

## **The Neydren Ritual for Guiding the Consciousnesses of the Deceased**

The guiding and liberating ceremony is carried out by practitioners who have understanding and skill in the methods of Secret Mantra. This practice is always performed in conjunction with the sadhana of the wisdom deity. It is in that state of pure awareness that the possibility of guiding the consciousness that is lost in the bardo (the intermediate state between lives) can occur. Contact is made with the disembodied consciousness by writing the seed syllables that correspond to the six realms of existence and also by making replicas and effigies of certain individuals. Through the power and blessing of prayer, compassion, method, and wisdom, the consciousness may be contacted and led from states of bewilderment and fear to higher, more productive, positive and spiritual states of rebirth as well as the possibility of awakening in the pure realms of wisdom awareness. This ceremony is powerful and beneficial on many levels. Even the thought to benefit others in this way can help them toward their eventual liberation from suffering.

You can help a deceased being connect to this ceremony by providing a small amount of their ashes or hair, or a photograph of them. If these are not available, it is also suitable to write their name on a piece of paper and put this in the ceremony. Even if the deceased passed from this life long ago, the ceremony will be of benefit to them wherever they might be embodied now. Please note that if you provide hair or photographs, these will be burned in the ceremony and will **not** be returned to you. However, if you provide a large quantity of ashes (more than 2 tablespoons), once these are blessed in the ceremony they **will** be returned to you--be sure to pick them up from the ritual assistants after the ceremony.

The ashes from the burned names, photographs, and hair, as well as a small pinch of the ashes of the deceased will be used to make a few tsa tsas, which will be placed in the Amitabha garden at Tashi Choling Center for Buddhist Studies in Ashland, Oregon. This way, all of the beings in the ceremony will receive the blessings of having a Nirmanakaya form made from their ashes. If the family of the deceased would like to make tsa tsas of the rest of their loved one's ashes, or if they would like to sponsor someone to do this, please ask the ritual assistants about this.

### **This Year's Ceremony**

This ceremony is performed annually at Tashi Choling during our Vajrasattva Retreat. **This year, the ceremony will be performed by Venerable Lingtrul Rinpoche, our Vajra Master, on Sunday, May 31st, during the 2:00-5:00 session of the retreat.** Though the

Vajra Master is the key figure in the ceremony, everyone is encouraged to attend and contribute your own compassionate intention and prayers.

All are welcome and encouraged to submit names, photographs, hair, or ashes of beings who have passed away at any time to be blessed and guided through this practice.

**Please note** that it is important to make a donation on behalf of the deceased when including them in the ceremony, as our lineage gurus have taught that this helps to make the connection with the deceased being.

**You may make a submission in one of four ways:**

1. Through Paypal: Use the "Donate" button on our website: <http://tashicholing.org/generosity.html> to make a donation and submit names. In the Paypal donation window, click the "Add special instructions to the seller" link below your donation amount to get a drop-down window. Then type in the name(s) of the deceased and indicate that your donation is for the Neydren Ceremony. *The deadline for a Paypal submission is Thursday, May 28th.*

2. Email names and photographs to [tcretreats@gmail.com](mailto:tcretreats@gmail.com) by 7:00 a.m., May 31st.

3. Snail mail names, photographs, ashes, or hair, along with a donation, to:

Tashi Choling

Attn: Neydren

P.O. Box 64,

Ashland OR 97520

*Snail mail submissions must arrive by Wed, May 27th.*

4. Give your submissions to Ila Reitz any time during the retreat. *They must be received by 2:00 on May 31st.*

***May all beings benefit!***