



Buddha Siddhi



Our Tribute To Dennis

“ I will always remember Dennis the brother, and such good friend. Dennis was very dear friend and teacher for many people and he helped so many people with his wisdom and kindness and such light spirit. Dennis had good life...I pray for his journey towards Buddhahood.....Dennis is happy. Many people had dreams of him and they saw him being happy. i saw him in my dream. Dennis and i were playing Mozart, we were happy boys and having so much fun .”

Venerable Zasep Rinpoche

Dennis displayed great generosity by continuously teaching and speaking Dharma to every person he met. His every action was suffused with a profound knowledge of Buddhist philosophy and doctrine. He certainly knew other teachings and philosophies, and could expound on them accurately, but Buddhism was nearest his heart. Many people came to him regularly seeking advice and consolation. He gave comfort, spoke the truth at the right moment, crafted his words to our needs, gently urged each one of us to increase our understanding of wisdom, knowledge, and compassion. I miss his voice.

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I first met our dear friend and spiritual Dharma brother Dennis at his bookstore Copper Mountain, in 1999, when I moved to Nelson from Idaho.

A requisite for a new resident is to check out the local spiritual bookstore, where one can see what's up in the new town you've located to, and perhaps make new and interesting connections. I am certain there are many others with a similar account. Meeting the shopkeeper Dennis was such a mellow and warm encounter.

Dennis had a way of extending genuine love and caring whenever one visited him at Copper Mountain, and our first meeting was like this. Conversation was never dull, nor were the myriad folks who came in to shop, hang out, drink tea or coffee, listen to music and talk story.

So many events were held at the bookstore/spiritual centre. Sacred Tibetan talks with Rinpoche ZasepTulku, astrology evenings, healers, card readers, metaphysicians and others were welcomed.

American friends of mine soon became friends of his, as there was a mutual spirit of kindness and love that flowed back and forth between all. Dennis was able to weave a tapestry of love and light and sound (mostly classical and East Indian) into a mandala that delighted the senses, brought peace to one's soul, and comfort in times of need. He was a gifted and special man, gifted with true compassion for others. Feeding the hungry, consoling the sick and tired, counselling those in distress, being there for those in need. Dennis had a very bright light that shone with brilliance through those beautiful blue eyes.

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He shared his joie de vivre with all, just as he shared his wonderful family and home. Many a delicious meal was savoured at the family table of Dennis, Pat and Ella, and much merrymaking occurred in their backyard and home. My time here in Nelson has been enriched by knowing Dennis. The majority of my friends here are connections made through Dennis. I am, and always will be, deeply grateful for his love and kindness and presence in my life for 7 years. In this rosary/mala bead of life, Dennis is the most precious of jewels. And I know that he is of the rainbow now, in the Light, vibrating in a much higher realm, and gently radiating his essence of love, truth, compassion and joy to us all.

With Love
and Peace to you,
dearest Dennis,
your friend
and spiritual sister,

Linda Buffy

You, at the prow of the boat
Steering towards
forever
Polishing our shoes with our own light
Practicing 'us' together
for our own grand opening.....mind
Your life enriched ours like hot darjeeling
Tea at Christmas time
Oya



photo Zasep Rinpoche

We met Dennis over 35 years ago and a life long friendship began with this most remarkable man.

In the early seventies, Dennis and I were reluctant graduates of the U of A, determined to live profound lives and change the society in which we were born.

Dennis, Tom and I grew up in typical dysfunctional homes: divorce, poverty, both physical and emotional and we were all outsiders who were looking for a way to understand our lives.

Tom found himself in music. Dennis and I found ourselves in metaphysics and spirituality. We were all focussed on astrology, I think in order to make sense of the lonely lives we had thus far led. The Ananda bookstore was the place where it all began. The Ananda was Edmonton's first metaphysical bookstore located on Whyte Avenue. We specialized in astrology, yoga, meditation, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mystical Christianity and natural health. The Ananda soon became a popular spot for spiritual seekers and it was really the most profound decade of our lives.

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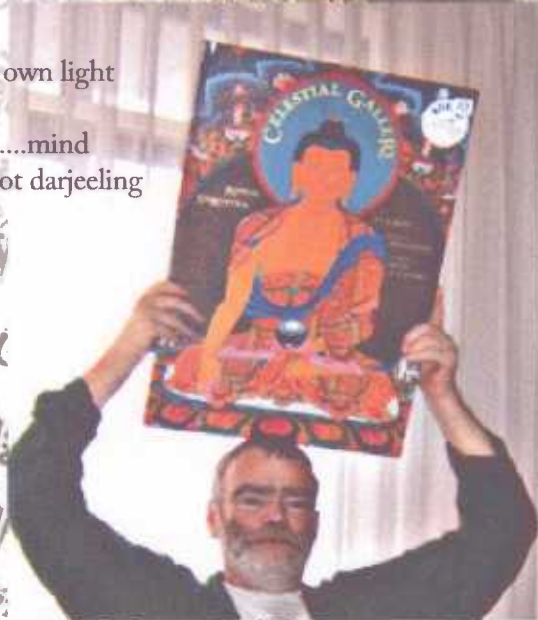


photo Yoko

photo Ella Murphy Zommerschoe

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We met our peers and felt at home in this spiritual environment. This is where Dennis's aura was the brightest. Dennis met hundreds of people who wanted to know what it was all about. Dennis inspired many seekers who came both to see him and to obtain books on our esoteric subjects. Dennis felt wonderful at the Ananda because he had so many friends including the authors of the books in our blissful bookstore. These friends include Paramahansa Yogananda, H.H. the Dalai Lama, Ram Dass, Elizabeth Kubler Ross, and Stephine Levine to mention only a few. Dennis created a magical energy exchange at the Ananda and many came in just to be around his compassionate and healing energy. Dennis guided seekers with the right material and also gave them a positive and loving energy zap when they came. Dennis was brilliant and his knowledge vast regarding spiritual matters. We also gave classes at the Ananda providing our customers and friends with practical knowledge on how to change their lives. A little later, Dennis met Pat, the love of his life. Even at the beginning, Dennis

worshiped the ground Pat stood on. Pat was different and if memory stands correct, I think she grew up in a normal home. We attended their Buddhist wedding and it was most remarkable. As the quest for enlightenment seemed to lead to India, Dennis decided that he must go to India as well.

The trip was planned and I remember a hand made calendar on the wall, which stated the number of sleeps left until departure to Delhi. The India trip was the most meaningful of their lives.

Upon return we attended a slide show of the India trip. We patiently saw hundreds of temples. At temple 500, I was tempted to scream but I kept my mouth shut.

No one could say that Dennis did not have passions. Dennis loved his soul-mate Pat, and to be around them both was always exciting and lovingly energetic. Like two peas in a pod, they were meant to be. The love and support they gave each other warms my heart even today.

Dennis was a determined and focused spiritual seeker who shared knowledge willingly with friends,

admirers and students. His wealth of knowledge was astonishing and his passion equally amazing. Dennis loved sharing his knowledge and was a remarkable spiritual guide.

Dennis shared his knowledge with family, friends, students, and even strangers who needed some guidance. As a Pisces, Dennis was a most compassionate being and always kind to the souls who crossed his path.

Ananda seekers will always remember his knowledgeable profound words and gestures of kindness. Tom will always remember his passion for music in all of its forms. Denyse will always remember the great fun that they had together at the Ananda solving everyone's problems with astrology analysis.

Good-bye for now our friend and thankyou for the friendship, fun, love, and joy that you brought to our lives. You are the most interesting man we have met in this incarnation. We love you.

Denyse and Tom

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2007

at Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat
Announcement of Teachings

by Zasep Rinpoche

March 31 - April 8, 2007

Yamantaka Self Initiation Retreat

Rinpoche will lead Long Self Initiation most days. Rinpoche will offer teachings and commentary on the practice sometimes. Self Initiation is to renew all vows; Guru Yoga, Bodhisattva, & Tantric. Self Initiation purifies karma. This retreat will start with a light dinner at 6 pm on March 31, 2007 and end after lunch on Sunday April 8, 2007. Requirement for this retreat is to have done the retreat and fire puja. Fee: \$600 Includes three meals/day, practice & teachings. Accommodation: \$20 per night



May 20, 2007

Troma Ngagmo Black Dakini Initiation
highest yoga tantra

Commitment : Bodhisattva Vows, Tantric Vows and daily commitment of Kha Chab Ma (merging consciousness into spaciousness) Prerequisite for Troma Ngagmo Black Dakini is May 19, 2007

Machig Labdron Five Dakinis Initiation
Gaden Ear Whispered Lineage

Fee: for each initiation \$60
Accommodation: \$20 per night

To register.....>

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May 21-28, 2007

Troma Ngagmo Black Dakini Retreat

Rinpoche has requested that Miya lead the Troma Ngagmo Retreat following these initiations

Fee for this retreat is : \$350

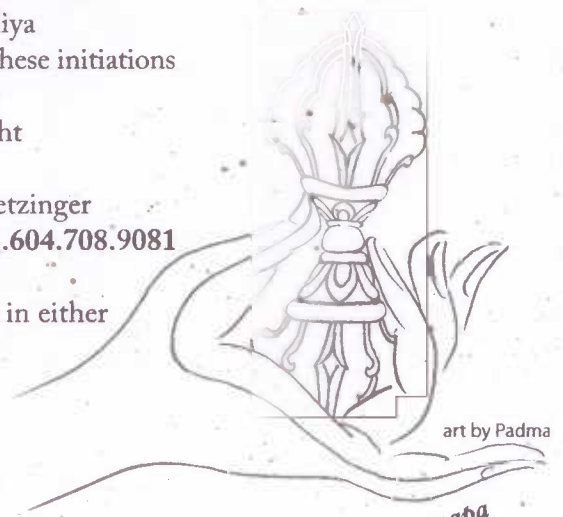
Accommodation: \$20 per night

To register please contact Sharon Gretzinger
tenzing1@telus.net Phone in Vancouver 1.604.708.9081
in Nelson 1.250.354.0485

A \$100 deposit will secure your place in either
of the above events

Please send deposit to:

Gaden for the West,
#605 - 3495 Cambie St.,
Vancouver, B. C. V5Z 4R3



art by Padma

"Retreat allows us to deepen our practice and thereby to benefit others more skillfully and powerfully"....Karmapa

2006 expeditions to Tibet and Mongolia

Conrad Richter

The 2006 expeditions to Tibet and Mongolia were a great success. Work at Jamseng Health Clinic and Tashi Lhapug Monastery in Tibet and Delgeruun Monastery in Mongolia went very well. I would like to thank Evan Zaleschuk, our Zadoh Project Coordinator, and Diane Carter, who travelled to Tibet at their expense and provided massage therapy and midwifery workshops at Jamseng and Tashi Lhapug. Also John Huizinga who went to Delgeruun Monastery in Mongolia, also at his expense, to install a solar power and lighting system at the monastery in the Gobi desert. Zasep Rinpoche, our Spiritual Director, led both expeditions, and nothing would be possible without his incredible generosity and leadership. And of course, you, the volunteers and donors of Gaden Relief must be thanked for making it all possible by raising funds, making donations, or helping to acquire such things as equipment and supplies for the expeditions. You can read a preliminary report of the two expeditions in the minutes of the Board of Directors which are published online:

<http://www.gadenrelief.org/staff/board-20061006.html>

Rinpoche spoke to the Tashi Choling Board: "We had a successful trip to Tibet, with Diane and Evan. We accomplished a lot. Mongolia trip was good.. Setting up solar panels. Our trip made a difference in people's lives."

Tashi Choling Membership - Have you renewed for 2007? contact Joan at 334.0206

Weekly Meditation is held Sunday mornings 10:00 - 11:30 at the Gompa - All Welcome

Tuesday's Khuree practice at 5:30 followed by Buddhism and Psychology 7 PM.

Wednesday

4:00 Vajrayogini practice**

7:00 Chod practice**

(** for those who have the initiation)

Thursday

7:00 Lam Rim study group

For more information regarding additional events and activities scheduled at the gompa throughout the year see Tashi Choling's website www.tcs.kics.ca



November 2006 Shunyata Retreat

Retreat was well attended, and AH, what a wonderful retreat it was! Many friends from other centers, Rinpoche's students were here. Each of us hoping for a glimpse of Emptiness. Rinpoche gave clear and concise commentaries. We practiced the Sadhana of Prajnaparamita and The Heart Sutra and played the Khuree horns and drums, rejoicing in the profound opportunity to do our practice in the beautiful Kootenay Mountain paradise of Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat, for the happiness of all beings.

Is space anywhere supported? Upon what does it rest?
Like space, Mahamudra is dependent upon nothing;
Relax and settle in the continuum of unalloyed purity,
And, your bonds loosening, release is certain.

an excerpt from Tilopa's Mahamudra Instruction to Naropa in Twenty Eight Verses

KUKKURIPA, The Dog Lover

Where premeditated effort and pushiness are at hand
The Buddha is out,
Accordingly, service and donations are fruitless.
Inside the skill of the Gurus' grace
The Buddha is here
But will the fitting receiver see it?

In a Midwestern town in Northern India, there lived a wealthy merchant named Kukkuripa. Groveling for years over the difficulties of Samsara, he came to understand the benefits of renunciation and meditative practice. One evening he up and left his business to beg his way slowly towards his new home, the caves of Lumbini. At dusk that day he heard whimpering in a cluster of bushes by the roadside. He saw there a puppy so starved and worn she could hardly shift her body, and he sighed while he watched her huge effort to arise so she could greet Kukkuripa with licks on his outstretched hand. He immediately picked her up to carry her with him on his passage, dividing what he gathered in his begging bowl with her, he delighted as she grew sturdy and vigorous. In due course the two companions came to Lumbini, Kukkuripa had become so comfortable with her agreeable, affectionate nature that he could not picture living without her. He soon found an empty, dry cave that was the right size for them both. His daily efforts to beg for food assigned her to guard the cave, always patiently awaiting his return. Within the zenith of mantra and meditation, many years passed as quickly as one. Organically the Yogi attained the Realization of Clear Light and Shunyata. But the gods and demigods noticed and invited Kukkuripa into their realm to attend a feast and celebration on his behalf. Privileged by their interest and attention he accepted their invitation and embarked upon incessant rounds of self-indulgent feasting and pleasure. On ground his faithful dog unwearingly awaited her master's return. Even though always in search of food she never strayed far from the cave. Absence and luxurious living did not take her from Kukkuripas' heart. He deeply missed his loving friend. He continually insisted he needed to return to the cave to heed her. But the gods would argue that these pleasures held more worth than a dog and a dark cave. Soon he felt held hostage by these divine hosts who would not listen to his pleas of bodhicitta. One morning when he gazed down at the earth, he saw his dog pining for him. Her frame had grown thin and her head hung low. Kukkuripa's back ached and his heart burned a sigh for her. He immediately flew down from heaven and rejoined his loyal puppy. She jumped for joy at the sight of him and instantly vanished! His eyes now feasted on a radiantly beautiful Dakini encircled by her entourage. "Good, Good!" she squealed. "You have succeeded in overcoming self-cherishing at the expense of others. Now that you have realized the truth of illusory pleasures the wisdom of no self is yours. Your Dakini can gift you supreme faultless pleasure without end." Then she taught him skillfull means and wisdom of emptiness. Irreversible Immutability arose as reality in his mindstream and he accomplished the state of supreme realization. Celebrated as Illustrious Kukkuripa, the Dog Lover, he returned to his hometown, where he lived to be in service to others. And when he ascended to the Paradise of the Dakinis he brought a vast entourage of students with him.

