

BPF Gathering Workshop Schedule (Tentative, as of June 15, 2006)

Please note that Joshin Althouse will not be able to join us for this gathering and his "Inner Disarmament" workshop has been cancelled.

June 23, 2006

Workshops I

Friday Morning, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

a) Strengthening Our Global Connections:

Being a Socially Engaged Buddhist in an Interdependent World

with Anchalee Kurutach, BPF Board President

Anchalee will share stories and images from her trip to India to participate in the 2005 International Network of Engaged Buddhists conference, and will facilitate an interactive session on how we in the U.S. can learn more about and support our dharma friends in Asia and other parts of the world.

Bio: Born and raised in Thailand, **Anchalee** has lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1988. Anchalee has been involved in socially-engaged work both in Thailand and in the U.S. for the past 25 years. She is fortunate to have had a great many opportunities to learn about social justice and humanity and to develop compassion for fellow beings, starting from her college work with poor rural farmers in Thailand, her after-college career as a teacher at a refugee camp for war-torn Southeast Asian refugees, to her 15 years of work with refugees and immigrants in the U.S. Currently Anchalee works as a community outreach and educator for Survivors International, an organization that provides services to survivors of torture from around the world. In addition, she is involved with several other community activities such as serving on an advisory council for a domestic violence training program and co-founding an internationally-known socially active Thai group called Siam Sewana. Anchalee also teaches Thai at a Thai Buddhist temple in the Bay Area.

b) The Mandala of Socially Engaged Buddhism

with Maia Duerr, BPF Executive Director, and Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey, BPF Board Member

We'll use BPF's Mandala of Socially Engaged Buddhism as a tool to work with some of these questions: How can we, as individuals and groups, create and take actions that lead to real change? How can different kinds of activism nourish the different parts of ourselves? And--what does it mean to be allies to each other, across differences, in the spirit of mutual liberation and social justice? This workshop is intended for members of BPF chapters to use in their own chapter work, as well as for everyone interested in transformative social change.

Bios: **Maia Duerr** is BPF's executive director. Maia has been part of the BPF community since 1999, first as the associate editor of *Turning Wheel* until 2002, and then as a board member from 2003-2004. She is committed to exploring the intersection of social change and dharma practice, and engaged in her first civil disobedience during a March 2003 action at the Westover Air Base in Chicopee, MA, at the start of the Iraq war. A Buddhist practitioner since 1993, Maia received lay ordination from Roshi Joan Halifax into both the Order of Interbeing and the Zen Peacemaker Order. She is currently a student in the Soto Zen lineage of Suzuki Roshi, and has lived and practiced at the San Francisco Zen Center.

Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey is a writer, artist, brother, and son currently holding it down in Holyoke, Massachusetts. As supporting director of stone circles, he helps document the efforts of activists who are integrating spiritual practices and principles into their work for justice. He

worked for two years at the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society helping to research and convey the story of the use of contemplative practices in organizations dedicated to social change. He is involved in developing a program of community-based cultural activism in his hometown using oral history and storytelling through graphic, written, and digital techniques. Jesse is a Buddhist practitioner.

c) Prison Dharma

with Michael Callahan and Alan Senauke, BPF staff

As socially engaged Buddhists, our activism is oriented toward both personal and political transformation. This workshop will look at the role of Buddhist ministry in prisons and how our practices intersect with white privilege and supremacy, economic class, state violence, and co-optation. We will explore how we can be better allies to practitioners inside by moving away from a charity framework based in privilege to one of solidarity and liberation.

Bio: Michael Callahan, a.k.a. Sansen Jikiraku, is a wayward practitioner of Soto Zen, once again coming face-to-face with the zafu (no, not using his cushion as a pillow during zazen). He is co-editor of *The Abolitionist*, a prisoner/community newspaper published by Critical Resistance, and organizes locally to transform the root causes of state and interpersonal violence. He believes a radically different world—one without prisons and oppression—is possible, and that no one is free unless we're all free. He believes that we can transform one another, become whole, and create communities where people are safe, self-determined, and able to realize their true nature.

Workshops II

Friday Afternoon – 2:30 – 4:30 pm

a) “Fundraising Inside-Out: Relating to Money with Joy, Equanimity, and Courage”

with Kristi Nelson, BPF member (Northampton, MA)

This workshop starts with the premise that the traditional fundraising formula (the standard ways that we are taught to raise money) may bring in revenue, but may cost us in terms of advancing our mission, creating true, long-term relationships with our supporters, and feeling fully aligned with our dharma practice.

In this individualized, experiential workshop, we'll explore the fundraising mission statement recently crafted by BPF board and staff:

“BPF views fundraising as an important aspect of the Buddhist practice of dana (generosity), which has the potential to transform scarcity into sufficiency, and which is based on principles of interdependence, gratitude, and inclusion. In all our fundraising efforts, we vow to hold the quality of relationships over attachment to outcome.”

We'll generate a practical and meaningful approach to fundraising for your work as a BPF chapter or as someone who simply wants to transform your own relationship to money. The workshop guides people to unlearn the formulaic ways of raising money and to bring their groups a more aligned and integrated approach that can result in higher energy, greater creativity, more passion, shared ownership, and increased revenue.

Bio: Kristi Nelson is a BPF member living in Northampton, MA, who has worked in non-profit management and development for the past 22 years. She has worked throughout the U.S. helping to raise millions of dollars for progressive organizations committed to social change. Kristi now runs her own consulting and coaching company which focuses on values-based

organizational development and fundraising, and currently works with a wide range of progressive, national organizations (including BPF) and business leaders exploring models for bringing their practices and policies (especially financial) into alignment and integrity with their most deeply held values.

b) The Mandala of Socially Engaged Buddhism (repeat)

with Maia Duerr, BPF Executive Director, and Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey, BPF Board Member
We'll use BPF's Mandala of Socially Engaged Buddhism as a tool to work with some of these questions: How can we, as individuals and groups, create and take actions that lead to real change? How can different kinds of activism nourish the different parts of ourselves? And--what does it mean to be allies to each other, across differences, in the spirit of mutual liberation and social justice? This workshop is intended for members of BPF chapters to use in their own chapter work, as well as for everyone interested in transformative social change.

c) Dharma of Martin Luther King

with Alan Senauke, BPF Senior Advisor

The teachings and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. touched and altered the lives of all Americans in the late 20th Century. King's pluralistic faith and his immersion in the philosophy of active non-violence, as taught by Thoreau, Tolstoy, Gandhi, and others, express understandings that we share at the heart of Buddhist practice: that together we co-create the world for better and worse; that there is truly no separation between self and other. In this too-brief workshop, looking at one for Dr. King's sermons, we will remind ourselves how King's vision is urgently relevant today.

Bio: Hozan Alan Senauke is a Soto Zen priest and teacher in the tradition of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. He was ordained by Sojun Mel Weitsman in 1989. Alan is presently serving as tanto or head of practice at Berkeley Zen Center in California, where he lives with his wife, Laurie, and their two children. From early 1991 through the end of 2001, Alan was Executive Director of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. He is presently Senior Advisor at BPF. Alan is one of the founders of Think Sangha, a group of Buddhist-activist intellectuals and writers. He continues to work as a social activist around national and international issues of peace, human rights, structural violence, and the development of a Socially Engaged Buddhism. In another realm, Alan has been a student and performer of American traditional music for nearly forty years.

June 24, 2006

Saturday Morning, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm

Workshops III

a) Department of Peace

Carol Hillson, from the New York Campaign for a Department of Peace, will lead this session with information on Dennis Kucinich's vision of a governmental level Department of Peace, and how you can organize in your local area to support this vision to become a reality.

b) Sharing Circles

with Judy Seicho Fleischman and Marjorie Markus (co-coordinators NY Chapter)

This session consists of a sharing circle for those who yearn for a closer sense of community, both in BPF chapters and in other groups. It addresses how participants face similar issues such as how to serve and be supported in roles for the chapter, such as: coordinating events, facilitating dialogue during chapter meetings, responding in timely manner to questions and concerns of members, etc.

The process for this breakout session is based on a form of practice engaged by the New York

chapter, which focuses on listening and speaking from the heart and as a way to actualize Buddhist precepts and form the foundation for sangha-building. This process incorporates elements of various communication practices, including those of the Zen Peacemaker order, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Non-Violent Communication (NVC, based on teachings of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg).

c) Strengthening Our Global Connections:

Being a Socially Engaged Buddhist in an Interdependent World (repeat)

with Anchalee Kurutach, BPF Board President

Anchalee will share stories and images from her trip to India to participate in the 2005 International Network of Engaged Buddhists conference, and will facilitate an interactive session on how we in the U.S. can learn more about and support our dharma friends in Asia and other parts of the world.

d) Soldiers of Peace: How the Buddhist community can support COs, Vets, and Soldiers

with Aidan Delgado and Maia Duerr

Aidan will share his experiences of serving in the military in Iraq, and his decision to become a Conscientious Objector. He'll also lead a discussion to explore how the Buddhist community can support soldiers and young people thinking about enlisting. Maia will share how BPF plans to be involved in this effort, including the Dharma Vets online speakers' bureau and a resource guide for young people.

Bio: Aidan is a former soldier in the 320th Military Policy Company of the U.S. Army, who became a conscientious objector in April 2003, partly due to his dedication to the principles of pacifism in Buddhism. Since leaving the Army in April 2004, he has been actively involved in the anti-war movement.

Saturday Afternoon

2:00 – 5:00 pm

Open Space

Facilitated by Viki Sonntag, BPF Seattle chapter

Open Space is a collective practice for creating a vision of the whole out of our individual voices: What is our whole-hearted practice for creating peace in ourselves and the world in these troubled times? How are we co-creating the Buddhist Peace Fellowship? By inviting people to take responsibility for what they care about, through spirited and authentic discussion, Open Space encourages inquiry, reflection, and learning. This session has been scheduled for Saturday afternoon with intention of giving space to some of the ideas, questions, and intentions that may have been percolating for people throughout our time together.

Throughout the gathering:

The Liberation Lounge... created and hosted by Jesse Maceo Vega-Frey and a cast of thousands of bodhisattvas. A refuge for the Righteous and Weary Revolutionary Activist Saints, Mystics, and Wanderers of the World. A space where you can:

- Sit
- Change
- Hang out
- Take a nap
- Create prayer flags
- Create an altar
- Do yoga
- Do nothing

PLUS a space for BPF chapters and friends to share your projects with each other. Please bring photos, articles, hand-outs, ideas. We'll have some table space set up for display.