

WALK FOR WOLD PEACE

March 30, 2024 - June 29, 2024

Together



The Walk for World Peace 2024 Project
Key West, FL - Niagara Falls, NY

March 31, 2024 - June 29, 2024
"Inner peace is the key to world peace"

Inner Peace is The Key for World Peace

Introduction



Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, understanding, and compassion. It embodies the values of tolerance and respect for all human beings, regardless of their background, beliefs, or nationality. True peace requires a collective commitment to creating conditions where every individual can live without fear and with the opportunity to flourish. In our interconnected world, the ramifications of conflict extend far beyond borders. Wars, violence, and strife disrupt societies, displace families, and destroy futures. They undermine economic stability, impede progress, and erode the very fabric of our global community. Conversely, peace fosters prosperity, enables collaboration, and enriches cultures. It provides a stable environment where innovation can thrive, education can expand, and economic opportunities can grow.

Peace begins with each of us. It starts in our homes, in our communities, and in our interactions with others. By embodying values of kindness, empathy, and respect, we contribute to a culture of peace. It is our responsibility to challenge prejudices, bridge divides, and advocate for justice. Each act of compassion, no matter how small, has the potential to ripple outwards, influencing the broader world.

While individual actions are crucial, the collective effort of communities, organizations, and nations is essential for achieving lasting peace. International cooperation, diplomatic engagement, and humanitarian efforts are all vital components of this endeavor. As we work together, we must address the root causes of conflict—inequality, injustice, and ignorance—and seek solutions that promote understanding and cooperation. Remember that the journey towards peace is a shared responsibility and an ongoing process. It requires courage, dedication, and unwavering resolve. Together, let us strive to build a world where peace prevails, and every person can live with dignity, freedom, and hope.



จรถ ภุขเว จาริกํ พุชุนหิตาย พุชุนสุขาย โลกานุกมฺปายาติ.
 Monks, Go Forth for the Benefit and Welfare of Many,
 and to Foster Compassion for the World

According to this Buddhist saying, the Buddha sent his disciples to proclaim his teachings on his behalf. They were referred to as "messengers of the Dharma," "bearers of the Dharma's message," "envoys of the Dharma," or "communicators of the Dharma." These monks, assigned or appointed to travel and spread the teachings in foreign lands, played a crucial role in the early days of Buddhism. As the Buddha's teachings rapidly gained followers, the number of Arahants quickly reached sixty. About five months after his enlightenment, the Buddha sent these first sixty Arahant disciples to propagate his teachings, marking the initial step in sending disciples to spread the Dharma.

I express my gratitude to the group undertaking this pilgrimage to promote world peace, led by Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo, the project chairman, whose diligent effort and perseverance in propagating the Dharma have introduced the teachings of Buddhism to many and familiarized them with monks from Thailand.

Now that the pilgrimage for spreading peace has successfully achieved its objectives, I extend my congratulations to everyone involved. May you all continue to flourish in the teachings of Buddhism and advance in the Dharma and Vinaya of the Blessed One for all time.

Somdet Phra Buddha Potjanawachiramunee
Member of the Supreme Patriarch Council
The Abbot of Kluywan Warawihan Temple





The campaign for world peace is crucial in today's world to ensure that humanity can live together harmoniously. Despite our diverse backgrounds, everyone desires a peaceful life for themselves, their families, and the global community.

Various organizations and individuals have continuously advocated for peace, but true peace remains elusive. Instead, we see ongoing conflicts and violence. Even in conflict zones, peace negotiations continue.

Preface

A group of monks organized a “Walk for World Peace” to promote global peace. Under the leadership of Phra Sutham Titadhammo, they walked from Key West, Florida, to Niagara Falls, New York, covering 1,803.7 miles.

The Walk for World Peace 2024 project was highly successful, engaging directly with people, understanding their struggles, and teaching Dharma. The monks practiced diligently, using the walk as a method to overcome defilements through perseverance. This campaign exceeded expectations due to the support from local officials, agencies, and the public, who provided accommodation, food, and coordination. The walk aims to inspire global compassion, reduce harm, and promote justice and equality, hoping to restore peace and tranquility worldwide.

Phra Wijitdhammapani

The Abbot of Wat Florida Dhammaram



Preface



Loving-kindness is a profound virtue that benefits both the individual and the broader community. When the mind is imbued with loving-kindness, it naturally generates happiness, affection, and goodwill, leading to a state of inner peace. This inner peace then radiates outward, extending compassion and positive intentions to everyone within the family, the workplace, and the larger society.

As a result, peace is fostered within families, workplaces, and communities. This internal tranquility gradually extends beyond the individual to encompass entire nations.

When each country achieves peace, it contributes to a global environment of harmony and understanding. In this way, the cultivation of inner peace at the individual level is instrumental in achieving world peace.

Our mission is to embark on a journey towards achieving global peace. To realize this goal, we must actively share our vision and principles, practice them in our own lives as a demonstration, and guide others in cultivating inner peace. By embodying and exemplifying these values, we set a standard for how individuals can foster tranquility within themselves and extend that peace to the wider world.

We invite you to join us in this collective effort to build a peaceful world. Together, let us commit to this mission, support each other in our practices, and work towards creating a more harmonious and understanding global community. Through our united actions and dedication, we can make a meaningful impact and achieve lasting peace.

Phra Sutham Titadhammo

The Abbot of Wat USA Buddhayaram, New York

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Background

The World Peace Pilgrimage, a prestigious initiative spearheaded by Wat Florida Dhammaram, unfolded from December 15 to 21, 2021. Conceived by the esteemed Venerable Phra Wijitdhammapani, the temple's abbot, this ambitious project aimed to foster global harmony through an extraordinary journey. Spanning seven days and covering an impressive 166 miles (270 kilometers), the pilgrimage was meticulously crafted to blend physical endurance with profound spiritual exploration. This transformative odyssey invited participants to not only challenge their physical limits but also engage deeply in spiritual reflection, making each step a testament to the quest for universal peace.

Participants engaged in walking meditation, emphasizing self-discipline and mindfulness, which allowed them to examine and understand various mental states encountered during the pilgrimage. The event was intended to facilitate not only physical exertion but also significant inner exploration and self-improvement. By fostering personal tranquility, the pilgrimage aimed to extend this inner peace to wider communities, promoting societal harmony.

The World Peace Pilgrimage conveyed a profound message on the significance of cultivating inner peace and its transformative potential for the wider community. The initiative sought to ignite a deeper commitment to personal and communal tranquility, aiming to foster a more harmonious society. This vision was brought to life through the active participation of the following individuals:

1. Venerable Phra Wijitdhammapani (Project Organizer, Kissimmee, FL)
2. Venerable Phra Sutham Titadhammo (Nateetong, Surathani, Thailand)
3. Venerable Phra Suppachai Phonkraipetch (England)
4. Venerable Thanomsak Dhiradhammo (Michigan)
5. Venerable Sumitta Lankarama (Los Angeles, CA)
6. Venerable Thanom Teepanggaro (Taiwan)
7. Venerable Narongtham Katadhammo (Pijit, Thailand)
8. Venerable Phra Kamron Yaemyuen (Wat Floridadhammaram, FL)
9. Venerable Phramaha Niwat (Wat Punyawanaram, FL)



The successful execution of this pilgrimage was made possible through the generous support of various individuals and organizations. Contributions in the form of accommodation, food, transportation, and medical supplies were essential to the event's success. Noteworthy contributors included Wat Punyawanaram and Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple, whose support was instrumental in facilitating the pilgrimage.

Through this initiative, both the organizers and participants aimed to deepen their understanding of peace, both within themselves and in their interactions with others. The overarching goal was to inspire individuals to embark on their own journeys toward inner and outer harmony, thereby contributing to the establishment of a more peaceful world.



The World Peace Pilgrimage yielded significant collaborative efforts among various stakeholders, who collectively recognized the multifaceted benefits of the project for the broader community. This initiative provided a valuable opportunity to propagate the teachings of the Buddha, aligning with the royal vision for spreading the Dharma that dates to the Buddha's era. The project's impact was further amplified by extensive media coverage both in the United States and Thailand, which played a crucial role in increasing public awareness and support.

The heightened visibility and positive reception of the pilgrimage generated a strong demand for the continuation of peace-focused activities. This demand catalyzed the planning and execution of a second World Peace Pilgrimage, which involved a remarkable journey from the southernmost point of Florida to the northernmost point of New York. This new undertaking aimed to extend the message of love and compassion to an even wider audience, thereby building upon the success of the inaugural event and fostering greater communal and global harmony.

Through these ongoing efforts, the World Peace Pilgrimage has not only demonstrated the power of collective action in promoting peace but has also inspired a broader movement towards sustained peace and understanding among diverse communities.

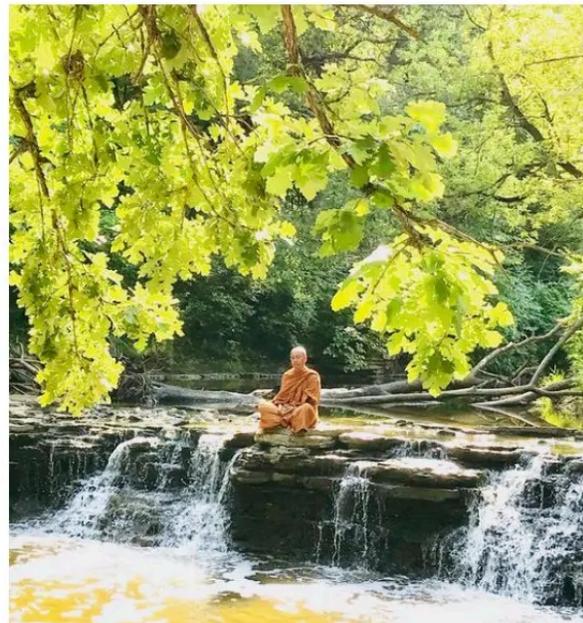


Principle & Rationale



Every religion teaches its followers to seek peace in mutual living. World peace can only occur when the world citizens live by mutual loving, kindness and compassion. Loving, kindness and compassion with thoughts of helping one another in difficult times or solving different ideas through peaceful means, etc. can arise in one's heart with true understanding of suffering. Real peace depends on freedom from aggressive intrusion into others. Walk for World Peace is another mean which pilgrimage monks utilize to achieve their goal.

The Walk for World Peace was initiated to foster peace and harmony for the world population. This Walk for World Peace 2024 Project is like the last project, which was led by Phra Sutham Titadhammo. The primary goal of the walk is to bring attention to world peace. The walk was coordinated with many other religious institutes. The walk was coordinated with many other religious institutes.



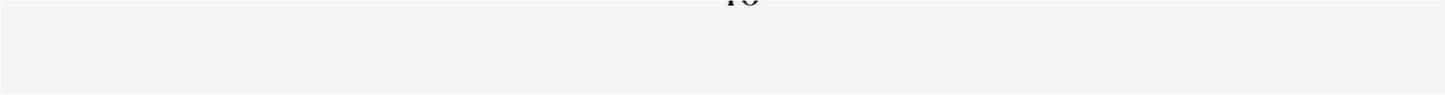
Objectives

1. Dissemination of Buddhist Teachings

The primary goal was to introduce and expand the understanding of Buddhist principles among a diverse audience, emphasizing how these teachings can contribute to personal and societal peace. By making Buddhist philosophy accessible, the initiative aimed to inspire individuals to integrate these principles into their lives and communities.

2. Fostering Internal Peace as a Foundation for Global Harmony

To establish global peace, it is imperative to start with the cultivation of inner peace within individuals. By nurturing qualities like love, compassion, and generosity internally, individuals create a positive energy that extends outward. This energy can influence and inspire those around us, gradually expanding to affect larger communities and nations. When inner tranquility is achieved, it paves the way for broader societal and global peace, underscoring the importance of personal inner peace as the bedrock of universal harmony.

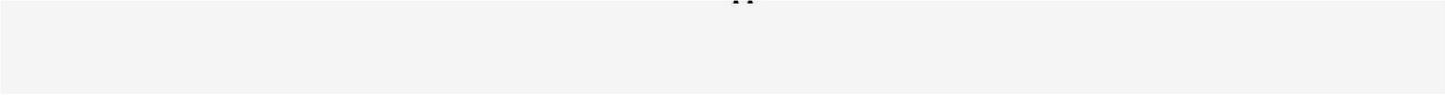


Objectives

3. Personal Perseverance Practice

The goal was to inspire individuals to develop resilience and perseverance, recognizing these qualities as essential for personal growth and achieving long-term peace and success.

The overarching aim is to set an exemplary standard for others, illustrating that peace begins with individual effort and can be expanded outward. By demonstrating this principle, the project aspires to inspire individuals to cultivate peace within themselves, thereby contributing to a more harmonious community and ultimately advancing global peace.



Duration

The project is scheduled to span approximately three months, beginning on March 30 and concluding on June 29, 2024. This extended timeframe encompasses a series of activities and milestones that will unfold over these three months, providing ample opportunity for thorough engagement and achievement of project objectives.

Distance

The pilgrimage covers an extensive distance of approximately 1,800 miles (about 3,000 kilometers). The journey commences at the southernmost point of Florida and proceeds through a diverse range of locations, including Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Pennsylvania. The pilgrimage culminates at the iconic Niagara Falls in New York. This expansive route not only showcases a significant geographical cross-section but also provides participants with the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of communities and environments along the way

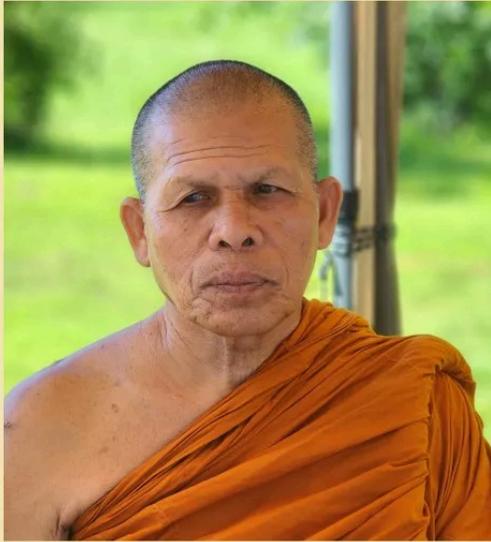


Participants





**Phra Wijitdhammapani
(Sunan Tanananto)
46 Years of Ordination**



Sunan Kruekaew was born on August 3, 1957, in the vibrant Songkhla Province of Thailand. As the third of seven siblings in the Kruekaew family, he grew up under the guidance of his father, Mr. Phum Kruekaew, and his mother, Mrs. Om Kruekaew. Sunan's educational journey led him to Sittathamwittaya School in Pomprap, Bangkok, where he completed his secondary education. This pivotal period in Bangkok's vibrant setting provided him with not only academic knowledge but also a rich cultural and social experience, shaping his future aspirations and broadening his horizons.

In July 1973, Sunan embarked on his monastic journey, ordaining as a novice under the guidance of Phra Khru Suwatthanaprasat, the abbot of Wat Kaset Chonlathi, Ranod District in Songkhla Province.

He adopted the monastic title of “Tanananto”, which means "one who is steadfast" or "one who is firm." In the context of Buddhist terminology, it describes a person who is unwavering or resolute in their commitment to the principles of Dhamma. This term emphasizes the individual's stability and steadfastness in their practice and adherence to the teachings of the Buddha. During his novice years, Phra Sunan resided at Wat Kaset Chonlathi, a temple affiliated with the Theravada Sect, located in Moo 1, Tumbol Takreua, Amphoe Ranod, Songkhla Province. After four years, he moved to Wat Sommanat Rajaworawihan, where he was fully ordained as a monk in July 1978. He spent 15 years at Wat Sommanat, deeply involved in monastic life and spiritual practice.

In 1993, Phra Sunan embarked on a significant journey as a missionary monk at Wat Florida Dhammaram in the United States. His dedication and leadership quickly became evident, and the following year, he was appointed as the abbot of the temple—a role he has proudly held since 1994. His advancement to a higher position and greater responsibilities led to him being granted the name Phra Wijitdhammapani. This name means "one who speaks or presents the principles of Dhamma with clarity and elegance," honors his remarkable skill in articulating and communicating Buddhist teachings with both precision and charm. Under his guidance, Wat Florida Dhammaram flourished, becoming a beacon of spiritual and communal growth.

Phra Wijitdhammapani's tenure has been marked by his profound contributions to the local Buddhist community, as well as his efforts to enhance spiritual understanding and development. His leadership continues to inspire and uplift those around him, solidifying his legacy as a distinguished and revered figure in the Buddhist community. He has also achieved academic excellence in his monastic studies, completing the advanced Dhamma courses. His extensive experience and dedication to the Buddhist monastic tradition reflect his commitment to both personal spiritual growth and the service of others.

Professional Experience in Buddhist Work

-Religious Education - For a span of 15 years, Phra Wijitdhammapani taught Buddhist studies to general students and at the Wat Sommanat Rajaworawihan school. His role also encompassed instructing Sunday Buddhist classes, contributing significantly to the religious education of both local and visiting students.

-Educational Initiatives at Wat Florida Dhammaram - At Wat Florida Dhammaram, Phra Wijitdhammapani established and continues to oversee summer and Sunday Buddhist educational programs. These programs are designed to prepare students for the Dhamma examinations at various levels. His instruction serves both Thai and international participants, reflecting his commitment to fostering understanding of Buddhist principles among a diverse audience.

-Meditation Training - Phra Wijitdhammapani has been actively involved in meditation training, offering weekly sessions every Saturday for the public, he organizes intensive meditation retreats twice annually, each spanning five days. These retreats have been a cornerstone of his work for over 30 years, demonstrating his dedication to providing deep, transformative meditation experiences to participants.

-Lecturing and Community Engagement - He has delivered numerous special lectures on religious and community-related topics at various educational institutions, including schools, colleges, universities, and local hospitals for expanding the Buddha teaching and apply in the daily life.

-Fundraising and Advocacy - Phra Wijitdhammapani has participated in fundraising campaigns to support children with special needs, collaborating with Florida state officials. His involvement in these campaigns highlights his commitment to social welfare and the broader community.

Due to his generosity towards neighboring communities, Wat Florida Dhammaram was honored as a model temple and a significant landmark in the Orlando, Florida area. Phra Wijitdhammapani was recognized for his pivotal role in enhancing the community's quality of life. In 2022, he became the first monk of the Theravada Sect to receive a certificate of recognition as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Asian American Pacific Islanders from the House of Representatives. His achievement was officially recorded in the Congressional Record, with the award presented by Honorable Darren Soto, Member of Congress, on Tuesday, May 19, 2022.



Pilgrimage History

Phra Wijitdhammapani has an extensive and distinguished history of pilgrimage as a means of spiritual development and practice. His ascetic journeys have spanned both Thailand and the United States, each contributing significantly to his spiritual and communal efforts.

-In Thailand, Phra Wijitdhammapani engaged in pilgrimage at several notable locations. These include Ranod District in Songkhla Province and various meditation centers in Maha Sarakham Province. These practices were aimed at deepening his spiritual insights and discipline, reflecting his commitment to personal and communal growth.

-In the United States, Phra Wijitdhammapani initiated the Walk for World Peace Project of Mind Development, a remarkable endeavor that involved walking from the easternmost to the westernmost coast of Florida. This journey spanned from Melbourne Beach to Clearwater Beach and took seven days to complete. This project was conceived to promote global peace and personal reflection through intensive walking meditation.

Moreover, he passionately supported Phra Sutham's global peace march by actively participating in the journey through France, which reached its culmination in the picturesque port city of Brest on the Atlantic Ocean.

This extraordinary pilgrimage not only underscores his unwavering commitment to advancing global peace but also illuminates his profound dedication to deepening spiritual awareness across a rich tapestry of cultures and landscapes. By embarking on this monumental voyage, he demonstrated an unparalleled resolve to bridge diverse cultures and promote a shared sense of harmony, making a significant impact on the quest for collective enlightenment and global unity.

Another noteworthy achievement that Phra Wijitdhammapani contributed to is the 'Walk for World Peace 2024 Project', a monumental undertaking that began in Key West, Florida, and extended all the way to Niagara Falls, New York. As the primary event organizer, He was instrumental in orchestrating this extensive pilgrimage across the United States, overseeing every aspect of the journey from its inception to its completion.

His role involved not only the meticulous planning and coordination of the walk but also the crucial task of inviting and mobilizing monks and spiritual practitioners from various backgrounds to participate in this significant endeavor. His leadership and vision were central to the project's success, reflecting his unwavering commitment to fostering global unity and advancing spiritual development.

Throughout the project, he demonstrated exceptional dedication by ensuring that the pilgrimage was carried out smoothly and effectively.





Moreover, Phra Wijitdhammapani is a distinguished co-founder of the Walk for World Peace Foundation, where he holds the position of Chairman of the Executive Board. In this vital role, he is responsible for managing the intricate process of documenting and registering the organization's various activities and initiatives. His leadership extends beyond administrative duties, as he actively works to recruit and inspire individuals who are passionate about joining the foundation's mission. Through his efforts, he ensures that the foundation's objectives are met and that a diverse group of participants is brought together to support and advance the cause of global peace.

During his global peace walk experience, Phra Wijitdhammapani encouraged the development of greater mental fortitude and emotional strength. His methods are designed to foster deep personal growth and transformation, helping individuals emerge with a heightened sense of purpose and a more profound understanding of their spiritual journey.

These practices not only tackle individual defilements but also aim to cultivate a deeper sense of collective peace. Through the initiatives of the foundation, Phra Wijitdhammapani has consistently demonstrated his leadership and inspiration, guiding individuals towards a profound self-awareness and a clearer understanding of their roles within the broader context of the world. His efforts extend beyond personal growth, actively contributing to the creation of a more peaceful and harmonious global community.

By fostering both individual and collective transformation, Phra Wijitdhammapani's work plays a crucial role in advancing a more cohesive and serene world society.





**Phra Sutham Titadhammo
(Sutham Nateetong)
10 Years of Ordination**



Sutham Nateetong was born on May 11, 1960, in the scenic Chumphon Province of Thailand, the son of Siamtai and Jud. His educational journey began with a robust academic foundation at Thammasat University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in law. This rigorous training was complemented by advanced studies at Chulalongkorn University, where he obtained a master's degree in public administration. His pursuit of knowledge at these esteemed institutions equipped him with a deep understanding of both legal and administrative principles, setting the stage for a distinguished career marked by a commitment to both intellectual and practical excellence.

Professional Experience

Sutham has had a distinguished career across multiple sectors in Thailand. His professional journey began as a lawyer and legal advisor, where he provided expert counsel and representation in various legal matters. He has served as a member of the Bangkok Metropolitan Council, contributing to the governance and administrative oversight of the city.

In addition to his role in municipal government, Sutham has acted as an advisor to the Governor of Bangkok, offering strategic guidance on urban development and policy implementation. His expertise in transportation and public infrastructure led him to become an advisor to the Minister of Transport, where he played a key role in shaping transportation policies and projects.

He also worked as a research scholar for the opposition leader in the House of Representatives, providing critical analysis and support on legislative matters. His role as Secretary to the Minister of Education involved coordinating educational policies and initiatives, enhancing the effectiveness of the ministry's programs. In the realm of labor and social welfare, he served as the spokesperson for the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, where he was responsible for communicating the ministry's policies and updates to the public and media. Through these diverse roles, Sutham has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service, legal expertise, and policy development.

Ordination

In October 2014, Sutham embarked on a transformative spiritual journey by ordaining as a monk at Wat Thannam Lai in Chaiya District, Surat Thani Province. Under the guidance of his esteemed preceptor, Phra Petpattana Phorn, he embraced a new path in life. After his ordination, he was given the new name “Titadhammo”, which translates to 'one who is steadfast in the Dhamma' or 'one who adheres firmly to the principles of Dhamma.' This name reflects his deep commitment to the teachings and principles of Buddhism. His transition from a distinguished career in law and administration to monastic life signifies a profound dedication to spiritual practice and personal growth, embodying the very principles he now devoutly follows."

Following his ordination, he spent two years at Wat Buddha Damma Meditation Center in Chicago, Illinois. Phra Sutham then moved to Wat Mahathat Kingsbury in the United Kingdom for one year before returning to Wat Buddha Damma Meditation Center for four years. He subsequently spent five years at Wat Pa Buddha Gaya in India, where he connected with several notable monks who are now members of the Walk for World Peace, including Phramaha Damrong, Phra Withee, Phra Mesa, and Phra Supalak.

After his time in India, he relocated to Tapotawan Monastery in Vibhavadi District, Surat Thani Province, before moving to Wat Vajiradhammapadip. Currently, he resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York.

Pilgrimage History

Phra Sutham embarked on his pilgrimage driven by a deep-seated commitment to disseminating the Buddha’s teachings in an era marked by significant social changes, including rising conflicts and acts of violence. These trends, he observed, starkly contrast with the core Buddhist principles of compassion, kindness, mutual support, and generosity. Phra Sutham holds the view that true and lasting peace can only be achieved by fostering inner tranquility and harmony, a concept deeply rooted in the Buddha’s teachings. Motivated by this conviction, Phra Sutham initiated his pilgrimage with the aim of promoting peace and understanding through his personal example. His inaugural journey began in Bangkok, Thailand, and extended to Laos.

Despite consulting with numerous monks and seeking support from various quarters, he did not receive the backing he had hoped for. Undeterred by this lack of support, he resolved to undertake the journey alone. With a steadfast spirit and a heart full of determination, he set out on his pilgrimage, relying on his own resources and the generosity of those he met along the way. During this initial leg of his journey, Phra Sutham walked and engaged in almsgiving, ultimately reaching Vietnam at the Pacific Ocean. His pilgrimage continued as he traveled from Thailand’s southernmost point to its northernmost point. This journey was marked by collaboration with numerous organizations that recognized the significance of his mission to promote global peace.

Following this, Phra Sutham resumed his pilgrimage with a new route that took him from Thailand into Myanmar, and through several countries including India, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Unfortunately, the global COVID-19 pandemic forced him to pause his journey in Turkey. Undeterred, Phra Sutham adapted to the situation by flying to California, where he restarted his pilgrimage by walking from the Pacific Ocean at Santa Monica Pier to New York at the Atlantic Ocean.

Upon completing this segment, he returned to Turkey and continued his journey through Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, and Switzerland, before culminating his pilgrimage in France at the Atlantic Ocean. This extensive journey not only exemplified his personal dedication to the principles of peace and compassion but also highlighted his ability to inspire others through his steadfast commitment.

Throughout his global pilgrimage, he is the Itinerary Planner. Phra Sutham dedicated himself to both personal growth and a profound exploration of the nature of reality. His journey was not just a physical endeavor but a deeply spiritual quest that embodied the core Buddhist ideals of love, compassion, and understanding.

Phra Sutham plays a pivotal role in the 'Walk for World Peace 2024 Project', an ambitious initiative that traverses from Key West, Florida, to Niagara Falls, New York. His involvement is instrumental in driving the project's mission forward. Beyond this, Phra Sutham is also a co-founder of the Walk for World Peace Foundation, where he serves as the Vice Chairman of the Executive Board. In this leadership role, he is deeply engaged in shaping the foundation's vision and strategies, working tirelessly to promote global harmony and peace. His dual contributions to both the monumental walk and the foundation underscore his unwavering commitment to fostering a more peaceful and compassionate world.

As he traveled across various regions and engaged with a wide range of communities, each with its own unique cultural and social dynamics. His interactions were characterized by an openness and genuine desire to share his message of peace. He sought to build bridges between different cultures and belief systems, fostering a spirit of mutual respect and kindness among the people he met. His journey was marked by numerous encounters that allowed him to convey the teachings of Buddhism and the importance of inner peace.



The impact of Phra Sutham's pilgrimage extends beyond the immediate interactions he had with individuals. His commitment to sharing the principles of Buddhism and promoting a harmonious global community serves as a powerful testament to how one individual's dedication can influence and inspire others. His efforts highlight the potential for personal devotion to create a legacy of global understanding and peace. He hopes that those who received his messages and experienced his teachings will find a deeper sense of inner peace. He envisions that this newfound tranquility will motivate them to spread love and compassion in their own circles, thereby contributing to a more harmonious and empathetic world. His pilgrimage stands as a compelling reminder of the profound impact that a single person's dedication can have on fostering global harmony and mutual respect.





**Phra Withee Dhammakuno
(Withee Sangdawruang)
12 Years of Ordination**



Withee Sangdawruang was born on November 28, 1959, in Saraburi Province, Thailand, as the third child in a family of seven siblings. His parents, Mr. Mua Sangdawruang and Mrs. Luea Sangdawruang, instilled in him values of perseverance and dedication from an early age. His educational journey took an unconventional path; he completed his secondary education through a non-formal education program in Lopburi Province. This alternative educational approach provided him with a robust foundation of knowledge and skills. It equipped him with the adaptability and resourcefulness necessary for navigating diverse challenges and opportunities in his future endeavors. His non-formal education experience reflects his commitment to learning and personal growth, setting a solid groundwork for his subsequent achievements and contributions.

Professional Experience

Withee's career is marked by an impressive 25-year tenure in the military, where he excelled as the Deputy Commander of the Intelligence Operations Unit. In this pivotal role, he was at the forefront of orchestrating complex intelligence operations, playing a crucial role in safeguarding national security.

His extensive experience in this high-stakes environment refined his strategic thinking and leadership skills, underscoring his ability to navigate and manage critical situations with precision and expertise. This distinguished service not only highlights his dedication to his country but also reflects his profound capacity for disciplined and impactful leadership.

Ordination

At the age of 53, Withee embraced the monastic life and was ordained as a monk on April 8, 2012, at Wat Amphakiriwong in Nakhon Nayok Province. His preceptor was Phrakru Kunasarasophon, a highly respected figure in the monastic community.

Following his ordination, Withee was given the name "Dhammakuno," which translates to "one who possesses knowledge and practices the principles of Dhamma" or "one who is skilled in the Dhamma."

This name signifies his moral integrity and expertise in adhering to the teachings of Buddhism, reflecting his deep commitment to the principles and practices of the Dhamma.

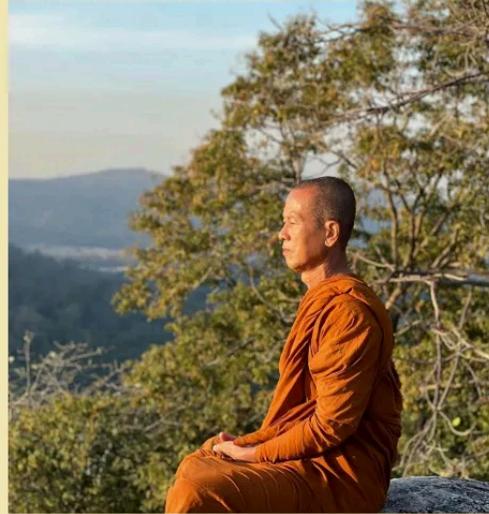


During his early years as a monk, Phra Withee dedicated himself to deepening his understanding of Buddhist teachings. He spent five years residing at Wat Phra Dhammakaya, where he immersed himself in advanced Buddhist studies. This period was marked by his firm commitment to the Buddhist path, and he resolved to enhance his knowledge and practice to ensure his lifelong dedication to the monastic way of life. His scholarly pursuits led him to achieve the advanced level of Buddhist studies known as "Nak Tham," a significant accomplishment in the monastic educational system. In addition, he began studying the Pātimokkha, the monastic code of discipline, further reflecting his dedication to comprehensive Buddhist education.

Currently, Phra Withee resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he continues to practice and uphold the principles of Buddhism. His journey reflects a profound commitment to spiritual growth and a lifelong dedication to the teachings of the Buddha. He exemplifies a deep devotion to the Buddhist path, and his ongoing efforts contribute to the preservation and dissemination of Buddhist teachings in his current community.

Pilgrimage History

During his time in India, Phra Withee learned about the historic journeys of revered teachers who were able to travel from Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India to Thailand on foot. This inspired him to undertake a reverse pilgrimage from Thailand to Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India.



He joined a pilgrimage initiative led by Phra Sutham, which began in Thailand, traversed through the Myanmar border, and reached Turkey. However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the journey had to be temporarily halted. He subsequently returned to Tapotawan Monastery, where he resided for a year before moving to Wat Nong Nam Khieo, Ban Bueng District, Chonburi Province. He resumed his pilgrimage, continuing from Turkey and making his way to France. This journey allowed him to verify the feasibility of walking from Thailand to India.

Throughout his pilgrimage, Phra Withee encountered a series of formidable physical challenges that tested his resolve. The demanding terrain presented numerous obstacles, and the persistent pain in his feet was a constant struggle. Despite these hardships, Phra Withee remained steadfast in his commitment, demonstrating remarkable determination and perseverance.



To navigate these difficulties, he employed a unique method of coping. By reciting mantras with each step, Phra Withee was able to shift his focus away from the physical discomfort. This practice proved to be an essential tool for managing the relentless ascents and descents along the rugged route.

The rhythmic repetition of the mantras not only served as a mental distraction but also helped him maintain a spiritual connection and inner calm.

This experience gave Phra Withee profound insights into the interplay between body and mind. By focusing on mantras, he transcended physical pain, demonstrating the power of mental discipline to manage bodily responses.

This journey reinforced his belief in the mind's ability to influence and control physical discomfort, enriching his spiritual practice and pilgrimage experience. The pilgrimage highlighted that the primary obstacles were internal rather than external.

Phra Withee learned not to compare himself to others and became aware of personal issues such as greed, anger, delusion, envy, and dissatisfaction, particularly in collaborative settings.



He addressed these issues by adopting a detached and problem-solving approach, which enabled him to continue his journey effectively. This experience of overcoming internal and external challenges through mindfulness and dedication led him to develop a profound understanding of Buddhist principles.

The insights gained from this pilgrimage were applied to his ongoing practice, emphasizing the importance of mindfulness and a clear understanding of reality. Phra Withee journey is a testament to his commitment to personal and spiritual growth.

Motto: "Dhamma protects us if we uphold the Dhamma. Actions will always yield results."



**Phramaha Damrong Narisaro
((Damrong Angkha)
12 Years of Ordination**



Damrong Angkha was born on November 3, 1962, in the serene setting of Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand. As the sixth child in a family of eight, he grew up in a dynamic household shaped by the supportive influence of his parents, Mr. Wan Angkha and Mrs. Bua Angkha. Their nurturing environment played a crucial role in fostering his early educational and spiritual growth.

Damrong's academic journey took him to Nakhon Watthana School, where he completed his secondary education up to Grade 9. This period was formative, setting the stage for his future pursuits and deepening his connection to his cultural and spiritual roots. His experiences during these years laid a solid foundation for his continued personal and intellectual development.

Professional Experience

Damrong's career is marked by a rich tapestry of diverse experiences across multiple industries. He began his professional journey as a welder and garment technician, honing his technical skills and gaining hands-on experience in these foundational roles. Transitioning into the construction industry, he took on the challenging roles of construction assistant and foreman, contributing to significant dam construction projects. His role in these large-scale projects involved overseeing operations and ensuring the successful execution of complex tasks, which further developed his leadership and problem-solving abilities.

In addition to his work on construction sites, Damrong broadened his expertise as an assistant engineer with Siam City Corporation. This role allowed him to deepen his technical knowledge and managerial skills, blending his practical experience with advanced engineering principles. His varied career path showcases his adaptability and commitment to professional growth, highlighting a journey of continuous learning and impactful contributions across different fields.

Ordination

In May 2012, at the age of 50, Damrong embraced a profound transformation by ordaining as a monk at Wat Kiriwan in Sritawa Sub-district, Mueang District, Nakhon Nayok Province. His ordination was a significant milestone, guided by the esteemed Phra Khru Udomkitjanukul, a highly respected figure in the monastic community.





Upon his ordination, he was bestowed with the name "Narisaro," which means "one who is without a master" or "one who is free from attachment." This title signifies a state of liberation from worldly desires and personal gain, reflecting a profound commitment to the path of spiritual freedom and detachment. He dedicated himself to advanced Buddhist studies. He achieved the prestigious level of "Nak Tham" and earned a Pali degree equivalent to three levels of Pali studies. This remarkable accomplishment underscores his dedication to Buddhist scholarship and his earnest pursuit of a deeper understanding of the Dhamma.

Following his ordination, Phramaha Damrong spent five years residing at Wat Hub Mae in Nakhon Nayok Province. During this period, he engaged in various monastic duties and deepened his practice and understanding of Buddhist teachings.

His commitment to furthering his spiritual development led him to undertake a one-year residency at Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India. Currently, he resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he continues to dedicate himself to his monastic responsibilities and the promotion of Buddhist principles.

Pilgrimage History

While residing at Wat Paknam Bodhgaya, Phramaha Damrong had the opportunity to meet Phra Sutham, Phra Withee, and Phra Mesa. During their discussions, they explored the origins and objectives of Phra Sutham's pilgrimage initiative.

Recognizing the profound purpose of this project, Phramaha Damrong decided to join the pilgrimage. Phra Sutham advised that participants need only prepare themselves physically and mentally, rather than focusing on specific logistical preparations. He commenced his pilgrimage from Thailand, traveling through Myanmar with Phra Sutham, Phra Withee, and six other monks. Their journey took them through India, Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he temporarily returned to Tapotawan Monastery, Surat Thani Province, where he spent a year in residence. He subsequently traveled to Argentina, continuing his pilgrimage across South America to Chile, Mexico, Leticia, Colombia, Brazil, and Bolivia, before returning to Argentina and then Thailand.



Upon resuming his pilgrimage in Turkey, Phramaha Damrong encountered a series of formidable challenges that tested his resolve. The harsh weather conditions and unfamiliar food, which did not align with his dietary preferences, took a toll on his physical well-being. The rugged and mountainous terrain compounded his discomfort, making the journey even more arduous. Despite occasional moments of relief, the persistent pain often returned, creating a continual struggle. When he reported these difficulties to Phra Sutham, he received valuable advice: not to allow himself to become complacent, as the pain was likely to be a recurring issue. This guidance served as a poignant reminder of the Buddhist principle of transience, which teaches that all conditions—whether physical discomfort or moments of ease—are impermanence and subject to change. This experience profoundly illustrated the nature of impermanence, reinforcing the understanding that every challenge and relief is temporary. After navigating the rigorous trials in Turkey, he returned to Argentina, where he took a brief respite before rejoining Phra Sutham in the U.S. to continue peace walk. This interlude allowed him to reflect on the journey thus far, emphasizing both physical and spiritual. He participated in the peace walk project in the U.S., joining the Secretariat and Coordination team for the journey from Key West, FL, to Niagara Falls, NY. He drew on his previous walking experience to guide him through this journey. During this period, his experiences deepened his knowledge of the transience of life and the perseverance needed to stay true to one's path.

The journey in the U.S. presented significant challenges, including severe physical discomfort and logistical complications. These obstacles tested his resolve and occasionally made him question the purpose of his pilgrimage.

Despite the pain and difficulties in coordinating tasks, he remained steadfast. The logistical issues and physical hardships often led to moments of discouragement. However, the unwavering support and encouragement from local communities provided a powerful source of motivation.

To navigate these challenges effectively, he employed mindfulness techniques, focusing on the present moment to manage his difficulties. This mental discipline was crucial in overcoming obstacles and maintaining his dedication. Through mindfulness, Phramaha Damrong was able to address the physical and emotional strains of the pilgrimage, reinforcing his resilience and deepening his spiritual insight.

Overall, the journey tested his endurance and enhanced his appreciation for life's dynamic nature. The pilgrimage highlighted the importance of inner strength and external support, contributing to a richer and more meaningful spiritual experience.

Motto: "Taking one or two steps forward is better than remaining stationary."



**Phra Suppachai Supajaro
(Suppachai Phonkraipetch)
10 Years of Ordination**



Suppachai Phonkraipetch was born on October 16, 1981, in Prachinburi Province, Thailand. He is the eldest of three siblings, born to Mr. Preecha and Mrs. Sasithorn. He pursued his education at Sripatum University, Chonburi Campus, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in communication arts. This academic foundation provided him with a comprehensive understanding of media and communication principles. Building on this expertise, he furthered his specialization in Criminal Investigation through a dedicated program offered by the Chonburi Provincial Police Bureau, which gave him with advanced skills and knowledge essential for the field of criminal investigation, enhancing his capabilities in law enforcement and criminal justice.

Professional Experience

Suppachai's career began with an internship at Matchon Newspaper, where he gained valuable insights into the workings of media and journalism within the Government House.

Following his internship, he took on a role in criminal investigation at the Saen Suk Police Station. His expertise and dedication led him to a position with the Chonburi Provincial Police Bureau, where he was involved in various investigative operations. Subsequently, he was appointed as a member of the Advertising Review Committee under the Public Relations Department, which operates under the Prime Minister's Office. In this role, he contributed to the oversight and evaluation of advertising practices and policies.

Further advancing his career, he served as an Assistant Secretary to the Minister of Transport. In this capacity, he supported the Minister in various administrative and policy-related functions, contributing to the effective management and operation of the Ministry of Transport.

Ordination

On July 6, 2014, Suppachai embarked on a transformative spiritual journey by ordaining as a monk at Wat Khao Paeng Ma, located in the serene Wang Nam Khiao District of Nakhon Ratchasima Province. This temple, known as the 164th branch of the revered Wat Nong Pah Pong, provided a sacred setting for his new path.



Phra Khru Prachotisangkik, the esteemed abbot of Wang Nam Khiao Sub-district, served as his preceptor during this significant ceremony. Under his guidance, Suppachai was given the name **Supajaro**, which means "one who practices virtuous conduct." The name reflects his deep commitment to exemplary conduct and moral excellence.

It signifies not only his dedication to virtuous living but also his profound alignment with the principles of ethical behavior and integrity. This new chapter marked the beginning of a life devoted to spiritual growth and the embodiment of moral values, setting the stage for his continued journey within the monastic community.

During his initial five years of monastic life, Phra Suppachai completed the highest level of Buddhist studies, known as Nak Tham. Following this, he spent a year at Wat Phrachetawan (North Hill, Los Angeles, CA) and then returned to Tapotawan Monastery, Surat Thani Province, for one year. Subsequently, he resided at Wat Mongkol Wararam in the UK, previously known as Wat Thai Leicester, for one year. He dedicated two years to Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York before moving to his current residence at Wat Piyadhammaram, King Chulalongkorn Vipassana Center, in Sweden.

Pilgrimage History

Phra Suppachai involvement in peace walk began with a significant journey alongside Phra Sutham and his team. He joined Phra Sutham's trek from Chicago to New York City.



After completing this journey, he returned to Wat Chetawan in Los Angeles, CA for further residence and reflection and subsequently participated in a global peace walk project. This initiative commenced in Bodh Gaya, India, and extended through several countries, including Turkey, Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, and France.

Phra Suppachai immersed himself in the writings of Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu, particularly those concerning peace. He engaged in profound discussions with Phra Sutham, focusing on the critical need for peace in Thailand's southern border provinces. Inspired by Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu's teachings, Phra Suppachai embarked on a groundbreaking walking meditation project, grounded in three core principles: 1) Enhancing the understanding of individual religious beliefs, 2) Promoting interfaith cooperation, and 3) Encouraging a shift away from materialism. This project was designed not only as a spiritual journey but also to bridge gaps between diverse communities and foster a collective sense of purpose.



The ambitious undertaking involved a series of significant walks across Thailand, started from Yala Province to up north Chiang Rai Province. The second phase of the project involved walking from Tak Province to Mukdahan Province. This leg of the journey further extended the project's reach, connecting regions with distinct cultural and social dynamics. Through these extensive pilgrimages, he aimed to embody the principles of Buddhādāsa Bhikkhu and to inspire others to engage in meaningful dialogue and reflection. The project not only sought to promote peace and understanding but also highlighted the transformative power of walking meditation as a tool for spiritual and communal enrichment.

Following these journeys, he spent a year residing at Wat Buddharam Leeds in the United Kingdom before participating in a peace walk project across Florida. These experiences have profoundly influenced his personal and spiritual development.



His journey has fostered remarkable resilience and deepened his commitment to Buddhist principles, highlighting the transformative power of a life dedicated to these values. The primary challenges he faced included managing people and overseeing project operations within a monastic framework. These trials underscored the necessity for decisive leadership and illuminated the complexities involved in managing such large-scale projects. As he reflects on these experiences, he is poised to apply the insights gained to future endeavors, aiming to enhance their effectiveness and ensure smoother execution. Furthermore, witnessing issues such as youth drug problems and recurring offenses has motivated Phra Suppachai to develop initiatives focused on fostering moral development among young people. He firmly believes that nurturing ethical growth is crucial for achieving lasting peace and stability within communities.



This motivation stems from his journey, which has heightened his awareness of the importance of living in the present moment and demonstrated the profound benefits of peace walk.

The practice of peace walk has not only brought merit to the community but has also revitalized his own spirit. This renewed sense of purpose reaffirms his belief that deliberate, intentional actions can yield profound and positive results. The journey stands as a powerful testament to the impact of dedicated practice, fueling his commitment to advancing moral and spiritual well-being.

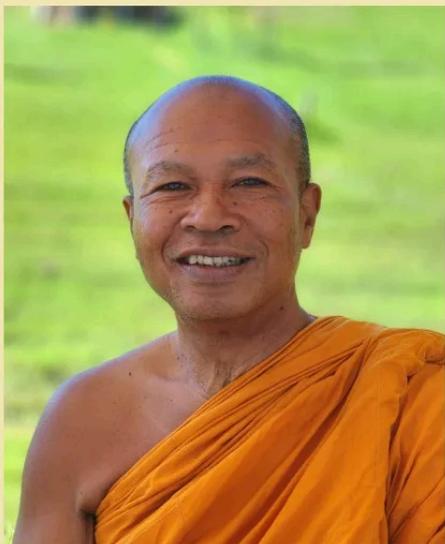
The experience has deeply inspired him, reinforcing his resolve to continue his efforts in fostering inner growth and community enrichment. This reaffirmation of purpose underscores a fundamental belief: that intentional and mindful actions possess the profound ability to bring about meaningful and positive changes, both within oneself and in the world at large.

Engaging in peace walk, with its deep emphasis on mindfulness and purposeful movement, has vividly illustrated this principle. The practice emphasizes that spiritual and moral progress is not merely a matter of isolated efforts but is achieved through consistent, deliberate, and heartfelt engagement. Each step in walking meditation serves as a reminder that true advancement in both spiritual and moral dimensions require dedication and presence.

The experience has reinforced the understanding that transformative change is cultivated through a sustained commitment to mindful practice, illustrating that profound inner and outer changes arise from the ongoing pursuit of intentional and reflective actions.



Phrakru Sangkharak Kamron Bhattako
(Kamron Yaemyuen)
40 Years of Ordination



Khamron Yaemyuen was born on January 23, 1964, in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, Thailand. He is the third child in a family of nine siblings. His father, Mr. Khiya and his mother, Mrs. Amnuay, played pivotal roles in his early life. He pursued higher education and obtained a master's degree in business administration (MBA) from Ban Somdej Chaopraya Rajabhat University, reflecting his commitment to academic and professional development.

Ordination

His spiritual journey commenced with his ordination as a monk on July 23, 1984. The ordination was conducted by Phra Kru Wiboon Thammarat, the esteemed abbot of Wat Sri Mahasit in Chao Wat Sub-district, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Following his ordination, Kamron was given the name "**Bhattako**", which in Pali means "the one who owns or has the right to it," or in a more formal context, "owner" or "ruler." During his initial years in monastic life, he resided at Wat Srimaprasit for two years, where he laid the foundation for his future spiritual and educational pursuits.

In 1986, he relocated to Wat Ratchathiwat Ratchaworawihan in Bangkok, where he continued his monastic duties and spiritual practice until 1990. Following this period, he made a significant move to Wat Padhammachart in California in 2019. This transition marked a new chapter in his monastic career as he engaged with the Thai Buddhist community in the United States. He later moved to Wat Florida Dhammaram, where he currently resides. At Wat Florida Dhammaram, he has continued to dedicate himself to the monastic life and the teachings of Buddhism. His scholarly achievements include obtaining the Nak Tham Ek (a high level of Buddhist studies) and completing the Pali examination at the level of 3 Pali Khemka, which underscores his extensive knowledge and commitment to Buddhist education. Presently, Phra Kamron remains at Wat Florida Dhammaram in Florida, USA, where he continues to contribute to the spiritual and communal life of the temple.





Pilgrimage History

- 1984: Phra Kamron embarked on a walking meditation journey under the guidance of Ajahn Amaro, led by Ajahn Menghu Sumetho, a revered preceptor. This pilgrimage began in Makham, Chanthaburi, and concluded at the Khaeng Waterfall. This journey was notable for its emphasis on mindfulness and meditation practice.
- Subsequent Years: He undertook an extended walking meditation from Chanthaburi to Nakhon Si Thammarat, a pilgrimage that spanned approximately two months. This journey was characterized by rigorous practice and spiritual discipline. He continued his walking meditation practice with a pilgrimage from Nakhon Si Thammarat to Phu Kradueng in Loei Province. This demanding journey took five months to complete, showcasing his commitment to deepening his spiritual practice and endurance.

- World Peace Projects: Phra Kamron involved a significant pilgrimage across Florida. This journey started from the eastern part of the state and ended at the westernmost point, covering a distance over seven days. This project aimed to promote global peace through meditation and mindful walking.
- International Pilgrimage: He also engaged in an international "Walking for World Peace" project in France, where he traveled from Paris to Brest City and further to the Atlantic Ocean coast. This journey highlighted his dedication to global peace efforts and cross-cultural spiritual exchange.
- Extended Journey: Additionally, Phra Kamron took part in another significant pilgrimage from Key West, Florida, to Niagara Falls. The extensive journey demonstrated his commitment to fostering peace through dedicated spiritual practice. These walking meditation journeys are a testament to Phra Kamron's profound commitment to spiritual growth and his steadfast dedication to promoting peace and mindfulness on both a local and global scale.

His journey into walking meditation was ignited by his encounter with the book "The Blooming Lotus". The book's evocative portrayal of wandering monks, traveling through diverse landscapes with a sense of purpose and spiritual clarity, deeply resonated with him.



The vivid imagery and narrative not only captured his imagination but also sparked an intense curiosity and longing within him. Driven by this newfound curiosity, Phra Kamron sought the guidance of Ajahn Menghu Sumetho, a revered monk and spiritual mentor known for his deep insights and teachings. This pivotal moment of seeking guidance from Ajahn Menghu Sumetho marked the beginning of his profound spiritual quest. His interactions with the esteemed preceptor catalyzed a significant transformation, fueling his desire to incorporate walking meditation into his spiritual practice. His peace walk evolved into a journey of self-discovery and spiritual enrichment. His pilgrimages, undertaken with a deep sense of purpose, reflect his dedication to exploring the intersections of mindfulness, peace, and personal growth. Through these journeys, he has sought not only to deepen his own practice but also to share the transformative power of walking meditation with others. Each step of his journey has been imbued with a sense of reverence and intent, turning the act of walking into a profound spiritual practice. Phra Kamron's dedication is evident in the meticulous planning and execution of his pilgrimages, which serve as both a personal exploration and a global mission to spread the values of peace and mindfulness.

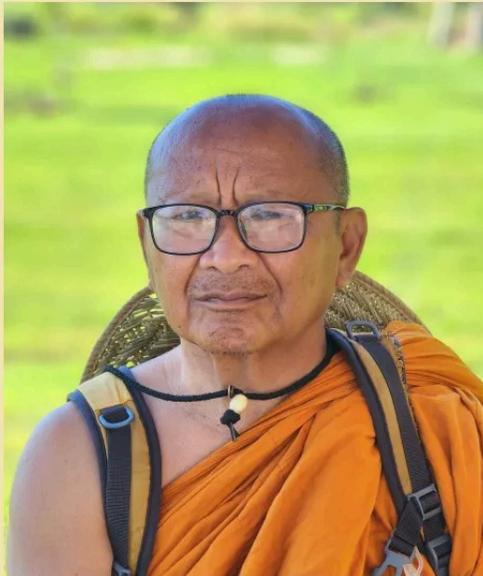
Upon commencing his walking meditation practice, he realized the necessity of cultivating patience and endurance. The rigorous practice involved walking barefoot and subsisting on minimal provisions, without accompaniment of side dishes. This method served as a personal test, allowing him to compare the lifestyle and experiences of laypeople with those of monks. Through these challenges, he was able to align his practices more closely with the principles expected of a wandering monk. Although his mental state did not experience significant changes initially, the practice deepened his understanding and commitment to the monastic way of life. His continued participation in these pilgrimages was driven by a desire to gain further insights and deepen his spiritual learning.

Each journey contributed incrementally to his accumulation of Buddhist knowledge and practice. The ongoing experiences and challenges encountered during these pilgrimages progressively helped him develop a deeper understanding of the Dhamma, enriching both his spiritual path and personal growth.

Motto: "Every drop of sweat is for peace.", "Peace must be earned with wounds."



Phra Mesa Tejavaro
(Mesa Sangaroon)
10 Years of Ordination



Mesa Sangaroon was born on April 11, 1964, in Nakhon Phanom Province, Thailand. As the fourth child in a vibrant family of six siblings, he grew up in a nurturing environment led by his father, Mr. Khak and his mother, Mrs. Khan. His academic journey took him to Ramkhamhaeng University, where he pursued and completed an undergraduate degree in Economics. His studies not only equipped him with a solid foundation in economic principles but also sparked his interest in understanding the broader dynamics of economic systems and their impact on society. His educational path reflects a commitment to both personal growth and broader societal understanding.

Professional Experience

- **Krung Thai Bank Public Company Limited (Head Office):** A Senior Economist in the Evaluation Division within the Planning and Budgeting Department at Krung Thai Bank, the role involves advanced economic analysis and strategic planning to support the bank's financial and operational goals. This position requires expertise in economic theory, quantitative analysis, and financial forecasting to inform decision-making processes and enhance the bank's strategic planning capabilities.
- **The Budgeting Credit Securities Company Limited (Public) - A Subsidiary of Nakhonluang Bank Public Company Limited:** The Senior Officer in the Planning and Budgeting Division plays a crucial role in shaping the financial strategy of Nakhon Luang Credit Public Company Limited. By overseeing the budgeting process, conducting financial analyses, and supporting strategic planning. The role contributes significantly to the company's ability to achieve its financial objectives and maintain a robust financial position in a competitive market.



- Ocean Capital Company Limited (A Subsidiary of Thai Sumut Life Insurance): The Head of the Planning and Budgeting Division at Ocean Capital Company Limited plays a crucial role in ensuring the financial health and strategic alignment of the company. This position is integral to maintaining financial stability, driving growth, and achieving long-term success for the company and its stakeholders.
- Kiatnakin Bank Public Company Limited: A Senior Marketing Officer, Auto Lease Division, Retail Credit Department. This role requires a deep understanding of the auto leasing market, strong marketing and communication skills, and the ability to analyze and respond to market dynamics effectively.
- Freelance Professional: Engaged in various freelance activities, leveraging expertise in financial planning, investment management, and consulting to offer tailored solutions and support to diverse clients.

Ordination

On January 6, 2014, Mesa Sangaroon took a significant step on his spiritual journey by ordaining as a monk at Wat Phang Thiam, a distinguished lay temple associated with the Maha Nikaya sect.



The ordination ceremony was conducted under the guidance of Phra Kru Udommekkhun, the revered abbot of Phra Thong Kham District in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. In this sacred moment, he was given the name “**Tejavaro**”, which means "one with special abilities," reflects his deep spiritual commitment and the exceptional qualities he brings to his monastic life. This name signifies not only notable mental and spiritual energy but also an embodiment of outstanding virtues and admirable qualities. This new name symbolizes the beginning of a profound journey marked by spiritual strength and dedicated service.

Phra Mesa initially resided at Wat Phang Thiam for five years before moved to Wat Paknam Bodhgaya, India. After a year, he moved to Wat Phikutharam, located in Malaysia, where he spent one year. Afterward, he returned to reside at Wat Pounwanapiratararam, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok, Thailand.

Further, he moved to Wat Luang Argentina, a meditation center in South America, where he stayed for one year. He then spent one year at Wat Thai Italy Friuli Venezia Giulia in Italy. Currently, he resides at Wat Piyadhammaram in Kings Chulalongkorn, a meditation center in Sweden. His path reflects a profound commitment to sharing the teachings of Buddhism on a global scale, bridging cultural divides and fostering a deeper understanding of Buddhist principles worldwide. Through his tireless efforts, he has significantly contributed to the international dissemination of Buddhist wisdom, enriching communities far beyond his own.

Pilgrimage Experience

Phra Mesa's pilgrimage through Thailand was a journey of profound physical and emotional endurance. The journey's demanding nature included grueling physical exertion and the emotional toll of persistent challenges. Despite these hardships, his unwavering commitment and initial resolve proved essential in navigating and overcoming these obstacles. A particularly transformative moment occurred when Phra Mesa had the opportunity to meet Phra Sutham under the Bodhi tree at Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India.

The ordination ceremony was conducted under the guidance of Phra Kru Udommekkhun, the revered abbot of Phra Thong Kham District in Nakhon Ratchasima Province. In this sacred moment, he was given the name "**Tejavaro**", which means "one with special abilities," reflects his deep spiritual commitment and the exceptional qualities he brings to his monastic life. This new name symbolizes the beginning of a profound journey marked by spiritual strength and dedicated service.

Phra Mesa initially resided at Wat Phang Thiam for five years. Subsequently, he spent one year at Wat Paknam Bodhgaya, India. Following this, he moved to Wat Phikutharam, located in Malaysia, where he spent one year. Afterward, he returned to reside at Wat Pounwanapirataram, Bangkok Noi, Bangkok, Thailand.

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This encounter, which included revered companions such as Phra Withee, Phramaha Damrong, and Phra Nattawat, was a profound experience that underscored the significance of the work being carried out by Phra Sutham and his team. The meeting not only deepened his understanding of the pilgrimage's purpose but also reinforced his determination to contribute meaningfully to the project.

The interest in participating in peace walk had initially been sparked, yet personal commitments at that time prevented him from joining the pilgrimage from the start. Nevertheless, his dedication led him to continue the journey from Turkey to France. In Turkey, he faced extreme cold conditions that posed considerable challenges. The harsh weather tested his resilience, but the unexpected kindness of local communities, who offered vital sustenance like water and food, was a testament to the profound sense of communal support. This generosity highlighted the importance of perseverance, and the strength derived from collective support in overcoming adversity.

In the early stages of the walk across the U.S., Phra Mesa confronted significant challenges, grappling with intense fatigue and a powerful longing to return home.

These feelings were compounded by the daunting pressure of potentially failing to complete the ambitious journey. Despite the initial discouragement, these obstacles gradually transformed into a profound source of motivation.

Equally vital was the practice of maintaining mental focus and concentration. he discovered that mindfulness played a critical role in mitigating fatigue and enhancing the overall walking experience. By cultivating a steady mental state and staying present in each moment, he was able to reduce the impact of distractions and sustain a consistent pace. The lack of mindfulness early in the journey had led to increased distractions and heightened fatigue. Conversely, the application of sustained mental focus facilitated smoother progress and promoted mental tranquility. This practice of mindfulness not only alleviated physical discomfort but also fostered a calmer, more centered state of mind.

Phra Mesa also faced challenges from external disturbances, including unkind remarks and actions from others. Initially, these disturbances negatively impacted his mental state. However, as he developed greater mindfulness, he was able to maintain his focus on the pilgrimage's core purpose: personal growth and inner peace.

The lessons learned from dealing with emotional and physical challenges underscored the importance of embodying inner peace to effectively share it with others.



This realization highlighted that all meaningful endeavors require patience, effort, and a deep commitment to personal development. Phra Mesa's journey reinforced the understanding that emotional resilience and mindfulness are crucial for overcoming obstacles and achieving personal and communal harmony.

The teachings imparted by mentors emphasized the value of letting go of external disturbances to maintain inner peace. These insights have not only been instrumental in navigating the challenges of the pilgrimage but also in applying these lessons to everyday life.

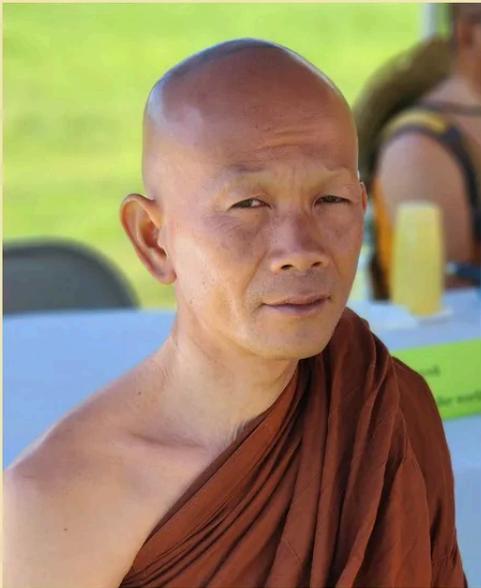


The experiences gained have provided profound insights into personal growth, enhancing the ability to foster a harmonious and unified environment both within and beyond the pilgrimage context.

In summary, the teachings imparted during the pilgrimage have been a beacon of transformation, guiding participants through the journey and into everyday life with a renewed sense of purpose and inner peace. These lessons have empowered individuals to grow personally and foster a more harmonious and unified environment, making a lasting impact both within and beyond the pilgrimage context.



Phra Supalak Sumeṭho
(Supalak Khangthong)
10 Years of Ordination



Supalak Khangthong, affectionately known by his nickname "Boy," was born on March 2, 1985, in Roi Et Province, Thailand. He is the youngest of three siblings, and the cherished son of Mr. Khongsin and Mrs. Somjit. His early years unfolded in the serene setting in Nong Bua Lamphu Province. It was here, amidst the supportive environment provided by his family, that he began his educational journey. He attended Ban Non Ngam School, where he completed his primary education. This formative period was marked by a strong emphasis on learning and personal development, laying a robust foundation for his future pursuits.

This foundational period was instrumental in preparing him for the various paths he would explore in his personal and spiritual journey.

Ordination

At the age of 29, Supalak embraced monastic life on January 6, 2014, when he was ordained as a monk at Wat Suwanpho Chai in Nong Bua Lamphu Province. The ordination took place under the esteemed guidance of his preceptor, Phra Kru Jettiyaphiwat, the revered abbot of Na Klang District. During this pivotal ceremony, Supalak was honored with the name "**Sumeṭho**", which translates to "one who possesses exceptional wisdom and insight." This distinguished title signifies his profound understanding and deep insight into Buddhist teachings, marking him as a person of considerable spiritual and intellectual depth.

He initially resided at Wat Suwanaphochai for two years, where he began his monastic training and spiritual practice. After that he moved to Wat Paknam Bodhgaya in India, where he spent three years. This period was marked by significant spiritual development and exposure to international Buddhist practices. Phra Supalak returned to Thailand and took residence at Wat Sirisrisuparam, located in Mueang District, Phuket Province.

TO



His journey continued in the United Kingdom, where he resided at Wat Buddharam Leeds for two years. This experience provided him with insights into Buddhist practices in a Western context and facilitated cross-cultural spiritual exchange. He expanded his monastic experience at Wat Satayamuni Vihara in Lumbini, Nepal, where he spent one year. Throughout his monastic journey, he has pursued continuous education in Buddhist studies and has achieved the Basic Level of Buddhist Studies (Nak Tham). His commitment to learning and teaching reflects his dedication to the Dharma. He is currently residing in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he continues to fulfill his monastic duties and contribute to the local Buddhist community. His presence in Dubai represents a bridge between Eastern Buddhist traditions and the diverse, global community.

Pilgrimage History

It was his encounter with Phra Sutham and his exploration of the global pilgrimage undertaken by monks that truly ignited his passion. This newfound inspiration led him to eagerly join Phra Sutham's team, driven by a deep desire to be part of their transformative journey across the world.

Challenges and Insights from the Pilgrimage in India

The first encounter with the pilgrimage in India was marked by significant challenges. The journey involved rigorous conditions, such as bathing with extremely cold groundwater, sleeping outdoors, and a demanding schedule: waking up at 3 a.m. and starting the walk at 4 a.m. Breakfast typically consisted of porridge with some vegetables and eggs, and meals were often simple. The pace set by fellow monks was swift, causing initial difficulties. One notable challenge occurred when his shoes wore out, forcing him to walk barefoot for a day.

The primary goal of the pilgrimage was to witness the historical sites associated with the Buddha. Despite facing difficulties, Phra Supalak's unwavering faith and desire to see the traces of the Buddha's presence kept him motivated.

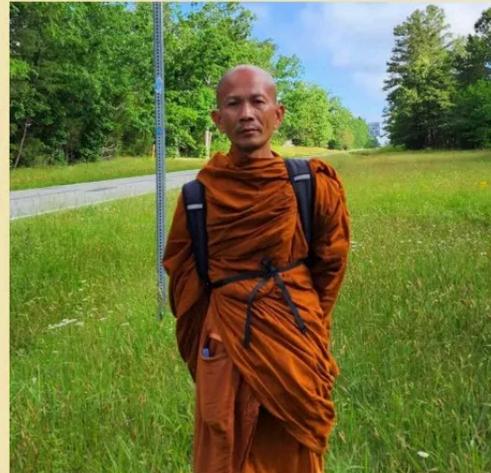


During the first year, he encountered numerous challenges and even had to take a vehicle for a 10-kilometer stretch. Determined to complete the journey, he resolved to revisit and walk the full route in the second year, although he remained unsettled by the experience. The third year was disrupted by COVID-19, necessitating a pause and a return for completion in the fourth year. Each segment of the journey typically took about three months.

Reflections on the Peace Pilgrimage in the United States

The pilgrimage undertaken in the US presented a distinct set of challenges compared to previous experiences. The heavy traffic congestion, treacherous routes, and the constant need for heightened vigilance made this journey considerably more demanding than the pilgrimage in India. The extended daily distances required maintaining a brisk pace to adhere to the predetermined schedule. This adjustment was necessary to complete the extensive route within the allotted time, often pushing physical and mental limits. Despite these formidable obstacles, he found solace and motivation in his profound sense of devotion and the clearly defined purpose he had set for each day of walking.

Throughout his journey he was profoundly touched by the unexpected waves of kindness and support he encountered.



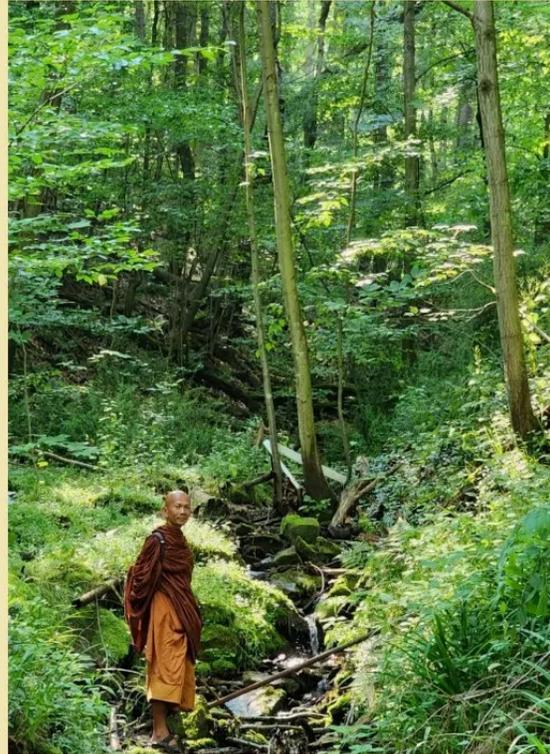
From bustling city streets to serene rural towns, he experienced an outpouring of generosity that surpassed all expectations. Support came in many deeply touching ways: strangers offered refreshing drinks, shared uplifting words, and performed small acts of kindness that left a lasting impression. Each act of goodwill became a beacon of light, illuminating the profound generosity embedded within the communities he encountered. This unexpected kindness provided not only practical assistance but also underscored the universal compassion and shared humanity that unites us all. The heartfelt gestures from those along the way transformed the journey, turning challenges into moments of connection and reinforcing the powerful bond of human empathy. The journey, marked by these genuine moments of connection, reaffirmed Phra Supalak's belief in the kindness of people and the powerful influence of community support.



The insights gained from this pilgrimage proved invaluable in adapting to and navigating daily life. The contrast between the stimulating challenges faced in the U.S. and the more tranquil environment of India provided important lessons in emotional resilience and self-management. Coping with the frequent external stimuli and demanding conditions allowed Phra Supalak to develop a deeper understanding of his emotional responses and enhance his ability to handle stress.

Overall, the pilgrimage across the U.S. significantly contributed to his spiritual growth and personal development. The lessons learned and the inner strength cultivated during this journey have enriched both his spiritual practice and daily life, showcasing the transformative power of dedication, faith, and perseverance.

This experience underscores the profound impact such rigorous journeys can have on one's spiritual and personal evolution.





**Phra Pawaruth Mahapanyo
(Pawaruth Pokloi)
6 Years of Ordination**



Pawaruth Pokloi, born on January 27, 1966, in the vibrant province of Nakhon Sawan, Thailand, is the fourth of six children in his family. His parents, Sergeant Major Samruay and Mrs. Samrit, provided a nurturing environment that shaped his early years. Completing his primary and secondary education with a strong academic foundation, his ambitions led him to higher education at the esteemed Bangsaen Institute of Hotel Management. This institution, affiliated with Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University Campus, offered him a unique blend of practical and theoretical knowledge. It was here that he pursued a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Professional Experience

State Visit Supervisor, Mandarin Oriental Bangkok Hotel: This role, Pawaruth was responsible for overseeing and coordinating state visits and high-profile events at the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok Hotel. His duties included managing the logistical aspects of state visits, ensuring seamless coordination between various departments, and providing exceptional service to VIP guests.

Patient Services Manager, Prince Hospital, Paknampho: As the Patient Services Manager at Prince Hospital in Paknampho, Pawaruth led the patient services team in delivering comprehensive and compassionate care. His responsibilities encompassed overseeing patient intake and discharge processes, addressing patient inquiries and concerns, and ensuring the smooth operation of daily activities within the patient services department. He collaborated with medical staff and administration to enhance patient satisfaction and improve service delivery, focusing on optimizing the patient experience and fostering a supportive environment for both patients and their families.

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Ordination

In 2019, Pawaruth chose to embrace monastic life and was ordained as a monk at Wat Khlong Li, located at Chaiyaphum Province. His preceptor was Phrakru Anukulphattharakit. During this significant ceremony, he was given the name “**Mahapanyo**”, which means "one with great wisdom". This name embodies his commitment to exploring and embodying the profound teachings of Buddhism, marking him as a figure of considerable wisdom and insight.

Following his ordination, he spent a significant period at Wat Phrae Saeng Thian, Phrae Province, where he completed the third-grade monk studies, known as Nak Tham. His academic and spiritual journey reflects his dedication to both scholarly and practical aspects of Buddhist monastic life.

Currently, he resides in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he continues his monastic duties and spiritual practice, contributing to the Buddhist community and engaging in various activities that support and promote the teachings of Buddhism.

Pilgrimages Experience

Phra Pawaruth has undertaken significant walking pilgrimages, including a journey from Phrae Province to Chiang Rai Province in Thailand.

Additionally, he joined the Dhammayatra pilgrimage group in India, walking from Maharashtra to Mumbai. This experience sparked a profound interest in how Buddhism can flourish in predominantly Islamic countries.

Upon relocating to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, his curiosity was piqued by the prospect of contributing to the global peace walk project. He was motivated by a desire to understand how Buddhism could be integrated into a predominantly Muslim society.

During his time in the United States, Phra Pawaruth encountered an unexpected twist in his journey. Initially, he was disheartened when his role shifted from actively participating in the walk to serving in a pivotal support unit. This change felt like a personal setback, but as he delved into his new responsibilities, he unearthed a profound realization: his role was not only essential but deeply fulfilling.

As he threw himself into the support team's efforts, Phra Pawaruth discovered the critical impact of his contributions on the project's overall success. The support role proved to be a cornerstone for the pilgrimage, highlighting the indispensable nature of every participant's effort. What began as disappointment quickly evolved.



His journey in the U.S. contrasted sharply with his previous experiences. In India, the local population had a general understanding of Buddhism, which made the pilgrimage relatively straightforward. However, in Dubai, where awareness of Buddhism was limited, he found himself frequently engaged in educational dialogues to share and explain his practices. This challenge, combined with his support role, enriched his perspective on the importance of collaboration and adaptability in achieving collective goals.

Despite the initial hurdles, he was able to partake in some of the walks, further deepening his understanding of the diverse contexts in which the pilgrimage unfolded. This rich tapestry of experiences—from the pivotal support role in the U.S. to the educational outreach in Dubai—underscored the transformative power of dedication and the significant impact of every role in a global mission for peace.

From a psychological perspective, accepting the role within the support unit led to personal growth. Initially, he struggled with the lack of organization among some participants, but reflection helped him understand and accept that everyone is different and cannot always conform to his standards.



This realization helped him more appreciate the diverse nature of the group and adapt to his expectations. The primary benefit of this project was the profound lesson that true transformation starts from within oneself, rather than attempting to change others. This realization emerged as a cornerstone of his personal growth throughout the journey. This lesson was instrumental in reshaping his approach to both personal development and professional interactions. It taught him that authentic leadership and effective collaboration begin with self-awareness and self-improvement. The insights gained from this project have become foundational in his ongoing quest for self-improvement and have significantly enriched his approach to leadership and teamwork.



Phra Yuth Jakkavaro
(Yuth Pavong)
13 Years of Ordination



Yuth Pavong was born on November 16, 1964, at the renowned Children's Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. As the son of Mr. Prayong and Mrs. Pani, he grew up in a nurturing environment that laid the foundation for his future endeavors.

His academic journey began at Phetchaburi Teacher's College, an esteemed institution affiliated with Rajabhat University in Pathum Thani Province. Here, he pursued a degree in Arts with a focus on Management, a field that equipped him with a diverse skill set and a keen understanding of organizational dynamics.

Professional Experience

Yuth has accumulated diverse professional experience throughout his career. He began his career as a Purchasing Staff Member at Cho Karnchang Co., Ltd., a leading construction company in Thailand. In this role, he was responsible for procuring materials and managing supplier relationships, which provided him with valuable experience in procurement and logistics. Following his tenure at Cho Karnchang, he served as a Warehouse Officer at SB Furniture Co., Ltd., where he managed inventory, coordinated shipments, and ensured efficient warehouse operations. His role involved overseeing the storage and distribution of furniture products, contributing to the company's supply chain management.

In addition to his corporate roles, Yuth pursued his passion for music. He auditioned successfully and played with the band "White Tulip", which performed at various restaurants. His musical journey culminated in the band winning first place in a prestigious music competition held at the Thai Japanese Stadium, showcasing his talent and dedication to the arts. These experiences have equipped him with a skill set in both professional and creative fields.



Ordination

In 2011, at the age of 47, Yuth embraced monastic life and was ordained as a monk at Wat Sangkhathan in Nonthaburi Province. His ordination was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Phra Rachananthmuni (Samruay Wat Rahan), a revered figure in the monastic community. During this significant event, he was bestowed with the name "**Jakkavaro**", which means "one who is powerful or mighty in the context of the wheel." Hence, "**Jakkavaro**" denotes someone with considerable spiritual authority or influence, especially in guiding and disseminating Buddhist teachings.

Following his ordination, Phra Yuth dedicated his first year, known as the monastic rains retreat, to deepening his spiritual practice and serving the community at Wat Pa Phattad Tarnsawan in Kanchanaburi Province. This period was marked by significant spiritual growth and a strong commitment to enhancing the well-being of those around him. After a year, he moved to Wat Thamkhaowong in Uthai Thani Province, where he spent another year before returning to Wat Sangkhathan. Following this, he embarked on a major international journey to India, where he spent a year at Wat Dhammachala, immersing himself in the study and practice of Buddhism in its country of origin.

Upon returning to Thailand, Phra Yuth pursued advanced studies in Buddhist diplomacy, where he met and collaborated with Phra Suppachai. Upon completing his studies, he took on a role at Wat Santiwongsa in Birmingham, United Kingdom and served at this temple for two years. His monastic career continued as he returned to Wat Ton Tan Ton in Chiang Mai Province. Here, he furthered his Dhamma studies as a lecturer in India.

After completing this educational pursuit, he returned to Thailand and spent time at Wat Pa Tham Bua in Mae Hong Son Province, deepening his spiritual practice in a serene and reflective environment. His journey eventually led him to Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he served the local Thai and broader Buddhist community.

Pilgrimages Experience

When the opportunity to participate in the peace pilgrimage project arose, New York, where he served the local Thai and broader Buddhist community. Currently, he eagerly joined, given its proximity to his location. The journey began in Washington, D.C., and ended at Niagara Falls, New York. This undertaking was both physically demanding and spiritually enriching



At the outset, he encountered significant challenges. His mind was tumultuous, and he struggled to keep up with the pace of the pilgrimage. This initial phase was marked by a sense of mental and physical disarray, which made progress difficult. However, as he focused on mindfulness, he gradually found a rhythm. This shift in awareness allowed him to walk continuously and steadily.

During the pilgrimage, Phra Yuth experienced a profound shift in mental state. Initially struggling with confusion and turbulence, he found that dedicated mindfulness practice led to greater mental clarity and resolve, demonstrating that true mental development and inner peace come from active practice, not just theoretical contemplation.

A key insight Phra Yuth gained was the essence of non-attachment. The funds raised during the walk were placed into a central communal fund, promoting selflessness and collective welfare. This approach supported the pilgrimage's needs and fostered a deeper sense of generosity and shared responsibility. The pilgrimage was a transformative journey of self-discovery and spiritual enrichment, highlighting the profound impact of altruism and collective support. It emphasized the power of dedicated practice, mindfulness, and selflessness.



Through this experience, Phra Yuth deepened his spiritual practice and embraced communal harmony and collective welfare, demonstrating the significant role of perseverance, mindfulness, and altruism in personal and spiritual growth. The pilgrimage was transformative, blending personal spiritual growth with communal impact. It showcased how dedicated practice, mindfulness, and selflessness lead to inner peace and development. His embrace of communal support and altruism underscored that true spiritual progress comes from commitment to collective harmony and selfless service, highlighting the role of perseverance and collective support in fostering inner peace and harmony.



**Phra Jitja Kunagaro
(Jitja Panajit)
9 years of ordination**



Jitja Panajit, born on September 5, 1978, in Buriram Province, Thailand, is the second of four siblings. Raised by his parents, Mr. Choo and Mrs. Bunmee Panajit, he grew up in a family deeply rooted in togetherness and mutual support, which significantly shaped his early character and values.

His early education ended at Grade 6, but his strong determination and interest in learning were evident. Despite limited formal schooling, his close-knit family provided a solid foundation, blending warmth with growing self-awareness and setting the stage for his transformative future experiences.

Professional Experience

Jitja has accumulated extensive professional experience over a decade in the field of boxing, both as a competitor and as an educator. Initially, he embarked on a successful career as a professional boxer. His time in the ring was characterized by rigorous training, strategic competition, and a steadfast dedication to mastering the sport. Throughout his career, he gained valuable experience and developed a profound understanding of boxing techniques and strategies.

In parallel with his boxing career, Jitja also served as a boxing instructor for ten years. In this capacity, he applied his extensive knowledge and experience to train and mentor emerging boxers.

His role involved teaching the fundamental techniques of boxing, advanced strategies, and instilling the mental discipline necessary for success. Jitja's contributions as a coach were instrumental in shaping the skills and careers of his students, demonstrating his commitment to the sport and his ability to inspire and motivate others. Overall, his dual roles as a professional boxer and boxing instructor underscore his deep expertise in the sport and his dedication to both personal achievement and the development of others in the boxing community.



Ordination

Jitja's life changed dramatically after a severe car accident, which became a pivotal moment for reflection and reassessment of his purpose. The traumatic event prompted deep existential questioning and a search for a new direction. As he recovered, Jitja experienced a profound internal shift, leading him to embrace a monastic life dedicated to spiritual growth, reflection, service, and inner peace. On July 10, 2015, Jitja's spiritual journey reached a key milestone with his ordination as a monk at Wat Nongjik in Buriram Province. Guided by Phra Kru Piyathamthats, the sub-district abbot and his preceptor, Jitja took on the name "**Kunagaro**," signifying his commitment to noble deeds, wisdom, and compassion. In Buddhist terminology, "**Kunagaro**" signifies an individual who is exceptionally skilled in performing virtuous acts and contributing positively to the well-being of others.

Jitja's ordination was a pivotal moment, marking both a significant personal achievement and a deep commitment to spiritual growth and service. It highlighted the transformative power of introspection and the impact of aligning one's life with deeper values and aspirations.

After completing his initial year of monastic life, Phra Jitja embarked on an international journey that would further shape his spiritual trajectory. His first destination was Wat Ellora in India, where he spent a year immersing himself in the rich spiritual traditions of the region. During his stay at Wat Ellora, he had a serendipitous encounter with Phra Sutham, a significant figure in the monastic community. Their discussions about the Walk for World Peace were particularly influential, igniting within Phra Jitja a deeper commitment to global peace and a desire to contribute to such noble endeavors.







Currently, Phra Jitja resides at Wat USA Buddhayaram in New York, where he continues his monastic duties and spiritual practice. His presence in New York reflects his ongoing commitment to both his spiritual journey and his dedication to global peace initiatives. His journey, marked by international experiences and a steadfast commitment to spiritual and global causes, highlights his profound dedication to fostering peace and spiritual growth across diverse cultural and geographical landscapes.

Pilgrimage History

During his monastic stay in India, Phra Jitja profoundly deepened his spiritual perspective through walking meditation. This practice, involving mindful walking and reflection, allowed him to explore his inner life and gain valuable insights into spiritual practice.

Upon arriving in the U.S., Phra Jitja joined Phra Sutham's team for the global peace walk. The demanding daily schedule tested his physical endurance and mental strength, turning each step into a meditation journey through discomfort and emotional turmoil. This experience fostered merit, perseverance, and the ability to spread joy to those he met. Interactions with supportive locals and curious onlookers became opportunities for him to spread peace and positive energy. Despite facing significant physical discomfort and emotional challenges, he used these difficulties to deepen his practice. By distinguishing between physical pain and mental state through mindfulness, he achieved detachment and endured discomfort with grace, turning it into a source of pride and accomplishment.

Phra Jitja's journey went beyond personal endurance, becoming a lesson in collaboration and conflict resolution. Facing various disagreements and challenges, he learned to maintain mindfulness and avoid blame. This perspective shift revealed that true peace and harmony come from acts of giving and selflessness. Embracing this approach, he found that overcoming obstacles and fostering unity require generosity and compassion in every interaction.



Tasks Assignment





The Walk for World Peace was organized with a comprehensive approach, ensuring that every aspect of the journey was managed efficiently. The detailed breakdown of responsibilities was as follows:

1. **Walking Team:** The core of the pilgrimage consisted of Phra Sutham Titadhammo (Nateetong) and Phra Witee Dhammakuno (Sangdawruang), who were designated as the principal walkers. Their role was to lead the journey across diverse terrains, exemplifying perseverance and spiritual dedication. Their daily walks showcased their commitment and served as an inspiration to everyone involved in the project.

2. **Secretariat and Coordination Team:** Phramaha Damrong Narisaro (Angkha) and Suppachai Supajaro (Phonkraipetch) were entrusted with the critical task of overseeing all administrative and coordination functions. Their responsibilities included scheduling, managing team communications, and overseeing logistics. They were essential in resolving issues and keeping the pilgrimage on track.

3. **Service Team:** Led by Phra Pawaruth Mahapanyo (Pokloi), This team provided essential support services, managing supplies, food, and water, and addressing immediate needs. Assisted by Mr. Suthin Chuaypradit and Ms. Sirintip Mekngarmfa, they ensured the walkers and team members were well-cared for, crucial for maintaining morale and health.

4. **Public Relations Team:** Led by Phrakru Sangkharak Kamron Bhattako (Yaemyuen) and Phra Supalak Sumetho (Khangthong), This team generated buzz and built excitement for the Walk for World Peace. They crafted compelling press releases, maintained active social media, and orchestrated media engagements, significantly amplifying the event's visibility and rallying public support.



The team engaged media outlets to highlight the mission's significance, drawing widespread attention. Supported by the administrative team, who managed Facebook interactions and provided updates, they kept the community informed and engaged. Additionally, they organized impactful small-group discussions on peace, fostering understanding and inspiring local support. Their creative and strategic efforts were crucial in spreading the message of peace and resonating with diverse communities.

5. **Treasurer Team:** Phra Mesa Tejavaro (Sangaroon) was responsible for overseeing the financial aspects of the walk. The treasurer managed budgeting, tracked expenses, and handled donations, ensuring transparent financial transactions and appropriate fund allocation. His role was crucial for maintaining financial integrity and accountability.

Each team was crucial to the success of the Walk for World Peace. Their coordinated efforts and dedication ensured smooth execution and a meaningful experience. Their expertise and collaboration led to a well-organized pilgrimage that effectively raised awareness about peace and unity, inspiring participants and communities toward a more harmonious world. By working together seamlessly, these teams exemplified the power of collective effort in bringing about meaningful change. Their commitment to the mission's goals and their ability to adapt to challenges ensured that the pilgrimage was both a logistical success and a source of profound inspiration for all who participated.





Memorable Experience





"Unforgettable Experiences in Florida"

In mid-April 2024, Phra Kamron and Phra Supalak faced one of the most challenging nights of their pilgrimage, testing their endurance and mental strength. Their day, marked by continuous walking and documenting their journey with photos and videos, took a dramatic turn at night as they navigated a route known for its alligator population. Their slower pace, due to the added burden of capturing every moment, caused them to fall behind the main group.

The sense of urgency heightened as they trudged forward, their path illuminated only by the intermittent headlights of oncoming vehicles. The narrow shoulder of the road offered little respite, with a metal fence designed to prevent alligators from encroaching onto the road looming on one side. As the night deepened, the absence of a flashlight made their journey even more daunting. The darkness was not merely a lack of light but a heavy shroud that seemed to amplify every sound. The chorus of croaking frogs and the incessant buzzing of insects became a backdrop to their fears, which began to play tricks on their minds



The imagination can be a powerful force, and in this case, it turned benign noises into potential threats, fueling their anxiety about hidden alligators. Their fears were not unfounded; the path they were on had a reputation for being home to numerous alligators. The constant battle to keep their thoughts grounded was exacerbated by the unreliable GPS signals. The technology that was supposed to guide them now seemed to betray them, leading them to question their every step.

Phra Kamron, in a moment of heightened anxiety, reached out to the team ahead, seeking reassurance. When he received confirmation that the team was with Phra Supalak, Phra Kamron's relief was short-lived. His anxiety led him to double-check the information, unsure whether the voice on the line was indeed with Phra Supalak. This moment of uncertainty only added to the mental strain they were experiencing. They had to remain vigilant, as their path was fraught with potential dangers, both real and imagined.

The GPS instructed them to turn right, but the road was obstructed by a barrier meant to keep alligators away. Faced with this unexpected obstacle, they had no choice but to forge ahead on their current path, quickening their pace in a determined effort to reach their destination. The sense of urgency was palpable; the road ahead seemed endless, and their progress was slow. Despite the physical discomfort and the pervasive fear of the unknown, their determination never wavered.



Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, they arrived at Wat Mahathadjetiyaram, Thai Temple in West Palm Beach, Florida. The sight of the temple, bathed in the faint glow of the dawn, was a beacon of hope and a symbol of their triumph over the night's trials. They had not only navigated the physical distance but had also confronted and overcome their inner fears and doubts.

This harrowing experience highlighted Phra Kamron and Phra Supalak's extraordinary resilience and unwavering spiritual strength, showcasing their deep commitment to their spiritual quest amid physical exhaustion and psychological fear.

Their physical discomfort and mental turbulence made each step a battle against external obstacles and internal doubts. Their determination, tested by the alligator-infested route and darkness, symbolized their struggle to overcome spiritual obstacles and explore their inner strength.

Navigating the treacherous path with unreliable GPS and the threat of alligators required immense physical endurance and mental fortitude. Phra Kamron and Phra Supalak pushed through a sense of being lost and fear, their mental strain matching their physical effort. As the oppressive night lifted, the dawn's faint glow marked their arrival at Wat Mahathadjetiyaram, a profound milestone in their spiritual journey.

The sight of the temple, standing serene, was a powerful symbol of their triumph over the trials they had endured. It was a moment of profound relief and spiritual reflection, marking the culmination of their endurance and faith. This journey illuminated the deep and often invisible connection between physical challenges and spiritual growth.



Their struggle through the darkness and ultimate triumph were about confronting their deepest fears, testing their spiritual convictions, and emerging stronger and more enlightened. Phra Kamron and Phra Supalak's experience underscored the transformative power of facing and overcoming adversity. Their struggle through the darkness and their ultimate triumph were not just about enduring a difficult night; they were about confronting their deepest fears, testing their spiritual convictions, and emerging stronger and more enlightened. This journey illuminated the deep and often invisible connection between physical challenges and spiritual growth. Phra Kamron and Phra Supalak's experience underscored the transformative power of facing and overcoming adversity.

"Warmly Welcomed"



As the wandering monks journeyed through Wat Phra Dhammakaya Palm Beach, they were met with a heartfelt and inspiring reception. Under the guidance of Phra Maha Sirikrachai Kattimetho, the revered abbot of Wat Phra Dhammakaya Palm Beach, both monks and laypeople came together to extend a warm and respectful welcome. The ceremony was a beautiful testament to the spirit of generosity and reverence within the community.



The reception was meticulously organized, featuring a thoughtful ceremony to honor the visiting monks. In addition to offering a nourishing lunch, the community provided immense support and encouragement. To ensure the monks' well-being and comfort after their long journey, they were also treated to soothing therapeutic massages designed to relieve muscle tension and rejuvenate their spirits. This act of kindness and dedication not only showcased the profound respect for the monastic path but also highlighted the unity and compassion that bind the community together in their shared pursuit of spiritual growth and harmony.



"Blackshear Media Spots Monk on His Road Journey"



As the peace marchers made their way through Blackshear, GA, they were greeted by a local news media to capture the essence of their inspiring journey. The monks, embodying tranquility and purpose, shared the remarkable story of their mission with the reporters. They explained that their epic journey had commenced in Key West, Florida, and was destined to culminate at Niagara Falls, New York—a trek spanning hundreds of miles dedicated to promoting global peace and unity.

The reporters, intrigued by the monks' dedication, asked about the journey's progress and the profound goals behind their walk. The monks, with serene determination, detailed the arduous path they had traversed and the inspiring encounters along the way.

The local newspaper covered the event enthusiastically, highlighting the serendipity of encountering dedicated Thai peace walkers in Blackshear.

The article resonated with the community, showcasing the unique privilege of meeting these remarkable monks on their cross-country journey for world peace.



"Well-Cared by Local Authorities"



The pilgrimage walk is more than a physical journey; it's a profound spiritual voyage. Each step symbolizes the monks' dedication to spreading peace and fostering understanding, with their disciplined march and meditative focus revealing the transformative impact of their mission.

Local authorities and emergency responders have enthusiastically rallied around the monks, providing crucial supplies, food, and heartfelt encouragement. Their dynamic support has been instrumental in ensuring the monks' safety and well-being, adding a thrilling boost to their journey.

Prior to the pilgrimage, our team reached out to these officials through letters and emails, informing them about the project and seeking their advice on local regulations and guidelines. Given that most of the monks are not familiar with U.S. laws and customs, this advance coordination was crucial. The presence and support of these officials have been instrumental in maintaining safety and facilitating the smooth progress of the pilgrimage. Their continuous engagement—from checking in on the monks to offering words of encouragement—demonstrates a deep commitment to the success of this meaningful endeavor.



As the monks embark on their awe-inspiring journey from the southernmost point of Florida to the breathtaking Niagara Falls, traversing 54 counties, the logistical challenges are truly immense. Our team is working tirelessly behind the scenes, orchestrating every detail with unwavering dedication and energy. Their tireless efforts ensure that this grand pilgrimage unfolds seamlessly, reflecting the extraordinary commitment and enthusiasm driving this monumental mission. The excitement surrounding the "Walk for World Peace" is growing exponentially. For example, local news outlets have eagerly covered the event, highlighting the increasing public interest and the powerful message of the pilgrimage



To experience the vibrant coverage and see the latest updates, visit The Black's Heart Times

<https://www.facebook.com/theblacksheartimes/posts/pfbid0JQBAXVzzzmou42Xynfx2jah7ELVn8pX5EyVzW2NQRVGCHUXsgHFpf4Txc1nSanbKl>

[Buddhist monks stop in Frederick along 2,000-mile peace journey | Social issues | fredericknewspost.com](#)

[Buddhist monks make pilgrimage for peace along Maryland countryside - YouTube](#)

[Walk for World Peace passes through Fauquier County | Features & Events | fauquiernow.com](#)

[Buddhist monks currently on a journey through Butler County – Butler Eagle](#)

[Buddhist monks walk for peace along Maryland countryside \(msn.com\)](#)

[Monks walk more than 1,400 miles | victoriaadvocate.com](#)

[Walk for World Peace stops in Charlottesville \(wafb.com\)](#)



"Anna Mishoe's Story from South Carolina on May 1' 2024"



One morning, while Anna was engaged in her morning activities with her kids, she came across a Facebook post about monks walking for peace from Key West, Florida to New York. Anna explained to her children the immense effort required for such a journey. She pointed out the route on a map and explained that driving this distance would take 22 hours, or an entire day, but they chose to walk instead.

She also discussed the differences in faith, noting that while some Christians might complain about going to church on Sundays or praying before meals and bedtime.

These monks were dedicating themselves to a meaningful cause for the benefit of society. This led Anna to question her children about why they couldn't show similar dedication.

Fortunately, while driving her kids to get haircuts, Anna happened to encounter the monks. She and her children quickly gathered all the water bottles in the car to offer to the monks. The kids were overjoyed and excited to talk to the monks and give them water.



"Journey of Peace: From Southern to Northern Carolina"

As our journey took us through South Carolina, the anticipation for our "Walk for World Peace" surged to exhilarating new heights. The energy was palpable, fueled by an enthusiastic response from the community as news of our mission spread rapidly. Our social media following grew exponentially, with hundreds of new followers joining each day, driven by the passionate shares and conversations ignited across the region. The community's outpouring of support was nothing short of extraordinary, with a constant stream of water and food donations arriving for the monks and our dedicated support team. This tangible expression of generosity underscored the community's steadfast commitment to our cause.

Arriving in Scotland County, North Carolina, was a breathtaking highlight. We were met with extraordinary enthusiasm and warmth from the local emergency response team, whose genuine hospitality made us feel incredibly welcomed and supported, setting a positive tone for our visit.



The excitement in Scotland County was electric. Residents from all corners of the county came together to witness our arrival. Their eagerness to participate was heartwarming; many seized the opportunity to interact with the monks, capture memorable photos, and enthusiastically join our mission to promote peace. The atmosphere was alive with energy and a shared sense of purpose.



In Scotland County, the community's support was exceptionally generous, offering ample water, food, and essentials. Their contributions highlighted their dedication, goodwill, and deep hospitality.

Our interactions with emergency responders and residents were focused on promoting peace. Meaningful conversations revealed a shared commitment to tranquility and harmony. The heartfelt gratitude we received emphasized the profound impact of our mission and the crucial role of solidarity.

The excitement in Scotland County was palpable as residents from across the county gathered to witness our arrival.



Their eagerness to engage, capture memorable photos, and actively support our mission to promote peace created a vibrant and purposeful atmosphere. Our visit to Scotland County was a testament to the power of compassion and unity. From the moment we arrived, the community's exceptional warmth, enthusiasm, and genuine commitment to peace left an inspiring and lasting impact.

The fervent engagement of the residents underscored the significant influence of shared values and collective efforts in fostering a more harmonious world. Each gesture of support, from thoughtful conversations to tangible contributions, reinforced their deep-seated dedication to our mission.

Our time in Scotland County was more than just a stop on our journey; it was a vibrant and moving experience that underscored the profound effects of compassion and shared commitment. The interactions we had, the support we received, and the enthusiasm that permeated every aspect of our visit all contributed to a renewed sense of purpose and motivation. This experience vividly illustrated the power of compassion to bring people together and effect meaningful change.

The lasting impression left by our visit to Scotland County is a testament to the strength of community bonds and the impact of collective action. It reaffirmed the significance of our ongoing mission to promote global peace and served as a powerful reminder of the essential role that compassion plays in building a more harmonious world. The support and enthusiasm from Scotland County will remain a source of inspiration as we continue our journey, motivated by the shared values and unity that we experienced during our time there.



"Confronting the Challenges of Inclement Weather"



It is a well-established fact that weather conditions are inherently uncontrollable, and this reality presents itself daily in a variety of forms. The monks participating in the 'Walk for World Peace' came to intimately understand this as they journeyed from the southernmost point of Florida, starting their pilgrimage under initially clear and inviting skies. However, as their journey progressed, they faced a series of weather-related challenges that tested their resilience and commitment.

At the outset, the monks enjoyed the early morning's cool and refreshing air, accompanied by a light mist that added a serene quality to their walk. Yet, it wasn't long before they encountered the sweltering heat, with temperatures rising to nearly 90°F. The oppressive heat presented its own set of trials, but the monks, driven by their mission, persevered despite the discomfort.

Their daily routines often began at the crack of dawn, around 5:00 a.m., when the air was still crisp, and the surroundings shrouded in a gentle fog. As the sun climbed higher, the temperature would rise sharply, transforming the once-cool morning into a scorching day.

This transition brought about additional hardships, including the occasional heavy downpour or light rain. Despite these adverse weather conditions, the monks remained undeterred, their resolve unwavering as they continued their journey.



Questions frequently arose from onlookers regarding the monks' footwear. The monks were equipped with shoes donated by compassionate supporters, a gesture that highlighted the generosity of those who believed in their cause. Although these shoes were not always the most comfortable, they provided essential protection for their feet, which would have been more vulnerable without any footwear at all.

The monks' commitment to their mission was clear as they continued walking through scorching heat, cold winds, and relentless rain, maintaining steadfast determination to reach their goal.

The journey was marked by a sense of perseverance that transcended the immediate discomforts, underscoring their dedication to the cause of promoting world peace. Their path was not merely a physical journey but a profound testament to their inner strength and unwavering dedication. The challenges they faced along the way, from extreme weather to physical exhaustion, were met with a spirit of resilience. They understood that their mission extended beyond personal comfort, embodying a broader commitment to spreading a message of peace.

The monks' journey continued relentlessly through challenging weather until they reached Niagara Falls, New York. Their unwavering spirit and perseverance underscored their dedication to global peace, showcasing the power of determination in overcoming adversity.



"Memorable Encounters During the Journey in Virginia"



As the group of monks navigated the incline along the road through Charlottesville, Virginia, they encountered a significant event amidst the bustling traffic. The road was crowded with vehicles traveling in both directions, adding to the challenge of their journey. During this moment, they met Amaya Michelle, a local journalist who had come prepared with all the necessary equipment to cover their pilgrimage.

Amaya had carefully chosen a strategic spot along the roadside to set up her equipment, ensuring she would capture the full essence of the monks' walk for peace.

With the monks on a tightly scheduled pilgrimage, Maya knew time was of the essence. As they made their way along the route, she moved swiftly to conduct an interview, aiming to glean key insights into their mission. She began by asking about the primary objectives of their pilgrimage, seeking to understand what drove them to embark on this journey. She inquired about the specific goals they hoped to achieve through their walk and how they intended to impact those they encountered along the way.

Next, she addressed the logistical aspects of their journey, asking about the duration of the pilgrimage. Maya wanted to know how long they had been traveling and how much longer they planned to continue their journey. She also sought details on the distances they intended to cover each day and the total length of the pilgrimage.

Her questions were designed to be concise yet comprehensive, aiming to provide a clear picture of the monks' purpose and the practicalities of their journey, all within the constraints of their busy schedule.



The monks, unwavering in their mission, eagerly addressed Maya's inquiries with focused precision. Even though the interview was brief, it was packed with enlightening revelations about their dedication and the profound impact of their walk. The insights shared during this moment were both captivating and inspiring, shedding light on the deeper purpose behind their journey.

With the interview concluded, the monks seamlessly transitioned back to their pilgrimage, picking up their stride as they continued along Route 20. Their renewed momentum was palpable, and the excitement of their mission carried them forward, undeterred and full of purpose. Each step they took was a testament to their unwavering commitment to spreading peace, as they pressed on with fervor and determination. The interview is available online at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArFASAxoC08>

***"Join the Discussion on the Walk for World Peace
at the Community of Peace"***



On May 22, 2024, our team had the incredible privilege of visiting the Community of Peace, guided by the inspiring Brother Stefan. The day was highlighted by a moving chanting session that enveloped everyone in a powerful wave of blessings. The atmosphere was charged with an extraordinary sense of love and tranquility, creating the perfect backdrop for engaging and profound conversations.

We spent considerable time exploring the ways in which cultivating inner peace can serve as a foundation for extending tranquility to broader spheres—starting from our immediate family and community and reaching out to state and national levels. Our dialogue touched upon the significance of developing a personal sense of peace as a precursor to creating harmony in our external environments.



Additionally, we explored how meditation techniques can be adapted to different contexts, offering insights on integrating practice into daily life for enhanced inner calm. Our monks engaged with attendees' questions over tea, providing thoughtful answers and fostering a rich exchange of ideas in a spirit of mutual enrichment and shared purpose.

At the conclusion of our session, a media representative posed a question about how our actions and practices might contribute to global peace. We responded by emphasizing a simple yet profound truth: the moment we entered the meeting room, the attendees experienced a noticeable shift in energy, with a palpable sense of peace spreading throughout space. While peace itself cannot be physically touched, its effects are deeply felt in the minds and hearts of individuals.

We highlighted that the responsibility for creating peace does not rest solely with governments or leaders; it is a duty shared by every individual. By nurturing peace within our own minds, we can effectively radiate this tranquility outward, impacting our families, communities, and ultimately, the broader society. This personal commitment to inner peace is a powerful catalyst for fostering a more harmonious world. For more information about our Community of Peace and our event, please visit www.communityofpeace.org and [Monks walk more than 1,400 miles](http://monkswalkmorethan1400miles.com) | victoriaadvocate.com



"Visiting the Preschoolers at Scottsville Elementary School"



On May 20, 2024, the monks journeyed past Scottsville Elementary School, where an electrifying scene awaited them. Early that morning, students, teachers, and parents had assembled in enthusiastic support of our "Walk for World Peace" initiative. The excitement was palpable, thanks to Sarah Morris, a dedicated teacher who had been closely following our progress on Facebook. She had reached out with a heartfelt proposal: the entire student body would gather outside near the large LOVE sign to show their support as the monks walked by.

The monks were profoundly touched by the warm and heartfelt reception they received from the school community. As a gesture of appreciation and camaraderie, the school invited the monks to take a break from their pilgrimage and join them for a memorable photo session. This invitation was not just a simple request but a meaningful gesture that encapsulated the spirit of the day—one of mutual respect, unity, and shared purpose. During the photo session, the monks were seen interacting with the students and staff, who were equally eager to engage with them. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of joy and connection, as everyone came together to commemorate this special moment.







In the afternoon, the monks returned to the school for an intimate session with students, focusing on empowerment and peace. They emphasized that true peace starts within and encouraged students to practice kindness and compassion with their families and friends. By nurturing these values personally, students could help build a more harmonious community and, ultimately, a more peaceful society. After the meeting, many students came forward to offer their encouragement to the monks, hugging them warmly. In that moment, the monks were profoundly touched, feeling an overwhelming wave of support from these young students.

They were moved by the realization that these children, who will grow up to be the future of the nation, have hearts filled with love. If these children are surrounded by love and can spread kindness and compassion to others, their community will thrive. The monks were deeply moved, with tears of joy streaming down their faces, overwhelmed by the heartfelt support and the promise of a bright, compassionate future.

The monks' visit was not just about sharing their journey; it was about inspiring the next generation to understand and embrace their role in creating a more peaceful world. Their words aimed to instill a sense of personal responsibility and to motivate the children to recognize and harness their own capacity for positive change. The day was filled with joy, inspiration, and a profound sense of collective purpose. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for the beautiful photos captured by Scottsville Elementary School.



For more information about the school and its programs, please visit [Scottsville Elementary School](<https://ses.k12albemarle.org/>).



"The Warm Welcome from the People of Vienna' VA"

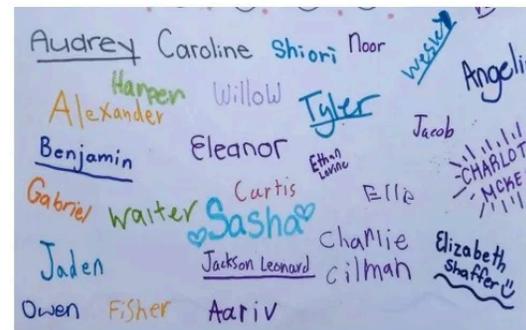
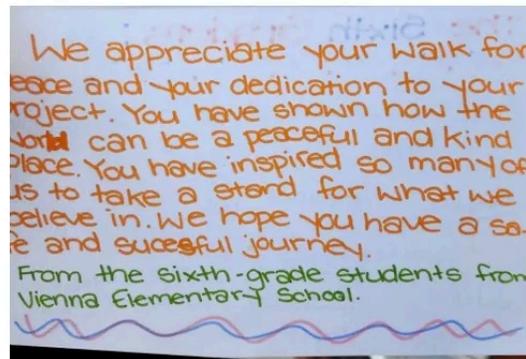


As the monks journeying for world peace approached the picturesque town of Vienna, VA, they were met with a truly heartwarming and enthusiastic reception that exceeded all expectations. The town's welcoming committee had been eagerly anticipating their arrival and went to great lengths to ensure that the monks felt truly appreciated and supported. The scene upon their arrival was one of genuine hospitality and communal spirit. A diverse group of local residents had gathered, their faces beaming with excitement and pride. They had prepared a delightful array of refreshments, including water and nourishing food, to offer to the monks who had traveled tirelessly on their mission. This generous gesture was a testament to the town's commitment to the ideals of peace and solidarity.

Among the notable figures present was Mayor Linda Jane Colbert accompanied by several local officials. Their presence underscored the significance of the event and the town's dedication to supporting the global peace initiative. The atmosphere was vibrant, filled with the energy of individuals coming together to celebrate and encourage a cause that transcends borders



A touching moment occurred when sixth-grade students from Vienna Elementary School gifted heartfelt artwork to the monks. Each piece, a vibrant expression of peace and unity, reflected the students' deep engagement with the pilgrimage's ideals. Adorned with their signatures, these artworks were powerful symbols of encouragement and support for the monks' mission. This gesture highlighted the students' commitment to world peace and showcased the transformative impact of young minds on global movements. The monks were deeply moved, with the presentation underscoring the collective effort required to promote peace and the role of artistic expression in fostering harmony.



"Landmark Arrival The Capitol Building in Washington' D.C."

The monks on the Walk for World Peace journeyed into the heart of the capital city, passing through various locations that showcased a diverse tapestry of ethnicities and cultures. Along the route, people demonstrated incredible kindness, offering water, and food to the monks.





The monks reached a historic milestone in Washington, D.C., at the Capitol Building, a symbol of American democracy and a crossroads of diverse perspectives. This iconic backdrop underscored their pilgrimage's core message: the urgent need for global peace and unity amid a world often divided by conflict.

The monks' message gained significant impact in this historically and politically charged setting, demonstrating that peace is both an ideal and a practical necessity for global cooperation. By aligning their mission with such a prominent location, they sought to inspire renewed commitment to peace. To mark this milestone, we organized a distinguished alms-giving ceremony at the Capitol building, inviting local temples from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. We also engaged our Facebook community, encouraging them to join in celebrating this momentous occasion.



The event featured a profound alms-giving ceremony, followed by a series of inspiring teachings delivered by the monks amidst the grandeur of the Capitol. This gathering not only highlighted the spiritual significance of the occasion but also provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection and community engagement within a historically rich and evocative setting.

The event received enthusiastic backing from various notable quarters, including a distinguished presence from the Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. The embassy demonstrated its support by sending representatives to partake in and witness this momentous occasion. Their involvement not only lent a formal diplomatic touch to the ceremony but also underscored the event's international significance. The participation of the embassy added a layer of prestige and international solidarity, enhancing the overall impact and importance of the celebration.

The event illuminated the extraordinary potential we all share in advancing the cause of peace, transforming our shared commitment into a powerful force for positive change. For a comprehensive look at this historic event, including detailed coverage and images, please visit Voice of America's report: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdeAdymFnxM>



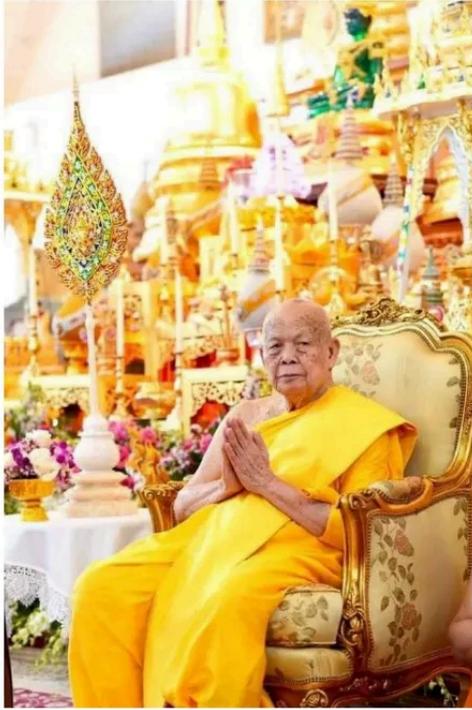
"Meet with the Congressman"



On June 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., Phra Wijitthammaphani and Phra Sutham Tiddhammo, along with their team, met with U.S. Representative Darren Soto of Florida's 9th district. They presented Mr. Soto with a book about the Peace Walk initiative. A strong supporter, Mr. Soto had endorsed the event and facilitated local participation in Kissimmee, Florida. The meeting highlighted broad support for peace, including from government officials, and concluded with a group photo to commemorate their shared commitment to global harmony.



"Participating in Luang Ta Chi 100 Years Celebration at Wat Thai D.C."



On June 9, 2024, the delegation had the distinct honor of participating in a momentous celebration marking the 100th birthday of Phra RajmAngkhalarsani, affectionately known as Luang Ta Chi Surasak Chivananto. This milestone event took place at Wat Thai Washington, D.C., where Luang Ta Chi has long served as the esteemed abbot and a respected advisor to the Thai Monastic Assembly in the United States

The grand occasion was highlighted by the presence of His Excellency Suraya Jinda Wong, the Thai Ambassador to the United States, who added a layer of diplomatic significance to the celebration. The ceremony was attended by an impressive assembly of approximately 300 monks from various international Theravada Buddhist temples, underscoring the widespread reverence and admiration for Luang Ta Chi's contributions

This centennial celebration was not merely a tribute to a remarkable life; it was an eloquent and heartfelt acknowledgment of Luang Ta Chi's profound impact on the Thai Buddhist community and his significant contributions to fostering global monastic relations. As the event unfolded, it became increasingly clear that this occasion was a vivid testament to the enduring influence and deep respect Luang Ta Chi commands within the Buddhist world.



The celebration, marked by its grandeur and reverence, highlighted the myriad ways in which Luang Ta Chi has shaped the spiritual landscape both locally and internationally. For decades, he has been a beacon of wisdom, guiding countless individuals through his teachings and actions. His unwavering dedication to upholding and spreading Buddhist principles has left an indelible mark on the community. Throughout the event, the atmosphere was charged with admiration and gratitude as attendees reflected on his lifelong commitment. The heartfelt tributes and shared memories painted a rich tapestry of his contributions, illustrating how his work transcended borders and bridged diverse cultures. His role in nurturing relationships between monastic communities around the globe was underscored, revealing the breadth of his impact.

The celebration served as a powerful reminder of the values he has championed and the legacy he continues to inspire. It was a day of profound recognition, where the significance of his life’s work was celebrated with deep respect and admiration, encapsulating the essence of his enduring influence and the high regard in which he is held by followers worldwide.



"Frederick City Extends Warm Support to Peace Pilgrims"

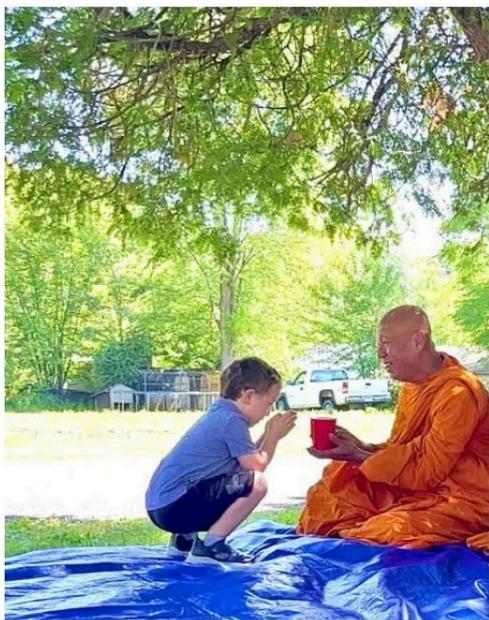


On June 11, 2024, the Pilgrimage Group for World Peace reached the vibrant city of Frederick exactly as scheduled, marking a significant milestone in their journey. The arrival of the group was met with an unexpected and grand reception. To their delight, high-ranking city officials were on hand to extend a warm welcome. As the monks approached the majestic City Hall, they were greeted by Mr. Richard Griffin, the esteemed Director of Economic Development for the City of Frederick.

In a heartening display of civic pride and unwavering support, Mr. Richard Griffin, Director of Economic Development for the City of Frederick, warmly welcomed the pilgrims as they arrived in the city. His reception was marked by an exceptional gesture of goodwill—a pin was presented to the group. This pin was not just a token of appreciation but a symbolic representation of the city's deep respect for and acknowledgment of their noble mission to promote world peace.

The support from Frederick was a reminder of the power of community and the impact that local engagement can have on global initiatives. It infused the journey with renewed vigor and determination, leaving the pilgrims with a lasting impression of the city's solidarity and enthusiasm for their cause. The city's recognition and the heartfelt welcome they received were truly a highlight of their pilgrimage, enriching their experience and underscoring the collective commitment to a more peaceful world.

"Young Jason Joins Monks on Their Peaceful Journey"



As we transitioned from Maryland into Pennsylvania, young Jason, accompanied by his mother and younger sister, made a remarkable appearance. They brought food and water to offer to the monks and participated in the Walk for World Peace. Despite his young age, Jason demonstrated exceptional manners and a deep respect for adults, approaching them with humility and grace. Jason embodies the spirit of the younger generation within our community, emphasizing the importance of imparting accurate knowledge and understanding to children.

His actions, such as offering water to the monks, reflect his early lessons in love and compassion. Jason has received a solid foundation in values, and we are confident that he will grow into a contributing and admirable member of society. His presence not only highlights the significance of nurturing such qualities in youth but also serves as a hopeful testament to the impact of fostering empathy and kindness from a young age.

In addition to his thoughtful gestures, young Jason also participated in the walk alongside the monks. Despite his small stature and the sweltering heat, he demonstrated remarkable determination and resilience. With unwavering commitment, he carefully followed the monks, showing remarkable perseverance. His dedication to walking for peace, even under challenging conditions, was both inspiring and heartwarming. Jason's earnest effort brought smiles to those who witnessed his devotion, exemplifying the spirit of the Walk for World Peace.

"Welcome to Pennsylvania: The Land of Challenges"



As the monks ventured into Pennsylvania, their journey took a thrilling turn into rugged terrain. What was once a smooth path became an adventurous trek through challenging landscapes. Faced with the bustling traffic of Route 20, they had to forge new routes, scaling obstacles, crossing streams, and navigating hilly, winding paths. This demanding yet exhilarating shift was not just a test of their physical endurance but also a dramatic shift from the previous stretches of their journey. The monks embraced the challenge with unwavering spirit, turning every obstacle into a testament to their dedication and resilience.

The unexpected shift in their journey transformed into a thrilling test of the monks' physical and mental resilience. What began as a serene landscape of flowing waters and towering trees quickly became a grueling challenge, where each step through the rugged terrain was a testament to their extraordinary endurance and unwavering dedication.



The serene beauty of their surroundings, while visually soothing, contrasted starkly with the internal struggle of enduring long hours of strenuous walking. This juxtaposition highlighted the true nature of their journey—a journey not merely through physical space but through the depths of their own endurance and perseverance.

The serene beauty of their surroundings, while visually soothing, contrasted starkly with the internal struggle of enduring long hours of strenuous walking. This juxtaposition highlighted the true nature of their journey—a journey not merely through physical space but through the depths of their own endurance and perseverance. The monks encountered various physical obstacles that tested their stamina and willpower. The demanding route, with its unpredictable terrain and challenging conditions, required them to continually push beyond their limits. Despite the serene and inviting appearance of the environment, the reality of the physical toll was ever-present, transforming each step into a significant act of perseverance. In facing these hardships, the monks demonstrated an unwavering commitment to their mission.



Their determination to continue, despite growing difficulties, showcased their profound dedication to the cause of peace and spiritual growth. Every step taken was a testament to their inner strength and their resolve to uphold their spiritual journey. The journey, therefore, became a powerful metaphor for the resilience required to achieve true inner peace. It was not merely about reaching a destination but about overcoming the trials and tribulations along the way. The monks' ability to maintain their focus and continue with unwavering determination amidst the physical and mental strains reflected their profound dedication to their spiritual mission.

Ultimately, this challenging segment of the journey underscored the essence of their pilgrimage—a continuous, steadfast pursuit of peace and personal growth. The experience reaffirmed the importance of resilience and inner strength, illustrating that true commitment to a higher purpose involves confronting and overcoming significant obstacles with grace and perseverance. The monks' journey through Pennsylvania became a vivid demonstration of their commitment to peace, showcasing how they confront and overcome adversity. Despite the grueling conditions, their spirits remained high, driven by their profound mission and the vision of spreading peace across every mile of their path.



"Animal Along the Route"



Throughout their journey, the monks frequently came across both alive and the remains of deceased animals scattered along the roadside. This recurrent encounter sparked profound reflections on the way such matters are managed in America. Whenever they encountered these carcasses, the monks took proactive measures to address the situation. They carefully moved the remains off the road and into the adjacent underbrush, aiming to prevent the carcasses from being run over by-passing vehicles or obstructing traffic.

This thoughtful action was taken to avoid potential accidents and ensure the safety of both the animals and motorists. These encounters with dead animals served as a powerful and poignant reminder of the inherent impermanence and fragility of life. Each sighting brought to light the fundamental truth that everything in existence is subject to change—life and death are intertwined, and the certainty of one only underscores the uncertainty of the other. The experience prompted the monks to reflect deeply on their own mortality, recognizing that many aspects of life are beyond human control. This contemplation emphasized the importance of living mindfully and purposefully.





Encountering both living and deceased animals along the journey provided profound insights into the essence of a purposeful life. These encounters underscored the importance of striving for continuous growth, both physically and mentally, to become a better individual.

When they came across living animals, the monks made a conscious effort to avoid disturbing them, allowing them to continue their lives undisturbed.

For the deceased animals, they took prompt and careful action to remove the carcasses from the road, ensuring that these did not obstruct traffic or pose hazards to others. These experiences not only highlighted the inherent fragility of life but also reinforced the importance of living with mindfulness and respect for all beings. They served as a powerful reminder that every action, however small, contributes to the greater harmony and safety of our environment. The monks' dedication to maintaining the well-being of both the living and the deceased along their path demonstrated their commitment to a life of compassion and responsibility, making their journey even more meaningful.



The monks' actions, though seemingly small, were imbued with significant meaning. They demonstrated a deep understanding of the transient nature of existence and a dedication to making the most of their lives. By addressing these challenges with care and consideration, they embraced the opportunity to practice mindfulness and empathy. This approach reinforced the lesson that every moment is valuable and that living with intention and contributing positively to the world are essential for a meaningful and impactful journey.

In essence, their experience underscored the importance of being fully present and engaged in life, making thoughtful choices, and embracing the inherent unpredictability of existence. The monks' reflections and actions highlighted their commitment to living a life of purpose, compassion, and awareness, ensuring that their journey was not only a physical undertaking but also a deeply transformative and meaningful endeavor



"Community Excitement Grows for the Arrival of the Monks who walk for peace"



One of our dedicated Facebook members, Sinatra Anna Marie, recently reached out to our administrative team with a heartfelt message of excitement and enthusiasm. She expressed that both she and the surrounding community are eagerly looking forward to meeting the monks in person. In a post on her Facebook page, she conveyed her gratitude, stating, "So grateful to have hosted them at the Lake Erie Seaway Trail."

Anna Marie highlighted the community's anticipation for the monks' arrival and encouraged everyone to bring appropriate snacks and drinks to share. The venue, which is well-equipped with bathroom facilities, also extends a warm invitation for attendees to explore and tour the site. It offers abundant green space for memorable photo opportunities, and, weather permitting, access to the beach for a picturesque backdrop.

The team was fully aware that the designated meeting spot was intended to be the day's destination. However, the excitement and enthusiasm of the community, which had been following the monks' pilgrimage for nearly two months through extensive media coverage and enthusiastic word-of-mouth, turned out to be far greater than anticipated. This widespread buzz led to an incredible turnout of people eager to greet and take photos with the monks at various points along the route.

The sheer volume of interactions and the heartfelt welcome from the community caused the journey to slow down significantly, resulting in a delay of nearly five hours beyond the originally planned schedule. The monks were touched by the warm reception, but the delays posed a challenge for maintaining the event's timing. In response to this situation, the team quickly recognized the need for proactive measures.

They decided to dispatch the Public Relations team ahead of the monks to engage with the eager crowd that was already gathering at the meeting location. Engaging with the community has profoundly reinforced our team's confidence and enthusiasm, validating that our mission is progressing on the right path. This interaction has been pivotal in solidifying our understanding that stepping out of our comfort zones to deliver a crucial message is essential. We have come to realize that nothing of true value in this world comes without effort. The pursuit of peace is not a passive endeavor; it demands active participation and a collaborative spirit.

Our journey has vividly illustrated that peace cannot be achieved by simply waiting for it to materialize. Instead, it requires proactive and deliberate action from each of us. This insight has ignited a sense of purpose within us, empowering us to take concrete steps toward fostering peace. We have learned that by embracing this mindset and working together, we can create a significant impact. The shared experiences and conversations with the community have been incredibly inspiring. They have underscored the importance of individual and collective effort in making peace a reality. We now have a deeper appreciation for the fact that peace begins within our own hearts. It is through our own commitment and actions that we can effectively convey this message to others.

"A Historical Journey: Exploring the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center"



On June 23, 2024, our team received an inspiring direct message via Facebook Messenger from Saladin Allah, the Director of Community Engagement at the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center. Saladin expressed his heartfelt enthusiasm for inviting our monks to visit the Heritage Center during our upcoming stop in Niagara Falls. He emphasized how our mission, which focuses on promoting global peace and understanding, perfectly aligns with the Heritage Center's dedication to amplifying the voices and stories of freedom seekers.

Saladin elaborated on the center's vital role in preserving and sharing the narratives of enslaved individuals who, like Harriet Tubman, traversed the perilous path to freedom across the Canadian border from Niagara Falls in the 1800s. His invitation was a profound acknowledgment of the synergy between our peaceful pilgrimage and their commitment to historical justice. We eagerly scheduled our visit for June 27, 2024, setting the stage for an impactful and educational experience. As we arrived at the Heritage Center, we were met with a vibrant and enthusiastic reception. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation and excitement as Saladin Allah and his dedicated team welcomed us with open arms. We were guided through an immersive tour that vividly brought to life the historical significance of the site. Saladin provided us with a detailed narrative of the struggles and triumphs of those who sought freedom through the Underground Railroad, shedding light on their incredible journeys and sacrifices.

The visit to the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center was a powerful and emotional journey through American history. Opened in May 2018, the center plays a crucial role in preserving the legacy of Niagara Falls as a pivotal point in the quest for freedom. The exhibits and stories highlight the courage of free African Americans and abolitionists who risked everything to fight for the basic human rights of liberty and equality.

The center's mission extends beyond historical preservation; it seeks to inspire current and future generations to confront and address modern injustices that are rooted in the legacy of slavery. Saladin and his team emphasized the importance of recognizing these historical connections and taking proactive steps towards a more just and equitable society.



Our time at the Heritage Center was deeply moving and transformative. It not only enriched our understanding of the historical struggles for freedom but also reinforced our commitment to promoting peace and justice. The visit served as a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy of those who fought for liberty and the ongoing need to address contemporary social issues with the same courage and resolve. The experience was a compelling and invigorating chapter in our journey, highlighting the profound impact of historical awareness on our present and future endeavors.



"Memorable Highlights at Closing Ceremony"



The closing ceremony of the Walk for World Peace took place on Saturday, June 29, 2024. Initially, the team had planned to host the event at the open-air area beneath the trees at Terrapin Point. However, due to weather forecasts predicting over an 80% chance of rain, the team had to find an alternative location. During this critical moment, Jay Anderson, our volunteer MC, introduced us to Angela P. Berti, Director of Public Affairs for New York State Parks. Angela recommended using the indoor Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Welcome Center at Niagara Falls as the new venue for the ceremony.

In addition to suggesting the new location, Angela facilitated the arrangement by coordinating staff to help set up the venue, organizing transportation, and liaising with Mayor Robert Restaino and the media to inform them of the venue change. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Angela and the New York State Parks team for their invaluable assistance.



As they embarked on their journey through the downpour, the monks and their supporters demonstrated remarkable resilience. The rain-soaked path did little to diminish their enthusiasm or their sense of purpose. They pressed forward with steadfast determination, each step through the rain symbolizing their unwavering commitment to promoting peace and unity.

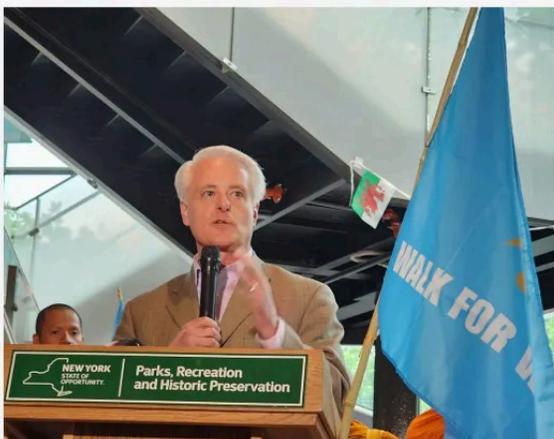
Upon reaching the Welcome Center, the culmination of their efforts was marked by a profound sense of accomplishment. The weather, though harsh, had not deterred them from completing their mission.

Their arrival at the Welcome Center was not just the end of a physical journey but a powerful statement of their dedication to the ideals of peace and perseverance. This final leg of the journey highlighted the true spirit of their undertaking, showcasing their ability to overcome obstacles and remain focused on their goal despite the challenges posed by nature.

The ceremony commenced promptly at 9:00 a.m. at the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Welcome Center. Upon arrival, Jay Anderson and Caitlynne Kesty, the local volunteers who generously offered their services for the event, introduced Director Angela P. Berti.



Director Berti delivered a welcoming address, setting a tone of inclusivity and gratitude. She emphasized the significance of the event, highlighting the shared values of peace and community. Her words resonated with everyone present, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that underscored the importance of coming together to support a common cause.



Following Director Berti's remarks, Mayor Robert Restaino took to the stage to offer his welcome. In his address, Mayor Restaino emphasized the remarkable diversity and numerous challenges faced by New York State. He spoke passionately about the collective aspiration for peaceful coexistence among the state's varied communities.

Mayor Robert Restaino highlighted the significance of the Walk for World Peace, a profound initiative that spanned 90 days, journeying from the southernmost tip of Florida to the iconic Niagara Falls. He elaborated on the walk's purpose: to draw attention to the essential role of peace in our lives. Mayor Restaino encouraged everyone to dedicate just 90 seconds each day to contemplate and prioritize peace. He suggested that such a simple, yet profound daily practice could contribute significantly to fostering a more harmonious and understanding society. The mayor's words underscored the importance of individual reflection in achieving collective peace, reinforcing the overarching message of the event.







Following the Mayor's address, the MC invited Phra Wijitdhammapani to speak about the journey of the Walk for World Peace. In his speech, Phra Wijitdhammapani reflected on the experience of the walk, sharing how the participants had continuously extended love and compassion to everyone they encountered along the way.

Phra Wijitdhammapani delivered a profound and inspiring message, emphasizing that the remarkable display of kindness and empathy witnessed throughout the walk must first begin with nurturing these virtues within oneself. He articulated that true effectiveness in spreading such positive qualities to others is rooted in one's own inner development and understanding.

During the walk, Phra Wijitdhammapani observed numerous heartfelt moments where individuals expressed their profound gratitude and emotional responses. Some were so moved by the experience that they were brought to tears. This deep emotional reaction underscored the walk's resounding success in raising awareness about the transformative power of personal commitment to peace. It was evident that the participants were deeply touched by the journey, and their responses highlighted the impact of the walk in fostering a greater understanding of how peace can be achieved through individual effort and dedication.

Phra Wijitdhammapani emphasized that the journey towards creating a peaceful world is not solely the responsibility of a few but is a collective endeavor that requires the involvement of everyone. He firmly asserted that global peace is an achievable goal, but it cannot be realized without first cultivating inner peace within each individual. His words resonated with the audience, reinforcing the essential message that true peace starts from within. He underscored that each person has a crucial role to play in promoting a more harmonious and peaceful world. By fostering inner tranquility and compassion, individuals can contribute to a collective movement towards a more serene and united global community.

Phra Sutham then emphasized that the responsibility for creating peace does not rest with any single individual, nor is it the sole duty of governments or national leaders. Rather, it is a collective responsibility that falls upon everyone to contribute towards. Following the speeches, the hosts invited a representative from the Native American community to address the attendees. This speaker expressed gratitude on behalf of many who aspire to live together in peace. They delivered a message aimed at inspiring everyone to cultivate a shared consciousness for building peace.

After the ceremony concluded, an alms-giving ritual was held, followed by a meal. The event featured Thai cultural performances, including traditional Thai music and dance. In the afternoon, a prayer session was conducted to honor the Triple Gem, offering blessings to attendees and extending loving-kindness to all beings, both living and deceased. Additionally, prayers were made for the prosperity of the activities and endeavors within the building.



Summary





Dissemination of Buddhist Teaching

Throughout the journey from Key West, Florida to Niagara Falls, New York, the dissemination of the Buddha's teachings has been a central focus. This extensive pilgrimage provided numerous opportunities to connect with diverse individuals and share the profound wisdom of the Buddha. Each encounter served as a moment to impart the teachings of the Buddha, encouraging people to contemplate and integrate these insights into their daily lives. The proactive approach to spreading the Dhamma was evident as the journey unfolded. By actively engaging with people from various walks of life, the initiative aimed to make the teachings of the Buddha accessible and relevant. The approach was strategic and intentional, highlighting the importance of peaceful coexistence and the potential for societal harmony, beginning with individual actions. This proactive dissemination of the Buddha's teachings served several key purposes:

- **Direct Engagement:** By meeting and conversing with a wide range of people, the journey facilitated direct interaction and personalized communication of the Dhamma. This approach allowed for the teachings to be shared in a way that was immediate and impactful.
- **Practical Application:** Emphasis was placed on how the teachings can be applied to everyday life. By demonstrating practical ways to incorporate Buddhist principles into daily routines, the journey aimed to make the teachings more accessible and actionable.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Individuals can integrate the principles of the doctrine into their lives in diverse and meaningful ways, tailoring their application to suit the unique situations they face. These principles are versatile tools that can be utilized across a wide range of circumstances, whether in personal interactions, professional environments, or community engagements. By adapting the core teachings to the specific needs and challenges of each scenario, individuals can bring a deeper sense of understanding, compassion, and effectiveness to their actions. This flexible approach ensures that the timeless wisdom of the doctrine remains relevant and impactful, providing guidance that resonates with the complexities of modern life while fostering growth and harmony in various aspects of human experience.

Overall, the journey from Key West to Niagara Falls exemplified a dynamic and engaging method of spreading the Buddha's teachings. By reaching out to individuals directly and encouraging practical application of the Dhamma, the initiative fostered a deeper understanding of how personal actions can contribute to broader societal peace. This proactive approach not only honored the Buddha's legacy but also inspired others to embark on their own paths toward inner and outer harmony.



Facilitation of Personal Growth and Inner Peace

The promotion of peace through walking is a deeply impactful practice that allows those who witness it to experience a tangible sense of tranquility. As the monks proceed on their journey, their very presence exemplifies serenity and composure. This calmness is not merely a personal state but a powerful, emanating energy that resonates with everyone they encounter. The monks' serene demeanor acts as a beacon of peacefulness, creating a ripple effect that extends well beyond their immediate surroundings. Their presence exudes a positive energy that has the potential to uplift and soothe those around them. This quiet strength of character is absorbed by those they meet, offering a living example of how inner peace can manifest outwardly.

As people observe the monks and feel the calm energy they project, they are often inspired to reflect on their own inner states. This encounter provides a practical demonstration of how personal tranquility can foster a broader atmosphere of peace and understanding. The monks' journey becomes a living example of the concept that peace is not just an abstract ideal but a tangible force that can be embodied and shared. The positive energy radiating from the monks contributes to a collective sense of calm, influencing the environment and individuals alike. By integrating their serene presence into daily life, the monks illustrate how peace can be actively cultivated and extended to others. This process not only enhances individual well-being but also promotes a more harmonious and empathetic community. Through their example, the monks show that peace is both a personal journey and a communal responsibility, demonstrating how one's inner peace can significantly impact the broader society.

Additionally, one of the pivotal aspects of this journey was to communicate a profound and essential message: that peace is not the responsibility of any single individual, but rather a collective duty shared by all. This crucial insight aims to foster a deep sense of awareness within the community, highlighting that the quest for peace requires the active involvement of every person.

By explaining that peace is not a task relegated to leaders, governments, or select individuals, but a universal responsibility, the monks seek to inspire a collective consciousness. Their message underscores the importance of individual contributions in the broader context of societal harmony. Each person has a role to play in nurturing and promoting peace, and it is through collective action that true and lasting tranquility can be achieved. The journey serves as a catalyst for this awareness, transforming abstract concepts into actionable principles that can be embraced by everyone. It emphasizes that creating a peaceful world begins with each person's commitment to fostering understanding, compassion, and empathy in their daily interactions. This collective responsibility involves everyone contributing their efforts towards building a more harmonious society.



Through direct engagement and heartfelt dialogue, the monks help illuminate this concept, encouraging individuals to recognize their own potential impact on fostering peace. Their teachings inspire community members to reflect on their roles in this shared mission, making them more conscious of how their actions can contribute to a more peaceful and just world. In this way, the journey does more than just showcase the monks' commitment to peace; it actively engages the community in the essential process of building and sustaining peace. By fostering this collective awareness, the monks help empower individuals to take ownership of their role in creating a more harmonious and understanding society.

Personal Perseverance Practice

Personal perseverance practice is a vital approach to developing resilience, focus, and determination in the face of challenges. It involves cultivating habits and mindsets that help you persist through difficulties and stay committed to your goals. Here's a comprehensive guide to effectively practicing personal perseverance by set clear goals, develop a growth mindset, build resilience, cultivate discipline, foster self-motivation, seek support, practice reflection, maintain flexibility, build confidence, and practice patience. By integrating these practices into your daily life, you can build and strengthen your personal perseverance. Remember, perseverance is not just about enduring difficulties but also about continuously striving towards your goals with resilience and determination.

For the monks participating in the Walk for World Peace, their dedication to the mission was evident through their clear understanding of the journey's objectives. These individuals had undergone extensive self-training and were fully aware of the physical challenges they would face. They recognized that continuous walking over long periods would inevitably bring physical pain and discomfort. However, their rigorous training had instilled in them the resilience and understanding that such pain is a normal part of the process. Monks are well-versed in the concept that while the body may experience resistance to pain, a strong and focused mind can separate physical suffering from mental anguish. Their experience demonstrates that even when confronted with physical discomfort, a determined and concentrated mind remains unaffected by bodily pain. For those who have never engaged in such practices before, it may not be immediately clear how to distinguish physical pain from mental sensations. Buddhism teaches that one should not simply accept teachings at face value but should instead seek to verify them through personal experience.

In summary, the Walk for World Peace served as an excellent practice in self-discipline. It allowed participants to confront and understand their emotional responses—whether of pleasure or displeasure—arising from within. When the mind remains steadfast and focused on the purpose of the walk, external conditions such as heat, cold, rain, or thunder do not become obstacles in their practice. The journey exemplifies the Buddhist principle that true understanding and mastery come through personal experience and practice, rather than relying solely on theoretical knowledge.

Community Engagement

- ·Sharing my photos from June 28 at Niagara Falls State Park. I felt called to be a part of the welcoming committee and share in the experience. So grateful! Peace and blessings to all!“Rob Agnello”
- ·I am convinced that our meetings were not coincidental, and I treasure the experiences and lessons gained from them. Stacy Peace
- ·Fruit and water to show gratitude were all so humble and kind Marisol Mendez
- ·It is SUCH an honor to host and support them, my beautiful friend!! I just got to see them and started crying. I felt SUCH a swell of peace and love. Wow!! Andrea Todaro
- ·Just spent lunch time with this amazing group. Thank you to the administrators for bringing this group to our city and thank you to the monks for sharing your kindness and blessings. Many people asking “what is the big deal”. But all you have to do is look around or look at the FB posts and see all the diversity of the people turning up, offering free food, places to stay, starting friendly conversations and showing respect for each other to see that world peace might be a big goal, but if we can learn from each other and respect one another, that is a big start. Just the overall atmosphere is peaceful and light. And I’m not a Buddhist. So honored to have shared this experience. Thank you! Denise Beehag
- ·My wife and I set out yesterday on a quest to find this amazing group of people walking for World Peace from Florida to Niagara Falls. It was nice to meet them on their journey!!!# Jim Twist
- ·Very thankful to have been part of your mission and to hear your positive words. Karen McCormick
- ·We were just talking about this amazing journey when the monks walked right in front of our house. What a cool experience! Natalie Stutz
- ·Our hearts were exploding with happiness thank you for taking the time to speak with us. My son was so excited to be able to hold part of the flag up, absolutely made our day Brianna McGranahan
- ·My heart has never felt so whole. Thank you for the beautiful souls you are and the amazing moments you took to share with me.... Thank you for the blessing of my medallion. Thank you for your needed words I heard you! Andy Gerace



- Thank you for this amazing experience and blessing. Carl Skompinski
- We had the privilege of meeting them today and they explained their flag is made of symbols from different religions to show spreading peace amongst all people. They were very kind, and the family enjoyed meeting them Aisha Niezgocki
- I loved seeing the monks, Look how kind!! We need more Peace in our World Shell Ring
- Thank you for visiting Niagara Falls. I felt the warmth and love from all of you. Peace and love Katrina White
- My little girl came home from meeting you guys and talking to the amazing woman who took time to explain everything to her and disappeared outside for a while, told me to come see what she drew, and it was this picture of all of you guys! Thanks for all you do! Deanna Cole-Raepple





- Congratulations on completing your journey. Our hearts still hold the Peace you shared with us. Lydia Russo
- 'I'm crying': Buddhist monks on 2,000-mile journey to promote peace draw fans as they arrive in WNY Maki Becker





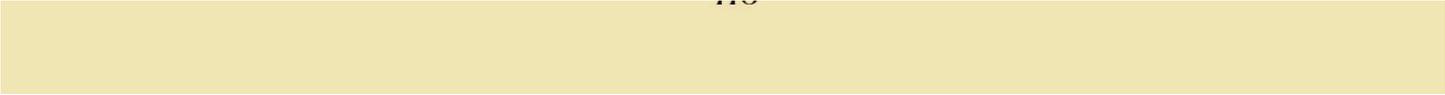
- Proud of you even if you didn't get to see them. Thank you for being a kind human. We enjoyed meeting you all on your journey! My daughter was so proud and happy to pass you all water. Stay safe and have a blessed trip! Lia Smith
- What a wonderful experience it was today to witness the power of Niagara Falls and the humility of the Monks meet up. My granddaughters, Lillianna Green and Madillynn Green handed out water and gave white roses to them. They were so excited to see them again after meeting them yesterday at The Turtle. I can only imagine what an experience it was for them as they walked for peace 2,000 miles from Key West Florida to Niagara Falls NY. I'm humbled, honored and happy to have met them and everyone supporting them on their journey! 'Cherrish Beals'
- We caught up with them at Eden Evans center road and route 20. Thank you to the stranger who took this picture for us Truly amazing and beautiful to be in their presence. May nothing but beautiful positive energy and protection bless their voyage. PEACE AND LOVE Stephanie Knapp Lmt
- What a blessing Saturday's closing ceremony for this walk was!!! Such inspiration and community!! May we work for inner and outer peace with the right Victoria Ross
- We are thankful for your visit to our Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center Saladin Quanaah Allah
- A group of Buddhist monks have completed an extraordinary journey. To promote peace, they left Key West, Florida on March 29 and set out on a journey to walk to Niagara Falls, New York. Taylor Epps
- "I wanted to try to enhance my spirituality by meeting with them," said community member Evalina Harris. "I'm feeling at peace here in my city."
- You are all such wonderful people and doing such a beautiful thing Rhi Rose
- Thank you for the movement you're making. I shared your story with my children then we made it our mission to find you and thank you for spreading and kindness!!! Lisa Adimey Schmitt
- Truly an amazing journey to watch. Thank you for the peace and sharing with us. Peace be with you all Rona Hays
- I'm crying...I wish EVERYONE could just LOVE and not HATE!!! Stacy Marie
- This was truly Amazing!! They have beautiful energy, peace and love Tiffany Nichole



- ·#walkforworldpeace2024 these are such beautiful people thank you for welcoming us in!! Thank you for your blessing and the walk for peace!! May you continue your journey with peace and love Kenisha Jones
- ·I pray for their safety and health and wellbeing and their presence in Buffalo fills my heart! Lin Wright
- ·Such an incredible, spiritual, peaceful, magical, heart-warming, and inspiring experience! Kerri Lyn
- ·This was such a pleasant surprise to experience before my workday at Premium Coffee Roasters Inc. I will never forget all the kindness and peace that i saw in every one of their eyes. Thank you! Karen Hesketh Farinacci
- ·God bless you and thank you for stopping and thank you for what you're doing. May God always be with you and protect you and guide you. Suzzette Sage
- ·I can't LOVE these posts enough. Makes me so emotional seeing the love and support from their walk and mission. Takes extremely selfless humans to even go on a quest for PEACE like this. I've always admired Monks and their way of life. We can all learn something from their kindness, love and selflessness Alyssa Peterman
- ·What an honor it was to have you walk and bring the message of peace to our region. I will make it my lifes purpose to achieve inner peace to spread peace. Thank you Vallissa Lawson
- ·Words can't describe what a blessing it was to be in your presence the whole aura was just so peaceful and happy and thank you all for being so patient and understanding with my son that truly moment more than you know you all are truly a blessing to us all thank you so much for working so hard to bring attention to such a huge problem that so many are faced with every day Becky Elizabeth
- ·These just emanate peace and goodwill. This country needed this walk so badly
- . KayRutledge Beard
- ·I felt such a sense of peace after sitting with them! It brought me back to my childhood where there was so much love and loyalty in families. It was a bit heartbreaking. Because I see so much hatred in our world. Thank you for reminding me how I was raised. Brenda Hodil Sager



- ·I have followed your walk for peace from the day I found out about it. I am very happy the group made the journey safely. Congratulations. Carmen M Christie
- ·Phra Supalak, and all the Thai Monks that endeavored to make this arduous walk for peace : Thank you ever so much for coming to our country on your journey. Your concern for humanity and the world touches the heart. Harmony before all else and in all things. Bless you all. Johnskegz Yrfeloran
- ·My son & I was able to walk about 6 miles with you all & it was such a beautiful experience! I'm so happy to have been able to be in your presence. The amount of people who stopped to say hello, get a picture or just wave was unbelievable! What an amazing ripple effect!! Peace, love & light to all of humanity. Leah Galone-Wiley
- ·My son was able to meet them as they passed Keybank Center yesterday. They had a great time listening to them about their travels. Connie Piepszny Miller
- ·Beautiful day of inspiration and intensity, channeling our energies for peace, uplift, and of course love!!! We love peace !! - and we need world peace!!! - May we come to realize our oneness so we can stop the violence and start working together effectively for the good of people and planet!!! WNY Peace Center
- ·Yesterday, I had the privilege and honor to bring supplies to the monks who have traveled over 2000 miles on foot over the past 90 days in a message of peace. The blessing I received was an incredible moment of feeling thankful and grateful. In a time when I feel overwhelmed by the intolerance, divisiveness, and lack of humanity I see in the world, this message of love and peace was needed and incredibly moving. Thank you for all you have brought to our global community. Aliesa Burke Adelman
- ·So wonderful to see so many people supporting PEACE and appreciating this journey. Blondi Forsyth
- ·Truly remarkable monks who walked for world peace, but this is just the beginning of their journey. Many safe journeys to all of you. Good health, prosperity, and long life to all of you. In Jesus name I pray Amen Lisa Rogers
- ·We found the Monks who are Walking for World Peace. It was amazing to walk and talk. The best advice Carter and I received was that peace comes from love in your heart. Love for your parents, family, etc. The enemy of peace, the peace killer is anger. Always helpful to hear as I struggle with my temper Howard Cadmus



- ·What a great experience to meet them with family! Shawna Lynn
- ·So grateful, thankful and blessed to have experienced so much love and peace with you all on your journey of creating World Peace! Honored to share with you my handmade quilted hearts stitched with so much love and prayers and peace! Lori Calkins
- ·It was such a heartening pleasure meeting the monks today. The moment I saw them and felt their gentleness, my eyes teared up and I felt a swell of love and peace surrounding the area. The owner of the auto service shop felt so touched and moved by them, too, as did all the passersby. What a magical, healing moment never to be forgotten. Andrea Todaro
- ·I was running late for an appointment today and regretting not taking a different route, as I was hitting every traffic light. However, upon looking to my left, I saw the crew and was glad I took this route after all. Although I was too rushed to stop, it made me feel like I was where I was meant to be! Kristy Vaughn
- ·I feel like that's the universe reminding us to slow down and enjoy life glad you saw them Nela Kham
- ·WHAT!! 8 guys walking from the keys For WORLD PEACE and NOBODY JOINED IN Oh OUR GOD we do NEED YOU TO return Again Heather Mellan





- Thank you for what you are doing, it was truly a blessing to meet you all! Stay safe on your journey Maria Fred-Agosto
- It was great to see them! They were so kind to all of us there. Thank you for your blessing Kathy Hernandez-Kleinschmidt
- Such a privilege, blessing, & honor Rita Kapoor Wojcik
- Words cannot express just how incredible it was to witness this firsthand. Thank you Latika Jackson
- What an incredible blessing, to have the Monks from #WalkForPeace come through Lily Dale, NY! It was wonderful being a part of their travels and mission! Roseann Miller
- Just their presence brought a feeling of PEACE AND LOVE Kitkat Larson
- Was such an amazing moment meeting you guys! And being able to cheer you guys on! We got the honor to take a photo with them in the silver creek area! You guys are so amazing! Keep up the amazing vibes! Katelyn Moore
- They were so cool we loved them Thank you for enlightening people & walking for world peace it's a beautiful thing with a lot of lessons to come from the experience Jakiiya Jakiiyaa
- Family here walking with y'all in spirit! Great message!!! Alicia Flamini
- What an amazing and peaceful opportunity it was to meet them all with my grandson. I pray the rest of your journey is a success. You all are amazingly friendly, respectful, and kind, wish the best of luck Lisa Mietlicki
- It's amazing how often they have those amazing smiles... after all those miles... so inspiring Jen Latona Duffy
- I love that I had the opportunity to meet you all. I feel very blessed that our timing was perfect just as I was backing my truck into my driveway you were walking by and when you put your hand on my chest to give me a blessing with mind blowing.... Something to be said about the power of prayer thank you once again Si Mascio



Message From Administration

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in the “Walk for World Peace 2024 Project.” Your involvement has been pivotal to the success of this monumental initiative. We acknowledge and apologize for any inconvenience caused by the frequent schedule adjustments, and we deeply appreciate your patience, understanding, and flexibility throughout this extraordinary journey. We are immensely grateful to Mayor Robert Restaino of Niagara Falls for his extraordinary hospitality and warm welcome. His generous support added a significant and meaningful dimension to our event, enhancing its impact and reach. Our sincere thanks also go to Angelar P. Berti, Director of Public Affairs at New York State Parks, for her crucial role in allowing us to use indoor facilities during periods of heavy rainfall. This thoughtful accommodation was instrumental in ensuring the Peace Walk could proceed smoothly, despite the weather challenges.



Admin



A heartfelt thank you extends to every individual who played a part in this transformative project. Your enthusiastic participation and genuine interest have been invaluable, reinforcing our shared commitment to raising awareness and promoting peace. The dedication and passion of all our volunteers have been key in making this project not just successful, but truly memorable.

The journey of the 'Walk for World Peace' project has been marked by an extraordinary level of support from many dedicated individuals. This success is a direct result of the collective effort and unwavering commitment from everyone involved. From logistical assistance and moral support to financial contributions and volunteer work, each form of support played a crucial role in ensuring the project's success. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have been a part of this journey, as your generosity and dedication were fundamental to achieving our mission of fostering global peace.

The individuals involved in this remarkable effort include:

- Volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy to assist with various tasks and challenges along the journey.
- Financial donors whose contributions provided essential resources and support necessary for the successful execution of the project.
- Community leaders who offered guidance, encouragement, and facilitated connections that were crucial for the project's progress.
- Local organizations that provided logistical support, including transportation, accommodations, and essential supplies.
- Media partners who helped raise awareness about the project and shared its message with a wider audience.
- Friends and family members who offered unwavering emotional support and encouragement throughout the journey.



As we reflect on the journey, we firmly believe that genuine peace starts with nurturing inner tranquility. Our mission to advocate for inner peace continues, driven by the hope that our efforts will inspire others to join us on this transformative path. Your support has been a beacon of encouragement, driving our mission forward and fostering a collective effort toward a more harmonious world.

Together, we are making strides towards a future where peace and understanding prevail. Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey.





Farewell Until Our Paths Cross Again

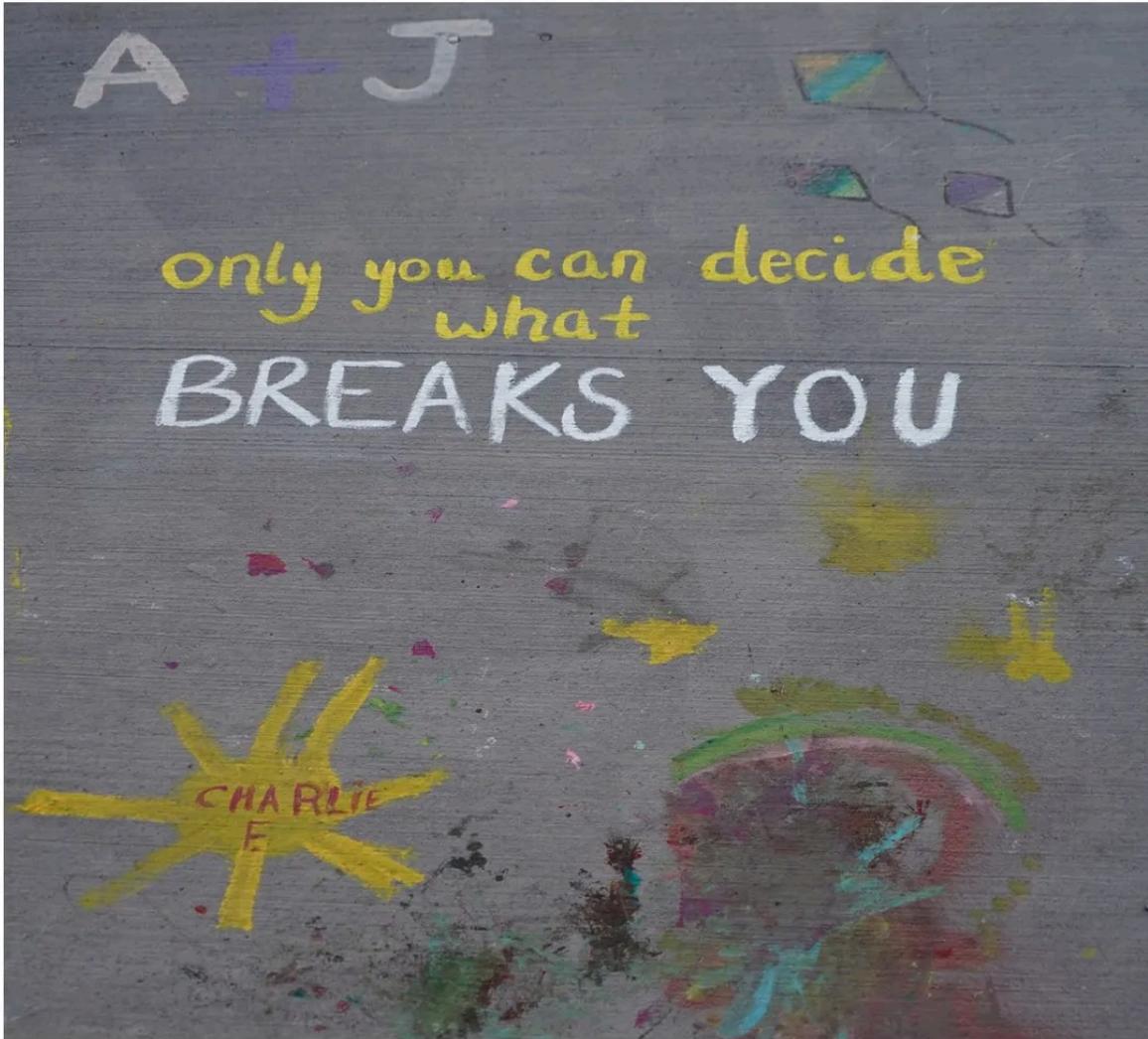


The project concluded in a truly spectacular fashion, garnering an extraordinary response from the American public. Initially, our Facebook group started with 2,000 members. By the end of the project, membership skyrocketed to 22,000—an incredible 1,000% increase. This dramatic rise in engagement underscores the profound impact and enthusiasm generated by the project, showcasing just how deeply the community connected with and supported our mission. The excitement was palpable throughout the journey. From the very beginning in Key West, Florida, to the destination at Niagara Falls, New York, the presence of enthusiastic supporters was consistently evident. Along the entire route, countless individuals came forward to greet the monks, offer their support, and witness the journey firsthand. The warm reception and unwavering support were highlights of this remarkable endeavor, reflecting the project's resonance and significance.

With the successful completion of the project, the monks have now returned to their home country to observe the Buddhist Lent, a three-month period during which they are required to remain in one place for intensive study and practice. During this time, monks focus on deepening their understanding of Dharma, both theoretically and practically. This period of reflection and learning is crucial for their spiritual development and preparation for future endeavors.

The journey may have concluded, but the impact of this project continues to reverberate. We eagerly anticipate the next opportunity to come together, inspired by the success and the powerful connections forged throughout this remarkable experience. Until then, the monks will diligently apply their insights and continue their spiritual journey, reinforcing the lessons learned and the peace promoted through this unforgettable project.





Thank You

