Kunzang Odsal Palyul Changchub Chöling Center of Vajrayana Buddhism



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



The seal of the Palyul lineage.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter from our Spiritual Director **Mission Statement** and Organizational Structure Highlights of 2019 Communicating the Vision 22**KPC** Worldwide 23 **Financial Summary** 25Conclusion

WELCOME

elcome to Kunzang Odsal Palyul Changchub Chöling (KPC) — "Glorious Dharma Continent of Absolute Clear Light" — a Palyul center and hub of compassionate activity in the Nyingma School of the Vajrayana Buddhist tradition.

Located just outside the nation's capital in the Maryland countryside, KPC was founded by Buddhist Master, Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo, and has been operating since 1988. Jetsunma is the first Western woman to be enthroned as a lineage holder in the Vajrayana Buddhist tradition.

This edition of the 2019 Annual Report celebrates prayer and mindfulness — two activities that are integral to Buddhist expressions of wisdom and compassion.





LETTER FROM JETSUNMA AHKÖN NORBU LHAMO – Spiritual Director



ne of the first efforts on the path of Vajrayana Buddhism is to make aspirational prayers. This deepens resolve and sets the tone for the rest of one's experi-

ence. There are many wishing prayers in our tradition and they can be made up by oneself. These prayers should have goals. The goals are always altruistic in tone, such as a wishing prayer for the health of a sick person or for world peace.

This begins the focus on Bodhicitta, the great compassion, and on ordinary human kindness. When an object is sent to the moon, the settings of the launch determine where the landing occurs. In the same way these aspirational prayers are seeds, a determination we must make well before we proceed. They help determine our result.

An extension of these beginning prayers is the combination of aspiration and mindfulness. Such as: As I walk through this door, may all sentient beings enter the Door to Liberation. As I eat this food may all beings be nourished by the nectar of Dharma. As I

Celebrating Prayer and Mindfulness

give this clothing to the poor may all beings have warmth and clothing in every life. As I wash my clothes may all beings be purified by the precious intention of Vajrasattva, the Buddha of purification, and be free. As I study may all be able to perfectly learn Dharma, free of obstacles. As I go to work, may the labor I do be a blessing for all those without a way to feed their family. As I walk this road may all beings be blessed with strong legs and arms. As I progress on the path may all beings progress as well. I hope you get the idea.

Training in mindfulness and the habit of altruism and kindness is valuable. Many of us are unaware of surroundings most of the time. We are not mindful. We do not notice if we go through a door or drive somewhere or have supper. What is the taste? What roads were traveled? Mindfulness is the method by which we achieve self-honesty, learn to perceive deeply, and attain the gift of kindness.

Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo Spiritual Director, Kunzang Odsal Palyul Changchub Chöling



MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to alleviate suffering through compassionate activity in the world by:

- making Buddhist teachings available;
- offering a place of spiritual refuge including sites of pilgrimage and prayer;
- offering prayers and spiritual practices to those in need;
- nurturing the community beyond our boundaries;
- caretaking the natural environment under our custodianship.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Spiritual Director: Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo

Board of Trustees: Claire Waggoner (Director) Gonpo Yeshe (David Williams) Ani Karen Cox Ani Tenzin Wangmo (Jane Bathgate) Olin Robie Sonja Peter



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

MAKING BUDDHIST TEACHINGS AVAILABLE

raditional teachings of the Buddha are continually offered at KPC, both at large public events and through smaller instructional programs, such as classes in Foundational Buddhist Thought, Stabilizing the Mind meditation classes, and classes designed for children.

Visiting Buddhist Teachers Bestow Blessings

Since 1988 KPC has had the great fortune of regularly hosting Buddhist teachers and continues to offer weekly meditation classes, DVD teachings from Jetsunma's teaching archive, and programs for children and teenagers. In 2019, KPC was honored to host the following teachers:

- ♦ Tulku Dawa Gyalpo
- Khenpo Pem Tsheri Sherpa
- Khenpo Tenzin Norgey
- Khenpo Sangye Rangjung
- ♦ Atira Zeoli.

This year began with Tulku Dawa Gyalpo's teaching on Working with Fear and Anxiety as well as a question and answer class and a class for children. Khenpo Pem Tsheri Sherpa continued his residence at KPC including continuing to teach on the classic text The Bodhisattva's Way of Life. 2019 also marked the commencement of Khenpo Pem teaching on Buddhism to the Nepalese community in Nepali. Khenpo Tenzin Norgey gave a number



Tulku Dawa teaching at KPC Maryland

Khenpo Tenzin Norgey teaching at KPC Maryland

Khenpo Pem teaching at the inaugural Basic Buddhism classes for the Nepalese community in Nepali.



Khenpo Sangye Rangjung blessing a Thangkha for an attendee at KPC Maryland.

Atira Zeoli teaching at the monthly Beginning Buddhism series.

of key practice transmissions. For the first time KPC hosted Khenpo Sangye Rangjung who also gave key practice transmissions. Atira Zeoli continued her monthly Beginning Buddhism teaching series. All teachings were webstreamed.





Milestones of Prayer and Compassion in 2019

 The prayer vigil for peace has been ongoing since the 18th of April 1985. Every day, 365 days of the year, prayers are said on behalf of all beings by members of the KPC community in the Prayer Room in Poolesville, Maryland. In 2019 a total of 8,760 hours of prayer were accomplished.

 First ever worldwide sangha meeting via Zoom.

 Inaugural teachings by Khenpo Pem on Buddhism commences for the Nepalese

commu-

nity in

Nepali with interpretation in Nepali for empowerments

◆ 20th Anniversary since the Garuda Aviary, a lifetime sanctuary for neglected, mistreated, abandoned, and abused parrots was officially established.

 Surpassing 1 million dollar mark in pledges for the Capital Campaign to build the new temple in Maryland.

New magnetic display board showing the 2 hour shifts being filled by members of the KPC community.





Conclusion of inaugural class taught in Nepalese taught by Khenpo Pem.



Preservation and Dissemination of a Spiritual Legacy

Our ordained community of Monks and Nuns

KPC is distinctive for having a very large community of ordained (monks and nuns). KPC currently has 31 monks and nuns.

KPC ordained offer their services in a variety of beneficial ways—in regular prayer events and specific prayer ceremonies for those facing illness or who have died. They also offer prayer support to anyone who asks, wherever they are, online or face to face, including those who are dying. In addition, they offer house, pet, and business blessings.





KPC Ordained in Maryland

Nuns, Ani Pema and Ani Ella after a House Blessing. Traditionally the ordained are offered food after the Blessing has been performed.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Continuing Prayers

KPC also provides a place for people to meditate individually and to participate in group practices. People visit for brief and more extended periods of time.

The KPC Maryland Prayer Room is open 24 hours a day. There is always at least one person holding the prayer vigil, which generally spans two hours. On other occasions, members of the community regularly gather in the Prayer Room to perform group practices dedicated to the end of suffering. This includes reading daily prayer requests and engaging in annual retreats.

At the Temple there is a prayer request book. These prayer requests are read daily. On-line prayer requests are read weekly.



Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist 7th Grade Class with accompanying adults.



Teaching Outreach

In 2019, members of KPC's outreach and teaching community spoke on Buddhist perspectives to:

 Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist 7th Grade Class (at KPC Maryland)

 Center for Spiritual Enlightenment in Falls Church, Virginia George Washington University Welcome Day of Service (at KPC Maryland)

 International Religious
 Scholars studying religious
 pluralism (at KPC Sedona Amitabha Stupa and Peace Park)

- Milton Gottesman Jewish
 Day School (at KPC Maryland)
- National Institutes of Health (Spiritual Ministries and the

Pain and Palliative Care Team), Bethesda

 Poolesville High School (at KPC Maryland)

 Temple Beth Ami Junior high school students (at KPC Maryland)

Washington International
 School (at KPC Maryland)

 Washington Lab School (at KPC Maryland).



One young school visitor's feedback



Audiovisual and Digital Archive

KPC Maryland is an important site for the preservation of Vajaryana Buddhist teachings in the West. Since 1983, KPC has been committed to maintaining and preserving an audiovisual archive of the teachings that have been bestowed by Jetsunma and the many revered teachers in Vajrayana Buddhism, some now deceased, who have taught at KPC. Thousands of hours of audio and video, and thousands of photographs of Buddhist teaching events are archived and stored at KPC. In addition, KPC responds to numerous requests from both students and teachers from other centers for specific archived teachings.

These teachings are also offered via web-streaming and on various social media platforms.



Ani Aileen behind the video camera. Ani Aileen has been instrumental in establishing the KPC Archives.



CELEBRATING PRAYER AND MINDFULNESS

here are many ways to pray and practice mindfulness. In every activity at KPC, there are myriad opportunities for mindfulness and expressing prayer. The anchor for these prayers is the wish to be of benefit to others. As Jetsunma's dedication prayer goes:

By this effort May all beings be free of suffering May their minds be filled with the nectar of virtue

In this way may all causes resulting in suffering be extinguished and only the light of compassion shine throughout all realms.





Candle offering during the Marme Monlam—Lamp Offering Prayer—at the end of retreat. One line of the prayer reads: May the light of this lamp dispel the darkness of ignorance.

Opportunities for mindfulness are present in every activity. Tsering Seesman works on clearing vegetation around this statue in the Palyul Peace Park Maryland.









For those who wish to go across the water, May I be a boat, a raft, a bridge. —Shantideva. Volunteers including George Washington University First-Years offer their time to place this bridge in the Palyul Peace Park to a more stable foundation.



As I eat this food may all beings be nourished by the nectar of Dharma. —Jetsunma Ahkön Lhamo. Hemkala Tamang at Weekly lunch gathering. People bring a dish to share.

The wind blows through these prayer flags sending the blessings of the printed mantra into the world. A young volunteer helps straighten the prayer flags which often get tangled in the wind.







Offerings of incense and water are made daily.



As I walk this road may all beings be blessed. —Jetsunma Ahkön Lhamo. Meditation can take many forms, including walking mindfully. Here Ani Sherab and a visitor circumambulate the Migyur Dorje Stupa in Maryland.

...I shall pacify all mental wandering, And there remain in blissful solitude.—Shantideva Tara Middleton sitting in meditation in the prayer room at KPC Maryland.



Hands-on Help—Animal Care and Garuda Aviary

Jetsunma has spearheaded animal care and rescue activities since the establishment of KPC—from cats and dogs to iguanas and turtles. The longest-running example of this commitment to care and rescue is the Garuda Aviary, a lifelong sanctuary for abused and abandoned parrots focusing mainly on the care of parrots with moderate to severe and chronic behavioral problems.

The Aviary started when Jetsunma began caring for Tashi, a Moluccan cockatoo with an anxiety disorder. Tashi's rehabilitation began a lifelong pursuit to pioneer parrot welfare, education and conservation.

Garuda Aviary is home to several types of macaws, cockatoos, African grey parrots, Amazon parrots and conures. Each of them has a story many filled with abuse and neglect. Starting with one parrot under Jetsunma's care, the Garuda Aviary has grown to 53 parrots.

The Garuda Aviary provides lifelong sanctuary to unadoptable animals which means adoption fees, normally a traditional source of donations, are not a source of funding for the Aviary. Nevertheless, Garuda Aviary has endured and grown to become one



Director Christopher Zeoli with one of the residents at the Aviary: "*My reward is rehabilitating a suffering, tortured bird. To see them come back to a more natural state is what makes it all worthwhile.*"





Visitors at the Garuda Aviary flight cage in Maryland

of the most noteworthy lifelong parrot sanctuaries in the United States.

Garuda Aviary continues to educate the public on a group and individual basis about the needs of parrots in our homes and in their natural environments. With specialized knowledge, experience, and a robust volunteer program, Garuda Aviary continues to be a proactive force for beneficial change in the world of parrots and people. For more information go to https://garudaaviary.org/



Inside the Aviary in Maryland



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Diverse Community, Diverse Outreach

s an organization, KPC is committed to interfaith and intra-faith engagement. KPC involvement in interfaith activity at the County level includes the following:

• Executive Committee membership on the Faith Community Advisory Council (Montgomery County), including working with the Montgomery Council Executive.

 Co-Chair of the 'Neighbors in Need Working Group' (Montgomery County) incorporating the areas of Hunger, Health Care, Aging and Prison outreach.

 Membership on the Montgomery County Faith Community Working Group.

 Members of a spiritual care network to lend support during disasters and other emergencies.

Part of the Faith Leaders
 Response Team (Montgomery
 County) – responding to critical events.

 Bi-annual Buddhist reading to open Montgomery County Council session. For more information on the KPC's membership on the Faith Advisory Community Council Executive Committee go to http://montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org/about/themembers/

KPC members have been participants in regional intra-faith activity. KPC is a long-standing member of the International Buddhist Committee (IBC) of Washington, DC.

The Sri Lankan members of the IBC were directly impacted by the Easter Bombings in Sri Lanka in 2019 and the normal festive celebration of Vesak was postponed this year. We acknowledge the loss and suffering caused by the targeting religious communities in both Sri Lanka and New Zealand in 2019.

Celebrating special days

There are many auspicious days in the Buddhist calendar that bring pilgrims from diverse cultural backgrounds to the Maryland Temple.

The beginning of the lunar calendar year marks the arrival of many pilgrims to KPC, especially members from the Vietnamese and Nepalese communities.



Pilgrims of all ages come to the Temple during the Lunar New Year.



Hands on Help—Direct Outreach

In addition to civic participation KPC provides hands-on help for those in need in local counties. In 2019 this included

The prison support program;

 The provision of sandwich lunches for the homeless in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Prison Outreach

KPC's prison program continues to facilitate Buddhist worship and study in two Maryland institutions. The Buddhist practitioners in these two groups have been practicing and studying between 10 and 20 years. One man has received permission from Jetsunma to do preliminary practice requiring a long-term commitment. The group at Maryland Correctional Training Center has learned to do tsog, a ritual food offering, on their own.

In addition, there has been correspondence with inmates from four Maryland state institutions, and Colorado State Penitentiary in Cañon City, Colorado.

Lunches for the Homeless

This project has been operating since 2013. Sandwiches are delivered to the People Encouraging People office in Rockville, Montgomery County, Maryland usually three times a week. In 2019 KPC Maryland members made 3,800 bagged lunches.

Memorial Services

In the Buddhist tradtion a strong emphasis is placed on providing services for members of the community who have lost loved ones. KPC ordained provide memorial services and ritual ceremonies on-site and attend memorial services off-site on request. This lunch program reflects an ongoing commitment at KPC to provide food for those in need, that in the past has included providing a free food pantry for visitors to KPC and supplying soup to those in need in the community.



2019 ANNUAL REPORT 🚺

Hands on Help—Volunteers

Volunteers

KPC's pool of volunteers is drawn from regular temple participants and from the wider community including high school and university students, employees of local businesses and members of hiking groups and trail clubs. Here are a few snapshots of volunteers at work in different settings. Volunteers from many different organizations offer both annual and more regular service in the KPC Palyul Peace Park. In Sedona a core of volunteers help keep the Amitabha Stupa and Peace Park cared for. KPC is listed in the Birder's Guide to Montgomery





Volunteers clean the Shakyamuni Buddha altar at KPC Maryland.

A volunteer from a local trail group works on a log to prepare it for stabilizing a trail in the Palyul Peace Park.

County and is part of the annual Christmas Bird Count.

In 2019 the following groups offered their time to keep the grounds and trails cared for in Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Hikers, Campers and Climbers Group

 Staff from Mom's in Rockville

George Washington
 University First-Years

Poolesville High School
 Global Ecology Class.







A volunteer from the Mid-Atlantic Hikers group repairs a trail at the Palyul Peace Park in Maryland.

Education

KPC is a magnet for many diverse groups wishing to find out more about the different aspects of the temple, whether it's Buddhist philosophy and stupas, or the ecology of the Peace Park.



Children and adults alike learn how to plant at the Palyul Peace Park in Maryland.



PRESERVING SACRED ARCHITECTURE: STUPAS

The construction of stupas dates to the time before the Buddha, over 2,500 years ago. KPC is dedicated to preserving this ancient and sacred form of the display of enlightenment in the physical world.



KPC Stupas in Maryland

Twenty-five stupas, monuments of enlightenment, grace the 65 acres of wildlife preserve, walking trails and meditation gardens in Poolesville, Maryland.

The focal point of the Peace Park in Maryland is the golden 38-feet-tall Migyur Dorje Stupa. Jetsunma dedicated this stupa to the eradication of diseases for which there is no known cure.

Maintenance and upkeep of the stupas is an ongoing priority.

KPC Stupas in Sedona

In Sedona Arizona, the Amitabha Stupa is the centerpiece of the 14-acre KPC Stupa Peace Park. The Amitabha Stupa Peace Park is a place of refuge and spiritual sustenance for residents of Sedona and visitors alike. An estimated 50,000 people visited the Park in 2019. Major stupa refurbishment and preservation is ongoing in order to keep these architectural symbols of the enlightened mind in good repair.





Amitabha Stupa with prayer wheels in foreground and Chimney Rock in background

 On average, 800 hours of volunteer labor is devoted every year to the care of these stupas.

The Amitabha Stupa continues to receive consistently high visitor ratings and positive reviews on Trip Advisor and was awarded a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence.

Protecting Our Natural Environment

With over 200 acres of reclaimed farmland and wilderness, KPC in Maryland and Arizona is committed to preserving the values of the land for the benefit of current and future generations. These lands are home to numerous species of wildlife which are protected from hunting as part of the commitment to preserve wildlife habitats.

KPC is continually seeking ways to be environmentally sustainable. Efforts include:

- The continued use of the first and only constructed wetlands in Maryland to treat on-site waste
- Recycling of plastic, paper and glass products

Maintaining a compost area

for gardening

Amitabha Stupa Peace Park

This year a major re-surfacing of the road to the Stupa Park in Maryland (see below) enabled easier access for work on the Stupa.







COMMUNICATING THE VISION

nder the direction of our Spiritual Director, Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo, KPC has embarked on building plans for a new temple on the existing site. In 2019 volunteers at KPC,

under the guidance of John Darrin, continued to reach out to our broader community to communicate the plans for the Capital Campaign to build the new Temple. With the guidance of JD Klote & Associates, KPC reached the \$1,000,000 goal for pledges.

For more information on our future plans contact Claire Waggoner, President, Kunzang Palyul Chöling on (928) 713-3522 or email us at kpc@tara.org.





KPC WORLDWIDE

PC has students from all over the world who access teachings on-line through live web-casts on U-stream and YouTube. KPC also has a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter presence. Beginning in 2009, Jetsunma's wish to engage with her students has led her to develop an extensive following on Twitter using the handle @JALpalyul.

CENTERS

KPC is home to six physical sites of practice in North America and Australia. Each center has different qualities shaped by location and history. KPC Maryland is a primary site of the Palyul lineage in the U.S., as well as being the home for the 24-hour prayer vigil. Maryland and Arizona offer the benefits of accessing stupas, while all centers provide an avenue for students to connect with visiting Palyul teachers and access opportunities for practice.



KPC in Maryland

Date of establishment: 1988 Location: Situated an hour away from the Nation's Capital, Washington D.C. The main KPC Temple and accompanying Peace Park (comprising a total of 72 acres) is located at 18400 River Road, Poolesville, Maryland 20837 For more information: phone 1-301-710-6259 e-mail kpc@tara.org or visit our web-site www.tara.org



KPC in Arizona

Date of establishment: 2000 **Locations:** Sedona and Dakini Valley.

Sedona

Location: Situated among the startling red rocks of the Sedona area, the 14 acre Amitabha Stupa and Peace Park is located at 2650 Pueblo Drive, Sedona Arizona 86336 For more information: phone 1-877-788-7229

e-mail amitabhastupa@tara.org or visit our web-site *www.tara.org*

Dakini Valley

Location: Located in Gila County in central Arizona, the valley of 148 acres, is surrounded by the Tonto National Forest.

For more information: phone 1-301-710-6259 email kpc@tara.org or visit our web-site www.tara.org

KPC in California (Palyul West)

Date of establishment: 2013 Location: Situated in scenic Santa Barbara For more information: phone 1-805-569-9072 e-mail Palyulwest@tara.org or visit our web-site www.tara.org

KPC in Australia

Date of establishment: 2000 Locations: Students are currently located in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. For more information: E-mail kpcaustralia@gmail.com or visit our web-site

www.tara.org

Garuda Aviary

Date of establishment: 1999 Location: Poolesville, Maryland

Director: Christopher Zeoli For more information: Web-site:

garudaaviary.org

Contact information: GarudaAviary@earthlink.net





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Kunzang Palyul Chöling 2019 Financial Report* *Not audited	
Direct Public Support	\$442,458
Restricted Revenue	\$28,974
Event Revenue	\$59,690
Merchandise Sales	\$16,573
Fundraiser Revenue	\$42,196
Capital Campaign	\$295,240
Other Income	\$7,953
Total Income	\$893,084
Expenses	
Cost of Goods Sold	\$8,941
Insurance	\$41,766
Payroll Expenses	\$193,105
Professional Fees	\$82,914
Program Expenses	\$15,474
Repairs and Maintenance	\$40,075
Interest Expense	\$47,900
Travel	\$714
Utilities	\$33,959
Other Expenses	\$97,196
Capital Campaign Expenses	\$102,810
	\$664,854



FINANCIAL SUMMARY CONTINUED



Assets*, Liabilities & Equity



*Assets are defined as land values

Capital Campaign 16% Utilities 5% Interest Expense 7% Repairs and Maintenance 6.0%



CONCLUSION

A GREAT OUTPOURING OF LOVING CONCERN

Very day people of all spiritual traditions all around the world are benefitted by KPC activities in both ordinary and extraordinary ways. This has been accomplished thanks to the kindness of people like you.

There are many ways to partner with KPC. For more information on partnering, please contact our President, Claire Waggoner on 928-713-3522 or at *kpc@tara.org*.

Our avenues for direct donations include:

- Online donations via our website http://www.tara.org or PayPal (send to donations@tara.org);
- Checks mailed to KPC
 P.O. Box 88
 Poolesville, MD 20837;

 Stocks, insurance, real estate, wills (planned giving): Please contact us at *kpc@tara.org*.

With so much to accomplish, and so many more generations to come, we wish to thank all of our donors from our hearts for your kindness and continuing support.





By this effort, may all sentient beings be free of suffering. May their minds be filled with the nectar of virtue. In this way, may all causes resulting in suffering be extinguished,

And only the light of compassion shine throughout all realms.

— Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo







Spiritual Director: Jetsunma Ahkön Norbu Lhamo

Throne holder: H.H. Karma Kuchen Rinpoche, 12th Throne holder of the Palyul Lineage

Visit www.tara.org

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Facebook: Kunzang Palyul Chöling – KPC Buddhist Temple Twitter: www.twitter.com/KunzangPalyul

Street Address (Temple and Palyul Peace Park) – Maryland: 18400 River Road, Poolesville, MD 20837 USA

Mailing address: Kunzang Palyul Chöling, PO Box 88, Poolesville, MD 20837 USA

Street Address (Amitabha Stupa and Peace Park) – Arizona: 2650 Pueblo Drive, Sedona, AZ 86336

Mailing address: Kunzang Palyul Chöling, PO Box 1142, Sedona, AZ 86339 USA

Kunzang Palyul Chöling is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, Federal Tax ID # 52-1501476.

KPC is a Bronze-level Guide Star Exchange participant, demonstrating our commitment to transparency through sharing information.

2019 ANNUAL REPORT