

Kevin Miller

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D.O.B. 1/18/1984

Work and Dharma History

3-year retreatant

May 2022-July 2025

Palpung Thubten Choling, Wappingers Falls, NY

Resident/Staff Member

April 2019-October 2020

Crestone Mountain Zen Center, Crestone, Colorado

- Cooked daily meals for staff, volunteers, and guests
- Participated in the daily monastic schedule
- Maintained a functional monastery

3-year retreatant

August 2014-December 2017

Garchen Institute, Chino Valley, Arizona

- Isolated cabin retreat in a restricted retreat area
- Instruction from retreat master Druon Rinchen Dorje w/ translator
- Teachings and texts in English
- Vajrayana ngondro, Chakrasamvara, Vajrayogini, 6 yogas of Naropa

6-month pilgrimage to India and Nepal

Nepal, Northern India

- 10 day pilgrimage in and around Kathmandu Valley with the Aro Sangha led by Lama Barche Dorje
- One month chi gong, tai chi practice at Boudanath yoga studio
- 2 week volunteering at Golden temple of Amritsar
- Tea-house trekking through Yolmo and Helambu and Sherpa valley in northern Nepal
- Tibetan language classes at Esukhia in Mcleodganj

Staff Member

July 2013-December 2013

Garchen Buddhist Institute, Chino Valley, AZ

- Performed general maintenance of Institute property
- Maintained dorms, guest houses, temple, stupa, dining hall
- Built fences, cut down trees, fixed leaky faucets, removed rattlesnakes from property

100-day solo meditation retreat

April 2013-July 2013

Garchen Buddhist Institute, Chino Valley, AZ

- Isolated cabin retreat
- Instruction from retreat master Drupon Rinchen Dorje
- Prerequisite for entry into 3-year retreat

Work-study program

February 2013- April 2013

Garchen Buddhist Institute, Chino Valley, AZ

- Lived and worked with 6 staff members on-site
- Helped with daily chores I.e. dishes, laundry, trash
- Daily group green Tara practice
- Weekly update meetings
- Daily meditation and study

Volunteer

August 2012- December 2012

Wim Hof Foundation, Jelenia Gora, Poland

- Renovated a new home property and converted to a winter travel retreat center for students of the Wim Hof Method (breathing techniques, meditation, exposure to cold water)
- Received personal instruction from Wim Hof
- Maintained property when Wim was Holland on business
- Construction of attic loft, landscaping yard to make usable for practice, shopping for groceries, paying bills
- Room and board in exchange for work

Volunteer

January 2011-November 2011

Padmasambhava Peace Center, Jenner, CA

- Lived and worked with Jigme Tromge Rinpoche, his wife, daughter, and staff of 8
- Received personal meditation instruction and lessons from Rinpoche
- Construction work- built a large shrine room under the supervision of a professional contractor
- Daily puja practices
- 2 weeks of silent group retreat in October
- Room and board in exchange for work

Guest Visitor

November 2010-December 2010

Sravasti Abbey, Newport, WA

- 6 week visit to live monastic life with 10-15 western nuns and monks
- Tibetan Mahayana tradition
- Daily meditation, contemplation, prostration, work detail

Work/study program

March 2010- November 2010

Ratna Ling/ Odiyan retreat centers, Cazadero, CA

Yeshe De Text Preservation Project

- 6 month commitment to living and working as a book cutter in a book bindery 60 hours weekly
- Cut thousands of Tibetan pechas for free donation at the Nyingma Monlam in India
- Cut western books, illustrated thangka cards, brocade ribbons
- Lived in close-knit community of workers- appx. 50-60 people of all ages
- Daily mediation classes on site