



Buddhist Council of New York Annual Forum 2026

Timeless Wisdom, Timely Action:

Buddhist Skillful Means for a Changing World

Saturday, March 21, 2026 | 1:00 – 4:00 PM (ET)

The Village Zendo - Hybrid (In-Person & Zoom)

260 West Broadway, #1G, NY: Entrance located on St. Johns Lane

Program Schedule

12:40 PM Check-in

1:00 PM Opening

Master of Ceremonies: Rev. James Lynch, Rissho Kosei-kai

Rev. Willie Mukei Smith, The Village Zendo

Rev. Doyeon Park, Won Buddhism

Mr. Christopher J. Smith, Faith Liaison | Mayor's Office of NYC

1:30 PM Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Buddhist Global Relief

2:00 PM Ms. Annie Chu, Tzu Chi Foundation

2:30 PM Ven. Sooseong, Bul Kwang Zen Center

3:00 PM Ms. Natasha A. Dachos, Beacon Zen Temple

3:30 PM Closing Dedication

Gegye Yongyal Tulku Rinpoche



Thích Nhất Hạnh
Program for Engaged
Buddhism



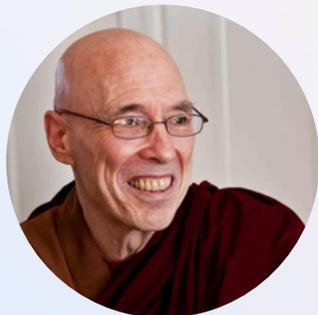
Rev. James A. Lynch, Jr. is a Dharma Teacher as authorized by the lay Buddhist Organization Rissho Kosei Kai. He is an official representative for Rissho Kosei Kai to the United Nations. James sits on the Board of Religions for Peace USA, and is a Trustee to the prestigious international Parliament of 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.



Rev. Willie Mukei Smith is a novice Zen priest and 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.



Rev. Doyeon Park is a Gyomunim – a title in the Won Buddhist tradition meaning “one who devotes oneself to teaching the Dharma.” Since 2008, she has served as a minister of the Manhattan Won Buddhist Temple and a representative of Won Buddhism to the United Nations. Also, she serves as the Buddhist spiritual life advisor at both Columbia University and New York University, president of the Buddhist Council of New York and co-chair of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations.



Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi is an American Buddhist monk based in New York. He earned a BA in philosophy from Brooklyn College and a PhD from Claremont Graduate School before traveling to Sri Lanka, where he received novice ordination in 1972 and full ordination in 1973. He later served as president and editor of the Buddhist Publication Society and has lived at Chuang Yen Monastery since 2006. A renowned scholar and translator, his major works include *The Numerical Discourses of the Buddha* (2012). In 2008, he founded Buddhist Global Relief, a nonprofit dedicated to hunger relief, sustainable agriculture, and education in communities facing poverty. In 2013, he was elected president of the Buddhist Association of the United States.



Ms. Annie Chu, MS, MHA, serves as Director of the Manhattan Service Center of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation's Northeast Region and as Deputy Director of Tzu Chi Center for Compassionate Relief. As a dedicated volunteer and Buddhist practitioner for over 25 years, she has witnessed how gratitude, respect, and love can transform and strengthen communities through the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation.

She has taken an active role in supporting faith-based social initiatives focused on serving those in need and protecting the environment. Through her volunteer work, she has organized various local events and programs, overseen food insecurity related services, and participated in disaster relief efforts and response.



Ven. SooSeong: Currently serving as the Buddhist Chaplain at West Point and Guiding Meditation Teacher at both Bul Kwang Zen Center and NY Jo-Gei Temple, he discovered the transformative power of meditation while healing from combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. Following a 20-year career in the U.S. Army and a tenure as a healthcare executive, he also became a certified Life and Leadership Coach prior to becoming an ordained Zen monk. By weaving together Zen wisdom and modern leadership, he guides students toward their own inner awakening through the pillars of Wisdom and Compassion.



Ms. Natasha A. Dachos, BCC, MAPCC, LMSW, is a board-certified spiritual care practitioner at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and a lay practitioner and student of Tenku Ruff Osho at Beacon Zen Temple in the Sōtō Zen tradition. She specializes in spiritual care in oncology, palliative care, and end-of-life. Deeply interested in the different experiences, ideas, and practices regarding dying, death, and bereavement around the world, Natasha is a lifelong advocate for improving and expanding end-of-life care and options. She brings a valuable global perspective from extensive international work in nonprofit, higher education, and corporate environments. Natasha holds degrees from the University of Notre Dame (B.S.), Columbia University (M.S.S.W.), and New York Theological Seminary (M.A.P.C.C.).



Eminence **Gegye Yongyal Tulku Rinpoche** is an ordained Buddhist teacher and a respected leader in the Kagyu Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. He holds a master's degree in Buddhist philosophy and completed extensive meditation training. Recognized as the third seat reincarnate Tulku of Gegye Tashi Choling Monastery near Mt. Kailash, he was enthroned following a ceremony led by His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa. Rinpoche has mastered key areas of Buddhist philosophy, including Pramana, Prajnaparamita, Madhyamika, Abhidharma, and Vajrayana Tantra. He currently serves as president of the Amala Center Nepal, the Himalayan Buddhist Center Australia, and Zero Point Meditation Center USA. Since 2020, he has been actively teaching and promoting the practical application of Buddhist ethics, Sutrayana, and Vajrayana practices, emphasizing loving-kindness, compassion, and personal transformation.