



Tibetan Aid Project News

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PRAYERS FOR PEACE

The scene in the north Indian town of Bodh Gaya during the annual Monlam Chenmo World Peace Ceremony floods the senses, renewing appreciation for the gift of life. Chanting fills the air, mingling with the sacred incense that wafts through the ceremony. Monks in their maroon and saffron robes surround the 180 foot tall Mahabodhi Temple, which marks the spot of Buddha's enlightenment. Lay practitioners walk clockwise along the outer walkway of the temple grounds, reciting mantras and absorbing the merit of this holy site. For ten years, the Tibetan Aid Project has helped to sponsor this exceptional assembly of Tibetan culture, the first in history to bring together all of the Nyingma lineages and traditions.

The sound of the monk's rhythmic chanting, releasing prayers for peace and compassion into the world, drifts across the town to reach our volunteers who are busy unloading thousands of traditional Tibetan texts outside a nearby monastery. These texts, once too rare to touch, are the center of a large



A monk smiles upon receiving a text

project to rebuild and preserve Tibetan culture. Volunteers from four continents have come to distribute the texts, printed in Northern California, to the

Tibetan people. To date, the Tibetan Aid Project has helped Lama Tarthang Tulku print and distribute nearly 3 million books, 4.3 million art prints, and 120,000 prayer wheels to lamas, monks, nuns, and lay practitioners.

This year, the Tibetan Aid Project is pleased to announce the completion of the Yeshe De edition of the Kanjur – the teachings that make up the heart of the Tibetan Canon. In early February, 4,700 copies of the 20 volume rGyud section of Tantras, will arrive in Bodh Gaya for distribution at the 22nd Annual World Peace Ceremony. Part of the Later Phase of translation that started in the 11th century, this combination of 471 separate texts are mainly studied by the gSarma or “New Schools” of Tibetan Buddhism. They include the well-known Manjushri Namasamgiti chanted at the Peace Ceremony each year since 1989, a 160 verse text that encapsulates the teachings on wisdom and compassion. Because of the sustained help of our caring donors, we are delighted that this important collection has been completed. ♦

HEALING, MINDFULNESS, & COMPASSION

A RETREAT UNITING WESTERN & EASTERN APPROACHES

October 15-17, 2010
Ratna Ling Retreat Center
Cazadero, California

This October, amidst the coastal redwood groves of northern Sonoma County, health professionals and individuals alike are invited to attend a retreat that will combine effective techniques from both Western medicine and the Tibetan tradition, to develop a refined and holistic approach to heal-

ing. The retreat will be held in coastal Sonoma County, at Ratna Ling Retreat Center, one of the most beautiful centers in the United States. A portion of the proceeds will support efforts to preserve Tibetan culture. For more information on attending, please visit www.ratnaling.org ♦



CLAUDIO NARANJO'S LEGACY

On June 19th, over sixty people gathered in the Tibetan Aid Project offices to receive Dr. Claudio Naranjo's latest book, "Healing Civilization." The Chilean psychiatrist is an accomplished

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author, university lecturer, and educational theorist. A pioneer of the Human Potential Movement and founder of the SAT Institute, Naranjo also has roots teaching meditation at our sister organization, the Nyingma Institute, and has chosen the Tibetan Aid Project for a bequest in his living trust.



Throughout his talk, Dr. Naranjo emphasized the value of meditation in relation to therapeutic practices. This is why he supports the work of the Tibetan Aid Project. "There are so many good causes out there," he said, "but it takes an understanding of some subtle issues to choose something like Tibetan culture." He continued, "The Tibetan focus on conscious living...makes Tibet the anthropological equivalent of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony or the Brazilian rainforest, a matchless treasure that is the whole world's inheritance....Tibet is a unique spiritual conservatory, a culture devoted to the cultivation of human consciousness."

Dr. Naranjo's bequest to the Tibetan Aid Project reflects his core belief in the need for educational programs that

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TAP PILGRIMAGE 2011: HOLY SITES IN INDIA & BHUTAN



Participants on this three part journey may choose to attend a portion of the World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India, before embarking upon a tour of holy places that includes Varnasi and Sarnath. This is followed by an additional venture into Bhutan, where guests will visit awe-inspiring monasteries not open to the typical tourist. The pilgrimage to Bhutan

will be led by Rosalyn White, TAP's Executive Director, who possesses an extensive knowledge of Buddhist art and tradition. ♦

Approximate Dates

World Peace Ceremony Feb. 3-13;

India Pilgrimage Feb. 14-19;

Bhutan Feb. 20-27.

For more information call (510) 848-4238 or contact tap@tibetanaidproject.org

TASTE & TRIBUTE NEW YORK

This past May, forty guests joined the Tibetan Aid Project for our fifth annual Taste & Tribute New York. Alice Kandell, a renowned art collector, hosted the event, which featured food and wine pairings, live music, and a live auction. The fabulous chefs from Saffron 59 prepared a delicious four-course meal for guests to enjoy while listening to piano tunes by well-known composer Jimmy Roberts. All funds raised from the event go to the production and distribution of sacred texts at the World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India this coming February.



Walter Arader, Alice Kandell, and emcee Michael Tucker

The auction gave participants a chance to bid on a number of wonderful donations including a romantic getaway to Tuscany and a tour of the Alice Kandell Collection of rare Tibetan art – pieces from which have been donated to the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. One of the attendees, Walter Arader, was inspired to offer his elegant and spacious art gallery, located on Manhattan's Upper East Side, for next year's dinner. ♦ *Visit www.tasteandtribute.com for details.*

TIBET EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND



We have come a long way on the path to the preservation of the Tibetan culture, yet recent events remind us that such gains are fragile. Eight centuries ago, the Gyanak Mani, an expansive field of stones each engraved with sacred mantras, was constructed in a remote region on the Tibetan Plateau. On April 14, 2010 a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck this UNESCO World Heritage site, destroying the nearby capital city of Jeyku and causing severe damage. The devastation of the city left thousands of people and hundreds of monasteries isolated from the rest of the world. Ninety-five percent of residential buildings were demolished, with casualties in the thousands and the rest of the population left homeless in below freezing temperatures. The international response to this tragedy was slow in getting started; there was no rescue equipment available, no surviving hospitals, and no access to trauma-related care. Such disruption made a coordinated response difficult in the early days and monks from monasteries across the region were left to sift through rubble with bare hands, searching for survivors and uncovering the dead.

Within hours of the tragedy, reports emerged of families desperate for help. In the light of this pressing need, TAP offered to assist the newly established Tibetan Earthquake Relief Fund which sent clothing, food and medical supplies to the desperate residents of the region. At the request of the Tibetan community, a traditional 7-day ceremony for the deceased was organized – a vital step in beginning the rebuilding process that provided immediate food and shelter and allowed healing to begin. Every dollar went directly to the aid and support of the people.

Even now, months after the tragedy, many are still recovering from the quake. With winter fast approaching, the victims need all the help they can get. It only takes \$5 to provide a warm winter jacket to a survivor. \$11 can buy enough barley to support 5 people for nearly ten days. \$1,500 can help rebuild a school and cover the cost of study for a child. \$5,000 will build a home for an entire family. These are the immediate needs of the Tibetan people, and we welcome your support. ♦

Continued: Claudio Naranjo's Legacy

go beyond accumulating information. “What we need more and more urgently is education that stimulates the development of individuals - not just physical and intellectual but emotional and also spiritual.” Dr. Naranjo views the compassionate consciousness of the Tibetan people as vital to humanity. The tragedy of the Tibetan Diaspora has spread Tibetan teach-

ings to other cultures “like seeds thrown away from the original plant.” He hopes that his bequest will similarly perpetuate Tibetan culture, so that it can continue to thrive in our world. ♦

For information on the Wheel of Dharma Society, which honors those who have included TAP in their estate plan, contact Director Rosalyn White at (510) 848-4238, or by email at rosalynw@tibetanaidproject.org