

The Mountain Hermitage



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*With a boundless heart should one cherish all living beings...
radiating kindness over the entire world.*

*Wishing: In gladness and in safety, may all beings be at ease!
--The Buddha, Metta Sutta*

Dear Friend in the Dharma,

Eleven years ago the word *mission* stood at the heart of what was to become *The Mountain Hermitage*. The founding of *The Hermitage* would manifest a deeply personal mission for me – to transform a dynamic idea to actions that would carry the Dharma into the wider world.

The few, but powerful words of *The Mountain Hermitage* Mission Statement have steered every action we have taken, every retreat we have offered, and guide our continuing efforts to realize that vision in all that we do.

We define our sole purpose: *To offer the Buddha's teachings ... to spiritual seekers in their search for truth and liberation*, and add this significant commitment: ... *with a heartfelt emphasis on multicultural practitioners.*

It is with great joy I invite you to join us as we bring this heartfelt emphasis to fresh reality through our first *People of Color (POC)* retreat, scheduled for August 2015. The retreat will be taught by deeply revered POC teachers Gina Sharpe and Larry Yang.

Our POC retreat will be fully aligned with the mission of holistic living and interdependence. Our realization of that interdependence directly translates to our vision of a multicultural Dharma community in which People of Color can find their place in what in the western world has primarily been a monochromatic culture.

Scholarship needs for this *Mountain Hermitage* retreat will be significant. For many prospective retreatants, the economic downturn has exacerbated an already difficult financial condition, and most will require scholarship monies to support their retreat experience.

Please join your personal mission with ours in helping meet this critical need with a generous *Mountain Hermitage* donation of \$1,000, \$500, \$250, \$100 – or whatever amount you feel you can share. Your gift will help meet our \$20,000 year-end funding goal and may also help support an array of 2015 retreat offerings -- embodiments of our core mission that bring the Dharma to life.

In addition to Gina Sharpe and Larry Yang, our 2015 retreats will be taught by some of Buddhism's very highly respected and endearing teachers, including the Venerable Dhammadina, David Loy, and Brian Lesage. I will be teaching the annual Spring month-long retreat and we are honored to host highly regarded Buddhist teacher and author David Loy, who will offer a special long weekend retreat/workshop about the climate emergency from a Buddhist perspective.

The Mountain Hermitage thrives. But make no mistake – it is wholly the support and shared mission commitment of friends in the Dharma like you that breathe life and vitality into all that we do.

My personal mission and my deepest joy and gratitude are reflected back to me through every facet of our continuing partnership. And I hope that this energy and commitment also enriches your life as it continues to enrich mine.

In the generous words of a *Mountain Hermitage* scholarship recipient:

"I am filled with a sense of joy, delight and amazement that such good fortune could be part of my life. The time at the Retreat went by quickly, each day revealing some new aspect of clinging to 'I, Me and Mine' and allowing the graceful release of that habitual clinging."

Please choose one of the suggested donation amounts on the enclosed *Mountain Hermitage Donor Reply Card* – or another amount – inspired by the knowledge that each tax-deductible dollar you give will bring us closer to transforming our mission to reality in ever-expanding ways.

Then return the *Donor Reply Card* with your check or money order in the envelope provided. If you choose to give by credit card, please go to our website at www.mountainhermitage.org and click on the *How You Can Help* menu item. You will be able to offer a gift through your credit card via *The Network for Good*, which offers options for supporting our scholarship fund, teacher fund, and general operating costs on a one time or monthly giving basis.

Thank you for responding quickly, and may the joys of giving be returned to you many times over in the unfolding New Year.

With metta,



Marcia Rose

Guiding Teacher, *The Mountain Hermitage*

P.S. The People Of Color Retreat will be for experienced Dharma students inclining toward sharing the Dharma with others. Your gift of support may therefore extend the power of this retreat to many more multicultural seekers.

A deep bow to you as together we continue to cherish all living beings and radiate kindness all over our very beautiful and struggling world.