

# A Poetry Reading

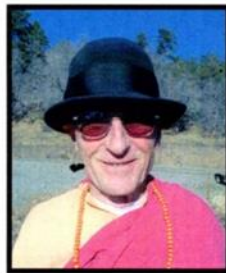
by

## Jampa Dorje

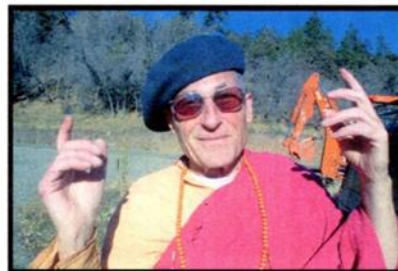
Saturday, December 13th

7-9pm

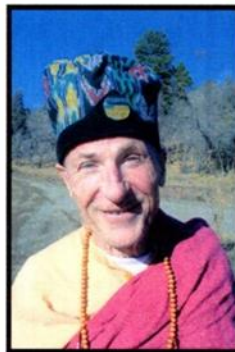
Community Building



Serving wine and cheese!



Bring a friend or two or three!



Wear a hat!

## THE MANY-HATTED WORD-FULL WONDER

### Devon Ward-Thommes

My first impression of Jampa Dorje was an eccentric monk, with dirt under the fingernails of his work-worn, life-worn hands. He was wearing an old sweater, a lama skirt swiped with paint stains, and chewing a cracker as he pontificated about dharma poetry (whatever that is) to Charlotte up at Lama Tsultrim's house during a dinner party. Yellowish crumbs stuck to the corners of his mouth

But over the months, I've gotten to know him, I've seen different faces peek through—the mischievous imp who catches flies in his mouth and then writes about them. The warrior-bear-catcher, who chases the ephemeral catastrophe and patiently repairs the havoc wrecked in the wake of the beast. The reluctant curmudgeon “Grandpa Popo” who actually is the most gentle with Trinle. The humble monk who mutters prayers between his fingers on the way to Prayer Flag Ridge in the early mornings and is so thoroughly devoted to his female guru. The repairman who can fix a flat tire or a broken window, the caretaker who assuages the nerves of a solitary retreatant and buys one of each kind of apple for her to enjoy between prostration sessions. The Padma family lover who has turned his lust into a deep and lovingkindness. The dedicated monk who is finally, finally, after 10 years of waiting, going into long-term retreat. And now, tonight, we're here to celebrate the prolific poet-visionary, the pilgrim from the underworld who sees the future and is not afraid to go there, to explore, and to come back with words for the rest of us to learn from and be inspired by.

AN EXCERPT FROM AN “INTRODUCTION  
FOR JAMPA DORJE'S POETRY READING:  
“THE MANY-HATTED WORD-FULL WONDER”  
DELIVERED AT TARA MANDALA, 12.13.08