



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 21st ANNUAL DINNER PLEASE CONTACT JURME WANGDA

Volunteer Profile - Holly Blair

Eleven years ago I took my daughter to live in Guangzhou, China, where I was teaching in an international school. My daughter is adopted from China, and I wanted to show her the country of her birth. Despite some of the unfortunate politics of the Chinese government, it is a country of immense beauty and amazing history.

While I was there, I met a number of people who had been to Tibet and raved about it. I decided to travel there with my daughter and a friend from Canada. I have travelled to many countries in the world, but Tibet continues to be my favourite. It is a country of striking landscape, beautiful art and buildings, and the most handsome, spiritual people. Each temple and monastery was a masterpiece. I was lucky enough to be in Lhasa for the New Year when the nomads came to town and wore their turquoise and coral finery. Another unforgettable experience was when our guide took us to his family farm for the New Year dinner and drove back to the city, stars covering the sky in grandeur, in this country at the top of the world.



When I came back to Ottawa, I felt that I would like to continue having a connection with Tibet, so I contacted the Ottawa Friends of Tibet. I wasn't sure what to expect but was pleasantly surprised to find a small but devoted group of volunteers who were raising funds to build a seniors home for Tibetans who had fled their homeland many years ago and now have no family to care for them. I thought this was an admirable cause and worked with the group for three years.

For the last six years I have been teaching overseas in Hong Kong and in Mumbai. While I was in India, I had the privilege of travelling to McLeod Ganj (Dharamsala) to see the home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. It really felt like a small Tibet, and I was so happy to be there; it had been a dream of mine to visit. Best of all, I had the great good fortune of hearing His Holiness' teachings... a once in a lifetime experience! Now I am back in Ottawa, I have rejoined the Ottawa Friends of Tibet and look forward to working with this lovely group helping Tibetans in need.

2016 OFT DINNER



Children's Cultural Dance



Tibetan Yak Dance

University Scholarship Program in India for Tibetan Students

In 2015-2016, OFT initiated a scholarship program to provide \$3,000 US for the first year tuition fees of three students chosen by the Department of Education in Dharamsala. This financial support will continue until they complete their studies in their university degree program. High marks and attendance in classes are required. OFT now sponsors five students - Yeshi Sangmo is one of them.

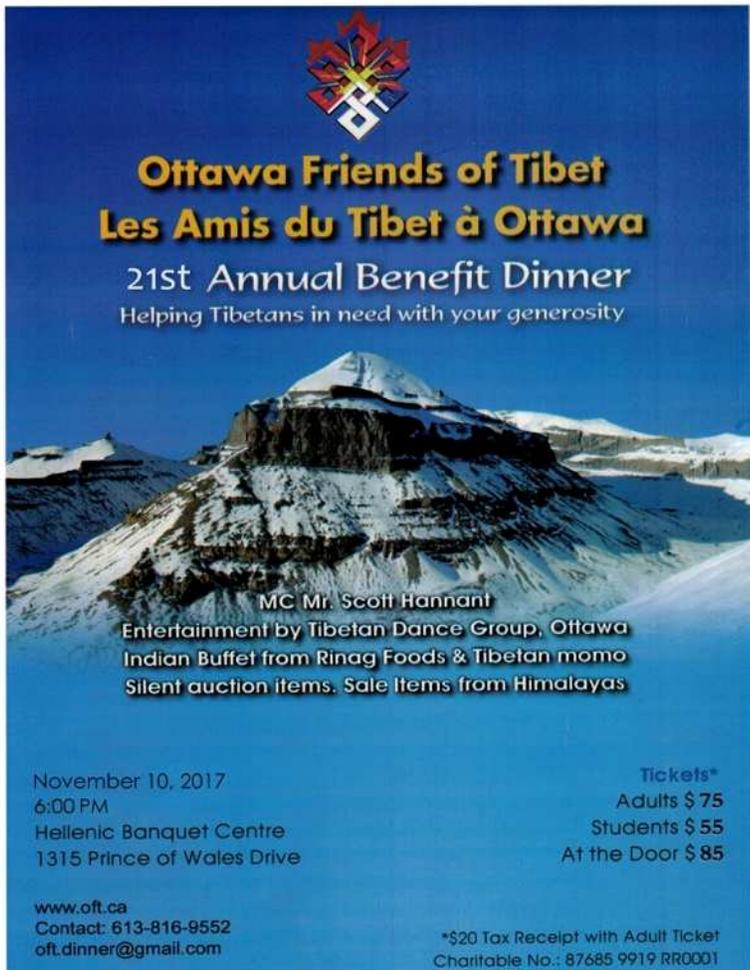


Sorrowed Soul by Yeshi Sangmo

I look into his eyes
 To peek into his soul
 Only to realize,
 It is nothing but filled with darkness
 And I try to make him happy,
 To turn the darkness to light, befriend him
 Who knew, his past was regretted
 And the future not awaited;
 He had written his own fate,
 And wished it would change now
 Fate is not a plaything,
 To mend its ways on your own
 It can't be changed; worrying about it
 He fails to see the world as it should be;
 The silent sea, the calm sky,
 The quiet woods or the whispering winds
 The world is heaven, if you see it,
 Or it is a threat, if you fear it
 All that matters is how you see,
 Or make out of the world
 He was filled with fear from the past
 And the fear of the future
 Which destroyed his present
 All efforts to save him in vain
 Only love could save him
 Which he fails to accept
 He chose this life, this path
 This is what makes him
 What we see, the sorrowed soul...

2016 OFT Fundraising Dinner – 176 Guests

Income		Expenses	
Sales table/Jewelry	\$618	Sales Table/Jewelry cost	\$185
Tickets	\$8,435	Hall rental	\$4,657
Silent auction	\$1,890	Silent auction items:	\$95
Carpet sales	\$1,010	Carpet Costs:	\$606
Carpet raffle	\$720	Carpet raffle cost:	\$200
Donations	\$2,390	Food costs	\$2,350
Memberships	\$90	Advertising costs	\$0
Leftover food sales	\$79	Audio/Sound system	\$425
Square up total	\$6,466	Printing	\$28
		Entertainment	0
Totals	\$20,738		\$8,546
Total net profit	\$12,192		



21st Annual OFT Benefit Dinner helping Tibetans in need with your generosity

Join OFT for a night of food and culture

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 Ringag Foods and Tibetan momo

MC: Mr. Scott Hannant

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 & \$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 (or 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 as well. 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.

2016 OFT Dinner



A Message from the President of OFT

My sincere Tashi Delek to our dear donors and friends of OFT.

At the beginning, we faced immense pressure to build the Seniors Home for the Tibetan refugee elders in Kalimpong, India. Since OFT was initiated by a small group of dedicated volunteers, the project was more than we could chew. Fortunately, since this was HH the Dalai Lama's call, we received great cooperation from the Private Office of HH the Dalai Lama as well as from the Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute. Therefore, our responsibility was to build the building, and Dharamsala Home Affairs took care of the rest. This released a lot of tension on our side, but still raising funds was not an easy task at all. So, we decided to sell carpets to raise funds for our projects and also get a few local artifacts and handicrafts from India, Nepal and Himalayan areas. We also continued to carry on our annual benefit dinner events that were successfully started with our special guest, the Venerable Thubten Jigme Rinpoche, who was kind enough to come from Indianapolis, USA. He was the eldest brother of HH the Dalai Lama.

We worked hard buying tables at all possible events here in Ottawa. Our lowest raised money was only \$68 net, which I remember clearly in two days in a church basement. On our journey we met a lot of wonderful individuals. They were amazing! They gave their entire time volunteering for us.

Now, thanks to the immense help and support from our donors and sponsors, we have achieved our aim with the Seniors Home and still continue to work. Without these wonderful and compassionate individuals, this could never be achieved.

I met a few individuals in Toronto who were so impressed about the residence. They said it looks more like a hotel than a home. This was our goal from the beginning. We wanted to set an example, a standard that in the future, those who wanted to build a seniors home should see ours in Kalimpong.

We are still carrying on with our other projects. They are helping with education in Tibet through Child Haven International who is our partner as well as our mentor. We continue to help Maitreya Foundation International in New Delhi. We provide much needed help to a monastery in Kathmandu.

Our most current project is giving sponsorship to five Tibetan refugee students to pursue their higher studies in various universities in India through the Dharamsala Education Department that oversees the education needs for the Tibetan diaspora.

With kind and generous help from many donors and friends, we are moving forward. Now, we are looking towards one of our goals that we set from the inception of OFT. This was to set up a small center here in the nation's capital from where we can learn about Tibetan culture, language and beliefs. We would like to offer to our Canadian friends the way of Tibetan lives which is based on compassion, peace and harmony. We believe only peace can create peace. This peace must come from within.

With much gratitude and sincere thank you to all our donors and friends - all our success is due to your kindness.

Sincerely,

Jurme Wangda
President of Ottawa Friends of Tibet
