



# lonthly gvaide



International Buddhist Meditation Center

February 2010

928 S. New Hampshire L.A. CA. 90006

213.384.0850

恭賀新禧  
Happy New Year

*Year of the Tiger* 

Tet Nguyen Dan more commonly known as ‘Tet’ - meaning Feast of the First Morning - is the Vietnamese festival that celebrates the beginning of the lunar New year. The 2010 Lunar New Year falls on February 14<sup>th</sup> and, as always, IBMC will honor our Monastics and Zen Priest on this day. We will begin with a Dana ceremony [formal lunch offering] where we offer food and other gifts. This ceremony will begin at 10:30 AM, and will be followed by our regular Sunday service at 11:00 AM.

We invite you to participate in the Dana ceremony by bringing food, money, or other gifts to offer the Monastics and Priests. After the Dana Ceremony there will be an offering of blessing chants to welcome prosperity and good fortune for the coming year. At the close of Sunday service we will gather in the garden for a vegetarian lunch, [weather permitting] so please plan to remain and join us for the Year of the Tiger celebration. As an added bonus, it also is the birthday of our Vice-Abbot, Venerable Havanpola Shanti, so please remember to tuck in a little extra surprise just for him!

## The Celebration of Tet

In the Vietnamese tradition, there are four main days of celebration for the Lunar New Year : Tet Eve (Sat, Feb 13), the time when houses are cleaned completely to invite good fortune, and firecrackers are used to remove misfortune. The First day (Sun, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>), is “the welcoming of the gods of the heavens and earth” and the big family feast of long noodles, whole fish and other symbols of long life, "Many people may abstain from meat on the first day of the new year because it is believed that this will ensure a long and happy life. Second day (Mon, Feb 15<sup>th</sup>) The second day, is the day to pray to the ancestors as well as to all the gods, it is believed that the second day is the birthday of all dogs. So we should be extra kind to dogs and feed them well.

(Tue & Wed, Feb 16, 17<sup>th</sup>) The third and fourth days are for the son-in-laws to pay respects to the parent-in-laws.

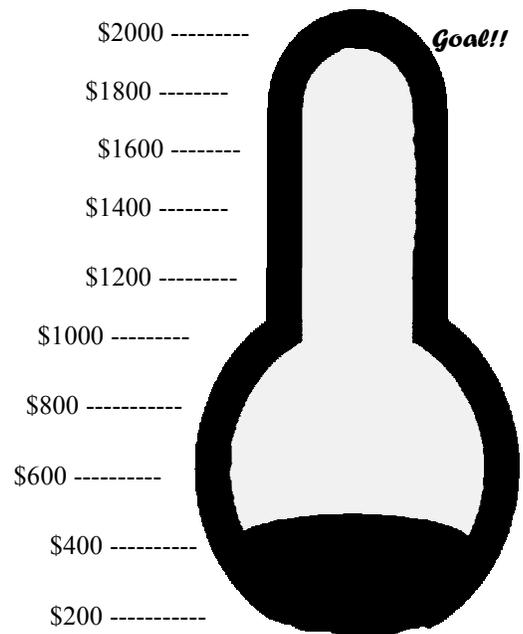
During this time of the year there are also parades, firecrackers, and much merriment.

New Year greetings are pasted on the front doors, and red envelopes containing lucky money [lai-see] are given to the children.

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR from IBMC!

## BODHI TREE FUND RAISER UPDATE

Renovations to the IBMC Bodhi Tree Garden are under way! Our goal is to complete the renovations by the end of July 2010. Please continue to help! Your pledges and donations will help guarantee that our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is a great success!



Funds collection meter

**11<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita Conference on Buddhist Women in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam**

Venerable Karuna Dharma and Venerable Kelsang Chitta Karuna traveled to Vietnam to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita conference on Buddhist Women.



The weeklong Conference took place from December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Venerable Karuna and Venerable Chitta were kindly sponsored by Venerable Sù Cò Dieu Dao from Westminster, California, who traveled with them to and from the conference.



Ven. Dieu Dao and her sister nuns accommodated them in the beautiful setting of Chuâ Long



Thò in the city of Hue, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January when airline flights were postponed due to over booking.



Ven. Chitta Gave a talk and power point presentation entitled “Buddhism in the Digital Age,”



and held a workshop on Buddhism and the Internet, where several Bhikkunis from different traditions learned how to create a Website. The seven nuns attending

the workshop elected a Webmaster from among them and she will continue to build the site through the coming year. Check out its progress at: <http://buddhadaughters.webs.com>.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita Conference was well attended by Buddhist

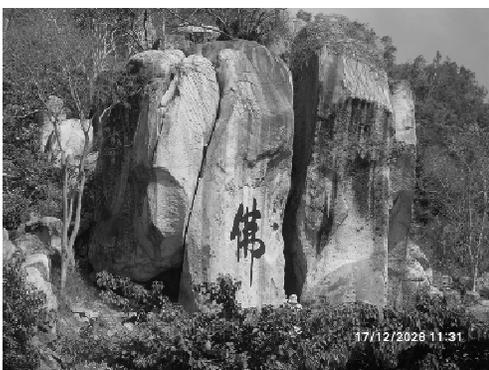


from around the world with an estimated attendance of over 2500.

The 2010 conference included, for the first time, the Buddhist women's Sangha from Jakarta Indonesia.



Participants were also treated to a daily culture show by provinces from many parts of Viet Nam. Both professional and volunteer performers contributed to the generous presentation of Vietnamese culture from the past and present.



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These are some of the beautiful images from the conference.

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## ***IBMC Monthly Guide Update***

Continuous efforts are still being imposed to use fewer trees and less of our postage budget by beginning to transition the Monthly Guide to a Quarterly Zine.

As we always need content for our publication we would like to remind all of our readers and members to submit your writings, photos, art, musings, thoughts, questions, comments, and any other items you might like to have considered for publication in our quarterly newsletter.

We also welcome suggestions for columns or features you might like to see.

If possible, please send all submissions by Email to [ibmc09@yahoo.com](mailto:ibmc09@yahoo.com). Subject line "Monthly Guide."

Photos and artwork must be in JPEG. or GIF. format. All attachments must be in PC Compatible formats such as Microsoft Word or Text Files. If you do not have Email access, please submit all land mail writings ***either typewritten or printed.***

**[Please: no script hand writing, unless it is part of your artwork].**

Photos and art work sent by land mail should not be larger than 8.5 x 11. Photos and art will be returned only if requested. The New IBMC Quarterly Newsletter will begin as soon as we have enough material to create our first issue.

Land mail may be sent to IBMC at 928 S. New Hampshire Los Angeles CA. 90006. Please Mark "Attn: Monthly Guide"



## February Events

**10 AM - 108 Bows**  
**10:30 AM - Meditation**

### 11 AM - Sunday Dharma Talks

2/7 - Ven. Kusala Bhikshu  
2/14 - Ven. Chung Do Sunim  
2/21 - Ven. S'raddha Karuna  
2/28 - Ven. K'shanti Karuna

### Special Events

2/14 - Lunar New Year - Tet Celebration & Garden Lunch

### Meditation Times

**Friday:** 7:30 PM Zendo - led by Ven. Kusala

**Sunday:** 10:30 AM & 7:30 PM Zendo - led by Ven. Kusala

### IBMC Classes

**Mon. 7 PM** Tibetan Buddhism - Palmo Chöling Nunnery - Bhikshuni Chitta Karuna

**Wed. 7:30 PM** Everyday Buddhism - Zendo Ven. Kusala Bhikshu

### IBMC eMail addresses

**Ven. Karuna's eMail:** karunadh@ca.rr.com

**Ven. Shanti's eMail:** hshanti1@yahoo.com

**Rental office eMail:** dougibmc@yahoo.com

**IBMC temple eMail:** ibmc09@yahoo.com

### IBMC Web Pages:

www.ibmc.info  
www.karunadharmas.org  
www.urbandharma.org  
http://palmoling.tripod.com

**Prison Dharma**, a column devoted IBMC's Prison Outreach Ministry.

Greetings to Ven. Karuna's Students:

The Editing team of IBMC Monthly Guide would like to sincerely apologize for any embarrassment or misfortune caused by printing any letters of a personal nature coming to Ven. Karuna from her students.

All of the letters printed in the Monthly Guide are given to our editing team by Ven. Karuna to print with the intention of providing help and inspiration to others.

Please, from now on, write **very clearly** on the top of **all** pages of your letters to Ven. Karuna **"DO NOT PUBLISH"** if you do not wish your correspondence to be published.

As indicated in our January Guide, we soon will begin a quarterly Zine. For this publication, we invite letters, poetry, art and any other items you wish to be published. Only those items intentionally sent to IBMC and clearly marked on the envelope, **Attn: Monthly Guide** will be considered for publication.

Thank you for your kind patience and compassionate understanding.

In the Dharma,  
IBMC Monthly Guide Editors.

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