Global Sangha Newsletter 18

NEW LEADER AT AMIDA

Reverend Master Susthama Kim appointed

PODCAST GS15

CONTENTS

This Newsletter includes

- Amida Order News
- February Upavastha Full Moc Celebration
- Wheel of Life Meeting
- Sangha Far East Meeting
- Nei Quan & Chih Quan
- All up-coming courses, weeke and weekday events
- Podcast 15

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

PODCAST GS15

Click the button at the top for the latest podcast.

You can access transcripts and translations of this podcast series at https://eleusis.ning.com/notes/GLOBAL_SANGHA_INDEX ==========

NEW HEAD OF THE AMIDA ORDER

Sanghamitra writes

I am pleased to be able to share with you the election results for the Head of the Order. 74% of eligible voters submitted a ballot and 96% of the votes were in support of Susthama. I therefore am pleased to declare that Revered Master Susthama is the foremost acharya and will be the new Head of the order. I would like to take thi opportunity to pass on my congratulations to Susthama.

Dharmavidya writes

I am delighted to be able now to congratulate Reverend Master Susthama on becoming the new Head of the Order. A thousand blessings. This is a most auspicious development. Susthama is a person of deep faith and solid accomplishment and I rejoice to have such a worthy successor who can lead the Order through these difficult times when the world is so troubled and spiritual need so great. Thanks also to Sanghamitra for guiding us through th delicate procedure - well done! Namo Amida Bu

Susthama writes

The Amida Shu is a young organisation within a very old tradition. We are old enough to have established a particular culture, and our roots in Pureland Buddhism have grown far and deep enough to withhold doubt and skepticism from other groups in the West. Like the idealistic youth, our ideals and values still need testing out in actual day to day lives. Testing not to prove we are right and ours is the true means to liberation but to find a balance between the ideal and the actual.

As an organisation grows older, however, so does its founder, and the need to think ahead and look after the next generation becomes a priority. The Amida Shu is not immune to growing pains nor is it going to age well without skilful leadership. I'm pleased to have seen it grow and evolve from early on in its development up to now, and equally, it was a bitter-sweet experience for me when Dharmavidya retired at the end of last year.

And now, I know that I have been elected to head the organisation as it continues to grow and adapt to ever changing conditions in society. The result of the election was announced this morning and I am still taking it all in thinking about what this means for me and all of you.

I am indebted to Dharmavidya for transmitting the Dharma to me. I am extremely grateful to all the members of the Order who voted for me. I am very happy to be part of this sangha. I am also humbled to be given the opportunity be the second Head of the Order. I am looking forward to playing my part in this new phase of the Amida Shu.

Love and Namo Amida Bu,

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NEW

WHEEL OF LIFE MEETING - February 6

Discussion of the Wheel of Life arose in the Refuge Group. It has been decided to hold another extended meeti on it on February 6, 14:00-16:30.
This meeting is open to all.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83874646898?pwd=ZTZHbnpSREgweC81UmcyU29uUmd0QT09
Passcode: 298750

Meeting ID: 838 7464 6898

For other regular and forthcoming events, scroll down to the bottom of the page.

SANGHA MEMBER NEWS

Jimena Balli writes:
I have some great news!!! We are moving to Scotland, I'm aiming to be there between June and July!!!! It's really exciting and of course stressful! So every morning I panic a little and then I feel totally fine, I do feel and believe the best decision. I'll be closer which is also exciting!

Jan writes

I'm so grateful for all the connections made possible through our global sangha. The Friday morning service is so sweet. Much love and aloha, NAB, Jan

NEW

GLOBAL SANGHA MEETING FAR EAST

Every week on Friday beginning 5th February

9 am – 10 am (Rome Time) – All welcome!
Sangha meeting with stone-passing, Nembutsu, teachings, reading, discussing ….
Join **Zoom Meeting**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88455022063?pwd=ZEdiclJZOC92a1g2bnZjUTRWYm5EUT09
Meeting ID: 884 5502 2063
Passcode: 171195

NEI QUAN & CHIH QUAN

Nei Quan and Chih Quan are auxiliary practices that help us to arrive at a full experience of the nembutsu.

First we practise nei quan, reflection upon the operation of dependent origination in one's own particular case: v
has one received? how has one been supported? what has one done in return? what troubles has one caused'
This practice brings up many thoughts, memories and feelings which may be various, some heavy, some light,
some joy, some sadness, perhaps regret, perhaps insight,

Then we practise chih quan in which we make an offering of everything experienced in the nei quan. We offer i
to Buddha. Since the Buddha has a much bigger perspective than we do, Buddha receives whatever we offer v
smile. In his big vision, he knows where everything fits, where everything has its place. Even though what we
might seem to us bad or lamentable - resentment, shame, misery or whatever - Buddha has a place for it. Budd
sees how it all fits into a bigger scheme of things, so he receives it with a smile and puts it in its proper place. A
make such an offering, our burden is lifted and we feel the peace of Buddha descending through our being, allo
the physical body to settle and the mind to become calm. This is tranquil abiding. If anything further arises to d
this calm of Buddha, one again immediately makes an offering of it and, once again, receives the gift of peace.

All this relates to nembutsu. The nei quan is an investigation of "Namo" - who or what is it that called the Buddh
name? The chih quan is an experience of "Amida Bu" - the peace that is Buddha descending into one's being -
ultimate entering the conditioned.

JANUARY UPAVASTHA SUCCESS

The January Upavastha was a great success and we are encouraged to make this into a regular sangha event
each full moon. Twenty sangha members from twelve different countries in four continents participated at the
January event. The closeness brought about by reflecting together through nei quan and sange was deeply
appreciated.

Tineke comments:
*It was a beautiful Full Moon Upavastha in January in the spirit of Dharma friendship around the globe. It's the sa
moon to which our spiritual ancestors looked up in other centuries and millennia.*

For the February Upavastha - see Events at the end of the news

PODCAST TRANSCRIPTS

Some time ago Nando translated the whole first series of 108 podcasts into Spanish. Now we can add a big
congratulation to Angela who has translated them all into Italian. So wonderful ! There are now so many
translations of the first series of podcasts that the index has been divided into two sections:
1-54: Index to transcriptions and translations of podcast series 1: 1-54
55-108 - Index to transcriptions and translations of podcast series 1: 55-108

Transcripts of the new series of podcasts can be found via
Global Sangha Podcast Series

Middle Eastern spice -:- Photo by Dharmavidya

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WEEKLY MEETINGS

All times are Rome time zone

MONDAYS
Monday 2 - 3.30 pm is **Nembutsu Service** with Vajrapala, Susthama or other Order member**.**
Especially for those who have taken refuge or are thinking about taking refuge or want to go deeper in the theme of refuge
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85954136440?pwd=WmRMMllydlQzaWF2Mi9RbFZWTVRRZz09
Meeting ID: 859 5413 6440
Passcode: 670414

TUESDAYS
17.30 Sangha Group Meeting in Italian
Details from Angela <ange.romani.2017@gmail.com>

WEDNESDAYS 14:30 On-line Meeting with Vajrapala
This is a meeting of friends of Amida Benelux Sangha - all welcome - see end of newsletter below
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83616599261?pwd=d3QrL1U0RG9RQXJPQU1yTzJkY3FXUT09
Meeting ID: 836 1659 9261
Passcode: 129104

FRIDAY 09:00
East Sangha Gathering
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88455022063?pwd=ZEdiclJZOC92a1g2bnZjUTRWYm5EUT09
Meeting ID: 884 5502 2063
Passcode: 171195

FRIDAY 10:00
Amida Service led by Reverend Vajrapala
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88455022063?pwd=ZEdiclJZOC92a1g2bnZjUTRWYm5EUT09
Meeting ID: 884 5502 2063
Passcode: 171195

FRIDAY 20:30
Amida Service led by Reverend Vajrapala and Angela Romani
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81196810533?pwd=QWxtQ1VXejJMdmo0VDF6aDVTR01BQT09
Meeting ID: 811 9681 0533
Passcode: 407423

SATURDAY
14.00 Refuge Group. Open to all who have taken refuge.
Codes separately notified.

SATURDAY 6th February and then 4 weekly
11:00 Zen Therapy Seminar
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484765888
Meeting ID: 834 8476 5888
One tap mobile local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc0P1T379c

SATURDAY 23rd and then 4 weekly
19:30 Zen Therapy Seminar
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87560868030
Meeting ID: 875 6086 8030
One tap mobile local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/ky1Zf711X

SUNDAY
11:00 Global Sangha Interest Group
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87840519127
Meeting ID: 878 4051 9127
One tap mobile local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kWbW3Qs0L

SUNDAY
20:00 Friendship Group
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83106781029
Meeting ID: 831 0678 1029

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EVENTS FEBUARY:
FULL MOON UPAVASTHA

Koteswara, Vajrapala & Dharmavidya
Thursday-Friday 27-28 February 2021

An on-line retreat, celebration and renewal (approx. times are Rome time zone)

- 15.00 Assemble
- 15.30 Puja: Nembutsu, Vajrasattva - Koteshwara
- 16:15 Nei Quan Chih Quan,with short Dharma talk - Dharmavidya
- 17:00 Sharing in Pairs, then Sange (Confession of faults) and Refuge Ceremony (Taking refuge & renev
- 18:00 Break
- 18:45 Gathering for sharing
- 19:30 Chanting invocation of Quan Shi Yin: "Om Mani Padme Hum Hrih" into the night until midnight
- 03.30 Puja: Nembutsu, Vajrasattva- Koteshwara (8am in India)
- Morning meditation
- 10.00 Service - Vajrapala
- Gathering for sharing
- End before midday

If others would like to add to this programme, especially in the time that is night in Europe,
please contact jisshas.

Upavastha signifies the full moon time when the gods come to visit one's home. In Buddhism this is traditionally time for confession, contrition and renewal. For those who have taken precepts it is a time to review how well on has done in the previous month. For those who have taken refuge this is a time to renew. At this time we particularly invoke Vajrasattva, bodhisattva of purity and Quan Shi Yin, bodhisattva of compassion. The January Upavastha was a great success and we are encouragezd to make this into a regular sangha event at each full mo Twenty sangha members from twelve different countries in four continents participated at the January event. Th closeness brought about by reflecting together through nei quan and sange was deeply appreciated.

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EASTER RETREAT
TRANSMISSION OF SUMMARY OF FAITH & PRACTICE

2-5 April 2021

Dharmavidya & Tineke Osterloh

Transmission of the text and direct teaching of
The Summary of Faith & Practice
A key teaching in Amida Pureland Buddhism

DAY ONE
2-4pm Gathering; Introduction to the teaching; 6-8pm Serice & Practice; Dharma Talk
DAY TWO
9.30-Noon Service; Practice; Session - Part One
2-4pm Part One (continued); Mondo
6-8pm Part Two
DAY THREE
9.30-Noon Service; Refuge Ceremony; Dharma Talk; Practice
2-4pm Part Three; Mondo
6-8pm Creative Workshop
DAY FOUR
9.30-Noon Part Four
2-4pm Transmission; Final Gathering

Get a ticket at https://www.tickettailor.com/events/globalsangha

Information also at
https://www.tinekeosterloh.com/kurse/summary-of-faith-practice/

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TRANSMISSION OF MIRROR TEACHINGS
Dharmavidya & Tineke Osterloh

1st Series: 3 hours per week commencing 8th March Mondays 15.00-18.00 (Rome)

2nd Series: 15.00-18.00 (Romle) September 11, 12, 13, 27; October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; December 4, 5, 6.

These programmes are based on the book
The Dark Side of the Mirror: Forgetting the self in Dogen's Genjo Koan
https://bit.ly/36qc1rr

Both programmes are already fully booked. There is a waiting list. Apply to Jisshas <jisshas@googlegroups.com>, you have already been approved to join either cohort, you can get your ticket at
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/globalsangha

We are considering whether it is prazctical to offer a third series within this calendar year.

We are considering whether it is practical to offer a third series within this calendar year.

Full details: https://eleusis.ning.com/events/transmission-of-mirror-teachings
and
here: https://www.tinekeosterloh.com/kurse/transmission-of-mirror-teachings/

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Purple Archangel -:- Photo by Dharmavidya

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VAJRASATTVA DHARANI

Om
Vajrasattva samaya, Manu Palaya, Vajrasattva teno patita
Dridho me bhava,
Suto kayo me bhava,
Supokayo me bhava,
Anurakto me bhava
Sarva siddhi me prayacha,
Sarva karma sucha me,
Tzitam shriyan kuru hum,
Ha ha ha ha ho,
Bhagavan sarva Tathagata
Vajra ma me muntsa,
Vajra bhava
Maha samaya sattva
Maha samaya sattva
Ah Hum Phat

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You can see other Global Sangha materials, past podcasts and articles via :
https://eleusis.ning.com/notes/GLOBAL_SANGHA_INDEX

You received this mail as you were previously in receipt of Global Sangha Newsletters or Dharmavidya's podcast the Amida Shu loop or you bought a ticket for the Bodhi Retreat. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters the future please unsubscribe from the Octopus list. Thank you.

If you wish to contact me personally, you can do so at dharmavidya@fastmail.fm or via my Facebook @davidbrazierauthor or on my website - click the Global Sangha at Eleusis link below.

Thank you very much
Namo Amida Bu
Dharmavidya
David Brazier

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