Contributors

Dimitri Kostynick

Born June, 1953, Center Moriches, New York. A senior student of Taoist Master Share K. Lew of Wong Lung Kuan, Guangdong, China. Received B.A. in Communications (with film emphasis) from The American University, Washington, D.C., in 1975. While Washington, he began studying the fundamentals of Chinese medicine under Jing-Nuan Wu. Following relocation to California, he began training under Master Lew in the fall of 1975. He was ordained by the Taoist Sanctuary of Los Angeles (Ven. Ser. Khigh Dheigh, Rector), and served as the founding Curate of the Taoist Sanctuary of Santa Barbara in 1978 and 1979. Received M.A. and admitted into doctoral program in Anthropology at the New School for Social Research in 1986. There he has served as a research assistant for Michael Harner, focusing on issues of religion, consciousness and shamanism, especially in Far East Asia. His research will involve a field study (participant observation) of traditional Taoism under Master Lew and has two foci: (1) physical aspects, especially alchemy, medicine and martial, and (2) history, philosophy, folklore and symbolism. These will be examined within the broader topic of physical practices and disciplines within religios systems generally (coming under the general heading of "embodiment"). An earlier version of this paper was presented at the New York Asian Studies Conference and is his first publication.