

HISTORY & ON-GOING

☞ **2004:** Opened meditation & teaching center in **Oak Park, IL** where we held classes for local students, published new writings, and gathered together friends with an interest in the study and practice of Buddha-Dhamma according to the early sources.

☞ **2006:** Moved to 70 acres in SW Wisconsin. In this small valley with woods, fields, & winding stream, we have aspired to build simple facilities for quiet meditation in the spirit of Suan Mokkh.

☞ **2007-2017:** Infrastructure slowly constructed to accommodate retreatants, including utilities, tent cabins, two four season hermitages (one remote, one more accessible), a caretaker's cabin, and a central guest house with library, kitchen, showers, office & one additional guest room.

☞ **Next Phase:** Solar energy, a permanent garage, a meditation hall and one or two additional hermitages are in the plans at this time.

☞ **On-Going:** Cultivating a life of contemplative practice while cooperating with other communities & groups to offer creative responses to the suffering of modern life & explore skillful means for facing the great issues of life & death.

OUR ACTIVITIES

We value service as a foundation for study & practice. Therefore, we offer:

- ☞ support & space for personal practice & retreat (short & long term)
- ☞ Dhamma study classes & instruction
- ☞ individual counseling re: Buddha-Dhamma practice, meditation, spiritual direction & Enneagram.
- ☞ translations from the extensive corpus of Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu
- ☞ guiding of retreats & workshops

SUPPORT & PARTICIPATION

We dedicate our energy to this Dhamma practice & work. Help & support are needed to develop & maintain facilities, & to pay the bills. You can contribute to building & sustaining this Dhamma refuge & its residents in numerous ways – financial support for buildings & ongoing expenses; carpentry & grounds maintenance skills; medical & dental services; web, media & communication skills; the traditional four supports – food, clothing, shelter, & medicine – and, as always, friendship.

Your help will be gratefully received & appreciated. Please let us know how we can support your study & practice.



For more information on developments, classes, & activities, or to help, please contact:

www.liberationpark.org

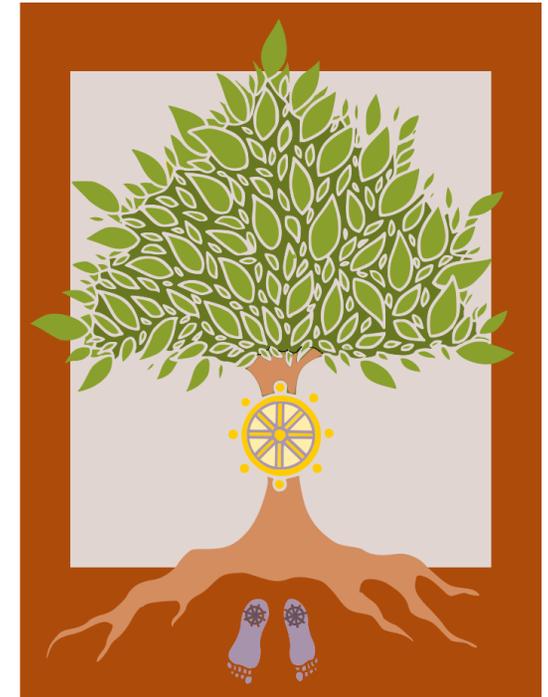
info@liberationpark.org

608-780-0481

Donations may be sent to:

**Liberation Park (Dana)
P.O. Box 205
Norwalk, WI 54648, USA**

IRS Tax Exemption under section 501(c)(3).



Liberation Park at Tara's Vale (near Norwalk, WI)

“Nothing is worth clinging to as ‘me’ or ‘mine.’”

Gotama Buddha

“There is no need to separate Dhamma from everyday life. Just have this mindfulness & ready wisdom of doer-less doing. Doer-less doing is to live naturally & ordinarily in not-having and not-gaining.”

Ajahn Buddhadasa Bhikkhu

CORE PRINCIPLES

☞ We study life using the framework of the **Four Noble Truths** and **Dependent Co-Arising**: what is distress & suffering? what are its causes & conditions? how does it end? what way of life quenches suffering & distress?

☞ **The Noble Eight Fold Path** is the core practice through which we disperse the veils of ignorance & selfishness that cause distress. Compassion, generosity, simplicity, tolerance, & wisdom are cultivated through the practices of mindfulness, stability of mind, and insight - both in systematic meditation (*anāpānasati*) & daily life.

☞ **A diversity of spiritual approaches** based in wisdom & maturity, are appreciated & welcomed as



well, including non-Buddhist contemplative or prayer practices, Enneagram, Jungian inner work, and meditative practices with horses. (Horses

living at Liberation Park. are available as coaches & companions to those who are interested.)

☞ **Suffering is a spiritual issue as well as social & ecological.** We endeavor to lessen suffering in all its dimensions, including personal, relational, gender-based, racial, ecological, & structural.

☞ **Understanding & cooperation among the world's spiritual traditions & humanistic movements** is essential for genuine peace today. We need avenues for healthy religious expression freed of self-centeredness, ideology, patriarchy, & other forms of violence.

OUR PURPOSE

As Buddhism deepens roots in America, new forms of Buddhist life arise to support modern practitioners in living a simple existence dedicated to the practice of virtue, meditation, wisdom, &

compassion. Along with the monastic training centers that have preserved Buddhist education



through the ages & the modern retreat centers scattered throughout the West, innovative practice environments are needed to anchor the spiritual lives of Dhamma students today. Liberation Park explores adaptations of Buddhist life to sustain

the Dhamma teachings, while offering a haven for friends who share our aspirations.

Therefore we are committed to:

☞ Creating a home for teaching meditation & early Buddhism in a down-to-earth & ecumenical way, adapted to the needs of the Midwest.

☞ Providing shelter & training for serious students of Buddha-Dhamma without bias regarding gender, race, class, or sexual preference.

☞ Adapting the lifestyle & spirit of Suan Mokkh to America & making Venerable Buddhādāsa's approach to Buddhism widely available

☞ Working with all people of good will for the moral & spiritual rejuvenation of American society & the eradication of destructive social structures.

FOUNDING TEACHER

Santikaro is a teacher of Dhamma & meditation according to the middle way of the early sources, and in the tradition of his teacher Ajahn Buddhadasa. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand he discovered Buddhist practice. Seeking further training, he lived as a Buddhist monk from 1985 until 2004, primarily at Suan Mokkh, where he studied under & translated for Ajahn Buddhādāsa. After retiring from the monkhood in 2004 he founded Liberation Park with his wife, Jo Marie Thompson. He is also a student and teacher of the

Enneagram & the Dhamma of social justice, & he is interested in the healing of addiction & trauma within a Buddhist framework. Diagnosed with lymphoma in 2010, he learned much through the process of treatment & recovery. He resumed teaching in 2012.

Jo Marie Thompson is a lifelong practitioner of the Dhammas of awakening. With a commitment to discerning women's unique paths to awakening, her practice weaves together Buddha-Dhamma, Jungian inner work, and meditative practices with horses. She is available for spiritual direction, cranial sacral therapy, and companionship in dream work. She also facilitates interactions with the herd at Liberation Park for those desiring to learn about horses as part of a meditative & wisdom practice.

OUR TEACHER & INSPIRATION

Ajahn Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu, was a well-known reformer of Theravada Buddhism, as well as



Thailand's leading voice for inter-religious cooperation. He founded **Suan Mokkh** (The Garden of Liberation) in 1932 & developed it into Thailand's most innovative & influential center for Buddhist teaching. Ajahn Buddhādāsa grounded

his understanding in Buddhism's earliest sources, reinvigorating the central teachings of emptiness and dependent co-arising and emphasizing the release of clinging to 'me & mine.' He taught the same material to villagers & scholars alike, with the conviction that all have the inner potential to awaken from the sleep of ignorance & suffering in this very life. He dedicated his life to the Buddha's path for realizing this potential. For more about Ajahn Buddhādāsa & his teaching please visit www.suanmokkh.org.