

The Mountain Hermitage
Spring 2010 One-Month Hermitage
April 6 – May 4, 2010
with Marcia Rose
San Geronimo Lodge, Taos, New Mexico, USA

INTRODUCTION

The Mountain Hermitage offers a uniquely supportive space of solitude and silence for qualified individuals who wish to undertake longer periods of intensive meditation practice. This retreat for experienced Dhamma students will offer the opportunity for intensive concentration practice that may lead to Jhana, in the lineage of Venerable Pa Auk Sayadaw, as well as intensive Insight/Vipassana practice. In consultation with the teacher, students will decide upon a course of practice that may be directed specifically towards Concentration/Jhana practice or Insight/Vipassana practice or some combination of the two.

The Mountain Hermitage will offer its sixth annual One-Month Hermitage at the San Geronimo Lodge from April 6 – May 4, 2010, and invites experienced practitioners to join us for either the full four weeks or a two-week period from either April 6-20, or April 20-May 4.

A scholarship fund has been established to offer financial aid to those who would otherwise not be able to attend and to promote diversity.

Applications and deposits are requested by January 31, 2010. Late applications will be considered on a space available basis.

PREREQUISITES FOR THIS RETREAT

Practitioners wishing to join us for two weeks: You must have sat three or more 7-10 day retreats.

Practitioners wishing to join us for four weeks: You must have sat EITHER three or more 7-10 day retreats, plus a retreat of one month or longer, OR six or more retreats of 7-10 days or longer.

These retreats must have been led by a recognized teacher. Details of the qualifying retreats, including teachers' names, dates, location and length of the retreat, must be documented on the application form.

ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN HERMITAGE

"There was an understanding by staff and teachers of the combination of structure, freedom, and deep/simple teaching supportive of the practice of liberation." --Hermitage Retreatant

Marcia Rose will guide The Mountain Hermitage's One-Month Hermitage. The One-Month Hermitage is designed to offer experienced meditators the opportunity for more independent, less structured practice for an extended period of time. There is no fixed retreat schedule during this Hermitage time.

The guidelines for each individual's practice are worked out in consultation with the teacher. The program will provide a combination of independent practice with the opportunity to train with the guiding teacher in varying aspects of mindfulness and concentration practice. This will contribute to a comprehensive deepening of practice and understanding.

Yogis are expected to maintain sustained and continuous practice during their time at The Mountain Hermitage. Teaching support will consist of 3-4 individual practice interviews per week, 3-4 Dhamma talks each week, and 1-2 guided sits per week. Before each Dhamma talk there will be a renewed yogi group commitment to the refuges and precepts. Yogis will undertake one hour of work meditation daily.

The Mountain Hermitage offers a unique practice opportunity. In order to benefit from this environment, applicants need to be largely self-sustaining in their practice and be comfortable in unbroken silence and solitude. All participants must be mentally stable and physically able to care for themselves. Everyone must have health insurance or be able to cover their expenses in case of illness or medical emergencies. Any special needs must be discussed and agreed to in advance, as the staff is very small and cannot accommodate high levels of support for any individual.

It is asked that retreatants commit themselves fully to their stay. All business and family obligations should be taken care of prior to arrival so that practice can be uninterrupted.

TEACHER

Marcia Rose lives in Taos, NM. She is the founding and guiding teacher of The Mountain Hermitage and founding teacher of Taos Mountain Sangha. She has been studying and practicing Buddhist teachings and meditation with Asian and Western teachers since 1970, primarily in the Theravada-Vipassana (Path of the Elders) tradition. Her own teaching reflects a clear influence from the Burmese Pa-Auk Forest Monastery and Mahasi Vipassana lineages. She has also studied and practiced in the Dzogchen Tibetan Buddhist tradition with Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche, Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche, and Tsoknyi Rinpoche. Marcia was resident teacher for staff at the Insight Meditation Society (IMS) in Barre, MA from 1991-1995. She continues teaching at IMS as an occasional visiting teacher and is also a regular visiting teacher at The Forest Refuge in Barre, MA. Marcia also teaches Concentration, Vipassana and Metta retreats in other U.S. and international venues, and is dedicated to offering these ancient and timeless teachings in ways that make them accessible and authentic for contemporary culture.

Besides the guiding teacher, the staff of the One-Month Hermitage will consist of a resident Retreat Manager (the point of contact in case of any difficulties) and a Retreat Cook. There will be three nutritious vegetarian meals per day.

THE RETREAT FACILITY

San Geronimo Lodge is situated among fruit trees along the banks of the Acequia Madre, and provides the privacy, quiet, and sense of harmony that is most conducive to intensive practice. There is a beautiful meditation hall and indoor and outdoor walking areas.

The Mountain Hermitage will have exclusive use of San Geronimo Lodge during the period of the One-Month Hermitage, and all of the month-long retreatants will have their own room and bathroom. Two-week retreatants may be sharing large double rooms with a bathroom.

Each room is spacious enough to allow for both sitting and walking meditation for those who wish to practice in a more secluded setting.

The meditation hall, walking spaces, dining room, kitchen and bedrooms are all within one building. There is one wheelchair accessible double bedroom, to allow for an attendant, if needed.

DAILY SCHEDULE

The general retreat schedule will consist of group events such as meals and talks plus a suggested schedule of alternate hours of sitting and walking. Retreatants may choose to follow the suggested schedule or tailor it to suit personal needs in consultation with the teachers.

5:30 a.m. - Group sit with chanting

6:30 a.m. – Breakfast

7:15 a.m. - Work period

8:15 a.m. - Group sit with short Dharma reflection

9:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. walk and sit alternate hours or personal schedule

12:15 p.m.- Lunch

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. sit and walk alternate hours or personal schedule

5:00 p.m. – Tea

6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. sit and walk half-hours or personal schedule

7:15 p.m. - Dharma talks or guided meditations when scheduled (refuges/precepts are chanted before the talks)

8:15 p.m. - 10:15 p.m. sit and walk alternate hours or personal schedule

FEES

Fees are on a sliding scale to allow you to pay according to your means. Our actual cost for the month per retreatant is \$2,108. A portion of our scholarship funds is being allocated for this retreat to allow us to continue to offer the mid and low ranges on the sliding scale. Please pay as much as you are able to allow others to attend who need to pay less. Any amount above \$2,108/\$1,054 will be gratefully received and treated as a tax-deductible donation.

For participants joining the One-Month Hermitage for four weeks - 28 days:

\$1,908 (low) \$2,108 (actual cost) \$2,308 (benefactor)

For participants joining the One-Month Hermitage for two weeks - 14 days:

\$954 (low) \$1,054 (actual cost) \$1,154 (benefactor)

Additional scholarship funds are available. Please make your needs known in a cover letter with your application form. The Mountain Hermitage will gratefully receive donations to our scholarship fund to enable those in financial need to attend this retreat. Donations are tax-deductible and should be marked 'Scholarship Fund'.

DANA

The retreat fees only cover basic expenses and operating costs. The teacher offers the Buddha Dhamma without any set fee, and totally depends on DANA – on the generosity of students and benefactors – for the support of daily life needs.

DANA, an ancient Pali word meaning generosity, giving, or gift, is central to the 2,600-year-old tradition of Buddhism. The teachings of the Buddha have been offered freely since the time of the Buddha. There was and is no way to put a price on the teachings of the truth - they are valuable beyond any fee one could set.

At the end of the retreat, envelopes will be provided for you to offer Dana to the teacher. Giving to the teacher, from the heart, whatever feels appropriate, is the practice of Dana. You may also wish to offer dana to the staff or to the Hermitage itself to support operating expenses or future scholarships.

Another way to support the Hermitage is to donate all or part of the cost of a meal for the retreat.

USE OF FEES

Your fees for the One-Month Hermitage will be used to pay for: Rental of the San Geronimo Lodge and attached expenses; other general retreat expenses; a Retreat Cook; a small stipend for the Retreat Manager; and a small parsonage to the teacher to cover ongoing home expenses for the duration of the retreat.

DEPOSIT

Please send your deposit with your application. The deposit is:

Practitioners applying for the two-week retreat: \$350

Practitioners applying for the four-week retreat: \$600

The deposit will not be banked until your registration is confirmed and will be applied to the total fee for those accepted to attend. The deposit will be returned in full to those not accepted, or to those who are on a waiting list at the time that the retreat begins.

PAYMENTS

The full deposit must accompany your application, even if you are requesting scholarship funds. No monies will be banked until you are accepted on the retreat. The balance of the retreat fee is due when you arrive for the retreat, or you can mail the balance to us in advance. If possible, we appreciate you

paying the full fee (deposit plus balance) at the time of application or on acceptance, as this improves our efficiency. However this is not necessary.

Please pay by check or money order in US funds, drawn on a US bank. We cannot accept foreign cash or bank drafts, but we can accept international money orders in US dollars.

Checks/money orders should be made payable to THE MOUNTAIN HERMITAGE.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation fees apply to all confirmed registrations.

Cancellations received on or before January 31, 2010: your deposit will be returned minus a \$75 cancellation fee.

Cancellations received between January 31, 2010 and February 15, 2010: your deposit will be returned minus a \$150 cancellation fee.

Cancellations received between February 15, 2010 and March 15, 2010: your deposit will be returned minus a \$250 cancellation fee (2 week retreatants)/ \$400 cancellation fee (4-week retreatants).

Cancellations received on or after March 15, 2010, including non-attendance at the retreat: your deposit cannot be refunded. If you have already paid the balance, then that balance will be refunded minus the \$350 cancellation fee/deposit (2 week retreatants) / \$600 cancellation fee/deposit (4 week retreatants).

CANCELLATION FEES WILL BE APPLIED TO THE MOUNTAIN HERMITAGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (after the cost of the retreat is covered).

In the event of specific, unusual emergency circumstances, the cancellation policy can be discussed with The Mountain Hermitage Administrative Assistant after May 5, 2010, when the One-Month Hermitage is concluded.

If you attend the retreat but for some reason decide on your own to leave early, the deposit and balance you have paid cannot be refunded to you.

APPLICATION

Anyone interested in attending all or half of the One-Month Hermitage should read this document and the separate Practice Guidelines. Then complete the Application form and Waiver of Liability, attach your deposit, and mail to: The Mountain Hermitage, PO Box 807, Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557.

Applications and deposits are requested by January 31, 2010. Late applications will be considered on a space available basis. Applications will be accepted only by mail, not by phone, fax, or e-mail, because they must be accompanied by the appropriate deposit. Incomplete registrations, including those without sufficient deposit, will be returned for completion.

Each application will be carefully reviewed. In some cases, a personal or phone interview will be conducted with the guiding teacher prior to determination of suitability for this type of practice. All applications are processed by date received. We will respond within four weeks from receipt of your application.

If your application is not accepted for this retreat, your deposit will be returned.

WAIT LIST

Places are limited to 20 practitioners, so early application is advised. Once the retreat is full, you will be notified and placed on a wait list, and we will contact you if a place opens up. If it does not, then your deposit will be returned.

If you are placed on the wait list and you then cancel your registration before a space has become available, your deposit will be returned.

If you are placed on a wait list and are unable to attend the retreat, **please let us know immediately**. As long as your name remains on a list, we assume you wish to attend. If a space becomes available, we will **automatically** confirm your registration. Once you are confirmed for a retreat, you are **liable for applicable cancellation fees** if you subsequently cancel.