Losar Mahakala Schedule at KDK

Mahakala Empowerment and Teachings by Lama Lodu Rinpoche
February 4th-5th 2023 at KDK, 1892 Fell St., San Francisco
February 4th (Sat.), 10 AM – 12 PM – Empowerment  
February 4th (Sat.), 2 PM – 4 PM – Teachings  
February 5th (Sun.), 10 AM – 12 PM – Teachings  
February 5th (Sun.), 2 PM – 4 PM – Teachings & Practice

Tuition: $200 for Non-Members, $100 for KDK Members of 6 months; register at http://kdk.org/event_reg.html

Losar Mahakala Practice led by Lama Lodu Rinpoche
February 16th – 21st 2023 at KDK, 1892 Fell St., San Francisco  
February 16th (Thurs.) – Torma Day  
February 17th – 20th (Fri. – Mon.) – Practice Days  
(Tues.) February 21st – Conclusion (Tibetan New Year)
(Note: this completely replaces the Dec. 27th 2022 through Jan 1st, 2023 Mahakala schedule published in the newsletter)

Every lineage has a protector; for the Shangpa Kagyu lineage, the protector is the swift-acting Wisdom Protector, Six-armed Mahakala. Many centuries ago, the Indian Mahasiddha Shawaripa was practicing Mahamudra in a cave when suddenly he had a vision of Mahakala and his retinue together with lightning flashes and thunder, and all sorts of magical forms of sight and sound. Mahakala then gave the empowerment, sadhana, and transmission directly to Shawaripa. This was then passed on to Maitripa, and then to the Tibetan master Kyungpo Naljor who brought this transmission to Tibet. This lineage continued to Mokchokpa, and eventually to the Lord of Refuge, His Holiness Kalu Rinpoche Rangjung Kunkyab, who gave this empowerment to his disciple Lama Lodu Rinpoche on several occasions. Now, in the West, Rinpoche is the eldest disciple of His Holiness Kalu Rinpoche Rangjung Kunkyab and spent a long time with His Holiness during his lifetime.

This year, we will be engaging in the extensive five-day practice of Mahakala according to the Tibetan calendar. As this deity practice is a high class tantra Mahayoga, practitioners need an empowerment, and even for those visiting to receive blessings, it will make a big difference if they also have the empowerment. For those practitioners wishing to engage in serious Dharma practice, sooner or later you will need this seldomly-given empowerment. It is required to have either taken refuge before the start of the initiation on Saturday morning (February 4th), or to take it at that time. Rinpoche will give the initiation and explain the practice of Mahakala on Saturday and Sunday, and give time to do some practice as well.

One and a half weeks later, Rinpoche will lead the extensive Mahakala practice at KDK San Francisco from Feb. 16th and concluding on Losar, the Tibetan New Year, on Feb 21st. This is an opportunity to clear away all the negative energy and challenging obstacles that arose over the past year; and to enjoin the Wisdom Protector to perform his three-fold activity--subduing, protecting, relieving the suffering of poverty and removing the obstacles encountered during one’s practice. This practice will also clarify the activity and remove the obstacles of all the great masters who are performing the activity for all sentient beings, particularly the lineage holders – we pray that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, all Holinesses and Eminent teachers have long life, prosperity and freedom from obstacles.

Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of deceased parents and friends, as well as of those encountering difficulties in this lifetime; this practice will truly benefit them. The public may sit for any length of time during the practice and absorb the blessings. Everyone is invited to make offerings and their assistance in support of this event. Help will be needed for cooking, cleaning, and preparing the Tsok. There are sponsorship opportunities for breakfast, lunch, dinner, tea, and for the daily Tsok offerings. Please let us know any ways you can assist or contribute during this practice. If you can help with the meals, we will schedule you so that there will always be someone on hand to assist the practitioners. Please leave a message on the KDK office line at (415) 752-5454 (press # to skip message), or donate via PayPal: http://KDK.org/event_reg.html.