

Present

The Voices and Activities of Theravada Buddhist Women | Winter 2011

September 17, 2011

The 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day

If You Honor Me, Honor My Mother Gotami ■ The 1st Annual International
Bhikkhuni Day ■ Honoring and Celebrating Bhikkhunis and Laywomen
New Turns Toward Ancient Paths: The Ordinations in California
Bhikkhuni Education Today: Seeing Challenges as Opportunities
Venerable Kusuma and the Power of Literacy Education
Turning Back Towards Freedom
Wearing White in the West ■ Bhikkhunīsaṃyutta



Present

The Voices and Activities of Theravada Buddhist Women

Current Issue
Winter 2011 | Volume 4 | Issue 1

ISSN 2156-0099. Present is published two times per year by Alliance for Bhikkhunis, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. PO Box 1058, Santa Barbara, California, USA 93102-1058
www.bhikkhuni.net

Editor-in-Chief

Susan Pembroke

Executive Editor

Jacqueline Kramer

Assistant Editor

Sarah Conover

Editorial Board

Sarah Conover
Roseanne Freese
Randy Graves
Jacqueline Kramer
Donna McCarthy
Susan Penbroke

Design & Layout

Sandi Hampton

THANKS TO

Venerable Bhikkhu Bodhi, Venerable Bhikkhuni Sobhana, Ron Browning, Carudhamma Jo Ferris, Kathy Jean Schultz, Joan Sutherland, Janice Tolman

Present is an independent publication and does not represent any particular lineage, monastic, or teacher. The journal is produced for and supported by the Theravada fourfold sangha, and as such reflects the interests of that community. Present publishes essays, non-fiction, scholarly articles, news, and reviews about—and relevant to—bhikkhunis and the fourfold sangha. We welcome unsolicited articles, essays, scholarly investigations, photographs, artwork and illustrations. We do not accept unsolicited book reviews.

Copyright © 2011 Present/Alliance for Bhikkhunis. All rights reserved. Contents copyright reserved worldwide on behalf of Present/Alliance for Bhikkhunis and the respective authors and photographers.

Gotami's Enlightenment Poem

Homage to you Buddha,
Best of all creatures,
Who set me and many others
Free from pain.

All pain is understood,
The cause, the craving is dried up,
The Noble Eightfold Way unfolds,
I have reached the state where everything
stops.

I have been,
Mother,
Son,
Father,
Brother,
Grandmother;
Knowing nothing of the truth
I journeyed on.

But I have seen the Blessed One;
This is my last body,
And I will not go
From birth to birth again.

Look at the disciples all together,
Their energy,
Their sincere effort.
This is homage to the Buddhas.

Maya gave birth to Gautama
For the sake of us all.
She has driven back the pain
Of the sick and dying.



*Mahapajapati's Enlightenment Poem -
translation by Susan Murcott*

Present

Post Office Box 1058
Santa Barbara
California, USA
93102-1058

Help celebrate and support Present/Alliance for Bhikkhunis!

This copy has been made available to you through the generous donations of our readers. If you enjoyed this issue, then please consider a tax-deductable donation to help support Present/Alliance for Bhikkhunis. 90% of donations are allocated for bhikkhuni ordination and training costs; bhikkhuni medical, dental and health insurance expenses; and providing requisites, including books and computers, to bhikkhuni viharas. Donations can be made quickly, easily, and securely [online here](#).