



Ven. Re Fa Shi is an abbot and founder of Ruiguang Temple of Buddhist Peaceful Enlightenment, in Brooklyn, NY. He is a former president of The American Buddhist Confederation, which consists of various Chinese temples in New York City area. He was ordained in 1979, and graduated from Buddhist College in Suzhou, China in 1987. He came to the United State in 1993, and graduated from York College social work program of CUNY in 2003.



Rev. Doyeon Park is a Kyomunim, literally meaning one who devotes oneself to teach Buddha dharma in the Won Buddhist tradition. She has served as a minister of the Manhattan Won Buddhist Temple and a representative of Won Buddhism to the United Nations since 2008. Also, she is the Buddhist chaplain at Columbia University and New York University.



Most Venerable Aluthgama Dhammajothi Thero is a Buddhist monk. He was ordained as a novice monk in 1971 in accordance with the tradition, and practice of Theravada Buddhism in Kollura Sri Walagamba Rajamahaviharaya, Polgahawela, He entered to the University of Colombo in 1981 and graduated with a bachelor's degree. Further, he received a Diploma in Education in 1992. He has worked as a teacher and also as a High School principle in Sri Lanka for many years. In 1993, he was invited to New York Buddhist Vihara to serve as a resident monk. Since then, he has been doing many religious activities while giving leadership to many events of the New York Buddhist Vihara. At present, he is the chief incumbent priest of the New York Buddhist Vihara and President of New York Buddhist Vihara Foundation.



Rev. James A. Lynch, Jr. is a Dharma Teacher as authorized by the lay Buddhist Organization Rissho Kosei Kai. He is an official representative for their outside affairs in the New York City area, as well as an official representative for Rissho Kosei Kai to the United Nations. James is currently the President of the Buddhist Council of New York, which represents more than 950,000 Buddhists in the Tri-State area. He also sits on the Board of Religions for Peace USA, which is the largest interfaith peace organization in America, and was recently appointed as a Trustee to the prestigious international Parliament of World Religions. James is a tenured professor and Chairman of the Business Management Department in the Koppelman School of Business located at Brooklyn College, where he teaches Workplace Happiness and Spirituality.



Ven. Bhante Kondañña is a Sri Lankan Buddhist Monk. He received his novice ordination in 1968, his monastic training in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and a BA in Buddhist Philosophy from University of Kelaniye also in Sri Lanka. In 1985, he came to USA to participate and also provide his helpful skills and services at the New York Buddhist Vihara. During that time, the dignified Kondanna began to attend classes at CUNY and now holds a BS in Social Work. Moreover in 1997, he obtained a MSW from Fordham University in New York. Bhante Kondanna believes that human beings should grow up having a spiritual foundation. He hopes that his contributions, experiences and philosophy enrich and enhance the lives of everyone here in New York City, and wherever he wishes to bring his proficiency.



Venerable Youwang

- Director of Fo Guang Shan (FGS) IBPS Temple in New York City
- Director of UN Affairs at Buddha's Light International Association, NYC (2014-current)

Executive Director of FGS Xian Yun Temple in Austin, TX (2012-2014)

Executive Director of FGS Hsi Lai Chinese School in Los Angeles, CA (2008 - 2014)

Ordained at FGS His Lai Temple in Los Angeles, CA (2008)

Rochelle Weithorn became a student of Tibetan Meditation Master Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche in 1975. She was one of the original members of the Buddhist Council of New York and represented the Shambhala Center of New York to the Buddhist Council for eight years from 2000 - 2008. Ms. Weithorn is the founder and director of the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus. She has written three plays about the life of the Buddha which were performed by the children of the Buddhist Council
Merbership: Tangerine of Mindfulness, Mahamaya, Yasodhara

Bob Stevens was introduced to the dharma in 1980 when he moved to NY wanting to study Hinduism but discovered the NY Shambhala Center (then named Dharmadhatu). He has been a student of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche. He teaches Shambhala Training as well as the Center's "In Everyday Life" series. Bob is Chairperson of the Governing Council of the New York center.

Sascha Ascher became a student of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche in 1975. She is a visual artist who has worked in many medias. Currently, Ms. Ascher is focusing on how to use her artwork in creating awareness in climate change and gardening.



Dr. Piya Ratna Maharjann is social, community development and humanitarian worker from Kathmandu. He is the global President of International Youth Society, International Buddhist Education Center Nepal & Track Nepal, also Country Director of United Nations Peace Keepers Federal Council UNPKFC & United Nations World Peace Association.

He is actively working for youth development, empowerment and education sectors. He is very much perceived both locally and globally having undeniable level of association.

PLAY PERFORMANCE

TANGERINE OF MINDFULNESS

A reading of our play about the early life of the Buddha.

Narrator - **Dekyong Lhamo** is a student of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, HH Dodrupchen, and Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche. She is an excellent actor and has a beautiful singing and speaking voice. Dekyong Lhamo writes and directs plays and is devoted to teaching and practicing the dharma and is especially dedicated to the beloved Female Buddha Tara. She first appeared in a Zoom production about the Twenty-One Taras in 2021 for the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus as a codirector, producer, and actor.

Siddhartha - **Arthur Stevens** is a student in NYC and excels in sports. He follows his older sister Helen who was the Narrator in our play Yasodhara for Vesak Day in 2008.

Svasti - **Bob Stevens** has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Milarepa Children's Theater from it's beginning. Performing is his great love!

Sujata - **Rochelle Weithorn** has performed in many plays and films as an actor and dancer. She wrote and directed Tangerine of Mindfulness, a retelling of the book Old Path, White Cloud. Her current focus is working on productions about the Twenty-One Taras. "Meditation Tara" is a short film she wrote and directed in 2022.

Technical Support - **Hal Richman** has been a student of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche since 1977. He lives in Still Water Lake, Nova Scotia. His current focus is on Gesar of Ling and Tara.



Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa Sak (Fa Yao) is the president of U.S. Zen Institute, abbot of Amatavihāra in Boyds, MD and Wisdom Temple in Billerica, MA. Dr. Dhammadipa Sak is also a scholar of early Mahāyāna and Theravāda Buddhism and specializes in the study of Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma and Theravāda Abhidhamma. He was a visiting lecturer at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He is also a trustee member of the International Buddhist Association of America (IBAA) and the Parliament of World's Religions (PWR).

Ven. Dhammadipa, besides conducting meditation retreats, also has been invited to provide meditative instructions mostly on Four Immeasurable Minds and partly on Mindfulness of Breathing and Insight Meditation in Seattle, Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Maryland, Indiana, Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, etc.



Venerable Guo Yuan is the abbot of Dharma drum retreat Center in Pine Bush, New York, a senior monk disciple of the well-known Chan master Sheng Yen. He studied under his teacher for over twenty years, and assisted his teacher in many Chan retreats overseas. He currently leads Chan retreats in many parts of the world including Europe, America, México, Taiwan and other parts of Asia.



As a close student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, **John Baker** has been a practitioner and teacher of Buddhism for 50 years. He coedited Trungpa's Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism and The Myth of Freedom and is the author of various articles. John was one of the co-founders and a principal teacher at the Westchester Buddhist Center in Irvington and New York Buddha Dharma (now Path of Awakening Buddhist Center). He also co-founded Naropa University, serving as its CEO for the first three years of its existence and as head of the Buddhist Studies program for five years. John also serves individuals as a life and executive coach. He has 23 years experience in business, selling the company he founded to a Fortune 500 firm.



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Ven. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, D. Min. is a Buddhist priest, ordained in the 750-year-old Jodoshinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism. He is a President and Founder of the Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York. He also is a President Emeritus of the Buddhist Council of New York; a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador; Nagasaki Peace Correspondent; an Honorary Board Member of the interfaith Center of New York; an Honorary President of Sanghakaya Foundation (India), and New York City Police Department Clergy Liaison.