



# Gay Buddhist Fellowship Newsletter

MAY 1997

## GBF Calendar

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

**1 May, Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm,**  
at the home of Bill Kirkpatrick,

**4 May, Sunday Sitting (East Bay),**  
10:30 am, at the home of Geoff  
McEnany,

**8 May, Thursday Sitting, 6:30 pm:**  
potluck dinner, 7:45 pm: meditation,  
at the home of Lee Robbins,

**11 May, Sunday Sitting (SF),**  
10:30am **NEW LOCATION:** SFBC,  
37 Bartlett St. Ed Brophy, Sadhana  
Brothers, will be the speaker.

**13 May, (Tuesday) Steering Com-**  
**mittee Meeting, 7:15 pm** at the  
home of Larry White,

**15 May, Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm**  
at the home of Mark Marion,

**17 May (Saturday), GBF's Feed-**  
**The-Homeless Project at Hamilton**  
**Family Center.** To participate,  
contact Clint Seiter

**18 May (Sunday), "All you want to**  
**know about Buddhism" Practice**  
**Session, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, SFBC,**  
37 Bartlett St. (see article, page 2)

## New Home For GBF In The Mission

The Gay Buddhist Fellowship is happy to announce we have found a new home!!! As you read in the last issue, we have outgrown our five year use of the space at the Zen Hospice. Our brothers and sisters at the San Francisco Buddhist Center (SFBC) have reaped a rich harvest of good karma by actively encouraging the GBF to use their facility, effective in May, for our Sunday meetings.

The meditation space at SFBC is larger than we now have and it is entered through a large reception area where we can gather for tea and make as much noise as we need to during the social part of our Sunday meetings. This space will also be available for special practice sessions and one day retreats.

The SFBC is housed in the heart of the Mission District, on 37 Bartlett Street. This is between 21st - 22nd Streets, and Valencia - Mission Streets. There is ample public parking located just across the street from the SFBC.

The SFBC is part of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order

(FWBO), an international Buddhist network of public centers, communities, ethical businesses and social projects. At the heart of the FWBO is the Western Buddhist Order (WBO), which is a monastic group of men and women of diverse backgrounds, who have dedicated their lives to the intense practice of Buddhism.

The SFBC provides a comprehensive program of classes and courses in meditation and Buddhism. The SFBC is part of a developing Buddhist tradition that owes its allegiance to the Three Jewels of Teachers, Teachings, and Spiritual Community, and not to any one particular Buddhist tradition. GBF is delighted to work closely with a Western based (England) Buddhist tradition which is dedicated to supporting and encouraging the development of spiritual friendship among those who wish to experience the benefits of practicing Buddhism and who believe that Buddhism can make a constructive contribution to the modern world.

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## "Healing Energies" Topic for May Speaker

Our speaker on May 11 will be Ed Brophy, whose topic will be "Energies of Healing and Transformation." Ed is a body worker, counselor, Reiki Master and student of Siddha yoga. He has a special interest in the role of subtle energies in spiritual transformation, and has been a student of healing energies since 1980. His talk will include a

live demonstration of energy work.

Ed is also the coordinator of Sadhana Brothers, an umbrella group for gay and bisexual men involved in spirituality based on Hindu teachings. The Brothers meet regularly for satsang, chanting, and meditation. This is a very appropriate topic to initiate our new relationship with The San Francisco Buddhist Center. Come and experience this new meeting space of GBF. ♦



## Editor's Mind

by Alan Oliver

After all the worry about leaving the Zen Hospice (over five years of history), it was wonderful and very simple to have a beautiful and suitable dharma space offered to us out of the blue. The larger size, the location in the lively Mission District and the opportunity for GBF to be more exuberant and perhaps more "gay" in the best sense of that word is exciting. The new space will shape our practice and the direction of GBF. We look forward to exploring the possibilities with all of you.

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It is not desirable to break dharma talks like David Sunseri's in two parts, but because of its length along with the dialogue at the end of it we felt we had no choice. If possible go back to the previous issue and read the whole talk plus dialogue at one time. It is an important message; a step forward in understanding our relationships. Share it with friends and talk about it. We invite your insights. I have a new appreciation for the difficulty of translating the spoken word to the printed word.

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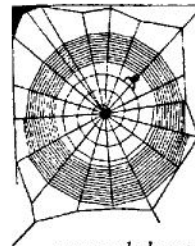
I find when I attend sessions like the half day retreat and manage to "abandon all hope of fruition", of anything special happening or concepts of what should happen I notice more. In the Buddhist

context, the signs around the Interfaith Chapel took on new meanings. YIELD, NO ENTRY, ONE WAY, and NO HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL in the dharmic sense become gateways to insight into the ego and a path. Teachers and teaching moments are everywhere. Receptivity is all. ◆

## "All You Want To Know About Buddhism But Are Afraid To Ask" Is Focus Of May Practice Session

On May 18, GBF will offer a practice session similar to past mini-courses on the Foundations of Buddhism. We will begin and end with a period of meditation starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. with an hour for lunch and social interaction. Experienced GBFers will be available to try to answer some of your basic questions about Buddha and Buddhism. In the six hours available we can cover a lot of ground or just stay with some basic questions. This is an opportunity if you are new to Buddhism to get a quick review of the basics and it is an opportunity for those who have served longer time at the dharma front to fill in gaps, test your understanding and help others understand Buddha's Way.

We will meet at our new space at 37 Bartlett Street (see article on new space) and we request a \$5.00 donation for the day-no sign up is necessary. Either bring lunch or secure it from one of the many food sources on Mission Street. Since we will be covering many topics feel free to come for either the morning or afternoon sessions if you don't have time for both. The SFBC is fairly large so the more the merrier. ◆



## Letters: Voices From Indra's Net

*Indra's Net was the mythological Net*

*suspended over Indra's palace in which at each intersecting point in the Net was a jewel. The facets of each jewel reflected all the other jewels in the Net. The various facets of GBF opinion are reflected here.*

**Editors Note:** We continue to receive thoughtful letters about the Dalai Lama and gay issues. Two more are printed below. Recently, there has been major articles in the San Francisco Chronicle and the Gay paper, The Bay Area Reporter. Obviously controversy attracts news coverage. The articles noted that the Dalai Lama will meet with a group of seven gay Buddhists while he is in San Francisco. We hope to report on that meeting in the July/August issue.

Dear GBF,

I had decided to keep my thoughts to myself in regards to the controversies of late which have appeared in the GBF newsletter. However, I finally feel prompted to add my own thoughts after reading the March '97 issue.

There is a campaign afoot, it seems, to pin down the Dalai Lama as to whether or not being gay is acceptable to the Buddhist religious establishment, such as it is represented in the person of the Tibetan leader himself. Since his wavering, but positive remarks of six months ago have been widely reported in the gay press, certain individuals are now pressing hard for his holiness to come out firmly once and for all in support of gayness as a positive human attribute.

In my opinion, this campaign is pure politics, and very foolish. First of all, the underlying point to be made is to get a well-respected world religious figure to make a positive affirmation on being gay in order to counteract the widely-held

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*"What we call 'I' is just a swinging door which moves when we inhale and we exhale,"*

-Shunryu Suzuki

