

A Thank-You to All from Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche at the Conclusion of the Saga Dawa Retreats

On June 3rd, Tashi Choling concluded its annual Saga Dawa retreats. Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche received regular reports from the retreatants during the weeks of retreat between May and June, and he expressed again and again how pleased he was that so many people showed up to practice and work together.



He sends his thanks to Venerable Lingtrul Rinpoche for acting as Vajra Master during the annual Vajrasattva retreat, as well as to the umzed (chant leader) and all of those who worked and participated to make Tashi Choling's annual practice so auspicious. During the ten days of Vajrasattva practice, over 126,000 tsok (feast prayer) accumulations were recited for Gyatrul Rinpoche's long life and the benefit of all beings. Thousands of candles were offered, as well as hundreds of cups of tea and meals for the gathered sangha, in addition to abundant flowers and other offerings.

Rinpoche also sends his thanks to Lama Chonam, Sangye Khandro, and Les Collins for leading the subsequent retreats, which were reported to go quite smoothly and be very fruitful for everyone's practice.

During this time, Rinpoche himself remained in residence in Half Moon Bay, California...or as he calls it, his "Heavenly heaven." Physically, Rinpoche improved in health, strength, and vitality during these weeks. He has been seeing friends and students for brief visits, and giving instructions and spontaneous teachings.



About the retreats, Rinpoche said: "Thank you to everyone for working together so harmoniously and practicing so well. It sounds like this time



people really practiced with focus and attention. It looks like everyone practiced very hard, and now that it is finished, it looks like everyone has really learned something. This is so good, so much better than in the past. In the past, people would come and do the practices in kind of a funky way. Everyone was sort of happy, but at the end it looked like they had learned nothing much. This year, at the end people have learned something. From learning how to play the instruments and help with the rituals during the Vajrasattva retreat, to studying and understanding the meanings of all the practices more deeply, it looks like this year people were really trying. Thank you everyone for really putting your mind into the practice. That is so good. This is how we will really get the essence of the practice."