



# Tibetan Language Institute News

Summer 2007

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Contact us at  
[info@tibetanlanguage.org](mailto:info@tibetanlanguage.org)  
or call at (406) 961-5131

## Greetings from TLI!



Soon summer time! Here at the *Tibetan Language Institute*, we are busy: seminars, new learning materials, getting used to the new laptop. David is traveling a lot, teaching seminars. We also just got the wonderful news that Anam Thubten Rinpoche will join us for Week III of the Summer Seminar. A fantastic opportunity to study the *Heart Sutra* with a Rinpoche who speaks excellent English. Hope you can join us!

## Tibetan Language Seminars



David Curtis and a Level II Group

David again has a very full teaching schedule for the next six months. For those of you who have attended his seminars, you know that he gives his "all." Here is a list of where/when the workshops will be. If your Tibetan has become a little rusty, attending a workshop might well jump start your studies. Please look on our website at [www.tibetanlanguage.org](http://www.tibetanlanguage.org) or call us at 406/ 961-5131 for more details.

Bokar Rinpoche has said:

The vast and profound body of teachings expounded by the Buddha is the ultimate source of benefit and happiness for all beings. The majority of the Buddha's teachings of all three yanas [vehicles] is presently preserved only in the Tibetan language. In order for the teachings to become well established and fully assimilated throughout the world, I strongly feel that people outside the Tibetan-speaking areas must train themselves in the Tibetan language. By this means, they will be able to have direct access to the Dharma, and this will also allow that the teachings become fully and accurately translated into new languages.--Bokar Rinpoche, Kalu Rinpoche's principle disciple and the head of the Shangpa Kagyu Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.



- **Point Richmond, CA** May 18-20. Level I  
(At Anam Thubten Rinpoche's Center: Dakini Temple)
- **Los Angeles, CA** May 26-27 Level I  
June 2-3 Reading the *Heart Sutra*
- **Rochester, NY** Sept. 21-23 Level I  
Sept. 28-30 Reading/Translating  
(At the Amitabha Foundation)
- **Bristol, VT** Oct. 26-28 Level I  
Nov. 2-4 Level II  
(At Drikung Dzogchen Community-Vermont)

#### Student response:

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the great seminar you created over the weekend. Really it was wonderful in many ways. You are so skilled in what you do that it seems everyone benefits. I'm grateful for the chance to participate and hope there will be more opportunities to learn from you.--Deborah C, LA

## Virtual Course by Telephone



David will be teaching a Level I virtual course by telephone--a first. This course will be on Thursdays, beginning May 31 and last for six weeks. Students can register on our homepage's sidebar at the instruction button (please note that this is for "Virtual Course by telephone"). Once registered, students will be sent a phone number to call and password. Please register by Wednesdays, if at all possible.

**Student Response from Australia:** Thanks for today's virtual class. The sound quality was good and I enjoyed it!--Tony S.



- Date : Thursdays beginning May 31. Six weeks
- Time: 7:30-9:00 pm EDT
- Cost: \$90 for all six weeks or \$20 per individual lesson
- Required Text: TLI's Level I Manual (\$25)

## Summer Seminar in Montana

The great master Kalu Rinpoche has written :

Generally speaking, learning Tibetan is not mandatory for practicing the Dharma well, but in order to engage in deep commitment to Dharma...knowledge of Tibetan is extremely important because it allows us to understand the practice texts and the traditional Tibetan commentaries....In order for Dharma to be properly understood in the West, there must be Westerners who are willing to master the Tibetan....Once the totality of Dharma is adequately translated into Western terminology, there will be no need for Tibetan. But for now, anyone wishing to study the Dharma deeply...will reap great benefit from the study of Tibetan. If you study regularly, a little bit every day, you will quickly become knowledgeable.--from *Luminous Mind* by Kalu Rinpoche



Buddha Statues for the Peace Garden



Large Prajna Paramita Statue in the Peace Garden at Ewam

**Want to begin learning Tibetan and in three weeks be reading the *Heart Sutra*?**

**Learning Tibetan with TLI: in a dharma atmosphere, immediately relevant, and fun!**

For the fifth year, TLI will host a summer seminar. The course is three weeks long: from July 30-August 17. You can come to all or part of it. This is a great way to learn a lot of Tibetan in a very short period of time AND see the beautiful state of Montana.



Anam Thubten Rinpoche

We are very happy to announce that this year **Anam Thubten Rinpoche** will teach the *Heart Sutra*, joining us for Week III (David Curtis will second him as he did in the 2005 seminar). Rinpoche is a warm-hearted and lively teacher who speaks excellent English. See our website at [www.tibetanlanguage.org](http://www.tibetanlanguage.org) for details (click on the quick link on the homepage sidebar).

In 2005 we had 30 people from nine states join us. The student evaluations were most positive: fun and very meaningful. Both Rinpoches in attendance (Gochen Tulku Rinpoche and Anam Thubten Rinpoche) were enthusiastic about the seminar and delighted with the dedication of the students.

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## Website

If you haven't seen the TLI website lately, we encourage you to visit. There have been a lot of changes.

- **New materials** from TLI, including 3 instructional DVDs (only such materials in English in the world)
- **Category Indexes** that allow for a quick view of titles available in a certain subject, including books on Tara, Tibetan medicine, Tibetan philosophy, sadhana practice, books that have both Tibetan and English texts, etc.
- **Free study/practice items**. We now have lots of prayers up-loaded for you: learn the phonetics, the meaning, translate them, and then download the prayer in Tibetan only. Need an alphabet? Copy it from our website
- **Basic information** about organizing a seminar with David in your area, phone lessons, newsletters, and photo galleries.

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## New at the TLI Bookstore

Fantastic book is now in!

We now have for sale the just-published book by **Anam Thubten Rinpoche** (formerly Tulku Thubten Rinpoche), entitled *No Self, No Problem*. What a wonderful and meaningful work, in Rinpoche's direct voice. This is not yet available anywhere else, so contact us if you would like a copy: our email is [info@tibetanlanguage.org](mailto:info@tibetanlanguage.org) or call 406/0961-5131. It should be up on the website shortly.

David's Pick: *No Self, No Problem*  
by Anam Thubten Rinpoche.

I am simply asking you to inquire, "Am I on the right track or not?" If you are able to hold everyone in your heart, able to love everyone without discrimination, that means you are on the right track. It doesn't matter whether you have knowledge about Buddhism, whether you are intellectually sophisticated.... You are on the right track because your heart is blessed by compassion and loving-kindness.--from the chapter "Are We on the Right Track: Compassion and Loving-Kindness."

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## Retail Distributors of TLI Materials

If your Dharma center or bookstore would like to carry TLI's learning materials, please contact us. We offer many items that would enhance Tibetan studies in your sangha or community. The following items are

some of our best sellers, selling all over the world, but we have many other titles. Contact us to receive a retail distributor package.

- The **TLI Level I materials** (manual and DVDs)
- The **TLI Level II materials** (manual and 2 different DVD sets)
- The *Tibetan Language Pre-Primer* and *Tibetan Sadhana Vocabulary* by Dr. Cathy Kielsmeier. We are the exclusive wholesale distributor for the Pre-Primer and Sadhana Vocab.

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## Mandala Magazine Articles



June/July 2007 issue

David has been writing a column "Preserving Tibetan" for the magazine *Mandala* for over a year. In it he is teaching readers Tibetan. In a survey done by Mandala, those who responded listed his articles as one of their favorites. We have a couple of these articles available on the website. Just click the homepage sidebar's "Newsletters and Articles." The first article is especially good for an overview of the history of the Tibetan language.

The Tibetan language is beautiful, powerful, and interesting in its own right. But what is more, knowledge of Tibetan can contribute significantly to one's Dharma study and practice. In fact, to study Tibetan is to practice the Dharma. The texts were written and translated by realized masters who were also great literary masters and their sole motivation was to liberate beings. Looking into the specialized language they created to convey the innermost essence of the Buddha's teaching can be profoundly inspirational. The Tibetan language is a finely crafted vehicle fashioned by enlightened beings to bring the mind to awakening. Below is a retelling of the story of the coming of the Dharma to Tibet with special emphasis on the role the Tibetan language played in the process.

More than a thousand years passed from the time Buddha Shakyamuni taught the Dharma in India until the teachings reached the Land of Snows on the other side of the Himalayas. Buddha lived some 2,500 years ago, but it was not until the reign of the first Great Dharma King of Tibet, Songtsen Gampo, in the seventh century of our era, that the Dharma first began to be propagated in Tibet. --from "The Beauty of the Tibetan Language," *Mandala* April-May 2006

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## In the TLI Office

We are very appreciative of the **staff** in our office and by long distance:

- Elizabeth, office assistant par excellence
- Lizzie G. is our new office assistant helping with retail distributors
- Tom helps with the burgeoning database.
- Lizzy H. has worked for us on the website for over two years by long distance but is now leaving for a new position as office manager at Tara Mandala. Thank you Lizzy for your dedication and good work!
- Tracy has worked preparing Tibetan texts while finishing her B.A. at Columbia University
- Erin will return from NYC for one more summer to help again with the million details of the summer seminar.
- Henry and George (our children) are also huge help in all kinds of ways.

We have just purchased a much-needed **new laptop** that uses Vista and is being networked to the XP desktop and our laptops. This represents a big investment in the future and a commitment on my part to become savvier in all aspects of the office management and materials development. We simply need to be mobile with our office, and another laptop allows for that.

Need I say that there will be a period of adjustment?

We are also going to be getting **credit card capability** within the next month, thereby allowing you to call in orders and pay over the phone. Many have asked for this, so this is good news!

Keep in touch and keep doing the good work.

Deanna Curtis  
TLI Office Manager

May all know  
happiness and its  
causes!

**Tibetan Language Institute**  
Learning materials and instruction for Dharma students

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