



On the morning of December 8th (by the Japanese Buddhist calendar), Siddhartha Gotama Shakya, while sitting in meditation under a type of fig tree, woke up to the Dharma – the reality of life and the world. By waking up to that reality he became the Buddha Shakyamuni, the “Awakened One-sage of the Shakyas”. The tree under which he sat became known as the Bodhi Tree, the “Tree of Awakening – ficus religiosa” . And many centuries later, the content of Shakyamuni Buddha’s awakening took the name of Amida Buddha. Thus in Jodoshinshu, we have two different meanings of the word Buddha: first is the historical Shakyamuni Buddha, the human being who woke up to the Truth; second is the Truth itself, named Amida Buddha, the reality beyond time and space. This awakening

event by Shakyamuni took place some 25 hundred years ago and is observed according to the solar calendar by Japanese Buddhist on December 8th; on the full moon day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar by the Theravada Buddhists (in April or May of the western calendar), etc. Bodhi Day, December 8th, is a state holiday in Hawaii.

Though not a traditional holiday in the Jodoshinshu calendar in Japan, it is widely observed in Jodoshinshu temples in America. At Senshin, we are in the process of creating a Bodhi Day service format. On the Senshin temple grounds, we have a 5th generation descendant of the original Bodhi Tree. A branch of the original tree in Bodhgaya, India was taken and planted in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. A branch of that tree was given to a Mary Foster to be planted in the Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu, Hawaii. A branch from that tree was given to the U.C.L.A. Botany department and planted on the U.C.L.A. campus. Finally a branch from that tree was planted at Senshin Temple.

On Saturday, December 11th from 4:30pm, we will have a gathering to discuss and meditate on this most important Buddhist holiday.

Members and interested friends are cordially invited. There is no registration or fee, just bring something for the pot luck. Rev. Hirano will be the guest speaker for the Bodhi Day service the following day.

Gassho,
Rev. Mas

BODHI DAY

Jōdō-e

Saturday, December 11th

4:30pm - Bodhi Day omairi

5:15pm - Meditation/discussion

7:00pm - Pot Luck Dinner

Sunday, December 12th

9:30am - Bodhi Day Service

Eng: Rev. Jerry Hirano,
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
Jpn: Rev. Kodani