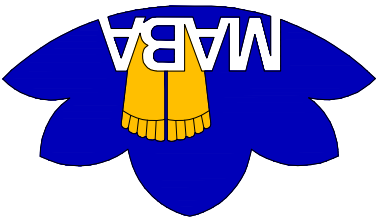




Mid-America Buddhist Association MABA 2016 Calendar



MABA (Mid-America Buddhist Association)
299 Heger Lane
Augusta, MO 63332
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• may all beings be safe, happy, healthy and free • may all beings be safe, happy, healthy and free • may all beings be safe, happy, healthy and free • may all beings be safe, happy, healthy and free •

ABOUT MABA

In 1994, the Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA) was established and became a nonprofit organization.

The mission of the Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA) is to practice, preserve and promote the teachings of the Buddha in the Mid-west of the United States, especially the St. Louis and Chicago areas (Chicago area website www.lbfaua.org). As part of this mission, MABA supports a monastic community, its lay followers and supporters. MABA's spiritual objectives are to follow the Middle Path and to live in accordance with Buddhist teachings concerning morality, meditation and wisdom. MABA's goals are to promote Buddhism in America, to promote Buddhism through beneficial spiritual and social activities, to support Buddhist and academic organizations in the study of Buddhism, to provide an environment for the practice and study of Buddhism and to support the Sangha



MASTER JIRU

Master Jiru is the Abbot of the Mid-America Buddhist Association and Monastery. Master studied Theravada Buddhism and was ordained in that tradition in Thailand. He later studied Chinese Buddhism and ordained in that tradition under the late great Buddhist Master Venerable Zhumo.

RESIDENT TEACHERS AND MONASTICS

Ven. Kungshih

Ven. Kungshih was ordained under Ven. Master Ji Ru at the Shuanglin Monastery in Tao Yuan, Taiwan in 1997. After studying and training in the monastic life under Bhikshuni Zhao Hui and Bhikshuni Xin Guang in Shuanglin Monastery, she joined MABA in 1998, where she serves as the administrative director.

Ven. Zhaozhan

Born in Argentina, Ven. traveled to Tzu Han, Taiwan in 1990, as a layperson, learning meditation, monastic duties, and Chinese. After monastic ordination in 1992, she traveled between Brazil and Argentina, helping translate Buddhist texts into Spanish and Portuguese. In 2013 Master Jiru visited Brazil to give teachings and invited her to MABA.

SENIOR LAY DHARMA TEACHERS

Don (Xiankuan)

Also known as Don Shushu (Uncle Don), Don took lay precepts in 2005 and Bodhisattva vows in 2007 with Master Jiru. He originally began meditation practice in 1969 under his first teacher, Ho Kuang-chung, who taught at Washington University. He is now a cognitive behavioral therapist who travels nationally to train psychotherapists. He now serves as one of MABA senior teachers, organizing many of the retreats, etc.

Katty (Xianzhi)

Originally from Hong Kong, Katty has had a number of lay careers, including media, art, and accounting. In 2004, Katty received her Master's degree from Hong Kong University in Buddhist Studies. Katty also helped Master Jiru find the current MABA property. In 2007 after taking her Bodhisattva Vows, Katty was appointed as one of the lay Dharma teachers by Master Ji Ru.

Sharon (Xianyi)

Xianyi Sharon Corcoran is a St. Louis native who was introduced to meditation in her early 20s, but began seriously practicing after 1991 when she moved to Ireland with husband, discovering Dzogchen Beara, a Tibetan Buddhist center led by Sogyal Rinpoche. In 2007 she returned to work at Washington University. In 2009 Sharon began taking Buddhist Vows and was later confirmed as a lay Dharma teacher by Master Jiru.

Tracy (Xianwan)

Tracy began attending MABA with her daughter in 2006. They were both drawn to the Buddhist concepts of non-violence and insight and equanimity. Tracy took her Refuge and Precept Vows in 2007, and later her Bodhisattva Vows. Tracy is a Play Therapist in private practice. She coordinates MABA's Children's Programs and community outreach projects.

AROUND THE MONASTERY



A new female residential hall/library is currently being build and will open in 2016.



MABA offers special study groups for our young Buddhists at our Children's Pavilion.



Dizang Memorial Hall is the largest Buddhist Memorial Hall in Mid-America with 400+ niches.

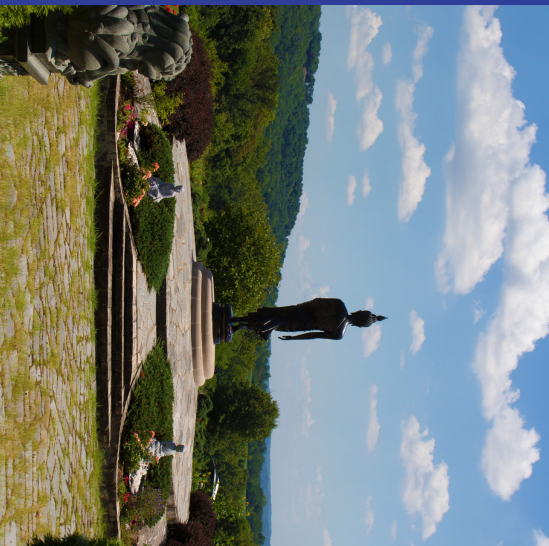


The Guanyin Pavilion overlooks MABA's serene lake offering a special place of peace.

MID-AMERICA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (MABA)

Located on 76 secluded acres atop the rolling hills of Augusta overlooking the Mississippi River Valley, retreats are offered monthly March through November.

MABA is affiliated with the Chan - Linji tradition. Chinese Buddhism is very respectful of the original Buddhist teachings and focuses on the integration of the Buddhist Discourses and the later Mahayana teachings.



Mindfulness meditation is a method of bringing our awareness to the breath and body in order to help the mind be more peaceful.

Every Sunday meditation is held starting at 10am. All are welcome to attend. Please visit our website for more details or to make a donation: www.maba-usa.org.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:
MABA offers retreats free of charge; however, a suggested donation of \$35/day is recommended for each retreat, \$10 donation for Sunday lunch.

Opening of the new female dormitory, the Blue Lotus House, Fall 2016. TBA



DIRECTIONS:

MABA's address is:
299 Heger Lane, Augusta, MO 63332

Enter by way Hwy 94 to Schindler Road (NOT through Heger Lane).

Please beware that smart phone GPS sometimes misleads.

CONTACT:

Website: www.maba-usa.org
Email: office@maba-usa.org
Retreat Sign-Up: donsnushu@cbl-stl.com
Tel: (636) 482-4037 from 9 am - 7 pm CT
Fax: (636) 482-4078

Open: Friday & Saturday @ 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
Central Time / Sunday @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Central Time

To visit during off-hours, please make an appointment ahead of time.

Please see the MABA website for information regarding Buddhist etiquette and dress code.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

(Open to the public)

- 9 am - Meditation Introduction & Study Groups
- 10 am - Sitting Meditation
- 10:40 am - Walking Meditation
- 11 am - Dharma Talk
- 11:35 am - Chanting
- 11:45 am - Vegetarian Lunch**

** Anyone is welcome to bring a vegetarian dish for 6-12 people. Please no meat products, onions, or garlic.

MABA Daily Schedule

Monday to Saturday (For monastics & residents)

- 5:00 am - Wake Up
- 5:30 am - Sitting Meditation & Sutra Chanting
- 6:40 am - Breakfast & After-Meal Cleanup
- 8:00 am - Personal Study Time/Work Assignment
- 12:00 pm - Lunch & After-meal Cleanup
- 2:30 pm - Personal Study Time
- 7:00 pm - Sitting Meditation & Sutra Chanting
- 8-10 pm - Personal Practice/Study Time

2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

■ Retreats ■ Ceremonies ■ Children's Half-Days ■ Buddhist Council Events

MARCH

- 13th- Socially Engaged Buddhism- 1:30-3:00 @ FGS
- 19th- Beginner's Retreat Saturday 8:30am-4:30pm
This retreat is especially designed for beginners, but is also open for more experienced meditators. We will focus on the Eightfold Path and how this path affects our lives. We will experience four periods of sitting meditation for thirty minutes along with walking meditation and several dharma talks and discussions.
- 20th- Children's Half-Day Sunday 10-11:45am

APRIL

- 3rd- Qingming Memorial Ceremony Sunday 1-3pm
This traditional Chinese holiday honors all our ancestors and respected elders. Filial piety is regarded as one of the highest Chinese virtues. On this day we express our gratitude toward our ancestors by chanting the Amitabha Sutra.
- 17th- Children's Half-Day - Sunday 10-11:45am
- 23rd- Four Foundations of Mindfulness Retreat

MAY

- 21st- Refuge & Precept Retreat -Saturday 8:30-4:30
This retreat emphasizes both meditation and the Buddha's path. We will have the opportunity to explore what it means to take Refuge and to practice the five Precepts. Those interested have the option of taking vows with the Master.
- 22nd- Children's Half-Day -Sunday 10-11:45 am

JUNE

- 5th- Vesak Day - Fo Guang Shan, STL Sunday 9am-4pm
On this day we celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday, enlightenment and passing into Parinibbana. It is the most important holiday of the Buddhist calendar. Sponsored by the Buddhist Council of Greater St. Louis, all Buddhist organizations and their members are invited for a full day of meditation, dharma talks, vegetarian food, and additional activities, including those for children.
- 26th- Children's Half-Day -Sunday 10-11:45am

JULY

- 17th- Children's Half-Day - Sunday 10-11:45am
- 23rd- Yogacara Retreat - Sunday 8:30am-4:30pm
This retreat is a way for both beginners and more experienced people to learn about Yogacara practice. In Mahayana Buddhism, there are two major methodologies: Madhyamika and Yogacara. Chan (Zen) and Tibetan Buddhism are both a synthesis of these two methods. We will learn to deepen our understanding of how to practice mindfulness meditation is a very direct way.

AUGUST

- 21st- Children's Half Day - Sunday 10-11:45am

Monastic Winter Retreat

Three months: Dec. 1, 2015 - Feb. 28, 2016

B.E. 2559 - 2560

*From December to the end of February, Meditation Introduction will be at 10 am (instead of 9 am). People will have the option to have two sessions of meditation or participate in our Introduction to Meditation from 10-10:40 am Sunday morning.

For 2500 years since the time of the Buddha, monastics have traditionally taken three months every year to meditate and study. This is called the Rains Retreat because it took place in India during the rainy season. In our region the best time to practice is during the winter season. During the Winter Retreat dharma talks are suspended. Instead, experienced meditators will have the opportunity to deepen their practice with a 10 am sitting, followed by walking meditation, and a second period of sitting. Beginners may receive practice instruction from 10-10:40am, and then join the main group for walking and sitting meditation. A Dharma study group focused on the Mahayana texts takes place on Thursday evenings in Chesterfield during the Winter Retreat.

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd-3rd - Annual Bodhisattva Retreat Friday-Saturday
This is a by-invitation only retreat for those who have taken Bodhisattva Vows. It is also open to those who have taken Refuge and Precept Vows, and have an interest in learning more about the Bodhisattva Path, the Mahayana aspiration to be of benefit to all beings. In addition to meditation, we have a number of presentations on a part of the 52 Stages. This retreat is under the direction of Master Jiru.
- 4th- Dizang Blessing Ceremony Sunday 10-3pm
MABA has constructed the second largest Dizang Hall in the Midwest. On this day we gather together to honor all those who have passed and who are ill, sending them blessings through meditation and chanting of the Ksitigarbha Sutra.
- 17th- Mindfulness Day- 1:30-3:30 - Thai Temple
- 18th- Children's Half-Day - Sunday 10-11:45am

OCTOBER

- 9th- Guanyin Blessing Ceremony Sunday 10-11:45am
Guanyin, the Bodhisattva of Great Compassion, is one of the most beloved of all the Buddha's disciples. We gather at MABA's Guanyin Pavilion for a Dharma talk and chanting from Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra.
- 16th- Children's Half-Day - Sunday 10-11:45am
- 20th-23rd- Chinese Lectures by Ven. Kaiyin TBA
- 28th-29th- Bhikkhu Bodhi Retreat - Friday-Saturday 8:30am-4:30pm



We are happy to welcome back Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi for two days of teaching before the Sunday Global Walk for Hunger. Bhikkhu Bodhi is one of the great translators and commentators on the Buddhist Suttas. He has written extensively, and his text, In the Buddha's Words, provides the basic Dhamma training at MABA. We are very fortunate to have this wonderful teacher visit MABA again. He travels very little, so this is a special event. Register early as space is limited.

- 30th- Global Walk for Hunger Tower Grove Park Sunday 1pm
This annual event was initiated by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, the great translator, commentator, and author of In the Buddha's Words. We join together with people around the world to raise donations for this wonderful charity which helps people in countries suffering from hunger.

NOVEMBER

- 12th- Venerable Konghuan Memorial - Saturday
Ven. Konghuan was one of the original monastics to reside at MABA. We come together to celebrate her life and legacy by chanting the Diamond Sutra in English and Chinese.
- 13th- Kathina Offering Ceremony - Sunday
This short ceremony allows all the lay practitioners to express their generosity and gratitude to the monastics by providing them with necessary items just before their three month retreat.
- 13th- Children's Half-Day - Sunday 10-11:45am

DECEMBER

- 1st- Begin the Monastic Winter Retreat
- 31st- New Year Blessing Ceremony Saturday 7pm-12am