



MABA eNEWSLETTER

November 2024

Three things
cannot be long
hidden: the sun,
the moon, and
the truth
- Buddha



Avalokiteśvara (Guānyīn) Bodhisattva
at Guānyīn Pavilion
(Photo taken by Yúkǎ 宇可)



**American
Red Cross**

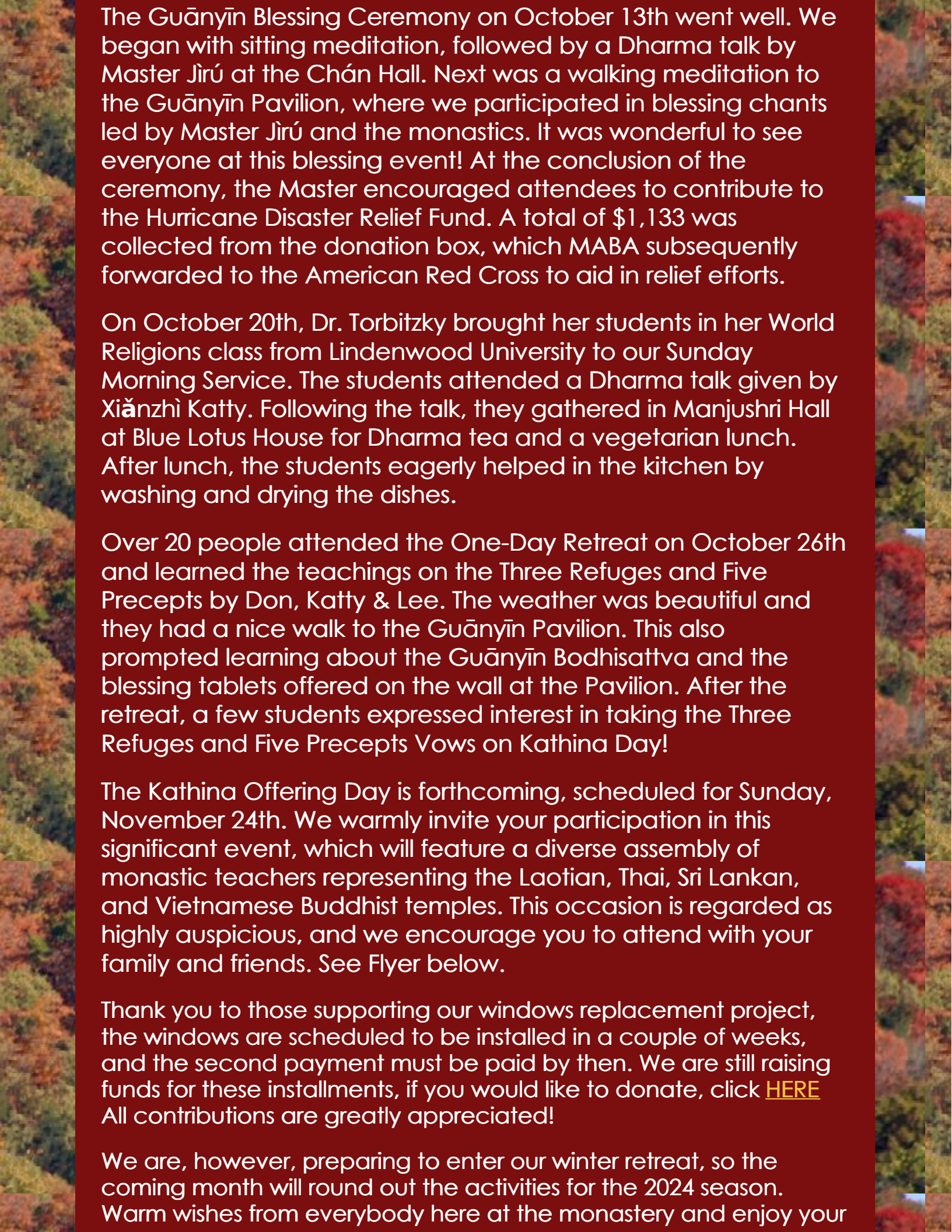


**Kungshih Shi has made a donation of \$1161.33 in honor of MABA
Buddhist Friends.**

This donation will bring hope and help to those in need.

Hello, friends!

The colorful fall season is here! A lot was done in October: trees were trimmed, bushes cleared, and Manjushri Hall's windows were cleaned. We want to thank everyone who came to help during our volunteer offering week! See the photos [here](#).



The Guānyīn Blessing Ceremony on October 13th went well. We began with sitting meditation, followed by a Dharma talk by Master Jirú at the Chán Hall. Next was a walking meditation to the Guānyīn Pavilion, where we participated in blessing chants led by Master Jirú and the monastics. It was wonderful to see everyone at this blessing event! At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Master encouraged attendees to contribute to the Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund. A total of \$1,133 was collected from the donation box, which MABA subsequently forwarded to the American Red Cross to aid in relief efforts.

On October 20th, Dr. Torbitzky brought her students in her World Religions class from Lindenwood University to our Sunday Morning Service. The students attended a Dharma talk given by Xiǎnzhì Katty. Following the talk, they gathered in Manjushri Hall at Blue Lotus House for Dharma tea and a vegetarian lunch. After lunch, the students eagerly helped in the kitchen by washing and drying the dishes.

Over 20 people attended the One-Day Retreat on October 26th and learned the teachings on the Three Refuges and Five Precepts by Don, Katty & Lee. The weather was beautiful and they had a nice walk to the Guānyīn Pavilion. This also prompted learning about the Guānyīn Bodhisattva and the blessing tablets offered on the wall at the Pavilion. After the retreat, a few students expressed interest in taking the Three Refuges and Five Precepts Vows on Kathina Day!

The Kathina Offering Day is forthcoming, scheduled for Sunday, November 24th. We warmly invite your participation in this significant event, which will feature a diverse assembly of monastic teachers representing the Laotian, Thai, Sri Lankan, and Vietnamese Buddhist temples. This occasion is regarded as highly auspicious, and we encourage you to attend with your family and friends. See Flyer below.

Thank you to those supporting our windows replacement project, the windows are scheduled to be installed in a couple of weeks, and the second payment must be paid by then. We are still raising funds for these installments, if you would like to donate, click [HERE](#). All contributions are greatly appreciated!

We are, however, preparing to enter our winter retreat, so the coming month will round out the activities for the 2024 season. Warm wishes from everybody here at the monastery and enjoy your

fall season.

Best Wishes & Happy Thanksgiving From MABA!



Guānyīn Blessing Ceremony



The Guānyīn Blessing Ceremony was great fun. We started the day with the Sunday meditation and then practiced walking meditation on our way to the pavilion. At the Guānyīn Pavilion, we offered incense to the Guānyīn, chanted, and finished our ceremony with a discussion about compassion. We always provided a delicious vegetarian lunch to round out our day!



This is an annual event, so if you didn't make it this year we encourage you to join us next time.



Students from Lindenwood University Visit on Sunday Morning.



Lindenwood University students from a class about the Religions of India.

"Guan Yin is an important landmark at MABA due to her limitless compassion and their reliance on the idea of compassion in their particular school. I was lucky enough to attend a retreat at MABA and could write so much on the things that I learned and experienced. But most of all, I learned compassion."

"My journey to the Buddhist temple was a transformative experience that deepened my

understanding of mindfulness and Buddhist traditions, providing great tools for navigating life's challenges."

"There is only so much you can learn about a religion without experiencing the practices and lifestyles of the people within that faith. Our visit to the Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA) really transformed my comprehension of what it means to be a Buddhist."



One-Day Retreat - "Understanding What It Means to Take Refuge and the Precepts"



I was very fortunate to have my first retreat at MABA and experience the Buddhist tradition on a completely new and refreshing level. I have had some exposure to Buddhism before, and knew that I had wanted to pursue it in the past, but felt lost in my journey and didn't know where to turn. My first experience with this retreat was centering me and teaching me how to really begin my experience as a Buddhist. It introduced and taught me what it means to be compassionate. It showed me what the five precepts were and what it means to live them. I learned how to seek refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha. I learned how to apply it to my real life and was offered the opportunity to accept the five precepts and seek refuge if I so desire. Which, upon reflection, I would be more than happy to do. I am so grateful to the monastics and their service and assistance in allowing me to stay with them and teaching me what it means to be mindful. They live in a way that demonstrates to me and serves as a beacon on how to meditate and how I should focus my life. I am so thankful to the teachers that led the retreat and the research of the teachers and their dedication to Buddhism. I look up to them and want to learn how to live a life like them. There are volunteers that cook food for services and provide for so many people so selflessly. I can't wait to give back and learn from them. This retreat was so transformative. MABA has certainly touched my life and I look forward to future visits.
~ Derek Poston



Our Online Buddhist Studies Program

The DBS program is going well, students are learning a lot and seeing the benefits in their daily lives! Read our student testimonials on our [website](#). If you want to apply, the 2025-2027 academic year is now open!

Visit our website to learn more about the [DBS program](#) and [other flexible options](#) available to you. Whether you prefer a structured curriculum or explore Buddhism at your own pace, we have the perfect options for you.



DEPARTMENT OF PALI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA (UoK),
SRI LANKA, AND THE AMERICAN BUDDHIST SANGHA ACADEMY (ABSA) IN THE USA

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Option
A

Diploma In Buddhist Studies (DBS)

- Certificate from the prestigious University of Kelaniya.
- Fulfill the program by completing the 12 courses (30 credits), assignments, and final exams.
- Registration fee for the university - USD 500.

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- Free of charge! No registration fee.
- Complete 16 credits within 2 years. Choose courses from the diverse DBS curriculum to personalize your studies.
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C

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST STUDIES

Free! Certificates from ABSA
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Choose a minimum of 8 credits from the DBS curriculum & complete the assignments.

2. CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

• Choose and attend any courses from the DBS curriculum.

• No assignment or exam required.

To Apply, please visit our website:

www.maba-usa.org/buddhist-studies-1



Buddha's Teaching of the Month

AN 8.37 Sappurisdānasutta: The Good Person's Gifts

“Bhikkhus, there are these eight gifts of a good person. What eight? (1) He gives what is pure; (2) he gives what is excellent; (3) he gives a timely gift; (4) he gives what is allowable; (5) he gives after investigation; (6) he gives often; (7) while giving he settles his mind in confidence; and (8) having given, he is elated. These are the eight gifts of a good person.”

He gives what is pure and excellent,
allowable drinks and food at the proper time;
he gives gifts often to fertile fields of merit,
to those who lead the spiritual life.

He does not feel regret,
having given away many material things.
Those with deep insight praise
the gifts given in this way.

Having thus practiced charity
with a mind freely generous,
one intelligent and wise, rich in faith,
is reborn in a pleasant, unafflicted world.

Readings:
Right View Quarterly
Daily Sutta Reading
Suttas (Buddha's Teachings)



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Kathina event is on November 24th!

Master Ji Ru will confer the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts after the Kathina Offering Service. If you are interested in taking the Three Refuges and the Five Precepts, contact the office [here](#).

We hope to see you at MABA! Whether you're seeking spiritual growth or community engagement, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings or for our various service opportunities.

Please join us on Sunday Mornings!

Sunday Schedule for November:

- 9:30-10:00 AM: Silent meditation
- 10:00-10:15 AM: Walking meditation
- 10:15-11:00 AM: Dharma Talk
- 11:00-11:20 AM: Chanting
- 11:20-11:45 AM: Dharma Sharing at Manjushri Hall
- 11:45 AM: Vegetarian Lunch at Blue Lotus House

Dharma Talk Schedule:

11/03/2024 – Xiǎnzhì Katty

11/10/2024 – Ven. Kōngyán

11/17/2024 – Xiǎnjí Lee
11/24/2024 Kathina Day – Xiǎнкуān Don

Make sure to visit [Our Website](#) for the latest Sunday morning schedule updates.



Volunteers Offering Service Week



Our volunteer offerings week was a great success! We were very productive; the MABA grounds got a refresh and we deepened our understanding of Dharma before enjoying lunch (as shown in the far left photo). See more photos [here](#).

"It was a privilege to contribute to the betterment of MABA for this weekend of service. It was a joyful form of practice. We were able to catch up with friends and make some new ones. Not only did we enjoy the vegetarian lunch, but we also enjoyed a great spontaneous discussion with monastics about our own daily life in the Dharma. Thank you Venerables for sharing time with all of us!" ~ KC Green and Mung Chin

If you are interested in another opportunity similar to this, keep an eye out on our website and the coming newsletters!



Kathina Offering Day

The Kathina is our opportunity to practice generosity toward our dear Community of Monastics who work tirelessly to build and maintain MABA, as well as to provide an example of harmony, compassion, and wisdom for all of us who live in a complex world.

The Kathina Offering occurs once a year, traditionally after the end of the monastic Rains Retreat in late autumn. This is because the three-month season for the monsoons ends at that time in South and Southeast Asia. However, in the West, it is more typical for the three-month retreat to be held during the cold winter months from December through February. At MABA we have the Kathina Offering in mid to late November to be more in line with the Buddhist tradition.

SCHEDULE

9:30 am Meditation

10:00 am Dharma Talk

10:30 am Kathina Ceremony

11:10 am Master conferring Three

Refuges and Five Precepts

11:45 am Vegetarian Lunch

DONATIONS

Cash or check donations can be made when you come to

MABA.
Mail your check to:

MABA

299 Heger Lane

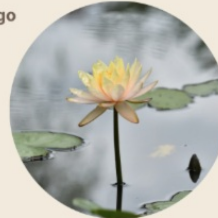
Augusta, Missouri 63332 USA

via Zelle ID: office@maba-usa.org

Go to our website and click on Kathina Donation

<https://maba-usa.org/contribute>

Use this QR code to go directly to make a donation.



MABA

KATHINA OFFERING

on November 24, 2024

9:30 to 11:45 AM

at

MABA Monastery

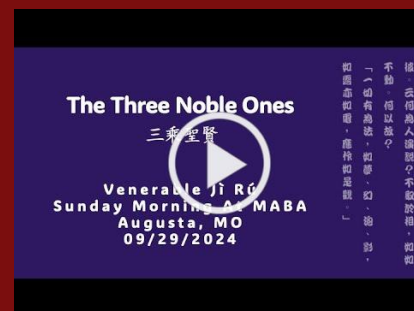
Mid-America Buddhist Association



299 Heger Ln
Augusta, MO 63332 USA
www.maba-usa.org



Videos of the Month



Dana

is the virtue of giving. The monastic community is fully dependent on the lay community's support. For now MABA relies almost fully on the support of traditional Asian community. It is very important for us



[DONATE HERE](#)

to help the Western community develop the six paramitas (perfections), the first of which is the virtue of giving. The importance of practicing Dana is known through its benefit for overcoming lower fetters, such as greed and ignorance, and as the way to accumulate merits that will support the practice of meditation. Without preliminary effort to establish virtuous actions, the practice of meditation often becomes fruitless. Do not hesitate to seize any opportunity to develop this virtue.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



[DONATE HERE](#)

Replacing the Windows in the Chan Hall.

The Chan Hall's aging windows, installed in 1997, have begun to deteriorate, making them difficult to operate and contributing to high energy costs. To address these issues and reduce our energy consumption, we have decided to replace the 24 windows in the upstairs Meditation Hall with higher-quality, UV-rated replacements. The total cost of this project is \$33,000.00, which we are financing in three installments.



We are seeking your generous support to help offset the cost of this essential improvement. Your contribution will not only enhance the comfort and functionality of our space but also contribute to a more sustainable future.

Thank you for your continued support of
MABA!



Interfaith

MABA accepts invitations from schools, educational institutes and other religious organizations to introduce Buddhism and mindfulness practice, as well as to join interfaith dialogues that promote mutual understanding between practices.

[Learn more](#)



Lanterns

For our Dharma friends and supporters who wish to make a dedicated lantern offering. We will engrave a tablet in your name (or any name you wish) and place it at the Guanyin Pavilion.

[Lantern offerings](#)



Funeral Services

Reservation of the niches, ordering the urns, placing the urns, relocating the urns, chanting services, placement of name tablet of ancestors, and visiting dying patients.

[Request a service](#)

MABA Website: <https://maba-usa.org>



Mid-America Buddhist Association | 299 Heger Lane | Augusta, MO 63332 US

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