

Events at Serenity Insight Meditation Center in 2011

New Year Blessing Ceremony

About thirty of our dhamma friends came together and celebrated the New Year on January 2, 2011 with Meditation, Chanting and Blessings.

Loving-kindness Meditation and Weekends Meditation

Metta or Loving-kindness meditation was held on Valentine's Day, with continued weekend meditations held every other month in 2011.

Burmese New Year Ceremony

Burmese New Year Ceremony was held on April 17, wherein we gave a presentation on the Burmese New Year based on cultural and religious tradition. Bhante U Jotika explained about the Burmese Water Festival and New Year, and Suzanne presented it with a slide show. After the presentation, Burmese families provided traditional food to the guests.

Buddha Celebration

On May 22, 2011, we celebrated Buddha's day celebration with many guests in our Dhamma Hall and had a big party out in the lawn behind the residence building.

Weekend Retreat

On June 3-5, we had a weekend meditation retreat. Guests and beginners retreat participants from Taiwan joined us.

Vassa Robe Offering Ceremony

The Burmese families celebrated a small Vassa Robe Offering Ceremony on July 16, 2011. After the ceremony, they sang Burmese cultural Thingyan karaoke songs.

Alodawpyay Sayadaw's Visit and Retreat

Alodawpyay Sayadaw, a very well-known senior monk from Burma, visited SIMC August 17 and 18. He returned to lead a 5-day meditation retreat from August 29 to September 2. We are very grateful for his visit and felt privileged to listen to his wonderful dhamma talks.

Yogi's Resident Kuti Insulated

From October 9 to 21, our guests Michael and Lorraine from San Francisco did all the insulation work for the new kuti which was donated by Martin and Adorn Pun & family. We are very appreciative of and thank Martin, Adorn, Michael, and Lorraine for their generosity.

Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony

On October 16, we held a Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony in our Dhamma Hall and all the guests had a feast on the lawn in the back of the resident building after the ceremony.

7-Day Retreat in Springfield, Illinois

Upon invitation by the Chanmyay Satipatthana Vipassana Association in Springfield, Illinois, Bhante Ujotika led a 7-day vipassana meditation retreat in the Chanmyay Vihara Meditation Center in Springfield on November 20-27, 2011.

One Month Retreat in SIMC

Bhante Ujotika took his own personal one month retreat in December. Some of our yogis also participated in the retreat.