

# 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  
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# The 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day

September 17, 2011, Meditation Pledge-A-Thon

*Honoring and Celebrating Bhikkhunis and Laywomen*

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## *FAQ about International Bhikkhuni Day:*

What It Is and Why Your Participation Benefits You, Your Fellow Practitioners, the Bhikkhuni Sangha, and Future Generations

### *What is International Bhikkhuni Day?*

It is a day on which we pay respect to the Bhikkhuni Sangha and acknowledge its essential role in preserving and spreading the Dhamma. We remember prominent bhikkhunis and their unique achievements and contributions.

### *When is International Bhikkhuni Day?*

The 1st International Bhikkhuni Day, in 2011, is Saturday, September 17. In the future, the celebration will take place on the full moon Saturday in September or on the first Saturday immediately following the full moon.

### *Why this date?*

The first bhikkhuni, Bhikkhuni Maha Pajapati Theri, the Buddha's stepmother and aunt, ordained during a full moon in September, the occasion marking the start of the Bhikkhuni Sangha.

### *What do we do on International Bhikkhuni Day?*

We honor bhikkhunis and the women who have guided us, beginning with Bhikkhuni Maha Pajapati Theri, as well as rejoice in the continuance of the Bhikkhuni Sangha. Sharing stories about bhikkhunis and laywomen will help us recall that we are all a vital part of the Fourfold Assembly created by the Buddha.

## What else do we on this day?

- ❑ It is a time to raise funds to support ordained women.
- ❑ It is a time to meditate and study the Dhamma.
- ❑ It is a time to honor women and their spiritual accomplishments.
- ❑ It is a time to protect the history and spiritual legacy of bhikkhunis and laywomen.
- ❑ It is a time to send love and compassion to heal conflicts in our families, communities, and the world.
- ❑ It is time to re-dedicate ourselves to becoming the skilled, adept, learned, and purified disciples the Buddha intended us to be.

## How you can raise money for bhikkhunis

- Be a part of organizing a retreat at your local temple, center, or sitting group.
- Ask family members, friends, and fellow practitioners to sponsor your day of meditation and sharing.

All donations to the Alliance for Bhikkhunis are 100% tax deductible. Visit the Alliance for Bhikkhunis website <http://www.bhikkhuni.net/> for information on registering for this event.



If your community is small, a handful of fellow practitioners gathering in someone's home and supporting each other in a day of practice is an ideal way to join us. A self-retreat is another option. Though meditating alone, you will simultaneously be part of a global community of fellow meditators. We invite individuals to register and ask for pledges from family and friends.

You may also direct donors to the Alliance for Bhikkhunis (AfB) website where they can donate online right now. Checks can also be made out to **Alliance for Bhikkhunis** and mailed to: Alliance for Bhikkhunis, P. O. Box 1058, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1058.

## What to look for in 2011

Our website will have a link for making pledges as well as suggestions on fundraising ideas that will benefit your center or temple.

## What else can you do?

Please send us stories about the remarkable women who have inspired you. We will compile these stories into a book.

Also consider becoming an AfB volunteer.

## How the AfB will assist you in helping bhikkhunis

The AfB site will have downloadable brochures about the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Bhikkhuni Day for individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as an AfB brochure.

Pledging money will be easy and safe. Simply go to our website <http://www.bhikkhuni.net> and follow the directions.

There will be a real time feed as meditators from around the world share their experiences and stories.

The AfB site will offer downloadable guided meditations and talks.

Pictures of bhikkhunis, their biographies and teachings, and ways to reach them will be posted.

The site will suggest a list of questions any facilitator can use to lead a discussion about the extraordinary women who brought out the best in people.

**Present**

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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](#).