



*Phakchok Rinpoche, Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and the Yangsi*

## Gomde e-News November 2008

Welcome to the November edition of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde's quarterly newsletter. End-of-year reports include a financial summary of Gomde and a brief report from the Yangdzom Helping Hands medical aid project in Tibet. Gomde's new land manager and caretaker introduce themselves in their first column providing news from the land. And there's information on how to join the new Gomde blog -- an exciting new way to keep in touch with the sangha throughout the year.

We've just learned that the enthronement of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche's incarnation at Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling will be webcast live on [dharma.sun.org](http://dharma.sun.org), from 8-11 am Kathmandu time on November 19 and 20th. (That works out to 6:15-9:15 pm Pacific Time on November 18 and 19.) The site will also be posting an edited summary of the ceremonies. We'll have photos from this auspicious event in the February newsletter. In the meantime, we wish you a peaceful holiday season.

### Help Sponsor a Gift for the Enthronement

As part of the upcoming enthronement of the Yangsi Jigme Rabsel, the reincarnation of Tulku Urgyen Rinpoche, Rangjung Yeshe Gomde will offer representations of Body, Speech and Mind to the new tulku on November 19th. The cost of the offering, plus donations to the tulku and the monastery, is estimated at around \$2,000.

If you would like to help sponsor this offering, you can make a credit card donation [via Paypal \(click here\)](#), or mail a check to: Rangjung Yeshe Gomde  
P.O. Box 162

Leggett CA 95585

**Please make the check payable to CTF**, and write "Enthronement" in the memo line.

## From the Land

Hi Everyone,  
I'm Lauren Phillips, the new resident land manager at Gomde, and I am very happy to be here. Prior to this I worked as a massage therapist in the Bay Area. Although I still love to give massage, I felt the need to serve my teacher and community as well. After discussing this with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche this summer and hearing his wish that I do this, I feel it is a special opportunity to really integrate my life and practice with my spiritual community. In other words, in all the world of things I could be doing right now, this feels perfect at this time.

This year at Gomde I'll be working closely with caretaker Kelly Bond to attend to all the general work and repair that it takes to maintain this center throughout the year. Things happen: the winter rains threaten to wash the roads out, everything grows out of control, water pipes break and electricity goes out, houses leak, and so on. We've just experienced the our first storm of the season and it feels like winter may actually be here!

Kelly and I did some surveying with Bud, our "roads guy," who gave us some great tips on maintenance. We've both been out there since, digging water ditches to direct the water off the roads as quickly as possible and clearing any built-up debris that blocks the run-off. It's intense physical labor! Kelly is definitely in way better shape than me (somehow massage muscles are not the same). Now I know why those guys on the side of the road always seem to be just standing there with their shovels not working -- they have to rest sometimes!

Kelly and I would very much like to keep everyone up to date on what's happening on the land from season to season -- from general descriptions of how incredibly gorgeous it has been this fall, to what we are actually doing to improve things for everyone. So every few months we plan to get together and write a Gomde Land Update for this newsletter.

Hope you are all happy and well and thinking of Gomde as your home all year long!! Warm wishes to everyone.



*from left to right: Kelly's daughter Kira, Kelly, and Lauren*

Hello everyone,  
My name is Kelly Bond (my friends call me Kel) and I am the new caretaker here at Gomde. Some of you may remember seeing me around last summer. I'd be digging this or watering that, and sometimes could be seen jogging through the field near the Dharmachakra Garden trying to launch my silly kite and enquiring of people, "Does anyone remember how to do this?" Thanks, by the way, to all those who helped!

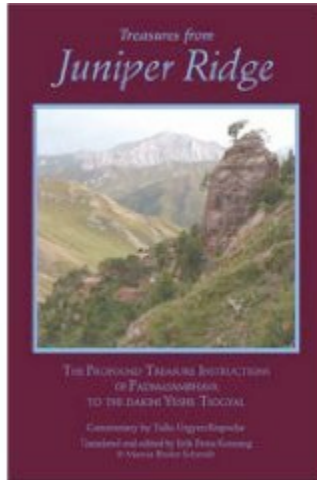
I do believe that I am the first local Leggett resident you've ever had in this position, and I am honored and delighted at being invited into the fold. I've lived in these hills for a long time now, and am excited about creating a bridge of sorts between this center and the community that surrounds it.

I am a person who loves my job. It seems there are endless projects ahead for Lauren and myself, and through this little corner of the newsletter we can now keep everybody current on how things are progressing. My main focus for the months ahead will be the campground. It is my goal to have all the dead wood and debris out of the campground by spring, and to that end I have already begun dragging, sawing and stacking the unwanted stuff into huge piles for burning. The difference already is remarkable!

I've also created a beautiful new trail leading to the showers which people can enjoy next year. It's a big project, but I'm optimistic that it can be done. I'll keep you all

With love,  
Lauren

posted on my progress in upcoming newsletters. Until then, be well and enjoy the beautiful fall season.



### Offerings from Ratna Shop

Ratna Shop is pleased to announce Rangjung Yeshe Publication's newest books:

*Treasures from Juniper Ridge: The Profound Treasure Instructions of Padmasambhava to the Dakini Yeshe Tsogyal*. This is the third volume of teachings from the Guru to the Dakini (*Dakini Teachings* and *Advice from the Lotus-Born* being the first two). Juniper Ridge contains the most profound terms from the 12th-century tertön Nyang Ral Nyima Ozer, as taught by Tulku Ugyen Rinpoche and translated by Erik Pema Kusang.

*The Great Gate: A Guidebook to the Guru's Heart Practice*

Four texts on the basis of the preliminary practices of Vajrayana: *Four Mind Changes* by Tulku Ugyen, *Teachings on the Preliminary Practices* by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, *The Great Gate* by Chokling Dewey Dorje, and *The Mind Ornament of Padma* by Dudjom Rinpoche.

Also, DVDs and Mp3s of teachings from Summer 2008 are now available:

*Introduction to the Middle Way, Part I*, by Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche

*Path of the Single Cut*, by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

## Annual Financial Report for 2007

This financial report from Gomde Administration and Finance manager Joanne Brion was presented in summer 2008 to the CTF board. The five-page executive summary outlines key points:

It is with great joy we present this annual report to the board and officers of CTF/Rangjung Yeshe Gomde. On the tenth anniversary of the CTF/Gomde land purchase in Leggett, it is most useful to have a thorough understanding of the financial successes and challenges we face as an organization. It is quite surprising to realize that we had roughly a quarter of a million dollar annual budget as of 2007, and have had so for a number of years. Our income in 2007 was slightly less than in recent years, and our expenses were unusually high as we made some major improvements, including a new roof to the Buddha Hall. Thus, our fiscal balance was negative by about \$18,000 or about 8% of income.

CTF/Gomde's activities can be subdivided into various categories, as follows:

- CTF General Administration
- Programs
- Study and Practice
- Gomde Operations and Maintenance
- Gomde Capital Improvement
- Ratna Shop
- Kumara Intern Program
- Grants: Yangdzom Helping Hands, Gere Foundation/Rangjung Yeshe Publications, Lamas and Monasteries

The following two charts show revenues and expenses for CTF/Gomde. These charts include both operating income and expenses and capital income and expenses. Table S-1

*Mending and Purification*, by Phakchok Rinpoche

[Visit Ratna Shop on the web](#) to purchase or view the complete listings.

shows more detail, including comparative figures for 2005 and year-to-date figures for 2008.

[Click here](#) to continue reading this report as a PDF on the website (tables included)

## Yangdzom's 2008 Activities

The Ted Worcester/Yangdzom Healing Hands project sponsors medical training, clinics and supplies in remote areas of Eastern Tibet. This year, due to problems in obtaining Chinese visas because of tensions associated with the Olympics, the medical and support team was unable to visit the region, or hold a scheduled three-month training in Western medicine. The program, which will train two workers from each monastery/nunnery in basic medical care, is now slated for 2009, with support from the Bridge Fund. Yangdzom is continuing to send money for medicines as well as support for the elderly poor through The Bridge Fund.

In 2009 we look forward to building another clinic at Neten Monastery with support from The Bridge Fund. This will be our fourth fully funded clinic. Three more are planned, as well as an expansion of the existing clinic at Cha Chik. Yangdzom's medical and support team will travel to Nangchen next year to oversee activities.



*Nuns at Dechen Ling laying water pipe*

### Dechen Ling Gets Water

Yangdzom's biggest achievement in 2008 was facilitating a water supply for Dechen Ling Nunnery with the help of Jinba, a Tibetan NGO run by Tashi Tsering. The water project implemented the longest pipe in Qinghai Province. It is a great joy to help these 300 special yoginis to acquire a most basic need. Previously they relied on a single small spring that froze solid in winter. Dechen Ling was the residence of Tulku Urgyen's father, Chimey Dorje; Tulku Urgyen himself lived there for a time as a boy.



*Nuns at Cha Chik in Eastern Tibet*

## Join the Gomde Sangha's New Blog

Last summer, as we celebrated ten years of practicing together at Gomde, we also discussed how we might build a stronger and more effective sangha. As groups met on the land to talk about how we can bring Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche's vision into further form, the theme of improving communication seemed to continually arise.

The Gomde sangha sometimes feels like a group of travelers who meet once a year for a big, enlightening party, and then disperse to the four corners of North America to spend the rest of the year thinking about how great it was to be together and how much we'd like to see each other again. In the times between, many of us

### Volunteers Wanted

We would like to host the FileMaker Pro membership database online where it can be accessed as needed by team members in different locations. If you have the technical expertise to manage this project and are interested in helping out, contact Debbie Weinberger at [debow@pacbell.net](mailto:debow@pacbell.net).

The Finance and Admin team is looking for someone with computer, network and file management skills who can come to the office at Gomde and assist with the computer system and network. We have some new equipment donated by Rob McIlhargie and we need assistance setting it up. Please call Joanne Brion at 707-570-1477 or email her at [jgbrion@pacbell.net](mailto:jgbrion@pacbell.net).

If you previously emailed Joanne about volunteering for other positions, please drop her another message, as we are having various email troubles and need your contact information again. We hope to get volunteers organized on projects by the beginning of the year. Thanks for your offers of help.

### **Practice Weekends Continue**

Gomde is hosting monthly study and practice weekend retreats which run Friday evenings through Sunday afternoon. The retreats are practice-oriented, but there are free hours for those who wish to contribute volunteer work as well.

The next retreat dates are December 12-14 and January 16-19 (there's an extra day in the schedule because of Martin Luther King Day). If you'd like to join the weekend, please send an email to [manager@gomdeusa.org](mailto:manager@gomdeusa.org). For more details, visit the Gomde website, or call the office at 707-925-0201.

struggle to stay connected. I've found that making even small efforts to break out of what can feel a bit like exile--through a phone call, or an e-mail, or even by scrolling aimlessly through the Gomde website late at night--can remind me of the blessings of the lineage and give me a reason to wake up early the next morning to do my practice before work.

So, in an effort to nourish the sangha and to give us another channel for communication, we are launching the Gomde Sangha blog. This forum will provide a way for practitioners to have a virtual conversation about anything that inspires or nourishes our life and practice. It will be a place where we can share ideas, stories, photos, favorite dharma books, websites, recipes and whatever it is that helps us along the path. I'm hoping we can build some bridges of support between newer and more seasoned practitioners. Perhaps we might also find a 'resident expert' to answer practical practice questions. Blog topics will be announced in the e-newsletter and on the site itself.

If you'd like to participate in the conversation, all you need to do is set up a free Google e-mail account (<http://mail.google.com/>) and then register with the Gomde blog: <http://gomde-usa-sangha.blogspot.com/>. You will then be able to respond to postings or offer new ones. It's also possible to simply read the blog, but we hope that all of our readers will also take the step to become contributors. We'd like to hear many different voices. After all, the best way to build community is through participation.

For our first conversation, I'd like to focus on the enthronement of our lama, Tulku Ugyen Yangsi Rinpoche. What are your memories of his previous incarnation? What are your thoughts and feelings about his enthronement this month? We'd love to hear from any sangha members who were fortunate enough to attend the ceremonies in Nepal, or from anyone who has responses to the webcast. In addition, I'd like to ask sangha members to propose any other topics you'd like to discuss on the blog. What's on your mind these days when it comes to the community or to the practice? My goal is to

make this blog relevant to you. I encourage you to click on the link above and sign in, so we can get this conversation started.

--Paul Gustafson, blog moderator

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