



Gay Buddhist Fellowship Newsletter

A Monthly Publication of the Gay Buddhist Fellowship, San Francisco

September, 1995

GBF Calendar

5 Sept. (Tue.), Newsletter Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mark Picciano,

7 Sept. (Thu.), Steering Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ding-Hao Ma,

10 Sept., Sunday Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St., SF. ChiKai Harper Leah, Zen priest and artist, will give a dharma talk.

14 Sept. (Thu.), G/L Buddhist Anthology Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the home of John Krowka,

23 Sept. (Sat.), GBF Potluck, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Brian Shelley,

24 Sept., Sunday Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St., SF. Discussion.

30 Sept. (Sat.), GBF Day of Meditation, SF Shambhala Center, 1630 Taraval St. (26th/27th), SF. 8:45 a.m.-5pm, \$10. Info: David Sunseri,

8 Oct., Sunday Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St., SF. Speaker: TBA.

22 Oct. Sunday Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St., SF. Discussion.

Coming in October...

The October issue of the *Gay Buddhist Fellowship Newsletter* will carry the full text and question-and-answer session of a Sunday morning talk given by teacher-practitioner Eric Kolvig at GBF on June 11, 1995, titled, "Gay Sexuality and the Dharma."

Day of Meditation Set for September 30

On Saturday, September 30, 1995, GBF will sponsor a silent, one-day sitting at Shambhala Tibetan Center, 1630 Taraval Street (between 26th and 27th Avenues) in San Francisco, from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The schedule will include sitting and walking meditation, and some brief dharma readings. Please bring a meditation cushion or bench, and a bag lunch. Tea will be provided.

To register, please mail a check for \$10.00 payable to GBF to: GBF Sitting, 2261 Market Street #422, San Francisco, CA 94114. Include your name, address, and telephone number.

If you have any questions about the Day of Meditation, call Daishin David Sunseri We hope to see you there. ♡



Computer Expertise Sought

It's a well-known fact that the number of gays working in the computer industry has, by now, far surpassed those working in the field of floral design. That being the case, GBF's 500+ members likely possess an awesome degree of computer expertise.

If you are computer literate, and would be willing to be called, on occasion, when GBF database or newsletter folks become befuddled by an uncooperative computer or software program, please contact Greg Gorel

Gays, Lesbians to Meet to Discuss Anthology

GBF is initiating a preliminary planning meeting to discuss the possibilities of creating an anthology that gives voice to the experiences of gay and lesbian Buddhists. The meeting is set for Thursday, September 14, at the home of John Krowka,

Women and people of color are encouraged to attend and participate in the creation of this anthology which, it is hoped, will reflect the diversity of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender Buddhist community. ♡

Next Potluck Sept. 23

The next GBF potluck will take place on Saturday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Brian Shelley, 42 Tioga Street, San Francisco. If you need travel directions, call Brian

These social gatherings provide an opportunity to meet new friends and to get to know other GBFers better, thereby strengthening the GBF sangha. The atmosphere is relaxed, the food nourishing, and the folks friendly.

We would like to continue to hold GBF potlucks on a monthly basis. However, to do this, we will need new people to host them. If you are interested, please call Clint Seiter

Sangha works best when people actively contribute. Each person has special talents and skills. We look forward to your participation. ♡



Dharma Centers

[Each center offers ongoing programs and activities.
If interested, please call them directly.]

- **BPF** Buddhist Peace Fellowship, P.O. Box 4650, Berkeley 94704. 510/525-8596.
- **BSC** Berkeley Shambhala Center: 2288 Fulton Street, Berkeley. 510/841-6475 or 510/549-1481.
- **BZC** Berkeley Zen Center, 1933 Russell Street, Berkeley 94703. 510/845-2403.
- **CML** Community of Mindful Living, P.O. Box 7355, Albany 94707. 510/527-3751.
- **DI** Dudjon International, P.O. Box 40155, Berkeley 94704. 510/849-9928.
- **EGZC** Empty Gate Zen Center, 5707 Oakgrove Ave., Oakland 94618. 510/653-5991.
- **GGF** Green Gulch Farm (SF Zen Center): 1601 Shoreline Highway, Sausalito. 415/383-3134.
- **HSZC** Hartford Street Zen Center: 57 Hartford St., SF. 415/863-2507.
- **LMB** Land of Medicine Buddha: 5800 Prescott Road, Soquel. 408/462-8383.
- **NI** Nyingma Institute: 1815 Highland Place, Berkeley 94709. 510/843-6812.
- **ODD** Orgyen Dorje Den/Bay Area Yeshe Nyingpo: 410 Townsend #406, SF. 415/826-7181.
- **POL** PÖL Pema Ösel Ling: 2013 Eureka Canyon Road, Corralitos. 408/761-6266.
- **RF** Rigpa Fellowship: 816 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510/644-1858.
- **SFBC** San Francisco Buddhist Center: 37 Bartlett St., SF 94110. 415/282-2018.
- **SFSC** San Francisco Shambhala Center: 1630 Taraval St., SF. 415/731-4426.
- **SFZC** San Francisco Zen Center: 300 Page Street, SF. 415/863-3136.
- **SMZC** Sonoma Mountain Zen Center, 6367 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa. 707/545-8105.
- **SR** Spirit Rock Meditation Center: 5000 Sir Frances Drake Blvd., Woodacre. 415/488-0170; 488-0164.
- **TCL** Tse Chen Ling Center: 4 Joost Ave, SF. 415/641-0671.
- **VI** Vajrapani Institute, P.O. Box 2130, Boulder Creek 95006. 408/338-6654.

Do you want a Dharma center's events listed here? Send information on special events to: Local Dharma, c/o GBF, 2261 Market Street #422, San Francisco, CA 94114. ♥

The Local Dharma

September-October 1995

[Note: Sometimes schedules change, so we recommend you call to confirm events.]

Special Events

7 and 21 Sept. (Thurs.) "Learn to Love Problems." Ven. Robina Courtin. 7 pm. \$10.00. TCL

10 Sept. (Sun.) "Form is Emptiness... The Heart Sutra." Ven. Geshe Thardo, teaching. 9:30 am-noon and 1:30-4 pm. \$15.00 per session or \$25.00 for both. TCL

15-17 Sept. (Fri-Sun.) Shambhala Training Level I: "The Art of Being Human." \$125.00. SFSC.

16 Sept. (Sat.) Ven. "Introduction to Tibetan Buddhist Meditation." Carol Corradi. 9am- 11am. \$10.00. TCL

23 Sept. (Sat.) Day of Mindfulness with Thich Nhat Hanh. 8am-6 pm. SR

26 Sept. (Tues.) Thich Nhat Hanh presents a dharma talk, "Be Still and Know." Berkeley Community Theatre, 7 pm. \$18.00. CML

5 and 19 Oct. (Thurs.) "Learn to Love Problems." Ven. Robina Courtin. 7 pm. \$10.00. TCL.

Beyond the Bay

29 Sept.-1 Oct. (Fri.-Sun.) Jack Kornfield with Debra Chamberlin-Taylor, "Living from the Heart." Mount Madonna Center. Tuition \$120.00 (plus fees) Info: 445 Summit Road, Watsonville, Ca. 95076. (408) 847-0406.

21-27 Oct. (Sat.-Fri.) Stan Grof, Jack Kornfield, and Wes Nisker, "Insight and Opening." Using Buddhist meditations of breath and heart. Yucca Valley, CA. Tuition, room and board, \$840.00. Info: David Carr, East West Retreats, P.O. Box 12 Philo, CA. 95466. (707) 895-2856.



Thich Nhat Hanh Visits Bay Area in September

Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh is featured at two events to take place this September in the Bay Area. On Saturday, September 23, he will be at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre for "A Day of Mindfulness." The event is from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and includes a dharma talk by Thich Nhat Hanh, sitting and walking meditation, a mindful, silent lunch, and deep relaxation.

On Tuesday, September 26, at 7:00 p.m. he will give a dharma talk titled, "Be Still and Know" at the Berkeley Community Theater, located at Allston Way and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. The evening is an opportunity to practice mindfulness in community, and to hear Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, who will offer fresh insights from his new book, *Living Buddha, Living Christ*.

Tickets for both events are available by mail from the Community of Mindful Living, P.O. Box 7355, Berkeley, CA 94707. All proceeds will benefit the work of Thich Nhat Hanh, the

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Notice:

Fall Cleanup of Mailing List

Our mailing list has now topped 500 people. It has been almost two years since we last asked people on our list to renew their intention to receive the *GBF Newsletter*. We ask that you take a moment now, focus, be aware of the newsletter, and then decide whether it is important for you to receive it in the future.

If you want to continue to receive this newsletter, please return the renewal form located at the top of page seven, or call the GBF voice mail line at 415/974-9878. If we have not heard from you by November 1, your name will be deleted from our mailing list.

We hope all or most of you will continue to be connected to our growing gay Buddhist sangha. Whatever your decision, we have enjoyed sharing our practice with you as you move along on your own path. ♡

Thich Nhat Hanh

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Community of Mindful Living, Spirit Rock Meditation Center, and the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. For more information, call 510/464-1393.

Thich Nhat Hanh is a Zen master, scholar, poet, and peace activist. He is well-known for his teachings on mindfulness in everyday life and engaged Buddhist practice. In 1967, Martin Luther King, Jr. nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of people affected by the Vietnamese War.

He is the author of over 20 books on Buddhism, including *Being Peace*, *Peace is Every Step*, and *The Miracle of Mindfulness*, and is the founder of the Van Hanh Institute of Higher Buddhist Studies. He lives at Plum Village, a practice community in southwest France, where he teaches, writes, and gardens. He also leads retreats worldwide on the art of mindful living. ♡

The Practice of Money

Recently the steering committee made two financial decisions that relate to the money energy that flows into and out of GBF. The first decision is in regards to the \$15 contribution that we ask of people when they initially request to be put on our mailing list to receive the *GBF Newsletter*.

Many of you have sent that \$15 to us, but we have no system in place to remind you in writing when another payment is needed. We feel that a system of notification is too complicated a task for us at this point. Therefore, we have decided to abandon the request for \$15, and will place all of our financial emphasis on the fundraising requests that we send out when we run out of money.

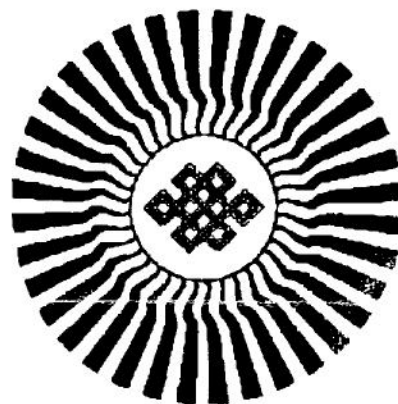
The last request was made in November of 1994, and we have just sent out our most recent request for donations. Please consider this request as a way to continue to support the newsletter and GBF-sponsored activities and projects. Be as generous as possible.

The second decision of the steering committee was prompted by several people who told us they would contribute more money to GBF if we had tax exempt status. The committee has voted, *in principle*, to seek tax exempt status this fall. We invite you to send us your comments in writing about this decision, or contact our voice mail line, or talk with members of the steering committee. A final decision on this issue will be made at the October steering committee meeting.

The question of how much money we need to operate has been an ongoing issue before the GBF steering committees over the past several years. Some members feel we should confine ourselves to seeking just enough funds to support the newsletter and very basic operating expenses. Others feel we

could do more for the gay Buddhist community, both in the Bay Area and elsewhere, if we had more funds for workshops, conferences, development of materials, and for rental of our own space that we could use every week.

We are open to hearing from you about these issues, and encourage you to do so. Your commitment is important to gay Buddhism, and it affects the support we can offer to your practice. ♡



New Listing

Those GBFers who read *Tricycle Magazine* may be interested in knowing that GBF is now listed in that publication's Dharma Center Directory under the geographical heading, "California." ♡

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Contributors

Thanks to the following people who helped with this issue of the *GBF Newsletter*: Rob Del Ré, Maurice Dockrell, Ron Ginsberg, Bob Hass, John Krowka, Alan Oliver, Mark Picciano, Clint Seiter, Brian Shelley, and Daishin David Sunseri.

