

# News from the Road

Extra Extra! Special Edition!! Paving roads with Poetry, Love and Inspiration. Matching grant to pave road to Stupa by summer retreat!

Issue no 6 March 2010

**Matching grant to pave the road to the Stupa!**

*This road is an important milestone in access to completing the Lotus grove of Liberation: our stupa park. A generous and committed Sangha member wants this to happen by summer retreat. Be a part of it!*  
**Page 2**

**Fred Brown**

*Our beloved Vajra Brother had a strong wish to finish all of the roads at Pema Osel Ling*  
**Page 3**



**Chuck Goldman**

*A Day at the Stupa to remember*



**Page 4**

**Road to Enlightenment raffle page 5**



**Goodbye for now! Letter from the editor**

**Page 6**



## Paving Roads with Poetry, Music, and Inspiration

*This issue of On the Road is dedicated to the Road to the Stupa and completing all roads around Pema Osel Ling.*

Marcie: Why are we paving the road to the stupas and how are we going to do it?

John Reynolds: We want to make the stupas easily accessible to everyone. Right now the road is 4 wheel drive only. (see Chuck Goldman's article on page 2!)

We are not paving the entire road to the stupas. We



"If we pave this road to the stupas I won't need my four wheel drive truck!" John Reynolds

are paving the steepest part, affectionately known as "the hill." "The hill" is 450 ft long, and we will pave it with concrete 4" thick and 10 ft wide. It will be graded so that water runs off properly. On the rest of the road we will put down gravel road base. This will provide two wheel drive access to the stupas, and will preserve the natural beauty of a walk through the woods.

Marcie: What will be the next phase of building after you pave the road?

John: Paving the road is preliminary to the next phase of the Stupa Park. Not only does paving the road make the stupas accessible for all people, it is necessary to provide easy access for trucks and equipment required to build the next phase. Right now it is not possible. They can't get back up. Even AAA won't go down the road now, as it is! The next phase will be a mandala shaped wall with 108 stupas on top. This wall will surround the existing stupas, and will complete the Stupa Park.

Marcie: How much money do we need to complete this?

John: We need \$15,000.00 just to pave "the hill," and another \$6,000.00 to put road base down on the dirt road which is 1,550 feet long. The good news is, we have a matching grant for \$7,500.00! (See page 2), and we already have raised \$3,000.00 from the fall concerts. Diane Di Prima did an amazing poetry reading in SF that raised \$1,280.00. Everyone is helping. It is very beautiful. As Rinpoche says, "More please"!

*To make a tax deductible donation to the road to the stupa, please send your check to Vajrayana Foundation, 2013 Eureka Canyon Road, Watsonville, Ca or go to our web site: [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) and link to the Road to Enlightenment page and mark your donation Road to the Stupa.*



# Pave The Road to the Stupa for Summer!

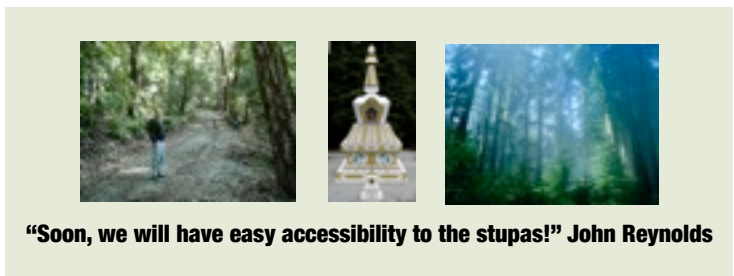
## Matching Grant Challenge!

*The momentum is building to pave the steep part of the Road to the Stupa! We raised \$3,000.00 from recent fundraising concerts in Berkeley. Diane Di Prima's poetry event on March 21 raised \$1,280.00 for the Road to the Stupa. Wow, not bad. That's a total of \$4,280.00. We still need \$10,720.00 to make it real.*

vehicles to get up and down to the stupa. If we pave "the hill," then anyone will be able to drive up and down the road, and walking will be easier too!

Our dear, recently deceased, Sangha member Fred Brown, made a clear and strong wish to see the roads at Pema Osel Ling completed, especially the

Lama Tharchin's wish to pave all of the roads at POL including the Road to the Stupa has inspired all of us. Please make a donation of any amount, no matter how small. (See Rinpoche's article on how roads remove obstacles on our web site: [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org). link to The Road to Enlightenment page.)



**"Soon, we will have easy accessibility to the stupas!" John Reynolds**

Now we have a chance to get to the top! We have received a **Matching Grant Challenge of \$7,500.00**. If we can only raise **\$3,400.00 more, \$7,500.00** will be donated, and we will have enough money to pave "the hill," the really steep part of the road that makes it impossible for ordinary

We need to raise this money soon in order to do the paving before summer retreat, which starts on May 22nd. We hope with all our hearts that this Matching Grant Challenge will inspire you to help us reach our goal.

segment going past his cabin to the Shrine and Stupa. See Fred's story on page 3. Also, don't miss Chuck Goldman's story on page 4 about his adventurous drive to the stupa and it's happy ending. It cheers us all on.

Help make Pema Osel Ling beautiful and the Stupa accessible for us all, and for many generations to come. Make tax deductible checks out to Vajrayana Foundation and note that it is for the Road to the Stupa. Go to our web site [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) and link to The Road to Enlightenment and use paypal- please make a note



*In loving memory of Fred Brown, dear Sangha member and POL resident since 1993*

*As many of you know, Fred died peacefully on February 4th 2010 after a recurrence of cancer last year. Fred had a profound love for Pema Osel Ling that he expressed tangibly in his work as grounds keeper. He was always committed to making POL look beautiful, and my personal favorite memory of Fred is driving around on the tractor lawn mower, making the most perfect cut lawn you can imagine. He was always impeccable in everything he did, and his commitment to Dharma was expressed in his loving and dynamic presence as a sangha brother at the retreat center.*

*Fred made a strong wish at the end of his life that the roads at Pema Osel Ling be completed, especially the segment going past his cabin to the shrine and the stupas. He has asked that friends, family and sangha donate to the road funds in his name. In this way, he hoped to continue to help Pema Osel Ling be beautiful and accessible to all future generations. Please make donations in Fred's name to the road fund. Make checks out to Vajrayana Foundation. Donations can also be made online at [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) and please specify general road fund or road to the stupa. Your donation is tax deductible and greatly appreciated. Love, Marcie*



CHUCK GOLDMAN AND BETTY LEE, A DAY TO REMEMBER AT THE STUPA

*Marcie: Chuck, you have been telling me for some time that you have an inspiring story about the stupa and the road to the stupa.*

Chuck: It was in 2004, about six months before my late wife, Betty was to pass on from a particularly aggressive form of breast cancer that had metastasized to her lungs. She had received P’howa instructions from Bhakha Tulku, and was content with preparing for her passage to Dewachen (Buddha Amitabha’s formless realm of great bliss). However, she still had a few questions. Lama Tharchin Rinpoche was happy to help put her mind at rest. So we made an appointment to visit Rinpoche at Pema Osel Ling.

We arrived about an hour early for her appointment. The great Stupa had recently been built. (The surrounding stupas were not built yet.) I suggested spending the hour looking at the great Stupa. Small problem: we didn’t have a four wheel drive truck to get down to the site, and Betty was in no shape to walk down and back. We looked around for someone with a four wheel drive vehicle, with no luck. I looked at the dirt road leading down to the Stupa. It was dry, it hadn’t rained in weeks. Without really knowing why, I felt it was important for us to see the Stupa. So, we drove down to the Stupa without a problem. We circumambulated a few



Betty Lee

times, since Betty seemed to have the energy for it. The time to meet Rinpoche got closer, so we headed back up. But when we got to “the hill”- the really steep part of the road- big surprise! The car got stuck. Now, I’m an experienced driver. I have rocked my car out of snow banks and muddy ditches, but this time, time I was

time, the car was really stuck. So, we decided that Betty would stay with the car, and I would walk up the hill and find help.

I got to the top of the road, tired from rushing, and looked around for help. I couldn’t find anyone. I couldn’t connect with my towing service. I started to get anxious about getting the car and Betty back up the hill, as another hour passed looking for help. I thought we would miss the opportunity to talk to Rinpoche. Suddenly Suzanne Harte appeared out of nowhere, and she somehow found Phil Banks. We all drove down to the car... but Betty was missing.

Phil got me and Suzanne in the back of the car to weigh down the rear wheels. Phil gunned it, swerving and jerking, practically stripping the rear tires. Thanks to his skill and daring, our prayers and determination, we got up the road. At the top, exhausted and sitting on a rock was Betty!! She had hiked up all the way without help. I couldn’t believe it. We visited Rinpoche, and Betty got all of her questions answered. As Rinpoche said at her memorial service:

*“Betty, she is very genuine, naturally, she has that special quality, and faith and devotion. Even though she had a serious physical problem, she visited me, and you know- normally people come together, they talk about life, difficulties, emotional stuff- but she only talked about her practice. And, she wanted to be reborn in Dewachen, great exaltation Buddha field. Serious, she really did mean it. People come to some kind of obstacle, normally they are discouraged. But she became more serious. I was so amazed. That’s inspiring to our Sangha. We can follow a positive person.”*

Chuck: So, the Stupa has become a very important part of my experience of Pema Osel Ling. I have made it a point to visit the Stupa each time I am at Pema Osel Ling. I sponsored the construction of the Parinirvana secondary stupa in Betty’s memory. Fact is, in my own mind, I am a very stingy person. I always think I am holding something back when I make a donation, that I could give more, if I could only generate a more generous attitude. It is fear about the future- if I give \$100.00 instead of \$50.00, will it jeopardize my retirement? How easy is it for me to forget that every time I make a donation of time or money, I get it back in many multiples, tangibly, really truly! I am especially grateful for the opportunity to donate my time to secure green cards for the precious lamas associated with Vajrayana Foundation.

In particular, I think of Orgyen Chowang Rinpoche, (aka Khen Rinpoche) who penetrates my heart with truly Dharma English! What a return on investment! And, I

cannot thank Lama Tharchin Rinpoche enough for his compassionate care when I grieved for Betty. His inspiration freed me in helping me realize, a little bit, the impermanence of ordinary existence and I cherish his blessing for my exhilarating, embracing loving new life with Jane Ellison.

Another tangible return on my sponsorship of the Parinirvana Stupa- Due to some unexpected events, I found I could afford a pilgrimage to Tibet with Lama Yeshe Wangmo. One reason I wanted to go there was to see if I could understand the great Stupa at Pema Osel Ling better by visiting stupas of the motherland, so to speak. Maybe, I thought, there was a relationship I could find on a true feeling level. Despite the many physical and emotional challenges I faced on the trip, one of the many high points was visiting the reliquary stupa of Longchenpa. Wow! Now I understand the great Stupa of Pema Osel Ling is the most recent in a long line of great sources of spiritual energy, and draws immense energy from that lineage.

It is my ardent prayer that the Stupa last for a very long, long, time, as it represents the only truly unchanging state, the Dharmakaya. It is my next ardent prayer, that as many people as possible have the chance to see it, feel it and know it. And, it is my third, most ardent prayer, that many many people join me in resisting our habitual stinginess, our fear of the future, by giving something, anything, to make the Stupas accessible to everyone, so no one has to struggle up “the hill” the way Betty did. Please help realize Rinpoche’s wish to build the road to the stupa. You will get the benefit!



Jane and Chuck at 14,000 feet in Tibet

# The Road to Enlightenment: A raffle to pave all of the roads at Pema Osel Ling Retreat Center.



This is a very special Yeshe Tsogyal Thangkha that belonged to Lama Tharchin Rinpoche. He has given it to be raffled to help build the Roads at Pema Osel Ling



Lama Tharchin Rinpoche holding the amazing sky metal Phurba, to be raffled when all funds for all the roads are raised. Please read about it on our web site, [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) and link to the Road to Enlightenment page.



This is a very special statue of Yeshe Tsogyal made by a famous statue maker in Nepal- Ravi

In 2007 Lamas asked staff, residents, and Sangha to pave the roads at Pema Osel Ling. Our initial estimate was \$300,000.00. To help raise the money, Lama Tharchin Rinpoche donated a priceless meteorite phurba, (read about this phurba in Rinpoche's talk: "Clearing the Path to Enlightenment," [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) link to the Road to Enlightenment.) Rinpoche also donated a beautiful Yeshe Tsogyal Thangkha to be raffled. It has been in our Shrine room, soaking up blessings from many empowerments, teachings, and retreats. We are also raffling off an exquisite Yeshe Tsogyal statue. Lama Sonam Tsering Rinpoche has advised us to hold the raffle when the entire \$300,000.00 is raised, and to date we are almost half way there! When asked, "when will the raffle be held", well, it could be announced tomorrow, if we raise the money today! Let's bring our future into today by generously supporting this momentous project **now**... The raffle could be held as soon as this Guru



Stretch of road put in summer retreat, 2009

Rinpoche Day at summer retreat! It is up to us. **It is completely possible!** Thank you for your ongoing support, love and commitment to the ever enriching activity of our Lamas: Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Tsering Rinpoche. We will all drive and walk the Road to Enlightenment together!

*To buy raffle tickets online please go to our web site [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org) and link to The Road to Enlightenment. Also, please read Rinpoche's article on The Importance of Building Roads: Clearing the Path to Enlightenment, also on the Road to Enlightenment page on our web site. Thank you! Love from The Road Fairy*

# In Appreciation

*Vajrayana Foundation would like to thank all of you who have helped make the stupas and roads happen over these past few years. In addition to the hundreds of loyal donors and raffle ticket supporters too numerous to name, there are individuals and businesses who contributed time and energy and goods to fund raising efforts for the Roads of POL and the Road to the Stupa who deserve special recognition.*

**Chi Gong**

Master Mingtong Gu

**Professional Graphic**

**designer-** Shara Gardner

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 Peter Rowan and Band  
 Diane DiPrima  
 Peter Marti  
 Marc Olmstead  
 Sky Graves

## Letter from the Editor

*Goodbye for now!*

Doing fundraising for Pema Osel Ling retreat center has truly been one of the greatest joys of my life. Of course there is the exhilaration of having an empty canvas, and an empty bank book, and then generating the means to fulfill our Lama's wishes. That's fun! But, what has most touched my heart and been of lasting meaning for me, is working with all of you, Sangha, to make our center flourish. I have been so moved by your love and devotion to Dharma and the fulfillment of Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's and Lama Sonam Rinpoche's dedication to the Dudjom Lineage through building roads and Stupas and all activity yet to manifest. We can only accomplish this together as a spiritual family.



I have my own magic that came out of my participation in building roads and stupas. I received a \$20,000.00 tuition scholarship to do 2 years of retreat! I was told by Lama Ngawang, although I don't remember, that I told him that I would receive this scholarship! Now, he didn't want me to get my hopes up, as Tsadra Foundation has very strict scholarship guidelines, and I didn't meet their requirements exactly. Well, I got the scholarship! Lama Ngawang attributed this to my determination, but I attribute it to the magic of working on the roads. Building roads removes obstacles! Another example: Twenty years ago, when I was in India, I had my Tibetan Astrological chart done. There were several prescriptions for removing obstacles. I could easily fulfill most of them: I had a Vajrapani Thangkha made and I gave it to Lama Tharchin Rinpoche. I did so many of such and such mantra. I saved many animals' lives. But the last prescription, I didn't understand how to fulfill at the time: Build roads to remove obstacles to my spiritual path. I was living in Marin County at the time, and all I could think was giving money to the highways, that cost billions of dollars. How could the comparatively little I could give possibly make any difference, spiritual or otherwise? Then, when we began to do our road project here at Pema Osel Ling, I got it! I realized any monetary or energetic contribution I could make to the roads here was of lasting benefit to everyone, including many future generations. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve and give money to this project. I can't say it enough! Building roads removes obstacles! Please re-read Lama Tharchin's words on building roads to remove obstacles on our web site. [www.vajrayana.org](http://www.vajrayana.org), and link to the Road to Enlightenment page. Please re-read Chuck's story and Fred's wish. Please apply this formula to your own life. Give as generously as you can to help finish our road to the Stupa and our roads around Pema Osel Ling. We only need around another \$170,000.00 to finish all the roads, and if everyone gives at least \$100.00 we can do it! Let's finish by Guru Rinpoche day at summer retreat and hold the raffle for Lama Tharchin Rinpoche's Phuba. Everyone will be the winner of the grand prize: beautiful, safe roads for many generations to come and the removal of inconceivable obstacles.

See y'all in two years! With love, **Marcie**