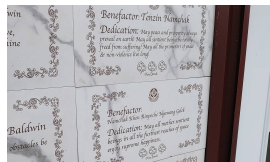




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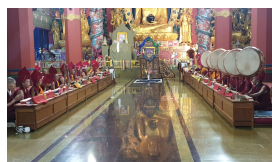
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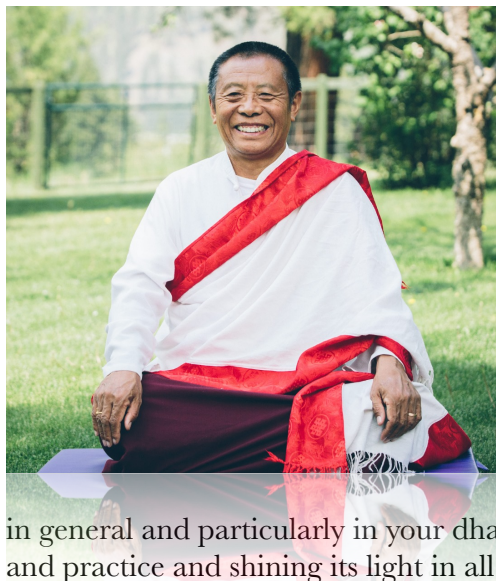
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Ewam Review 2021



Authentic Heart Advice, a New Year's Message to all Ewam Students

I offer my greetings and a Tashi Delek for the new year 2022 to everyone connected to Ewam: to the holy Lamas who are Lords of Refuge, the Khenpos, Tulkus, students be they monastics or ngakpas, to all of the followers, students, and patrons. Together with this, I also want to offer my highest appreciation and praises to you all for not losing your courage amongst the great difficulties incurred by us similarly all over the world due to this ferocious dark wind of obstacles which befell us and for redoubling your efforts in your work in general and particularly in your dharma practices to protect the beacon of the teachings of study and practice and shining its light in all directions.

These days, be it in the air, the environment, or the sentient beings in it, no matter which way we look upon this situation, it is clear that we are in an era of change the extent of which has never been seen in thousands of years. So, we have no choice but to accept that this is an era in which there is no certainty and it is difficult to trust anything. Within such a situation, in the last two years we have experienced many compounded difficulties: the predicament of this terrible pandemic, wars and the arms race, economic hardships on the government level, loss of work and so on on the individual

level, and so forth. Also, the fear that there is even more to come has still not been quelled and we have to admit that the root of these difficulties is the wish for personal profit and the defeat of others which itself comes from the ignorance of self-grasping. From a more optimistic perspective, many associations and individuals have gained a vision of unity for the whole world due to these adverse situations and the certainty that their happiness and suffering, development and decline are interrelated to those of others and have gained opportunities for helping others, making charitable contributions, practicing virtue and so on which transcends borders. For us dharma practitioners as well, we gained the opportunity to apply ourselves to an ever greater degree in our practices.

These situations have also directly demonstrated the meaning of what the Buddha, our teacher, taught about how all compounded phenomena are inherently impermanent, suffering, empty and selfless, and how everything relies upon causes and conditions. The causes and conditions of our present difficulties and sufferings come down to the collective non-virtuous karmic actions that we humans have been engaging in. Because overcoming them depends on gathering the correct causes and conditions, we must act as glorious Manjushri and noble Tara did in generating the courageous mind of bodhicitta and acting without getting disheartened. With that, deeply consider that happiness and suffering are the same for all beings in general and particularly those of this planet, and with the motivation of altruism and compassion, apply yourselves diligently in the practices of aspirational and engaged bodhicitta, generating enthusiasm in our minds. This an extremely important way to face difficulties and to transform suffering into courage.

It is also the case that happiness and suffering do not rely upon their outer objects, but upon your own inner mind and this has been clearly shown to us through the benefits we gain from our Buddhist practices. Moving forward, all students who rely upon me should gain familiarity in the practices of calm abiding, profound insight, emptiness, compassion, and so forth and there is no doubt that in the immediate sense, you will gain peace and comfort of mind from the natural pacification of outer and inner sufferings and ultimately, the time will come when bliss will naturally come forth and you will see the truth for yourself. So, pray regularly to Lama Orgyen Pema and if you have a specific deity, or even if you don't, regularly keep whichever one you feel the most close to, be it the great compassionate Avalokiteshvara, Tara, and so forth. With that, when adversity befalls, then just as if you met with a wild animal in a narrow alley, if you had a weapon you could fight back without worry, maintaining your connection to a deity carries the purpose of enabling you to stamp out adversity or take it on the path. In particular, for those who are able to apply the diligence to practice the great perfection of utter luminosity, the profound path which will liberate one in either this life, the next, or in the bardo and can directly demonstrate the result of buddhahood in this lifetime, it is just as if you had a wish fulfilling jewel in your hands, there is no need to seek ordinary trinkets elsewhere. You should gain belief and certainty from those who are even at present gaining the state of rainbow body. Everyone keep this in mind and I offer my prayers that your practices will result in the spontaneous accomplishment of the needs of yourself and others.

I was encouraged to write something, being told that we needed a new years message and some advice for the Ewam students and so, I wrote whatever came to mind primarily for my own students and dharma practitioners. Therefore, I ask forgiveness if it is disagreeable to others.

Online Programs

Although it was not possible to gather in person due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, Ewam international became tireless and fearless in their activities to bring the Buddhist teachings to the world. Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche and other teachers offered a non-stop online program of free seminars, weekend teachings, practice sessions, sacred rituals and longer retreats. Attendance overall was vast and in the thousands. Below are a selection of some of the highlights. 2021 was a year of an abundance of teachings and retreats, we look forward to another year ahead of Buddhist programs.

In April, Rinpoche offered a ten day retreat on Rigdzin Jigmé Lingpa's *Yeshe Lama* to second year students. For Pema Khandro Ling's annual Trek Chö retreat in May, Rinpoche bestowed five days of teaching to students on Guru Padmasambhava's text *Self-Liberation Through Seeing with Naked Awareness*. In a series of weekly two hour sessions throughout August through September, Rinpoche offered teachings on the Vajrayana Section of Longchen Rabjam's *Semnyi Ngalso*. During a three week period in September, Rinpoche bestowed further teachings from the Yangti Nagpo cycle. In June, the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas hosted a seven day Sangwa Yeshe online retreat. Rinpoche taught the thirteen chapters of *The Spontaneous Fulfillment of Wishes*; Namchag Khen Rinpoche, Lama Karma, Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo, and Khenpo Namchak Dorji also taught throughout the retreat.

The Ewam Buddhist Institutes Shedra this past July continued on the extraordinary journey into the heart of Buddhist philosophy. Khen Rinpoche taught for ten days on the classic *Beacon of Certainty* by Mipham Rinpoche. Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo taught for the remaining two weeks of July in the evening on *The Lion's Roar: The Condensed Essential Points of the Buddha Nature* by Mipham Rinpoche.

Throughout the year many talks, classic texts and practices of the Buddha dharma were presented in shorter formats. Sang-ngag Rinpoche taught on Yum Chemo, Avalokitesvara, 21 Tara's, *Taking Happiness and Suffering on the Path* and many other topics. Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo taught on What are Dakini's?, Faith in Buddhism, Natural Artists Art and many other provocative subjects and traditional philosophy. Khen Rinpoche taught on Green Tara, Mindfulness, Calm Abiding and Insight Meditation and many other classes on a variety of topics. Drupon Lama Karma began his two year deep dive into Buddhist meditation, practice and ritual with weekend classes and weekly study, hosted by Ewam Kusum Ling. Khenpo Namchak Dorji and Justin Kirkwood offered precise english translations with the exception of Jetsunma who taught in english.



Events

Earlier this year during the Yeshe Lama Retreat, Rinpoche consecrated the new Prayer Flag Mound Structure and the Ewam Peace Pavilion. Many people around the world joined us online and several locals joined us onsite. In May, Rinpoche and Namchag Khen Rinpoche performed the Saga Dawa Ceremony in commemoration of the holy Saga Dawa month.

After the Sangwa Yeshe retreat, Rinpoche, Khen Rinpoche, and Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo performed the Annual Bodhicitta Monlam in front of Yum Chenmo. Several Tibetan families joined us onsite as well as many others online. On October 27, 2021, Ewam Garden of One Thousand Buddhas and many others celebrated the auspicious day of Lhabab Duchen. Lhabab Duchen is a major Buddhist festival commemorating the Buddha's descent from the Trayastrimsa heaven down to earth. The Buddha taught dharma to his mother and the gods of that realm to liberate them from Samsara. He then descended back to earth at the request of his disciples including Maudgalyayana. Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche has been promoting Lhabab Duchen as Buddhist Mother's Day.

For two days on November (1st & 2nd), Rinpoche, Namchag Khen Rinpoche, and Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo performed an averting ceremony online of the wrathful Guru Pema Traktung. Rinpoche's students in Taiwan and Hong Kong began the the approach and accomplishment stages prior to the ceremony (October 30 & 31). They opened the mandala of Pema Traktung and had a group practice based on the "upper activity" Pema Traktung ritual which is focused on attaining enlightenment. Rinpoche asked all his students from around the world to recite Pema Traktung's primary mantra. Pema Traktung mantras accumulated by Taiwan and Hong Kong Sangha: 3,000,000 and accumulated by Ewam USA sangha is 1,453,980—with a grand total of 4,453,980.



Fundraising

Year to date, Ewam Garden of One Thousand Buddhas raised: \$83,455.24. This included the Peace Pavilion Sponsorships, Stupa Sponsorships, Spring Garden Maintenance, Prayer Flags and Lungta Name Tags.

Stupa Sponsorships was an onsite fundraiser. The Garden purchased a Kiln to make plaques for the stupas and the Peace Pavilion sponsor plaques. Many people who were on the stupa waiting list were able to sponsor their stupas.

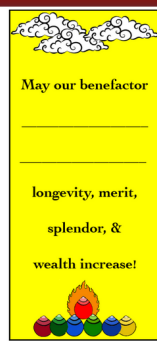
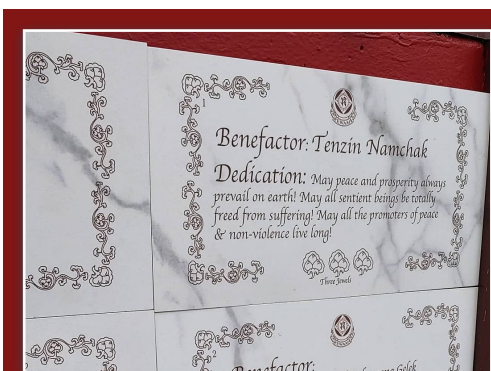
The Garden of One Thousand Buddhas is accepting donations for the completion of the Peace Pavilion and ongoing Garden Maintenance plus other special projects listed on the website. With Garden Maintenance you can donate towards road improvements and garden bed maintenance to keep the Garden beautiful for the many pilgrims who have sought refuge here in these challenging times.

The Garden of One Thousand Buddhas is also currently accepting donations for prayer flags to hang on the new prayer flag structure. We will be hanging all sponsored prayer flags on every Guru Rinpoche Day. Sponsoring a prayer flag set is \$25.00.

And finally, anyone can make a donation of \$100 or more for additional maintenance of the Buddha Garden and the prayer flag structure. This can serve as a dedication to revive and increase the longevity, merit, capability and life force for themselves or their friends and families, or for the purification of obscurations of ones who have passed on.

Each year, Ewam centers reach tens of thousands of people across the west and Asia through events, retreats, and administering pilgrimage sites that connects us to our communities and the world we live in. This rare and momentous work is made possible by the contributions of individuals who believe in the mission of Ewam: to cultivate spiritual awareness in the west and throughout the world —inspired by a deeper understanding of wisdom and compassion.

If anyone is interested in donating and more information, please visit our website at ewam.org/donate.



Garden Activities

Every year the garden reaches amazing heights with improvements and new developments and in 2021 this tradition continued. Starting in August 2020, the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas began constructing the new prayer flag mound structure (Lungta). Many people purchased prayer flags to be hung during the ceremony of completion in October. In Spring of 2021, Rinpoche came to the Garden to consecrate both the Prayer Flag Structure and the Ewam Peace Pavilion. The new prayer flag structure is quite large with a strong foundation and can be seen from HWY 93 and the Jocko Valley.

The Peace Pavilion project has been ongoing for several years. The new Administration Office was completed late summer 2020 and the interior floor finish was worked during winter 2020 and completed in spring 2021. Throughout 2021, the Peace Pavilion has been installed with a new projector and projector screen, storage containers were built for meditation cushions, curtains were installed on the windows, the interior floor was completed, and tables have been installed in the tormas making room. On the exterior of the building, sponsor plaques have been added to the sponsor walls that wrap the building. There are still many openings available for sponsorships that range from Donor (\$300-\$599); Patron (\$600-\$999); and Benefactor (\$1000+). Please consider donating today to help finish the Ewam Peace Pavilion.

Throughout 2021, many volunteers came to visit the Garden and clean stupas, buddhas, and help weed and mow the garden. Other projects was to complete the stupa sponsor plaques and place them beneath the stupas. New gravel was placed on roads to help with potholes, new donation boxes were installed and security cameras were installed throughout the garden as well satellite internet at Yum Chenmo. A new billboard was designed and placed about 4 miles from the Garden as you enter Arlee from Missoula. Later in the year, gravel paths were placed in Garden from the main site to the Peace Pavilion and Gift Store and new signs were also added.



Ewam International

Greetings and Tashi Delek to everyone and particularly to all of the Ewam students all over the world.

In 2021, although all of us have met with and are continuing to meet with all kinds of difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic, due to these impermanent adversities and obstacles, many of us have gained some life experience, some new qualities, had the chance to find new ways to make a living. Therefore, I see it as important for us to never be discouraged and to keep moving forward.

At the Ewam Garden of One Thousand Buddhas for example, we have been able to accomplish all kinds of jobs big and small such as maintaining the garden, constructing a new Lungta prayer flag structure, completing the work for the new Peace Pavilion and so forth. We have also been and are continuing to offer Dharma teachings online as much as we can with the hopes that they will bring our students the great benefits that they have in the past.

One specific thing I have to share with you all is that beginning in 2021, the nuns at the Ewam nunnery in India, Ewam India Nubchen Namchak Monastery, began a monthly practice of *The Dark Red Amulet of Yangpur* where they recite at least three or four hundred thousand mantras and together with that, on the twenty-ninth of each month they open Vajrakilaya's mandala and do extensive tsok offerings and sölka protector practices. This has now been implemented as a continuous practice which will be done every month for as long as the nunnery exists. Vajrakilaya is the essence of the enlightened activities of all buddhas and is praised as the supreme one to pacify obstacles. Guru Rinpoche stated, "Kilaya will liberate all obstacles," and "Kilaya practitioners are glorious. Kilaya practitioners will live long." So, the purpose of this is to pacify all of the obstacles and adversities in our world and for all of our wishes which accord with the Dharma to be spontaneously accomplished.

To that end, Namchak Dorlop Chokyi Lodro and myself have provided the financial support for this and humbly requested the supreme lord Gochen Tulku Sangak Tenzin Rinpoche to bestow the empowerments, transmissions, pith instructions, and ritual instructions to the nuns, which he joyously accepted to do and with supreme kindness, ensured that the lineage of ritual practice of the vidyadharas which is transmitted by sight was conferred.

I will conclude with a prayer from my brother Namchak Dorje Lopon Chokyi Lodrö and myself that in accordance with what we've instituted here, that comfort and happiness pervade to and illuminate the whole world and that all the darkness of obstacles and degenerations are perfectly eliminated.

—Namchak Khenpo Ngawang Gelek





Other News

During Dakini Day Tsog (October 31), Rinpoche awarded certificates of completion of the Yangti Nagpo Dark Retreat to Namchag Khen Rinpoche and Jetsunma Jamyang Palmo.

Ewam Media launched the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas YouTube channel, added many improvements to the new website and plans many upcoming multi-media offerings.

Remembering Charlie Pearl

Charlie Pearl passed away on October 27, 2021, on the auspicious day of Lhabab Duchen, the descending day of Lord Buddha. There were many auspicious signs like rainbows in the garden.

Rinpoche and Khen Rinpoche did Prayers right before his passing and did phowa immediately after he passed away. He died very peacefully and seemed to have control of himself. Even after 24 hours, his face looked lustrous. Khen Rinpoche visited the cremation hall to be there for Charlie until the process was complete.

Charlie was a long time devoted student of Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche and Khen Rinpoche. Charlie gave many years as a staff member to the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas, tirelessly practiced the dharma throughout his life and will be missed by all who knew him.



Programs/Events 2022



Many programs, classes and events are tentatively scheduled for 2022 and many more will be added throughout the year. Check the website regularly, ewam.org, for updates, information and new teaching dates. Being able to offer programs onsite again in addition to the online webinars is the goal but will be reviewed periodically due to the pandemic. These decisions on how these retreats will be offered will be posted with each program as that information becomes available. We appreciate your ongoing patience due to this pandemic. Some but not all of our retreats scheduled are listed below.

Third Year Yeshe Lama Teachings with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche- April 23, 2022-May 02, 2022

Dakini Sangwa Yeshe Drupchod with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche-June 18, 2022-June 25, 2022

Bodhicitta Monlam with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche-June 26, 2022

Empowerment for Shedra Students by Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche-July 01, 2022

Shedra Teachings by Namchag Khen Rinpoche & Jetsunma Palmo -July 02, 2022-July 30, 2022

Peace Festival-September 11, 2022

Dzogchen Yangti Nagpo Teachings with Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche- September 17, 2022-October 10

Ewam International Website

Ewam YouTube Channel

Ewam Garden of One Thousand Buddhas Facebook

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