

MABA

**Mid-America
Buddhist Association**

A Buddhist Monastery in Augusta, MO





Hello, friends!

Fall is here! Throughout September, we hosted many successful events, such as the annual Dizang blessing ceremony with Master JiRu giving a talk before the ceremony concluded, and our **DBS Students and Teachers Meet Retreat**.

October will also feature a few events, including the Bodhisattva retreat on November 1st and 2nd, and the Guanyin blessing ceremony scheduled for October 19th. Learn more about these events below or visit our website for additional information!

Last month, we welcomed a group of around 10-12 members from a small club called Diverse Perspectives Liberate Me, who visited and participated on Sunday morning, the 21st. About 20 youth from the Center for Indian Cultural Education - Bal Vihar of St. Louis visited on the 28th.

We would like to remind you that enrollment is now open for the Master's in Buddhist Studies (MABS) program. Please see the flyer below for more details, and visit the **Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA)** website to learn how to apply and participate.

We send our blessings to all who lost their lives in the disaster
and those who suffered due to the cyclone.

May you find peace and happiness!
May you all have a safe and peaceful Halloween!



Master Jiru's Reflections on the Launch of the MABS Program

If the Buddha's teachings are properly and effectively propagated, the Buddhist community will be inspired to explore the Dhamma more deeply and cultivate righteous conduct through proper practice. To realize this core objective, education must be firmly established. The transmission of Buddhism requires capable people; education must remain a priority for its continuation and development.

About seven years ago, with funding from the Youth Buddhist Education Foundation (YBEF), we began offering a two-year part-time Diploma in Buddhist Studies (DBS) in collaboration with the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, under the name Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA).

Three cohorts have already completed the program, and the fourth is currently in progress. More recently, we have taken a step further by initiating a Master's program. Although student recruitment is indeed challenging, I would like to take this opportunity to share some reflections from my years of involvement in this project. As a transnational Buddhist worker residing in the United States, I broadly categorize Dharma education and educational work into three levels:

1. Outreach education through regular temple activities.
2. In-depth education for intellectuals who love learning.
3. Specialized education for training future successors.

The first two are often more casual in nature, sometimes limited to faith-based learning. It is only upon advancing to the third category that education becomes the foundation for preserving the quality and roots of Buddhism over centuries, forming the grand plan for cultivating highly skilled professionals. RMTA has chosen this path. We aspire to introduce the complete tradition of Asian Buddhism into the English-speaking world. We are determined to strive forward relentlessly, aiming to serve as a solid stepping stone.

The DBS program was initially held at the facilities of MABA before moving online in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the US. On March 29, 2023, our team traveled to Sri Lanka and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Postgraduate Institute of Buddhist and Pali Studies (PGIPBS) to jointly establish a two-year, part-time Master's in Buddhist Studies (MABS) program. This year, our long-held wish has finally been realized: the program is set to launch in March 2026, and recruitment is now underway.

Several notable features of the program deserve mention:

1. Strong faculty – The MABS program has a robust and highly qualified team of instructors. I am grateful to the RMTA working group for their dedication in bringing together such esteemed mentors.
2. Practical focus – The curriculum remains rooted in tradition while addressing contemporary realities, striving to stay relevant to the present age.
3. Commitment to quality – With the Sangha's oversight, we aim to ensure that the quality takes precedence over quantity, both for teachers and students. The ultimate goal of Buddhist education is to fulfill the wholeness and noble sanctity of Dhamma learning. Teacher-student friendships, grounded in moral cultivation and wisdom, should reflect the exemplary model of the Buddhist Sangha's educational spirit. Only heartfelt sincerity can inspire deeper and broader awakening; only a lofty vision can shoulder great responsibilities. Outstanding teachers and students together embody the most profound dimensions of Buddhist education. I sincerely welcome friends with an interest in, ideals of, and self-discipline to join us on this path of bringing the Dharma to the world in English.

For admission requirements, application instructions, program schedule, and other details, please visit our website:



Program website: <https://rmtausa.org/>
Email Inquiries: ybefacademy@gmail.com

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

This MABS program includes both coursework and an extended essay, to be completed within a two-year period.

A. COURSE WORK

1. Buddhist Doctrines of the Pali Nikāyas: Analysis and Interpretation
2. History of Chinese Buddhism
3. Buddhist Doctrine: Modern Philosophical Perspectives
4. Buddhist Ethics: Concepts and Philosophical Interpretations
5. Modern Buddhism
6. Introduction of Buddhist Chaplaincy
7. Research Methodology and Extended Essay

B. EXTENDED ESSAY

- 5,000-word extended essay on a topic related to one of the courses taken.
- Completed by the end of the second year, with the possibility of a one-year extension, if necessary.

OUR FACULTY

1. Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa SAK (PhD in Religions, University of Bristol)
2. Ven. Dr. Soorakkulame Pamaratana (PhD in Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh)
3. Ven. Dr. Longyun (PhD in Religious Studies, University of the West)
4. Dr. Li, Jingjing (PhD in Philosophy of Religion, McGill University)
5. Dr. TENG, Weijen (PhD in Religious Studies, Harvard University)
6. Dr. YING, Lei (PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University)

MABS 72 Research Methodology and Extended Essay

- Instructors: Ven. Dr. Dhammadipa, Dr. Teng, Weijen

WHY US?

The partnership between RMTA and PGIPBS offers a unique learning experience—uniting the academic excellence of an internationally renowned Buddhist Institute with the wisdom and guidance of seasoned Buddhist scholars and practitioners in the West.

TUITION FEE IS SPONSORED BY YBEF

One-time admin fee is payable to PGIPBS

** Donation to YBEF to support our efforts is strongly encouraged.

100% ONLINE

Earn your degree from the comfort of home

EXPERT INSTRUCTIONS

Learn from experienced monastic and lay Buddhist scholars

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF PALI AND BUDDHIST STUDIES (PGIPBS)

The PGIPBS at the University of Kelaniya is an internationally recognized center for the advanced study of Buddhism; exploring its profound philosophical roots as well as its relevance in today's world.

PGIPBS website: <https://pgipbs.kln.ac.lk/>

RIGHT MINDFULNESS TRAINING ACADEMY (RMTA)

Founded in 2018, the RMTA brings monastics and lay practitioners together in a cross-cultural exchange of authentic Buddhist teachings—honoring tradition while addressing today's world. RMTA is affiliated with YBEF and MABA in Augusta, Missouri.

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

YOUTH BUDDHIST EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (YBEF)

An affiliate non-profit organization of Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA), dedicated to supporting Buddhist educational programs. Tax ID Number 43-1786009.

By donating to YBEF, you support our mission and help us expand our efforts.



Scan to support YBEF

Online MASTER IN BUDDHIST STUDIES 2-YEAR PART-TIME

2026-2027
ACADEMIC YEAR

Admissions Now Open!
Program Starts on **March 13, 2026**

Degree Conducted by
Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA), USA

Degree Conferred by
Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies (PGIPBS)
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Degree Conducted by



Right Mindfulness Training Academy (RMTA)
U.S.A

Degree Conferred by



Postgraduate Institute of Pali and Buddhist Studies
University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Online

MASTER'S IN BUDDHIST STUDIES TWO YEAR Part Time

**Exclusively Offered by a
Leading Buddhist University!**



**FACULTY OF DISTINGUISHED
MONASTIC & LAY BUDDHIST
SCHOLARS**



100% ONLINE



**TUITION FEE IS SPONSORED
BY YBEF**

2026-2027

ACADEMIC YEAR

Starts March 13, 2026

**APPLICATIONS ARE
OPEN NOW**

For program details, please scan
below or contact us by email:



Program website: <https://rmtausa.org/>



Email inquiries: ybefacademy@gmail.com



Our Online Buddhist Studies Program

Deepen Your Buddhist Knowledge with Our Online Buddhist Studies Program

The Diploma in Buddhist Studies (DBS) Program offers a wonderful opportunity, whether you're new to Buddhism or looking to deepen your understanding, to explore the Buddhist teachings and apply them in daily life.

Now Accepting Applications for 2025–2027!

Interested? Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the [DBS program](#) and other flexible study options. Whether you thrive in a structured curriculum or prefer to learn at your own pace, we have a path that suits you.

New Courses Launching in 2026!

We are delighted to introduce two new language courses designed to deepen your study of Buddhist texts. Seize this unique opportunity to connect with the roots of Buddhist wisdom through original language study!

1. Reading Pāli Through the Tipiṭaka

Instructor: Bhante D. Kusalagnana

Dates: January 2 – January 29, 2026 (Mon–Fri; 20 sessions)

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 pm EST

Course fee: \$200

2. Introduction to Sanskrit Through Classical Texts

Instructor: Bhante D. Kusalagnana

Dates: June 1 – June 28, 2026 (Mon–Fri; 20 sessions)

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 pm EST

Course fee: \$200

For full course details, syllabi, and online applications, please visit our [RMTA website](#).

For inquiries, please send an email to [ybefacademy](#).

[Click here to Learn more](#)



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

ONLINE COMPREHENSIVE BUDDHIST STUDIES PROGRAM

1

FREE OF TUITION FEE

2

CONVENIENCE
STUDY AT YOUR OWN PACE

3

FLEXIBILITY
THREE PROGRAM LEVELS, TAILORED TO
YOUR EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING GOALS

PROGRAM OPTIONS

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.

Option
B

CERTIFICATE IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

- Free of charge! No registration fee.
- Complete 16 credits within 2 years. Choose courses from the diverse DBS curriculum to personalize your studies.
- Earn your certificate from ABSA by completing engaging assignments.

Option
C

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHIST STUDIES

Free! Certificates from ABSA

2 Options:

1. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

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:

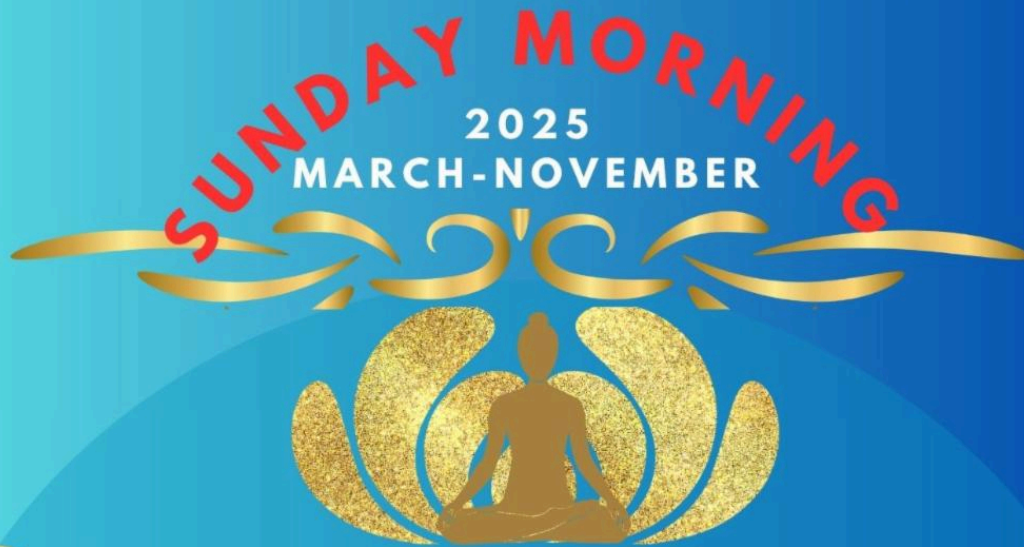
www.maba-usa.org/buddhist-studies-1



Sunday Morning

We hope to see you at MABA! Whether you are seeking spiritual growth or opportunities for community engagement, we invite you to join us on Sunday mornings or to participate in our various service activities. We welcome any

vegetarian contributions for our Sunday lunch. If you would like to bring a dish, please let our office know what you will be bringing.



9:30-10:00 AM: Sitting Meditation

10:00-10:15 AM: Walking Meditation

10:15-10:50 AM: Dharma Talk

10:50-11:10 AM: Chanting

11:20-11:45 AM: Dharma Sharing at Manjushri Hall

11:45 AM: Vegetarian Lunch at Blue Lotus House

Everyone is welcome to stay for lunch, and you may bring a dish to share. Please inform us if you plan to bring a dish. Thank you!

12:30 PM: Dharma Book Reading & Discussion at Manjushri Hall



Please check our website for updates.
<https://maba-usa.org/sunday-morning>

All are welcome to join us for the Dharma Book reading from
12:30 PM~1:30 PM

"What the Buddha Taught" by Venerable Dr. Walpola Rahula
Download the pdf copy [here](#).

If you like to receive an updates on the readings weekly,
please email to the office.



Upcoming Events

Guanyin Blessing Ceremony

美中佛教会于观音亭 举行 观世音菩萨祈福燃灯供佛法会

Mid-America Buddhist Association is celebrating the
Avalokiteśvara (Guanyin) Bodhisattva
Lanterns Offering Blessing Ceremony
at the Guanyin Pavilion

Sunday, October 19th, 2025

星期日2025年10月19日

9:30 AM ~ 11:30 AM

**The Gatha from Chapter 25 of the *Lotus Sutra*
*Heart Sutra***

Dharma Talk by Master Jì Rú

**诵〈观世音菩萨普门品〉偈颂, 〈心经〉
为燃灯者及大众祈福。
继如法师开示**

MABA welcomes you and your family, relatives, and friends to
participate in this Dharma Assembly, for blessings to yourself,
family, relatives, and friends!
Vegetarian Lunch will be served.

欢迎您和家人亲友们共同来参与为您及家人亲友祈福!
本会准备午斋与大家共享。



繼如法師粵語開示 「佛說善生經」

第一講：

10月17日 美国东部- 星期五晚上8:00-9:30
10月17日 美国西部- 星期五晚上5:00-6:30
10月17日 美国中部- 星期五晚上7:00-8:30
10月18日 亚洲 (香港)- 星期六早上9:00-10:30

第二講：

10月18日 美国东部- 星期六晚上8:00-9:30
10月18日 美国西部- 星期六晚上5:00-6:30
10月18日 美国中部- 星期六晚上7:00-8:30
10月19日 亚洲 (香港)- 星期日早上9:00-10:30

開課前,我們會發YouTube的
直播連線給大家,講經連線
將以Zoom直播。請聯絡
office@maba-usa.org取得
Zoom的連線,或加入
WhatsApp或微信的“繼如
法師講經群組”里。



MABA Website

美中佛教會

MABA

299 Heger Ln, Augusta, MO 63332

Tel: 636-4824037 Email: office@maba-usa.org



MABA YouTube

Bodhisattva Retreat



BODHISATTVA RETREAT @ MABA

Topic: Balancing Head and Heart on the Bodhisattva Path



November 1-2, 2025 (Saturday and Sunday)



MABA, 299 Heger Lane, Augusta MO 63332

Who is welcome to participate?

- Anyone wishing to receive the Bodhisattva precepts
- Anyone hoping to renew and deepen their Bodhisattva precepts
- Anyone interested in learning about the Bodhisattva teachings and practices



For inquiries, please email: office@maba-usa.org

REGISTER NOW



SCAN ME



Dizang Blessing Ceremony on September 14th.
Master Jì Rú led the Sunday Morning group to the Dizang Hall to participate in the memorial service that day, and gave a short talk to all before the ceremony ended.



Landscape Work by the Lotus Pond

Over the years, the small pond that usually caught water running down from the hillside before it flowed to the big pond on the other side of the bridge was filled with mud and sand washed down from the hillside in the woods, causing water to flood over the walking path. An excavator company came to do the work, now the path will be nice and dry to walk around the Lotus Pond.





We want you to be part of our team! If you'd like to make a difference, please reach out to us about some exciting upcoming opportunities to volunteer. We're gearing up for gardening, grounds cleanup and we need enthusiastic volunteers like you! There are many ways to get involved, from setting up tents and parking signs to assisting in the kitchen. Join us for a rewarding experience where you'll meet new people and impact our community!

Volunteer Work Opportunities at MABA

You are welcome to volunteer any day and at any time from Monday to Saturday during the following hours:

- 9:30 AM to 11:20 AM
- 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Master Jì Rú will offer half an hour of meditation instruction & Dharma sharing whenever he is available at MABA.

Volunteer tasks include:

- Garden and ground maintenance
 - Mowing
 - Weed trimming
 - Cleaning the porch of the Chan Hall
 - Reorganizing the garden/weeding around the Standing Buddha
 - Kitchen assistance
- and other works as needed.

[Sign Up Here to Volunteer!](#)



Buddha's Teaching of the Month

The Buddha addressed the community thus: “It is through not fully understanding and penetrating the Four Noble Truths that I, as well as you, have experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death for a very long time. Because of not fully understanding the Noble Truth of Suffering we have experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death; by not fully understanding the Noble Truth of the Origin of Suffering; the Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering; and the Noble Truth of the Path Leading to the Cessation of Suffering; that we have for a long time experienced the cycle of rebirth-and-death. --- DN 16

(See more reading of The Word of the Buddha here: https://bswa.org/bswp/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/TheWordOfTheBuddha_eCat.pdf)

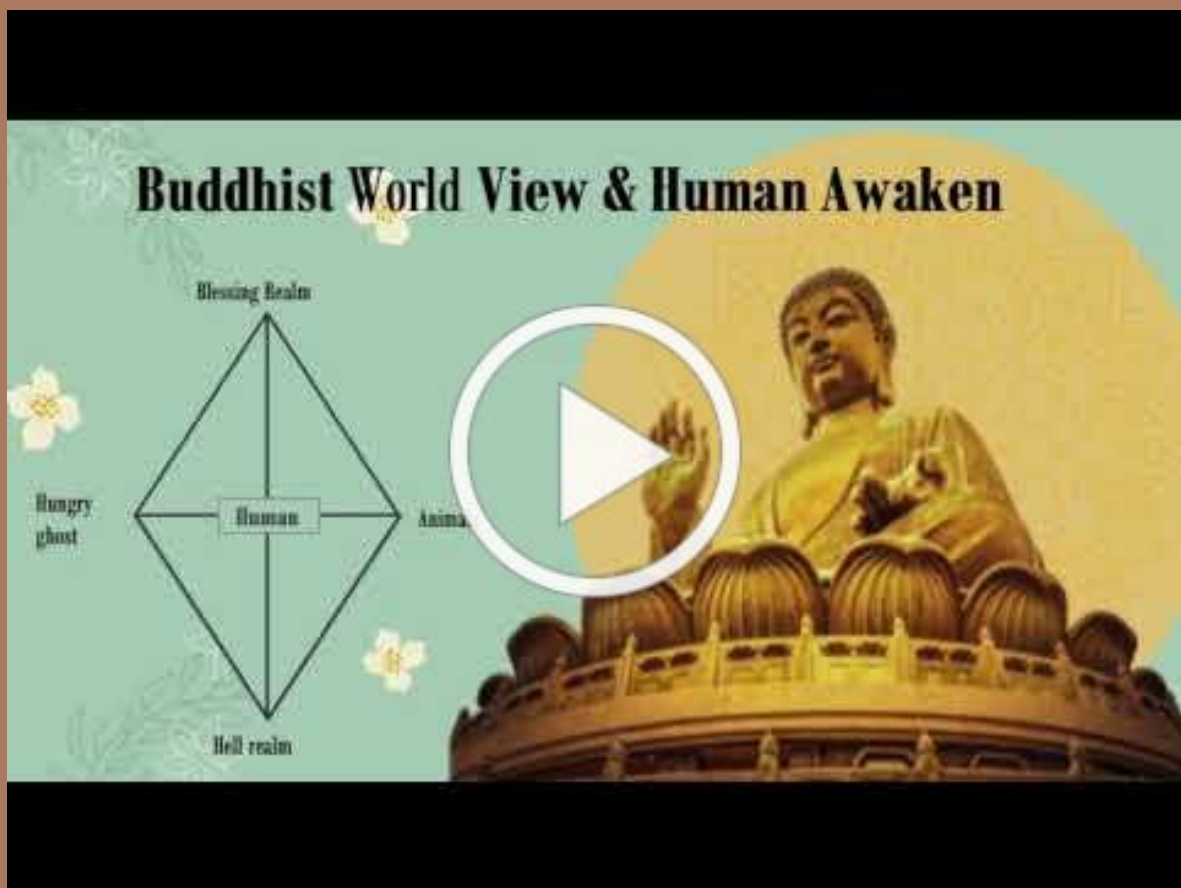
Readings:

Right View Quarterly

Daily Sutta Reading

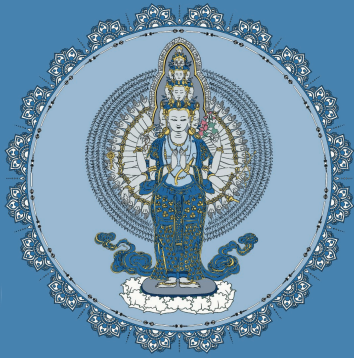
Suttas (Buddha's Teachings)





The Ten Stages of Trust

Volume 1 The Fifty-two Stages of the Bodhisattva



XIANKUAN

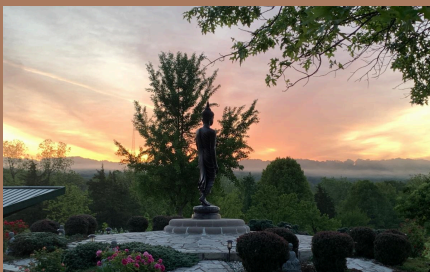
The Ten Stages of Trust has just been published! This is Xiankuan Don's third book on Buddhism. The Ten Stages of Trust is for Bodhisattvas and those interested in the Bodhisattva Path. This is the first commentary in English on the beginning of the Bodhisattva's 52 Stages.

To acquire books:

All proceeds go to MABA. If you are local to St. Louis, you can arrange to stop by Xiankuan Don's office on a Friday or Saturday afternoon and get a copy. Please contact Don's office to reserve a time. If you are not local to St. Louis, you can acquire this book through our website: (<https://maba-usa.org/dharma-books>) or through the author. All \$40 goes to MABA (\$34 for book, \$6 for shipping). Amazon has the book also, but MABA only gets 10%.

Further Description:

The Ten Stages of Trust should interest Chan, Zen, Huayan, and Tibetan Buddhist practitioners. This text can be especially useful for those who have taken the Bodhisattva Vows or are considering this step. The 350 pages include translations of selected passages from the original sutras, commentaries on the essential meanings, as well as commentaries on verses from the Map of the Ten Buffalo (Zen Ox Pictures), Sengcan's Trust in Mind Inscription, and Farong's Mind Inscription. At the end of each chapter, there is a suggested meditation for each stage.



Donate at our Website

Myanmar Earthquake

We are deeply saddened by the immense damage and suffering occurring in Myanmar due to the earthquake. The destruction is profound, and help is needed right now. Jìrú Shífù hopes we can all put our compassion into action by aiding our friends in Myanmar. **Please give as generously as you can to emergency aid services such as the Red Cross or Doctors Without Borders.**



MABA is collecting funds for future use in Myanmar to help them rebuild their temples and monasteries. Thousands of their cultural and religious sites have been destroyed. Temples and monasteries will be rebuilt once the emergency has ended. Please aid in rebuilding the places to study and practice the Dharma in Myanmar at the link to the left. Select "Relief Fund" under Paypal donations.





DONATE HERE

Dana

Dana signifies the virtue of giving. The monastic community relies heavily on the support of the lay community. Currently, MABA depends almost entirely on the support of the traditional Asian community. It is very important for us to assist the Western community in developing the six paramitas (perfections), the first of which is the virtue of giving. The significance of practicing Dana lies in its ability to help overcome lower fetters, such as greed and ignorance, as well as in its role in accumulating merits that support meditation practice. Without making preliminary efforts to establish virtuous actions, meditation can often become fruitless. We



encourage everyone to seize any opportunity to develop this virtue.

At MABA, we have greatly integrated the use of the internet into our routines. This technology allows us to host online teachings and create presentations for our Sunday services. However, our internet provider is discontinuing their unlimited business plans, and transitioning to a usage-based plan will increase our rate from \$599.95 per month to \$799.95 per month.

Internet Upgrade Expenses Donation Link



We are reaching out to our community for help in bridging this gap! If you can, please support our cause. Every contribution counts! To donate, click the button to the left. Under "General Donation," select "Donate." This will redirect you to the donation page; once there, use the dropdown menu to select "Internet Upgrade Expenses."

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Interfaith

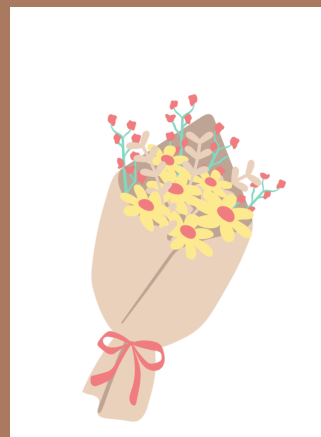
MABA accepts invitations from schools, educational institutes and other religious organizations to introduce Buddhism and mindfulness practice, as well as to join interfaith dialogues that promote mutual understanding between practices.



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.

[Learn more](#)

[Request a service](#)

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



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

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