

Founded in 1958  
by Geshe Ngawang Wangyal

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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND  
**THE FESTIVAL OF MAITREYA**  
**THE COMING BUDDHA**  
AT TWELVE O'CLOCK  
SUNDAY THE 20<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST 2017  
AT THE  
TIBETAN BUDDHIST LEARNING CENTER  
IN  
WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Our spiritual teacher, the late Venerable Geshe Ngawang Wangyal, founder of the Tibetan Buddhist Learning Center, started the Festival here in the United States in 1965. It is held to honor a tradition started by Geshe Wangyal's main teacher, Lama Ngawang Dorjieff, a religious assistant to the Thirteenth Dalai Lama. Lama Dorjieff, who increased the practice of the Buddha's Teaching in Geshe Wangyal's birthplace in Kalmykia, started the Festival there in 1905 as an annual religious event.

After lunch, the Maitreya Festival program begins at 2 p.m. at the temple, where the assembled monks offer prayers inviting the future Buddha, known as the Protector Maitreya, to descend from Tushita heaven to be present for the gathering. A procession begins shortly thereafter during which the Protector Maitreya, symbolically represented by a statue, is carried around the TBLC grounds. The monks stop in each of the four cardinal directions to say special prayers and then return to the temple, where all gather for further prayers and teachings. This gathering begins with a pre-recorded message (in Tibetan) from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who offers his reflections on the Festival's relevance. The tape is then translated into English. Following this are further prayers and a short Buddhist teaching after which the monks and guests join together to recite a prayer to the Protector Maitreya.

The Festival is primarily an outdoor event. Guests are encouraged to bring their families and enjoy the beauty of the TBLC grounds. Rain, however, does *not* cancel the Festival.

All your friends and family are welcome to attend this auspicious event.

Sincerely Yours,

*Joshua & Diana*

Joshua & Diana Cutler, TBLC Directors