

UU Buddhist Fellowship Convocation 2025 April 10 and 11-13

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center

1525 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville, Maryland

Preliminary Program for Conference Participants

Note: All times are Eastern Daylight – On Line participants Need to Translate!

Food/refreshments:

We have a Hospitality Room available to us that's useful for early arrivals and hanging out during breaks. It has beverages and fresh fruit available all day. Small amounts of personal private food (labeled) can be stored in a refrigerator in this room. All meals are served Buffet style in the dining room. Personal Dietary issues described to us during registration in advance will be honored, but none can be honored last minute.

Friday lunch will offer a "Noble Silence" table in a separate room seating eight for those who prefer a silent meal. Other Noble Silence meals to be determined.

Thursday 4/10 – Personal Retreat Day Pre-Registered only

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| 3:00 PM | Registration Opens at Bon Secours for Thursday Arrivals |
| 4:30 PM | Board Members on site Check - Potel Room |
| 6:00-7:00 PM | Dinner w/ informal introductions/ welcome to Retreat |
| 7:15 PM | In-Gathering Liturgy for Personal Retreat Participants in the Potel Rm (Zoomed) |
| 7:30-8:00 PM | Sitting Meditation together |
| 8:30 PM | Closing Chant (Zen liturgy) |

Friday 4/11:

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| 7:30-9:00 AM | Breakfast |
| 9:15 AM | Board in Gathering/Meeting
Personal Retreat Time for All |
| 12:00-1:00 PM | Lunch
Personal Retreat Time |
| 3:00 PM | Room Check-In Opens for Convo Arrivals |

- 5:00-5:45 PM** **Informal Welcome/Orientation/Social Time**
- 6:00-7:00 PM** **Dinner** (with 3 Table signs indicating Vipassana, Vajrayana, and Zen conversation – other tables no signs)
- 7:15-7:35 PM** **Welcome and In-gathering (Zoomed)**
With some opening exercises, and conversations in pairs
- 7:50-8:00 PM** **Break**
- 8:00-9:00 PM** **Lama Rod Owens Intro and Dharma Talk + Q & A (Zoomed)**
- 9:00 PM** **Closing (Zoomed)** Invitation to end of day yoga in Potel Room until 9:30 or late night individual sitting in the South Room or Chapel

Saturday 4/12:

- 7:00 AM** **Early morning sit in the 3rd Floor Porch Room (optional)**
or Qi Gong in the Potel Room
- 7:30-9:00 AM** **Breakfast** available in the Dining Room
(Possibility for Silent Breakfast)
- 9:00-9:15 AM** **Bio-break or Gather in Silence for Program**
- 9:15-10:45 AM** **Lama Rod Owens Dharma Talk + Q & A (Zoomed)**
- 10:45-11:00 AM** **Break (15 min.)**
- 11:00-12:00 AM** **Small Group Discussion** Deeper discussion with four small groups available in four different rooms.
- 1. Discuss Lama Rod's talk (Zoomed)
 - 2. In your practice - what ease or challenges do you encounter now?
 - 3. How do you bring both your UU and Buddhist practice and compassionate action into our relationship with current events?
 - 4. How does or - how can - our Buddhist practice inform our UU congregations? Where/how do you feel supported and where/how do you NOT feel supported by Unitarian Universalism?
- 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch**

1:15-2:45 PM Workshops (Pick 1, each is on a separate Zoom link)

- **1) Starting a Practice Group in a UU Congregation - - Terry Kinsey** Terry is a leader in the sangha that meets at Unity Temple in Oak Park IL. He will focus on starting up a sitting group from scratch and strategies for expanding and deepening participation.
- **2) Zen Peace Makers “Being Present to Auschwitz”- - Sensei Robert Ertman** Sensei Bob will talk about his experiences leading group and both personal street retreats in the US and pilgrimages to Auschwitz in Poland as part of the Zen Peacemakers.
- **3) Conversation and Reflections on Catholicism and Buddhism - - Sister Bernadette Clapp and Rev. Wayne Arnason** - The Sisters of Bon Secours, an apostolic Catholic order of women, operate our retreat center but primarily work in vocations of healing and justice work in the world. This conversational workshop will compare notes about the spiritual formation process for becoming a sister and a Buddhist monk, the work in the world that both traditions undertake, and the contemplative life that they share.

2:45-3:30 PM Break Sitting Meditation, Walking Meditation, Nap

3:30-5:00 PM Workshops (Pick 1, each is on a separate Zoom link)

- **4) Engaged Buddhism: a conversation on Buddhism and Social Justice - - Roshi Erich Moraine** America has always featured a commitment to social justice as a form of practice, undertaken without demonizing the “other”. Can we sustain this “unconditional kind regard” in our social justice practice in these polarized times. Roshi Erich Moraine, who leads a sangha in the Lake Country UU congregation in Wisconsin, will convene this conversation.
- **5) Long Haul Sanghas Leading Effective and Creative UUBF Sanghas in UU Congregations Long Term - - Phyllis Culham** Phyllis is one of the leaders of the Mindfulness Practice Group at the UU Congregation of Annapolis, MD. Based in Thich Nhat Hanh’s community of practice, but expansive in their diverse offerings, this sangha has had many years of sustained inclusive practice, Leaders from other long haul sanghas will chime in as well.
- **6) How Compatible is UU and Buddhism? - - Rev. Sam Trumbore and Rev. Pamela Patton** Conversation and Discussion on how do UU and Buddhism belong together and how do they resist each other? Where are they compatible and how might they oppose each other? How do they interact in different settings, say small, mid-sized, and larger congregations? Would a UU congregation that centers Buddhist worship styles make sense? If so, why, if not, why not? How connected does a UU Buddhist sitting group need to be to be an activity of the congregation? What if it is led by a Buddhist ordained person from a non-UU tradition? When might having a UU Buddhist group become divisive for a congregation?

Other workshops can be spontaneously gathered by participants, but we have only four rooms available and Zoom capacity in three of them at one time.

5:00-6:00 PM Open Time for Meditation Group or Outdoor walking meditation or Tai Chi.

5:45 Gather for Group Photo

6:00-7:00 PM Dinner / More Affinity Groups Tables – Create your own Table Tent!

7:15- 8:45 PM Lama Rod Owens Dharma Talk + Q & A (Zoomed)

8:45 PM Closing - Sound the bell - short chant

9:00 PM Invitation to end of day yoga in Potel Room until 9:30 or late-night individual sitting in the South Room or Chapel

Sunday 4/13:

7:00 PM Early morning sit or Qi Gong

7:30-9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00-9:15 AM Bio-break or Gather in Silence for Program - Sound the bell

9:15-10:30 AM Lama Rod Owens Talk + Q & A (Zoomed)

10:30-11:00 AM Pack up / clean up rooms (11:00 AM Room check-out deadline)

11:00 AM Closing Time Together (Zoomed)

A “Worshipful Container” to end the Convocation! This will include a “Closing Circle” time, some pair or small group time to consider what you will bring back to your congregations, your sanghas, and your practice.

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch

1:15 PM Departure

