



Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling on the first day

The New Tulku's Enthronement

For four days around the Buddhist festival of Lhabab Duchen (November 19th), elaborate ceremonies were held in Kathmandu to celebrate the enthronement of the reincarnation of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche.

Months of careful preparation went into welcoming the seven-year old tulku Urgyen Jigme Rabsel, son of Neten Chokling Rinpoche and Khandro Tendzin Choying Gyari. Every inch of Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling monastery was cleaned and whitewashed or painted in the weeks before the big event.

Gomde e-News February 2009

Welcome to the February edition of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde's quarterly e-newsletter. If you're on our paper mailing list, you'll be getting a postcard soon announcing Gomde's program schedule for 2009 -- or check below.

Thanks to all the readers who donated to the November effort to provide a Gomde offering for the enthronement of Tulku Urgyen Yangsi Rinpoche in Nepal. Thanks to you, Rangjung Yeshe Gomde was able to offer more than \$2,200 to this auspicious event.

This month's news includes an account of the elaborate and beautiful enthronement ceremonies, stories from Gomde's land manager and caretaker, an invitation to the new online Sangha Forum, and a report from the latest water-drilling effort.

February 25th marks the start of Losar and the new Tibetan year (the year 2136, to be exact). Wishing you all an auspicious Year of the Earth Ox!



arriving at the Kathmandu airport

On the first day, thousands of guests from around the world gathered at the monastery in Boudhanath to witness the main event. Crowds began to gather at dawn, everyone dressed in their finest clothes.

Decorated with colorful streamers, brocade banners and prayer flags, the gompa looked like a celestial palace. Huge tents were set up to accommodate the crowds that filled the courtyards to view the enthronement ceremony on video screens displaying footage from the ceremony inside.

Five different camera crews from three continents were present to film the colorful events surrounding these four days.

In addition to the four sons of Tulku Ugyen Rinpoche -- Chokyi Nyima, Chokling, Tsoknyi, and Mingyur Rinpoches -- present were scores of high lamas, including Dilgo Khyentse Yangsi, Dzongsar Khyentse, Beru Khyentse, Tenga, Sogyal, Rabjam, Neten Chokling, Orgyen Tobgyal, and Phakchok Rinpoches.

As the lamas arrived and were escorted inside, the excitement grew. Around 10 am on the cloudless morning, the Yangsi

2009 Programs

Visit the website for more details and to register: www.gomdeusa.org. If you'd like to reserve a tent cabin for one of the retreats (\$40 double, \$35 single), email programs@gomdeusa.org. Preference given to those attending both of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche's teachings.

Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche

***Introduction to the Middle Way*, by Chandrakirti**

June 6-11

Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche will continue his clear, concise and practical teachings on the philosophical insights of this classic Madhyamika text.

Kumara Internship Program

June 21 - July 26

Study, practice and work for Dharma students ages 18-30.

Lama Tsultrim

Study Group on *Ocean of Amrita: Ngakso Puja*

July 2 - 5

Join the weekend study group on this profound Vajrayana practice that is key to our tradition, and master the fine points of this beautiful ritual.

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Benefiting Beings and Making Aspirations

July 24 - 27

"You can only benefit sentient beings through the bodhicitta resolve and making aspirations; comparatively, any other immediate action is of little benefit." -- from *The Final Words of Tsele Natsok Rangdrol*

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Ocean of Amrita: Ngakso Puja

July 27

The profound Vajrayana practice known as *Ocean of Amrita* mends violations of root and branch samayas and purifies violations, breaches and faults of tantric commitments.

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Knowing One Thing Liberates All

arrived with Trulshik Rinpoche. They were greeted with the sound of Tibetan horns and cymbals and clouds of fragrant incense.



the new tulku on his throne

Inside the main *Ihakhang*, Trulshik Rinpoche enthroned the new incarnation and bestowed a long-life empowerment. Countless offerings of mandalas and Body, Speech and Mind were made by representatives from other monasteries, nunneries, international Gomdes, and local organisations.

On behalf of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde's American community, a group of representatives including Dr. David Shlim, Ani Marcia Hansen, Graham Sunstein, Marcia Schmidt, and Zack Beer offered a White Tara statue and formally requested the young lama to remain in body, speech, and mind. Other Gomde sangha members present for the enthronement included Robert Betonte, Jordan Rothstein, and Barry and Lois Shapiro.

For the remainder of that day and the

July 26 - August 2

Based on the text *The Final Words of Tsele Natsok Rangdrol*, this teaching will impart the key points of this profound pith instruction. "Unless you realize the key point of natural awareness -- that knowing one thing liberates all -- you won't find any certainty in pursuing endless seemingly 'important' information." -- *from the text*

Notes from the Land

Greetings Everyone,

I've really enjoyed the experience of Gomde during the relatively quiet winter months. A lot has to happen to make things work around here! Number One is road maintenance. John Martin has volunteered to dig us bigger trenches so the water runs off the roads faster, which has been a real help. Kelly the caretaker has also figured out a downright masterful way to smooth the roads and dig out ditches. All in all, the roads are in good shape.

The Buddha Hall was meticulously repainted and is now complete, after three long and rainy months. Scott the painter was a total perfectionist. He actually sanded and repainted the doors and columns to the entrance three times over! I was amazed at how meticulous he was. It's beautiful work. We've also installed new gutters on the Gatehouse, Lama House and River House -- necessary in order to keep the houses from getting any more water damage. Sangha House and Middle House still need new gutters.

On the land we've hosted monthly practice weekends where we have been able to come together and practice as a Sangha. It's been very fun for me to have everyone here on the land, and also wonderful to have the chance to visit and practice with the Sangha on a regular basis. All in all it's been an exciting year for me. I hope to see you all very soon.

All my warmest wishes,
Lauren

Kelly adds: Another Mendocino winter is coming to an end. I believe that makes nearly 25 for me. Let's just say

next, a continuous stream of devotees and well-wishers waited patiently in line for four hours or more to make offerings and receive blessings from the new Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche.

All the thousands of guests were invited to lunch at the monastery, while visitors from abroad were invited to dinner with the lamas at the luxurious Yak & Yeti Hotel in Kathmandu.

On the second day, ceremonies continued at the monastery. Acharya degrees were presented to a number of monks with excellent scholastic achievement from the monastery's monastic college or *shedra*. Three *shedra* monks recited pages of carefully memorized Dharma discourses, along with their personal understanding of the texts.



greeters waiting at the monastery

Later in the day, seven *shedra* monks took part in a lively traditional debate in the middle of the shrine hall. Special honor was paid to a number of Rangjung Yeshe Institute's Western *shedra* translators, who were felicitated with white *katas*. Lastly, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche gave a brief and touching speech, repeatedly petitioning Trulshik Rinpoche to live long for the benefit of beings.

I've seen plenty of them, and am happy to report that this one has rolled by in a fairly predictable and for the most part disaster-free manner. No major power outages or landslides, nothing hit by lightning.

For the most part it's a peaceful, introspective time of year. That is not to say that Lauren and I weren't grabbing our raingear and running for our shovels when the first big rainstorms of the season hit. The challenge of course, is to neatly and quickly channel the great torrents of rushing water off our precious roads before any damage can occur. The good news is that I feel confident that we've spared ourselves the expense of a major re-grading of the roads with heavy equipment in the spring. Not bad for having done all this by hand!

I must say how much I've enjoyed meeting the nice folks who came up to the retreats and spent some time with us this winter. I hope your experiences here were positive and that you'll come back again. It'd be great to see you and continue our various tours and conversations where we left off. Until then, you know where I'll be...

Kel

E-Sangha: Version 2.0

Gomde's first foray into the blogosphere had mixed results. Although blogs are the technology of the moment, they primarily offer a platform for blog moderators and do not allow an equal voice to all readers. Sangha members who looked at the blog felt that we could do better. And we have.

I'd like to introduce you to the **Gomde Sangha Forum**, an on-line discussion platform where you can engage in virtual conversation with community members from around the country. What's great about this setup is that it's totally interactive. Anyone in the community can post a question or offer a reply.

We've tried to design the forum with a bit of something for everyone. You can engage in discussions about dharma practice, health and fitness, family life and a host of other topics. We also have a section where you can post a

On the third and fourth days, similar ceremonies were held at Ngedon Osel Ling, the monastery of Tsoknyi and Mingyur Rinpoches, and Nagi Gompa, the sister nunnery where the former Tulku Urygen spent the majority of the last twenty years of his life.

Reportedly, the young Tulku Urygen Yangsi refused to leave as the procession was departing Nagi Gompa on the final evening, asserting that he wanted to stay there.

Hopefully he will get an opportunity soon. In the meantime, he traveled during the following days to Northern India, where Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche had begun offering the *Rinchen Terdzo*, or 'Treasury of Precious Termas.'

Click here to view a beautiful [14-minute video of highlights of the enthronement](#) (highly recommended!)



7-year-old Tulku Urygen Yangsi Rinpoche

Dharma Video Website

Here's a new website that's an amazing treasury of dharma teachings: [Online Dharma Classics](#).

This site contains videos of many of our own teachers, including Chokyi Nyima,

website and information about your business or project, particularly if it's something that might benefit community members. If there's a topic you'd like to discuss that's not currently listed on the forum, drop a note in the suggestion box and we'll add a category.

To sign up for the forum, log onto the Forum through the gomdeusa.org website (see link below) and click on the registration button. You can then create a user name and password that will allow you to read messages on the site and post questions or replies to sangha members. We have designed the site with the security of your personal information in mind. The forum is ad-free and spam-free, and your e-mail address will not be visible to visitors of the site. Gomde secures all information you provide so that it is not possible for a third party to use it.

We invite you to join the conversation. Click here and let your voice be heard:

<http://www.gomdeusa.org/forums/index.php>

-- Paul Gustafson, Forum Moderator

Searching for Water

Gomde's most recent well-drilling exercise took place on December 4th. We thought we had a good site picked out, based on advice from expert local dowser Mike from Stonegate Villa. Several Sangha members also felt the divining rods tip at the well location, which was at the northwest end of Shedra meadow. Local well driller Fisch Drilling was optimistic as well. Lauren and Shabad showed them to the site, where they drilled to a depth of about 270 feet. We did not hit any water -- a completely dry hole. It was truly disappointing and frustrating -- we were so hopeful and optimistic, as I know the entire Sangha was.

As the drillers helpfully explained to us, generally water resides either in an alluvial deposit, like a former riverbed area, or from a crack/fracture that runs through a hard rock layer. Within 10 or 15 feet of surface, we hit rock/soft sandstone. This upper soft sandstone led into shales, then into harder sandstone that could have yielded a suitable

Tsoknyi, Mingyur, and Phakchok Rinpoches. And more: Dilgo Khyentse, Dzigar Kongtrul, and Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoches; Pema Chodron, the Karmapa, the Dalai Lama, Ringu Tulku, Sogyal Rinpoche, Thich Nhat Hanh . . . It's a fun site to explore to see what you stumble across. Most videos are 5-10 minutes long.

Check it out at:

<http://www.onlinedharmaclassics.org/>

water-bearing fracture. No fracture was found, or at least none that yielded water. At still greater depth, the rock went back to softer sandstone and we stopped the drilling. We did not try another hole at the time because we were permitted for a specific location.

The Water Committee will continue a number of different efforts to secure good water supplies for Gomde retreats and seminars. This spring, we intend to improve the several existing springs on the property. (The drillers were impressed that our springs had not run dry in December). The piping at the existing spring areas will be made a bit more secure, and the new piping should help us obtain more water. If you have suggestions, ideas or expertise or would like to be part of the Gomde Water Committee, contact Shabad at shabad108@hotmail.com.

Rangjung Yeshe Gomde | 66000 Drive Thru Tree Road | P.O. Box 162 | Leggett, CA 95585
tel: 707-925-0201 | information@gomdeusa.org | www.gomdeusa.org

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