

Sanghata

Helping you support the Pacific Hermitage

Fall 2017

Hermitage Roots Deepen and Strengthen



It's been over seven years since Abhayagiri Monastery and Portland Friends of the Dhamma, planted a seed – a trial monastery outside White Salmon, Washington – then watched to see if it would take root and grow. Happily, people were inspired enough to offer the necessary daily and long term support.

Reflecting on this process, Ajahn Sudanto has watched the Hermitage grow from seed to seedling, and now likens it to a sturdy sapling. With the property now paid for and with continued support, we hope to see this sapling gradually mature over time into a great shade tree, one that will provide a canopy of Dhamma, inspiration and refuge for a great many people.

Pah Bah 2017: A Weekend of Friendship, Joy and Ease

There was a marked sense of ease and friendship at the 2017 Pah Bah, with the many families and children adding a special joy and richness. The event and the many volunteers just seemed to flow and work seamlessly together.



Children offer paper flowers to the monks.

We're grateful to Luang Por Pasanno, the Abhayagiri monastics and friends who came, our volunteers and all the many friends who attended. Nearly \$28,000 was donated to help build an abbot's kuti (meditation hut). Thank you for your support!

A special thanks to our sponsors this year, **Sunny** Souriyavong and Issaree Photiruk (known as **Dang**). Sunny and Dang support the Hermitage all year by bringing many wonderful meals to the monks.

2017 Budget Was Smaller

The 2017 budget was about 30% less than last year's, mostly because the property was paid off in 2016. Now the budget focuses on providing for the monks' simple living expenses, normal costs of owning property and some land and structure improvements.

Donations also were down this year, but they were adequate to meet Hermitage expenses and help maintain prudent reserves for future improvements and long-term plans.

Several Projects Completed in 2017

The Hermitage was able to complete several great improvements this year. Some of them greet you as you drive in.



Near the pond, you'll see a larger parking area surrounded by an attractive rock wall.

Across the bridge, you'll find a lovely redesigned planted area, a small deck in front of the outdoor Buddha shrine, new outdoor bench seating and a larger parking area near the house.



New bench provides more outdoor seating.

There's also a new lawn near the guest kuti and the hillside has been stabilized and made more attractive by a partial rock wall, a planting ledge and transplanted ferns. More irrigation was added that will help keep these areas beautiful.



Ferns and other plants were transplanted to the hillside behind the guest kuti.

Wildfire prevention work (tree removal, low limbs removed and underbrush cleared) continued and will be an on-going effort. Any help would be welcome!

Sanghata is working with Ajahn Sudanto to develop plans for an Abbot's Kuti and a long-range vision and plan for the property.

Visiting Dhamma Teachers Shared Their Reflections and Presence

Ajahn Karunadhammo once again visited the Hermitage for several months. He can hardly be called a "visitor" anymore! Later in the year, **Ajahn Siripanyo** visited for about a week, and then again during the Pah Bah.

Two former nuns in the Ajahn Chah tradition, **Willa Thaniya and Jitindriya**, offered daylong meditation retreats in the Gorge and Portland.

Stay updated on news, events and visitors! Check pacifichermitage.org. Sign up for *email updates* at bottom of any website page.

Sanghata Thanks You!

Your support over these first years has been so generous and heart-warming. Thank you! The monks and the monastery literally could not exist without your donations of money, food, service and material goods.

With no other source of revenue, the Hermitage needs consistent support over time. *Automatic, recurring donations are especially helpful.*

All monetary donations must be made to Sanghata. For information on how to donate, visit sanghata.net or email dana@sanghata.net.

2018 Pah Bah: September 15 & 16 Reserve your lodging now!



Sanghata: Board of Stewards for the Hermitage

Sanghata is a non-profit board that receives and manages all financial donations for the Hermitage, and works with the monastics on planning, budgeting and coordinating events and projects.

From left to right: Scott Bengé, Carole Melkonian, Krissy Martin, Dave Forslund, Anna Siebenborn and Debie Garner.