

Bhanté and Buddhist ceremony in Vienna, Virginia

Friday, mid-day Buddhist ceremony, Vienna House

Bhanté was his usual composed, present, kindly self only more radiant than usual. He made clear that he was affirming our relationship in Pali, Sanskrit, French, Cambodian, and English. A friend (Vee Lyons) was able to secure a wedding dress that was insured for a substantial sum on loan from Sotheby's where she worked. The fabric was hundreds of years old. Rebecca was radiant in that costume. The dress looked as if it had long been hers.

Bhanté's chanting transported me into an unusual state of enhanced awareness yet concurrent non-attachment.

Two friends of mine from California, Bryce and Lorraine, made a vegetarian festive meal to celebrate the event. They had driven cross country to attend the ceremonies. They schlepped 5 pounds of organic almond meal, dates, natural vanilla and spices with them. Bryce was a student of Dr Ramamurti Mishra from his San Francisco Ashram and Lorraine was Bryce's lady. Bryce was from a wealthy Texan family. As a teenager, he rejected wealth and the hypocrisy he observed in his family and their friends. He ended up in Haight Ashbury and then became a student of Dr. Mishra.

Bryce called me about 3 weeks before the events asking if I needed a chef for anything. He had a dream that we needed a lot of healthy food. He wanted to be the one who supervised the food preparation.

Bryce was a friend whom I trusted. Lorraine was his muse, confidant and person who made happen what Bryce envisioned. A lovely couple and a healthy balance of skills and talents. This made the feeding of people at the events easy and effortless for me.

We needed a food & beverages coordinator, a travel and lodging coordinator, and a spiritual practices coordinator for each event and then a coordinator of coordinators (24 in total).

Bryce became the nature, food & beverages coordinator. Travel & lodging was coordinated by Russ's secretary at the time. Spiritual practices was coordinated by Russ. Addison Woolcott Lee IV provided musical interludes

and candid photography. David Sanders recorded sound and handled lighting. My brother Mitch and sister Marcy helped when and where needed.

Rebecca's father and step-mother attended the Buddhist ceremony. So did Vee and Dudley Lyons. About 30 people attended including Wayne Silbey, a pioneer in socially responsible investing and founder of the Calvert Fund.

The ceremony started at about 11 AM and lasted until about 1 PM followed by an informal reception and buffet lunch.