

History of the Pacific Seminar

After World War II, the Buddhist Churches of America began a major annual summer program at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, bringing together scholars, ministers, and lay members to seriously share and listen to the Dharma. They met for the first time in 1952, under the sponsorship of the BCA and the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. Later, the program was called “The Pacific Seminar,” and met at the Asilomar State Campgrounds in Monterey, California.

With the opening of the new Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, the idea of reviving the Pacific Seminar emerged. Since 2008, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) have co-sponsored the “Pacific Seminar - 21st Century” every summer at the JSC and added winter sessions at various BCA temples.

- ❖ January 2017 – **“East Meets West” Dharmathon with Higashi and Nishi Ministers** A series of dharma messages—given by over a dozen ministers from both traditions including Rev. Noriaki Ito, Bishop of the Higashi Honganji North American District; and Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America and Regional Superintendent of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha North American District. (Held at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.)
- ❖ July 2016 – **“Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Beyond Borders.”** Keynote Speakers: Dr. Mark Blum, University of California, Berkeley; and Dr. Jessica L. Main, University of British Columbia. Live podcast of Dharmarealm.com with hosts Rev. Harry Bridge and Dr. Scott Mitchell, gathas by Dii Lewis; and “Ojo Raisen” chanting by Rev. Kojo Kakihara and Rev. Yuki Sugahara.
- ❖ January 2016 – **“East Meets West: Jodo Shinshu from the Higashi and Nishi Perspectives.”** Keynote Speakers: Dr. Mark Blum, University of California, Berkeley, and Rev. Henry Adams, San Mateo Buddhist Temple. (Held at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple.)
- ❖ July 2015 – **“The Call of the Nembutsu.”** Speakers: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Institute of Buddhist Studies, Professor Mitsuya Dake, Ryukoku University, Rev. Uma Lama Ghising, Kathmandu Hongwanji, Nepal, Mushim Ikeda, East Bay Meditation Center, Elaine Donlin, Buddhist Church of San Francisco, Santussika Bhikkhuni, Buddhist Global Relief.
- ❖ March 2015 – **“Life of Awakening: True Teaching.”** Keynote Speaker: Prof. Tomoyasu Naito, *Kangaku*, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, and Professor Emeritus, Ryukoku University. Guest Speaker: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Co-Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education, Program Coordinator, Jodo Shinshu Center Hongwanji Office. (Held at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple.)
- ❖ July 2014 – **“Sea of Suffering, Ocean of Compassion.”** Honored Guests: Rev. Dr. Taitetsu and Mrs. Alice Unno. Keynote Speakers: Rev. Tetsuo Unno and Rev. Dr. Mark Ty Unno. Guest Speaker: Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge, Buddhist Church of Oakland.
- ❖ March 2014 – **“The Benefits of a Life of Shinjin.”** Keynote Speaker: Prof. Nobuhiro Fukagawa, *Kangaku*, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. (Held at the Gardena Buddhist Church.)
- ❖ July 2013 – **“Shinran & Ajatasatru: Understanding the Human Condition.”** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum, State University of New York, Albany. Guest Speaker: Prof. Keiko Toro, Lecturer of Japanese Buddhism, Jin-ai University, Fukui, Japan.
- ❖ February 2013 – **“The Path of the Nembutsu.”** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Takamaro Shigaraki, author, *A Life of Awakening: The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path, The World of Buddhist Awakening*, and

Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path: A Life of Awakening. (Held at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.)

- ❖ July 2012 – **“Shinran’s Quest: Understanding Himself to Understand the Human Condition.”** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum, State University of New York, Albany.
- ❖ January 2012 – **“A Life of Shinjin.”** Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Institute of Buddhist Studies. (This first-time Winter Pacific Seminar took place at the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.)
- ❖ June 2011 – **“The Path to the Pure Land: Why is the Nembutsu relevant to my life today?”** Speakers and group leaders: Rev. John Iwofara, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple; Rev. Gregory Gibbs, Oregon Buddhist Temple; Rev. Harry Bridge, Oakland Buddhist Temple; and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Center for Buddhist Education/Hongwanji.
- ❖ June 2010 – **“Shinran’s Path in America Yesterday and Today.”** Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tetsuo Unno, former BCA minister. Guest Speaker: Reverend Shoki Mohri, BCA minister emeritus, and others.
- ❖ June 2009 – **“Shinran and His Teachings.”** Keynote Speaker: Dr. Toshikazu Arai, Soai University, Osaka, Japan.
- ❖ June 2008 – **“Honen & Shinran: Pure Land Masters Within Our Contemporary World.”** Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kodo Tanaka, Acting Bishop, Jodoshu North America.

Updated July 2017

The Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Center for Buddhist Education present

Pacific Seminar 21st Century
Honen & Shinran
 Pureland Masters Within Our Contemporary World

June 27-29, 2008
 \$100 Registration Fee

Reverend Kodo Tanaka
 Acting Bishop of the Jodo-shu North America
 Minister of Jodo-shu North America Buddhist Missions,
 Los Angeles

Reverend Dr. David Matsumoto
 Director, Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies
 Institute of Buddhist Studies
 Resident Minister, Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Dr. Lisa Grumbach
 Professor of Buddhist Studies and Japanese Religions
 Institute of Buddhist Studies

Reverend Kodo Umezu
 Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education

Reverend Harry Bridge
 Resident Minister, Buddhist Churches of America

このたびもなしくすぎなまし
 本師源空いまさずは
 出離の強縁しらざりき
 曠劫多生のあひだにも

Through countless lifetimes we've never let go,
 We did not know the strong cause of liberation.
 Were it not for our teacher Genko (Honen),
 This present life also would pass in vain.
 (Shinran)


Jodo Shinshu Center
 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California

\$100 registration fee • Deadline for registration is May 30, 2008; for registration or lodging information contact Ken L. Umetani at 908-808-1460, email: director@cbe-bca.org, or web page: cbe-bca.org.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies and the
 BCA Center for Buddhist Education present

Pacific Seminar 21st Century
SHINRAN and HIS TEACHINGS
 June 26 - 28, 2009

Join us in exploring the significance of the
 "Larger Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable
 Life," as discussed in Shinran Shinjin's
 major work, Kyo-Gyo-Shin-Sho.



Guest Speakers:

Dr. TOSHIKAZU ARAI
 Author, Grasped by the Buddha's View: A translation of and commentary on Tannisho (2008);
 Professor of Humanities, Soka University, Chiba, Japan

Dr. Nobuo Haneda - Visiting Center of Buddhism, Dharma Breeze: Essays on Shin Buddhism (2007)

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto - Institute of Buddhist Studies - Director, Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies;
 translator, A Life of Awakening: The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path by Takamasa Shigenori (2005)

Rev. Kodo Umezu - Director, Buddhist Churches of America - Center for Buddhist Education

Registration: General \$175 BCA Members \$125
 Deadline: June 7th
 Early Registration Discount: \$25 off if received by May 17th

Jodo Shinshu Center
 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California
 For information: visit www.cbe-bca.org or call (510) 809-1460

BCA CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION & INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES PRESENT

PACIFIC SEMINAR 21ST CENTURY -
Shinran's Path in America
 YESTERDAY AND TODAY



Explore the path of the Nisei* —
 their life challenges & spirituality.
 Listen to diverse perspectives on
 temple traditions & values.

GUEST SPEAKERS & PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Reverend Tetsuo Unno
 Former BCA Minister and Public Speaker

Reverend Shoki Mohri
 BCA Minister Emeritus

Anne Spencer
 Minister's Assistant, Nichiren-Ongyo Buddhist Temple

MODERATED BY:

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto
 Director - Center for Contemporary
 Shin Buddhist Studies/BCS

Rev. Kodo Umezu
 Director - Center for Buddhist Education

*Nisei: 2nd generation Japanese-Americans
Photo top: BCA in Orem, bottom: National Archives

JUNE 25, 26 & 27, 2010
 Friday, 6/25, 7 pm to Sunday 6/27, 11 am
JODO SHINSHU CENTER
 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA

Registration: General \$125
 BCA Members \$100
 Deadline: May 31st
 Early Registration Discount:
 \$25 off if received by April 30th

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORMS:
 Visit: www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org Phone: (510) 809-1460 Email: director@cbe-bca.org

The Institute of Buddhist Studies &
 BCA Center for Buddhist Education present

Summer Pacific Seminar
 21st Century

SHINRAN &
 AJATASATRU
 Understanding the
 Human Condition

JULY 5 - 7, 2013

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Mark Blum
 East Asian Languages & Cultures
 University of California at Berkeley

QUEST SPEAKER
Prof. Keiko Toro
 Jin-ai University, Fukui, Japan

JODO SHINSHU CENTER
 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

Registration: \$135 Deadline: June 30
 BCA Member Rate \$120 until June 15

See registration form inside or register online at
www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org
 Click on CBE

Pacific Seminar - 21ST Century
 A Special Summer Session

南無阿彌陀佛

Sea of Suffering,
 Ocean of Compassion

Jodo Shinshu Center
 2140 Durant Avenue | Berkeley, CA 94704
(We will NOT be at the Alameda Conference Center as previously announced.)

July 4 - July 6, 2014

Honored Guests:
 Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno and Mrs. Alice Unno

Keynote Speakers:
 Rev. Tetsuo Unno and Rev. Dr. Mark Unno

"Suffering can be most, like the sea, great compassion soothes the greatest of sufferings. One finds that,
 in the rhythms of daily life, as well as in major moments of difficulty, loss, and separation, some of the
 greatest opportunities to realize great compassion open up to us. Shin Buddhism in particular helps us
 to discover that, in the midst of deep suffering, there is the unfolding of the heart of great compassion."
 — Dr. Mark Unno

Additional Guest Speakers: TBA

www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org
 Email: cbe@cbe-bca.org | Phone: 510.809.1460

Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies and
 Buddhist Churches of America - Center for Buddhist Education