



Lama Tsultrim

Gomde E-News May 2010

The summer season is getting underway at Gomde. This year, Lama Tsultrim, Khenpo Sherab Dorje, and Ani Dekyi Chodron will all be present at Gomde at various times to provide private instruction and offer meditation guidance. You can schedule a private interview or arrange a more lengthy summer retreat.

Upcoming Gomde Events

Work Week

May 21 – 31 (tsoks on May 23 & 27)

June Weekend Retreat

June 11-13

July Weekend Retreat

July 2-4

Kumara Internship Program

June 25 – August 1

Lama Tsultrim at Gomde

May 19 – August 23

Khenpo Sherab Dorje at Gomde

June 28 - July 9

With several teachers on the land and a number of profound programs, this summer is a wonderful time to plan a private retreat at Gomde. Tent cabins are available for retreatants from June through August, in between scheduled programs. The campground will be quiet, peaceful, and conducive to meditation practice. A \$35 daily fee covers the tent cabin, 3 simple meals per day, access to Kumara classes taught by Lama Tsultrim, and personal interviews with Lama Tsultrim, Khenpo Sherab (June 29-July 9) and/or Ani Dekyi (July 12-15). If you're interested in arranging a summer retreat, contact Ani Marcia at adminassist@gomdeusa.org

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Summer Programs 2010

Gomde's 2010 summer program season promises to be both full and interesting, with several new teachers, including Ani Dekyi from Nagi Gompa, Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel, and an Urban Retreat in the Bay area with Khenpo Sherab Dorje. Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche will do an extra-long open program in late July, followed by the Dzogchen Intensive. Linking Rinpoche's two programs will be a day-long celebration of the Ngakso Puja on August 1.

Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel

Faith: Beyond Doubt and Belief

June 17 - 20

How do we live a meaningful life in the midst of change, flux and uncertainty? Explore faith as it extends beyond both hope and fear.

Khenpo Sherab Dorje

The Four Stakes that Bind the Life Force

June 25 - 27

Urban retreat at Orgyen Dorje Den in Alameda.

Ani Dekyi Chodron

Chod Practice Retreat

July 8 - 11

A powerful and direct practice that cuts through attachment by severing the very root of dualistic mind.

Ani Dekyi Chodron

Green Tara Retreat

July 15 - 18

Tara embodies the most compelling qualities of the feminine: beauty, grace, care and protection.



Ani Dekyi Chodron

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Training the Mind, Taming the Heart

July 28 - August 1

Finding contentment in the midst of uncertainty.

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Dzogchen Intensive: Seeing the Essential Nature

July 31 - August 8

Inspiring and profound practice instructions.

Phakchok Rinpoche

Graded Stages of Mahamudra

September 24 - 26

A weekend meditation retreat on *The Amrita of Essential Accomplishment*.

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View from Garuda's Nest

Notes From the Land

If I had to sum up this past season in one word, it would have to be WET! Rain like I haven't seen the likes of in years, the kind that just keeps on dumping bucket after bucket, relentlessly. Twenty years ago we would get rain like this in the winter all the time. It would rain every day for a month straight, then there'd be two or three days of sun, then rain for another month! But over time we've seen it dwindle to merely a handful of storms, sadly calling itself a winter. And this beautiful, lush place we call home, for all practical purposes a rainforest, has gradually become hotter and drier. So I'd have to say this rain's been a good thing.

The river looks full and beautiful, whitecaps churning atop the milky blue-green current as it thunders purposefully by. And in spite of all the water, I'm happy to report that Gomde's precious roads have been relatively unaffected this year. In fact, they've been doing a great job of hanging in all on their own! Not nearly the maintenance effort that they were last year. It would seem that all the time and effort we spent ditching and grading is paying off.

On other fronts, this has been a time for projects here at Gomde. The renovations to the Glass House are moving right along. First it was the new roof, and now with construction on the rest of the building well underway, Onju's design for the beautiful waterside cabin is being realized. I love the way the new building will have lots of big windows, keeping the feeling that we all loved about the old place, only better! She's also taken over the renovations to the little cabin that overlooks the river in the retreat area, and I believe that both places will be up and running by this summer's seminar season.

So, with Work Week fast approaching we set our sights once again to the chores of spring, preparing for the busy summer season ahead, and that time that we are joyfully reunited with teachers and friends. How fortunate we are!

Kelly Bond, Gomde Caretaker

P.S. Wait till you see what we do with the river shuttle this year!!

Manager's Report

This has been a beautiful spring at Gomde, with lots of flowers and growth from all the spring rains. It would be great if more people could come up to the monthly practice groups -- we had a very small group in April, even though the land was really beautiful.

Although we are still looking for a fulltime Land Manager at Gomde, several projects are moving ahead. Thanks to Onju and Scott Updegrave, the Glass House renovation work continues. By the start of Work Week, a new shower will be installed and the outer walls will be upgraded. Scott and Nick will continue work on the house interior during Work Week.

Jack Monschke has offered to install Gomde's new water storage tanks soon. That work has been delayed by rain but should be done soon. We will need to complete water piping changes to fully benefit from the new water storage system, and we want to install firefighter pipe fittings. -- *Shabad Khalsa*

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A Request for Support

If you are like most of our Sangha, you probably imagine that seminar fees support Gomde all year round. Unfortunately, this is not the case – Gomde has been operating at a deficit the past four years. The situation is critical and we need your help to stay operational.

Most of RYG CA's activities occur in the summer, and many members only come to Gomde for Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche's annual retreat. However, we own, operate and maintain the property all year long with only one or two paid staff, a small handful of volunteers, and a core of about 55 regular donors

Currently, it costs about \$14,000 per month to operate RYG CA. This includes the cost of operating and maintaining the land, running seminars, advertising, salaries, taxes, utilities, and building and vehicle repairs. Gomde has been operating at a loss for about four years now, as we have dipped into reserves each year to stay afloat.

Gomde's revenues currently come from three main sources:

Fees from seminars plus study & practice: 50%

Donations: 39%

Guest fees: 11%

Extra revenue from Ratna Shop is used for capital projects like painting the Buddha Hall. The current situation can be summarized as follows:

Average Monthly Cost	\$14,000
Av. Monthly Revenues	
Seminar + S&P Revenues	\$5,600
Guest Charges	\$1,250
Unrestricted Donations	<u>\$4,400</u>
Average Monthly Revenue	\$11,250
Operating Shortfall	\$2,750
Maintenance Reserve (3%)	<u>\$420</u>
Monthly Shortfall	(\$3,170)
Percent of Current Income	28%

Gopmde's current very basic goal is to increase average monthly income to cover the \$3,170 shortfall. Currently, of the 1,300 individuals on the Gomde mailing list, 55 members make regular monthly or annual donations. We would like to increase this figure to 200 contributing members. With this many new members, we need to raise about \$20 per person per month. Can you help?



Graham's Retreat

Gomde founder, puja master and sound wizard Graham Sunstein is currently on three-year retreat in Nepal. He would like to extend his retreat to a fourth year. Graham has been unwaveringly devoted to Gomde since its beginning in 1998. His retreat funding is facing challenges, providing an opportunity for individuals to offer financial support.

From Claude Herail:
We all know the depth of Graham's commitment to the Dharma. The truth is we have all benefitted from it and we very much rely on the instructions that he has patiently received from his teachers and generously passed on to us, so it is only natural that we would feel a debt of gratitude to him. Beyond that, in a way that is still somewhat mysterious, we know that there is an organic relationship (one might say interdependence!) between a person practicing and all those who help to provide favorable circumstances for that person along the path. As a result, the benefits are mutual -- we are not just doing a favor to that person but we are building our own future too. What could be better!

If you would like to contribute

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the incredible teachings by Choyki Nyima Rinpoche and other teachers. Rinpoche noted last summer that the remoteness of RYG is its biggest asset. It is completely removed from mundane life -- remote, pristine and ideal for practice. When each person gives a small amount to support the land, the teachings will flourish and benefit not only us but all sentient beings. **Please consider becoming an ongoing supporting member of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde California.** You can sign up online at <https://ssl.perfora.net/gomdeusa.org/membershipregistration.php> Or email Joanne Brion at finance@gomdeusa.org with questions or to find out how to sign up.

to Graham's support, either on a monthly basis or one time, you can mail a check (made out to Graham Sunstein) to his sister:
Sara Sunstein
1800 Stromberg Ave
Arcata, CA 95521
707-825-0822
sarasun18@humboldtmail.com



Thangu Tashi Choling after the quake

Tibet Earthquake Relief

At 7:49 am on April 14, a 6.9 magnitude quake struck the Tibetan town of Yushu (Jyekundo) in Kham (China's modern-day Qinghai Province). The quake devastated the town, destroying more than 80 percent of the buildings, causing more than 1,200 deaths and 9,000 injuries. Thangu Rinpoche's monastery was almost completely destroyed, killing many monks and sangha members. Surviving monks have been instrumental in rescuing survivors and performing mass rituals for the dead. Freezing temperatures and snow have made conditions even more difficult for survivors.

More Sangha News

Lisa Pradhan was diagnosed with brain cancer (Glioblastoma, grade IV) in February. Lisa lived in Kathmandu for many years, more recently near Baltimore, with her husband Ravi and their children Rajen and Asha. They are long-time students of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and hosted the Baltimore - D.C. practice & study group. They will be moving back to Nepal in June.

To get more news on Lisa's condition and write a note of support, go to caringbridge.org/visit/lisapradhan. If you'd like to join a meditation practice group for the benefit of Lisa and her family, email kerrymoran@earthlink.net

A day's journey further lies the Tibetan area of Nangchen, the home of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche and the Chokling Tersar lineage. This area suffered less damage, although many homes have reportedly collapsed as well.

If you'd like to support rescue and rebuilding efforts, the American Himalayan Foundation has extensive on-the-ground experience in the region and is partnering with local NGOs to support relief efforts: <http://www.himalayan-foundation.org/live/donate/donate>

For Thangu Rinpoche's monastery, go to www.thranguemergency.org

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