

DEAR READERS

It wasn't long ago that I wrote to you about *Mandala's* new direction under the Foundation Membership program. Change has proven to be the theme of late as I am now writing to you about another big transition: the departure of *Mandala's* long-time Managing Editor, Nancy Patton. In the minds of many readers, *Mandala* and Nancy Patton go hand-in-hand. While *Mandala* has always had a remarkably small staff, for a time, *Mandala* was produced solely by Nancy. She is a one-woman does-it-all dynamo, and I believe that *Mandala* would not be here now if it weren't for her talent and dedication, as well as a deep love of words and a belief in their power to inspire, to heal, to change the world.

On a personal note, Nancy has been a mentor and a fierce friend. She has influenced my life in the Dharma in such an instrumental way. We've enjoyed endless debates on comma usage, she knitted a cap, sweater and booties for my newborn son, and she formed a strategic alliance with my mother in sending "Are you eating/sleeping/feeling well?" emails. She has more energy than worker bees half her age, and could teach the hive a thing or two about loving the work that you do. And she's got a hell of a sense of humor.

I spoke with a few of Nancy's colleagues at International Office and they had this to say:

"I think what sticks out for me the most about Nancy is how much she loves working for Mandala – putting the magazine together – and is really concerned with every part of the process: not just editing content but finding stories, making sure people actually get the magazine, are the advertisers happy, how the staff is doing, getting it out to more people, and soliciting suggestions in general. And it goes without saying, her Aussie humor (American spelling!)"

– SANDRA PETERSON, MANDALA SUBSCRIPTIONS & ADVERTISING MANAGER

"She is very dedicated to the magazine. You never questioned if the magazine would come out. You knew it was in good hands, with whatever heroism that required. And I always think of her high-spirited ingenuity and taking on of all manner of projects in the Office. She was generous with her time and skills to help the Office and she would step up immediately to help."

– MERRY COLONY, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

"I think what she has done, so much from her heart, for this organization and Mandala has been amazing. Really Mandala has become such a formidable, beautiful magazine thanks to her incredible hard work, devotion and skill."

– VEN. HOLLY ANSETT, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CEO

"I will always remember Nancy for when I arrived in Portland to an empty room. Right away Nancy helped me get my bed linen, towels, the basics I needed. This was my first welcome to the Office." – EAMON WALSH, CFO

"Before I ordained, one of my teachers told me to wrap my set of robes in brocade and put it on my altar. Nancy sewed a brocade cover and I still use it to carry my chogu. Nancy was like the mother to everybody. She fixed things for people."

– VEN. MINDROL, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EDITOR

"For years I've been impressed by Nancy's dedicated ability to pull together an interesting read six times a year with a tiny staff – and her excellent skills on a sewing machine too!"

– CLAIRE ISITT, CENTER SERVICES DIRECTOR

"I was really impressed how she took care of 'her girls' – the Mandala team. I also always enjoyed talking to her. I would intentionally go down to talk to her and she was inspiring – it always gave me an uplift. And she mended my trousers. She took care of everybody."

– CHUCK LATIMER, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT MANAGER

"When I think of Nancy I think of her ability to get every issue out on time; single-handedly she was able to do this. That's quite an accomplishment, issue after issue for years. There's a lot of unseen work that she did. We had some difficult times in the Office during her time with us and she came through it all. I admire her for that. She really deserves applause; we have to stand up on a chair and clap for her!" – VEN. ROGER KUNSANG, CEO

Please take a moment to rejoice with us for the years of service Nancy has offered to FPMT and offer your best wishes to her in her future endeavors.

Next issue, we'll introduce the new Editor. For now, enjoy this final Nancy Patton issue, invisibly marked by the steady hand that has served *Mandala* so well.

With love,
Sara Blumenthal, Publisher

