

Spring/Summer 2005

Spiritual Director  
Venerable Zasep Rinpoche

# Sukkhā Siddhi

Tashi Choling Society Newsletter





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***summer course***

Zasep Rinpoche is teaching a weekly course on the Three Principle Paths of Tibetan Buddhism: Renunciation, Bodhichitta, and Sunyata this spring & summer at Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat in Sproule Creek. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the essence of the Gelugpa Tibetan tradition of Buddhism. The next teaching is on June 7th at 7 PM. The program will continue most Tuesdays, May through August, (check Tashi Choling’s website events calendar during the summer for dates; [www.tcs.kics.bc.ca](http://www.tcs.kics.bc.ca) ). During the renovations teachings will be held on the upper floor of Tashi Choling Retreat. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$15 per class.

***rinpoche’s teachings at trijang buddhist institute***

Hello everyone,

I would like to let you all know about a teaching event happening this summer. Zasep Rinpoche will be teaching a week long course on Lojong Thought Transformation at The Trijang Buddhist Institute in Vermont. The Trijang Buddhist Institute is the North American seat of His Holiness Kyabje Trijang Chogtrul Rinpoche, and is a beautiful retreat property in the Vermont countryside. There is an extensive summer program with many renowned Lamas being offered at TBI (including Zasep Rinpoche's week long course). Perhaps most significant will be lamrim teachings and the initiation of Yamantaka given by His Holiness himself- the first annutarayoga initiation to be given by this young tulku! They have all the information concerning programming and costs on their website, which is [www.trijangbuddhistinstitute.org/](http://www.trijangbuddhistinstitute.org/)

Hope this email finds you all well,

Matt King  
President  
Gaden Choling



Rinpoche in Bodhgaya



## prosperity vases

The vases will feature Yellow Tara who is one of the 21 Taras and is empowered with the ability to remove poverty. Each vase will contain mantras and images of Tara plus herbs, jewels and precious metals. Rinpoche will consecrate them with a Yellow Tara puja as well as give an initiation of Yellow Tara for those who purchase the vase. The consecration will need to be renewed each year.

### All proceeds for Gaden Tashi Choling Gompa Renovations

Key to the process of making the vases is dedicated local volunteers who will collect, grow and assemble materials. Once all materials are collected, the volunteer group will work together with Zasep Rinpoche to go through all the steps of assembling the vases—many hours for several days will be required after all materials are collected. Assembly will be done in August.

For more info call Joan at 354-0206



Here is an example of a beautiful Prosperity Vase. The vases we will help Rinpoche assemble and paint will look somewhat different.

### LAM RIM and LOGGING: a personal view.....

step one...renunciation by Clo Burton

Rinpoche on Tuesday, May 3 started the first of a summer series of teachings on Lam Rim ...The Gradual Path to Enlightenment...as originally taught by Tsongkhapa 500 years ago in Tibet. The focus for the evening talk was the first path, renunciation...which in Tibetan (Ney Jung?) translates into “definitely something will happen.” While the Oxford English Dictionary

states it is the “act or instance of...giving up...self denial. Either way it doesn’t mean according to Rinpoche “leaving all of life behind and sitting in a cave.” At the end of the class, the traditional question and answer period slid into a discussion on the proposed Ministry Of Forests’ Small Business logging plans for Sproule Creek. **3**



## renovations underway at the gompa

On April 22 everything was cleared out of our old meditation hall and brought upstairs until our contractor Darin Berg has completed the professional builder phase of our enlarged Gaden Tashi Choling Retreat Centre. Peter, Wayne, Pamela, Ivana and Nancy cleared, cleaned, carried and sweated our temporary upstairs meditation space into beautiful new order.

So that Rinpoche could give the wonderful teachings that he is now giving upstairs in what was our living room to the local community. You must come some Tuesday night and see how nice it looks.

The building committee continues to work closely with Eric Clough our architect and Darin Berg our wonderful builder to troubleshoot any

changes that need to be made to our original plans and any requests for changes that Rinpoche may have.

You can see how fast the reno is moving from the photos. The new ninety seat capacity meditation hall with its raised 10 foot ceiling and large glass door and window wall overlooking Copper Mountain is just breathtaking. So much beautiful space and light! It will be glorious to behold when Darin is finished with his part of the work and our volunteers move in on July 18<sup>th</sup> to start the finishing drywall phase.

Dharma people with special skills will be needed at this time, but general volunteers will be needed starting Aug 1<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. Painting,



trim, flooring and finishing touches are all needed for completion at that time. Rinpoche has some wonderful traditional Tibetan décor ideas that we will use in the painting phase.

And, of course, if you can't help with the actual physical labor involved with our renovations, please consider a good-sized donation to help us pay for our excellent building contractor.

Our blessed spiritual home just keeps getting better and better.

Yours in the dharma,  
Nancy



Listening to instructions on whom to write protest letters to, key points to express, and how to be most effective brought back so many memories and intense feelings from years of my community/Ministry of Forests' processes, that I had to leave due to a headache coming on. Grumbling to Joan, Peter and Fern on my way out how it was too bad how a good meditation practice had just become an emotional mire on forestry politics....Fern muttered 'some things never change'. Bugged I drove home to QB contemplating what I think is the foundation teachings of Buddhism...impermanence and how clinging to our habits and illusions causes suffering....and here again I was being asked to revisit a process that hasn't yet evolved in local communities. So, how do I and all involved bring a new awareness into our political actions? Just what is my watershed issue? How do I deal with threats of logging to the peaceful and stable old growth of my forest mind? To the possibility of having my water, my life source, my emotions and imagination burdened with tons of silts, sands and gravel? Or worse, seasonally drying up and disappearing? How to deal with these raw emotions so that the instigators of all this potential turmoil don't get made into the enemy? The best place for me to start is to renounce my expectations

of what it means to study The Three Principle Paths of Buddhism, to selectively take out or partially clearcut my concepts on learning from a Lama, and to change my access route ...I am being given another precious opportunity to practice the dharma, find my middle way on mothering/managing my affairs. From the praise and request to White Tara that the First Dalai Lama wrote the last line is....  
***"make flourish every circumstance conducive and helpful"***

She knows what I need, even if I don't understand or am resistant. Trust, it's back to trust. Seems like definitely something is happening here.

**Web addresses of interest:**

find pics from pilgrimage at  
<http://www.zuruling.org/IndiaTrip>

*The Three Principle Paths*  
talks by Zasep Tulku Rinpoche are  
available at  
[http://gadenforthewest.org/multimedia/  
mp3/threepinciplepaths/](http://gadenforthewest.org/multimedia/mp3/threepinciplepaths/)

## BEFORE THE RAIN

Reciting Green Tara's mantra  
By chance I glance up  
at the sky.

White clouds turn pink,  
then red, then lilac blue.

The power line above my head  
gleams, breaks into tiny beads;  
I recognize the glint,  
the amber luminous:

My Teacher's mala stretched  
from horizon to horizon,  
Linking continents

OM TARE TUTTARE TURE SOHA!  
Love, Margrith