



Chenrezig Tibetan Buddhist Cultural Center

2117 E Yandell, El Paso, Texas, 79903

www.ctbcc.org

ctbcc123@gmail.com

CTBCC Newsletter

March 2018

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Dharma friends,

Some Important Announcements:

1. This month we will be honored by the visit of Venerable Abao Lama from Garchen Buddhist Institute in Arizona. Abao Lama will be teaching us Amitabha practices. See page 2 for more details.
2. As part of community service, CTBCC members have been conducting Dharma classes at two prison facilities. See below for more info.
3. We are starting a new "Aspiring Bodhisattvas Group." See information below. We hope to see you at our first meeting Saturday, March 17!

Your friend in the Dharma,
Helga Carrión
President, CTBCC

Om Mani Padme Hung



Mission Statement: CTBCC is a non-sectarian and non-profit organization dedicated to sharing the Dharma with El Paso, and the surrounding area.



The Dalai Lama

Our mission is to stimulate the cultivation of compassion and loving-kindness based on the philosophy and methods taught by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

Our Spiritual Director: Losang Samten is the Spiritual Director of the CTBCC in El Paso, TX.



Venerable Lama Losang Samten

He has been sharing teachings of loving-kindness, joy and compassion, as well as the path to enlightenment for almost 30 years. For more information, go to ctbcc.org or visit his website at losangsamten.com.

NEW "ASPIRING BODHISATTVAS GROUP"

What is a bodhisattva?

A bodhisattva is a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion in order to save suffering beings.

What is the purpose of the group?

The purpose of the group is to further the study of the 37 practices of the Bodhisattvas as well as the study and reflection of other Dharma topics to be selected by the group.

Where will we meet?

We will meet at the CTBCC, 2117 E Yandell, El Paso, 79903

When is the first meeting?

Our first meeting will be Saturday, March 17 at 4:00 pm.

Bring your ideas as to other topics that you wish to study and discuss!

March 2018 Dates

Our First Meeting of the month: Saturday, March 17, 4:00 pm

Our second meeting of the month: Saturday March 31, 4:00 pm

What will we do at the meetings?

The first meeting of each month we will focus on the 37 practices of the Bodhisattvas followed by the group selecting a Dharma topic for the second meeting of each month.

Can we suggest other topics of interest?

Yes, other Dharma topics could be proposed and/or led by different members of the group.

Contact Information

Raul Ruiz raul.ruiz.o@outlook.com

Beverly Cotton cottonbeverly1319@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE – PRISON PROJECT

The Prison Project began with an inmate from the Otero County Prison Facility in New Mexico writing to CTBCC requesting us to conduct Buddhist classes in the facility. The first session on Feb 7, 2015 was attended by 4 inmates. Since then we have been having 2-hour classes on Saturday afternoons.

Each class has one or two volunteers from CTBCC and is attended by 4 to 10 inmates. Even on Saturdays without volunteers, inmates can watch Dharma-related videos.

Our Spiritual Director, Losang Samten, visited the inmates on March 18, 2017, and granted refuge to those who wanted to take refuge in the three jewels.

It is rewarding to hear testimonies about how the inmates apply Dharma in their interactions with other inmates and practice patience in challenging situations. As volunteers, we have benefited from this project by sharing our knowledge and experiences, and thereby enhancing our own understanding of the Dharma. Giving and sharing Dharma is a great practice of generosity!

The Prison Project expanded to offer Dharma classes at the La Tuna Federal Correctional Institution in Texas.

La Tuna is part of the Liberation Prison Project (LPP). For more information you can visit the website at: www.liberationprisonproject.org/. The LPP offers spiritual advice and teachings, as well as books and materials, to people in prison interested in exploring, studying and practicing Buddhism. The LPP is affiliated with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT).

We have been leading Dharma classes every Sunday afternoon at La Tuna for almost 2 years, and we teach from 5 to 7 students.

It is rewarding to us visiting the inmates, teaching Dharma, and hearing how they apply the Dharma teachings in their lives. We all practice kindness, giving and generosity!

For more information about the program or volunteering at La Tuna, contact CTBCC via email at ctbcc123@gmail.com, subject line: La Tuna Project.

TEACHINGS IN MARCH (Visit our website at ctbcc.org for current information regarding our teachings and events.)Venerable
Abao Lama

At the age of fourteen Venerable Abao Lama met his Root Lama, His Eminence Garchen Rinpoche. In 1997 Abao Lama traveled with H.E. Garchen Rinpoche to America.

Since 1997 Abao Lama has been one of Rinpoche's two attendants on his travels throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. He is also President of Garchen Buddhist Institute in Chino Valley, AZ.

TEACHINGS	DAY	DATE	TIME	COST*	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
INTRODUCTION TO AMITABHA PRACTICE	FRI	MAR 30	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	\$10.00*	All teachings will be held at the CTBCC 2117 E Yandell, El Paso, TX	Amitabha is the Buddha of Infinite Light who presides over the western Buddha realm of the Pure Land of Great Bliss, known as Dewachen.
AMITABHA PRACTICE	SAT	MAR 31	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	\$10.00*		
INSTRUCTION ON PHOWA AND PHOWA PRACTICE	SAT	MAR 31	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	\$10.00*		
AMITABHA PRACTICE	SUN	APR 1	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	\$10.00*		
INSTRUCTION ON PHOWA AND PHOWA PRACTICE	SUN	APR 1	2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	\$10.00*		

* Suggested donation, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. We welcome you to the teachings!

WEEKLY CLASSES AT CTBCC* 2117 E Yandell, El Paso

DAY	CLASSES	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	COST
FRI	Introducción al Budismo Tibetano (en Español)	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	R. Ruiz	\$5.00 per session
SAT	Introduction to Buddhism and Meditation	10:00 am – 11:30 am	J. Romero	\$5.00 per session
SUN	Shamatha Meditation	11:00 am – 11:45 am	H. Carrion	\$5.00 per session
SUN	Bodhicaryavatara: Guide to the Bodhisattva Way of Life by Shantideva	12:00 noon – 1:30 pm	H. Carrion	\$5.00 per session

* Visit our website at ctbcc.org for current information regarding our weekly classes.

MONTHLY CLASS AT CTBCC* 2117 E Yandell, El Paso

DAY	CLASS	2018 DATES	INSTRUCTOR	TIME	COST
WED (First Wednesday of the month)	Ngondro	Apr 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5	R. Arney	6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	\$5.00 per session

* Visit our website at ctbcc.org for current information regarding our monthly class.

NAMGYAL MONASTERY IN ITHACA, NY

Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies in Ithaca NY has been chosen as the official site of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's Library and Museum (DLLM).

The DLLM will protect the legacy of the Dalai Lama and all that he represents to many millions of people throughout the world. Its primary mission is as a learning center for scholars and practitioners of all faiths, as well as scientists, educators, and philosophers of all disciplines.

One purpose of the DLLM is to serve as the central repository for the collected works of the current and all the previous Dalai Lamas of Tibet.

CTBCC plans to donate several books to the DLLM Library. These are books written by His Holiness, about His Holiness and his family, and previous Dalai Lamas.

For more information visit <https://www.namgyal.org/>

CTBCC Donations: Visit our website at ctbcc.org to make a donation in any amount by Paypal, or you can address a check to CTBCC and mail to CTBCC, 683 Bluff Canyon, El Paso, TX 79912. Your donation to CTBCC is a tax deductible donation as allowed by law as a contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization.

Disaster Relief Fundraising Dinner

We raised \$1035 from our Disaster Relief Fundraising Dinner. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Items for Sale in our Store:

- Malas – Rosewood, sandalwood and stone
- Incense – Nag Champa, Green Tara, Kalachakra, Frangipani
- Jewelry, prayer flags, statues and more!

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the
CHENREZIG TIBETAN BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTER
A non-profit organization in El Paso, Texas
2117 E Yandell, El Paso, TX 79903

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Helga Carrión	President	Kien Lim	Treasurer
Robin Arney	Vice President	Jorge Romero	Education / Program Director
Teresa Gomez	Secretary	Raul Ruiz	Website / Publicity Director