



THE FREDERICK P.  
**LENZ**  
FOUNDATION  
FOR AMERICAN BUDDHISM

### **SCHEDULE FOR 2009 BUDDHIST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

The following is the Schedule of Events for the Lenz Foundation Buddhist Leadership Conference, September 10 to 13, 2009, on the Nalanda campus of Naropa University, 6287 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

- Your registration badge is your ticket to all events. A gold badge is for all programs, meals and a gift leatherbound zippered notebook. A red badge is for admittance to all programs only – no meals or other benefits. General admission tickets for attendance at the principal speaker events (Professor Jan Willis, Tenzin Robert Thurman and Professor Judith Simmer-Brown) are on sale from Naropa University at \$35 per event. The book fair will be open in the rear of the Events Center, and products will be for sale from that location during most conference hours.
- If you have already registered for the conference and are entitled to programs and meals and you desire a vegetarian menu, please e-mail Kristin Vevon at [LenzFoundationConference@comcast.net](mailto:LenzFoundationConference@comcast.net) with your request.

#### **Thursday, September 10, 2009**

1:00 – 5:00 pm: Registration in the hallway outside of the Events Center on the Nalanda campus.

5:00 – 7:00 pm: Welcome Reception in Room 9180 (gold badge registrants):

- Entertainment: jazz ensemble by Ryan Elwood.
- Welcome remarks by the Foundation's Chairman of the Board (Norman S. Oberstein) and President (Norm Marcus).
- Welcome address by Naropa University's new President, Dr. Stuart C. Lord.
- Hors d'oeuvres and light dinner buffet with complimentary bar/beverage service.

**Thursday, September 10, 2009** (continued)

7:15 – 9:00 pm: Naropa’s Lenz Foundation Distinguished Lecturer, Professor Jan Willis, “Dharma Diversity: The Many Faces of Buddhism in America,” in the Events Center:

- Following a short DVD presentation describing the work of the Foundation, Professor Jan Willis will be welcomed by Naropa’s Vice President Stuart J. Sigman.
- Reserved seating for gold and red badge (program only) registrants as marked.
- Q&A will follow the address.

Jan Willis is Professor of Religion at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. One of the earliest American scholar-practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism, Willis has published numerous essays and articles on Buddhist meditation, hagiography, women and Buddhism, and Buddhism and race. She has studied with Tibetan Buddhists in India, Nepal, Switzerland and the U.S. for four decades, and has taught courses in Buddhism for 32 years. In December 2000, *Time* magazine named Willis one of six “spiritual innovators for the new millennium.” In 2003, she was a recipient of Wesleyan University’s Binswanger Prize for Excellence in Teaching, and she was profiled in a 2005 *Newsweek* article about “Spirituality in America.”

9:00 – 10:30 pm: A special DVD preview presentation of the documentary, “With One Voice.” The Events Center. In this landmark documentary, mystics from the world’s greatest spiritual traditions share their vision of the reality that transcends all religious differences. Find further information on this inspirational piece, including a trailer sample at [www.withonevoicedocumentary.org](http://www.withonevoicedocumentary.org). This film will remind us that the spiritual quest is a universal one, and that the advancement of American Buddhism is within the context of a larger spiritual movement that shares a common theme: the universality of all things and the journey of personal self-awareness to that realization.

Because of the film’s length (78 minutes) and the late hour, please feel free to leave early and sample as much of the film as you desire. Copies will be available for sale at the book fair table.

**Friday, September 11, 2009**

- 7:00 – 9:00 am: Continental breakfast in Room 9180. Refreshments and complimentary beverage service available throughout the day (gold badge registrants).
- 7:45 – 8:45 am: Discussion of meditation practice followed by sitting meditation led by Michael Zimmerman (Big Mind/Kanzeon Zen Center, Salt Lake City, UT). Mr. Zimmerman is a former chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court. The Events Center.
- 9:00 – 10:30 am: Introduction of new grantees and their programs as funded by the Lenz Foundation (grants added since our last conference in October, 2007) and an update from our existing grant partners on their ongoing programs. Norman Oberstein (Chairman of the Board of the Lenz Foundation) will present.
- For a full list of all grant partners and a general description of their work, please go to [www.fredericklenzfoundation.org](http://www.fredericklenzfoundation.org) and click on Grant Activity.
- 10:30 – 12:00 pm: Dennis (Genpo) Merzel’s presentation of “Shadow Voices of American Buddhism.” (Big Mind/Kanzeon Zen Center, Salt Lake City, UT)
- Genpo is the author of the ground-breaking work entitled *Big Mind - Big Heart: Finding Your Way*, and the creator of the Big Mind process. “Big Mind is nothing short of a springboard to an evolutionary leap forward in consciousness, deftly transforming an already proven and powerful clinical technique into a nearly effortless process for discovering the purest, most transcendent experience of Who We Truly Are.” Major Stuart Lloyd, USAF, Air Force Academy. “A brilliant breakthrough in spiritual practice. It helps people ‘get’ what ordinarily would take years, even decades of sitting meditation.” Bill Harris, Centerpointe Research Institute.
- Genpo will introduce Bill Harris from Centerpointe Research Institute, who will share with you how Big Mind has been incorporated into his own uniquely American meditation program which reaches hundreds of thousands -- an example of developments in spirituality which have grown out of American Buddhist practice. The Events Center.
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Lunch buffet in Room 9180 for gold badge registrants. Outdoor picnic tables are also available for your use.
- 1:00 – 3:45 pm: An Afternoon with Naropa University; the Events Center:
- Introduction: “The Many Gifts of the Lenz Foundation to Naropa University,” by Stuart J. Sigman, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty.

**Friday, September 11, 2009** (continued)

- Panel Presentation: “Contemplative Education at Naropa University: Many Views, Many Disciplines.”

This panel explores the Lenz Foundation’s support for a new general education course at Naropa, “The Contemplative Practice Seminar,” and a summer workshop program that brings faculty from throughout the United States to Naropa to learn about contemplative pedagogy. In addition, each speaker will talk about the role of contemplative practice in their teaching and their discipline.

- Mark Miller, M.F.A. (Chair, Department of Music; Coordinator, Contemplative Learning Seminar; and Faculty, Contemplative Pedagogy Summer Seminar);
- Lauren Casalino, M.A., L.P.C. (Chair, Department of Contemplative Psychotherapy); and
- Michael Franklin, M.A., A.T.R.-B.C. (Professor, Department of Transpersonal Counseling Psychology; Director, Art Therapy Concentration; and Faculty, Contemplative Pedagogy Summer Seminar).

- Panel Presentation: “Lenz Scholarships, Supporting the Next Generation of Peaceful Warriors.”

The Lenz Foundation has provided support for Naropa undergraduate and graduate students for several years. A recent graduate of the Masters of Divinity program will report on the various activities and learning experiences that Lenz scholarship recipients from across the university have had with their funding, and will highlight her work while at Naropa and since graduation to develop the field of eco-chaplaincy. Sarah Vekasi, M.Div. Eco-Chaplaincy (Ansted, WV).

- Panel Presentation: “Assisting Naropa in Outreach to Professional Communities, The Lenz Foundation Residential Fellows Program.”

The Lenz Foundation supports a residential fellowship program, which has attracted over 40 applications in its first two years of operation and provided funding for five fellows. Representing arts, humanities, social sciences and applied fields, the fellows work on a project that addresses some aspect of Buddhism and its relationship to American cultural and social life. The fellows will discuss their projects.

**Friday, September 11, 2009** (continued)

- Erin McCarthy, Ph.D. (St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY), Fellowship project: Ethics Embodied: Integrating Zen Buddhism, Contemporary Japanese philosophy and Western Ethics through a Feminist Lens;
- Elizabeth Lozano, Ph.D. (Loyola University, Chicago, IL), Fellowship project: Non-violent resistance in the U.S. and abroad;
- John Whalen-Bridge, Ph.D. (National University of Singapore), Fellowship project: Buddhism, literary adaptation and progressive politics;
- Kim Russo, M.F.A. (Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL), Fellowship project: Contemporary artists and Buddhist practitioners; and
- Hillary Stephenson, Ph.D. Cand. (California Institute of Integral Studies), Fellowship project: Addressing diversity issues through Zen practice.

6:00 – 7:30 pm: Keynote Speaker’s Dinner for gold badge registrants. A dinner buffet with complimentary beverage and bar service will be served in Room 9180, with dinner seating in the reserved section of the adjacent Events Center.

7:30 – 9:00 pm: Keynote address by Tenzin Robert Thurman: “Is There an ‘American’ Buddhism?” Robert A. F. Thurman is the Jey Tsong Khapa Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies in the Department of Religion at Columbia University, and co-founder and President of Tibet House US. He is a world-renowned speaker and writes and lectures frequently on Buddhism, Asian history, and critical philosophy.

- Reserved seating in the Events Center for gold and red badge registrants as marked.
- Introduction by James Shaheen (New York City), editor and publisher of *Tricycle: The Buddhist Review* (a Lenz Foundation grant partner).
- Q&A will follow the address.

9:00 – 9:30/9:45 pm: *Six Days In A Park*: Exceptional preview DVD showing of portions of “Meditate ‘08,” a meditation retreat filmed in the midst of the Denver 2008 Democratic Convention, capturing a new spirit infused into the American process for social change, introduced by Gerry (Shishin) Wick, author of *The Great Heart Way* (Great Mountain Zen Center, Lafayette/Boulder, CO). Filmed by Karuna Eberl of Red Lotus Films, with a grant from the Lenz Foundation to EarthNest Institute. Q&A will follow. The Events Center.

## Saturday, September 12, 2009

- 7:00 – 9:00 am: Continental breakfast in Room 9180. Refreshments and complimentary beverage service available throughout the day (gold badge registrants).
- 7:45 – 8:45 am: Discussion of meditation practice followed by sitting meditation led by Denis (Jun Po) Kelly from Hollow Bones/Friends of Zen (Appleton, WI). The Events Center.
- 9:00 – 12:00 pm: Denis (Jun Po) Kelly and George (Dai En) Burch from East Brookfield, MA, will take you through their unique Mondo Zen™ ego deconstruction process. Jun Po is a Zen master in the Renzai tradition who left the monastery in 1993 to bring his lineage into American culture without Japanese cultural bindings. Dai En is a successful software developer and a member of the first Air Force Academy graduating class where, with funding from the Lenz Foundation, he and the Friends of Zen established a Zendo for the cadets inside the iconic Academy church building. Dai En co-leads the two organizations with Jun Po. Also featured in this program is Stan Koehler (a former student of Dr. Lenz) from Peace on the Street, whose program of meditation and martial arts in Spanish Harlem, NYC, was recently featured on the cover of *Tricycle Magazine*. With Stan will be members of this promising group. See these future leaders and gain insight into how they see American Buddhism in New York City and beyond. Stan's organization is affiliated with Friends of Zen/Hollow Bones. The Events Center.
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Lunch buffet in Room 9180 for gold badge registrants. Outdoor picnic tables are also available for your use.
- 1:00 – 4:30 pm: An afternoon with students of Dr. Frederick P. Lenz (Rama) in the Events Center.

Lisa Lewinson, a student of Rama and a talented project manager who is also chairperson of our Foundation's Storefront website, will introduce other students of Dr. Lenz for different perspectives on how what he taught resonates in America, and will introduce the Foundation's new website and products for sale online, including our newly introduced free MP3 downloads containing many lectures of Dr. Lenz.

- Troy Omafray (Naropa student) -- presenting his work with Walter Goodwin (Osel Dorje Nyingpo, Boulder, CO) on mapping Rama's teachings to traditional Buddhist sutras.
- Ann Callison -- will focus on career success as a form of Buddhist practice.
- Jordan Ausman -- will share how she conveys Rama's teachings on Buddhism and living and working in the world to students across the Denver metro area.

**Saturday, September 12, 2009** (continued)

- Dr. Kathryn Graham -- speaking on the many points of Rama's teachings and how she teaches this to others, with focus on meditation practice.
- Lisa Dee Meyerson Marshall -- speaking on Rama's teachings on living and working in the world, how she implements them in social activism and parenting, and will then segue to the new non-profit organization formed by Rama's students.

7:00 – 9:00 pm: For gold badge registrants, in the Events Center, an evening of relaxation, dining and music:

- Dinner buffet with complimentary beverage and bar service (7:00 – 8:00 pm).
- The music of Joaquin Lievano from Zazen—a live performance (7:30 – 8:30 pm).
- A DVD excerpt from the teachings of Dr. Lenz. Find out who is this bestselling author of *Surfing the Himalayas*, how he came to write this book, and where in modern contemporary American culture “this teacher is coming from” (8:45 – 9:00 pm).

9:15 – 10:45 pm: A Special DVD Preview Presentation for Night Owls (open without charge to the public; seating from 9:00 pm): *Journey from Zanskar* presented by American Buddhist filmmaker Frederick Marx (Oakland, CA) and narrated by American Buddhist activist Richard Gere. Best known for *Hoop Dreams*, Mr. Marx filmed the life-changing trek of two monks taking 17 children across the Zanskar mountains to get a Buddhist education in a remote area of lower India. The Events Center.

- A copy of the DVD will be available at the book fair table for your purchase. The producer welcomes all donations in any amount to assist in the completion and distribution of this work. You can leave your donation at the book fair table or donate as provided at the producer's website: [www.warriorproductions.tv](http://www.warriorproductions.tv), where you can also find the trailer.

**Sunday, September 13, 2009**

7:00 – 8:30 am: Continental breakfast in Room 9180. Refreshments and complimentary beverage service available throughout the day (gold badge registrants).

7:45 – 8:30 am: Discussion of meditation practice followed by sitting meditation led by Kathryn Graham, Ph.D., a teacher from the Lenz tradition, in the Events Center.

**Sunday, September 13, 2009** (continued)

- 8:45 – 12:00 pm: Practical Aspects of Contemporary American Buddhism are Explored in the Events Center:
- 8:45 – 9:45 am:
  - A distinguished panel discusses American Buddhist social action with Tenzin Robert Thurman, Roshi Bernie Glassman (Maezumi Institute, MA) and the Venerable Bhikshuni Thubten Chodron (Sravasti Abbey, Newport, WA).
- 10:00 – 11:30 am:
  - A panel will be presented on Buddhist fundraising techniques in these challenging economic times, led by the distinguished author Lynne Twist (*The Soul of Money*) with Melissa Zeligman (Friends of Zen) and Adam Engle (CEO of Mind and Life Institute).
- 11:30 – 12:00 pm:
  - Conference wrap-up with group discussion led by Norman Oberstein, summing up of the conference, and considering how this community might mobilize its collective energy to move forward the American Buddhist agenda. Professor Robert Sharf, Director of UC Berkeley’s Group in Buddhist Studies, and Professor Lloyd Burton from the University of Colorado, President of the Board of Insight Meditation Community of Colorado, will initiate this discussion by sharing their views. All those attending will be invited to provide their own reactions and recommendations online following the conclusion of our conference.
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm: Gold badge registrants will have a special closing lunch buffet served in Room 9180 with reserved dining in the adjacent Nalanda Events Center. Complimentary beverage and bar service will be provided along with piano musical selections for your pleasure.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm: Closing conference address by Naropa’s Professor Judith Simmer-Brown: “Ten Years Later: *Prospects for American Buddhism.*”
- Gerry (Shishin) Wick will introduce Professor Simmer-Brown, who has been a core faculty member in Religious Studies at Naropa since 1978. She lectures and writes on Tibetan Buddhism, women and Buddhism, Buddhist-Christian dialogue and American Buddhism; and is an Acharya (senior dharma teacher) in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. She is on the Board of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies and a member of the Lilly Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter. Time permitting, a Q&A will follow.
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm: Foundation Advisory Committee meeting in Nalanda’s Board Conference Room (second floor).

**Sunday, September 13, 2009** (continued)

6:00 – 8:00 pm: Dinner meeting for the Foundation Advisory Committee and invited guests at the St. Julien.

If during the conference you have questions or requests, please direct them to our conference coordinator, Kristin Vevon, at (413) 210-3423 and/or her assistant Kathy Engwer at (413) 374-3578. Kristin and her assistant will be on site for the duration of the conference.