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 Lakkhana (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

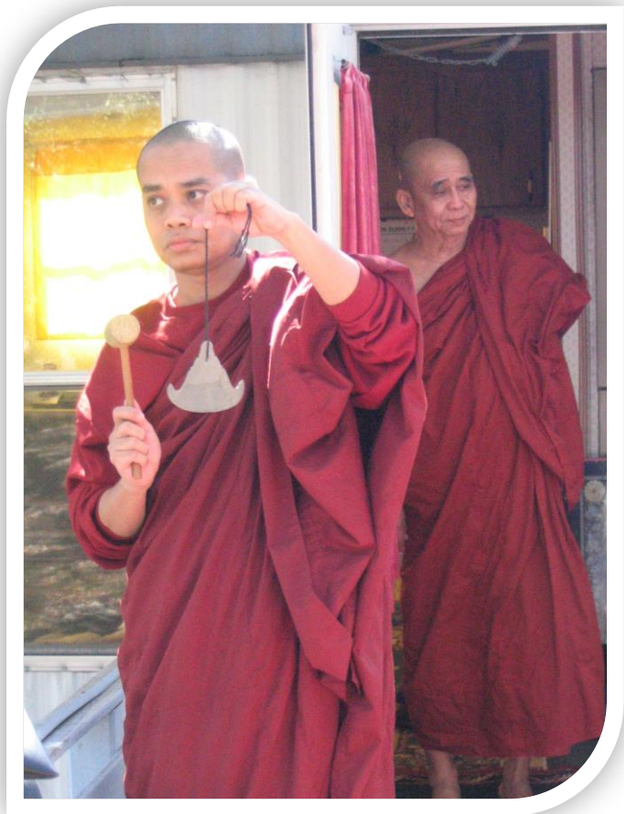
Ashin Punnobhasa was in residence.

2002 – 2005

Ashin Kavisara (Vejayanta Sayadaw) was in residence.

2004, December 12 – 10th 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.

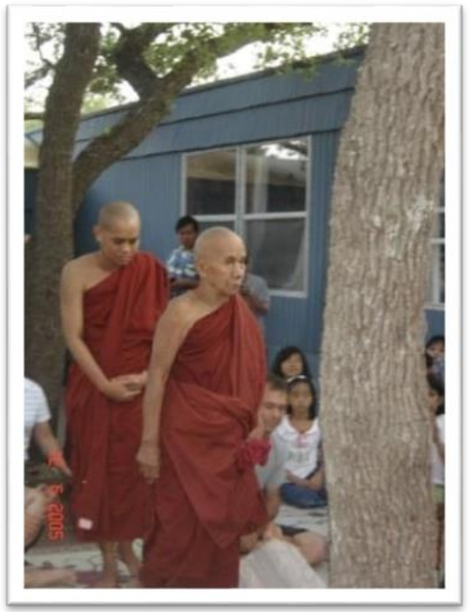
2005, April 1

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.

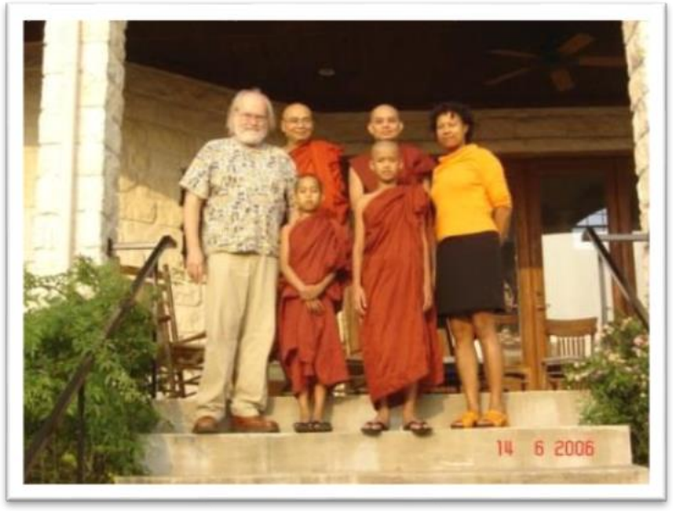
2006, May 21

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

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

2006, June 6

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



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.

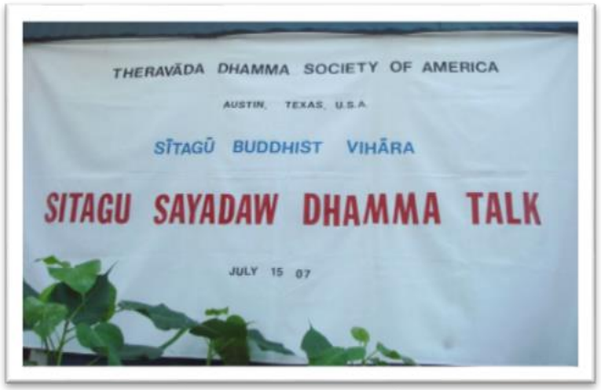
2007, April 9

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."

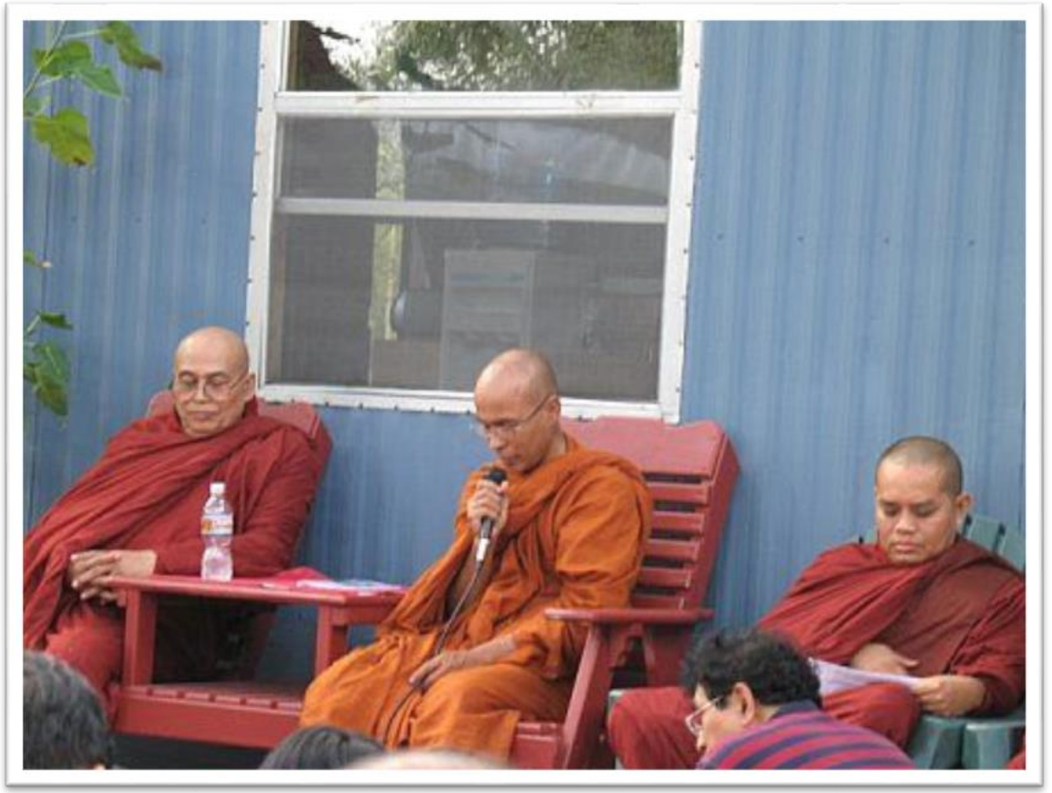
"Let's work together for a long time, Dear Dagagyi!"

"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 dhamma 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 Myanamar. 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

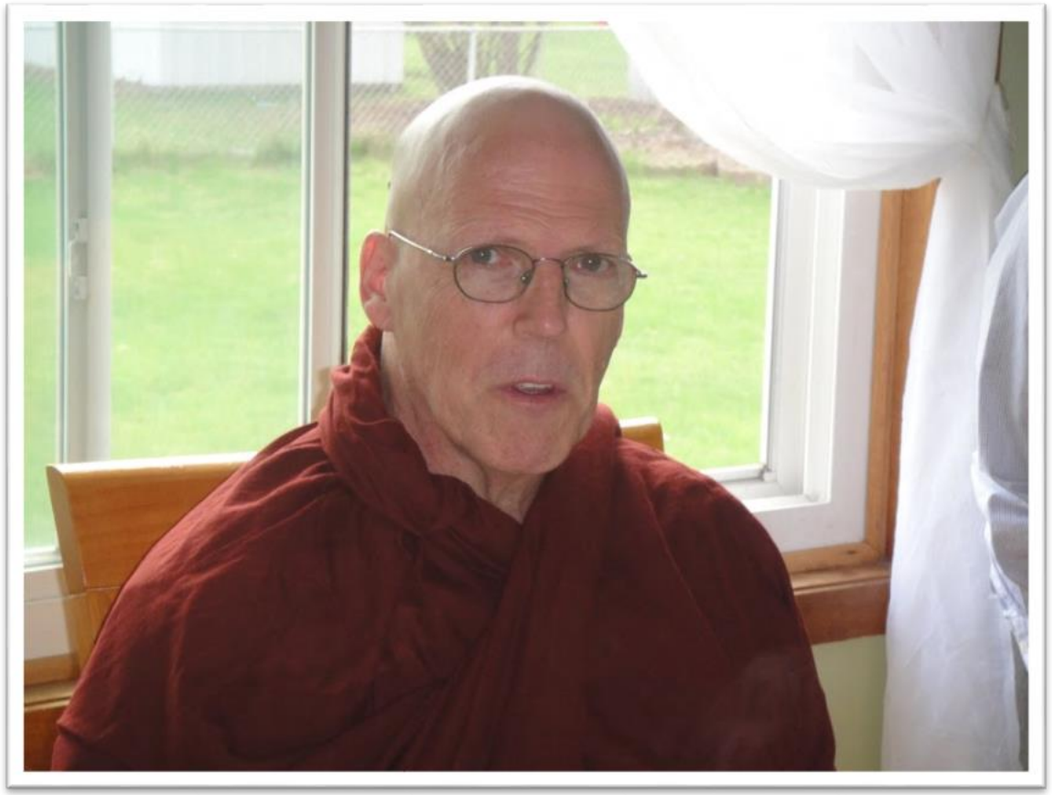
A replica of Shwe Si Khom Pagoda arrived at the vihara.

2010, February 6

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

2010, February 23

We had snow on Sitagu Sayadaw's 73rd Birthday!



2010, March 4

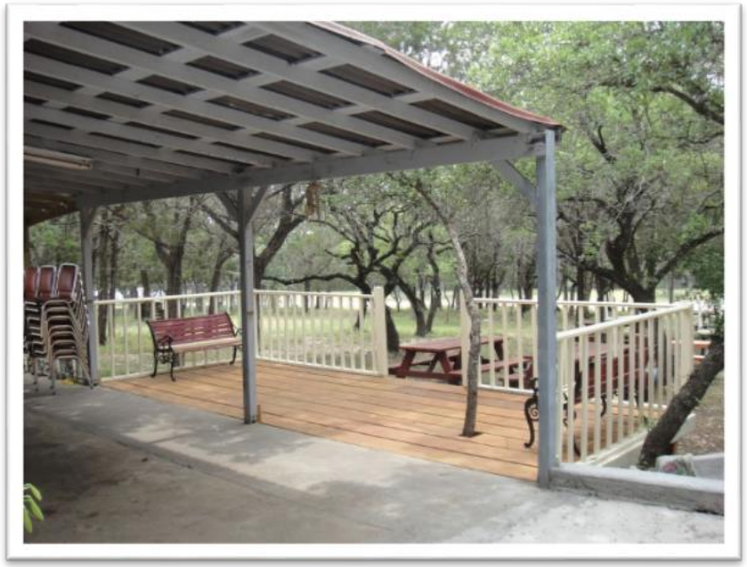
Ashin Cintita (our American Monk) returned to the vihara from Myanmar.

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.

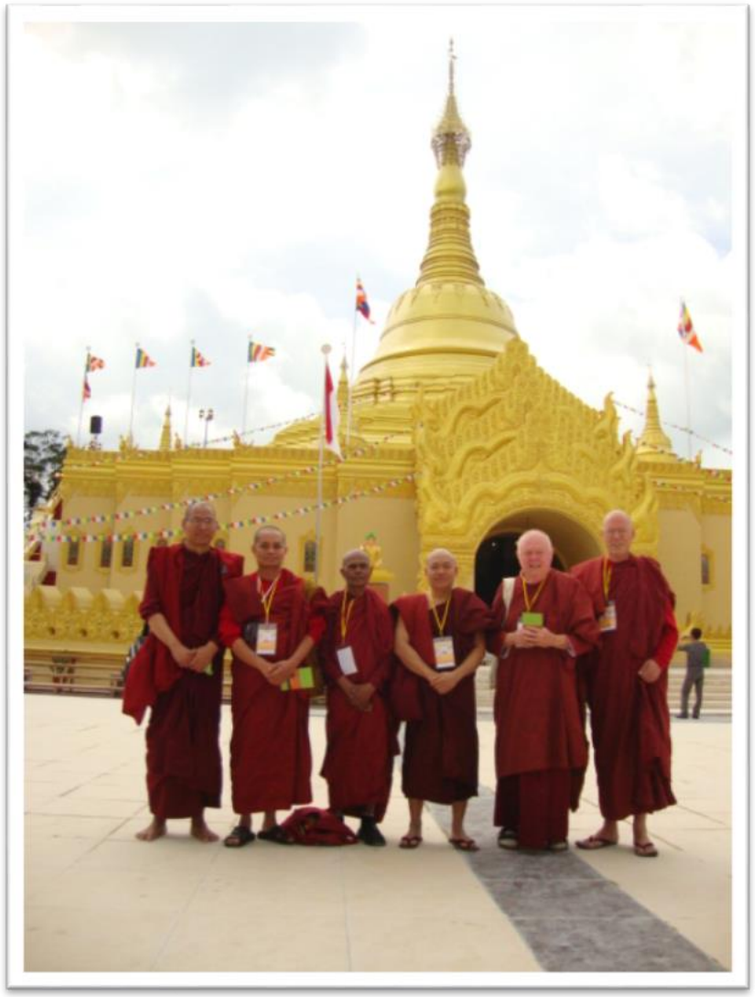


2010, June 3 - The Reception Building, at a cost of $ 60,000, and the detention pond, at a cost of $ 30,000, were completed.

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

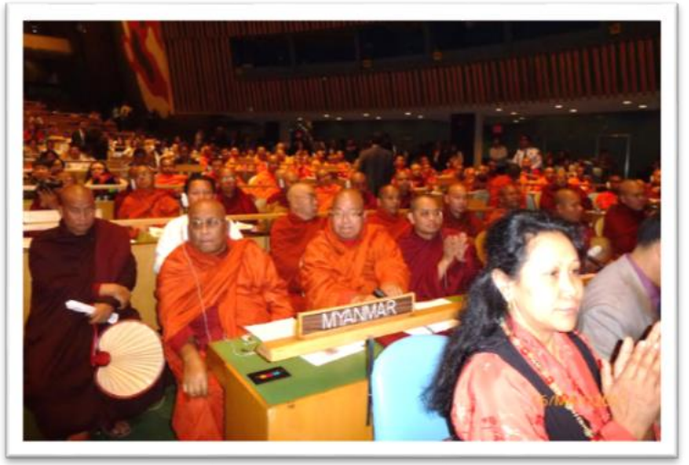
Meditation Cottage M–14 was completed at a cost of $11,000. It was donated by Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aye, Mandalay, Myanmar.

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.



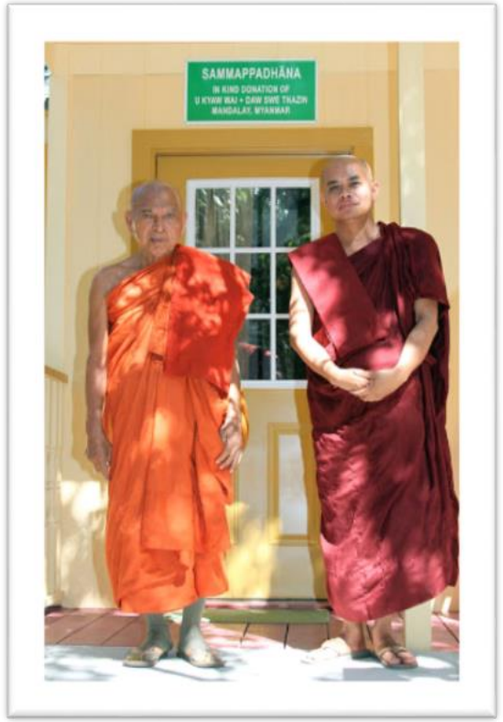
2011, May 16, 2011, Attending the 2600 Year Buddha Day Celebration at United Nations, NY.

2011, June 2

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

2011, July 8

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



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, 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

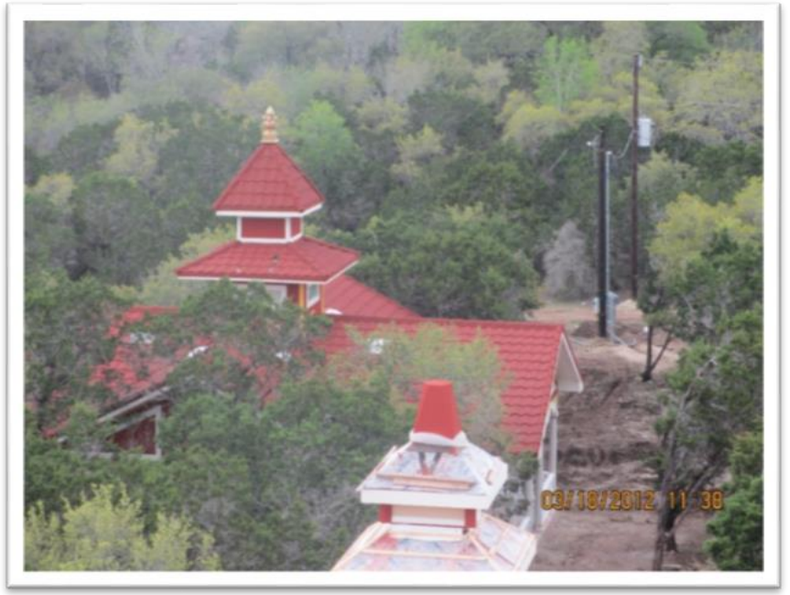
2011, November 10

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

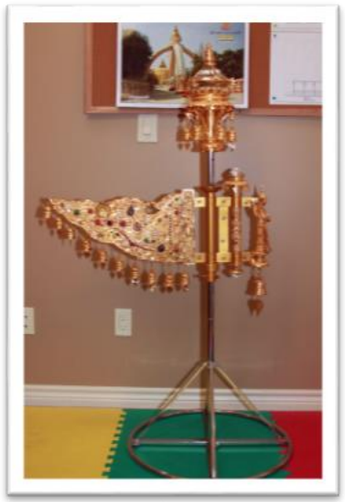
Ashin Ariyadhamma’s traveled to Myanmar for the Shwe Kyin Nikaya Meeting.

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.



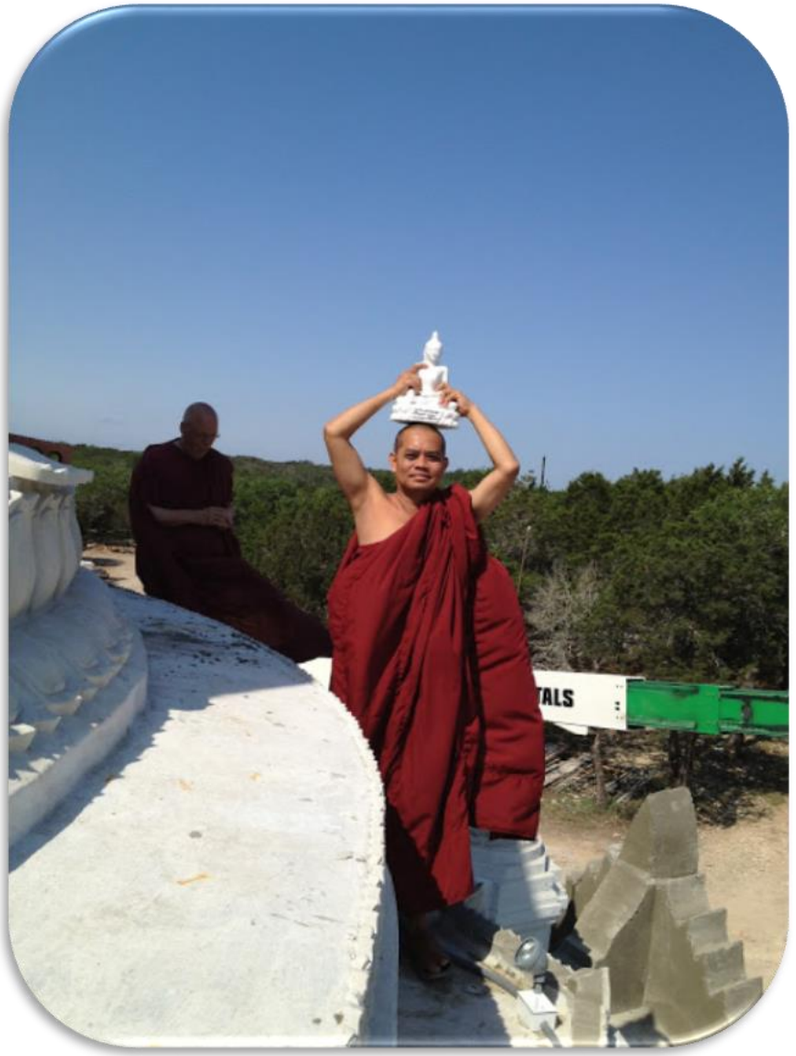
2012, May 10 - The 7 ft height Marble Buddha Statue arrived from Myanmar.

2012, May 19

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

2012, May 19

The Middle Paccayam Enshrinement Ceremony was held.



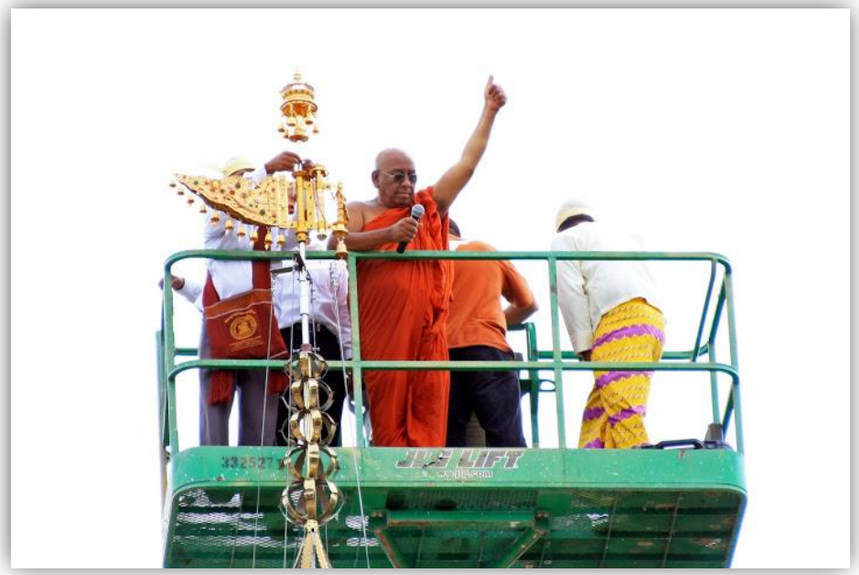
2012, May 23 – Final Enshrinement Day !

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 1st 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.

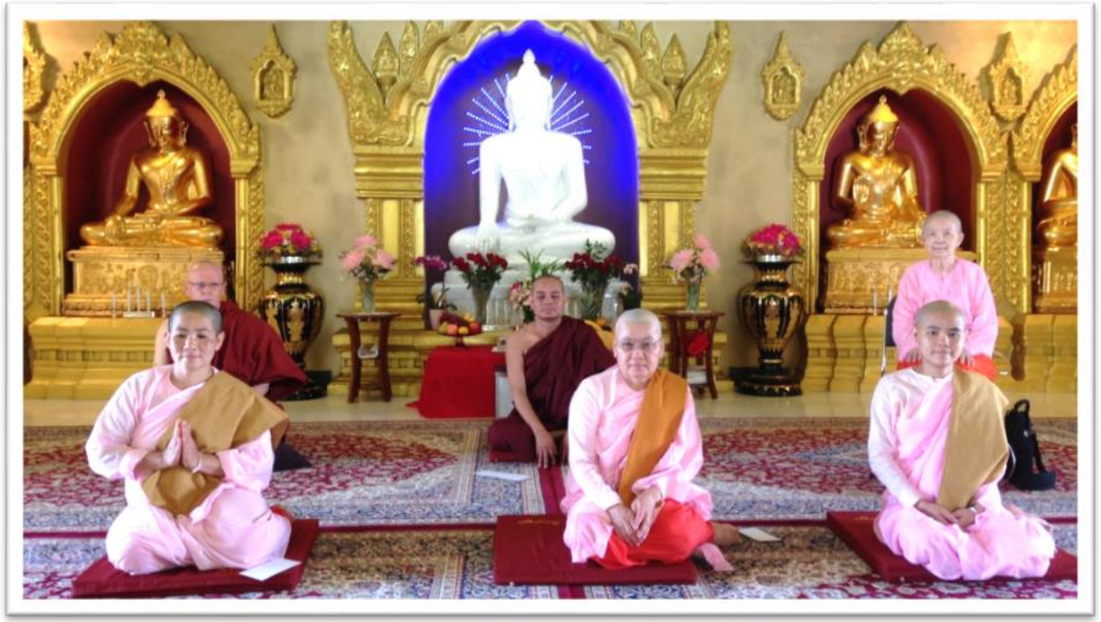
2013, March 17 - The 1st Myanmar Ambassador to USA visited the vihara.

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 - 1st 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 16 - Hta Ma Ne Pwe (Stricky Rice Festival)

2014, February 23 - Sitagu Sayadaw's 77th Birthday Ceremony.

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.

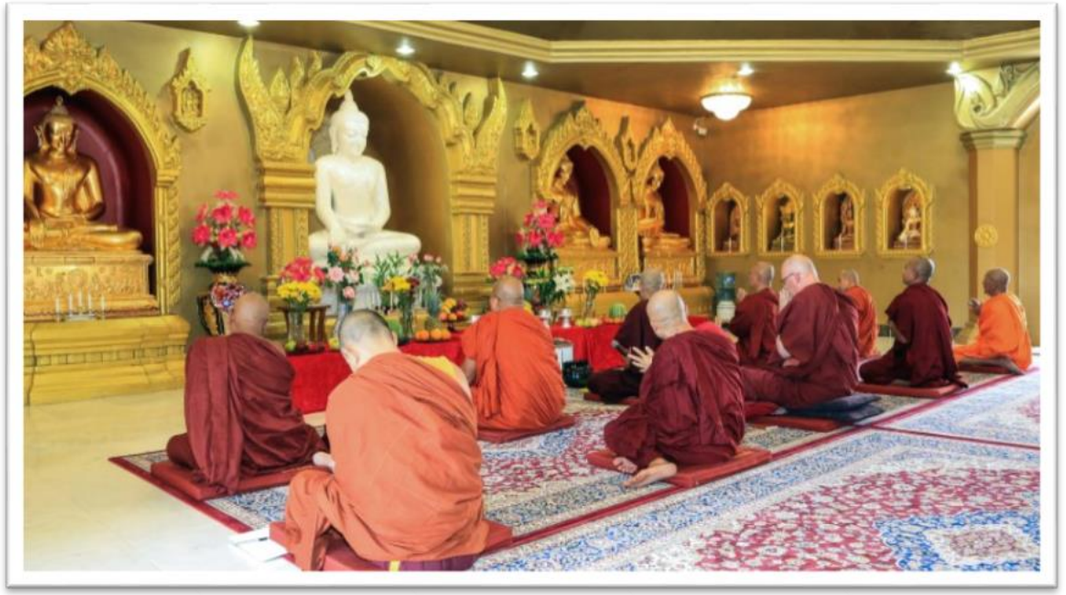
2014, August 3 - the Novice Initiation Ceremony for the Dr. Aung Ba and Dr. Sandar Min family.

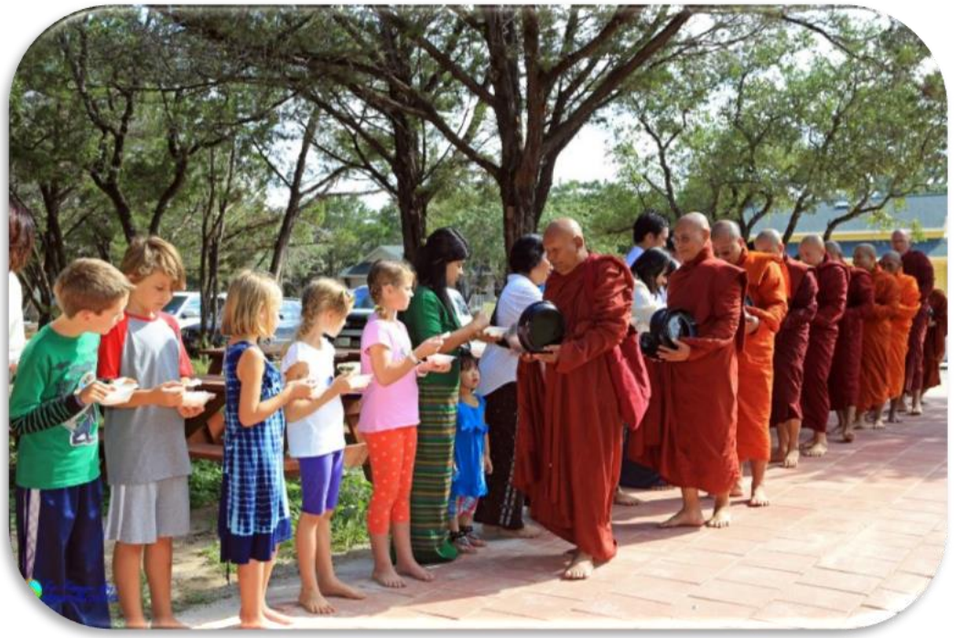
2014, August 12 - the returning Sitagu Kappiya Group.

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

2014, September 26 - drainage installation.

Second Texas Samgha Pavarana Ceremony
Sitagu Buddha Vihara
Austin, Texas, USA
ဒုတိယအကြိမ် သံဃာ့ပဝါရဏာ ပွဲတော်
ဘုရားဖူး၊ သီတင်းကျွတ်လပြည့်၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့.
Wednesday, October 8, 2014





2014, October 8 - We held the 2nd Sangha Pavarana Ceremony in Texas.

2014, October 13-22

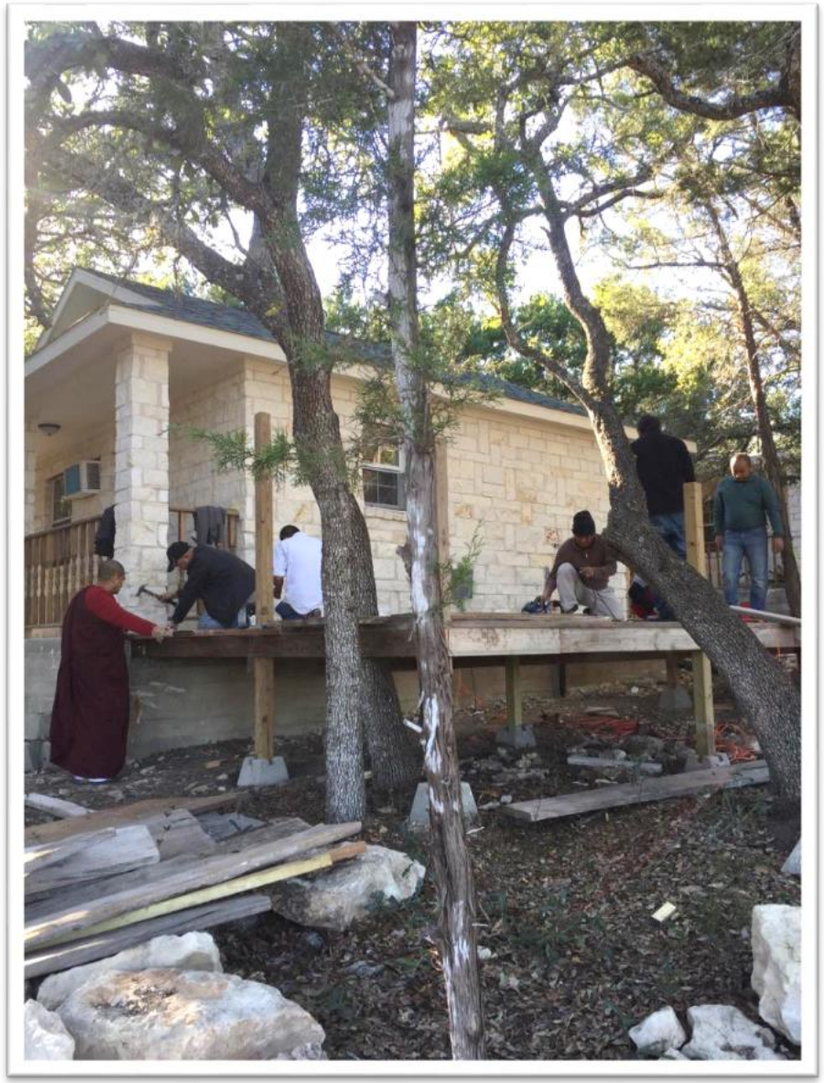
Sitagu Sayadaw and Group Dhamma Trip to Canada.

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!

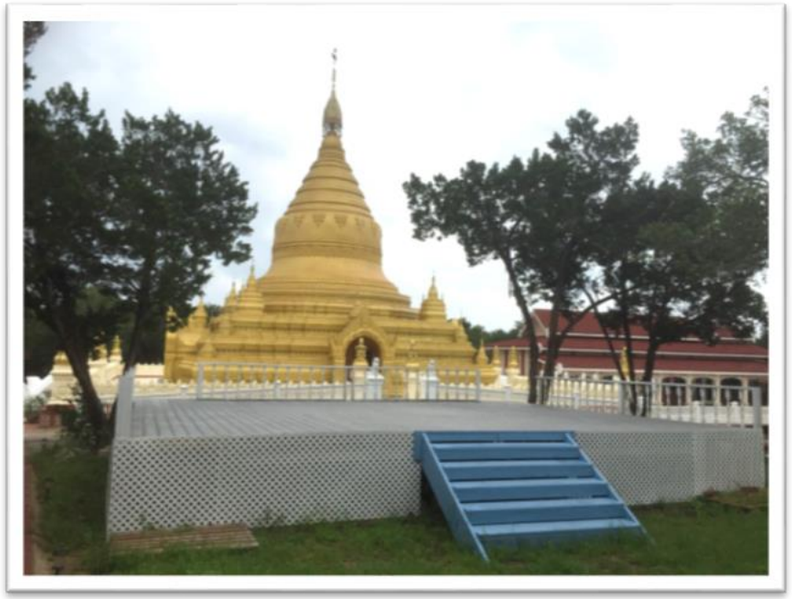
2015, April

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"

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

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

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 3rd 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.