

Top Bay Area Chefs Make Tibetan Aid Project Benefit Dinner Huge Success

Contributions to Support Record-Breaking Distribution of Buddhist Texts to India

San Francisco, November 27, 2006—The sixth annual *Taste & Tribute* culinary gala featured twenty-two celebrated Bay Area chefs working in pairs to create a world-class dining experience for over two hundred Tibetan Aid Project supporters. Former LA Law stars Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker emceed the event at the Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco, on November 17th.

This year's event grossed an unprecedented \$160,000. These proceeds are going directly towards the effort to preserve Tibet's cultural heritage for the benefit of the Tibetan people and all humanity. Within the month, over 400,000 classic texts revered by Buddhists worldwide will be shipped to India. In January, the texts will be distributed free of charge to 10,000 Tibetan lamas, monks, nuns, and lay people at the ten-day World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India.

The evening culminated in a captivating live auction featuring feature donors such as COMO Resort Uma Paro; Copacabana Palace Hotel in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Geographic Expeditions; Grace Family Vineyards; Lux Alpinae Hotel of St. Anton, Austria; Mandarin Oriental in Tokyo; and Marc Jacobs International.

Chef Laurent Manrique of *Aqua* inspired *Taste & Tribute's* conception in 2001. Other participating chefs at *Taste & Tribute 2006* were: Nate Appleman, *A16*; Peter Armellino, *Aqua*; Bruno Chemel, *Los Altos Golf & Country Club*; Preston Dishman, *The General's Daughter*; Mark Dommen, *One Market*; Khai Duong, *Ana Mandara*; Dmitry Elperin, *Pisces*; Jeremy Emmerson, *Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco*; Bruce Hill, *Bix/Picco*; Gerald Hirigoyen, *Piperade*; Paul Wetzels, *Scott Howard*; Joel Huff, *Silks* (in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel); Todd Humphries, *Martini House*; David Kinch, *Manresa*; Jean-Pierre Moule, *Chez Panisse*; Sean O'Brien, *Myth*; Melissa Perello, *Fifth Floor*; Aaron Zimmer, *Navio* at The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay; Kolin Vazzoler, *Restaurant Gary Danko*; Joseph Villanueva, *Le Colonial*; Phil West, *Range*; Arnold Wong, *Bacar/EOS*

We are honored that Gary Ashley; Bonhams and Butterfields Asian Art Department, Irene and Robert Byrne; Carie and Larry Haimovitch; Friends of Nyingma; Integrative Medical Clinic of Santa Rosa; Kochis Fitz Wealth Management; The Mechanics Bank; MetroRisk, Inc.; Michelle Odom; Tanya Slesnick and Ted Mitchell; Sotheby's; and Zia Natural Skincare were the sponsors of this year's event.

Vintners donating fine wines to be served with each course were Brassfield Estate Winery, Robert Biale Vineyards, Chalk Hill Estate, Fonseca, Fontanafredda, Heitz Cellars, J Vineyards and Winery, Justin Vineyards, Kingston Family Vineyards, La Crema Winery, Lancaster Estate, Miner Family Vineyards, Paolo Saracco, The Ojai Vineyard, Ristow Estate, Saxum Vineyards, Seavey Vineyard, Skewis Wines, and Your Wine Lady, Inc.

The Tibetan Aid Project (TAP) is a global organization whose mission is to rebuild and preserve Tibet's cultural and spiritual heritage for the benefit of the Tibetan people and all humanity. TAP was founded in 1969 by leading Tibetan master and teacher Tarthang Tulku and is staffed almost entirely by volunteers. TAP supports the survival of the Tibetan cultural and spiritual heritage in exile by helping fund the production and distribution of sacred texts and art to Tibetans in Asia. Due to the efforts of TAP and its sister organizations, Tibetans have, since 1989, received over one and a half million texts, 74,000 prayer wheels, and nearly a million sacred images. These offerings constitute the most extensive donation of sacred materials in Buddhist history.

Photographs below are from *Taste and Tribute*



Auctioneer Greg Quiroga charms the guests



A gathering of 2006 *Taste & Tribute* chefs



Our hosts Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry



Dick Grace, noted vintner and generous philanthropist, gives a moving tribute to TAP's efforts



Chefs prepare a delectable meal



Taste & Tribute guests having a fantastic evening