



drby*

Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth

Wisdom *in* Action

9th Annual Spring Conference

***Spiritual Cultivation
and Social Action***

March 24-25, 2007

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Introduction

Welcome to the 9th Annual Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth Spring Conference. This year's conference topic is on Buddhist Social Action—how can we cultivate wisdom and compassion both in ourselves and in the society around us? How are personal and social transformation connected—not just in theory, but in a real practice?

Exploring these issues from a profoundly Buddhist perspective, hopefully we will gain insight into how personal views and personal actions are tied into collective views and collective actions. The members of DRBY hope that you find the weekend inspirational and thought-provoking, and come away not just with new ideas, but also a deepened resolve to put into practice the attitudes and actions that can genuinely transform the world.

Welcome to the Monastery

Berkeley Buddhist Monastery is a place of spiritual cultivation and it is important that the environment support a relaxed, but respectful, peaceful and contemplative frame of mind. Buddhism has a long and ancient tradition that has maintained its integrity across 25 centuries and many cultures—out of respect for this tradition, as well other visitors to the Monastery, we ask that you observe the following guidelines.

Comfortable and Modest Clothing

Clothing in the monastery should be comfortable and modest. Comfortable clothing is ideal for meditation and cultivation because it allows you to bow and sit cross-legged more easily. Modest clothing is important because it causes fewer distractions for other people. Thus, it is the custom in monasteries to refrain from wearing clothing such as mini-skirts, shorts and sleeveless shirts. (If you already are wearing them, don't worry about it. We are very happy to have you, but please try to be aware of your clothing next time you visit.)

Please take off your shoes when entering the Buddha Hall (the large room just past the entryway with stained glass windows and statues of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas)—leave your shoes in the racks in the entryway. Outside of the Buddha Hall—in the hallways, and the dining room, it is recommended that you wear your shoes—otherwise you may track debris back into the Buddha Hall when you return.

Cherishing All Forms of Life

Please refrain from killing all living creatures in the monastery, including even small insects such as spiders, ants, flies, and mosquitoes. Monastics practice non-harming in order to cultivate a heart of compassion and concern for others. In Buddhism, all life forms are interconnected, and all creatures are considered “family.”

Respecting Buddhist Sutras and Texts

Buddhist Sutras and texts are the words of the Buddhist sages that give instructions on how to become awakened, and for this reason they are treated with utmost care and respect.

Furthermore, our attitude toward a sacred text affects our ability to access the teachings contained within it. Hence, people are encouraged not to put Buddhist books on the ground or bring them into the bathroom. Other customs in the monastery are keeping Sutras in good

condition and making sure one's hands are clean before reading them. In general, the intent of all these customs is the same—to show one's respect for the text.

Things Not to Bring Into the Monastery

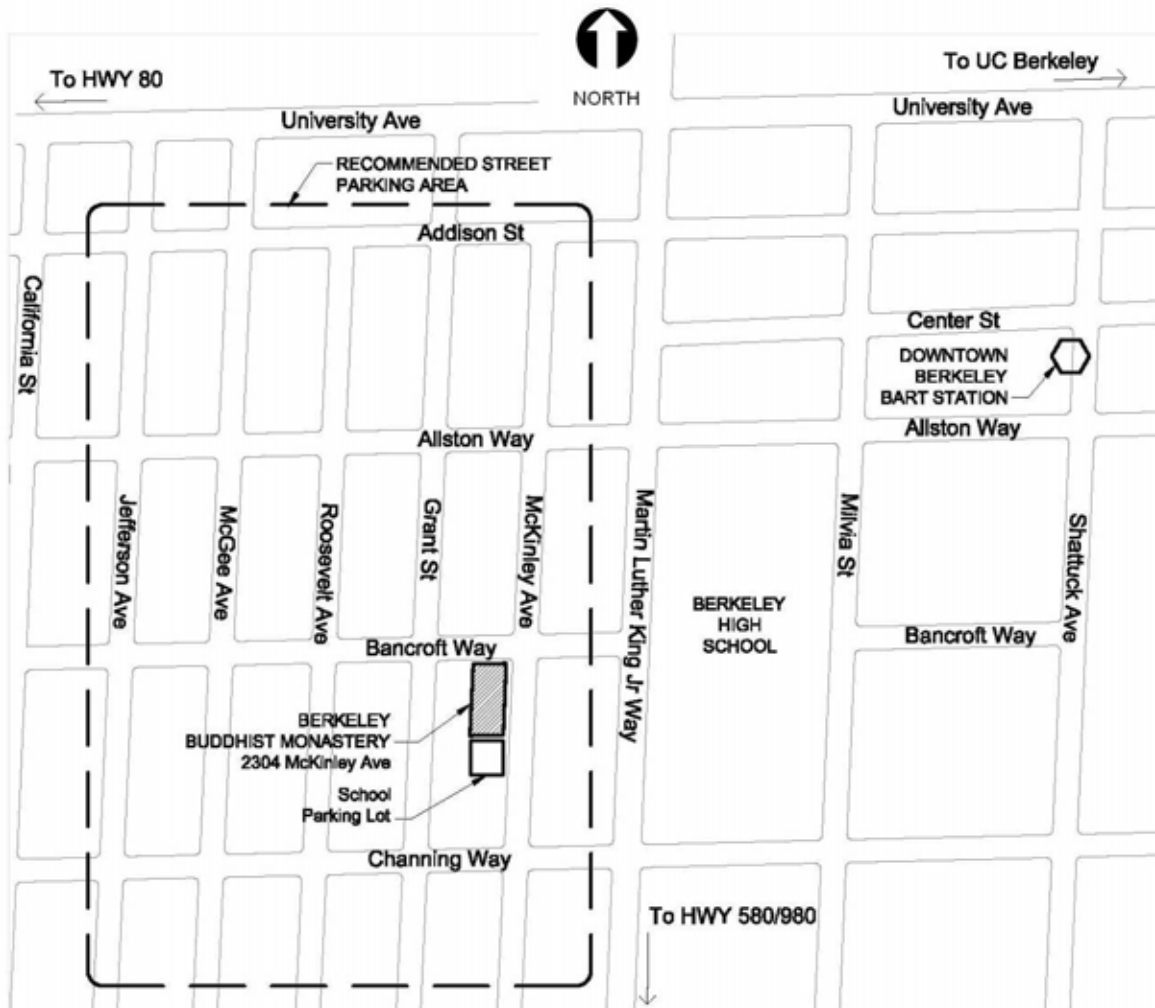
Please do not bring alcohol, meat (including fish & poultry), illicit drugs, and cigarettes into the monastery.

Meals

The meals during the conference have been provided by generous donors. You are welcome to take as much as you like, but please finish your plate.

Map of the Neighborhood

This is a street map of the neighborhood around Berkeley Buddhist Monastery. Most of the streets in the area require permit parking during the weekdays, but are *unrestricted during the weekends*. We advise not parking on the downtown side of Martin Luther King Jr. Way because it is closer to downtown and the Saturday farmer's market on Center St.



Conference Schedule

Saturday

- 8:00 – 9:00AM** **Registration,** *Dining Hall*
- 8:30 – 9:00AM** **Orientation,** *Buddha Hall*
- 9:00 – 10:30AM** **Workshop 1**
(Parallel workshops in the Buddha Hall and the Dining Hall)
Ven. Bhante Suhita: “Working With Inmates During Their Post-Release Process Back Into the Community,” *Buddha Hall*
Martin Verhoeven: “Engaged Buddhist Monasticism,” *Dining Hall*
- 10:30 – 11:00AM** **Meal Offering Ceremony,** *Dining Hall*
- 11:00 – 12:30PM** **Lunch,** *Dining Hall and Canopy Area*
- 12:30 – 2:00PM** **Workshop 2**
Karma Lekshe Tsomo: “Socially Engaged Buddhist Women,” *Buddha Hall*
Michael Tsai: “Time is Precious: Leave a Mark,” *Dining Hall*
- 2:00 – 2:30PM** **Break**
- 2:30 – 4:00PM** **Workshop 3**
DM Yun: “Buddhist Prison Ministry,” *Buddha Hall*
Ron Epstein: “Lay Buddhists Responsibility to Local Community,” *Dining Hall*
- 4:00 – 6:15PM** **Tea Time,** *Dining Hall*
(Additional Informal Question and Answer Time)
- 4:30 – 5:15PM** **Meditation Instructions**
DM Chin He, *Buddha Hall*
- 5:15 – 6:15PM** **Meditation**
DM Chin He, *Buddha Hall*
- 6:15 – 6:45PM** **Check-In Before Dinner**
Meet before dinner and chat, *Dining Hall*
- 6:45 – 7:45PM** **Dinner,** *Dining Hall*
- 7:45 – 9:00PM** **Evening performance**
Brian Conroy: “Vegan Monologues,” *Buddha Hall*
Rev. Heng Sure: Evening lecture, *Buddha Hall*

Sunday

- 8:00 – 9:00AM** **Registration, *Dining Hall***
- 9:00 – 10:30AM** **Panel Discussion: Getting involved**
Presentation and panel discussion about how to become involved in activities that promote change.
Rev. Heng Sure, Ven. Bhante Suhita, Rev. Kusala, DM Yin & Jin Jr, Charity Focus, Tzu Chi, *Buddha Hall*
- 10:30 – 11:00AM** **Meal Offering Ceremony, *Dining Hall***
- 11:00 – 12:30PM** **Lunch, *Dining Hall and Canopy Area***
- 12:30 – 2:00PM** **Workshop 4**
DM Heng Sure: “Vegetarianism and Buddhism,” *Buddha Hall*
DM Yin and Jin Shr: “Education and Social Change,” *Dining Hall*
- 2:00 – 2:30PM** **Break**
- 2:30 – 4:00PM** **Workshop 5**
Rev. Kusala: “The Reluctant Bodhisattva,” *Buddha Hall*
Doug Powers: “Socially Responsible Buddhist Laypeople,” *Dining Hall*
- 4:00 – 6:15PM** **Tea Time, *Dining Hall***
(Additional Informal Question and Answer Time)
- 4:30 – 5:15PM** **Meditation Instructions**
DM Chin He, *Buddha Hall*
- 5:15 – 6:15PM** **Meditation**
DM Chin He, *Buddha Hall*
- 6:15 – 7:00PM** **Dedication of Merit**
(No dinner on Sunday Night)

Speaker Profiles



Rev. Heng Sure was ordained as a Buddhist monk in 1976. For the sake of world peace, he undertook an eight hundred mile pilgrimage from South Pasadena to Ukiah, repeatedly taking three steps and one bow to cover the entire journey. For a period of 6 years surrounding the pilgrimage, he observed a practice of total silence. Rev. Heng Sure has an M.A. in Oriental Languages from UC Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He serves as the Managing Director of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery and teaches on the staff at the Institute for World Religions. He is actively involved in interfaith dialogue and in the ongoing conversation between spirituality and technology.



Karma Lekshe Tsomo's primary academic interests include women in Buddhism, Buddhism and bioethics, religion and cultural change, and Buddhism in the United States. In addition to her academic work, she is actively involved in interfaith dialogue and in grassroots initiatives for the empowerment of women. She is president of Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women (www.sakyadhita.org) and director of Jamyang Foundation (www.jamyang.org), an initiative to provide educational opportunities for women in the Indian Himalayas, Bangladesh and Laos. She holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of San Diego and teaches Buddhism and World Religions at the University of San Diego.



Rev. Kusala has been involved in service to community for over a decade. He has been/is a Buddhist volunteer at a State Prison, Juvenile Hall, Police Department, Medical Center and University Campus. His understanding of Buddhism is deeply rooted in the Theravada and the goal of the Arahant. After years of service however, the Bodhisattva ideal manifested as his path to compassion and wisdom. He will be speaking on how he learned the ropes of public service as a Buddhist volunteer, and the up's and down's of service to community.

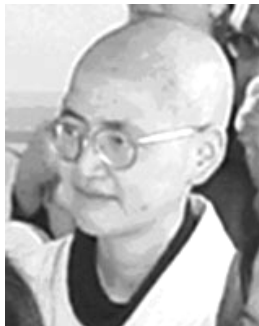
Kusala Bhikshu (www.kusala.info) received his higher ordination in the Zen tradition of Vietnam in 1996. He is a member of the Los Angeles Buddhist/Catholic Dialogue, Wilshire Center Interfaith Council and vice-president of the Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster Interfaith Council. He is currently Buddhist chaplain for the URC at UCLA, director of the University Buddhist Association at UCLA, member of the UCLA Medical Center Spiritual Care Committee and ride-along police chaplain for the Garden Grove Police Dept. His web site www.UrbanDharma.org has been up and running since 2001 and his podcast Urban Dharma has been available on iTunes since 2005.



Ven. Suhita Dharma, known familiarly as “Bhante,” carries forth the teaching of the Buddha in both the Sri Lankan Theravada lineage, Vajrayana, and the Mahayana Vietnamese Zen tradition of the Unified Buddhist Church in Vietnam and America. He is a pastoral social worker who emphasizes service to homeless people, prisoners, and others in need. Bhante has been a monk (Bhikshu) over 40 years and has acted as a bridge between many cultures in the world. He follows in what he calls the Triyana tradition, the way of compassion towards all beings.



Dharma Master Heng Yun was ordained as a Buddhist nun in 1983. A native Chinese speaker, she lectures frequently on the Shurangama Sutra in Taiwan and the United States at many of the DRBA Way Places. In Taiwan, she regularly visits the prisons to talk to the classmates about finding true happiness and a direction in life. She has had many inspiring stories seeing classmates change despite their difficult environment. In addition, Dharma Master Heng Yun holds a M.A. from Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU), and is an active member of the Buddhist Text Translation Society. Currently she serves as the managing director at Gold Sage Monastery.



Dharma Master Heng Yin received a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin and was subsequently accepted to the Ph.D. program. She first learned about the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas (CTTB) in 1990 when the Master and his disciples visited UT and taught meditation and Buddhism. She came to CTTB for a summer Chan session. A few months later, she enrolled at Dharma Realm Buddhist University and moved to CTTB where she soon committed herself to the monastic life. DM Heng Yin has been active in the Buddhist Text Translation Society and is currently the Principal of the Developing Virtue Girls' School at CTTB.

Dharma Master Jin Jr became a monastic in 1998 and was ordained as a Buddhist nun in 2002. Her motivation for studying the Dharma comes from seeking the truth and to find answers for her life. She is originally from Malaysia, but came to the United States to study Buddhism and continue her academic studies. She has a BA in English Literature from San Francisco State University. After receiving her teaching credential and MA in Education from Stanford University, she has been teaching in Developing Virtue Secondary School and Dharma Realm Buddhist University at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. This summer she will be leading a program to prepare new volunteer teachers to teach in the schools.

Chin He Shr is a Sramanera (novice monk). Born in Spain, after receiving a Ph.D. in Chemistry, he came to the United States in 1997 to pursue postdoctoral studies at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. One year later he came upon Buddhism and discovered that it offered a very profound view of life, and a methodology to live it meaningfully. After working in Japan for three years and traveling extensively in Asia, in 2004 he decided to adventure into the Buddhist monastic life at CTTB. He still considers himself a researcher, only that now he has gone deeper and broadened his field of interest.



Michael Tsai, President of the Cancer Support Group of Tzu Chi Free Clinic and Chief Information Officer of Tzu Chi Foundation USA. He has been active in Tzu Chi for 7 years. Diagnosed with terminal cancer 8 years ago, Michael outlived his doctor's initial prediction — 6 months. Michael has transformed his life through Buddhism and service. He is remarkably peaceful, and so busy working with cancer patients that you would not realize he is still battling cancer. More information about Tzu Chi can be found at www.tzuchi.org.



Martin Verhoeven, when training under Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, also undertook the bowing pilgrimage dedicated to world peace with Reverend Heng Sure. Marty graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His areas of interest are the historical teachings of Buddhism and the process of religious acculturation. Marty has studied and lectured extensively throughout Asia, Europe, the United States, and Canada. Currently, he is a professor at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU). He also teaches a weekly meditation series at Berkeley Buddhist Monastery.



Doug Powers holds an M.A. from GTU and a B.A. and an M.A.T. from the University of Redlands. He is Vice President of Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) and currently teaches Western Philosophy and Psychology at DRBU. Doug has also been teaching at Berkeley High School for over 30 years. An advocate for introducing Buddhism to high school students, he has been known to hold impromptu meditation sessions at the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery. Doug is a regular facilitator at Berkeley Student Roundtable discussions and an advisor for Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth.



Brian Conroy first encountered Master Hsuan Hua in 1976 at the first Gold Mountain Monastery off Mission Street in San Francisco. He is an avid educator and has taught elementary and middle school for many years. Long involved in the theater arts and public speaking, Brian has a way of captivating audiences with his marvelous stories. Many of his stories are “Buddhist” featuring titles like, “Captain Enlightenment!,” “Nick Bodhi: Dharma Investigator,” and “Hunting the Wild Broccoli.”



Ron Epstein holds a Ph.D. in Buddhist studies from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A. in Chinese language and literature from the University of Washington. He taught Buddhist studies and world religions at San Francisco State University for many years and has recently retired. His research interests include the Mahayana sutras, Yogachara Buddhism and applied Buddhist ethics. Ron took refuge with Venerable Master Hsuan Hua in 1967 and was one of the original translators of the Surangama Sutra from Chinese to English. Together with a team of translators from the Buddhist Text Translation Society, Ron is currently working on the second translation of the Surangama Sutra.

Acknowledgements

DRBY would like to thank the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery community for hosting this event, as well as all the wonderful speakers who have generously volunteered their time to share their experience and wisdom. The conference organizers also thank the energetic volunteers of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association and Tzu Chi for their tireless support in making this conference happen. And last but not least, we wish to thank the conference attendees for coming to the conference and bringing their hope for a more compassionate and peaceful world.

Websites for Further Information

Web sites offer an excellent way for the conference community to stay in touch after the conference is over. Here is a list of web sites related to the topics and speakers from this year's conference:

www.berkeleymonastery.org

www.sakyadhita.org

www.jamyang.org

www.UrbanDharma.org

www.bpf.org

www.tzuchi.org

www.drby.net

www.drba.org

www.drbachinese.org

www.chuavanphat.org

www.drbu.org

www.bttsonline.org

www.dharmaradio.org

www.dharmamirror.org

Schedule and events at BBM

International Association of Buddhist Women

Providing educational opportunities for women in the Indian Himalayas, Bangladesh and Laos

Reverend Kusala's Website

The Buddhist Peace Fellowship

The Buddhist Compassionate Relief organization, Tzu Chi

Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth

Home of the Dharma Realm Buddhist Association

DRBA site in Chinese

DRBA site in Vietnamese

Dharma Realm Buddhist University

Buddhist publications and multimedia

Dharma talks and Buddhist music

Newsletter of Dharma Realm Buddhist Youth

Notes