

# Friends of Nityananda Institute

2006  
Year End  
Report

## COMMUNITY

### NEWS FROM THE NITYANANDA INSTITUTE COMMUNITY

Swami Chetanananda spent the spring in Nepal, working intensely with several tantric gurus in the Kathmandu Valley. He spent three weeks in Tibet in June and July, making stops in Lhasa, Shigatse, Kham and Dingri, the area that Lama Wangdu is from. In Dingri, he saw Padampa Sangye's and Machig Labdron's caves and the site where Naptra Rinpoche, Lama Wangdu's guru, had his monastery. (The monastery itself has been destroyed.)

Other stops included Tsurphu Monastery, the seat of the Karmapas, the heads of the Karma Kagyu school of Buddhism. Swami Chetanananda also visited Samye, the first monastery in Tibet, founded by King Trisong Detsun with the help of Padamsambhava. In Shigatse, the highlight was Shalu, an important monastery



in the Sakya/Kadampa tradition founded in the 10th century with an extensive array of beautiful murals. The trip also included a visit to the cave where Milarepa lived in Nyalam. Swamiji then traveled to Kumbum Monastery in Amdo, the Gelugpa monastery that Thubten Jigme Norbu (Takster Rinpoche, the Dalai Lama's brother and our longtime friend) is from.

This trip included a visit to Kham, an area of Tibet Swamiji had not visited before. In Kham, he made contact with several Dzogchen practitioners. He spent a day with Khampo Achu, a highly accomplished master who lives in a small hermitage. He also met Pema Wangyal, another Dzogchen master, at Gemong Monastery. The current abbot of Gemong Monastery, Dongyi Rinpoche (shown here with Swamiji and their mutual friend Tsering Tashi), may visit Portland next year.



### PORTLAND AND OTHER CENTERS

Rudi's brother and our long time friend David Rudolph passed away peacefully at his home on July 7. A number of friends gathered to do Phowa for him there. There was a memorial service for him on July 30. David's wish was that the service include both Phowa and Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead.



Rabbi Rosenberg was invited to say Kaddish, and he joined us for the Phowa as well. The Phowa was sweet, powerful and uplifting. After it ended, Rabbi Rosenberg asked if he could say a few words. He said he was very moved by the practice, and understood its energetic intent. Since early August, we've had the pleasure of the company of Phyllis Rudolph, who moved into the Portland ashram.

This summer we celebrated two weddings: Jon George and Lindsey Titus were married on Swamiji's birthday, July 25, in a private ceremony and joined him for a short puja in front of the Rudi statue before class that night, with a special dinner following. Angie Shoemaker and Rene Ramirez were married by Swamiji the same week, on July 29, in the meditation hall. Many members of both families came to town for the event. It was the first time all the Shoemaker siblings have been together in 29 years.

Meg Pennock and Al DeWitt were married on the beach in Kona on the island of Hawaii on February 23 in a ceremony with a small gathering of family members.

Ali Akbar Khan and Mary visited in early October for a few days. Khansahib treated us to an evening program in which he gave an overview of Indian classical music, especially singing. He shared his love for music, which is so powerful it uplifted everyone there. The program was an expression of his gratitude to Swamiji and a tribute to the friendship he has had with Swamiji and so many of us over the years. It was truly a precious moment in our history with him.

Per Johansen continues his work in Norway and has moved his center closer to downtown Oslo, in a condo he purchased. He has programs once a week at another spiritual center in Oslo and has established a center in Copenhagen that he visits once a month. He has about 20 students who attend regularly in Oslo and another 20 in Copenhagen. He has just published a book on Trika yoga meditation, Freedom from the Web of Karma. It is available in Norwegian now and will soon be published in English. For more news about his work and photos of his center, you can visit the website at [http://www.ninorway.org/english\\_index.htm](http://www.ninorway.org/english_index.htm).

