



Newsletter  
November 1999

# Gay Buddhist Fellowship

**The Gay Buddhist Fellowship supports Buddhist practice in the Gay men's community. It is a forum that brings together the diverse Buddhist traditions to address the spiritual concerns of Gay men in the Bay Area, the United States, and the world.**

**GBF's mission includes cultivating a social environment that is inclusive and caring.**



*Jim Wilson offers a composition for Shakuhachi flute before his Dharma talk at the GBF retreat.*

## **Fall Retreat Brings Strength and Renewal to Sangha**

*by Hal Hershey*

GBF convened its Eighth Annual Retreat on September 10 at Vajrapani Institute, high in the Santa Cruz mountains, amongst 70 acres of long-standing redwoods, madrones, and oaks. Nineteen participants joined together from all over the Bay Area for silent sitting and walking meditations, ritual and play, vegetarian meals and camaraderie. Jim Wilson shared his music and illuminating clarity in three Dharma talks, focusing on the fundamental principles of Buddhism.

Saturday evening's candlelit ritual before the great Enlightenment Stupa focused on Gratitude, bringing forth heartfelt emotions. The ritual ended with the candles arranged inside the meditation hall, softly illuminating the beautiful gilded images.

Chilly fog-shrouded mornings gave way to crisp hot days as we deepened our practice together and found strength in our Sangha. GBF members

