

Cleveland Buddhist Vihara Quarterly Newspaper

April 2023 | Vol. 1

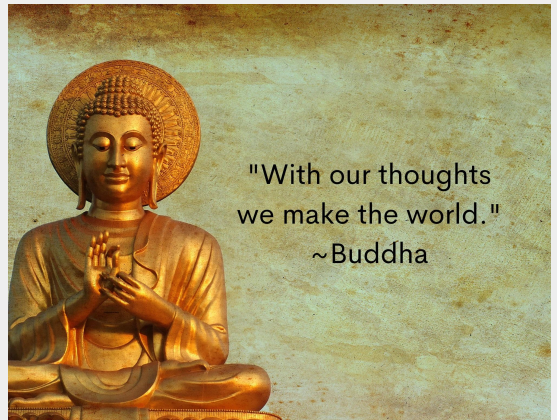
Brought to you
by the
Cleveland
Buddhist
Vihara Youth
Group



Theruwān Sarānāi to all!

Welcome to the Cleveland Buddhist Vihara Quarterly Newspaper, written and edited by the youth in the Cleveland Buddhist Vihara Youth Group. In this newsletter, we have compiled a series of articles talking about the more important aspects of the temple, and we can all participate in the process. These range from special events, upcoming events, reflections of what has happened, and other opportunities for the community to get involved. We hope that everyone is as excited for this new year and new newsletter like we are. Thank you so much, and have a blessed day!

- Suvik Costa, Vice President



"With our thoughts
we make the world."
~Buddha



1

Sripathi Children's Home

Please sponsor a child and donate

As you may know, each year the Sri Lankan community has raised money for the Sripathi Children's Home in Sri Lanka. This home provides many orphaned children with care, and a loving place to stay. I want to thank you all again for your generous donations to this home last year.

Last year, we used a new method for collecting donations, which will be repeated for this year. A Google Sheet with all the names of the children will be sent out. If you would like to sponsor a child, please type your name in the box next to the child/children you would like to sponsor. If you have any difficulties sponsoring with the spread sheet, there is also a sign up sheet that is located on the bulletin board at the Cleveland Buddhist Vihara.

It is just \$20 to sponsor a child, and this money will help them get anything they need to succeed in their upcoming school year. Your kind donations will help the children greatly, and allow them to have a successful school year. So please donate, and I wish you all the best!

Methods to Donate:

Electronic fund transfer using Zelle:
Name of Recipient: Cleveland Buddhist Vihara and Meditation Center
Zelle to: CLEBVIHARA@gmail.com
Checks: Write to- Cleveland Buddhist Vihara and Meditation Center; Please write Sripathi Children Homes in memo
Checks and cash can be given to Imaya Perera, Suvik Costa, or Seyara Wanigarathne
Many thanks from the Youth Group!

- Imaya Perera, President

2

Weekly Programs



Online Meditation Program

Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm

Link: www.youtube.com/pbclive

Bodhi Puja and Dhamma Desana in Sinhala medium

Saturdays from 6:30pm-8:30pm

@ Cleveland Buddhist Vihara (In Person)

Guided Meditation Program conducted in English

Sundays from 4pm-5pm

@ Cleveland Buddhist Vihara (In Person)



Each year, during the time of April 13th-14th, there occurs the travel of the sun from the *Meena Rashiya* to the *Mesha Rashiya* (also known as the House of Pisces to the House of Aries - two astrological signs happening during this time). When the sun travels from these two houses, it marks the time for the end of the year, where most of the Sri Lankans would celebrate that year's harvest, and a time to renew themselves. So, while the Sri Lankan New Year doesn't align directly with that of the Gregorian calendar, it still is based on the cycle of the harvest, seasons, and the sightings of the moon.

This year, the members of the Sri Lankan Cleveland community got together and celebrated yet another grand new year. This year, with new faces and new goals.

It began in the morning, with the preparations for what would happen in the evening. Then, after some blessings said by the four Bhanter, the evening program began without a hitch.

The Youth Group were placed in charge of leading the evening program, and with some help from the adults, were able to successfully accomplish a proper new year celebration. In the beginning, it was centered around the lighting of the oil lamp, which represents prosperity, hope, and positivity. From there, the children and adults performed two very special performances: A traditional new year song "Koho Koho," and the other a small skit.

Continued on Next Page

3 The New Years Celebration





3

New Years Celebration: Games and Events

Afterwards, it was time for the boiling of milk. This event is a cultural tradition, where the milk symbolizes prosperity for all. We do this as a way of showing how our prosperity will overflow in the new year, and bless ourselves for the upcoming days. Then, it was time for the much anticipated games.

These games aren't the standard ones that are shown at most places, but all are related to the original Sri Lankan new year in some way. The goal of the games were not to win, but rather to participate and have fun. First, there was the Sack Race. This is a fairly standard one across most cultures, but in this case, it had been specially modified for the area that was available to the temple. Before all of the events had been announced, the organizers had decided to split the events into multiple slots (each for a different age range), to make the odds fairer for all that were involved.

The next few events were all fun for everyone involved. They ranged from hitting a pinata, to tug-of-war, to a water balloon toss, to even pinning the tail on the elephant (a better adaption of the classic, pin the tail on the donkey). Regardless, everyone there on the field had a great time.

As the celebration came to an end, and people began to leave, it was really a time to reflect on all the great moments that had happened throughout the day. Much thanks to Jeewaka Mamee and Malik Mamee for organizing the events and conducting it in such a professional manner, and to all who helped in some manner.

We look to next year to be as successful as this one, and if fact even better. This year promises great things from the Sri Lankan community, and we intend to deliver. So let us start the new year with a smile on our face and good wishes in our hearts. Have a blessed new year, and we wish everyone all the best!

- Suvik Costa, Vice President



During the Youth Group's last meeting, we interviewed our newest resident bhante,

Rev. Makkanigama Buddhadaththa Thero.

In this interview we can learn a little bit more about Bhante Buddhadhaththa and discover his visions/thoughts for the future of the temple.

- Imaya Perera, President



4

Interview with the Resident Bhante

Question #1 When/How did you become a monk?

Answer- "I became a monk, I became a novice, "samanera," monk in 1993."

"I wanted to become a monk, so I went to the temple and made a request from the chief monk. To become a monk there is a period of time we have to stay in the temple in order to get the training. From January to May I had to stay in the temple. So then I became a monk on 6th of May and it's coming soon"

Question #2 What does a monk do all day

Answer- "

- You know we wake up, clean the place, and do the worship and pooja. We also practice meditation and learn the dhamma"

Continued on next page

(Question #2)

“As a monk there are lots of things we do: attend dones, social work, community activities, funeral service, blessing service, teaching dhamma, even we work as psychologists.”

Question #3 What is your vision for the temple?

Answer- “My vision is to teach the dhamma to bring a very moral society and also to bring great health to society to follow the teachings of the Buddha. Eka thamai mage vision eka (that is my vision). Not only for the people that are interested but even others. So, this will bring a peaceful society. “There are alot of things, I have a big vision, but it depends on how the people are corporate. We have to work together because it's not only by myself. “

“When you are looking after me, I look after you.”

Question: #4 What is the difference between the temples in U.S. and in Sri Lanka?

Answer- “My temple in Sri Lanka gets a lot of visitors from different parts of the world everyday”

“I used to teach in dhamma school, school, help with temple activities, and do many charities.” Bhante also mentions the many societies that he has found within the temple. Bhante explains how the difference between the two temples were very big, but with the invitation from the community and Bhante Pamarathana, he willingly decided to reside in the temple. Thank you,

- Nadira Weerakkody

4 Interview with the Resident Bhante





Drawn by Senuri Abeysirigunawardena

5 Kids Corner

The talented children of our community have created some amazing art pieces to celebrate the New Year! Take a look at what they've created;

- Seyara Wanigarathne,
Secretary



Drawn by Chenuli Rupasinghe



Drawn by Saheli Wickramaratne



"Happy New Year" Drawn by Sithumi Wickramaratne

One-Day Meditation Retreat With Bhikkhuni Sudhamma:

Saturday, 22 April 2023
9am-4pm @ The
Cleveland Buddhist
Vihara

We invite practitioners of all levels to join us in this meditation retreat with the experienced Buddhist nun, **Bhikkhuni Sudhamma**, from Charlotte, North Carolina. She is the Abbess of Charlotte Buddhist Vihara. This retreat will allow you to be familiar with basic meditation techniques to gradually calm our mind and develop a sense of equanimity and loving kindness.

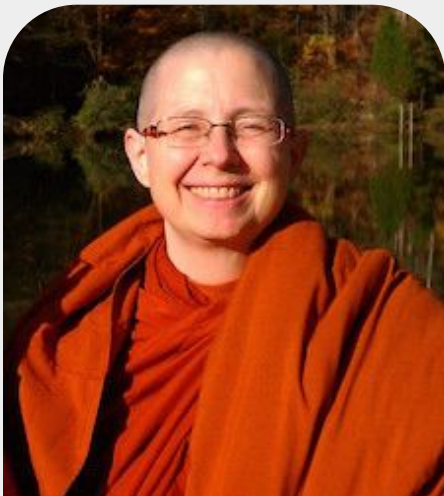
6

Upcoming Events

The schedule of the program is available on the temple website, <https://clevelandbuddhistvihara.org/events/one-day-meditation-retreat-with-bhikkhuni-sudhamma/>

Registration is limited due to space limitations. Please click the link below to register in advance.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f4eafa62fa2fc1-silprogram#/>



2023 Vesak
Program:
Sunday, 14 May 2023
@ The Cleveland
Buddhist Vihara

Vesak commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of the Buddha. This year, the ceremony will be held 14 May 2023. Later in the day, there will be a celebration with devotional songs and lanterns. We hope to see you there!

- Imaya Perera, President



6 Upcoming Events



Thank you!

Theruwā Saronai to all!
This quarterly newsletter, written by members of our new Buddhist Youth Group, is meant to inform our Northeast Ohio Buddhist community of past, present, and future events. Please let us know if you would like to have anything included in our new newsletter, coming in July. Thank you all so much for reading, wish you all the best!
Sincerely,
the Cleveland Buddhist Vihara Youth Group.

Imaya Perera, President
Suvik Costa, Vice President
Seyara Wanigarathne, Secretary
Nadira Weerakkody
Haridu Peiris
Muthu Costa
Cheniru Senadheera
Senuri Abeysirigunawardena
Vishitha Perera
Tarini Wickramasinghe
Manmitha Gunasekera

