

I BMC Monthly Guide - November, 2006

Patriarch's Memorial Day and Potluck Luncheon

We will be celebrating Patriarch's Day this year on Sunday, November 26. This year we will be playing a videotape of Dr. Thien-An's later life. We hope you will enjoy our celebration of the Patriarch's life.

Ven. Karuna a cover story for Tricycle?

Yes, she is the cover story on Tricycle, the Buddhist magazine, which will hit the news stands on November 15. Rev. Thich Tam Xa, also known as Mira Tweti, wrote the 3600 word article, following an interview which she had with Ven. Karuna for Tricycle. The article particularly talks about the role of women in Buddhism and the new emergence of the Bhiksuni (Bhikkhuni, Pali) Order, in which Ven. Karuna is so instrumental. There are several colorful photographs as well in the article.

108 Bows Ceremony

The first Sunday of each month is marked by the 108 Bows Ceremony, where we pay obeisance to the 88 known Buddhas. On November 6 the ceremony will be led by Rev. Hanasi. We hope that you will join us for this wonderful ceremony at 10:00 am. It makes a good prelude to the Sunday service.



Ven. Karuna in the tantric hat displaying the five Dhyani Buddhas, worn at Ullumbana

Bodhi Day Retreat coming up on December 8-10

He who has not realized Essence of Mind
and seeks for Buddha without
Is on a wrong path and acting foolishly.
He who seeks Buddha by practicing certain doctrines
Knows not the place where the real Buddha is to be found.
He who is seeking to realize Buddha within his own mind,
He only is sowing the seed of Enlightenment.

Our traditional weekend retreat commemorating the Buddha's enlightenment will be held December 8-10, with IBMC monks leading the sitting. The retreat will be held in traditional Zen style and will feature a good amount of sitting meditation (Zazen), interspersed with periods of walking meditation (kinhin) and working meditation (samu).

Wear comfortable clothing, (not jeans which are too restrictive) and bring your bedding and toiletries. The fee is a suggested \$75 After sitting this retreat you can take refuge if you wish.

It is thought that a retreat at this time of year is particularly effective in making good progress toward enlightenment. So it is a very good time to share everyone's meditative energy.

Prison Dharma, devoted to writings from prisoners across the country

Dear Spiritual Guide, Rev. Karuna Dharma. Amitofu and Gassho.

Thank you so much for your letter and copies of the Diamond Sutra, pictures of the Buddha and Kwan Yin, and copy of the Refuge Ceremony. I have read the chant book and Emptiness and Phenomena. I started on the Vajracchedika Sutra (an analysis) last night. I will read it a few times first. It is somewhat difficult to understand, but I think I will be able to do so

I spoke to Chaplain Fogue about receiving refuge, Email him at this site to arrange a phone call from you. I'm looking forward to speaking with you and also the Refuge Ceremony..

I have some requests. If possible, the 1st one is, Is there anyway you can provide me with an address for his Holiness, the Dalai Lama? Let me explain why. I would like to have it and write him to thank him for his kindness and great compassion. I saw a picture of him and in the picture the Lama Zopa Rinpoche was kneeling at his side. As soon as I saw that picture, tears started running down my face and I started chanting the Buddha's name. Nothing has moved me like that for a long time, if ever in this life. I feel very compelled to write to him and thank him for his great compassion for Lama Rinpoche, and for all sentient beings, even you and me.

Also, could you provide me with the important Buddhist dates and what should be done on them?

I guess I will close for now. I sure am looking forward to speaking to you and taking refuge. Also, I want to thank you for your kindness and great compassion. You will never know how much you have helped me.

Yours in the Dharma, David

Sue Karma is doing fine...

Dear IBMC,

Just a note to let you know that Sue Karma is well and reasonably happy <smile>. She obviously misses her routine and people at IBMC, but is adjusting with her typical grace. She doesn't like to meet more than one person or critter at once (who does?), and is not completely won over by David (but she's willing to give him the benefit of the doubt).



Our 14 yr old female shepherd mix (smaller than Sue Karma) is a bit of a problem, because she is the queen and does not suffer slights to her status (imagined or otherwise, both slights and status!), but we're mediating and supervising and separating them. Sue Karma and Loki get along well, aside from occasional status issues (Sue Karma is the instigator in this instance); they're about the same age and playfulness level, and I have hopes that this will mitigate the moments with no-fun-cop Gypsy. We've been taking her for long walks and giving her lots of special dog time.

Interestingly, we did see behavior that might connect to biting: while walking toward the end of our street without sidewalks, a small SUV drove past, a little too fast, and as it passed, Sue Karma suddenly lunged back at it; no bark, no warning. She was on a short lead and didn't get anywhere near, but it was completely unexpected, atypical dog behavior. It was as if a circuit connected in her head and she was compelled to respond. Consistent with the kind of fear biting, where the dog just wants to make the threat go away, which is marked by a silent, sometimes unannounced attack from behind.

Anyway, I wanted you to know that she misses IBMC, but she is doing okay.

Peace Sande / Sr. Candana

November Events

Sunday Talks

11/5 Morality (How To Be Moral) - 11am - Rev. Hanasi Karuna, Thich Tam Hy

11/12 Who Is My Refuge? - 11 am - Ven. Karuna Dharma, Thich An-Tu

11/19 A Buddhist Potpourri - 11am - Rev. Jana Karuna Vajra

11/26 Videotape of Ven. Dr. Thich Thien-An - 11am - introduced by Ven. Karuna Dharma

Classes at IBMC

Mon Zen Koans - 7 pm - Rev. Vajra Karuna, Ananda Hall

Tues Fundamentals of Buddhism - 7 pm - Rev. Hanasi Karuna, Ananda Hall

Wed Every Day Buddhism - 7 pm - Rev. Kusala Bhikshu, Zendo

Fri Sitting Meditation - 7:30 - Rev. Kusala Bhikshu

Special Events

11/5 108 Bows Ceremony, 10 am

11/29 Patriarch's Day, followed by Luncheon at 12:20

Meditation

Wednesday nights, 7-9 pm led by Rev. Kusala Bhikshu

Friday nights, 7:30-9 pm, led by Rev. Kusala Bhikshu

IBMC Web page: www.IBMC.info

Ven.Karuna's email: Karunadh@comcast.net

Ven. Karuna's web page: Karunadhharma.info

Ven. Shanti's email: Hshanti1@yahoo.com

Rev. Kusala's email: Kusala@kusala.info

Rev. Kusala's web page: www.Kusala.info

Rev Hanasi: Hanasi@Comcast.net

Rev. Vajra: Madmonk88@aol.com

Rev. Jana: Lsipe@usc.edu

Rev. MaitriDasi: Mira@Miramarmango.com

Rev. Ksanti & Sraddha: Victortom@aol.com

Rev. Sunya: Heartland Zen@yahoo.com

Rev. Chitta: Kchitta@yahoo.com

Rev. Chong Do: Pure Path@yahoo.com

Gary, Br. Dharmadasa: G2pad@comcast.net

Sandee, Sr. Candana: Sandechan@ yahoo.com

Doug, Br. Abhaya Singha: Dougibmc@yahoo