

Mid America Dharma News

Fall Issue

Mid America Dharma Group

November, 1995

Monthly Day Long Retreats to be Offered

Beginning Saturday, January 13th, Robert Brumet and Ben Worth will be facilitating day long retreats at Unity Temple on the Plaza (707 West 47th Street, Kansas City, Missouri). Future retreats will be on the second Saturday of each month unless a MADG Retreat is scheduled for that date

Basic meditation instruction will be given from 9:00 to 10:00 AM followed by silent practice until 4:00 PM when a one hour question and answer session will begin. Bring a sack lunch and a mat or blanket for sitting. A love offering (dana) for Unity Temple will be accepted.

No advanced registration will be required. Those who want to attend the sitting only may attend from 10:00 to 4:00. For additional information contact Robert Brumet at 353-6479 or Ben Worth at 384-2871.



Next Residential Retreat

The next Mid America Dharma Group retreat is scheduled to begin on Thursday evening, February 15th and close on Monday February 19th (President's Day) after lunch at Conception Abbey. Our teacher will be Gil Fronsdal who is joining us for his third MADG Retreat. Gil is a very popular teacher with our Sangha so you are encouraged to register early to assure your attendance. A brochure for this retreat is enclosed with this mailing.

Non-Residential Format to Continue in 1996

The non-residential retreat format continues to be a popular format with 45 persons attending the recent Wes Nisker Retreat in October. We hope to have several additional non-residential retreats in 1996. Currently we have a non-residential scheduled for April with Mary Orr and hope to have Wes Nisker back in the Fall. Additional retreats will be offered in Kansas City as we are able to arrange them with available teachers.

MADG's Structural Changes

To track and manage our finances better, MADG is making some accounting changes. So far, operating expenses (such as payment for this newsletter) have come from money left over after our retreat expenses were paid. *We have never charged membership fees.*

Starting January 1st, three accounts will be opened. In addition to the current General Operating Fund, a separate Scholarship Fund will be established as well as a Reserve Account (for money to be saved for future needs). This will allow people to make donations either to the General Operating or Scholarship Fund. Donations are of course always greatly appreciated. When we complete our incorporation as a non-profit in 1996, these donations will be tax deductible.

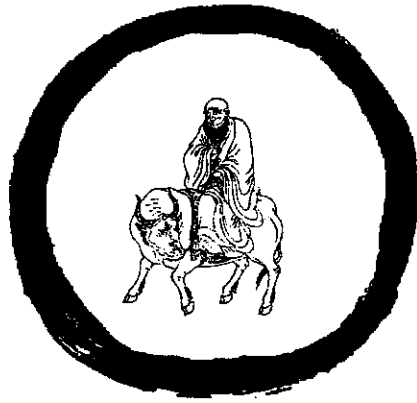
Along with procedural changes, there have been some staff changes. After long and faithful service, Karen Cassell has turned over the Treasurer's duties to John Van Keppel. David Saas has been consulting with John to establish a new and more detailed accounting system. By spring, we hope to be able to provide on-demand PC generated financial statements.

1996 Retreat Schedule

The following retreats have been scheduled for 1996. These dates are *tentative*. Retreat brochures will contain firm dates and notice of residential retreats will generally be mailed out around 10 weeks prior to the retreat date. This listing may assist in planning your schedule in 1996.

Mary Orr *	April 26, 27 & 28.
Marcia Rose	May 23, 24, 25, 26, & 27 (Memorial Day).
Joseph Goldstein & other teachers	July 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, & 21.
Wes Nisker *	September or October T.B.A. (Tentative)
Mary Orr	Nov. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17

(*Non-Residential - other non-residential retreats will be scheduled at a later date.)



Hiding The Ox Home

Kalyana-Mitta (Noble Friend) Discussion Group a Success

The *Heart of America Sangha* in Kansas City completed MADG's first Kalyana-Mitta Study Group and it was a great success and wonderful exercise in Sangha building. The discussion group was based on the book *Buddhism Made Plain* by Anthony Fernando and Leonard Swidler.

The group is a forum for experienced students to share their practice and experience the support of other dedicated Sangha members. The meetings took place once a month on Saturday mornings. The sessions began and ended with a 20 minute sitting - often members would go to lunch after the end of the meeting. There was strong support for continuing the program with three new sessions scheduled for 1996.

The next *Heart of America Sangha's* group will begin meeting in January with a discussion of *Seeking the Heart of Wisdom* by Joseph Goldstein and Jack Kornfield. For additional information on the *Heart of America Sangha's* Kalyana Mitta Group or on forming your own Kalyana Mitta Group contact Greg Zuendel at (816) 471-8052.

Dharma Talk Tapes Available

Copies of all Mary Orr Dharma Talks from the full November Retreat are available through Dharma Seed Tape Library.

In addition, two tapes are available of Gil Fronsdal's talks from Dharma Seed as well. A tape catalog of 13 Fronsdal Tapes are available from Allicin Rauzin Meditation Tapes & Books. Copies of Allicin's Order Blank will be available at Gil's retreat in February.

Copies of the order blanks for both Mary Orr's November Retreat as well as Gil's tapes from Allicin Rauzin can also be obtained by sending a S.A.S.E. to Mid America Dharma Group, P.O. Box 414411, Kansas City, Missouri 64141-4411.

Local Sitting Groups

Please join a sitting group to help support your practice. If there isn't a group convenient to you, it is easy to get one started. Mid America Dharma Group works with three sitting groups in the Kansas City area as well as groups in Topeka and

Lawrence, Kansas; Springfield, Carthage and Columbia, Missouri and Des Moines, Iowa. For assistance in starting a sitting group in your area contact John Van Keppel at (913) 685-3430.

MADG Completes First Nine Day Retreat

In November Mary Orr conducted the longest Retreat that MADG has sponsored to date. We had a total of 45 person attending the opening weekend session and 24 people attending the entire nine day sessions. The longer retreats are a great way to deepen practice and we are comfortable that there is support in the community for more retreats with this format. MADG currently plans to sponsor another nine day in the Fall of 1996 with Mary Orr and possibly John Travis. In addition, MADG will be co-sponsoring the ten day Joseph Goldstein Retreat in July with Mary Jo Meadow's RES (Resources for Ecumenical Spirituality).

Mary Orr asked that we include the following note she sent to us in this newsletter:

"Extend my thanks to the entire Mid America Sangha. The outpouring of generosity at the end of the retreat was utterly amazing, and I was deeply touched. The sense of support for the growth and spread of the Dharma also provides nourishment for my soul."

- Mary Orr

Other Organizational News

Progress is being made toward incorporating MADG as a non-profit educational organization. By-laws are completed and incorporation papers will be filed with the State of Missouri after the first of the year.

Decisions about how to allocate money for retreat scholarships have been difficult for our retreat Registrars. Now there are written guidelines and forms to clarify procedures.

Current plans are to have all residential retreats in 1996 at Conception Abbey.

The Show Me Dharma Sangha in Columbia is investigating the possibility of starting a Kalyana Mitta Study Group for experienced meditation students. They may also add a second sitting group on Thursday evenings.

Your suggestions for retreat leaders/teachers for 1997 are requested. Please call Mary Lou Hathaway with your thoughts at (816) 941-7232.

Found and Lost

There was a Jean jacket left at the recent Wes Nisker Retreat. To claim call John Van Keppel at (913) 685-3430.