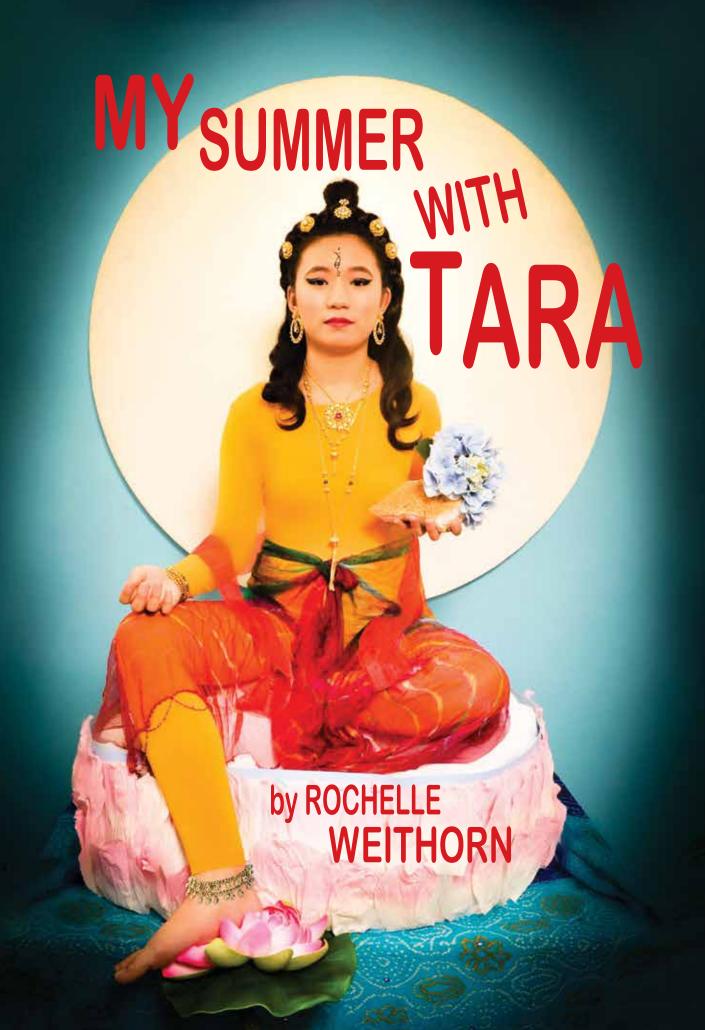
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दालेक्'भेक्। यालेक्'भेक्।

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क्रॅं तृ: से फुहूं से फुर से खू जू

#### Hello from Tara

In Sanskrit I am known as Tara,
In Tibetan I am known as Drolma,
In English I am known as
the Great Liberator Heroine.

With love and compassion, I relieve the suffering of all sentient beings.

I have twenty-one emanations, but I am really your own true nature.

If you need my help, just call my name.

My mantra is:

Om Ta Re Tu Ta Re Tu Re So Ha

# दते'न्वुराष'हे'नर्ड्व'र्क्केष'यान्द्र'यात्र्यान्

#### September 2020

MY SUMMER WITH TARA

Has been translated from English to Tibetan

With the help of the following people:

Khenseng Wangchuk, Translator দ্বিশ্বস্থা শ্রুমানা শ্রুম

Chenrap Wangchuk, Copy Editor

Jamyang Aileen Wangmo, Assistant Copy Editor

Farzin Farhang, Graphic Design

Special thanks to Ann Shaftel for suggesting a Tibetan Translation,

Stephen B. Brooks for sponsoring the translation,

And the generosity of our sponsors who supported the project.

We are very grateful to all of you!

Sarva Mangalam - May it be auspicious!

Rochelle Weithorn

### **My Summer with Tara**



## श्वम्बाई येग्बाबाम्ब्य व्या

मुन्ना स्वाप्त स्वाप्

### **Acknowledgments**

My deep gratitude to the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje, Her Eminence Jetsun Khandro Rinpoche, Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, and Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche for blessing this book.

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Special thanks to Sharon Ascher for her brilliant set design, to Nicole Bryl for her magic with makeup and creating the 'peaceful' crowns, and to all who contributed photos of our play for this book - NY Tibetan Summer Day Camp students, Nicole Bryl, and Jon D'Orazio.

The Tara thangkas found on the cover and throughout the book are from our "Tara And Her Twenty-One Emanations Card Set." Much appreciation to the many talented artists who helped create them, including Jamyang Aileen Wangmo (the model for Tara), Allan Baillie (photographer), Nicole Bryl (make-up), Jon D'Orazio (halo), and Sharon Ascher (hand-painted skirts).

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Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Farzin Farhang, whose gifted graphic design skills are matched only by his kindness and patience.

Since 2001, under the auspices of Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus has used the performing arts to bring the teachings of the Buddha to life. For more information about our original plays and how to receive copies, please see page 48.

The Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. www.milarepachildrenstheaterandchorus.com

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Front Cover Graphic design, Nicole Bryl, Photo of Jamyang Aileen Wangmo as Tara #3 Photographer, Allan Baillie

Back Cover Graphic design, Farzin Farhang यने प्रश्नास्त्र स्वाप्त्र स्वाप्त्र स्वाप्त्र स्वाप्त्र स्वाप्त स्वाप

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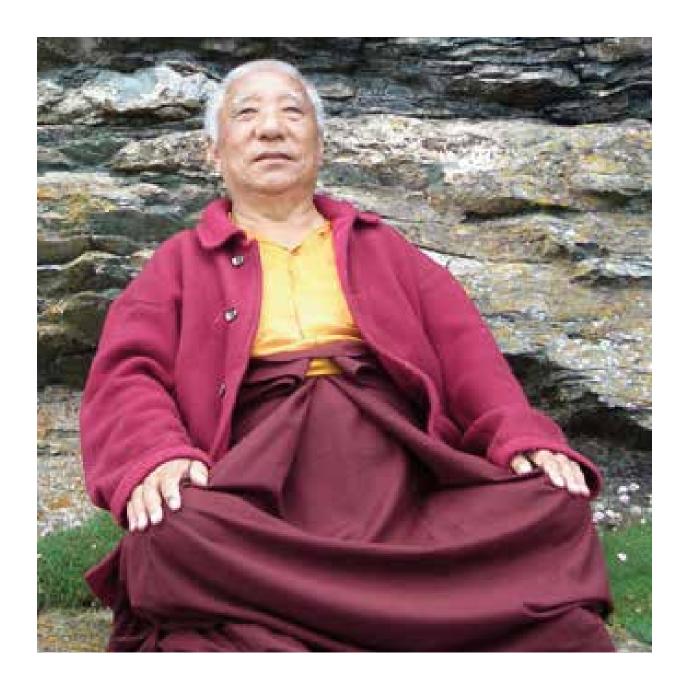
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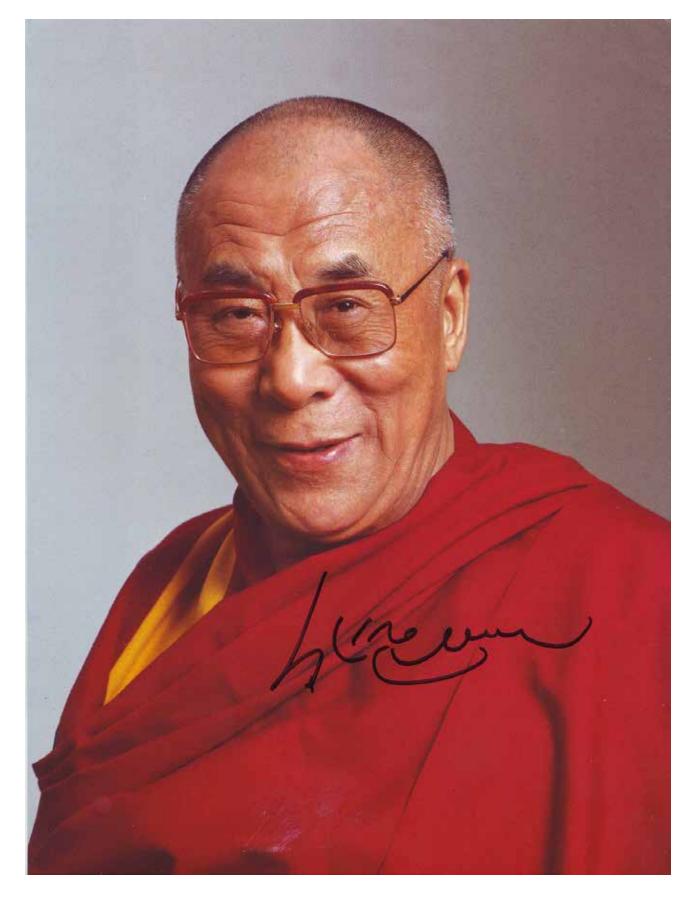
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## केन्'न्र्र्

### **Dedication**



This book is lovingly dedicated to Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, who opened our hearts to Tara.



His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso

वह्र्यः में अष्ट्री वह्रयः में अष्ट्री वह्र्यः में अप्ट्री वह्रि अप

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### My Name is Tenzin

Hello, my name is Tenzin, with an "i."

It means protector of the Buddhist teachings in Tibetan.

Many Tibetan families name their children Tenzin after

His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Even girls are given the name Tenzin. We usually have second and third names or nicknames to tell us apart.

### て母子子

वित्रिंश्चित्रं श्रीत्राधित्र श्रीत्राधित्र श्रीत्राधित्र श्रीत्र श्र

### **Summer Camp**

Last summer I attended a Tibetan Day Camp in Elmhurst, located in Queens, New York where I live. Everything in the camp is taught in Tibetan: reading, writing, speaking, Tibetan songs, Tibetan dance, and playing Tibetan instruments. But this summer the program also included a play in English! It was called "Tara and Her Twenty-One Emanations."

Many Tibetan girls are given Tara names, but most of us didn't really know that much about Tara. For instance, did you know that Tara is a female buddha? I always thought you had to be a man to be a buddha!



## ष्ठित्रह्मस्राध्यस्य द्रार्ट्स् नेश्वरण्ची तत्वा वासा

#### Can you guess which one I am?

The first day of rehearsals we were introduced to our teacher, who had written the play. She was an American who was also a Buddhist. I always thought you had to be Tibetan to call yourself a Buddhist! She told us she has a Buddhist teacher who is Tibetan. His name is Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche and he lives in Nepal. Khenpo Rinpoche taught her all about Tara, and now she wanted to teach us.



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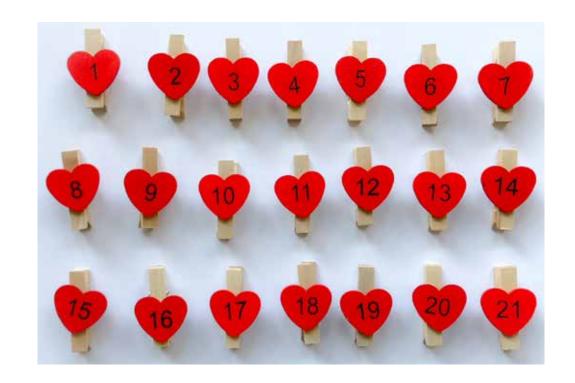
Tara # 21 White Peaceful Tara Grants Long Life

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#### **Tara Has 21 Emanations**

In that first meeting Teacher talked about how Tara has 21 emanations. That means there is one Tara, and she has the ability to transform herself into 21 different Taras! Each Tara has a different color, her own personality, and special powers. Tara's heart is filled with love, and her main purpose is to help us. By studying each Tara, we can get to know her and call upon her when we need help.

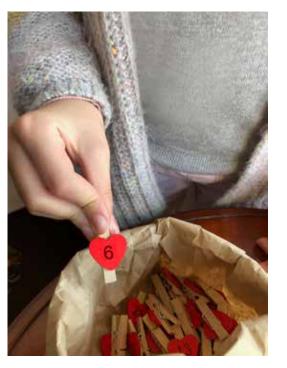


## र्नेनासुनाञ्चनार्च।

### **Brown Paper Bag**

Teacher had a brown paper bag filled with small, red, wooden hearts, numbered from 1 to 21. One at a time, we closed our eyes, put our hands in the bag, and pulled out a number, which was the Tara we would play. I picked Tara #6.

All of us wanted to know if their Tara was the most important or the strongest or the luckiest. Teacher explained that every Tara is strong and important and lucky.





Tara # 7

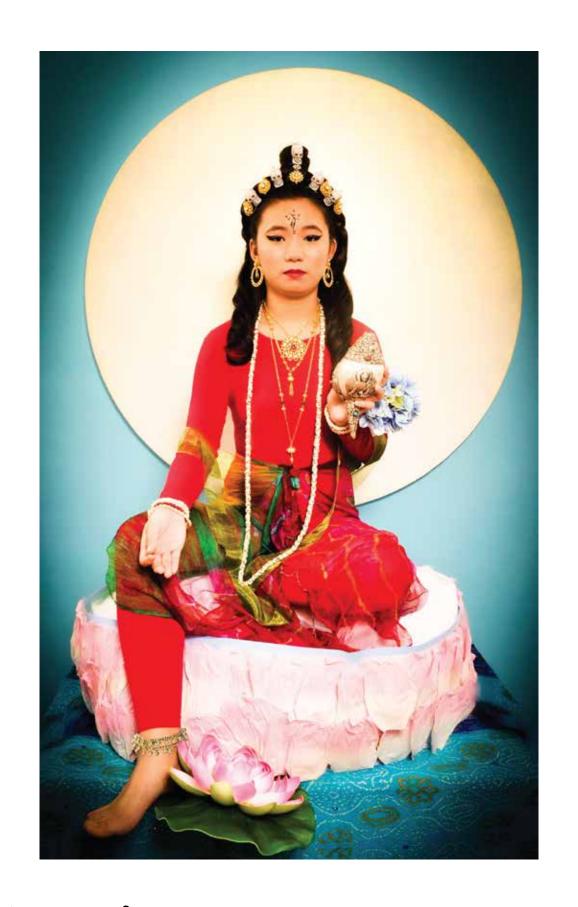
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#### Isn't Tara a Girl?

One boy asked, "Isn't Tara a girl? Will we have to wear wigs for the play?" Teacher sat quietly for a while and thought about it. Then she announced, "This is a gender-neutral play. Anyone can manifest Tara's enlightened activities!" The boys laughed and relaxed.



Tara #1 Red Semi-Wrathful Tara Proclaims the Teachings of the Buddha

## ष'सर्बद'स्व'शै'गहेन्'यम

### **A Magical Dream**

That night I had a dream that I was magically transported to an open, green meadow.

There sat 21 beautiful ladies on magnificent pink lotus flowers. Each lady was a different color. Some were white, some golden, some saffron, some orange, some red, some blue/black, and there was one who was green.

Some were peaceful-looking and wore gold jewelry, crowns, and silk scarves. Some were fierce-looking, with bone ornaments around their necks and a crown made of skulls!

They beckoned me to come forward, and each Tara blessed me by touching the top of my head with a sacred symbol held in her left hand.

After I went through the line, Tara #1 said, "Now you are part of our family. We love you. If you need our help, just call upon us, and we will be there. Our name is Tara. Our mantra is *Om Ta Re Tu Ta Re Tu Re So Ha*."

Next day, Teacher told me it was an auspicious dream. Tara was letting us know she was happy about the play we were doing!

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### **How to Meditate**

Teacher explained we would start each day with sitting meditation. Then she gave us this meditation instruction:

#### 1. Posture

Teacher asked us to sit up straight. This was the way the Buddha sat more than 2,500 years ago when he attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree in Shri Bodh Gaya, India. She told us to keep our eyes open and gaze softly at the floor in front of us.

#### 2. Breath

Next, we bring our awareness to our breath as it leaves our body and goes out into the space around us.

### শ্ৰুম'ম'শ্ৰীমশ্বা

प्रक्रिंश क्रेंग क्रुप्त क्रिंग क्रि

#### 3. Thoughts

Teacher said that, when we are meditating, thoughts will naturally come and go. When we notice we are lost in a thought, we silently say "thinking" and gently return to the awareness of breath leaving the body.

### **अदशः क्रुशः ग्रीः अर्कव्रा**

श्रेश्वास्त्र विश्वास्त्र विश्वास्त

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#### **Buddha's Name**

Buddha's name means "The Awakened One." Awake to what? Awake to this very moment, to whatever is happening right now. How can we learn to be in the present moment? By practicing meditation.

Teacher said she received meditation instruction from her Tibetan teacher, who received it from his teacher, who received it from their teacher, going all the way back to the Buddha. In the future, when we grow up and have our own students, we will give them the same instructions.

In Tibet, Buddhism is part of everyday life. Now that we live in New York City, Teacher said we can still follow the spiritual path of our ancestors by starting our day with meditation at home.

At camp one of us would ring a small gong to start our sitting meditation. When the meditation was over, usually in five minutes, we would ring the gong again. We took turns ringing the gong. Everyone wanted a turn because we got to sit up front and lead. This made us feel important!



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Tara #10 Rich Red Wrathful Tara Helps Us Maintain Our Dharma Practice and Study



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### **Studying the Taras**

After meditation we would take out our plays and study each Tara.

Teacher said that Tara, just like the Buddha, was a real person who lived a long time ago. She was born a princess, and her name was Moon of Wisdom. She had great devotion to the Buddha's teachings on loving-kindness and compassion, and she practiced meditation every day. When her heart was fully opened, the princess attained enlightenment and became a buddha too. After that she became known as Tara, the one who helps all beings.

Some people in her palace encouraged her to become a man in that very lifetime, but Tara said that in enlightenment there is no difference between men and women. She promised to remain a woman in all her lifetimes and help all beings. All you have to do is call upon her, and she will spring into action.

In our class we were learning how each Tara helps in her own way. We also learned the secret of Tara. All of us are Tara too, and by studying her, we are uncovering our own true nature!

Every night when my family and I had dinner, I would tell them about the Tara we had studied that day. They were so happy I was learning about Tara and teaching them too.

## हे पर्वत हैं या अदे खुमा अर्क्ष प्रीव क्रमा क्षत्र वा क्षत्र का क्षेत्र हो दे प्रा

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### **Finding Tara's Sacred Symbols**



Tara #17 Orange Peaceful Tara, Holds a Golden Stupa

Each of the 21 Taras holds a blue utpala flower in her left hand, upon which stands a sacred symbol that represents her unique power and personality.

Teacher said it took her many months to find all 21 sacred symbols for our play. Many came from faraway Nepal, India, and Tibet, and some she found at her local farmers' market in New York City! We all wanted to hold our own sacred symbol. Teacher showed us photos of the symbols and said we would have to wait until a few days before the performance to actually hold them in our hands. We couldn't wait!

## वर्जे भ्रुव र्सेग्रायन्तु



### **Production Meetings**

Every afternoon we had a production meeting in our classroom. We would all sit around a large table and eat snacks. This gave us an opportunity to ask questions about the play. Did we have to memorize all our lines? Where would we be putting on our costumes? Would the boys and girls have separate dressing rooms? Who would be coming to the performance? Could we have second helpings of ice cream? Chocolate was our favorite!

## गल्यमिर्देरया

पर्चः श्रुवः र्क्ष्यवायः दितः हेवा श्रुपः र्क्षः र्वा प्रायः श्रुपः र्वे विद्यः र्व



### Singing ...

After the production meeting, we would study Tara songs and dances.

On the day of the performance, we would enter the space holding a butter lamp and singing the Butter Lamp Offering Song. Butter lamps in Tibet are made from clarified yak butter, but in our play we would just use regular candles.

Teacher had her friend record the song. It was easier for us to sing along to the recorded music.

### ""५८'ग्र-४५५५'य।

र्श्वता क्षेत्राचाराया श्रीत्र क्षेत्र त्या विद्या स्थित हित्य हिता क्षेत्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्र त्या कष्त्य त्या कष्त्र त्य कष्त्र त्या व्य त्या कष्त्र त्या व्य त्या कष्त्र त्या व्य त

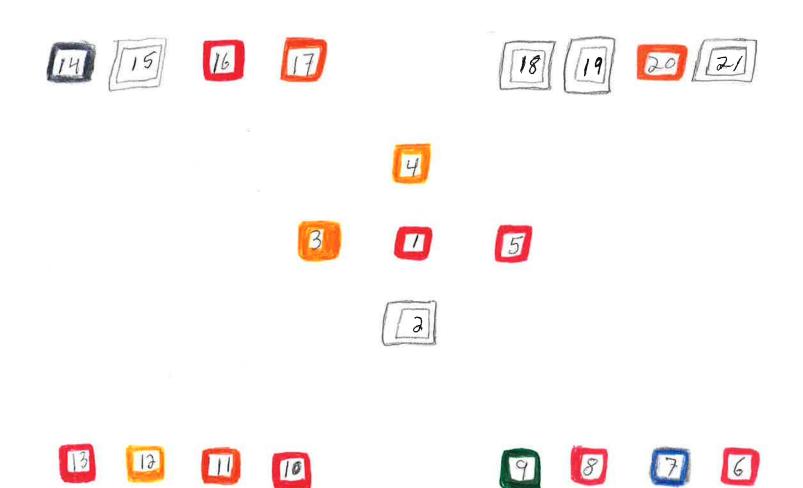
### ... and Dancing

Once we entered the stage, we had to walk around in a sacred circle. We were having a hard time walking in a circle, and then one day Teacher came in with a beautiful round blue beach towel she had seen hanging in a store window. "Aha!" she thought, "Here is our sacred circle." As soon as she put it down on the floor, we had no problem walking around in a perfect circle. Teacher said the sacred circle had now become the center of our 21 Tara Mandala.



## दर्सेदिक्कियायान्त्रिस्य मानियानी द्यीयादर्विया

#### **Our 21 Tara Mandala**



पहरामक्ष्म स्वास्त्रम् । व्रक्ष्मः मुद्दाः साम्याः साम्याः साम्याः साम्याः स्वासः क्ष्मः स्वासः क्ष्मः स्वासः क्ष्मः स्वासः स्व On the floor, Teacher put 21 pieces of tape that had numbers 1-21 written on them. This was to show us where each Tara would stand during the play. We practiced finding our numbers and standing on the tape. When we came in the next day, all the tape was gone. We forgot to tell the cleaning person not to take the tape away!

## सङ्ग्राचेरावागरारेत्।

हिंद्-रदाह्म यर हिंद्-रदामें वर्ष्य स्वीदामें प्रीयाय र्षेद्-रेद्

ब्रिंदःस्टाह्मायस्य विस्तुम् अस्तुः क्र्रेंस्य विद्

क्ट्रें द्विमशहिंद् स्ट मी मणश्रुषेंद्

त्वः ध्वां वा वा वितः स्टा वी क्वा वा देवा खुः विता

नुरः सुँग्रार्चित् स्टरमी मार्धेत त्यः स्ति।

रः क्षेत्रः क्षेत्रः म्यान्यः याः क्षेत्रः म्यान्यः प्राचित्रः म्यान्यः म्यायः म्याय

#### What Is a Mandala?

A mandala is a map of the world

The world is round

Turn around and look around you

And you will see that the world is round

You are a mandala

You are always in the center of your world

You are always facing East

The South is on your right

The West is behind you

The North is on your left

In our play, Tara #1 is the center of the mandala, surrounded by all the other Taras. Our circle represents Tara's sacred and expansive world.



## क्वेंवायानुषाया दें सेना वरे र सेना

## वनुराई कं में न्दाहि में दे रें न्यवा

क्रिंग्यस्त्रेत्याम् क्रिंग्यस्त्राक्ष्यः क्रिंग्याम् क्रिंग्याम क्रिंग्य क्रिंग्याम क्

चून्। विश्वावाश्चात्रेश्वान्त्यान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्यान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्यत्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्यान्त्यान्त्यान्यत्रेश्वान्त्यत्यान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वान्त्रेश्वा



Tara #3



Tara #6 - Yep, that's me!

#### **Hot Glue Guns and Wrathful Crowns**

Three days before the performance, Teacher brought in all of Tara's sacred symbols, jewelry, costumes, and props for our play. Finally, we got to hold our sacred symbols. We ran around the school showing them to everyone!

Teacher steamed out the different-colored pashmina scarves that were to become our costumes. She cut a small hole in the middle of each scarf and said we could just put the scarf right over our heads and wear our own clothes underneath. That made us feel more comfortable.

She also taught us how to make wrathful crowns using a hot glue gun. That was fun!

## सुदःश्रेदः।

#### **Vacation**

Our rehearsals were taking place during July and August. A funny thing started happening to our group. Each week some children went on vacation with their families.

Ms. Diki-la, Director of our camp, told us that so many children had gone on vacation, she thought it best to postpone the Tara performance until February when we celebrate Losar, the Tibetan New Year.

But our Tara group didn't want to wait until next year, so Ms. Diki-la said we could give our performance in our classroom on Friday, August 25, the last day of camp. Now we had to think about how to transform our classroom into a sacred Tara Palace! Teacher said her friend Sascha was an artist and set designer and maybe she could help.

# हे पर्व क्षिया सदी प्रमास स्वा



Tara # 19

## **Tara's Sacred Symbols**







## हे पर्व क्रिया अदे प्राप्त के विष्तु मा

त्वयः क्रॅंबर्ट्स्याविष्णे के स्वाप्त स्वाप्त



### **Creating Tara's Sacred Space**

One day before the performance, Sascha and her friend Charlie arrived with large pieces of white fabric and lots of tape. The entire day we worked to transform our classroom into a sacred Tara Palace.











## इयाय श्रुराय

येव। स्रीयः देशःशुः श्रेष्ठः स्रायाः स्रायः स्राय

### **Transformation!**

We all rolled out the white fabric to cover the floor and the walls.

We set up carpets and chairs in the back of the room for the audience.

### क्षेत्रभरा



Tara # 14

### Lhasang

To purify the space and bring down Tara's blessings, we performed a smoke ceremony called a lhasang. We used dried Juniper.



# व्वेव क्रूपकारुव ग्री क्रिया सदी सकेंद्र मिर्नि स



Tara # 13

### **Tara's Sacred Shrine**







Tara # 5

### क्रियायदे न्यायदे न्यीय वर्षे न

दः स्ट्रियः यहेत्। यदः श्रेयः यद्याः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः श्रेयः यद्यः श्यः यद्यः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रेयः यद्यः श्रे



### **Tara's Sacred Palace**

We used the large windowsill in our classroom to set up Tara's shrine. One by one, each of us came up and placed our sacred Tara symbol on the shrine. Sascha had painted a beautiful Green Tara thangka, and we hung it over the classroom window.

# क्केंवायाके सुर महिमामी पत्मायाम्य

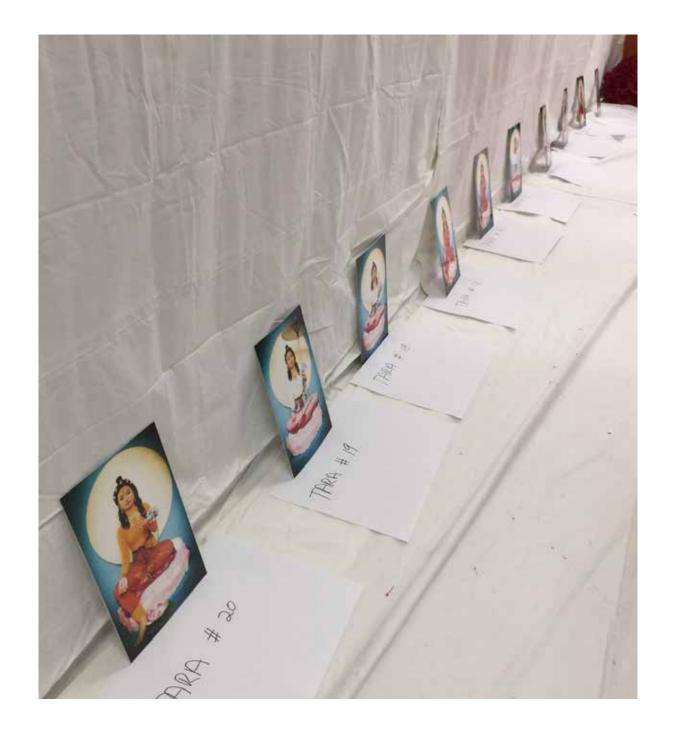
स्रान्त्राक्षण्यात्र्व्याः क्षृत्रः यात्र्याः क्षृत्रः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः या



Tara # 3

### **Seating for Twenty-One Taras**

The 21 Taras were to sit on the floor near the shrine: 10 on one side and 11 on the other. Each seat was numbered and had a photo of a Tara on one side and the words each Tara would speak on the other side.



### व्यवः क्रूँव दूर्रश्यावि क्षेव श्री

यवियः क्रेंबः निर्देशः मिले क्षेत्रः या क्षेत्रः या क्षेत्रः या क्षेत्रः या क्षेत्रः या विवाद्यः विवादः वि



### **Performance Day!**

The day of the performance we were very excited, except we didn't have enough children to play all the Tara parts. We only had eight boys and one girl. Everyone else had gone on vacation. Ms. Diki-la saved the day by inviting another Tibetan Summer Day Camp to join us. Twelve children volunteered, and now we had all 21 Taras! The new children were very brave, because they came into a play without knowing anything about it. I don't know if I would have had the courage to do that. Would you?

### र्डेर्पवामी मुवास्था

क्कें या आ कि या सु कें प्रस्था स्वाधार केंद्र प्यव प्रस्था मुक्त केंग्रा यह केंद्र प्यव केंद्र प्यव केंद्र यह केंद्र प्यव केंद्र प्यव

र्थे अ'खूद्र गुरि र्डेद् 'यव' रदि 'ह्रम 'बूब् (Tarzan) ग्री र्डेद् 'यव' द्रम अर्द्ध्य य' मेद्र' लेखाद्र केंद्रि अहं अ'या वे विराध (Nicole) ग्री अ'या विद्र ने ग्री ग्री श्री श्री केंद्र या विद्र के ग्री ग्री अ'या विद्र केंद्र या विद्र के ग्री ग्री अ'या विद्र केंद्र ग्री विद्र ग्री केंद्र ग्री

देश हेश दश में हिंग श्राया विश्व वि



### **Putting on Our Crowns**

All the wrathful Taras wore skull crowns and bone ornaments for jewelry. The peaceful Taras had crowns made of golden silk flowers for the girls and crowns of green leaves for the boys. Our makeup artist, Nicole, said the boys wore leaves like Tarzan. Nicole makes up celebrities, so she must know!

Later I wrote out the name Tarzan and realized that, if I took out the "z" and the "n," it spelled Tara. That was the magic and blessing of Tara!

# व्यव क्ष्र्व मुङ्ग्व मा

Tara # 2

### **Showtime!**



# यरये यर्के र त्र्यय श्री र श्रुट्य

स्वार्यात्रः तुष्णात्र्यत्र्यात्र्यत्र्या

### **Butter Lamp Offering Song**

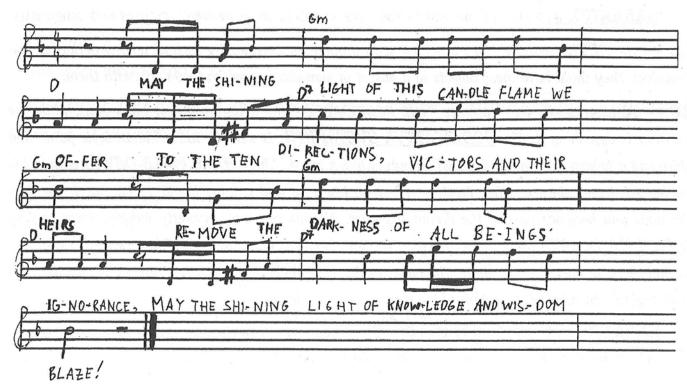
MAY THE SHINING LIGHT OF THIS CANDLE FLAME WE OFFER

TO THE TEN DIRECTIONS, VICTORS, AND THEIR HEIRS,

REMOVE THE DARKNESS OF ALL BEINGS' IGNORANCE,

MAY THE SHINING LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM BLAZE!

Composed by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche Translated and arranged by Jim Scott, Jamgon Labrang, Pullahari, Nepal, 1999 Translation copyright 2012, Jim Scott



Listen to the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus sing "The Butterlamp Offering" Song on youtube: <u>https://youtu.be/UMULZAzpcp8</u>



Tara # 15









One by one, we walked into the space holding our candles and singing the "Butter Lamp Offering Song." We were offering what we had learned to our families and friends.

### क्कियायदे द्यायदे द्यीय विक्रायक्कियाय

चालाश्चिमान्यस्य स्थान्य स्था



Tara # 18

### **Circling Tara's Sacred Mandala**

Inside the space we circled Tara's sacred mandala. Then we all turned to face the audience and sang a prayer for the long life of Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Teacher's teacher.

After that we took our seats along the sides of the room.





Tara # 12

### क्क्ष्रियायक्यार् कुषाया

श्र्या देन्त्राचान्यात् भ्रात्यात् व्याप्त क्षेत्राचा श्रेत्यात्र क्षेत्र व्याप्त क्षेत्र व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत क्षेत्र व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व



### **Group Meditation**

Tara #8 sat in the center and rang the gong to signal the start of meditation. The entire audience sat with us. I felt very proud, because we were all sitting so nicely. After a few minutes Tara #8 rang the gong again, and we all bowed to each other. Then he took his seat as well.

# ट्रिंदे क्विंय या सूव क्विश

### **Our Taras**



श्चितायायवे या

ब्रैंवायायञ्चा



ब्रुजियः या समुद्राया



क्रेंग्या है सुपा



Tara #4

Tara #10



Tara #8





Tara #20

### ८:स्ट्यी क्षेत्रायस्ट्य क्ष्रिस्या

यहेत्वस्थालय। देत्विर्देव स्वरं श्री स्वरं स्वर



Tara # 6

### **Reciting My Lines**

Beginning with Tara #1, one by one we came up and stepped into the Tara Mandala Circle, holding our sacred symbol and reciting our lines. When it was my turn, I could feel my heart beating very fast. Teacher smiled, and I knew I was safe. I read the lines really well, because my parents helped me study them every night at home. This gave me confidence. I was grateful for my loving family.



Tara #6

# क्रिया अनुन्या

## **Being Tara**



क्केंवायान्दार्ये।

ब्रुजियाय उपित्र विश्व



क्किंवासार्ग्या



ब्रुंवायाय इ.र्वाया



Tara #1



Tara #11



Tara #9



Tara #16

### क्कियास के सु इ मार्डमामी खुमाना हे प्रीव क्राया

क्रांत्रा विभावात्त्र क्रिया क्रिया

### **The Joyful Energy of 21 Taras!**

After Tara #21 finished reciting his lines, we all stood up and found the number on the floor representing our Tara. Holding our sacred symbols, we formed a 21 Tara Mandala and sang "Tara's Song," an offering to Tara and her Twenty-One Emanations.

We could feel the sacred energy of all 21 Taras descend into our classroom and expand across our school, our neighborhood, our city, our country, and the world. I was thinking of my grandparents in Tibet and wondered if they could feel the energy, too. Teacher's eyes were filling up with tears, and the audience was applauding. We were all so joyful!



### **All Taras**



Tara #14



Tara #15



Tara #16



Tara #17



Tara #18



Tara #19



Tara #20



Tara #21



Tara #4



Tara #3



Tara #1



Tara #5



Tara #2



Tara #13



Tara #12



Tara #11



Tara #10



Tara #9



Tara #8



Tara #7



Tara #6

## हे पर्व के किया मित्र मि

ख्रायट्रेक्ष्यं स्टार्म् याच्या महित्या महित्या । स्ट्रिया स्टार्म स्ट्रिया स्ट्रिय

### Tara's Song

Noble Liberator Tara, together with your retinue,

Please remember your past promises with your pure love,
And dispel all my fears and all fears of sentient beings,
And dispel all my fears and all fears of sentient beings,
Pacify sickness, harmful spirits, and adverse conditions,
Make harmonious conditions perfectly abundant,
And bestow upon us common and supreme siddhis,
And bestow upon us common and supreme siddhis.

Om Ta Re Tu Ta Re Tu Re So Ha (Sing Tara's Mantra 4X)

# - A mind terma of Dechen Rangdrol No-ble Li-be-ra-tor Ta-ra to-ge-ther with your re-te - nue Please re - mem-ber your past pro-mi-ses with your pure love And dis- pel all my fears and all fears of sen-tient beings And dis- pel all my fears and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions Make har and all fears of sen-tient beings Pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-fy sick-ness harm-ful spi-rits and ad-verse con-di - tions pa-ci-

Translated by Ari Goldfield. Music by Frédéric Auquier.

Listen to the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus sing "Tara's Song" on Youtube:

### हे पर्व के बिया स्टिक्स के बिय



त्याः हे. पर्वं श्रृं ताः या क्रियाः परिः ह्याः ह्याः परिः ह्याः ह्याः परिः ह्याः ह्याः परिः ह्याः ह

### **Tara's Dedication of Merit**

May the deity whose practice I perform in all my lifetimes,
Who embodies the three times' victors' enlightened activity,
Who has one face, two arms, is blue-green in color, swift,
peaceful, and brave,

May the Great Mother holding a blue lotus flower make everything auspicious!



To close the program, we held hands in a circle and walked around and recited Tara's Dedication of Merit. All we had learned that summer was now being dedicated for the benefit of all sentient beings.

# **न्यादः ह्राँच शुराव है।**

र्स् अर्धर उत्र श्री श्रेत परि प्रमास प्रश्न श्रित श्रित श्रेत श्रित श्

### Celebration!

Ms. Diki-la had a reception for us and the audience and offered everyone lots of delicious food and drinks. Tara #20 held a large black bowl called a za ma tog, a container for medicinal herbs. For our play, we decided to fill it with pieces of chocolate wrapped in shiny blue paper. Tara #20 brought the za ma tog around, offering chocolate to everyone. We all agreed chocolate was the best medicine for a play celebration!

It was a wonderful day, and I shall never forget my summer with Tara.

Sarva Mangalam!
May it be auspicious!



Tara #20

### हे पर्युव हैं या अदे प्रयाप दे खुमा अर्द्धवा

क्वियायाद्याची - नुदादगाया

क्वैंयायायङ्गित्रया-न्ययायेश

क्वेंवायाम्हेबाया-व्रेविया

क्रियायायसुमासुयाया-मान्यासुमासार्दे हो।

क्रियायाम्बुयाया-धिनायविवाग्रीविनाया

क्वेंवायायस्य वित्या-गत्रिस्तिन्या

क्वेंयायायंवेया-केंप्रत्या

क्वेंय'य'नर्डे'य्'य'-यद्ग'दत्या

क्रियासाञ्चारा-सर्वाम्बा

क्वियायायस्य द्वाया-श्वास्यावस्य

क्वेंवायानुषायानस्या

क्रियासाम्बर्धान्त्राया-सर्केनामहेत्।

क्वेंवायापत्वाया-विवासयास्यामीयोवयम। क्वेंवायापर्छेपमुत्या-रेप्वावाउन।

क्रियायायमुन्या-यवरावदेहें है।

क्केंवियः साम्बद्धः द्वाः सः - वाद्वाकाः द्वामा

क्वेंवायान्त्राया-केंबाग्रीविक्रिं

क्वें वाया है श्राया - बाया हैं य

क्रिंवायायस्या-मुवायस्त्र

क्वेंपायाने सुः याउँ याया - याक्षेत्र ना

क्षेत्रायायञ्च मार्च मार्च - मार्च म

### **Tara's Sacred Symbols**



Tara #1 - Conch Shell



Tara #12 - Knot of Eternity



Tara #2 - Melong (Mirror)



Tara #13 - Open-Pointed Vajra



Tara #3 - Wish-Fulfilling Jewel



Tara # 14 - Pestle



Tara #4 - Tse-bum (Long Life Vase)



Tara # 15 - Lebum (Purification Vase)



Tara #5 - Bow and Arrow



Tara # 16 - Double Vajra



Tara #6 - Phurba (Ritual Dagger)



Tara # 17 - Stupa



Tara #7 - Flaming Wisdom Sword



Tara # 18 - Rabbit-Marked Moon



Tara #8 - Flaming Vajra



Tara #9 - Dharma Wheel



Tara #10 - Victory Banner



Tara #11 - Treasure Vase



Tara # 19 - White Umbrella



Tara # 20 - Za Ma Tog (Container Full of Medicinal Substances)



Tara # 21 - Golden Fish

### श्रेष्यः सक्षायः द्वीक्षायदे सक्षायावका सामगान्दः क्विकामाना

### 371

# द्देपर्द्धवार्ट्स्य सम्बद्धान्य सम्बद्धान्

क्रेन्त्र्वेष्यः स्वेष्यः स्वेषः स्वेष्यः स्वेष

### Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus

We create books, cards, performance pieces, and plays for children of all ages - preschoolers to high school students - to discover the Buddhist teachings of loving-kindness and compassion.

### **Books**

### My Summer With Tara

A children's book about a young summer camper who finds himself in a play about a female Buddha named Tara. Also, a fun book for children learning English as a second language!

### **Card Sets**

### Tara and Her Twenty-One Emanations Card Set

These large, double-sided cards depict each of the 21 Taras in detail, including her sacred symbol, her particular enlightened power, and how to call upon that power for help and guidance. An excellent way to study the essence of each Tara.

### **Performance Pieces**

### Tara and Her Twenty-One Emanations

A performance piece with music about a female Buddha who can summon her super powers to benefit sentient beings. Studying all 21 Taras helps children understand and appreciate their own unique qualities. A gender-neutral play, appropriate for both girls and boys.

### Silk Road Tara

This production empowers teenage girls to deepen their own wisdom and strength by studying these qualities in Tara. It was inspired by Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, who said "If you want to change the world, you have to change the culture; if you want to change the culture, work with teenage girls."

### **Our Plays**

### Tangerine of Mindfulness

Through his encounters with the children of his own time, the Buddha taught valuable lessons in kindness, tolerance, and generosity - lessons that still hold true today. This heartwarming play with music, about the life and example of the Buddha, is appropriate for children of all ages.

### Mahamava

Explores the story of two important women in the Buddha's life who influenced his path to enlightenment. The Buddha's mother Queen Mahamaya was a woman of great strength and virtue. His aunt Queen Mahapajapati raised Prince Siddhartha and supported his desire to leave the palace to follow the spiritual path. She was the first woman ordained by the Buddha, and is revered as a mentor by women contemplating the monastic life. An empowering play with music.

### Yasodhara

Princess Yasodhara and Prince Siddhartha were married when they were 16 years old. They shared a deep love for each other and a fierce commitment to helping others. In this play with music, we see how their love provided the strength and encouragement to follow their individual spiritual paths. Princess Yasodhara would become a great healer, and Prince Siddhartha would become the Buddha of our time.

You can receive copies of our work by making a tax-deductible donation to the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus. To donate online, go to www.milarepachildrenstheaterandchorus.com. To donate by check, contact Rochelle Weithorn at rweithorn@aol.com.

The Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. We appreciate your support!

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### र्भेग्युम्भे (Card sets)

# द्देपर्द्धवर्श्वेष्ययप्रप्रमित्वी द्वयश्चर्या के सुर वार्डिया वी स्वा प्रप्रमे

म्राचित्राचा त्रिम् स्वास्त्राचित्रकेवार्यात्रीत्व निर्मास्त्राच्याः स्वास्त्राच्याः स्वास्त्राच्याः स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्राचा त्रिम् सार्भूताः ग्रीः द्वाद्वास्त्राच्याः त्रिम् स्वास्त्राच्याः स्वास्त्राच्याः

## र्त्त्रेशम् रार्क्षद्राया

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### শ্বিমান্দ্রমান্ত্র (Silk Road Tara)

श्रेलाचतुः विःचावुद् चीः स्त्री विश्वास्याद् न्तु श्रायाः श्रुत् श्रेलायतुः विद्वायाः श्रेताः श्रेताः श्रेताः श्रेताः श्रेताः स्वायाः स्वायः स्वायः स्वयः स

# र केंद्रे तम्म मेंद्र मिन

### इवःमेश्राक्षंत्राया

### त्रियाश्चित्राक्षेत्रप्रह्रेश

स्थाः ग्रीसः प्राप्तः स्वान्तः प्रति स्वान्तः स

### पर्दुव से माग्याय देवाया

ल्लान्तरः भूर्यात्वर्ष्त्। क्रिया श्रम् स्वात्वर्ष्त्रः स्वात्वर्ष्यः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्ष्यः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वरः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वरः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वरः स्वात्वर्षः स्वात्वरः स्वात्वयः स्वात्वयः स्वात्वयः स्वत्वयः स्वात्वयः स्वत्यः स्वात्वयः स्वत्यः स्वत्वयः स्वत्वयः स्वत्वयः स

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वय'दिनेप्राप्त्र्य'स्या - www.milarepachildrenstheaterandchorus.com

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भूषास्तात्त्रवी विटास्त्रस्थात्राच्याच्याः स्वाप्तः स्थात्राच्याः विद्याः स्वाप्तः स्थात्रः विद्याः स्वापः स्थातः विद्याः स्वापः स्थातः विद्याः स्वापः स्थातः विद्याः स्वापः स्थातः स्थातः विद्याः स्वापः स्थातः स्यातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थातः स्थाः स्थातः स्य

### **ई**अयर्थे रें क्वेंद

र्रे नेपास्मार्चे र्रेन् (Rochelle Weithorn) ने से पारम्याय ग्रीमायदे सन्सामान्या मन् [मर्गाप्तरः क्लेंश्राम्य रहें म्रायाये प्रत्यायहें व प्येव। केंग्रश्याय प्रति केंश्रामाय विद्या प्राया विद्या प क्रुयाद्मायाङ्मीर्थेः १००१ विरास्त्रायवास्त्रेवात्त्रासार्स्याद्मिस्याक्तुसर्से रेवार्यास्त्रे अर्केषा'षीक्ष'यग्रीक्ष'र्या'षावक्ष'अर्ह्न'यदे'र्वेषा'षावि'दर्ह्षाक्ष'षावद'दर्षा धुअ' स्यार्चे र्नेत्र वे क्टर्त्यावया ब्लें या मानाया क्षें पा के विट वे दुर्धे गा गी हो यो (Ballet) ৽ঀ৾য়৽য়৽য়ঢ়য়৽য়ৣ৾৾৾ঢ়৽য়য়৽ৠ৽য়য়৽য়য়৽য়য়য়য়য়য়য়য়য়য়ৠৢয়য়য়৾য়ৢ৾য়৽ मुञ्चे तो मुञ्जेन क्षेत्र क्ष Ballet School) महिशायादर्या व्याश्वा शाया मेर्। ही त्या १००५ त्या स्टा ही विश्वा १००५ त्या स्टा ही विश्वा विश्व विष्य विश्व व มูรัง สิ่าที่ณาฐานณา(Nicole Bryl) รุนามรุมารูามสาราทุนร์ (Santa Cruz) ๆาณิา मॅर्ने W'(California) य'र्षे मदि'र्ह्से प'र्ने र्ने रूपे (Ram Das) ग्री'र्ने क्रिन् रूरे 

### **About the Author**

Rochelle Weithorn is the director of the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus, which she founded in New York City in 2001 under the auspices of Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche.

Ms. Weithorn's passion for the performing arts began at an early age, when she attended the Ballet Russes School and Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. In 1975 she moved to Santa Cruz, California with her three-year-old daughter Nicole Bryl to study with the yoga master Hari Dass Baba (a teacher to Ram Dass). Ms. Weithorn discovered in Baba-ji (as he was affectionately known) a shared love for theater. Baba-ji wrote, produced, and directed plays about the ancient Indian epic The Ramayana. He taught his yoga students all aspects of theater and Indian play production: acting, singing, dancing, designing costumes and props, applying makeup, constructing wigs and crowns, and painting backdrops. Ms. Weithorn played many of these roles in The Ramayana.

While living in Santa Cruz, Ms. Weithorn began reading books by the Tibetan Buddhist master Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche. Inspired to meet Rinpoche, she travelled to Boulder, Colorado and became his student. She continued performing and working with Baba-ji.

Ms. Weithorn and her daughter moved back to New York City in 1976, where she deepened her Buddhist studies under Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche. With his passing in 1987, she became a student of the Karma Kagyu master Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche and of Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, who taught her Milarepa Songs and the blessings of Tara.

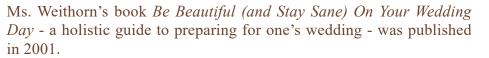




Photo by Nicole Bryl

From 2001 to 2008, Ms. Weithorn worked closely with the Buddhist Council of New York and Chaired the



Santa Cruz, CA 1975

annual Vesak Day commemoration of the Buddha's birth, life, and death. It was for Vesak Day that she began writing plays about the life of the Buddha and his family. All were set in ancient India and performed on Vesak Days by the children of Buddhist Council members. Hari Dass Baba's training had prepared her well!

Ms. Weithorn's theater creations bring to life the teachings of Buddhism and meditation for children and teens. All share the foundational principles of Dharma Art taught by Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, who said "Genuine art – dharma art – is simply the activity of nonaggression."

Ms. Weithorn is co-director of the New York Buddha Dharma Meditation Center, which is dedicated to studying the teachings of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche.

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न्याय्य्येत्रवर्ष्यः भेटा विः र्ह्णेयाय्याः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः ह्रिवायाः

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स्वायान्त्र प्रत्यामेन प्रत्यामे

# दरे'न्वराष'हे'नई्न'क्वेंव'क्वेंव'सान्द्रसक्स'न्

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# Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus

# My Summer With Tara

"Isn't Tara a girl?" asked Tenzin.

"I thought you had to be a boy to be a buddha."

My Summer with Tara tells the story of a young summer camper who finds himself in a play about a female buddha named Tara.

The experience gently challenges his ideas about culture and gender, while deepening his experience of compassion and loving-kindness.

This is a heart-warming book about stepping outside our comfort zone and discovering surprising richness on the other side.

Inspiring for children and parents alike.

All donations support the Milarepa Children's Theater And Chorus www.milarepachildrenstheaterandchorus.com
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
rweithorn@aol.com



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