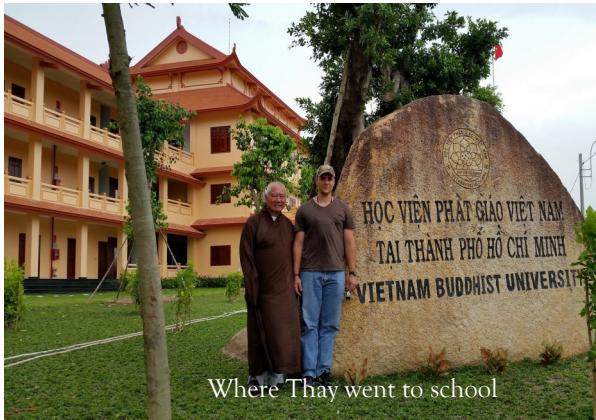




# DHARMA TEACHER ORDER

Volume 3 Edition 1 October 2016

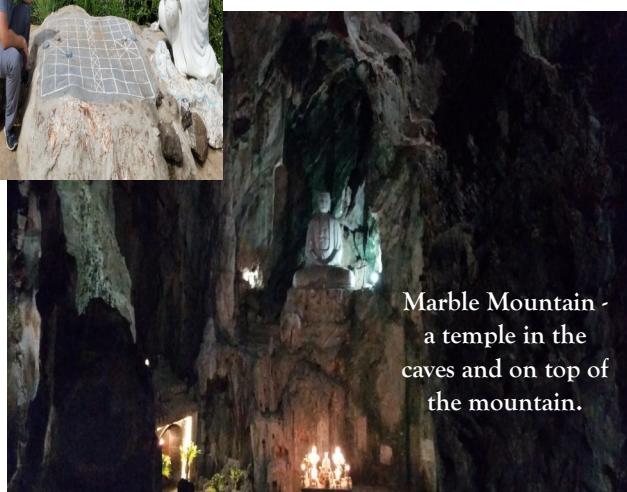
## Texas Sangha Photos from Trip to Vietnam



Where Thay went to school



Thay's Former Temple



Marble Mountain -  
a temple in the  
caves and on top of  
the mountain.



Bell-casting ceremony—Thay's mission was to get a bell  
for Chùa Pháp Nguyên in Pearland, Texas.

*Editor's Note: Increase percentage at top  
to enlarge print and photographs.*

# New York Sangha Begins Teaching at Mariandale in Ossining, NY

Our study of Buddhism has taught us many things; one of the most useful is the skill to expect change and be comfortable with it. The 2016-17 study year promises to be one when this skill, along with some others, will be put to the test.

Starting September 10, 2016 The New York Dharma Teacher Order is starting the new edition of the Order's format. Our Ordained Priests and Teachers will begin to fulfill the aspirations of spreading the Dharma as we teach the Introduction to Meditation and Buddhism at Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center in Ossining, NY. The classes will be delivered in an inclusive tone to teach the history, the foundations, and the guiding principles of Buddhism; instruction on some meditation techniques, including Buddhist meditation, will also be offered as part of the course study.

This is our first incursion into the world outside of our Sangha-protected environment and the New York DTO's spirits are high, as we prepare for this monumental task. As we tread along, we are encouraged by these words of the Buddha: "Whatever precious jewel there is in the heavenly worlds, there is nothing comparable to one who is Awakened." (Sutta Nipata) We are all aspiring to become awakened, someday, and what better way is there than sharing with others the jewels the Dharma has taught us. Putting our faith on the Buddha's declaration that there are 84,000 doors to the Dharma, we believe Mariandale is one of those doors.

To all our Dharma sisters and brothers in the four DTO branches we pray "be happy with us" and if you can, or know anyone interested, visit Mariandale website: [www.mariandale.org](http://www.mariandale.org) for more information on the DTO Introduction to Meditation and Buddhism program.

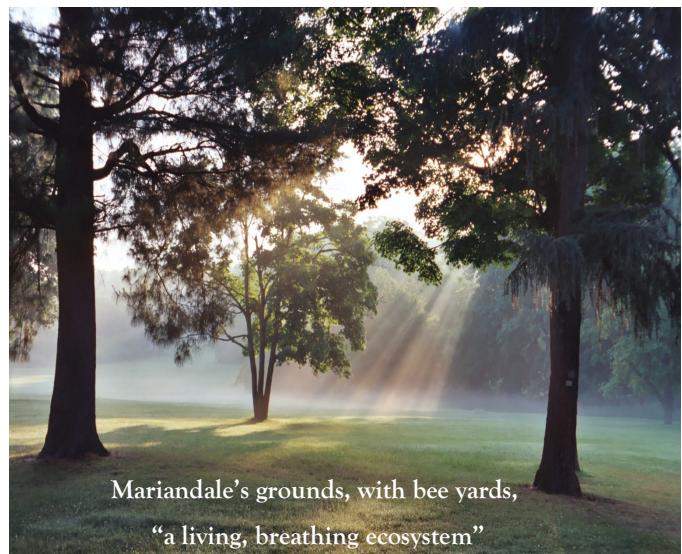
Submitted by Elena Bravocruz

It is said there are 84,000  
dharma gates or doors  
to practice the dharma.

## *Editor's Note:*

We have a total of nine new students registered and attending the first class; an overview of the classes to come:

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 I)
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



Mariandale's grounds, with bee yards,

"a living, breathing ecosystem"

# Perdió el pelo y el nombre para encontrar su espiritualidad

**(He shaved his head and changed his name in order to find his spirituality)**

El monje budista Noble Silencio durante uno de sus momentos de meditación. En los últimos años el número de latinos budistas se ha duplicado en Estados Unidos.

Roberto Koltun rkoltun@elnuevoherald.com  
laura Gamba  
lgambafadul@elnuevoherald.com

Jorge González recuerda el día que renunció a su nombre y a su pelo.

Fue en Connecticut, el 28 de mayo de 1999, fecha del cumpleaños de Buda. La ceremonia se hizo en la sala de meditación del templo Hai An Pagoda y asistieron algunos familiares y amigos de él.  
“Me había afeitado el pelo el día antes, pero me dejé un pequeño mechón en la cabeza”.

Durante el ritual de ordenación, el maestro Thích Trí Hoằng cogió unas tijeras y le cortó ese mechón de pelo, el último signo de vanidad que le quedaba en la cabeza. Ese día de primavera, este habanero se ordenó como monje budista, prometiendo renunciar a los apegos y a las cosas materiales. A los 46 años, González fue rebautizado como Noble Silencio.

“Yo me había rapado el pelo el día antes, pero me dejé un pequeño mechón en la cabeza” - Noble Silencio...

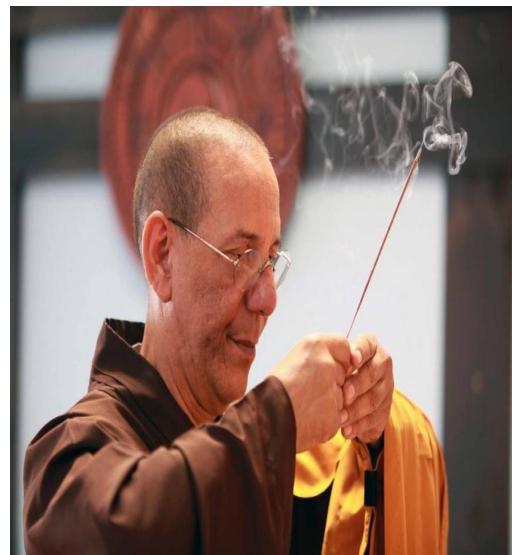
Y es que para muchos latinos que entran en el mundo de la meditación, el budismo no es más que una práctica divertida y saludable. Varios estudiosos del budismo con los que habló el Nuevo Herald coincidieron en afirmar que hay un deseo de las personas de conseguir el bienestar mental por medio de la meditación y otras prácticas budistas, sin que las personas tengan que sentir que están apartándose de su propia religión, entre otras cosas porque el budismo no exige a nadie renunciar a la religión.

### ***Editor's Note:***

¡Por primera vez, tenemos una página en español!

Para leer el artículo entero, aquí está el enlace:

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/sur-de-la-florida/article97421802.html>



# Reporting from the Connecticut Sangha

## Connecticut Sangha Feels Right at New Home

After learning last spring that the CT DTO Sangha would no longer be able to hold classes in the library of the Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford, the search began for a new location. The combined efforts of Deborah McDonald, Hyang Yeon Sunim (Sister Robin), Richard Zipoli and Fernando Comacho resulted in finding and securing room at the Universalist Church, 433 Fern Street, West Hartford.

The first meeting in the Sangha's new home was well attended, led by Tom Duva, and held in a cozy "parlor" room with a fireplace, many chairs, side tables, and a dining table. Everyone kindly expressed a fondness for the room, but it was crowded. The decision was made to hold the next class in the larger "cloud room," so named because a mural of the sky in an alcove on the long side of the room. This class was also very well attended, and there was room enough to stand and make full prostrations, and run the floor cushions two deep. Deborah McDonald combined teaching with a guided meditation in a presentation of the Anapanasati Sutta.

Richard Zipoli followed the regular class with the first meeting of the CT DTO Dharma Training Course with a discussion of readings and experiences focused on "Buddhism and Race." This was attended by 15-20 people, engaging in an exploration of conditioning and racial bias, much of it below our awareness.

And so the "cloud room" became our temple. The Sangha grew larger, and perhaps stronger, and as we did walking meditation outside, there was not a cloud in the sky.

Submitted by Bobbie Martin



## New from Parallax Press

*Awakening Joy* is more than just another book about happiness. More than simply offering suggested strategies to change our behavior, it uses time-tested practices to train the mind to learn new ways of thinking. The principles of the course are universal, although much of the material includes Buddhist philosophy drawn from the author's thirty years as a Buddhist meditation teacher and spiritual counselor.

In these times of economic uncertainty *Awakening Joy* shows we can get through hard times and use our experience to keep the our heart open while moving from discouragement to well-being, regardless of the external circumstances. Genuine well-being is not expensive. True happiness is not about acquiring anything, but rather about opening to the natural joy and aliveness right inside you.

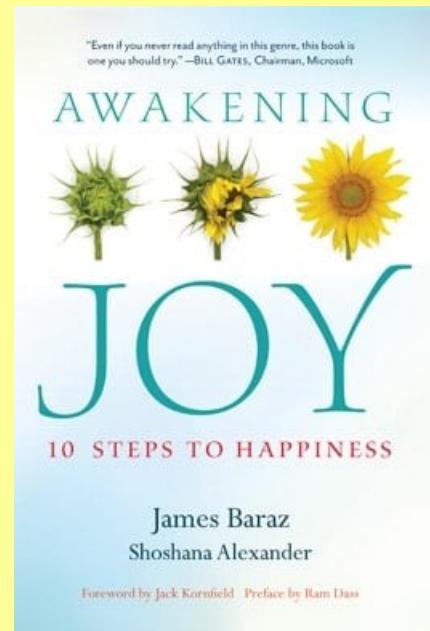
In this practical down-to-earth guide, readers will learn how to

- make happiness a habit by inclining your mind toward states that lead to well-being
- find joy, even during difficult times, and avoid the pitfalls that prevent you from achieving the contentment you seek
- cultivate effective practices for sustaining joyfulness, such as reclaiming your natural sense of wonder and finding joy in the midst of everyday experiences.

Each chapter of *Awakening Joy* consists of one of the steps in Baraz's ten-step program and includes engaging exercises and practical advice to make happiness your natural default setting. For everyone

from the cynic who is despondent over life's many sorrows, to the harried commuter raging at freeway traffic, this book offers up a simple yet powerful message of hope grounded in the reali-

**Editor's Note:** coming in November from Parallax Press:  
Thich Nhat Hanh's memoir *At Home in the World: Stories and Essential Teachings from a Monk's Life.*



<https://www.facebook.com/kyle.schiefen/videos/vb.645873497/10154473006478498/?type=3&theater>

If you right-click on the above link and go to "open hyperlink,"  
you will have a short video of feeding the fish at Thay's cousin's house.  
I ran out of space on the first page and I did not want you to miss seeing it!