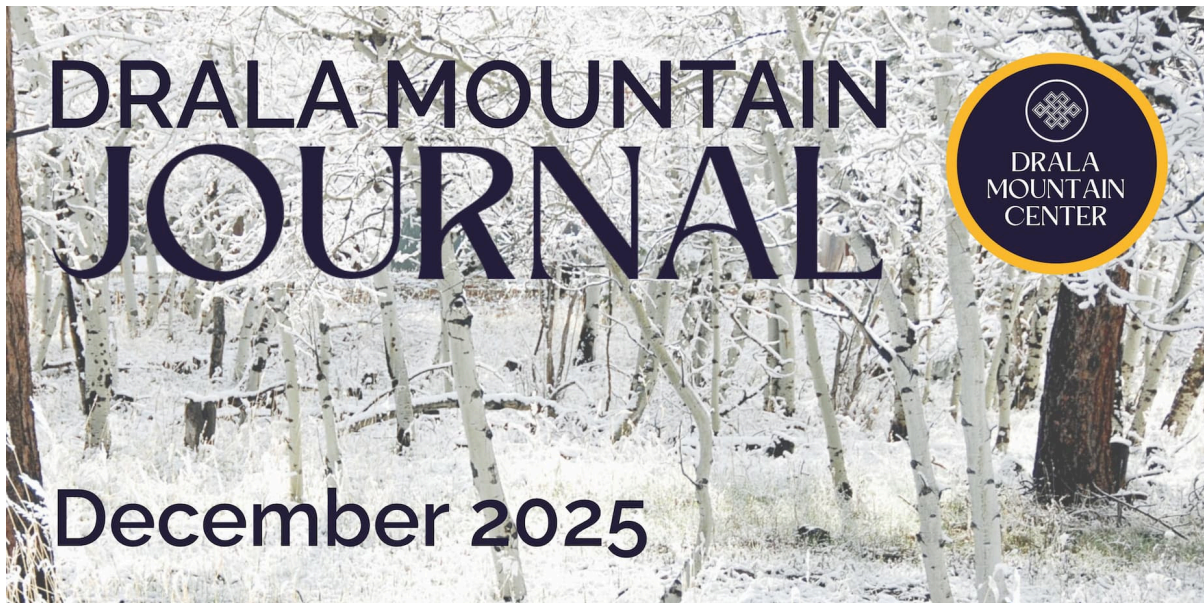

Drala Mountain Journal: December 2025

1 message

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

Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 10:20 AM



It's Up to Us: Our Path to Sustainability

On a recent winter night, the Northern Lights shimmered above Drala Mountain Center and throughout the northern sky— a rare, luminous reminder of the magic this earth can hold. That radiant display has become a quiet inspiration for the possibility and potential of the 2026 path ahead.

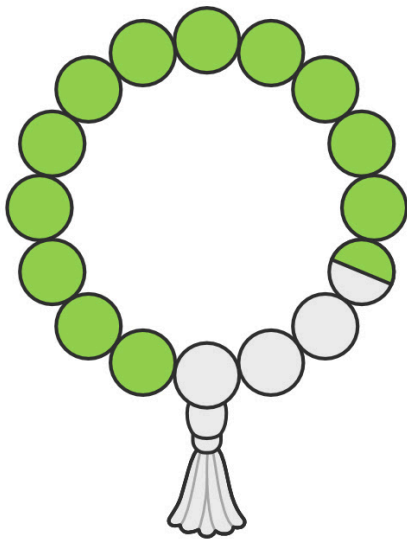
Throughout 2025, we have continued to closely assess our program offerings for what will serve you and the land best. We are working to build a financially sustainable Drala Mountain Center while ensuring that retreat practice remains accessible to all.

This means balancing the true cost of operating a meditation retreat center with our commitment to cost-effective programs, expanded scholarship support, and to make it as affordable as possible for all. Stay tuned for more information!!



Your Generosity is What Makes this Possible

Donor support sustains the core operations that keep DMC open, safe, and accessible for all who come here to practice.



Fundraising Status

Year-End Goal: \$145,000

Raised to Date: \$120,000

Still Needed: \$25,000

Your support keeps DMC sustainable and ensures that retreat practice remains accessible, affordable, and available to everyone who needs it.

We warmly invite you to make a one-time gift or become a monthly donor.

DONATE NOW

Special Pema Chödrön Teaching Invitation

Pema Chödrön's 90th birthday lands in 2026, and we couldn't be more delighted to honor and celebrate her life and teaching legacy with a yearlong journey featuring four seasonal live calls. This is an amazing opportunity to learn from a genuine and wise master who rarely teaches publicly at this point in her life. Each of the four live

calls with Ani Pema will revolve around the seasons. There will be no fixed topic; they will instead be based on the wants and needs of participants asking questions, making each session natural, fresh, and relevant to the present moment. Learn More about this special offer, [here](#).



Program Highlights

Check out these upcoming programs, and don't forget to apply the discount code **NEWYEAR26** that expires at the end of the month.

January 15-18, 2026

The Mishap Lineage: Exploring our Spiritual Heritage

Colin Stubbert, Mikayla Sanford, Graham Navin



Join us for a meaningful long-weekend that brings the living Buddhist lineage into clear, human focus. The retreat will be a combination of talks offered by the presenters, sitting meditation, and reading from the Rain of Wisdom – a book songs of realization of the Kagyu lineage masters – as well as time for discussion and connecting with our fellow retreatants. Through sharing our personal experiences of lineage and diving into the lineage stories themselves, this retreat will help to foster a sense of familiarity with the lineage, which rather than being distant or historical, is an experience of rediscovering our spiritual heritage.

[LEARN MORE](#)

January 29-February 1, 2026

Bringing Ancestral Awareness to Our Spiritual Journey

Ellen Korman Mains



This retreat offers a compassionate, grounded exploration of how our ancestral and cultural inheritances shape, and can sometimes limit, our spiritual journey. Through embodied mindfulness, focusing practices, simple ritual, and heartfelt small-group sharing, you'll be invited to gently acknowledge both the wounds and strengths carried in your lineage. By opening to these deeper layers of identity without judgment, you may reconnect with your own humanity, access new inner resources, and allow your meditation practice to take root in a more integrated and authentic way.

Set against the stillness of the winter mountains, this program creates a supportive space for healing old patterns, honoring ancestral connection, and cultivating a sense of sacredness that strengthens both your path and your relationships with others.

[LEARN MORE](#)

March 27-29, 2026

Deep Self-Love & Meditation for Inner Healing: A Weekend Retreat for Rest, Clarity & Transformation

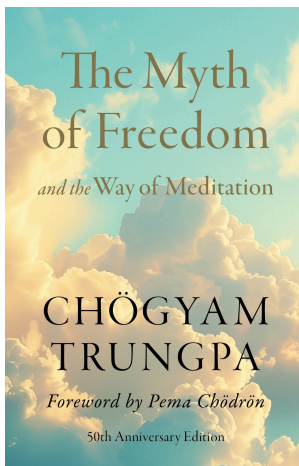
Blake Bauer



Join international bestselling author and wisdom teacher Blake D. Bauer for a restorative weekend of guided meditation, gentle qi gong, and practical self-healing. This retreat offers a compassionate, structured space to understand the deeper roots of anxiety, overwhelm, self-doubt, and old emotional patterns, in order to begin releasing them. Through Blake's teachings on daily self-love habits, mindful communication, and nervous system regulation, you'll learn how to break cycles of stress and self-sabotage, reconnect with your inherent worth, and gain clarity for your next steps in life. Set in the stillness of the mountains and supported by a warm community, this retreat is an invitation to slow down, heal from within, and return home to yourself.

[LEARN MORE](#)

What We're Reading



Shambhala Publications is introducing a beautiful 50th anniversary reissue of Chögyam Trungpa's "The Myth of Freedom", on sale December 2nd. In these collected lectures, Trungpa Rinpoche explores the true meaning of freedom, showing readers how preconceptions, attitudes and even spiritual practices can become chains that bind them to repetitive patterns. This edition also features a forward by Pema Chödrön. Use the code MOF30 for a 30% discount if you purchase the book on shambhala.com .*

*Code valid on shambhala.com through January 2, 2026. Enter code in shopping cart. Cannot be combined with other offers.

News And Views

✨ [More Interviews with our Staff](#)

We recently interviewed key members of the DMC on-land family to give you an inside look at the wonderful people who make our mountain valley a special haven for so many. Here are some highlights from our discussions with Housekeeping Manager Megan, and Programs Manager Alena.

Housekeeping Manager Megan is one of the people making the invisible magic of Drala Mountain Center possible. Having a clean, ready, and welcoming place to stay lays the ground all our contemplative practices build upon. Here's what she wants the world to know about Drala Mountain Center:



Programs Manager Alena has a direct impact on every single retreat that comes to the land. She works directly with all of our retreats, ensuring they have what they need, prepping the practice space, and communicating with teachers and retreatants before and after each retreat. Here's the one thing she thinks everyone should know about Drala Mountain Center.



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.

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