

Gakyil Meeting

December 16, 2025

Present: (online) Gakyil members Katya Kuzmitskaya, Ellen Halbert; Community members Al Daggett and Cindy Thiebeau

Guru Yoga

Agenda

- 1) Membership:** Hardship membership accommodations were discussed. Although Tsegayalgar allows members to pay on a monthly basis and to apply for a reduced membership fee of half the regular membership, IDC charges 15% of all memberships, without taking into account those reduced fees. This fact, plus the unfavorable exchange rate, has resulted in Tsegayalgar paying 22% of membership fees rather than 15%, or approximately \$2000 extra per year. It was suggested that members be encouraged to upgrade their membership level if possible, to make up for this loss, or that a fund be created to cover it. We need to send our fourth quarterly payment of nearly \$4000 to IDC soon. It was agreed that before taking up this issue with IDC we should get the precise numbers from our Membership Coordinator.
- 2) Auction proceeds for benefit of School of Tibetan Medicine** For three of the four STM items, winning bids were paid to SSI bookstore manager at auction's end. The fourth item will be brought to Dzamlingar in February and will be picked up and paid for there. These funds will go towards back due SSI rent at the schoolhouse.
- 3) Donation to Merigar Archives** for our Green Tara retreat replays: It was agreed that we donate \$300 to the Archives. The Archives will let us know how to make the donation, or alternatively someone could bring the cash donation to Dzamlingar for delivery to someone from Merigar.
- 4) Programming for summer 2026:** Katya messaged Paula to find out Fabio's response to our invitation for a Longde retreat in summer 2026. Green Tara practice retreat, possibly including Yantra Yoga and Vajra Dance, is also planned. Cindy will ask Phuntsog about her availability to lead the practices. Katya will ask Adriano about providing Umdze training via Zoom. Migmar plans to visit Tsegayalgar in May to assemble and present his small precious stupa and give a course related to Tibetan astrology. Cindy will ask Oliver Leick what is needed to facilitate this. Katya will ask SMS teacher Oleg about possible weekend program via Zoom in March or early April.

- 5) **Tech support:** A tech support employee of Garchen Institute plans to move to Easthampton in late summer or fall. It was agreed that Katya will keep in touch and explore the possibility of his consulting for Tsegyalgar's tech support needs.
- 6) **Arnaud's upcoming retreat** Katya will moderate and host Arnaud's 3 day Zoom retreat.
- 7) **Ganapujas:** It was agreed that ganapujas should move into Phuntsog's office for winter to save heating costs in the gonpa. Cindy will check with Phuntsog about this before we announce the change.

Dedication of Merit