

# Sanghata

2015 Annual Letter

## Pacific Hermitage: Original Intention Unfolding

The Pacific Hermitage has been evolving over the past five years, steadily becoming more of what it's intended to be – *a place of quiet practice for the monks and a source of teachings and inspiration for the lay community.*

Over time and with a consistent monastic presence, more and more people are discovering, benefiting from and supporting this small, ten-acre monastery just outside White Salmon, Washington. The relatively simple needs of the monks are met completely by lay offerings.

There is still work to do, funding needed, and goals to accomplish, but we have a firm foundation in place for the lay community to support the Hermitage and for the monks to support the lay community.



### More Opportunities to Practice

As the Hermitage has settled in and interest has grown, opportunities have increased for the monks to offer teachings and connect with lay communities in the Gorge, Portland area and around the region. Regular events include:

- Weekly Meditation/Talk (White Salmon)
- Monthly Tea, Chats, Meditation and Meal Offering (Portland)
- 1/2-Day Meditation Retreats (White Salmon)
- Garden Parties, Tea and Monk Chat (at Hermitage)

See [pacifichermitage.org](http://pacifichermitage.org) for more information.

### Longer Retreats, Deeper Practice



Each spring, the monks take a group to a 10-day meditation retreat at Birken Forest Monastery, Canada. This fall, they took a second group for six days of this deeper practice.

### Maintaining and

### Improving the Hermitage – Practice in Action

**Garden Parties** – At five “Garden Parties” (work parties) this year, our friends planted, weeded, cleared paths and tent sites,



and created an impressive pile of firewood to keep the main house warm in the cold months. Some also helped with the shrine room remodel. Each “party” began with a potluck, moved to a couple of hours of work, then progressed to a tea

party and chat. Pretty rowdy party (not)! Thank you, party-goers!

**Shrine Room Remodeling** – The original shrine room was a scorcher! An angled bank of south-facing windows baked the room in the warm months and also reduced the amount of sitting space. In the cold months, the wood stove took over the “baking duties.”

The basic remodeling is nearly done (walls built/painted, new doors/windows in place, wood stove moved). With a vertical wall and doors now replacing the angled windows, the room will be more comfortable and will seat more people. Special thanks to Jay Carroll, Bruce Anderson, Keith Frederickson, Jean-Marc Lenoir and Bob Miller for their many hours of work on the remodel.

Over time, additional projects will further transform this former home into a small monastery, including further shrine room work, a shade structure and a deck.

## 2015 Pah Bah Combines Generosity and Community

On September 20th, 150 people gathered in White Salmon for the 2015 Pah Bah (traditional alms-giving ceremony).

Many thanks to our sponsors, Pichit Wathanapaisal and Kanchana Umpai, who came all the way from Illinois *and* helped generate support from around the world.



Monetary offerings totaled over \$38,000, with individual donations ranging from \$1 to \$10,000. All offerings directly support the Hermitage.

How wonderful to witness such incredible generosity and this community's shared appreciation of the monks and each other! Thanks to all who helped with the event.

## Donations Cover Daily Expenses, Help Protect Seclusion

Monetary offerings are now covering the Hermitage's regular monthly expenses. Regular giving is greatly appreciated and is so helpful for annual planning.

In addition, your generosity allowed us to purchase adjacent land (in 2014) to help preserve the Hermitage as a quiet place for practice. Currently, \$54,900 remains to be paid on the loan for that land.

Sanghata is a non-profit board that provides for the basic needs of the monks and manages all Hermitage financial matters. All offerings and donations (dana) directly support the Hermitage and monks. Please visit [sanghata.net](http://sanghata.net) for information on finances and how to donate.



## Thank you, Mimi!

Mimi Maduro was involved with the Pacific Hermitage ... even before there was one! In Summer 2007, Ajahn Sudanto and Ajahn Karunadhammo stayed on her land to explore starting a hermitage in the Gorge. Mimi has continued her involvement ever since, serving as a Sanghata board member since the Hermitage was first established.

But, things change and Mimi is embarking on new time-consuming endeavors. She will leave the Sanghata board at the end of 2015.

We are so grateful for Mimi's role in establishing the Hermitage and her five years of service on the board. Her organizational and group skills were invaluable in setting up a solid foundation for the board. Mimi, you have our deep gratitude and very best wishes!

### Sanghata Board [dana@sanghata.net](mailto:dana@sanghata.net)

- Scott Bengé, President
- Kathy Kacena, Vice President
- Mimi Maduro, Secretary
- Dave Forslund, Treasurer
- Krissy Martin, Member
- Carole Melkonian, Member

Visit [sanghata.net](http://sanghata.net) for more information.