

From Dragon Flower Mountain



Dear Friends,

Since we are beginning a new year (and a new decade for that matter) I thought that I would update everyone on how things are going.

As most of you know already Rev. Winifrid has taken, at my suggestion and her request, a three month leave of absence until March 1st to consider her options. Rev. Sukha, a disciple of Lama Tsewang who is an old and respected friend of our community, has been staying with us in order to learn the fundamentals of monastic training.

As part of the fallout of Rev. Ekō Little leaving monastic life his novice disciples have had to choose new masters in order to continue their training. Rev. Sophia Ellis and Rev. Brian Monzel have asked to become my disciples and move to Canada to join our community. After careful consideration and with the permission of Shasta Abbey and the Order I have formally accepted them both. They will be staying for six months each with plans to apply for visas. I am asking for the support of you all in this and that you will make them both welcome.

The presence of two more monks in the community would make many things possible including allowing me to visit the Vancouver congregation on a regular monthly basis, something I have wanted to do for a long time. We would also be able to offer more retreats etc. on the mountain.

Last year we had the road widened, graded and graveled to make us more accessible in all seasons. We now have running water including a shower in Bodhidharma Hall and we have rented, on a month by month basis, a double wide mobile home at the farm below to be able to accommodate our new monks as well as visitors and retreat guests.

All of our support continues to come from donations. We continue, with your support, to try to live a life of faith that is of genuine benefit to others. Any way that you can help make this possible is deeply appreciated. Indeed we cannot do it without you.

Wishing everyone a peaceful New Year 2011.

in gasshō,

Rev. Kōten

and the community of Lions Gate Buddhist Priory
on Dragon Flower Mountain

Written on a Snowy December Night

Rev. Master Aurelian

My Master, who has known
and loved me for twenty-four years
is urging me to grow up.
"You must speak about what you know."
"Know? I know nothing."
It is true. And in this nothing
I know there is a knowing
which grows and deepens each time I let go.
I have no profound words,
only that this is a world
composed of grace and love,
and I want with all my heart
to give it away.

Dragon Flower Mountain, December 2009