

Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom  
ann arbor.....chicago.....mexico city.....new york.....toronto



© Phyllis Perry

*Summer greetings!*

July 17, 2008

Dear friends and members of the Spring Wind Sangha,

We are writing to update you on recent activities at our five temples as we plan to publish a quarterly Spring Wind Newsletter. The newsletter will be distributed in print and on-line beginning later this year with the threefold purpose:

- to serve the Spring Wind Sangha community of the Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom through exchange of information and improved communication;
- to inform the public of Buddhist tradition and to promote Buddhism in everyday life; and,
- to facilitate the encounter between Buddhist wisdom and Western civilization.



*Sunim and Kohye at 158 Hester, NYC*

## New York, New York

Sunim is now based at our fledgling temple in New York City. He and Sanha arrived in Manhattan on Saturday, November 10, 2007 to establish a temple in a rented condo at 158 Hester Street in Chinatown. Dharma student Kohye Jeff Boland spent countless hours prior to their arrival searching for a suitable rental with capacity to seat at least 20 people—a very challenging task in Manhattan. Sunim, Kohye and resident Taejin Kim lived in the condo for eight months. Sunim conducted Sunday services and even an Introductory Meditation Course that attracted six participants.

Manhattan real estate prices were little affected by the housing and mortgage crisis sweeping the country, so Sunim shifted his emphasis to Brooklyn. On June 8, he moved to a small apartment on 134 N. 10th Street and continues the search for a permanent property in the thriving Bedford/Williamsburg area of Brooklyn.

Sunim will soon be sharing recollections on our website of his early days in Manhattan where he arrived in 1967 and founded the Zen Lotus Society before making his way to Canada. Sunim's Dharma work has come full circle with his return to New York City.

## Spring Membership Meetings & Buddha's Birthday

Despite the full and fast paced schedule searching for a new temple site, Sunim traveled to Toronto, Ann Arbor and Chicago for Spring Membership meetings in April on the topic "What Difference Can Contemporary Buddhists Make to Our Society and the World?" Membership meetings take place twice each year so that Sunim can learn how members are incorporating Buddhist values into their lives, carrying on their practice at home and in the workplace, and whether members are becoming more skillful as Buddhists in the marketplace.

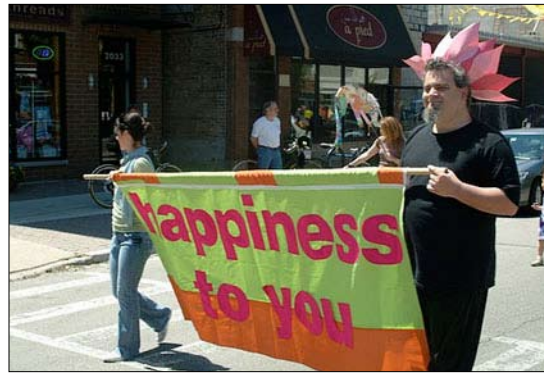
Sunim also visited the Toronto and Chicago temples to celebrate the Buddha's Birthday and to conduct the Precept Taking and Renewing Ceremony. We congratulate and welcome the "Ku" family with 16 members from Chicago, 12 from Ann Arbor, eight from Toronto, one from Mexico City, and one from New York. Our youngest precept taker was Avery Roy, Gopika, at 11 years old!

### Congratulations to "Ku" Dharma Family!

Ann Arbor	Chicago	Toronto
Kusun Ztaise Bradley	Kuro Ann Boyd	Kupum John Becker
Kubop Park Chase	Kujung Kurt Brocker	Kusin Melissa Luz
Kuhaeng Richard Gaeth	Kurum Elizabeth Ellis	Kuse John Maxwell
Kusan Diane Gonzalez	Kusu Lisa Gaynor	Kuson Anne Morin
Kujok Jim Gilligan	Kuho Natalie Holden	Kuin Lief Pagalan
Kusa Ivan Mayerhofer	Kudo Nadav Kurtz	Gopika Avery Roy
Gotama Jacob McGlaun	Kucham Fred Lewandowski	Kuwon David Valliere
Kusul Joseph Mold	Kusim Lillian Maldonado	Kujusim Dan Zanon
Kugyong Tisha Moore	Kumyon Lorraine Murray	
Kusuma Leona Smith	Kuyu Susan Marie Polk	<b>Mexico City</b>
Kuman Ben Tidman	Kusong Nickie Prussing	Kuman Rosa Maria Conde
Kuji Mary Van Artsen	Kunaka Pearl Ratunil	
	Guna Ben Rubin	<b>New York City</b>
	Kudang Paolo Sette	Kumun Taejin Kim
	Kugong Brian Yates	
	Kuhwa Matthew Utter	



*Steppin' out from Cornelia Avenue*



*Happiness and festive headgear in Chicago*

In Chicago, over 60 people and four-legged friends joined in the Peace and Happiness Parade to kick off the Buddha's Birthday Festival. Delicious vegetarian feasts were held at the Ann Arbor, Chicago and Toronto temples followed by exceptional entertainment. A Life of the Buddha hip-hop in Toronto had everyone dancing and calling for encores. Chicago's Burning Karma Kabaret included world-class puppetry and musical talent across the genres. The Ann Arbor Buddhist Choir gave debut performances in both Toronto and Chicago to the delight of all. Chicago's public forum on The Dharma of Illness attracted 30 participants and an unprecedented 90 people visited the Mexico City temple for its Buddha's Birthday celebrations.

The soft and glowing light from traditional Korean lanterns brought joy to our hearts during the Lantern Lighting Festival. Over 150 lanterns were dedicated for the sake of peace and happiness. The Buddha's Birthday weekend was an inspiration for both our own Buddhist community and for people who attended the events for the first time. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our teachers, Dharma students, Advisory Council members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a happy and joyous occasion for everyone. Deep bows to you all!

## Summer Yongmaeng Chongjin—Intensive Meditation Retreat

The Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom concluded a very powerful Yongmaeng Chongjin on July 2 at the Toronto temple. Thirty-six people participated, most for the full five days. Four retreatants traveled from Mexico, including Toan Sunim; nine from the Ann Arbor Temple, including Haju Sunim; and three from Chicago. Each morning the sound of the mukt'ak and Great Compassion Dharani roused our sentient minds from sleep to a day of practice as Buddhas.



*Summer Yongmaeng Chongjin participants in Toronto*

Watson, Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto Department of Economics, wrote us a letter to express his gratitude for an experience that was “challenging and inspiring.”

Following Yongmaeng Chongjin came a marathon of meetings and seminars. For the next five days Sunim conducted the joint Dharma student meetings and Sangha Council with boundless energy, wisdom and humor—unmistakably young! Dharma students in Maitreya Buddhist Seminary made their annual presentations to the teachers and on Sunday, July 2, a kasa ceremony was conducted for Dharma students advancing to the next stage of training.

Maum Gloria Cox from Ann Arbor received her third year kasa; Bopkyong Lisa Galicia from Chicago received her second year kasa; Tosa Blanca Reyes from Mexico City and Jimyo Lisa Ferworn and Sukha Ryan Doran-Fisher from the Ann Arbor temple received their first year kisas.

During this retreat, Sunim made small but important changes to the schedule so that people would be more encouraged to participate. As usual, we rose at 5:00 am for morning rubdown, but did our stretching and limbering up for a longer period, until 6:00. We shortened our work practice period to less than 3 hours, from 3:00 in the afternoon until 5:50 pm. Sunim’s encouragement talks each morning and powerful Dharma talks by the evening candlelight urged people to steadily deepen their practice, helping them experience a new dimension of Dharma in their own lives.

One retreat participant, Mr. Andrew Watson, had taken the Introductory Meditation Course before Yongmaeng Chongjin and made careful inquiries about the format for the retreat. He decided to come for two days and did very well. He is 78 years old! Following the retreat Mr.



*Tosa Blanca Reyes receiving kasa*

## Seeds Of Practice

Organic vegetables from the Toronto and Ann Arbor gardens delighted our summer palate during Yongmaeng Chongjin and the annual meetings. Toronto gardens abound with lettuce, kale, Swiss chard, peppers, snow peas and perillas planted and cared for by temple members.

The Ann Arbor temple just planted poppies and radishes, and their fragrant and flourishing apricot tree is providing the sangha and neighbors with fresh fruit. The wild flower garden is in full bloom, attracting new birds and butterflies.

The bees are not the only busy ones as the Ann Arbor sangha prepares for the 24th annual Peace Camp to be held July 25-30 at Friends Lake in Chelsea, Michigan. Open to all in the Spring Wind Sangha, Peace Camp cultivates mindfulness, cooperation and fun for children of all ages.



*L to R: Haju Sunim, Sukha Ryan Doran-Fisher, Kobul Marie Kuykendall, Ilch'o Ed Keenan, Kosu Diane Snider, Maum Gloria Cox, Ven. Samu Sunim, Bopkyong Lisa Galicia, Jimyo Lisa Ferworn*



*Ann Arbor apricots © Phyllis Perry*

## Comings & Goings

Sunim will remain in Toronto through mid-August and will make a brief visit to Chicago. Sunim will conduct Wednesday evening sittings and give Dharma talks during the Sunday morning services during his stay. On July 16, Sunim met with members of the World Religion Encounter Group, which has been visiting the Toronto temple every summer. The director of our Zen Buddhist Temple in Mexico City, Toan Sunim, will be staying at the Toronto temple until the end of October. Toan Sunim came to Toronto and trained under Sunim for nine years from March 1985 through 1994. Sunim describes Toan Sunim as “a gentle soul and a completely humble and unassuming person. He is a tireless



© Phyllis Perry



Dharma worker and a true and sincere practitioner. He is an embodiment of the living Dharma among us! His silence and dignified presence often serves us as a finger pointing to the Way of Buddha, which is no other than our ordinary and everyday life.”

The spring wind has full-bloomed into summer’s breeze. May the winds of Dharma refresh you and may your spirit grow profligate as weeds.

Sincerely in the Dharma,

Ven. Samu Sunim and Bopkyong