

Summer Edition 2016

June 2016

Dharma Teacher Order Newsletter

Annual 2016 DTO Retreat Photos and More...



The above photo is of the serene and peaceful Zen sanctuary in Teo Castellaneos' backyard at his house in Miami. What a beautiful place to sit and meditate!

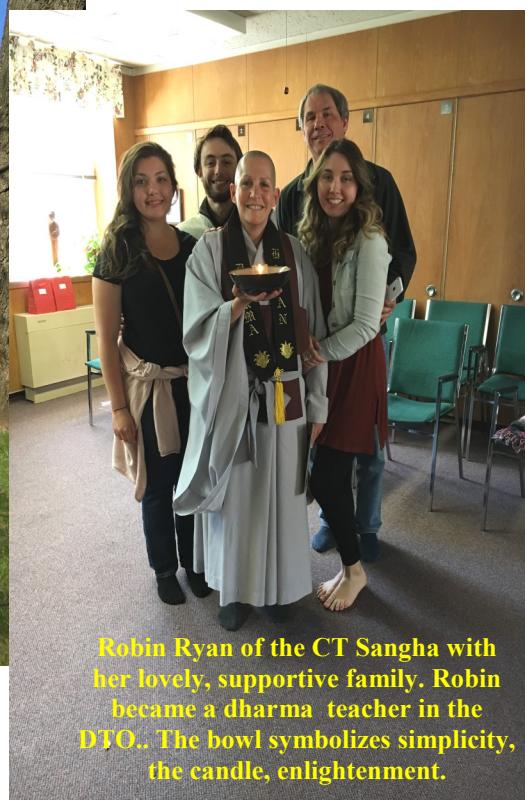


Dharma Teacher Order Retreat in April 2016 at Mariandale in Ossining, New York





New York Sangha Priests Fernando Camacho, Maeve Eng-Wong and Janet Reale Receive Full Ordination as Priests in the DTO
(after completion of 5 Years a Priest)



"Interim" Newsletter

Editor's Note:

For the fourth edition of our newsletter (the "interim edition") all sangha correspondents usually "get a break" and I cobble it together by myself using photos from the retreat plus materials relevant to the coming year beginning in September. This time, though, we have an article from the Texas sangha and one from the Connecticut sangha. I hope you enjoy hearing what the sanghas are doing in spreading the dharma.

In October 2016, we will publish again—Volume 3—can you believe it? Sangha correspondents will bring all of us up-to-date on what is happening or will be happening—as the case may be—in individual sanghas. Stay tuned...

Interfaith Dialogue Sharing **Sondra Kaighen**

Recently Thay received an invitation to appear as a guest speaker in an Interfaith Dialogue series hosted by a local Presbyterian Church in Webster, Texas. Unfortunately, the day slated for the "Buddhists" was for the same day as Phap Nguyen Temple was celebrating *Vesak*, the Buddha's birthday. As Thay was committed to the Temple's festivities for that day, four of the Pearland DTO members appeared in his stead.

Cathy Hill opened by giving the historical background of the historical Buddha with many informative slides. Alex Quiros followed with the basic teachings of the Four Noble Truths, then moved in with a comparison of Psalm 46:10 ("Be still and know that I am God...") to our tradition of stilling the mind through meditation. Being the consummate presenter, he did not do this with just words, but actually sang the Psalm, beautifully. He finished with a short guided meditation, requesting the audience "sit with God." Sondra Kaighen continued with some of the fundamental concepts of Buddhism, like Karma, 5 Precepts, Vegetarianism, Impermanence and Mindfulness and its applications. Kyle Schiefen, our "science guy," wrapped up with the Kalama Sutra and the explanation of how we can choose our beliefs based upon what has proven to work for us as individuals and the importance of understanding interdependence.

The six-week series consisted of talks presented by leaders in the faiths of Islam, Bahai'i, Judaism and Atheism. We were surprised



after the talk to hear so many positive comments and questions. It was difficult to compress into 45 minutes, all that has taken us four+ years to learn, but it was quite well received. Many indicated they would like us to return to learn more about how they can incorporate Buddhism and its practical applications into their own worship and faith. Some even went as far as to ask for directions to the Temple and permission to join us in our Wednesday evening services. It was wonderful to see that congregation open their hearts to understanding other faiths, without using it an opportunity to proselytize. In these times of what appears to be a dearth in spirituality, we may be tapping into a resource of "cross-pollination" of Buddhism and faith-based religions!

News from the

Connecticut Sangha: The Connecticut Sangha was blessed during the 2015-2016 class year with the return of longtime DT0 practitioner, Richard Zipoli. Richard stepped back into our group with the intention of offering additional training to third and fourth year students who had recently completed the Dharma Studies Class. The purpose of the training was to help participants deepen their understanding of selected dharma practices, while exploring the potential challenges and obstacles which might be encountered along the way. The additional classes were intended to enhance leadership and teaching skills, allowing participants to support and more skillfully guide students in years one through four of the Dharma Studies Class, as well as others who may come to them seeking guidance in their practice.

Seven classes were held during the year, exploring the following topics: 1.) The Five Hindrances 2.) The “Near Enemies” of the 4 Brahma Viharas 3.) Bringing Ritual to Life 4.) Spiritual Bypassing 5.) Looking Deeply and Listening Deeply 6.) The Five Wonderful Precepts and 7.) Building Harmonious Sanghas.

The classes were very well received and immensely transformative for all participants. Students in the Connecticut Sangha were Deborah McDonald, Bobbie Martin, Robin Ryan, as well as two second-year students who also expressed interest, Fay Lavoie and Pat Murphy. Sondra Kaighen from the Texas Sangha and Teo Castellanos from the Florida Sangha also participated in the program via telephone conversations and other methods arranged privately with Richard.

Going forward into the upcoming year beginning in September, Richard would like to open up these classes to anyone who expresses interest, and would like to suggest the possibility of conducting these classes more conveniently in other state Sanghas, to be facilitated by Lay Dharma Teachers/Priests within that particular Sangha. If anyone would like to explore options for participating in or facilitating these classes, please contact Richard directly to see what can be arranged.



The CT program in the 2016/2017 year will continue along in the same format as the initial year, being held monthly, and following the regular Saturday morning DTO class. The monthly meetings will include a brief period of practice, and are expected to last approximately an hour to 75 minutes. Possible potential topics for consideration include: practicing with illness, injuries and pain; death and dying; dharma and family life; engaged Buddhism; Buddhism and the environment; and working skillfully with emotions.

I would like to emphasize the tremendous value of these classes, and the precious opportunity for growth so generously offered to us by Richard. If anyone feels inclined to engage with these classes, I highly recommend your participation.

Your Sister in the Dharma, Hyang Yeon Sunim (Robin Ryan)





"Vipassana? Go check the no-self help section."

Dharma Teacher Order-New York Sangha Introduction to Meditation and Buddhism 2016-17

The New York Sangha is trying something new this year. The Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center is hosting our class this year; we are teaching under their auspices and will be included in their brochure of upcoming conferences and classes. We expect to get some new students who might know little-to-nothing about Buddhism and some who have a general familiarity with Buddhism or more. As such, we have to be prepared to find out what students expect of us, what they hope to learn and teach to all levels; senior DTO teachers and priests will teach the classes. The teaching is subject-based and there is no required reading on the part of the students although there will be a list of suggested readings offered to them. In accordance with "impermanence," we are constantly evolving in an effort to keep the teachings new and fresh. Please keep us in your thoughts as we leap into this new and exciting venture.

(Janet Reale, Kim Lién/Golden Lotus)

September 10	Overview of the Class
September 24	The Buddha
October 8	Meditation Instruction
October 22	The Four Noble Truths
November 5	The Noble Eightfold Path (Part 1)
November 19	The Noble Eightfold Path (Part II)
December 3	Impermanence
December 17	No-Self
January 7	History of Buddhism
January 21	Buddhism in the World
February 4	Mindfulness Meditation
February 18	The Five Aggregates
March 4	The Two Truths/The Three Jewels
March 18	Interdependence—Emptiness
April 1	The Four Immeasurables
April 13-16	End-of-Year Retreat