

THE ANSWER IS 42

The answer to life, the universe, and everything according to Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is 42. I might have known it. This issue of *Mandala*, my last, is No. 42, starting with my first issue in March 2001.

But it's not that neat and tidy. There was another editor, Helen Chang, for issues 9 and 10 when I returned to Australia for a few months so I can only claim 40 out of the 42. There was the indomitable Ven. Robina Courtin for six years before me and, going back further, Ven. Yeshe Khadro who, together with Ven. Robina, produced *Mandala's* predecessor *Wisdom* (two issues in 1983 and 1984). The first official *Mandala* came out as a 16-page newspaper in 1987 with publisher Harvey Horrocks and an editorial team of ten.

Subsequent editors between 1989 and 1994 were Ven. Lobsang Drimay, Carleen Gonder and Ven. Elly Van Der Pas. *Mandala* was their baby as much as it has been mine. I feel privileged to move into the illustrious alumni of former editors of the best Buddhist magazine of our time.

I almost rejected the embarrassing praise heaped on me by staff at International Office (page 8) – surely my right as

editor. But then my wise and witty designer Melody Swan (who says I am “the best editor she has ever worked with” and threatened to try and sneak that in somewhere) reminded me how fortunate I am that I get to read my “obituary” while I am still here to enjoy it.

Douglas Adams can keep his assertion that 42 is the answer to everything. My credo is that the secret to ordinary happiness is two-fold: (a) keep busy and (b) do something for somebody else. I will be ever grateful to FPMT for giving me the chance to do both those things for as long as I did, with the unbelievably kind current support of Sara, Sandra and Michael and, over the years, Jaffa, Julia, Holly, Alison, Claudia, Stephen, Lydia and Catherine. You see, I was rarely completely on my own. And a special thanks to all those hundreds of people from all over the world who have contributed their stories and their photos and supported us with their ads. It was never really “my” magazine at all. It's yours.

Yours in the Dharma
Nancy E. Patton

ABOUT MANDALA



Lama Thubten Yeshe



Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Mandala is the official publication of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), an international charitable organization founded more than thirty years ago by two Tibetan masters, Lama Thubten Yeshe (1935-1984) and Lama Thubten Zopa Rinpoche. FPMT is now a vibrant international community, with a network of over 150 affiliate centers, projects and services, and members in more than thirty countries. *Mandala* offers authentic Buddhist teachings from and modern reflections on the lineage of Lama Tsongkhapa, a complete path to enlightenment for all.

Editorial Policy

Recurring topics include Buddhist philosophy, Buddhism and Science, Buddhist mind training (Lo-jong), Death and Dying, Youth Issues, Essential Education, Ordination and the Sangha, Buddhism and Modern Life, FPMT Projects Worldwide, The Wisdom of Emptiness, Compassion and Bodhichitta, among other topics.

Writers, photographers, and artists, both amateur and professional, are encouraged to submit material for consideration. *Mandala* currently does not pay for publishable content; we credit all photos and other work as requested.

MANDALA IS AVAILABLE VIA FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP.

Basic Membership \$US30

Benefits include:

- A year's FREE subscription to *Mandala*
- The *Mandala* e-zine
- 5% discount on all purchases in the Foundation Store

To learn about higher membership levels and benefits, contact us or visit www.fpmt.org/membership

Foundation Membership supports the educational programming, charitable projects, and global services of FPMT.

Mandala is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Editor
Nancy Patton
nancy@fpmt.org

Assistant Editor
Michael Jolliffe
michael@fpmt.org

Publisher
Sara Blumenthal
sara@fpmt.org

Art Director
Cowgirls Design
cowgirl@newmex.com

Advertising
Sandra Peterson
advertising@mandalamagazine.org

Membership and Center Subscriptions
Sandra Peterson
membership@fpmt.org

FPMT Inc.
1632 SE 11th Ave.,
Portland, OR 97214-4702
Tel: 1 503 808 1588
Fax: 1 503 808 1589
Toll free USA only 1 866 808 3302

FPMT Board of Directors
Spiritual Director:
Lama Zopa Rinpoche

Board members:
Khenrinpoche Geshe Lhundrup
Ven. Roger Kunsang
Ven. Pemba Sherpa
Karuna Cayton
Andrew Haynes
Peter Kedge
Tim McNeill
Tara Melwani
Alison Murdoch
Paula de Wijs-Koolkin
www.mandalamagazine.org
www.fpmt.org