



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."

(continued on page 3)

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.



Editor's Mind

by Alan Oliver

"Present At The Creation" is the name of a book by Secretary of State Dean Acheson about his part in the post World War II, Cold War world. I always thought it was a powerful title. So when Chris and I came across the "Gay Way Of Buddhism" article it reminded us that love and relationships(not just sexual) between people of the same sex was there at the creation of Buddhism. The delightful "like two deer" reference to Buddha and Ananda in the article is an early reminder of our presence there and the need to awaken the Asian traditions to their culturally based homophobia.

* * * *

Adding an overview article (not a definitive history) about GBF roots seemed a natural complement. In using the "gay lens" to understand Buddhist principles we also get some permission to be a bit irreverent. Within lighter comments, even offensive comments(who is being offended-can an awakened person be offended?) can lie gateways to greater understanding. It is in that context(T-shirt slogans?) that the following irreverencies heard at GBF meetings and elsewhere are offered:

"So many sentient beings-so little time"

"Samsara sucks, and so do we."

" I'm a follower of Trungpa Rimpoche- I drink the same mixed drinks he drank."

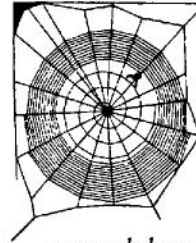
Any others? Comments? ♦

*JUST REMEMBER THAT
SELF-SATISFACTION AND
SELF-ATTACHMENT ARE
OBSTRUCTIONS. YET
THE WAY ALSO LIES
UNATTAINABLE IF THERE'S
NO SELF-ESTEEM AT ALL.
A DICTUM OF THE WAY
STATES: "BECOME HEART'S
MASTER. NOT HEART
MASTERED"~WORDS OF
AN ANCIENT.*

*~MURATA JUKOO
LETTER ON
HEART'S MASTERY*

Contributors

Thanks to the following people who helped with this GBF Newsletter: Alan Oliver, Chris Alferitz, Jon Weaver, Scott Stalnaker, David Holmes, Larry White, Daishen David Sunseri, Tom Moon, Bob Hass, Randolph Conner, David Sparks, Maryia Sparks, and Lao Tzu.



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.*

To the Editor:

I just received my GBF Newsletter and I wanted to thank Christopher Osborne for his article. I was deeply touched by what he wrote. He certainly has learned a lot early on in his life about compassion, attachment, and non judgment. It's wonderful he was willing to take the time to share his experiences with us at what is likely a very busy time for him right before graduation from high school. Christopher, thanks very much and may you remain steadfast to your spiritual journey.

Bob Hass

(Editor's Note: I received similar reactions from many other people. Perhaps our reactions come partly from the appreciation of what a great gift it is to learn about the Dharma early in life. Most of us have come to this path in our 30's, 40's or later and after much suffering without benefit of a Buddhist perspective to help us.)

Dear Friends:

Please help a good cause: Houghton-Mifflin publishing company is giving books to children's hospitals; how many books they give depends on how many e-mails they receive from people around the world. For every

(continued on page 3)

