



UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

2023



IN THIS ISSUE



**UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE
HOLDS KATHINA CEREMONY**

01



**BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL
PREPARES FOUR STUDENTS
FOR NATIONAL PRIMARY
LEAVING EXAMINATIONS**

03



**UBC PROMOTES THE ANCIENT
PINDAPATA TRADITION
IN UGANDA**

04



**HOW TO SUPPORT
UGANDA BUDDHICT CENTRE**

06

KATHINA CEREMONY CELEBRATED AT THE UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE



On October 29, 2023, the Uganda Buddhist Centre the *Kathina* ceremony. The ceremony was a very significant and spiritually enriching event that brought together lay devotees and the monastic community.

The ceremony commenced with a heartwarming gesture as lay devotees brought the *Kathina* robe inside the temple. Following the robe offering, Venerable Sangharakkhita, one of the resident monks at the center, led a session of mindfulness meditation. This practice allowed attendees to center themselves and focus on the present moment, fostering a sense of inner peace and tranquility.

The high point of the ceremony was the formal offering of the *Kathina* robe by the laity to the Mahasangha, the assembly of

monks. The lay devotees presented the *Kathina* robe on behalf of the Vietnamese donors to the monastics. The monastics were represented by Venerable Sangharakkhita who received the robes and almsbowl. This ritual is a symbol of unity and a strong connection between the monastic community and the lay practitioners. It signifies the unity, harmony, support, generosity and reverence the laypeople have for the monastic Sangha, which plays a pivotal role in preserving and propagating the teachings of the Buddha.

Venerable Sangharakkhita delivered a Dhamma talk on the significance of the *Kathina* ceremony. This discourse provided attendees with a deeper understanding of the spiritual and cultural significance of the event, emphasizing the virtues of generosity, unity, and the importance of supporting the monastic community.

The program also featured a presentation by the pupils of the Buddhist Peace School nursery section. They shared insights on the acronym "STREAM", which stands for generosity, kindness and compassion in the form of Space, Time, Respect, Effort, Attention and Material things. Additionally, the pupils emphasized the values of cleanliness, kindness, and compassion, which are essential virtues in Buddhist teachings. Their presentation added an emotional flavor to the ceremony and showcased the dedication to holistic education within the Buddhist community.

As the ceremony drew to a close, the monastics offered their final blessings to all those in attendance, imparting their spiritual grace and well-wishes to the donors of this year's vassa and *Kathina*. The collective blessings from the monks provide a sense of spiritual protection and guidance to the devotees.

Finally, the event concluded with a group photo, capturing the joyous and harmonious gathering of the Buddhist community at the Uganda Buddhist Centre. This photograph serves as a lasting memory of the *Kathina* ceremony, reminding everyone of the shared spiritual journey and the bonds of friendship and community that were strengthened on this auspicious day.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our eternal gratitude to the following individuals for sponsoring this year's three-months rainy retreat (vassa) and the *kathina* ceremony. We share our merits with all of you. In Vietnam



Lay devotees bringing the *kathina* robe to the Temple

Hang Nguyen family and Xuan Le and Dhamma friends and family from Vietnam
Ngoc Quach and family from Australia
Hung Pham and Dhamma friends (Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities), Kim Thu Vo, Loi Minh Tran, Duyen Le, Hung Truong, DieuThanh TrangNam, Thom Vo, Phuong Lan Nguyen, Nu Tran, Carol Hoang, Nga Vi, Trinh Tran, Yen & Long Dinh, Christine Do, Hoang Oanh, Trang Dang, Trang Hoang from USA.



BUDDHIST PEACE SCHOOL PREPARES FOUR STUDENTS FOR NATIONAL PRIMARY LEAVING EXAMINATIONS



On the 8th and 9th of November, three novice monks and one young girl from the Buddhist Peace School will be sitting for their Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), a national examination administered by the Uganda National Examinations Board.

The PLE (a transitional exam to secondary school) is a crucial milestone in the Ugandan education system, determining a student's eligibility for further education and potential future prospects. The fact that these four students from the Buddhist Peace School have reached this stage is a significant achievement, and their performance will be closely watched. Their journey to this point has not been without challenges, but it's in these challenges that their strength and determination have truly shone. The students have been

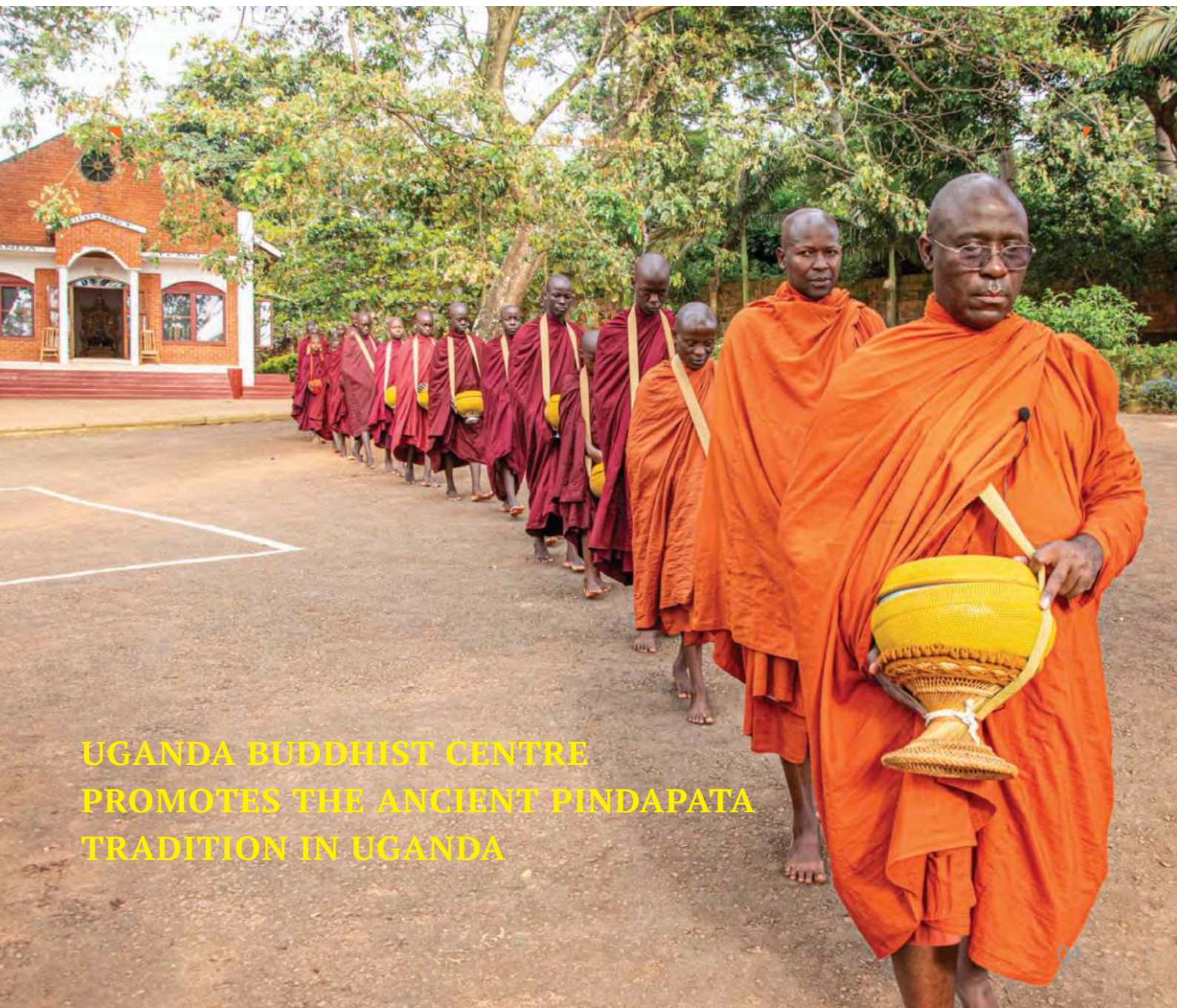
diligently preparing for these critical examinations. We are confident that these candidates have been well-prepared and they have all the tools they need to excel with first grades.

The Buddhist Peace School since its inception has been a symbol of hope and resilience, providing a holistic education that nurtures the head, heart, hands, health and happiness. As the students prepare to face the PLE, they stand as a shining example of the school's effort to cultivate individuals who can contribute positively to society.

Prior to his departure to the United States to teach a six-week meditation retreat, Bhante offered his blessings and imparted his wisdom and well-wishes upon these young candidates.

He reiterated the significance of mindful preparation and steadfast adherence to instructions. Reflecting on the importance of clarity and composure, Bhante shared a poignant tale underscoring the vital role of equanimity during life's examinations and challenges. Our hope and future plan is to establish a secondary school so that students who finish their primary transition to secondary school. The school will accommodate every student including the novice monks and nuns, who may not be accommodated due to their religious practices and etiquettes.

This visionary endeavor seeks to continue to nurture all children from all backgrounds in an environment that is all-inclusive.



**UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE
PROMOTES THE ANCIENT PINDAPATA
TRADITION IN UGANDA**

On October 1, 2023, monks, and nuns at the Uganda Buddhist Centre lined up to participate in a traditional Buddhist practice known as Pindapata, which involves going door-to-door and along the roadside to receive food and other items from the villagers.

Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita, speaking to the media, explained the importance of this ancient ceremony and the recent ordination of Buddhist nuns.

Pindapata is a tradition that dates back to over 2,600 years to the time of the Buddha. It involves monks and nuns going from one home to another collecting alms, primarily food, for their daily sustenance. This practice was initiated by the Buddha himself, highlighting its deep historical roots. This year's Pindapata was particularly significant because it included seven Buddhist nuns, who temporarily received ordination as nuns for three weeks.

Pindapata is a daily practice where Buddhist monastics receive material support from the community. In return, they dedicate themselves to meditation, studying Buddhist scriptures, and sharing their spiritual practices with



the community. It's a mutually beneficial relationship.

What is so intriguing is that this tradition predates the Buddha, as ascetics and religious sects in India were already practicing this form of alms giving. The Buddha adopted and continued this ancient tradition when he began his dispensation.

Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita also mentioned the challenges faced when he first introduced the Pindapata practice to Uganda. People were unfamiliar with the practice and often confused the monks, sometimes mistaking them for beggars or individuals in distress. Over time, the Uganda Buddhist Center has grown, and the community has gradually understood and embraced these practices.

Currently, there are plans to make this event monthly and even weekly as people gradually learn and appreciate this rich symbiotic tradition. We plan to ordain sixty novice monks and 60 nuns for a short period to give young boys and girls a chance to experience the richness of a monastic life.



SUPPORTING UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE

UBC activities are made possible by many supporters from around the world. Therefore, we are eternally grateful Buddhist Global Relief of USA, Huong Tu Lovingkindness Foundation USA, Buddhist Fellowship of Singapore, Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, and all our beloved donors from around the world.

UBC still needs your support:

To maintain resident teachers/monastics

To maintain the Temple

To build monks accommodation facilities

To construct and operation of Buddhist Secondary School

How to Donate

1. For donors in the USA

1. Please write out the Check/Cheque to:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

2. Please Write in the Memo of the Check:

Dana for Uganda Buddhist Centre or Bhante Buddharakkhita

3. Please take a photocopy of the check and send it via email:

ugandabuddhistcentre@gmail.com

4. Please Mail the check to the physical address below:

Universal Virtue Buddhist Charities

C/O Hung Pham

10222 Larson Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92843

Donate Online

Please follow the links below to make a secure donation online:

<https://ugandabuddhistcenter.org/donate-now/>

<https://dashboard.flutterwave.com/donate/hd1cwapst9gc>

Please note that this payment gateway accepts 3D secure transactions only.

This means that only cards that are Verified by Visa, and Mastercard secure code will be accepted. If your donation doesn't go through, kindly contact your bank to ensure you are secured. Thank you!

HOW TO DONATE. wire transfer

Beneficiary's Bank Details:

Bank Name : Orient Bank Limited

Bank Account Number: 41261302010523

Bank Account Name: Uganda Buddhist Centre

Swift Address: ORINUGKA

Bank Address: Orient Plaza, 6/6A, Kampala Road.

