



## Ottawa Friends of Tibet 7th Annual Dinner

It's that time of year again! Please join the Ottawa Friends of Tibet on November 8, 2003, at Tudor Hall, 3750 Bowesville Road, for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner. Enjoy a special performance by the Gaden Jangste monks of Mundgod, India; relish a superb Indian vegetarian meal prepared by Rinag Foods; browse through beautiful artifacts from India and Nepal at our sales and silent auction tables; and above all, share in the support of needy Tibetan refugees. We are very pleased to announce that Lucy van Oldenbarneveld of CBC Radio will join us this year as our Master of Ceremonies. We look forward to sharing this delightful evening with you. (Please see the insert for details and ticket information.)

OFT's "Tibetan Spaces" event at the Ottawa Public Library last June was a great success, raising \$3,690 towards our Kalimpong Seniors Residence project! Many thanks to Bill Semple for a fascinating presentation and to the enthusiastic audience for their generous support. Bill has kindly agreed to give another presentation next April 16. Watch for an announcement in our next newsletter.

On a somewhat less celebratory note, OFT bid farewell this summer to Hart Jansson, our vice president and longtime friend and tireless volunteer, who has moved with his family to Oakville, Ontario. Thank you, Hart, for your dedication and invaluable contribution over the past several years to the work of the OFT, and your boundless energy in overseeing every aspect of the projects at hand. Even though you are still very much part of OFT's work, especially the Kalimpong project, we miss you! We wish you and your family well in your new home.

### The Touring Monks of Gaden Jangste Monastery

*Robin Berry*

For our 7th annual benefit dinner, the Ottawa Friends of Tibet are pleased to host the touring monks of Gaden Jangtse Monastery.

In May of 2002, a group of Tibetan monks from Gaden Jangtse Monastery in Mundgod, India, began their 2-year North American Tour. The purpose of the tour is not only to share the religious and secular aspects of Tibetan life with people in the West, but also to raise funds for the construction of the Monastery's new prayer hall. The Monastery itself serves over



3,000 monks, while the North College of Gaden Jangtse cares for over 1,400 monks, ranging in age from 6 to over 80 years.

This is the Monks' fifth and also their last tour to raise funds for the completion of the new prayer hall. The main part has been built with funds raised from previous tours, and on this tour the

monks hope to generate the funds needed for the interior finishing, including the making of thousands of sacred statues of Buddhas, Bodhisattvas and Gurus, and thangkhas and ritual art objects.

The second leg of the tour, which began in May 2003 and ends in April 2004, is led by Chogha Rinpoche, and includes eight monks: a chant master, a Tibetan medicine doctor, two ritual masters, a painting master, a music master, a mandala master, and the tour translator.

The monks are offering programs such as  
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purification and empowerment rituals, pujas, dharma teachings, sand mandalas, butter sculptures, painting of religious statues and ritual objects, debates, workshops, sacred music and monastic dance, medical consultations, and divination. Some of these, such as a sacred music and dance performance, take as little as 45 minutes to complete; others, such as a butter sculpture, as much as a week. All programs offer a view into Tibetan life and the world of Tibetan Buddhist ritual and symbolism.

In addition to their performance at the dinner on November 8<sup>th</sup>, the monks will be presenting programs on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. The November 7 event will take place at the Ottawa Public Library; the location for November 6 will be announced shortly. Please check the OFT website ([www.oft.ca](http://www.oft.ca)) for more details soon. We hope that you will be able to take full advantage of this unique opportunity to see the Gaden Jangste monks.



Wangda (back left) accepting a gift from members of the Kalimpong Tibetan Community in June 2003

I told them that how happy I was to see the unity of the Kalimpong Tibetan Community, and that I was thankful to those who came to the dinner. "I am particularly thankful to you all that you have come forward to serve our community here in Kalimpong. You all know very well that there is nothing to accomplish for one's own gain other than for the community as a whole. Your contribution to this community at this juncture is worth more than any honourable position that you may hold -- here we all have something to call our own. Thank you for your great work and I hope we will be able to help each other to make this dream of ours come true.

"We at OFT are just like you. We have our own work to do. But we believe that helping those who are truly in need brings us strength and satisfaction. Our organization is small but we all have a big heart. As HHDL says, if you are doing something beneficial to others, you can be more courageous and brave. We at the OFT work under these words of truth. We will try our best and hope to see you all soon. Thank you."

## Kalimpong Journal, June 2003

*Jurme Wangda*

June 9<sup>th</sup>. The people I met yesterday came to get me and we toured around Kalimpong where the OFT project is going to be started. This is the month of Sakadawa, a very special month for the Buddhists. So, the Kalimpong Tibetan Community is performing their annual MANI puja at their newly constructed temple. They were very proud to show me around the temple. They said that this temple was built almost entirely by the Kalimpong Tibetan Community. Those who had money donated generously and those who did not have money volunteered their labour. It was good to see that the Community work together and share what they have.

The Kalimpong Tibetan Community offered me a dinner party. There were ten people at the dinner table: the Kalimpong Tibetan Welfare Officer and Secretary, two monks representing two of the monasteries, representatives of the three Provinces of Tibet, the President of Chushi Gangdrug, the President of the Kalimpong Tibetan Community, and myself. They all are very thankful for our OFT project in Kalimpong. They said that this is the very first time that such a great project is being considered at this particular place. They said, "We are truly happy to see someone who specifically came to this place to see the needs of this community and its neighbouring regions. It is timely and will be very beneficial." They also mentioned that they will try their best to support us in any way they can since this will benefit the needy aged people here in Kalimpong and the surrounding regions.

**The Ottawa Friends of Tibet never sell or trade their mailing list.**



## Report on the Development of the Kalimpong Seniors Residence

*Jurme Wangda*

With regards to the Kalimpong Tibetan Seniors Residence, the site is perfect. It is in a very good location with temples and hospitals around it. The water source is just inside the compound. The size of the site is approximately 1 acre, which is an ample size to build homes for more than a hundred residents.

Kalimpong is a hill station, which means the majority of the houses are built on slopes – and the local builders are good at this. Our OFT site has a much gentler slope compared to the others surrounding it. One of the good things is that a wall has already been built around the site and all the wild plants growing on it have been cleared. Most importantly, the Kalimpong Tibetan Community is very eager and looking forward to this particular project. Now, what we need to do is to present the blueprint of the building for permission to build it.

I have learned that the presentation of the blueprint must be done by a local engineer who pays tax to the Kalimpong authority. This means we must have someone to do this work in Kalimpong. So, I have asked the Kalimpong Tibetan Welfare Officer to help us with this process and he agreed. Of course, since this is India we have to



View of the Kalimpong Seniors Residence site from the roof of the adjacent temple.

pay to do this. After getting the permit, we can ask anybody to do this work accordingly.

Therefore, I have asked a couple of my friends to help us. There is Mr. Lekpal in Gangtok, the number one contractor there. Another is Mr. Thubten Paljor in Kathmandu, who knows a very good engineer who does work in Gangtok and Kalimpong. I also talked to the Kalimpong Welfare Officer to find a good engineer. The plan is to ask two or three contractors for a quotation on our project, and see who would be the best.

The next step for us here in Ottawa is to come up with a basic idea of the architectural design and layout for the intended building. We have asked Mr. Bill Semple to give his professional input so that we will be able to send a preliminary plan to the Kalimpong Welfare Office and ask them to get the permit as soon as possible. Bill plans to visit Kalimpong next May to assess the site himself so that he can do further work on the design. Let's hope for the best! Thank you to our supporters for all your help.

### Announcements

*Pine Gate Sangha and Friends of Peace invite you to take part in*

#### **Peace Prayer Day**

**Saturday October 4, 2003**

**Carleton University Alumni Park**

**10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.**

First Nations Blessings  
Drum Circle and Ceremonial Dancers  
Massed Choirs  
Labyrinth Walking

*Bring the whole family !*

[www.ianprattis.com/friendsforpeace.htm](http://www.ianprattis.com/friendsforpeace.htm)

*Child Haven International presents*

#### **Eveningfest 3 — A Night of Light**

**November 1, 2003**

Government Conference Centre

(across from the Chateau Laurier in downtown Ottawa)

Host: Dave Stevens

Special Guests: Toronto Tabla Ensemble

**Tickets: \$50**

Contact [fred@childhaven.ca](mailto:fred@childhaven.ca) to reserve your tickets. Please include your name, address and phone number.

For details please visit [www.Eveningfest.ca](http://www.Eveningfest.ca)



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OFFICE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Ottawa Friends of Tibet (OFT) is a registered charitable society in Canada that provides financial assistance, medicine, clothing, shelter, food and other basic necessities to the needy and deserving Tibetan refugees living in India and Nepal.

On our request, the OFT has agreed to sponsor the construction of a home for approximately 50 single and destitute senior citizens in Kalimpong, West Bengal State, India. These senior citizens will be selected from Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts, Sikkim and Bhutan. The Department of Home Affairs of His Holiness the Dalai Lama has purchased a plot of land for this purpose and has also agreed to look after the management of the home after it's completion. The OFT is currently

Yours sincerely,

Lobsang Jinpa  
Secretary to  
HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

Dated: February 25, 2003



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