

Tom Bassarear (tombassarear@gmail.com)

Experiences in religions

Catholicism

Commissioned to give communion at convalescent homes, 1976 - 1978

1 month retreat at Trappist monastery in Vina, CA, 1977

Week-end retreat at hermitage at Big Sur, 1977

Hinduism

Two years service at Vedanta Society ashram in Hollywood 1976 - 1978

Participated in the major pujas during this time

Buddhism

Many retreats at Buddhist centers, 1979 – present

Became a Buddhist monk for 13 days at a monk's retreat in Yangon, Myanmar, 1981

Judaism

I learned to read Hebrew so I could fully participate in my children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Vipassana and metta meditation retreats

June 2017	8-day retreat at IMS with Christina Feldman and Akincano
June 2016	8-day retreat at IMS with Nikki Mirghafori & Bhante Jagura
April 2014	8-day monastic retreat at IMS with Ajahns Sucitto, Jayanto, and Metta
July 2009	8-day retreat at IMS with Christina Feldman, Fred von Allmen & Yanai Postelnik
July 2006	10-day retreat at the Forest Refuge with Myoshin Kelley and Yanai Postelnik
July 2005	8-day retreat at IMS with Christina Feldman, Fred von Allmen & Yanai Postelnik
May 2003	7-day Metta retreat at IMS with Steve Smith, Michele McDonald, Rebecca Bradshaw
May 2002	8-day retreat at IMS with Steve Smith, Michele McDonald & Rebecca Bradshaw
May 2001	3-day retreat at Insight Meditation Society with Michael-Liebenson Grady
July 1985	10-day retreat with S N Goenka at VMC, Shelburne Falls, MA
January 1985	10-day retreat at VMC, Shelburne Falls, MA
July 1984	10-day retreat with S N Goenka at VMC, Shelburne Falls, MA
July 1983	10-day retreat with S N Goenka at VMC, Shelburne Falls, MA
August 1982	10-day self-retreat at Vipassana Meditation Center, Shelburne Falls, MA
April 1981	7-day retreat, Yangon Vipassana Centre, Yangon, Myanmar
February 1981	5-day retreat with Mother Sayama & Saya U Chit Tin, Igatpuri, India
January 1981	13-day monk's retreat at Yangon Vipassana Center, Yangon, Myanmar
January 1980	10-day retreat with SN Goenka, Igatpuri, India
December 1979	5-day retreat with Mother Sayama & Saya U Chit Tin, Hyderabad, India
June 1979	7-day self-retreat, Katmandu, Nepal
January 1979	10-day retreat with SN Goenka, Igatpuri, India

Other retreat with Buddhist teachers

2016	3-day retreat at BCSB with Ajahn Punnadhammo
2015	3day retreat at Wonderwell with Bill and Susan Morgan
2015	3-day retreat at Temple Forest Monastery
2014	3-day retreat at BCBS with Andrew Olendzki and Taraniya
2013	3 day retreat at BCBS with Ajahn Sucitto
June 2010	5-day course on the Essentials of Buddhist Psychology with Andrew Olendzki and Taraniya Ambrosia at BCBS
2008	On-line course for educators with Claire Stanley
January 2007	3-day retreat for educators with Claire Stanley at BCBS
May 1998	21-day retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh at St. Michael's College, Burlington, VT

June 1994 5-day retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh at Omega, Reinbeck, NY
June 1993 5-day retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh at Omega, Reinbeck, NY
June 1981 10-day retreat at the Los Angeles Zen Center

Spiritual retreats in other traditions

July 2007 3-day vision quest with Jeremy Youst in New Hampshire
March 1991 3-day retreat at Weston Priory, Weston, VT
July 1977 Week-end retreat at New Camaldoli Hermitage at Big Sur, CA
June 1977 30-day retreat at the Abbey of New Clairvaux (Trappist Monastery) in Vina, CA
July 1975 Week-end Transcendental Meditation retreat, Santa Barbara, CA

Service

2017- present Member of the Guiding Council of the Monadnock Interfaith Project
1999-present Co-founder of the Monadnock Mindfulness Practice Center
2008-2015 Guest speaker at various KSC classes about meditation and stress
2006-2008 Member of the committee sponsoring a local commemoration of the United Nations annual International Day of Peace on September 21, in Keene, NH
1998-2008 Hospice volunteer
* twice I was asked to speak at the funeral services of people whose families were fundamentalist Christians
* I was asked to perform the funeral service of a woman who was Buddhist
1992-2002 Co-founder of a meditation sitting group in the Monadnock region
* Weekly sittings every Sunday morning
* We sponsored a group of Tibetan refugees; one of the refugees lived at our home for six months.
1982-1988 Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Vipassana Meditation Center.
1982-1986 Member of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship in Amherst, MA
* We brought Thich Nhat Hanh to speak at Smith College
* We sponsored a group of Cambodian refugees
1976 Confirmed as a lay minister of the Eucharist; gave communion in nursing homes
1976-1978 Burbank, Ca. Weekly volunteer at convalescent home.
1976-1978 Service at the Vedanta Society in Hollywood, Californian. I spent most Saturdays at the ashram doing service and studying. I took part in the major pujas at the Center during these two years.
1970 Claremont, CA. Tutor at GED program for children of migrant workers
1970 Pomona, CA. Tutor at local elementary school
1968 Big Brother in Tucson, AZ

Awards

2005 Keene State College Community Service Award
1971 Outstanding Community Service Award, Claremont McKenna College