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## Gomde E-News January 2011

First off, to watch a lovely video of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche's New Year's wishes for 2011 to sangha members, [click here](#). This issue of the newsletter contains a report from the land, a letter from board president David Shlim, information on the new, expanded Kumara Summer Program, and news of a special online meditation program on Green Tara.

Gomde's 2011 program season is still being developed -- more on that soon. Also, a special Losar/anniversary weekend retreat will be held at Gomde February 25-27; stay tuned for more details.



### Online Practice: Tara

Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche and *Dharmachakra Practices* are pleased to offer an online meditation program based on Tara, the female buddha of wisdom in action. [More info here](#).



### A Vision for Gomde

Every year when we meet at Gomde to get teachings from Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, we spend some time meditating together at the top of the large meadow outside the Buddha Hall. And each year Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche reminds us that this will be the future site of the Tibetan-style teaching hall that he would like to see constructed overlooking the meadow and the surrounding hills.

This past summer, Rinpoche said that he would like to see the temple constructed as the first part

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complete his vision of Gomde. To prepare for the day that we may actually have enough money to build the temple, a group of Sangha members are working with a planner this year to create the documents that would allow us to apply for permission to build when we have the resources to do so.

Rinpoche said that a beautiful teaching hall would be a tourist attraction along Hwy. 101, along with Trees of Mystery, and the Drive-thru Tree. He also said that anyone who sees the statues and paintings in such a temple would make a connection with the Dharma that could benefit them in the future.

We would love to start building the temple tomorrow. However, we don't have the donated money that it would require. What we can do now is to continue to work to create the harmonious atmosphere and sense of purpose that can help us attract such donations. We need to be able to comfortably maintain the facilities that we have, and make improvements for comfort and safety each year. We have done that every year since we first moved to Gomde in 1998. All of those improvements have come mainly from small donations from within the Sangha.

As we finish celebrating the Western New Year and get ready to celebrate the Tibetan New Year, we should rejoice in the good fortune that we have encountered — we have precious human bodies, the teachings of a Buddha to study, and a living teacher to interpret those teachings for us. Please help contribute to Gomde's future with ongoing donations that will help us sustain what we have, and support us in looking forward to the day when Rinpoche's vision for the land can be fulfilled.

***David R Shlim MD***  
***President, Rangjung Yeshe Gomde***

## **From the Land**

Our mid-winter report from the misty mountains of Leggett is usually full of tales of keeping the roads together during the rainy season, or how beautiful the river is this time of year, or maybe the positive effects of a quilt and a good book on a sleepy winter's day. But such is not the case this winter, let me tell you. We've got so many projects underway that I'm finding it difficult to know where to begin, so let's just dive in and take it one thing at a time.

Starting at the Sangha House: big changes going on. The plan to enlarge the usable space in the kitchen, then add sliding glass doors leading to the outside and a deck with ramp, is well underway. Lee, our inexhaustible new Facilities Manager, has taken the wall down so upon entering the kitchen one is now greeted by the heartwarming sight of a much larger space with a window at the end. Wait till we get those glass doors in there ... (Thanks, Justin, for the gift of the doors!)

Ryan Damron has been working away in the library and is almost finished creating order out of the chaos our book collection has become. Apparently the last painter, the one responsible for the new bookshelf and that stunning shade of red on the walls, gave no thought whatsoever to the order the books



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thinking?... Thank you, Ryan, for restoring order to our collection!

Our next stop will be the Middle House, future home of "Camp Kumara", where we are planning to house all the interns this year. If you take a look around back you can see that there's been a whole lot of brush removal, thanks to Jack Munschke and his fabulous bobcat operator. They recently rolled through for their annual "Here's big equipment. What do you want done?" extravaganza, our chance to see big things happen quickly thanks to the wonders of machinery and Jack's skillful and loving eye on the land.

Next, of course, is Lama House, which will soon be undergoing all manner of interior and exterior beautification. Inside there are plans to clean, paint and possibly put down some new flooring, while outside projects include refinishing the second- deck and the ongoing garden project. And last but not least, it's the newly remodeled Glass House update! We're almost there, folks! The last of the sheet rock and insulation will be going in tomorrow, leaving only a little mud, a little tape, and a coat of paint to finish the interior construction.

Once again, great things are happening in the campground. Part of Jack's ground-clearing efforts this year went into creating some new sites, some for tents, and some for new camping cabin platforms. He's basically opened up a whole new "wing" of the campground which I predict will become some of the more sought-after spots. Add to that the clearing of all the horrible scotch broom that was lining the edge of the Shedra meadow and the removal of all those nasty berry bushes down by Ani Marcia, and as usual, big things got done once Jack and his equipment arrived!

So, this is a winter where lots of things are happening! Here's to a great new year to everyone!

-- **Kelly Bond, Caretaker**



## New Kumara Summer Program

For its seventh year, the Kumara Program is being revamped to offer expanded opportunities to participants ages 18-35. Rangjung Yeshe Gomde invites young adults to spend one to three summer months living, studying and serving on its precious retreat land. This unique program aims to build a stronger youth community and offer participants an affordable retreat and study experience in exchange for service to the dharma.

## Gomde Needs . . .

Gomde needs a volunteer to work on the computer system and manage both hardware and software, including upgrades, internet connections and services, backups, virus control, etc. Only requires presence at Gomde once a month or less, depending on issues, perhaps more time in the beginning.

We also need a volunteer to maintain and organize administrative files and help create a more streamlined system.

If you can help with either of

The program offers:

- \*In-depth daily instruction in Buddhist study and practice under the guidance of resident Lama Tsultrim Sangpo, including personal interviews
- \*Group support and activities
- \*Opportunity to complete a 3-day solitary retreat
- \*Hiking, kayaking and swimming in the Eel River
- \*Opportunity to serve and attend formal Dharma programs at Gomde

Students will be able to attend Gomde's daily practice sessions, practice weekends and teaching seminars. In addition to study and practice, students will spend four hours a day carrying out valuable tasks towards the maintenance and activities of the 250-acre center.

Qualifications:

\*Ages 18-35

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temporary basis, please call Joanne Brion at 707-570-1477 or email her at [jgbrion@pacbell.net](mailto:jgbrion@pacbell.net).

The archiving department needs a newer Mac computer with storage capacity for media production of teaching material for Ratna Shop. If you have a relatively new Mac to donate or would like to sponsor the purchase of a new one, email Claude Herail at [claudehl@aol.com](mailto:claudehl@aol.com).

This newsletter needs a new editor. If you would like to work on either stories or online layout, email Kerry: [information@gomdeusa.org](mailto:information@gomdeusa.org)

\*Some previous experience with Buddhist teachings or practices is ideal

\*Program date across three months of June, July, and August

\*Fees cover living expenses, meals and lama donations: one month \$600, two months \$750, three months \$900.

For more information, visit the website: <http://gomdeusa.org/programs-kumara.html>

## Thanks for the Support

A note from Debbie Weinberger, Fundraising Manager: "Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Gomde Annual Fund appeal. Thirty-three people responded with total contributions of \$12,800, funding approximately 10% of our annual operating budget of \$113,000. We are grateful for each and every donation. As we approach Losar we will be asking everyone to renew their membership commitment to Gomde, and hope to close the funding gap with that effort."

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