Oneness in Dharma

Jodo Shinshu Center: Celebrating Three Years!

This month, we mark the third anniversary of the opening of the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley, California. As the centerpiece of the BCA’s current fundraising endeavor, Campaign BCA – The 21st Century, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the many members and supporters of the BCA for your generous financial support and for helping us to see the JSC become a reality. Through your generosity, we have been able to raise over 18 million dollars, and are now fortunate to have the JSC as the BCA focal point of learning and for the dissemination of the Buddha-Dhāma.

Three years ago, as we prepared to open the doors of the Jodo Shinshu Center, it was my desire to see us all come together as “Oneness in Dhāma”. From its first day, the Jodo Shinshu Center has brought together so many different entities, all with a common goal in mind – that is, to share the Buddha-Dhāma with one and all and strengthen the awareness of our Jodo Shinshu Shin tradition and the teachings of Shinran Shōnin here in American society and beyond.

Today, three years later, the JSC is alive and vibrant with a constant flow of people interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism in general and Shin Buddhism in particular. Housing the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), a Hongwanji Office which oversees and administers the English Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and International Ministry Orientation Program, Ryukoku University’s Berkeley Campus (RU-BeC), and the BCA Buddhist Bookstore, the JSC has successfully evolved into an active and vigorous learning center in its short three year history.

Countless seminars, workshops, and classes for BCA ministers, lay members, and up and coming young adult leaders, as well as for the general public and exchange students from Japan, have and continue to be held at the JSC.

Socho Koshin Oguri

Oneness in Dhāma

The Jodo Shinshu Center has also been designated as the BCA’s special commemorative project in honor of the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shōnin. The BCA will be conducting its national observance for Shinran Shōnin’s 750th memorial with a symposium and commemorative service during the 2010 BCA Ministers’ Association and National Council Meeting in San Jose, California on February 27-28, 2010. With this special commemorative designation comes our hope that the JSC will continue to inspire all to live a life guided by the infinite wisdom and compassion that is Amida.

As Socho, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, my motto is, “...to challenge oneself to search in the midst of the uncertainties of life and work, and not be afraid to try out new things or make mistakes along the way.” With this motto as my guide, it is my ultimate desire to bring our Jodo Shinshu Shin Buddhist tradition to the forefront of American society. The JSC is our step in that direction.

I would like to express my special appreciation to Rev. Kodo Umezu, Director of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), and his staff for their exceptional work and effort in developing and organizing many of the programs, classes and seminars that are helping to expand the visibility of our Shin Buddhist tradition here in America and beyond. I wish to extend my congratulations to the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), which marked its 60th Anniversary this past September. In particular, I thank Dr. Richard Payne, Dean of the IBS, and his staff, for their...
Our BCA Jodo Shinshu Center

By Billy H. Saeki
BCA President

T he first time I walked into the building that would become the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center, I saw concrete floors, block walls, earthquake reinforcements, and puddles of water mixed with dust and oil. I saw .

Yesterday is Today; Today is Today; Tomorrow is Today

By Kent Matsuda
Chair, Campaign Committee

O n behalf of the Campaign Committee, I would like to thank all the BCA members and friends who have donated to Campaign BCA. In particular, the Campaign received very generous donations from Hiroji Kariya, the Azurani Foundation, Bukkkyo Dendo Kyoikai, America, the Hongwanji, and Ryukoku University. Together, we have raised over $18 million!

The delicate balance between the religious requirements incorporated into an existing, historical building proved to be daunting, but the challenges and frustrations demanded of this project was well worth the efforts everyone generously provided.

The time has passed quickly and it is gratifying, for me as an architect, to see the Jodo Shinshu Center utilizing the building with the cultural and social programs enhancing the religious educational programs, as we had visualized in the design of this project.

As we reflect on the familiar words of Socho Koshin Ogui, we at the Jodo Shinshu Center wish to express our appreciation to the late Mrs. Yasuko Kariya and Dr. Hiroji Kariya for their vision and unlimited commitment to the growth and development of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

Congratulations BCA

By Sady Hayashida
Jodo Shinshu Center architect

T he first time I walked into the building that would become the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center, I saw concrete floors, block walls, earthquake reinforcements, and puddles of water mixed with dust and oil. I saw Reggie Jackson’s faded name scrawled across the wall of what had been his auto dealer’s showroom. I saw the cavernous, abandoned auto repair shop. The building was empty and lifeless.

But standing inside the building, with past BCA President Jim Uusi and architect Sady Hayashida, they saw beyond the empty building. They described a vision for an educational facility where Nembutsu followers could come to learn and share the Dharma, where Buddhists of all sects could gather and celebrate the teachings, and where we could look outward and reach out to the public. They shared a vision for a center to spread Jodo Shinshu to the English speaking world and beyond.

Today, three years since the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center opened its doors in October 2006, the vision Jim Uusi and Sady Hayashida described is becoming a reality. The Center is home to the Institute of Buddhist Studies, the BCA Center for Buddhist Education, Ryukoku Berkeley Education Center and Offices of Hongwanji with their International Minister Orientation Program and Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course.

As the education center for the Buddhist Churches of America, it is appropriate that the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center is our commemorative project for Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial Observance.

Shinran Shonin, living in a time of violence and disunity, brought us the Nembutsu. His statue stands in the lobby of the Center warmly welcoming all to enter.

Reverently in Gassho and Appreciation,
Nama Amida Butsu
Dharma Pathways

The Pipeline Through Which Water Flows

By Marvin Harada
Orange County Buddhist Church

Dr. Nobuo Haneda has frequently used the example of a pipeline and water to illustrate how Buddhism flows to us throughout the centuries. The essence is the Dharma, or the water, and the pipeline are the translators of the Dharma, the great masters and patriarchs of our Buddhist tradition. I would include in that as well, the great translators of Buddhist sutras, who at the risk of their lives, traveled from India to China, or from China to Japan, to transmit Buddhism to a new world. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our predecessors, to the countless Buddhists, both priests and lay, who have been the pipeline that has enabled the water of the Dharma to reach us. But if I can take Dr. Haneda’s use of the pipeline example one step further, I think that we can say that in addition to the people who have served as the transmitters, there have been facilities over the centuries that have served as the pipeline to transmitting the Dharma. Our magnificent Nishi Hongwanji’s two main hondos, the Gneida and the Amidado, have been facilities that have allowed the Dharma to be expounded and transmitted for several hundred years. Kennyo Shinonin, the 8th patriarch of our Hongwanji, was an amazing leader and propagator of the Dharma. What amazes me about his life was the fact that he built so many temples in his lifetime. Those temples enabled living Shin Buddhists to gather, listen to the Dharma, and to transmit the Nembutsu.

To me, our wonderful Jodo Shinshu Center, is that kind of facility that will serve as part of the pipeline of transmitting the water of the Dharma here in the West. It was and continues to be a wonderful facility, even in its early years of use. IBS enrollment has increased dramatically, with more students from GTU taking IBS courses and becoming introduced to Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. We are gaining more ministerial candidates who are studying at IBS, and the facilities provides a wonderful place for them to study with our IBS staff. The Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) is putting on wonderful educational and propagation programs, even beyond what we envisioned that it would do. Our BCA Bookstore has increased its sales since its move to the JSC, and clearly it is more visible to the general public than it was at the BCA headquarters. Ryukoku University sends over young college students from Japan and their horizons are broadened through their study abroad program held at our JSC. Our JSC is now the home base for the Hongwanji Correspondence course in which people from various parts of the world are studying Jodo Shinshu online. It is also the home base for the International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP), which will make a huge difference in preparing ministers from Japan in becoming future kaikyoshi.

When we see all that we are gaining from the activities and programs being held at our Jodo Shinshu Center, how can we not feel excited and positive about the future? I think the JSC is one of the most positive and historic things that our BCA has undertaken. I feel with confidence that it will continue to be a part of the pipeline that allows the water of the Dharma to flow in this country. It will be a part of that pipeline even beyond my lifetime, and hopefully for decades to come.

Deadline Date has been Extended to December 1, 2009
For the Art Contest and the Haiku Submissions

Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial
Observance with Poetry Calling for Haiku and Tanka

For more information visit the Shinran Shonin’s website: www.ingassho.com

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

□ YES! I’m enclosing is my /our special gift of:
  ( ) $500, ( ) $1,000, ( ) $5,000* ( ) $10,000,
  ( ) $______ other amount to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

□ YES! I would like to pledge a total of:
  ( ) $500, ( ) $1,000, ( ) $5,000* ( ) $10,000,
  ( ) $______ other amount over a period of ( ) to ( ) years
  to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

Check enclosed, make payable to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

Check enclosed, make payable to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century.

A gift or pledge of $5,000 or more will permanently place your name on the donor wall,
Amidado and Goeido.

Deadline: October 15, 2009
For more information: Call 510 809-1460 Email: director@cbe-bca.org
Website: www.bcacenews.wikiispaces.net

Many thanks to the entire staff of the Jodo Shinshu Center for their contributions to this issue of the Wheel of Dharma.
Inspired by Shinran Shonin! Mission and Programs of BCA Center for Buddhist Education

Mission:
Mission: Inspired by Shinran Shonin’s legacy, the BCA Center for Buddhist Education seeks to provide diverse learning opportunities to deepen the understanding and appreciation of Buddha’s wisdom and compassion among Sangha leaders and the broader community.

T
The Jodo Shinshu Center: A Special Space for Sharing Shinran’s Life Teachings
Since 2005, the JSC has hosted the Ministers’ Education, International Ministerial Program and the Hongwanji Youth Exchange Program with local temple ministers, IBS, and other entities within and beyond BCA—to launch an awareness of learning opportunities based at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Programs are always in progress and your comments are welcome! Look for program details at www.bca.beneswites.net.

Supporting a Thriving Jodo Shinshu Ministry—BCA CBE coordinates training programs with local temple ministers, IBS, the Office of the Bishop and Hongwanji-ha, including CBE programs. BCA CBE includes: the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC), College YBA retreats; and the Hongwanji Youth Exchange Program. New other areas of programming are Dharma School Teachers Seminars complement the work of the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League; and BCADharmaSchool.wikispaces.net developed by Mas Nishimura makes teaching materials accessible and promote sharing and exchange among educators. Japanese Language Seminars, planned with the assistance of Rev. Eijun Kujo and Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, have featured guest speakers Rev. Sensho Inouye, Rev. Ryuta Furumoto, Rev. Shoki Mohri, and for October 31st, Rev. George Chulo Matsubayashi.

Leadership Training, Education & Networking - Seminars and retreats are planned to assist temples in providing for their diverse and changing sanghas. Key activities launched by CBE include: Temple Leadership Seminars, Generation Y (Techno-Buddha) Workshops, Baby Boomers Seminars, and the Golden Years Focus Groups. The annual Dharma School Teachers Seminars complement the work of the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League; and BCADharmaSchool.wikispaces.net developed by Mas Nishimura makes teaching materials accessible and promote sharing and exchange among educators. Japanese Language Seminars, planned with the assistance of Rev. Eijun Kujo and Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi, have featured guest speakers Rev. Sensho Inouye, Rev. Ryuta Furumoto, Rev. Shoki Mohri, and for October 31st, Rev. George Chulo Matsubayashi. Youth Programming supported by CBE includes: the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC), College YBA retreats; and the Hongwanji Youth Exchange Program. Other new areas of programming are the Dharma of Music Workshop, launched in 2009; and Crossing Over to Shin Buddhism: a seminar geared for new members from non-Jodo Shinshu Buddhist backgrounds. Sharing and Appreciating Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Internationally - Dharma seekers now have more pathways to Shin Buddhism, including: the Jodo (Correspondence Course), an online course developed in collaboration with Hongwanji-ha; the Pacific Seminar 21st Century, an annual two-day dharma intensively co-sponsored with IBS; and Teaching, which, in 2009, featured Dr. Toshikazu Arai (Soai University, Osaka); Dr. Nobuo Hameda (Maida Center); and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (IBS). CBE publications include: Grassed by the Buddha’s Veil—A translation and commentary on the Tantsho; by Dr. Toshikazu Arai, and Jodo Shinshu: A Guide (concise, abridged edition).

Buddhist and Interfaith Dialogue, Culture & Community: The Jodo Shinshu Center is fast becoming a nexus for Buddhist dialogue and culture with a variety of public events, often presented in partnership with IBS, the BCA Bookstore, and others. Public Lectures have included VR Leary Keisho of the California Tendai Monastery Monastery; and Rev. Ichijo Ogawa, Director, Shinsu Shumai Paratani Institute, Higashi Hongwanji. Book Signing & Talks, co-sponsored with the BCA Bookstore, have included authors Clark Strand (How to Relieve in God—who arnot You Believe in Religion, Toshikazu Arai (Grasped by the Buddha’s Veil), and Mark L. Blum (The Origins and Development Of Pure Land Buddhism). Film Screenings include: “Dorokku” (Roots of Blessing) by Satoko Ashura, and the upcoming “1/4 Miracles” (on 10/13, 6 pm).

Cultural Presentations have included The Art of Noh with 15th Generation Noh Master: Asano Atrushi. Community Outreach: An Interfaith Presidential Inauguration Celebration was hosted in January as part of a community-wide effort to promote community service and compassion.

Ministers’ Assistants Program (MAP) Training – Over 60 Trailblazers
Since 2005, CBE has collaborated with IBS, Hongwanji-ha, BCA Bookstore, FDSL and other entities within and beyond BCA—to launch an array of learning opportunities—based at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Programs are always in progress and your comments are welcome! Look for program details at www.bca.beneswites.net.

Dr. Lisa Grumbach (left) leading seminar with MAP students.

Dr. Lisa Grumbach (left) leading seminar with MAP students.

or contact CBA CBE Director Rev. Kodo Umezu at director@cbe-bca.org or phone (510) 809-1460.

May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World
A Bi-monthly Shin Buddhist PodCast

S ince March of 2008, Rev. Harry Bridge of the Buddhist Church of Oakland and Scott Mitchell of the Institute of Buddhist Studies have been getting together to talk about the Bud-

da and the Dharma for a podcast called the Dhar-

aRealm. What’s a podcast? Think of it as a radio show that you can download to your computer, iPod or mobile device and listen to whenever you want.

Our talks are conversational and accessible. Even when we tackle difficult issues like karma and reincarnation, social justice issues and the fu-

ture of Shin Buddhism in the West, we do it with simplicity and humor. In special episodes, we do our best to answer questions sent to us by our lis-

teners which provides a great way for us to connect with our larger, Buddhist community. As one of our listeners put it, “Religion has never been so much fun!”

Episodes are posted to the web the first and third Friday of the month in audio-format. This means that you can take our podcast with you and listen in your car or on the road. We do all of our recording right here at the Jodo Shinshu Center in the Kodo. Harry mixes the audio and the music, and Scott distributes it via the Internet.

This October we’re hosting a special even-

where we’ll be recording an episode in front of a live audience at the JSC. This will give people a chance to see how it all comes together and ask us questions in real time. Look for episodes based on this live event in November and December.

To access the podcast, visit http://www.dhar-

aramel.com where you can listen to episodes through your web browser or download them to your computer. We’re also on iTunes. Just search "DharmaRealm" at the (iTunes Music Store and click the "subscribe" button. It’s free!

Feel free to contact us with questions at ask-

@dharmarealm.com

By Glenn Kameda

Interim Facility Manager, Jodo Shinshu Center

A Place Called JSC

I t was the Spring of 2008 when I was invited to join the BCA Tenant Committee an ad hoc group whose task was to formulate and implement an operational plan for CBE, IBS, Ryukoku, Hong-

wanji, and BCA Bookstore organi-

zations within the still in construc-

tion JSC. As we near the final con-

struction period and looking forward to receiving the Occupan-

cy Permit a voice was heard ———

"Who Is Going To Manage This Place Called the Jodo Shinshu Center," a very loud silence was followed by “What Do You Mean?”

Having spent 25+ years managing vari-

ous industries as a Facility/ Environmental Manager I was asked to write up a job description to recruit a person or persons to manage the JSC. We received sev-

eral responses to the ad but not meeting the requirement we were looking for, and with a short time limit to opening day is how I be-

came the “Interim” facility man-

ager of the JSC. My retirement pe-

riod was so short that I did not even taste my so called retirement.

So from July 2006 Richard Endo and I went shopping for sup-

plies to make the JSC a liveable place for all who will be visiting and/or staying for an evening or two. Pillow cases, blankets, com-

forters, soap, shampoo, clock/radio for all the sleeping quarters donat-

ed by Palo Alto Jr. YBA, lamps for all the quarters donated by San Mateo Jr. YBA, hair dryers donat-

ed by Sumi Tanabe of San Jose and on and on. In less than 30 days we were able to furnish the kitchen as well as our first occupant’s on the day we received the Occupancy Permit (8/3/06). Yes, the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Jr. YBA Pacific Tour bus pulled up at the JSC for a two night stay on August 3, 2006. Guess what? Three years later the same Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Jr. YBA bus pulled up at the JSC on July 31, 2009.

August – December 2006: CBE getting established, and starting BCA’s Buddhist Edu-

cation department.

The August thru December 2006 time line was spent organiz-

ing and establishing Policies and Procedures, system for scheduling reservations, hosting, security is-

sues, maintenance, housekeeping, budgeting, vendor contracts, and tweaking the technical systems so that everyone was able to conduct their business effectively and effi-

ciently.

The JSC is equipped with an up-to-date technical system. Com-

puter data with website, e-mail, phone system, electronic cardkey locks for entry ways, parking lot gates, motion sensor light controls in all rooms within the building, programmable outdoor lights, drip irrigation for the landscape. The KODO is a spiritual center as well as a multi-purpose center equipped with surround sound speakers, wireless microphones, drop screen projector to which you can connect your laptop power point presentation and show DVD’s.

The year 2007 IBS and Cam-

paign BCA management, and Hon-

gwanji moved their base of opera-

tion into the JSC. The Jodo Shinshu Center is utilizing 95% of the office space 100% of the time.

The year 2007 was spent fully developing each of the Tenants/ Departments programs and activi-

ties with a full slate of scheduled classes, retreats, workshops, semi-

nars, and tours, by weekend vis-

itors from throughout BCA. It was a challenge, and took much discipline to maintain a timely and exclusive schedule and

Continued on Page 10
CBE programs put the BCA vision in motion – Making the JSC Smile

Many exciting programs have been taking place at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) since its opening in 2006. I always say that the JSC smiles when people come to participate in CBE programs. We are very grateful for your vision and support for this one-of-a-kind facility in the world.

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education, known as CBE, is an educational institution for our sangha, and its office is located in the JSC building. I believe that the BCA exists for people. This organization was founded, protected and taken care of by people who reverence our rich religious tradition and find great value in it. Those people are the supporters and members of the BCA. And now this organization is reaching out to the larger community.

Buddhist education is like farming; it requires constant effort. Each task may seem insignificant, but each task is very important. Education requires everyone’s support and contributions. Each temple provides the nectar of the Dharma to the young, old and everyone in between. Ministers and minister’s assistants work together to enhance their ministries. Temple and church leaders share a vision and goal with their ministers. Buddhist education is like farming; it requires constant effort. Each task may seem insignificant, but each task is very important. Education requires everyone’s support and contributions.

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While some CBE programs may not seem to have immediate results, we have heard program participants say that CBE programs deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu Dharma. As a result, they can share their joy and gratitude with others, and that is bound to have a long-term impact on the growth of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in our communities.

Once again, I would like to thank Socho Ogui, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, our leadership team, and all staff members for their support. I would also like to thank the staff members and countless numbers of volunteers who work tirelessly to plan and implement these programs. And I would like to share the excitement with you by showing some photos (see images on front page) taken during our programs.

By Rev. Kodo Umezu

The Institute of Buddhist Studies Podcast

http://podcast.shin-ibs.edu

Each year, the IBS routinely invites a number of distinguished scholars to give talks and lectures, small seminars, or host events for our students and the larger BCA community. We often record these events for our online digital archive and make them publicly available through a freely distributed podcast.

Past episodes of the IBS Podcast have included:
* presentations from the IBS Winter Symposium held during the BCA National Council Meeting
* highlights of our Spring Open House that showcased our chaplaincy training program
* Judith Simmer-Brown’s keynote address to the Women in American Buddhism conference in Denver, September 2008

Since the academic year, we do our best to post new episodes on a regular basis, within one month or two of an event. Recently, we have begun turning older lectures recorded on a cassette tape into digital files, so look for some great historical and archival materials in the near future.

Visit the IBS News and Events Blog for more information on upcoming lectures and events at http://www.shin-ibs.edu/news-events/

To access the podcast, visit http://podcast.shin-ibs.edu where you can watch or listen to episodes through your web browser or download them to your computer. We’re also on iTunes. Just search “Institute of Buddhist Studies” at the iTunes Music Store and click the “subscribe” button.

It’s free!

Podcasts are small audio or video files that are accessible via the Web. Once downloaded, you can put them on your laptop or mobile device and take them with you anywhere. You can even burn them to CDs or DVDs, and they make a great resource for students or the classroom. TRIX of them as radio or television shows that you can download to your computer and listen to or watch at your leisure.

If you have questions about the IBS Podcast, feel free to contact the IBS Website and Multimedia Director, Scott Mitchell, at scott@shin-ibs.edu or (510) 809-1449.
What is RUBEc?

Nhishi Honganji and Ryukoku University in Kyoto both joined with the BCA in a vision to have a Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in America. With the JSC’s location in the world class educational environment of Berkeley, California Ryukoku University has expanded opportunities for its students to have brief or extended stays in America to study the language of world communication, English, and have an introduction to contemporary American society. The program is called “Berkeley Intensive English” (BIE). The English Studies Institute (ESI) located on the University of California campus conducts the English language study. The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) provides instruction in American cultural, social, and religious issues to the BIE students, using to full advantage the wonderful classroom space within the JSC. The day-to-day administration of the program is handled through the offices of Ryukoku University Berkeley Center (RUBEc) located within the JSC on the first floor right behind the statue of Shinran Shonin.

Thirty eight students from Ryukoku’s three campuses came to the very first session in August of 2006 for a five-week period. In late September a group of 39 students arrived to begin a semester stay of four and a half months. With this pattern alternating, we now average between 30 and 35 students per session. The majority are sophomores with the occasional freshman who ventures out early to test the waters of studying abroad and a number of juniors and seniors who want overseas adventure within an academic environment of freedom to learn and experiment before the responsibilities of job and eventually family life take center stage.

We have now entered our fourth year, welcoming and teaching Ryukoku students at the JSC. I see them from the perspective of a teacher and an administrator. My associate Ms. Yufuko Kurioka, herself a graduate of Ryukoku University, and myself as a native speaker of Japanese in IBS and I assist Dr. Scott Mitchell who develops the curriculum for the American Culture and Society portion of the students’ studies at the JSC. Outside of the classroom and in the RUBEc offices, Yufuko and I address the multicultural needs of the students in their daily lives here, ranging from medical emergencies to less dramatic adjustments to life in America such as how to get to Tokyo Fish Market in Berkeley so they can get some real Japanese food when they can’t eat another bowl of oatmeal or another piece of meatloaf.

We maintain close contact with the International Center of Ryukoku University in Kyoto that develops this and all overseas educational programs. RUBEc not only coordinates the Ryukoku end of the BIE programs, but also provides staff support for other graduate and faculty research opportunities. RUBEc also acts as emergency contact for all Ryukoku students studying at various universities in the US.

ESI has two dimensions to its part of the BIE program. The first is language, communication skills, grammar and pronunciation. They also match up young people with Cal students studying Japanese. They develop relationships that take them through their entire stay. The second dimension is the Internships in which our students participate. There are four areas from which they may choose: (1) assisting in K-12 classrooms, (2) providing companionship for seniors at several senior day centers in Berkeley, (3) assist in homeless outreach and childcare in San Francisco’s Tenderloin, and (4) work with community environmental groups in Alameda County. It is here that “the rubber meets the road.” The students take what they have learned about American society, their new communication skills outside of the classroom in to concrete settings. Each day they return from their internship settings to the JSC where their mentors help them analyze and articulate their experience into individual “portfolios” and group presentations before an audience of classmates, teachers and anyone else from the JSC who might be interested.

All of this learning, experiencing, and interpreting that takes place among our Ryukoku students in Japan and which they develop with faculty, staff and students in America goes on all year round in the Jodo Shinshu Center, which has become a dynamic center for BCA activity, nationally and internationally.

I.M.O.P.: the Future of the Ministry

In September 2008, the Hongwanji, our mother temple in Kyoto, took a new step to promote and develop future international missionary work of Jodo Shinshu. In order to effectively educate and develop Japanese Kaikyoku and its missionaries, the Hongwanji decided to run a 100-day intensive training program yearly at the Jodo Shinshu Center in collaboration with the Center for Buddhist Education and the Institute of Buddhist Studies. The program is called the International Ministerial Orientation Program (I.M.O.P.), which consists of 6 activity groups as shown in the following diagram.

Through various lectures and activities of I.M.O.P., Japanese aspirants will gain valuable knowledge and experience with which they can establish a foundation of their mission activities in the future. Furthermore, by actually living in the United States, they can gain and benefit from exposure to American culture and lifestyle.

The first I.M.O.P. session was conducted from September 12 through December 21, 2008. Four participants successfully completed the program thanks to the support of the local ministers and temple members. Two of them decided to become BCA ministers in order to spread the Nembutsu teaching together with us here in the continental U.S. As soon as they receive their visas, they will return back to the U.S. to work. The second I.M.O.P. 2009 program was initiated on September 11 and Rev. Sugahara, a participant this year, feels ambitious as he starts his 100-day life here.

The teachings of Jodo Shinshu are slowly but steadily being spread all over the world. In order to accelerate the movement, more and more ministers are needed. It is hoped that the I.M.O.P. program will contribute toward the reinforcement of missionary work by producing useful kaikyoki ministers.

ABOUT THE JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, also known as the JSCC, is a newly established on-line program for the study of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism. It is a two-year course developed for anyone wishing to strengthen and enhance their understanding of Jodo Shinshu. It is a particularly convenient way for people who live too far from a temple to expand their knowledge and appreciation for the religion. For those who may prefer to study at home on their own time.

Now in its third enrollment (offered in continual cycles), the program has so far brought together about 130 students from all over the world. In addition to the districts of the BCA, Hawaii and Canada, students come from Japan, Belgium, Poland, Malaysia and South America. The students range from beginners to advanced in the study of Shinshu and while many are already members of temples in their respective districts, it is a common goal for them to re-examine their understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu. Other students who are not temple members are enjoying the benefits of a course.

Read on Page 8
The BCA Bookstore- A Buddhist Bookstore

The JSC Buddhist bookstore has made enormous advances since moving from BCA headquarters to the Jodo Shinshu Center. We now offer online ordering through the bookstore’s website, in addition to the presence on Amazon and Alibris portals. Although all of our sales are nationwide, we have sold items to every continent in the world.

Because we are a Buddhist bookstore, we not only stock a vast selection of Jodo Shinshu reading materials and merchandising, we also have one of the largest current selections of books from other Buddhist sects and denominations. Our walk-in sales have tripled since we opened. The JSC location provides us with high visibility and a light, airy, open atmosphere. Customers browse spacious aisles (providing ample room for wheelchairs) amidst a spacious aisles (providing ample room for wheelchairs) amidst a spacious aisles (providing ample room for wheelchairs) amidst a

JSCC Continued from Page 7
that is open to all. While the JSCC is designed as an introductory course, it satisfies all levels and backgrounds due to the all-inclusive approach to instruction.

The course presently employs 14 instructors made up of professors and ministers from the BCA, Hawaii Koydan, Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada and the United States to teach the four subjects of General Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu I, Jodo Shinshu II and the History of Jodo Shinshu. The subjects are broken down into topics such as the origins of Buddhism, Shrinan Shoin’s life and teaching, the Three Pure Land Sutras, the Seven Masters, and the development of Jodo Shinshu after Shoin Shinran.

At the beginning of each month students are asked to read text which they download from the course website and, by the end of the month, choose an interesting and provocative topic (provided by the instructor) on which to write a short essay. The instructors are then required to respond to the student’s essay providing insightful information or guidance to inspire the student and further expand his or her comprehension.

In addition to the monthly exchange with the instructors, other features of the course include the “Reading Room,” which offers various inspirational writings by Jodo Shinshu ministers, supplemental reference texts, and an interactive message function through which students can exchange communication and occasional chat room activity. The course also offers an exciting two-day workshop in August at the Jodo Shinshu Center which gives the students a fun opportunity to get-together for discussions, special lectures, recreational activities, chanting, and a service in the beautiful Kodo Hall.

The JSCC Staff is proud to announce that The August Workshop ’09 received exceptional ratings for its excellent program.

In summary, the JSCC is a wonderful and effective way to develop one’s understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism through study on-line conveniently with Jodo Shinshu specialists. Whether the purpose is to prepare for the ministry or to just gain better understanding, the JSCC Staff welcomes anyone with interest and an inquisitive mind to join us and support our international propagation of the teachings of Jodo Shinshu. We would also recommend this course for any Dharma school teachers to enhance their knowledge and gain further insight into the teachings.

Here is a quote from our students...

“Through the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, I am privileged to have access to many of the great minds active in Jodo Shinshu today. It is good to have a grounding in basic concepts and to be able to test my perceptions by putting them in writing and receiving comments from the faculty. I hope this is a first step in preparation for the ministry.” (BCA student)
**Personal Reflection: My Path to MAP:**

**The Teachings of the Buddha**

**By Dimitri Bakhroushin**

New York Buddhist Church

For four days, Oct. 16 to 19, 2008, I participated in a seminar for Ministers’ Assistant Program (MAP) presented by the BCA Center for Buddhist Education, hosted at the new Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. The facility is modern and very relaxing, the food is great, and, most of all, the instructors, headed by the Reverend Umezu, are very friendly and like to tell jokes. The Minister’s Assistant Program can also be a stepping stone to a career with Buddhist Churches of America.

For me the program has a special, almost magical, meaning. My life changed in 1979 when I found a copy of *The Teaching of Buddha*, published by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai, was a featured speaker and discussed the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, also published by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai. Reverend T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, the present minister of the New York Buddhist Church has allowed me to read and discuss passages from the book once a month.

During the MAP seminar, it was with great surprise that I discovered that Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education works closely with Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (Numata Center) At the seminar I have just attended, Brian Nagata of the Numata Center for Buddhism and its publishing house, Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai, was a featured speaker and discussed the very books that had such a profound effect upon me. For over thirty years, his organization has a mission to place volumes of *The Teaching of the Buddha* in the world’s hotel rooms, just as the Gideon’s Bible is. While major hotel chains in America have not yet signed on, I feel fortunate to have found an English language copy in a Kyoto hotel, over 30 years ago. I am delighted that these two organizations are working so closely together and I feel my spiritual journey has come full circle.

**Temple Leadership Seminar: “Building a Thriving Sangha”**

**By Paula Kanazawa**

Fresno Buddhist Temple

I found it inspiring to meet and talk with fellow Jodo Shinshu followers, committed to propagating Buddhism with passion, enthusiasm, innovation, and compassion. Joined by the common thread of the Dharma, it was a privilege for me to be in the company of such dedicated individuals who also possessed the spirit of friendship and kindness during our weekend together.

Since this was my first visit to the Jodo Shinshu Center, I was impressed with the center as the home for all BCA members. The beautiful and spacious BCA Bookstore is also housed in the center. Please visit the JSC and participate in the many classes, workshops, and activities offered by the center.

“The Jodo Shinshu Center belongs to all of us – let us all support, both financially and spiritually, our new home for the Dharma.”

**Reminiscences of A Five-Week BIE Student**

**By Donna Inouye**

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple

While in the BIE (Berkeley Intensive English) program I spent much time in the RUBeC (Ryukoku University Berkeley Center) Office. During our English language training period with ESI (English Studies Institute) we came to the JSC, three times a week for classes in American culture and history held by RUBeC in cooperation with the Institute of Buddhist Studies. There were lectures about diverse topics in contemporary America and to understand us, we also learned about slavery, race consciousness, discrimination and how this continues to affect African-Americans and other people of color. Discussion periods were opportunities to strengthen our English speaking skills.

During our two week internship period we came to RUBeC almost every day. Following our daily visits to our assigned internship sites we had debriefing seminars and portfolio developing sessions led by our internship mentors in the JSC classrooms. On the last day of the BIE program each one of us gave a presentation of what we had learned by our participation in the internship. This was followed by a graduation ceremony in the Kodo which added greatly to our memories of RUBeC and the JSC.

Outside of the classroom we received considerable help. Dr. Drummond and Ms. Kurioka, who work in the RUBeC Office even helped us to get tickets for concerts, travel and so forth, even telling us what transportation was available. For correcting our presentations and printing out our texts virtually all of us used the computers in the RUBeC Office. We are truly grateful.

During the time we Japanese stayed in Berkeley RUBeC and the JSC were our refuge. If I have the opportunity of again coming to Berkeley, I will want to visit the people of RUBeC.

Tsujiuchi Yasutaka

Spring 08 five-week group

**Education is the Key!**

**By Donna Inouye**

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple

The BCA Center for Buddhist Education presented the third session of the Temple Leaders Seminar on Sept. 26 – 28. We received valuable information and were entrusted to pass this information on to each of our respective Sanghas. Our days were a sun up to sun down workshop even as we prepared our meals, ate together and cleaned up while continuing to exchange ideas and build relationships.

Experiencing the Jodo Shinshu Center:

Did you know the new Jodo Shinshu Center is actually a re-modeled auto show room? Even with this knowledge, the first time you view the Jodo Shinshu Center, you think, “This building was meant to be our Jodo Shinshu Center.” The building houses a Buddhist bookstore; the main lobby floor is tiled with a mandala pattern and the ceiling lights are fashioned into a Dharma Wheel; a statue of Shinten Shonin calmly occupies a corner and an opposing staircase leads up to a “Kodo” (would be the Hondo if JSC were a temple). Dorm/hotel rooms, class rooms, office room, an interior atrium, kitchen and dining hall spaces finish off the center.

The architecture, layout and managing personnel make attending a seminar here as comfortable and welcoming as attending a weekend in a good friend’s spacious home.

Ensuring the presence of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America through Education

One thought which was stressed throughout this seminar is that the inevitability of goal of BCA and BCA efforts is to unite us as a single entity to ensure the presence of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

At first glance, the key to success seems to be spelled out in terms of dollars and financial fundraisers. But, if we take an extra moment to consider matters, it becomes apparent that the key to success is education; learn about your temple from both a religious and secular viewpoint.

Learn about your temple clergy and the BCA clergy. Learn about and from your fellow Buddhist members. When you know about something, then you care about that something. Don’t hesitate in allowing yourself to become educated – be willing to step forward in instances when you can be the educator.

Ultimately, our success both depends upon and ensures a historical, spiritual and ongoing desire to live a Jodo Shinshu life.

**Letters from Friends**

**Jodo Shinshu Center**

**By Daniel Lindsay, Salt Lake Jr. YBA**

During the long awaited bus trip to the Bay Area, we made a stop at the Jodo Shinshu Center. It was exactly as I expected it to be when I was told about it. The gardens and the Hondo were just as beautiful as I had imagined. It was also very interesting and fun to see all the different rooms and libraries and such that are used there.

The altar was gorgeously crafted. It itself was beautiful but one of the most amazing things about it was the door. If I remember correctly it was handcrafted in Japan and cost a fortune but nevertheless it made that room all the more amazing.

The indoor garden was also very beautiful. It was set up in a manner that brought peace and harmony to the mind. It tempted me to just sit there and meditate for an hour. I didn’t have the time to do so but maybe if I attend any classes there I will be able to.

All together I was very glad I had the opportunity to visit the Jodo Shinshu center. It was a very exciting, inspiring and all-ways-interesting experience. I give my thanks to those who showed us that hour or so of hospitality while we were there.
Oneness in Dharma  Jodo Shinshu Center  Celebrating Three Years

Campaign BCA – The 21st Century

Sady Hayashida
Continued from Page 2

the BCA, which was an integral part of the team that had organized this project from its inception and pushed hard to get it completed in a successful manner. I am proud to have been a part of this incredible team.

Okanobu Kuwahara

Available online at www. bcabookstore.com, and Amazon.com

$15

or by calling (510) 809-1435

Thank you for your continued support of the campaign!

the core of this important and exciting journey was a need for innovative and fresh ideas in interpreting the teachings of Shinran Shonin and relating that understanding to the people of today’s society. The JSC and the programs that continue to emerge from it have truly become the source of that innovation and interpretation.

I hope that the work we do today leave a trail of understanding and appreciation of the Nembutsu teaching for those who follow in our footsteps. And I humbly ask for your continued support.

Gatotsu, Koshin Ogui, Socho Bishop

Buddhist Churches of America

Kameda-JSC

Continued from Page 5

reservations for classrooms by all of the Tenants/Departments. Requests are asked to submit their schedule and facility reservations one year in ad-

va-

nce to receive priority benefits.

So, if you or your Tem-

ple groups, and BCA activi-
ties outside of the JSC De-

partments wish to schedule time and reserve facility at the JSC please remember to plan a year in advance.

In order to keep up with the scheduled classes, events, and visitors/tours during 2008 you had to run 7/24. Operating capacity was at 85% to 90%, 33 of 52 weeks was a 7/24 week/schedule.

Many of the CBE/JSC staff literally lived on site and saw little of their home or spouse. “A Place Called JSC” is now visiting when in town.

Before year 2008 concluded I requested and re-

ceived year 2009 schedules from all of the Tenants (CBE/IBS/RU/BC/HC/Non-

kwan)), and I thought it couldn’t get busier. Here it is September and I’m deal-
ing difficulty remembering what happened from Janu-

ary – August.

Fortunately I have a de-
tailed scheduling log and a reservation log to remind me that it was extremely busy, yes it was 7/24 and

some.

When I repeat, “A Place Called JSC” it’s not just a physical place, not just a meeting place, it’s so much more. It’s truly a Spiritual Place, a Learning Place, a Training Place. A Place that inspires, A Place that reju-

venes, A Place that Awakens the minds eye to the Dharma. I have seen so many inspired students and visitor in the three years since Opening Day, it keeps me motivated, and yes it is truly a place of Learning and Training.

The BCA has re-establish-

ed its Buddhist Educa-
tion Learning and Training Center to supplement the programs of the local Temples. The CBE has assumed the responsibility for Min-

isterial Training, and Bud-

dhist Education programs/activities for all ages. It’s all happening at a Place Called JSC.

“A Place Called JSC,” is nearly 38,000 square feet of usable space. Five class-

rooms, two libraries, one conference room, guest lounge, reception room, Kodo (Hondo) with seating capacity of 130 and/or a meeting room with tables for 60+. There are 19 offic-

ces, a bookstore, kitchen/din-

ing room, sleeping quar-
ters (31 beds), four student apartments, six public bath-

rooms, a student lounge, and a 40-car capacity two-

level parking garage.

A personal viewpoint on “A Place Called JSC,” Dollars spent in purchas-

ing, rebuilding, and operat-
ing the JSC has been re-

bursed Spiritually, and as a result the number of students has increased.

“The fourth historic step was the building of the Jodo Shinshu Center, which created an academic atmosphere for academic study,” he concluded.

Rev. Harry Bridge, Buddhist Church of Oak-

land and an IBS Adjunct Faculty, chaired the cere-

mony.

Prior to the ceremonies, the IBS conducted orientation for the students who will begin the 2009 fall se-

mester. Kumi Hadler, IBS registrar, stated that there were 27 IBS students and 27 GTU students signed up for class.

Core faculty and cours-

es are: Dr. Payne, Issues in the Study of Religions (Doctoral level); Dr. Mar-

suzo, Wirkos of Shinran Shonin II – Teaching, Practice, and Understanding; Dr. Gorum-

bach, Buddhism Traditions of Southeast Asia; and Yufuko Kuroisa, Shin Buddhist Texts: Bud-

dhism Japanes e – Introduction to Zen Meditation; Dr. Hu-

kandajayaba, Buddhist Traditions of Southeast Asia; and Yufuko Kuroisa, Shin Buddhist Texts: Bud-

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仏教教育センター（CBE）

浄土真宗センターは使われれば使われるほど、建物が美しくなっているよう見える。このセンターにはいろいろなグループの人たちが出入りして、仏教や仏壇の教えに出会い、新しくそれぞれの場で喜びを共にしていくのである。

米国仏教団では、仏教教育センターを通じていくつかの研修活動を続けている。今、教団が開発のための指導者を養成するという点で、米国仏教団の役割は重い。新しい時代に即した有能な人材が、各仏教団や新しいフランクティアの場で活動の輪を広げることができる。

主な活動は、開教式、開教式アシスタンスト、ダルマスケール教師のセミナー、仏教団のレクチャーなどを通じて、青少年育成、あるいは親子で共に学び、修行を楽しむことが可能である。これらの活動を通じて、米国仏教団の役割がより明確化されていくことを目指している。

この浄土真宗センターには仏教大学院もそのオフィスをもっており、教育センターのプログラムは、大学院からの協力を得、総長室、教育・研究室、開教式、会員が一つとなって、新しい将来をつくるあがいようになっている。

開教式アシスタンストから、大学院のコースを受講する人を多く有し、そこを卒業した人の中から、案内や執務、また大学キャンパスなどのチャペルでもてくんでいるようである。

このような新しい動きを望んで、米国仏教団が仏教教育団の下、桑原浄信僧がその任にあたっている。多くの開教式の講師のもと、百名以上の受講者が仏教教育を受けている。

本願寺プログラム - 英語通信教育・国際伝道養成講座

本願寺僧侶のしゅの二千五百位を記念して、本願寺では英語通信教育と国際伝道養成講座をはじめめた。バーナーの浄土真宗センター内でオフィスを設け、米国仏教団の仏教教育センターの下、桑原浄信僧がその任にあたっており、多くの開教式の講師のもと、百名以上の受講者が仏教教育を受けている。

また将来開教式を志望する日本からの僧侶を対象とした四ヶ月の養成講座（IMOP）も行っている。
開所から三年を迎えて･･･　
浄土真宗センターのいま
将来を見据えて人材育成に力をあわせる教団