

**I Will Not Pass Away....Reinstating the Buddha's Vision of the Four-fold Sangha:
A history of Bhikkhunis from the time of the Buddha
With Ayya Anandabodhi and Mindy Zlotnick**

August 19, 1-5 p.m.

Sati Center program at IMC

The Buddha said he would not pass away until there was a well-established community of male and female monastics and male and female lay followers.

This afternoon will offer a colorful and informative overview of the history of the Buddha's vision of the four-fold sangha, and especially how women were an integral part of this vision. Because of political and cultural decisions, a strong female monastic presence disappeared for almost 1000 years in the Theravada tradition. The revival of the Theravada bhikkhuni sangha began about 30 years ago and has spread throughout the world. After an overview of this history Ayya Anandabodhi and Mindy Zlotnick will talk about the nuns at the Aloka Vihara Forest Monastery as an example of a group of pioneering women who are helping to revive the lineage.

Presenters:



Ayya Anandabodhi first encountered the Buddha's teachings in her early teens, igniting a deep interest in the Buddha's Path of Awakening. She lived and trained as a nun in the Forest Tradition at Amaravati and Chithurst monasteries in England from 1992 until 2009, when she moved to the US to help establish [Aloka Vihara](#), a training monastery for women.

Her practice and teaching are guided by early Buddhist scriptures and through nature's pure and immediate Dhamma. In 2011 she took full Bhikkhuni Ordination, joining the growing number of women who are reclaiming this path given by the Buddha.



Mindy Zlotnick decided at age 30 that she would only do work that she loved. This aspiration lead her to serve healthy, disabled and sick children and babies as a postpartum care provider, teacher, and foster parent. She has presented nationally and internationally around the issues of birth, postpartum, infant development and communication through touch and is excited to use these skills to tell the story of the history of Bhikkhunis in the Theravada tradition. She has been a dedicated practitioner in the Theravada tradition for almost 30 years and has supported the Aloka Vihara nuns from the beginning of their time in the USA. Five years ago, she left San Francisco when settled life began to interfere with her spiritual practice. Since then she has spent time serving at Insight Meditation Society as a Retreat Support fellow, learned to cook for large groups of people in Yogaville in Virginia and completed 7 months of intensive practice. Life continues to unfold.