

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RIGPA

January 7, 2005

Dear Rigpa Student,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that another year has passed. Last year was so full of teachings and visits from Rinpoche, that we can only imagine what treasures this year will hold. One thing we do know, however, is that this year will be a year of change in Rigpa. In this letter, we would like to explain Rigpa's new subscription structure. This new financial structure is the start of a very profound, and ultimately wonderful, change for all of us.

In 2004 we saw a dramatic increase in the number of activities offered that do not fall into the format of a curriculum course, such as conference calls, video streamed teachings and practice days. We have also doubled the number of sanghas that have their own shrine rooms. These changes in study and practice (as well as the increasing number of shrine rooms) are expected to continue before and during the Three Year Retreat. The way that students support Rinpoche's vision and Rigpa's activities needs to keep pace with these changes.

According to Rinpoche's wishes, all Rigpa groups around the world are now instituting an annual subscription. This change has already been successfully established in Canada and Switzerland, and is being implemented in other countries this year.

Contained in this packet is:

- a table describing the various levels of subscription,
- a list of the activities and services offered by Rigpa US and Rigpa International
- a Frequently Asked Questions sheet (FAQ)
- a Subscription Form.

The new subscription plan applies to all Ngöndro and Dzogchen Mandala students, but is optional for all new and Meditation Mandala students. New and Meditation Mandala students may continue to pay for each course, event, and download separately, as they do now. The Distance Sangha has its own level of subscription which applies to all of its members.

With this change, Rigpa will ensure a stable level of support through the Three Year Retreat, when we will focus even more deeply on study and practice. As Rinpoche's travel schedule is now reduced, there will be less income generated by teaching events. The income from retreats and teachings has often helped cover expenses which weren't met by course and membership fees. Additionally, we anticipate activities, such as video downloads and practice intensives, to become more important during the three year retreat, and it is no longer possible to offer these events free of charge. These events are often organized with little advance notice, so devising an annual budget based on payment for these events would very difficult and the financial administration very labor intensive. The subscription plan will address all of these concerns by simplifying the entire process.

To help simplify Rigpa's financial administration and fundraising calendar, subscriptions will start and end on Losar. Each year before Losar you will receive a reminder to renew your subscription

and then you will receive your subscription card for the current year. You will show your subscription card instead of payment for most or all of the local sangha activities which you attend, depending on the subscription option you choose.

Thank you in advance for your support of this new plan. We appreciate and rely on your generosity to manifest Rinpoche's vision. As always, Rigpa has a sliding scale for each level of subscription. We have kept the minimum amount in each category as low as possible, but if you are able, please offer a higher level of support so that we may continue to offer financial assistance to those who need it.

Mars Lang, the National Director, will be coming to visit most of you in the next few weeks and will try to answer any questions that you have in person. However, if you miss each other, or you do not live near a center, please feel free to call the Rigpa office at 518-478-0740.

Best Wishes,

Rigpa US National Management Team

Mars Lang
Tom Andrews
Cindy Choi

Rigpa US Board of Directors

Suzannah Yaldas
Erric Solomon
Peter Stevenson
Mark Rovner
Debbie Kinton

Rigpa Subscriptions

<u>Subscription</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Benefits</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Local Sangha Activity</u>	Students who are active at their local centers, but do not take curriculum courses or who instruct them.	Includes annual membership to Rigpa and your local sangha, any activity offered at the local level, such as conference calls, video streaming and practice gatherings.	\$360 - \$599 per year or \$30 - \$49 per month
<u>All in One</u>	Students who regularly take courses: saves money if you take two or more courses per year	Includes all activity listed above, and also includes any courses you would take during the year.	\$600 - \$1000 per year or \$50 - \$83 per month
<u>Distance Sangha</u>	Students not living near one the 15 cities that offer courses and have joined the Distance Sangha.	Moderated email discussion group, access to selected video teachings by Rinpoche through the internet, a minimum of 4 online events per year, and Rigpa news updates for Meditation, Ngöndro, and Dzogchen Mandala students.	\$150 - \$600 per year or \$12.50 - \$50 per month
<u>Family Subscription</u>	Any couple or family who subscribes to Rigpa and pays together.	Each family member chooses a subscription level from above and receives those benefits	A 10% discount off the total of the individual subscriptions
<u>Dzogchen Mandala Premium</u>	All Dzogchen Mandala students regardless of where they live.	Dzogchen Mandala videos, special advice and gatherings.	\$96 per year or \$8 per month in addition to whichever of the subscriptions you choose

- *If a student chooses a Local Sangha Activity subscription and then decides to take a course, they would still pay for each course individually.*
- *Students who are in the Introductory Course and the Foundation Year have the option of just paying for courses individually. Once a student reaches the Ngöndro Year or the Bodhichitta year, participation by subscription is required.*
- *If a student cannot pay the full subscription, there is a work-study option. Each work-study grant is approved by the local management team.*

What Your Subscription Helps Support

Programs

Courses
Group practices
(meditation, ngöndro, tsok, etc.)
Special practice events
(Losar, Great Festival practice days, etc.)
Recent teachings
Video streaming
Activity teachings
Talks & seminars with lamas and teachers
Retreats – national and international
Volunteer training
Shrine training

Student Care

Mandala membership
Special meetings
Newsletters

Materials –Zam

Course manuals
Practice books
Rigpa-Link, Ngöndro-Link, Dzogchen-Link

Information

Event Promotion
Email-Link
Website
National Advertising

Fundraising

Membership
Special appeals for international projects
Local center fundraising support
Coordination with the Center for Wisdom
and Compassion

Distance Learning

Online courses
Correspondence courses
Videos streamed over internet
Website
Email discussion group
Practice events
Mandala membership

Administration

Legal entity
Insurance
Contract negotiation
Finances
Databases
Archives
Overall coordination

Spiritual Care

Study groups
Seminars
Volunteer Training
Care giver training

International services

Coordination of Rinpoche's schedule
Support personnel for Rinpoche's teaching
Research and development of new materials
Overall coordination Rigpa's World Wide
Prayer Requests for the ill and the dead
Teaching archives

FAQ's about Rigpa Subscriptions

Q: Does the All in One subscription include teachings held at the local center given by other scholars or teachers, e.g., Stephen Goodman, Mingyur Rinpoche?

A: No, it includes only events that are held by local instructors and management teams. This means that events, such as visits by visiting masters and scholars, are not covered by the All in One subscription.

Q: How does it work if I just sent in my membership?

A: If you just renewed your membership since September 2004 you will receive a prorated portion of your membership toward whichever subscription you choose. For example if you gave a \$120 for membership in November 2004, you would receive \$90 toward your 2005 subscription.

Q: What if I have been pledging monthly for membership?

A: We will not run pledge donations for membership starting Jan. 2005. You will start fresh with whatever subscription you choose. If you choose a monthly payment option that will start in February.

Q: Are subscriptions tax deductible?

A: Yes. They are fully tax deductible.

Q: What if someone joins the subscription plan later in the year?

A: If someone joins more than two months after Losar their subscription will be prorated for the portion of the year that remains. They should contact the National Office to determine their prorated subscription amount.

Q: Do we need to pay all at once?

A: No, you can pay monthly.

Q: Does the Family Subscription discount apply to the Dzogchen Mandala Premium?

A: It only applies to All in One, Local Sangha Activity or the Distance Sangha subscriptions.

Q: What do I do if I really can't afford this?

A: Apply for a work-study position with your local management team. If you aren't sure who to talk to, start with your instructor or call the national office.

Q: How is it cheaper if you choose the All in One option, if you take two or more courses per year?

A: If you are a Ngondro or a Dzogchen Mandala student participating in local activity you are required to subscribe at the \$360 level and if you spend \$250 per year in addition to the subscription then you have spent \$610.

Q: Are manuals for courses covered by the All in One subscription?

A: Manuals, videos or any kind of course material are not covered by the All in One subscription.

Q: Can I pay at the \$25 level of membership?

A: Rigpa will no longer have a separate membership program. We are offering a Friend of Rigpa option where people who are not ready to enter into the subscription program but would still want to support Rigpa and receive notification of Rigpa's events and activities can give \$25 or more a year.

Q: If there aren't any more memberships, how much are courses if they aren't covered by your subscription?

A: All ten week curriculum courses will be \$125 per term plus materials.

Q: Do instructors have to pay for courses if they don't choose All in One?

A: Instructors do not have to pay for the course that they are instructing, but we do ask that if an instructor takes a curriculum course that they pay the course fee and for the materials.

Q: Can I pay just for the Dzogchen Mandala participation?

A: The Dzogchen Mandala Premium is in addition to the regular subscription options. By becoming a Dzogchen Mandala student we have committed ourselves to Rinpoche and his vision and this premium is a small expression of the commitment. It also helps offset the cost of the additional materials, communication and programs that Dzogchen Mandala students receive. In cases of financial hardship please contact your local management team.

Q: Will Dzogchen Mandala students still be expected to donate each time they attend a Dzogchen Mandala day?

A: There will no longer be money requested for Dzogchen Mandala sessions. That is part of the premium and the subscriptions.

Q: Will Rigpa continue to have one or two annual appeals for donations?

A: There will be one national appeal at the end of each year, that will help offset the national operating expenses. Each local sangha also has the option to fundraise once a year for the needs of their sangha. There will continue to be appeals for international projects and the Center for Wisdom and Compassion through out the rest of the year.

Rigpa US Subscription Form

Please return to: RIGPA, 159 Delaware Ave. #181 Delmar, NY 12054

Rigpa is a 501(c)3 Non-profit Organization • Tax ID #77-0047927

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Please check the appropriate boxes to indicate the level of subscription, calculate your total annual subscription, indicate the frequency and method of payment.

- **All in One:** \$600 yr./\$50 mo. \$720/\$60 \$840/\$70 \$1000/\$83 or more \$ _____
- **Local Sangha Activity:** \$360yr./\$30 mo. \$420/\$35 \$480/\$40 540/\$45 or more \$ _____
- **Distance Sangha:** \$150yr./12.50mo. \$240/\$20 \$360/\$30 \$480/\$40 or more \$ _____
- **Family Subscription:** (List family members names, their subscription type and amount offered.)

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- **Dzogchen Mandala Premium:** \$96 per year / \$8.00 per month

Subscription: \$ _____
Family Subscription Discount (10%): \$ _____
Dzogchen Mandala Premium: \$ _____
Total Subscription: \$ _____

Frequency of Payments: One annual payment 12 monthly payments

Special Projects - If you are currently pledging monthly to the Eastern Fund, Lerab Ling, Spiritual Care, or Dzogchen Beara and would like to continue please restate your gift below.

Eastern Fund: \$ _____ per month Lerab Ling: \$ _____ per month
Spiritual Care: \$ _____ per month Dzogchen Beara: \$ _____ per month

Total Special Projects Donation - \$ _____ per month

If you are also paying for a subscription monthly please indicate the total amount Rigpa should charge your credit card (Subscription + Special Projects) \$ _____

Method of Payment

Enclosed is my check Please charge my MasterCard or Visa

Name: _____

MasterCard/Visa: _____

Exp. Date ___/___/___ Security Code: _____

Billing Address: _____