In his second visit in ten years, His Holiness spent eight days in June visiting the Baltic Republics at the invitation of the universities of Tartu in Estonia, Vilnius in Lithuania and the Academy of Sciences in Riga, Latvia. His lectures and public talks were enthusiastically received. He also met with religious and political leaders in five cities, defining his main tasks as being the promotion of human values and better understanding among different religions, and his responsibility to speak on behalf of the Tibetan people's non-violent struggle for freedom.

His Holiness fulfilled the late Khensur Dorje Tashi Rinpoche's request to teach on Tsong Khapa's Middle Stages of Path (Lamrim Dring) at Sera Je Monastery, South India, in July. Almost 7000 monks and nuns from all over India, as well as 200 foreigners, attended the twelve days of teaching and tantric empowerments. His Holiness spoke out against sectarianism. "These days the Gelug/Nyingma relations in India are improving," he said, "but I must stress that sectarianism will only lead to a degeneration of the Dharma. We must appreciate each other's qualities."
UPAYA ZEN CENTER
2001-2002

December 1-8, 2001 - Rohatsu Temple
Dedication Sesshin: An intensive traditional Zen training led by Joan Halifax Roshi and Enkyo O’Hara Sensei

December 9-10, 2001 - Dogen Seminar: Study of master Dogen’s Deep Ocean of Samadhi fascicle with Kazuaki Tanahashi Sensei, world-renowned calligrapher and translator of texts

December 21, 2001 - Winter Solstice Circle of the Way Temple Opening: Contact us for details

January 31-February 3, 2002 - Buddha and the Body: A yoga and meditation retreat with Joan Halifax Roshi and Tias Little, of Yogasource

March 12, 2002: Invocation to Compassion: Benefit for Upaya Social Action Programs with Ram Dass, Joan Halifax Roshi & friends

Upaya Offerings include:

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e-mail: upaya@upaya.org
web: www.upaya.org

Joan Halifax Roshi

Music giant, EMI, has produced a 2CD set entitled Loving Kindness and Wisdom featuring internationally known singer, Faye Wong, and Lama Zopa Rinpoche. One CD is an Invocation to the 21 Taras and the other an Invocation to Maitreya. Additional prayers and mantras are on both CDs. The $US25 package includes a booklet of all the prayers in Tibetan phonetics, in English and Chinese, plus a commentary given by Rinpoche in both English and Chinese. All proceeds will go towards Rinpoche’s projects. Contact Ven. Tenzin Pemba at info@fpmtmba.org.hk

Lama Zopa Rinpoche with Faye Wong

dharmakaya stupa
consecrated in the U.S. rockies

By Noa Jones

Catching the first glimpse of the Great Stupa of Dharmakaya Which Liberates Upon Seeing is a thrill. Airplanes over the Rocky Mountain Shambhala Center in the Northern Colorado Rockies change flight patterns to get a closer look at the $2.7 million, 108-foot, state-of-the-art monument to a Tibetan master responsible for bringing Buddhism to millions of Westerners.

The consecration of the Great Stupa, which took 14 years to build, was a powerful 10-day practice retreat for thousands of people connected to the lineage of Vidyadhara Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche.

Fourteen rinpoches and their entourages from four lineages came to Colorado for the occasion, including His Holiness Penor Rinpoche, Zurmang Ghawang Rinpoche, Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, Sogen Rinpoche, and Gyatrul Rinpoche.

Since the consecration 50 to 100 people visit the Great Stupa daily. It is open to the public and tours are offered on weekends. Call RMSC at (970) 881 2184 x 223.
Holy objects are an integral part of Maitreya Project’s vision of making the causes of happiness and enlightenment automatically accessible to every visitor. According to Lama Zopa Rinpoche, “Due to the power of a holy object as soon as offerings, circumambulations and prostrations are done in conjunction with the holy object, they immediately become the cause of enlightenment.”

Tony Simmons, Maitreya Project’s artwork manager, is commissioning and managing the creation of 1.3 million pieces of holy art. Many of these images are repeated (for instance, there are 1 million small Maitreya images) so there are actually 600 completely different pieces. When asked about the challenges of his responsibilities, Tony said, “Buddhist images are not something which one can nip down to the corner shop for. A photo or drawing of the particular deity or other image must first be found, and then checked with a trusted Buddhist master to make sure the hand gestures, facial expressions and proportions are correct. Then an appropriate manufacturer must be found and the details carefully explained and all the while through production, the manufacturer’s work must be checked.”

Many of the statues for the shrine rooms at the upper throne level have been ordered and are in the process of being made in India, Nepal and Tibet.

Larsen and Toubro, one of India’s leading construction companies and one of Maitreya Project’s main construction engineers, is developing the methods for producing the 100,000 stupas needed.
edunation

what's new for young and old

By Merry Colony

A series of children's booklets for use in schools, as aids for teachers, or by an adult wishing to help a child develop meditation experience, is being created by Sandy Smith. The first two are Meditations for Children, containing lively line drawings to accompany meditation instructions, and Plays for Children, which originated from Lama Zopa Rinpoche's wish to integrate curriculum that demonstrates ethics, compassion, wisdom, etc., in a participatory format.

Bev Gwyn of Vajrapani Institute has prepared a manual on how to set up and run a Buddhist summer camp for kids.

Version 2 of the Basic Program (BP) CD is out. This CD includes everything a center needs: guidelines, root texts in Tibetan, translations in English, contemporary commentaries by FPMT geshes as well as example quizzes and exams. Highlights include new translations of Tantric Grounds and Paths and Mind and Mental Factors.

The new standard FPMT introductory program (Discovering Buddhism: An FPMT Introductory Program of Buddhist Studies) will be taught in various FPMT centers from January 2002.

Two volumes of Essential Buddhist Prayers, an FPMT Prayer Book, are now in circulation, with Volume Three coming soon. These provide the majority of prayers and practices done within the centers in a standard format. Translations into seven other languages are currently underway.

Translation Projects: The Lamrim Chenmo translation into Chinese by Sherab Chen and Roy Li is almost complete. Volume One, which goes through the 'being of middle scope,' is now ready for publishing. The Sutra of Golden Light is currently being translated into Spanish by Ven. Champa Shenphen and a new Medicine Buddha retreat sadhana has been translated by Fabrizio Pallotti. Lama Zopa Rinpoche's translation of the long Hayagriva sadhana is now final.

For a full listing of all Education Department activities as well as prayers and practices visit www.fpmt.org/education or email materials@fpmt.org

fulfilling our tantric potential

This final year of Chenrezig Institute's first round of the Buddhist Studies Program focuses on tantra. A four-week module on the lower tantras is followed by eight weeks on Highest Yoga Tantra and a six-week commentary on Yamantaka practice. The program is taught by Geshe Tashi Tsering, assisted by Ven. Antonio Satta.

For most participants the modules are full time – four days per week of teachings, tutorials and discussions, with study, revision and exam prep in the evenings and on weekends. "The material itself is complex, and its integration into our practices and daily lives confronting but fulfilling," organizer and participant Kathy Vichta said.

Chenrezig's study program continues in March 2002 with a new round of subjects starting with Mind and Mental Factors. Contact education@chenrezig.com.au for more details.

laying a firm foundation

Jamyang Buddhist Centre's second two-year Certificate Course in Basic Buddhist Studies taught by Geshe Tashi in London has finished. Geshe Tashi presented each graduate with a Kadampa stupa and a certificate, signed by Lama Zopa himself. These things, he said, weren't important but they will be treasured as symbols of a course that for many people had become a central point of stability in their lives.

Students around Europe have begun the next two-year Foundation of Buddhist Thought course. The program will also be available as a correspondence course from January 2002. See www.jamyang.co.uk for more information.

Geshe-la frequently used the analogy of the chocolate coin to describe the study of the two truths. By licking one side of the chocolate coin we eventually get through to the other. Similarly, by studying conventional truth we eventually arrive at an understanding of ultimate truth.

By Merry Colony

Lam Rim Radio started with the wish to make Dharma teachings audibly available on the Internet. Through using software that can be downloaded free of charge, a "broadcaster" uses a broadband connect (such as DSL or a Cable Modem) to deliver (or "stream") digital recordings to any other PC connected to the Internet.

To date, we've provided thousands of hours of teachings to students across the world. Teachings include His Holiness on the Heart Sutra (May 2001), Lama Zopa Rinpoche on the Diamond Cutter Sutra (July 2001), and Lama Thubten Yeshe on The Three Principles of the Path (October 1982). We are also providing teachings in Mandarin Chinese.

Listeners can connect to Lam Rim Radio using RealPlayerTM, Microsoft Media PlayerTM, or WinAmpTM. Listeners have the option of downloading the teachings directly to their computers or portable MP3 devices. For more information see www.lamrim.com or email info@lamrim.com.
2,000 monastic residences destroyed

Larung Gar, a sprawling monastic complex and monastery in Serthar, Kardze prefecture, Sichuan, was established in 1980 by Khenpo Jigme Phuntsok, and housed an estimated 6-7,000 monks and nuns (including nearly 1000 Chinese students), according to London-based monitoring group, Tibet Information Network (TIN).

One of the most important centers of Tibetan Buddhism remaining in Tibet, Larung Gar was known for its strict focus on the study of Buddhism and the practice of the Dharma. Abbot Khenpo Jigme, by avoiding all political controversy, had reportedly managed to maintain a harmonious relationship with the provincial and local authorities, according to TIN.

In June this year, however, high-level officials from Beijing, and others arrived at Larung Gar to oversee a reduction of this population to 1,000 monks and 400 nuns, and to oversee the demolition of residential quarters, TIN said.

Chinese Buddhists were expelled first, followed by hundreds of Tibetan nuns. They were reportedly presented with documents to sign containing three points: a denunciation of the Dalai Lama, a commitment not to return, and a commitment to honor the guidelines and policy set by the Chinese authorities. Many nuns reportedly left without signing the document.

Two thousand meditation huts have reportedly been destroyed by several hundred Chinese migrant workers. Armed police were spread throughout the monastic complex during the destruction. Khenpo Jigme has been removed from the complex against his will and is being held at the military hospital in Barkham, according to sources in Tibet. His whereabouts had been unknown since mid-August following the crackdown.

His removal is not believed to be a formal detention yet but it has also been reported by several sources that he is not allowed to return to Larung Gar. Removing Khenpo Jigme was seen to be a key part of the crackdown.

For more information see TIN’s website www.tibetinfo.net. Photos of Sertha, etc., can be viewed at: www.tibetinfo.net/report/trel/larung-gar-1.htm

food for sangha

By Ven. Sarah Thresher

Ven. Choden Rinpoche’s month-long talks on Je Tsong Khapa’s Great Stages of the Path to Enlightenment at Land of Medicine Buddha this summer were a feast of teachings, initiations, commentaries, pujas, rituals and even an ordination. He is one of those great masters who can explain anything with such depth, grace and fluidity that one can easily imagine Lama Tsong Khapa himself sitting there on the throne.

“This is food for sangha,” Lama Zopa told me on several occasions talking about Choden Rinpoche’s commentary to the Great Stages of the Path, “It gives so much inspiration to want to practice and to keep pure morality.”

Ultimate Healing: The Power Of Compassion


In Ultimate Healing, his first new book in 10 years, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, FPMT’s spiritual director, suggests the cure for all forms of illness and disease: unqualified love in the form of compassion for all living beings — including oneself. Written with humility and kindness, Ultimate Healing is rich in wisdom and practical help for those in pain.

Ultimate Healing focuses the reader’s heart on a spiritual cure, leading the mind to an understanding of life, death, impermanence and suffering. Part One includes stories of people who have recovered from disease through the practice of meditation, how to accept a life-threatening illness, and how to free other living beings from suffering. Part Two contains various meditations and healing practices, many of them translated or composed by Lama Zopa Rinpoche himself and described by the book’s editor, Ailsa Cameron, as “a patient planting of real inner causes for health and happiness.”

The book’s printing is sponsored in part by Richard Gere and the Gere Foundation.
NEWS ROUNDUP

Taos Mountain Sangha Meditation Center Marcia Rose, guiding teacher. Ongoing classes and retreats using the practice of Insight Meditation in Taos, NM. Call (505) 737-2383 for schedule and information on special events.

Mabel Dodge Luhan House retreat center and B & B Historic inn and conference center offering Metta, Visa, paypanso and personal renters. Located in beautiful Taos, NM 800-846-2235 / www.mabeldodgeluhahn.com

Wildwood Fine Furniture offers beautifully handcrafted meditation benches and custom design furnishings for your home. Steve & Heather Crawford, Del Norte, CO. (719) 657-4757 www.angelfire.com/cc2/wildwoodfurniture/ or wildwood@fnet.com

Virupa Ecumenical Institute in Seattle, WA, is an educational organization dedicated to Tibetan Buddhist, inter-religious, and cross-cultural studies. It offers a lively program of talks, presentations, classes, videos, and performances. Visit www.sakya.org for VIE’s calendar of events.

Light on the Return Path A Survival Manual for the New home. Steve & Heather Crawford, Del Norte, CO. (719) 657-4757 www.angelfire.com/cc2/wildwoodfurniture/ or wildwood@fnet.com

House For Sale: Passive solar, Taos, N.M., 10 acres. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, open kitchen, dining/living room. Peaceful, expansive setting, 360° spectacular mountain views and sunsets. Would suit retirees. 20 minutes west of Taos. Millennium International Office. US$160,000. For more information, Bob Jacoby (525) 758-3606.

Sponsor sought for Tibetan student I am seeking a sponsor for my sister who is attending college in Amdo, Tibet. Her education is very important, and is financially very difficult for my parents to afford. I am a monk from Kopan, presently working at Tushita, Dharamsala. If you can help with this request, please contact gheduntenpa@hotmail.com

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Jangchub Gepel Ling “Land of Increasing Virtue and Enlightenment” is Kylaje Lati Rinpoche new center in Felton, California. Geshi Lobzang Gendun from Gadzen Sharmon Monastery is our resident Teacher. Please visit us on the web for programs and teachings: www.gepel.org or call us 513 335 1217.

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