



## BUDDHIST VIHARA SOCIETY, INC.

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PHONE: (202) 723-0773 WEB: [buddhistvihara.com](http://buddhistvihara.com)

FED TAX EXEMPT # 520-842-334



“CHIRAN JAYATU!”

The president of the Washington Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc., Most Venerable Maharagama Dhammasiri Nayaka Thero will be 65 in August 2014. The patrons of the Vihara and the Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc., have decided to honor his untiring efforts to propagate Buddhism and willingness to serve the Buddhist community in Sri Lanka and U.S.A. A special Buddhist ceremony with a special blessing service will be held on August 31, 2014, to bless the Nayaka Thero from 10 am to 1 pm.

The Nayaka Thero has served the Buddha Sasana extensively to propagate the message of the Buddha. His talks and writings are many. His main writings are “The Relationship Between Buddhism and the Environment”, “The Position of Women in Buddhism”, and “Buddhist Meditation”. He has made a name for himself as a good teacher among the students of various educational institutions all over the world, who frequently visit the temple for advice, consultation and seeking interpretations of Buddhist scriptures. He elevated the communication facilities of the Vihara to suit the modern world by introducing the Vihara website: [buddhistvihara.com](http://buddhistvihara.com). Buddhist scholars and Meditation Masters are invited by him to the Vihara for discussions, meditation sessions and discourses

Born in August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1949 as the seventh and youngest child of the late Mr. & Mrs. H.D.B.P. Deraniyagala donned robes at the Maharagama Bhikkhu Training Centre under the late Most Venerable Madihe Pannaseeha Mahanayake Thero (Who founded the Washington Buddhist Vihara in 1966), and the Most Ven. Ampitiye Sri Rahula Maha Thero (now 101 years old). He was ordained in 1960 and recognized as the most senior and main pupil of these two great Buddhist Masters. After serving as the Director of the Bhikkhu Training Centre (1975-87) and as a visiting lecturer of the Government Teachers Training College at Maharagama during the same period, in 1987 he was invited to become the General Secretary of

the Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc., of which he became the President in 1988. Recognizing his great service towards Buddhism in the West, The Amarapura Dharmarakshita Maha Nikaya conferred on him the Honorary Title of Chief Sangha Nayaka (Prelate) of North America. In 1995 together with the Buddhist Vihara Society he established a Meditation Centre in Silver Spring, Maryland, with the help of the Buddhist Society Inc.

During his tenure as the head of the Washington Buddhist Vihara, the services of the institution reached a significantly higher level in propagating Buddhism in North America and also in serving the Buddhist community here. He introduced the all-day meditation retreats for American truth seekers at the Vihara. He has also served as a Sinhala / English tutor at the U.S. State Department. The Ven. Monk is the chief Buddhist representative at the interfaith leaders' meetings of Washington DC. He is well known for his erudite interpretations of Buddhist scriptures, his vast knowledge of Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit and Buddhism and also for his gracious hospitality and kindness. His dialogue on "Compassion and Loving Kindness" with Dean Narthan Baxter in 2002 was published by the National Cathedral of Washington DC, and reached a large number of readers.

Please join us in this joyous event to celebrate the life of a great Buddhist monk, who we have been fortunate to know and associate.

With Metta,

*Susan Singh* Gen. Secretary ,Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc.

**AGENDA. 10:00 am BUDDHA PUJA AND SPECIAL BLESSING SERVICE**

**11:00 am SANGHA DANA FOLLOWED BY LUNCH FOR LAITY**

**01:00 pm DHAMMA TALK BY VEN. PANDIT H. KONDAÑÑA**

**01:20 pm LECTURE BY DR. ANANDA GURUGE**

**THE END**