

## **September 12, 2021 Red Gakyil Report**

**July 2021 Summer Celebration** - Because of the Worldwide Online Dance program with Prima Mai, this year's Summer Celebration required the community to conduct two events simultaneously. One challenge involved streaming the online Vajra Dance program from the Vajra Hall. Fortunately Bodhi was able to identify all the technical issues and equipment requirements to allow the Vajra Dance retreat to function smoothly. Red Gakyil arranged for the purchase of all the audio/visual equipment and Bodhi installed them expertly. Among the equipment purchased is a 65inch television monitor on a moveable stand that will be available for future online teachings in the gompa.

An associated challenge was the unfinished resurfacing of the Universal Mandala which required us to remove a large portion of the plastic sheeting around the entire interior of the Vajra Hall while allowing access to the partially restored surface without damaging the unfinished surface.

Meanwhile a smaller separate set of practices were conducted in a rented tent placed near the base of the newly restored stupa. Despite the challenges the retreats were conducted smoothly with easy access to portapotties, drinking water and hand washing.

During the Celebration Wayne Bianucci served as a kind of "land geko", running the four-wheel drive vehicle to deliver materials and water to the different venues. After the retreat Wayne became a candidate for the Red Gakyil and has been serving in the role since that time.

**Resurfacing of the Universal Mandala** - (Vern is seeking an update from the contractor; information will be available for the Community Meeting).

**Khandroling Bathhouse** - With the supervision of John Foster, the bathhouse is in the process of being renovated. The entire plumbing infrastructure has been replaced at a cost of \$4200. The extremely hot weather curtailed work on the project during the summer. However, John and Wayne are continuing to work on the floors and walls and fixtures and hope to complete the renovation during the Fall.

**Geko Retirement** - David Hayes, our long-term Geko, retired at the beginning of September. Without a replacement the Gakyil is in the process of adapting

strategies to maintain our multiple facilities. Initially we are contracting with a landscaping firm to handle all the mowing and brush hogging on Upper and Lower Khandroling, the farmhouse and the schoolhouse. Meanwhile there remain other tasks that require attention in the near-term and David has agreed to continue on an “as-needed” basis to address those needs. Over time we will need to find other ways to maintain our properties within our constrained budget.

**Schoolhouse Fact Finding Group** -The Red Gakyil is coordinating a group to establish a baseline of facts about the Conway Schoolhouse including the condition of the physical facilities, the costs of operation and the usage by all groups and purposes. It is anticipated that the group will prepare a report for consideration at a future Community Meeting. Details of the groups mission is below:

### **CONWAY SCHOOLHOUSE FACT-FINDING GROUP MISSION**

The Dzogchen Community in America, Tsegyalgar East (TE) has owned the Conway Massachusetts Schoolhouse since 1994. The Schoolhouse has provided space for offices, library, bookstore, dormitories, teaching and mediation. Portions of the Schoolhouse are rented by the Tibetan Medicine School for teaching and residential purposes. With the many changes that are occurring in the TE Community, a current assessment of the facility and its uses are needed. The purpose of the Fact Finding Group is to provide the following:

**PHYSICAL FACILITY** - provide the following information:

- Is there asbestos in any areas of the building?
- What is the condition of the blown-in insulation? Is it still in place?
- What is the condition of the roof? What if any repairs are needed and what are the options?
- What are the conditions of the basic plumbing and heating systems?
- Any other issues related to the physical facility

**FINANCIAL ISSUES** - provide the following information:

- What are the current annual maintenance costs for the facility?
- What are the mortgage and insurance costs?
- What is the current rental income?
- What are the cost estimates for any of the physical facility repairs?
- Any other financial issues?

**FACILITY USAGE** - provide the following information:

- What space is occupied by SSI and what percentage of the overall space is this?
- How many days per year does SSI utilize the teaching spaces of the library, offices and gompas?
- What spaces does TE utilize and how many days/month?
- How else is the facility being used?

**OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE** - Based on the information gathered on the above questions, what are some possible options for the TE Community to consider for its future facility needs?