

A Profound Interdependence

Since the time of the Buddha over 2,500 years ago, the relationship between the monastic and lay communities has been one of mutual benefit and interdependence.

The training for monastics in the ancient Theravada tradition is to cultivate harmlessness and contentment and to live



a renunciant and celibate life. The nuns do not earn or handle money or grow food. They are entirely dependent on the generosity of the

lay community for the basic requisites of almsfood, shelter, clothing and medicine.

This ancient tradition is as alive as ever today as the Dhamma takes root in the countries of the West.

The life of a monastic community arouses the faith and energy we all need—whether ordained or lay—to walk the Buddha's path. By joining together to support each other's practice, we are all enriched.

As one lay supporter so aptly put it, "It is rare to find a teacher who can offer great wisdom and can touch not only the mind, but also the heart. The nuns possess this ability, and they are devoted to generously offering it to others. They possess a deep knowledge of Buddha-Dhamma and also a deep sense of humanity and the challenges of Western life."

Saranāloka: "refuge in the clear light of awareness"



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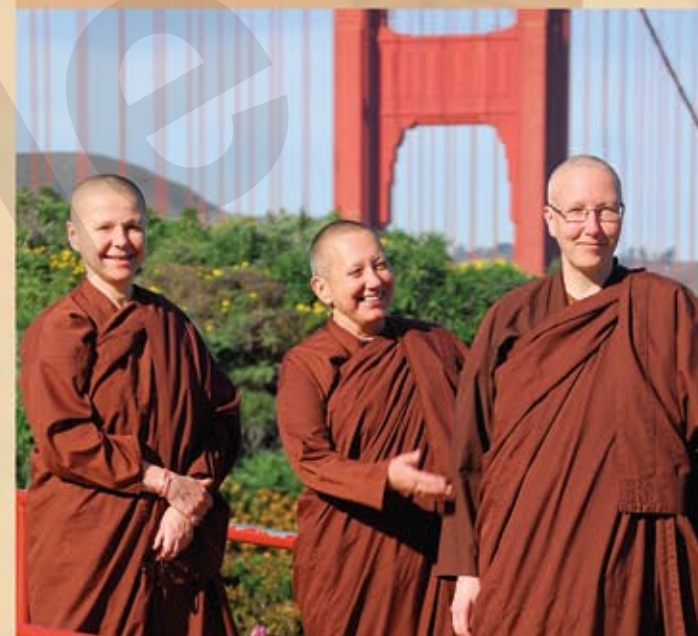
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Creating a Theravada Buddhist Nuns' Community

... an Unfolding Aspiration



Please join us in helping to establish the USA's first training monastery for nuns in the Theravada Forest Tradition of Ajahn Chah and Ajahn Sumedho

Saranāloka FOUNDATION
an organization of lay volunteers

growing a new place for training

Why a New Monastic Community?

Roots: In 1983 in England, the first four Western women were ordained as nuns in the Theravada Forest Tradition of Ajahn Sumedho and his teacher, Ajahn Chah. Today, the Order of Siladhara (ten-precept nuns) is thriving. There are now many women who aspire to walk the Buddha's path of awakening, and so the need for an extension to training facilities for the nuns is becoming clearly apparent.



Ajahn Sumedho

Branches: Now, in the pioneer spirit of those first Western sisters and with the blessings and encouragement of Ajahn Sumedho and of their broader monastic community, a small group of senior nuns have accepted an



invitation from lay supporters to found a new training monastery in California. This place will be the first of its kind for women in the USA in the lineage of Ajahn Chah—a place where women ordained in this lineage can



Ajahns Santacitta, Metta and Anandabodhi

live together in community according to the monastic training established in the United Kingdom.

Heartwood: It is our intention to found a monastery where nuns (*siladhara*) and novices (*anagarikas*) can train and practice in Dhamma-Vinaya, living the renunciant life and providing an opportunity for male and female guests to visit and take part in the daily community life.

Soil: It is also our intention that the monastery be a place that is easily accessible for people to visit, make offerings, and listen to teachings, yet close to nature, quiet, and secluded—providing suitable conditions for meditation and contemplation.

Buds: Lay supporters from around the world are joining together to gather the resources to

acquire and offer the needed land, buildings and furnishings. In the meantime, many women await the opportunity to devote themselves wholly to the path of awakening. Saranaloka Foundation hopes you will join this historic effort to found the first American monastery for nuns in the lineage of Ajahn Chah.



What Is the Saranaloka Foundation?

The Saranaloka Foundation is the financial stewardship organization for the establishment of the new nuns' monastery in the United States.

We are a nonprofit organization that was started in 2005 by a group of lay practitioners for the purpose of bringing nuns to the United States to visit, to teach, and to inspire.

A Founders' Fund has been established to collect donations offered for the purpose of founding a training monastery. For more information on becoming a founding member, please contact Saranaloka Foundation.