



# Gay Buddhist Fellowship

## Newsletter

November 1996

### GBF Calendar

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

3 Nov., Sunday Sitting (East Bay), 10:30 am, at the home of Geoff McEnany,

5 Nov. (Tuesday), Steering Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm, at the home of Larry White,

7 Nov., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm, at the home of Bill Kirkpatrick,

9 Nov. (Saturday), Relationship Forum, sponsored by GBF, 9 am-5 pm, Kairos House, 2128 15th Street (near Market), SF. Pre-registration required.

10 Nov., Sunday Sitting (SF), 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St. Speaker: Tibetan Buddhist nun The Ven. Robina Courtin.

14 Nov., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm, at the home of Lee Robbins,

16 Nov., Day of Meditation, 8 am-4 pm,

17 Nov., Sunday Sitting (East Bay). See 11/3.

21 Nov., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm, at the home of Mark Marion,

24 Nov., Sunday Sitting (SF), 10:30 a.m., 273 Page St., SF. Open discussion.

28 Nov., Thursday Sitting, 7:45 pm, at the home of Edward Sams,



### Ven. Robina Courtin to Speak Nov. 10

Our speaker on Sunday, November 10, will be the Venerable Robina Courtin. Robina has been a Tibetan Buddhist nun for over 18 years, having received gelongma ordination in December of 1994.

Originally from Australia, she spent 10 years working for Wisdom Publications, and has also taught and worked at various centers around the world for the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition.

She is currently the editor of *Manala Magazine*, and lives in Soquel, CA. Robina commutes biweekly to lecture to her students at Tse Chen Ling Center for Tibetan Buddhist Studies in San Francisco. Her dynamic style and sense of humor are not to be missed! ♡

### Space Limited for Relationships Forum

In its discussions last month, the Relationships Committee shifted from a limited sign-up *workshop* format to a more open *forum* format. Unfortunately, we did not fully consider the space limitations of Kairos House, which we had already reserved and paid for.

Instead of postponing the November 9 event, we have decided to proceed as announced in the October newsletter, but with a limited sign-up. To attend, please call the GBF voice mail number, 415/974-9878, press 5, state your desire to participate, and leave a name and phone number.

(continued on page 5)

### Day of Meditation Set for November 16

On Saturday, November 16, 1996, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., GBF will sponsor a day of silent meditation practice at 3141 23rd Street (near Shotwell) in the Mission District of San Francisco.

The schedule will include sitting and walking meditation, some group recitation, and dharma readings. Please bring your own meditation cushion or bench, easy on-off shoes or sandals, and a *vegetarian* bag lunch (since the residents of the facility are vegetarians and request that no meat be brought on the premises). Tea will be served.

To register for this event, send your name and phone number to: GBF Sitting (11/16/96), 2261 Market Street #422, San Francisco, CA 94114. If you have any questions or need more information, please call Greg LeClair or Daishin David Sunseri at

This is a good opportunity for us to practice silently together for a whole day. We hope to see many people there. ♡

### A GBF Thanksgiving?

GBF is exploring the possibility of holding a Thanksgiving meal and celebration for members of our sangha. If there are enough people who would like to participate in celebrating Thanksgiving together, we will go ahead with the planning. If you are interested, please contact Clint Seiter as soon as possible at



## Dharma Centers

[Each center offers ongoing programs and activities. If interested, please contact them directly.]

- BPF: Buddhist Peace Fellowship, P.O. Box 4650, Berkeley 94704. 510/525-8596.
- BSC: Berkeley Shambhala Center: 2288 Fulton Street, Berkeley. 510/841-6475 or 510/549-1481.
- BZC: Berkeley Zen Center, 1933 Russell Street, Berkeley 94703. 510/845-2403.
- CDS: California Diamond Sangha, P.O. Box 2915, Petaluma, CA 94953.
- CML: Community of Mindful Living, P.O. Box 7355, Albany 94707. 510/527-3751.
- DI: Dudjom International, P.O. Box 40155, Berkeley 94704. 510/849-9928.
- EGZC: Empty Gate Zen Center, 5707 Oakgrove Ave., Oakland 94618. 510/653-5991.
- EHMC: Enlightened Heart Meditation Center. 415/255-0798.
- GGF: Green Gulch Farm (SF Zen Center): 1601 Shoreline Highway, Sausalito. 415/383-3134.
- HSZC: Hartford Street Zen Center: 57 Hartford St., SF. 415/863-2507.
- LMB: Land of Medicine Buddha: 5800 Prescott Road, Soquel. 408/462-8383.
- NI: Nyingma Institute: 1815 Highland Place, Berkeley 94709. 510/843-6812.
- ODD: Orgyen Dorje Den/Bay Area Yeshe Nyingpo: 410 Townsend #406, SF. 415/826-7181.
- POL: PÖL Pema Ösel Ling: 2013 Eureka Canyon Road, Corralitos. 408/761-6266.
- RF: Rigpa Fellowship: 816 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510/644-1858.
- SBC: Saraha Buddhist Center, 3145 Geary Blvd. #515, SF. 415/731-5973.
- SCZC: Santa Cruz Zen Center, 113 School Street, Santa Cruz. 408/457-0206.
- SFBC: San Francisco Buddhist Center: 37 Bartlett St., SF. 415/282-2018.
- SFSC: San Francisco Shambhala Center: 1630 Taraval St., SF. 415/731-4426.
- SFZC: San Francisco Zen Center: 300 Page Street, SF. 415/863-3136.
- SMZC: Sonoma Mountain Zen Center, 6367 Sonoma Mountain Road, Santa Rosa. 707/545-8105.
- SR: Spirit Rock Meditation Center: 5000 Sir Frances Drake Blvd., Woodacre. 415/488-0164.
- TCL: Tse Chen Ling Center: 4 Joost Ave, SF. 415/333-3261.
- VI: Vajrapani Institute, P.O. Box 2130, Boulder Creek 95006. 408/338-6654. K

# The Local Dharma

November 1996

[Note: Sometimes schedules change, so we recommend you call to confirm events.]

3, 10, 20 Nov. and 5 Dec. "Dr. Ambedkar: 40 Years of the Dharma Revolution in India," a series of public talks (and slides) by Parama Bodhi of the Western Buddhist Order. On Oct. 14, 1956, Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, chief architect of independent India's constitution, converted to Buddhism by taking the Refugees and Precepts from India's most senior bhikkhu, U. Chandramani. Dr. Ambedkar, in turn, administered the Refugees and Precepts to the crowd of 500,000 Hindu "untouchables," thus starting the mass conversion movement and revival of Buddhism in India. Today it is estimated there are up to 20 million ex-untouchable Buddhists in India. SFBC

8-11 Nov. (Fri.-Mon.) "Practicing Peace: A Mindfulness Retreat on Healing and Transformation" led by Maxine Hong Kingston, Arnie Kotler, Wendy Johnson, and Therese Fitzgerald. This retreat for veterans, their friends, families, loved ones, and everyone interested in peace and transformation will take place on Veterans' Day Weekend at a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in the Santa Cruz mountains. There will be an opportunity to sit, walk, eat, enjoy tea, and share the practice of mindfulness of our body, feelings, and mind. There will be guided meditations and writing exercises as a Sangha to help heal the wounds of war within our hearts. Cost: \$125-175. 4:00 pm (Fri.)-2:00 pm (Mon.) CML

14 Nov. (Thu.) "Singing the Pine Trees Home: An Autumn Evening of Tea and Poetry" with Randall Weingarten and Sarah Seiter. One of a series of evenings in the study of the Way of Tea (*Chanoyu*). Please bring a poem or two to share—your own or one by a favorite poet. Cost: \$15. Please register in advance; limited to ten people. 7-9 pm. GGF

17 Nov. (Sun.) "Translating Judaism, Translating Buddhism: a Jewish-Buddhist Retreat" with Rabbi Alan Lew and Abbot Zoketsu Norman Fisher. The encounter between the traditions of Judaism and Buddhism can magnify and freshen our understanding of both, and of ourselves. How does the practice of mindfulness relate to the practice of prayer? What is the existential dimension of a mitzvah? What does the word "God" really mean? The day will include traditional Jewish liturgy, Buddhist meditation practices, and discussion centered around texts of both traditions. Cost: \$35. Please bring a bag lunch. GGF

19 Nov. (Tue.) "The Bodhisattva Precepts and Interdependence" with Tenshin Reb Anderson, Senior Dharma Teacher, Zen Center. Insight into the Buddha's teaching on interdependence is central to realization and awakening to actual reality. The Precepts are a pivotal part of creating the causes and conditions for our own insight. This exceptional teacher will illuminate these interwoven topics. Suggested donation: \$5-\$10. 7:45-9 pm. HSZC

23 Nov. (Sat.) Clearing the Land—"Living Peace Patch" Walk with the Living Peace Meditation Community. As we clear the land of non-native exotic plants, we are preparing the space for plants that nourish and support the lives of the birds and all native creatures. So too, as we become aware of old habits and perceptions, creating a greater spaciousness of being, we nourish our seeds of beauty, love, and compassion. Propagating wild strawberries which help to stabilize the dune habitat offers us a time of personal grounding and connection. At Fort Funston, SF. Information: Karen, 415/346-3923.

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