

Temporary Samaneri Ordination in Thailand Nirotharam Bhikkhuni Arama

To commemorate Buddha Jayanti (2600 years since the Buddha's enlightenment) and the King of Thailand's 84th year, a temporary 9-day samaneri ordination program was offered to women who might not otherwise have the chance to ordain, giving them an opportunity to briefly experience monastic life and realize its value. Fifty-one women took part.

The program was also held in conjunction with the celebration (October 16) of the arama's newly completed uposatha (ordination) hall, attended by a delegation of Sri Lankan bhikkhus and bhikkhunis, including pavattini (preceptor) Ven Padukke Sumithra who performed the samaneri ordinations.

In other news, neither of Nirotharam's branch monasteries was affected by Thailand's major flooding following this year's monsoon season. A flood scare from the risk of a nearby dam overflowing resulted in the sisters having to move possessions upstairs (then downstairs again) as a precaution, but fortunately, everyone remained safe and no harm was done.

However, large parts of Thailand have been severely hit, and the water has yet to recede in many areas. For more information on how to help alleviate the suffering of the flood victims, please visit the Thai Red Cross.

The Bodhi Grows in Australia

Bomaluwa Temple
Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka
November 4, 2011

The co-abbots of Dhammasara Buddhist Nuns' Monastery (Western Australia), Venerables Nirodha and Hasapanna, along with newly ordained Samaneri Karunika (formerly Anagarika Kemanthi) and lay supporter Mrs. Ber Sun, traveled to Bomaluwa Temple (Sri Lanka) to receive a precious sapling from a seed of the great Sri Maha Bodhi Tree of Anuradhapura. Elder Sri Lankan monk, Venerable Dr. Pallegama Sirinivasa Atamasthanadhipathi Nayaka Thero, offered the gift to honor the Bhikkhuni Sangha. Before a large crowd and amid news coverage, the two bhikkhunis formally received the sapling.

Having passed a biological examination and quarantine of Australian Customs, the auspicious Bodhi tree will be planted at the Dhammasara Monastery.

[Photos from the ceremony in Sri Lanka can be seen here:](#)

Sanghamittaram Celebrates the 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day **Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Residence** **Victoria, Australia**



Sanghamittarama had a successful gathering at this year's 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day celebration, September 17, 2011. A Dhamma talk was offered by Ven. Bhikkhu Janagatha, followed by discussion about the bhikkhuni



Sanghamittaram Shaving Head of Ana

[Photos from the ceremony planting the sapling at the Centre for Rhizobium studies glasshouse \(Murdoch University, Perth, Australia\) can be seen here:](#)

tradition and the difficulties it faces. Eminent women in Buddhism, such as Upasika Dipa Ma and Ven. Ayya Khema, two notable meditation teachers of the late 20th century, were also discussed. Funds were raised to witness the head being shaved of a long term supporter, Ana. Many people left the event inspired after learning more about the female aspect of Buddhism and the bhikkhuni movement in the Theravada tradition.



In other news, Ven. Bhikkhuni Vijitananda, a senior bhikkhuni abbess of the Sakyadhita Nuns' Training Centre in Sri Lanka, has been invited to stay and give teachings at Sanghamittarama during 2012. She will be in residence along with Ayya Dhammananda and Ayya Upekkha from Singapore.



Ayya Upekkha

[Singapore Participates in the 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day](#) [Singapore Buddhist Fellowship, Singapore](#)

Ayya Upekkha led the celebration for the 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day with the support of the Singapore Buddhist Fellowship. They were also honored to have Bhante K. Gunaratana (West Virginia, USA) and Venerable Bhikkhuni Faxun (Singapore) join in the celebration, along with many devotees. (Please see the feature article on "Reflections from Around the World on the 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day" in this issue to read about Ayya Upekkha's experience that day.)

Tea and Dharma Discussion at Sravasti Abbey Washington State, USA September 2011

The monastic community of Sravasti Abbey shared the dharma over lunch and tea with visitors, including a member of the Alliance for Bhikkhunis editorial board, Sarah Conover. Each monastic spoke about why bhikkhunis are important in the world, and their sharing was inspirational to all.

Venerable Thubten Semkye took wonderful



Sravasti Stained Glass Window

photos of the visit which included the Abbey's beautiful stained glass window of the founder of the Bhikkhuni Sangha, Mahapajapati Gotami to whom the 1st Annual International Bhikkhuni Day was dedicated. The piece was made by artist Beverly Brecht and modeled from the original artwork by Tibetan painter, Rigdol Oshoe.

Proposed Bhikkhuni Training Center in Sri Lanka

Sadaham Sevana

Center for the Study and Research of Buddhism
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Venerable Bhikkhuni Kusuma's (Sri Lanka) project to build a Bhikkhuni Training Center in Colombo, Sri Lanka was recently the recipient of a large monetary donation. Upon completion, the center will be able to offer in-house training facilities for approximately 20-30 nuns. There is also a desire to build a community kitchen that would offer rice and simple meals to residents and those in need.

Theravada Bhikkhuni Ordination, India 2012

Mahapajapati Nunnery (Vietnamese Temple)

Vaishali, Bihar, India

June 30, 2012

Venerable Bhikkhuni Lieu Phab (Vietnam) has announced there will be an international bhikkhuni ordination in Vaishali, India, the place where the Buddha first ordained women. Eligible candidates must have a minimum of two years of samaneri training. The ordination will take place on June 30, 2012. The preceptors will be Sri Lankan bhikkhus and bhikkhunis. Following the ordination, candidates will receive a three-month training as bhikkhunis.

For further information, please contact Venerable Lieu Phab at lieuphab@yahoo.com or lieuphab@gmail.com.

13th Sakyadhita International Conference

Vaishali, India

Vaishali, India will be the location for the 13th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women, January 2013. [Click here.](#)

Anenja Vihara Celebrates Its 5th Year

Anenja Vihara
Germany

On April 1, 2012, Anenja Vihara will celebrate the 5th Anniversary of its official inauguration. "Anenja" means "imperturbable," an important prompt and reminder to the Sangha of Ayya Sucinta (German), Samaneri Viveka (German,) along with devoted lay supporters who have been maintaining the monastery since the leaving of its founder, Ayya Mudita, in the summer of 2010. Anagarika Madalina (Rumania) also joined the community in September, 2011. The resident community, supported by laywomen, will be in winter retreat in January and February, 2012.

Bhikkhuni Sudinna Joining the Mahapajapati Monastery

Mahapajapati Monastery
Pioneertown, California, USA
2011

Mahapajapati Monastery has invited Bhikkhuni Sudinna to stay and practice with their resident community. She has accepted. Her ten years of experience as a bhikkhuni will be most welcomed. Born in Sri Lanka, Ayya Sudinna was ordained as a samaneri in 1999 by Bhante Gunaratana at the Bhavana Society (West Virginia, USA). She received higher ordination in 2002 in Sri Lanka.

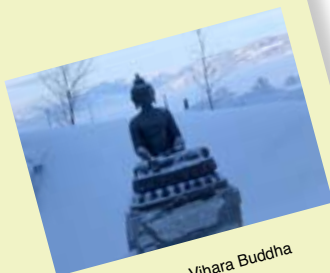
Congratulations to Samaneri Aloka

Mahapajapati Monastery
Pioneertown, California, USA
2011

Mahapajapati Monastery is pleased to announce the samaneri ordination of Anagarika Aloka, formerly Brenda Batke-Hirschmann and past vice-president of the Alliance for Bhikkhunis and Executive Editor of its online magazine Present. Samaneri



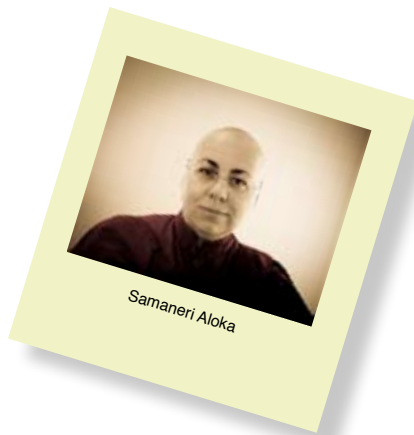
Anenja Vihara Wood Building



Anenja Vihara Buddha

Aloka ordained at Dharma Vijaya Vihara in Los Angeles on Oct 24, 2011.

Venerable Dr. Walpola Piyananda Nayaka Thero acted as preceptor, alongside a Sangha of six distinguished senior bhikkhus and three bhikkhunis: Ven. Weihene Pannaloka Nayaka Thero, Ven. Sumangala Maha Thero, Ven. Kalyanawansa Thero, Ven. Kassapa Thero, Ven. Dhammajothi Thero, Ven. Wimalasara Thero, Ven. Gunasari Bhikkhuni, Ven. Uttama Bhikkhuni, and Ven. Susila Bhikkhuni.



[Workshops on Working with Emotions](#) [Great Determination Buddhist Hermitage](#) [Ohio, USA](#)

Venerable Madika Bhikkhuni offers workshops on learning how to deal with difficult emotions in a way that brings peace and balance instead of agitation and anger. She has been working on *The Missing Peace: Freedom From Disturbing Emotions*, a companion book for her workshops which will be published in early 2012.

For more information on scheduling a workshop, please email jusanwareagle@yahoo.com or call 740-591-2778.



Spirit Rock Bhikkhuni Ordination

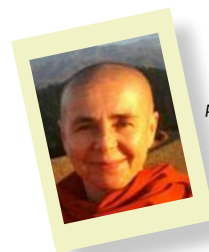
Spirit Rock Meditation Center
Woodacre, CA, USA
October 17, 2011

Please see the feature article "A Sima of Flowers" which appears in this issue of *Present* for details of the ordination and events leading to these women ordaining.

Aloka Vihara San Francisco, CA, USA

Established in 2009, Aloka Vihara is now the residence for two bhikkhunis in the Theravada Forest Tradition, Ayya Anandabodhi and Ayya Santacitta. After 18 years of training with the Siladhara Order in England, the nuns received bhikkhuni ordination with Ayya Tathaaloka Theri as preceptor on October 17th 2011, at the Spirit Rock Meditation Center, Woodacre, California.

From January 9th through March 6th 2012, the community of Aloka Vihara will be in silent retreat. Next Spring the Saranaloka Foundation will begin looking for rural property in the wider Bay Area for the nuns to begin a training monastery.



Spirit Rock Ordination Group