

Dharma name conferred during visit from England- Enrique Galvan-Alvarez (27)

"I first encountered the Jodo Shinshu teaching four years ago. I wanted to express my conviction to live the way of the Nembutsu," said Enrique Galvan-Alvarez, who was visiting from Manchester, England. Following the early morning service at



Hongwanji on April 9, Alvarez took part in the Confirmation Ceremony and received his Dharma name. In renewing his determination, Alvarez commented, "It was refreshing. Realizing my *bombu** self, I wish to live life accepting things just as they are."

Originally from the Spanish Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa, he was raised in a Christian household. However, in search for answers as he struggled with social problems during his teen years, he gained an interest in Buddhism.

With a friendly smile, Alvarez said "I learned about the Jodo Shinshu teaching through emails with Dr. Rev. Alfred Bloom (Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii), whom I met through a website. The teaching that unwaveringly embraced me and my troubles was what made my daily life positive. In interacting with the European sangha, I hope to deepen my understanding of the teaching."

* *Bombu*: "foolish beings" (The Collected Works of Shinran) (Hongwanji Journal, April 20, 2013, p. 8)

Buddhist Church of Florin Board member participates in Confirmation Ceremony at Hongwanji- Peggy Okabayashi

Temple board president, Peggy Okabayashi and members of the Buddhist Church of Florin recently came to Japan. During their stay, they also visited Korinji temple in Shimane prefecture, which is the family temple to Rev. Yuki Sugahara, current minister at the Florin Buddhist temple. Okabayashi shared, "Although we may be far apart in distance, I am grateful to have this first-hand experience meeting fellow Nembutsu followers, as well as being able to visit my homeland, Japan."

Previously working for the state's Crisis Management Bureau at the time of the East Japan Great Earthquake, our office immediately contacted the Japanese government. Extremely worried about Japan, my heart was deeply torn as I went about my duties. My mother's family in Sendai had their home washed away in the tsunami. However, the family was safe.

I decided to take part in the Confirmation Ceremony at Hongwanji during this visit, which is my fifth time to Japan. Being accustomed to sitting on chairs in Florin, I was intimidated when told I may have to sit Japanese-style on the tatami floor at Hongwanji. However, after seeing the beautifully restored Goeido (Founder's Hall), I was proud to reaffirm my appreciation as a fellow Jodo Shinshu follower."



(Hongwanji Journal, May 1, 2013, p. 8)

Harvard/IBS Symposium

Seigen Yamaoka

With the theme: "The Dharma at Times of Need:

The Interface of Chaplaincy and Ministry," a jointly sponsored symposium by the Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Harvard Divinity School, was held on May 3-4, 2013 at the Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA. Presentations were made by faculty and students.



"The joint event provided an opportunity for students and faculty to share their experiences bringing a Buddhist religious orientation into action in ministry and chaplaincy." Dr. Richard Payne, IBS Dean.



Presenters: Front (L-R): Trent Thornley (IBS), Dr. Cheryl Giles (HDS), Chenxing Han (IBS), Nancy Chu (HDS), Margaret Lowe (HDS), Matthew Hamasaki (IBS), and Dr. Richard Payne. Back: Dr. Daijaku Kinst (IBS), Dr. Seigen Yamaoka (IBS), Kazuha Fujii (Ryukoku), Dawn Neal (IBS), Adrienne Vincent (HDS), Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick (HDS), Sarah Jabbour (HDS), and Julie Gillette (HDS). Not pictured are: Bill Dearth (IBS) and Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark (ABSW).

Music from Hawaii shared at Hongwanji's Mido Concert



The Mido Concert held on April 13 and 14, during the Spring Observance at Hongwanji included nineteen choir groups with a total of 162 participants.

Following a six year break, the eighteen-member choir from Hawaii Betsuin joined their Japanese counterparts once again at Hongwanji.

Since first participating in 2002, the group with their eagerness to once again sing at Hongwanji, came to Kyoto this year for the third time to perform in the Mido Concert. "After Romanizing and interpreting the Japanese lyrics, each gatha was carefully practiced with each member carrying a special feeling," shares Choir director, Mrs. Mitsuyo Saito. As a pioneer member to the group, Lily Inatsuka comments, "Being my age, I sang thinking that this will be my last time. We always sing *Ondokusan* at Betsuin, but singing it in the temple at Hongwanji brought me to tears."

(Hongwanji Journal, May 10, 2013, p. 8)



2013 Charity Taiko Concert East Japan Great Earthquake Support Fund

Saturday, June 29, 2013

Doors open: 1:00 pm

Performance time: 1:30-4:00 pm

Venue: 奈良市学園前ホール

(奈良市西部会館 3F)

奈良市学園南 3-1-5

近鉄奈良線学園前駅南口すぐ

Performances by
Placer Ume Taiko

(Placer Buddhist Temple)

&

Yamato ShiShi Taiko

Advanced tickets required.

First 300 people. Open seating.

Contact **Torimi**, at **090-7969-4505** for tickets.

All proceeds will go toward the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha "Tasukeai Undo Bokin" East Japan Great Earthquake Support Fund

www.hongwanji.or.jp/ for more information.

Sponsored by: Saikoji Temple and the Nara district Young Buddhist Association

Jodo Shinshu Australian attends Spring Observance- Graham Ranft (68)

Graham Ranft, a sangha member of the Hongwanji regional district of Australia, attended the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shonin last year and returned to Kyoto this year for the annual Spring Observance. Following the service, Ranft and his wife spent the morning taking in the Hongwanji sites of the Shoin chambers, Hiunkaku, and Kyozo scripture vault. "It was about nine years ago, as I was looking into Buddhism in search for a spiritual home, that by chance, I came across Jodo Shinshu. Coming to Hongwanji, I feel at home," shares Ranft. He plays the shakuhachi as his life's work helping to engender world



peace. In March, he performed at an East Japan Great Earthquake Memorial Event held in Australia, and recently played at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, sharing his music with local visitors with hopes to provide comfort and solace to the pain and sadness of the Japanese and strive for world peace. Ranft comments, "Jodo Shinshu relates to all aspects of our daily life. A sense of warmth is also felt. As I age, it also brings about a sense of living as well as I can each day. Daily, I am filled with gratitude for the weather, the sun, for the birds in our garden, and simply being alive and happy."

(Hongwanji Journal, May 10, 2013, p. 8)