



SakyadhitaCanada
Association of Buddhist Women



August 2023

Happy August 2023 Full Moon



After attending the the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference, *Living in a Precarious World: Impermanence, Resilience, Awakening* in Seoul South Korea this June, I still feel a warm glow weeks after the event. It was one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.

I would recommend that any Buddhist woman or any woman interested in Buddhism attend a Sakyadhita International conference if at all possible.

Thank you so much to the organizers and all the volunteers who made the conference and post-conference tour such a success!

In the interests of brevity, please find photographs and links to articles below which describe the conference in detail.

Sharon Gravelle,

Netletter Editor

In this netletter:

1. Photographs from the SI Conference in Seoul
2. Vanessa Sasson book presentation at the SI conference

4. Links to more photographs and some articles about the SI conference.
5. Announcement
6. Reading

18th Sakyadhita International Conference



To the left, Jetsumna Tenzin Palmo hugs two Korean Nuns at the Jinkwansa Temple, during the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference.

Below clockwise from the right: A workshop on lantern painting, Baekdamsa Temple grounds in Seoraksan National Park, Theravada nuns from Nepal and Sharon Gravelle with Bon Gak Sunim, President of the Korean Bhiksuni Association of Jogye Order and Co-president of Sakyadhita Korea .





Some of our much-loved conference volunteers on a break at Baekdamsa Temple.

Olivier Adam | Sakyadhita Int.





Photo by Diane Sasson

Jetsumna Tenzin Palmo, presented her new book, *The Gathering, A Story of the First Buddhist Women*, in a panel discussion with SI President Sharon Suh.

We asked Vanessa to say a few words about her book:

There is nothing quite like a good story, and early Buddhism is filled with them.

One story that has gripped my heart over the years is the story of the first Buddhist women, when they asked the Buddha for monastic ordination. He did not say yes, and they did not quit. They just asked again. Theirs is a story of courage and determination, loss and disappointment, fierce womanhood, glass ceilings, and profound transformation.

*When I decided to write this new book, [The Gathering: A Story of the First Buddhist Women](#), I knew that I wanted to tell the story as a storyteller would. While I am forever grateful for all that my academic skills have given me over the years, I know that academic writing can be isolating for many who are not trained in its style. Having tried a storyteller's voice in my previous book with *Yasodhara and the Buddha*, I knew that the storyteller in me might give life to these women in a way that my academic voice might not achieve. I kept my academic training close, using it to create as much precision in my writing as possible, but I shaped this story in a way that will hopefully reach a wider audience, so that more people might appreciate the genius these first Buddhist women embodied.*

Opening Ceremony Canmore Theravada Buddhist Community and Monastery



Dharma Master Heng Shyun and two nuns from the Avatamsaka Monastery, Ajahn Sona, Bhante Chandananda, Bhante Dhammarakkhita, a senior monk and Ryan Syme watch as Jayanta officially cuts the ribbon.

June 17th was a happy & special day for the Canmore Theravada Buddhist Community as it celebrated the official opening of the monastery. After many years of dedicated work, it had come to fruition. To my great surprise, I was asked to give the opening dedication and to “cut the official ribbon”--an honor which I accepted with great appreciation and humility.

“May this be for the benefit of all beings. I declare the CTBC’s monastery officially open”.

There were happy faces, blessings (victory chant and water blessings) and warm wishes bestowed on all attendees.

support Buddhist women in Canada--both monastics and lay. The monastery in Canmore brings joy to my heart as it helps to fulfill this goal. Sakyadhita Canada wishes the community many fruitful years and we will continue to support the monastery in any way that we can.

Please go to the website: <https://www.canmoretheravadabuddhism.ca/gallery> to see pictures of the special celebration.

Jayanta (Shirley Johannesen)

Founder & Past President
Sakyadhita Canada

LINKS



Olivier Adam, the official photographer for the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference, has posted more photos on his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?>



From left to right: Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo, and Dr. Christie (Yu-ling) Chang at Jinkwansa Temple at the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference. Photo by Olivier Adam.

Pamela Ayo Yetunde captured the unique atmosphere of the convention in *The Transformative Journey of the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference* in Lion's Roar July 13, 2023 . Find it here <https://www.lionsroar.com/sakyadhita-conference-2023/>



Venerable Thubten Jampa reports from the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference in Seoul, South Korea.

She attended the conference at the request of Venerable Thubten Chodron, founder and abbess of Srvasti Abbey in Washington State.

<https://thubtenchodron.org/2023/07/sakyadhita-buddhist-women/>



Korean temple food that was such a big part of the 18th Sakyadhita International Conference experience in this YouTube video about the renowned temple cook, **Jeong Kwan Sunim**, [here](#)

Jeong Kwan Sunim is also featured in the *Chef's Table* series, episode 1, season 3 if you have access to Netflix.

ANNOUNCEMENT

19th SI Conference in Sarawak, East Malaysia



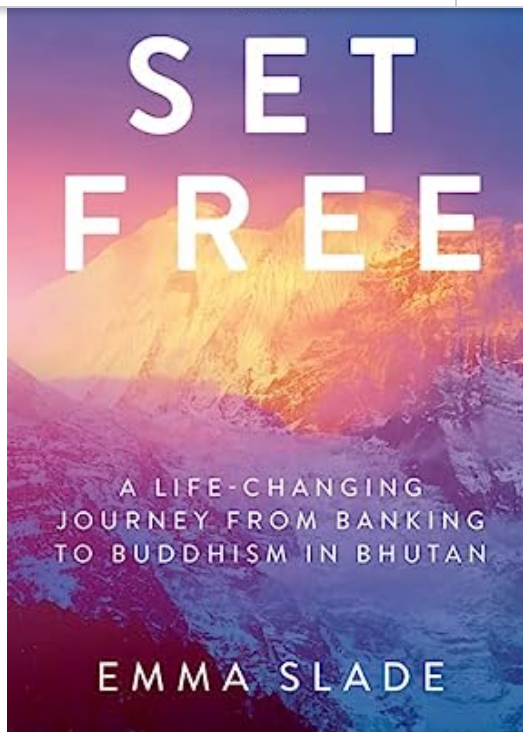
Wallace the Orangutan is the welcoming mascot for the 19th Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women which will be held in June 2025 in Sarawak, East Malaysia.

Stay tuned for further news from the Buddhist Missionary Society of Malaysia: <https://bmsm.org.my/sakyadhita2025/>

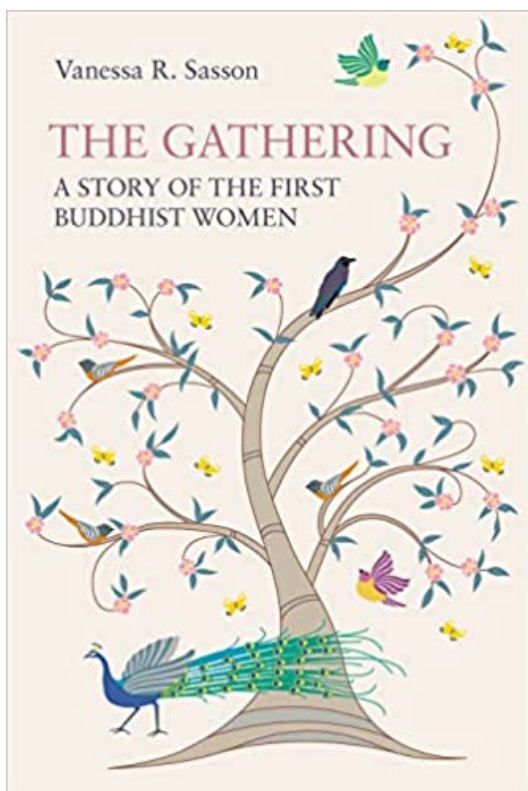
READING



Gelongma Pema Deki, formerly Emma Slade, was a co-presenter in Seoul on the topic of *The Path Cleared for Bhiksuni Ordination in Bhutan*. In [Set Free](#) she tells the dramatic story of how she came to be the first western woman to be ordained as a Buddhist nun in Bhutan. Profits from the sale of the book go to her charity [Opening Your Heart to Bhutan](#).



Vanessa Sasson, as mentioned above, presented her new book *The Gathering, A Story of the First Buddhist Women* at the conference in Seoul.





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