Alberta Buddhist Conference
Dharma Class Activities
Saturday, November 14, 2009

9am – 4pm, Dharma Room

9am — Childrens' Service
meditation, offering incense, Golden Chain, story (about interdependence)

9:15am — Bee Movie (90 minutes, rated PG)
Summary
When the bee Barry B. Benson graduates from college, he finds that he will have only one job for his entire life, and absolutely disappointed, he joins the team responsible for bringing the honey and pollination of the flowers to visit the world outside the hive. Once in Manhattan, he is saved by the florist Vanessa and he breaks the bee law to thank Vanessa. They become friends and Barry discovers that humans exploit bees to sell the honey they produce. Barry decides to sue the human race, with destructive consequences to nature. Written by Claudio Carvalho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
http://www.beemovie.com/
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0389790/parentalguide

12 – 1pm — Lunch

1 – 4pm — Discussion- Bee Movie and The Golden Chain
Rehearsing Skit/Learning Golden Chain
Making costumes
Working on paper chain
Arts & Crafts
Playground (weather permitting)

The Golden Chain
I am a link in Amida Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I will try to keep my link bright and strong.
I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds.
May every link in Amida Buddha's golden chain of love be bright and strong and may we all attain perfect peace.

What we would like to stress to the kids about the movie and The Golden Chain is that we are all connected- the idea of interdependence. In the movie, honey can't be made unless the bees work together. Every bee has a job essential to the process. It also can't be made if there are no flowers, no pollination. As humans we would not be able to consume honey or enjoy the flowers. This is a simplified explanation but appropriate for kids.

The rest of the day will be devoted to coming up with a short skit (a basic outline will be worked on beforehand) about being a link in the chain of bees, flowers, humans and honey-making. The hope is that the dharma class will perform for the banquet that evening. We will divide the kids into groups and work on costumes.

We can also work on our ongoing project of creating a paper chain. Perhaps it can be incorporated into the skit. Additional arts and crafts will be available, as well as toys, a computer and snacks. Weather permitting, there is a playground right outside.