



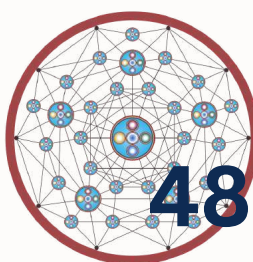
RETREATS EVENTS & MORE

ISSUE 08 | 2025

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COVER ART BY DAVID PETIT



TARA MANDALA RETREAT CENTER

Onsite Retreats 2026

June
01-07

RINCHEN TRENGWA
PRACTICE RETREAT



June
13-21

DAKINI RETREAT
SIMHAMUKHA



Jun-Jul
25-01

WHITE DAKINI
DRUBCHÖ



July
02-05

DZINPA RANGDRÖL
NGÖNDRO



July
09-12

WELLNESS WEEKEND
OPEN HOUSE



July
19-25

FAMILY CAMP



Jul-Aug
30-10

YESHE LAMA
YEAR TWO



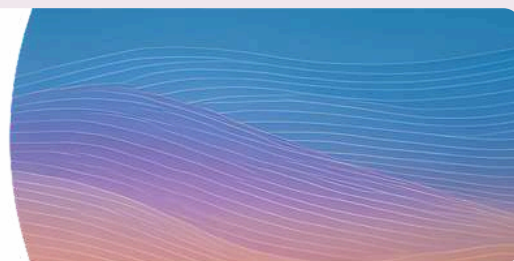
August
15-20

ÖSEL NYINGTIG
GATHERING



August
25-30

S K Y M I N D
THE RADICAL PATH OF
OPEN AWARENESS



September
25-30

DEN TOG CHIGMA
CHÖD



LEARN • MEDITATE • FIND COMMUNITY

RETREATS & EVENTS

Upcoming Online

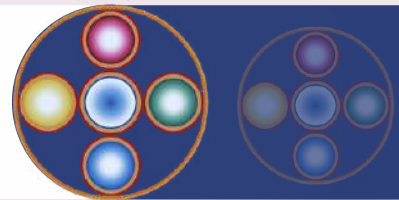
January
17-18

DAKINI NGÖNDRO
THE EXCELLENT PATH OF GREAT BLISS



Feb-Mar
06-11

LONGCHENPA'S
TSIGDÖN DZÖ



February
21-22

SONG OF THE VAJRA
WITH LAMA TSULTRIM ALLIONE



Feb-Mar
27-27

MADHYAMAKA
COMPASSION IN THE MIDST
OF CHAOS



March
28-29

THE SIX BARDOS
BARDO OF THIS LIFE



Mar-Apr
20-11

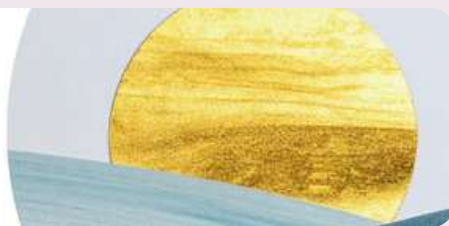
MANDALA METHOD

JOURNEY INTO THE UNION OF THE
SACRED FEMININE AND MASCULINE



April
04-05

RESTING IN THE EYE OF THE STORM



April
25-26

THE SIX BARDOS

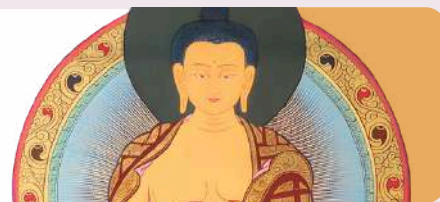
BARDO OF DREAMING



Sep-Oct
18-25

THE PATH OF LIBERATION

HEART OF BUDDHISM-I



Oct-Dec
30-13

WHAT THE BUDDHA TAUGHT

HEART OF BUDDHISM-II



COMING IN
2026

TIBETAN LANGUAGE

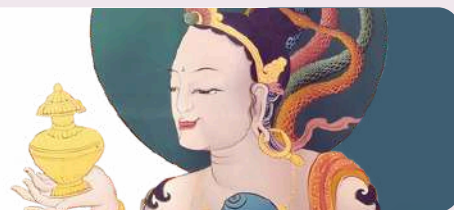
FOR DHARMA PRACTICE



COMING IN
2026

NAGA SADHANA

RITUAL PRACTICE



We are adding more programs to our calendar
[look here for updates.](#)



HAPPENING SOON...

JANUARY
17

Dakini Ngöndro

New cohort begins January 2026.

Enter the path of the Ösel
Nyingtig through this preliminary
practice.



JANUARY
24

K-Pop Demon Hunters + FYD

FYD February kicks off with
K-Pop Demon Hunters brought to
you by the EDI Council and FYD
Institute.



JANUARY
25

Lama Lounge!

By becoming a member, you can
join the Tara Mandala sangha for
intimate dialogues with our
precious teachers. Sharing in their
practical wisdom and practice
advice supports and enriches our
lives and the path.



Join today!

Lama Lounge!

Online Monthly Dharma Conversations
for Sustaining Sangha Members



with Lama Tsultrim Allione

yana

End of Year reflection

from Lama Tsultrim



Dear Dharma Friends,

I want to begin this letter with gratitude for the generosity and support you have given to Tara Mandala this year. It was wonderful to see the land come alive with retreatants, and families, and new construction. Everything was buzzing and it was the first time since COVID that I felt like we were back in the rhythm of a Tara Mandala summer.

We have excellent leadership on the land and throughout our staff. I especially want to thank our Executive Director, Cady Allione, a nonstop whirlwind of bodhicitta, for all the ways she is attending to everything in the organization with so much love and skill. And to our Retreat Center Director, Mia Castle, who leads the land community, she is like an emanation of Tara, dispensing kindness, compassion, and wisdom everywhere, assisted by a wonderful on-site team. Tara Mandala feels stable and vibrant as we look ahead to an amazing onsite season.

Tara's Pure Land

In June 2025, we broke ground for Tara's Pure Land. I went to the land for one day to make the final decision on the placement of the Zhitro Temple before attending the Tögal retreat in New Mexico. It was wild up there on the ridge behind the temple, wind gusting at 50 mph and very hot. With short breaks in the construction trailer to drink water, and then returning to adjust the corner stakes to get them just right. I worked with Courtney King, our architect, and Michael Ross, our contractor, for two hours. I had just finished radiation therapy following a complete hysterectomy for uterine cancer, and it was really hard for me to be at that altitude in that wind and heat, but it needed to be done.

The placement of a building is not something you can change later or decide from afar. Once it's done, you're locked in for better or for worse! But it has turned out well. The building faces east toward the beautiful San Juan Mountains and sits on a triangular plateau near the edge of the slope that descends to the main temple below. Between the Zhitro temple and the slope edge, we marked the place for the cremation kiln to be built by a pottery kiln builder.

“*The place feels like a launching runway to the pure lands!*”



Zhitro Temple under construction at Tara Mandala

After the Tögal retreat with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche in New Mexico, which completed the twelve-year cycle of our Gateway Program of Dzinpa Rangdröl with thirty stalwart practitioners, I returned to Tara Mandala. A few days later, Sang-ngag Rinpoche arrived to give the empowerment for the new group of sixty practitioners entering Gateway. The White Dakini Drubchö was held for the first time in five years, and the new Gateway group, called the *Dragons*, took flight.



White Dakini Drubchö with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche at Tara Mandala

After the empowerment, Rinpoche blessed the foundation of the temple and brought a small vase to be buried under it. Then we began the foundation for the wood-fired kiln that would serve as the cremation structure for the first open-air Buddhist cremation ground in the Western world.



Lama Gyurme Rabgye, Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche with Lama Tsultrim Allione and Tulku Ösel Dorje at Tara Mandala

On Saturday, July 26, I blessed a mandala of Tröma Nagmo incised on a four-inch-thick piece of black granite, and then we buried it under the place where the kiln would be built, thirty feet to the east in front of the Zhitro temple site, right at the edge of the drop-off. It was at the beginning of the Family Retreat, so many of the families took part in the ceremony.



Lama blessing the Tröma Nagmo mandala

Over the rest of the summer, the kiln was constructed, and the temple went up. The kiln is now complete, and the Zhitro Temple is dried in, with electrical and plumbing inspections finished. We expect it to be completed next year.

This makes it possible for you to be cremated at Tara Mandala, or to have your ashes placed there inside the Zhitro temple in a foot-tall golden stupa with your name and dates inscribed on it. Your ashes will be purified and mixed with clay to create tsatsas (small clay stupas), which will go inside the memorial stupa with a purification and blessing ceremony. Lama Gyurmé Rabgye, the artist of Tara Mandala, has long envisioned a Zhitro temple and will perform the ceremonies for cremations and guide the preparation of the stupas.

We have now opened the possibility to reserve a personal memorial stupa, which will be placed in the temple. The stupa design is complete, and they are being made in Nepal. There will be places for 200 memorial stupas in the temple; if there is overflow, walls of memorial stupas will be built outside.



Memorial Stupa

Already, thirty-six people have reserved memorial stupas for themselves and loved ones. Cremation will be available for Tara Mandala members, and ashes can also be brought to Tara Mandala for the stupas. We will continue to share updates with you all along the way.

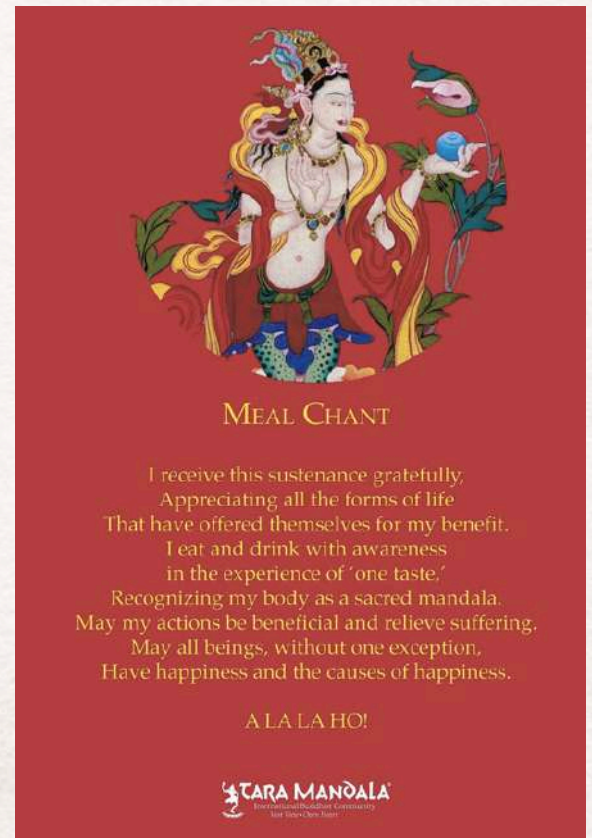
You can learn more about **Tara's Pure Land** and reserve memorial stupas [here](#).



Cremation kiln at Tara Mandala Retreat Center - Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Family Camp

It was precious to have Family Camp on the land again after many years. The teens did a meaningful vision quest, and the younger kids did different crafts and made their own malas. Each year, we have a theme for the families and this year it was the Prayer Before Meals. I wrote this meal chant during our first year at Tara Mandala, when I couldn't find one I liked and felt we should pause and acknowledge more than just the meal before eating. The younger kids learned about everything in our chant, including the mandala, interdependence, and 'one taste'. Here's the chant in case you would like to incorporate it into your mealtime:



The Meal Chant is available at the Dakini Store



Family Camp at Tara Mandala — connection, creativity and friendship

Everyone vowed to return and bring their friends. Kids who had resisted coming were begging their parents to come back! It's great to bring your kids or grandkids or a child you're connected to in some significant way and join us for Family Camp next summer, July 19–25.

Heart of Buddhism and yana

We launched the Heart of Buddhism in 2025, a year-long journey through the history and practices of Buddhism with our core teachers and guest teachers Robert Thurman, PhD, Erik Pema Kunsang, Miranda Shaw, PhD, and Amelia Hall, PhD. It was a big success: 250 people attended the whole year, and another 200 registered for one or more individual segments. We also offered exams for those who wanted to take them. The course gave people a strong base for their path.

We offered over sixty programs last year, and our online community hub *yana* is a virtual campus where people find community through meaningful contributions and reflection, full of resources with live practices offered daily around the world, from South Africa to Sweden, Australia, and all throughout North and South America. There is a group for the aging and ill, and spaces connected to each of our practice paths. There's even a space called *Follow Lama*, where I post regularly about things I'm doing or thinking about and all the places you can find me. If you aren't on *yana*, download the Mighty Networks app and search for *yana* or [join here](#).



Khenmo Tsering Lhamo

In 2025, we welcomed Khenmo Tsering Lhamo, a PhD-level teacher of Buddhist studies from Shugseb Nunnery in Dharamsala, India, for the next three years. She was born in Tibet and personally received teachings from our teacher, who remains there. She loves being at Tara Mandala and says she feels at home because it is like Tibet! She will be teaching online and in person on the land. In the Spring, she will go to Boulder for an English immersion program; in the meantime, Tenzin is translating for her and helping her settle into the community.



Khenmo Tsering Lhamo with Tenzin on arrival



Tenzin and Sangye celebrating with their twin daughters, Emma and Tara



Khenmo Tsering Lhamo on the land

Speaking of Tenzin-la we can't fail to mention the birth of Tenzin and Sangye's adorable twin girls, Emma and Tara, who turned one year old on December 16, 2025. They have brought so much joy to everyone who has visited the land this year and watched them grow.

Looking Toward 2026

As we look toward 2026, we have an exciting year of retreats planned, both on the land and online. My dear friend Krishna Das and the 21 Tara Collective will be hosting a benefit concert for Tara Mandala in May. I am looking forward to teaching the Song of the Vajra Retreat for the first time since I taught it at Merigar, Chögyal Namkhai Norbu's center in Italy, many years ago. His teachings on it are profound and interdimensional and feel important to offer at this time. I will teach this online, so it may benefit as many people as possible.

Over the equinox, March 19–22, will be the first public teaching and transmission ever of The Sadhana of Ama Labkyi Drönma from the terma cycle of Orgyen Khakyab Lingpa called The Precious Treasure of the Unborn: The Rain That Fulfills All Wishes. This is a terma received in a vision of Machig in 2007 at Zangri Kangmar, Machig's seat in Tibet, around the time I was there. It will be held onsite in Encinitas, California, and online.

I will teach the Dakini Retreat in June on the land with Dorje Lopön Charlotte and Lopön Ellen Booth Church, which includes the transmission and practice of Simhamukha, the Lion-Headed Dakini. This will also be a Magyu gathering, as well as open to all.



Mandala Bathing with the hand-painted ceiling mandalas in the Tara Mandala Temple after completion



Tara Mandala participants, sangha members and teachers basking in the afterglow of retreat

Later in the year I will be in Europe: Switzerland September 9–13, Prague September 18–20, Poland September 25–27, and Italy with Tulku Ösel Dorje October 15–18.

I look forward to meeting many of you at Tara Mandala, online or in other places in 2026, and again offer my gratitude for all of you who have supported me through this challenging year and Tara Mandala in so many ways. It is because of you that Tara Mandala is healthy and thriving. You are an example of the teachings and practice in the world, and for that, I am grateful.

Always keep the View,

Lama Tenzin Allione





KRISHNA DAS

Home in the Heart with 21 Taras Collective

Benefit Concert for Tara Mandala

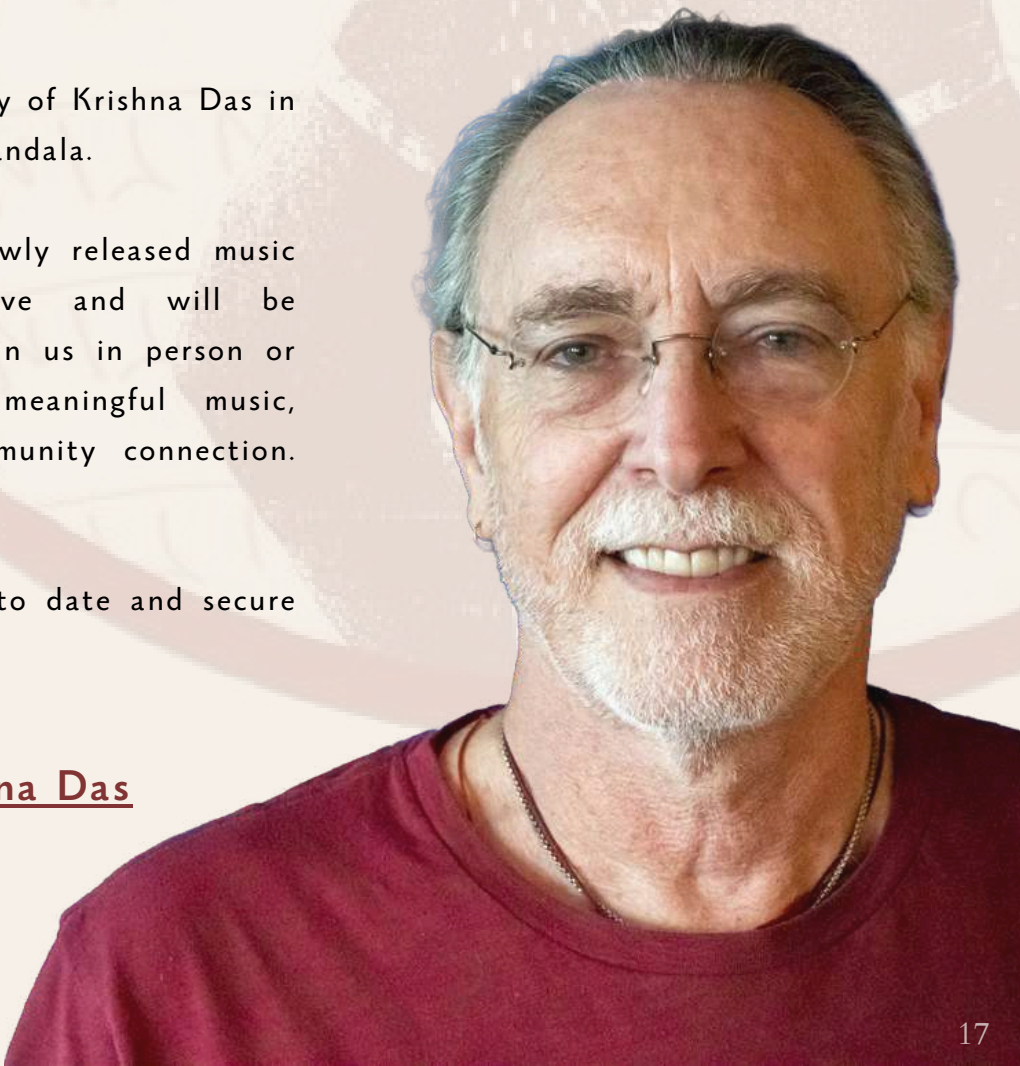
May 2026 – Encinitas, CA and Online

Experience the music and melody of Krishna Das in a live concert benefiting Tara Mandala.

This event will include the newly released music from the 21 Taras Collective and will be professionally live-streamed. Join us in person or online for an evening of meaningful music, devotional chanting, and community connection. Tickets will be available soon.

[Join](#) our email list to stay up to date and secure your spot at the show!

Learn more about [Krishna Das](#)





SONG OF THE VAJRA

February 21-22

with Lama Tsultrim Allione

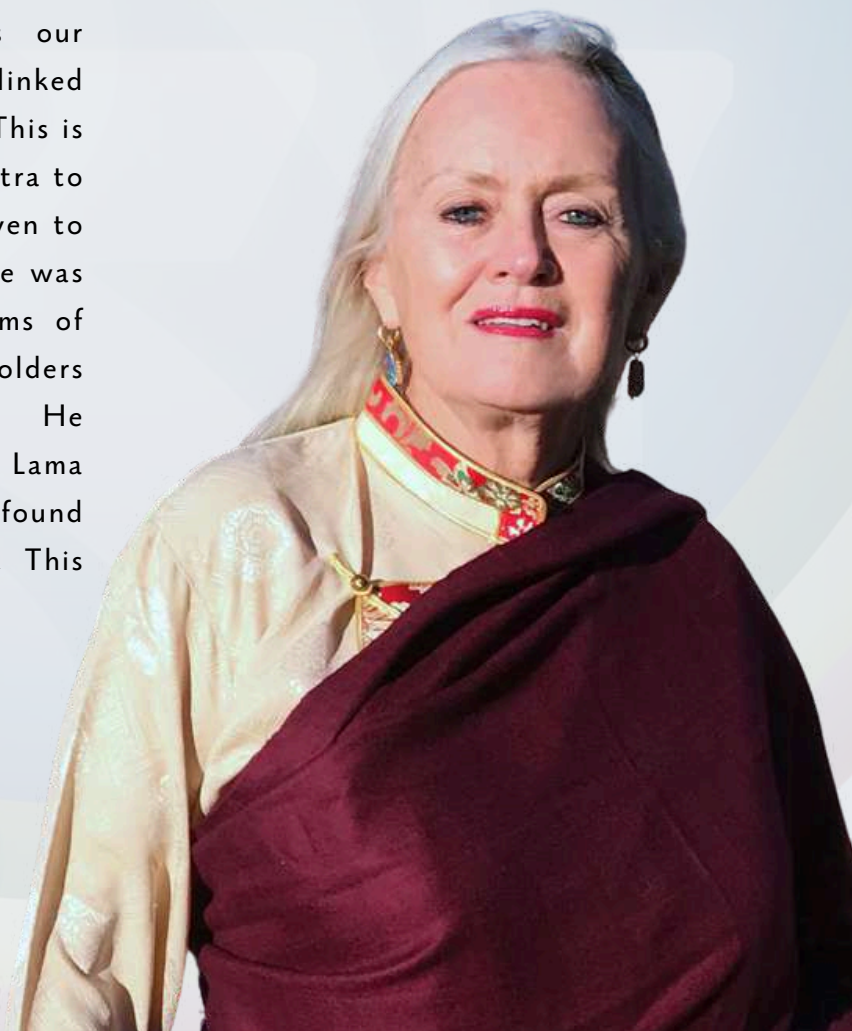
"There is nothing more important to understand than the Song of the Vajra... By singing it, we find ourselves in the state of contemplation and, through its power, we can be present in a state of integration of all our existence." -Chögyal Namkhai Norbu

Each syllable of this mantra represents our awakened potential, our true nature, and is linked to specific chakras and Dzogchen teachings. This is a sound practice, not a song to sing or a mantra to recite. The melody itself is a transmission given to Chögyal Norbu Rinpoche in a dream when he was young, and subsequent teachings and dreams of Princess Goma Devi, one of the 21 lineage holders of Dzogchen Semde from Oddiyana. He transmitted and taught this practice to Lama Tsultrim Allione, who offers this rare and profound teaching for the first time in many years. This program is open to everyone.

Meet your Teacher:

- [Lama Tsultrim Allione](#)

[View the Retreat Program](#)



Looking Ahead

Sustaining Legacy

Moving into the stillness of winter here, I've been reflecting on what this year has been like not only for our organization but for our Sangha as a whole. Deeply listening to the ways you are sharing your experiences with Tara Mandala on the land and out in the world, it is clear we are in a period of change and growth and all that comes with it.

Tara Mandala is entering a dynamic season of renewal and expansion. In the past year, we welcomed hundreds of new people to the land and our programs online. We offered over 280 scholarships and grew to over 4,000 members on *yana*. We welcomed two new sanghas into the world, and *yana* hosts practice several times a day, every single day, in multiple time zones around the world. It is through our successes and challenges that we are growing in ways we couldn't have imagined 30 or even 10 years ago.



Through our connections on *yana* and our monthly email newsletters, we often hear from you, our wonderful Sangha, and are able to respond in real time. Not only your requests for teachings, but your questions about practice, about community, and what it means to be a member here. You light this path for Tara Mandala as much as we light this path for you. Together, we are creating a true refuge and sanctuary for authentic Dharma study and practice.



An online transmission with Lama Tsultrim.

Initiatives, Projects, and Organizational Changes

In 2026, you will see a new website experience, one that is more intuitive, simple and beautiful, and more reflective of the living Dharma that flows through our community. The annual Family retreat is being reimagined to welcome all generations into practice and connection, strengthening the bonds that carry the teachings onward, all in a relaxed family “camp” like atmosphere.

Across the organization, systems and improvements continue to unfold: we are implementing a new CRM to be more responsive to our members while supporting our staff in creating efficiencies and collaboration across all of our departments. Truly acting as one team with a common mission: to uphold and share the Dharma.



Grateful for this time together — Family Camp 2024



Cabin Rehabin' renovations



Zhitro Temple construction is progressing



Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo

Land, Temple, and Culture

On the land, we have ongoing upgrades to cabins and facilities through our Cabin Rehabin' campaign, which will continue to fund the renovations and ongoing maintenance of these special places of deep study, retreat, and practice. The long-awaited completion of the Zhitro Temple and the establishment of Tara's Pure Land is set for 2026, followed by the creation of a Naga shrine at the well site, honoring the elemental forces that sustain this sacred land.

We are honored to welcome the Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo into the community and receive her teachings, and establish more of our Shedra (traditional Tibetan Buddhist education) as an inspiring presence at this time of growth and spiritual deepening. The EDI Council continues to weave awareness into our culture, partnering with the FYD Institute to host a joyful January sangha-wide screening of *K-pop Demon Hunters*, a fun family-friendly event celebrating creativity and inclusion. A guided Feeding Your Demons session will help us awaken to our inherent dignity, and like the hit song "Golden" says, "making beauty from the broken glass."

Community, Practice, and Aspirations

Most heartening of all is the flourishing of community and practice through *yana*, where members connect across distances in safety, authenticity, and depth. Whether on the land or online, Tara Mandala continues to grow as a vibrant mandala of awakening, rooted in lineage and alive with possibility.

It is my honor to be the Executive Director, to witness and support the growth, change, and positive developments of Tara Mandala and our incredible, generous, devoted, and dedicated community. As part of our amazing staff, coming to the land for the first time as a Living Dharma Practitioner, or reserving a favorite cabin for deep retreat, Tara Mandala is a source of refuge in the world, and it is my joy to serve in this role for the benefit of beings, without exception.


Executive Director



The Strength of the Sangha — Together, Authentically, and from the Heart



*Family presence and a heart devoted to the community —
Cady Allione, Executive Director, with her sons at Tara Mandala*



Cabin Rehabin'

\$13,500 Raised So Far!

Help us restore our retreat cabins

We began this campaign to improve our cabins this summer and have already raised \$13,500 towards our goal. We still need your help!

The Tara Mandala retreat cabins are like no other place to enter into a deep personal solo retreat. For years, these cabins have been the foundation for insight, clarity, and liberation. Recently, our onsite team went through each of our five cabins and surrounding grounds with a fine-tooth comb, identifying:

- sagging floors
- weathered decks
- need for new water spigots
- solar panels

The lists are detailed, but workable through your contributions to this Cabin Rehabin' project that will support practitioners like yourself for years to come.



Mia Castle, Retreat Center Director, working alongside a volunteer

Your generosity not only repairs structures but sustains a living tradition.



Preparing the ceiling for careful restoration, honoring the original woodwork



Window details during restoration, strengthening the structure for years to come

Every gift directly supports retreatants by creating safe, comfortable, and inspiring spaces for deep practice. Together, we ensure these sacred cabins remain places of refuge and transformation for generations of practitioners in the future.



The inspiring view from Two Trees retreat cabin at Tara Mandala

Ways to Give:

- **Online:** Visit the Tara Mandala website and select Donate.
- **By Mail:** Send a check payable to Tara Mandala to the official mailing address.
- **Gifts of Stock or Planned Giving:** Contact giving@taramandala.org

Instructions for Making a Tax-Free Donation

Tara Mandala is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Support the Cabin Rehabin' Project →



MACHIG TERMA

March 19 - 22, Encinitas CA & Online

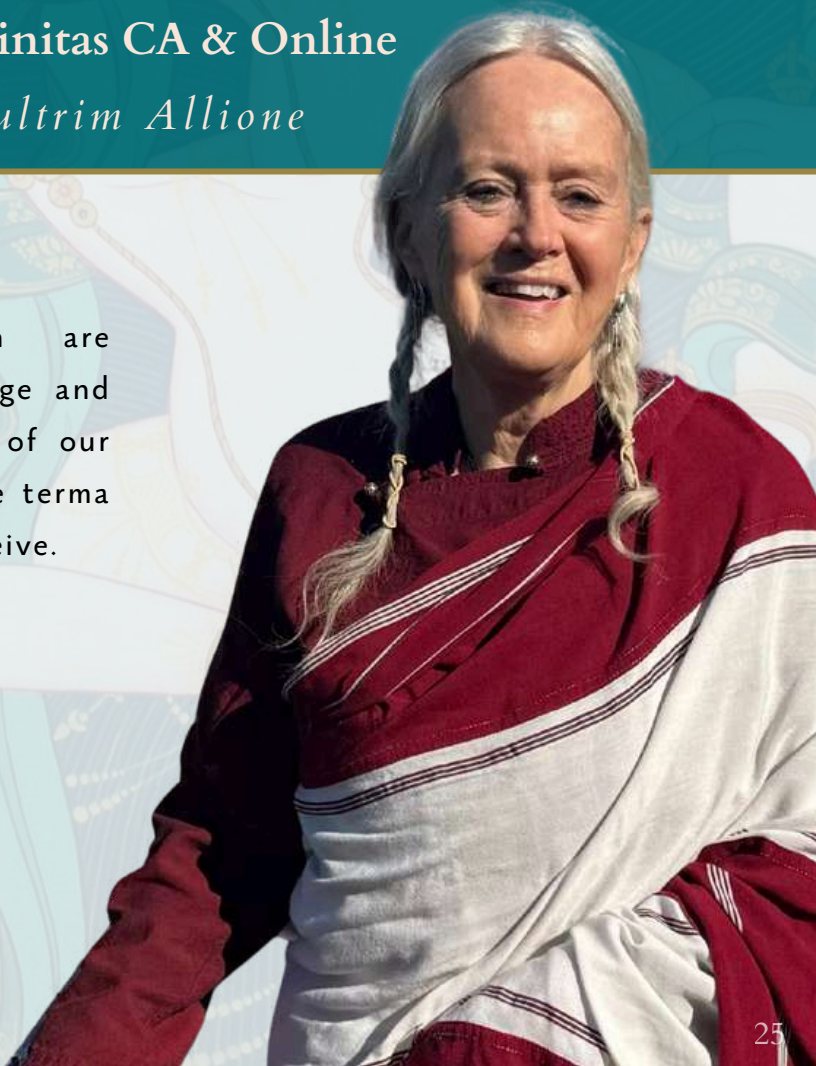
with Lama Tsultrim Allione

The teachings of Machig Labdrön are revolutionary, turning towards with courage and compassion, and the open spacious relief of our true nature waiting to be uncovered. These terma teachings are a rare gift for everyone to receive.

Meet your Teacher:

- [Lama Tsultrim Allione](#)

[View the Retreat Program](#)





FAMILY CAMP

July 19 - 25, Colorado

with Dorje Lopön Chandra Easton and Tara Mandala Teachers

A summer camp experience, Family Dharma Camp is packed with activities for every generation, including all-ages adventures, dedicated youth crews, a parent program, and plenty of time to explore, connect and play!

As a family and community.

Meet your Teacher:

- [Dorje Lopön Chandra Easton](#)

[View the Retreat Program](#)



A Day in the Life

Being on Retreat at Tara Mandala



Meaningful Mornings

The day begins in the soft light of the early morning, where the mountains and meadows are covered in dew and the prayer flags catch the first wind. Retreatants make their way up Prayer Flag Ridge, wrapped in a silent embrace of quiet, moving together, breathing in the crisp air and being present with every step. As the sun peaks over the mountains and warms our backs gently, our practice begins, and the air fills with mantra and

the steadiness of devotion. The walk back to the Community Building carries the scent of pine and sage. Breakfast unfolds in Noble Silence, a meal of presence shared without words. It is a quiet communion with each person aware of one another, of gratitude, of the nourishment that extends beyond food, of the simple beauty of eating together. The silence feels alive, connecting hearts more deeply than conversation ever could.

Practice, Teaching, and Afternoon Reflection

After breakfast, retreatants might move naturally into karma yoga, the practice of mindful service. Some wash dishes, others sweep the temple floors, tend the gardens, or prepare tea and light candles for the next session. Every gesture becomes prayer, every task part of a greater symphony of care.

By midmorning, the sangha gathers again to receive precious teachings in the Trikaya Tara Temple, sitting gracefully nestled among the juniper trees and scatterings of trails leading to and from the center of this sacred land. The spacious view of the Dharmakaya level of the temple opens to a full circle of mountains, hills, ponds, and meadows, alive with color, the flittings of insects, and the sound of drums and mantra throughout this vast and humbling vista. Wild horses neigh in the distance moving in harmony with the land and community. Practice here feels both infinite and intimate; the landscape itself becomes a teacher, reminding each heart of its own spaciousness.

Lunch follows with robust and satisfying soups, salads, grains, and veggies that fill and satisfy. The afternoon brings time for study, rest, and reflection, a sacred pause in the day. Some traverse our beautiful Dakini Store and enjoy a cup of tea and conversation, some hike up to Ekajati peak, while others nap in the quiet of the retreat grounds, rejuvenating in ways that support and nurture what they need most.



Morning karma yoga in the kitchen



Tending the garden as part of the morning karma yoga practice



A nourishing lunch prepared with care by staff & volunteers



Offerings overlooking the land during group practice

The afternoon session resumes around 3 p.m. and may be a mix of formal practice, art and movement, and teachings in the temple continuing until evening, awaiting the sound of the conch shell announcing dinner. Walking to and from the temple, some remain in silence, others share soft conversation about the teachings and personal insights sparked by the practice. The land itself seems to hold these reflections and aspirations, planting like seeds in the ground to sprout and bloom.

Evening and Reflections

Dinner begins with community holding hands and offering the meal chant as the light turns gold, then fades into the hues of sunset with the clinking and chattering of a lively evening meal under the big yellow tent. Karma yogis wash dishes, clean the kitchen and sweep the floors in preparation for the next morning. The evening practice draws the day to a close, each retreatant returning to their rooms in noble silence once again. The quiet is full now—full of understanding, of connection, of something beyond words.

At Tara Mandala, each day unfolds as both outer journey and inner pilgrimage. The vast views, the rugged beauty, and the shared rhythm of practice open the heart wider. In this place, community and landscape become one field of awakening, one that is alive, luminous, and deeply human.



Retreatants, volunteers and staff celebrating community and expressing gratitude before the meal

Perspectives from Staff and Volunteers

“

As the retreat season begins, it can sometimes feel a little daunting. What renews our motivation is remembering why people come here: to receive the Dharma with open hearts, seeking what feels most true and essential in their lives. Each retreatant arrives carrying a deep wish for connection and transformation, and our role is to help create the conditions for that wish to unfold. This is what motivates me to be open, stable, and steady within myself.

- Mia Castle, Retreat Center Director



Offering a warm welcome is more than hospitality; it's a form of practice. When we meet retreatants with openness, steadiness, and genuine care, we help them settle quickly into the rhythm of Tara Mandala. Our calm presence becomes part of the field that allows them to rest, receive teachings, and open to the majesty of this sacred land. It's important to remember that each person who comes here makes a sacrifice of time, resources,

and comfort to be part of this experience. Not everyone arrives seeking liberation, but everyone is seeking something meaningful. Our task is to refine our motivation so that we become true vessels for the teachings by holding the container of retreat with compassion, clarity, and respect. To serve in this way is to embody what Tara Mandala stands for: awakening through service, community, and heartfelt connection with the land and lineage.

[Interested in Volunteer Service at Tara Mandala ?](#)



THE DAKINI RETREAT

June 13 – 21, Colorado

with Lama Tsultrim Allione and Dorje Lopön Charlotte Rotterdam

The celebrated and unique retreat is back! A week of transformational personal work within the container of spiritual practice. This deeply experiential retreat involves meditation practice, art, mask making, sound, and movement working with Simhamukkha, the Lion-headed Dakini.

Open to all and Magyu members will enjoy special gatherings with Lama Tsultrim Allione and Dorje Lopön Charlotte Rotterdam during the retreat.

Meet your Teachers

- [Lama Tsultrim Allione](#)
- [Dorje Lopön Charlotte Rotterdam](#)

[View the Retreat Program](#)





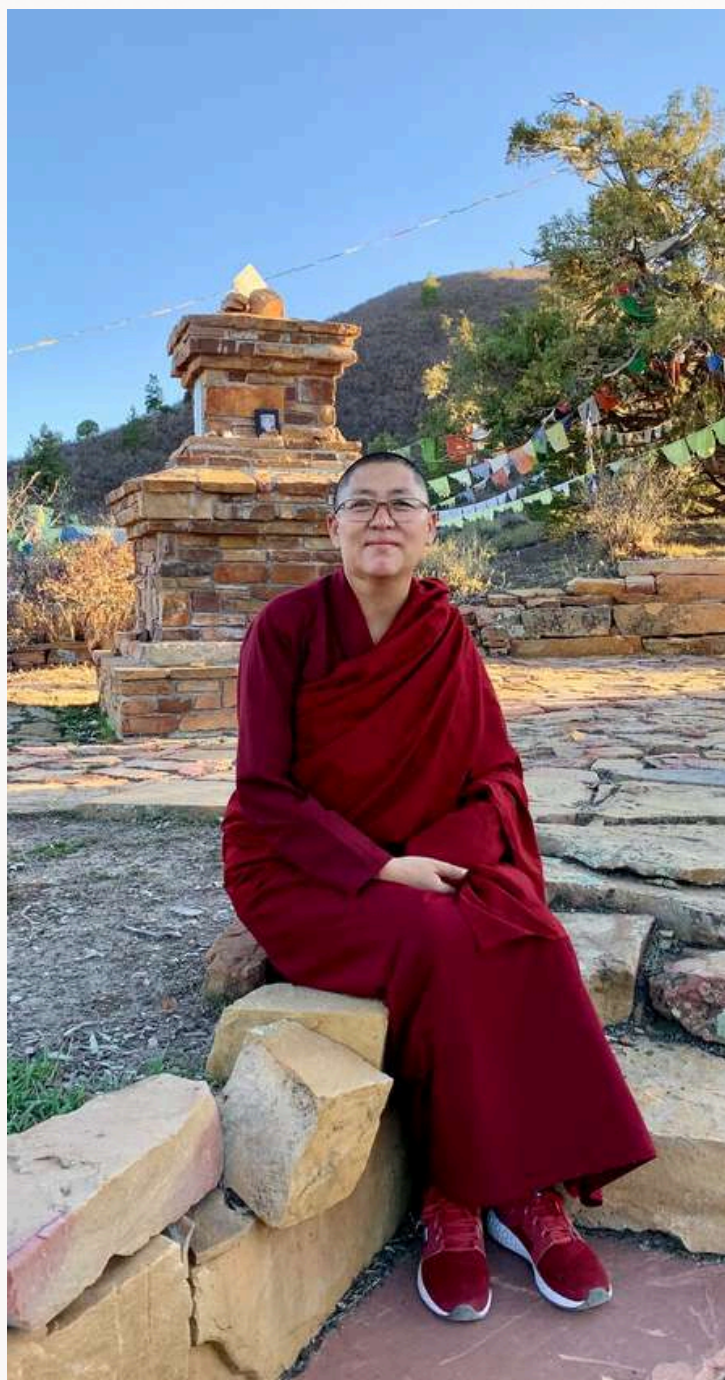
Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo

Feeling at Home in the Land of Juniper Mist

When Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo first arrived at Tara Mandala this autumn, she smiled and said it felt like coming home to Tibet. The mountain air, the quiet expanses, and even the juniper trees reminded her of Shugsep Monastery, whose very name means “mist among the junipers.”

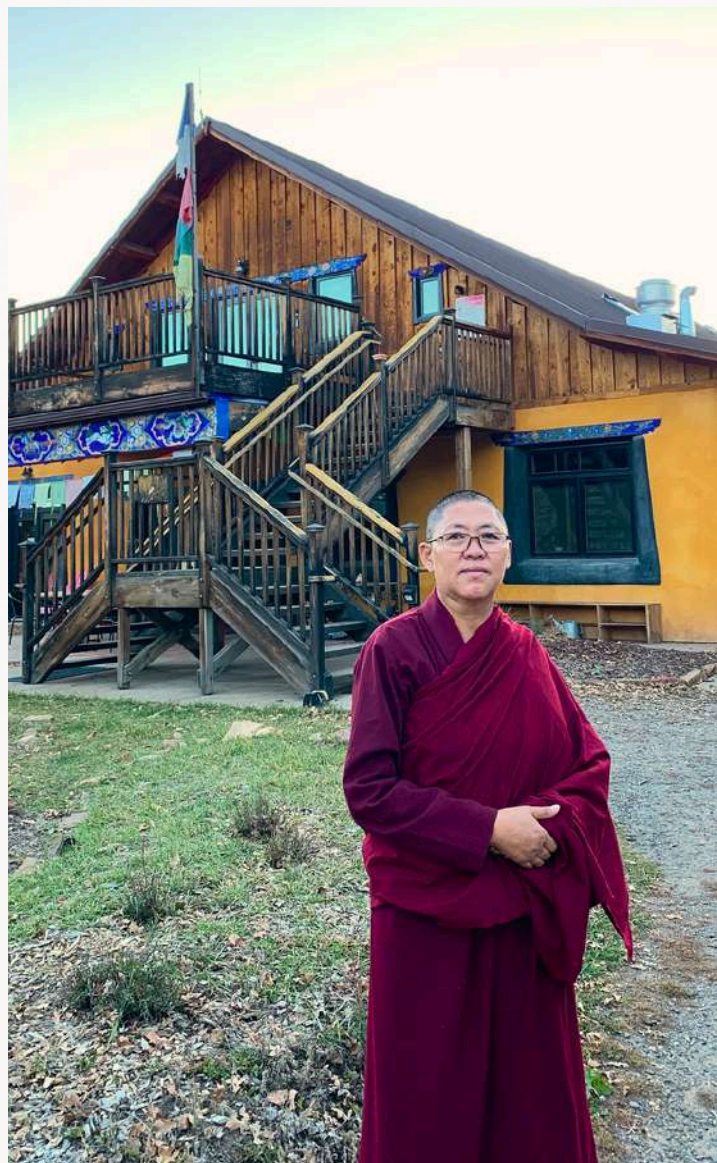
Arrival and Daily Life

Her name, Tsering Lhamo, was given by Orgyen Khakhyab Lingpa. Having earned the title of Khenmo, an academic and spiritual rank equivalent to a PhD, she brings with her both depth of scholarship and a warm, grounded presence. In interviews with Lama Tsultrim and others, she shared that while she had imagined America as skyscrapers and highways, Tara Mandala instead felt familiar and homey, a sacred landscape that immediately welcomed her.



Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo

Since her arrival, the Khenmo has begun a rich cadence of life and study: daily practice in the shrine room, English lessons with Tenzin, and weekend teachings for visitors. On her first trip to the grocery store, she marveled at the abundance and order, laughing at the novelty of finding car repair tools and vegetables in the same place, and at the spotless butcher's counter, so unlike those in India.



Khenmo Tsering Lhamo at the Community building

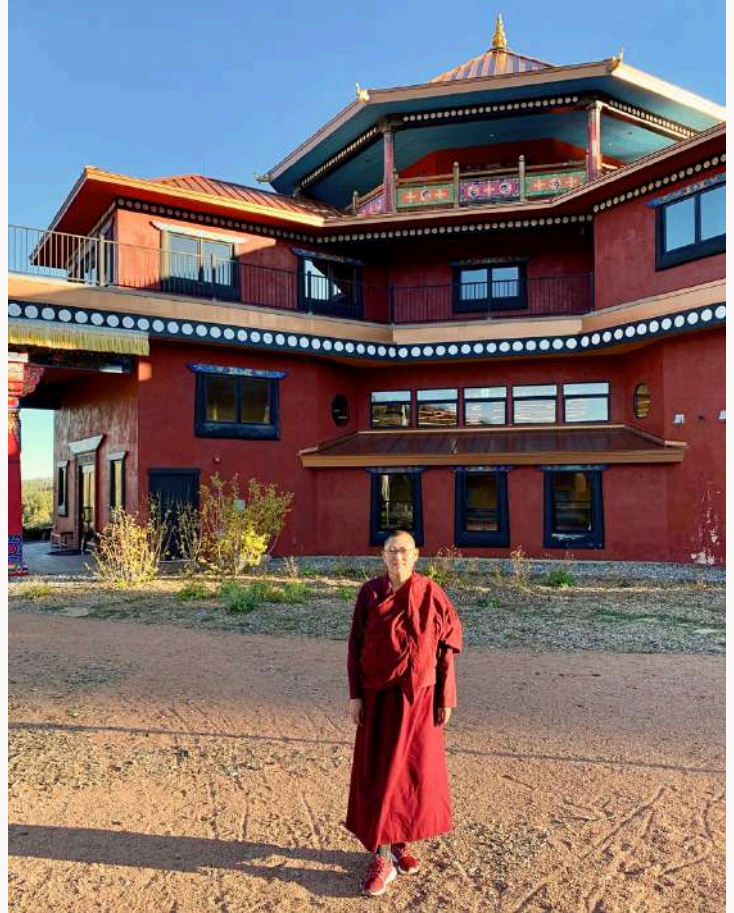
Khenmo Tsering Lhamo is also reviewing translation work on the Ösel Nyingtig, continuing a role she held at her monastery, where she served as editor of texts and a collaborative Dharma publication. In the coming months, she will spend time in Boulder, Colorado, participating in an immersive English program at the university, deepening her ability to teach and connect directly with Western students.

The Zhitro Temple and solitary retreat cabins made a deep impression on her. She expressed heartfelt joy at seeing such dedicated practitioners investing their time and resources into serious Dharma practice, something she knows well from her years of monastic leadership.

Together with Tulku Ösel Dorje and Tenzin Sangpo, she is now developing a module-based series of teachings on Buddhist philosophy, Madhyamaka, and Vajrayana, which will be shared through live-streamed programs from the temple. The Tara Mandala Center staff Sangha, especially Tenzin, Sangye, and their daughters, have offered warm hospitality, helping Khenmo-la feel at home in her new daily life.

She joins in temple care, tending the shrine and flowers, although Tenzin humorously admits he drew the line when she asked to sweep the floors herself!

Over the next three years, Venerable Khenmo Tsering Lhamo will continue to live and teach from Tara Mandala, contributing her deep understanding, humility, and joyful energy to the life of the sangha. As she said upon arrival, surrounded by the scent of juniper and the vastness of the mountains:



Khenmo Tsering Lhamo at the Trikaya Tara Temple

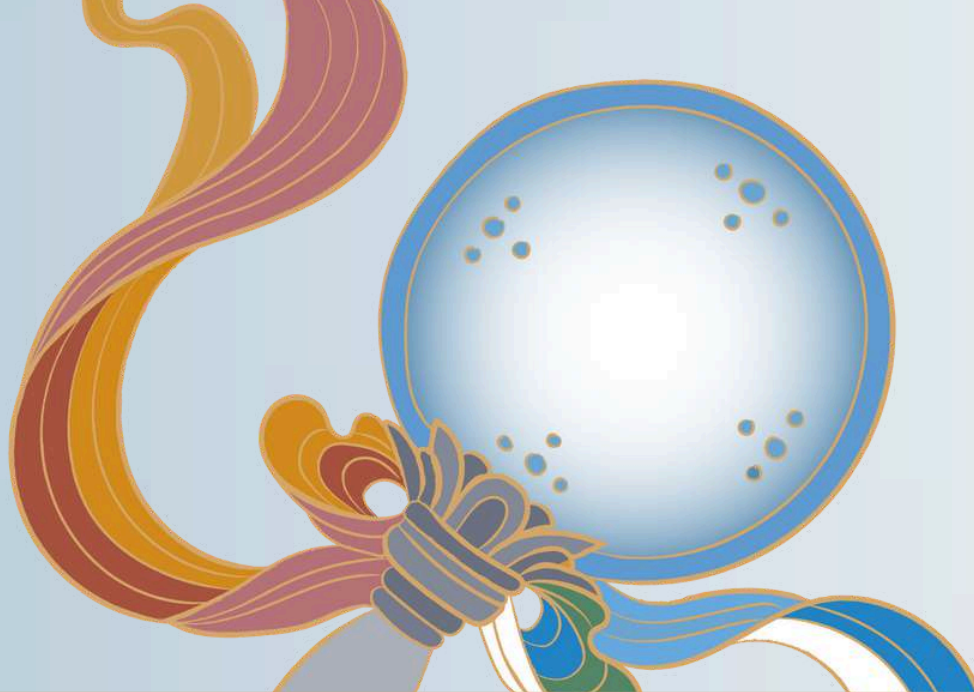
“

This place feels like home—a place where the Dharma is alive!

[Read more](#) about Venerable Khemo Tsering Lhamo on *yana* in her interview with Lama Tsultrim.



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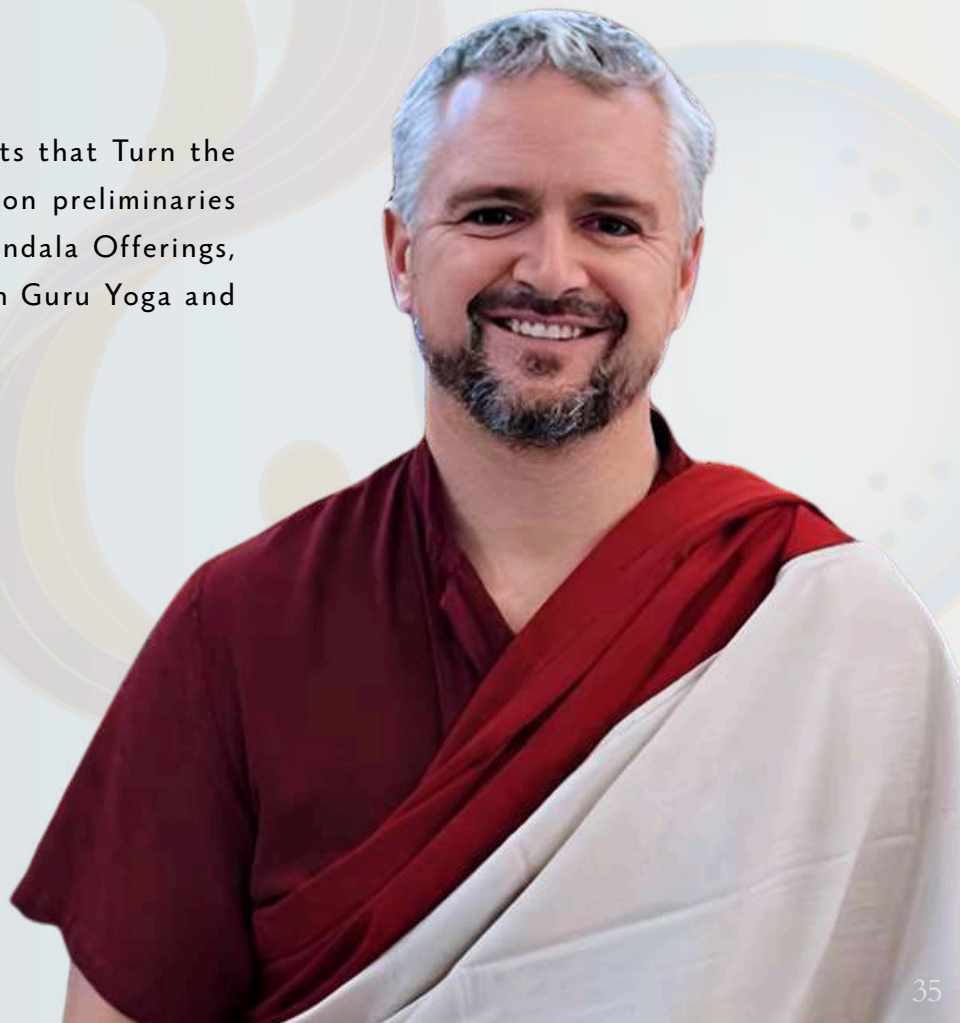
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Winter Solstice

DECEMBER 21, 9AM PST

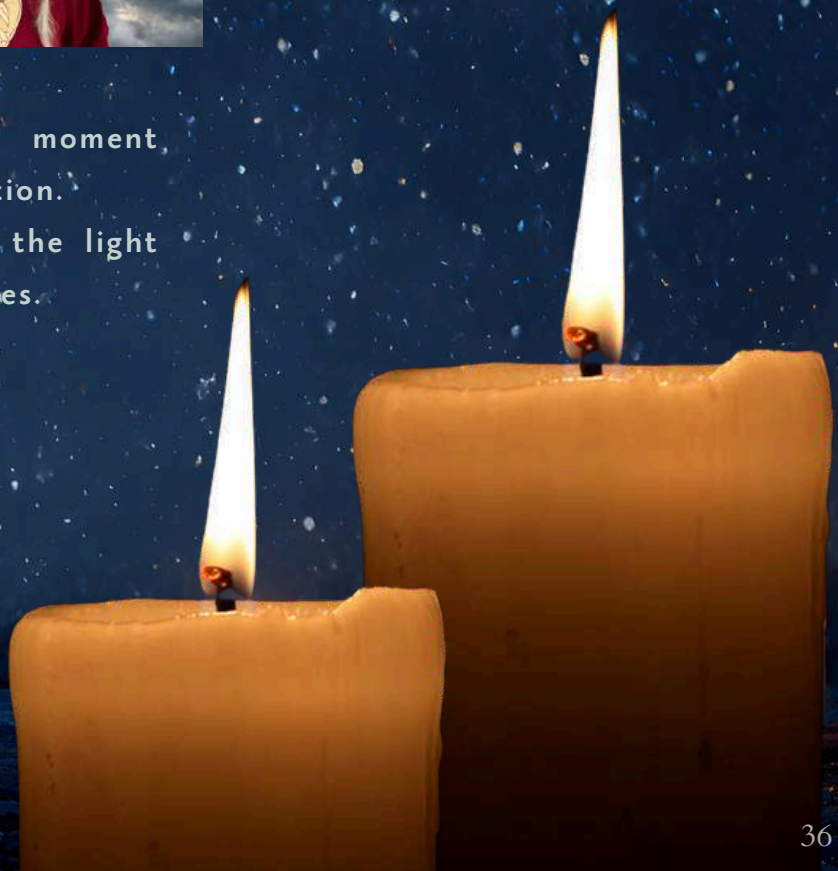
Winter Solstice marks the longest night.
The turning of the season. The return of the light.



Together, we honor this sacred moment
through Buddhist wisdom and meditation.
We pause. We reflect. We welcome the light
rising in the world and within ourselves.

Bring your intentions. Bring a candle.
Invite in what you wish to grow
for your life,
for our world,
and for the year unfolding.

Freely offered and open to all



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Make your offering today and help Tara Mandala flourish into the new year.

Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar through December 31, doubling its impact. Your support of Tara's Gardens, Dharma offerings, and the areas of greatest need will benefit our community worldwide.



Lama Tsultrim Allione at Tara Mandala

“

Tara Mandala was created to bring people together to support each other, practice, and do retreat in order to reach realization. The second purpose of Tara Mandala is to be a temenos for the emergence of the sacred feminine, through the lens of Vajrayana, leading to the balance of genuine partnership between the masculine and feminine in our world.

- Lama Tsultrim Allione



You will receive a downloadable PDF of Lama Tsultrim's Seed Syllable Calligraphy, a golden TAM, the seed syllable of Tara, with each gift.

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— Maria S. Scholarship Recipient

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“

Those who share the Dharma, giving those less fortunate or in developing countries a chance to learn more about their practice, are feeding the roots of Dharma on other continents. It is my sincere intention to pay your generosity forward – if not in currency, in guiding others who would like to learn more the Dharma in Africa.

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A year as living relation

Words by Drimé

A year is a long time when you are living it, and a strangely small one when you try to look back. When I think about this year on yana, I don't see a timeline of events or a sequence of programs so much as the ease of familiarity, the steadiness of shared practice, the sense of being among people who know how to practice together. A way of sitting with what is difficult and what is ordinary and what is luminous. What we made together was something we could return to. And that is what made the year what it was.

In 2025, people came to Tara Mandala's digital spaces carrying full lives: grief and joy, devotion and doubt, exhaustion and curiosity. They came from many places, across many time zones, often at inconvenient hours. They came anyway.

Accumulation of presence

We could say—and it is true—that thousands of people were part of this community this year. That many were active. That together we generated 152,372 moments of participation. It is a striking number. It deserves to be named. But it is also incomplete.

Numbers can gesture toward presence, but there is no way they can capture it. A "moment of participation" might mean joining a practice session while distracted, tired, or unsure. Or posting a personal reflection, sharing something for the first time ever, and feeling less alone. Or someone reading, late at night, finding something they didn't know they needed. It might be a question asked, or a question not yet ready to be asked.

Data sourced from Mighty analytics, current as of December 17, 2025.

4,212

Total
Members

2,646

Active
Members

152,372

Total
Contributions

We are
wholeheartedly
grateful to...

...Lama Tsultrim, Senior
and Apprentice
Teachers, who show up
again and again,
transmitting wisdom and
guidance grounded in
lived practice

...our Global Sangha
Leaders and the members
of their Mandala
Committees, who keep
the rhythm of shared
practice alive through
their steady, generous
offering

...our Sustaining Sangha
members, whose
ongoing generosity
makes so much possible
for one another on the
path, and for the
existence of yana itself



...yana Hosts and
Moderators who
skillfully take care of
details that rarely receive
attention, but make our
experience feel held and
uninterrupted

...the wider
community, whose
presence, dedication,
and enthusiasm shape
the tone of our shared
spaces — kind, sincere,
human

...our yana Community
Kalyanamitra, Lopön
Ellen Booth Church,
who brings warmth
without sentimentality,
depth without heaviness,
and a sense of genuine
friendship

...for making
yana a good
place to be.



What we continue

This community exists because you do. Because you, our sangha members, continue to choose relationship—with the teachings, with one another, with the discipline of practice itself. We are a living relational field, shaped over time by presence, return, and care.

As we move toward the year ahead, my intention is to keep staying with an open heart—to notice what supports real practice lives, to shape yana with love and respect for the fact that we are all living full, complicated lives. To keep making something true.

Yours,
Drimé

Let's meet on yana →



EDI COUNCIL & 21 TARAS: MODERN DAY TARAS

with Dorje Lopön Chandra Easton



Dr. Maya Angelou, a modern embodiment of Tara Vajra Sarasvati — The Melodious One, radiant source of insight, creativity, and eloquence. Her voice cuts through confusion and reveals truth, awakening the wisdom within us all.

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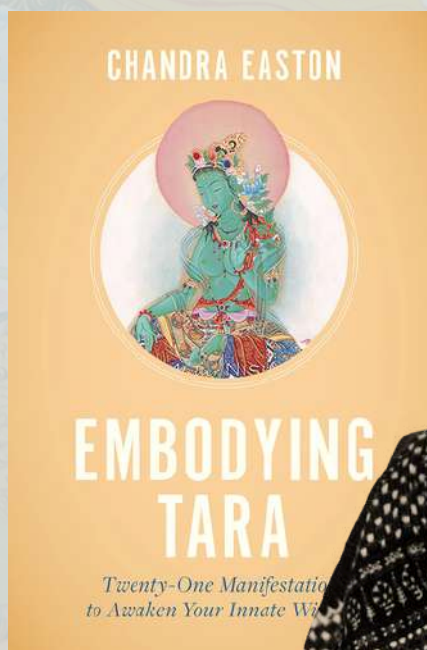
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Tara Mandala Global Sanghas

Growing Together Worldwide

Tara Mandala's Global Sanghas form a living network of Dharma practice across the world, more than 40 groups in nine countries, each rooted in local community and connected through lineage, study, and shared devotion. These sanghas hold regular gatherings, study sessions, and retreats, offering places where practitioners can deepen their connection and embody the teachings in everyday life. As part of being a member of Tara Mandala, you can access this treasure trove of opportunities to go deeper and develop meaningful relationships with fellow practitioners on the path.

Our newest sanghas are blossoming in Santa Cruz, California, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, both vibrant communities guided by experienced leaders and inspired by Tara Mandala's mission to bring authentic Vajrayana practice into the modern world. In Santa Cruz, the ocean's rhythm meets the Dharma's flow as practitioners gather for book study, meditation, and meaningful connection. In Santa Fe, the desert sky and mountain air provide a sacred backdrop for deep practice and immersive teachings by our dear Lopön Polly Ryan.

Wherever you are, joining a local sangha is a way to strengthen practice through relationship, community, and lineage, each group a vital thread in the global mandala of awakening.

Learn more or find your nearest sangha here: taramandala.org/connect/global-sanghas



Santa Fe Tara Mandala Sangha

Awakening in the High Desert • Practicing in Community

Join the new **Santa Fe Tara Mandala Sangha**, a community devoted to meditation, study, and living the Dharma in everyday life. Guided by Lopön Polly Ryan and connected to the global Tara Mandala lineage, we offer:

- Group practice and guided meditations
- Teachings from the Tara Mandala curriculum
- Opportunities for local retreats and gatherings

Discover a space of warmth, wisdom, and authentic connection under the vast New Mexico sky.

Contact: Santa Fe, NM

Santa Cruz Tara Mandala Sangha

*Rooted in Lineage • Nourished by Community
• Open to All*

Join the new **Santa Cruz Tara Mandala Sangha**, part of the global Tara Mandala network founded by Lama Tsultrim Allione. This sangha is facilitated by Sandra Messick. We gather regularly for:

- Meditation and Dharma book studies
- Tara Mandala lineage teachings
- Community connection and shared practice

All levels of experience are welcome. Together, we bring the Dharma to life through compassion, wisdom, and joyful presence.

Contact: Santa Cruz, CA



TARA MANDALA GLOBAL SANGHAS

Please visit www.taramandala.org/sangha for more info

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