



Rangjung Yeshe Gomde California 2019 Annual Report

RYG CA is a Religious 501c3 Organization – Tax ID 95-4619361
www.gomdeusa.org | PO Box 162, Leggett CA 95585 | 707-489-6605|
information@gomdeusa.org

1. Introduction and Overview

Below you will find Rangjung Yeshe Gomde California's Annual Report for the calendar year 2019. This report provides an overview of our programming and onsite development, as well as identification and acknowledgement of Sangha members and their kind contributions towards supporting our organization, both physical and fiscal. Although you will find some names listed below, the care of so many members in our wide community of practitioners and students cannot be overstated. This organization operates at the direction of our spiritual head, Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche. It is through his guidance that all efforts and direction indicated below are carried out for the benefit of our sangha, the wider community, and the world.

In addition to offering a wide-range of teaching and practice programs throughout the 2019 year, we marked our 21st anniversary through a special program with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, and celebratory events with the Sangha in early July. Throughout the year Gomde provided:

1. Large summer teaching seminars with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and other genuine Buddhist masters.
2. Fall programming with senior lamas from Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling.
3. A one-month intensive group practice of the Trinley Nyinggpo with Lama Tsultrim Sangpo, with over 20 participants.
4. Opportunities for individual training in ritual sadhana and meditation practice with Lama Tsultrim Sangpo.
5. A summer Classical Tibetan language course.
6. Translation initiatives: Dharmachakra Translations and partnership with 84000.
7. Year-round support for personal retreat and practice in a pristine natural environment.
8. Stewardship and continued development of the natural beauty of our sacred retreat land.

During 2019, Gomde made major progress in several areas of construction and planning for future development. Under direct supervision from Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, and in collaboration with the Developmental Planning Committee, Peter Oudshoorn provided beautiful initial architectural designs for Gomde California's future temple. In combination with previously drafted Master Planning designs, a coherent long-term construction vision has emerged. Gomde California secured the second installment of an extraordinarily generous \$1,000,000 capital donation that will allow us to take firm initial steps toward our long-term development goals.

Due to collective efforts by the Board of Directors, Gomde California's resident staff, and individual sangha members, we completed our shower house—which now offers clean restrooms and showering facilities to our summer retreatants and students.

The resident staff made renovations on the Sangha House, including the creation of a new library and sangha study space. The old library now serves as a dining space for off-season retreats, as well as the site for the Norbu Store during summer programs. The staff also cleared hundreds of tons of brush and detritus from the campgrounds and other wooded areas to significantly reduce Gomde's fire risk, and were recognized by Mendocino County for our efforts.

In addition to their labor of love and devotion, our Sangha members continue to be generous and program attendance was high. Gross income in 2019 totaled \$532,695, with \$300,407 in monthly and one-time donations. Expenses totaled \$457,029.



The Gomde sky overflows with stars during an August seminar.

2. Programs and Education

In 2019 Gomde CA offered another full calendar of diverse programs, with Jack deTar serving as interim Program Director.

Winter & Spring:

Lama Gerry began the year with a one-month retreat on the Sangtik Dorsem (Vajrasattva Sadhana) in January. In the spring, Gomde held annual teaching programs with Lama Bruce Newman and Lama John Makransky, as well as work-week programming. At the start of June, Gomde held the Antioch/Carleton Reunion with Ekai Korematsu Roshi—a highly respected Soto Zen master. Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche personally approved Roshi's teaching and practice program, which attracted about a dozen alumni from the influential Antioch/Carleton Buddhist Studies program to Gomde's land for a weekend of serious practice.

Summer:

The summer seminar season began with Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche's continued multi-year teaching (mid-June) on the Lamrim Yeshe Nyingpo, the core text of the Tukdrub Barchey Kunsel. In July, we welcomed our lineage master, Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, to Gomde California. Rinpoche taught on Dudjom Rinpoche's "Mountain Dharma," a precious Dzogchen instruction specifically directed towards those practicing in retreat. We also held a celebration for our 21st Anniversary, and showcased designs and plans for our future campus. Following Rinpoche's teachings, Lama Tsultrim led a very successful one-month retreat on the Trinley Nyingpo.

This was the first (Guru) practice in a multi-year retreat program that will carry practitioners through the sadhanas of the Three Roots with Lama Tsultrim. We finished the summer with profound teachings by Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche on The Three Words that Strike the Vital Point.

Our summer Classical Tibetan language course continued, taught by Peter Woods with Monica Thunder as teaching assistant.

Fall:

In October, Gomde California had the honor of hosting Lama Tenzin Sangpo for a one-week retreat on the "Outer Tara Sadhana," which was widely attended. Overall, program attendance was up, and we collectively applied focus to the practices of our lineage. We plan to collaborate further with Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling to bring more lamas, monks, and nuns to further train residents and sangha members within the context of our lineage.

3. Management Structure and Assignments

Spiritual Director: Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche

Officers:

David Shlim, President

Catherine Dalton, Vice-President

Jeri Petersen, Treasurer

Tobin Rangdrol, Secretary

Jack deTar, Executive Director

Board Members:

Current Board members (some are also managers or officers, as noted above):

Shabad Khalsa (Chairman), Diane Richardson, Catherine Dalton, Bruce Hammond, Rhonda LoPresti, Dorje Bond, David Shlim, Jeri Petersen, Stephen Barr, (Shireen Patell, as of January 2020)

Compensation:

In 2019, we maintained three staff members on payroll: Jack deTar, Executive Director; Mikey Ellis, Director of Operations; and Jax Sciallaba, Land Manager.

The following people contributed to Gomde's operations, assisting as contractors at intervals during the year:

Kathy Kohberger, Accountant

Lee Rust, Nancy Hua, and Robert Offner, land projects

Jamie Ross, Norbu Store

Molly Mansfield, Summer Program Manager

We occasionally hire other contract labor and consultants for special projects.

A tremendous amount of work was completed on and off the land in 2019 by our volunteers, Board members, and international sangha. We are immensely grateful for the time and energy gifted by our community members.

4. Project Highlights in 2019

The year 2019 saw the excellent fruition of projects that have been many years in the planning. Some of the highlights of new projects at Gomde CA in 2019 include:

Cedar Creek Habitat: Fish and Wildlife continued evaluation of Cedar Creek for habitat improvement. They received 10% of the California State budget allocated for this category of project, and finalized approval to remove the Cedar Creek hatchery. Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche gave his approval for this project to move forward at Gomde, which will significantly improve the fish populations and general ecosystem of Cedar Creek.

Shower House Construction: The new Shower House in the campground area was completed, with exceptional effort by Bruce Hammond, Mike Ellis, and the staff at Gomde.

Temple and Dormitory Planning: The architect from Fort Bragg and Rinpoche's architect, Peter Oudshoorn, revised and finalized design concepts and plans for Gomde's temple, dormitory, and campus.

Norbu Dharma Shop: Jamie Ross completed redesign and development of the former "Ratna Shop." The new on-line dharma shop, NorbuStore.com, includes high-quality Dharma items, reliably sourced with input from our Ka-Nying monastics. The product descriptions double as teaching resources for our Sangha members, and specialty items allow

the Sangha access to meditation and practice supports that are rare to find elsewhere.

Maintenance: This year we continued maintenance work, including new road gravel, septic repair, and substantial clearing of the campground area.

Sangha House Improvements: The former Sangha House shrine room received a complete overhaul, and was transformed into a beautiful library and Sangha study space.

Dining Tent: Gomde purchased and assembled a new, robust dining tent, with strong steel doors and plastic walls that will extend outdoor dining services into the fall and early winter months.



Gomde residents enjoy community time down in the river valley.

5. Finances and Profit and Loss



Gomde continues to rely on revenues from seminars and programs, and donations from our generous Sangha members. Other smaller streams of income include: Norbu Store sales, lodging fees, and revenues from private retreat services.

This year, we have included more detailed financial summaries for greater visibility to the Sangha or other interested individuals. The first table (Table 1) below is the summary of income and expenses for the years 2016 through 2019. Donations totaling \$275,000 made to the Master Plan fund (also called the Dharma Building Fund) in 2019 are not included in Table 1, as Table 1 serves primarily as the Board's operational funds summary. Refer to Table 2 for information on funds set aside for the Temple and Master Plan.

Tara "The Liberator" graces the Gomde California Buddha Hall.

TABLE 1 - INCOME AND EXPENSE COMPARISON

RYG CA: INCOME DETAIL

2016	2017	2018	2019	Name of Account
\$ 48,159	\$ 58,171	\$ 45,163	\$ 51,055	Monthly Donations
\$ 125,821	\$ 139,229	\$ 89,452	\$ 249,252	One Time Donations
\$ 9,879	\$ 3,645	\$ 475	\$ 100	In-Kind Donations
\$ 183,859	\$ 201,045	\$ 135,090	\$ 300,407	TOTAL OPERATIONS DONATIONS
\$ 116,066	\$ 132,495	\$ 108,824	\$ 188,455	Seminar Fees
\$ (2,035)	\$ (25,979)	\$ (16,674)	\$ (26,138)	Less Seminar Discounts
\$ 17,434	\$ 22,892	\$ 21,294	\$ 29,077	Seminar Lodging
\$ 5,685	\$ 8,225	\$ 3,568	\$ 4,865	Private Retreat
\$ 2,402	\$ 6,962	\$ 4,289	\$ 3,038	Scholarships, Puja, Lama Donations
\$ 7,594	\$ 8,271	\$ 16,924	\$ 3,065	BSSP & DTC
\$ 147,146	\$ 152,866	\$ 138,225	\$ 202,363	TOTAL SEMINARS/PROGRAMS
\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Grants
\$ 1,082	\$ 2,635	\$ 3,693	\$ 5,247	Interest & Other Income
\$ 11,431	\$ 10,258	\$ 18,600	\$ 24,678	NORBU INCOME
\$ 348,518	\$ 366,805	\$ 295,608	\$ 532,695	GROSS INCOME

RYG CA: EXPENSE DETAIL

2016	2017	2018	2019	Name of Account
\$ 12,733	\$ 11,848	\$ 14,891	\$ 15,172	Advertising/Communications/Web design
\$ 10,110	\$ 6,848	\$ 7,504	\$ 6,929	Auto Expenses
\$ 7,407	\$ 9,349	\$ 7,129	\$ 11,823	Bank & Merchant Fees
\$ 6,018	\$ 10,100	\$ 3,815	\$ 3,079	Outreach & Shedrub donations
\$ 9,466	\$ 4,682	\$ 4,672	\$ 5,403	Equipment
\$ 14,059	\$ 17,454	\$ 16,880	\$ 19,789	Insurance
\$ 9,842	\$ 14,761	\$ 43,799	\$ 50,125	Maintenance/Repair (includes road)
\$ 19,855	\$ 26,538	\$ 8,106	\$ 22,280	Materials/Supplies
\$ 6,120	\$ 5,753	\$ 2,043	\$ 1,781	Office, Permits & Licenses
\$ 24,617	\$ 42,877	\$ 62,680	\$ 65,146	Staff & Labor Costs
\$ 28,733	\$ 31,559	\$ 33,985	\$ 35,247	Contract Services - Labor, Legal, Acct.
\$ 32,305	\$ 32,384	\$ 41,784	\$ 49,783	Utilities, Garbage & Porta Potty discharge
\$ 181,265	\$ 214,152	\$ 247,288	\$ 286,557	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES
\$ 33,786	\$ 34,954	\$ 23,660	\$ 49,966	Seminar Offerings
\$ 2,507	\$ 4,424	\$ 3,665	\$ 4,356	Seminar Supplies, Printing, Flowers, Puja
\$ 24,666	\$ 31,454	\$ 9,811	\$ 23,611	Cooks, Program Mgr. & Translators
\$ 21,181	\$ 25,849	\$ 20,740	\$ 40,792	Seminar Food
\$ 18,370	\$ 15,968	\$ 6,427	\$ 14,698	Teacher Travel & Lodging
\$ -	\$ 6,500	\$ 21,828	\$ -	BSSP & DTC (2019 inc. in seminar costs)
\$ 690	\$ 360	\$ 840	\$ 300	Room Rental
\$ 101,200	\$ 119,509	\$ 86,971	\$ 133,723	TOTAL SEMINAR/PROGRAM EXPENSES
\$ 6,687	\$ 12,141	\$ 22,213	\$ 36,749	TOTAL NORBU EXPENSES
\$ 289,152	\$ 345,802	\$ 356,472	\$ 457,029	TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 59,366 \$ 21,002 \$ (60,864) \$ 75,665 INCOME (LOSS)



Shasta Daisies fill the Dharmachakra Garden, and are given as offerings in our group practices and pujas.

6. Balance Sheet: Assets and Liabilities – 2019

Table 2 shows account balances at the end of 2019.

The detailed income, expense, and balance sheets for 2019 are available from our Treasurer and bookkeeper.

Fixed assets refer to the land, autos, major equipment and buildings.

As a 501c3 non-profit organization, RYG CA is exempt from property taxes as discussed above.

TABLE 2 - RYG CA ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET, 12/31/2019				
ASSETS			LIABILITIES	
Operations Accounts, Petty Cash	\$ 83,177		Credit Cards	\$ 1,482
Operation Reserve Fund CD	\$ 43,223		Payroll Tax Payable	\$ 1,851
Total Operation Funds	\$ 126,400		Sales Tax Payable	\$ 183
Norbu Funds	\$ 16,549		Other Current Liabilities	\$ -
Master Plan Funds	\$ 711,100		Total Current Liabilities	\$ 3,516
Temple Funds - CDs	\$ 134,767			
Total Bank Assets	\$ 988,816		Restricted Puja Donations	\$ 618
			Restricted Temple Fund	\$ 52,308
Accounts Recievable	\$ -		Restricted Master Plan Fund	\$ 699,440
UNDEPOSTED/OTHER ASSETS	\$ 29,742		Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 752,366
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 1,018,558		TOTAL LIABILITES	\$ 755,882
FIXED ASSETS			EQUITY	
Land	\$ 443,735		Opening Balance Equity	\$ 713,537
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	\$ 10,734		Retained Earnings	\$ 384,344
Water System	\$ 53,201		Net Income	\$ 350,665
Buildings	\$ 1,031,059		TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 1,448,546
Vehicles and Machinery	\$ 59,151			
Restricted Funds Depletion	\$ (412,009)			
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$ 1,185,871			
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,204,429		TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 2,204,429

Total cash on hand, including checking, savings and CDs, equaled \$988,816 as of December 31, 2019—about \$408,000 more than in December 2018. Liabilities at the end of the year equaled \$3,516. Long-term project funding set aside from major donors includes \$699,440 for Master Plan/Construction funding, and \$52,308 for Temple Construction funding. RYG CA does not have any major outstanding debt, including credit card debt. We operate completely on a cash basis or pay-as-you-go.

With the planned development and renovations associated with our Use Permit, Gomde continues to evaluate long-standing financial policies. There is some consideration of debt financing of the planned dormitory. Operating funds are held in checking and money market accounts. Other funds are held in various reserves, including CDs, for special projects like grants, capital improvements, and the master plan process.

7. Comparison with Prior Years' Budgets

Table 1 shows that our revenue from our regular sources in 2019 was approximately \$237,000 higher than in 2018. This substantial increase was primarily due to our special 21st Anniversary Celebration seminar in 2019, including a particularly generous fundraising dinner with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche. Several new large (> \$5,000) donors have also come forward in 2019. Monthly member donations and one-time or yearly donations continue to be the most important source of operating revenue for the organization. These are supplemented by proceeds from seminars, lodging, and the retail shop.

In early 2019, a major donor completed the second installment of their large donation. Some funding was partially used in 2019 for development of plans for our major project planning. In 2018, Gomde CA contracted with a local architect who developed conceptual site plans, campus layouts, and building plans for a future temple, dormitory, and kitchen/dining building. In November 2018, these plans were discussed with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, who offered advice and preferences on the site plan. In 2019, these plans were modified by the local architect and by Rinpoche's personal architect, Peter Oudshoorn. At the anniversary celebration, these plans and drawings were shared with the Sangha.

Our goal at Gomde is to have a positive annual balance every year, which will allow us to correctly steward the land, offer higher quality programs and dharma learning resources, and purchase materials and equipment for steady infrastructural improvement each year.

Increased expenses in "Gomde O&M" include the expenses from increased onsite staff, and the tractor purchase. Maintenance tasks are addressed as funding is available, in order to maintain and improve present facilities while strategizing future development. In 2019 Gomde purchased a high-quality tractor for land and road maintenance. In the coming years, we have major improvements to make related to our Use Permit, including code compliance for the Buddha Hall, septic and water system improvements, and other planned projects.



The view from Gomde's Redwood Beach

8. Master Plan and New Capital Projects

Gomde CA continues to operate under our Use Permit approved in the spring of 2015. Our activities are within the conditions of the permit, and we continue to have annual health and use inspections from the County of Mendocino. The Use Permit recognizes Gomde CA as a formal retreat center and within the Use Permit, Gomde has approval to construct several new projects, including:

New Storage Facilities (completed)

New Shower House (completed)

New Dining Structure (future project)

New Retreat Huts (partially completed)

New Dormitory (future project)

In 2019, the projects implemented and planned under the Use Permit conditions included completing construction of the shower house and continued planning for a dormitory, dining structure, and conceptual temple designs. In addition, new general infrastructure and system improvements are required, including upgrades to several of the old septic systems throughout the land. Each of these projects of the Master Plan

will require additional planning and design work and review with the County.

In previous annual reports, various phases of improvements were noted. By the end of 2019, the essential phases of those project was completed, including completion of the storage building, purchasing of new tents and bedding, new tuff sheds, new Middle House, and new Shower House.

In early 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders, Rinpoche requested that Gomde put Master Planning on hold until further notice. The Planning and Development committee therefore put the plans for site improvements, dormitory detailed design, septic repairs, and other major improvements on the land on hold. As of writing this 2019 annual report in June 2020, we are still waiting to proceed with these and other projects.

Acquiring the funding for the future temple and a dormitory as soon as possible is the sincere aspiration of the Board of Directors, Gomde Managers, and the Sangha.

9. In Loving Memory of Sangha Members Who Have Passed

Gomde CA's Sangha had several members who passed on in 2019. In particular, we offer prayers and pure aspirations in the name of our dharma brother, Eman Fallah. We also extend our support and care to the loved ones of all those who passed this year.