

# GONPA GAZETTE

May was *tsogpa* (payer service) month.

First, visiting lama Dzogchen Ganor Rinpoche from Assam. He is a very powerful lama who officiated a very powerful week-long Dorje Phurba (Vajrakalaya) *tsogpa*, for removing obstacles and obscurations. He followed this with several days of long-life puja for the monastery; then a one-day empowerment. Tibetans from all over came to receive his blessings.



*Monks receiving the empowerment.*

Next, Nugne, five days of intense purification practice alternate days of eating with fasting, while doing prostrations. Not all monks participated, and neither did because I teach.

We don't celebrate Mother's Day, but we do celebrate Saga Dawa month honouring the life of the Buddha. Full moon on 21 May was Saga Dawa Day celebrating the Buddha's birth, death and *parinirvana* (physical death of an enlightened being).



*The shrine for Saga Dawa tsogpa.*

Lastly, the death anniversary of the founder of our lineage, Lord Jigten Sumgon. In procession, a small, sacred statue was carried around the monastery; then displayed in the temple. All day, Tibetans filled the temple paying respect/receiving blessings while we did *tsogpa*. It was a very long, day, but very special.

This will be a busy year in Chauari Village. Thanks to the incredible generosity of sponsors, we will be able to build the much needed boundary wall and repair the school roof before monsoon.

All students will receive new uniforms, and we will purchase both a sewing machine and lock stitch machine to begin self-sufficiency training.

We also received funds for a year's supply of menstrual pads for the clinic to dispense as needed, to decrease vaginal infections.

In addition, we received in-kind medical equipment (stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors, fever thermometers, etc.) through my cousin Deb and Partners in Word Health.



*Dr. Ashok's assistant using the new medical equipment.*



*Invited guest speaker, Anirudh Prasad.*

As if all the donations aren't good enough news, Chauari Village has been recognized as the most improved village in its *panchayat* (group of villages).

Anirudh was asked by members of surrounding villages to talk to them about how to improve life in their villages.

He and his wife, Kiran Devi, spent two weeks speaking in the surrounding villages. When Anirudh told me, he said he was "too happy" about the progress in Chauari and that will also be "too happy" when I visit in the winter.

Ashish is counting the days before he leaves Bangor for Delhi: his first solo international trip, with transfers in Boston, Paris and Amsterdam (on the return).

He is finishing his incredibly busy junior year: honors student, school baseball team, Civil Rights Team, Outing Club, Dance Team, and volunteering at a local public school...and the prom!

He's been so busy it's been difficult for us to connect on a regular basis. Perhaps this is the next step in our relationship as he matures and I learn to let go. It's not easy for me...I feel like I'm not doing my job!

Will we have more time to connect when he is in India? We'll be in the same time zone, but he'll be relaxing with family and friends and not interested in talking about his time/money management in the US...more to look forward next school year!

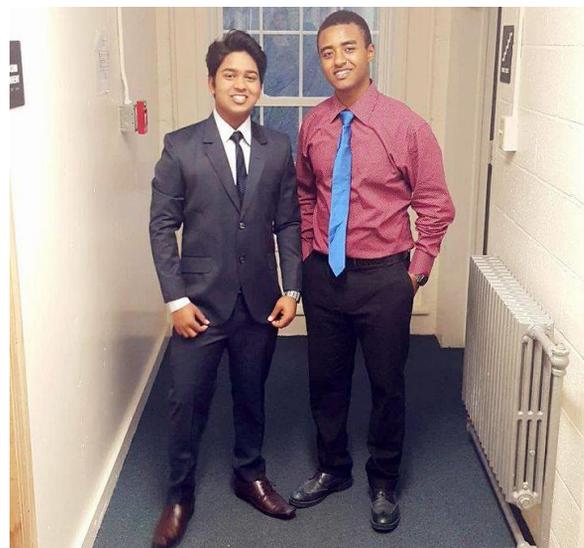
Thanks to your generous donations, Ashish's airline ticket is almost paid for. There is still time to contribute before he leaves on 13 June. If you are interested, please let me know and I will send details.



*One gent with two ladies at the prom.*



*At the Maine coast with the Outing Club.*



*Two decked-out dudes!*

Thanks to Rosaline and friends, Deb and Partners for World Health, Libby, Michael, Steven, Joy and Martin, Linda and Kiva





