KARUNA
He(art)ful Offerings

Sunday, February 15, 2026
Lecture Room-2, India International Centre (Annexe) New Delhi

On February 15, 2026, several admirers, followers, co-travellers and friends of Rinpoche gathered at the IIC Annexe to commemorate Kyabje Doboom Tulku and the Year of Compassion. The event titled Karuna: He(art)felt Offerings was a simple, moving and heartful tribute to a lama who touched many lives.

We began with tea and refreshments in the lobby of the Lecture room-1 at IIC Annexe outside which a small Buddha statue is established, a gift from Doboom Rinpoche to the IIC. There was a small table where visitors could pick a copy of *Taken Away: The Ordinary Life of a Lama*, Dr. Sudhamahi Raghumanthan's biography of Rinpoche. After tea, everyone gathered inside for chants, music, dance, poetry and remembrance, followed by a lovely lunch in the Annexe Court.



Compere for the day and long-time associate of the World Buddhist Culture Trust, Dr. Maya Joshi, pointed out that it was a doubly auspicious occasion as it also happened to be Shivaratri. After a ceremonial lighting of lamps before an image of a smiling Doboom Rinpoche and HH the Dalai Lama, we had invocatory chanting by Geshe Tenzin Dorjee, Managing Trustee of World Buddhist Culture Trust and Geshe Lobsang Jamphel of Drepung Loseling Monastery in Mundgod, Karnataka.

Well known Dhrupad singer Dr. Aditi Sharma Garg, with the accomplished Ms. Ila Sharma as vocal accompaniment and the tanpura and the multi percussion artist from Poland Shri Piotr Malec 'Ananda' on the pakhawaj then transported the gathering to divine serenity through a rendition of appropriately chosen verses from the Buddhist tradition. The deeply resonant

dhrupad tradition of singing with its classical purity was an apt way to begin since Ms. Garg has had a long association with the World Buddhist Culture Trust, having offered workshops on chanting of Buddhist Sanskrit verses in the past. Though the artists were highly accomplished bearers of generations of classical musical training, it was the heartful presence and personal association that added a special warmth to the occasion.

Rinpoche's biographer Dr. Sudhamahi Raghunathan—well known academic and former Vice Chancellor — then shared her deeply resonant thoughts about Rinpoche's life and their deep rootedness in a Buddhist philosophical concern for all life and a commitment to simplicity. She pointed to his humour and lightness of touch.

The next offering was an exquisite dance by another old friend of Rinpoche's from the United States, Zuleikha, the Storydancer. She combines dance, movement and therapy to benefit all living beings, especially working with women from deprived strata and palliative care offered to cancer patients via a non-profit called Cansupport. A highly regarded artist who has been honoured for her humanitarian work, her presence in India at this time was serendipitous and her performance of a dervish-like whirling dance set to Rumi's poetry was profoundly moving and beautiful. As Dr. Maya Joshi pointed out, the choice of Rumi was apt as he is a voice of peace, universal love, and harmony in the best Sufi traditions. The international presence—Piotr and Zuleikha-- blended with the best of the Indian tradition, made for a rich and elegant experience.

Dr. Maya Joshi then shared some of her own experiences of having known Rinpoche since childhood and of his great love for all things natural-- children, trees, puppies, kittens and fish. His great sense of humour and his ability to make deep ideas relatable – as witnessed in his poetry collection that was the focus of last year's celebration—were also evoked. She recalled his use of elemental metaphors like the moon and the sea but also pointed out that his poetry though grounded in profound Buddhist philosophical concepts such as bodhicitta and impermanence, was in touch with mundane lived reality.

In an attempt to draw in the audience who comprised Rinpoche's long-term associates, an open mike was passed around. Eminent people like Shri Kabir Saxena of the Root Institute, veteran classical danseuse Shovana Narayan, Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi of Emory University, USA., Dr. A. K. Merchant, National Trustee of the Lotus Temple of the Bah'ai community, as well as many others, including his accountant, shared their warm personal recollections. The speakers and performers were then offered khatags by the Managing Trustee of the World Buddhist Culture Trust. In keeping with Rinpoche's spirit of hospitality and love for good food, lunch was served to everyone present in the sunny courtyard of the IIC annexe. People left with their hearts full and their minds elevated by the warm spirit of the gathering organised so thoughtfully by Ms. Chungkey, the Secretary of the Trust.

Total participants 50

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