

Mid-America Buddhist Association December 2022 eNews



Join us every [Sunday](#) for meditation, chanting, and study
In-person and live on [Zoom](#)!

**MABA is open to the public on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
Please wear masks indoors**

Let none find fault with others;
Let none see the omissions and commissions of others.
But let one see one's own acts, done and undone.

—Dhammapada Verse 50

Greetings from MABA

We kindly ask our friends when visiting the monastery:

- be gentle and respectful to all living beings,
- refrain from wearing fragrances,
- speak in low tones,
- wear respectful clothing (plain colors, no bare knees or shoulders),
- remove shoes before entering buildings

All are welcome to join us for lunch at 11:45am in Blue Lotus House

We invite you to join us live every **Sunday Morning**, either in person or on **Zoom**, for meditation, Dharma talks, chanting, and discussions. Past Dharma talks and special event speakers will be uploaded to both our **YouTube channel** and **Facebook** page.

As always, we are grateful for your ongoing **support**.
Please continue to stay safe, we look forward to seeing you soon.

May all beings be well and happy!

Your Friends in the Dharma,
The Community at MABA

Winter retreat is coming!



WINTER RETREAT

December 1st – February 28th

Vassa (pali) - rain retreat. In northern hemisphere became to be known as winter retreat. Monastics in Mahayana tradition, who dedicate their lives to help others and spend a lot of time engaged in social service, traditionally go for a period of seclusion or retreat that lasts 3 months.

During that time

- There would be no Dhamma talks on Sundays
 - Lay community are invited to help with donating food for monastics
 - Serious practitioners may request to join monastic retreat (minimum 1 week stay)
- ask for more details and schedule an interview at office@maha-usa.org*

Dana is the virtue of giving. It is the practice to overcome lower fetters, such as greed and ignorance and the way to accumulate merits, that will support the practice of meditation. Without preliminary effort to establish virtuous actions, the practice of meditation often become fruitless. Don't hesitate and seize any opportunity to develop this virtue.

To volunteer for food offerings to the monastics during winter retreat, please contact office@maha-usa.org



Sundays schedule during winter retreat

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- 10:00 am – Guided Meditation
 - 10:15 am – Standing Meditation
 - 10:25 am – Sitting Meditation
 - 10:55 am – Chanting
 - 11:15 am – Study Group
“The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch”
 - 11:45 am – Lunch at Blue Lotus House
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- Please mute microphone. Video on or off, as you prefer.
- Optional: mute speakers for silent meditation.
- Questions? Use “Chat” box to text Host.

Words of encouragement for 2023 from master JìRú

As 2022 comes to an end, first, thank you for your support and for joining us in serving the Dharma and sentient beings. May you and your family and others become more mature and capable amid the great upheaval of the world with the pandemic and war. As we look toward 2023, I would like to make three brief remarks:

First, please be pragmatic in your work and learn and train a wider range of academic and technical skills to serve the community. My advice and encouragement to those of you who have not done so, are:

I. Start this project as soon as possible or even immediately.

II. To improve as soon as possible the ability to anticipate and respond to the difficult days ahead.

III. To learn and raise the level of spirituality and thinking so that we can better cope with the short-term and long-term shocks and stresses of an open society.

IV. The most important value of life is to never lose the advantage of moving forward in a highly competitive environment.

Second, you cannot lie flat in your spiritual practice. The careful planning and active actions for the setting and implementation of ideal beliefs:

1. To devote yourself to the practice and cultivation of Dharma, to perpetuate the Buddha's wisdom, and to attain the Dharma body and the fruit of the path.

2. To do more to introduce Buddhism to the society and to guide beginners.

These two points are the practical things for self-benefit and benefiting others, let's do something about it! No more excuses and laziness.

Third, to sum up the first and second, pragmatic people living in the real world must take the interests of their own lives as the starting point and strengthen their strengths to face the imbalance and huge changes in the social relations and stand in an invincible position. For those who believe in Buddhism, their goals need to be great, and their purpose must be clear to move forward in a steady and determined manner.

Finally, in the new year, I pray that the Three Jewels will bless you with good health, good life, and safe travels.

In the Dharma,
Venerable Jì Rú
Abbot

Monastic Ordination

On January 1st, 2023, we invite you to join an ordination ceremony.

Aidan Rottmann, dharma name XiǎnQín □□,



will receive a monastic ordination from Master Jiru. Our community is very happy to accept such young and yet very determined man into the monastic order. XiǎnQín, spent most of his life in Missouri, and is experienced in construction work. Hopefully he will be of a good help to master Jiru in his projects.

Please join the ordination ceremony and as part of the traditional Chinese way of celebrating a new monastic make small offering in the form of □□ (Hóngbāo) to XiǎnQín

Schedule for Sunday Morning at MABA and Monastic ordination:

Sunday, January the 1st, 2023
(There is no regular Sunday Morning Program)
The ceremony will start at 10.15

If you wish to witness the head shaving procedure, please arrive at 9.30
Vegetarian Lunch at Blue Lotus House at 11.45

Please consider making your tax-deductible end-of-year contributions today.
Thank you for your generosity!

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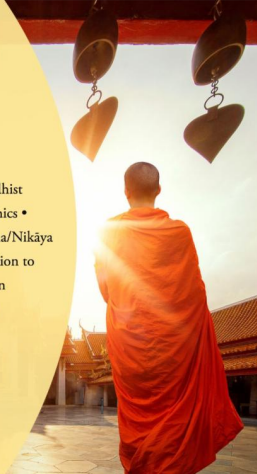
Historical Background of Buddhist Culture • Fundamental Teachings of Buddhist Philosophy • Selected Readings in Buddhist Sanskrit Literature • Buddhist Ethics • Buddhist Meditation • Theravada and Mahayana • Selected Readings in Āgama/Nikāya Literature • Abhidhamma and Development of Buddhist Thought • Introduction to Buddhist Psychology • Buddhist Analysis of Mind and Mental States • Modern Movements of Humanistic Buddhism • Mindfulness Practice and Its Modern Applications

For more information, please visit our website:



<https://maba-usa.org/dbs-2023-2024>

Email: ybefacademy@gmail.com



Many thanks to Tasha and Francesca, for this wonderful artwork, and for Don Yeye for bringing it to MABA!

Zoom link for **Sunday Mornings** at MABA:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86110188493?pwd=NnhzQ0FxcWZCTzlJZHFiMHVxLzc4UT09>

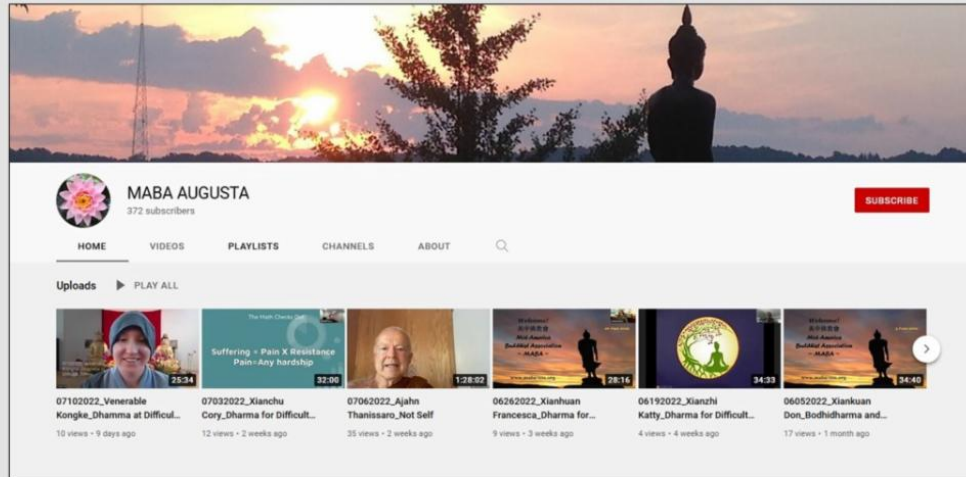
Meeting ID: 861 1018 8493
Passcode: 828040

Find past Dharma Talks on our YouTube channel:

Reminder that the deadline for eNews submissions is the 24th of the month and may be sent to office@maba-usa.org. Thank you!

Photos, Events, and More

See our YouTube channel for Dharma Talks and Special Speaker Events



www.youtube.com/MABAAugusta

To view photos from events at MABA, please visit our [Media page](#).

Please visit our [Event Calendar](#) for upcoming events.

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Please consider making a donation today to support our on-going educational programs.
All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

You may make secure contributions directly to MABA via PayPal, **PayPal Giving Fund**, Zelle, or by sending a check made payable to "MABA" to 299 Heger Lane, Augusta, MO 63332

Thank you for your continued support!