

The Dewdrop Digest

Connecting Children, Youth and Sangha

Clouds in Water Zen Center

Sunday, February 4, 2007

Parents of babies/young children gather Monday, February 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

The next monthly gathering of parents of infants and young children will be Monday February 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Zendo. Childcare will be provided in Compassion Hall for a fee of \$2.00 per child. Please contact Katharine at (651)222-6968 x7 or cp@cloudsinwater.org to RSVP for yourself or a spot in childcare.

These parents meet monthly, for discussions, mutual support, receiving ideas and insights from teachers and senior students who are parents, and more. New folks and drop-ins always welcome. Join this group's online listserve by visiting http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TCMindfulParenting_BabySteps/. FFI, contact Anne Towe at anne@atowey.com.

Interfaith Teen Day of Service Monday, February 19, 2006, 10am to 3:30pm

An opportunity for teens to come together to make a difference in their community and to gain valuable interfaith experience. At least one teen will be representing Clouds in Water. Hands-on-Bodhisattvas please join us! Contact Katharine at (651)222-6968 x7 or cp@cloudsinwater.org for more information.

Starting and Ending Location: MLK Center, 271 Mackubin St. Paul, MN

Who: 7-12th graders. Seeking for teens from a variety of religious backgrounds – Baha'i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and more.

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer with the Family Place, Martha's Closet, Goodwill, Books for Africa and more.

Interfaith Dialogue: After volunteering, teens will spend an hour discussing why their faith calls them to service. What does service mean to their faith community? What can they do next?

FFI on the project, visit <http://www.spacc.org/> or email Julie at JQuello@spacc.org

Today: Bodhisattva Action Planning

As we study the Three Pure Precepts this quarter, most classes are doing less analysis of each precept, and more exploring, from the heart, what it means to be a Bodhisattva. A Bodhisattva helps, cares for and protects all beings – minerals, plants, animals and people. Today students (in Kindergarten on up) will be brainstorming Bodhisattva action plans. They will begin by visualizing their hopes and dreams for the world, in concrete and specific ways – for example, "I wish that every child could feel safe all through the day – in their neighborhoods, at school, and at home". The students will talk about their ideas in small groups, then as a class, choose one wish that they would like to help make true. And then, we will brainstorm an action plan for making a difference.

Bodhisattva Paper Quilt

Thanks to the K-1, 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th, and Middle School classes for together creating the vivid paper quilt that is livening up Great Patience Hall. Our paper quilt was inspired by reading *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, a marvelous Bodhisattva story that I recommend with gusto for all ages.

Children's books that illustrate the Bodhisattva Way

Many of these books are at the library.

Ages 3 - 8.

Animalia, by Barbara Berger. Tales of kindness and compassion and connection to the kingdom of animals. Highly recommended.

Great Gift and The Wish-Fulfilling Gem, by Lama Mipham. A boy, wishing to ease the suffering of others, overcomes adventurous challenges with the power of his compassion. Highly recommended.

Ages 5 – 10.

The Story of Jumping Mouse, by John Steptoe. "You will reach the far-off land if you keep hope alive within you," says Magic Frog to jumping mouse. Courage, compassion, intuition. Highly recommended.

The Value of Friends, by Eric Meller. Animals live out respect, compassion and goodness as they help each other when threatened.

Golden Foot, by Karen Stone. A deer offers her life to save her mate.

The Golden Goose King, by Judith Ernst. Two geese captured by save themselves when their loyalty and concern impress the royal couple. Highly recommended.

Wise Ape Teaches Kindness: A Jataka Tale, by Andrea Kassof. A wise ape rescues an ungrateful farmer and teaches him the power of kindness.

The Gift: A Magical Story about Caring for the Earth, by Isia Osuchowska. When the king asks how a wise man will use the money the queen has given them, he explains the gift's far-reaching impact. Shows the importance of using nature's gifts wisely.

Ages 9-12

The Cat Who Went to Heaven by Elizabeth Jane Coatsworth. A little cat comes to the home of a poor Japanese artist and, by humility and devotion, brings him good fortune, and illustrates the mercy and compassion of Buddhism.

Treasury of Wise Action: Jataka Tales of Compassion and Wisdom. The power of action motivated by compassion, love, and wisdom.