temple. During the war, the U.S. Navy took over the Temple to use as a training facility for employee and enlisted personnel. After the war, the Temple became a temporary hostel for the displaced families. In 2016, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda celebrated its 100th anniversary.

In 1929, the Temple bell was installed. Embossed on the bell are the names of our Issei pioneer members and a poem written by Bishop Koyu Uchida, the 4th Socho of the Buddhist Churches of America. The bell is still in use at the Temple to this day.

Bon Odori

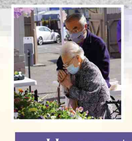
A dance of joy for benefits received from the efforts and lives of generations before us.

Women's Association

The Alameda Buddhist Women's Association supports and participates in various activities for the Temple and the community.

Dharma School

Family values, guided by Buddhist principles of gratitude and compassion, are taught to our children.



Hanamatsuri

A colorful Flower Festival celebrating the birth of the historical Buddha touching our lives today.

Tonarigumi, Alameda’s Historic Japantown
A collaboration of the Alameda Free Library, Buddhist Temple of Alameda, Buena Vista United Methodist Church, City of Alameda and Rhythmix Cultural Works.
Kazumu Julio Cesar Nagamuma, Creative Direction & Design
Grace Hankin, Designer

Tonarigumi depicts a close-knit neighborhood, with its strength and resiliency symbolized by the bamboo and quiet determination in the rippling waves that surround our isle city.

The four historic markers tell the story of the spirit and resolve of Japanese immigrants settling and adjusting to a new land in Alameda.