

# UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE



## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024

# IN THIS ISSUE

---



**UBC HOLDS THE 2024 ANNUAL  
PEACE TRAINING CAMP ON  
MORAL CONDUCT**

01



**UBC CELEBRATES THE  
INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST DAY**

05



**HOW TO SUPPORT  
UGANDA BUDDHIST CENTRE**

07



# ANNUAL PEACE TRAINING CAMP

**Theme: Moral Conduct**

**March 28, 2024**

Organised by:



Uganda Buddhist Centre  
Buddhist Peace Schools



Our commitment to nurturing ethical values and fostering a culture of peace among young minds has led us to initiate an annual peace training program. The program aims to equip young participants with the tools they need to become ambassadors of peace in their communities by instilling in them values of compassion, peace and ethical conduct.

Prior to the commencement of the program, we engaged in fruitful discussions with parents of the Buddhist Peace School, garnering their support and securing consent for their children's temporary ordination as novice monks and nuns. Their overwhelming approval reflected a shared commitment to the program's objectives.

Initially slated for a two-week duration, the

camp's overwhelming response led us to streamline it to a focused, intensive 7-day period. On March 27, 2024, we registered 27 boys and 33 girls at the temple, where they were warmly welcomed and assigned their accommodations for the duration of the program.

The solemnity of the occasion peaked on Thursday afternoon when all participants, under the guidance of four senior monks led by Bhante Osadha and Bhante Buddharakkhita, received ordination. This significant step marked their commitment to a journey of self-discovery and ethical growth.

The following morning, the novices, now adorned in their robes, went for a traditional alms-round (pindapata) in nearby villages. This profound experience not only allowed the novices to practice humility and gratitude but also served as a bridge between the monastic community and the local

population. Though some community members expressed regret at not being informed earlier, this alms-round was a rare opportunity for mutual understanding and connection in the community.

Throughout their stay at the temple, participants engaged in a comprehensive curriculum encompassing ten key areas: cleanliness, orderliness, punctuality, obedience, generosity, mindfulness, service, moral conduct, gratitude, and compassion along with their secular education curriculum. Mindfulness games were integrated into the program, offering practical tools for participants to incorporate mindfulness into their daily lives.



The generosity of Bhante Osadha, who donated scholastic items to the participants, symbolizes a profound sense of gratitude and compassion towards the participants. This gesture not only reinforces the importance of generosity but also underscores the supportive environment cultivated within the camp.

As the program was coming to an end on April 4, 2024, participants undergone evaluations, with emphasis placed on their embodiment of the ten core values. Out-

standing performers were recognized and rewarded, demonstrating their dedication and exemplary behavior.

Participants emerged not only with a deeper understanding of ethical principles but also with a heightened sense of compassion, mindfulness, and commitment to peace. As these young ambassadors returned to their communities, we hope they carried with them the seeds of positive change, poised to inspire and uplift those around them.





Participants ready to take vows and ordination



The newly ordained novice nuns going back to the Temple at changing their robes





Participants receiving gifts from Bhante Osadha who donated some items to the participants



Bhante Pandicca (R) and Bhante Sangharakkita (L) awarding a gift to one of the best program participant

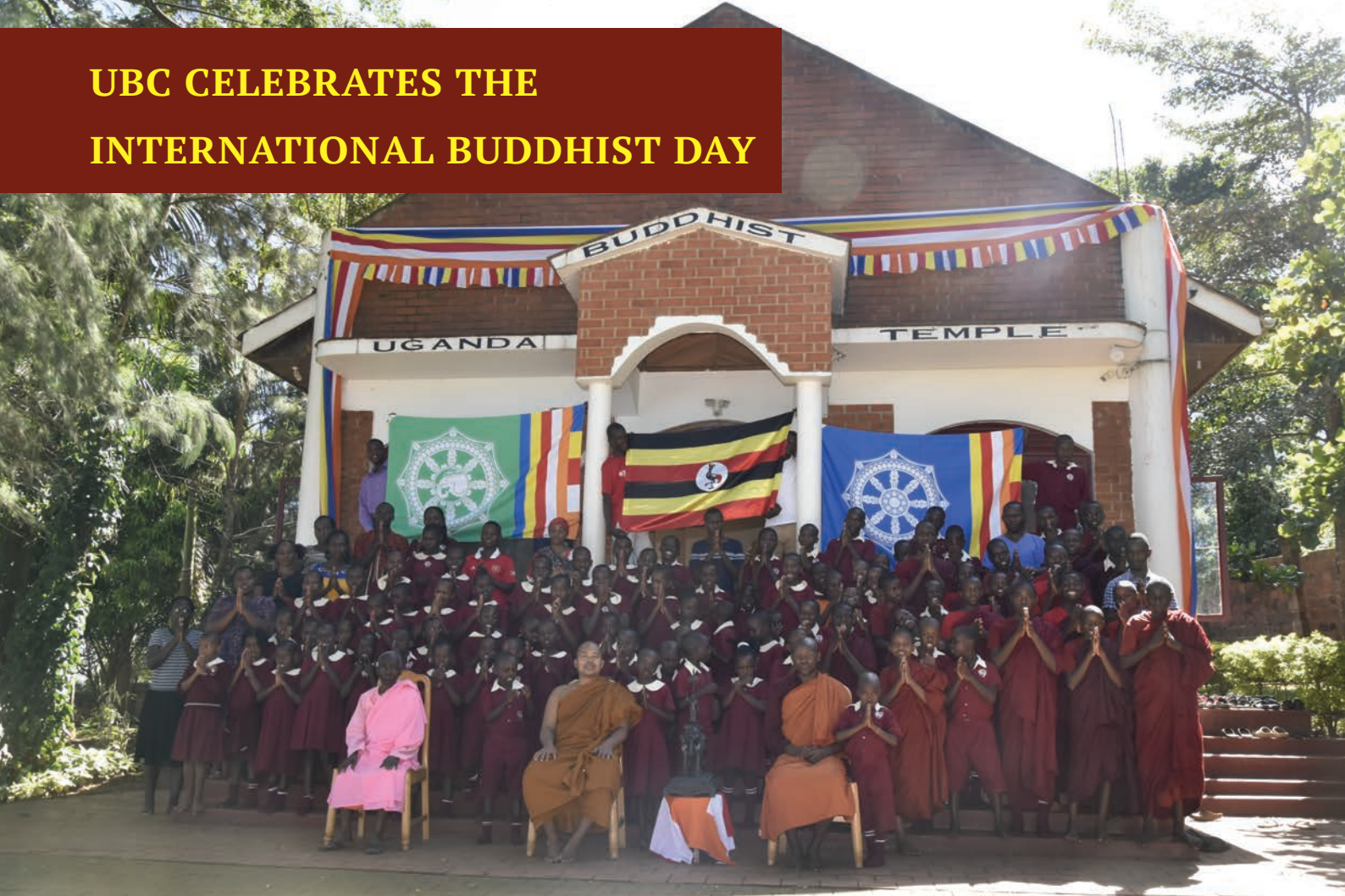


Monks and nuns out in the village for alms-round (Pindapata)





## UBC CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST DAY



On Friday, April 5th, the Uganda Buddhist Center celebrated the International Buddhist Day (IBD). The event, marked by solemn rituals and reflections, was led by Most Venerable Bhante Buddharakkhita, embodying the spirit of peace and harmony. Among the distinguished participants was Mr. Matia Lwanga Bwanika, the LCV Chairperson/Governor of Wakiso District. The ceremony commenced with Bhante Buddharakkhita, shedding light on the significance of the International Buddhist Day, particularly in the African context. He emphasized the universal message of compassion, mindfulness, and inner peace, essential Eight pillars of Buddhism principles.

Bhante Buddharakkhita also led the bathing of the Baby Buddha, symbolizing purity and

enlightenment. This ritual, steeped in tradition, was a reminder of the timeless teachings of Buddhism, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries.

Accompanying Bhante Buddharakkhita were two senior monks, Venerable Pandicca and Venerable Sangharakkhita, whose presence added a sense of sanctity to the proceedings. Their wisdom and grace inspired all present, reinforcing the core values of Buddhism – wisdom, compassion, and liberation from suffering. Furthermore, in attendance were 46 Novice monks and 33 Novice nuns, along with their parents and community members, participating in a 7-day annual peace training camp.

In his brief address, Mr. Matia Lwanga Bwanika underscored the timeless message of peace and

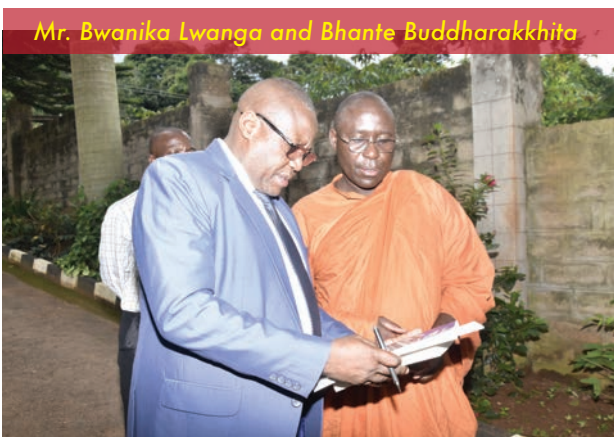


ethics espoused by Buddhism. His words echoed the sentiments of unity and understanding, emphasizing the importance of cultivating inner harmony to foster a more compassionate society. Furthermore, he emphasized that a person who is complete must be trained in the following: the brain, the body, and spiritual life.

“The full, complete person should have knowledge from academics and attend to the needs of the body.” Additionally, Mr. Bwanika emphasized the importance of parents continuing to support the work of the UBC and ensuring their children are well-nourished. He stressed the significance of not only selling food but also setting aside portions for the children.

Blessings, chantings and prayers, evoked a sense of peace and spiritual awakening. As participants reflected on the teachings of the Buddha, they were reminded of the profound impact of mindfulness and compassion in navigating life's challenges.

The celebration was also a reminder of the universality of Buddhist principles and their relevance in today's world as participants reflected on a collective commitment to building a more peaceful and harmonious world.





# 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.

