

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism's founder Shinran Shonin was a rebel who overturned the patterns of religious practice in medieval Japan, ushering in a radically-inclusive path for all people that transformed Japanese society. Shinran's example has inspired individuals and movements for social change at multiple points in Japanese history, and Jodo Shinshu Buddhists set many of the milestones of Buddhist social engagement in American history as well, from prison ministry and women's ordination to same-sex marriage and reproductive rights.

In our first lecture, Dr. Wilson will examine how Shinran's approach to Buddhism provides resources for modern-day people to grapple with the social, political, and environmental challenges we face. A refugee, political criminal, and violator of the sexual standards of his day, Shinran faced intense persecution but never abandoned his quest to bring the liberating power of the nembutsu to ordinary people during an age of great turmoil and uncertainty.

In our second lecture, Dr. Wilson will provide examples from the history of Jodo Shinshu in the West which demonstrate

Pure Land Buddhists working to create positive social change. Looking at climate change, LGBTQ+ rights, and other issues that Shin Buddhists have engaged with, he will invite participants to reflect on how Buddhists can productively carry out compassionate action and consider the potential benefits for themselves, their sanghas, and the larger society.

## **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**Friday Evening, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

*(All times are Hawaii Standard Time)*

- 6 pm Welcome and Introduction
- 6:10 pm Lecture: **Radical Shinran**
- 7:00 pm Discussion & Questions
- 7:10 pm Break
- 7:20 pm Lecture: **Radical Sanghas**
- 8:10 pm Discussion & Questions
- 8:30 pm Closing

## **Professor Jeff Wilson**

Jeff Wilson (he/him) is a professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College (University of Waterloo) in Ontario, Canada. He also has tokudo ordination in the Nishi Hongwanji tradition and serves as a minister's assistant for the Toronto Buddhist Church.

Dr. Wilson is the author of *Living Nembutsu: Applying Shinran's Radically Engaged Buddhism in Life and Society* (Sumeru, 2023), *Buddhism of the Heart: Reflections on Shin Buddhism and Inner Togetherness* (Wisdom, 2009), and five other books; his current book project is a history of American Jodo Shinshu and social engagement.

He was the 2010 Futaba-Bloom speaker, on the topic of "Shin Buddhism: An American Religion" and the 2016 BSC Summer Session: "Mindfulness and Buddhism in America."

## **Doctor 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 (BDK), 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/shindharmant/>

## 25 years of Distinguished Faculty

2000 Dr. Kenneth Tanaka  
2001 Dr. Thomas Kasulis  
2002 Dr. Sallie King  
2003 Dr. George Tanabe, Dr. Roy Parrett, Dr. John McRae,  
Dr. Poranee N. Sponsel  
2004 Lama Rinchen Wangyel, Ms. Georgiana Cook,  
Dr. George Tanabe  
2005 Ajan Sulak Sivaraksha  
2006 Dr. Shigaraki Takamaro  
2007 Dr. Mark Unno  
2008 Dr. Thomas Kasulis  
2009 Dr. Paula Arai, Dr. Ruben Habito  
2010 Dr. Jeff Wilson  
2011 Dr. Jacqueline Stone  
2012 Dr. James Dobbins, Sensei Lewis Richmond  
2013 Dr. Mark Blum  
2015 Dr. Duncan Williams  
2016 Dr. Patricia Masters  
2017 Dr. Michihiro Ama  
2018 Dr. Tomoe Moriya  
2019 Dr. George Tanabe  
2020 Dr. Ken Tanaka  
2021 Ms. Chenxing Han  
2022 Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi  
2023 Prof. Vanessa Sasson

## Mahalo to our Sponsors:

Futaba Memorial Lecture Fund  
UH Foundation, Milander Fund  
Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin



## Mahalo to:

### Friends

Rimban Yuika Hasebe, Chief Minister  
Jon Matsuoka, Executive Director HHHB  
Jenny Wakumoto, Business Manager  
Colleen Kunishige, Office Manager HHHB

### Committee

Dorothy N. Bloom-Convener,  
Faye F Mar, Event Arrangements  
Dexter Mar-Facilitator

July 2024

**NOTE: Lectures will be hybrid  
In-Person & Online  
Zoom link available on October 6 at  
<https://hawaiihetsuin.org/calendar>**

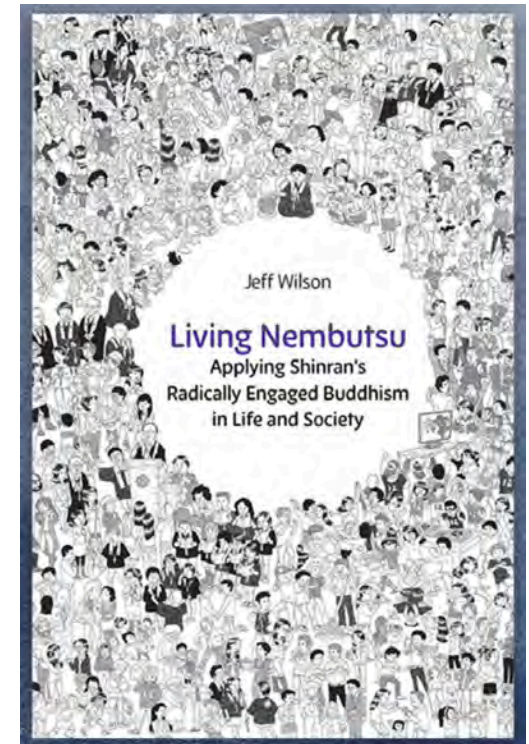
Available on the Hawaii Betsuin YouTube  
channel after October 20:  
<https://hawaiihetsuin.org> 

For reminders and updates  
**Free Registration Advised**  
<https://hawaiihetsuin.org/event/>

**No program fees**  
**Donations Appreciated**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Bloom-Futaba Memorial Lectures**  
Sponsored by  
**Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin Hawaii**

**"Living Nembutsu"**  
**Applying Shinran's Radically Engaged**  
**Buddhism in Life and Society**



**Friday, October 11, 2024**  
**6-8:30 pm**

<https://hawaiihetsuin.org/calendar/>