



GRATEFUL FOR WHAT WE HAVE...

Amazing progress is occurring at the retreat cloister at SCOL -- the central kitchen and north wing are completely finished and in use, and the south wing is developing day by day.

With the south wing excavation work complete and concrete foundations in place, framers are rapidly building with the intention to get the entire south wing "into the dry" before the winter sets in.

The retreat cloister layout includes two wings designed to provide separate living and practice quarters for a total of 16 women and men during long retreat use. Each wing of the facility includes a meditation hall, bathhouse, dining room, six cabins, yoga hall and 2 ADA accessible bedrooms. Two cooks working together in the central kitchen will deliver three meals a day to each dining room.

In the interim before all the facilities planned for SCOL in this phase of construction are complete, KCC is using the north

wing of the cloister for group and individual retreats. Currently, short group retreats of around 24 can enjoy the north wing of the facility, with cooks serving food "buffet style" in the kitchen. In 2009 various types of retreats occurred in the north wing of the cloister:

- KCC held two group retreats including the North American Mahamudra Seminar led by Lama Michael Conklin and Lama Tara of Vancouver Island, B.C.
- KCC leadership held its annual meeting to work on issues impacting the whole KCC organization.
- A peer gathering of experienced students met for practice support.
- Individuals did personal retreats.

In total, about 100 people attended retreats and had the opportunity to experience an atmosphere supportive for meditation practice at SCOL this year.

By Karen Nelson and Crawford Smith



KCC's President Sally Alworth is optimistic about the prospect of finishing the south wing in 2010. "We are very close to having a facility large enough to serve more who wish to join group retreats. With enough resources, construction on the interior could conceivably continue through the winter."

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WORK WITH CONFIDENCE

We are all clear about the benefit to the receiver of our gifts. There are also benefits to the one who gives. Giving to a cause we feel is precious to many beings fills our hearts and minds with something unspeakably good. It's easy to think we can't do something this year, can't give something. Just in the moment of thinking there isn't anything you can do, put aside concerns about the size of your gift and give something. You will be the first to joyfully benefit.

It is no accident that Kagyu Changchub Chuling operates free of debt both at the urban Center in Portland and at our retreat facilities in Goldendale. It has been our policy for many years to capitalize our long-range projects as well as all operating costs from cash on hand, while always maintaining a cash reserve equal to six months of operation expenses. We do not want to compromise or risk our long-term mission by relying on debt to speed up development. So, while building more slowly than most of us would like, we find ourselves standing on a secure foundation during these challenging economic times. We will continue to rely upon your gifts that we might all be confident in a future unencumbered by debt.

In addition, we develop a detailed budget each year and carefully manage expenses on that basis, always seeking ways to improve fiscal responsibility. We want our members and patrons to know that we are doing and will continue to do our utmost to stay carefully attuned to business while we devote ourselves to our core work of preserving and practicing the precious wisdom and compassion teachings with which we have been entrusted.



In 2009, there were more people interested than space available for group retreats. A finished south wing will solve that problem.

GENEROSITY FLOWS!

Our near term fundraising goal of \$200,000 aims to accomplish:

- Completion of the south wing which will allow up to 40 participants for group retreats, and hasten us towards long term goals
- Installation of fire suppression in new and existing facilities
- Operation of the retreat center

KCC extends warm thanks to all contributors. To date we have raised over \$2.6 million from nearly 500 people. 38 individuals have ensured their life's legacy by putting KCC in their wills. Hundreds of volunteers have contributed countless hours of labor.

Some of our most ardent supporters may not be able to give a gift over and above their membership dues this year. Please remember there are diverse ways to support the work including:

- Make a financial contribution
- Include KCC in your will
- Transfer stocks
- Volunteer
- Donate in-kind labor and materials

The simple act of giving something will ensure that you enact your intention to support what you personally value.

By Ephraim Miller, Treasurer, KCC



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