

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 bilingual 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 Resumes

The Sunday morning Chan Workshop is back! The workshop is held every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 11:30. The class begins with Dharma Drum's Eight Form Moving Meditation (a mix of yoga movements to loosen up the body and calm the mind). It is directly followed by a period of seated meditation. Answering these challenging questions necessitates a firm foundation in basic Buddhist teachings. To this end, in a discussion that usually follows the sitting, we actively explore these and other topics in the context of basic Dharma, teachings of Buddha. Techniques of meditation are also examined. Readings serve as a springboard to launch our learning while discussions refine and deepen our understanding. We continue our study of "Subtle Wisdom: Understanding Suffering, Cultivating Compassion Through Ch'an Buddhism" written by Chan Master Sheng Yen.

Interfaith Worship: Rays of Hope—Remembrance of 9/11

Sunday, September 11, 2011

A special worship service will be held at the Performing Arts Center of Harper College in remembrance of 9/11. See page 2 for more details.

Beginner Meditation Class

Saturday, October 1, 2011

If you would like to learn to meditate, or have some experience and would like to learn more, attend this full-day class that will get you started! The class runs from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Please register in advance. The fee is \$20, and includes a vegetarian lunch. Please email DDMBACHicago@gmail.com to register. (On-line registration will be available using the Special Events tab.)

Veggie Dinner and Volleyball Game

Saturday, October 1, 2011

A fun evening has been planned beginning with dinner at top-rated vegetarian restaurant in Evanston, and ending with an exciting college sporting event. At 5:00pm we'll meet up at Blind Faith Cafe located at 525 Dempster Street, then head to nearby Welsh-Ryan Arena to see Meli's Northwestern University Women's Volleyball team in action at 7:00pm. Come to one or both events! Please let us know if you will be joining us for dinner so we may reserve your seat, and if you will attend the game so we know to look for you. Game tickets are \$7 and may be purchased at the stadium on game day. Contact Susan Lincke or Meli Resendiz to reserve or for more information.

Dr. Jimmy Yu Visits

October 15 and 16, 2011

Dr. Jimmy Yu (Guo Gu) returns to DD MBA Chicago in October for two talks—one in English and one in Mandarin. See page 3 for more information.

Venerable Guo Ming Visits

November 4 - 7, 2011

Ven. Guo Ming will present lectures in English and Mandarin along with a half day chanting ceremony in mandarin.

Save the Date... Fall Fundraising Dinner!

On Friday, November 4th we will hold our ever-popular Fall Fundraising Dinner featuring countless tasty vegetarian dishes to delight your palate. Venerable Guo Ming will be our special guest for the evening.

Szechwan Kingdom Restaurant, 545 Waukegan Road, Northbrook, 7-9pm.

Interfaith Worship: Rays of Hope—Remembrance of 9/11

Sunday, September 11, 2011, Worship Service: 4:00-6:00pm (Social gathering: 3:30-4:00pm)

Performing Arts Center at Harper College, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL

On September 11, DDMBA-Chicago will be representing the Buddhist faith at an Interfaith Worship service, together with representatives from many other faiths (Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, Unitarian Universalist, Baha'i, Hindu, Sikh and Native American), to jointly commemorate and honor those who perished during the terrorist attacks ten years ago, as well as to gather with thoughts of hope for peace in the world. The program to be held in the Performing Arts Center at Harper College will feature readings from the scriptures of many religions on the theme of hope and peace. The service will feature brief comments on the importance of seeking harmony and unity, and include offerings of prayer. Choirs, soloists and musicians will raise their voices and instruments for hope for all humanity. The public is invited to arrive by 3:30 p.m. to socialize and the service will begin at 4:00. Parking is free and no donations or collections will be expected. Please join us at this special and meaningful event.



A Weekend with Dr. Jimmy Yu

Dr. Jimmy Yu (Guo Gu), senior disciple of the late Chan Master Sheng Yen, and Asst. Prof. of Buddhism at Florida State University will present a weekend of teaching on Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16.

Saturday's talk will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 PM. "The Gem of Chinese Buddhism: The Significance of the Dharma Drum Chan Lineage." This talk in Mandarin Chinese will introduce the unique features of Chinese Buddhism, Chan or Zen, and discuss why Chan Master Sheng Yen created a new lineage of Chan Buddhism. Join our vegetarian potluck lunch at 12:00, before the event.

Sunday's talk in English will take place from 9:00am to 5:00pm. In this one day Meditation Retreat and Workshop, Dr. Yu will introduce the huatou method. Huatou is a unique Chan/Zen method of practice in Buddhism that aims for sudden enlightenment. All meditators are invited, regardless of their preferred method or practice level. This session will also include a vegetarian potluck lunch.



Dr. Jimmy Yu

New Program Announcement:

Tuesday Evening English Chanting/Meditation Hours

Do you want to expand your practice? Think you might like to chant? Or, do you want more time on the cushion? Can't make it to the regular Sunday sitting? We are happy to announce an expanded program with more hours available to you.

Beginning in October, DDMBA-Chicago in Mt. Prospect will be open on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. We will be chanting in English (including the Heart Sutra) for approximately 15 minutes followed by an hour long group meditation period where you can do seated meditation and/or prostrations.

This will be an open house format where you will not need to sign up in advance, just come in when you want to! The evening will be led by Melisande Resendiz, a lay practitioner, who has a strong interest in chanting and hopes that many of you may enjoy the benefits of adding chanting to your practice. For more information feel free to contact Melisande at meliresendiz@gmail.com.



Venerable Gou Jiann Visits Lake Barrington Shores

Nestled among the Northwest rolling hills and lakes of Chicago is the community of Lake Barrington Shores (LBS). It is home to DDMBA-Chicago member Eric Lin, Dav Faust and Terry Grezlo as well as over 1000 other families. On July 20th, Lake Barrington Shores welcomed Gou Jiann Fa Shi to their Chicago community.

Accompanied by Isabel Huang, Vice President of DDM North America, Gou Jiann Fa Shi arrived at LBS at 10 am. After a brief tour of the LBS recreational center, Venerable and Isabel were welcomed by Tai Chi Club members at the golf club where chef Mark Stanley prepared a special vegetarian luncheon.

Bilingual in Chinese and English, Venerable Guo-Jiann conversed with enthusiastic LBS residents throughout the luncheon about the following topics:

- * The purpose of her current trip to US
- *The decision to pursue monastic life and continue contact with her family
- *Buddhist chanting vs. Catholic chanting with the rosary
- *Western deities and the notion of sinfulness vs. Buddhist Bodhisattva & the concept of karma
- *Mindfulness and appreciation of living in the present moment
- *Buddhism scripture and DDM's publication in English
- *Mandarin language, as one participant is planning to visit Taiwan

At 2 pm, we reconvened in the ballroom to hear Venerable Gou Jiann's speech on 'How to Achieve Happiness Through Compassion and Wisdom'. Gou-Jiann Fa Shi outlined our sources of vexation as greed, jealousy, and anger. She then explained we can reduce our vexations through a devotion to compassion towards others. There are 4 steps for dealing with any vexation: face it, accept it, deal with it and let it go. Isabel used the experience of losing her passport and purse as an example of how she applied the 4 steps and was able to let go of her anxiety. Other participants shared how they dealt with vexations in their own lives.

LBS has been visited by Abbot Guo Dong, Guoxing Fa Shi, Changhwa Fa Shi during their trips to Chicago. The initial idea was to allow for out-of-town DDM venerables to take a break from their tour and relax in our serene and placid community. Now through good dharma seeds, LBS residents are more interested in the views and practice of Buddhism. Even at Dav Faust's slightly advanced age and Terry Grezlo handicapped condition, they visit DDMBA-Chicago often and express interest in helping DDM with fund raising activities.



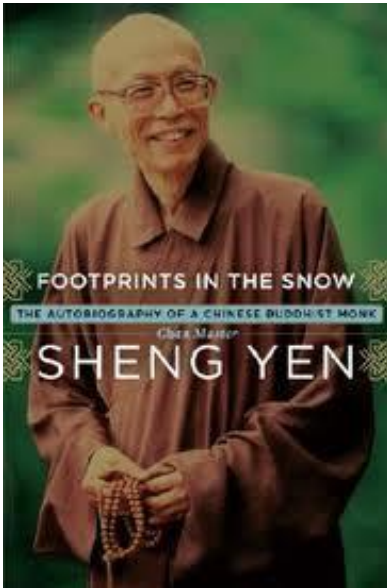
Lake Barrington Shores residents and Ven. Guo-Jiann



Isabel Huang, Ven. Guo-Jiann, and Eric Lin

Book Review: *Footprints in the Snow* by Master Sheng Yen

This book describes Master Sheng Yen's life story. What is extraordinary about Master Sheng Yen is that he started the international Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association, and the DDM university in Taiwan. What was interesting to me is that his life had its ups and downs as a normal life would. Parts of his life were very difficult in unexpected ways, such as his no-choice entry into the military during the Chinese revolution, and then the difficulty of trying to be released from it. In that way, he was just normal.



Master Sheng Yen saw the best and worst of Buddhism, including corruption. By being exposed to both best and worst parts, it is clear that he became committed to always keeping his own values at the highest possible levels, which are reflected in DDMBA today. What was unusual about his life was that he only wanted to be a devout Buddhist monk. His commitment caused him to even spend part of his life homeless in the United States, when he could have been comfortable in Taiwan. He worked both in Taiwan and internationally to spread Buddhism. As a committed vegetarian, I was pleased to see that Master Sheng Yen was always committed to being vegetarian, even during his military life.

The book also describes the steps he took, and the values he learned, in reaching a higher spiritual path. The reader sees how he started as an ordinary boy, and the steps he took to become more enlightened. Far from describing a saint who is beyond understanding, this book shows how a human being can become, and do, extraordinary things.

-Susan Lincke

Chinese Acupuncture and Medicine

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

Take advantage of this great opportunity while you can!

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.



On July 14 thru July 18, Venerable Guo-jiann delivered four lectures in Mandarin and one in English on The Aṣṭasāhasrikā Prajñāpāramitā Sūtra: Perfection of Wisdom in 8,000 verses.

