

HARVEY B. ARONSON/LAMA NAMGYAL DORJE



DAWN MOUNTAIN
A CENTER FOR TIBETAN BUDDHISM

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Lama Tsultrim Allione: I have been blessed to know Lama Tsultrim Allione for 54 years. We met in Sarnath, India, in 1971, and like two strands of DNA, our paths have woven together with many significant points of contact over the decades.

I write as a Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, a former Assistant Professor at University of Virginia and Stanford, a Buddhist teacher for 30 years, and a psychotherapist for over 40 years. I am the author of *Buddhist Practice on Western Ground*.

Lama Tsultrim was an impressive nun in 1971, and she remains a source of inspiration to me and countless students and fellow teachers. Clearly a visionary, she has worked tirelessly to make her Buddhist center, a safe, secure, welcoming environment for all students. She has an exemplary track record of embodied compassion in opening Buddhist teachings to all, with sensitivity to the many issues that are present in our culture with respect to gender, gender identity, race. She has been at the forefront of educating Buddhist laypeople in the U.S., and Europe.

She has written the now classic *Women of Wisdom*, appreciating and honoring the enormous contribution of women practitioners in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. She has been tireless in her efforts to uplift women. And she was one of the first teachers in the tradition to sound the alarm regarding ethical transgressions in the Buddhist community and has been an ongoing voice to further an environment of trust and safety in our communities.

She has also been at the forefront of making a Buddhist vision of compassion and wisdom real in the modern world. When our Buddhist center, Dawn Mountain in Houston, Texas was looking for a model of guidelines for a safe community, Tara Mandala had one of the best set of guidelines we could find for ourselves, and they were happy to let us model ours on theirs.

Of note is her fidelity to Tibetan Buddhism, having Tibetan native speakers coming to teach, out of her serious care for honoring the tradition. We have shared many teachers and have had the rich experience of meeting David, her beloved husband, and sitting together at table with our teachers enjoying a wonderful dharma atmosphere of warmth, love, and support. With our mutual enthusiasm for furthering the dissemination of the teachings, we often were up past midnight with our Tibetan teachers learning, planning, and strategizing next steps in teaching.

She honors the practice and philosophy of Tibetan Buddhism in her programs, and she has creatively shared the art of this tradition in her meticulously designed temple on the grounds of Tara Mandala.

With an eye to service and the future, Lama Tsultrim has trained several young teachers to take up the mantle of teaching for the future most notably, of course, her son, Tulku Osel Dorje. We have had the collegial experience of working with both of them on matters relating to Buddhist life in the modern era and have found them compassionate and focused on sustaining this beautiful heritage and bringing it forward for generations to come.

Harvey B. Aronson, Vice President/Lama Namgyal Dorje
Co-founder, Resident Teacher
Dawn Mountain Tibetan Buddhist Temple

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