



COLUMBUS
KTC

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020
EDITION



WELCOME

The Year 2020 will go down in history as a great time of trial and challenge for humanity. But here at Columbus Karma Thegsum Chöling, it will be remembered as the year we started construction on our new home.

In observance of this extraordinary year, we at Columbus KTC wish to take a moment to say “thank you” to our many volunteers and donors, who have made our construction project and our online outreach possible.

Your generosity has made the dharma available to new audiences in ways we couldn’t have imagined even one year ago. We dedicate your virtue and wish you goodness, now and in the coming year.

To commemorate this year, we’ve created this “Year in Review” newsletter to share with you some of the milestones reached in this year. We hope you enjoy it, and will join us in dedicating the merit of all our dharma practice and goodness to the benefit of all sentient beings. If you’d like to donate to our Year-End Fundraiser, this would be an excellent opportunity. go to www.columbusktc.org and click “DONATE.”

A SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLANS

During Columbus Karma Thegsum Chöling's joyful Losar (New Year) observances last February, no one could have anticipated the change that would happen just one month later, as Ohio and other parts of the U.S. enacted stay-at-home orders March 12 to protect against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

As they have before in situations of unexpected misfortune, Columbus KTC volunteers instantly swung into action, learning the ropes of web-streaming and presenting KTC's first "Virtual" Sunday Dharma Talk just three days later on Facebook Live.

Within two weeks, all KTC's regular weekly programs were offered in a "Virtual Shrine Room" on the Zoom teleconference platform. Since then, we have served hundreds of visitors in dozens of programs. We didn't miss a single day of serving our dharma community.

Since losing our meditation center to an arson fire in January 2016 we've found that serving and nourishing our sangha is our central mission and concern. From our resident teacher to our board to our program leaders, Zoom hosts, and sangha members, we have been here for each other and for an entirely new audience we might not have met otherwise.





NEW TEACHERS, NEW AUDIENCES

In the midst of all this change, KTC was fortunate to have the help of not just our Resident Teacher of 24 years Lama Kathy Wesley, but two additional teachers; Lama Tom Broadwater, who returned to teaching for us in 2020, and Lama Adam Berner, a Columbus KTC sangha member who graduated from Three-Year Retreat in March.

The lamas, along with our mentors, meditation instructors, chant leaders and support volunteers, provided dozens of hours of programming to help our sangha members cope with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our webcasts on Facebook Live and YouTube live have amassed an audience of more than 1,000 people. And our podcast audience continues to grow, with some episodes being heard 400 times.

KTC's "virtual shrine room" has attracted people from all over the country and the world. We now have KTC volunteers based in Michigan, Texas, Kansas, and Pennsylvania, and have folks attending our classes and pujas from England, Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, and even Australia. In these difficult times, KTC's message of inner development and freedom has taken on new meaning, and helped us reach out to one another in new ways and realize the resilience of our community..

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS ON RICH STREET

Four and a half years after our meditation center was destroyed in an arson fire, construction began this autumn on our new Columbus KTC on **Tuesday, Sept. 8.**

It's happening! Our new center is being built!

That triumphant day was preceded by months of planning and concern. During the summer, while we were bogged down waiting for building permits, we realized we were \$525,000 short of funds needed for the \$2.9 million project.

However, with the support from our "home" monastery in upstate New York, a remarkable effort by our fundraising team, all of your prayers, and two large surprise donations, we were able to reduce the funding gap and raise **\$325,000 of the \$525,000 we needed!**

To finish our construction project, we have arranged a \$200,000 loan from The Heartland Bank, and expect the team at Hanlin-Rainaldi Construction to complete the new KTC next spring. We are raising money now to help pay down the \$200,000 loan so we can start our next chapter debt-free.





WHAT'S NEXT FOR COLUMBUS KTC?

Although we're still meeting virtually right, a COVID-19 vaccine is at last available. So it's possible we could be celebrating some of our Buddhist holidays in the new building in 2021. And that's something we feel so grateful for.

Meanwhile, our Columbus KTC Board has worked to increase revenues through online dharma programs and has confidence that KTC is ready to handle increased expenses in our new building.

During 2020, our volunteers have provided:

- 220 regular weekly Sunday programs
- 11 workshops and book studies
- 3 special weekend lama weekend teachings
- 5 special celebrations and sangha meetings

Along with meditation programs (pre-COVID) to social agencies, colleges and prisons. And we look forward (post-COVID) to resuming our volunteer work at the local food pantry and family homeless shelter, and more.

THANKS TO YOU

Who has made all this goodness possible? You, our friends and sangha members, have made this possible, and we thank you and dedicate your merit.

Your donations, good wishes, and prayers have made all the difference for us this year. We have always felt your support, and this year we look forward to a post-COVID world where we can gather together again and thank you in person.

May All Beings Benefit!

Ready to give now? Visit us at:
www.columbusktc.org



KTC PODCASTS

Since **January 1, 2017** there have been **165 podcast episodes** published with individual listens totaling

36,850

The **20** most listened to episodes all have **300+** individual listens, with the greatest number being **406**.

The average number of listens per episode is **223**.

KTC PROGRAMS 2020

220

Total Weekly programs

Workshops and Book Studies: **11**

Lama Weekends and Special Events: **8**

Countries reached: **US, Mexico, Switzerland, England, Australia!**

KTC SOCIAL MEDIA

YouTube watches: 1,294

Facebook Live Watches: 2.1K

Social Media Followers:

2,010