

POSTAGE  
PAID

SURFACE  
MAIL



# Tara Institute News

Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VAR 3576

JULY 1992

TI NEWS, JULY 1984

## MORTGAGE TO GO UP BY 60%!

*In our newsletter of July 1984 there was a detailed report on the Annual General Meeting held at Tara Institute (Crimea Street) on 28th May 1984.*

It was a year of big changes at TI – our founder, Lama Yeshe, had died; we were looking for a new resident teacher because our first Geshe, Geshe Dawa, was about to return to India; our new translator, Samdup Tsering, was due to arrive; the mortgage was about to take a big 60% leap – from \$26,000 to \$41,808 a year.

In 1984 it was estimated that about 100 people were attending teachings each week. 25 were coming to Study Group on Wednesdays.

The Program for July had "An Explanation of Rituals" on Sunday afternoon; Geshe Dawa was doing the following – "The Wheel of Sharp Weapons" Thursday nights; "Sunday Morning Meditations" with creche; Wednesday nights discussion group at 7pm before "Supplement to the Middle Way" at 8pm; and "Vajrasattva Practice for Lama Yeshe" on Friday nights. Tara puja was scheduled for July 6th.

"Death, Intermediate State and Rebirth" Weekend Course with Geshe Dawa – Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday. (It's interesting to see we were charging \$35 in 1984; with 8 years of inflation added, it's the equivalent of \$75 in 1992 dollar terms. Coincidentally, that's exactly what we are charging for our next Weekend Course. In other words,

in real terms we are charging the same as we did in 1984 – in spite of the fact that our nominal overheads have gone up ten-fold, from \$1,000 a week in 1984 to \$10,000 a week today. – Ed)

Coming Events were: "Tara Night" prostrations and mantras till midnight; "Mahamudra Course" 2 day country retreat with Geshe Dawa; and famous American author/translator, Jon Landaw was due in August.

According to the News, Geshe Doga had taught at TI for 2 weeks in June 1984, while Geshe Dawa taught at Buddha House in Adelaide.

### Personalities in the News

David Hope was the out-going Treasurer. He put forward a proposal for handling the 60% jump in mortgage repayments. Here is the News summary of the discussions.

"Carol Byrne suggested that a \$2 donation (1992 equivalent = \$4.30) per teaching be requested.

It was pointed out that many different ways of encouraging donations had been tried with little success. We have to be careful how we ask for money.

Jill Trebilcock thought it was unrealistic to expect 70 Members to have a spare \$1000 to invest in the Cash Trust (this had been proposed as part of the way of handling the jump – Ed). She suggested that stalls and garage sales be organised to make money.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

PART ONE...

## The story of TI's helping hand

by Adèle Hulse

THE Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition Australia Limited (FPMTA) is registered with the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) – the overseas aid arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Between 1983 and 1987, TI staged five major events known as the Bleeding Hearts Charity Ball. Over the five balls, more than 100 restaurants donated the best food in Melbourne and about the same number of businesses provided goods and services. A total of about \$35,000 was raised. The BHB policy was from the first, to give half the money to an Australian organisation and spend the other half on FPMT projects in India and Nepal.

In 1983 the beneficiaries were the National Aboriginal and Islanders Health Organisation (NAIHO) and the Sewa Semiti Leprosy colony in New Delhi; a project of FPMT's Tushita Mahayana Meditation Centre (TMMC).

Lama Yeshe had said we should care for lepers, and the jhuggie community on the outskirts of Delhi numbered about 150 people. Dr Nick Ribush, Trisha Donnelly, Ray Meikle and Andy Melnic all worked on the project with Mrs Sunita Kakaria, a beautiful Indian businesswoman of boundless generosity and great devotion.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

# JULY PROGRAM

## AUSPICIOUS DAYS IN JULY

MONDAY 6  
Birthday of  
H H Dalai Lama

TUESDAY 7  
Tibetan 8th  
Tara Day (Precepts)

THURSDAY 9  
Tibetan 10th  
Tsog Day

TUESDAY 14  
Tibetan 15th  
Full Moon (Precepts)

SATURDAY 25  
Tibetan 25th  
Tsog Day

WEDNESDAY 29  
Tibetan 30th  
New Moon (Precepts)

### WEEK ONE

- WEDNESDAY 1  
8pm Geshe Doga
- THURSDAY 2  
8pm Tibetan Class
- SUNDAY 5  
10am Sunday School  
10 am Debate Class

### WEEK TWO

- MONDAY 6  
8pm HHDL Puja
- TUESDAY 7  
6pm Tara Puja  
8pm Study Group
- WEDNESDAY 8  
8pm Geshe Doga
- THURSDAY 9  
6pm Guru Puja  
8pm Tibetan Class
- SUNDAY 12  
10 - 4 Seminar

### WEEK THREE

- MONDAY 13  
8pm Introduction to  
Buddhist Meditation
- TUESDAY 14  
8pm Study Group
- WEDNESDAY 15  
8pm Geshe Doga
- THURSDAY 16  
8pm Tibetan Class  
8pm Healing Group
- SUNDAY 19  
10am Sunday School  
10am Debate Class

### WEEK FOUR

- MONDAY 20  
8pm Introduction to  
Buddhist Meditation
- TUESDAY 21  
8pm Study Group
- WEDNESDAY 22  
8pm Geshe Doga
- THURSDAY 23  
8pm Tibetan Class
- SATURDAY 25  
8pm Guru Puja
- SUNDAY 26  
9 - 5 One DayCourse

### WEEK FIVE

- MONDAY 27  
8pm Introduction to  
Buddhist Meditation
- TUESDAY 28  
8pm Study Group
- WEDNESDAY 29  
8pm Geshe Doga
- THURSDAY 30  
8pm Tibetan Class

## MONDAY NIGHTS

### Introduction to Buddhist Meditation

- Monday 13, 20, 27 at 8pm

*Please note - no class Monday 6 due to Birthday Puja for His Holiness the Dalai Lama*

This month Hal Young will lead our popular introductory classes. Hal has been a student of Buddhism at Tara

Institute for many years and was instrumental in organising the recent visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Melbourne. These classes provide practical advice on how and why to meditate. They will give you some easy to understand aspects of Buddhist philosophy as well as the opportunity to ask questions.

*These classes are especially designed for those wishing to learn about Buddhism and its meditation techniques. They are relevant for everyone.*

*A facilities fee of \$5 per class is asked to help cover expenses (Members free).*

*Just turn up about 7.45pm.*

*For more information ring Wendy in the TI office on 596 8900*

## TUESDAY NIGHTS

### Study Group

- Tue 7, 14, 21, 28 at 8pm

In our regular Tuesday evening Study Group, Geshe Doga (pictured, right) teaches the Graduated Path to Liberation (Lam Rim). These Lam Rim teachings provide a simple framework for understanding how to integrate the varied elements of the spiritual path into our daily lives. Study and meditation on the Lam Rim therefore, is often emphasised by Tibetan lamas as the single most valuable practice we can do in our lives.



*These classes are suitable for both new and more experienced students of Buddhism. You are invited to 'sample' the Study Group at any time. However, before you can join in, you must have taken Refuge, be committed to attend regularly and be willing to undertake a one week Lam Rim Meditation retreat. Contact Wendy or Kaye on 596 8900 for more details. There is no fee for these classes.*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### Evenings with Geshe Doga

- Wed 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 8pm

The rich and poetic imagery of Shantideva's handbook of the spiritual journey, *A Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life*, is a source of inspiration to millions of practitioners throughout the Buddhist world. His pithy advice on issues such as generating love, dealing with anger and developing wisdom are just as

vital for us today as when first composed in India in the Eighth Century.

Geshe Doga is currently teaching from the 'Concentration' chapter (chapter eight) which illustrates the importance of overcoming attachment, and of developing heartfelt love and compassion for all beings.

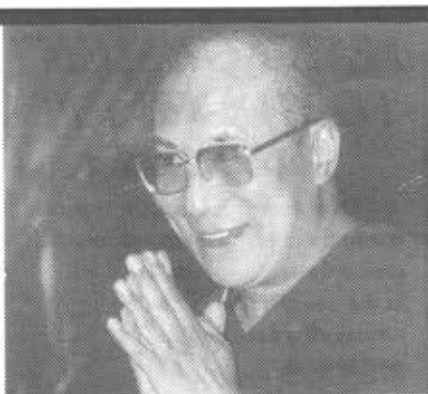
*These classes are suitable for all students both new and old. There is no fee for these classes.*

## Birthday Puja for His Holiness the Dalai Lama

● Monday July 6 at 8pm

"Dalai Lama means different things to different people. To some it means that I am a living Buddha, the earthly manifestation of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva of Compassion. To others it means that I am a 'god-king'. During the late 1950s it meant that I was a Vice-President of the Steering Committee of the Peoples Republic of China. Then, when I escaped into exile, I was called a counter-revolutionary and a parasite. But none of these are my ideas. To me 'Dalai Lama' is a title that signifies the office I hold. I myself am just a human being, and incidentally a Tibetan, who chooses to be a Buddhist monk." (From *Freedom in Exile*, the Autobiography of the Dalai Lama of Tibet).

Tenzin Gyatso is the 14th of the Dalai Lamas. He is the spiritual and temporal head of the Tibetan people as well as a source of inspiration to vast numbers of



people throughout our troubled world. In 1989 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his dedication to the principles of peace and non-violence.

Each year Tara Institute offers His Holiness a Guru Puja to show our gratitude for the kindness he shows to our international family of centres (FPMT) in offering advice, conferring initiations, giving teachings and blessings, appointing Geshes and ordaining monks and nuns. Everyone is invited to come and share in this beautiful ritual ceremony. Offerings of food, flowers etc. are most welcome.

## Study Group Seminar - TENETS

● Sunday 12 at 10am

Geshe Doga has asked the Study Group to organise its popular seminars to be held the second Sunday of the month for the next four months. The topic is 'Tenets' or the delineations of the systematic schools of Buddhist thought.

The seminar is guaranteed to be somewhat of a theatrical event as the

presenters each adopts one of the philosophical schools and adheres to its perspective. The seminar will comprise a mixture of open discussion, meditation and brief presentations. All students will be encouraged to take an active part. Add that to a relaxed, shared lunch and you will have a wonderfully fun inspired, friendly yet constructive learning experience.

ONE DAY COURSE

## TONG-LEN

In this ONE DAY COURSE Ven Geshe Doga will explain the theory and technique of this special meditation. It is structured to include meditation sessions where you can experience first hand how to apply the theory.

### So what is Tong-Len?

It is a method which presents the possibility of overthrowing our usual habitual selfish attitudes enabling us to increase the power

● Sunday 26, 9am-5pm

and strength of our mind. By unlocking our latent potential we are able to generate those feelings of altruism, great love and compassion that will enrich our sense of the whole meaning and purpose of life, way beyond our current expectations and knowledge. Through "Tong-Len" we can activate our awakening mind.

This course is especially suitable for beginners.

COURSE FEE: \$55 (Members \$40)

(includes lunch, refreshments and course materials)

ACCOMMODATION: Dormitory accommodation available.

BOOKINGS: Please book with Wendy in the office on 596 8900

## Tibetan Conversation Classes

● Thurs 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 8pm

The Venerable Thubten Donyo has agreed to conduct a series of conversational Tibetan classes. Although intended for those who already have some familiarity with Tibetan, new students are welcome.

Please contact Wendy in the office on 596 8900 for more details.

## Debate Class

● Sunday 5, 19 at 10am

The Sunday Debate class will resume in July. The format will be similar to last year's class with Samdup Tsering giving lectures on the various topics which are studied as the basis of debate. Every four weeks Samdup will give a written and oral exam to the class to assist students in assimilating the material. There will also be instruction on the actual debate method.

Samdup is keen for as many people as possible to attend this year and, to help new people, notes from last year are available. Revision classes led by Damien Busby and Alan Molloy using last year's material will also enable newcomers to quickly become familiar with debate.

For further details contact Kaye Miner or Damien Busby at TI on 596 8900. There is no fee for these classes.

NOVEMBER

## KALACHAKRA INITIATION

Kirti Tsenshab Rinpoche will be here November 7 - 16 at Tara Institute, and bookings are piling in already.

Remember, we can fit a maximum of only 400 people in our Gompa but for Kalachakra we will have to cut that number way back - so you will need to be quick to make sure you get in.

BOOK NOW: To book in advance you must send a deposit of \$50 to give you first option; and we will only accept bookings in chronological order, so first in, first initiated. Once booked, you will be offered full registration at the Kalachakra as soon as details are finalised.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

It was explained that 7 people at present have invested \$75,000 in the Cash Trust and it was felt that, although each of the suggested 70 may not have \$1000 to invest, surely 70 people could find as much to invest as 7 people have already. (Elsewhere in the News, it says that, since the AGM an extra \$14,000 had been invested in the Cash Trust before the News was written -Ed)

Also stalls and garage sales are definitely encouraged and have enabled us to raise substantial amounts. However it is unrealistic to expect the Executive Committee to organise these as a source of regular income. It was hoped that the proposed Membership structure (a networking of all Members so they could provide input and also act as a group buying force -Ed) would enable these sources of income to be fully developed, and any development would lessen the burden on Members.

Dave Andrews suggested that a percentage of people's income be donated to the Institute as a means of distributing the load fairly.

Hal Young had donated our first computer. And through TI's first "Bleeding Hearts Ball", Adele Hulse had raised \$5,000 for the Sewa Semiti Leper Colony in New Delhi and for the Aboriginal and Islanders Health Organisation.

George Farley was elected Treasurer; Jools Gardiner - Teaching Staff; Gill Jelbart - Secretary; Owen Cole - Program Co-ordinator; and Lynne Douglas - House Manager.

Wah Huxham thanked David Hope and Jill Lancashire thanked the Executive for all their good work.

To deal with the extra \$500 needed each week, Members voted to increase Membership fees to \$150 and to add a \$2 a week Building Fund Levy. That was a total of \$254 a year (\$544.47 in 1992 dollars - Ed).

My \$5 each week - what does it pay for?



Looking at our past to see our future

We hope you have enjoyed a quick look back into our past. Since July 1984, Membership numbers have doubled while inflation has halved the real cost of Membership (\$254 in 1984, 8 years later - \$240). There are twice as many people attending the program now; four times as many in the Study Group. Course fees have matched inflation; overheads have increased ten times.

The curse of "money"

One thing which seems to stay the same around Tara Institute is the subject of "money". From our very beginnings right up to now, how

MANAGEMENT GURU SOUGHT TO GET TI FIT FOR THE FUTURE

SHORT-TERM JOB FOR A SYSTEM DESIGNER

Over recent years, TI has out-grown the management systems we presently use. The result is inefficiency in the use of TI time and money. We cannot afford to continue with our current system.

To develop sophisticated financial management, we need a thorough review of the Office management and financial practices. I believe that a highly professional and extremely tight system of financial management is essential to secure Tara Institute's existence and development, and to ensure its credibility with our present and future Members and benefactors.

We are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons for the part-time, temporary position detailed in the ad on the right.

The first stage of the work is to survey current office and financial practices, then present a summary to the Director and the Treasurer.

The second stage involves an assessment of current practices indicating which areas are performing adequately and which areas require review or improvement.

The third stage requires the preparation of a detailed strategy on how to implement the recommended changes. Changes may mean a radical restructuring at all levels. An interim report is to be presented for consideration by the Director and Treasurer prior to the completion of the final report.

The final stage involves the actual implementation of those changes accepted by the Director and Executive Committee of TI.

The right applicant will be highly experienced with computers and have a thorough knowledge of DOS. Familiarity with STIR and C BOOK would be an advantage. Hours and salary to be negotiated.

If you know someone suitable, please talk to them. We would like to fill the position without advertising in The Age.

Alison Ribush

WANTED part time

A System Designer with passion A System Designer with heart To set Tara Institute up for the year 2000

I don't know your name, but I know a lot about you. You are flexible, creative, intelligent, imaginative, a good listener, perceptive, and skilled at dealing with people.

I know you have several years' experience using DOS to design systems for a range of successful businesses. You design to fit the skills level of the people you know will be running your systems.

You may not be "Buddhist" but you do want your work to help others. You're passionate about quality and aim for hot ideas but you don't smoke at work.

You are looking for a challenging, different assignment with flexible hours. You would enjoy working beside a park, away from the big smoke. And you are happy to be paid fairly... if not highly.

That's why I really want to hear from you, now. Please fax or write to me by July 15; Alison Ribush, C/- Tara Institute, 3 Mavis Avenue, East Brighton 3187.

we raise money has been an enduring controversy. Many people have a philosophical objection to accepting anything other than donations.

It costs almost half a million dollars each year to keep TI ticking along just as it is... Is that too much 'money' for a Buddhist centre to be involved with? Should we shut down Tara Institute instead? The answer must be - No. Money is inanimate, free of everything but our own projections. There is nothing wrong with money. Without it we cannot carry on our gurus'

work.

The key concern should be what we do with it. Are we getting good results from the money we use? Are we following Lama Zopa's request to "Do more, not less"?

The question is: How should TI raise the money it needs to keep going?

Maybe we can talk more about that subject in a later TI News. We would love to hear from you if you would like to share your point of view. Send us a couple of hundred words addressed to TI News Ed, 3 Mavis