

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 Dudjom 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 swift rebirth of our precious root lama Kyabje Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche, and for Dudjom Yangsi Rinpoche, Kyabje Chatral Rinpoche, 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 Thursday, Feb. 19, 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, as we pray for the swift rebirth of our root lamas, Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche and Lama Tharchin Rinpoche, the health and long life of all our wisdom teachers and loved ones, and the good fortune for all beings.**

LOSAR VAJRAKILAYA RETREAT/RITUAL ACTIVITY



Zhorchen tormas

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche started Losar Vajrakilaya Gutor retreats for the Vajrayana Foundation 26 years ago. Vajrakilaya is traditionally performed on the final days

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. 18) 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 108 carved phurbas, as well as other ritual objects.

In addition to the tormas, there is an elaborate phurba mandala constructed every year with 108 resin phurbas that Lama Sonam Rinpoche had specially made in Nepal. The placing of each phurba follows intricate instructions from Dudjom Rinpoche’s text.

As always, there will be a special Gutor day (Feb. 18) ceremony with the Sacred Black Hat dance and ritual bonfire. Lama Sonam Rinpoche has also asked us to resume some Tibetan cultural traditions and there will be a fortune soup party in the shrine, during which the lamas will read each person’s fortune. (Lama Tharchin Rinpoche enjoyed this party so much – we will be thinking of his incredible smile and infectious laugh as he told us our fortunes. Somehow, even a dubious fortune was easier to hear when Rinpoche delivered it. He loved to see his sangha having fun!)

On Losar day (Feb. 19) there will be a Orgyen Khandro Norlha wealth and long life puja. After some celebration we will 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.

I want to urge everyone to try to come to Pema Osel Ling to be part of this meaningful event. 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 prayer flags, tormas, tsoks, lamps – all aspects of retreat activity.

“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

To sponsor Gutor tormas, butterlamps, tsok, smoke offerings and prayer flags, [click here](#).