

VEN. LHUNDUP NYIMA (AILEEN KLIMA), 57, died at Land of Calm Abiding near Cambria, California, US, on February 24, 2020, in an accident

By Drolkar McCallum

Ven. Lhundup Nyima did her first one-month November Course at Kopan Monastery in Nepal in 1998. Originally from Austria, she spent the next four years moving between Dharamsala, Bodhgaya, and Kathmandu, receiving teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and doing nyung nä retreats and a three-month Vajrasattva retreat.

It was always a great joy meeting up with Ven. Nyima at Rinpoche's retreats over the years. She was like a wee ball of sunshine. I first met her in the late 1990s in Bodhgaya, when I was ordained. She had been watching me from a nearby table in a small cafe. When I smiled at her she shyly ventured forward and quietly said that I looked so happy and could she ask me a few questions about being a nun! I will miss her lovingly peaceful presence.

Ven. Nyima took ordination from Geshe Lhundub Sopa at Kopan Monastery in 2000.

Ven. Anet shared, "I met Nyima la in Bodhgaya at the very beginning of the new millennium when His Holiness the Dalai Lama was giving teachings. We did not talk much that time, just acknowledged each other in the endless hustling and bustling crowds of people.

"The next time we met was at Kopan on November 26 of the same year. We were both freshly shaved, first-time-dressed by Ven. Ingrid, a mixture of excited and nervous and ready to receive ordination from Geshe Sopa la. After ordination, Rinpoche's *mo* was in favor of both of our plans, and so we went our separate ways for a bit. Little did we know that later we would both be fortunate enough to offer service together at Kachoe Dechen Ling, Aptos, California."

In March 2002, Ven. Nyima moved into the Chenrezig Nuns Community at Chenrezig Institute in Queensland, Australia, on Lama Zopa Rinpoche's advice. She lived there until the end of

2004, participating in the FPMT *Basic Program* taught by Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Tashi Tsering. In March 2005, on the advice of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Ven. Nyima moved to Milarepa Center in Vermont, US, to serve as the spiritual program coordinator for two years.

Ven. Chökyi shared, "Ven. Nyima spent some years as a corresponding Dharma mentor with Liberation Prison Project students while she was studying at Chenrezig Institute and working at Milarepa Center. At that time Ven. Nyima reflected,

"I feel very fortunate being able to write to LPP students and thereby in a small way repay the inconceivable kindness of my teachers."

From November 2006 to August 2009 Ven. Nyima offered service at Kachoe Dechen Ling in Aptos. Then she moved to Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa in Italy where she participated in the FPMT *Masters Program* from August 2009 until April 2013, completing the modules Supplement to the Middle Way (Madhyamakavatara), Abidharmakosha, and Grounds and Path of Secret Mantra before completing a three-month solitary retreat at O.Sel.Ling Centro de Retiros in Spain. Ven. Nyima returned to Kachoe Dechen Ling in 2013, serving there for six more years before moving into retreat at Land of Calm Abiding.

"What stands out most for me, when I think of Nyima la, is her unwavering faith. We used to joke that she had more faith in her little finger than I have in my whole body! I am convinced that it was this faith that kept Nyima going while doing the water bowl offerings at Kachoe Dechen Ling for all these years, even though she was such a tiny person and had continuous struggles with her chronic physical ailments," Ven. Anet said.

"Over the years Nyima and I got to spent many ordination-birthdays together," Ven. Anet continued. "Not so last year, as Nyima had already moved to Land of Calm Abiding. We said we would definitely do something for our upcoming twentieth anniversary even if we were on different continents, forgetting as we do so often that we might be in different lives. If I am still in this present body when November 26, 2020, comes then I will definitely think extra strongly of Nyima, wherever she might be now!"

Please go online to read a longer version of this obituary, including more remembrances of Ven. Nyima: fpmt.org/mandala/this-issue/



ILYA ARTEMYEV

23, died in Moscow, Russia, on
May 21, 2020

By Ondy Willson

Ilya was a sensitive soul. He had a charisma about him that invited you to sit with him and be held in his presence. In conversation, his appreciation and understanding of the Dharma shone through. With a very close network of supportive Dharma practitioners he was loved and nurtured.



He had a most loving family, who all struggled to give him what he needed to grow and develop. That he died so young seems a tragedy, but we all know that the teachings on attachment, impermanence, and karma tell us to accept whatever event befalls us with patience and wisdom.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche was one of Ilya's main gurus. He attended Rinpoche's teachings in Moscow a few times. Ilya was present when Rinpoche gave blessings to animals, which happened two times in Moscow. Rinpoche gave practice advice when Ilya got very sick a few years ago, and Ilya did his best to follow it.

JULIE BROUSSE-SANNIER

39, died in France,
on April 30, 2020 of cancer

By Elisabeth Bonnaud

Translated by Maria Suominen

Julie was a beautiful person—selfless, generous, respectful of others and the environment, loving, and compassionate to all.

I met Julie at Institut Vajra Yogini in France during a fifteen-day retreat followed by a week-long intensive Medicine Buddha practice.

We were both dreaming of going to an Ayurvedic center in India for treatments. Little by little this project of ours started to take form. She came to visit me in Montpellier so that we could finalize our travel plans, and we would listen together to a livestream of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's teachings at Institut Vajra Yogini. On January 6, 2020, we met in Paris, ready to take off to Kerala, South India, for a thirty-day treatment in a little paradise. Two weeks into the treatments, Julie's dream started to shatter;

we decided to go back to Mysore to regain health and rest.

As was planned, Julie's fiancé, Mathieu, joined us in South India to help her realize her other dream, which was to go visit her spiritual master Geshe Tenzin Loden, the FPMT resident teacher at Institut Vajra Yogini, at Sera Je Monastery in Karnataka State. Mathieu, although not a Buddhist, respected her choices and had accompanied her to Institut Vajra Yogini for her refuge ceremony in August 2019.

The journey to Sera was long and full of obstacles, but we got there. Julie had stars in her eyes as she reconnected with her teacher. Geshe-la was a wonderful host, full of kindness and paying attention to our wishes. In the presence of his compassion and kindness, Julie was able to relax and enjoy his blessings and the advice that he gave her.

Mathieu and Julie had planned their wedding for summer 2020, but they got married in the hospital amid the COVID-19 isolation.



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.” While reading these obituaries, we can also reflect upon our own death and rebirth, prompting us to live our lives in the most meaningful way.

For more advice from Lama Zopa Rinpoche on death, see fpmt.org/death.

MAUREEN COCHRAN

78, died in Stoneham, Massachusetts, US, March 30, 2020, of brief illness following an injury

By Ani Yeshe and Debra Thornburg

It is with great sadness that we remember our cherished friend Maureen Cochran. The severity of her declining health was a surprise to her many acquaintances at Kurukulla Center in Boston, but typical of her unassuming and humble manner.

Maureen was active at the center for many years, beginning fifteen years ago with her involvement as a student of Geshe Tsulga, who was the center's much loved resident geshe at the time. She had a sharp mind and was a professor at Suffolk University teaching public policy and management. What she didn't tell us was that she held a Ph.D. in law and economics, which was preceded by a Master's degree in cardiac nursing and also a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

Always willing to help run the center at any level, her volunteering included collecting and processing donations,



MAUREEN IS WEARING A LIGHT BLUE SHIRT IN THE PHOTO.

leading the class prayers as *umze* (chant master), serving as a guide for tour groups, and helping with large special events. As a long-term serious student at the center, her steadfast attendance and active participation during and after the period of transition around Geshe Tsulga la's passing in 2010 served as a pillar of support for our community.

She and Kurukulla Center student Ani Yeshe enjoyed a special friendship, which thrived even while Ani Yeshe pursued her study of Buddhist philosophy in India.

Maureen was an animal lover, exceeding many of our limits by acquiring and caring for two snakes. Her husband, Donald, said she provided them with the best of everything, including heating pads to help regulate their body temperature.

She also volunteered at the Stone Zoo and occasionally would join in a nighttime inventory of local amphibians.

Maureen's quick decline and death was a difficult experience for many of us, which speaks greatly about how much we valued and miss her presence.

SEAN JONES

75, died in the Pyrenees, France, on April 10, 2020, of multiple myeloma

By Alison Murdoch

Sean Jones was born in 1944 and was an early adopter and supporter of Tibetan Buddhism in the West. A great-hearted and charismatic freethinker, he traveled overland from the UK to India in the late 1960s. He finally reached Dharamsala in 1975, where he had the good fortune to take refuge from His Eminence Kyabje Ling Rinpoche, afterwards taking tea with His Holiness Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche, thereby enjoying the company of both the senior and junior tutors of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in a single afternoon.

Sean also had a long-term personal relationship with His Holiness, acting for nearly ten years as his chauffeur whenever he visited the UK.

Sean traveled extensively in Tibet, Afghanistan, Northern India, and Pakistan, where he had many daring and colorful adventures.



He continued to maintain a home in the Swat Valley of Pakistan, the birthplace of Guru Rinpoche, until the house was destroyed by floods in 2010.

Back in London, Sean established and ran Reho Travel, a successful travel business that enabled him to support a range of Buddhist and Tibetan causes and to offer hospitality to many visiting lamas in his home. He played a key role in setting up the Tibet Foundation and Tibet Support Group UK. Sean used film and photography to spread awareness of oppression in Tibet, as well as to celebrate its rich and meaningful spiritual culture.

From 1989 to 1994 he was the director of Jamyang Buddhist Centre in London, where he led the first meeting of the Network of Buddhist Organisations UK. He subsequently joined the board and was instrumental in hosting visits of His Holiness to Jamyang and elsewhere in the UK.

Sean had two children, Patrick and Robert, from his relationship with Jane Moore. In later life he married Ariane and together they moved to the French Pyrenees.

MARY CURTAIN

77, died in London, UK, on May 10, 2020, of cancer

By Robin Bath

Mary was born in County Limerick, Ireland, in 1942, the first of a family of nine, and was always looked upon as a mother and role model by her brother and seven sisters. She was the first generation to get a secondary education and graduated college at twenty. She then went to work for two years as a voluntary teacher with Irish nuns in Uyo, Nigeria. Coming from a very poor background herself enabled Mary to understand and empathize with socially deprived people throughout her life, and her thoughtful, sensitive, and gentle nature was apparent in the way she put aside her own concerns to give help and support to others.

Mary always had an eclectic disposition, and her connection with Buddhism was incidental at first but could hardly have been more auspicious. She applied to an advertisement in *The London Times* for an English teacher to tutor a Tibetan lama and her qualifications won her the job. That person turned out to be Lama Zopa Rinpoche, who was staying in the UK close to where Mary lived, and they got on

famously. Prompted no doubt by this stirring encounter, she then found her way to Jamyang Buddhist Centre in London, where the resident teacher Geshe Tashi Tsering also requested Mary to help him with his English, and where she soon became a valuable member of the community.

In 1995, Mary attended the Kopan Christmas Course where she met up with Lama Zopa Rinpoche again, and she attended classes with Geshe Tashi and went on the 2006 pilgrimage with him to the holy Buddhist sites in India.

Rinpoche never forgot Mary's kindness and would meet up with her when he came back through London. On the news of her death, he did personal prayers for her.

Geshe Tashi, now the abbot of Sera Mey Monastery, sent a message to Mary while she was ailing in a hospice. Immediately upon hearing of her passing he also did personal prayers and had them done in his monastery. He organized the Buddhist content for her funeral and sent the most touching eulogy saying that she would be held in his heart and prayers at all times, and that they would meet again with joy and happiness.



CHANTAL D'ARLEVILLE

71, died in Bedford, Massachusetts, US, on January 5, 2020, of cancer

By Debra Thornburg

Born in Morocco in 1948, Chantal moved to France following Morocco's independence and eventually settled in the US in the 1970s. As a resident of Bedford, a Boston suburb, she attended Kurukulla Center, studying with resident teacher Geshe Ngawang Tenley.

While remaining devoted to the Catholic faith of her childhood, Chantal was passionate about spirituality and eagerly explored a wide range of traditions. Her inquiring mind led her to search out the commonalities among diverse spiritual beliefs and practices. During classes on Tibetan Buddhist texts at Kurukulla Center, she might ask questions that reminded her classmates not to be limited by narrow views and definitions. She radiated enthusiasm and awe for the world of religion in its many forms.

A devoted student of Geshe Tenley, Chantal appreciated his down-to-earth practical advice. She showed her gratitude by occasionally making the nearly thirty-minute drive from her home to the center to bring him a special French dish she had prepared.

Trained as a reiki master, she was widely admired for her skill in healing. After recovering from her first bout of cancer in 2017, she resumed her work to the relief of her appreciative clients. Unfortunately, a few years later her cancer returned and quickly moved through her body. Although receptive to various types of healing, nothing provided a lasting cure, and Chantal died in January 2020. She is survived by her partner Jean Paul, son Travis, and grandson Christian David. We say goodbye to Chantal with a deep sense of loss.

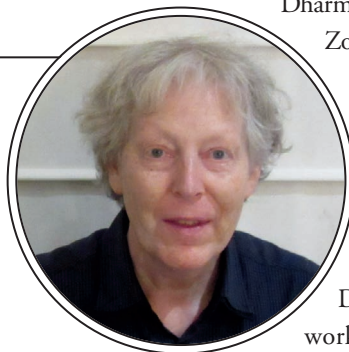


DAVID ROBERT MCQUIRE

63, died in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, on March 11, 2020, of prostate cancer

By Atsuko McQuire

David was born on March 2, 1957, in Melbourne, Australia. He received his medical degree from Monash University and practiced medicine as a general practitioner. He lived in Tokyo for eight years and there he changed his career to a freelance medical editor. He continued his work after returning to Melbourne and helped many Japanese doctors publish their research in English medical journals for over thirty years. David also had a passion for the arts and made many works of photographic collage. David married Atsuko, who is Japanese.



They were blessed with two children, Emma and George, after a long period of fertility treatments and many prayers. David was a family person.

David started coming to Tara Institute in Brighton East, Victoria, with his wife in order to study meditation and Buddhism. They became members in the late 1990s. He studied and practiced

Dharma as taught by His Holiness Dalai Lama, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, and Geshe Lobsang Doga, the center's FPMT resident teacher.

Three years ago, David was diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. It was very difficult for him to leave behind his young son and teenage daughter. He deeply relied on Tara, his gurus, and Dharma. He said he tried to do Dharma practice in his everyday life while working, having chemotherapy, and driving his children to school. Geshe Doga and the Tara Institute community offered so much support to David and his family. David passed away peacefully, and his family experienced the serenity of his passing. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our gurus, Tara Institute, and FPMT.

DEANNA WHITESIDE SHERIFF

81, died in Bellevue, Washington, US, on May 20, 2020, of natural causes

By Ven. Losang Drimay, Leesa Albert, and Tom Woodbury

Born on October 25, 1938, in Camden, Arkansas, US, Deanna graduated from Little Rock Central High School in 1956. She received her undergraduate degree at Texas Woman's University in 1960 and her Master's degree in education from University of Montana in 1966.

Deanna inspired many, many women. She was a pioneer female leader at the University of Montana and was agnostic about whom she championed; she wanted everyone to flourish.

Grand projects—alumni gatherings, film festivals, sports events, artistic collaborations, spiritual convenings, and many other big ideas—magically manifested out of her creative, cross-community alliances. The magic was in her energy, insight, enthusiasm, deep generosity, and her ever-expanding network of people, and their people, and their people's people.

Deanna provided refuge for thousands of spiritual seekers over the span of three decades by generously opening her home to host Osel Shen Phen Ling in Missoula, Montana.

She was the long-time center director and went out of her way to make every visitor feel welcome with her unique blend of Southern hospitality and charming personality. Visiting lamas and teachers cherished Deanna's warmth and humor, and everyone was inspired by her deep devotion to the Dharma.

Ven. Losang Drimay shared, "I met Deanna many years ago at a retreat at Vajrapani Institute, where she invited me to come up to Missoula to teach. Since then, I would go there every couple of years, becoming good friends with several of the members of Osel Shen Phen Ling.

"Deanna was the queen of hospitality, always making sure that visiting teachers had good food—a well-stocked refrigerator and at least one dinner out with members of the community—and outings to local sightseeing attractions, such as the Evam Buddha Garden, the Flathead Indian Reservation, Gem Mountain, and ghost towns.

"Her commitment to the Dharma center seemed unwavering during the approximately three decades of her involvement. She hosted the center in her home near the University of Montana until her health made it necessary for her to move out of state to be near her daughter."

She was a shining light for the entire community and left Missoula a lasting legacy of kind-heartedness.



VICTORIA RAINONE

64, died in Wisconsin, US, on March 3, 2020, of liver failure

By Bonnie Sewick

Victoria Rainone grew up in New York and lived in Texas for twenty-five years before moving to Wisconsin in 2016. She is survived by her husband, Mark, and her pet bird, Mika.

She became a student of Lama Zopa Rinpoche and started studying with FPMT in the early 2000s. She was a Liberation Prison Project



volunteer and offered service at Land of Compassion and Wisdom Study Group in Austin, Texas, for several years.

A talented gardener and artist, Victoria had a gift for beautifying the environment around her. She also made many tsas which she generously offered freely to Dharma students and centers.

Victoria suffered poor health for many years and used those conditions as purification. She loved nature and was especially kind and compassionate to animals. She lived her life with bravery and fortitude. Her humor and wit will be missed by everyone she met and all who loved her, especially her husband and best friend, Mark.

ADRIANA ROMITELLI

76, died in Bologna, Italy, on December 27, 2019, of Alzheimer's disease complications

By Ven. Siliana Bosa

Adriana Romitelli passed away after a long illness. She had been an FPMT student since 1982. Adriana worked in our centers with great enthusiasm. She cleaned and did many other tasks at Centro Studi Chenresig in Bologna, often cooking for the visiting lamas.

After retiring she helped at Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, going there every summer for the last few years to help garden. She was always smiling and joyful. Adriana had the great gift of making the people around her happy. She was a pillar for Centro Studi Chenresig, and we miss her very much.



KENNY YEOH GHEE ENG

45, died in Penang, Malaysia, on February 20, 2020, of prolonged illness

By Daniel Yeoh

Kenny had been involved with Chokyi Gyaltzen Center, in Malaysia, since the center's early years, when our center was housed at an old petrol kiosk. Kenny and another member George, who passed away three years ago, were heavily involved in cleaning up that old petrol kiosk to make our first center: removing old furniture, cleaning up the compound, painting the walls, moving in holy objects and new furniture, and so forth—basically all the ground work.



He was also very much involved in distributing posters to vegetarian restaurants and other public places, and hanging information banners in nearby places when we organized events.

During major events such as the Maitreya Heart Shrine Relic Tour, Kenny would ensure drivers parked their cars in an organized manner, while also directing the crowd and taking charge to secure the holy relics.

Working together with George, Kenny helped buy, transport, and release animals after our animal liberation practices.

BATSUKH YADAMSUREN

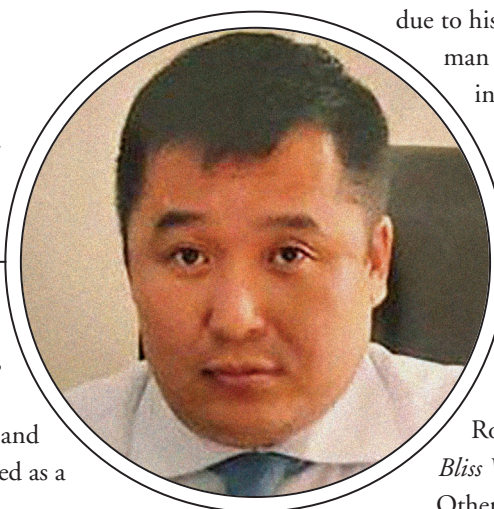
53, died in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia,
on October 28, 2019, of a stroke
following serious illness

By Khatanbaatar

Batsukh was born on September 17, 1966, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. When he was eight years old he joined secondary school and after graduating from high school he worked as a nurse at Ulaanbaatar's second hospital.

During the 1990s, when democracy commenced in Mongolia, he established his own business and traveled to the US to study economics. He was one of the first to start the Democratic Party of Mongolia.

In 1997, he was appointed as an economic attaché for the Mongolian Embassy to the US. At the end of 1998, he was illegally brought to Mongolia from the US on the basis of an accusation, which was later proved to be false, for the murder of a



politician named S. Zorig and was imprisoned for a time.

He had strong faith in the Buddhadharma and, mainly due to his grandfather's influence, was known to be a man of action. In 2008, he was actively engaged in the building of a Maitreya statue and Maitreya town near Ulaanbaatar. In the same year he accepted responsibility for renewing the Gungachoiling dratseng of Gandantegchenling Monastery of Ulaanbaatar and was one of the sponsors. He also generously sponsored the printing of some Dharma books, including the translation and printing of Robert Thurman's *Infinite Life: Awakening to Bliss Within*.

Other notable projects included managing the transcription from old classical Mongolian and the printing of Kangyur texts, building a monastery called Nalanda, and organizing His Eminence the 9th Jetsundampa's funeral.

Batsukh was deeply devoted to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Lama Zopa Rinpoche and served on the board of FPMT Mongolia for several years. He was a long-time sponsor of Ganden Do Ngag Shedrup Ling's social service project the Lamp of the Path soup kitchen.