

## Our Lay Teacher "Family"



Katty Choi (Xianzhi) took refuge to the Triple Gems and the Five Precepts in 1995 and in March 2007, she took the Bodhisattva's Vow, both under the guidance of Master Ji Ru, the Abbot of MABA. She has been teaching Chinese Language to the non-Chinese speaking students in Hong Kong. Katty has been practicing Vipassana meditation since 1999 and had attended five 10-day courses and a 9-day Satipathana course at various Vipassana Meditation Centers. In 2004, Katty achieved a master degree from Hong Kong University majoring in Buddhist Studies. She had studied

the Pali Language, History of Chinese Buddhism; Mahayana & Theravada Buddhism, and had written research papers on different topics of Buddhism in both English and Chinese Language. She also had helped in the translation of Buddhist articles. Katty is one of the co-facilitator of the Mahayana Buddhist Study Group in St. Louis, working with Professor Don Sloane, and Sharon Corcoran. In 2007, Katty was appointed as one of the lay Dharma teachers by Master Ji Ru and has been giving Dharma Talks on Sunday services at MABA from time to time.



Don Sloane (Xiankuan) is known as Don shushu (Uncle Don) in the Chinese community. He took lay precepts in 2005 and Bodhisattva vows in 2007 in the Chan (Zen) Buddhist tradition with Master Jiru. Don originally began his study and practice of meditation in 1969 under the mentorship of his first teacher, Ho Kuang-chung, from Nanjing, who briefly taught at Washington. Shortly thereafter he began

studying yoga with Anita Montero Campion and T'ai Chi (taiji) with various teachers around the U.S., including at the original Cheng Man-ching school in NYC, Sophia Delza Wu T'ai Chi School in NYC, and with Al Huang. For several years he continued his meditation training with a Tibetan Lama, Lodu Rinpoche, who was a disciple of the well-known Kagyu Master, Kalu Rinpoche. During most of the past decade, Don has studied with Master Jiru, Abbot of the Mid-American Buddhist Association Monastery, as well as with Kungshih Shifu, in secluded Augusta, MO. Don taught at the graduate school at Washington University for 17 years and currently continues his practice of cognitive behavioral therapy, also traveling around the country offering seminars on CBT and Mindfulness.



Xianyang Carl Jerome currently teaches meditation and the dharma on Chicago's North Shore in Highland Park at the North Shore Meditation & Dharma Center, as well as at the Recreation Center of Highland Park, and in Northbrook the Cancer Wellness Center. He also teaches in Chicago's Chinatown at the [Chicago Body & Mind Center](#) and at Enlightenment Temple. He leads retreats and workshops in Saint Louis and at the Mid-America Buddhist Association ([MABA](#)), his home monastery.

Carl has practiced meditation for much of his adult life and Buddhism formally for the past twelve years. His practice began in San Francisco under beat poet and Zen Master Zenshin Philip Whalen Roshi at the Hartford Street Zen Center. Eight years ago he moved to Saint Louis and became a student of Master Ji Ru, abbot of the Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA), from whom he received lay teaching endorsement in 2006.

Carl is editor of [RightviewQ](#), an online periodical, and he publishes a [blog](#) with teaching notes and exercises from his classes. He is the founder and resident teacher of the North Shore Meditation & Dharma Center in Highland Park, IL. Before becoming a lay renunciate at MABA and dedicating his life to the dharma, Carl was a writer and teacher.



Tracy Turner-Bumberry (Xianwan) began attending MABA with her daughter in April, 2006. They were both drawn to the Buddhist concepts of non-violence, insight and equanimity, and were also eager to practice with a spiritual community. Tracy took her Refuge and Precept Vows in 2007, and her Bodhisattva Vows in April of this year. She very recently began giving dharma talks, and is enjoying the deeper levels of learning this affords her. Tracy is a Licensed

Professional Counselor and a Registered Play Therapist who is in private practice in St. Charles. She works with children/adolescents/young adults ages 3-22.



Xianyi Sharon Corcoran is a St. Louis native who now lives about 10 miles from MABA, near Marthasville. She was introduced to meditation in her early 20s, but began seriously practicing after 1991 when she moved to Ireland with her Irish husband, Terry. It was also in Ireland that she discovered Dzogchen Beara, a center in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition led by Sogyal Rinpoche. There Sharon attended retreats and teachings by Sogyal Rinpoche and Ringu Tulku

Rinpoche, and became more firmly committed to Buddhist practice. In 2007 she and Terry moved back to the US, to their present home, and began attending services and events at MABA. In 2009 Sharon took Refuge and the Five Precepts and was confirmed as a lay Dharma teacher by Master Jiru. She works at Washington University as Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in the Psychology department, and is also managing editor of the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*. She does occasional freelance book indexing.