



Buddhāloka

L I G H T O F T H E B U D D H A

Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

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Autumn 2008 /

A Gift of the Dhamma ... a Gift beyond measure!



The BSV has been truly blessed by the generosity of one of its members who invited and brought to Melbourne Sayadaw U Tejaniya, senior meditation teacher of the Shwe Oo Min Centre in Myanmar. She also sponsored the Sayadaw's travel and that of Ma Thet, his translator, as well as organizing a group of supporters during his stay at the BSV vihara. Without her own experience at the Shwe Oo Min Centre and her warm acquaintance with both Sayadaw and MaThet, as well as her wonderful generosity, the BSV would have missed out on what proved to be a joyful highlight for so many of us seeking ways of applying the Dhamma in the business of everyday life.

← Sayadaw U Tejaniya at the Buddhāloka Centre

Group Efforts at Buddhāloka

Our Working Bee on the 19th April provided an opportunity for participants to tidy the BSV grounds and prepare the hall for the week long retreat led by Sayadaw U Tejaniya. It was a delight to see around fifteen people with much cheerfulness apply their energy and over two hours help prepare Buddhāloka for such an auspicious event.

VESAK WORKING BEE. To prepare for the celebration of Vesak, we will have another Working Bee on the 24 May at Buddhāloka commencing at 9.30. The Vesak period is the BSV's busiest time, and we would love to have Buddhāloka looking spick and span. We invite you to come along and help.

from Committee member Paul Du Vé



← Sima ceremony at Sanghamittaranma in March ↓



Vesak Celebrations

to Commemorate the Birth, Enlightenment and Death of the Buddha

Program - Sunday 25th May 2008 / 2551

- 8:00 am Taking of Precepts (five or eight)
- 8:30 am Meditation
- 9:30 am Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahm
- 10:15 am Buddha Puja (offering of flowers and incense)
- 11:00 am Offering of Dana to the Sangha
- 11:30 am Community lunch in the dining area. Eight preceptors served first.
- 12:30 pm Meditation
- 2:00 pm Dhamma discussion and meditation with Ajahn Brahm
- 3:30 pm Afternoon tea
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Dhamma discussion with Ajahn Brahm

8:00 pm Dhamma talk by Ajahn Brahm at **Monash Religious Centre**

BSV Vesak celebrations

Ajahn Brahmavamsa will be with us to lead Vesak celebrations, commencing Saturday 24th May and will return to Perth on Wednesday 28th May.

Saturday 24th May 8:00 pm
Dialogue with the under 35s at
Buddhāloka Centre

Sunday 25th May 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Vesak celebrations at
Buddhāloka Centre (see separate
Vesak program notice)

8:00 pm Dhamma talk at
Monash Religious Centre,
Clayton Campus

Monday 26th May 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
One day retreat at
Buddhāloka Centre
8:00 pm Dhamma talk at
Monash Religious Centre

Tuesday 27th May 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
One day retreat at
Buddhāloka Centre
8:00 pm Dhamma talk at
Monash Religious Centre,
Clayton Campus

Sangha

Ajahn Ariyasilo may arrive immediately after Vesak, but this is uncertain and his details are not yet available.

Ashin U Pandita gave several retreats during April in Indonesia - a country where 260 million people have only 37 Theravadin monks to teach them. His retreats were well attended and a retreat centre is established. He told us all to visit Borobudur, the ancient Buddhist monument in central Java, once in our life! Now we welcome him back to the Buddhist Society on Thursday nights.

Venerable Nissarano is still in Sri Lanka. He is expected to arrive for the Vas (the Rains Retreat), on or about the 11th of July, and will stay a little beyond Kathina.

Retreats

Sayadaw U Lakhana - Thru the good offices of our Sayadaw we have Sayadaw U Lackhana, a senior meditation master from Myanmar, to lead a retreat for 9 days at the beginning of December, this year, at Candlebark Farm, Healesville. We expect many from both the BSV and *Dhamma Sukha* Meditation Centre to attend. Further details are available from the BSV's web page, at the temple or from future newsletters.

Gregory Kramer and Insight Dialogue - On April 29th Gregory Kramer (who has taught at IMS [Barre] and is President of the Metta Foundation) gave the BSV a brief taste of Insight Dialogue, which includes more factors of the Path than only right speech and mindfulness. For a fuller description refer to his book "*Insight Dialogue, [the interpersonal path to freedom]*" (Shambala, 2007). The book describes Insight Dialogue as a Buddhist practice for cultivating wisdom and compassion through meditation in dialogue.

At the BSV and on Insight Dialogue retreats typically a period of formal meditation technique is interrupted for a few minutes by practitioners in pairs or small groups engaging with each other

in short mindful contemplation/dialogue (ie.verbally) on a Dhamma topic eg. one's own mortality. Guidelines covering the process are specific and comprehensive. A pause bell is rung intermittently and formal silent meditation resumed. The process is 1. pause, 2. relax, 3. open, 4. trust emergence, 5. listen deeply and 6. speak the truth. The tragic loss of his own daughter when as a child her heart gave out, and his son's encounter with cancer have no doubt deepened Gregory's Dhamma practice.

Since so much of one's life is talking, it makes good sense to train the "hatchet in our mouth". We are grateful to the Teacher and his students for this opportunity to practise Dhamma.

from Committee member Padmini Perera

In-House Day Retreats conducted by Ajahn Brahmavamso

**Monday 26th May and Tuesday
27th May**

PROGRAM

8:00 am Meditation including questions and discussion

11:00 am Break for offering of Dana and lunch for participants

12:30 pm Meditation including meditation instructions, questions and discussion

3:00 pm Tea

3:30 pm Meditation including questions and discussion

5:00 pm Close of day's program

From the Committee

Hall Improvements – The hall reconstruction was delayed until problems detected in the

foundations of the existing (former) front wall were corrected. The partition wall was re-erected (after its removal for the in-house retreat) and the roof from the front section removed. By the time this newsletter is published, the upper floor concreting should have been finished. We are hopeful that the front door and foyer will be available for use as an exit during the Vesak celebrations. The hall renovations are now proceeding apace.

Cyclone in Burma

Donations to assist people caught in the vast Burmese cyclone catastrophe can be made to *Dhamma Sukha Meditation Centre*, 69 Glendale Rd., Springvale (our Sayadaw U Pandita[jnr]'s Centre). He will leave for Burma/Myanmar on the 21st May and return on the 14th June, this year.

Sunday Dhamma School Play

The Sunday school play will be on Friday 30th May at 7:00 pm at the Glen Waverley Community Centre, corner of Springvale and Waverley Rds Glen Waverley. Three groups (Juniors, Seniors and Young Adults) will stage separate productions based on the Jataka or Dhammapada Commentary texts. Entry is \$5 and will go to the BSV and *Sanghamittarama Monastery*. Cups of tea and sweets will be served at intermission.

Pali for Daily Reflection

A Pali Word a Day by the Mahindarama Sunday Pali School is a publication of the Buddha Dharma Education Association Inc. It aims to assist new Buddhist students who are unfamiliar with some of the Pali words often used in Buddhism. An example excerpt follows –

Jataka – ... *accounts of previous births (of the Buddha)*

A work of the **Theravada** (Doctrines of the Elders) Canon, it contains a collection of 547 stories of the previous existences of Buddha Gotama.

Of great value in folklore and Buddhist mythology as the background of moral tales. Each Jataka has its own moral story as it shows how the **Bodhisatta** practised and developed the virtues required for the attainment of Buddhahood.

The **Jataka** tales are accounts of the Buddha's previous lives, originally told by the Buddha to His disciples. In His previous lives the Buddha appeared in many forms, such as animals, human beings, **nagas** (dragons) and **devas** (heavenly beings).

The **Jatakas** emphasize the selflessness of compassion, love and kindness and the beauty of virtuous action.

The **Jatakas** teach us that we are fully responsible for our actions, and what we think and do affects the quality of our lives. The basic principle is known as **Kamma**.

extracted from A Pali Word a Day – A selection of Pali Words for Daily Reflection pub. Buddha Dharma Education Association Inc, email <bdea@buddhanet.net>

The mind is very difficult to perceive; very delicate and subtle; it moves and lands wherever it pleases. The wise one should guard his mind, for a guarded mind brings happiness.

Dhammapada 36

The *Dhammapada* ('Words of Truth') is a collection of 423 verses in Pali, uttered by the Buddha on some 305 occasions for the benefit of all. The stories about the circumstances in which the verses were uttered were added by the commentator Buddhagosa in the 5th century CE. It is generally believed that most of these stories associated with each *Dhammapada* verse have

been handed down orally for generations since the days of the Buddha. The Buddha's teachings were not committed to writing until more than 400 years after his *Mahā Parinibbāna* (passing away).

Copies of the *Dhammapada* are available for loan or purchase from the library (alho' borrowing from the library is temporarily unavailable, due to the current renovations). We have also received many boxes of books for free distribution from *The Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation* of Taiwan, including copies of the *Dhammapada*. Contact our librarian, Yasmin, if you'd like a copy.

Faring far, wandering alone, bodiless, lying in a cave, is the mind. Those who subdue it are freed from the bond of Mara.

Dhammapada 37

This edition of *Buddhāloka* was edited by David Cheal (contact via the BSV). The views contained within do not necessarily reflect those of the Buddhist Society of Victoria. Contributions and news are welcome, particularly from members.

President's Report for Annual General Meeting of the BSV

30th March, 2008 / 2551

The Sangha

The year 2007 – 2008 was again a busy year, and a very special one for the BSV, particularly because of the establishment of the *Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Vihara* in rental property at 40 Chesterville Drive, East Bentleigh, in June/July 2007.

Ayya Sucinta, who had come to the BSV in January 2007, has been bhikkhuni in residence at *Sanghamittarama* since its opening. Throughout the past 12 months, she has conducted much of the Dhamma teaching at the BSV. However, immediately after her moving into the East Bentleigh vihara, Ajahn Ariyasilo arrived at *Buddhaloka* to conduct the teaching program during the Vas from mid July until mid October. His generosity allowed Ayya Sucinta time to settle in to the new vihara. He stayed with us until just after the joyous occasion of the official inauguration of *Sanghamittarama* on Saturday 27th October, and a beautiful Kathina ceremony was held at the BSV on Sunday 28th October to mark the end of the Rains Retreat. The members and friends of the BSV were truly grateful to Ajahn Ariyasilo for his guidance and inspiration whilst he was with us and were very happy to be able to offer him a robe and other requisites on that special last Sunday he was with us.

Ayya Sucinta has conducted a very generous program at the BSV since she has been with us and we are truly grateful for her calm and wise Dhamma offerings. During 2007, Full Moon days were observed by opening for meditation, sutta discussions were conducted by Ayya twice a month and she offered guided meditation and short talks on Tuesday evenings as well as the Sunday Dhamma talk. While the observance of the Full Moon days has not resumed in 2008, sutta discussions are now held at *Sanghamittarama*.

Other Sangha to offer talks at *Buddhaloka* in the past year include Ajahn Dtun, Abbot of *Wat Boonyawad Forest Monastery* in Chonburi province, Thailand, who visited again last March to conduct a retreat at the invitation of one of our very generous members, and Ajahn Thanasanti and Ajahn Thaniya from *Chithurst Monastery* in the UK, who also conducted a retreat last December. In March 2008, Ayya Thataaloka of the *Dhammadharina Bhikkhuni Vihara* in Fremont, California and Ayya Sobhana of the *Bhavana Society*, West Virginia, also offered talks while staying at *Sanghamittarama* during a short visit to Melbourne. We remain in hope that Ajahn Dtun will resume good health after his recent illness.

Our warmest thanks must be offered again to Sayadaw U Pandita from the *Dhamma Sukha* temple in Springvale. He is a regular and much-loved teacher at the BSV, offering meditation instructions and a Dhamma talk on Thursday evenings. Many of our members also visit his temple on celebratory and other occasions, such as Friday evenings for Dhamma talks, and retreats days held at his centre. He is usually available to assist Ayya Sucinta in her observation of the bhikkhuni vinaya. We thank him again for his continued support.

Last but not least, Ajahn Brahmavamsa, the spiritual advisor of the BSV and a much loved teacher of the Dhamma, again led our Vesak celebrations in early May, 2007. He also conducted two retreat days and gave four public talks. Saturday evening's talk, held at the BSV Dhamma hall and termed 'Dialogue with Youth', as it was specifically for the under 30s, was a great success and while expanding the age group a little to 35 this year, it will again be offered. The public talks on May 6th, 7th and 8th were held at Monash Religious Centre which proved to be an ideal venue as it seats about 400 people. The hall was comfortably full on each of those occasions and its use had the additional benefit of reducing parking and other pressure on the Darling Road neighbourhood which had created difficulties in 2006. We are so very grateful to Ajahn Brahm for his great kindness and generosity in again offering us such a rich program over the Vesak period.

Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Vihara

As mentioned in last year's annual report at the AGM, Dr Dhananjaya Jayasekera, a long-term supporter and committee member of the BSV, generously offered us the use of his rental property in East Bentleigh as the foundation location for *Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Monastery*. It is an ideal property for a Sangha residence as the very large front room makes a beautiful meditation and shrine room and there is a very large room with amenities at the back of the house suitable for lay supporters. From Sunday, 26th June, the first Sunday we had access to the property, to Monday 16th July, when Ayya Sucinta moved into Chesterville Drive, members and friends of the BSV worked tirelessly to tidy up, clean, paint, renovate, carpet and furnish the house ready for habitation. Rubbish was also cleared and the garden given an initial tidy. It is a matter for much satisfaction that little of the funds donated in the early days to the project were required as people were outstandingly generous, not only of their time but also in their donation of essential items including carpeting and furniture. The generous donation of essentials remains a feature at the Bentleigh vihara but as discussed at a recent meeting of friends of *Sanghamittarama*, the operating account is in need of constant support to ensure adequate funds to cover rent and basic amenities.

On July 29th Ayya Sucinta was invited by the BSV to spend the Vas at *Sanghamittarama* and in early August she was joined by Ayya Samacitta Bhikkhuni, from *Santi Forest Monastery* and later by Charlotte Richardson, a lay supporter from the USA. The official inauguration of *Sanghamittarama* was held on the 27th October and there were 14 sangha in attendance, 7 monks and 7 nuns, as well as a large number of lay supporters. A number of senior monks and nuns spoke on this joyous and important occasion and, while Ajahn Brahm could not be present, he sent his very best wishes to us all. As well as holding sutta readings twice each month, the Young Adults meet there each fortnight and Ayya Sucinta welcomes people to meditation on four nights of the week. Other important visitors to the vihara during the year include Sunim Chi Kwan, a Bhikkhuni for about 30 years who was ordained in Korea, and Ajahn Thanasanti and Ajahn Thaniya, senior nuns from *Chithurst Monastery* in the UK. By the time this report is read, the planned recitation of the Bhikkhuni Patimokkha will have taken place at *Sanghamittarama*, as it was held on the March Full Moon, March 21st. The presence of a total of five bhikkhunis, including Ayya Thataaloka from California, and Ayya Sobhana from Bhavana provided the necessary conditions for the ceremony, and represents an Australian first. Finally, we are delighted to welcome Venerable Sister Athapi, who has taken residence at the vihara. She is of Sri Lankan origin and has been a samaneri for 10 years.

We are many steps closer now to the calling of a Special General Meeting to discuss suitable constitutional amendments to the BSV constitution to best support both the *Buddhaloka Centre* and *Sanghamittarama*. The accounts for each have been totally separate for some time now as has the day to day administration of the new vihara which is supported by BSV members and friends of *Sanghamittarama*. We have already gained the official acceptance by Ajahn Brahm of a completed constitutional model which was worked upon by Ajahn Sujato, Yasmin Moore and myself, but the BSV committee has set up an advisory group of past presidents which is presently undertaking some important fine tuning. Only this one, carefully worked model will be presented to the BSV community.

Retreats

Three residential retreats were held last year under the auspices of the BSV, the first commencing 20th April conducted by the very highly esteemed senior Thai monk, Ajahn Dtun, who was also with us two years prior. Ajahn Dtun was accompanied by two senior monks from his monastery, and one, Ajahn Tejappano acted as his translator. There were also a number of monks on this retreat from *Santi Forest Monastery* and elsewhere as well as Ayya Sucinta and Ayya Samacitta. Then from July 6th – 15th, Venerable Sayalay Dipankara, a nun from Myanmar, who has already twice visited Melbourne for BSV retreats, returned after two years absence to conduct a retreat. Most recently from December 7th – 16th, Ajahn Thanasanti, who is already very well known to us all, and Ajahn Thaniya, both senior nuns at Chithurst in England, conducted a very successful retreat. Over the Christmas/New Year period 2007 – 2008 the BSV was open each day for a retreat conducted by Ayya Sucinta. Plans are in place for a similar offering 2008 – 2009 as the opportunity for calm and quiet was much appreciated during this hectic time of year.

The BSV conducted a one day retreat last week on Friday, 21st March (Good Friday) led by Sally Clough, a lay teacher from Spirit Rock in the USA. More than 70 people attended and stretched our facilities limited by the building of the new library. It served as a practice run for the 7 day “in-house” which is planned for April from the 21st to 27th at *Buddhaloka Centre* and will be led by a very highly regarded monk, senior meditation teacher at the *Swee Oo Minh Centre* in Myanmar, Sayadaw U Tejaniya. In December 2008 a residential retreat will be conducted by the BSV in conjunction with *Dhamma Sukha Meditation Centre* in Springvale. Sayadaw U Lakhana from Myanmar will conduct the retreat.

Again we express great gratitude for the generosity of one of our members who has arranged and supported financially the visit of Sayadaw U Tejaniya to the BSV.

Other BSV matters

Please note that separate reports will be offered for the library and Dhamma school.

Generous Donor

The BSV community was saddened to hear of the death of one of its supporters, Bob Greenfield, in July 2007. Bob lived in a nursing home when we first met him, initially in Morwell and then in Moe. Over the past few years he has donated \$20 000 to the BSV and in January, 2008, we were notified of a most generous bequest of more than \$123 000. The large part of this bequest will be held in reserve for the renovations of the vihara. The BSV plans to offer a special dana each year in July to mark the death of Bob Greenfield and to place a memorial plaque in the new library.

Celebratory Dana:

On March 2nd the BSV offered a special dana to mark the first anniversary of the death of Elizabeth Bell, OAM, who was an extraordinary influence on the growth of Buddhism in Australia and long-term president and supporter of the BSV.

The Passing of Beatrice Ribush:

Bea Ribush as she was known died on Saturday, 15th March 2008, within one day of the first anniversary of the death of Elizabeth Bell. Bea was treasurer of the BSV for 14 years as well as a long-term member.

Dhamma School Plays, Friday 3rd May: We are very grateful to the Young Adults for producing the Jataka plays on the Friday prior to the Vesak celebrations in 2007. Dhamma School students took part in the production as did some of the producers. We understand that there will be a production again this year perhaps staged in a small hall.

Fundraising dinner:

A fundraising dinner was held in October, 2007, and raised about \$5000 for the School Building Fund. As usual on these occasions it was a very enjoyable evening.

Communications:

Warm thanks to the editor of our newsletter and our webmaster for assisting the BSV in communicating with its members and friends. The importance of these very different modes of communication cannot be over estimated.

Buddhist Council of Victoria:

BSV members Michael Wells and Judith Macdonald have been long associated with the umbrella Buddhist organization in Victoria. In 2007 Michael was treasurer, and for a number of years Judith has been convenor of the Buddhist Education in Schools Project, a BCV initiative. She has stepped down from that position this year. The BSV committee has recently committed \$1000 per year in support of this program in recognition of its importance and as government grants have been withdrawn.

Buildings and Grounds:

In full evidence to all is the construction of the up-stairs library. As we are able to use limited power in the Dhamma hall by connecting to the vihara, we have been able to run our regular program quite successfully and up-to-date the contraction of space has not proved to be a severe problem. We are pleased to report, however, that we will have access to the entire Dhamma hall by *Vesak*, even though the building will not be finished. We may, however, have to restrict numbers attending the in-house retreat in late April. The effects on the garden of this work are also evident and have been exacerbated by the severity of the drought. The library construction is to be fully funded by donations specific to that cause and fundraisers.

Thank you:

This year has again been a successful and happy one for the BSV. I would like to warmly thank the committee for its hard work and support, and comment on the very positive and harmonious attitude of its members. I can truly say that it is a pleasure to get together as so much is achieved. However, a committee member can have a fairly invisible role, as the outward effect is largely that things seem to work smoothly and easily. As a result perhaps it seems to me that not many people are aware of the heavy load that falls on the shoulders of so few at *Buddhaloka* which I think is to the detriment of the morale and functioning of the Society. I hope this year we can develop a different way of operating whereby we set up support groups in different management areas coordinated by a committee member but within which other members and friends take a small amount of responsibility. The advantages to the Society of sharing responsibility will bring with it the personal satisfaction of creating good kamma in furthering the spread of the Buddha's Teachings. We are indeed blessed to be able to live in a time and place when the Dhamma is so readily available. To protect it we need true generosity and commitment.

I would like to thank all those who have worked hard – and there are many: the people supporting *Sanghamittarama* from its beginnings and more recently, the hall and house cleaners, those who mow the lawn and tidy the garden, the people who record and make recordings for our use, those who bring flowers and offer dana, the librarian and assistants, the Dhamma school teachers, those who drive the monks and nuns, those who act on other committees outside the BSV that support the Dhamma. All of these and many others deserve our warmest thanks.

Highlights from the Annual General Meeting - 2008

Ayya Suchinta and Ven. Sister Athapi of *Sangamittarama* were present during the opening session of the meeting.

The meeting highlights were as follows:

- The proposed Constitutional amendments were passed unanimously. These amendments covered:
 - A) Clause 4 powers, addition of a new second paragraph pertaining to funds held on account of visiting sangha.
 - B) Clause 9 (vi), Delete the existing sub-clause and inserting a new sub-clause primarily stating that members have to be financial to be eligible to vote at a General Meeting.
 - C) Changes to sub clause 9 (xii), a mere technical correction replacing the phrase ‘The Honorary Treasurer’ with ‘The Honorary Secretary’.
 - D) Clause 17 Sub-clause (xviii) change of requirement for passing a special resolution from 2/3 majority of persons present and voting to a 3/4 majority of persons who are entitled to vote and are voting in person or proxy. This is to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act – Section 6.
- **Dhamma School:** The annual drama event was popular, demonstrating the talents of students and young adults alike.
- **Building construction:** Despite the on going renovations and the interruption of the power regular programs have continued. The library construction is to be fully funded by donations specific to that cause and fundraisers.
- **Library activities:** The library was dismantled in November in preparation for the library extension. New furniture will be required for the library. *Raeco* has agreed to audit the area and provide suggestions for furniture without charge and will give generous discounts on items from their catalogue. Second hand shelving has been donated. The cost of carpeting the library and staircase is extra to the building contract. It is hoped that the floor covering, internal painting etc can be accomplished by donations.
- **Sanghamittarama Library:** A generous donation received from a BSV member enabled purchase of the Vinaya Pitaka (5 volumes), the Anguttara Nikaya (6 volumes) and many other books from the Buddhist Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka. The reference collection of the BSV Library has been moved to *Sanghamittarama* temporarily. This has provided Sangha members access to this collection during the library renovations.
- **Audited Financial Report:** Accounts for the financial year were received, along with the Auditor’s formal confirmation certificate. The audit has been carried out in accordance with the relevant Australian standards and the auditor is satisfied with the Society’s accounts for the year 2007/2550.
- **The Committee:** There were minor changes and two new faces in the in committee this year. Paul De Ve and Alice Chin kindly were elected by acclamation to the BSV Committee. The new Committee consists of -

Cora Thomas (Hon. President),

Padmini Perera (Hon. Vice-President),

Sarath Weerakoon (Secretary),

Chinlook Tan (Treasurer),

Committee members: Prem Nawaratne, Dhananjaya Jayasekera, Gary Dellora, Swee Kiew Alice Chin and Paul Du Ve.

Eulogy for Beatrice Ribush - memories from the BSV



Beatrice Ribush was one of the pioneering members of the Buddhist Society of Victoria and through her actions and support, contributed to the growth of Buddhism in Victoria generally. With Elizabeth Bell and Fred Whittle, she made up the triumvirate who moulded the BSV through its early years and held the place together through difficult times.

Beatrice and Elizabeth shared a special relationship based on common interests and ways of seeing the world. Between them they created a strong and trustworthy team at the BSV, tolerating each others foibles but always supporting each other and working closely together. In her last years, Elizabeth often spoke of Bea with great affection and concern for her friend.

Bea made an outstanding contribution to the BSV by holding the office of Treasurer for a

staggering 18 years. She resigned from the position in the early 90's, before the move to East Malvern, so must have taken it up in about 1973 or 74, when Buddhist House opened its doors in Mary St., Richmond. She was a meticulous and reliable Treasurer, very protective of the BSV and its interests.

A long-standing member of the BSV recalls that shortly after Beatrice became ill there was a crisis at the BSV and a meeting was called to decide what to do. Beatrice was not exactly across the issues but because she had heard there was a problem, she had decided that she must come and help. The fact that, because of her illness, she was unable to do a great deal, was irrelevant. She was needed and so she was there. Her commitment to the BSV was so strong that it over-rode considerations about her health. It was this selflessness that enabled her and Elizabeth to work together for so long and between them to keep the BSV going through difficult times.

Over the past few days several members of the BSV who knew Bea have shared their memories of her. So this is a collage of those impressions and stories.

The over-riding theme and words used were her sweetness and friendly attitude. Bea was there with a kind word and gentle smile to welcome newcomers or support a friend in trouble. Offers of help with

accommodation were not unusual and she had the knack of finding the right interest or activity to help through a hard time. One person said she made a huge difference to her life by suggesting she become involved in U3A. She went out of her way to think about her friend and to provide practical advice.

Several people mentioned Bea's unusual wit and that sitting beside her through tedious committee meetings was actually quite amusing as her *sotto voce* comments on people and issues helped to lighten the atmosphere. But she was never vindictive and always upheld the Buddha's teachings.

Through her sons Dorian and Nick, Bea made strong connections with Tibetan Buddhism. Lama Zopa Rinpoche and Lama Yeshe were her friends and teachers. In the early years she had offered hospitality to the monks and delighted in telling people later that "the beds were untouched". The monks had meditated all night.

Likewise she was close to Ayya Khema, attending her talks and retreats, even when no longer young.

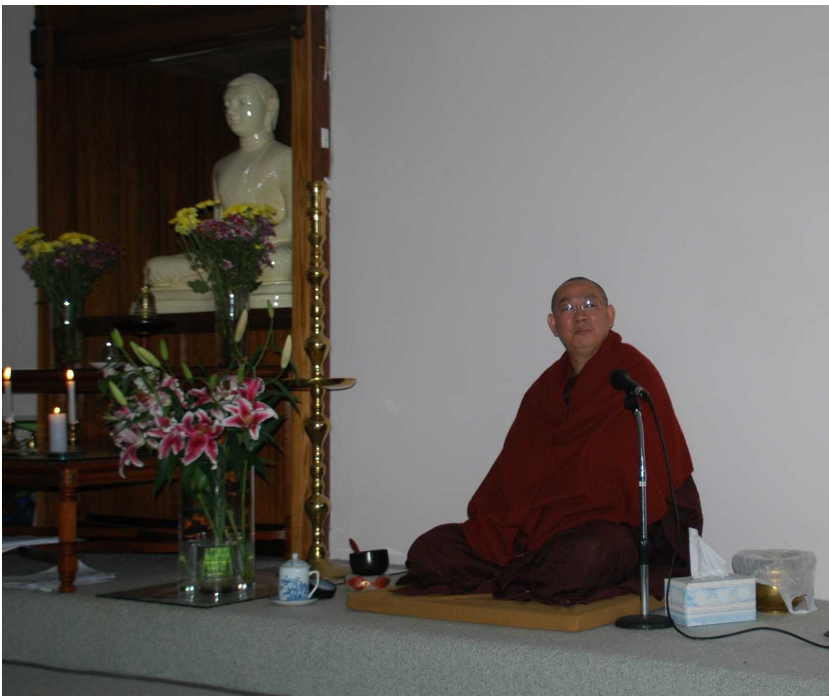
So Bea was interested in different aspects of Buddhism and able to hold it all together as one unified whole.

Bea was a talented cake-maker and members recall progressive fund-raising dinners when dessert was always offered at her place and everyone enjoyed the delicious European-style cakes she made. Through these and other events, Bea encouraged the social friendship and fellowship side of the BSV which we can all do with more of.

Others remembered her graciousness, her European style and her perfect posture as she sat meditation.

But most of all we will remember with love and gratitude that unique and precious person, Beatrice, who shared her life with us and helped the Dhamma to grow in this country.

Retreat with Sayadaw U Tejaniya



During the last week of April the BSV was privileged to hold an in-house retreat led by Sayadaw U Tejaniya, of Shwe oo min Centre, Myanmar. Many practitioners have found his teachings particularly useful because of the practical advice he gives for dealing with our "rough edges" and peccadilloes in daily life circumstances.

Because Sayadaw lived as a lay-person practising Dhamma for years, he has especial insight into lay life dilemmas. This, coupled with his metta and acute jolly sense of humour, meant that the 100 or so meditators who daily attended were treated to a rare, delightful and productive opportunity

for their practice.

Sayadaw described for example how, as a once fun-loving lay person at one stage he underwent a profound depression but overcame it through his Practice. He drew the analogy of our emotions of liking and aversion being akin to a rapidly vacillating pendulum. However, equanimity is achievable, as his

inspiring presence shows. He emphasized we should realise we may be in for the "long haul" in our practice.

His equanimity was attained in lay life and he went to ordination as a natural progression, not to avoid the troubles of lay-life. Some of us have become too rigidly fixated on concentration practices, and Sayadaw drew the analogy that instead of walking forward to grasp the object with excessive exclusive focus, in Vipassana we should walk backwards with panoramic awareness, as it were.

By adopting this lighter approach, our defilements will not "laugh at us", to quote from the title of his book.

Saydaw's patience with our daily 2 hours of question and answer was inexhaustible, as was the translator's. Many thanks to her and the Teacher, sponsor, organizers and participants.

Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!

from Committee member Gary Dellora

Travelling Bhikkhunis

We were very fortunate to have three Bhikkhunis from the USA, Ayya Tathaaloka (from *Dhammadharini Bhikkhuni Vihara* in Fremont, California), Ayya Sobhana (from the *Bhavana Society* in West Virginia)



and Ayya Satima (Minnesota) visiting *Sanghamittarama*, after participating in a seminar for bhikkhunis that was held at *Santi Forest Monastery* in Bundanoon (NSW) from March 10th to 16th.

Ayya Sudhira (from *Sangha Lodge*, Sydney) accompanied the bhikkhunis from the USA to *Sanghamittarama*, making it possible to have five fully ordained nuns together to recite the Patimokkha on an Uposatha Day.

Both Ayya Sucinta and the Samanery Athapi participated in the Seminar. Samaneri Athapi has come to stay at *Sanghamittarama* and we welcome her warmly. Born in Sri Lanka, she took

Samaneri ordination 10 years ago in Kegalle, Sri Lanka. She was at *Dhammasara Nuns' Monastery* near Perth, before arriving at *Sanghamittarama*.

from Committee member Padmini Perera

Donation Pledge
To BSV – School Building Fund (SBF)
BSV - Library Extension Project

To: The Treasurer, BSV

I / We the undersigned in support of the expansion of the BSV Library pledge to make regular periodical donations until further notice to BSV – SBF as below to assist in the construction expenditure for the Library extension

Name(s):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

The Donation Amount: \$

Payment Frequency: Please select > Fortnightly / Monthly / Quarterly

Signature:Date:

Method of Payment:

- * Cash / Cheque – in a sealed envelope deposited in the BSV’s Donation box
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From my/our Bank:.....to
Buddhist Society of Victoria - School Building Fund account at
Commonwealth Bank (CBA): BSB Number: 063120 -- A/C No: 0090 0808

*Please tick (√) your preference

Note: All donations to BSV’s – SBF are Tax deductible.

The Treasurer will forward Official receipts for total aggregate payments received from each Donor at the end of the Fiscal year. *Cut on this line*



Please fill in & retain this record of your Donation Pledge to BSV - SBF:

My / Our Name:.....

Donation Pledge Amount: \$ Date:

Payment frequency:

Method of Payment:

- * Cash / Cheque
- * Electronic Transfer per Bank Order to:

Buddhist Society of Victoria - School Building Fund account at
Commonwealth Bank (CBA): BSB Number: 063120 -- A/C No: 0090 0808

Activities at *Sanghamittarama*

Boundaries or no boundaries?

In some sense there are no boundaries for bhikkhunis: In March, three bhikkhunis from USA helped us to create a sima, a "boundary" around *Sanghamittarama* in Australia. All bhikkhunis staying within this territory will now be considered "one community". We also designated the meditation room as our Uposatha Hall.

Commuting nuns

Sanghamittarama was able to accommodate two more nuns during the time of Ven. Sayadaw Tejaniya's retreat at the BSV: Ven. Bhikkhuni Dhammananda from Vietnam and Samaneri Adhimutta from Santi Forest Monastery in Bundanoon. So there were four nuns commuting from *Sanghamittarama* to the BSV and participating in this retreat. All of us are very grateful for this opportunity. Sayadaw U Tejaniya also came to East Bentleigh for a short visit to see *Sanghamittarama*.

Who's visiting next?

For May 24 we are expecting Jackie's visit, who plans to be at *Sanghamittarama* for a week on her way to *Santi Forest Monastery*. She will come from *Amaravati Buddhist Monastery* in England. Ayya Sucinta met Jackie in USA, first at the *Bhavana Society*, where Jackie had been a lay resident there for more than a year.

For the Vas 2008 we might have a third resident at *Sanghamittarama*: Ven. Bhikkhuni Uppalavanna from Munhena/Sri Lanka is interested in spending the Vas here with us in Melbourne, where some of her relatives live. She was ordained in Sri Lanka by Ayya Khema.

Sanghamittarama on the Web

Finally *Sanghamittarama* is up in the web! Catherine Lavars (layout), and Jonni (webmaster) worked hard to connect us with the World Wide Web and deserve a big THANK YOU! Please visit <www.Sanghamittarama.org.au>.

Getting ready for the Great Awakening...

Already equipped with hot water bottles and alarm clocks for the great awakening on the cushions in the meditation room, we are now in the process of creating more suitable "outer space" for walking meditation in the front yard. Hopefully numerous working bees will be buzzing around on May 4 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm headed by our very experienced gardener Barbara. (But please don't forget that there will also be meditation, Dhamma talk and Dana as usual at the BSV!)

Full moon in May- Vesak: First meditation Day at *Sanghamittarama*

Full moon in May seems to be a good start for meditation days at *Sanghamittarama*. However, we are sorry that many of you will have to go to work as usual, since it will be a Monday (May 19). It was planned that Ven. Chi Kwang will give a Dhamma talk at *Sanghamittarama* in the evening. However, now in the evening of the 19th, there will be the United Nations Vesak celebration in Springvale, a communal celebration of Vesak to enhance existing relationships between Buddhist Centres in Melbourne. Please see <www.undayofvesak2008melbourne.com> for details. We invite you to join this celebration.

Venerable Chi Kwang gives us the honour of her presence during this first meditation day and will give a Dhamma talk at *Sanghamittarama* after lunch dana. She is the most senior bhikkhuni in Australia. Due to the lack of opportunities in the West or in Theravada countries for nuns in the old days, she went to Korea for monastic training. Until recently Ven. Chi Kwang was the chair of the Buddhist Council of Victoria. She is the head of the Son Centre in Kinglake.

Please find the more detailed program for our Vesak celebration on May 19 below.

Children's Vesak

The children are invited to celebrate Vesak at *Sanghamittarama* on Saturday, May 17 at 6:00 pm with a circumambulation in the new meditation garden. Samaneri Athapi will help the children to understand the importance of this greatest Buddhist holiday.

Program May-June 2008

Special programs:

May 4, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Working bee (gardening)

see previous announcement, also see website

May 17, 6:00 pm

Children's Vesak, with Samaneri Athapi

May 19, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Meditation Day on Full moon in May (Vesak)

8:30 am Opportunity to take the Eight Precepts, Paritta-Chanting

9:00 am Meditation

11:00 am Lunch Dana

1:00 pm Dhamma talk by Venerable Chi Kwang

2:00 pm meditation (sitting, walking)

5:00 pm tea time

7:00 pm Vesak celebration in Springvale City Hall (397-405 Springvale Rd., Springvale);

see <www.undayofvesak2008melbourne.com>.

Program for Sanghamittarama Bhikkhuni Residence

Every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm - Meditators are welcome to join the evening chanting and meditation

In addition on the Friday, meditation instructions and guidance will be given.

Every 2nd Sunday at 6:15 pm - Dhamma discussion and meditation for young adults (age 18-35)

Every 1st and 3rd Saturday in the month from 4:00 pm -5:30 pm - Sutta discussion and meditation for the 18 to 35 year age group

Buddhāloka Centre
71-73 Darling Road, East Malvern 3145
tel: (03) 9571-6409
www.bsv.net.au

REGULAR PROGRAM

(check on the web page for recent updates)

- | | | |
|----------|--|--|
| Tuesday | 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm | Meditation for beginners & experienced meditators with Ayya Sucinta |
| Thursday | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
8:30 pm – 9:00 pm | Meditation for beginners & experienced meditators with Sayadaw U Pandita
Dhamma talk for all by Sayadaw U Pandita |
| Sunday | 8:30 am – 9:30 am
9:30 am- 10:30 am
11.00 am | Silent Meditation.
Dhamma talk by Ayya Sucinta
Offering of dana to the Sangha followed by a shared meal. All are welcome to enjoy the food brought by members and friends. You may bring some food, as you wish.
Dhamma discussions with the Youth Group on alternate Sunday evenings |

The **Dhamma School** resumed on Sunday 17th February.
 It is held on Sundays from 9:30 am – 10:30 am during the school term.
 For enquiries contact Suzanne Palmer-Holton on 9776 4425

Sutta discussions are held on the first and third Sundays of each month at 4:00 pm
 at *Sanghamittarama*

All regular activities of the Buddhist Society are free and open to the general public.
 Non-members may not borrow from the library and do not have voting rights (due to the current renovations, the library is closed until further notice)



Buddhāloka
L I G H T O F T H E B U D D H A
 Newsletter of the Buddhist Society of Victoria

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