

# BODHI BULLETIN

DHARMA NEWS FROM BODHI MONASTERY • MAY 2003

## Vesak Celebration on May 17th

On May 17th this year, for the first time, Bodhi Monastery will celebrate the international Buddhist holiday of Vesak, the day commemorating the birth, Enlightenment, and Parinirvana (passing away) of Lord Buddha. This is a day when Buddhists of all affiliations should express their homage and dedication to the Supreme Teacher whose teaching opened up the doors to the Deathless for all the world. *So be sure to come to the monastery this day for our special Vesak program.*

- Would you like to formally take the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts for the first time on Vesak?
- Would you like to undertake the Eight Precepts for the full day and night?

Please inform us as early as possible if you would like to do either or both of these things.

To contact us about Vesak please call 973-940-0473. Email correspondence is preferred. Email us at [info@bodhimonastery.net](mailto:info@bodhimonastery.net) and type "Vesak" in the subject box.

The program will begin at 9 am with the administration of the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts. This will be followed by a talk on "The Significance of Vesak" by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi. After his talk, the monks will conduct a ceremony of initiation into the Buddha Dharma for those among our friends and well-wishers who have never before formally taken the Refuges and Precepts and would like to do so. The Going for Refuge is traditionally regarded as the "door of entrance" to the practice of the Dharma. A simple but solemn ceremony, it marks one's full acceptance of the Buddha as one's spiritual guide, of the Dharma as one's spiritual path, and of the Sangha or community of noble ones as one's source of inspiration and guidance. Details are explained on the attached page. *If you wish to participate in this ceremony, please inform us as early as possible.*

In the Buddhist tradition, on days of special religious significance, lay disciples commonly undertake to observe, for a full day and night, a more stringent set of eight precepts, modeled on the disciplinary code of a novice monk or nun. All those who would like to take the Eight Precepts for the twenty-four hour period are encouraged to do so; those who take the Three Refuges and Five Precepts earlier that morning may also take the Eight Precepts. Details are also explained on the attached page. *Again, if you would like to take the Eight Precepts, please inform us in advance.*

The morning's functions will close with a devotional ceremony in which we pay homage to the Buddha for compassionately teaching the path to liberation. This will be followed by a delicious vegetarian lunch. After lunch, at 1 pm Ven. Jen-Chun will give a talk on "Following in the Tracks of the Buddha." Then, at 2 pm, our guest speaker, Michael Roehm, will deliver the keynote address on "Buddhism in America: Its Prospects and Role in the Future." Mr. Roehm, interim director of the English Language Institute at The American University in Washington, has been a Buddhist for close to forty years. He was a monk in Sri Lanka and Korea and for many years has been the teacher and director of the Sutra Study Group in Washington D.C. The program will end with readings from the Buddhist scriptures and a transference of merit ceremony.

*"Suppose, O monks, someone were to exercise sovereignty and rulership over the sixteen great countries abounding in the seven precious treasures: this would not be worth a sixteenth part of the Observance Day complete in the Eight Precepts."*

(The Buddha, *Anguttara Nikaya*, 8:41)



### VEN. ANALAYO TO VISIT

From May 12th to June 5th, Bodhi Monastery will host a visit from Ven. Analayo, a Buddhist monk from Germany. Ordained as a samanera (novice) in Sri Lanka in 1995, Ven. Analayo completed a doctorate in Buddhist studies at the University of Peradeniya. A revised version of his dissertation, a detailed study of the Satipatthana Sutta, is scheduled for publication later this year (*Satipatthana: The Direct Path*, Windhorse Publications). Ven. Analayo will give the Saturday morning Dharma talks on May 24th and 31st. An experienced meditator, he will also be available for discussion following the meditation meetings on Sunday morning.

### INTRO COURSE TO BUDDHISM AND MEDITATION

This course is designed for people who are relatively unfamiliar with Buddhism and who wish to know more about our religion. There is still time to sign up for this five-week course held on Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm, from May 3rd through June 7th. Email or call to register.



## MAY DHARMA SCHEDULE

### SPECIAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm	Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation Five-Week Course (May 3 - June 7)
Sat., May 17 9 am - 4 pm	Vesak Program (see schedule next column)

### SATURDAYS

May 3 10:45-11:30 am	Monthly Ceremony (all else as other Saturdays)
May 3, 10, 24, 31 10:00 - 10:45 am	Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Dharma Talk (May 3, 10) Ven. Analayo Dharma Talk (May 24, 31)
11:15am - 1:00pm	Lunch/Free time/Merit Gathering
1:15 - 2:00 pm	Ven. Master Jen-Chun Dharma Talk
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Pali Language Class: The class can't be entered now, but you can catch up using recordings

### SUNDAYS

May 4th, 9:30 - 11:00 am	Basic sitting and walking meditation instruction; First Sunday of every month
9:30 - 11:00 am (every Sunday)	Meditation Group meets in the Buddha Hall; Guided by Shifu and Bhante
May 18, 10:00 - 11:30 am	Ven. Jen-Chun Dharma Talk for Vesak at Ch'an Center, Elmhurst, NY, Phone: 718-592-6593 (in Chinese w/English translations)

### TUESDAYS

9-10 am	Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun (in Chinese Only)
7-8 pm	Sutta Study Class with Bhikkhu Bodhi

In May, continuing his talks on the Majjhima Nikaya, Bhante will discuss suttas that pertain to Buddhist ethics. These will deal with the law of karma and its fruits (MN 135), the path to a higher rebirth (MN 41, MN 120), right speech (MN 61, 58), and patience (MN 21).

### THURSDAYS

9-10 am	Madhyamaka Philosophy with Ven. Jen-Chun (in Chinese Only)
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### DAILY

4:30-5 pm	Chanting Liturgy
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PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS OR EVENTS. TEL: 973-940-0473 EMAIL: INFO@BODHIMONASTERY.NET

## VESAK PROGRAM

SATURDAY MAY 17TH

8:30 am	Informal briefing on taking the Refuges, Five Precepts, and Eight Precepts (for new candidates)
9:00 am	Taking the Three Refuges and Five Precepts
9:10 am	The Significance of Vesak (Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi)
9:40 am	Initiation into the Dharma (taking of Refuges and Precepts by those newly accepting the Buddha's Teaching as their ultimate Refuge)
10:00 am	Taking of the temporary Eight Precepts
10:30 am	Devotions to the Buddha
11:15 am	Lunch and Rest Period
1:00 pm	Following the Trail of the Buddha (Ven. Jen-Chun)
1:45 pm	Break
2:00 pm	Keynote lecture by Michael Roehm: "Buddhism in America: Its Prospects and Role in the Future"
3:00 pm	Break for tea and refreshments
3:30 pm	Readings from Buddhist scriptures
4:00 pm	Dedication of merit

## BODHI RETREATS

### VIPASSANA MEDITATION RETREAT IN JUNE

Bodhi Monastery will host a ten-day residential vipassana meditation retreat from June 18th to 29th. It is conducted in the manner taught by S.N. Goenka. Space is limited so register as soon as possible. For more information or to obtain an application form, please contact the Vipassana Meditation Place of New York in Flushing, NY at 718-423-4157; or Gary Yu by email: gyucky@cs.com.

### JULY DHARMA RETREAT

The Bodhi Monastery week-long 2003 Dharma Retreat will be held this summer from Friday, July 18th to Friday, July 25th. We will send you detailed information about the retreat in the near future.