



Milarepa Center

1344 US Route 5 South
Barnet, Vermont 05821 USA

Lama Thubten Yeshe: Founder
Lama Zopa Rinpoche: Spiritual Director & Founder

October 2022

Dearest Friend of Milarepa Center,

Blessings and greetings from Milarepa Center! We hope this letter finds you happy and healthy. This December I will begin my 6th year as director at Milarepa Center and what an interesting time it has been, I can't believe it has been almost 6 years already! It has brought me so much joy to watch the center blossom over these past 5 years with new programs offered, new faces at the center, and so many meditators engaging in private retreat. It has been so heartwarming to see more students coming for private retreat and connecting to the center, themselves, and the teachings. In fact, the amount of private retreats has steadily increased over each of the past 5 years, with a total increase of 126% from 2017 to now!

The digital world has drastically changed the way many centers operate and offer programs. While we have augmented our offerings to include online programs, Milarepa Center has been incredibly fortunate to be able to continue providing students an opportunity to connect in-person through private retreat and small in-person programs - and we plan to continue! Sadly, many centers are in the midst of having to make important decisions about how and/or whether or not to keep their physical doors open due to changes brought on by the Covid pandemic and shifts to a more digital Dharma world: teachers traveling less and less, intense staffing shortages, and the rising costs of maintaining a brick and mortar building. We feel truly blessed to report that is not the case here at Milarepa Center! While we absolutely are impacted by the same struggles as other centers, I don't hesitate to admit that through *your* support we have been able to weather these times and maintain a sustainable operating level (although it has been quite challenging at times!).

Over the course of 2022 thus far, we have been able to serve many students in a variety of ways: we have hosted teachers via Zoom and supported more and more students in private retreat, allowing them to fulfill practice commitments and connect to the teachings in a sacred setting and creating the causes for Milarepa Center and the teachings to continue to flourish! We are already booking private retreats into 2023 and are working on programs for both in-person and online students for the coming year.

Despite all the great things happening here, this year has not been without difficulty. In addition to our normal operating costs, we have had several unexpected and expensive issues arise, leaving us financially behind where we like to be this time of year: our beloved plow truck needed several repairs to be ready for winter, the heating system in the main building had to be rebuilt, and our property taxes were increased due to the high number of people relocating to the area which has significantly driven up land values. Our routine expenses continue to be general maintenance of the main building, barn, and retreat cabins, as well as the management of our 275-acre land. Finally, as is customary, we make multiple offerings on behalf of Milarepa Center students and members to long life pujas for Rinpoche, the Lama Yeshe Sangha Fund, and teachers, as well as funding spiritual projects both here at the center and within the FPMT.

While we have been fortunate this year to offset a portion of our financial losses through memberships, donations, and retreat cabin rentals we need our Annual Appeal to make up the difference and sustain a sound financial basis for 2023 and beyond! We are continuing with our commitment to improve our environmental impacts and to the sustainable operation of Milarepa Center so that the center may continue to exist and be of benefit to all. We understand that so many are experiencing economic hardship this year, and so we ask that you give only what you can and feel comfortable giving. Our goal this year is to raise \$19,500 by the end of 2022. Can you help us achieve this goal? Every little bit helps, and we are truly grateful for any contribution you can make. Donations can be made online at <http://milarepacenter.org/donation> or by check made payable to Milarepa Center.

Our sincere and deep heartfelt thanks and we hope to see you in the coming year. May you and yours be happy and healthy!

Sincerely,
Dawn Holtz, Center Director

Board of Directors

Jim Hagan, Board Chair, FPMT Appointee
Debb Colony, Board Treasurer
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Nina Hill, Board Secretary



(802) 633-4136 • www.milarepacenter.org • milarepa@milarepacenter.org
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