



Gay Buddhist Fellowship

Newsletter

JULY/AUGUST 1997

GBF Calendar

Call 415/974-9878 for news about GBF events. To skip the recording and leave a message, press 5.

Note: July and August Dates combined for ongoing events

1 July/5 Aug., Steering Committee Meeting at the home of Clint Seiter,

3 July/7 Aug., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm: meditation, at the home of Bill Kirkpatrick,

6 July/3 Aug., Sunday Sitting (East Bay), 10:30 am, at the home of Geoff McEnany,

10 July/14 Aug., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm: meditation, at the home of Lee Robbins,

13 July/10 Aug., Sunday Sitting (SF), 10:30am, SFBC, 37 Bartlett St. Tony Richardson will speak on "Somatic Techniques For Enhancing Buddhist Practices" (see article on page 1). Discussion in August.

17 July/21 Aug., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm at the home of Mark Marion,

19 July/21 Aug. (Saturday), GBF's Feed-The-Homeless Project at Hamilton Family Center. To participate, contact Clint Seiter,

Dalai Lama Meets With Lesbian And Gay Leaders Endorses Full Human Rights And Suggests Process For Dogma Review

Press release- June 11, 1997(A more personal viewpoint on the meeting and GBF reactions will be published in a future issue).

In a historic meeting in San Francisco on June 11, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, for the first time ever, discussed issues of homosexuality, human rights and Buddhism with a small group of gay and lesbian leaders. His Holiness expressed his strong opposition to discrimination and violence against gay and lesbian people. He voiced his support for full human rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation. The Dalai Lama was moved by personal stories of loss and discrimination related by the participants, and urged respect, tolerance and compassion for all. He made it clear that gay and lesbian activists could rely on general Buddhist principles as a foundation for their struggle for full equality.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama's support for our rights is very significant," said Tinku Ali Ishtiaq, co-chair of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "The Nobel Laureat commands tremendous respect among people of the world and is highly respected for his words of wisdom. I hope that his message of non-discrimination and respect for our rights will have considerable impact on non-Buddhist religious traditions as well."

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Tony and Roger Speakers For July; Dharma Discussions For August

On July 13th our speaker will be Tony Richardson whose topic will be "Somatic Techniques For Enhancing Buddhist Practices". Tony is an Australian psychiatrist, who is a somatically (the physical body) oriented psychotherapist and teacher. He is a student of Venerable Gyalsay Rinpoche. With colleagues, he has been working to translate Tibetan yoga into practices and exercises that support wellbeing and meditative practice.

Roger Corless, our favorite gay Buddhist professor from Duke University, is with us again for July. On July 27th, he will speak on "The Positive Value of the Negative Precepts." We also look forward to hearing his reflections on Gay Buddhism and his research on GBF.

Both sittings in August will be focused on Dharma discussions. On August 10th, Alan Oliver will lead a discussion on "Ads And Crusing From A Buddhist Perspective". August 24th TBA. Do you have a topic you would like to discuss. Please phone us. ♦

Tundra Wind will lead GBF's Fall Retreat - See article and registration information on pages 5&6.

