

Michael Yarnell

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Tibetan interpreter and translator. Over the course of the last nine years, I have served both as an oral interpreter and written translator of the Tibetan language, and have continuously supplemented my skills with ongoing dharma education and formal practice.

Experience

APRIL 2016-JUNE 2016

Resident interpreter for Namchak Khenpo | Garden of One Thousand Buddhas | Arlee, Montana

Served as Namchak Khenpo's interpreter for both dharma programs and administrative affairs, including teachings on the preliminary practices, explanations of group sadhanas, and general management issues concerning landscaping, budgeting, and resource management.

2017-present

Freelance Translator | Lotsawa House

I have translated a number of short texts on various topics that have been published on Lotsawa House.

SUMMER 2019

Interpreter for Lama Tsultrim Sangpo | Rangjung Yeshe Gomde, CA | Leggett, California

I interpreted for Lama Tsultrim as he guided a 35 day Trinley Nyingpo Retreat.

2020-present

Freelance Translator | Samye Translations

I have translated a number of texts and sadhanas that have been published by Samye Translations, the translation committee of Kyabgon Phakchok Rinpoche.

SUMMER 2022

Assistant Interpreter | Rangjung Yeshe Gomde, CA | Leggett, California

After the pandemic, I shadowed Catherine Dalton as an apprentice translator as she translated for Lama Tsultrim Sangpo on the topics of *The Seven Points of Mind Training*, and filled in when she was ill.

Spring 2023-present

Interpreter | Drubpon Tenzin Sangpo/Rangjung Yeshe Gomde Pyrenees | Las Bastide, France

Following Heidi Koppl's entry in Gomde Pyrenees' first 3-year retreat, I took over for her as Lama Tenzin's interpreter during the Spring Dzogchen retreats and Fall Tara retreats, and have also traveled with Lama Tenzin to interpret at Gomde Denmark and Gomde UK.

SUMMER 2023-present

Resident Interpreter | Rangjung Yeshe Gomde, CA | Leggett, California

I began to interpret during Gomde's summer programs when Catherine's duties required her to travel to Europe with Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche. In 2023, I served Tsangsar Tulku Rinpoche during his exegesis of *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation*, and in 2024 Tsangsar Rinpoche and Khenpo Ugyen Tenphel collaboratively taught modules on foundational Buddhist topics.

Skills

Speak and read Tibetan • Solid understanding of Tibetan Buddhist ritual framework • Over 1 year's worth of cumulative experience in group retreats • Resilience through humor.

Education

2009-2013

Student of Anthropology | University of California, Santa Cruz | Santa Cruz, California

Graduated with honors from the Anthropology program at UCSC, receiving a BA. It was here that I first encountered Buddhist philosophy in a rigorous setting, under the tutelage of professor Raoul Birnbaum.

2023-2017

Undergraduate student | Rangjung Yeshe Institute | Kathmandu, Nepal

It was here that I learned the Tibetan language in its classical and colloquial forms and studied fundamental Buddhist scriptures according to traditional monastic pedagogy.

2020-2021

Rangjung Yeshe Institute online learning

Shortly after the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, I attended RYI's online course on Mipham Rinpoche's Gateway to Knowledge, taught by Khenpo Drubgyü Tendar.

2021-2022

Khyentse Vision Project Translator Training

I was fortunate enough to participate in the pilot translator training program hosted by KVP.