



Ottawa Friends of Tibet
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 Les Amis du Tibet à Ottawa



IF YOU HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER AND HELP OUT AT OUR 20TH ANNUAL DINNER, PLEASE CONTACT JURME WANGDA

Volunteer Profiles Claude and Zoé Alschuler

Claude Alschuler: I grew up on an island in the middle of the Mediterranean, loving nature and exploring the seashores and marine life. My mother was the one who introduced me to the concept that all life on Earth is intertwined, that everything is part of the Whole, that humans share the Earth with a diverse range of animals and plants. This curiosity about the world we live in led me to pursue my education in foreign languages at the Sorbonne in Paris. Then I earned two post-graduate degrees in the United States and in Canada. I also decided to become a teacher. I taught at the University of Ottawa for 12 years, and I was also managing editor of the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, an interdisciplinary, bilingual forum for critical research and reflection on development theory and the complex problems of policy and practice. In 1994, I joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as head of a future foreign language-testing unit, which I was going to set up and run. This entailed working with and training native speakers of 42 foreign languages in our proficiency testing protocol, which we shared with the US State Department.

Since retiring in 2007, I have filled my life with music, painting and fighting for more stringent animal protection laws in Canada. I have been singing in the women's choir at the Notre-Dame Cathedral for 9 years. I joined OFT as treasurer for a couple of years and as general volunteer for the OFT dinner since. I also help Zoé with the French side of the OFT website. I believe OFT does a wonderful humanitarian job with very limited means.



Zoé Alschuler: I was born in Argentina from a French mother and American father. I spent the first few years of my life in Switzerland until we immigrated to Ottawa when I was 3 years old. I am a proud Canadian who works as a federal public servant by day and have designed and continue to manage several websites, including OFT, on a volunteer basis at night. I graduated with a B. Soc. degree in leisure studies from the University of Ottawa, followed by a college diploma from Selkirk College in Ski Resort Operations and Management in Nelson, BC. I worked in the ski industry for 10 years, including Mont Cascades, QC, and Whistler/Blackcomb, BC, as a ski instructor and in guest services until 2001. I then returned to Ottawa where I obtained a diploma in web development and certificate in multimedia. I currently work in the federal government in the field of Human Resources.

I got involved with OFT in 2007 when I took over the management of the OFT website. I met Angela Wangda, as her patient, thanks to my mother. Shortly after taking over the management of the website, I redesigned the site to make it available in French, with the help of my mother's exceptional translation skills. Eventually, I was able to make additional enhancements thanks to the invaluable input from external sources. I continue to strive to make the website easy to navigate, while making use of the latest technologies, such as PayPal. Other than the website, I play an active role in sharing my knowledge with the OFT executive team regarding the various software programs that can be used to enhance the way OFT tracks and documents its activities. I also volunteer at OFT's annual benefit dinners. I hope to meet you there!

OFT'S UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Since it is very difficult for students to finance post secondary education, OFT decided to provide annual university scholarships to three students. The Department of Education in Dharamsala chose three first year undergraduates to receive these scholarships in 2015-16. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you.

TENZIN KUNSEL

"I am studying Honours English, language and literature. As I have participated in all the college activities so far, I've gained more confidence, more social reliability, and made new friends, which helped me to be a better person. I will always try to participate in the activities in the future, as I love learning."



TENZIN LHAZIN

"Presently I am pursuing geography honours, and I am putting my best effort for further good results. I will study the highest form of this particular field and hopefully serve the Tibetan society with the knowledge I have gained through various methods like teaching and volunteering."



YESHI SANGMO

"I participate in Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, as well as Optional English & History. I am studying in Mysore, and we have our association of all Tibetan Students. This year I have been selected as a leader. I scored highest among all the Tibetans in my class in third semester."



News from the Tara Mandala Seniors Home in Kalimpong



Different views of the prayer hall

The beautiful GREEN TARA statue pictured to the right was installed in the prayer room of the Tara Mandala Seniors Home in July. This gift was purchased by Jurme Wangda on behalf of the Ottawa Friends of Tibet when he was in Kathmandu in the spring. The Green Tara is a wonderful religious statue; it has a great deal of meaning for the seniors living in our home. Green Tara (Syamatara) is known as the Buddha of enlightened activity, compassion, peace and protection. She is the "Mother Earth" goddess who helps us to remain centered in meditation, assisting us to transform consciousness to enlightenment.





Ottawa Friends of Tibet
Les Amis du Tibet à Ottawa
20th Annual Benefit Dinner
 Helping Tibetans in need with your generosity

MC Mr. Scott Hannant
 Entertainment by Tibetan Dance Group, Ottawa
 Indian Buffet from Rinag Foods & Tibetan momo
 Silent auction items. Sale Items from Himalayas

4th November 2016
 6:00 P.M.
 Hellenic Banquet Centre
 1315 Prince of Wales Drive

Tickets*
 Adults \$ 75
 Students \$ 55
 At the Door \$ 85

www.oft.ca
 Contact: 613-816-9552
 oft.dinner@gmail.com

*\$20 Tax Receipt with Adult Ticket

20th Annual OFT Benefit Dinner helping Tibetans in need through your generosity

Join OFT for a night of food and culture with

MC: Mr. Scott Hannant

The evening includes an Indian buffet, silent auction and performances as well as unique works of art, gifts and handicrafts from South East Asia, as well as marvelous Tibetan hand-knotted wool carpets for sale and a silent auction.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tibetan Dance Group, Ottawa

DINNER

Indian buffet from Rinag Foods and Tibetan momo

WHERE

Hellenic Banquet Centre
 1315 Prince of Wales Drive, Ottawa
 Doors open at 6:00 pm

TICKETS

IN ADVANCE

\$75 for Adults and Seniors
 \$55 for Students (with valid ID)

AT THE DOOR

\$85 for Adults, Seniors and Students

A \$20 tax receipt will be given for the \$75 and \$85 tickets
 Charitable no.: 87685 9919 RR0001

** Advance tickets may be purchased by credit card or PayPal until November 3rd by contacting

Agnieszka and Joanna at 613-816-9552
 or oft.dinner@gmail.com

Dear Friends of OFT (Sponsors and Donors)

From this year, we are compelled to raise our ticket price. The management of the Hellenic Centre has changed and has raised the rental fee considerably. Catering has increased also. After searching the four directions of Ottawa for another venue, we could not find one that met all our needs. Therefore, our only option was to raise the ticket price. We are able to issue a \$20 tax receipt as before. Please accept our assurance that 100% of your donation goes to OFT's projects.

The OFT board members appreciate your kind understanding.

A Preview of OFT's 20th Annual Dinner Entertainment - Ottawa Tibetan Dance Group



Ottawa's Tibetan children perform a traditional dance

The Yak Dance is always popular with audiences



2015 OFT Dinner

Credit		Expense	
Sales	\$446.00	Sales table cost	\$149.00
Jewelry	\$538.00	Jewelry table cost	\$179.00
Tickets	\$12287.00	Hall rental	\$3396.00
Silent auction	\$2879.00	Silent auction items	\$143.00
Carpet sales	0.00	Carpet costs	0.00
Carpet raffle	\$1100.00	Carpet raffle costs	\$200.00
Donations	\$4035.00	Food costs	\$2656.00
Memberships	\$55.00	Advertising costs	\$215.00
Leftover food sales	\$143.00	Audio/Sound system	\$425.00
		Printing	\$69.00
		Entertainment	0.00
Total	\$19568.00	Total	\$8032.00
Total Net Profit			\$11956.00

In 2015, OFT also supported several charities and worthy causes - \$5,000 to Child Haven, \$1,000 to Maitreya Foundation, \$3,000 (US) to scholarship fund, \$1,000 to TRPO and \$5,000 to re-building the temple in Nepal.

A Message from the President of OFT

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the 20th OFT annual benefit dinner, I especially wish to thank my Tibetan friends from various countries. When we received charitable status in 2001, my idea was to get donations from our Tibetan community in Nepal. Within four days, I was able to collect close to eight thousand US dollars to start our first project, the Kalimpong Seniors Home.

Many of these Tibetan donors seemed to be surprised. They never expected that from me, coming from Canada. But in order to ask for donations in Canada, I needed to tell Canadians what our own community was contributing. Since then we have come a long way. We have been able to succeed for the last nineteen years thanks to all of you. In Japan, they say, "Ten years is a long time ago." OFT emerged through your kindness a long, long time ago, and we are still thriving.

I would like to convey our sincere gratitude to those Tibetan friends who helped us start our organization. They are HH the Dalai Lama's eldest brother, the late Tagtser Rinpoche, who came to Ottawa from Illinois as a special guest at our first benefit dinner event. There is also Pema Karpoche, Kathak Tsering, and Thubten Paljor from Nepal, the Wangkhang Family from Belleville, the Sherab Khangsar Family from Montreal, Dr. Tenzin Kyizom and Mr. Tashi Dhondup from Toronto and many others. Since late 2014, the new arrivals of displaced Tibetans from India began to help us with entertainment and provided Tibetan food.

Every year, there are close to 300 friends who participate in our annual fundraising event. I know the majority of you have been with us from the beginning. You are our OFT family. With your help we have been able to fund important projects over the past nineteen years: the Orphanage School inside Tibet along with Child Haven International (CHI), the Maitreya Foundation in New Delhi along with CHI, the Tibetan Samten Choeling Monastery in Kathmandu, the Seniors Home for Tibetan elders in Kalimpong, India, and since last year, a sponsorship program for three Tibetan students in India through Education Affairs in Dharamsala.

With folded hands on this special occasion of our 20th anniversary, I thank you on behalf of all the wonderful volunteers that constitute Ottawa Friends of Tibet. Your generous help is the source of our strength and preservation.

Tashi Delek!
Jurme Wangda
