



MARIN SANGHA NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2024

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

Marin Sangha Schedule

Sun, Apr 7	Donald Rothberg
Sun, Apr 14	Donald Rothberg
Sun, Apr 21	Ayya Sobhana
Sun, Apr 28	Dawn Scott
Sun, May 5	Ashley Sharp
Sat, May 11	Daylong Retreat with Ayya Anandabodhi
Sun, May 12	Sangha Reflections
Sun, May 19	Santacitta Bhikkhuni
Sun, May 26	Ying Chen
Sun, Jun 2	Ayya Sobhana
Sun, Jun 9	Ashley Sharp
Sun, Jun 16	Cathy Small
Sun, Jun 23	Shaile Catherine
Sun, Jun 30	Bill Coffin

The schedule can change without advance notice. The latest schedule can be found at www.MarinSangha.org, along with details about the teachers, recordings of their previous talks, and more.

For details on how to attend **Virtual Sangha**, go to www.marinsangha.org and click on the “News” tab to see the connection instructions.

Daylong Retreat with Ayya Anandabodhi Settling Into Body and Breath

Saturday, May 11, 2024
9:30am – 4:30pm

This event is virtual-only, please check www.MarinSangha.org/news for the link.

At this time of great challenge in the world, we can easily get overwhelmed and confused. Through settling into our body and ever-changing breath, we can find a place of peace and centeredness within, from which to open to the truth of our interconnection with all living beings. I welcome you to be part of a field of practice that supports rediscovery of our individual groundedness and love, simultaneously connecting us with all living beings.

Ayya Anandabodhi was born and raised in Wales, UK. Ayya first encountered the Buddha’s teaching in her early teens while reading about the Four Noble Truths. This was life-changing, and from that moment she experienced a deep confidence in the Buddha’s insight and a wish to understand his teachings more deeply. At the age of 24, she began

monastic training at Amaravati Buddhist Monastery in England under the guidance of Ajahn Sumedho. Seventeen years later she moved to the USA with a wish to create more opportunities for women monastics. In 2011 she took full Bhikkhuni Ordination, joining the worldwide revival of the Theravāda Bhikkhuni Order. Ayya Anandabodhi loves to share the Dhamma. Her practice is guided by early Buddhist scriptures, living in community, and through nature’s pure and immediate Dhamma. Ayya currently resides in Washington State.

Save the Date: Future Daylong

We have another daylong retreat scheduled for 2024. On Saturday, September 14, Phillip Moffitt will host a half-day virtual retreat from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

Many thanks to veta Talmadge for organizing these!

Sangha Reflections

On Sunday, May 12, sangha members will have an opportunity to reflect on the Dharma with each other in small groups in lieu of a dharma talk. We’ve done this in the past, and people have really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other Sangha members in a more direct way.

Mary Kelly, reminding us that Marin Sangha’s emphasis is practicing the Dharma in daily life, offers the following possible reflection: “Our founder, Phillip Moffitt, often speaks of Buddha Dharma on the streets of life. What practices/teachings (Brahmaviharas, anicca, Four Noble Truths, Paramis, etc.) have you sat with in meditation that now show up in your daily life? How do they show up? What other teachings do you want to manifest in daily life?”

This reflection can be used in different ways, depending on how you practice. Here’s hoping as many sangha members as possible show up on May 12 to deepen our sangha relationships as well as our practice.

Bears

Many thanks to our teacher, Ashley Sharpe, for offering us this excellent bit of Dharma wisdom:

Sometimes when I am outdoors clearing the fir trees out of the apple orchard, I can start to get carried away. I think that if I could just clean up another patch of forest, another wee area, it would be so much better—more perfect. And it does for a moment look better, but then nature (which is another way to say the twin forces of growth and decay) have

their way with my ideas of a put-together garden property. It is all so messy and in process.

For decades, the bears have been coming in autumn and pulling apple tree branches down to get to the biggest, juiciest apples. The trees are misshapen and wild from this, wearing their age with grace, and blessing both me and the bears (and the foxes, birds, & deer) with shade in the summer and sweetness of fruit in the fall.

We too are subject to the forces of growth and decay. It is easy to get caught up in some idea of perfection—what we think we or the world should be like. Instead let's bow to the great imperfect mystery that is life unfolding all around and through us.

Ashley Sharp

Thoughts to Practice By

Mindfulness is the place in the middle, which is not sucked in and overcome by something; nor is it pushing it away or recoiling from it in fear.

Sharon Salzberg, "A Guide to Changing How We Relate to Difficult Emotions"

When I surrender to beauty, I'm letting go of the ways in which I'm protecting and guarding myself. I'm allowing myself to expand, and I'm letting go of the sense of who I think I am, and then beginning to experience and touch into the actual expression of spaciousness.

Lama Rod Owens, "The Magic of the New Saint"

When we speak with greater skill, our true self—our compassionate, loving self—emerges with gentle ease. So before you speak, stop, breathe, and consider if what you are about to say will improve upon the silence.

Allan Lokos, "Skillful Speech"

Nothing ever goes away until it teaches us what we need to know.

Pema Chodron

Circle of Caring

From Jann Powell:

We are revitalizing the Marin Sangha's Circle of Caring and would appreciate your feedback. How do you imagine the Circle of Caring working? Are you wanting some help? What would be helpful right now? In the future? Are you willing to help? What can you offer?

If you want to correspond with me, my cell phone is (voice or text) 415-272-2023. Email: jmpowell3@comcast.net

Copyright Trolls and Marin Sangha

Some of you may remember that Donald Rothberg gave a talk about Thich Nhat Hanh on February 13, 2022, shortly after his death. Donald showed a number of pictures of Thich Nhat Hanh from various times in his life. The last picture was of the

funeral. At Donald's request, I posted a PDF of the pictures on our website, with a link next to the recording of his talk.

Last December we received an email from a company named PicRights, claiming to represent Reuters. The email stated that the photograph of Thich Nhat Hanh's funeral was from Reuters and we were infringing on the copyright. They offered to settle the matter if we removed the picture and paid them \$650.00.

Copyrights are a valuable protection for creative people. However, there are exemptions from copyright protections under the doctrine of "Fair Use." One major Fair Use is educational application. We, as a 501(c)3 non-profit with IRS "church" status, are clearly covered by Fair Use. We sent email back to PicRights asserting that we are protected under Fair Use, but that we would take down the offending photograph as a goodwill gesture.

Shockingly, PicRights' reply claimed that they had contacted Reuters' "legal team" and that they had rejected our assertion of Fair Use. I looked up PicRights and found that they are well-known "copyright trolls." They use sophisticated online image-search technology and then bully victims into paying them "settlement" money. They pick on small businesses and non-profits, because it is usually cheaper to just pay the extortion than to pursue legal defense!

The Marin Sangha board discussed the matter and decided to resist. This is a matter of ethics for us. Also, we found a lot of information online that gives us tools for defending ourselves. Most of the Troll's successes have been against victims with weak cases, or who failed to respond at all. Anyway, we will update the sangha on all significant developments.

But we do need to start being careful about copyrights. In particular, the Newsletter will start requiring that poetry and other materials can only be accepted with permission from the publisher, unless it's your own unpublished material. Note that excerpts are OK; entire works are not. Maybe this will encourage our home-grown artists!

Bill Coffin, Director and Webmaster

New Members

If you are new to Marin Sangha, welcome! More information about Marin Sangha can be found at our website www.marinsangha.org. You are also welcome to join the Marin Sangha groups.io, subscribe to our email list, or go to our Facebook page to find out more about our sangha. We look forward to seeing you again.

Sangha Website

Our website is www.marinsangha.org. There you will find the schedule for upcoming guest teachers, the current copy of the newsletter, additional news, and, above all, the recorded Dharma talks for each Sunday's meeting. There is also information on joining groups.io, Facebook page, and email list.

Marin Sangha on Facebook

If you would like to join, just log on to your Facebook account and type in Marin Sangha in the search bar. Once on the Marin Sangha Facebook page click the green “join” button. Bill Coffin or Mary Kelly will approve your request, usually within the day. There is also a link to the Facebook page on the Marin Sangha website at www.marinsangha.org.

Sangha Newsletter

The Sangha Newsletter team is always looking for submissions. If you have a favorite poem, a good photograph, a personal experience of dharma, or an item of Sangha news that you would like to share, please contact Deborah Temple at deborah temple@rocketmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing.

Marin Sangha Newsletter

Submissions: Deborah Temple
Managing Editor: Barbara McHugh
Typesetting: Bill Coffin

Contact Deborah at deborah temple@rocketmail.com for submissions. All submissions must be in by the 15th of the last month of the current quarter. All submissions are subject to editing.

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Published Quarterly by Marin Sangha, San Rafael, CA

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