

# *Sitagu Buddha Vihara*

သီတာဂူဗုဒ္ဓဝိဟာရ ၊ အော်စတင်မြို့

9001 Honeycomb Drive  
Austin, Texas, USA  
[www.sitagu.org](http://www.sitagu.org)

သီတာဂူစန်းလပမာ ချမ်းမြသာယာရှိကြပါစေ။



## Sitagu Buddha Vihara Diary (1992-2016)

**1992, July 14 – 1354, Full Moon Day of Waso: Sasana Era 2536**

TDSA (Theravada Dhamma Society of America) was founded at 5958 Cape Corel Dr. Austin, TX 78746 - Dr. Win Bo, Daw Than Than Shwe's residence

**1994, December 12 – 1356, 10th Waxing day of Nat Taw, Sasana Era 2538**

TDSA received tax exempt status as a non-profit organization

**1996 – 1358 - Sasana Era 2540**

We purchased 16.1 acres of land for \$85,000 cash down, at 9001 Honeycomb Dr. Austin, TX 78737, USA. 8 acres were donated by Dr. Tin Than Myint and Family.



**1996, June 30 – 1358, Full Moon day of First Waso, Sasana Era 2540**

Sayadaw Ashin Pantitavarabhivamsa (currently rector of the State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mandalay) and Ashin Janainda began residence at the vihara for the Rains Retreat.

**1996, October to 1997, July**

Ashin Lokanatha (currently at the Tisarana Vihara, London, UK) lived at at the vihara for 9 months.





**1998, July 11** - Saddhammajotika Sima Consecration Ceremony

**1997 (including rains retreat) – 1998**

Ashin Janita (Ye Nan Chaung Sayadaw, currently at Dhammaloka Vihara, Plantation, Florida) was in residence.

**1998 – 1999**

Ashin Kalhyana (Lowikaw Sayadaw) was in residence.

**1998 – 2000**

Ashin Nandavamsa (Myaing Sayadaw) was in residence.

**1999 – 2003**

Ashin Osadhasara (currently at the Sitagu Dhamma Vihara, Chisago City, Minnesota) was in residence.

**2000 – 2005**

Ashin Mahosadha Pandita was in residence.

### 2001 – 2004

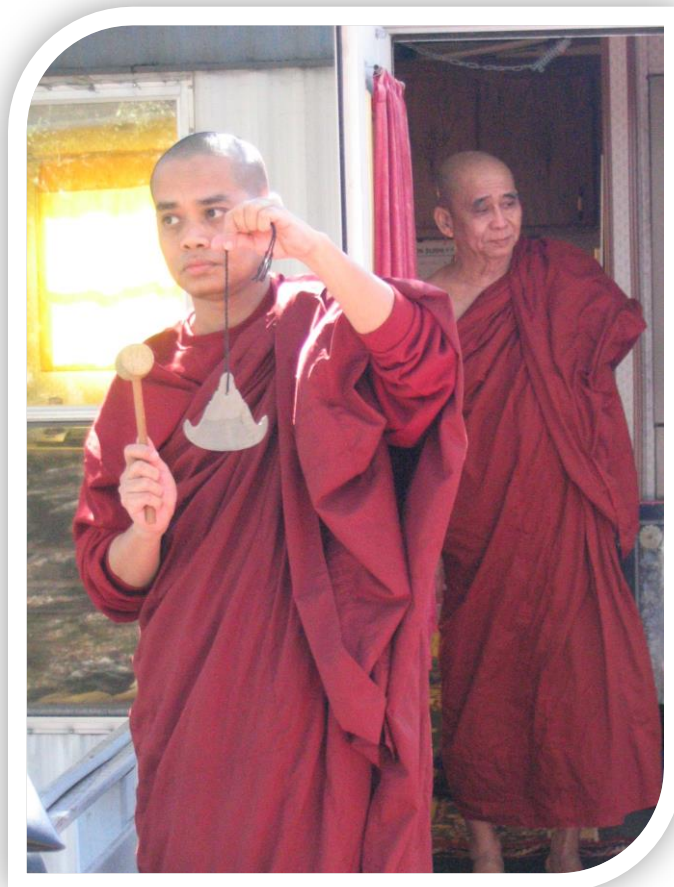
Ashin Punnobhasa was in residence.

### 2002 – 2005

Ashin Kavisara (Vejayanta Sayadaw) was in residence.

**2004, December 12** – 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of becoming a tax exempt organization.

Ashin Ariyadhamma moved to Sitagu Buddha Vihara from Dhammaloka Vihara, Florida. He remains in residence to this day.



### 2005, February 13

First Vipassana Retreat began at the vihara.



### 2005, March 5

Ashin Kavisara, Ashin Ariyadhamma, Ashin Pannajotas' Honoring Ceremony was held.

### 2005, April 1

Ashin Ariyadhamma gave a Dhamma Lecture at University of Texas, Austin.

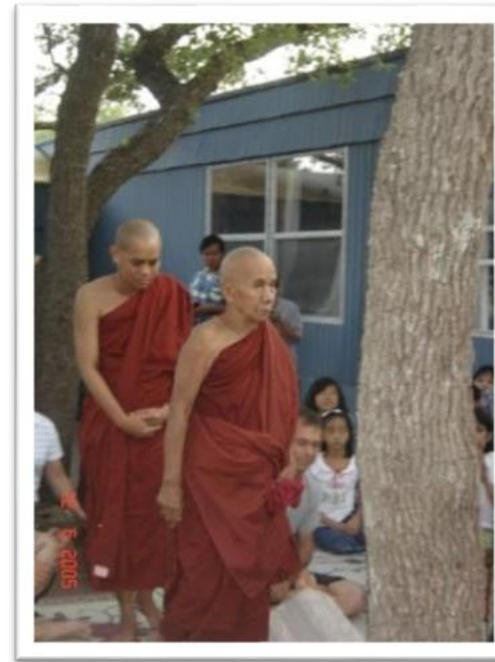




**2005, April 10** - Abhidhamma Class

**2005, May 22 – June 1**

Ashin Ariyadhamma made a Dhamma Trip to New York and Washington, DC.



**2005, June 12**

Mone Le Sayadawgyi visited the vihara.

**2005, August 10**

Deck Extension and two cottages were built by volunteers. By Mg Yin Kyi (Florida) and others.



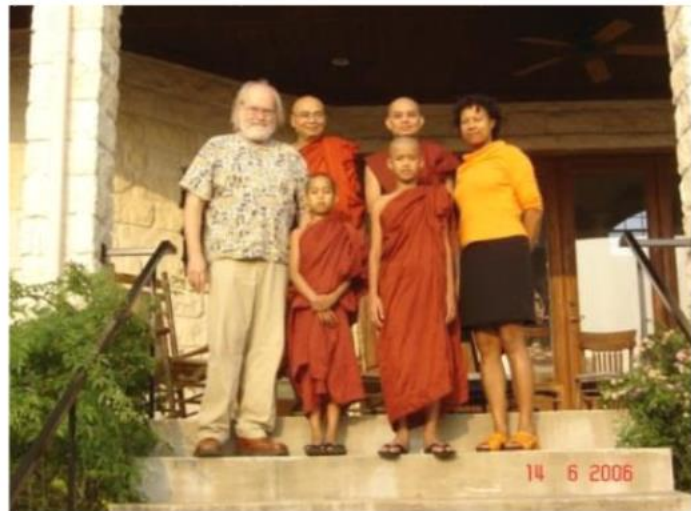


**2006, May 21**

The first nun, Cho  
Cho Win ordained at  
the vihara.

**2006, June 6**

Our neighbors, Dr.  
Berry & Dr. Bower  
offered breakfast.



**2006, June 13** - The old Bridge was rebuilt by the Wah Family and others.





**2006, September 5**

Sitagu Dhamma Vihara in Maplewood, Minnesota was founded and a house purchased for \$245,000.



**2006, September 9**

Dr. Thelma Tan was ordained as a temporary nun. Her mother, Sayalay Daw Candapabha, was present.



**2006, October 28**

Tipitaka Sayadaw U Gandhamalalamkara and U Kesarabhivamsa (Masoyein) attended the vihara Kathina Ceremony.



**2007, April 9**

An over 1000 feet-long 6-inch City Water Pipe Line was successfully installed at the cost of \$150,000.

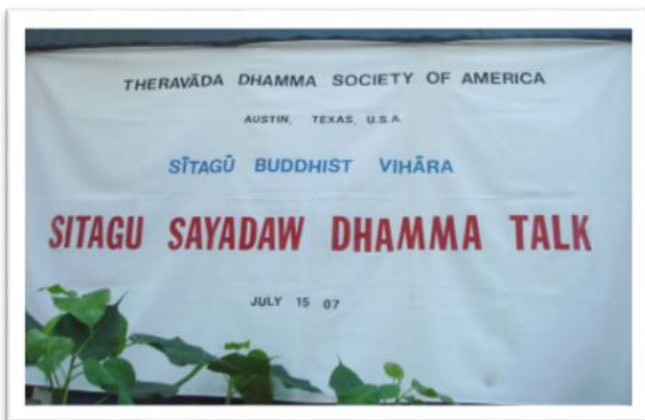


"We've got water now."



**2007, July 7 - August 18**

Sitagu Sayadawgyi visited the vihara.



“Ashin Ariyadhamma, Sitagu Sayadawgyi and Sayadaw Ashin Mahosadha Pandita at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.”



“Let’s work together for a long time, Dear Dagagyi!”



“Rudy Singingbird, a native American graphic designer, striking the kyee ze at a nun ordination.”



**2007, September 9** - Dr. San Wah, Dr. Yu Wah and Ma Su Wah were ordination temporarily as nuns.





**2007, September 14**

Ashin Ariyadhamma gave a public dharma talk at the Asian Culture Room 4.224 in the Texas Union, University of Texas, Austin.



**2007, November 10**

Kathina Ceremony was attended by Dvipitaka Sayadaw Ashin Sajjana.

**2007, October 26**

Ashin Ariyadhamma gave a lecture to the Sociology Department, University of Texas, Austin.





**"2008, Happy New Year!"**



**2008, February 17**

Abhidhamma Class  
in Mobile Home

**2008, February 18**

Visiting Shan Saw Bwa's  
son



**2008, March 21** – Ashin Ariyadhamma, Public Dhamma Talk at University  
of Texas, Austin





**2008, April**

The first of what would be many walkways had begun, measuring 400' x 4'. The water pump building and the parlor roof were also completed.



**2008, May 3**

Cyclone Nargis hit the Myanmar coastal region. The Sitagu Vihara Family would donate over \$ 150,000 to the Sitagu Nargis Relief Fund



**2008, May 6**

Ashin Ariyadhamma and U Bodhinyana offered a Panel Discussion at Anderson High School, Austin.

**2008, May 8 – 10**

A Dhamma trip was made to Arkansas.



**2008, May 9**

Ashin Ariyadhamma offered a Dhamma talk at Christ the King, Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas.



**2008, July 3**

Daw Khin Toe Yee and Daw Seins were ordained as nuns.

**2008 Vassa Vasa**

Ashin Ariyadhamma and U Bodhinyana (Bangladesh) were in residence for the Rains Retreat.



**2008, August 13**

We began the volunteer tree protection project. Also on this day Sayadaw Ashin Silananda of Dhammananda, Half Moon Bay, CA passed away.



**2008, November 1**, Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony





**2008, December 9** - Septic Tank System & Electrical Extension Line Project are successfully done!

### **2009, February**

The construction of the Yogi Restroom and the installation of the water meter, the water line, an electrical line and a meter box, at the cost of \$100,000 was completed.



### **2009**

Ashin Ariyadhamma and the Thai monk U Dhammajoti were in residence for the Rains Retreat.

### **2009, February 3**

The Austin Pilgrimage Group headed by Sayadaw Ashin Mahosadha Pandita and Ashin Ariyadhamma left for Myanmar. Also participating were Ashin Nayaka (Minnesota), John Dinsmore (who would become U Cintita), Scott Conn, Wendy Bixby and Aung Koe (Minnesota).

The following are the highlights of the trip:

**2009, February 6-8** - Shwe Kyin Nikaya General Assembly (Sangha Council), Mandalay Hill.

**2009, February 14** - Opening Ceremony of Kyaung Gone Primary School and Library, Toungoo on Feb 14, 2009.

**2009, February 16** - Venerable Sayadaw Ashin Mahosadha Pandita (Aggamaha Pandita)'s 67th Birthday Ceremony, Sagaing Hills.

**2009, March 5** - Great Opening Ceremony of Mahasaddhammajotika Sima (Ordination) Hall and 1st Convocation Ceremony, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sagaing Hills.

**2009, March 7-9** - International Buddhist Universities Summit, attended by over 100 delegates from 21 Buddhist Universities and colleges of 18 countries, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sagaing Hills.

**2009, March 10** - Venerable Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara (Sitagu Sayadaw, Aggamaha Pandita, D. Litt., Ph.D)'s 72th Birthday Ceremony, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Sagaing Hills. Ashin Cintita was also ordained just prior to the ceremony.

The pilgrims also toured very ancient and historical sites of Myanmar, including Bagan, Mt. Poppa, Mandalay, Maymyo, Sagaing, Mingun, Monywa, Inlay, Toungoo, Yangon, Kyaik Htee Yoo (Golden Rock Pagoda) and Chaung Tha.



“Sayadaw Ashin Chekinda visiting the Vihara”

**2009, July 9 – Aug 3**

Sitagu Sayadaw traveled to the USA and Jamaica .

**2009, July 16**

The Sitagu Shwe Si Khom Pagoda Ground Enshrinement Ceremony was held.



“Cleaning before the ceremony.”









**2009, November 8** - Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony





**2009, December 6** - This is how we cleaned the vihara compound !

**2009, December 9-21**

Sitagu Sayadaw traveled to the USA.



**2010, February 5**

A replica of Shwe Si Khom Pagoda arrived at the vihara.

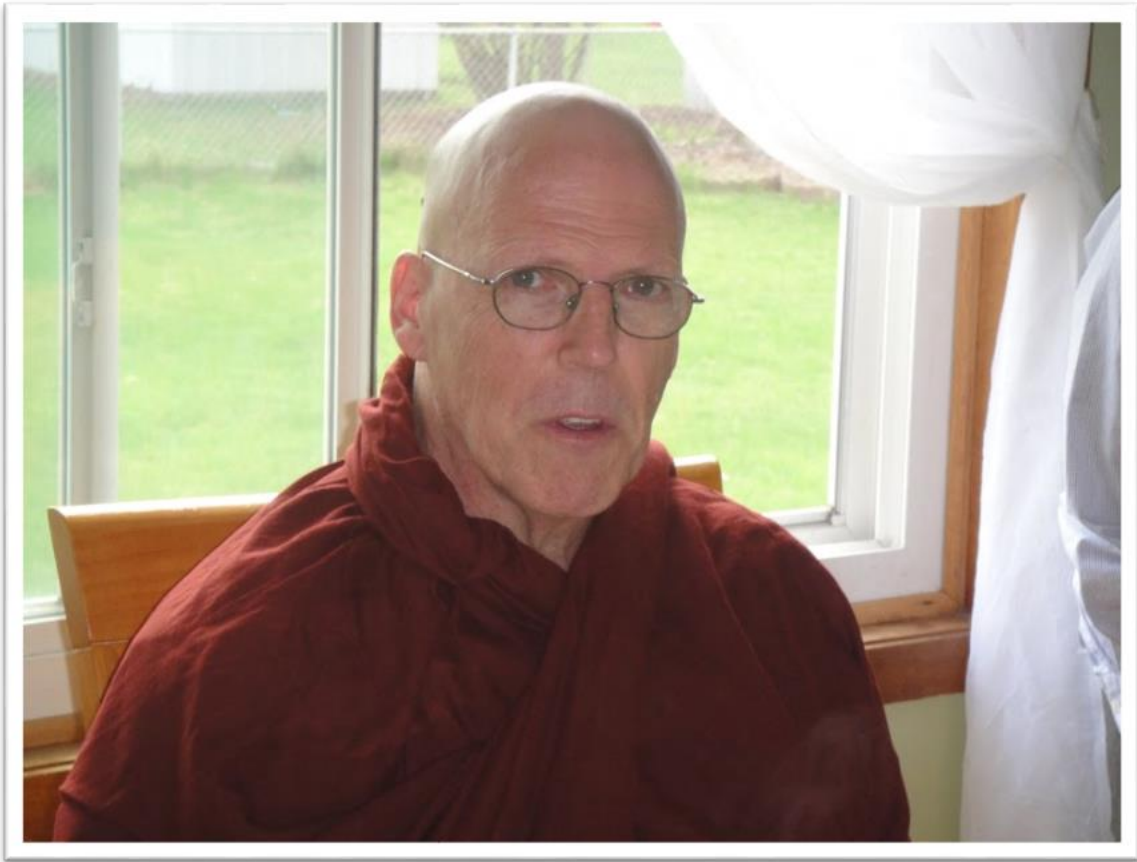
**2010, February 6**

A Welcoming Ceremony of Shwe Si Khom Replica Pagoda was held.



**2010, February 23**

We had snow on Sitagu Sayadaw's 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday!



**2010, March 4**

Ashin Cintita (our American Monk) returned to the vihara from Myanmar.

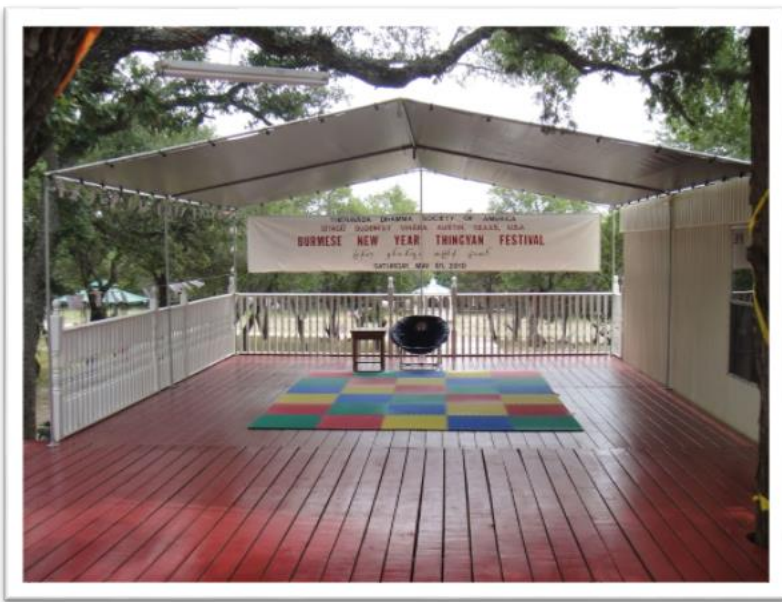


**2010, April 27**

On Buddha Day we celebrated the Ground Breaking for the Shwe Si Khom Pagoda.



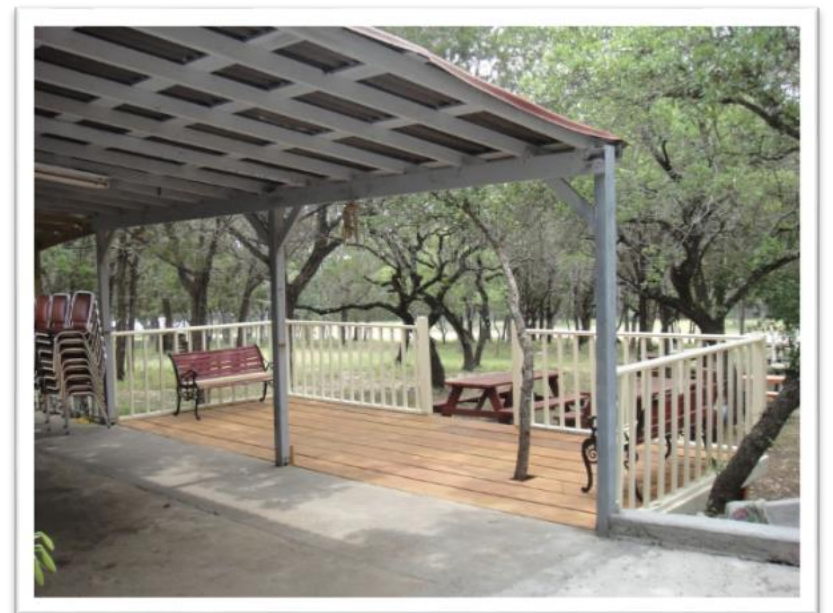




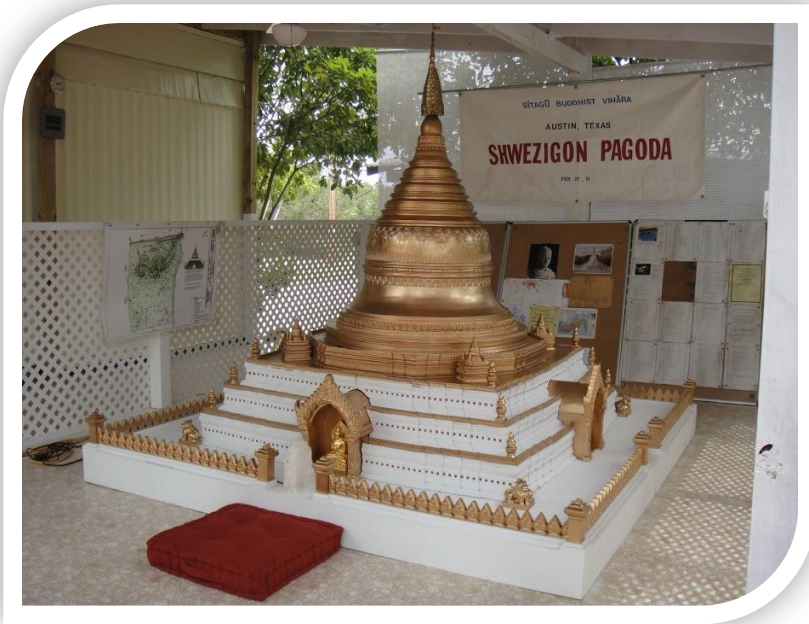
**2010, May 1** – Austin Thingyan Festival



**2010, May 15** - visiting stroke victim Sayadaw U Maho in Baltimore, MD.







**2010, June 3** - The Reception Building, at a cost of \$ 60,000, and the detention pond, at a cost of \$ 30,000, were completed.

**2010, September 24** - Ashin Ariyadhamma gave a Dhamma talk at the University of Texas in Austin, West Mall Office Building, room number 4.118.

**2010, October 10** - Sayadaw U Mahosadha Pandita departed from the USA for Myanmar.

**2010, October 25** - Dr. Henepola Gunaratana offered a public Dhamma talk on a Monday evening, 7:00 - to 8:00.







**2010, October 30 - 31**

Ashin Ariyadhamma and Ashin Cintita attend the Inauguration Ceremony of the Shwedagon Pagoda Replica & International Buddhist Conference in North Sumatera, Indonesia, as two of the American representatives.



**2010, November 15**

Construction of the Sitagu Shwe Si Khom Pagoda was begun. Phase 1, the foundation would cost \$ 43,000.



**2010, December 7**

Meditation Cottage M-14 was completed at a cost of \$11,000. It was donated by Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye, Mandalay, Myanmar.





**2010, December 5 – 21**

Sitagu Sayadaw made a Dhamma Trip to the USA and Germany.



**2011, January 21** - The pagoda foundation, Done!

**2011, May 13 – June 4** - Sitagu Sayadaw traveled to the USA.



**2011, May 16, 2011,**  
Attending the 2600  
Year Buddha Day  
Celebration at United  
Nations, NY.



*Photo - Citizen Journalist*





**2011, June 2**

The Sitagu Samgha Vihara Opening Ceremony was held, West Palm Beach, Florida.



**2011, July 31**

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa visited the vihara.

**2011, July 8**

We bought a 2006 Toyota Tundra, 80,000 miles, for \$ 13,550, which was donated by 28 donors.





**2011, September 15**

Sitagu Sayadaw and the Myanmar Architect group, headed by Tanpawadi U Win Mg, along with U Soe Win and Ko Cho Zaw Min, arrived at Shwe Si Khom Pagoda Project site. In the next weeks the construction of Pagoda, Sayadaw's residence, sangha residences, the Dhamma Hall, the Library, the work shop, and three Meditation Cottages would progress at the same time.



**2011, October 4** - Dhamma Hall Foundation Ceremony

**2011, October 9** - Sitagu Sayadaw returned to Myanmar.

**2011, October 22** – Kathina Ceremony







"Pagoda under construction"



"The library"



"Sitagu Sayadaw's residence."





“The Abbot’s Residence”



“The Residence”

**2011, November 1**

Project Progress

**2011, November 10**

Yasodhaya Kuti Foundation Ceremony

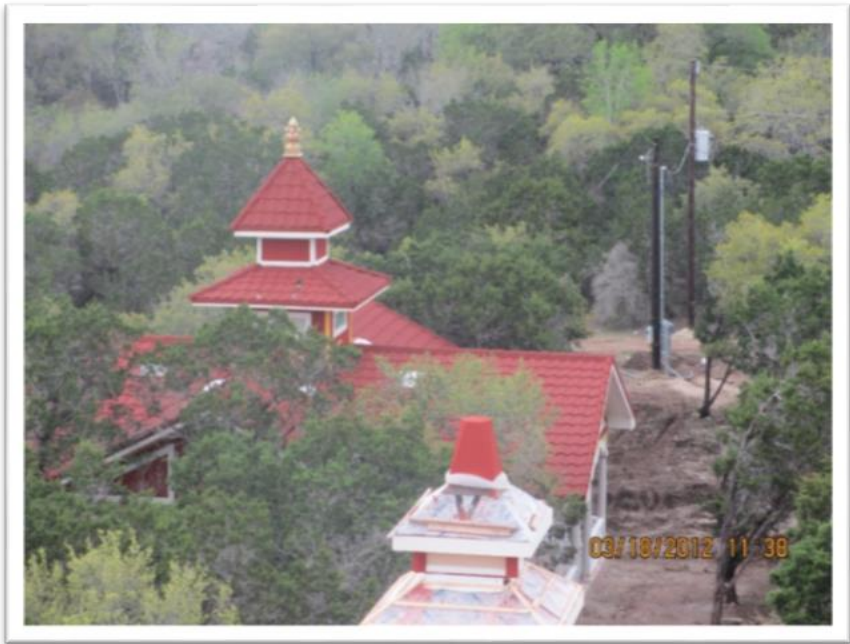
**2012, January**

Dhamma Hall building





2013, March







**2012, May 23** - Middle Paccayam Enshrined Ceremony

**2012, May 31**

Marble Buddha Statue set up in the Pagoda

8 for Monks Kuti, 14 for Men Cottage, 14 for Women Cottage, Pagoda, Dhamma Hall, Library, Dining Hall, Kitchen, Tar Road done

**2011, December 27 – 2012, January 10**

Sitagu Sayadawgyi visited the vihara.

**2012, January 22**

Dhammananda Sayadaw U Jotalankara's gave a Dhamma talk at the vihara.

**2012, January 28- February 16**

Ashin Ariyadhamma's traveled to Myanmar for the Shwe Kyin Nikaya Meeting.



**2012, March 24** - we pay homage to Sitagu Sayadawgyi at the vihara.

**2012, April 7 - 2** Tipitaka Sayadaws Ashin Pannasirilankara and Ashin Vamsapalalankara gave a Dhamma talk at the vihara.

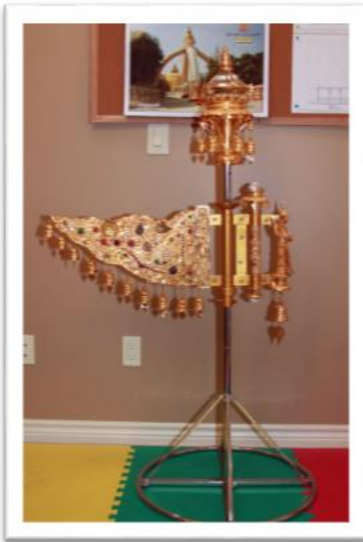




**2012, April 26**

The Upper Enshrinement Ceremony took place for the Sitagu Shwe Si khom Pagoda. Relics, valuables, sacred texts and other sacred objects were placed into the dome of the pagoda.





**2012, May 10** - The 7 ft height Marble Buddha Statue arrived from Myanmar.





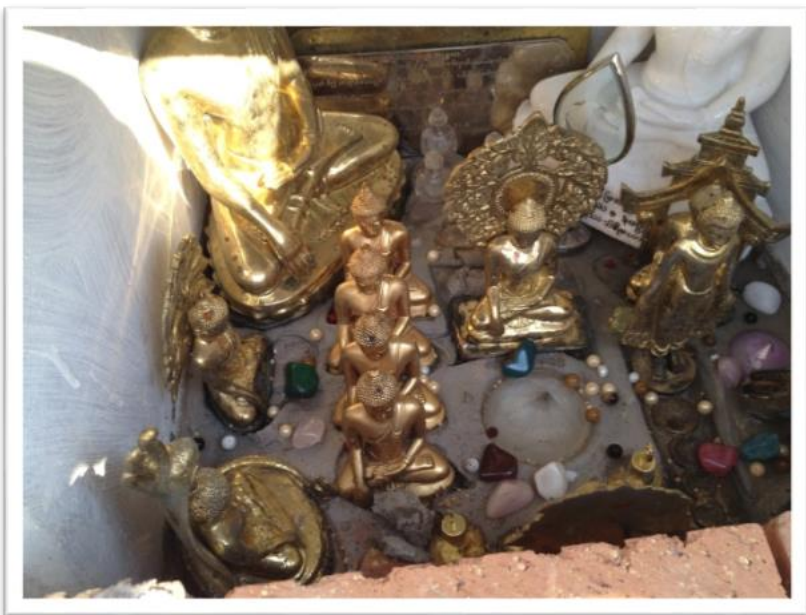


**2012, May 19**

The Umbrella Installation Ceremony for the Sitagu Shwe Si Khom Pagoda was held.

**2012, May 19**

The Middle Paccayam Enshrinement Ceremony was held.



**2012, May 23** – Final Enshrinement Day !





**2012, May 31** - the marble Buddha statue is in place!



## **2012, June 4**

On the full moon day of Nayon, 1374, the Diamond Bud Installation Ceremony took place.







Dr. U Thame Kyaw said " I am happy to die now"























**2012, June 4** - On the full moon day of Nayon, 1374, the Diamond Bud Installation Ceremony took place.





**2012, June 30** - the new small kitchen under construction.



**July 16, 2012** - the old kitchen was torn down.



**2012, July 22** - Tampawadi U Win Mg and his team about to depart.





**2012, July 24** - planting a bodhi tree with Sitagu Sayadaw's residence in the background.



**2012, July 26** - builder Sam Rocha and his team.



**2012, July 27**

Sitagu Sayadaw and the U Win Mg group returned to Myanmar.





**2012, Aug 4** - The Waso Robe Offering Ceremony was held.



**2012, Sep 1-7** - Ashin Ariyadhamma made a trip to Calgary, Canada.

**2012, Sep 15-23** - Sitagu Sayadaw arrived at the vihara.



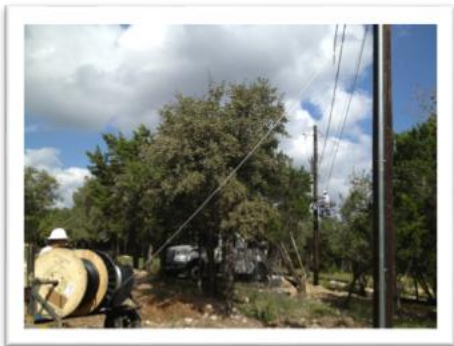
**2012, Sep 17**

A Mercedes (2008) car was donated by U Zaw Lay, Daw Molly and their son, Wai Yan Paing of Yangon, Myanmar.





**2012, September 20** - Meeting with Daw Aung Sun Suu Kyi at the American University in Washington, DC."



**2012, October 12** - new electrical line installation!



**2012, October 15** - New transformer installation!"



**2012, November 18** - Attending 1<sup>st</sup> Kathina Ceremony at Center, Texas





**2012, November 24** - During the Kathina we conducted a monk, nun, yogi and pre-Novice re-ordination Ceremony.



**2013, January 27** - At Ko Too and Dr. Le Wai Thant's house.





**2013, March 17** - The 1<sup>st</sup> Myanmar Ambassador to USA visited the vihara.



**2013, March 28** - bye bye to our old mobile home monastery!



**2013, April 13** - the Water Festival.

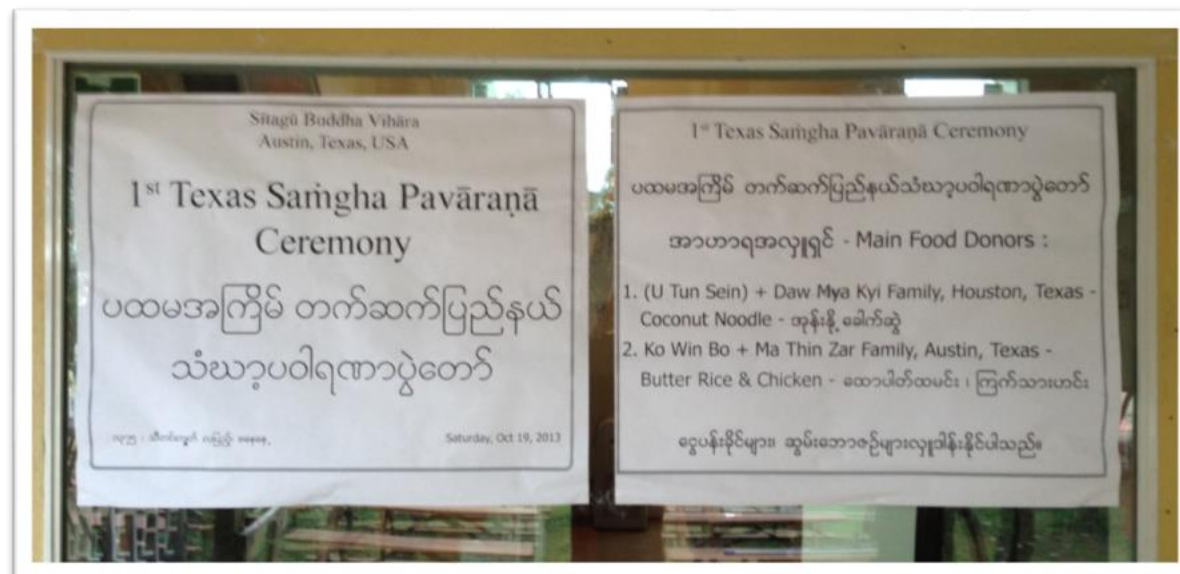




2013, May 4 - the last visit of Daw Li Thwin."



2013, July 14 - monks & nuns, and novices, at the re-ordination Ceremony.





**2013 October 19** - 1<sup>st</sup> Texas Sangha Pavarana Ceremony at vihara



**2013, November 22** - Minnesota, let's buy this place for the Sitagu Dhamma Vihara!



**2014, January 24** - snow makes for a cool and peaceful setting for honoring out next visitor.







2014, January 25 - Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Honoring Ceremony.







**2014, February 23** - Sitagu Sayadaw's 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ceremony.

**2014, February 16** - Hta Ma Ne Pwe (Stricky Rice Festival)





**2014, April 13** - Thin Gyan (Water Festival) at the vihara.



**2014, June 30** - tar and chip road completed at a cost of \$75,000.





**July 10, 2014** - the new walk way to the dining hall.



**2014, July 24** - the Sitagu Dhamma Vihara Opening Ceremony at its new site in Minnesota.



**2014, August 3** - the Novice Initiation Ceremony for the Dr. Aung Ba and Dr. Sandar Min family.





**2014, August 12** - the returning Sitagu Kappiya Group.



**2014, September 26** - drainage installation.



**2014, August 29** - the last journey of artist U Paw Thame in Big Spring, TX.











**2014, October 8** - We held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sangha Pavarana Ceremony in Texas.





**2014, October 13-22**

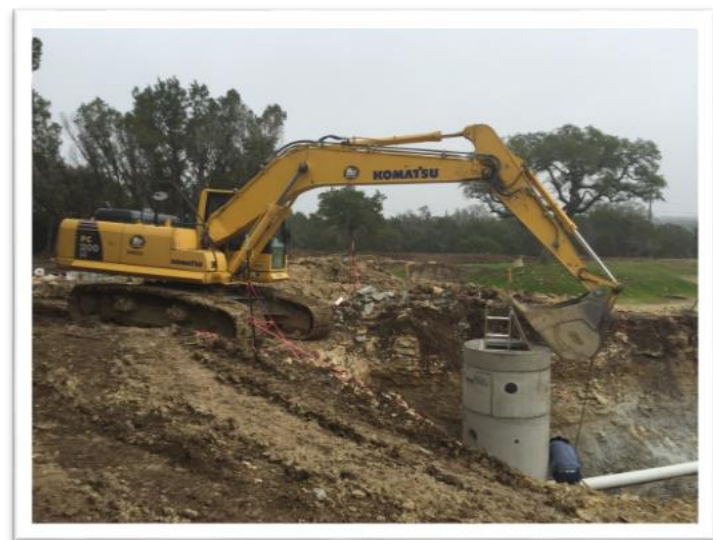
Sitagu Sayadaw and Group Dhamma Trip to Canada.



**2014, November 1**

Kathina Ceremony.





**2014, November 4** - Sayadaw U Cintita and U Thit Za Na visiting from Myanmar.

**2014, December 18** - detention pond pump station installation!





**2014, December 27** - Ko Peter and his team building a deck behind W-8 from left-over wood.



**2015, January 22 - Feb 20**

Myanmar Trip for Shwe Kyin Nikaya Assembly.

**2015, March 20** -  
the plaza is done!







**2015, April**

**Thingyan Festival.**

**2015, April 25**

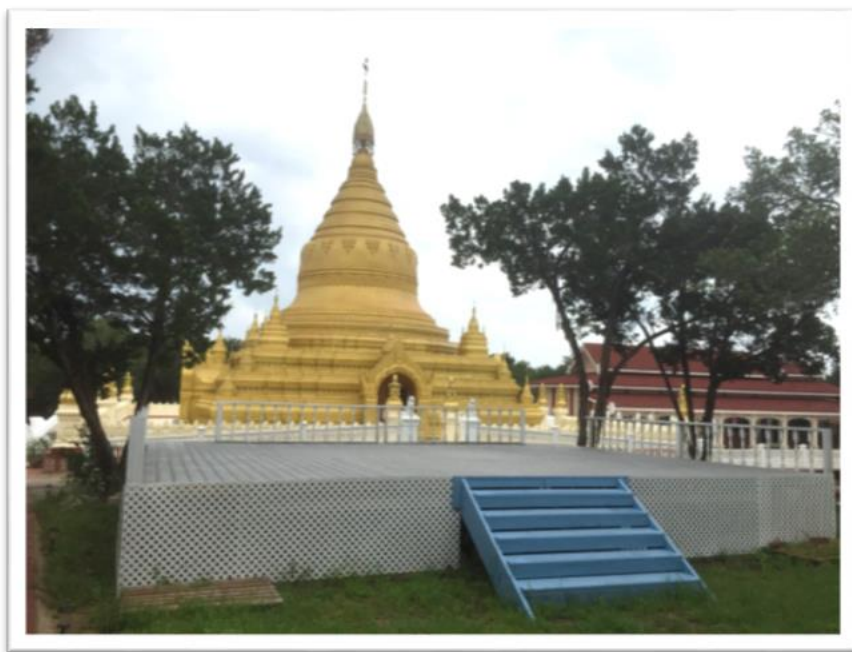
**The vihara group donated \$ 31,000 for Nepal Relief Fund.**







**2015, May 3** - Buddha Day and May Born People Offering



**2015, May 20** - stage built by volunteer Ko Peter and his team.



**2015, June 6** - decks built by volunteer Ko Peter and his team.





**2015, June 25-July 13**

Ashin Ariyadhamma and others traveled to Myanmar Theravada Buddha Centre, Moscow, Russia, convening with Sitagu Sayadaw and other monks for the opening ceremony. The local group returned after a visit to San Fransisco.



"First ordination ceremony at Buddha Centre, Moscow"







"Sayadaw Gyi at St. Petersburg Airport"



"A group of Russian youth came to take picture with Sayadaw Gyi at St. Petersburg train station"



"Ashin Ariyadhamma and the group in front of the winter palace in St. Petersburg"





**2015, August** - a tree house built by volunteers led by Mr. Happy.



**2015, August 2** – Waso Robe Offering Ceremony



**2015, August 4-20**

Sitagu Sayadaw with a group of five monks, one nun and two kappiyas traveled to the USA.

**2015**

Attending the Rains Retreat were Palikari Sayadawgyi Ashin En Gi Tha, Ashin Ariyadhamma, Ashin Aggadhamma, Ashin Saccanyana and Ashin Cintita.





**2015, October 4, 11, 18, 25**

Sunday Dhamma talks were offered by Palikari Sayadawgyi Ashin En Gi Tha.

**2015, October 8**

The vihara family donated \$30,989 to the Myanmar Flood Relief Fund.

**2015, October 28**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sangha Pavarana Ceremony occurred in Austin.







**2015, November 21** - The Kathina Ceremony was held.







### **2016, January 1**

We welcomed in the new year by offering lunch and, for security and protection, group chanting at the vihara.

### **2016, February 20**

We celebrated Htamane Pwe, the Burmese Sticky Rice Festival, by preparing sticky rice.

### **2016, March 19**

We celebrated Sitagu Sayadaw's 79th Birthday by offering a ceremony at the vihara.

### **2016, March 20 - April 15**

Ashin Ariyadhamma traveled to Myanmar.