

DTO National Retreat 2025

“Bodhisattvas are beings who are dedicated to the universal awakening, or enlightenment, of everyone. They exist as guides and providers of succor to suffering beings and offer everyone an approach to meaningful spiritual life.” Practicing the Bodhisattva Precepts, “we find our own approach to the spiritual journey that acknowledges and connects with all of creation.” (Taigen Dan Leighton: Faces of Compassion pg. 25)

The retreat

The gathering for the retreat begins Thursday with arrival and settling in from 4 to 6 pm. The cost of the retreat is \$375 starting from Thursday and \$275.00 from Friday to Sunday and \$100.00 for additional individual days, if not staying overnight. Payment can be given to Konrad Sheehan when you arrive at the retreat, preferably in cash or check, payable to The Dharma Teacher Order.

Noble Silence

We ask that you consider practicing noble silence starting at bedtime at 10:00 p.m. on Friday and through the morning and into lunch until the second bell is rung at lunch on Saturday. On Sunday, there is silence until 7:00 a.m.

Rooms and personal items

The list with room assignments is posted in the elevators. The rooms are all single occupancy. In each room there will be sheets, a blanket, a pillow, and a towel/facecloth. There is a sink in each room and communal bathrooms with showers on each floor. Men and women will be on separate floors. When leaving, place your bedding and towels in the pillowcase and leave it outside the door. If you are able, consider leaving a tip for the housekeeping staff.

Please bring anything else you may need to make yourself feel comfortable.

Bring clothing that is comfortable yet appropriate for time spent outdoors. Weather varies during this time of the year.

There will be other retreats happening at Mariandale, we ask that you be respectful of their space and practice.

Meals

Meals are vegetarian and are served buffet style. Coffee and tea are always available in the cafeteria. We sit together as a group and wait for everyone to be seated before we start eating. Therefore, we ask you to be on time as we will not start eating until everyone is present. During meals, we observe noble silence until the second bell. All meals begin with the recitation of *The Five Contemplations*. While gluten free options are available, the choices are limited. Please let us know in advance if this is your preference. You can also bring food items of your choice for your own consumption. There is a refrigerator in the cafeteria where you can store the items.

Dana

There is a dana jar by the coffee machine, please consider making an offering if you can.

We encourage giving Dana to the three monastics in attendance. We also offer dana to the cook, Anthony. Consider offering donations if that feels right for you. There will be a card and envelop in our main meeting room for donations to our monastics and to Anthony.

Schedule

Most of our time together will take place in the **Wellspring Room** located on the first floor. We will orient you to the room and to the layout of the building if you are unfamiliar with Mariandale. Please bring your favorite cushions/benches. Chairs are provided, and a few cushions will be available if you need one. If you are struggling in any way during the retreat, please don't hesitate to tap Elena or Craig. All conversations are confidential.

There will be one Dharma Teacher ordination and four will receive the Bodhisattva Vows on Sunday's ceremony.

Dharma Teacher Ordination

Thich Giac Vien *Perfect Enlightenment*

Bodhisattva Vows

Konrad Sheehan-Chan *Thi Tru True-Generous Dwelling Perfect Enlightenment*

Micheal Battaglia-Nguyen *Hue-Source of Wisdom*

Ellyn Varela Burstein

Annesia Lamb *Lekshey Dronmay Lamp of Good Speech*

The most venerable Thich Thri Hoang will offer a special ceremony to honor the life and loving work to spread the Dharma of the beloved Late Dharma Teacher Richard Baksa.

We plan to offer Zoom access to the Friday and Saturday night sessions as well as to the Sunday morning ceremonies so that those who cannot attend the retreat can also participate with us. The access credentials to all the activities available via Zoom are the same. They are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83157175416>

Should you need it; the meeting ID is 831 5717 5416

4:00 to 10:00 pm	Thursday, April 10, 2025
4 to 6 pm	Arrival and Settle in
6 to 7 pm	Dinner Observe Noble Silence until the second bell
7 to 7:30 pm	Personal/Free time
7:30 to 9 pm	EVENING PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM
	Incense Ceremony Chanting the Heart Sutra Reciting the 5 Wonderful Precepts 20 Minutes of Sitting Meditation 10 Minutes of Walking Meditation 20 Prostrations Mindful breaths
9:00 to 10:00 pm	Sangha Building Time/personal-free time
Friday April 11 6:30 am to 12 noon	
6:30 to 7:30 am	MORNING PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM
	20 Minutes of sitting meditation

	10 Minutes walking meditation 20 Prostrations 10 Minutes sitting meditation till 7:30 am
7:30 to 8:00 am	Personal time
8:00 to 9:30 am	Breakfast Observe Noble Silence until the second bell / personal time
9:30 to 11:00 am	PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM
	Incense Ceremony Chanting the Heart Sutra Reciting the 5 Wonderful Precepts 20 Minutes of Sitting Meditation 10 Minutes of Walking Meditation 20 Prostrations Sitting meditation until 11:00 am
11:00 am to 12 noon	PERSONAL TIME
12 Noon to 1:00 pm	LUNCH Observe Noble Silence until the second bell
1:00 to 2:00 pm	PERSONAL TIME
2:00 to 2:30 pm	Outdoors walking meditation. Gather at the side door 5 minutes before start time
2:35 to 4:00 pm	AFTERNOON PRACTICE (prepare for tea ceremony) 20 minutes sitting 10 minutes walking Tea ceremony Sitting until 4:00 pm
4:00 to 5:00 pm	Dharma discussion
5:00 to 6:00 pm	PERSONAL TIME
6:00 to 7:00 pm	Dinner- Observe Noble Silence until the second bell
7:00 to 7:30 pm	PERSONAL TIME
7:35 to 9:00 pm	EVENING PRACTICE 10 sitting Beginning Anew Ceremony Introductory remarks Updates from All DTO programs 10 minutes sitting
9:00 pm	PERSONAL TIME/Sangha building
10:00 pm	BEDTIME/Begin NOBLE SILENCE TIL LUNCH SECOND BELL

Saturday April 12 6:30 am to 12 noon NOBLE SILENCE CONTINUES	
6:30 to 7:30 am	MORNING PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM
	20 Minutes of sitting meditation 10 Minutes walking meditation 20 Prostrations 10 Minutes sitting meditation till 7:30 am
7:30 to 8:00 am	PERSONAL TIME
8:00 to 9:30 am	Breakfast/ personal time
9:30 to 11:00 am	PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM and Sign-up for interviews with Thay and Phap Lan
	Incense Ceremony Chanting the Heart Sutra Reciting the 5 Wonderful Precepts 20 Minutes of Sitting Meditation 10 Minutes of Walking Meditation 20 Prostrations

	Chanting Om Ma Ni Pad Me Hum X3 Touching the Earth ceremony
11:00 am to 12 noon	PERSONAL TIME – Mokugyo (mokyō) and Bell Practice for chanting the Heart Sutra
12 Noon to 1:00 pm	LUNCH Break silence after second bell
1:00 to 1:30 pm	PERSONAL TIME
1:30 to 2:00 pm	Outdoors walking meditation. Gather at the side door 5 minutes before start time
2:00 to 2:15	Personal break
2:15 to 4:30 pm	Dharma Festival 10 minutes sitting Teaching: How the Dharma Festival works Festival offerings from students/Comments or questions limit sharing to 3-5 minutes per person Mindful Breaths before breaking
4:30 to 6:00 pm	Free time... resting, gatherings, meetings...
6:00 to 7:00 pm	Dinner- Observe Noble Silence until the second bell
7:15 to 9:00 pm	10 minutes sitting Q&A with Ven. Thay Continued Dharma Festival Mindful Breaths before breaking for the evening
9:00 pm	PERSONAL TIME/Sangha building
10:00 pm	BEDTIME/resume NOBLE SILENCE

Sunday April 13 6:00 am to 12 noon NOBLE SILENCE CONTINUES	
6:00 to 7:00 am	MORNING PRACTICE IN THE MAIN ROOM
	30 Minutes of sitting meditation 10 Minutes walking meditation Sitting meditation till 7:00 am End Noble Silence
7:00 to 8:00 am	PACK ROOMS/CARS, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PREPARE THE CEREMONY IN THE MAIN ROOM (PERSONAL CARE AS NEEDED)
8:00 to 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 to 9:00 am	Assembly for the ceremony in the Wellspring Room (Fernando and Jon will be available to help with robes if needed.
9:00 TO 11:00 AM	Ceremony in the Wellspring Room
11:00 am to 12 noon	11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Good time for pictures. Discussion on how the retreat went? Break down the Wellspring Room (Those with family and friends present are excused...weather permitting, time on the grounds before lunch might be well received.). It's a good time to bring bags to the car.
12 Noon to 1:00 pm	LUNCH and farewells (Everyone is welcome)