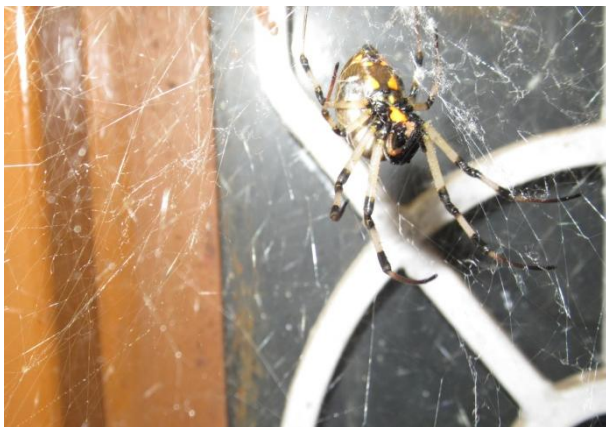


# GONPA GAZETTE

Compassion: a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. I don't really know how compassion develops. I have memories of my mother saying, "Think how your brother/sister feels" when I was unkind to them...and demonstrating how it feels to a tree to have it's leaves/branches pulled off by gently pulling my hair...

I was totally surprised at the distraught I felt when I noticed Ida, the resident spida' in my stairwell, as I went down and back up the stairs,, but she and her web were gone when I went down again.



*Ida in the full glory of her self-created home!*



*Ida after she recreated her home.*

Had I inadvertently destroyed Ida's web? Had I switched my bag from one shoulder to the other, taking her home with it?

Human life is fragile enough but non-human sentient beings seem to live much more precarious existences!

It wasn't long before Ida and web returned...and an array of insects were caught and waiting to be eaten. I felt reassured her life had returned to a semblance of normality when, due to thirteen Burmese monks spending one night in the guest house, the cleaning monks came through and obliterated everything. I know they were only doing their jobs, but how unfortunate for Ida, who may now be gone forever.

# OCTOBER 2019 IN PHOTOS

