# Sunday, December 3, 2023 Auspicious Wedding of Prajwal Guruju and Teya Held at Pure Land Farms, California

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The auspicious marriage ceremony of Guruju Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya and Teya De Sesa took place on Sunday, Dec 3, 2023 at Pure Land Farms in California. The wedding ceremony was solemnized by Tibetan Guru Dr Nida Chenagtsang. Dr. Nida, born in Amdo, Tibet, is a world renowned teacher and Doctor of Sowa Rigpa. He is also a lineage holder of the Yuthok Nyingthig, a unique Vajrayana Buddhist spiritual

healing tradition of Tibetan Medicine. Dr. Nida is long-time friend and colleague of Prajwal, and dear teacher to Teya. It was an honor that he could perform the marriage ceremony during his short visit in the U.S.

About 40 people attended the nuptial ceremony at Pure Land Farms and 40 people witnessed the ceremony online. Co-founder of Nritya Mandala Mahavihara Helen Appell, Prof Dr Miranda Shaw, Dr Tina Ho and journalist Karen Greenspan were among them.

Relatives of Teya: her father and brother, and board member of Nritya Mandala Mahavihara Kuon Hunt spoke on the occasion and wished happiness and prosperity to the newly married couple.

All the guests at the wedding ceremony including the Sangha members of Portland's Nritya Mandala Mahavihara wrapped auspicious Khata on Teya and Prajwal Guruju.

Also, on the occasion, Sangha members

Corinne Nakamura-Rybak, Anastasia Roderick and



Crystal Marie James offered auspicious Sixteen Offering Goddess Dance Mudra, also known as Sodasha Lasya in Sanskrit.



Nepal Oregon News extends sincere and hearty congratulations to the newly wed couple and wishes them

blissful conjugal life.

One hour before the wedding, Prajwal put forward a proposal for matrimony with Teya in the kitchen of Pure Land Farms in California.

With Prajwal and Teya, it was a case of love at first sight in that same kitchen of



Pure Land Farms one year earlier.

## Virtual Teaching on 'Pancha Tara' Charya Nritya Organized

A teaching and presentation on Pancha Tara Charya Nritya was organized on Saturday, Dec 23, 2023 by Hong Kong Buddhist Studies Association (HKBSA). online and in-person

Majority of the virtual participants for the teaching on 'Pancha Tara' were the Sangha members of the Hong Kong Dance Mandal.

Nritya Mandala Mahavihara's co-founder Helen Appell,



journalist Karen Greenspan, Audrey Mazur and Dr Tina Ho took part at the remotely-held teaching while six Sangha members of the Nritya Mandala Mahavihara were present in person at the Portland Baha temple during the teaching.

There are 108 Taras according to Newar Vajrayana Buddhism, Guruji Prajwal Vajracharya said and added that 21 of them are prominent ones. Prajwal also shed light on Bhrkuti Tara, Lochani, Padmani, Mamaki, Vajradhatveshvari and other Taras.



Pronouncing the Tara mantra, "Om Tare Tutare Ture Svaha", Prajwal expressed the view that Taras are important deities in Newar Vajrayana Buddhism.

Prajwal's teaching zeroed in on Arya Tara (Green Tara) who is usually depicted as a compassionate being ready to step down from her lotus throne to offer comfort and protection from all of the sufferings the sentient beings experience in the world.

The teaching presented a detailed and comprehensive description of Pancha Tara and shed light on various aspects of Green, White, Yellow, Blue and Red Taras.

"In Sanskrit, the name Tara means star. Tara brings forth life and she is the Great Compassionate Mother, and embodiment of wisdom and the Great Protectress," the Guruji told the participants. The remotely-held teaching by Prajwal also dealt with the interrelationship between the Pancha Tara and the Pancha Buddha.

Giving details about the Charya Nritya 'Pancha Tara', the Guruji said: "In the Charya Giti 'Pancha Tara', the Raga is Nata and the Tala is Jati. This Nritya can be performed by one dancer or five dancers."

During the teaching, the Charya Giti on 'Pancha Tara' was chanted by Prajwal Guruji. The Guruji also demonstrated the 'Pancha Tara' charya nritya for the participants.





At the end of the teaching, Prajwal Guruji answered to a number of queries of the participants. When Prajwal was asked to shed light on the importance of Taras, he went on to say that the Taras are the female Bodhisattvas of compassionate activities, the supreme mothers and collective manifestation of the enlightened activity of all the Buddhas.

## Christmas Celebration at Corinne's House in SE Portland



Portland, Corinne Nakamura-Rybak, a board member of the Nritya Mandala Mahavihara and her husband John Rybak, an active Sangha member hosted a Christmas dinner at their residence in Southeast Portland on Monday, Dec 25, 2023.

Prajwal and his wife Teya De Sesa and John's mom also attended the Christmas dinner. Sangha members Gabriel

Quitslund, Aniruddha Shakya, Naveena Shakya and others were also present on the occasion.

The Christmas party, which was an amazing and fun-filled event, was not just wining and dining, it was also an opportunity for friendly interaction among attendees.



The party attendees and children had an opportunity to play a game called "Watch Your Mouth" as well as table-tennis (ping pong) in the basement. Today more than ever, Christmas has become a world wide celebration, a celebration observed by Christians as well as non-Christians all over the world. Kudos to Corinne and John for organizing the event.

## Garbha Dharan Puja Held



A Garbha Dharan Puja for Teya De Sesa was ritualized by Prajwal Guruji on Wednesday, Dec 27 2031 at the Nritya Mandala Mahavihara in Portland. Kalas Puja,

Mamaki Puja were conducted on the occasion. The purpose of the Garbha Dharan Puja is to remove obstacles, do away with anxiety and stress, extend prosperity and wellbeing to the mother and baby. Teya is the spouse of Guruji Prajwal Ratna Vajracharya.

#### Bara Tayegu Rituals for Two Newar Girls Solemnized in Tacoma, WA

Bara Tayegu rituals for two Newar girls Sanaya Bajracharya and Sahana Bajracharya was performed by Prajwal Guruji in Tacoma, Washington on Thursday, Dec 28, 2023.



Sanaya and Sahana are daughters of Bibek Bajracharya and Shristi Shrestha Bajracharya.

Bara Tayegu - which is one of the important life cycle rituals of Newar women - is one of the traditional rituals which has been performed in Nepal for centuries. In Newar Vajrayana tradition, Bara Tayegu is a ritual carried

out for young girls before the start of menstruation and usually followed by another important lifecycle ritual called 'Ihi' (bel bibah).

### **Shraddh Rituals Performed in Honor of Late Tamrakar**



Portland, Guruji Prajwal Vajracharya performed the death rituals appropriate to the passing away of Madan Sen Tamrakar at his son Mrinal Sen Tamrakar's house in Hillsboro on Friday, Dec 22, 2023.

Barkhi Phukaya Yayegu (end of mourning period) ritual, the Mamaki Puja and others were also conducted during the ceremony by the Guruji. The

Shraddh rituals are conducted so that the heavenly journey of the deceased soul after death is comfortable and stress-free.

Madan Sen Tamrakar, 67, passed away on Dec 11, 2023. His antyesthi samskara (funeral sacrament) was held in Hillsboro on Dec 12, 2023. Late Tamrakar is survived by his wife Gyani Sen Tamrakar, son Mrinal Sen Tamrakar, daughter Shintiya Shrestha and four grand children.

#### **Weekly Activities in Vihara Continue**

On Tuesday, Dec 26, Manjushree Naamsangiti recitation was conducted by the Vihara to mark the Yomari Punhi (full moon day). In December, as usual and as always, Dharani chanting on zoom was conducted once a week Tuesday evening. Similarly, Sadhana practice and Buddha Bhajan singing practice were held on each Wednesday evening. Likewise, the practice of singing Charya giti was performed in the mornings every Friday.