

# Bay Area Friends of Tibet

Celebrating 25 Years of Service to the  
Just Cause of Tibet

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tibet Day  
Ft. Mason, San Francisco  
12/6/08



# Bay Area Friends of Tibet

## MISSION



- We are a support group dedicated to assisting Tibetans in their struggle for their right to self-determination, independence, and the preservation of their culture.
- *We serve as a bridge between Americans and Tibetans.*
- Educate the public about Tibet and the Tibetan people
- Organize grassroots projects and events
- Cooperate with other Tibet support groups locally and internationally<sup>2</sup>



# 25 Years Roadmap

- **Background on Why Tibet?, Founding of BAFoT, and early years (1983-1990): [Jigme Yugay Raptentsetsang]**
- **Early Years Continued: 3 Tibet Conferences: Road to Independence, etc: [Phil Ladenla]**
- **Tibetan Resettlement Project -[Julia Shepardson]**
- **1990s [Bonnie McCalla]**
- **2000-2007- [Diane Hume]**
- **2008 and Future [Giovanni Vassallo]**



# ACTION!

- 23 Tibet Day Cultural Fairs
- 24 Tibetan National Uprising Day Commemorations
- 13 Abducted Panchen Lama Observances
- 24 Himalayan Fair and numerous tabling at community fairs & educational events
- Co-Organized Visits of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Tibetan Dignitaries
- Vigorous and numerous protests, candlelight vigils
- Letter Writing Campaigns
- Local San Francisco Bay Area Government Outreach for Tibet
- Resettled 67 Tibetans and their Families to the Bay Area
- Continued Support for Tibet and Tibetans

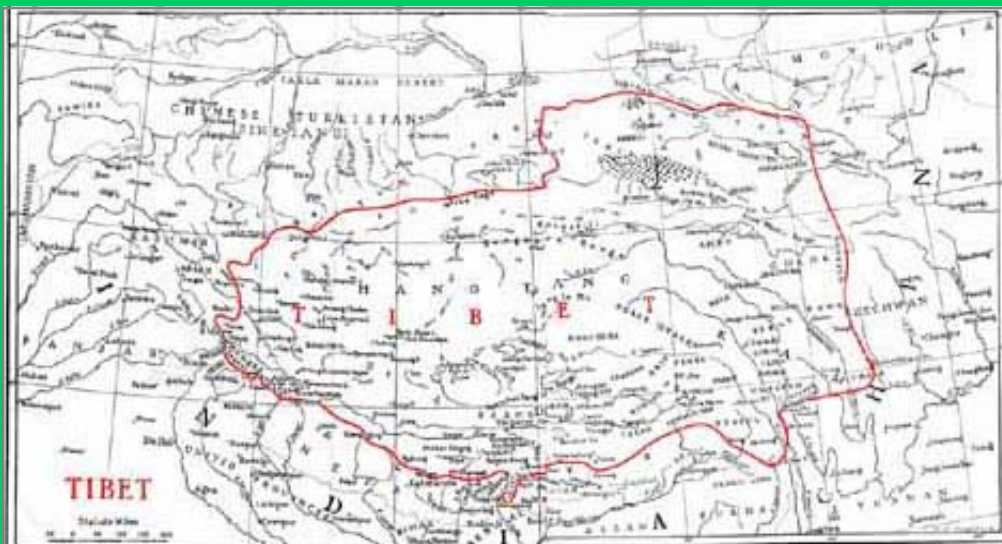


**His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso,  
XIV<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama of Tibet**



# Background on Why Tibet?

Founding of BAFoT, and early years (1983-1990): [Jigme Yugay Raptentsetsang]



**Tibet: The Land of Snows**

## History and Culture of Tibet

- An occupied country
- Invasion and subjugation
- Minority in their own land
- Crisis in Tibet
- Tibetans in Exile
- Tibet's Status in the World



## Bay Area Friends of Tibet

BAFoT was founded on Sunday October 9, 1983.

2961 Bienvenue Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705



# The Original BAFoT Founders List

1. Carol Fields
2. Chris Ng
3. Bertha Ng
4. Jim Quartieri
5. Elissa Mannheimer
6. Cheimed Lee
7. Adam Druckman
8. Jeff Wagner
9. Ritu Sarin
10. Eric Ingersoll
11. George Nichols
12. Ruth Eckland
13. Jigme Yugay
14. Nima Yugay
15. Dorje Lama
16. Pema Wangyal
17. Tashi Norbu
18. Geshe Thardo
19. Michael Van Walt
20. Tenzin Sonam
21. Judy Weitzner
22. Tsewang Chodon Tatz
23. Chris Kemper
24. Rose Berryessa
25. Gail Harris
26. Thepo Tulku
27. Geshe Lobsang Gyatso
28. Lobsang Chonjor
29. Atul Vaidya



## 1989 BAFoT Board after a blessing by His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Mount Tamalpais





# Early Years Continued: 3 Tibet Conferences:



Road to Independence, etc: [Phil Ladenla]



His Holiness the Dalai Lama receives the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize.

- **In the late 80's and early 90's, 3 conferences were held to focus on issues of great relevance to the Tibetan struggle:**
  - 1988: Five Point Peace Plan, proposed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama (1987)
  - 1990: Endangered Tibet - the ecological disaster facing Tibet
  - 1992: Tibet: The Road to Independence - commemorating the International Year of Tibet, 1991-1992





# Tibetan Resettlement Project

[Julia Shepardson]



- [Tibetan Resettlement Project](#) (5.5Mb)



# 1990s



[Bonnie McCalla]

- June, 1994: Tibetan community of SF Bay Area joins local Chinese community to **commemorate Tiananmen Square Massacre**, organized in conjunction with TANC
- June, 1995: Tibetan community of SF Bay Area demonstrates at 50th anniversary of the founding of the **United Nations, demonstrations** organized by BAFoT and TANC
- 1996: BAFoT representatives attend **international TSG conference** in Washington, DC
- January, 1997: **Third Western Region Tibet Support Group conference held in SF**, co-sponsored by BAFoT and seven other TSGs; representatives from 30 TSGs from 14 western states attended
- June, 1997: BAFoT co-sponsored and coordinated a **public talk by HHDL and two other Nobel Peace Prize winners** (Jose Ramos-Horta and Rigoberta Menchu)



## 1990s, continued

- **Co-sponsorship and organization of the following:**
  - annual Losar celebration
  - annual Tibetan Uprising demonstrations
  - annual Tibet Day celebration
  - annual celebration of HHDL's birthday in July
  - annual International Human Rights Day demonstrations



Congressman Tom Lantos was a dear Friend of Tibet and strong vocal supporter of His Holiness the Dalai Lama





# 2000-2007

[Diane Hume]



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, now Speaker of the US House of Representatives attended Tibet Day in 1999

- Below: Marilyn Wacks, Staff of Congressman Tom Lantos reads the Congressman's statement at March 10, 2007





## BAFoT Board with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi at Tibet Day 1999





# Beautiful Tibet Day Postcards!

**23rd Annual Tibet Day**


**Fort Mason, Saturday, December 6th, 2008, 10am-4pm**

**TANCA**  
Tibetan Association of Northern California

**BAY AREA FRIENDS OF TIBET AND THE TIBETAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WELCOME YOU TO TIBET DAY 2008**  
Enjoy: Music, Dancing, Beautiful Tibetan Arts & Crafts: Tanglas, Jewelry, Rugs, Clothing and More, Movies, Delicious Tibetan Momos, Authors, Activists, and Actions to Free Tibet. Celebrate BAFT's 25th Anniversary with Free Anniversary Cake!

ADTs: \$10, Children & Seniors: \$5. Proceeds benefit BAFT's educational efforts for Tibet and the Tibetan Community Center of Northern California.

The Green Tara image by renowned Tibetan thangka painter Jangye Singe will be auctioned at Tibet Day.  
R. Mason Conference Center, San Francisco Marina Blvd, Buchanan St. (Inexpensive Parking on Premises) For more information: www.friends-of-tibet.org

**PATRICK MAHONEY BOOK TALK AND SIGNING**  **THE AMAZING KUNSEL IN CONCERT 12PM!**

**Tibet Day 2003**  
**20th Anniversary Gala!**  
**Ft. Mason, Sat. Nov. 15, 11AM-6PM**



# Beautiful Tibet Day Postcards!, cont...



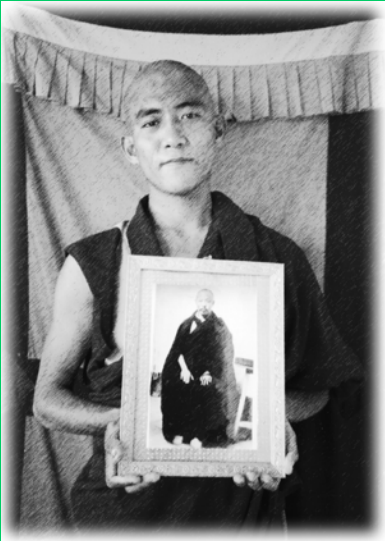
Bay Area Friends of Tibet  
Presents  
**Tales of Tibet**  
The Bay Area's Premiere  
Celebration of Tibetan Culture




Featuring  
**Ven. Lama Lodru Rinpoche**  
**Ven. Rinpoche Lama Kunga**  
World Famous Music of  
**Chaksampa**  
Semshung Pundha  
The Tibetan Children's Chorus  
Delicious Tibetan Food  
& Drink  
100's of Tibetan Books,  
Jewelry, Arts & Crafts  
Movies, Slides, Photographs,  
Stories  
Panel Discussion and  
Local Politicians on  
Tibetan Freedom



**Saturday, Oct. 26,  
2002, 12-7pm**  
**Fort Mason  
Conference Center  
San Francisco**  
Admission: \$5 children 5 to 12  
and seniors, \$10 adults



20/20  
*Vision of Tibet*



20<sup>th</sup> Tibet Day  
Sunday ♦ 20<sup>th</sup> November ♦ 2005  
Golden Gate Club in the Presidio ♦ San Francisco ♦ 10<sup>AM</sup> TO 7<sup>PM</sup>

Presented by  
Bay Area Friends of Tibet





# Beautiful Tibet Day Postcards!, cont...



TIBET: GEM IN ASIA  
19<sup>TH</sup> TIBET DAY, FT. MASON, SUN, NOV. 14, 2004



September 2003 BA FoT co-organized the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama with the University of San Francisco





# Hosting Former Political Prisoner Ngawang Choephel who was featured at Tibet Day 2004





# 2008 and Future [Giovanni Vassallo]



## San Francisco Team Tibet & the Olympics Campaign





Bikers for Tibet at Tibetan Victory Demonstration, Ferry Park, San Francisco – After Olympic Torch raced out of town. SF Team Tibet of which BAFoT is a member, co-organized the protests. The torch did not set foot anywhere along the official torch route





## August 2008, Protest outside the Chinese Consulate



- Finally holding the Olympic Torch – After it was purified



## Emergency and Special Tibet Meetings

- BAFoT co-organized the 2006 regional meeting of the Americas and Australia/New Zealand with the International Tibet Support Network





Special International  
Tibet Support Group  
meeting was attended by  
over 100 reps from 30  
countries

Many attendees  
recommended that His  
Holiness reassess the  
Middle Way Approach if  
China stays intransigent.

Gurgoan, India

**11/28/2008**







# Workshop on Political Support for Tibet Special Int'l TSG Meeting, Gurgoan, India, 11/29/2008



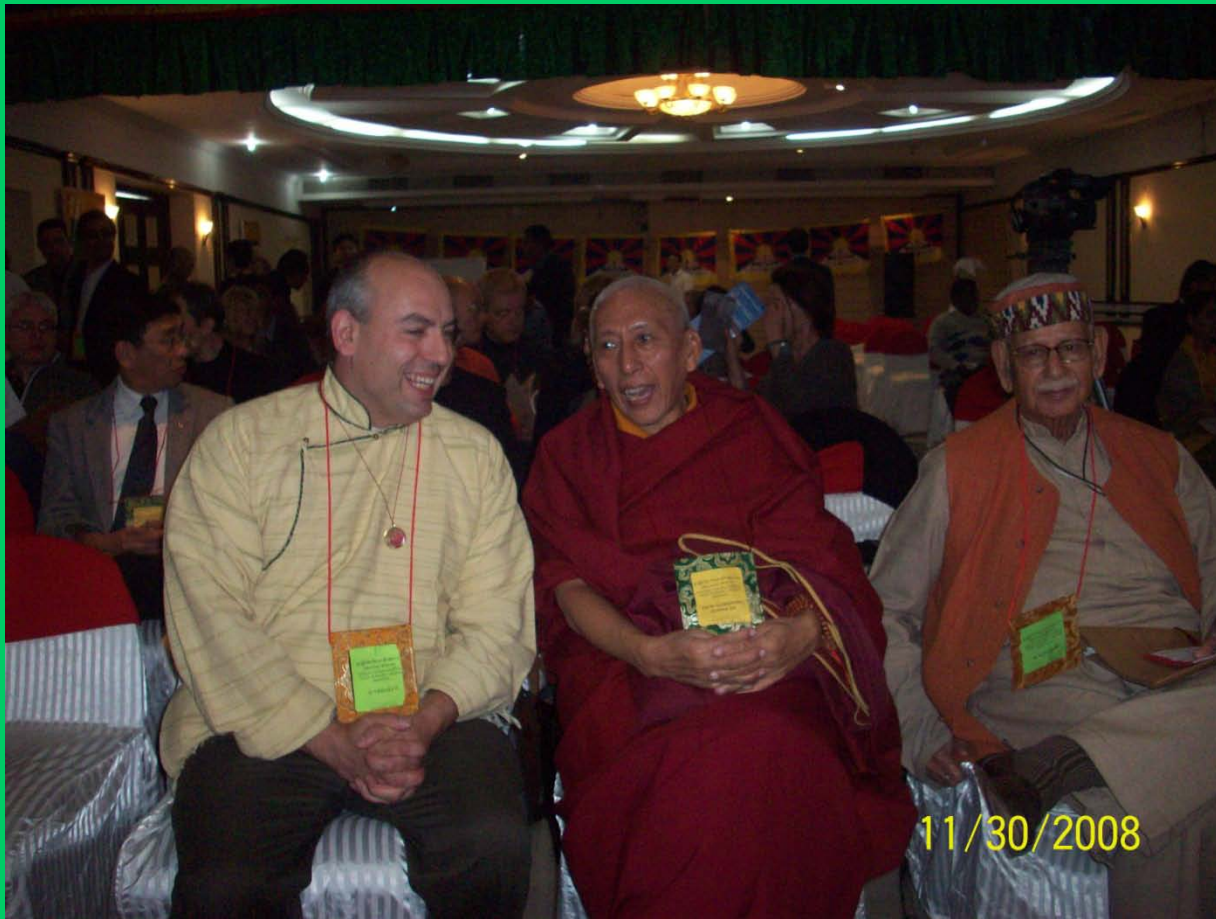


## Ritu Sarin & Tenzin Sonam, BA FoT Founders with Giovanni Vassallo, current BA FoT President





## BAFoT President and Samdhong Rinpoche, Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in Exile





- Lodi Gyari, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Special Envoy to China and BAFoT President Giovanni Vassallo





# The Way Forward for BAFoT

- Putting Tibetans First
- Increasing Concrete Government Support
- Spotlight on Chinese Leaders
- Chinese Outreach
- Continuing Educating the Public about Tibet

