
Drala Mountain Journal: November 2025

1 message

Drala Mountain Center <media@dralamountain.org>
To: Rhiannin Bunney <rbunney@dralamountain.org>

Mon, Nov 10, 2025 at 12:33 PM



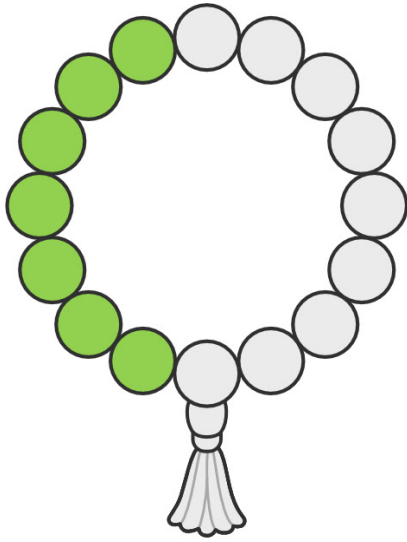
Deepening our Buddhist Roots

Here in the stillness of late fall, this month's Drala Mountain Journal invites us to remember why this place exists: to preserve and transmit wisdom teachings, and to offer a refuge where meditation practice can unfold and deepen. As the season turns, we rediscover what is most essential— the simplicity of practice, the beauty of awareness, and the quiet strength of community.

Fundraising Update

Our End of Year Goal is \$145,000 and we've already raised \$71,000! \$34,000 was raised in just 7 days!

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and steadfast support of Drala Mountain Center—our volunteers, monthly donors and those of you who are making one-time gifts.



I'm very happy to share that we've just unlocked **\$25,000** from a very generous donor and protector of Drala! With that, we've now raised **\$71,000**, about halfway to our **\$145,000** year-end goal.

Can you help? Can you help turn the remaining mala beads green? Seven are green today with only eight more to go!

And, as a gesture of gratitude, **monthly donors giving \$50 or more will receive a 10% discount on all programs in 2025 and 2026** — an invitation to return again and again to the land you help sustain.

DONATE NOW

In that same spirit, this issue turns to two teachers whose lives are deeply intertwined with Drala Mountain Center. Larry Mermelstein and Judy Lief, senior students of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, reflect on the Three Yana (Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana) tradition and what it means to carry these teachings forward in the modern world. Recorded in Halifax, Nova Scotia, their dialogue reminds us that deepening our roots is not about looking back, but about cultivating the wisdom and compassion that will nourish the next generation of teachers and practitioners.

Watch the video below and [learn more here](#):



Read on to learn more about what we have planned to deepen and enrich our Buddhist programming through 2026.

Spotlight: Buddhist Programs

As part of Drala Mountain Center's commitment to deepening our Buddhist roots, we are pleased to announce several upcoming retreats.

December 27, 2025-January 4, 2026

Winter Ngöndro Retreat (Chase Usry and Colin Stubbert) **Meeting the Awakened Feminine - A Vajrayogini Retreat in the Great Stupa (Greg Smith)**



The ngöndro retreat is for people currently doing ngöndro practice and accumulations. We welcome practitioners from every tradition, with a true Ri-mé spirit. Primarily, folks attending will be doing the Kagyu ngöndro, though all are welcome. Thanks to auspicious alignment on our calendar, our Winter ngöndro retreat is running concurrently with a Vajrayogini intensive. Because of this alignment, the ngöndro practitioners and Vajrayogini sadhakas will all be gathering together for evening study and discussion.

The Vidyadhara, Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche gave extensive teachings on the view of vajrayana practice. We will be inspiring our practice using recordings of these teachings alongside discussion. Instructions on the procedures of the Vajrayogini Sadhana practice will be provided as needed.

Note: Both retreats are offered during the Dec 27 - Jan 4 timeframe.

[LEARN MORE \(Winter Ngöndro\)](#)

[LEARN MORE \(Awakened Feminine\)](#)

January 16-18, 2026

The Mishap Lineage - Exploring our Spiritual Heritage **Mikayla Sandord, Graham Navin, and Colin Stubbert**



Retreatants will engage with talks from the presenters, sitting meditation, and readings from the Rain of Wisdom, a book songs of realization of the Kagyu lineage masters - along with time for discussion and connection. Through sharing our personal experience of lineage and diving into the lineage stories themselves, retreatants will develop a sense of familiarity with the lineage, which rather than being distant or historical, is an experience of rediscovering our spiritual heritage.

[LEARN MORE](#)

March 19-27, 2026

**The Mandala of all the Siddhas - A Sadhana of Mahamudra
Retreat**

With the Dorje Loppön, Lodrö Dorje



DMC is honored to host the Dorje Loppön, Lodrö Dorje, who will lead the retreat with the view that we are exploring the total transmission of the Vidyadhara through the cornerstone practice of the Sadhana of Mahamudra. Led by the Dorje Loppön, we will explore the Kagyu and Nyingma lineages embodied in the Sadhana, and how the Vidyadhara brought these together. This program is open to all tantrikas, and there will be opportunities for those working on specific practices to meet with the Dorje Loppön as a cohort.

June 21-July 5, 2026

Summer Half-Dathün
Gaylon Ferguson



Drala Mountain Center is excited to announce the return of dathün! Dathün (meaning moon session) was traditionally a month long. Although this retreat will be two weeks, we will maintain the forms and traditions developed for dathün, which are as much a part of the retreat as the meditation itself.

[LEARN MORE](#)

June 21-July 21, 2026

Three Yanas: Entering the Vajra World (Larry Mermelstein, Andy Karr, and Adrienne Chang)

July 6-21, 2026

Going Deeper into the Vajra World: A Three Yana Retreat (Rhea Colmar)



The Three-Yana Retreat is a contemporary version of the deep training that was the hallmark of Trungpa Rinpoche's Vajradhatu Seminars. It provides students with an introduction to Vajrayana practice in Trungpa Rinpoche's tradition with a solid foundation in the three-yana principles. Designed for Buddhist practitioners with experience in study and meditation, joining the Three-Yana retreat helps you establish a solid foundation for a life-long journey.

If you would like to deepen your practice and understanding of the Vajrayana, we are also offering a two-week program between July 6 and July 21. The core of this program is a ngöndro intensive, and will include other opportunities for continued education and training in the Three-Yanas discipline.

September 25-October 4, 2026

Profound Treasury Retreat 2026

Judy Lief



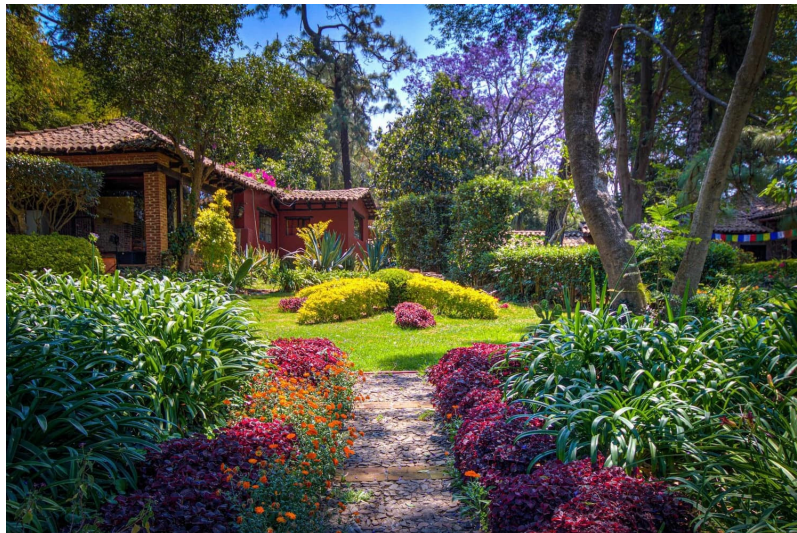
Buddhists often speak of “taming the mind,” but what does that truly mean? This retreat takes a direct and compassionate look at the nature of our own minds, using Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche’s “The Profound Treasury of the Ocean of Dharma” as its basis. Through meditation and study, you will inquire into the workings of awareness, deepening your understanding and transforming your relationship to thought and experience. Open to both new and experienced practitioners. Stay tuned for more information about this retreat.

[LEARN MORE](#)

News and Views

Enjoy Casa Werma, our Sister Retreat Center in Mexico

Check out [this video](#), introducing Casa Werma, our sister center in the town of Patzcuaro, a small cultural center in the central highlands of Mexico.



Casa Werma was visited several times by Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche in the 1980s, and was ultimately offered to be used by his community. During his first visit he composed the Werma Sadhana. This is a meditation practice that invokes the Drala principle and remains at the heart of the teachings. He offered this practice to his western students during the years after he founded Drala Mountain Center. Like The Great Stupa, Casa Werma is a pilgrimage site for students who feel a connection with Chögyam Trungpa, and a lovely retreat center that hosts residential programs and supports a local sangha in Patzcuaro.

Watch [The Heart of Casa Werma](#) and follow links to their [program calendar](#) or schedule a [private retreat](#)!

FREE Online Program with Melissa Lago



Frequent and popular Drala retreat leader Melissa Lago is sharing a free live online teaching with our community called The Power of Connection. In a world that can feel overwhelming and fragmented, this 75-minute online session offers a chance to pause, breathe, and reconnect with your innate wholeness through gentle movement, reflection, and shared inquiry.

Time: Thursday, November 20th, 6pm-7:15pm MST Don't miss it!

Learn More or Sign Up [here](#).

And check out Melissa's upcoming programs at DMC:

- January 9-11, 2026 [Yoga and Nature: Gifts of the Season](#)
- January 23-25, 2026 [Foundations: Retreat and Renewal](#)

We Answer Your Questions

What is the Mission of Drala Mountain Center?

Our mission is inspired by the teachings of the Buddhadharma and grounded in practices that cultivate wisdom and kindness. We strive to help create enlightened societies.

On the ground, that aspiration takes many forms. It means striving ourselves to be an awakened, contemplative, and compassionate community. One that embodies the values we hope to nurture in the world. It also means offering retreats and programs that help others become more mindful, self-aware, and kind-hearted. And ultimately, it means bringing that awareness and compassion into action—serving all who seek a path of genuine awakening.

What's Next For Drala Mountain Center?

The next chapter for Drala Mountain Center is filled with possibility. We're reconnecting with the core of our mission, bringing forward new and inspiring Buddhist programming while opening the door to the many wisdom and contemplative traditions of the world. This is a time of growth and shared discovery as we work to make the Dharma accessible to all.

How Can I Best Support Drala Mountain Center?

There are so many key ways to support Drala Mountain Center. [Volunteering at Drala](#) is a great way to contribute to and connect with our community and see the magic first-hand.

[Donations](#), particularly recurring monthly donations, provide stability and security for this sacred land. Even a few dollars a month help sustain our mission—making the gifts of contemplation and transformative experience available to all.

DONATE NOW

Leaving us a [review on Google](#) helps others discover the refuge and opportunities that Drala Mountain Center offers for awakening and connection to the natural world.

Even talking with friends and family about your time at Drala Mountain Center, or interacting with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), can help spread the word.

Everyone's support makes a difference. Thank you.



Drala Mountain Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization dedicated to expanding awareness, reducing individual and societal suffering, and promoting peace through strategic programming and education focused on mindfulness, social impact issues, and eco-dharma concerns.

Please consider a one-time or monthly donation today to help us sustain our sacred land for generations to come.

MAKE A DONATION

Need help? Email frontdesk@dralamountain.org or call us at (970) 881-2184.

No longer want to receive these emails? [Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Preferences](#)

© 2025 Drala Mountain Center

151 Shambhala Way Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545

