



The Buddhist Council of New York & The Rubin Museum of Art present

VESAK & SAGA DAWA CELEBRATION

Peace In Action: Living The Teachings Of The Buddha

Saturday, May 18, 2024

1:00 - 3:00pm (ET)

@ Rubin Museum of Art

150 W 17th St, New York, NY 10011





Peace In Action: Living The Teachings Of The Buddha

- 1:00 pm **Opening** Tashi Chodron, The Rubin Museum of Art
Bathing the Buddha led by Ven. Youlin, Fo Guang Shan NY Temple
- 1:25 pm **Welcome Remarks**
Rev. Doyeon Park, The Buddhist Council of New York
MC: Rev. James Lynch, Rissho Kosei Kai New York
Congratulatory Remarks
The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Interfaith Center of New York
- 1:35 pm **Chanting/Prayer offering**
Ven. Aluthgama Dhammajothi, New York Buddhist Vihara
Ven. Yan Rui, Chan Meditation Center
Ven. Geshe Tashi Dorje, Center for Universal Peace in NY
Pan-Buddhist Offering:
 Willie Mukei Smith, The Village Zendo
 Laura Rivchun, The Triratna Buddhist Community
- 1:55 pm **Dharma Talks**
Ven. Bhante Kondanna, Staten Island Buddhist Vihara
Ven. Chimyo Atkinson, Association of Soto Zen Buddhists
Ven. Lopen Nidup Dorji
- 2:45 pm **Dedication of Merit**
Ven. Refa Shi, Ruiguang Temple of Buddhist Peaceful Enlightenment
Closing Tashi Chodron, The Rubin Museum of Art





Tashi Chodron is the Himalayan Programs and Communities Ambassador at The Rubin Museum of Art. Tashi is the co-founder of Tibet Oral History Project and founder of voices of Tibet – Tibetan Oral History Project; founder of Himalayan Pantry Inc.; and former consultant on Himalayan arts and culture Baruch Rubin Project at Baruch College. She is a recipient of the Gold Star award from the American Himalayan Foundation for her preservation of Tibetan culture. Tashi is one of the first women of her generation in exile to receive the entire teachings of the Vajrayana path directly from HH Penor Rinpoche.



Ven You Lin obtained a Professional Diploma in Buddhism Studies from Fo Guang Shan Tsung Lin University. For more than a decade, she has solemnly vowed to uphold the precepts for life. Ven You Lin works as a speaker and engages in various religious programs such as weekly Dharma services, Buddhist seminars, meditation retreats, etc. She provides Buddhist-related outreach and promotion of Fo Guang Shan, in charge of the construction project of Guang Ming College in the Philippines. She was transferred to New York in 2022 to continue her vow and passion to share the peace and goodness in line with the four objectives given by Fo Guang Shan: To propagate Buddhist teachings through cultural activities. To nurture talents through education. To benefit societies through charitable programs. To purify human hearts and minds through Buddhist practices.



Rev. Doyeon Park is a Kyomunim, a title in the Won Buddhist tradition that literally means "one who devotes oneself to teaching the Buddha dharma." She has been serving as a minister of the Manhattan Won Buddhist Temple and as a representative of Won Buddhism to the United Nations since 2008. Additionally, she is the Buddhist chaplain at both Columbia University and New York University, and co-chairs the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations. Through her spiritual practice, she has realized the interconnectedness of all things and is actively engaged in interfaith dialogue and cooperation, promoting mutual understanding and respect among different religions.





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 Vice President of the Buddhist Council of New York. He also sits on the Board of Religions for Peace USA. 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.



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer has served as the Director of the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) since 2007. During the past decade and a half, ICNY has developed a pioneering curriculum in civics training for grassroots religious leaders, built multi-faith advocacy coalitions preventing bias crimes, and promoted criminal justice and immigration reform. An Episcopal Priest in the Diocese of New York, Breyer has served at Harlem churches for more than two decades, including as Associate Priest at St. Philip's Church since 2012. She received her Ph.D. in Christian Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in 2017 and her doctoral dissertation focused on interfaith activism, Christian peacemaking, and Islamophobia.



Ven. Aluthgama Dhammajothi 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 the University of Colombo in 1981 and graduated with a bachelor's degree. Additionally, he received a Diploma in Education in 1992. Over the years, he has worked as a teacher and also served as a High School principal in Sri Lanka. In 1993, he was invited to the New York Buddhist Vihara to serve as a resident monk. Since then, he has been actively involved in various religious activities and has provided leadership in numerous events at the New York Buddhist Vihara, where he currently serves as the president.





Ven. Yan Rui joined the Dharma Drum Mountain Sangha community in 2013 and received full ordination in 2016. Since then, she has served in various roles at DDM affiliates in Taiwan, including liturgy of Buddhist ceremonies, teaching Dharma classes, and leading meditation programs. Currently, she is stationed at DDM New York affiliate, Chan Meditation Center, where she continues to serve people on their spiritual journey. She holds a master's degree from National Chengchi University and speaks in both English and Chinese.



Ven. Geshe Tashi Dorje is the director of the Center for Universal Peace in New York. In 1991, he received the Getsul (Samsrana) ordination blessing from His Eminence Kachen Lobsang Soepa, former abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, and in 1993 he received Bikshu (Gelong) Ordination Blessing from His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama. Ten years later he was awarded the Rigchung degree upon completion of the perfection of wisdom course. In September 2005, he was appointed to be the Chant Master, the third-highest ranking official of Sera Mey Monastery. Among his many additional honors, he received a doctorate in Buddhism, concentrating in the Five Major Texts from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. In the United States, Dorje teaches dharma and the Tibetan language to both Tibetans and Westerners.



Willie Mukei Smith is a Senior student at The Village Zendo, where he co-leads the People of Color Sitting Group. He serves on the Board of Zen Peacemakers International and a member of the Buddhist Council of New York. He is also a psychoanalyst with a private practice.





Laura Rivchun has been a practitioner with the Triratna Buddhist Community in New York City since 2008. She has supported the Women's Ordination Training efforts through her volunteer work with Alokasetu (formerly The Bridge of Light), as well as our sangha through teaching and being a Council Member. In September 2024, Laura will be ordained into the Triratna Buddhist Community in a public ordination ceremony. Laura is the founder of Chrysalis Career Coaching, specializing in interview preparation. She has mentored individuals through several non-profits and has described her experience as life changing and aligned with her Buddhist values.



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



Rev. Chimyo Simone Atkinson, Osho was ordained as a priest in the Soto Zen Buddhist tradition by Rev. Teijo Munnich in 2007, and received Dharma Transmission in 2015, completing Zuse in 2016. She received her monastic training at Great Tree Temple in North Carolina, Sotoshu International training periods in Japan, the Aichi Senmon Nisodo in Nagoya (2012), and Ryumonji Monastery in Iowa (2014). She served as Head of Practice at Great Tree Temple until 2020. She served on the board of directors of the SZBA from 2017-2020 and the ASZB from 2019 to the present.





Ven. Lopen Nidup Dorji is a prominent Buddhist scholar recognized for his academic and cultural contributions. He topped his class with an Academic Excellence Award in higher secondary Buddhist studies and deepened his spiritual practice during a three-year retreat at Chizey Goenpa Monastery in Thimphu, Bhutan. Ven. Dorji has earned accolades from the Central Monastic Body and the Department of Cultural Affairs for leading scripture conservation workshops, and from the Bhutan Film Association for his work in cultural preservation through script and lyrics writing. In 2022, he coordinated a national Buddhist teaching event in Thimphu.



Ven. ReFa Shi is an abbot & 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.





Whatever beings that are gathered here,
whether of the earth or in the sky,
may all beings indeed be happy!
And then listen carefully to what is said.

2024 BCNY Vesak Communal Chanting

From Rattana Sutta

Whatever treasures exists here or beyond
or the sublime gem in the heavens,
there is none equal to the Enlightened One.
This sublime gem is in the Buddha.
By this truth may there be happiness!

Just like a forest crown in full blossom
in the first month of the summer season,
just so the Buddha taught the excellent Dhamma,
leading to nibbāna, for the supreme welfare.
This sublime gem is in the Buddha.
By this truth may there be happiness!

The excellent one, knower of the excellent,
giver of the excellent, bringer of the excellent,
This sublime gem is in the Buddha.
By this truth may there be happiness!

Whatever beings are gathered here,
whether of the earth or in the sky,
we pay homage to the Buddha,
venerated by devas and humans.
May there be happiness!

Whatever beings are gathered here,
whether of the earth or in the sky,
we pay homage to the Dhamma,
venerated by devas and humans.
May there be happiness!

Whatever beings are gathered here,
whether of the earth or in the sky,
we pay homage to the Sangha,
venerated by devas and humans.
May there be happiness!

