

## Sangha Sharing

## **Songs of Expression**

During the recent Spring Retreat at Serenity Ridge — Living With Joy, Dying in Peace — Tenzi n Wangyal Rinpoche invited retreatants to share some "Songs of Expression": poems, readings, songs, or other sharings. He noted that such collective expressions can be very alive and powerful. Below are a few sharings from retreatants of poetry and photographs.

## **Thunderhead**

Miles and miles distant,
Yet filling much of sky onward,
Lone thunderhead floats in silence –
Culminating, cumulating, gestating –
Pulsating variations, bursts of lambency,
Flickering, flashing, incandescent nimbus womb.

Is there sound inside this cloud, Where thunderbolts, contained within yet Massively discharging, illumine a world Juiced and shocking, throbbing, Damply burning?

I stand, slack-jawed, in rapt Amazement; Others walk on, heads down, Unseeing, unmoved, Missing Nature's Astounding show of lights.

But somewhere not too far off, I know, Another soul Thrills, witnessing what perhaps seems Best described as an Unmasking of God.

— H.R. Gillmore, Virginia Beach, Va.

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As the spring cherry blossom Softly unfurls its petals and One by one Sends them skyward In passing rivers of wind So is my heart When winter is ended

— Ana S., Chicago

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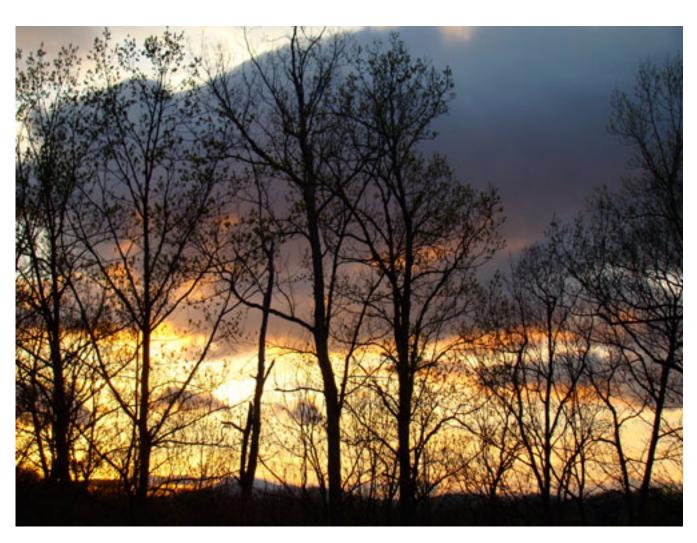
— Photograph by Debi, West Virginia

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Vast blue sky rabbit cloud vulture circles high above my corpse-like pose on the ground beneath. prayer flags crisply flapping tree tops budding in the brilliant light. sudden joy, simply there

— Dorrie Ameen, New York

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— Photographs of Serenity Ridge by Carole Ann Al-din, Wheeling, W.V.