Gakyil Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2026

Present: (online) gakyil members Katya Kuzmitskaya, Gerard Miller, Ellen Halbert; community member Dominik Niceva

Guru Yoga

Agenda:

1) **Upcoming programs** dates and topics were discussed. Fundamentals of Longde with Steve Landsberg. November 20-22 • Umdze training with Sebastien Remy December 5-6 • and the first of three part program with Dr Phuntsog Wangmo on Birth, Life, and Death on December 20 will close out 2026. • In 2027 we have part two with Dr Phuntsog on Life January 3 • Dance of the Vajra that Benefits Beings with Sarale January 15-17 • and online program with Arnaud Coquillard Feb 6-7. Since February 7 is also Losar, it was decided to include Arnaud's program, Being in the Dzogchen Community with Ease and Joy, into the Losar activities schedule. Katya will check with Arnaud about this and confirm times.• February 19 Sarale will teach Vajra Dance of Three Vajras • February 27-28 Jakob Winkler will teach on beginner's mind and SMS base level, and in March he will cover SMS level one (dates to be decided). • April 3-4 DVBB practice with Sarale • May 15-16 Purification of Six Lokas with Michael Katz • Katya will suggest early June dates to Migmar for his program on Sa-Che, and end of June timeframe for Paora's program. • For DDD, Prima was invited July 15-August 2. Katya will ask the local dance teachers for help in confirming Prima's availability. • SSR dates of August 14-21 were suggested, featuring the final part of Dr Phuntsog's program, on Death (from Tibetan Medicine perspective), and the Shitro practice.
2) **Winter fundraising:** The question of when and how to do an international fundraiser featuring one of Stephen Korns' art donations was discussed. It was noted that this should not compete with end of year donations appeal. Dominik will send the gakyil a draft letter to TE members for end of year donations before next week. It was decided that an online sweepstakes starting soon, for members worldwide, should end on Losar and feature Stephen's donation as a prize. Dominik will revise her sweepstakes platform and will consult with Stephen about the prize. Ellen will email Stephen to inform him of this plan.
3) **Karma yoga in the gonpa:** The initial day (Sunday November 8) for cleaning and decluttering the gonpa was well attended and rewarding for all, since much

was accomplished. Sunday November 15 will be for redesigning and redecorating the space. Discarded items are being collected in the basement for later removal. Dominik will send photos of the pile to Ellen to obtain estimates for removal. Junk removal will take place after Dr Phuntsog has returned November 23 and has confirmed there is nothing she wants to keep. Ellen will confirm with Yeshe that she has retrieved all her belongings.

4) **Schoolhouse landscaping:** Hamel has not responded to multiple calls and texts and has not done any of the mowing and leaf clearing agreed on verbally. Our previous contractor has agreed to one last visit for winter cleanup for $180. For the future, purchase of leaf blower/ mulcher/ vacuum machines will be investigated.
5) **Dorm renovation and room rental:** The third private room at schoolhouse which has been rented to a Tibetan student was discussed. She would prefer to have it available for visits but can't pay rent. She agreed it can be rented temporarily when she is away. Demand for that space is not high, so this plan was agreed to. Possibilities for dorm renovation and creation of more private accommodation spaces over this winter were discussed. It was agreed best to do the work in phases, with phase one including installing a floating vinyl plank floor and temporary partitions such as screens and shelves to add privacy, paint the walls and redecorate. More permanent and complete room enclosures can be installed later. Estimates for phase one are being sought.

Dedication of Merit