



# The Ocean

A Quarterly for Florida Buddhists

“SPRING”  
March  
April and  
May  
2006

## Spring’s Featured Center KAGYU SHEDRUP CHÖLING

KSC Clergy Residence 60 NW 86th Street El Portal  
Florida, 33150 PH 305-751-7402

From the Website.....

**K**agy Shudrup Chöling is the first center Lama Norlha Rinpoche started in South Florida. It was named The Kagyu Dharma Center of Study and Practice by him on his second teaching visit in 1997. The many traditional Tibetan Buddhist activities that take place at KSC include teachings in meditation, including *shinay* (shamatha) and *Ihatong* vipasshyana). Those who have received initiation or empowerments are given the oral transmission (*lung*) for the practice texts and instruction on how to practice various sadhanas. The resident teacher, Lama Karma Chötso, teaches traditional Tibetan texts such as the Seven Points of Mind Training, the 37 Deeds of a Bodhisattva, The Union of Mahamudra & Dzogchen, and others. Tibetan language classes are offered with students initially learning to read and chant Tibetan texts and going on to spoken Tibetan.

KSC is the only Buddhist Dharma Center in Flor-

ida where Tibetan butterlamps are offered. Every Sunday morning, in a ceremony called *Gya Chö* or the Offering of One Hundred, participants light one hundred butter lamps, offer one hundred bowls filled with saffron water, one hundred flowers and incense. Offering butter lamps is a very effective way of earning merit and requesting prayers. Prayer requests are read before chanting

the Green Tara, Fire Puja (*Riwo Sangchö*) and Medicine Buddha sadhanas, along with other prayers.

KSC hosts the visits of Lama Norlha Rinpoche and Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche annually. Lama Chöpal has also come to KSC to teach Tibetan art.

On his last visit, the students made their first sand mandala (the mandala of the Bodhisattva of Compassion, *Chenrezi*) in the Miami Design District.

As the first Dharma Center of the Kagyu lineage to be founded in South Florida, KSC has prospered. From a core group of only a few dents, students

(Continued on page 3)



## Letter from Editor.....

Hi,  
I hope everybody enjoys the first issue of "*The Ocean*"!

Florida is a large state, so sometimes staying on top of the Dharma activity here can be an activity in itself! One of the purposes of *The Ocean* is to keep each other informed about what is going on.

Another purpose of *The Ocean* is to introduce Dharma centers in the state. I know I have wondered about many of them and perhaps you have too. In each issue we will bring a center to you.

So that is the main idea.... The other sections of the publication will be in a state of evolution! Just like us! What people enjoy will stay, and what you don't will be changed.

In this issue we visit Miami Florida and Kagyu Shedrup Choling. This center run by Lama Karma Chotso has been serving the Buddhist community in South Florida for many years. It has grown much, and now owns a beautiful piece of property, on a canal with retreat facilities. It is a special place.

Also we revisited a moment in time, September 2004, when His Holiness the Dalai Lama came to the Miami area to teach and give blessings. Many moments stick out in my memory, but one that is relevant to any Floridian, was all the prayer vigils the lamas performed to keep the hurricanes at bay. They worked very hard! Of course many people will remember the beautiful thangka that was painted at the Fort Lauderdale museum of Art by Lama Pema Tenzin from Bhutan and "Friends"! What else endures, besides recollection of that visit, is the gift from His Holiness to the community, of a wonderful Prayer Wheel! It is located in the Alvin Sherman Library of Nova University in Davie Florida.

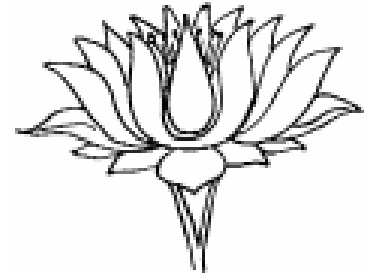
We *really* want to hear your ideas and even try them out, so please email us with them....we look forward to it.

*The Ocean* is planned to be a quarterly publication....all Buddhist traditions will be featured.

I hope your spring has been good.  
Yours,  
Anita  
Editor

## Contact Us

Email  
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### Puzzle Answers!!

#### ACROSS

- 1.Buddha 4.Shakyamuni  
6.Rinpoche 8.Anger 9.Love  
10.Thangka 11.Pride  
13.Envy 14.Sangha  
15.Dharma

#### DOWN

- 2.Avalokiteshvara 3.Milarepa  
5.Ignorance 7.Chorten  
12. Desire

### **KAGYU SHEDRUP CHOLING continued**

the center has expanded to include centers in Hollywood, El Portal, and South Miami. A Lama Residence has been purchased that includes a small house used for meditation retreats. Lama Karma Chötso continues to work towards the goal of building a *stupa* in South Florida, a structure symbolizing the Buddha's enlightened mind and one that will help avert terrible storms and disasters. The projected start of building the first *stupa* is early 2007.

*Lama Karma Chötso began her study and practice of Tibetan Buddhism in 1982 when she met Kyabje Dorje Chang Kalu Rinpoche in New York. She also received teachings and empowerments from His Eminence Tai Situ Rinpoche, Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche and the Very Venerable Lama Norlha Rinpoche, all three of whom remain her closest teachers. Lama Karma Chötso was ordained as a novice Buddhist nun in 1986 just prior to entering the three-year, three-month retreat at Kagyu Thubten Chöling Monastery in New York. After completing the retreat, she trained in Tibetan painting, traveled to India & Sikkim twice on pilgrimage, and visited Tibet with Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche on pilgrimage where she first met the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa in 1993. She also studied and practiced in Nepal for a few months.*

*In November 1996, Lama Karma Chötso came to South Florida to prepare for Lama Norlha Rinpoche's first visit. He instructed her to stay in Florida and begin teaching. When he returned in 1997, Rinpoche gave the group in Hollywood the name Kagyu Shedrup Chöling. Since then Lama Karma Chötso has begun centers in the Florida Keys, South Miami, and especially in El Portal, home of the Lama Residence. She also teaches every year in Peru and Colombia, has been on the Executive Board of Interfaith Council of Greater Hollywood for eight years and initiated the new interfaith group, Women & Spirituality.*

## **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

with Lama Karma Chotso

*Lama Karma Chotso, you have seen the 'causes and conditions' come together in a way here in South Florida that has made the Dharma really take root. Is there something unique to Florida that has helped?*

The beautiful weather along with the beautiful beaches may have been a unique situation that lured some teachers here. It was one of the reasons Lama Norlha Rinpoche told me to stay in Florida and begin teaching here. I had been very ill for a couple of years by that time and he saw that I was so much better in this warm climate that he told me I should stay. Maybe this has also been the case with other Buddhists.

But, besides that... your question assumes that Dharma has actually taken root here and to know that for certain, it must stay for a very long period of time. If it does happen to stay, the causes and conditions promoting its stay will, I think, come in large part from the communities of Buddhists who immigrated here from other countries. For example, Buddhists from Thailand who have moved to South Florida not only brought teachers and monks to live here, but have built a spectacular temple. The Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Laotians, etc., have done similar things. Because they were all brought up in Buddhist traditions they will provide us with generations of people who have devotion, faith and understanding and have had that from childhood. Among Americans, it's not that easy to find even a second generation Buddhist. So these communities, whether they are the same Buddhist tradition as ours or not, will help give Buddhism a good grounding in this country.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*This year you and a group of your students made a trip to India, how many students went along and where did you visit?*

This was the first trip I've taken to India since moving to Florida and five people came with me from Florida. Another two students from Peru met us there.

The main reason for the trip was to attend the Kagyu Mönlam Festival for World Peace. This is an 8-day event attended by thousands of people, ordained and lay people, from all over the world who come together to chant prayers of aspiration for the entire world. This year was the third and last time that Lama Norlha Rinpoche sponsored the entire festival so I felt it was very important to be there with him.

The festival takes place in Bodh Gaya, the actual place where the Buddha attained enlightenment, and we sat right there under the Bodhi tree with His Holiness the 17th Karmapa and many other genuine lamas of the Kagyu lineage along with monks and nuns from many Kagyu monasteries. The chanting begins before dawn and ends in late afternoon. And every evening HH Karmapa would give teachings that were translated for westerners.

The entire experience was very important for the students from Florida because although they practice and study the BuddhaDharma, some had never realized that they had become a part of something as profound and extraordinary as the Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. (If your readers would like to learn more about Kagyu Mönlam they can log on to the website [www.kagyumonlam.org](http://www.kagyumonlam.org))

After the Festival was over, we went to Varanasi and the Deer Park in Sarnath, where the Dhamekha stupa marks the place where the Buddha gave his first teaching. We also visited Khenchen Trangu Rinpoche's monastery/shedra in Sarnath and had a short audience with him. Then we went back to Delhi and hired a car that took us north to the mountains where we visited the Tibetan community in Dharamsala, and on to Tso Pema (Lotus Lake) where we visited the Guru Rinpoche caves. There was a special reason to go there because of our teachers Lama Norlha Rinpoche and Kalu Rinpoche (my first teacher), but that is a story that could be another article in your magazine.

Then we drove to Sherabling, the monastery of His Eminence Tai Situ Rinpoche, one of the most important teachers to me during the past 24 years, and the one who held the entire Kagyu tradition, received from the 16th Karmapa, in his capable hands so that he could pass it on to the 17th Karmapa. We were only able to see Rinpoche when we returned to Delhi, however, the hour he spent with us was priceless.

*Where those lucky students having a great experience?!*

You'd have to ask them!

*How was seeing His Holiness Karmapa for you and your students, you mentioned how he has grown since the last time you saw His Holiness, and how his inner qualities are right there to see?*

Yes, as any child grows from the ages of 8 years to 20 years, HH Karmapa's body has grown, but there is a tremendous difference in other ways he has matured and the maturity of an ordinary child. There were times I had to remind myself that the words I was hearing were coming from a young man only 20 years old. His wisdom and compassion are extraordinary. He is creative, too. He wrote a song and had it translated into English for all of us to learn how to sing. The last night of the Mönlam Festival, everyone stayed at the stupa after sunset and HH Karmapa lit the first candle, which ended up lighting the candles held by every one of us there. There were thousands of flames lighting up the night, and then some of the English-speaking people sang the song as he had requested. It was very beautiful. But I digress...Yes, the qualities of HH are apparent for all to see. He is, thankfully, a very serious man whose concern is to lead the great lineage as he is now charged with, and he truly promotes and supports the ordained sangha. No one saw a weakness in him, only grace and, at times, a

humility that put the rest of us to shame. He obviously has his sights set on the highest goal and isn't much interested in samsaric activity. His teachings, and his song, reflected his concerns and compassion for the world.

*A little over two years ago I remember you performed phowa for a student who died, how did the experience affect you?*

Actually, it gave me more faith in faith itself. Of course, this student had an exceptionally strong devotion and a strong mind. She never made an issue of her beliefs for others to see; she quietly practiced and opened her heart to the Dharma in an extraordinary way and she practiced Buddhism for only three or four years before passing away. That is not a lot of time to learn about and prepare for dying. I was able to spend quality time with her during the 24 hours before she died and could tell from the experiences she was having and told me about that she would do well. From the few deaths I've witnessed of friends and students, it seems that during the last hours of life one is no longer caught up with the experiences of the senses; rather, one begins to experience what is in the mind. When those experiences bring up fear and anxiety, then there might be some difficulty during the dying process and during the bardo. But for this woman it wasn't like that at all. She said to me only hours before passing, "Oh, Karma Chötso, this is so perfect. This is exactly the right time for me and I have no fears at all. It's awesome, though. Really awesome."

*Any last word you would like to give here?*

Peace.

(please go to page nine for more information on Kagyu Shedrup Chöling)



## THE 16th GYALWA KARMAPA

*This article titled "A Remembrance of the Sixteenth Gyalwa Karmapa" is by Steve Roth and appeared in the December 2000 Densal Online magazine. Go to <http://www.kagyu.org/special/densal/features/hpi.html> to find the story and more about the author online.*

*This account is a real treasure to read.*

**"When the iron bird flies, when horses run on wheels, the king will come to the land of the red man"** Padmasambhava (eighth century)

**P**rior to his first visit to the United States in 1974 His Holiness the Sixteenth Karmapa Ranjung Rigpe Dorje had expressed a great interest in wanting to visit the American Indians, and specifically the Hopis. So in early October of 1974, I found myself driving His Holiness in a gold-colored Cadillac through a desert to the Hopi mesa to meet with Chief Ned. This historic meeting with His Holiness and the Hopis was and remains to be one of the major and yet curiously hidden events of the twentieth century.

It was early to mid-afternoon with the temperature in the 100-degree range as the big car began to gradually spiral its way from the desert floor around and around this mountain-like mound of dry and dusty soil which was Mesa 2. As soon as we arrived at the top of the mesa, His Holiness emerged from the car and was greeted by a short, wiry, and weather-beaten Chief Ned, who was probably in

# 3C-OC sad-rDS

This section is especially for you younger people out there..... just like the rest of this Newsletter, we hope you enjoy it..... and regardless if you practice a little bit, alot or neither and you are just checking things out...WELCOME! I called on Serena, a friend and young dharma student I know to help me with this section.....and we'd be happy if anybody else out there who fits the profile wants to write a column here too....as you can see, nobody has come up with a name for it yet either! So we'll just call it "Serenas Column". We would like to dedicate a newsletter to younger buddhists...please email us with your suggestions/ideas

Hi! I'm Serena here to represent the younger constituency of practicing Buddhists, and to introduce the \_\_\_\_\_section of *The Ocean*.

After all, the dharma is accesible to all ages, some just happen to step on the path early in their lives. Luckily there is a spot right here, dedicated to connecting and involving the next generation of practioners. In the coming issues, I am hoping to include your stories, comments and questions, in addition to the news and reviews I will offer.

How interesting it is the many ways people discover buddhism. My mother began taking me to teachings at three. Since then I kept exploring and have been so fortunate to study diverse disciplines in different corners of he world.

My teacher brought me to South Florida to help prepare for the Dalai Lamas teaching here in September 2004. I spent the entire summer up until the teachings in the lush Florida heat, meeting so many wonderful people and visiting the areas meditation centers. That summer impacted me so greatly, and I am glad to continue participating in such a culturally rich and spiritually bountiful region of the world.

I am very much looking forward to hearing your stories; how you got interested in buddhism, and what practices you are working on, any teachings or random moments that inspired you, or any tid bits or co-nundrums you want to share. So put down your malas for a minuete and pick up a pen!

PS, from the editor...Serena lives in CA....she is an aspiring writer, artist and all around nice person! She recently finished her Bachelors Degree and did some of her schooling in Europe and Japan.....she and her boyfriend will soon be moving out of the state for graduate classes. They're broke, but find they are happy!

## THE 16th Karmapa continued

his late seventies. The Hopi chief was clad in dusty Levis, an old plaid shirt, and worn-out sneakers. In spite of all the terrible hardships that had befallen the Hopis, here stood a man, a chief who, while showing signs of being worn out and downtrodden, possessed dignity and presence.

His Holiness asked the chief how things were to which he responded, "not so good." The chief explained that no rain had fallen in seventy-five consecutive days and the crops were failing, creating enormous hardships not only for his tribe but for others as well. His Holiness's response was swift and immediate. From his face there arose and radiated a great wave of compassion. His Holiness promised Chief Ned that he would pray for the chief and the rest of the Hopis. What followed was a special invitation from the chief to His Holiness and his small entourage of five or so to enter the Hopi's sacred kiva. Afterward there was a brief but warm farewell between Chief Ned and His Holiness.

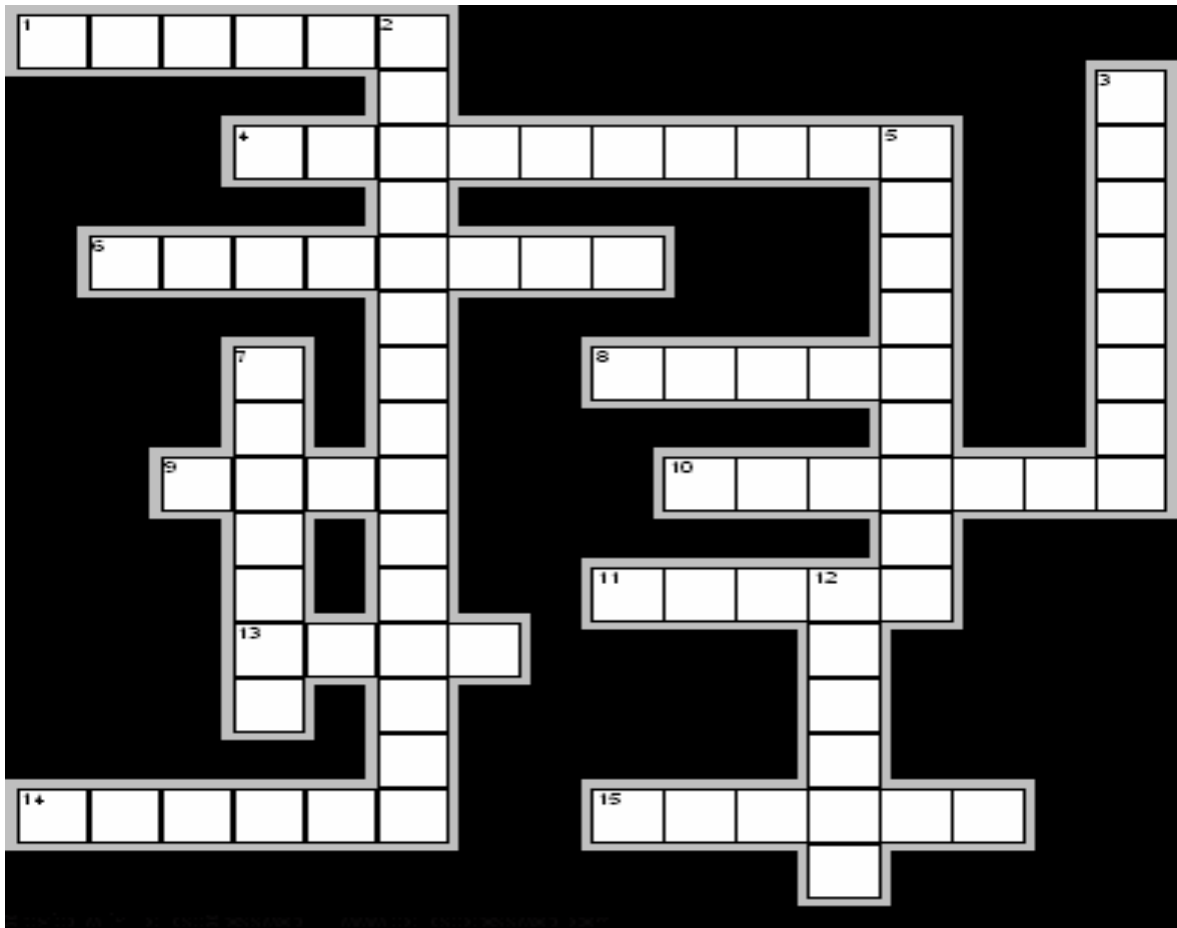
The Karmapa returned to the front passenger seat of the Cadillac and we began a gradual descent under a horizon-to-horizon spotless clear blue sky. We were hardly two-thirds of the way winding around and down the mesa when His Holiness began to recite a particular puja. A noticeable stillness ensued and with it a sense that we were circumambulating this mesa. We reached the desert floor and continued on a forty-minute ride to the eventual destination, a motel convention center. It was during those forty minutes that I witnessed nothing short of sheer magic. For as His Holiness continued the puja, I watched in wonder and amazement at the unfolding of a magically sped-up transformation of a clear blue sky into something else. This miraculous display easily upstaged the scene in the Cecil B. DeMille film *The Ten Commandments* of the sky above Moses as he parted the Red Sea. The Hopis had lost their siddhi for rainmaking and His Holiness was simultaneously addressing that while fulfilling Padmasambhava's eighth century prophecy.

I alternated between driving and watching, transfixed by something quite unbelievable, namely this stage-by-stage, magically time-enhanced transformation of a clear blue sky into a solid steel-gray-and-black colored sky that was actually quite frightening to look at. It just doesn't fit into any conventional framework. It is challenging to behold such an intense level of concentrated, rapidly magnetized energy so suddenly made manifest from something seemingly empty.

We arrived at the motel, and I continued to watch every movement that followed: the door to the Cadillac was opened for His Holiness by an attendant monk who escorted the Karmapa about twenty-five feet directly to his ground-level motel room. The door to the room was opened, he entered, and the door closed behind him. At the exact instant that door clicked shut, there was an unearthly clap and an explosive roaring of thunder with multiple strikes of lightning, the likes of which I had never seen. Then came a rain unlike anything I had ever experienced. If rain could fall from something bigger than buckets, then that possibility was suddenly a reality for all the Hopis, Navajos, and the rest of us who witnessed all this during that late afternoon in October.

By evening both the Hopis and the Navajos who had become aware of what had occurred gathered into a very large group inside a hall at the motel's convention center. Later, the Indians and a number of Western dharma students all received the Avalokitesvara empowerment bestowed by His Holiness. What we witnessed during the empowerment was a communion between His Holiness and a wide-eyed, transfixed group of Indians that was undeniable and unforgettable. His Holiness was having a very personal rendezvous with these Indians, and the Western dharma students who had somehow made our way to this historic occasion were fortunate witnesses to this heartfelt event. The next day a local paper or two ran front page news stories reporting that a string of seventy-five consecutive days without rain was interrupted by the visit of some notable but unfamiliar "East Indian chief" who among other things was well known for making rain. But there was a much greater headline taking place, the fulfillment of one of Padmasambhava's prophecies that had just occurred: "When the iron bird flies, when horses run on wheels, the king will come to the land of the red man." (There are easily half a dozen variations of this quote but they all essentially say the same thing). *If one contemplates what took place that day, one will surely begin to sense the implications of this historic event and of a compassion so vast and profound that it knows no boundaries, references, or limits.*

## PUZZLE.....



### ACROSS

1. One of the Three Jewels
4. Buddha of this time period
6. Translates to Precious Teacher
8. One of the five Kleshas
9. "what the world needs now!"
10. Tibetan scroll painting
11. One of the five Kleshas
13. One of the five Kleshas
14. One of the Three Jewels
15. One of the Three Jewels

### DOWN

2. Sanskrit for Chenrezig
3. Student of Marpa
5. One of the five Kleshas
7. Tibetan word for Stupa
12. One of the five Kleshas

*A reminder....Kleshas...Also called 'afflictive emotions'...these are the emotional afflictions or obscurations that disturb the clarity of perception...they include any emotion that disturbs or distorts consciousness....*

*How do you like the puzzle?*



# a story...



Here is a good story! You can find a version of it in “The Foundations of Tibetan Buddhism” by the excellent Kyabje Dorje Chang Kalu Rinpoche.

*“There is a teaching story about one of the principle students of the Buddha, an arhat named Shariputra. Shariputra was worried about his mother who was not too bright, was illiterate and knew nothing of the Buddha's teaching. He was worried that when she died, she would go to hell and suffer many lifetimes there, since she did not know how to pray. He taught her that whenever she heard any kind of bell, she should immediately respond:*

***Om Ma-Ni Peh-Meh Hoong!*** [Tibetan pronunciation].


*They would make a kind of game of it; he would ring the bell at the door; she would say the mantra; they would laugh. He jingled a few coins; at that metallic sound, she said the mantra. They both got a kick out of it. It got so that even when he was not there, like when she heard the collar bells of yaks and dris, she automatically responded: **Om Mani Pemeh Hoong!** .*

*Now it came to pass, that the good mother died. Due to her Karma she was whisked away to one of the hot hells where she found herself in a huge iron cauldron being stirred by a terrible demon with a great metal spoon. But....Inevitably, the spoon struck the rim with a resounding CLANGGGG!!!*


*The woman responded without even thinking, just as she had been taught:*

***Om Mani Pemeh Hooong***

*and zzzziip -*



*There she was - in the Pure Land of Dewachen, the heaven of Buddha Amitabha where eventually, like everyone there, she became one of the Enlightened Ones.”*



## **KAGYU SHEDRUP CHÖLING**

Kagyü Shedrup Chölings schedule can be seen on their website at  
<http://www.kagyü-sfla.org/>

This center also has a Yahoo egroup if you are familiar with that and can be located by KTCD · Kagyü Tashi Chö Dzong

I saw a sign at a dharma center once that read something like “please call before attending an event as all schedules are subject to impermanence!”  
and that is always good advice!...

PH 305-751-7402

# His Holiness the Dalai Lama Blesses Prayer Wheel at Nova University September 2004

*I attended the blessing, as I am sure some people reading this did too. What a great day! There was not a single cloud in sky. The sun was blazing hot, but somehow it did not seem to bother anybody too much! While sitting there in great anticipation of His Holiness taking the stage, the man sitting next to me told me an interesting story which helped to pass those anxious moments. This man was an American, very elegant, intelligent and "worldly" for lack of a better term. He told me a story of how in his youth, he made the trek to India, like so many young people did in the 1960's, and while there a terrible rash developed on his legs and he was getting concerned. Somebody told him to take a dunk in the Ganges, it would heal them...so he did...and it worked! He was still shaking his head at 'the cure' AND his luck! It impressed me that this was a vivid and special memory to him. I enjoyed the experience of spending time with a stranger and hearing about his life. Looking at him now, it was hard to picture him taking a dunk in the Ganges.....but here he was.....years later....sitting on a plastic chair on a university lawn in the boiling south Florida heat, waiting to see and hear His Holiness ,The Great ,Tenzin Gyatso XIV Dalai Lama. Editor*

**NOTE ...The Prayer Wheel is in the lobby of the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University. All are welcome to go visit and turn the prayer wheel. There is lots free parking close by. The library also has a nice coffee shop.** Address 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd. · Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314

## **THOUSANDS GATHER TO HEAR PEARLS OF WISDOM FROM DALAI LAMA**

By James D. Davis Religion Editor September 19, 2004 (taken with permission)

Some 10,000 people turned out Saturday to hear the world's best-known Buddhist, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, bring a message of "human affection and loving kindness" on his first stop in a five-day South Florida visit.

On a picture-perfect but hot morning, the exiled head of Tibet took the stage in a temporary outdoor amphitheater at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, urging his listeners to transform society one person at a time, drawing on religious and ethical values. "So often, we look for external things -- money or influence or friends -- and neglect the inner life," he told his listeners. "Human affection and loving kindness, I believe, are the most important values. "You can make happiness from inside yourself, then your family. Then you can transform the big human family on the planet, without a government program."

The Tibetan leader, 69, spoke on the first leg of a three-week tour of Caribbean and Latin America nations, which also will take him to two other local universities and a sports arena. He had come to Nova on a combined invitation from the university and Gov. Jeb Bush. The Dalai Lama showed his signature grandfatherly charm, smiling and clasping his hands in humility as he mounted the stage amid the first of several standing ovations. Sometimes speaking for himself, sometimes through an interpreter, he made several jokes about his English and level of learning.

As university president Ray Ferrero Jr. presented an honorary doctorate of humane letters, the Dalai Lama remarked that he had received many such degrees from various schools. "Despite this, I cannot say that my knowledge is increasing," he said, drawing

laughs.

Sometimes he still struggles with occasional feelings of anger and jealousy, he confessed. "But they are like visitors, not permanent residents. Like waves caused by a hurricane, turbulent on the ocean; but underneath, always calm."

He said values can be cultivated by both religious and nonreligious people: either by loving God and loving others, or by "looking inside and recognizing your own good values."

During a Q&A section, the Tibetan leader answered questions submitted by the audience in advance. He advocated a cultural freedom for Tibet within the larger Chinese culture -- calling it a "middle way" between Tibetan independence and Chinese domination. Religious freedom and freedom of information are indispensable, he added.

On how to pursue peace in the face of war, he confessed to having no simple answers. But he did call for a "broader point of view," a recognition that all nations are interdependent and must work together.

"We must create more compassionate families and societies; that's the only way," he said. "Then we will see that my interests are connected to theirs."

He also said he had suggested to Vaclav Havel, the former president of Czechoslovakia, that a corps of Nobel laureates could meet national leaders who were on the brink of war. "They would come as individuals, representing not a government but themselves and humanity, so they could be trusted."

A couple of questions, though, he ducked with an "I don't know," drawing more laughs. One was in answer to "What is our purpose on Earth?" His longer answer: "Philosophers and scientists are investigating that. And I too as a Buddhist think on it. But in daily life, sometimes such questions are not that relevant." He said "we are here," implying: what are we going to do about it?

In the opinion of one Vancouver scholar attending the Nova gathering, the

Dalai Lama's message is less striking than his example.

"When you watch him speak, he has an authenticity about him," said Victor Chan, about the man he has known since 1972. "He has learned his Buddhist lessons for 50 years and wants to help others realize them."

Chan, author of the new book *The Wisdom of Forgiveness*, was amazed himself that the Dalai Lama has forgiven China for invading Tibet. "He has lost his country; so many of his people have died; yet he has forgiven the Chinese people."

Although the topic was love, police and government agents took no chances with safety. The entire campus was fenced off, and guards ran metal detector wands over everyone who entered. Cooperating in the guard duty were Davie police, Broward sheriff's deputies and U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, and the Dalai Lama's own small security force.

Buddhist symbols were abundant. Tibetan prayer flags -- red, blue, yellow, green, white -- adorned the handrails to the stage. A hundred visiting dignitaries were given katas, white silken scarves, that had been blessed by the Dalai Lama. Even the scraps of the katas were carefully folded and slipped into press kits for the media.

The most prominent symbol, of course, was the 600-pound brass prayer wheel on the stage. Standing four feet high, it was made in Dharamsala, India, by nine people over six months. Inside it was rolled a parchment with a million prayers, printed in Sanskrit that had been carved into wooden blocks.

After his speech, the Dalai Lama said a blessing over the huge artifact and turned it, spinning out prayers for compassion, according to Tibetan tradition. A peg on the rim struck a small bell, making it ping with every turn. After Saturday, the prayer wheel was to be moved to a permanent berth in the university library.



## LOCAL NEWS...

Local News” is planned to be just quick ‘shorts’ of local dharma news, everything and anything, so lets see.....

**Kagyü Shedrup Chöling** will be offering a seminar on “The Progressive Stages of Meditation on Emptiness” by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche mid April. What a Great book and what a great opportunity!! ... **The Venerable Acharya Lama Migmar Tseten** has been visiting Miami on a regular basis. Lama Migmar teaches and leads retreats at various Buddhist centers throughout the United States. He is also a Buddhist chaplain at Harvard University. Lama Migmar is a wonderful teacher, to see when he will be teaching here again go to [www.lamamigmar.com](http://www.lamamigmar.com) ... As well as teaching to local buddhist community, Lama Migmar also gave teachings at the University of Miami Wellness Center.....**Zen Village** in Coconut Grove, Miami (aka Zab Sang) is run by Master Chufei Tsai.....an interesting class offering for their April calendar is *Taoist Alchemy for Men* .....this progressive center offers many teachings, and hosts excellent teachers.... look them up at [http://www.thezenvillage.com/about\\_us.html](http://www.thezenvillage.com/about_us.html)

.....**Tubten Kunga** in Deerfield Beach continues to offer a variety of ongoing classes....The resident teacher is the esteemed Geshe Kunchog Kyab, who trained at Sera Je Monastery .....they are a Gelupa center and their classes are geared towards newcomers and old timers alike....please have a look at their centers activities at [www.tubtenkunga.org](http://www.tubtenkunga.org) ... The **Main Library** in downtown Fort Lauderdale, has a great collection of dharma books and videos...for instance, “The Four Noble Truths” as taught by the Dalai Lama on VHS video, is a great teaching.....**Book & Books** in Coral Gables has the “Tibetan Institute & Library Group of Miami” meeting at the store on the first Thursday of the month 7:30–9:00 pm Thupten Tsering moderates. Call: 305-947-2896 for more information.

**Nova University** in Davie, Florida offered complete scholarships to two students from Tibet who arrived in September, way to go Nova!.....Need a sail boat?? Local yacht builder and long time Buddhist has one for sail, check out <http://www.usedboats.com/used-boat-488178.htm>...the boat is aptly named “Gesar of Ling” ....Professor at the **University of Florida in Gainesville**, Dr Jianguo Gu, made international news, by claiming he would boycott the annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, and was encouraging other scientists to do the same if His Holiness the Dalai Lama would be participating in the talks...(here is the link for story <http://www.guardian.co.uk/life/science/story/0,12996,1536643,00.html>) ...The Dalai Lama will be attending the meeting, not sure about Dr Jianguo Gu!.....

Traleq Rinpoche will be teaching at the **KTC in Tampa** in September.....the KTC centers in Florida are all run under the auspices of Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Monastery in Woodstock NY, the main seat of His Holiness Karmapa in America....Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche is the abbot of Karma Triyana Dharmachakra....**KTC Tampa** is set in an huge orange grove on a lake.....! And finally, a note to Lama Karma Chötso, Thankyou for your help and time with this and for your Kindness and mostly for being a dharma presence here in South Florida!!

If something cannot be known without a knower, how can it ever be shown to exist independently?  
--Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso, *Progressive Stages of Meditation on Emptiness*