

Obituaries

Lama Zopa Rinpoche requests that “students who read Mandala pray that the students whose obituaries follow find a perfect human body, meet a Mahayana guru and become enlightened quickly, or be born in a pure land where the teachings exist and they can become enlightened.” Reading these obituaries also helps us reflect upon our own death and rebirth – and so use our lives in the most meaningful way.

Advice and Practices for Death and Dying is available from the Foundation Store www.fpmt.org/shop



Betty Chalupsky (formerly Kester), 67, died in Brisbane, Australia on June 26, from heart failure.

Betty had the good fortune to be a student of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa in the early 1980s at the time when Tara House (now Tara Institute) was first set up in the Melbourne suburb of Kew. She made a significant contribution to the establishment and administration of the center at that time. Betty remained a devoted student of Mahayana Buddhist teachings for the rest of her life. She returned to South Africa in 1983 where she was born, returning to Australia in 2004 with her second husband Paul. Ven Tenzin Chodron offered prayers in the loving company of Paul, her sons Mark and Murray, and her first husband, Garth.



Hazel Cullimore, 67, died in Burlington on August 3, 2007 Canada of leukemia.

By Heather Moore (Thubten Khadro)

Hazel Cullimore was one of the warm-hearted elders at Lama Yeshe Ling Tibetan Buddhist Study Group in Ontario, Canada. She had a Master of Social Work and was a Psychoanalyst. For years she had advised on ethics for McMaster University Hospital. She was

a wise and compassionate woman who had made a difference to countless people through her career and her caring friendships. In the last year, she led our group, Companions on the Path, as we studied “Ethics for the New Millennium” by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

After she had a brain aneurism some years ago, her vision was severely limited. One night, after the teaching, someone passed Hazel the bundle of incense that was to be carried in front of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and his party. Unable to see in the gloom of the arena, she was bumping around beside the group and I wasn’t able to get past them to help her. Rinpoche saw what was happening, got to her, took her arm and together they hurried out to his car, laughing and skipping ahead of the others. When they reached the car, Hazel said, “You must be very tired,” and Rinpoche responded, “Not as tired as you are.” Those moments between them made such a difference in her life.

When Rinpoche suggested mantras and practices for her during her illness, we immediately started them. When Rinpoche suggested animal liberation, I bought all the worms the bait man had, releasing them in a pasture in the country. Another friend rescued a baby opossum from a garbage truck, and returned it to its mother.

When she was in the hospital and failing, I was reciting the Medicine Buddha mantras into her ear and she opened her eyes, smiled and tried to finish it with me. She died with a beautiful smile on her face, as Dekyi-Lee Oldershaw and I recited the King of Prayers.



Pascal with his partner Marie Adeline, Lama Zopa Rinpoche and the cat Osiris who would sing along whenever Rinpoche was chanting prayers.

Pascal Escoffier, 47, died in Paris, France, on July 25, 2007, of cancer
By Marie Adeline

Pascal was a joyful person, a talented musician, composer and guitar player. He received the Kalachakra teachings and initiation from His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New York and attended many teachings from Lama Zopa Rinpoche as well as many other Lamas in the US and in France when I was director of Kalachakra Center.

Upon a request from Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Pascal wrote three Dharma songs: “Destination Love,” “We wanna be happy,” and “We make the world better”.

In his too-short life he had time to make many people happy with his wonderful sense of hospitality, his great music and delicious food (he was the great-grandson of Auguste Escoffier, the “king of chefs and chef of kings”), and most of all he had the good karma to make connections and receive the blessings of sublime authentic spiritual leaders. At this time he is probably already in a Buddha’s pure land or getting ready to take a precious human rebirth. ☸