

## INVESTIGATING THE MIND:

*Exchanges between Buddhism and Biobehavioral Science* conference. His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be present both as a representative of Tibetan Buddhism and a participant in each conference session. Investigating the Mind is co-sponsored by Harvard University's Mind/Brain/Behavior Interfaculty Initiative and the Mind and Life Institute. ■ The Dalai Lama will give an address at a **BENEFIT CONCERT** on September 21 at Lincoln Center in New York City. Benefits from the concert go to Healing the Divide, a new non-profit organization that has been established to improve the lives of people in impoverished



communities in the Himalayan region. Performers will include Jessye Norman (pictured above), Philip Glass, the Kronos Quartet and the Gyuto Tantric Choir. ■ The Chinese government closed Tibet's borders to foreign travelers between April 25 and July 1 to prevent the spread of SARS. The impact to the important Tibetan tourist industry during the crucial summer months remains to be seen. According to official reports, no cases of the illness have been recorded in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). Official statements mentioned that an outbreak of SARS there would be "disastrous," acknowledging the weakness of the health care infrastructure in Tibet. ■ Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), or **DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**, will pull out of Tibet at the end of 2003 after 14 years of working with Tibetans on humanitarian and medical assistance projects. Christopher Stokes, director of operations at MSF in Brussels said: "We're closing our operation in Tibet for operational and human resources reasons, but we want to keep the door open to possibly go back. Tibet is a hard

## MEETING OUR PRISON DHARMA FRIENDS

This spring the Ecumenical Buddhist Society (EBS), based in Little Rock, Arkansas, published *Dharma Friends: No One Abandoned, No One Forgotten, No One Discarded*, a collection of autobiographical stories and letters from prisoners. Anna Cox, a former EBS president who is also a psychotherapist and longtime Buddhist practitioner, edited the collection and frames it in terms of her own experience as



a prison volunteer, describing the Buddhist meditations and workshops she has used. The stories of many of the prisoners—some of them death-row inmates like the late Frankie Jusan Parker—detail much suffering, but also hope and perseverance, as prisoners have strived by various means to heal and make reparations during their incarceration. Much of the material in the book comes from the newsletter, *Dharma Friends*, which has been distributed by EBS since 1997 to more than 400 prisoners around the world. Proceeds from the book will support the newsletter.

environment to work in an MSF-style way. We're aiming to shift our focus to treatment for people with HIV/AIDS in China." Tibet has one of the smallest concentrations of NGO's in the world, but this spring another Tibet-focused organization, **SURMANG FOUNDATION**, was registered as an NGO in China. Says Lee Weingrad, Surmang Foundation executive director, "This is an enormous breakthrough in our legal status in China and will remove one more obstacle to our success." ■ **DAI-EN BENNAGE**, head teacher at Mount Equity Zendo near Pennsdale, Pa., traveled to Japan this May for two celebratory events with her peers. She

attended the 100th anniversary of Aichi Semmon Nisodo in Nagoya, the largest of three Soto Zen women's monasteries in Japan. Says Dai-en, "There were many nuns who came, many in their seventies and eighties. It's so rare to get to see them all together, being so scattered about the archipelago." Dai-en also attended the *hossenshiki*, "Chief Junior Monk" ceremony, for American Kathy Isshin Havens. Isshin studies under Rev. Coen de Silva and has lived in Brazil for over thirty years. After several years training in Japan, Isshin now returns to Brazil to teach. ■ **COLD MOUNTAIN ZEN CENTER** in Fairbanks, Alaska, has moved into a new



home, a cabin with a cozy little dharma room, a small kitchen and a beautiful fenced-in deck. Pictured above are Zen Master Bon Soeng (left), abbot of Empty Gate Zen Center in Oakland, California, and Cary de Wit, abbot of the Cold Mountain Zen Center. Both are longtime students of Zen Master Seung Sahn, founder of the Kuan Um School of Zen. ■ You can now download the first three chapters of a new translation of Shantideva's *Bodhisattva-charyavatara*, *Entering the Conduct of the Bodhisattvas*, for free ([www.tibet.dk/pkte/onlinepubs.htm](http://www.tibet.dk/pkte/onlinepubs.htm)). This first volume includes introductions by Khenpo Chöga, Tsoknyi Rinpoche, Khenpo Apey and Khyabche Khenpo. These texts and commentaries are translated by Andreas Kretschmar. ■ **CORRECTION:** The Spring 2003 issue of *Buddhadharma* reported that Denko John Mortensen was the third Westerner to receive *inka* from Eido T. Shimano Roshi, joining Roko Sherry Chayatt and Jiro Osho Fernando Afable. In fact, in 1992 Junpo Denis Kelly was the first Westerner to participate in an *inka* ceremony with Eido Roshi. **BD**

## ALMS ROUNDS IN VIRGINIA

Bhavana Society monastics have been walking *pindipata*, or alms rounds, in Winchester, Virginia, every Saturday since March. While they don't expect to receive offerings—at least not right away—they see it as an opportunity to give laypeople a glimpse of traditional Theravada practice and a chance for "the many devoted lay Buddhists who live in the area to participate." Pindipata continues weekly in Winchester until October.

