

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>

Chan Workshop: Subtle Wisdom

Sundays

The study of Master Sheng-Yen's book continues. Subtle Wisdom introduces fundamental concepts of Chan Buddhism as well as provide a discussion of contemporary issues. This book has something valuable for every experience level. Come join us in our Chan Workshop at 8:30 for meditation and/or 10:00am for book study.

Celebrating Art Dinner

Friday, March 25, 2011

7:15pm

Join us for a dinner at Loving Hut with the Director of Art Education at CUNY, Queens College, Dr Rikki Asher. She also teaches meditation, Dharma, and yoga at the Chan Meditation Center, Dharma Drum Retreat Center, and the OMEGA Institute in NY.

You are also welcome to join us in an afternoon visit to Chicago Art Institute. Meet us at 3:30 at the museum. *See page 2 for more information about Dr. Asher's visit.*

Sixth Annual Buddhist Women's Conference

Saturday, March 26, 2011

8:00am—6:00pm

DePaul University Lincoln Park Center

The Buddhist Women's Conference offers an engaging program with lay and ordained teachers from all Buddhist traditions. It provides an opportunity to experience dynamic Buddhism in many forms. This year's theme - Expressing Dharma: Creativity in the Present Moment. *See page 2 for more information on this exciting event.*

Dr Rikki Asher: "What's a Mudra: Understanding Buddhist Art"

Sunday, March 27, 2011

Mudras are hand gestures in Buddhist art that express ideas. How can teachers, and the general public make meaning of art from Asian cultures and time periods relevant to today? This presentation offers techniques highlighted through slide examples and art activity guides will be distributed. *See page 2 for more information about Dr. Asher's visit.*

Video: 2009 Studies in Nutrition

Sunday, April 24, 2011 1-2 pm

Dr Gregor keeps us up-to-date in nutrition studies from medical journals for the year 2009.

Buddha's Birthday Ceremony: Venerable Chang Hwa

May 6-8, 2011

Spring Fundraising Dinner & Dharma talks in English and Chinese.

Dr Jimmy Yu (Guogu):

Silent Illumination Teaching & Retreat (English)

June 3-5, 2011

Dr Jimmy Yu was an attendant of Master Sheng-Yen, when he was a monk. He now teaches Buddhism at Florida State University.

Dragon Boat Race

June 11, 2011

The **Dharma Drum Boating Bodhisattvas** compete again for title "Spirit Award" (and compete for speed too!) during this Saturday race in St. Charles IL. Sign-up early for a spot on the boat!

Contact Donna Luteri (donita713@aol.com) or Julia Hsia (julhsia88@yahoo.com) for more information.

Dr. Rikki Asher Visits DDMBA Chicago



Rikki Asher will be visiting from NY to speak at the Women's Buddhist Conference – and at our center. She is Director of Art Education at CUNY, Queens College. She also teaches meditation, Dharma, and yoga at the DDMBA NY Chan Meditation Center, Dharma Drum Retreat Center, and the OMEGA Institute.

Her 10:15 AM **Sunday, March 27** talk will be on "**What's a Mudra? Understanding Buddhist Art**". Mudras are hand gestures in Buddhist art that express ideas. Rikki will help us to understand art from Asian cultures and bygone time periods, and make

them relevant to today. This presentation offers techniques highlighted through slide examples. Art activity guides will be distributed. This talk will be held at the DDMBA Chicago center in Mount Prospect.

We plan to have fun on the **Friday** she arrives! We will visit the **Chicago Art Institute** at 3:30 PM, then meet at 7:15 PM for dinner at **The Loving Hut**, 5812 N Broadway, Chicago. Meet us at either location – but reserve in advance, so we know to look for you and reserve a seat!

Sixth Annual Buddhist Women's Conference

More than three hundred Buddhist women are expected to gather in Chicago to participate in the Sixth Annual Buddhist Women's Conference, Expressing Dharma: Creativity in the Present Moment. The event takes place Saturday, March 26th, 2011 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm at DePaul University Lincoln Park Student Center, 2250 Sheffield, Chicago IL 60614.

The all-day conference and reception will offer an opportunity for Buddhists - both lay and ordained - to expand their view with fresh perspectives, to make nourishing connections and to deepen their practice. It will also offer those interested in Buddhism a chance to meet women practitioners and learn about the Dharma (teachings of Buddha).

This year's theme, "**Expressing Dharma: Creativity in the Present Moment**" will explore the fascinating and dynamic interconnections within the realms of Buddhist practice, dharma and creativity.

Keynote speaker Laura Simms is a senior teacher of Shambhala Arts, as well as a professional storyteller, writer and activist working worldwide for peace and human rights. Simms will speak on the act of creativity as genuine intelligence of presence.

Three insightful **plenary panelists** will discuss the process of open questioning and the interconnectedness of the creative mind, the meditating mind and the perceiving mind. Jacquelynn Baas, Ph.D and

Mary Jane Jacob, MA ran a five-year consortium entitled Awake: Art, Buddhism and the Dimensions of Consciousness; Rikki Asher, Ed.D draws on her thirty-plus years of Buddhist and artistic practices in her work teaching art education.

Breakout session presenters include poets, photographers, filmmakers, and painters who are Buddhist practitioners, many of them Chicago based.

The **Women and Engaged Buddhism Award** (WEBA) will be presented. It is given to recognize and encourage initiatives in Engaged Buddhism by women.

Note: **March 5th is the last day for early registration**, but signup continues through March 16 for mail-in, and March 20 for online registration.

Registration fee includes: keynote address, plenary panel, workshops (breakout sessions), continental breakfast, closing ceremony and hors d'oeuvre reception. A vegetarian lunch is included with registrations received by March 20, 2011.

For more information or to register online please visit: www.dharmawomen.org





A Bodhisattva Vacation...?

Want to go on a Bodhisattva Vacation? Here are some ideas...

Dharma Drum Retreat Center: Relax for a week by meditating in the New York countryside, and learning from a DDMBA Dharma Heir. The Retreat Center has a gorgeous Chan hall, a lake and stream on-site, many deer and other animals, and wonderful vegetarian/vegan food!

A 10-day retreat can advance your meditation practice. Generally the first day is just to calm down. You are likely to achieve deeper levels of meditation on such a retreat than would be possible with your busy home lifestyle. Also, since Dharma Heirs teach the retreats, you will get excellent instruction. All retreatants also will have interviews, where you can discuss your meditation issues and progress, and get professional advice.

You will wake up early, and spend your days mainly meditating, walking, chanting, and exercising, with some free time, and work time (clean up duty). During meditation, there are breaks every 30 minutes or so. You may bring your own cushion. Since all meditation retreats are silent, do not expect to talk during the week.

Each retreatant gets a single dorm room. The retreat center is accessible by train from Newark Airport, then local taxi. You must have experience with a 3-day meditation before attending a ten-day retreat. If you need 3-day retreat experience, contact Iris Wang. The retreats scheduled for this summer include:

Meditation Retreats

May 20-29 Intensive Silent Illumination
June 17-26 Intensive Huatou
July 15-24 Intensive Chan

Other CMC Retreats at DDRC

July 2-9 Chanting retreat (Chinese)
July 27-31 Family Camp
Aug 1-7 Surangama Chan Retreat

Other retreats also are available during the other seasons. See www.dharmadrumretreat.org.

If you aren't quite up for an intensive meditation retreat, keep working on your meditation skills, and consider one of the following vacations for this year ... or do both!

Vegetarian Summerfest: July 5-9 Johnstown PA. Select from 5-6 simultaneous different classes, on topics such as vegetarian health, cooking, environment, and animal rights, etc., but also yoga, star gazing, and juggling! This is held at a small university campus in the country and the fee includes room, great food, classes, and entertainment! Raw, vegan, and gluten-free diets accommodated. See www.vegetariansummerfest.org.

Sierra Club Environmental Vacations: Enjoy sightseeing the great outdoors, or do a service vacation here in the U.S. or overseas. Many trips offered year around. See www.sierraclub.org.

Earthwatch Research Vacations: Help professors in their research, including environmental, anthropological, or geographical studies. Trips this year include: "Unearthing Roman Britain", "Climate Change in China's Gutianshan Forests", and "Dolphins of Greece" – and many more! During your trip you will help fund research as well as expand science – all as a tax deductible contribution. See www.earthwatch.org.

Holistic Holiday at Sea: This cruise combines yoga, vegetarian cooking and health classes, with outstanding speakers in the field. Unfortunately, you just missed it for this year (Feb 27) – but catch it next year! Remember www.atasteofhealth.org!

Combine Yoga & Meditation: One way to build up to a DDRC intensive retreat is to attend a less intensive yoga retreat. See www.yogasite.com. Then try DDRC next year...

Shifu Commemoration: The Great Repentance Ceremony and Half-Day Meditation Retreat

On the weekend of February 12th we held two events as part of the Shifu Commemoration: a Great Repentance Ceremony on Saturday, and on Sunday a Half-Day Meditation Retreat. For both events, we had Shifu's sayings on cards across the center and also made available Master Sheng-Yen and Dharma Drum Lineage books along with New Year calendars and other free materials on a table at the entrance.

For the Great Repentance Ceremony Saturday morning we had 8 people, with a delicious vegetarian potluck afterwards. We did have a

Chinese New Year Celebration afterwards with more attendees. During the Chinese New Year we announced the Shifu Commemoration and encouraged people to come Sunday morning to the Half-Day Retreat.

For the Half-Day Retreat, we had 14 people, with a delicious vegetarian potluck afterwards. The retreat started at 8:30 on Sunday morning. Most of the retreat was meditation practice, but we also showed Shifu's Mindfulness DVD which proved to be very popular.



Pledge Drive

Remember that our pledge drive goes until March 15. Please pledge! Just for us to operate, DDMBA-Chicago facilities cost \$3000 per month, including rent, utilities and newsletters. Additional costs include speakers, and supplies. Please consider supporting DDMBA during our pledge drive.

Staffers Needed!

Interested in supporting DDMBA in another way? Volunteers are needed in many different capacities. Let us know what you like to do and we will find the perfect spot for you to contribute your talents. Contact Susan Lincke at lincke-salecker@att.net to get started.



Gilbert sharing a mind of wisdom



Our little chefs creating the New Year's Rice Balls for everyone's enjoyment



New Year's Potluck. Yum!



Donna Luteri shares her Tai Chi skills

Dharma Drum Mountain Chicago Chapter

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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 end of a full weekend of Dharma with Gilbert Guterrez . A very enriching experience was had by all.