

## LOSAR PRAYER FLAGS



Prayer flags are for the enhancement of health, longevity, wealth, and all desirable qualities. The prayer flags at Pema Osel Ling contain great blessings as the design and prayers on each flag come directly from HH Dungse Rinpoche, and Lama Tharchin Rinpoche ensured their accuracy. (The flags are handmade in the USA.) According to tradition, each Losar, all prayer flags at Pema Osel Ling are replaced with new ones in a sang (smoke) offering.

Following is an excerpt from a letter that Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and Lama Sonam Rinpoche sent from Bhutan in 2012 for Losar:

*“Setting up prayer flags raises our lung-ta (translated as “wind horse” and refers to good fortune and uplifting energy). It helps both our Dharma practice and worldly life. For practitioners, when our lung-ta goes up, it’s an auspicious sign of increasing our meditative experiences and realization on the path. For ordinary persons, or on a relative level, raising lung-ta is very important too. When our lung-ta decreases, then even though we put so much effort into something, our success will be miniscule. Also, if we face a sudden danger and are saved from it and become victorious over the obstacle, then that is our lung-ta raising. Without lung-ta, we find that all our good fortune is down.*

*“This practice of raising prayer flags ... increases our sok (life force), lu (physical health), wang-tang (power and glorious splendor), as well as our lung-ta. There are so many benefits. For example, for people who are experiencing illness, raising lung-ta can be helpful. Whatever we wish can be quickly accomplished; obstacles are removed...*

*“If you can join our sangha, that’s wonderful. If you can’t come to Pema Osel Ling, you*

can still sponsor prayer flag [ [click here to sponsor prayer flags](#) ]. We will write yours and your loved ones' names on the prayer flags.

*"We will pray for the long lives of our precious lamas, for all of our sangha, and world peace in our dedication of the prayer flags, with the wish that we all become victorious against undesirable circumstances and obstacles and that all good fortune flourishes."*

On February 27, we will be doing Riwo Sang Chod puja with sang (smoke) offerings and the raising of the new prayer flags. **Please join us at Pema Osel Ling or connect through your offerings on this auspicious day, the health and long life of all our wisdom teachers and loved ones, and good fortune for all beings.**

## LOSAR VAJRAKILAYA RETREAT RITUAL ACTIVITY



**Zhorchen torma**

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche started Losar Vajrakilaya Gutor retreats for the Vajrayana Foundation over 25 years ago. Vajrakilaya is traditionally performed in the last month, before the Tibetan New Year, to pacify all negative activities, bad fortune, illness and obstacles of the past year.

*“This practice is so special to all Nyingmapas and I have a strong family connection with Vajrakilaya. It contains fresh blessings in an unbroken lineage from Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche. Guru Rinpoche said that in degenerate times emotions are so rough; in these boiling waters this practice is a drop of nectar that can bring peace to turbulent times. I know people everywhere are having so many obstacles. I am creating, with as much love and care as possible, a gift of this retreat to remove obstacles – for the world and for all individuals...”*

Every year Lama Tharchin Rinpoche, along with Lama Sonam Rinpoche, would put his whole energy into making sure that the extensive ritual activity needed for this retreat was done impeccably. Lama Sonam Rinpoche, along with Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche and senior students, is continuing this tradition with the upmost attention to detail.

Vajrakilaya puja requires many tormas (ritual sculptures). Most of them are sculpted with special dough, painted and decorated, then taken outside during the puja where the elements (and ravens!) take them away. The very large zorchen torma that is thrown into the bonfire on Gutor Day (Feb. 7) to dispel the negativity of the past year will be made from a mold sculpted in 2011 by Lama Tharchin Rinpoche. It is incredibly detailed and will be decorated with carved phurbas, as well as other ritual objects.

On Losar day (Feb. 27) there will be an Orgyen Khandro Norlha wealth and long life puja. We will also perform a Riwo Sang Chod smoke offering and put up new prayer flags.

While it is difficult to fulfill all the tasks and to cover the costs incurred, we are committed to carrying out all the varied activities as our lamas have instructed, knowing that their motivation has always been to clear our sangha's obstacles and increase our merit.

We hope that our whole sangha will be able to join with us in these pujas. If you are unable to attend you may connect directly with our lamas' great intention and help us support this massive effort by making offerings for yourself and/or your loved ones to sponsor lama airfare and food, prayer flags, tormas, tsok, butterlamps, or by hosting meals for all retreatant – all aspects of retreat activity. To make offerings, [please click here](#).

*“Traditionally in Tibet when we did pujas and retreats, people would help sponsor, whether they were there or not, by making offerings to support all the necessary activity...If you are able to come to retreat that is wonderful, but the other way you can establish tendrel (auspicious connection) is to make a material offering with faith, devotion and a pure mind... (to connect with) the blessings of the puja and retreat. Those in retreat can pray that any unwanted circumstances be removed for you and loved ones and that all wishes are fulfilled.” -Lama Tharchin Rinpoche*