

The Dharma Drum Beat

Newsletter of the Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association—Chicago Chapter

Upcoming Events in 2011

The year continues with more exciting and worthwhile happenings! Events are held at our 1234 N. River Road, Mount Prospect location, unless specified otherwise, and all are free unless noted. We are a bi-lingual organization, welcoming both English and Chinese speakers. Please check the Future Events page on our website for late-breaking news at: <http://www.ddmbachicago.org/futureevents>

Venerable Guo-jiann

July 14—18, 2011

We have a very special visitor from Taiwan in July!

Venerable Guo-jiann is currently the Prior (or Director) of the Department of International Relations and Development at Dharma Drum Mountain, our headquarters. She has had a number of other positions at DDM in Taiwan, including being a Lecturer at Dharma Drum Sangha University and Sheng Yen Education Foundation, Executive editor of Dharma Drum Culture Publishing Co., and Director of two departments at the DDM Culture Center.

The sutra she will be speaking on is entitled:

The Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra: The Small Prajñāpāramitā Sutra / Perfection of Wisdom in 8,000 verses.

There will be four lectures presented in Mandarin:

Thur 7/14 7-9 PM
 Fri 7/15 7-9 PM
 Sat 7/16 2-4 PM
 Mon 7/18 7-9 PM

And one lecture presented in English:

Sunday 7/17 8:30-10:30



Venerable Guo-jiann

Chan Workshop Breaks for Summer

Our Sunday morning Chan Workshop is on hiatus for the month of July. It will resume Sunday, August 14, 2011.

Half Day Retreat

August 7, 2011

A half day meditation retreat including indoor and outdoor walking meditation will be held Sunday, August 7 at the center.

Afternoon Movie Get Together

Sunday, August 14, 1-3 PM

Join us for an afternoon showing of "Recent Studies in Vegetarian Nutrition". Want to get healthy? Recent research shows that the Buddhist monastic diet (i.e., vegetarian) is healthier than a traditional American diet. Even if you have no intention of totally giving up meat, understanding nutrition better can help solve and prevent serious medical problems, lose weight, and help your karmic footprint.

Chinese medicine and Acupuncture

Free consultation will be offered at the center by Wei Yan Liu every Sunday, from August 7 until October 30th between 1-4 p.m.

Special Opportunity to Purchase Books for Half Price

Help contribute to our Buddhist Library

We are calling for a special donation to purchase books on Buddhism for the center's library. Collecting \$250 will enable us to purchase \$500 worth of English books. Please help us take advantage of this great opportunity!

DDMBA Chicago Annual Planning Meeting held Sunday, June 19, 2011

We were very fortunate to have Alan Chang visit for our Planning meeting. Alan Chang is the President of Dharmapala, and came all the way from Ontario, Canada, to help us. Alan is a professional consultant who works with organizational strategic planning. After introductions, he asked us to pick out picture cards, then discuss in groups why the cards were important to us for a 5 year plan, and what they represented. To begin this process, we agreed upon some words that we all hoped for in our 5-year plan.

Those words were: peacefulness/happiness, community, thriving/sustainable/vibrant, spiritual growth. We then put them into a sentence to serve as a very initial draft of our Chapter's vision statement, but we will continually refine this statement throughout the next year or so:

"Within the next five years, DDMBA-Chicago Chapter will be a vibrant Buddhist community by encouraging spiritual growth and promoting happiness.

Then we moved on to our 1-year plan. For this part, we were asked to select a project that we wanted to discuss. We had six ideas, and we worked in two stages, on three ideas at a time. For each of the 3 chosen ideas, people selected which group to join. The groups discussed how to proceed with each of the ideas. The advantage of this technique was that we all contributed and everyone was heard. Many people who spearheaded the idea took on the project as project leader, after the discussion. Here are some of the ideas discussed:

Pursuing the hiring of a resident Venerable: After discussing the problems of cost of residency, the group finally settled on asking for a Venerable that would have a close relationship with the Chicago Chapter. The relationship could be developed using Skype. This group, headed by Eric and Dan, is looking into establishing a Skype interface, which could be used by our local group to communicate remotely.

Schedules for next year: People in this group wanted more 1-day or ½ day meditation retreats, Skype visits with NY, chanting for English speakers, a Mind and Body series, and a similar schedule of visitors as this past year. It was proposed that an education committee have a monthly Open House during the week, describing to newcomers "this is who we are and what we do". The chanting might be some classes for English speakers on how to read Chinese and how to do drums. Perhaps some chanting could be bilingual – in English and Chinese, although it would be fine if most chanting sessions remain in Chinese. The Mind and Body series might be classes of interest, including vegetarian cooking or health, exercise (Tai-chi), environmental, and social issues. Susan L is spearheading this endeavor.

In-House Teacher Resources: Teachers are required for the following skills: Chanting, Chan workshop, Beginners class (Dharma and meditation), and Open Houses. In the next two years there is a need for Beginner class teacher, timekeeper training, chanting teacher to teach Westerners, and Open Houses. In 5 years there would be beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes, and a Westerner's chanting group established. Melisande volunteered to be the leader of the Education/Caring Committee. The current Caring Committee will be renamed and these new functions added.

Workflow Membership Recruiting Procedure: There would be a new workflow for handling visitors. There are forms that new visitors would fill out, and a requirement for a data entry person (preferably bilingual: Chinese & English). This person would complete the mailing list and email list update. The database must be updated. The contact list for the Fundraising Dinner should include primary contact, so that callers get to call their friends J. There should also be training for visitor orientation. Iris is leading this effort.

Recruiting new members: Efforts will be focused on web-based tools, including enhancements on our Facebook page and our website, and exploring the potential use of Twitter as well. Phyllis and Belinda will lead this effort.

Asking for volunteers: There is an obvious need for more volunteers, as people retire and leave or pursue other interests. This is a particular concern for Chinese speakers and writers. It was decided to ask specific people to help. In addition, we are advertising for volunteer help below. (Please volunteer if something looks interesting to you!) Helen is the leader in this effort.

Looking for Volunteers!

Could this be you? Generate merit and get to know more people in the organization by helping DDMBA-Chicago!

Chanting Teacher: English members want to learn to speak Chinese sufficiently to chant... then to help lead chanting sessions. This Chinese person should be willing to hold a few classes for some quick learners! See Melisande or Susan to volunteer.

Visitor Coordinator: When new visitors come, these persons would introduce the chapter to the visitor, log their information, and enter their information into the database. Volunteer with Iris. (The more, the merrier!)

Newsletter Writers: English and Chinese writers with good article ideas welcome! See Helen for Chinese, or Sara or Susan for English. Even if you can type Chinese, that would be very helpful!

Teachers or Session Leaders: Our Mind and Body series will hopefully have monthly activities. Do you have a special skill you can teach relating to Mind or Body? We are interested – talk to Susan. Also, if you are interested in learning to teach Open Houses, Dharma, or meditation, talk to Melisande.

Contacts:

Susan: lincke-salecker@att.net

Melisande: meliresendiz@gmail.com

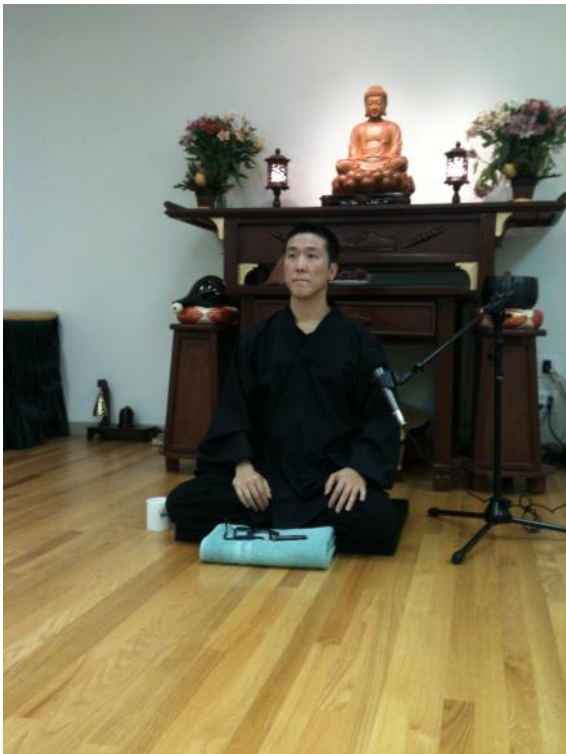
Iris: iwang123@yahoo.com

Sara: saraschaubddmba@yahoo.com

Helen: helenlau333@comcast.net

Dr. Jimmy Yu's Visit of June 3—5, 2011

Dr. Jimmy Yu (Guo Gu) presented a very successful weekend of teaching and sharing his wisdom. Friday night's lecture **Serene Reflection: Chan in Everyday Life** explained some basic concepts of the practice of Silent Illumination and was attended by 20 plus people with around 12 attending the full retreat on Saturday and Sunday.



Dragon Boat Race 2011

On June 11, 2011 the Dharma Drum Boating Bodhisattvas again took to the Fox River in St. Charles to compete in this year's Dragon Boat Race. It was a fun day filled with good company, good food, and hard work. We did not bring home an award this year, but all who participated—rowers and cheerleaders alike—were champions!



The DDMBA Chicago Boating Bodhisattvas



Dharma Drum Mountain Chicago Chapter

1234 N. River Road
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
Phone: (847) 824-6882 or
(773) 428-3680



Visit us on the web:

<http://www.ddmbachicago.org/>

The DDMBA Chicago is part of the International Cultural and Educational Foundation of Dharma Drum Mountain, DDM, founded in Taiwan by Venerable Sheng Yen. DDM is dedicated to the spiritual and educational needs of people at all stages of their lives.

The regular activities that take place at our Center comprise of two main groups: practice activities and social/caring activities .

Practice activities include Chinese Dharma Study Group, English Dharma Study Group, Meditation, Chanting, Sutra Prostration, and Monthly Gatherings. In addition, the meditation hall is open to the public for self meditation every Sunday morning. Currently our English programs include monthly book discussion, weekly meditation, and other special events. New programs are added often.

In addition to our English newsletter, the Chicago Chapter publishes a monthly newsletter in Chinese. Both the English and Chinese newsletters are archived in the newsletters section of the DDMBA Chicago website.



The Boating Bodhisattvas in Dragon Boat Race 2011.