

Sanghata

Supporters of the Pacific Hermitage

December 2014

2014 Pah Bah Brings Many Blessings

We are deeply grateful that two very revered Abbots were able to join us at this year's Pah Bah. Luang Por Pasanno, Abhayagiri Monastery (California) and Ajahn Amaro, Amaravati Monastery (England), offered a meditation retreat and teachings on Saturday, and then lead the Pah Bah celebration on Sunday. This was the largest Pah Bah since we began the annual ceremony in White Salmon-150 people attended. Thank you to all the supporters for their generous donations, including the volunteers whose efforts make the Pah Bah possible.



A Special Thank you to Sponsors Krissy and Bob Martin



"We are grateful to have had the great opportunity to support the Pacific Hermitage by sponsoring this year's Pah Bah. It was quite meaningful for Bob and me as Buddhist practitioners to be able to do this. I particularly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to honor my father during the event and to introduce some Buddhist Thai culture to the lay community." Krissy Martin

In the photo on the left, Krissy Martin announces the donations received at the Pah Bah, while Bob takes a photograph.



Update on an Important Purchase

On April 5th 2014 we purchased an important property immediately adjoining the Hermitage. This property is crucial for protecting the quiet and seclusion of this beautiful place dedicated to meditation and practice. The Pah Bah donations provided \$24,723 towards payoff of the debt associated with this purchase. The remaining debt is \$97,400 and is to be paid off by April 2019. The Hermitage house and senior kuti are easily seen from this new property, as shown in this photo from the ridge above.



The Pacific Hermitage is flourishing in the Northwest

To flourish means to grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way, especially as the result of a particularly favorable environment. This describes perfectly what has taken place since the Hermitage was established in 2010.

The Hermitage is a place of solitude for Forest monastics that devote their lives to meditation and simple living. In this tradition, although monks may be renunciant, they are not allowed to be reclusive. They must live in daily interaction with and dependent upon lay supporters. As such, the monks of the Pacific Hermitage walk daily through the town of White Salmon to accept donations of food for their one meal of the day. The Hermitage is the only monastery in America where the monks rely solely on the alms for their food.



While lay people provide the material support for their renunciant life, the monks are available to the community as a spiritual resource. They teach and lead Buddhist meditation locally and in the region. It is our good fortune that many of the senior monks and nuns in the Forest Tradition have visited the area since the establishment of The Hermitage.

Besides food the monks have few material requirements other than just basic clothing, shelter and medicine. Any donations help sustain the monks and the Hermitage. A foundation of regular monthly donations is especially helpful for meeting monthly expenses. If you would like to set up regular donations, please see "Bill Pay" services at Sanghata.net. 100% of your contribution goes toward providing for the monks and the Hermitage. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.



A pleasure to be in service

Welcome Krissy Martin! We are pleased to welcome Krissy Martin as our newest board member. Krissy and her husband Bob have been in service to the Pacific Hermitage for many years and were our Pah Bah sponsors this year. Coming from Thailand, Krissy brings insight into how we can skillfully blend traditional Buddhist culture with western life.

We now have six board members all of whom greatly appreciate the opportunity to be in service to the Pacific Hermitage and the supporting community. Please contact us with your questions.

Scott Bengé, President	503-781-3588	scott@benge.com
Kathy Kacena, Vice President	509-637-4293	kacena@gorge.net
Dave Forslund, Treasurer	661-972-0225	dave3monks@gmail.com
Carole Melkonian, Asst. Treasurer	503-750-4638	carolemel@gmail.com
Mimi Maduro, Secretary	503-680-6845	mimi@gorge.net
Krissy Martin	503-929-3297	rl_kmartin@yahoo.com

Ajahn Sudanto to return in April

We're looking forward to Ajahn Sudanto's return this coming April. Currently he is in solitary retreat at Birken Monastery in British Columbia. Thank you to the Abhayagiri monastics that have supported our community during Ajahn Sudanto's absence.