

WISDOM AND COMPASSION IN BUDDHIST SPIRITUAL CARE AND CHAPLAINCY

A Symposium hosted by Maitripa College in collaboration with the
Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Namdrol Miranda Adams, EdD

Namdrol Adams is the Acting President and a founder of Maitripa College. Namdrol holds a Doctorate in Education from the University of Portland. Her dissertation *The Water In Which We Swim: The Influence of the Contemplative on Higher Education in American (Capitalist) Culture*, was based on a study of the influence of the Tibetan Buddhist contemplative tradition on the Western academy. Her research interests are focused on contemplative education, pedagogy, learning communities, and building caring, sustainable, and socially responsible institutions of higher education. She serves on the Theological Education Committee of the AAR, as a founding member of the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America, and on the Board of Directors for FPMT North America.

Sonia Arion, MDiv, BCC

Sonia Arion is a APCE Board Certified chaplain currently working at Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital. Sonia received her MDiv from Maitripa College in 2023 and completed a year-long residency at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center before accepting her current position. She also holds a Masters in Education and has a background in early childhood special education. Sonia has been practicing in the Kagyu tradition since 1997 as an active member of Kagyu Changchub Chuling. She lives in Corbett with her husband and two teenage daughters. She finds Chaplaincy is suiting her very well as an opportunity to be of service, deepen and inspire practice, and explore what it means to be wholly human.

Kate Brassington, MDiv

Kate Brassington currently serves as the hospice chaplain for Cascade Health in Eugene Oregon, where she has the honor of being with people during some of the most tender, intimate, and pivotal times in their lives. Her spiritual care is grounded in Buddhist philosophy and her faith in the potential and goodness of all beings. Kate has spent over a decade working with and studying grief and death. She earned a MDiv from Maitripa College before doing a CPE residency at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center. During her residency, she specialized in Pediatric Palliative Care and studied applied clinical ethics. Kate has four wonderful children and an undergraduate degree in mathematics, and she could spend all day exploring a creek.

Tiffany Patrella Blumenthal, MA

Tiffany Patrella Blumenthal is the Chief Operating Officer of Maitripa College and a member of the faculty. She holds a BA in Business Administration and a BS in Human and Consumer Services in Retail Merchandising from Ohio University, as well as an MA in Education from Portland State University, with a concentration in curriculum design and development.

Rev. Janet L. Hanson, ACPE Certified Educator, Certified Spiritual Counselor

Janet Hanson has years of experience accompanying diverse people in their formation as spiritual leaders and chaplains. Janet is semi-retired after 38 years of service as a chaplain and ACPE Educator in a variety of settings. She currently works part-time as a spiritual counselor for the Hazelden Betty Ford addiction treatment center in Newberg, OR. She is a contributing author in *Case Studies in Spiritual Care* (eds. Fitchett and Nolan), and "The Role of Chaplaincy in LGBT Veteran Healthcare," in the APA's journal, *Spirituality and Clinical Practice*.

Carl Jensen, MDiv, BCC

Carl Jensen is the inpatient oncology chaplain at Providence Portland Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, a role he has had for the last ten years. He is a 2015 graduate of Maitripa College's MDiv program and was board certified as a chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains in 2019. Carl was introduced to Tibetan Buddhism at the Kopan November Course in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2006 after serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in China, and he has remained engaged with teachers and programs of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition since that time. Carl's spiritual care is grounded in his Buddhist practice as he supports patients, their families, and hospital caregivers from a variety of spiritual traditions in the acute care setting.

John Makransky, PhD

John Makransky, has been a professor of Buddhism and Comparative Theology at Boston College, senior advisor for Chokyi Nyima Rinopche's Center of Buddhist Studies in Nepal, a Contemplative Fellow of the Mind and Life Institute, and developer of the Sustainable Compassion Training model for accessing innate capacities of compassion and awareness. John's scholarly writings focus on connections between practices of devotion, compassion and non-dual wisdom in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism, on adapting Buddhist practices to meet contemporary minds, and on theoretical issues in interfaith learning. In 2000, John was ordained as a Lama, a meditation teacher of innate compassion and wisdom, within the Nyingma Dzogchen tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. As a meditation teacher, John is known for guiding participants in their discovery of underlying powers of unconditional love and wisdom. For the past twenty-five years, John has taught meditations of innate compassion and wisdom to modern Buddhists, those in other spiritual traditions, and to people in caring roles and professions. He is co-author of *How Compassion Works: A Step-By-Step Guide* (Shambhala, 2025).

May compassion and wisdom serve the world.

Maitripa College | 1119 SE Market St. | Portland, Oregon 97214 | www.maitripa.org

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Leigh Miller, PhD

Leigh Miller is the program director of the Master of Divinity and a member of the faculty at Maitripa College. Leigh serves as a founding member of the Buddhist Spiritual Care Educators of North America, the co-chair of the Innovations in Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Unit at the American Academy of Religion, and on the Professional Advisory Group for Clinical Pastoral Education at Portland Providence Medical Center. She is Endorsed as a Buddhist Chaplain and has worked as a hospital and hospice chaplain, and is a contributing author to *Refuge in the Storm: Buddhist Voices in Crisis Care* and Maitripa's *Lapis* journal. Leigh earned an MA in Culture, History, and Theory and completed a PhD from Emory University with the dissertation *Contemporary Tibetan Art and Cultural Sustainability*. Leigh enjoys teaching Buddhist-informed spiritual care and contemporary Buddhist thought and culture, and being a mother to two wonderful teenagers.

Charles Raison, MD

Charles Raison is a Professor of Human Ecology and Psychiatry in the School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, WI. Dr. Raison also serves as Director of Clinical and Translational Research for Usona Institute and as Director of Research on Spiritual Health for Emory Healthcare in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Raison also serves as Director of the Vail Health Behavioral Health Innovation Center. Dr. Raison is internationally recognized for his studies examining novel mechanisms involved in the development and treatment of major depression and other stress-related emotional and physical conditions, as well as for his work examining the physical and behavioral effects of compassion training. Dr. Raison has received research funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Rev. Mary Myoku Remington

Rev. Mary Myoku Remington is a Buddhist Chaplain and Director of the Buddhist Chaplaincy Training Program at Upaya Institute and Zen Center, founded by Roshi Joan Halifax, PhD. For many years Mary has served as a healthcare chaplain and most recently, with Good Samaritan Hospital, as their Director of Spiritual Care. Mary brings a wealth of experience in Buddhist-based spiritual caregiving and socially engaged Buddhism. She completed all her clinical chaplaincy education in the New York City area and has focused much of her spiritual care supporting those with addiction, disability, and persons approaching end-of-life. She also holds a private practice in spiritual care counseling, and is the mother of a young teenage daughter who she considers her dearest teacher of all.

Rev. Maureen Jenci Shelton, MDiv, ACPE Certified Educator

Maureen Shelton is the Director of the Division of Compassion-Centered Spiritual Health at the Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University. She is also the System Director of Education for Spiritual Health at Emory Healthcare, as well as an ACPE Certified Educator and Spiritual Health Clinician. Maureen serves as co-developer, along with Timothy Harrison, Dr. George Grant and Dr. Lobsang Tenzin Negi, of the Compassion-Centered Spiritual Health (CCSH™) Interventional Approach and the CCSH™ Manual, as well as the supporting curriculum for the training in CCSH™ for Spiritual Health clinicians. Beyond teaching CBCT® within Spiritual Health at Emory Healthcare, Maureen has taught CBCT® at The Cleveland Clinic, Wellstar Hospital, The Mayo Clinic, UCSD and UCSF, Northside Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, and is a Senior CBCT Teacher.

Henry Shiu, PhD

Henry C.H. Shiu is the Shi Wu De Professor in Chinese Buddhism at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. He has a sustained research interest in Mahāyāna Buddhism in India, China, and Tibet, with particular emphasis on study of the Madhyamaka and Yogācāra traditions and the theory of *tathāgatagarbha*. Shiu has published in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes on dementia care, disability, ecological ethics, chaplaincy, intercultural competencies, and the ritual of animal release, all considered from a Buddhist perspective, as well as on the history of Buddhism in Canada. His recent monograph includes *The Heart Sūtra: Revisiting its Texts, History, and Meaning* (Hong Kong University Press). Shiu has also conducted research in Western classical music, with three books on this subject published by Oxford University Press in Hong Kong. He is also deeply engaged in the study of Daoist texts and the *Yijing* (Book of Changes).

Ven Priya-Rakkhit Sraman, MDiv

Venerable Priya-Rakkhit Sraman is a Theravāda Buddhist monastic and chaplain dedicated to spiritual well-being in higher education. Born in Chattogram, Bangladesh, he was ordained at the age of eleven and trained in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong, and the United States. He holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, a Master of Buddhist Studies from the University of Hong Kong, and a Bachelor of Arts in Buddhist Studies from Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University in Thailand, and he is currently a Doctor of Ministry student at Emory University. He serves as the Buddhist chaplain at Emory University, where he mentors students, leads meditation programs, supports spiritual care, and facilitates interfaith collaboration. He organizes Buddhist educational initiatives such as the Black Buddhist Teachers Series, the Buddhist Book Club, retreats, workshops, and cultural celebrations. He also supports the Buddhist College Chaplains Association through board service, facilitating workshops, contributing to the annual conference, and writing and presenting on Buddhist spiritual care. Beyond Emory, he works with local Buddhist centers and advises students on Buddhist studies and spiritual formation. His interests include Buddhist literature, especially stories, discourses, and teachings that illuminate spiritual and social care.

May compassion and wisdom serve the world.

Maitripa College | 1119 SE Market St. | Portland, Oregon 97214 | www.maitripa.org

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Maxime Stadlen, MDiv

Maxime Zahra Stadlen (she/hers) is a Hospice Chaplain in the PeaceHealth Community Program and House Chaplain for the Ray Hickey Hospice House in Vancouver, Washington. Maxime received her BA in English and Spanish from the University of Colorado, teaching credential from the College of Notre Dame, MS in Holistic Nutrition from Hawthorn University, and Master of Divinity from Maitripa College. She became an Interfaith Minister with the Universal Life Church in 2013, has been an Officer in the Central California Coast chapter of the Native American Church for over 20 years, and a facilitator of healing with psychedelic plant medicines since 2000. In recent years she has had a private practice as a Death Doula, was a Forest Steward touring families through a memorial redwood grove where she conducted memorial services and spread cremains, volunteered at the Ratna Peace Project teaching Dharma to prison inmates and as Assistant to the Director of the Sarnath International Nyingma Institute. Prior to Chaplaincy, Maxime was a teacher and a Health and Wellness Coach. She feels she is fulfilling her purpose when in support to people in life transitions of all sorts, and particularly when approaching the death doorway.

Jampa Lifeng Wang, MA, BCC, ACPE Certified Educator

Lifeng (Jampa) Wang is a chaplain educator at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, VA. Originally from China, Jampa holds a B.Sc. in Physics and an M.A. in Buddhist Studies from Maitripa College, Portland, OR. Jampa served as a resident monk, began his CPE training in CT, and worked at hospice agencies and hospitals in CT, NY, and VA. He is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and a Certified Educator with ACPE: the Standard for Spiritual Care and Education.

Pamela Ayo Yetunde, JD, MA, ThD

Pamela Ayo Yetunde is pastoral counselor and an interfaith pan-Buddhist practitioner, whose articles have appeared in *Buddhadharma*, *Lion's Roar*, *Journal of Buddhist-Christian Studies*, *Religions*, and *Feminist Theology*. She teaches pastoral care and counseling and has taught at the University of the West, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and Upaya Zen Center. Her current work focuses on what she calls "theolyricology". She is the founder of Year of the Black Woman, a spiritual direction education initiative. Ayo earned her law degree from Indiana University School of Law, her M.A. in Culture and Spirituality from Holy Names University in Oakland, CA, and a Doctor of Theology in Pastoral Counseling from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. She is a Community Dharma Leader certified by Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, CA. She is also the author of *Dearly Beloved: Prince, Spirituality & This Thing Called Life*; *Songbird Birdsong*; *Casting Indra's Net: Fostering Spiritual Kinship and Community*; *Object Relations, Buddhism, and Relationality in Womanist Practical Theology*; *Buddhist-Christian Dialogue*, *U.S. Law, and Womanist Theology for Transgender Spiritual Care*; and co-edited *Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism Can Teach Us about Race, Resilience, Transformation, and Freedom*. Ayo's website is www.pamelaayoyetunde.com

Bhikshuni Lozang Yönten

Venerable Lozang Yönten is the Coordinator of Spiritual Life at Maitripa College, and the founding Abbess of the Maitripa Rabjungma Community. She has been a nun since 2003. Buddhist since her teenage years, Ven. Yönten moved to Australia and studied extensively under Gyurmé Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Tashi Tsering (at Chenrezig Institute, AU), then at Thosamling Institute in India. In 2012, she became an accredited In-Depth Registered Teacher with FPMT and was requested to become the Resident Teacher at Kunsang Yeshe Retreat Centre in New South Wales, Australia. From 2015-2021, Ven. Yönten led retreats and dharma teaching in New Zealand at Mahamudra Centre, and taught Philosophy at Human Spirit: Buddhist Psychoanalytic Training Program in Israel. She also has experience in hospice work and palliative care, as well as a deep commitment to social justice and a love of animals.

May compassion and wisdom serve the world.

Maitripa College | 1119 SE Market St. | Portland, Oregon 97214 | www.maitripa.org