



# Gay Buddhist Fellowship

## Newsletter

A Monthly Publication of the Gay Buddhist Fellowship, San Francisco

February, 1995

### GBF Calendar

**26 Feb, Sunday Meeting** Carl Grundberg, from the San Francisco Shambhala Center, will be addressing us to discuss **Enlightened Decision-Making . . . or . . . What to do when you don't know what to do.** The San Francisco Shambhala Center has been proud to work with GBF over the years providing space for classes and other GBF events in its gracious 1630 Taraval space, at 26th Avenue.

Carl was a Zen practitioner for a number of years in San Francisco and over the past many years has been a student of Chogyam Trungpa, Rinpoche practicing both within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition and the unique secular school which Trungpa, Rinpoche fashioned, called Shambhala Training.

**12 Feb, Sunday Meeting** This meeting will include a presentation of plans for the Feb 18 workshop, **Exploring Gay Practice - Exploring Our Lives.** It will also be an opportunity for GBF members to offer ideas for the workshop.

**18 Feb Exploring Gay Practice - Exploring Our Lives.** A day of exploration, led by GBF members. The workshop will be held in Berkeley, at Sangha house, 1800 Arch Street. Cost is \$10 and enrollment is limited to 35 people. Send your check to the GBF address, and you will receive a registration form.

**26 March, Sunday Meeting** Dharma talk given by Katherine Thanas, head teacher at the Santa Cruz Zen Center.

## Buddhist AIDS Project

*"What is going on now is very important"* - Thich Nhat Hahn

by Steve Peskind

The Buddhist AIDS Project - BAP - is a big name for a small group responding to practical and spiritual needs of this time. BAP was born in the Fall of 1993, as an outreach effort of the Gay Buddhist Fellowship. With increased diversity of volunteers, BAP organizationally separated from GBF in the Spring of 1994. The project today includes a working committee of eight who administer BAP and monitor client services; thirty Buddhist-sensitive volunteers who provide assistance - from meditation instruction to body work; and twenty people living with HIV who receive and offer skilled services. They are half of BAP's working committee and several key resources.

BAP is not "officially" affiliated with a particular Buddhist community. Consequently, as a grass roots, inter-sangha project, BAP not only provides a valuable information link among diverse Buddhist communities throughout the Bay Area and US, but also Buddhist information and referral services to any person living with HIV/AIDS. To date, most of BAP's services have centered in the Bay Area. The project regularly informs BAP participants of local and pertinent Dharma events. BAP has also responded to inquiries from New York, Arkansas, Oregon, and New Mexico.

In 1995, BAP looks forward to a steady increase in services here and across the country. The project will be publishing two resources: a compilation of excellent articles on integrating Buddhist practice and living with HIV and an information manual on Buddhist funeral rites from Theravada, Zen, and Vajrayana resources. With the development and distribution of audio and video materials and participation on Internet, BAP will network further with AIDS services and Buddhist communities in the Bay Area and nationwide.

**Coming Up** - BAP will be supporting two conferences/retreats on Buddhism and AIDS, organized by other agencies and scheduled for New York and California this year. BAP highly recommends the book, *In The Lap Of The Buddha*, a 1994 Shambhala publication describing author Gavin Harrison's courageous integration of Buddhist practice with HIV/Gay/sexual abuse issues. Gavin is graciously offering an *In The Lap/BAP* benefit scheduled for April 8, in San Francisco. Other suggested services for this year are the beginning of an ongoing medita-

*continued on page 5*

