Buddhist Council of New York Presents

Meditate NYC 2026

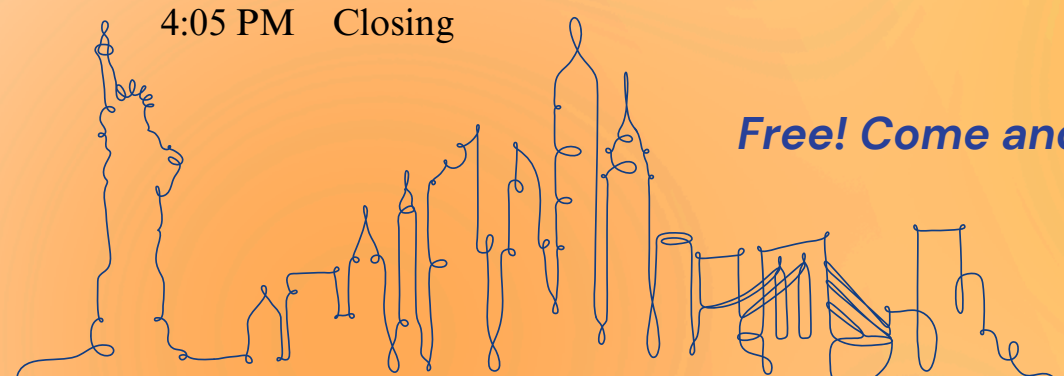
Invest in Peace—
For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 1:00 - 4:30 PM

The Village Zendo | 260 West Broadway, NY, NY

Program Schedule

1:00 PM	Opening
1:05 PM	Welcome Remarks - Rev. James Lynch, Buddhist Council of NY
1:10 PM	Ven. Yan Xi, Dharma Drum Retreat Center
	Leslie Booker, New York Insight Meditation Center
	Ven. Aluthgama Dhammajothi, New York Buddhist Vihara
2:10 PM	Break
2:45 PM	Malik Cadwell
	Roshi Shinryu Thomson, The Village Zendo
	Tashi Chodron, Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art
	Charlie Korin Pokorny, Brooklyn Zen Center
4:05 PM	Closing



Free! Come and go as you like!



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. 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.



Ven. Yan Xi first encountered meditation in college, while searching for a way to understand and transform human suffering. Through the teachings of Master Sheng Yen, he came to see that Chan (Chinese Zen) practice can transform the mind, helping one meet life's challenges with wisdom and a fresh perspective. After leaving his engineering career in Macao, Ven. Yan Xi went to Taiwan to pursue the monastic path. He joined the monastic community of Dharma Drum Mountain in August 2016 and later graduated from the Six-Year Chan Practice Program at Dharma Drum Sangha University. He previously served at the Chan Retreat Center (Chan Hall, 禪堂) of Dharma Drum Mountain in Taiwan. He is now a resident monastic at Dharma Drum Retreat Center in Pine Bush, New York, where he leads retreats, teaches Dharma programs, and guides a monthly online group practice.



Booker is a heart-centered, Dharma Teacher focused on what allows us to feel that we belong to each other. She shared the practices of yoga and mindfulness with New York City's most vulnerable populations for over a decade, and has been a featured speaker and facilitator at the Fetzer Institute, Vassar and Pitzer Colleges, the Contemplative Sciences Center at the University of Virginia, and Mind & Life Institute's International Symposium. Booker has co-authored and contributed to several publications including the trauma-informed anthology Practicing Liberation and its accompanying workbook, for folks working towards social justice. She is a co-founder of the Yoga Service Council at Omega Institute and the Meditation Working Group of Occupy Wall Street. In 2020 she was invited to be a Sojourner Truth Leadership Fellow through Auburn Seminary, graduated from Spirit Rock's 4 year Teacher Training program and was voted by her peers as one of the 12 Powerful Women in the Mindfulness Movement. Her primary Dharma Teachers have been Gina Sharpe, Larry Yang, Bhante Buddharakkhitta and finds a deep connection to the Dharma through the writings of Alice Walker, bell hooks and audre lorde. Booker moved to Philadelphia in August of 2020 to vote in a swing state, and currently serves as the Guiding Teacher of New York Insight.



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.



Malik Cadwell is a Mind-Body Therapist and Project Coordinator in Integrative Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. With over 48 years of martial arts experience and 30 years in behavioral health counseling, he brings meditation and martial arts to pediatric patients and their families, leads community Tai Chi classes, and serves patients at Harlem's Ralph Lauren Center. A Northwestern University psychology graduate, Malik has taught mind-body practices at universities, libraries, and programs serving veterans, teens, and incarcerated individuals. Named a grandmaster in 2004, he represented the United States at the World Karate Championships in Tokyo and was invited to demonstrate Tai Chi and Kung Fu for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics Torch Relay. He offers individual, family, and group sessions, alongside corporate wellness workshops, both in person and virtually.



Roshi Shinryu Thomson is the abbot of the Village Zendo. He received Denkai, or full priest ordination, from Enkyo O'Hara Roshi in August 2007, dharma transmission in December 2009, and Inka in January 2021. He has been affiliated with the Village Zendo since 1998. He is a also member of the Phajjsi Qollut Jalsu Zen Center in La Paz, Bolivia, which he co-founded in 1992. Shinryu teaches Latin American History at New York University and is the author of books on Native American politics, colonialism, and revolution in the Andes.



Tashi Chödrön is a lay Buddhist practitioner and among the first women of her generation in exile to receive the complete Vajrayana teachings directly from HH Penor Rinpoche, including Ngondro, Tsalung, and Dzogchen—the pinnacle teachings of Tibetan Buddhism.

She is the Himalayan Programs and Communities Ambassador at the Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art, where she hosted the museum's weekly mindfulness meditations and curated the popular Himalayan Heritage series. Tashi has taught widely at venues such as Kripalu, Asia Society, Williams College, Brooklyn Public Library, and New York Insight Meditation Center. She has also led programs for Tibet House, UN Women USA, and other organizations. Committed to preserving Tibetan culture, she has raised funds for humanitarian projects in Tibet and served on the board of UN Women USA (New York Chapter). She has received the American Himalayan Foundation's Gold Star Award and a Citation of Honor from Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. Currently, she works as a Mindfulness Meditation Coach at FIT NYC.



Charlie Korin Pokorny was ordained as a priest by Tenshin Reb Anderson in 1999 and received dharma transmission in 2018. He practiced as a resident at Tassajara and Green Gulch Farm around 1994 to 2006, and studied koans with Daniel Terragno. Charlie teaches at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley (including courses on Buddhist thought, history and practice). Charlie and his partner, Sarah Dojin Emerson, served as head priests at Stone Creek Zen Center in Sebastopol, California, from 2014 to 2022, and they have been teaching together at Brooklyn Zen Center since 2022.