

Ekoji History and The Essentials of Shin Buddhism

『Ekoji Buddhist Temple History』

The Ekoji Buddhist Temple was founded in 1981 in Northern Virginia by the late Rev. Kenryu Tsuji and by the late philanthropist Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata. The name “Ekoji” was chosen by Rev. Numata which means “The Temple of the Gift of Light.”

Our temple moved to its current site in 1999. The aim of our Sangha (community) is to live the life of gratitude and share the rejoicing of it with others, awakened to the fact that we are served by the immeasurable Light and Life, the wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Our English language service begins every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and is usually preceded by the Children’s Dharma Service at 10:00 a.m. Please check our website (www.ekoji.org) or call to confirm a particular Sunday’s schedule or for information on the dates and times of Special Services.

Ekoji is a member of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). In addition to overseeing temples throughout the U.S., the BCA administers the Buddhist Award program for the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls, and is the only authorized organization to place Buddhist ministers as military chaplains. The BCA, in turn, is the U.S. representative of Jôdo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, located in Kyoto Japan. Jôdo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha is the largest of the Buddhist sects in Japan. Our denomination is commonly know as Shin Buddhism.

Our Services and Membership is open to all.

『The Essentials of Shin Buddhism』

OFFICIAL NAME : Jôdo Shinshu Hongwanji- ha

FOUNDER : Shinran Shonin (1173 - 1263)

CENTRAL

OBJECT OF : Amida Buddha (Namo-amida-butsu)

REVERENCE

SUTRA : Three Principle Sutras of Jôdo Shinshu

- 1) Sutra on the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light (Daikyô)
- 2) Sutra of Meditation of the Buddha of Infinite Life (Kangyô)
- 3) Sutra on Amida Buddha (Shôkyô)

TEACHING : Having entrusted ourselves to the teaching of Amida Buddha (Namo-amida-butsu), we experience the joy of having received the assurance of Buddhahood. From the constant gratitude that arises within, we shall strive to live in service to the community and humanity.

TRADITION : The Hongwanji-ha is a community of people joined together in the joy of a common faith in Amida Buddha. As Jôdo Shinshu Buddhists, we shall seek to be mindful of our words and deeds, be responsible citizens of our society, and share with others the truth and reality of Jôdo Shinshu. Understanding full the principle of cause and condition, we shall not practice petitionary prayer or magic, nor shall we rely upon astrology or other superstitions.

(Shin Buddhist Service, Buddhist Churches of America. 1994)