



Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche in Denmark

Gomde E-News

January 2010

Happy 2010, and an auspicious Year of the Iron Tiger! Losar starts February 14, and the Chokling Tersar Foundation has officially changed its name to **Rangjung Yeshe Gomde California**. Gomde remains a 501(c)(3) organization, with the ability to accept tax-deductible contributions. Check out the new Paypal [donation button](#) at the bottom of the website's home page. And please consider joining Gomde's 12th anniversary weekend February 12-15 in Leggett, which will feature study, prayer, practice and celebration. More details coming soon.

New Year's Wishes from Rinpoche

Click here to see New Year's greetings from Rinpoche to the sangha: <http://www.shedrub.org/news.php?nid=60&video>

Dear Sangha of Gomde USA,
I hope you are able to see my online New Year's greeting we sent out through Dharma Sun, but I also wanted to make sure to specifically extend those prayers to you. I wish you all a healthy and happy long life, with great success in your practice. As mentioned in my video, I feel it is very important that we combine listening, reflecting, and meditating, all of which should be motivated with the vast wish to lead all beings to enlightenment.

Harmony and compassion are extremely powerful. This is our fuel from which the impossible becomes possible. Please never underestimate them. Through strong compassion our



Membership Drive

Become a Gomde member for the year of the Iron Tiger! During this special Losar season, we ask you to consider how important Rangjung Yeshe Gomde and its lamas are in your life.

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mean? It means our negative emotions will become less and less, and this is what Dharma practice is about. When our negative emotions are less, we become more calm; and, as it is said, through calmness the intrinsic wisdom will be able to shine forth. Therefore, please continue to give your utmost to improve your kindness, your calmness, and your wisdom.

With love and blessings,
Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche

An article by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche originally published in the *Shambhala Sun* has been excerpted in the 30th-anniversary collection of the finest meditation teachings from the Sun, as printed in the January 2010 issue. Read *Mahamudra and Wakefulness*: <http://www.shambhalasun.com/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=1660>



Ani Dekyi Chodron

Summer 2010 Schedule

Programs for the coming year:

Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel

June 17-20

Faith: Beyond Doubt and Blind Acceptance

Ani Dekyi Chodron

July 8-11 *Chod Practice Retreat*

July 15-18 *Tara Retreat*

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

please renew your membership. If you are not currently a member, please consider becoming one. Membership helps provide the financial continuity that is the life blood of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde.

All members receive 10% off seminar fees and 15% off lodging fees for personal retreats. Annual categories are as follows:

Individual membership \$180

Family membership \$300

Discounted membership for those under severe financial stress is \$70.

If you have questions or would like to become a member, contact Fundraising Manager Stephen Estelle at 406-425-0965 or stephen@stephenestelle.com

Program Volunteers Needed

Gomde is preparing for an auspicious 2010 teaching season. Many new sangha members have come forward to support and manage our precious retreat land this year, creating new and exciting teaching and retreat opportunities. We are developing new positions that allow more people to be personally and joyfully involved in the nurturing of our dharma center. Some of these positions involve pre-retreat planning; others may be fulfilled during the different teachings. With the aspiration to create harmony and continuity, please join us in volunteering your time and energy in one (or more!) of the summer programs:

Send an email to Rhonda LoPresti at jlopresti63@cox.net if you are interested in any of the following positions:

Registrar Assistant

Lama House Manager

Hospitality Manager

Yogi Job Coordinator

Kitchen Manager

Buddha Hall Manager

Audio/Visual Tech

More volunteer needs:

Ratna Shop is looking for a volunteer to edit and reproduce video recording of seminars. Currently we have a duplication machine and Bravo II printer. Work could be done on or

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Training the Mind, Taming the Heart
July 27

Ocean of Amrita: Ngakso Puja

July 27-August 2

Dzogchen Intensive: Training in the Essential Nature

Phakchok Rinpoche

August 2010, one week, dates tba

The Nine Yanas

contact Ani Marcia at adminassist@gomdeusa.org

Communications is looking for help in laying out the online newsletter and/or coordinating national advertising. All work can be done online. Volunteers need an eye for detail, Web savvy, and some sense of layout & design. If you're interested in helping, contact Kerry Moran at information@gomdeusa.org

From the Land

Land Manager Lauren Phillips has moved on from the position – thank you, Lauren, for all your hard work. Gomde is seeking to hire a new qualified land manager with professional skills. A notice regarding the position will be coming out soon.

Here's a report from Caretaker Kelly Bond:

Well, winter has rolled in once again bringing the normal array of wind, rain and snow. It's business as usual up here, making sure nothing important gets washed away and hoping a tree doesn't fall under the weight of the bad weather and land on something precious. I'm happy to report that as far as things getting whooshed downstream, we're looking good. But as far as a tree falling on something precious, well ... let's just say that our wood-sided trailer met with an unfortunate accident last week when a pretty fair-sized madrone tree, apparently rotted at the base, decided to crash atop it. But thank goodness it wasn't a fatal injury. Poor Mr. Trailer had some severe trauma to his front left wheel area and general cuts and bruises, but is now resting comfortably in his shed.

One of the projects around here this winter has been the renovation of one of the retreat cabins overlooking the river. We've replaced the deck and are in the process now of insulating, sheetrocking, and painting the inside. What a difference insulation makes! Instead of feeling like you've entered a wooden shed, now when you come in you feel like you're in a marshmallow, all quiet, comfortable and protected. And with the addition of two large thermal-paned windows, it's now a room with not only a view, but light as well. What a difference it makes having all that wonderful sunlight streaming in! And unless I'm eaten by a bear or some other horrible tragedy befalls me, it should be finished in time for



More Land News

From Gomde Manager Shabad Khalsa: This fall has been really active at Gomde. Monthly retreats have drawn good attendance, as has Ani Marcia's weekly Lojong class. We've fixed up a retreat hut, the Glass House is getting a new roof, and Kelly has planted a privacy hedge to shield the Gatehouse from the main road.

The severe cold weather of December meant several water pipes broke and the west spring water line failed. Gomde staff rose to the occasion, but without reliable water we had to cancel the December retreat. Claude led a great January retreat, for which we used water from the east springs.

In February we will meet with Mendocino County Planning Department as we proceed with securing use permits for retreat activities, particularly new retreat huts. In March we will install two 10,000

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people to enjoy this summer. (We did find some amazing bear tracks down by the river -- bigger than your hand, so he's a big 'un!)

Until next time,
Kelly

summer water source. Work Week (May 21 – 31) will bring together volunteers for a variety of projects, including water piping, carpentry, and masonry projects, as well as general cleaning and painting. Come up and join the action on the land as we continue to upgrade our retreat center.



Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche

Khyentse Rinpoche's Visit to the U.S.

Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche's first official US visit will take place in August 2010, as he travels to events in Vermont, New York City and Colorado. Rinpoche will also be visiting Vancouver B.C. and Mexico during the trip.

Details at

<http://khyentsevisit2010.org/events/>

To view a very beautiful photo gallery of both Khyentse Rinpoche and the Yangsi:

<http://diligokhyentsevancover.ca/gallery.html>

Dharma Dhrishti

Mindrolling International has launched an online dharma newsletter containing reflections

Finance and Admin Report

From Joanne Brion:

We have been working diligently on updating and streamlining all the tasks involved in managing the finances and administration of Gomde. Working with the new board members and managers, we have established a Google Wiki site to share information and data. We can now access our information from any computer, without being present at Gomde. We've switched to using QuickBooks online for our accounting system, which has cut down on the amount of time spent entering information, and again allows us to work remotely. We completed our name change paperwork and are in the process of applying for property tax exemption for Gomde which will save over \$5,000 per year in taxes, plus possibly even yield refunds..

The finance team continues to work with fundraising. Our end of the year fundraising effort generated about \$15,000 -- a big Thank You to all of our donors!! We received many donations from new people who had never donated before. We are working diligently with our managers to ensure that the upcoming seminars are financially sound and generate sufficient profit to support Gomde year-round.

We are in the process of preparing the final Profit and Loss statements and tax letters for 2009. RYG CA experienced an operating loss of about \$11,000 for 2009. This is a trend that must be reversed as our reserves are limited. In order to make further improvements to the water system, to develop our retreat facilities, and to replace aging structures, we must bring in surplus donations in the range of \$20,000 to \$80,000 per year. We are working diligently to increase membership and monthly and annual donations, and to increase revenues from all of our activities.

Owning and maintaining 250 acres of wild lands with seven buildings in northern California is an ambitious undertaking for

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panel of teachers includes many with connections to Gomde, including Dilgo Khyentse Yangsi, Dzongsar Khyentse, Dzigar Kongtrul, Tsoknyi, Neten Chokling and Yangsi Tulku Urgyen Rinpoches.

View the first issue here:
http://mindrollinginternational.org/dharmadhrishti/journal/2009_Spring/introduction.cfm

such a small Sangha. We need more financial support from members and from the broader Dharma community. We also need more people to come work and volunteer at RYG California. Many jobs exist that can be done remotely, but much work is needed on-site. Please contact any of the managers if you are interested in helping (see the [volunteer page](#) on the website). We are particularly looking for volunteers to work during Work Week and during seminars this summer. In an effort to make seminars more profitable we are limiting staff pay significantly this year and relying on volunteers.

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