

**HEART CENTER MEDITATION CENTER
November 22, 2009**

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Taken at Big Rapids, Michigan

Some of you have written asking about the Heart Center KKSG, our meditation center here in Big Rapids, Michigan. There are two parts, the actual shrine room, which I will provide some photos of here and the Heart Center Guest House, which I will do another day. What you have here are photos of the main mediation area shrine room. There are two other shrines, but this is the main one.



Here is a shot of the main shrine room, which gets daily use by ourselves and visiting guests. In the center is the main shrine area, while on the right is a seat for visiting rinpoches and on the left a smaller shrine area. This shrine room is under the care and tending of our shrine master, my wife Margaret.



A closer shot of the shrine itself and the seat where our teacher and other rinpoches teach from during their visits. A thangka painting of the Buddha Amitabha hangs above the main shrine, underneath which is a large statue of Amitabha Buddha. Our shrine faces in the direction west, the realm of Amitabha, and the Buddha to whom our shrine is dedicated.



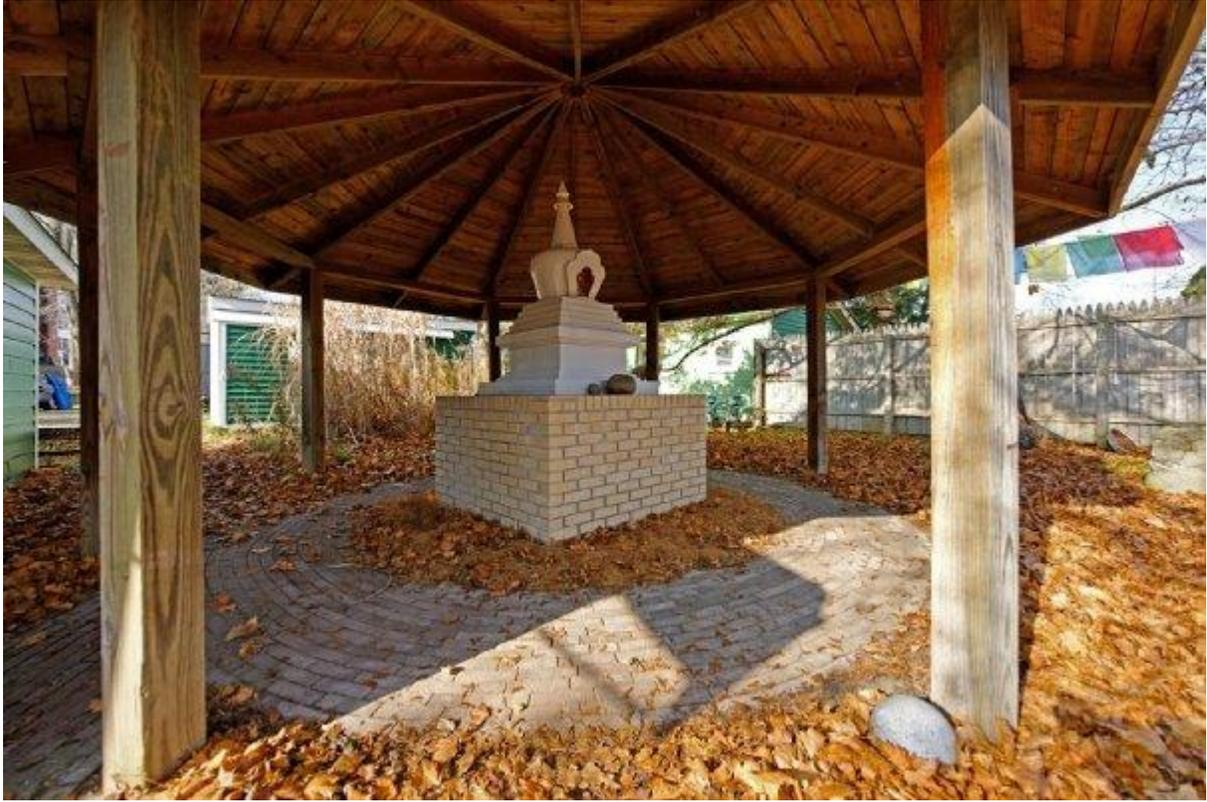
Here is a side shrine which features in the center a statue of Guru Rinpoche (Padma Sambhava), while on the left is a wooden statue of Jiso, the bodhisattva and helper of children, patron of women, and travelers, given to us by Bodhin Roshi of the Rochester Zen Center. On the right is a standing wooden statue, a Thai Bodhisattva given to us by a close friend. Small Buddha statues of the five directions are shown in front. A thangka painting of the Bodhisattva Vajrasattva hangs on the wall.



Here is a closer look at the seat or throne will visiting lamas teach. In the corner is a statue of Manjushri, the bodhisattva of using the mind skillfully, and the patron of astrology. Above the throne or seat is a thangka painting of Guru Rinpoche, said to be the second Buddha. On the wall to the right is a thangka painting of the six-armed Mahakhala, the chief protector of the Kagyu Lineage to which we belong.



Here is a shot outside the shrine building, with some prayer flags and you can see part of our stupa on the left.



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