

WHEEL OF DHARM

Official Publication of the Buddhist Churches of America

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Eko-Haus, Ekoji and Gardens: This Japanese Cultural Center in Dusseldorf, Germany was the site of the 2016 Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop. See article on page 5. Photo by Andy Mayeda.



Attendees at the first Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop in Europe. Clergy and staff included (front, I. to r.) Rev. Jerry Hirano, Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Takao Aoyama, Director, Eko-Haus, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Hongwanji Office, (second row, second from left) Rev. James Martin, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Rev. Jan Marc Nottelmann-Feil, Eko-Haus, Rev. Frank Kobs, and Rev. Mariko Nishiyama (behind Rev. Kobs). Hongwanji Office Assistant Lisa Mayeda is in the third row, second from the left, and in the last row, far right, is Ken Tanimoto, BCA President.

The MAP Road to Mindfulness

'Twas a Sunday morning
And all through the JSC
Not a creature was stirring
Not even a MAP student.
When all of a sudden, there
Arose the sound of the *kansho*Resounding throughout the JSC
Calling one and all "*omairi*, *omairi*."
Let's voice the Buddha's teachings;
Let's awaken our mindfulness
As well as our sleepy body-mind.

Come on, Masami, Jim and Carol, Come on, Mutsumi, Shieko, and Henry, Onward Patti, Peter, Joanne and Michael, Rev. Umezu is waiting in the KODO With *nenju* in hand and *osenko* as well.

Then all of a sudden, the voices rose in unison, "Ga gon cho se gan..."
And just as quickly, the voices lowered, "Na man da buu, na man da buu."

All was quiet, mindful that all had Miles to go before the *kyoshi* ordination And Miles to go before the *kyoshi* ordination.

Na man da buuuu Na man da buuu Na man da buu

This was the start of many more MAP students' footsteps arriving at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

—Glenn Kameda, BCA Facility Manager

10th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Center

The Journey Ahead (Part II)



Thank you, BCA Jodo Shinshu Center! Recently assigned kaikyoshi from BCA, Hawaii and Canada are reunited at the Fuken. Collectively, their paths to the Hongwanji ministry included the JSCC, IMOP, MAP and IBS ministerial programs, all based at the JSC. (Front, I. to r.) Reverends Sala Sekiya, Candice Shibata, Mutsumi Wondra, Christina Yanko and Kenji Akahoshi. (Back I. to r.) Reverends Matthew Hamasaki, Nariaki Hayashi, Kory Quon, Shinji Kawagoe, Satoshi Tomioka, Diana Thompson and Masanori Watanabe.

By Glenn Kameda, BCA Facility Manager

Many, many Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) members have stepped forward to support the operation of the Jodo Shinshu Center (ISC)

A few years after the doors opened, a family from the Southern District came to see the JSC. Their son was enrolling at UC Berkeley. As we toured the building the father noticed the somewhat tired-looking atrium garden on the second floor. Since that initial visit the father, family members and friends have been coming at least twice a year to maintain the atrium garden, often bringing replacement plants. This generous donation of labor, plants, and care has been under the guidance of Ken Kawasaki.

The Junior Young Buddhist Associations (Jr. YBA) have been very generous. The Bay District Jr. YBA donated the *shoji* screens often used in the lobby; the Palo Alto Jr. YBA donated clock radios for all the hotel and dorm rooms; and the San Mateo Jr. YBA purchased the lamps. The Concord Fellowship donated 30 folding chairs for the lobby. Many more donations, including volunteers who assist in many ways, can always be counted on.

Now, let me mention several events that have taken place at the ISC: Vesak services held jointly

by several Buddhist traditions; the International Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange (IHOPE), a gathering of Nishi Hongwanji kaikyoshi (overseas ministers); Zen Buddhist groups' retreats and seminars; the West and East Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange (WEHOPE), a first-time gathering of both Nishi Hongwanji and Higashi Honganji ministers; Ohara School of Ikebana Spring and Fall exhibitions; the first west coast exhibition of Tsuneo Iwasaki's Buddhist art; and a three-day retreat for 17 Higashi Honganji (Shinshu Ohtani-ha) ministers and representatives. All of these Buddhists from throughout the world: laypersons, monks, teachers, professors, government officials; all came to see for themselves this place called the Jodo Shinshu Center.

The JSC is the home of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) whose programs are not only on site but also taken to other BCA districts. CBE on-site programs are quite labor intensive. They include hosting the attendees' breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, and of course, setup for meeting rooms, sleeping quarters, and fresh flowers for the *onaijin* (altar).

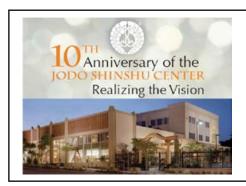
Ryukoku University of Kyoto, Japan routinely has 25+ students taking American Culture and English as a Second Language classes at the JSC, for one semester (4.5 months) and between semesters (five weeks). However, they do not live at the JSC. For most students it's their first experience in the USA.

Hongwanji-ha of Kyoto runs two programs from its office at the JSC: the online English language Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC), and the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP), which trains ministers to serve in Hawaii, Canada, Brazil, or the BCA. IMOP ministers live at the JSC during their four-month orientation. IMOP senseis in the BCA include Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rev. Masanori Watanabe, Rev. Sala Sekiya, and Rev. Nariaki Havashi.

The BCA Bookstore managed by Gayle Noguchi is a "must see" and has developed into a great source of outreach for the BCA.

So, all the "footsteps from here and there" have come to the JSC, a place for learning and training, a place where the BuddhaDharma resides. Footsteps of yesterday have returned again and again, bringing with them first-time footsteps.

The JSC has, in its first ten years, established itself as one of *the* places to see in Berkeley, California. Yes, the Berkeley City Walking Tour group made a journey here. We even had a tour group from Sonoma of about 30 seniors come to visit. So for those BCA members who have yet to bring your footsteps through the doors, I'm waiting.



JSC 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! Saturday, October 22, 2016 8:30 am - 7 pm 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

Open House: Dharma Talks, Tours, Displays & Music Social Hour & BBQ (Call to order)

See details at BCA website or contact Judy Kono at jkono@bcahq.org

Jodo Shinshu Around the World

By Rev. Kodo Umezu BCA Bishop

One of my responsibilities is to oversee the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC) sponsored by our mother organization in Kyoto. Over 170 students have completed the course and about 50 students are currently enrolled. I have the privilege of signing their certificates of completion. Whenever I sign them, I check the students' names and their countries. They are from all over the world. I have even seen students from South Africa and Dubai.

Because it is a worldwide program, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, the dedicated and capable coordinator of the program, decided to have the annual JSCC August Workshop in Dusseldorf, Germany this year. I was really impressed by everyone's understanding and appreciation of Shinran Shonin's teaching that they expressed during the workshop there. It was so gratifying to see their smiles of dharma joy. When I was growing up in Japan I never dreamed of



chanting *Shoshinge* in Germany with people from all walks of life. Now it is happening.

Another positive trend is that more people are expressing their desire to become ministers for the Buddhist Churches of America. Though many ministers are reaching retirement age, there are at least six aspirants, as far as I know, who are currently studying to become ministers to join our "Team Shinran." These are in addition to the ministers' assistants enrolled in the *kyoshi* certificate program at the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

I also see our members becoming more appreciative of our religious traditions today. Many



Left photo: Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America, presents Rob Van Gelder of Belgium with his Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Completion Certificate. Photo by Kiyonobu Kuwahara.

Above photo: Kieshiki (Affirmation) at Mountain View Buddhist Temple: On September 16th, in conjunction with the temple's 55th anniversary, 44 members received their Buddhist names. Pictured with Rev. Umezu (front, center) is Rev. Yushi Mukojima, MVBT resident minister, and Rev. Ensei Nekoda (Emeritus) (left).

people are receiving Buddhist names (homyo) and showing their joy in hearing the Nembutsu

This month we are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Center. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your vision and support that made it happen ten years ago. Shinran Shonin is already walking around the world, sharing his message with everyone. I feel extremely fortunate that I, too, am able to live my life with Shinran Shonin.



By Rev. Kory Quon Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

How joyous I am, Gutoku Shinran, disciple of Sakyamuni! Rare is it to come upon the sacred scriptures from the westward land of India and the commentaries of the masters of China and Japan, but now I have been able to encounter them. Rare is it to hear them, but already I have been able to hear. Reverently entrusting myself to the teaching, practice and realization that are the true essence of the Pure Land way, I am especially aware of the profundity of the Tathagata's benevolence. Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have attained. (Collected Works of Shinran, p. 4)

Can you feel what Shinran Shonin is trying to say? The above passage is from the preface to his major work, *Kyogyoshinsho*. Let us

Long Ago Becomes More Real: The Dun Huang Cave Exhibit

all think about the conditions that allowed each of us to experience the Nembutsu teaching. Think about the minority of Buddhists in this world, and what it means to be a Jodo Shinshu follower. How much harder do you think it was to encounter the teachings without modern-day transportation, the printing press, and the Internet for all the free flowing information at our fingertips? As we constantly reflect on the journey of our lives, think about the last 2,500 years and the travels of the Buddha's teachings to get to us.

On September 1, 2016 a group from the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple took an excursion to the Getty Center in Los Angeles, California to learn about the Silk Road, an ancient, 4,000-mile stretch of trade routes through Asia. For centuries, the Silk Road connected the East and West from China to the Mediterranean Sea. The exhibit focused on the Dun Huang Caves which are located on the western edge of the Gobi Desert, near the ancient oasis town of Dun Huang, China. From the 4th to 14th cen-

turies, Dun Huang was known for its intense religious, commercial, and cultural exchanges. The caves housed documents, artifacts, paintings, and sculptures.

There were three elements to this exhibit: a slide show and 3-D video about one of the Dun Huang caves; replicas of three of the nearly 500 caves; and various artifacts which were found in the caves. Every artifact had deep Buddhist significance, from depictions of the life of Shakyamuni Buddha, to various woodblock prints and mandalas of Buddha lands.

This trip was quite significant for those who were able to share the moment. For myself, the video really excited me. In the center of the front wall was a statue of Shakyamuni Buddha. Painted on the left wall was Guanyin, also known as Kannon (one of Amida's attendants in the *Contemplation Sutra*), and painted on the right wall was Amitayus, the Buddha of Infinite Life (known to Jodo Shinshu Buddhists as Amida). Of the entire exhibit, this video made the only mention of Amida or even the *Contemplation*

Sutra, which appears in pictorial form on the same wall. I am glad that they were in the video so that many people would be exposed to them.

I cannot truly convey in words what a once-in-a-lifetime experience this was. Imagine and realize that these pieces are 1,000 years old and have traveled over 4,000 miles. How many languages were spoken over this time and distance?

Shinran expresses great appreciation for receiving the *Nembutsu* teaching and the *Three Pure Land Sutras*. We have the sutras and we have the teachings, yet sometimes it is hard for our calculating minds to appreciate them. When you have the opportunity to make your Jodo Shinshu life a little more "real" please do not hesitate, just take advantage of that opportunity. Find Shinran's joy that he conveys through his works and make that feeling your own. *Namo Amida*

To learn more about the artwork, visit www.getty.edu/research/ exhibitions_events/exhibitions/ cave_temples_dunhuang



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Submission Guidelines:

Articles should be around 500 words, typed, double-spaced in Microsoft Word. The editors may ask for longer articles, or split in multiple parts at the editors' discretion.

Documents should be sent as an email attachment to WODeditor@bcahq.org. Please include the article's author or contact, temple, and suggested title. Images, preferably in color, must be submitted as 300 dpi JPEG or TIFF in separate attachments and never embedded in a Word document. PDF is not preferred. The editors reserve the right to crop images and to edit articles. Articles and news releases are reviewed for publication on the 10th of everymonth.

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Individuals may mail, email, fax or phone in change of address requests and subscription cancellations to the BCA National Headquarters at the address above. Please include the following: Subscriber's name(as written on current subscription); address currently being used; New address and/or name changes; requested action (e.g. change of address, name, subscription cancellation, etc.); phone and/or email of person requesting the change; date of request. Please allow up to 8 weeks for changes to take effect. BCA local temples should send update requests as usual.

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Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 S. Main Street Seattle, WA 98144 Tel: (206) 329-0800 e-mail: office@seattlebetsuin.com www.seattlebetsuin.com

The roots of the Seattle temple began with its original establishment as the Seattle Bukkyo Seinenkai in 1901, later incorporated as the Buddhist Mission Society of Seattle in 1906. The name was changed again in 1909 to Seattle Temple of the Hompa Hongwanji.

A two-story wooden building was constructed in 1908 but it was condemned by the City of Seattle in 1939. The congregation used a temporary location in until a new structure was built at 1427 Main Street, at a cost of \$100,000.

On October 4, 1941, the new temple was dedicated in a ceremony conducted by then Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Bishop Ryotai Matsukage from San Francisco. The events of that festive day were marked by a colorful procession of brightly costumed ochigo and shrine bearers, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and temple members. The procession, led by Rev. Tatsuya Ichikawa and Bishop Matsukage, was five blocks long as it wound its way through the streets to the temple.

The last service before the internment of temple members during World War II was held on May 3, 1942, by Rev. Eiyu Terao. The onaijin was sealed with the Shrine of Amida intact, and left in the hands of the William Hughes Co., the contractor that had constructed the temple. The contractor later made arrangements for the U.S. Maritime Commission to occupy the building for the duration of the war. The temple did not open its doors again to the members until 1945.

The church was legally renamed Seattle Buddhist Church in 1949. Betsuin status was granted on March 11, 1954.

Today, the Seattle Betsuin continues to serve the members of the Northwest District of the BCA.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: Director of Operations

The Buddhist Churches of America a

California non-profit corporation (BCA) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Director of Operations in the BCA National Headquarters Office in San Francisco. This position is responsible for the administration and implementation of the strategic vision of the BCA. See the complete job posting at: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org, under the "Contact Us" tab, or go to this link: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/jobannouncement



By Ken Tanimoto BCA President Watsonville Buddhist Temple

By Ken Tanimoto BCA President Watsonville Buddhist Temple

I have been asked many times about the current state of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). This question comes up often, so hopefully I can answer questions in this article.

First of all, I can say that the BCA is in good financial standing. This is despite the downturn

in membership, increased operational costs, and the ups and downs of market conditions that effect our investments. Under the guidance of Budget and Finance Chair and BCA Treasurer Jeff Matsuoka, and Interim Director of Operations Steve Terusaki, the lean staff at BCA headquarters has kept the BCA financially sound.

The current annual BCA membership fee has not increased much over the past three years. Many of you are aware that your dues help fund staffing, program and operational costs of the BCA National Headquarters, the Jodo Shinshu Center, and other costs of running a national religious institution. That's a given. But do you realize that your financial contributions are critical for ministers' pensions, ministers'

The State of the BCA

continuing education, publication and distribution of Jodo Shinshu literature, seminars and programs to enhance Buddhist awareness, website updates, and publication of the *Wheel of Dharma* newsletter? None of these valuable resources would be available to ministers, members, and Dharma seekers without your support.

From the humble beginnings of a few people back in 1898 wanting to organize Jodo Shinshu teachings in America, BCA members can be proud of the multitude of accomplishments that we have realized. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has now become a major religious tradition in the world. The BCA has helped to make this happen on many levels. I would like to thank all the BCA ministers and leaders for their part in this achievement.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies has developed into a major learning institution for Jodo Shinshu studies and is now working towards attaining accreditation. The Center of Buddhist Education programs support a thriving ministry, develop and train temple leaders, connect with a broad range of age and interest groups, and educate the public about Buddhism. The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course is bringing the Nembutsu teaching to students in 17 countries around the world. The BCA Bookstore serves customers and temples throughout the U.S. and internationally.

The Jodo Shinshu Center, which houses all of these organizations, will celebrate its tenth anniversary this month. And by

next year, a Hongwanji International Office will be established in America at the BCA headquarters building to promote and coordinate communications linking Hongwanji Overseas Districts and Sanghas internationally.

These successes, starting out as just visions of our past and current BCA leaders and bishops, have become valuable avenues for spreading Shinran's teachings globally as well as domestically.

Since becoming President of the BCA I have come to realize that the richest resource the BCA has is its ministers and the thousands of dedicated members like yourself who, just like our ancestors, have an important vision: the vision of sharing the *Nembutsu* teaching with all who seek it.

Farewell Message

By Rev. Shousei Hanayama

Following is the message that the late Rev. Shousei Hanayama, resident minister of Watsonville Buddhist Temple, posted on his Facebook page on May 15, 2016, the day before he left Watsonville for his family home in Higashi Kurume, Tokyo, Japan. He passed away there on July 15, 2016 at the age of 51. (Translated by Rev. LaVerne Sasaki)

"Hoping that there will be a tomorrow is like hoping that wilting cherry blossoms will not fall in an evening storm."

I have always been inspired by these words spoken by the young, nine-year-old Matsuwakamaru [Shinran's childhood name] when advised to be ordained as a priest the following day. His firm determination to enter the Dharma path could

I feel a deep sense of shame and guilt to have to admit to myself that I could have done so much more as a minister and person since coming to Watson-ville in 2002. I, however, feel very happy and grateful that I did come to Watsonville.

It may seem odd for a person about to die to admit that my good life would not have been possible if I had not come to Watsonville. It is here that I was married, blessed with a good family and really had whatever I desired. And yet, it is pitiful that my selfishness prevented me from fully recognizing this blessing.

Again, it may be odd for a dying person to say this, but I would never have imagined that I would be dying with the same illness and suffering that my father (Shoyu Hanayama) experienced. His parting words, "Let me go (to the Pure Land)," constantly come to my mind. Dying or death is probably the same for everyone, but I never thought that it would be so tough; it is like being in hell.

This "dukkha" (suffering)

diminishes somewhat when I feel with gratitude that the Pure Land exists; soon my pain and hardship will be gone. This awareness allows my suffering to gradually change to joy. Suffering, then, is vital and necessary. Without suffering, there is no motivation to live a true life.

To my dear friends, I express my gratitude to you. I truly appreciate your friendship. I wish I could have done more for all of you. However, I guess this must be it for now.

I, however, will return to this world as Buddha to lead you to enlightenment. Until then, please give me a call. I will be with you in a matter of time—sooner or later.

Even my incurable pancreatic cancer will be gone. For now, I will continue my dialogue discussion, "Buddhism and World Peace" with my dad.

I apologize to you for not letting you know of my terminal illness and not allowing your visits. If I had seen you all, I would



1964 - 2016

not have been able to comply with my mother's request to be cremated in Japan.

I had always hoped to meet many of you, but this became difficult due to my health issue and difficulty in speaking. It became very painful to sit up in bed.

I do regret the fact that I could not meet you with my typical smile, laughter and joking personality.

Gassho, Shousei Katsukiyo Hanayama

rial service for Rev. Shousei Katsukiyo Hanayama, co-officiated by the Buddhist Churches of America, was held at the Watsonville Buddhist Temple. In addition to Mrs. Keiko Hanayama and children Shoren and Elren, who came from Japan to attend, about 450 people came to pay their respects to Rev. Hanayama.

On September 17, 2016, a memo-

Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop, was the officiant. He presented the Ingo (posthumous honorary title and Buddhist name) for Rev. Hanayama. Incense offerings were made by representatives from all the Coast District temples, as well as from Seabrook Buddhist Temple in New Jersey. Hanayama Sensei was born in NJ, and Seabrook was his first assigned temple as a BCA minister.

Rev. Yushi Mukojima, in his words of remembrance, pointed out that Rev. Hanayama felt the most important thing was harmony -- except when it came to discussing the future of the BCA. He was passionate about that and would argue with other ministers about what was best for the BCA. But otherwise, he always chatted good-naturedly with others and was known for his sense of humor.

Rev. Umezu made a poignant analogy in his Dharma message. "Rev. Hanayama was born in New Jersey but moved to Japan as a child. He was a dual citizen of the United States and Japan. We are dual citizens as well; we are citizens of this earth and citizens of the Pure Land."

The Hanayama family expressed their heartfelt appreciation for all the generosity and support they have received during their bereavement.

New Outreach Horizons

As BCA enters its 117th anniversary, September, 1899, when the first Hongwanjiha ministers arrived in San Francisco and the U.S. mainland, the Buddhist Church of San Francisco enjoyed some new ways to share the Dharma.







Adobe Project Breathe Visits the BCSF Stupa - On September 30, 2016, eleven members of this meditation group based at Adobe, the global software company, spent the morning at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco paying respect to the holy relics, meditating and learning about BCA and the Shin tradition.

On October 2nd, BCSF had a booth at the Castro Street Festival, a major LGBTQ community event held in San Francisco's Castro district. Elaine Donlin Sensei, minister's assistant, with other volunteers, engaged the crowd with the "Wheel of Dharma" roulette with Buddhist symbols. Everyone enjoyed giving it a spin to answer the question, "What are you grateful for?"



BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

BCA Bookstore News: Gifts for All Seasons

By Gayle Noguchi

Need gift ideas? The fall/winter season brings many gift-giving opportunities: holiday celebrations, party host/hostess thank you gifts, office gift exchanges, teacher appreciation, and end-of-year gifts for all those to whom you want to show a little love and appreciation. Here are some suggestions from the BCA Bookstore. (All items listed are \$20 and under.)

Go eco-friendly with your gifts. Our custom tumbler with the *sagarifuji no mon* (wisteria crest) keeps drinks hot for eight hours and cold for six hours. No more plastic water bottles and disposable lidded cups! Wrap it in a *furoshiki*, the ultimate reusable gift wrap.



Reach out and touch someone! Do you know someone who loves to keep in touch, but can't get out to shop for greeting cards? The BCA Bookstore has a wide selection of unique cards – give an assortment as a gift along with a supply of Forever postage stamps.

Out of the mud grows the lotus. Has someone you know had a challenging year? Our crystal lotus is a beautiful symbol of personal transformation and growth.



"Write" thoughts. Make Right Thoughts a part of every day with our Motto Journals, containing 144 lined pages for recording reflections. Gold stamped on the front cover with "Always Find a Reason to Laugh," "Live Inspired," or "See Countless Blessings." These are words to live by.

It's the thought that counts! Little Box of Words word magnets in a tin box provide hundreds of options to form positive statements to lift everyone's spirits. Available themes: "Thank you," "Encouragement," and "Peace."

Of course, books always make wonderful gifts – books that entertain, that teach, that inspire, that change a person's life!

To order, go to *buddhistchurchesofamerica.org* and click on the BCA Bookstore link or contact *gnoguchi@bcahq.org* or 510-809-1435. Open Wednesday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Like us on Facebook.

JSCC POSTER CONTEST



The Jodo Shinshu
Correspondence Course Office is
accepting entries for original
poster designs.

Deadline: January 10, 2017 For project details, please contact: hongwanjioffice@bcahq.org

Winner to receive honorarium.

JSCC Office, 2140 Durant Avenue Berkeley, CA 94704 Telephone: (510) 809-1441



The walk is a joyful and uplifting experience, offering a way to express compassion in action.

Seattle, WA October 8
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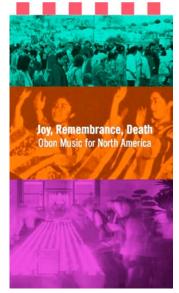
Visit BuddhistGlobalRelief.org or call 888-852-7579

The Sounds of Obon in North America

When was the first American obon song written? Which cities in North America have their own obon song? What does an obon song in Spanish sound like? Who are those guys dressed up as Elvis Presley?

If you are interested in knowing the answers, keep your eye out for *Joy*, *Remembrance*, *Death: Obon Music for North America*, published by the Southern District Dharma School Teachers League. The CD features twenty obon songs written from 1935 to 2013 for the North American Nikkei community, and the 36-page booklet includes lyrics, translations, a glossary, essays, and historical photos.

This community-based project is based on the research of Wynn Kiyama and includes essays by Rev. Masao Kodani and Nobuko Miyamoto. Rev. Ryuta Furumoto assisted in translation and communication, Derek Nakamoto mastered the tracks, Qris Yamashita designed the booklet, and bon odori instructors from the Southern District provided insights and feedback. In addition, all the North American performers generously donated their songs to the project.



Copies of the CD/Booklet will be mailed to all BCA temples in the coming weeks and additional copies will be available at select Buddhist conferences. All donations for the CD/Booklet will cover production costs and fund additional special projects for the Southern District Dharma School Teachers League.

Making the Dharma Connection with Children's Books

by Kiyo Masuda

Attention: Dharma School teachers, parents, and all who love children and love to read! Everyone loves a good story. Stories that capture our attention are those that we can relate to in some way, be they funny, scary, sad, or imaginative. They do so by tapping into our emotions, personal experiences, and curiosity. In addition to being enjoyable, stories are a universal tool that expand our knowledge and understanding, not only of the world around us, but also of our selves.

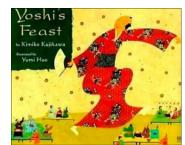


All literature is stories that focus on the human condition of *Samsara*, or suffering. (That's what makes a good story.) Children's literature, including picture books, are no exception. Unlike novels and other more complex stories, picture books are ideal to share with children and youth because they are generally written with an emphasis on a specific theme or message. Picture books are a rich resource, a bridge, if you will, that can make the dharma connection with our children and youth enjoyable and meaningful, i.e., to make the dharma personally relevant in their lives. Enjoy!

Book Review: Yoshi's Feast, by Kimiko Kajikawa, is her adaptation of an old Japanese tale, "Smells and Jingles." This is a delightful, exaggerated story that exemplifies the ridiculous nature of our blind greed. Yoshi and Sabu comically play out the

Three Poisons of greed, anger, and ignorance, or, as a number of BCA minister say, "GAS": greed, anger, and stupidity.

Every evening, Yoshi, a fan maker, eats his meager dinner of rice gruel as he enjoys the delicious aroma of broiled eel wafting from his neighbor Sabu's outdoor grill. Sabu, on the other hand, has a nightly meal with the eel he does not sell that day. One day Yoshi mentions to Sabu how much the delicious smell enhances his meal of rice



gruel. Sabu becomes indignant when Yoshi continues to smell, but refuses to buy. So, he gives Yoshi a bill, charging him for smelling his broiled eel. Yoshi, of course, being just as obstinate, pays Sabu back with the sound of coins rattling in his moneybag. How is this feud to be resolved? Don't fret. GAS is overcome with goodwill. The feud is resolved in a most amicable, lively way.

Suggestion for teachers and parents: All stories can be interpreted in a number of different ways, depending on the perspective of the reader. Just keep in mind that when making the dharma connection, especially for young children, the story and lesson will be more meaningful when the interpretation is kept simple and relates directly to an Essential Teaching.* In this case, for little ones I might emphasize the importance of friendship and working together (i.e., interdependence and non-ego). For our older youth, this story can be used to stimulate a discussion and reflections on personal experiences of "This is not fair," or "That is not right" (i.e., the continuous cycle of the Three Poisons, the reality of the Four Noble Truths, the importance of practicing the Eightfold Path, etc.). Happy reading!

Yoshi's Feast by Kimiko Kajikawa, and illustrated by Yumi Heo. 32 pp. A Melanie Kroupa Book. (Picture book; ages 4 and up). This book is currently out of print but available by searching the Internet and local libraries.

*Essential Teaching refers to the "Essential Teachings" chart created by Kiyo Masuda as part of her "Making the Dharma Connection" workshops for Dharma School teachers. The chart is available through the Federation of Dharma School Teachers Leagues (FDSTL). Please contact Carl Yanari, FDSTL President, at yanari@aol.com to get a copy or if your temple would like information on workshops.

2016 BCA Educational Events

Programs subject to change. Events are at the Jodo Shinshu Center unless otherwise noted.

October 7-9 ~ Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations 44th National Conference: *Linked in the Nembutsu: Tsunagatte* at the Westin, Bellevue, WA. Keynote speakers: Dr. Sharon Suh, Seattle University; Rev. Mutsumi Wondra, Orange County Buddhist Church. Details online: *buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/2016fbwaconference*

October 8 ~ Fall Japanese Dharma Gathering. Speakers: Rev. Masanori Watanabe (Oxnard Buddhist Temple) and Rev. Gasho Yanagida (Ryukoku University graduate exchange student). 10 am - 3 pm. Registration \$15, lunch included. In Japanese language only. Contact kkuwahara@bcahq.org or call (510) 230-8439.

October 22 ~ Jodo Shinshu Center 10th Anniversary Celebration. Open House, Tours, Displays. 9:30 am service followed by speakers: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Rev. Marvin Harada, and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto. 4:00pm-7:00pm Social Hour and Barbeque at Berkeley Buddhist Temple. Reservations required for barbecue (\$20 by October 1); download form from BCA website or contact your local temple. Contact Judy Kono at jkono@bcahq.org or phone (510) 809-1426.

October 30 ~ Gardena Buddhist Church's 90th Anniversary. Festivities begin at 9 am at the Gardena Buddhist Church. Service will be followed by a luncheon in the Social Hall with entertainment by members of the Grateful Crane. For more information email otera.office@gardenabuddhistchurch.org or call (310) 327-9400.

November 15-17 ~ Minister's Continuing Education (MCE) Seminar. Topics include Technology Workshops (beginners to advanced), Pastoral Counseling, and a lecture on Jodo Shinshu. Presenters include Rev. Henry Adams, Rev. Harry Bridge, Daijaku Judith Kinst, and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto. Presented by CBE. For more info visit the BCA website and click on the CBE icon, or see the information below.

December 8-10 ~ **Winter Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Seminar.** Speakers include Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (lecture on *Tannisho*), Rev. Harry Bridge (Chanting and Liturgy), Rev. John Paraskevopoulos via Skype on his new book *The Unhindered Light*, Prof. John Nelson on Adaptation and Experimentation for Religious Institutions, and a talk with Venerable Heng Sure at the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery.

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Save the Date! August 30 - September 1, 2019 ~
16th World Buddhist Women's Convention in San Francisco.
Visit wbwconvention.com for details.

BCA Education News & Highlights - Live a Real Life!

JSCC August Workshop in Europe: "Jodo Shinshu is truly an international teaching"

Eko-Haus is a Japanese cultural center in the heart of Dusseldorf, Germany. It has a small museum and visitor center, guest house, garden with a pond, large bonsho (temple bell) and a Japanese-style Jodo Shinshu temple building at its center. Construction began in 1988 and it opened in 1993 (www.eko-haus.de). Eko-Haus was built by the late Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, founder of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism) who, among many other philanthropic acts, built Buddhist temples in the U.S., Mexico, and Germany.

In 2015 Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC) students and alumni were sent a questionnaire to learn if there was interest in holding its annual workshop in Europe, where a number of the students are based. The response was overwhelming. Thus, from August 19-21, 2016, the JSCC Workshop was held for the first time in Europe. Twenty-seven people attended, including current and past students, JSCC instructors, Eko-Haus staff, and guests.



Representatives at the 18th European Shin Buddhist Conference in Antwerp, Belgium, included (seated, l. to r.) Bishop Tatsuya Aoki (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada), Bishop Kodo Umezu (BCA), Bishop Eric Matsumoto (Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii); (second row) Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, Rev. Jerry Hirano, Janet Umezu, Rev. Mariko Nishiyama, Rev. Kazunori Takahashi, Dr. Carmela Hirano; (third row) Lois Toyama, Piper Toyama (President, HHMH), and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara. Photo by Detlev "Ted" Gempf.

Anita Kazarian of the Cleveland Buddhist Temple reported some highlights from the event. "[Buddhist Churches of America] Bishop Kodo Umezu opened the workshop with a welcome message. A representative from each temple presented the status of Jodo Shinshu in their temple and city. Countries represented included England, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Canada, and the United States. Workshop activities included chanting/ritual instruction by Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, dharma exchanges, and a public lecture by Rev. James Martin." The day after the JSCC Workshop ended, a group of participants visited Anjin-do in Monchengladbach, Germany, escorted by resident minister Rev. Frank Kobs. Several people also stayed on to attend the 18th European Shin Conference held August 23–26 in Antwerpen, Belgium.

Traditionally held at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California, the change of venue allowed more European Sangha members to participate. Rev. Jerry Hirano (Salt Lake Buddhist Temple), one of the JSCC instructors, explained, "I was asked to give a Dharma talk at the Eko-Haus *hondo* for the Sunday morning service. This was a rather strange experience; here I was, a Japanese American, giving an English Dharma talk in a Japanese Buddhist temple in Germany. However, it was here at Eko-Haus that I began to see how the Jodo Shinshu teachings were much more than just a transplanted Japanese cultural way of life. In listening to the European Shin Buddhists, I began to truly see the universal appeal of Shinran's teachings. The European students were not Japanese, nor were they connected to Japanese genetically or culturally; however, the Nembutsu teachings were integral to their spiritual lives as human beings."

The 18th European Shin Buddhist Conference, held in Antwerp, Belgium from August 23-26, was attended by about 50 people. His Eminence Koshin Ohtani, Zenmonshu, and Lady Noriko Ohtani, Zenourakata of the Hongwanji-ha also attended. Various papers and presentations were made by the European participants, expressing how Jodo Shinshu is finding roots within the cultural traditions of their countries. Rev. Hirano observed, "There were Romanians stressing the importance of Shinjin (faith) in our lives, Polish representatives wanting to discuss ecological topics relevant to Shinshu, and English (as in England) representatives speaking about how Shinshu

must look to the concept of the diffusion of innovations in a religious sense. Jodo Shinshu is truly an international teaching."



Rev. Frank Kobs welcomes members of the JSCC group to Anjin-do in Mönchengladbach, Germany. Photo by Andy Mayeda.

Contact the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office at (510) 809-1441 or email hongwanjioffice@bcahq.org. To learn more about the 2016 JSCC August Workshop, visit our website JSCC.cbe-bca.org and click on "August Workshop."

2016 Summer Pacific Seminar: Taking Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Beyond Borders and Beyond Expectations

From August 19-21, the 2016 Summer Pacific Seminar - 21st Century was hosted at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Professor Jessica L. Main from the University of British Columbia and Professor Mark Blum from the University of California at Berkeley gra-



Dr. Mark Blum and Dr. Jessica Main

ciously agreed to speak when the original keynote speakers were unable to attend. Their presentations were described as "excellent," "wonderful," and "beyond expectation."

In addition to the talks, a podcast, a book discussion, and a day of "Music Beyond Borders" rounded out the program. Below are some images with quotes from participants.



"I thought that the seminar was about globalization of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism [spreading to other countries from Japan], but I found out that it was not about that. The border is our prejudice, preference, comfort zone, etc. We have to keep our borders but at the same time, we have the ability to take down the borders and go beyond them. This is the most insightful point I learned at this seminar."



Above: Dr. Mark Blum (center) and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (standing, far right) in discussion with the attendees in the Jodo Shinshu Center lobby. Left: Rev. Harry Bridge (left) and Dr. Scott Mitchell present a Dharmarealm.com podcast. Below: Participants listen attentively to Dr. Jessica Main's presentation. Photos by Yumi Hatta.



"This was another wonderful experience of the Sangha coming together to learn and share. Dr. Main's talk showed how much more we need to do to make the world a better place."



"Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Beyond Borders opened up an important dialogue about social issues and really showed how there are many different perspectives of what is happening and how important it is for all of us to listen and talk about these issues."





"The most unique part of the seminar was the music. I loved it! Wish we could bring the music to our temple. Wish also that more people could have heard the talks."

Sunday's musical program spanned the ages, from ancient Gagaku music, to contemporary gathas written by BCA and Hawaii sangha members, to a heavy metal version of Ondokusan. Upper photo: Rev. Kojo Kakihara (left) and Rev. Yuki Sugahara lead the audience in chanting Ojoraisan. Center photo: Dii Lewis (left) explains and demonstrates his compositions that feature call and response singing, assisted by Carl Wilmsen on banjo (center) and Edythe Vassall (right) and Tony Hale (inset) on vocals. Lower: Rev. Harry Bridge plays Ondokusan on electric bass.





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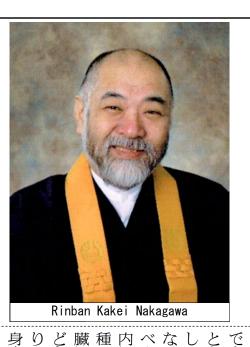
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今月の法話

唐獅子牡丹(からじしぼたん)

本願寺フレスノ別院輪番

中川嘉慧



れています。 えを伝える事がらや、人々の理想や夢が表現さ お寺の本堂の中の装飾には、ほとけ様のみ教

シーズー犬ではなく、「唐獅子」(チャイニー との出来るものですし、日本の人ならそれが、 ります。BCAの仏教会に限らず、ほとんどの 仏教寺院に行けば必ずと言ってよいほど見るこ 説明がいるようです。 ズ ライオン)であることは周知なのですが、少々 つに、シーズー犬のような動物の彫像や絵があ 外からの訪問者からよく質問されるものの一

る処には、必ず大輪の花も一緒に描かれてある そして、この中国風「ライオン」の絵や像のあ この「ライオン」と「牡丹」の組み合わせの装 のに気づくはずです。この花が「牡丹」です。 飾は、どこの国の仏教寺院にも必ず見られるも 「ライオン」のことと覚えておいてください。

ルとなっています。その理由はインドの古い話 ので、そこが仏教寺院であることを示すシンボーづきました。

ここからきています。 然界の王者として動物世界に君臨していました。 身中の虫(しし、しんちゅうのむし)」の諺は、 とが出来ず、ジャングルに隠れ住んでいました。 ります。あとは死ぬのを待つだけです。「獅子 ども、自分でどうすることも出来ない事態に陥 種の病原虫がそうです。一たびこの病原虫が肝 内にありました。ライオンの肝臓に巣食うある でさえ、ライオンの群れを恐れて平原に出るこ ライオンは無敵でした。あのベンガル・タイガー たころ、そこでも例外にもれず、ライオンは自 臓に巣食うと、如何に百獣の王ライオンといえ べき天敵の存在がありました。外にではなく、 など有るわけがありません。ライオンにも恐る しかしながら、この世の中に本当に無敵の存在 昔々、インド亜大陸にまだライオンが沢山い

がありました。 ただし、ここに一つだけライオンの助かる道

来る薬草だったのです。特に牡丹の花の香りに ライオンが野生の牡丹園で静養すること数週間、 の群生地に赴きます。実は、この牡丹こそが唯 含まれるある種の成分を病原虫は嫌うのです。 肝臓に巣食う病原虫であると知った時、賢いラ イオンは群れから離れて、野生に咲き誇る牡丹 、ライオンの肝臓病原虫を駆除することの出 ライオンが体調の変化に気づき、その原因が

ました)を文献だけに頼って描いたものなので 上の動物とされていますが、正確には、昔の中 言ってもよいのですが、「唐獅子」はやはり す。ですから、たしかに人間の想像力の所産と (19世紀まで、インドにもライオンが沢山い から逃げ出してしまうので 遊ぶということになります。 丹の園で花を相手にじゃれ した。病の癒えたライオン は、うれしさのあまり、牡 た病原虫はライオンの身体 昔のインド人は、この自

国人が、一度も見た事のない「インドライオン」

「唐獅子」は、俗に昔の中国人が創った想像

あら不思議と肝臓に寄生し

との関係が、何やら人間と お寺の関係に似ていると気 察して、ライオンと牡丹園 然界で起こっている事を観

> 生涯の天敵の存在があるのです。このたびは、 う)」=「自己中心性」であると、ズバリ明確 肝臓の中にではなく、こころの中にです。 になさいました。 お釈迦さまは、その天敵のことを「我執(がしゅ)お寺にお参りしようではありませんか。 ような人類にも、ライオンの場合と同じように、 いないように思われます。しかしながら、その の科学と文化に対して挑戦できる生き物など、 築き上げて君臨する王様であるといえます。そ

| 奥底では自分の損得のみを考えています。 この と言えましょう。人間が生きて行く上で経験す それが永遠に続くと錯覚して「執(と)らわれて ビの画像に似た束の間の存在である「我」に、 る、ほとんどすべての苦しみや厄介事は、この 因があることを、お釈迦さまは明らかにされま いる」状態と説明されます。この誤った執着の ない心の働きことです。本当は実体のないテレ 自分のことのみ考えて、他人のことを一切考え とえ他人を気遣うそぶりはみせても、その心の 心はいつも自分だけを大事に思っています。た 心は無意識の内にも働くので、実に厄介な天敵 「我執(がしゅう)」=「自己中心性」にその原 「我執(がしゅう)」=「自己中心性」とは、

の利益のために他人を押しのけて、うまく生き す。自分に都合のよい理由をつくりあげ、自分 人間はこの心によって平気で他人を傷つけま ようとします。そうする事に

せん。すべて、「我執(がしゅ 外国を攻撃し、多くの人々を 基づいて、胸を張って他人や て来ることも知らないで。 る業なのです。 手にとっては迷惑であること 殺します。自分の正義が、相 人間は自分の考える

正義に

今や人間こそが、この地球上に唯一、文明を ;つにいたっている現代社会が、この「我執(が しゅう)」=「自己中心性」にあやつられた人 の未来におおきな危惧を抱くのは、こころある 間の意志によってのみ運営されるとしたら、そ 度、真剣にほとけの教えを聞く必要があるよう 人なら当然だと思われます。 に思います。ライオンが牡丹園をさがすように、 原子力をはじめとして、 超強力なパワーを持 われわれはもう一

う)」の暴走を、唯一、くい止めることの出来 る場所かも知れません。ライオンが牡丹園に行 くように。 か不思議な力で護られていると感じることの出いる場所です。一歩足を踏み入れるだけで、何 なってしまうであろう天敵である「我執(がしゅ 来るでしょう。そして、あなた自身を必ずや損 又あなたのご先祖たちの想い お寺はお釈迦さまをはじめ、 や夢が伝えられて 諸高僧、先人達、

一寺のシンボルになっている理由がお分かりいた だけたらと思います。 「ライオン」と「牡丹」の 組み合わせが、お

東部教区ダイジ

ゴ、中西部仏教会で開催され 開教使アシスタントの研修会 -MAP in シカ (MAP) がシカ 東部教区のアシ

か必ず形を変えて、自分に戻っ。スタント26名が参加した。

(写真右下)

よって生まれた結果が、いつ

がシーブルックで 一EBLカンフ

る巻ようです。
う)」=「自己中心性」のなせ、ニア、シカゴなどから約60名の門徒が参加しう)」=「自己中心性」のなせ、ニア、シカゴなどから約60名の門徒が参加して、バージャイン・「ま幸」カード、ソファレンスが行われ、ニューヨーク、バージャイン・ディー など、目にも耳にもはいりま。ジャージ州のシーブルック仏教 九月のレイバーデイウィー (写真左下) 教会で東部教区力 クエンドにニュー

使がサリナス仏教会を監督する。一使が8月に辞職、新関デニス開教野ジェリー開教使が監督する。いたアイダホオレゴン仏教会は平いをアイダホオレゴン仏教会は平のが後任として赴任した。藤本師のかとりまント別院の大下ボブ輪番 教教 平の使番



MAP hosted in Chicago(right)



2016年10月号

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一一六年度教化標語 まことの人生を

ウェブサイドこて読めます。 esofamerica.org /about-us/wheel-ofdharma

寺オフィスの桑原開教使は「英語通信教育を立ち上げた当 あの記事をもう一度! 親鸞聖人の言葉

http://buddhistchurch

総長の役割はいろいろありますが、

梅津廣道

Ξ.

Germany

齢を迎えている開教使

と思う人も同数以上い

から開教使になりたい が多くいますが、これ

るのでありがたく思い

こ念仏の声が世界にひろまっている状況を喜んだ。 け上真宗センター

すと、終了証書が授与されます。その

二年のコースを終えま

ん、国名も見ることができます。最近 証書をサインするとき、 名前をもちろ ピューターを使って浄土真宗の教えを

現在でも五十名以上の人がコン

十名以上が二年のコースを終了.

してい

してくださっています。すでに百七

桑原浄信師がコーディネー

れた。ワークショッ

所在する恵光寺で行わ

宗英語通信教育のワ

8月20日

 \pm

センターで開催されて

どうやって浄土真宗に触れたのだろう

ていることは感無量でした。

教使(ロサンゼルス別院)が浄土真宗センターを訪れ、 サンフランシスコ仏教会、サンマテオ仏教会を訪問、各仏 し、門徒 と、仏教教育が中心の浄土真宗センターを見学、 ・シスーミンが争上真宗センターを訪れ、セハリウッド仏教会門徒10名と高田興芳開 高田開教使は、 宿 開かれたプログラムということで、夏 ターではなく、ドイツのデュッセルド これはアメリカだけではなく、 ルフで行ったのです。 のスクーリングを今年は浄土真宗セン かと思う国の人がいました。

光寺にはヨーロッパ ることになった。

が高まっていることを

で浄土真宗への関心

法 輪

今までお 意識を高 Hollywood Buddhist Temple members visited

ですかがっ要

影響のない視点から浄土真宗を理解されているところが新

ことに似ていることも私たちと違っているところだと思い

法を主

から

した道

親鸞聖人がお念仏の教えに出遇われた 禅やチベット仏教などを経て真宗にと 名が集った。BCAからは梅津総長、

平野ジェリー

めた。ツアー

参加者は、

寺はコミュ

ティー

プログラムには、各開教区の活動報告、

Jodo

Shinshu August Wo

Workshop in Germany Correspondence Course



Watanabe Masanori 渡辺 正憲 師

(オックスナード仏教会駐在開教使)

「お慈悲の中で」 Gashō Yanagida 柳田 雅祥 師

(米国仏教大学院生) Date: Saturday, October 8 2016

Place : Jodo Shinshu Center 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley Reg. Fee: \$15 (昼食代込み / 当日いただきます)

友人、ご家族をお誘い合わせの上、是非ご参加ください。 米国仏教団仏教教育部 担当:桑原

Email: kkuwahara@bcahq.org Tel: 510-230-8439

原田マービン開教使、桑原浄信開教使が法 れる。法要は午前9時半から講堂で営まれ、 プンハウスやツアー、 午後5時からバーク 話およびスピーチをする。 午後からはオー IBSの松本デイビッド開教使、CBEの 10周年記念法要ならびにイベントが行わ 一仏教会でバーベキューディナーの予定 10月22日(土)に浄土真宗センタ 唱えてきています。

ませんが、親鸞聖人の教えを喜ぶ人は ているのは事実です。また、開教使希 望者の数も 会員の間でも、 増えているように感じます。今までの いただきた 今、アメリカ国内でも数は多くはあり 引退年

教師と学生が顔をあわせることがな

いつもはお互

帰依式を受けて法名を

その人たちの喜びの など夢にもおもいま 私は、まさかドイツ また、日本で育った で世界中の れしくなりました。 顔をみて、 な人が発表を行い、 ようです。 信偈を一緒に からはよろと ヨーロッパの受講者 光寺で行われ いろいろ 本当にう 人とお正 会を行っ 年は桑原 れ、特に にあげる にある恵 しばれた デュッ Bishop Umezu at Eko Haus

が行われますが、多く

開所十周年の記念行事

の方々からのご支援の

たまものであると感謝 しています。ここがで

忌の記念事業の一つとして宗派により

せんでしたが、それが現実に今行われ が今にも外へ出かけようとしてお立ち 分かち合っていてくださいます。私も 聖人はすでに、世界各地でその喜びを 親鸞聖人のみ教えにあえて本当にしあ になっているお姿がありますが、親鸞 のロビーには親鸞聖人

なりました。センター

のプログラムが可能と

きたおかげで、通信教 育や開教使養成など数々

いと願う人の数が増えてき、これからも一緒に聞法を続けてまいり

真宗センターが

となっている。参加希望の方は浄土真宗セ