

Please join us for

HANA-MATSURI

Celebration of the Historical Buddha's Birth

April 10, 2016 Sunday at 11am

Special guest speaker:
Dr. Stephen T. Asma

**“The Buddha’s
Childhood,
and Why
It’s Important”**



Teen Buddha? As in the case of Jesus, scholars don't know much about young Gautama Siddhartha. However, some cross-cultural universal features of being human arise in adolescence – features that eventually become of great concern for Buddhists. For example, self-consciousness becomes painful, romantic craving emerges, ambition sparks, peer group judgment becomes dramatic, and the struggles between desire and discipline intensify. We might even say that many of the forms of suffering Buddha wanted to heal originate or gain strength in adolescence. In this talk, Dr. Asma will consider the development of Siddhartha's craving, and connect it to our own ongoing struggles.

Stephen T. Asma is Professor of Philosophy at Columbia College Chicago, where he is also Senior Fellow of the Research Group in Mind, Science and Culture. Dr. Asma is the author of ten books, including the highly recommended *The Gods Drink Whiskey* (HarperOne) describing his experiences in the culturally Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia.

He writes regularly for the *New York Times* and other internationally known publications. He has researched and taught philosophy throughout Asia including mainland China. He also happens to be a blues/jazz musician who has played onstage with many musical artists, including Bo Diddley and Buddy Guy. Learn more about him at: www.stephenasma.com