

BUDDHIST VIHARA SOCIETY, INC
5017 16th St NW
Washington DC 20011
(202) 723-0773

**GOLDEN JUBILEE – 50th YEAR OF
ORDINATION**

OF VEN. SRI DHARMARAKSHITA WANSHADHVAJA
MAHARAGAMA DHAMMASIRI NAYAKA THERA,
VIHARADHIKARI OF BHIKKHU TRAINING CENTER, SRI LANKA,
CHIEF INCUMBENT OF WASHINGTON BUDDHIST VIHARA, U.S.A.
AND CHIEF SANGHA NAYAKA OF NORTH AMERICA

Ven. Dhammasiri was born as the son of Mr. & Mrs. H. D. B. P. Deraniyagala of Maharagama on August 25, 1949. At the very young age of ten years and ten months, after two years of persistence against his family's wishes not to become a monk, he entered the monastery at the Bhikkhu Training Center in Maharagama on his own initiative. He was ordained under his teachers, the Most Venerable Madihe Pannasiha Maha Nayaka Thera and Most Venerable Ampitiye Sri Rahula Maha Thera. As their most senior student, he studied at the Bhikkhu Training Center and in 1971 received higher ordination at the age of 21. He was later appointed as Director of Vajirarama, New Town, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. In 1975, when Ven. Sri Rahula Maha Thera left to the forest for meditation, Ven. Dhammasiri was recalled back to the Bhikkhu Training Center to take over the administration, where he performed this duty until 1987. In this capacity and with his charisma, he has been an outstanding example to the young monks at the Bhikkhu Training Center, showing and teaching especially the qualities of compassion and discipline. In the same period of 12 years, he served the Government Teachers Training College of Maharagama as a visiting lecturer. In October 1987, he traveled to Washington, D.C. and when Ven. Kantale Ajitha resigned from the post of General Secretary of the Buddhist Vihara Society in Washington, D.C., Ven. Dhammasiri was invited to take that responsibility. The next year, 1988, when Ven. Dr. Henepola Gunaratana resigned his position as president of the Vihara, Ven. Dhammasiri was appointed to that post. In 2003, he was offered the title of Chief Sangha Nayaka of North America by the Supreme Council of Sangha presided by the Most Ven. Veligama Gnanaratana Mahanayaka Thera. Over the years, he has presented talks on the Dhamma in many countries including Asia, Europe, and North America, and has preached and given interviews at many universities in the United States, including a well known interview on Compassion and Loving-Kindness, published by the National Cathedral of Washington, D.C.

Please come and join us celebrating the Golden Jubilee of ordination of our President Bhante Dhammasiri Nayaka Thera on May 2nd Sunday from 9 am together with International Vesak Celebration.

Thank you,
Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc.

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VESAK CELEBRATION-May2nd (Sunday) 2010

International Vesak Celebration by I.B.C. and

Golden Jubilee of Bhante Dhammasiri in Saffron Robes.

04 02 2010

Dear members and friends,

On May 02nd , 2010, the Washington Buddhist Vihara will be celebrating **Vesak**, to commemorate the Birth, the Enlightenment and the Passing away of the Buddha. This is undoubtedly the most sacred day of the Buddhist calendar and as it is done on an annual basis this time too the *Washington Buddhist Vihara* and the *International Vesak Committee* has put together a nice program that would enrich this year's activities.

Most Venerable Thich Thong Hai - Chief of the Chang Khong Monastery in Hawai, will be the chief guest in the opening ceremony of the newly constructed **BUDDHASANA** at the Vihara. Please come and experience a religious day at the Vihara to pay the greatest respect to the Buddha, by following him. Friends who wish to help us to make this event a success, please make a donation to the Buddhist Vihara or contact our organizers Rani karuanaratne (301) 340-0464, Nelum basnayake (703)827-8659, Lalitha Gunatilake (301) 260-1956 or Priyani Dias (703) 824-6213.

Please consider observing 8 or 10 precepts, and be present by 8 am at the Vihara.

With Metta,

Buddhist Vihara Society, Inc.

(202)723-0773 Web:buddhistvihara.com