

Vajrayana Foundation Yearbook 2024



Yangsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche visits POL The Highlight of our Year

His Eminence Yangsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche, the reincarnation of Thinley Norbu Rinpoche, was received with great warmth by a joyful assembly as he arrived at Pema Osel Ling Oct. 1.

At the edge of the center's offering pond, dancing snow lions, attendants and traditional music greeted Rinpoche with colorful fanfare as he walked a silky, maroon path leading to the Shrine Room.

For the Pema Osel Ling community, it was the return of our Wisdom Lama nearly 13 years after the parinirvana of Thinley Norbu Rinpoche without

interruption of blessings from the lineage.

H.E. Yangsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche, now 12 years old, was shown all of Pema Osel Ling, including Drub Nyiy Döjō Gatsal Three-Year Retreat area and the Joyful Lotus Stupa

"We believe a teacher's incarnation is continuous, like this lineage is continuous," said Lama Sonam Tsering Rinpoche. "Rinpoche's physical presence is new, but feels already continuous with Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's activity. That's why Pema Osel Ling is truly fortunate to have an incarnation."

Dharma Programs

**Trekchod and Rushen Retreat with
Tulku Thadral Rinpoche
December 30, 2023 - January 7,
2024**



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche began our 2024 Retreat year with Trekchod teachings based on the first six chapters of H.H. Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche's "Delightful Ocean of Pith Instructions" text, which covers Rushen, the preliminary practice for Trekchod.



Rinpoche's Rushen Text

**Dechös for Thinley Norbu
Rinpoche (December 14, 2023) ,
Dudjom Rinpoche (December 29,
2023), Chatral Rinpoche (January
1, 2024) and Longchenpa (January
28, 2024)**



*Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche's Throne,
December 29, 2023*

We honored the passing of our sublime lineage masters with tsok offerings and beautiful pujas: *Ladrub Thigle Gyachen* for Chatral Rinpoche, *Ka-Ter Vajrasattva* for Dudjom Rinpoche; and *Dorsem Lama Chöpa Vajrasattva* for Thinley Norbu Rinpoche.

Dudjom Rinpoche III Sangye Pema Shepa's Second Anniversary
Dechö
January 24, 2024



Dudjom Yangsi Rinpoche's Dechö



Dudjom Rinpoche III Sangye Pema Shepa

Visiting lamas joined our resident teachers and sangha for the Dorsem Lama Chöpa puja and tsok to commemorate the passing of our most precious Yangsi Dudjom Rinpoche.

Vajrakilaya Gutor-Losar Retreat
January 31 - February 10, 2024

We held our annual Vajrakilaya Gutor-Losar Retreat in 2024. We are grateful to those sangha members who attended in person and by streaming.



Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche Paints Finishing Touches on the Zorchen



Offerings to Shenpa Marnak

On Losar Day, we consecrated Treasure Vases with *Tsokey Tuk Tik* and *Orgyen Khandro Norlha* pujas, as we do each year. Lama Sonam Rinpoche said this was to connect to the transcendent energy of these profound Dudjom Tersar practices.



During a Riwo Sang Chö puja, we raised 31 prayer flags for the New Year throughout the property. Thank you to our many sponsors whose names we inscribed on the flags. Blessings will fly on the wind for another year.

**Mountain Dharma (Ri Chö)
Teachings with
Chakung Jigme Wangdrak
Rinpoche
March 1 - 3, 2024**

Chakung Jigme Wangdrak Rinpoche, the lineal descendant of Rigdzin Jigme Lingpa, concluded his second year of teachings on Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche's famous trekchod text. "*Ri Cho*:

Extracting the Quintessence of Accomplishment – Oral Instructions for the Practice of Mountain Retreat Expounded Simply and Directly in their Essential Nakedness”.

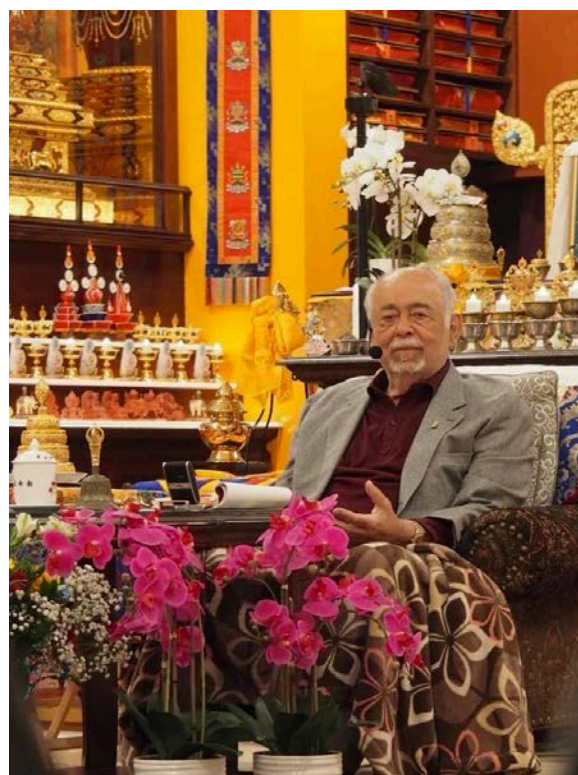


Chakung Jigme Wangdrak Rinpoche

As always, Rinpoche’s compassionate wisdom shone through his teachings.

Once again, Vanessa Kubota gave an inspiring translation of Rinpoche's teachings, while keeping everyone engaged as she interpreted his stories and humorous anecdotes.

Ngondro Retreat ***March 30 - April 7, 2024***



*Sam Berholz teaching on
A Cascading Waterfall of Nectar*

We welcomed back Sam Berholz for the annual Dudjom Tersar Ngondro Retreat. Sam, who was authorized by Dunge Thinley Norbu Rinpoche to teach from Rinpoche's masterpiece "Cascading Waterfall of Nectar", taught this profound text with warmth and insight.

In Sam’s words, “Buddhism teaches that enlightenment is our natural state. The problem is that we don’t recognize this state, owing to the mind’s confusion about its true nature.” During the weekend, Sam shared his personal experiences and insights, inspiring us

and helping us connect more deeply with the Ngondro practice.

The following week of retreat offered daily teachings and question-and answer sessions led by Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, Lama Sonam Rinpoche (with translations by Cy Kassoff), Amy Green and Drubpon Pema Rigdzin. Choying Wangmo and Stefan Graves, offered twice daily accumulation sessions. As in previous years, the retreat was held onsite and livestreamed on YouTube.

People attending the retreat commented on how inspiring it was being at Pema Osel Ling in person, in community with Sangha, practicing in front of the Guru



Rinpoche statue, and with so much personal contact and time spent with the Lama's and teachers.

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche bestowed a Dudjom Lingpa Vajrayogini Empowerment and a Refuge Ceremony complete with hair cutting and naming. This was followed by a Bodhisattva Vow Ceremony, and the reading Oral

Transmission of the Dudjom Tersar Ngondro and Dudjom Troma Ngondro texts.

Earth Day Riwo Sang Chö Teaching and Puja at the Beach April 20, 2024



Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche, Drubpon Pema Rigdzin and Sangha

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave a special live-streamed teaching for Earth Day in our shrine Room. HH Dudjom Rinpoche said, "Riwo Sang Chö is a powerful practice for benefiting both the living and the deceased. In this practice, we make offerings to everyone with whom we have a karmic connection and repair damage caused over many lives. This removes obstacles to health and life force and creates auspicious circumstances for enlightenment.

Following the teaching Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche led a Riwo Sang Chö puja at Platforms State Beach. Since the 2024 Earth Day theme was "Planet vs. Plastics", we spent time picking up plastics and other trash on the beach.

Tseyang Khatrod Retreat
May 14 - 18



*Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche Receiving
Tseyang Khatrod Empowerment
from Tulku Thadral Rinpoche*

Our Annual Summer Retreat started on May 14th with the combined empowerments for The Heart-Essence of the Lake-Born Vajra and Orgyen Khandro Norlha, with Tulku Thadral Rinpoche. The following days we received Oral Transmissions and practiced Tsokye T'huk T'hik (The Heart-Essence of the Lake-Born Vajra) and Orgyen Khandro Norlha. These practices together are called Tseyang Khatrod, a uniquely uplifting combination of long-life and wealth-gathering practices.

Khandro T'huk T'hik Dakini
Mendrup Drupchen
May 21 - 30



*Namgyal Dawa Rinpoche Blessing the
Mendrup*

Namgay Dawa Rinpoche presided over the Mendrup Drupchen as Dorje Lopon. Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave the Yeshe Tsogyal Khandro T'huk T'hik empowerment and lungs.

Drupchen (Great Accomplishment) is an elaborate ritual practiced as a group, which draws on the full array of the skillful means of Vajrayana practice, such as the creation of the mandala, group sadhana practice, tsok offerings, continuous mantra recitation, ritual music, mudra, fire pujas, and sacred dance.

This year's Drupchen was special for several reasons.

- This was the 120th anniversary of Dudjom Rinpoche's birth, an especially auspicious time.
- We focused on Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche's Dakini practice of Khandro T'huk T'hik, using a sadhana and jinsek (fire puja)

manual newly translated at Pema Osel Ling.

- This was also a Mendrup Drupchen, where special sacred substances are gathered, prepared and consecrated through intensive group practice.

A means toward ultimate liberation, mendrup practice increases meditative experience and realization and offers protection from outer, inner and secret obstacles.



Troma Nagmo Retreat *June 1 - 5, 2024*



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche and Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche Leading Troma

This year our Troma Retreat focused on the Troma Ngondro and Four Feasts, with Sadhana practice. Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave the Troma empowerment and the *lungs* for the Troma Ngondro, Four Feasts, Concise and Medium-Length Sadhanas. Rinpoche gave teachings and led everyone in practice.

Each evening we did the Concise Troma Sadhana with tsok using melodies, visualizations, and offerings as a method for healing the ailments of the body, speech, and mind with great compassion.



Ritual items for Troma empowerment

**Shitro Ngakso (100 Peaceful and Wrathful Deities) and Neydren (Ceremony to Help the Deceased) Retreat
June 7 - 8**



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche Burning the Names for the Neydren Ceremony

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave the empowerment for the *Dudjom Rituals and Prayers of the Shitro Cycle*. Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche compiled our 100 Peaceful and Wrathful Deity practice, based on a Karma Lingpa treasure, as a method for practitioners to achieve fully enlightened Buddhahood by removing obstacles to the path, through restoring all broken precepts, vows and tantric samayas.

We included a Neydren ceremony again this year to benefit loved ones and all beings who have passed. Sangha members sent in the names of their loved ones and the names were burned on the last day of the ceremony.

***Collection of Seven Treasures
Guru Rinpoche Retreat
June 10 - 16***





Preparing for the Sacred Black Hat

This year our retreat included The Collection of Seven Treasures as a puja and practice without the usual Drupchen, which was included earlier in the summer as a Dakini Mendrup Drupchen. This “most supreme among all Lama Accomplishment (Ladrup) practices was compiled by His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche from seven great treasures of the Nyingma Lineage. Lama Sonam Rinpoche says that “He compiled them all into one simple practice.... through which we can actually accomplish enlightenment in a single lifetime.”

We performed the traditional sacred dances that correspond to the sections of the sadhana ritual, as well as the Eight Manifestations.

Children's Retreat June 11 - 15, 2024



We had six returning children participate in our Children’s Retreat this summer. Sangha members Erin and Sidra led the program with the assistance of several parents and other volunteers.

Once again, our youth are learning about “Thinking good things, saying good things and doing good things” while their parents attend Drupchen in the shrine room. The lamas took turns talking to the children about the Dharma, loving kindness, and compassion for all living things. Children took nature walks, learned Tibetan language, offered tsok, learned about Ngondro prayers, made Dharma-oriented craft projects and tormas.

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Dechö
July 21, 2024



This year marked the 11th anniversary of the parinirvana of our founder and most kind teacher, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche. We offered tsok and butter lamps with the Dorsem Lama Chopa puja, and lotus lights on Rinpoche's Ku-Dung Stupa. The lamas and sangha members enjoyed lunch on the meadow by Rinpoche's Stupa.



Resting in the Nature of Mind
Teachings and Lung with Tulku
Thadral Rinpoche
October 25 - 27, 2024

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave the third teaching in a series based on *The Excellent Path to Enlightenment*, Longchenpa's practice manual based on *Finding Rest in the Nature of Mind (Sem Nyi Ngal So)*. This text covers the whole path of Dharma: the Four Thoughts, Ngondro, the Sutras, Outer and Inner Tantras; all nine levels of the path put together in one teaching. The entire work is a comprehensive guide to practicing Buddhism.

Dzongsar Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche commented about this text, "Rest is what we all lack most. Even more agonizing is that we don't know how to do it; in fact, we don't even understand what it means to rest."



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche (Photo courtesy of Sonam Famarin)

People from all over the world participated in these teachings by streaming. We anticipate that Tulku Thadral Rinpoche will continue this series of teachings on an annual basis.

**Thanksgiving Day Buddha
Amitabha Puja and Tsok and
Sangha Potluck
*November 28***

As we do every Thanksgiving Day, we offered Buddha Amitabha puja and tsok with Dudjom Lingpa's *The Excellent Path to Omniscience* sadhana, followed by a sangha dinner and three days of retreat. Our residents transformed the dining hall for a joyous celebration and feast for all.



Thanksgiving Table Ready for the Feast

**Thanksgiving Weekend Tara
Retreat
with Tulku Thadral Rinpoche
*November 29 - December 1, 2024***



*Tulku Thadral Rinpoche in our Shrine's
Tara Room*

Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave a beautiful Tara empowerment with the oral transmission for the practice of multiple Tara practices. He gave a special teaching on the Five Element Taras, which were crafted from marble and installed in our shrine room in 2023.

According to Lama Sonam Rinpoche, "On one of his visits to Pema Osel Ling, Our Lord of Refuge Dunge Thinley Norbu Rinpoche shared a prophecy with Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and me. He said that at the right time, statues of Four Elements Dakinis should be

installed in our shrine room, to protect not only Pema Osel Ling, but the whole world.

"Tara offers the most powerful and universal protection from all negativity. The Four Element Taras, corresponding with fire, water, earth and air, specifically offer protection from disharmony of the elements that results in wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and floods. In Dudjom Lingpa's Green Tara practice, the fifth Tara (Green Tara) is included, offering protection from all obstacles, relief from the Eight Great Fears and support for harmony in the sangha and among all suffering beings."



Five Element Taras

(Our special thanks to Sonam Famarin and many others for the photos in this Yearbook)

Vajra Armor Retreat ***December 2 - 4***



Vajrapani Dorje Gotrab

Vajra Armor is a practice favored by Tibetan physicians, and is said to have the power to cure all 404 types of disease. It is highly recommended for those facing health challenges. We offered this retreat again in 2024, with teachings and personal instruction for participants both in person and by streaming. Participants also had the opportunity to extend their retreat time for up to one month for personal practice.

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Recorded Teaching Archive Complete

We are very excited to announce that the project to transform our extensive catalog of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's analog recorded teachings into modern digital formats has been completed!

Our collection includes cassette tapes, digital audio tapes and CDs, and video tapes. The result is nearly 5 terabytes of Rinpoche's wisdom contained in over 6,700 files.

The Lama Tharchin Rinpoche Heritage Foundation (LTRHF) carried out the effort, digitizing the audio resources in-house and converting everything to MP3 digital format. They hired outside, professional contractors to digitize our video tapes. These have been preserved in MP4 formatted files. All the files have been named using a standard naming convention that includes the date of the resource, the teacher and a short title describing the content of the recording. These files are in folders also generally named for the content of the recordings. LTRHF has backed up all of this on four different geographically located servers in order to keep them protected.



We will be working with the LTRHF to make these recordings accessible to everyone.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Eric Colombel, Libby Luning and the Lama Tharchin Rinpoche Heritage Foundation, as well as all the Vajrayana Foundation staff members, for fulfilling this wish of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche.

Joyful Lotus Stupa Mandala

Remarkably powerful site radiates positive energy

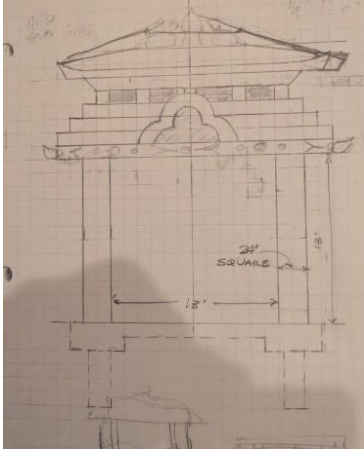


During 2024, our stupa project manager, John Reynolds, worked tirelessly with contractors, staff and volunteers, and the Joyful Lotus Stupa Mandala is really coming along beautifully. The area is remarkably powerful and radiates positive energy that is so needed in our world today.

The intricately patterned tile work in the courtyard is complete now, as are the pavers covering the korwa path around

the exterior of the red auspicious fence. The marble columns of the fence and a nearby retaining wall support 152 small stupas.

We were able to get all the small stupas installed and the entryway concrete poured before Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's Yangsi, Gyana Ta Rinpoche's visit in early October. Everyone coming down to visit the stupas was so amazed and happy!



We are very close to finishing this project. One of the most important pieces remaining is the entry gate that Lama Sonam Rinpoche wants built at the entrance to the Stupa Mandala.

In the West, Tibetan stupas hold a deep cultural and spiritual significance, symbolizing peace, compassion, and universal harmony. Lama Sonam Rinpoche tells us: "Stupas are very, very special. They represent Buddha's body, speech, and mind. Mainly they represent Buddha's mind, which is dharmakaya, or our own Nature of Mind. That's why connecting with this stupa is liberating; we will soon realize our own Buddha Nature, our Buddha Nature will blossom. Like that, it has an incomparable benefit."



Yangsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche at the Stupa

Siddhi Dung Nyen **One Hundred Million Mantra Recitations Activity**

It is with great joy that we announce that in our great collective effort, we have recited over 100 million Vajra Guru and Pema Throtengtsal mantras! This is a cause for gratitude and rejoicing!

The drive to recite these 100 million mantras began in 2020, during the pandemic, when Lama Sonam Rinpoche made their recitation part of the Seven Treasures Drubchöd in Summer Retreat, when the land was closed.

“These mantras will help to pacify problems for all of us as individuals and the world in general, serve as a dedication of merit for the deceased and a long-life practice for the living, help to pacify difficulties, material hardships, and obstacles, and help to alleviate all of the suffering in the entire world, especially the suffering of epidemic diseases like we are experiencing now,”
Lama Sonam Rinpoche

When Tulku Thadral Rinpoche was recently informed that the goal had been met, he suggested that the Sangha continue by reciting **another 100 million mantras** for the benefit of the world.

Please join us in accumulating our next 100 million! You are welcome to submit your totals to offerings@vajrayana.org, weekly or monthly. If you have built up unreported past accumulations, also kindly send in your totals. Your totals

will be acknowledged and the website will be updated monthly.

The mantras to accumulate are:

**OM AH HUNG VAJRA GURU
PEMA THÖ THRENG TSAL VAJRA
SAMAYA DZA SIDDHI PHALA
HUNG AH**

or

**OM AH HUNG VAJRA GURU
PEMA SIDDHI HUNG**

You may accumulate one or both, as you feel comfortable.

Guru Rinpoche on the benefits of the Vajra Guru mantra:

“This is the essence mantra of all Sugatas, the accomplishment practice of all Victorious Buddhas in one.”

“This will awaken you from clinging to the solidity of appearing existence. It is the condensation of all the Victorious Buddhas of the three times. It is indivisible from all lamas. It subdues all elemental spirits and arrogant spirits. Dakinis and dharma protectors will gather like clouds. All the male and female dakas and dakinis be overjoyed and come to bestow supreme and common siddhis. If you do not receive signs of accomplishment, then I, Padmasambhava, have deceived sentient beings.”



**“Seeds of Connection”
Weddings and Groups at Pema Osel Ling**

We began to host weddings at Pema Osel Ling years ago with the blessing of Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche.

Dungse Rinpoche said that weddings at Pema Osel Ling would “create virtue in the world”.

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche said “To step on sacred ground is to be inexorably connected to Buddha dharma. What is sacred ground? It is a place where sublime statues and stupas exist and where enlightened beings have walked, taught and given empowerments.”

This Vajrayana belief holds true for all beings who step on sacred ground, with or without intention or knowledge of Buddhism. Lama Sonam Rinpoche said, “It is like planting a seed that one day, no matter how many lifetimes may pass, will bear fruit.”

The weddings we host create merit for all involved – not only by the income they generate, but by connecting many people to Buddha Dharma. Dungse Rinpoche told Lama Sonam Rinpoche to privately bless each wedding feast as a tsok offering and dedicate the merit for the wedding couple, guests and the entire sangha.

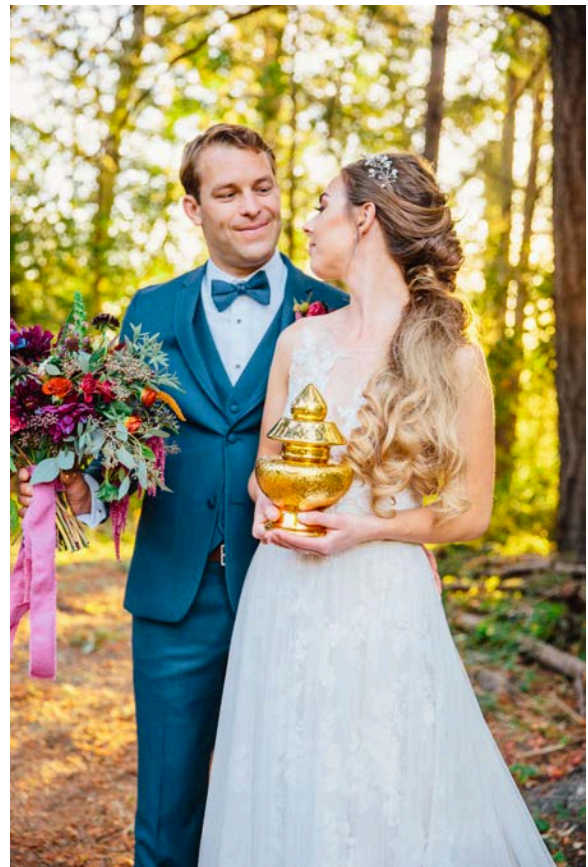
There are many testimonials from guests about their unexpected profound experiences at Pema Osel Ling. We want to share one here (there will be others shared on our new website which will be launched in 2025).

On a Sunday morning, after a wedding, the bride’s father told us about a profound experience he had during the weekend. He explained that one of his daughters had died four years ago and that it tore his entire family apart, as so often happens.

They were all at Pema Osel Ling for the wedding and together for the first time in years. Before the wedding, he walked alone to the stupa. He said he had no real knowledge of Buddhism, but felt a strong urge to pray, although he was not a religious person.

He told us that he prayed that something would happen to heal his family and he began to cry. Later, at the reception, much to his surprise, his wife asked him to dance and whispered that they were the only two people who could really understand what they had gone through. He said that after that, the family talked and danced together and he felt a “dark heaviness lift”.

He asked us many questions about the stupa, feeling that his experience there was the catalyst for this profound reconciliation, and told us he was going to explore Buddhism.

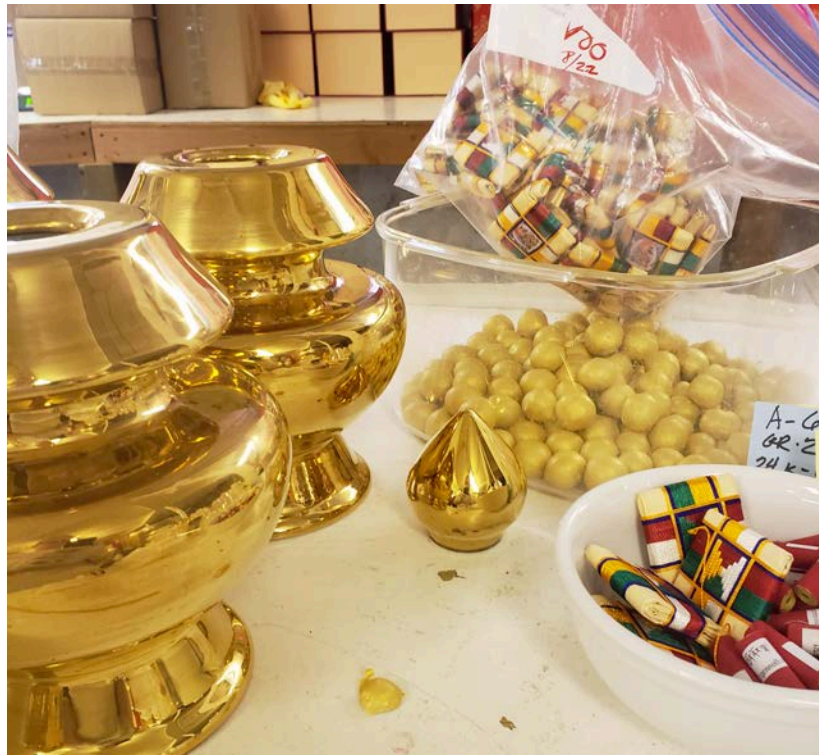


In addition to weddings, we host outside group events. One group that has returned for several years is POC (People of Color) Yoga which supports yoga in underserved communities. We also host Vox Mundi, a group of international musicians and singers, who use their music to heal with sound. Their leader, who has been hosting the retreat at Pema Osel Ling for over 20 years, says that Pema Osel Ling is her “home”.

The weddings and group events at Pema Osel Ling connect thousands of people to the sublime Buddha Dharma and support all of our activity. We are very grateful for our lamas’ vision and guidance, our guests’ generosity and for the tireless efforts of our staff who make these joyful events possible!

May all beings benefit!

**Treasure of Abundance
Dudjom Treasure Vases Produced at Pema Osel Ling**



Filling the Treasure Vases

Treasure of Abundance is the Vajrayana Foundation project that produces spectacular Treasure Vases designed by Lama Tharchin Rinpoche in accordance with the Dudjom Lineage. Under the guidance of Lama Sonam Rinpoche, our team continues expanding the project and making these sacred vases more available on a global scale.

Our customers continue to send in photos and testimonials about their new treasure vases. Here are some we received recently.



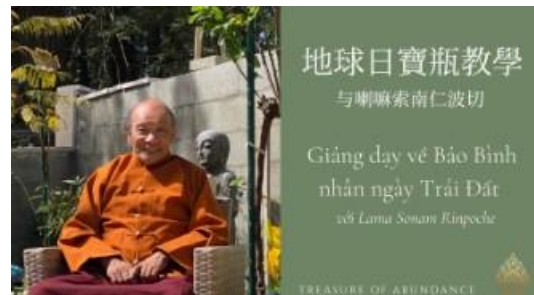
“It is truly a blessing having placed the vase in our house.” (AD)

“The Treasure Vase is elegant and precious. So happy the day it arrived. Radiates lots of positive energy in my environment.” (CT)

“My shrine room feels so blessed with this treasure vase. The Treasure of Abundance is just what the planet and

all sentient beings need during these degenerate times.” (MH)

In 2024, Treasure of Abundance continued its efforts to expand social media platforms, adding new video teachings to our YouTube channel – such as Lama Sonam Rinpoche’s Earth Day Teaching and his “Meaning of Treasure Vases” teaching in the fall.



Chinese translation of “Earth Day Treasure Vase Teaching”

In order to introduce a wider audience to the treasure vases, with the help of wonderful volunteers, we have released subtitled videos and written translations of our Treasure Vase Teachings in both Chinese and Vietnamese.



New Treasure Vases

The Luminous Gold Treasure Vase relaunched this year. A hand-painted version of the gold vase, its beautiful

matt luster finish is popular. The Gold Drop Treasure Vase is our new 2024 addition to the vase collection. It features a pure white vase with a spot of 24K gold on the top.

For more information about the Treasure Vases, visit treasureofabundance.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! Questions? Email us at treasurevase@vajrayana.org

Ngondro Program

Personal Guidance on the Path of Enlightenment



Throughout 2024, the Dudjom Ngondro Program continued to support and encourage Ngondro practitioners and those just curious about Ngondro, by offering open-to-the-public, free monthly Ngondro teachings. These teachings are done on site at Pema Osel Ling and livestreamed on YouTube.

For the members of the Dudjom Ngondro Program, we continue to offer these monthly events: Concise Dudjom Tersar Ngondro and Dudjom Troma Ngondro Accumulation Sessions, Question and Answer Sessions with Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, an annual personal interview with a lama and the annual Dudjom Tersar Ngondro Retreat. In 2025 we will be adding a Troma Ngondro Retreat with teachings and accumulation sessions as part of our Vajrayana Foundation's Annual Summer Retreat.

We have expanded the Dudjom Ngondro Program to include the **Dudjom Troma Ngondro**. Beginning in October of 2023 through October of 2024, as part of the public monthly Ngondro teaching series, Tulku Thadral Rinpoche gave an eight-part, in-depth teaching of the Troma Nagmo Ngondro from the cycle of teachings of Traktung Dudjom Lingpa. In the final teaching of the series, Rinpoche gave the transmission blessing of the Ngondro with his unique melodies, while using drum, bell and kangling.

This addition to the Ngondro Program provides the same rich support and benefits to Troma Ngondro practitioners. Interest continues to grow for the Troma Ngondro Program and we welcome any dedicated practitioner who sincerely wants to accomplish this practice to join.

We appreciate the support of Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, Lama Sonam Tsering Rinpoche and our kind staff and mentors.

The Dudjom Ngondro Program is honored to be part of and to have helped create an environment for a worldwide sangha community who are dedicated and committed to dharma practice. Since 2023 our social media following has tripled, with our reach now extending from North America to Brazil, to Bhutan, to Europe and all points in between!

We look forward to welcoming new members in the coming year.

Facilities, Maintenance and Upgrades



Paving the Eastern Cabin Road

This year has been a whirlwind of facility activity at Pema Osel Ling, as we deal with our aging infrastructure. We've implemented plans to care for

many of our buildings, from guest cabins to spaces that accommodate our precious teachers.

We are overjoyed to report that Tulku Thadral Rinpoche's cabin renovation was finished this year. We were also able to upgrade our translator's cabin and are working on the cabin for our Three Year Retreat master Drubpon Pema Rigdzin. Thank you again to everyone who has helped with these vital projects.



Lamas Happy w/Shrine in Tulku Thadral Rinpoche's Renovated Cabin

Significant efforts were devoted to the Shrine Room. We covered the exterior wood paneling with fire resistant cement board, ensuring long-term protection.

Trees and bushes were cleared around the shrine for fire safety. Dedicated volunteers equipped with climbing gear worked under the hot summer sun scrubbing the shrine's roof.

The Eastern Guest Cabin area saw a complete overhaul of the road and pathways, with erosion control and application of environmentally sustainable path materials, as well as extensive tree and brush removal. There were also improvements to the cabins' interior to make everyone's stay more comfortable.



A top priority has been improving our ponds, wells and water resources, which are vital for sustaining our activities and preparing for emergency situations such as road closures, power outages and wildfires. We bought 2 new water pumps, reopened an existing well and installed more water pipes.

To improve fire safety and drought resilience, we are constantly clearing brush around buildings and creating fire breaks throughout the property. We continue to replace flammable trees and plants near buildings with fire-safe and drought-resistant plants.

Dharma Treasures The Wish-Fulfilling Treasure House of Dharma



Dharma Treasures, “The Wish-Fulfilling Treasure House of Dharma,” offers print and digital practice texts, ritual and shrine items, books, recordings of teachings, and unique Himalayan gifts.

Our store remodel in 2022 has helped us serve more customers during retreats and weddings, and given us precious storage space for our nearly-doubled inventory.

In September 2023 we migrated the online store to a new Shopify platform,

which has made our customer interface and backend management much better all around.

Nearly two-thirds of our business is now coming from online customers. Over the past year, the store's sales have grown significantly compared to the previous 12 months, with over 3100 orders fulfilled.

In addition to providing an important service to our Dharma customers, the store is now making a significant contribution to the financial well being of the Foundation.

Drub Nyiy Döjō Gatsal Three-Year Retreat



“The Joyful Grove that Provides Both Kinds of Accomplishments”

An Auspicious Visit

We recently had the auspicious visit of

Dungse Gyana Ta Rinpoche to Drubdra (three-year retreat)! The reincarnation of Thinley Norbu Rinpoche was present

in Drubdra's shrine room, where the throne of his predecessor sits. He made prayers of auspicious interdependence, blessing the current retreatants, the accompanying lamas Tulku Jigme Wangdrak Rinpoche, Tulku Thadral Rinpoche, Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche, Lama Gyaltzen Rinpoche, and Lama Sonam Rinpoche, his mother Khandro Rinchen, his tutor, and retreat helpers.

After tea, Rinpoche walked around the retreat land, blessing the retreatants' cabins, the *lung-ra* and the Lama Cabin, inspiring everyone with his warm presence.



*Dungsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche with
Drubpon Pema Rigdzin in Drubdra*

Continuity of Three-Year Retreat

In accord with the aspirations of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche in 1992, together with all our precious Lamas, the retreat activity has continued for over 30 years. It is our intention to continue Lama

Tharchin Rinpoche's aspirations by maintaining the facility, producing quality didactic material and inviting lamas to teach the retreatants, while providing spiritual guidance and care.

A new retreat began this year, with three retreatants. They underwent three months of training, accomplishing Ngondro and Three Roots practices, and gaining confidence to correctly perform a Vajrayana *sādhana* – including torma making, chanting, playing instruments and *chöpön* activities. They also keep the land pristine, and are getting to know each other as they live communally.

Now six months into retreat, they are engaging in intensive practice for 12 hours a day, and embarking on the unique journey of the three inner yogas of the creation and completion phases, according to the Dudjom Tersar.

We want to express our gratitude to our lamas, staff and all who serve Drubdra selflessly with compassion, to Tsadra Foundation and all our sponsors, particularly those who bring stability by contributing monthly, and for all of you who keep Drubdra in your hearts!

We are committed to continuing the transmission and practice of the complete Gradual Path of the Dudjom Tersar in the West through Drubdra. Thank you for supporting us in this! For Interest in doing a Three-Year Retreat or a Personal Retreat contact drubdra@vajrayana.org.



Three Year Retreat Facility Opens to Private Retreats

This year, in addition to private retreat accommodations at Pema Osel Ling, the Vajrayana Foundation decided to open some Drubdra (three year retreat) cabins up to sincere practitioners wishing to undertake closed retreats, with a minimum of one month required.

In 2025, these closed retreats will follow the Gradual Path Program (to be

announced soon) and will be tailored to the practitioner's development and goals. Under the guidance of our resident lamas, these retreats will take place in an environment blessed by the presence and teachings of many wisdom holders, and where those practices have successfully taken place many times. Please [email](#) with your interest

Membership

Helping Vajrayana Foundation Support Dharma Year Round



Vajrayana Foundation members had their names read at a special Life Release ceremony in Nepal.

Our membership program, begun by Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche in 2002, continues to grow. Many of our current 175 members have been supporting the Foundation for more than 20 years, and new members join every year.

Members' monthly dues provide much-needed, reliable income for all of our programs and support for the maintenance of our retreat center, including housing for our resident lamas. Members help ensure that these spaces remain available for all practitioners and that qualified teachers can continue their Dharma activities.

By joining the Vajrayana Foundation, members find opportunities to deepen their practice with early notification of upcoming activities and discounts on in-person retreats and Dharma Treasures store purchases. Members contribute to preserving Tibetan cultural heritage and the transmission of traditional Buddhist practices promoting compassion, wisdom and world peace.

New members receive an annual gift, which in 2024 was a beautiful Buddha Amitayus card with a newly translated daily prayer for longevity, and their names read at a special Life Release puja in Nepal.

Being part of a community of like-minded practitioners offers mutual support and encouragement. This sense of belonging is crucial for maintaining regular practice and staying connected to spiritual goals. We value service as part of the spiritual path. Members may be invited to volunteer in roles that support the Foundation's mission,

fostering a sense of service and personal growth.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported the Vajrayana Foundation this year. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts! If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join today!

Magical Display of the Arts



Tulku Thadral Rinpoche Constructing a Mandala

All retreats and Dharma activities at Pema Osel Ling rely on the skillful preparations of resident artists, who produce detailed ritual items for the ongoing ceremonies. Magical Display of the Arts (MDA), a team of resident and volunteer artists, is responsible for the production and careful arranging of the shrine mandala, retreat activities and ritual items.

MDA supports two large retreats and multiple sadhanas and empowerments throughout the year, including Dechos, Dakini and Guru Rinpoche Day pujas and our own Tuesday Troma practice. In 2024, MDA supported two elaborate special events included a Mendrup Drupchen with Namgyal Dawa Rinpoche, and the visit of Gyana Ta Rinpoche with processions, long-life ceremony and sacred dance, along with

two new Snow Lion costumes and their lion tamer!

Costumed sacred dancing (*Cham*), is a special part of our large retreats. We are one of few places in the West where this living tradition is practiced and available to learn. In 2024 we began offering online dance classes as well as teaching them on site during Summer Retreat.

All of our art activity is overseen by lamas who were traditionally trained by Dudjom Rinpoche. We are always training new students who express interest and aptitude.

In 2024, among many projects we:

- made the Portrait sculpture and palace for the long life ceremony of Yangsi Gyana Ta Rinpoche.
- made molds for stupa projects
- Resculpted, painted and gilded multiple sacred objects
- built a new large Lion Throne for Gyana-Ta Rinpoche
- built several palace mandalas
- made hundreds of tormas
- created a new set of molds for the base ornaments of the lion throne
- gilded the sun, moon and norbu at the top of the Parinirvana Stupa at the Joyful Lotus Stupa Mandala
- gilded the standing buddha plaque
- worked on new gilded throne back for Tulku Tadril Rinpoche

In addition, two special projects were undertaken by our resident lama, Tulku

Thadral Rinpoche, two large-scale models in the Round House: one of Zangdolpari, and the other a Vajrakilaya mandala. Beautiful!

Our unique team of artisans was also in demand outside of Pema Osel Ling, with gilded sun /norbu in 24k gold and a moon in palladium shining brightly in the forest of Big Sur, California!



New Deity Palace on the Shrine Mandala

The Magical Display of the Arts team also produces the Treasure Vases for the Treasure of Abundance project, and to help support MDA activities, we sell tsa tsas, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Seed Syllable silkscreens, and shrine-support tormas designed by Dudjom Rinpoche. These items are available at Dharma Treasures and on our online Etsy shop.

Keep up with MDA as we share new creations and behind-the-scenes art projects on our Facebook page "Magical Display of the Arts" and sacred dance at Instagram@magicaldisplay.

Pema Osel Ling Community Outreach



We offer monthly Dharma events downtown at the Wisdom Center of Santa Cruz in an effort to make teachings, transmissions and shared practices more accessible for practitioners in the wider community.

Drubpön Pema Rigdzin holds teachings and ceremonies that focus on the skillful means of Vajrayāna to restore harmony and abundance for individuals, the environment, and all beings, and this year included:

- Orgyen Menla Transmission and Ceremony with Lama Sonam Rinpoche
- Prosperity, Healing and Vitality Restoration Ceremonies
- Rituals to Guide the Deceased
- Meditation Practice on the Five Buddha Families
- Teachings and transmissions on Dudjom Lingpa's Tara Ritual and Aspiration Prayer
- Seminar on Tibetan healing traditions with Dr. Eric Rosenbush and Drubpön Pema Rigdzin
- Calm Abiding Retreat

Our aspiration is for these offerings to support healing within our community and create auspicious connections with Dharma and Pema Osel Ling.

Vajrayana Foundation Brazil

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche often expressed a wish to visit Brazil to support students there with their Ngondro practice. We now have an active group of 62 studying by Zoom under the guidance of Lama Sonam Rinpoche and Drubpön Pema Rigdzin.

In October 2023, the Brazilian Sangha gathered in person for the first time in Rio de Janeiro for two days of healing ceremonies with Dubpön, marking a milestone for our community.

Our hope is that Dharma, especially the Dudjom Ngondro teachings, will become increasingly available to our Portuguese-speaking vajra siblings, nurturing spiritual connections that span continents.

THANK YOU!



As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for our Sangha's unwavering support and dedication to the Dharma. Through your generosity and commitment, the Vajrayana Foundation has hosted a wealth of transformative teachings and retreats, and produced sacred works of art that have touched countless lives.

Your contributions — whether through sponsorship, active participation or heartfelt encouragement — have been instrumental in preserving the precious teachings of the Dudjom Lineage and ensuring their continuity for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this journey. May the merit of your support bring you and all beings boundless joy, peace and blessings in the year to come!