**2016\_10\_30\_Children-sBLessing\_LMC.mp4**

**Speaker 1** [00:00:34] It did. I'm.

**Speaker 2** [00:01:08] So I'd like to say, first of all, that this little ceremony has evolved from something which was. About as simple as it will be today. And evolved from a sense that it would be good to welcome children and their parents kind of formally as members of our community and especially that became something we wanted to do after we discovered that we were actually good people and and that in the community at large was was quite kind and all. And so then we started thinking like we wanted to do that. And then parents and children also became part of that decision and the evolution that's occurred so far, which isn't very much. I think this is the third time. Maybe that's that right? Yeah, for me. Yeah. And and and I think that we should do it consistently every, you know, maybe once a year. In the beginning, it was for infants and then and then it grew from that. And then we were having like, you know, young teenagers. And of course, they were all born. So it was OK. And so the our ceremony goes, goes something like this. First, I want to say a few things more about the importance of this ceremony. And then the ceremony itself is is simple. And I'll explain it now rather than on the fly, so that when we start, we can just kind of move through it. The the the under line reason for having a ceremony and welcoming and kind of celebrating people coming together in this community is not so much specifically about this community, but it's about connection and knowing what the difference is between really helpful positive connections and not so helpful negative connections. So those connections which are positive, which I think I hold the assumption that everyone who is here, we are interested in forming connections that are positive with each other. And and so we start this then with our children at an early date. Like connections, define your life, your relationships, define your life and what you do with them. So we normally think of connections as being things like, I see somebody, I talk to them, I go to lunch with them or I have them over, or we have a slumber party or something. And so connections are formed and indeed they are formed. But we actually take it another step here, speaking now for the parents. But if the children relate to it, great. That is that we think that every last thing that we do in relationship to any other being or all beings. Impacts that relationship, that connection. So, for example, if I think hear that you are all inherently Buddhist and the only issue is that you don't know that, then that affects my relationship with you, you might think, well, it doesn't affect you, it just affects me because I had that thought. But we hold it to be the case that if I think about you, you are affected and we are connected by virtue of that thinking. So back. I believe it was in two thousand or one our teacher at that time we went to see in India and his name was Bokar Rinpoche. He died in 2004. But many of us had really strong connection with him. And so we did many things. So we gave many things and he offered us many things. And so even now, though, he's he's gone. We still have an enormous connection to him. We do things. We have ceremonies that include him. We think about him. We invoke his presence and his wisdom when we have issues that we need to deal with. And he's not the only one, just as an example. And so during the time in 2001, which was a difficult year, if you'll recall and and many people didn't want to fly to India. And so there were a few people who didn't come, but he was very impressed by the people who were willing to get in an airplane at that time and fly around the world to go and meet. So one of the things that I got from him was there's it's a Crystal Mahler kind of like like what the Catholics used, but slightly different. And so so I want to use this Mahler in today's ceremony as as a means of expressing and implied in a nurtured connection that we all have by coming here together today. So. What we want to nurture and ourselves is a sense of kindness. And as children, especially, we nurture that sense of kindness first with those individuals who are kind to us. When someone is coming to us, we feel happy and we reciprocate. We don't need to know the word kindness or anything about it is it's it's spontaneous and it's organic. So we want to nurture that. And. Encourage it. So I this morning. That's that's what we're going to do. And following the ceremony, which I'll skip ahead now to. Each family, each child or each parent, however you want to call that you will get a certificate. You are an official member of KCC and there's no obligation. We have the obligation. And and that certificate then after the ceremony, I would like each of the parents to come and write the name of their child. Each child will get a certificate, write the name in there. I will sign that certificate and seal it. So when things are really bad 30 years from now and it's in some drawer and you open it up, you will find that certificate and you will think to yourself, this is what I need to do. I need to find this place again. See, we're not going to be here in 30 years, so. So keeping touch and relying upon these things is often triggered by a piece of paper that says, Remember this? And then you go and do it. So after this ceremony, if the parents would please just stay long enough to write your name of the name of the child on a certificate, and I will sign it and seal it, you can have. So in our tradition, there are many ways in which we can express our kindness and our intention for kindness, and one of them is the recitation of a mantra by, uh, it's called Chenrezig mantra. It's just six syllables and it can be sung in as a group in such a way that it actually is inspiring, especially for each of the children. If you think that when I sing this melody? All of the beings that I think of receive a sense of kindness and gentleness and encouragement just by singing this song, even if they're not here. And later on in your life, you can figure this out a little more. But for now, this is what we're going to. So we are going to sing this mantra.

**Speaker 1** [00:10:27] Even people like me in the minds of the press

**Speaker 2** [00:10:30] that every one of

**Speaker 1** [00:10:31] you should get hurt.

**Speaker 2** [00:10:35] And while we're singing it, I will walk around the room and the children, especially the adults too.

**Speaker 1** [00:10:46] We will. You know, please just

**Speaker 2** [00:10:50] hold this while I hold it and move your fingers over the edge for like just, you know, 15 seconds each, somehow there is a time to do too much more, but it's enough. I think this is one of the ways we create positive connections. As even ceremony to that where they do this sort of thing more elaborate, of course, where you share the holding of the. Marla, we'll do this together and do a simple version of that. So we'll start and I'll go this way

**Speaker 1** [00:11:27] around the entire room and especially to capture all of the

**Speaker 2** [00:11:32] children in this please. And then.

**Speaker 1** [00:11:36] It will be done and Mary. Take us home. Oh, my God, you hate mail. Oh my God. Maybe they will. Oh my name. Oh, my name, they mail money, money, money, money, money, money. Oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my email. Oh my money. Oh, my baby. Oh my, oh my, oh my, oh oh my, oh my baby. Oh my God. Oh my. Well, the money to pay you. Oh, my God. Oh my. Oh, one, oh, oh, oh, maybe, maybe oh, oh, oh my, oh my. The. Oh, I mean, oh, my. Oh, one, oh, one, oh one, oh oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh. My name right now, my. Think they may have made more money? They may well, my bill. Oh, my name. Oh. And well. On Monday, I. Oh, my. Oh my. Oh, my God. Oh my God. Oh my God. Oh my God, oh my God. Oh my. Oh, oh, oh, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh my, oh. We.

**Speaker 2** [00:19:29] So now I think. You need to. Not think that this is a unique situation. But that each time that you come and meditate with this or join the children's program, that you are being welcomed again. And each time you think about it, you are being welcomed again. And we, of course, hope that we see over and over. And that is a great benefit for you, for both parents and children.

**Speaker 1** [00:20:15] And it's appropriate

**Unidentified** [00:20:18] now. Yeah. Thank.

**Speaker 1** [00:21:50] No. In. Oh. Marathon grand organizers in grand. So can you talk

**Speaker 3** [00:22:14] a little bit about the Karmapa, maybe about what this was? Oh no. OK, sorry, my confusion. Go ahead.

**Speaker 2** [00:22:26] This is. This is a thoroughly Tibetan tradition, in one sense, that is to say that Qatar has an offering. We offer it as a gift and and usually the gift is received by offering the cornerback and draping it over the neck and shoulders. And so there's some blessing. And again, we're talking about connection here. In fact, it's not unique in the sense that we offer each other things all the time, so the only thing that's unique is the method of using a scarf or ceremonial scarf like this. And when Ringo Taco is here, I hope you can all come to that and. The children also be nice, if they could come, there'll be an opportunity there to offer a quarter, if not publicly, than right here, probably. So then you could come and each of you could offer a counter to him at that time. And be very nice thing.

**Speaker 3** [00:23:35] They could even bring the one that they got today.

**Speaker 2** [00:23:38] That's right. That's right.

**Speaker 3** [00:23:43] So it's kind of special, it's like a little present.

**Speaker 2** [00:23:46] Yeah. So this the ceremony is done and now. We have many years to continue nurturing our connection with each other. Anything else that any of you would like to say or.

**Speaker 3** [00:24:15] I have to say thank you to Mary, and she'll.

**Speaker 2** [00:24:19] Yeah.

**Speaker 1** [00:24:20] So the in the children's program, it's just been so hard.

**Speaker 3** [00:24:29] And I would encourage people to consider coming up some Sunday, maybe mainly in the first hour to share a story is. We're trying to have their members to in that way, because it's kind of an easy way to connect with somebody, just read a story and sort of everything else that unfolds. Behind that and the reason why I've decided with. After I talking to my teacher in the summer, I asked him how is the best way to say I was here in the dharma with children and trying to tell them stories about the Buddha and other great beings? So. So when you're doing and telling the story story at Davos Story or a similar drama like story, you're connecting with a great teacher. I think too, because we're following his instructions.

**Speaker 2** [00:25:31] Sally, yeah,

**Speaker 1** [00:25:32] I would just like to acknowledge another person who made the children's portrait work for years and umdze, paramita and all.

**Unidentified** [00:25:43] And if you are if you. And there.

**Speaker 1** [00:25:53] Melinda worked with

**Speaker 3** [00:25:54] the children program before that, and Susan uses. Severe. More people and we can all get together. And when you hear the pitter patter of little feet upstairs, just remember it's just another sound and this is

**Speaker 1** [00:26:31] one of the cards.

**Speaker 2** [00:26:33] I do have cars. The question is where, where?

**Speaker 3** [00:26:36] Where would be a better place?

**Speaker 2** [00:26:38] I mean, this was the White House.

**Speaker 1** [00:26:40] We have a new cable

**Speaker 2** [00:26:45] cable back

**Speaker 1** [00:26:46] to us sitting

**Speaker 3** [00:26:49] in the kitchen. Even some cider.

**Speaker 1** [00:26:51] And thank you. You're welcome. This is really my daughter. I don't think we're ready for this. You are pretty dead, really.