

## Martha Tack

I first learned of the Conway community from a friend who lived in Conway, and later, felt sad learning the teacher was ill. Way later, I joined a week-long retreat with CNNR at Tsegyalgar (1999) which changed everything I thought I understood about Dharma. I easily became committed to practice and study, spending weekends helping Damien and Andrea with repairs at the schoolhouse and later served for a short time on the Red, did lots of gardening and planting before things were finished at Khandroling, so it would look a bit better while construction was in progress. I joined the SMS program having previously studied and practiced in many Buddhist traditions. I was Director of retreat and study programs at the (FPMT) Milarepa Center, in Barnet, VT (1989-94), creating and supporting all aspects of the residential and teaching programs, while supporting two people in a three year retreat. My organizing and early fundraising helped to create a Boston area FPMT Center. So when I joined my first DCA retreat, I was impressed by the organization and the focus on new people. I became a member, joining in person and on line as often as teachings were available, up to the present. When I read the Gakyil email calling for help, saying the community could die without help, (that's what I heard) how could I not answer? I hope to help keep the Community alive, growing and thriving, maybe help increase membership, and collaborate on whatever is needed, within my abilities.

## Ellen Halbert

Here is my brief personal information statement:

I first met Rinpoche in 1992, and have considered him my primary teacher ever since. I have been an active member of the Dzogchen Community for about 25 years (all as a member of Tsegyalgar East except for 3 years as a member of Tashigar Norte). I acted as Geko at the schoolhouse for 6 months in 2010-11.

Although I live quite far from the gar, I offered to join the gakyil now because of the urgent need for members and my strong desire to ensure the continuation of the Community and its activities. I will do my best to help complete the projects begun by the gakyil in 2023, and work with local Community members to maintain and improve the facilities at the schoolhouse and Khandroling.