

Chenxing Han will engage her debut book,



Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists (North Atlantic Books, 2021), as a springboard for this intimate and interactive exploration into the complex

terrain of Buddhist Asian America.

Two-thirds of U.S. Buddhists are of Asian heritage, but you'd never guess this from mainstream representations of American Buddhism. How does centering the perspectives of Asian American Buddhists transform our understandings of race and religion in the West? *Be the Refuge* answers this question by weaving together the author's spiritual and intellectual journey with insights from interviews with 89 young adult Asian American Buddhists from a wide range of ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Trailblazers, Bridge-Builders, Integrators, Refuge-Makers: *Be the Refuge* reimagines Buddhist Asian America as a site of creativity and connection, challenging stereotypes of "superstitious immigrants," "Oriental monks," and "banana Buddhists." What possibilities for solidarity emerge when we attend to issues of race and representation, privilege and generation?

Like the May 4, 2021 "May We Gather" national Buddhist memorial for Asian American ancestors, *Be the Refuge* invites us to root ourselves in a culturally engaged, intersectional form of Buddhism while cultivating deep listening and spiritual friendship (*kalyāṇa-mittatā*).

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday morning, October 16

8:30 Registration

9:00 Lecture One:

Be the Refuge: Challenges and Aspirations of Young Adult Asian American Buddhists

10:30 Discussion & Dr. George Tanabe comments

11:00 Break

11:30 Lecture Two:

May We Gather: Roots and Connection in Buddhist Asian America

12:30 Discussion & Dr. George Tanabe comments

1:00 Closing

Author Chenxing Han

Chenxing Han is a Bay Area-based writer whose publications have appeared in *Buddhadharma*, *Journal of Global Buddhism*, *Lion's Roar*, *Pacific World*, *Tricycle*, *Wheel of Dharma*, and elsewhere. She holds a BA from Stanford University and an MA in Buddhist Studies from the Graduate Theological Union. After studying chaplaincy at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California, she worked in spiritual care at a nearby community hospital in Oakland. Her first book, *Be the Refuge: Raising the Voices of Asian American Buddhists*, was published by North Atlantic Books in January 2021. Along with Duncan Ryuken Williams and Funie Hsu, Chenxing co-organized May We Gather: A National Buddhist Memorial for Asian American Ancestors.

Dr. George Tanabe (respondent)

Professor emeritus in the Department of Religion at the University of Hawai'i. Dr. Tanabe is also President of BDK America. Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai, the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism, which promotes an understanding of Buddhist wisdom through sponsoring activities and programs around the world.

Kenko Futaba & Alfred Bloom

The Futaba Lecture Series is endowed by Dr. Alfred & Ms. Dorothy N. Bloom to honor the memory of friend and mentor, Professor Kenko Futaba. Dr. Futaba, a noted Shin Buddhist scholar, served as President of Kyoto's Ryukoku University from 1983 to 1995 and then became Chancellor of Kyoto Women's University. A pioneer in what today is called "engaged" Buddhism, Kenko Futaba campaigned passionately for the rights of minorities and was a prolific writer.



Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom is widely regarded as one of the most significant scholars and educators in American Shin Buddhism. Al fervently

hoped that this lecture series would be a continuing inspiration for the nurturing of American Buddhism and for the social participation of Buddhists in the quest of social justice and peace. His website continues to serve as a resource for students today: <https://bschawaii.org/shindharmenet/>



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NOTE:

*Lectures will be held in-person
at*

*Hongwanji Betsuin
and livestreamed on Zoom*

For reminders, updates, and Zoom link:

Free Registration Advised

<https://forms.gle/kjSAZ3bCugc29ih97>

**No program fees Donations
Appreciated**

22nd Annual Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures

Be the Refuge: Challenges and Aspirations of Young Adult Asian American Buddhists



**Saturday,
October 16, 2021**

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin
1727 Pali Highway
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