



Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche on the hillside

Gomde E-News

October 2009

Welcome to the October issue of Rangjung Yeshe Gomde's e-mail newsletter. Gomde's summer retreat season hosted teachings by Dzigar Kongrul Rinpoche and two programs by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, bridged with a special day-long Ngakso Puja. If you didn't get to visit this summer, Gomde's campground and garden look amazing.

This issue highlights news about a new Bay area program called "Dharma House," current practice activities at Gomde, including weekend retreats, a brief roundup of the 2008 financial report, information on new board members, a report from Gomde's land manager and caretaker, and more.

Rinpoche's Bay Area Dharma House

At the July retreat, Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche announced plans for a Dharma House in the San Francisco Bay Area -- a welcoming place for people to find a meaningful connection with Rinpoche, the Dharma, and Sangha. The center will serve both new practitioners and existing sangha. A group of organizers led by Jeanne Sutton are currently seeking centrally located facilities for Dharma House to rent. Activities will include Shakyamuni practice, regular sitting meditation, and visiting teachers and lamas. Several of Rinpoche's former monks and lamas who live in the area will teach classes and offer practice support.

Dharma House is in need of financial support, and is also looking for volunteers with expertise in fundraising or grant writing. If you'd like to help in any way, contact Jeanne Sutton at jeannepsutton@gmail.com. For more planning details, visit the online forum at www.RinpocheDharmahouse.blogspot.com.



torma offerings

Practice Activities at Gomde

Regular events at Gomde include the daily practices Rinpoche has requested be done: Shakyamuni practice (8 am), Guru Rinpoche and protector practice (4 pm), and *tsok* offerings on the 10th and 25th of the Tibetan month. Everyone is welcome to join the practices held in the Shrine Room. If you're thinking of dropping by, it's probably best to call ahead to confirm the schedule.

Ani Marcia is leading a class at Gomde on the Seven-Point Mind Training, using several different commentaries by Tibetan and Western teachers. A different slogan is discussed every week, so drop-ins are welcome. The class begins November 4 at 6:30 pm and runs Wednesdays through January.



group photo of Ngakso Puja participants

Notes From the Land

Hi everyone,

It's been a lovely and quiet time on the land since the end of seminars. This morning I went down to the river to take pictures for this newsletter. When I got down there, I found the batteries on the camera were dead. But when I finally looked up from my

Hi everyone,

With the blazing days of summer behind us, the mountains, the meadows, and even the river seem to have quieted, relaxed somehow, settled into an easy chair and kicked their feet up, thumbing through a good book while a pie bakes in the kitchen. This is the wind-down time when the wind rustles in the trees, the nights become cooler, and all thoughts turn, eventually, towards tucking in for the long winter. But I get ahead of myself...

Fall is a great time for planting, so that's just what I intend to do. One project is what I'm calling "The Great Barrier Hedge," a long row of shrubs that will line the road up by the entry gate, thus creating a buffer between us and the noisy, dusty, looking-for-the-Drive-Thru-Tree world outside. I thought photinia would be great for that, with its glossy green leaves and bright red new growth. I'll probably be starting that in the next few weeks.

I just wanted to add how great it was to see all of you again at the seminars. And a special thank you goes out from me to the "Happy Interns" who graced us with their presence this year. We worked hard but managed to have a little fun, wouldn't you say? You guys were great!
Kelly

camera I saw an otter just strolling along the beach in front of me. I sat down and watched it go into the water and swim around as I quietly sat on the beach. It seems that maybe to experience how beautiful it is here right now you just have to come here -- the pictures aren't capturing it. It's really a wonderful time to come and enjoy the land and/or do retreat. I hope you can all make it one of the monthly retreats to enjoy this peaceful time.

As far as projects go, I'm working with Kelly on redoing the library. We are going to put in new carpet, repaint, and redo the bookshelves. It's coming along nicely and should be finished by the next weekend retreat at the end of September. Hope to see you all soon.

All my best,
Lauren

2008 Annual Financial Report

This financial report from Gomde Treasurer Joane Brion was presented to the board this summer. The three-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. We had roughly a quarter of a million dollar annual budget as of 2008, and have had so for a number of years. In 2008 our fiscal balance was negative by about \$22,000, or about 10% of net operating income.

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

- ◆CTF General Administration
- ◆Programs and Seminars
- ◆Study & Practice
- ◆Gomde Operations and Maintenance
- ◆Gomde Capital Improvement
- ◆Ratna Shop
- ◆Kumara Intern Program
- ◆Grants and Offerings

We rely heavily on the generosity of our Sangha members, and to a lesser extent the income from Ratna Shop sales, Study and Practice activities, and revenues from private retreat activity. By itself, Gomde had a shortfall of about \$69,000 in 2008 due to the limited amount of retreat days, lower than average donations, and major improvements to the kitchen and campgrounds. Ratna Shop brought in net revenues of about \$14,000 in 2008. Donations and membership fees were about the same as in 2007, at around \$67,000. An additional \$38,000 was raised for retreat area development.

[Click here](#) to continue reading the report on the website.



Rinpoche during the Ngakso Puja

Practice & Study Retreats

Weekend retreats open to everyone take place monthly at Gomde. The next is **October 16-18** with Lama Bruce Newman, on "Stages of Awareness." The weekend will include an informal presentation on mindfulness and awareness, mixing reflection, discussion, some readings, and practice time. Bruce is a long-time student of Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and the author of *The Beginner's Guide to Tibetan Buddhism*.

For more information, [visit the website](#). To sign up for the retreat, contact Hilda Goldman at hrgold@comcast.net.

Upcoming Retreat Dates:

November 20-22 with Claude Herail
December 11-13



Khenpo and Catherine Dalton

Study Buddhism Online

Rangjung Yeshe Institute is launching a new online Buddhist Studies Program, making the Buddhist classics available to anyone, anywhere.

The inaugural course provides students with traditional teachings on Nagarjuna's *Knowledge-Root of the Middle Way (Mulamadhyamakakarika)*, perhaps the most important Buddhist philosophical scripture of the Indian tradition.

Additional lectures and discussion groups provide a broader historical and cultural context for assimilating the teachings in today's world. Registration for the fall semester 2009 is now open. Classes may be taken for academic credit. To learn more, go to <http://www.shedra.org/moodle>

CTF's New Board, New Name

Five new board members were announced at the Dzogchen retreat in July: Andrea Floyd, Rob McIlhargie, Stephen Estelle, David Diaman, and Rhonda LoPresti. They join three board members appointed last year -- David Shlim, Debbie Weinberger, and Shabad Khalsa -- to form a new, expanded eight-member board.

Thanks to outgoing board members Paco Dreher, Hilda Goldman, Graham Sunstein, Erik Schmidt, and Marcia Binder Schmidt for all their years of work.

New CTF officers include:

President, David Shlim
 Vice-President, Claude Herail
 Treasurer, Joanne Brion
 Secretary, Kerry Moran

Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche has requested the name of the Chokling Tersar Foundation be changed to "Rangjung Yeshe Gomde California" as a way of streamlining and simplifying his activities in the United States. In addition to the retreat center, the new name will refer to all of CTF's activities, including Yangdzom Healing Hands project in Tibet. The legal name change is in the works.

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