

FROM OUR READERS

APPRECIATION FOR ARTWORK, ESSAY

MY September issue of *Living Buddhism* arrived today and gratitude compels me to write at long last to say, "Thank you—thank you very much."

Thank you for featuring the incredibly beautiful quilt art of Arzu Titus. As a daughter, niece, sister, sister-in-law and mother of women who quilt, I appreciate that art form totally, and my only regret is that I cannot actually touch Ms. Titus' marvelously emotional creations. I hope someday she has an exhibit in Minneapolis or St. Paul!

Thank you for the wonderfully written and photographed article by Claude Lomden, "Lights, Camera, Encouragement!" Not only is his article encouraging, but I am so happy to see such a well thought-out treatise on the truths of Buddhism that are apparent and available to everyone in society as expressed through our culture and daily experience. I choose to watch movies that to me express the universal truths we seek to practice daily, and movies are always a common denominator with all people, Buddhist or non-Buddhist. I enjoyed all his examples, and would like to add one more that I personally have watched four times because of the delightful example of human revolution and how persistence always pays off in the end: *Groundhog Day*.

Thank you for the ongoing "Dialogue on the Lotus Sutra," which I look forward to each month and treasure (and I, too, especially liked the dialogue on the Dragon Girl). And along with that, I want to say thank you for featuring the artwork of Larry Ashton and Blair Thornley—two of my favorite artists, both on paper and in person. Their work grows better, stronger and more profound with every issue, and they totally bring to life the meaning of the word *illustration*.

"Thank you" doesn't seem enough. I am delighted to receive all you bring to me each month.

BONNIE SMITH-YACKEL
Minneapolis, Minn.

REQUEST FOR INFO ON HISTORICAL FIGURES

I HAVE been practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism for a little over two years now. While my study habits are far from perfect, I do take time to read as often as possible and derive a great deal of inspiration and strength from your efforts. However, after two years of doing gongyo (the third prayer in particular), I have found very little printed information about Nikko Shonin or Nichimoku Shonin. I feel I only know the very minimum about them, and, given that we include them in our daily prayers, the minimum seems insufficient. I must assume that if one person feels a bit lost during this part of the practice,

Title: From Our Readers: 11/97

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Author:

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there must be others. Perhaps in one of the upcoming issues, you could print some historical and biographical information about these men who obviously had a seminal influence in the introduction of the Daishonin's Buddhism to the world.

JIM BOVINO
Minneapolis, Minn.

In the near future, we will carry articles on Nikko Shonin, Nichimoku Shonin and other historical figures in Buddhism. Please see p. 25 of this issue.

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