

AZBTL NEWSLETTER

Advisor: Venerable Ta-Yu Fa-Shi
Publisher: American Zen Buddhist Therapeutic Laboratories

RR3 Box 3361, Cresco PA 18326, Tel: (570) 895-4600, Fax: (570) 895-4133



Vairocana Monastery Has Been Established

On July 14th, 2000, due to donors spiritual and material support, the Vairocana Monastery and retreat center has been established on a beautiful site, two miles east of Mt. Pocono. The land is about fifteen acres on Rt. 940 near Taco Bell in Paradise Township. There are three buildings and a parking lot in the front with a stream, a pond, a large lawn and forest at the back. In the middle building, there are a shrine, a library, a living room and bedrooms. The largest building is the old Pocono Budget Motel, which has an office, a dormitory, and twelve small suites. The third building is a cottage located on a little hill at the left side of the entrance.

Since it was an old motel, there is a lot of work to be done before the opening in September. Ven. Heng-Yuan, the founder of AZBTL and Vairocana Monastery, and Ven. Ta-Yu, were working together for cleaning, repairing and remodeling with helps of workers and volunteers.

On August 11th, a volunteer drove Ven. Heng-Yuan to Home Depot to purchase certain building materials. At the intersection of Rt. 611, due to an early left turn, a truck hit them. The driver was minor injured, but very sadly, we lost Ven. Heng-Yuan in the car accident.

After the farewell ceremony for Ven. Hen-Yuan on August 19th, there was a meeting held at Vairocana Monastery. Over twenty people attend the meeting. Mr. Miin-Ron Lin was the chairman. In the beginning of the meeting, everyone expresses his or her wish to see the will and achievement of Ven. Hen-Yuan to be continued. Then the legal, financial and operating difficulties had been discussed. Mr. Paul Kennedy will contact the lawyer and work on the legal issue. In order to solve the financial difficulty, all attendance agreed to raise \$45,000 before October 2000, to support one year of operation expenses in Vairocana Monastery. The found raising will continue on until we have raising \$150,000 to payoff the mortgage. As far as the operating aspect, Ven. Ta-Yu think the original weekly

activities will not be well attended because of the living distance of the attendance. All attendance felt there should be at least one major activity every month plus weekly group meditation. To become a retreat center will be our long-term goal. English speaking teacher will be invited to give teaching at Vairocana Monastery.

A follow up meeting was held on October 7th. The donation and the loan was about \$40,000. Plus the balance in AZBTL's bank account and the existing monthly support, the total is very close to our goal from last meeting. According to Paul the legal issue will be settled down in about two weeks. The operation principles of AZBTL and Vairocana Monastery were discussed. The new president, Ven. Ta-Yu, five of seven board of directors and four volunteer group leaders were appointed in the meeting. The group meditation will be started at 7 p.m. on October 10th at Vairocana Monastery. There will be a one-day retreat in November. Starting in December, Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten, from Sakya Institute at Cambridge, Massachusetts, is invited to give monthly teaching in Vairocana Monastery.

All are welcome to join the meditation, teaching, retreat and other Dharma activities. Help for the building repairs and any operation needs will be greatly appreciated. We are grateful to Ven. Heng-Yuan, who established Vairocana Monastery the only Buddhist Temple in the area.

The Saying of Sakyamuni Buddha

- Way to Wisdom and Health -

◆◆◆◆◆ *Peace* ◆◆◆◆◆

Peace comes within.
Do not seek it without.

The Operation Principles of AZBTL

AZBTL is a non-profit organization with mission to propagate the Buddha's teaching. The long-term goal of AZBTL is to become a meditation retreat center.

The president of AZBTL should be a Bikkhu or Bikkhuni for at least ten years. The president directs all Dharma activities in AZBTL and may represent AZBTL and call for a board meeting. There is no fixed term for the president. The current president with the approval of the board will elect new president.

The board of directors will support and assist the president to promote the objective of AZBTL. The president with the approval of the board will appoint a new member of the board of directors. The term of board of directors is two years.

The following volunteer groups will assist the president for the operation of Vairocana Monastery. Dharma group helps the president to conduct the Dharma activities. Secretarial group design and prepare posters, fliers, newsletters and other paper work for AZBTL. Communication group contact members and donors for major Dharma and fund raising activities. Zu-Nian group (to be established later) recites Buddha's name for Zu-Nian members and their family when dying. Cooking and cleaning group prepare food and help to clean up during the activities.

Mr. Eddie Ho, a professional CPA in New York, volunteer to help as AZBTL's accountant. Based on his suggestion, the procedures to control the expenses and to safeguard the assets had been established.



On Going Fund Raising

In order to focus fully on the learning, practice, teaching and spreading Buddhism at AZBTL, instead of worrying about the financial situation all the time, the fund raising is continue on until we have raised \$150,000 to payoff the mortgage. Currently we are looking for long-term support of tax-deductible donation or interest-free loan. One time donation will be very helpful too. For details please contact AZBTL to get a copy of AZBTL Fund Raising Program. All supports will be greatly appreciated.

An Introduction of Buddhist Terms



Nirvana is a Sanskrit derived from its root. It means the fire extinguished due to lack of fuel. Usually Nirvana is explained as extinguish the fire of defilement, such as greed, anger and ignorance. Which is the elimination of egoism and releasing from existence, the cycle of rebirth (Samsara). In fact, rebirth is a result from desire (Tanha), thirst for existence. Craving is the main root of suffering, and the cause of continuing existence. Freedom from rebirth is attained through the extinguishing of all desires. One who has achieved this state called an Arhat, a saint attained Nirvana.

There are two types of Nirvanas, incomplete Nirvana (Sopadhisesa-nirvana) and remainderless Nirvana (Nirupadhisesa-nirvana). When an arhat is still alive, even though the cause of rebirth has been annihilated, but the result of the effect still remains. A saint may enter incomplete Nirvana when alive but he or she will continue to live in the mortal realm and receive the result until the death. After the death, without cause and effect, the connection with the chain of mortal life ends and the saint enters remainderless Nirvana.

However, in Mahayana Buddhism, there is no separation between existence (Samsara) and Nirvana. It is non-dualism. So that the Bodhisattvas, for the sake of delivering limitless sentient beings, will not get tired from rebirth and will not stay in Nirvana.

Other words for Nirvana are extinction, release, tranquil extinction, inaction, no (re)birth, calm joy, annihilation of passion, and a state of permanence, bliss, immortal and purity. What is Nirvana? It can never be answered completely and satisfactorily in words. It is also impossible to reach Nirvana with an analytical mind. It is beyond imagination. The ultimate truth can only be enlightened through practice of the Buddha Dharma. Only the person drinking the tea will know how warm the tea is.

One should visualize all phenomena as dream, illusion, water bubble, shadow, dew and lightening. To recognize the Buddha by the form or beg me through the sound, such person is not on the right path and could not realize the ultimate truth.

----- Diamond Sutra -----

Activities at Vairocana Monastery

October to December, 2000

Weekly Group Meditation

Tuesday and Thursday 7 PM, Mr. Paul Kennedy

Starting on October 10th, every Tuesday and Thursday night, Paul Kennedy will give a brief meditation instruction for new comers at 7 p.m. followed by a group sitting and walking meditation session. After the meditation, there will be an open discussion. Tea will be served during the discussion. No fee required. Donations are welcomed.

24 Hours Non-stop Amitabha Retreat

Saturday, 11/4/00, 6 AM, Ven. Ta-Yu Fa-Shi

Ven. Ta-Yu will lead a pure land retreat of reciting Amitabha Buddha. It starts at 6 a.m. on November 4th. Recitation will continue for 24 hour without stopping till Sunday morning. The attendees may take short breaks but should not sleep more than 2 hour during the retreat. Participants may come at any time during the 24-hour period and leave when they wish quietly. At the completion, there will be a great dedication ceremony. After the retreat, attendees may share their experience with each other during the breakfast. Registration is required. No fee required. Donations for the shrine and meals are welcomed.

Who is Buddha? and Sixteen Arhats Puja

Sunday, 12/3/00, 10 AM – 2:30 PM
Ven. Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten

An Introduction of Buddhism and Sixteen Arhats Puja is a program given in English by Ven. Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten on the first Sunday of each month. The program will start on December 3rd. A lecture on “**Who is Buddha?**” will be given at 10 a.m. followed by questions and answers. Group practice of Sixteen Arhats Puja will start at 1:30 p.m. A \$10 donation is suggested for the teaching. Donations for the shrine and meals are also welcomed.

Great Compassion Mantra Recitation Great Compassion Confession Ceremony

Saturday, 12/23/00, 9 AM – 6 PM
Sunday, 12/24/00, 9 AM – 12 PM
Ven. Ta-Yu Fa-Shi

Based on the practices of the Great Compassionate Bodhisattva, 1000 arms Avalokiteshvara (Guan-Yin), the entire program has four 2-hour sessions plus grand offerings on each day. Registration is required. No fee required. Donations for the shrine and meals are welcomed.



Registration Form

Mail to: American Zen Buddhist Therapeutic Laboratories
RR3 Box 3361, Cresco PA 18326, Tel: (570) 895-4600, Fax: (570) 895-4133

Name:		Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	
Dharma Name:		Master's Name:	
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	
Occupation:			
Registry for: <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Hours Non-stopping Retreat (11/4/00)		<input type="checkbox"/> Arrive Vairocana Monastery on 11/3/00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Compassion Mantra Recitation (12/23/00)		<input type="checkbox"/> Stay overnight in Vairocana Monastery	
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Compassion Confession Ceremony (12/24/00)			
Signature:		Date:	



Vairocana Monastery

Is very honored to present

WHO IS BUDDHA

?

Given By

Venerable Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten

Sunday, December 3, 2000

Schedule: 10:00 AM An Introduction of Buddhism, Who is Buddha?
12:00 PM Lunch
1:30 PM Sixteen Arhats Puja

Location: RR3 Box 3361, Cresco PA 18326, Tel: (570) 895-4600, Fax: (570) 895-4133
On Rt. 940 near Taco Bell in Paradise Township (Old Pocono Budget Motel)

Donation: \$10 Suggested donation for teaching, Donations for lunch are welcomed

Introduction of the Teacher

Ven. Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten became a monk at the age of fourteen. He received a complete training in Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana Buddhist philosophy and practice at the famous Tibetan Institute in Varanasi, India. In 1980 he accomplished Acharya Degree (great Dharma teacher) and graduated first among the four lineages. His Holiness the Dalai Lama recognized his achievement with a special prize of brocade scarf and a silver medal. After the graduation, he was appointed by His Holiness Sakya Trizin to be the director of main Sakya monastery in Rajpur, India for eight years. In 1989, at the request of His Holiness Sakya Trizin, Lama Migmar came to America and became the head of the Sakya Retreat Center in Barre, Massachusetts. In 1990, he founded the Sakya Manjushri Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition to the regular program in Massachusetts, Lama Migmar teaches and leads retreats at various Buddhist centers throughout the United States. He is also a Buddhist



AZBTL Fund Raising Program

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1. **Tax-deductible Donation** --- AZBTL is a non-profit organization (EIN: 23-3010321). Your donation is tax-deductible. Please mail your **check payable to AZBTL** along with the AZBTL Fund Raising Form to **RR3 Box 3361, Cresco PA 18326**. For long-term support, please mail your donation monthly or yearly to the above address.
2. **Interest-free Loan** --- Will be helpful to payoff AZBTL's mortgage. AZBTL well pay back at least 0.5% of the total of your loan each month. Please fill out the AZBTL Fund Raising Form and mark on Interest-free Loan and the amount. Mail it to **HO & MOK PC. CPA, 39-01 Main St. #406, Flushing, NY 11345**. Please do not mail your check this time. An accountant will prepare the paper work for the loan and contact you when we have raised enough pledge amount to payoff the mortgage.

Your support will keep Vairocana Monastery, the only Buddhist Temple in the local area, running smoothly. Which provides a location for people to learn and practice Buddhism. It will benefit not only yourself, but also all beings to achieve unlimited merit and wisdom.

AZBTL Fund Raising Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Monthly, I will donate AZBTL: \$20 \$30 \$50 \$100 other \$ _____

Yearly, I will donate AZBTL: \$120 \$300 \$500 \$1000 other \$ _____

One time, I will donate AZBTL:

\$200 \$500 \$1,000 \$3,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 other \$ _____

I will provide **Interest-free Loan** to AZBTL:

\$10,000 \$20,000 \$30,000 \$40,000 \$50,000 other \$ _____