



Vajrayana Foundation

DHARMA PROGRAMS

2018 in a glance



Kyabje Dudjom Sangye Pema Zhepa Rinpoche and Sangha, Pema Osel Ling, Summer 2018

**We are happy to share the highlights
of our 2018 dharma activity!**

Summer Retreat

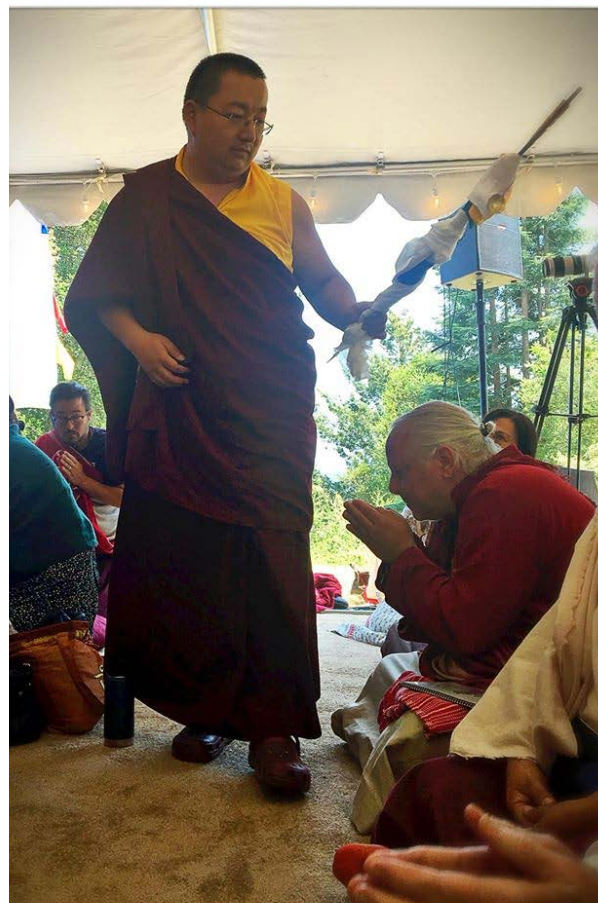
June 1 – June 24



This year we had the extreme good fortune to have **Kyabje Dudjom Yangsi Sangye Pema Zhepa Rinpoche (now known as Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche)** preside over our 29th annual Summer Retreat at Pema Osel Ling during his first visit to the United States.



Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche's arrival at Pema Osel Ling



Dudjom Tersar Empowerments

Out of his great kindness, Rinpoche bestowed the **Dudjom Tersar Empowerments (Wangs)**. All who attended will attest to the sublime magical atmosphere that Rinpoche created at Pema Osel Ling. There were rainbows, seed syllable clouds and hundreds of butterflies! Rinpoche's wisdom compassion was palpable and it was evident that we were all part of something very profound, **an historic moment of great importance.**



Kyabje Dudjom Yangsi Rinpoche during Wangs



Sky over Pema Osel Ling first day of Wangs



Sky with prayer flag during Wangs



BAM Syllable (right) w/rainbow circle after Khandro Thukthik Wang

The bestowal of these wangs from Rinpoche at Pema Ösel Ling was a profound heart wish of **Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche**, who worked tirelessly to make it a reality. We feel overwhelming gratitude to them, as well as to Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche, Lama Gyaltzen Rinpoche, Khenpo Sonam Rinpoche, Lama Phurba, our generous sponsors, translators, tireless staff and volunteers, and all who attended from around the world.



Phurba mandala and Sangha in Wangs tent



Troma Nagmo with Sangye Khandro

Before Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche arrived to give the Dudjom Tersar empowerments, we were very fortunate to have Sangye Khandro return, for the fourth summer, to continue her **Troma Ngondro** teachings from Master Pema Lungtog Gyatso's extensive commentary on Dudjom Lingpa's terma revelation, *Heart Essence of Saraha*. The teachings were as fresh and insightful as always!



Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche leading the Medium-Length Troma feast at the conclusion of Sangye Khandro's teachings

The day after the wonderful Troma tsok, Rinpoche began the transmission and empowerments of the Dudjom Tersar. Sangye Khandro stayed as the translator for Rinpoche with Lama Chonam, Christina Monson and Benson by her side. **We are so grateful to all our Lotsawas!**

Vajrakilaya Medrup Drupchen

After the Wangs, Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche presided over our **29th annual Drupchen**. This year we performed a **Vajrakilaya Namchak Putri Mendrup Drupchen**. With Rinpoche's sublime presence, this was a special opportunity to fully experience this Vajrakilaya practice, which has the power to **remove outer, inner and secret obstacles**.



Bringing down the blessings



**Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche
in Black Hat**

During this **Mendrup Drupchen**, hundreds of rare and sacred substances which had been gathered, were prepared and consecrated through intensive group practice to create mendrup.

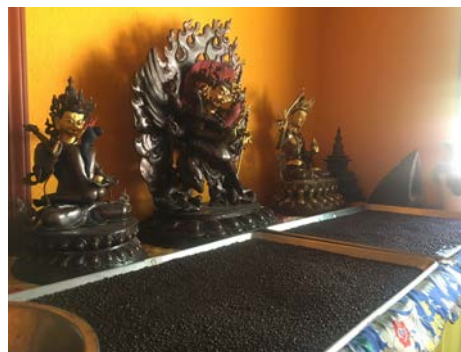
Guru Rinpoche said:

The benefits of eating (dudtsi) are inexpressible: Dudtsi is Liberation through Taste for all beings in all realms. Externally, it will cure your bodily illnesses and remove obstacles.

Internally, it will purify the five poisons of the passions. It will repair all your broken and damaged samaya. You will realize wisdom, the all-pervasive secret.



Rinpoche preparing mendrup dudtsi



Mendrup dudtsi drying

Drupchen Jinseks Fire Pujas

As always, on the last day of Drupchen we performed jinseks (fire pujas) and received the Drupchen siddhis.

This year, the jinseks of the four activities - peaceful, increasing, magnetizing and wrathful - were performed simultaneously, along with a fifth central "Supreme" jinsek. **Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche presided over this glorious display of Vajrayana ritual**, alive with color, fire offerings and the synchronicity of enlightened activities.



Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche presiding over fire pujas

The day after Drupchen ended we celebrated **Guru Rinpoche day**.



Offering tsok on Guru Rinpoche Day

On this very special day, we offered an abundant tsok, prepared by the sublime, young students of Kunzang Gatshal. We also offered our annual sacred lama dances to Rinpoche and all of our sangha. **It was an honor and blessing for the dancers and all of us!**



SunDok Tenshuk Long life ceremony

The next day, we performed Khandro Thukthik puja and offered a **SunDok Tenshuk (long-life) ceremony for Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche.**



Tenshuk Ceremony



Long life offerings for Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche



Mandala offering at Tenshuk Ceremony

Dechö 5th Anniversary of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Parinirvana



**Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche and Lamas at
Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Ku-Dung Stupa**

During the month of July, Rinpoche travelled around North America. Upon his return to Pema Ösel Ling, he presided over our **Dorsem Lama Chöpa puja on the fifth anniversary of our most kind teacher, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's parinirvana—an occasion of extraordinary blessings.**



**Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche
with Lama Tharchin Rinpoche**

We began this 2018 yearbook with our Summer Retreat, the highlight of our year. Following are our other retreats in chronological order, as well as news on additional dharma activities.

Annual Trekchod Retreat /January Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche

The Annual Trekchod Retreat began in 2001 with Lama Tharchin Rinpoche. In 2014, after Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's parinirvana, Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche began leading the retreat, following Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's wishes.

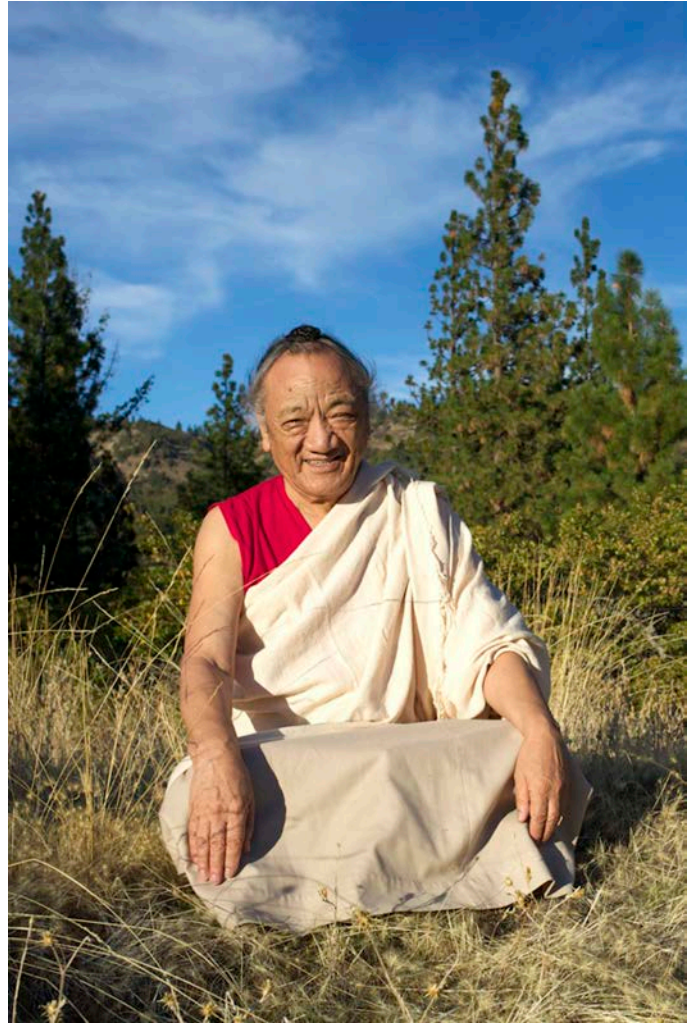


We were extremely fortunate again in 2018, to have Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche with us for incredible trekchod and rushen teachings. Even though his health was challenged, he selflessly taught for nine days, putting all his energy into the pith instructions and always having time for questions. His wisdom and compassion were truly astounding.

On July 5, 2018, our most kind and precious teacher, **Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche, passed into parinirvana.** Our sorrow was profound.



Remembering Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche 1945 – 2018



Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche

Following are excerpts from a beautiful letter that Lama Sonam Rinpoche wrote upon hearing about the parinirvana of our kind teacher.

"Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche was one of the kindest and most authentic hidden yogi practitioners in our generation. From a very young age to the end of his life, he was completely authentic, humble and devoted one hundred percent to dharma and his root guru.

Rinpoche inspired and touched everyone who met him! He held the Dudjom lineage impeccably, as well as the complete expansive anu yoga lineage.

All of us at Vajrayana Foundation/Pema Osel Ling owe Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche a deep heartfelt debt of gratitude. He was one of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's best friends. Lama Tharchin Rinpoche

trusted Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche completely to teach Pema Osel Ling's students all stages of practice, including the most advanced tsa-lung practices.

After Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's parinirvana, Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche, out of his great kindness, became our three-year retreat lama and guided the retreatants with profound caring and wisdom. He also taught our annual Trekchod retreat and Rushen practice.

In my own idiot idea of sublime activity, I can't help but believe that Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche's parinirvana was more evidence of his completely pure samaya. His life started with Dudjom Rinpoche and the dissolution of this life began with Dudjom Yangsi Rinpoche, (during the Dudjom Tersar empowerments), including the auspicious timing that allowed Dudjom Rinpoche to be with Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche right after his parinirvana.

There was no plan and yet this incredible activity happened, showing us that all wisdom minds are connected in one taste! In his last compassionate action, Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche again taught us to have faith in the dharma and the infallible truth of enlightenment."

All of us, and so many around the world, will truly miss this compassionate and wise teacher.



Lama Tharchin Rinpoche, Lama Pema Dorje Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche

Nang Jang Teachings February

We were once again honored to have **Chakung Jigme Wangdrak Rinpoche** continue his series of teachings on **Dudjom Lingpa's profound Dzogchen text Nang Jang (Buddhahood Without Meditation)** at Pema Osel Ling.

"Nang Jang is so powerful that even hearing it read aloud ensures that the listener will eventually escape the sufferings of samsara."

Dudjom Lingpa



Chakung Jigmed Wangdrak Rinpoche is a fourth-generation descendant of the 19th century master Dudjom Lingpa. He was requested by Khenchen Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche and Dakini Kunzang Wangmo (a greatly revered female teacher in Tibet) to teach and preserve the Dudjom lineage.

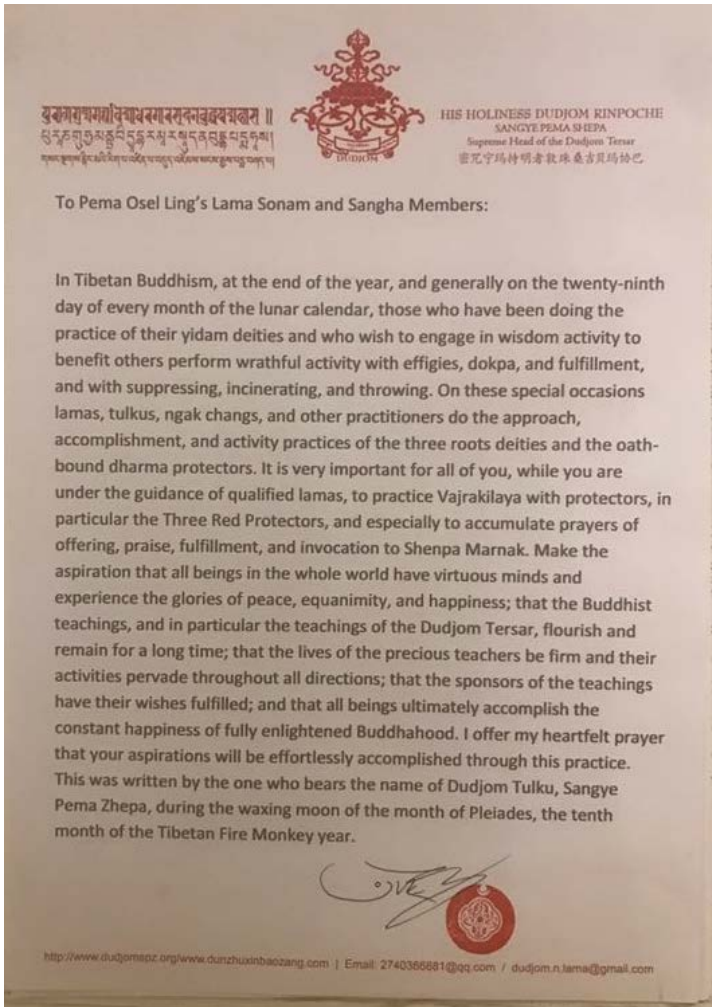
As he had done for the last two years, Rinpoche bestowed the Nang Jang Empowerment and Oral Transmission (Lung-Wang). **This is so kind, as it means that new students may join this wonderful series each year!**

Vajrakilaya Gutor/Losar

February

This was the 29th year that the Vajrayana Foundation has done profound **Vajrakilaya Gutor practice to remove obstacles and negativity for the New Year**. For the second year in a row, we also accumulated **100,000 Shenpa protector prayers**. Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche spoke about these practices in a letter he sent to our sangha in 2017.

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche was the Dorje Lopon for our Gutor/Losar retreat and bestowed the **Putri Repkong Empowerment**. We were also extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to practice with Chakung Jigme Wangdrak Rinpoche, Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche, Lama Sonam Rinpoche and other special guests.



Letter from Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche

It was a very powerful experience to accumulate the Shenpa Protector prayers. Many sangha members helped sponsor the accumulations at Pema Osel Ling and also recited the mantra in their own homes.



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche



Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche

Gutor Ceremony

As we do each year, we performed a traditional Gutor ceremony to clear the negativity of the past year, with the **ritual burning of the large Zor torma and the sacred Black Hat dance.**



Zor Torma

This was followed by Tibetan Fortune soup, during which the lamas read our fortunes for the year. As always, there is a feeling of lightness when the ceremony is completed and we eat the delicious Tibetan soup and share our fortunes for the New Year!

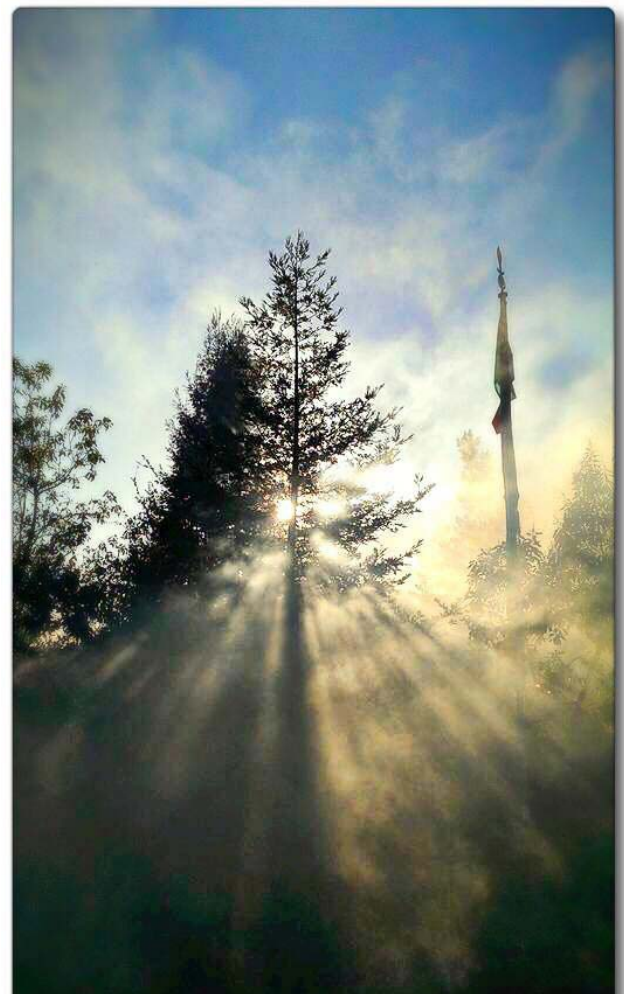


Vajrakilaya Ritual Substances

On Losar Day we performed **Lake Born Vajra and Khandro Norla pujas**, after bringing in the New Year with offerings to the Three Jewels, auspicious rice, homemade chang, and tea.

Riwo Sang Cho Raising of Prayer Flags

In the afternoon, we replaced and raised our large, handmade Dudjom prayer flags with Riwo Sang Cho smoke offering.



It was a splendid entry into the New Year!

Cascading Waterfall Ngondro Retreat March

Acharya Sam Bercholz once again visited Pema Osel and engaged students with his arresting commentary on Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's seminal work, *A Cascading Waterfall of Nectar*, as well as sharing stories and wisdom from his book *A Guided Tour of Hell*. As articulate as always, Sam beguiled all attending with anecdotes of his own experiences and exchanges with Thinley Norbu Rinpoche.



The following week-long Ngondro retreat was led by Lama Sonam Rinpoche and Amy Green, a senior student of Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche. This retreat offered teachings, instructions, time for accumulations and personal interviews.

Many in attendance were part of our Ngondro program and there were older sangha members who made fresh resolve to finish their Ngondro in this lifetime! A noble goal that is definitely attainable with the right support!

"If there are any wise persons who desire to be completely freed,

From the hot torments of the fire pit of samsara, they should

Rely on this supreme path, Ngondro, which, like the king of trees,

Will revive one in its cool, dense shade, enlightenment." - H. H. Dudjom Rinpoche

Annual Teachings with Orgyen Chowang Rinpoche November



This year Rinpoche gave an explanation of the great master Longchenpa's four-part treatise containing the complete path to enlightenment.

Rinpoche explained the four parts with pristine clarity.

- How to turn one's mind toward the path of dharma;
- How to ensure that one's spiritual practice follows the right path;
- How the path of dharma can liberate one from one's own distortions and negative emotions;
- How all experiences and distorted states of mind can arise as enlightened awareness.

Rinpoche's unique teaching style and deep understanding of this ancient wisdom makes it accessible, meaningful and especially relevant to modern Western students. We are deeply grateful that he continues to share his skillful wisdom and kindness at Pema Osel Ling.

Thanksgiving Retreat/ Vajra Armor November



Lama Sonam Rinpoche

Every year on Thanksgiving we perform an Amitabha tsok and host a Thanksgiving dinner, followed by three days of retreat. This year, Lama Sonam Rinpoche, taught on the profound practice of Amitabha Phowa.

"Phowa, or transference of consciousness at the time of death, is one of the most precious among all the pith instructions and tantras of the Great Secret Vajrayana." Lama Sonam Rinpoche

Vajra Armor Private Healing Retreat

This week-long retreat is becoming one of our most popular. It offers students private rooms, the transmission, extensive time for practice, individual guidance and several group teachings from Lama Sonam Rinpoche, whose dedication to dharma, and in particular the Dudjom lineage, is impeccable. **He is a constant reminder of what it means to dedicate one's whole life to serving the Three Jewels.** He selflessly oversees the dharma activity and ongoing operations of Pema Osel Ling and we are forever grateful!

The Outreach Program Wisdom Center Santa Cruz

"The Wisdom Center of Santa Cruz provides an inviting space for wisdom-seeking individuals to explore the root of human goodness, and unveil the essential nature in Wisdom traditions."

Lama Sonam Rinpoche, Pema Osel Ling guest lamas, our resident translator Cy Kassoff and senior students of the Vajrayana Foundation are **bringing the Dudjom Tersar to downtown Santa Cruz** with teachings, practice and empowerments.

January – February: **Medicine Buddha Empowerment and teaching**

March: **Great Mother Transcendent Wisdom**

April: **Khandro Norlha Empowerment**

May: **Dharma Talk**

July: **Wisdom & Skillful Means - Video of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche**

August: **Introduction to Vajrayana Buddhism**

September: **Patrul Rinpoche's The Practice of View, Meditation and Action I**

October: **Introduction to Ngondro**

November: **Healing with Tibetan Medicine**

December: **Patrul Rinpoche's The Practice of View, Meditation and Action**



Ngondro Program *Ongoing*



Mandala Offering

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche started the Vajrayana Foundation Ngondro Program in February 2013. The program is designed for dharma students who want to seriously undertake the Vajrayana path. The program provides guidance from senior student mentors, interviews with Lama Sonam Rinpoche, special texts and teachings, and a monthly webcast.

Participation in the program requires a commitment to practice and study. The total number of hours for each accumulation depends on an individual's physical capacity.

Students develop a personal schedule with their advisors in order to be able to finish in 1 to 6 years. Enrollment is open and students can join at any time. Please e-mail ngondro@vajrayana.org if you are interested.



**Ngondro Program Webcasts in Progress w/
Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, Lama Sonam Rinpoche,
Regina DeCosse, Freddie Trancoso, Stefan Graves**

Personal Retreat at Pema Osel Ling



View from Kunzang Choling Retreat

This year we were able to provide another secluded cabin for personal retreats. We are so happy to be able to offer increased opportunities for retreat to our members and sangha.

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche said:

“Pema Osel Ling is one of the best places to do practice. We have incredible holy supporting objects like the body aspect of Guru Rinpoche’s statue, made by our Lord of Refuge Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche, and the mind aspect of our stupas.”

❖ **Kunsang Choling Retreat Cabins**

Two secluded cabins with great views available for private retreats:

- One-bedroom with a full kitchen, bath living room and deck.
- One-room studio with a kitchenette, bath and deck.

❖ **Shrine Cabin** – Our comfortable shrine cabin is one room with a shared rustic kitchen and bathhouse. The cabin is in proximity to the shrine room and stupas.

Lama Sonam Rinpoche said:

“Now is the time to practice. Don’t think you will have more time later. As the great masters told us, we should practice with the same urgency we would feel if our hair were on fire – we wouldn’t wait until a better time to put it out! Remember impermanence.”



Kunzang Choling Retreat Cabin



Kunsang Choling Retreat Cabin



Shrine Cabin

*Discounted fees and reservation priority for VF Members
Please e-mail office@vajrayana.org for information*

Drubdra - Three-Year Retreat Program

Drub Nyiy Döjō Gatsal

Drub Nyiy Döjō Gatsal (The Joyful Grove that Provides Both Kinds of Accomplishments) a Nyingma School of Vajrayana Buddhism Three-year Retreat Center in the **Dudjom Tersar Lineage**. This drubdra was established by **Lama Tharchin Rinpoche** in 1992 and retreats have continued since then uninterruptedly.

The current retreat under the guidance of **Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche** will be completed in October 2019. The next retreat will begin in November 2019. Contact drubdra@vajrayana.org for more information.



Lama Tharchin Rinpoche in Drub Nyiy Dojo Gatsal



Rainbows over Drub Nyiy Dojo Gatsal on Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's Parinirvana Anniversary

The Vajrayana Foundation/Pema Osel Ling



Guru Rinpoche Statue in Pema Osel Ling Shrine Room

A Brief History

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche established the Vajrayana Foundation in 1987, upon the advice of Kyabje Dudjom Jigdral Yeshe Dorje Rinpoche and Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche to transmit the **Dudjom Tersar** lineage in the West.

The **Foundation bought Pema Osel Ling in 1991** and a yearly cycle of teachings and practice began on the land.

In **1998 Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche** agreed to guide the Vajrayana Foundation and asked Lama Sonam Rinpoche to administer Pema Osel Ling with Lama Tharchin Rinpoche.

In **2011**, after Dungse Rinpoche's parinirvana, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche offered Pema Osel Ling to **Kyabje Dudjom (Yangsi) Rinpoche, who accepted Pema Osel Ling as his center.**

We make aspirations that with Rinpoche's guidance and our sangha's support, we will be able to preserve Pema Osel Ling as a blessed place to actualize profound Buddhist teachings.

We want to acknowledge and express our deep appreciation to you, the precious jewel of the sangha!

The opportunity to work together to help realize our sublime teachers' aspirations is very precious. Your support will help us carry out a year full of dharma activity in 2019!

Wishing You Peace and Happiness in the New Year!