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Winter 2004-05



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First Hermitage Rolls Out the Welcome Mat Two Visiting Teachers Confirmed

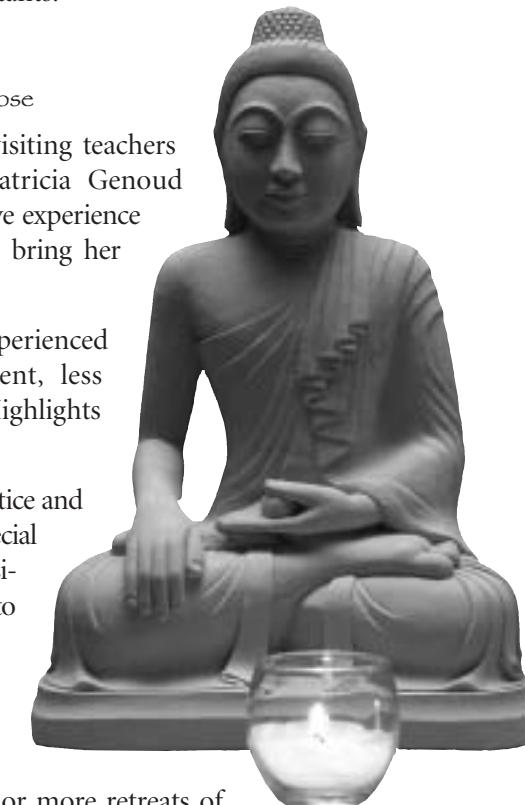
With the addition of a second visiting teacher, preparations are nearly complete for the first one-month Hermitage practice period at the San Geronimo Lodge in Taos, New Mexico. An experienced retreat cook and manager have already agreed to serve and have begun planning for the spring retreat. Applications are now being accepted for twenty places for experienced practitioners who will attend the four-week retreat from March 23-April 20, 2005. Single rooms are now available for both two- and four-week retreatants.

"So here we go-and in a way we could never have foreseen". —Guiding Teacher Marcia Rose

Guiding Teacher Marcia Rose will be joined by visiting teachers Annie Nugent for the four week period, and Patricia Genoud Feldman from April 9 to April 20. Both have extensive experience in practice and teaching the Dharma, and each will bring her unique perspective to the Hermitage residency.

The One-Month Hermitage is designed to offer experienced meditators the opportunity for more independent, less structured practice for an extended period of time. Highlights for applicants include:

- Retreatants must be largely self-sustaining in their practice and comfortable in unbroken silence and solitude. Any special needs must be discussed and agreed to in advance. All business and family obligations should be taken care of prior to arrival so that practice can be uninterrupted.
- Two-weeks applicants must have sat three or more 7-10 day retreats. Those wishing to join us for four weeks must have sat EITHER three or more 7-10 day retreats plus a retreat of a month or longer, OR six or more retreats of 7-10 days or longer.
- Guidelines for each individual's practice are worked out in consultation with a teacher. The program will provide a combination of independent practice with the opportunity to train with the guiding and visiting teachers in varying aspects of mindfulness and concentration practice.
- Teaching support will consist of 2-3 interviews and 2-3 dharma talks per week. Each week there is a renewed retreatant group commitment to the refuges and precepts. Yogis will undertake one hour of work meditation daily.
- Complete information and a downloadable application form are available at: www.mountainhermitage.org. You may also call 505-758-0663 or email: hermit@laplaza.org. Applications are requested by January 15, 2005.



Meet the Teachers for the Spring 2005 Hermitage



MARCIA ROSE is the resident guiding teacher for *The Mountain Hermitage* and Taos Mountain Sangha Meditation Center. She has been practicing Buddhist meditation in the Burmese Mahasi Vipassana tradition of Sayadaw U Pandita since 1970 and more recently also from the Tibetan Dzogchen tradition. She was resident teacher for staff at IMS from 1991-1995, has taught at the IMS annual 3-month retreat and is teaching at the Forest Refuge in Barre, MA for some months during 2004-2006. Marcia also teaches Vipassana and Metta retreats in other US venues and internationally.



ANNIE NUGENT has practiced in the Theravada and Tibetan traditions since 1979 under the guidance of a range of teachers including Sayadaw U Pandita, Tulku Akong Rinpoche and various western teachers. After leaving South Africa, her country of origin, she lived in England for some years, and has recently emigrated to the U.S., making her home now in Barre, Massachusetts. Annie was the resident teacher at the Insight Meditation Society from 1999 to 2003, and has since been invited to teach elsewhere, including The Forest Refuge. Her teaching style aims to reveal how our lives are opportunities to develop a clear understanding of the Truth.



PATRICIA GENOUD-FELDMAN has been practicing Buddhist meditation in Asia and the West since 1984, mainly under the guidance of Sayadaw U Pandita and HH Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. She has been teaching Vipassana internationally since 1997, and more recently at IMS and The Forest Refuge in Barre, MA. She is co-founder of the Meditation Center Vimalakirti in Geneva, Switzerland, where she lives.

"The Mountain Hermitage will help water and nurture the seed of peace, wisdom and compassion for those who practice there, cultivating the intention to benefit all."

-Joseph Goldstein

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A Message from Our Guiding Teacher

Dear Friends,

With greatest joy, I'm writing to tell you that we continue to make exciting progress in transforming the vision of *The Mountain Hermitage* to a reality.

We are now accepting applications from experienced practitioners for the inaugural one-month practice period, and we ask that they be returned by January 15, 2005 so we can, with diligence and care, make sound arrangements for all who will come.

At the same time, we are calling on friends of The Hermitage for generous donations that will help purchase the equipment required to wholly transform San Geronimo to a hermitage space for the one-month practice period, and to insure a comfortable and tranquil environment for the 20 practitioners who will join us.

In addition to zafus, zabutons, and other equipment, we will need an altar, and this will be built by a fine local craftsman, a practitioner himself. This is another wonderful opportunity to practice generosity.

We are also seeking funds to build The Hermitage Scholarship Fund – a key part of Our Vision. These funds will be awarded to those who might not otherwise be able to attend and to promote diversity among retreatants.

In the tradition widely practiced at Buddhist monasteries, donors may also choose to offer funding for a meal/meals for those in retreat at the Hermitage. If you wish, you will be acknowledged as the giver of a particular meal.

Generosity as a practice deepens generosity as a quality of being. The Buddha encouraged us, "Thus you must train yourselves: We will be thankful and grateful. Not even the least thing that is done for us shall be forgotten."

I hope you will consider one of the opportunities for openhearted giving described at right. We are grateful beyond measure for all you do.

With metta,

Marcia Rose

Guiding Teacher

Board Continues Development Efforts, Plans for Second Hermitage

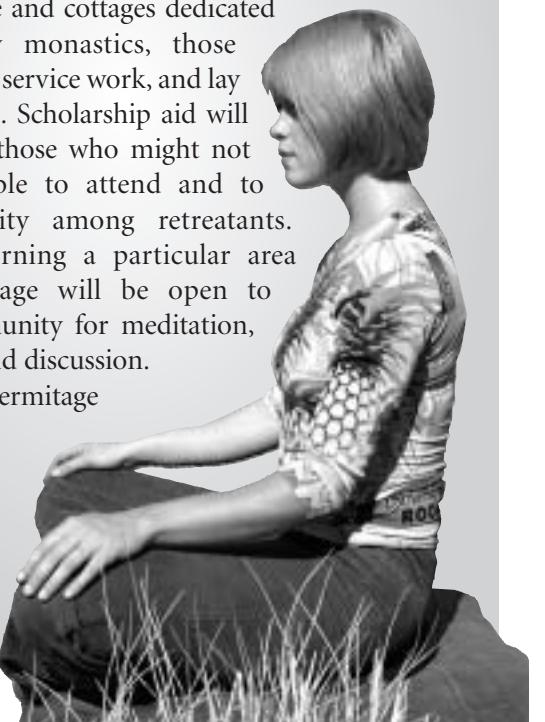
As plans for the inaugural Hermitage experience are finalized, the Board continues its energetic efforts to secure funding for a permanent Hermitage facility. Extensive grant research has been completed and a cluster of funding organizations identified. Grant applications will soon be written and submitted, offering the spring Hermitage event as evidence of the dedication of the Board to bring the project to fruition.

As these initiatives continue, the Board has also begun to plan for the second Hermitage. Discussions focus on season, location, and facility, as well as the selection of visiting teachers, whose commitments to teaching residencies are often made a year or more in advance. As the work of creating The Mountain Hermitage goes forward, the Board welcomes your ideas and your support.

Our Vision

The Mountain Hermitage will be a small retreat center dedicated to the inner cultivation and outer manifestation of wisdom, lovingkindness, compassion and peace. This home for long term spiritual practice according to the tradition of Theravada Buddhism will be built in a quiet and beautiful mountain setting in the Taos, New Mexico area. In addition to cottages where any qualified, experienced Dharma student can devote themselves to periods of intensive meditation practice for two weeks or longer, there will be a wheelchair accessible cottage and cottages dedicated for practice by monastics, those engaged in social service work, and lay Dharma teachers. Scholarship aid will be available for those who might not otherwise be able to attend and to promote diversity among retreatants. On Sunday morning a particular area of The Hermitage will be open to the larger community for meditation, a Dharma talk and discussion.

The Mountain Hermitage will be built and operated on the principal of sustainable energy.



Your Opportunities for Giving.

We welcome your participation in creating The Mountain Hermitage, a sanctuary of wisdom, compassion and peace that will serve the world. Your personal interest and support will make this unique and significant vision manifest.

The Hermitage vision will benefit a broad and growing range of people over time—those who come to The Hermitage to practice and those who are touched by the many and varied ways that the fruits of Dharma practice work in the world. We invite you to join this vision by offering whatever financial support you can. Please consider joining our spiritual community through a great and worthy act, the practice of generosity.

You are invited to make a special contribution that will benefit the Spring 2005 Hermitage and all Hermitage practice periods thereafter. Mark one of the giving "sponsorships" below, send your check, and your generous support will be remembered with gratitude as the vision of The Mountain Hermitage continues to unfold.

The Scholarship Fund: 3 Practitioners @ \$55/day

- \$165, One Day
- \$330, Two Days
- \$495, Three Days
- \$660, Four Days
- Other

The Meal Fund: 25 Noonday Meals @ \$7

- \$175, One Meal
- \$350, Two Meals
- \$525, Three Meals
- \$700, Four Meals
- Other

The Mountain Hermitage Altar Fund: Materials and Labor: \$800

- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$150
- Other

**SAN GERONIMO HERMITAGE,
Spring 2005**

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to be used to help meet the \$2,000,000 goal for the general development of *The Mountain Hermitage*.

*Detach and mail this page with your check or money order to:
The Mountain Hermitage • P.O. Box 807 • Ranchos de Taos, NM • 87557*

The Mountain Hermitage is a 501c3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by law.

- Thank You -