



ANNUAL APPEAL 2024

2024 in Review

As the calendar year comes to an end, we would like to express our genuine gratitude to the sangha members who continue to offer their energy, time and financial support to KCCL. The year 2024 has been one of further expanding our mahasangha cooperation, thus enabling successful and impactful developments for the Buddhist community. — Below, you can read the longer KCCL homepage version of the 2024 Appeal; a shorter version was sent out via email. If you already know it, donations can be made here: www.kccl.ca/donate/

- **VAJRAYOGINI PRACTICE:** KCCL has for a number of years played a leading role in maintaining the Vajrayogini and Chakrasamvara feast practices within our sangha. We were therefore delighted to partner with the Halifax Shambhala Centre, Open Torii and Ocean to offer the Vajrayogini Abhisheka conducted by Ringu Tulku Rinpoche. Beginning in March 2024, training and support was provided to existing sadhakas as basis for welcoming the new sadhakas later in the spring. Rinpoche returned to Halifax in May and once again took up residence at KCCL. The Abhisheka was an overwhelming success with 150 first-time recipients at the Halifax Shambhala Centre (HSC). People came from throughout North America, Europe and indeed the world. As Rinpoche’s residence, KCCL was used for personal interviews and any business that required his attention. Many sangha members were able to serve in the household and share in Rinpoche’s warmth and his cheerful presence. Following the Abhisheka, KCCL offered sessions (in-person and online) to the new sadhakas focusing on step-by-step ritual training for musical instruments, tormas, mudras, etc. We concluded this phase of support for Vajrayogini practice by offering a druppa in September with a hybrid format. It is our intention to continue to actively support the monthly feast practices.
- **HOSTING TEACHERS:** Ringu Tulku Rinpoche was not the only major teacher hosted by KCCL. Lama Pema, from Thrangu Monastery in Vancouver, visited and stayed at KCCL on his way to Gampo Abbey where he started the new three-year retreat at Söpa Choling. Our monastics provided much support and assistance for the retreat by making various sets of permanent tormas as well as by returning the source materials and ritual objects that had been stored at KCCL since the last retreat. Lama Pema returned to KCCL upon the conclusion of his ceremonies and teaching. — In September we hosted once again Khenpo Tenkyong from Karma Triyana who gave teachings on the Karmapa Lineage and history. — Most recently we hosted Anam Thubten Rinpoche during his visit to Nova Scotia. He taught on the “Citadel of Awareness” at HSC and online through OCEAN. We feel it is both our honour and pleasure to serve the mahasangha by hosting these important visiting teachers and the richness that it brings to the community.
- **HYBRID TEACHINGS:** Our hybrid teaching activities allow KCCL to reach far beyond the Nova Scotia sangha. During the winter months Lodro Sangpo taught a course “Basic Buddhism – an ABC Approach” that was directed to newer students. As noted above, the hybrid spring and summer sessions were focused upon Vajrayogini. Starting in August, in cooperation with the San Francisco Shambhala Center, he taught an eight-week course on the Sadhana of Mahamudra with Barabara Smith. This was followed by Lodro Sangpo presenting a very well attended course on the interconnectedness of the Mandalas of Taktasang and Trungpa Rinpoche’s Sadhana of Mahamudra, including extensive slideshows. Most of these

video-recorded courses along with their source materials are now available via OCEAN for the sangha to access. — In addition to teaching events, KCCL offered an ongoing practice schedule with meditation practice in the morning and late afternoon open to all, meditation instruction every Wednesday evening and Vajrayogini Self-visualization practice on Fridays, and Sadhana of Mahamudra practice, alternating between HSC and KCCL. Feast practice was offered on the daka and dakini days.

- **MAHASANGHA SUPPORT:** A central pillar in the mission of KCCL is to provide support and/or space for other Buddhist groups. This past year we provided space for Siddhartha’s Intent, Nalandabodhi and several informal study groups including the Longchenpa study group and Profound Treasury of Dharma study group. KCCL works closely with the Halifax Shambhala Centre to strengthen Buddhist activity in the Halifax area by organizing joint practice events, sharing in event staffing and calendar co-ordination. With the beginning of the new three-year retreat, KCCL has helped Gampo Abbey and Söpa Choling whenever possible.

2025 – Looking forward

- **“BUSINESS AS USUAL”:** KCCL will happily continue to provide support for practice and study—both on-site and on-line—in order to be accessible to the North American and European sanghas, and to isolated practitioners “out there”. — We will be working with the broader Buddhist community to invite and host visiting teachers to enrich the practice environment of the local sangha. — The assistance to mahasangha groups will remain as a major focus to the best of ability and resources. — We are happy to spend our time in providing that kind of support and interaction with the lay and monastic communities in a mahasangha spirit.

- **ADDING MONASTIC TRAINING TO THE “BUSINESS AS USUAL”:** In bringing Buddha dharma to the west, the emphasis has so far mainly been on developing lay communities, building three-year retreats and shedra facilities, and promoting translation activities, while monastic training has not been a focus. In more recent years, however, it has become more obvious that monastic communities could be needed “for the long and short run” to help with the development of Buddhism in the west, since they can provide stability and continuity as well as a certain level of expertise since they can focus their life and energy exclusively on practice, ritual and study for the support of the wider sangha.

Now, in order to provide this kind of support, our spiritual advisors are interested in KCCL becoming a training facility for western monastics. We are therefore presently in the process of working out with Pönlop Rinpoche the main elements for this training. The outcome will then be shared with our two other spiritual advisors, i.e., His Holiness Karmapa and Khandro Rinpoche, as well as Gampo Abbey through Pema Chodron, for their input. — This training will be geared not only towards existing monastics but also toward people who are interested in entering the monastic life. To be clear, this training program will not replace our usual activities but will be incorporated into the other KCCL activities. And the backbone of this project is based on the view that the different strengths of the lay and monastic communities should support each other. For the monastics to be able to play their part, they need proper training to learn the needed skills within a mahasangha oriented view.

The importance of having a monastic community has recently been pointed out by H.H. Karmapa when giving teachings on Gampopa and the Takpo Kagyü lineage. In this context he commented:

Though the Kagyü lineage existed before Gampopa, the Kagyü were later mainly called the “Dakpo Kagyü” and not the Marpa Kagyü or the Mila Kagyü. So why is that you might ask? Of

course, before Gampopa, there was a Kagyü lineage but it had not developed into a full-fledged monastic system or religious organization. ... To summarize, only during the time of Gampopa [= Dakpopa or Dakpo Rinpoche] did the monastic system of the Karma Kagyü appear and develop, becoming one of the largest traditions in Tibet. This is why we call our tradition “The Dakpo Kagyü”.

Request for Support

KCCL requires the support of the sangha to continue its work and to embark on new activities. Our annual operating budget for 2025 is projected to be **\$ 144,600** of which nearly one half is the mortgage and insurance for the property. A link to a copy of the budget is available on the KCCL homepage: www.kccl.ca. The budget is supported by rental payments from the residents and by the other groups making use of the Mahasangha space. The largest source of revenue, however, comes from donations. — For next year we already have commitments from monthly donors and the Pema Chodron foundation for approximately **\$ 54,000**. And we expect in rental income, program revenue, etc. **\$ 58,000**. This means that **our goal** for the annual fundraising campaign through the end of 2024 and up to Losar in 2025 is **\$ 32,600**. We hope to achieve this either through increasing the number of monthly donors or one-time contributions.

Now, the main focus of “this” Annual Appeal 2024 is to raise funds needed for the operation cost of KCCL, so that we can do “our job” so to speak and help to keep things running for the coming year. These costs are predicted \$10,000 less than last year, which is good news.

However, in the fall we also started a Capital Campaign because our mortgage comes up for renewal this coming summer and we are expecting an interest rate increase. With this in mind, **the goal** is to raise **\$ 150,000** by June 2025 so that we can reduce the mortgage balance and thus our ongoing operating expense. We are happy to share that we have already received **\$ 54,900** towards this goal. The link to the description of this campaign is available [HERE](#). — Thus, although our focus is on the Annual Appeal 2024, you are also more than welcome to help with our long-term capital campaign, if you can. We would not object to that 😊. And of course, these two processes are connected.

Donations by Canadian citizens are tax deductible. US citizens: our charity is recognized by the IRS, but for larger donations you might want to contact us first. For secure donations online in Canadian or US currency, see: www.kccl.ca/donate/ Cheques can be made out to Karma Changchub Ling and mailed to:

Karma Changchub Ling
Attn: Finance Office
871 Young Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3V8
Canada

Thank you for your support!

P.S.: If you no longer want to receive these kinds of e-mails, please let us know via: kccl.contact@gmail.com.