
THE LITTLE WHITE CONCH

NEWSLETTER FOR YESHE KHORLO USA
SEPTEMBER 2010

Greetings friends of Yeshe Khorlo USA! This year has certainly been an active one for our Sangha. The September *Little White Conch* recaps this year's teachings and retreats, offers updates on Sangha news from Crestone and beyond, and includes information on opportunities for how you can help Yeshe Khorlo continue to thrive in the year to come. May all be auspicious!

Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche's North American Visit, Spring 2010



This spring, Yeshe Khorlo was blessed to host Gangteng Rinpoche for an auspicious series of teachings and empowerments. Rinpoche began the program on April 3rd with a Münsel Drönme (Red Chenrezig) empowerment, followed by a Kurukule empowerment the next day. In appreciation of these rare empowerments in the Pema Lingpa tradition, Chöying Dzong was filled to capacity.

Rinpoche then offered a ten-day teaching on Longchenpa's *Trilogy on Comfort and Ease*. Continuing from the 2006 teachings, this retreat covered the second volume of the series, which focuses on meditation.

The Kunzang Gongdu retreat drew twenty-five practitioners to Crestone including many students who were receiving the Pema Lingpa dzogchen teachings for the first time. The program began with the Kunzang Gongdu empowerment followed by two days of empowerments in the nine yantras. Afterward, Rinpoche provided the reading transmission for Longchenpa's commentary on the *Guhyagarbha*. Once these preparations were completed, the first section of the Kunzang Gongdu retreat commenced.

During Rinpoche's visit an unfortunate and heartbreaking event occurred: Thuksey Rinpoche, the Mind Emanation of Pema Lingpa, passed away in Bhutan. Being a spiritual brother to Gangteng Rinpoche and a living emanation of Pema Lingpa, we all grieved the loss of this compassionate teacher and prayed for his swift rebirth. In response to the need in Bhutan, Rinpoche shortened his stay in the U.S. and returned to assist the monks of Thuksey Rinpoche's

monastery and perform the important rites associated with the passing of a great teacher.

While we were deeply sorry to see Rinpoche leave, we were also blessed to receive the totality of the teachings prior to his departure. Afterward, Lopon Phurba Dorji expanded on the teachings and provided invaluable insight into the practices. With the help of translator Erik Drew and visiting monk Lopon Singey, the remainder of the Kunzang Gongdu Retreat proceeded as planned.

It is always a blessing to have Gangteng Rinpoche at Chöying Dzong, and this year's events were no exception. We are grateful that the teachings of the Pema Lingpa lineage continue to flourish at Yeshe Khorlo and that the retreat center in Crestone remains vibrant with practice, offerings and empowerments. For all who participated in this series of teachings, thank you.



Lopon Singey (left) and Lopon Phurba Dorji (right)

Sungtrul Rinpoche Visits Chöying Dzong

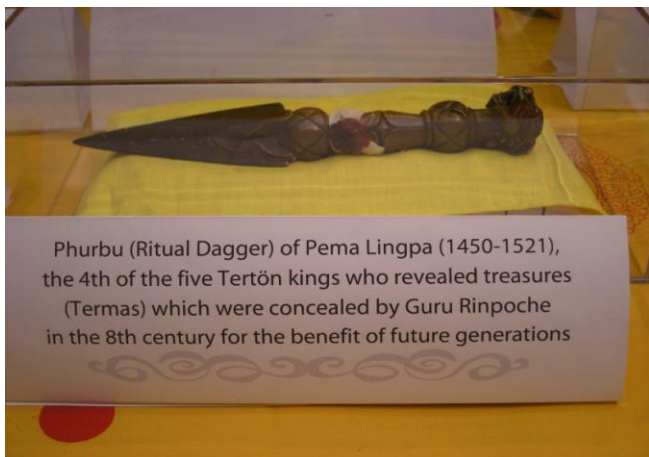
The Venerable Lhalung Sungtrul Rinpoche, a leader of the Peling Tradition of Vajrayana Buddhism, visited the U.S. for the first time this spring. Yeshe Khorlo was honored to host Rinpoche, the Speech Emanation of Pema Lingpa, during his stay in Crestone. Many Sangha members received the blessing of his Long Life empowerment and had the privilege of viewing a very special collection of relics from the Pema Lingpa lineage, which Rinpoche brought from his monastery in Bhutan.

Among the many relics were an 18th century ceremonial hat, the sole of a shoe belonging to Pema Lingpa, a frying pan cast by Pema Lingpa, ringsel arising from the tooth of Guru Rinpoche, a seal used by Longchenpa and a phurba belonging to Pema Lingpa. The relics were displayed in the Yeshe Khorlo temple for view by the Sangha and Crestone community.

Yeshe Khorlo thanks Sungtrul Rinpoche and his attendants for the opportunity to experience these rare relics, which are so important to our lineage. May the blessing of his visit continue to provide support for practitioners long into the future.



Script from Pema Lingpa



Statue of 3rd Pema Lingpa

Yeshe Khorlo Sangha Meeting

On July 31, 21010 the Crestone Sangha of Yeshe Khorlo held a meeting to discuss current and future plans for Chöying Dzong. The meeting was hosted by Jampa Stewart and Shanti Dechen at their home, and twenty Sangha members attended. The agenda included the following topics:

- Revised Practice schedule at Chöying Dzong**

Listed at the end of this month's *Little White Conch*

- Monthly Group Retreat**

Discussion of holding monthly group practice retreats. Possible retreat practices include Ngöndro, Rushen, Trekchod, and Togyal. The first group practice day will be Saturday, September 25th. For details, contact info@yeshehorlo.org

- Weekly Study Group**

A Friday evening study group to begin in late fall. Details to follow.

- Bookstore Expansion and Transcripts of Teachings**

A committee will work to transcribe recorded teachings of Rinpoche and Lopon Phurba Dorji for possible future publication. Teachings recorded on tape will be transferred to mp3 format.

- Arrival of Khenpo Tenzin Thinley to Chöying Dzong**

The immigration papers for Khenpo continue to be processed, and we await his arrival as resident lama for Yeshe Khorlo, USA. We are expecting he may arrive this fall.

- Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche's vision for Chöying Dzong**

While in Crestone this past Spring, Rinpoche expressed his wish that a large, traditional Bhutanese style lhakang be built at Chöying Dzong. The site committee for the project includes Merit Bennett, Pat Keenan, and Jampa Stewart.

Many thanks to Jampa and Shanti for coordinating this meeting and to all who attended and contributed to the discussion and planning process. For any questions or comments regarding these activities, please email info@yeshehorlo.org.



Gangteng Rinpoche, Lopon Phurba Dorji and Pat Keenan looking at future sights for a new temple

Dilgo Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche Visits Chöying Dzong

Anticipating the arrival of Dilgo Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche created a flurry of activity at the many centers he visited on his one-day tour of Crestone. Yeshe Khorlo Sangha came from Crestone, Boulder, and Santa Fe to receive him and Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche at our temple, Chöying Dzong. We offered rice and tea, and Yangsi Rinpoche thanked us for the warm welcome and spoke of his connection to Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche, whom he has met in Bhutan. Before their departure, Yangsi Rinpoche and Kongtrul Rinpoche did a blessing of the shrine in the lhakang. It was a wonderful occasion, and reinforced the connection so many feel with the Khyentse lineage.



Photo courtesy of Dori Bennett



Photo courtesy of Anna Hansen

Vajra Guru Dondrup



In July, Lupon Phurba Dorji once again sponsored a five day Vajra Guru Dondrub at Gangtey Monastery in Bhutan where many hundreds of people gathered to participate. In support of Lupon's activities, and to encourage our own practices here in the USA, Chöying Dzong held a parallel dondrub during the same period. Each day began with Riwo Sangcho, followed by the Shower of Blessings. The repetition of the Vajra Guru mantra continued throughout the day until the concluding practice and tsok in the early evening. There were mantras accumulated both at the lhakang and around the country by sangha who did their practice at home, reporting in their accumulations. We were able to send a total number of close to one million mantras to Lupon in Bhutan as our contribution to the 200 million mantras that were accomplished at Gangtey for the benefit of all beings.

Yeshe Khorlo Boulder Center Begins Activities

By the generosity of Sonam Dorjee and Rachel Yates, Yeshe Khorlo now has a place for practice and teachings in Boulder. Inaugural practices were held on Guru Rinpoche Tsok day on July 20, 2010. The practices currently being performed are Guru Rinpoche tsok, Dakini tsok and Münsel Drönme (Red Chenrezig). Regular practices are currently being held Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and on Tsok Days. Munsel Dronme (Red Chenrezig) is held on the Saturdays during a week where there is a Tsok day.

The YK Boulder practice schedule and a blog on Boulder Sangha activities can be found at www.yeshehorlo.org. The Boulder Center practitioners are very excited to have a place to practice and would like to invite everyone to stop by and join in if they are in town or have time.

"E MA HO!"

Some News from Around the Sangha -

The retreat cabins at Chöying Dzong have been nearly full over the past year. Through word-of-mouth and word-of-cyberspace, there is a flow of reservations from within our own sangha, and from folks who have heard about the extraordinary environment in these mountains that is so conducive to solitary retreat. Margaret does a beautiful job maintaining the cabins and keeping the retreatants supplied during this important time in any practitioner's dharma life.

There have been some changes recently to the Yeshe Khorlo, USA Board of Directors. The present board consists of Charles Samuelson, President; Peter Bennett, Royallynn Allen, John Loll, Treasurer; and Ace Chaite, Secretary.

New residents to the Crestone community are Shanti and Jampa, who moved here this year from Austin. Their enthusiasm for life in Crestone is abundant, and the fellowship of sangha and the feeling of being truly at home provide them ongoing amazements. As Shanti puts it, *"Living in Crestone is different than we expected and better than we could ever imagine."*

Royallynn is in the final stages of having her Great Wall of Crestone completed. A work party contributed to giving the wall its final color coat, and soon Royallynn will be beginning her autumn retreat with her privacy enhanced by this terrific straw bale enclosure.

Tom and Margaret are just about to break ground for their house on the piece of land that they purchased along the road to the temple. The eight lots bought by sangha members some years back are becoming home to more and more sangha each year, and we wish Tom and Margaret all the best as their project is about to begin.



The work party applying the final coat of stucco to the the Great Wall of Crestone



Daily Practice Schedule at Chöying Dzong

7:30 a.m. - Kunzang Gongdu Ngöndro
8:30 a.m. - Riwo Sangchöd
9:00 a.m. - Ngöndro or White Tara
5:30 p.m. - Maning Dharma Protectors/
5:00 p.m. in the winter

Monthly Practices on Numbered Days of the Lunar Calendar

All events will start at 6 p.m.

10th Guru Rinpoche Tsok
15th Münsel Drönme Red Chenrezig
25th Kurukule Dakini Tsok

A Friendly Reminder about Yeshe Khorlo Support Pledges

First of all, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations and your pledge of support during this Iron Tiger year. As you can see from our newsletter, there's an ever-widening vision and mandala of activity taking root in the West propagated by Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche. Your membership dues provide fundamental sustenance for these many manifestations and allow for the continued transmission of the precious Pema Lingpa teachings.

We wish to offer a friendly reminder to those of you who may have pledged an annual dues contribution earlier this year but have not as yet been able to fulfill that pledge. Also, to those who simply may have let your dues lapse, we want to emphasize how integral annual dues are to the ongoing operations of our temple and retreat center in Crestone.

We certainly understand that during these trying times not all of our commitments or priorities are easily met, but because of these very circumstances, honoring your pledge to Yeshe Khorlo is more important than ever.

To facilitate your dues payment or to simply make a one-time donation, contributions can be made on-line at www.yeshekhorlo.org. Checks can be sent to Yeshe Khorlo, PO Box 87, Crestone CO 81131. Please note 'member dues' or 'donation' in the memo line of your check. Your generosity is essential to Rinpoche's activities and we sincerely appreciate your support.

May all being benefit,
On behalf of the Yeshe Khorlo Board,
John Loll, Treasurer



The *Little White Conch* is committed to enhancing communication, supporting practice and fulfilling the wishes of Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche's vision for his USA Sangha. If you would like to learn more about Yeshe Khorlo USA's activities, or if you have an idea for an article you'd like to see in the *Little White Conch*, please email info@yeshekhlorlo.org. You may also visit us on the web at www.yeshekhlorlo.org.

Thank you for reading!
May the merit of our dharma connections flourish!