

Tibetan Association of Northern California

Annual Report

2007-2008



For Tibetans and our friends, this year has been an extraordinary journey of both great joy and tragedy. A high point came in October 2007, when the US Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and, we, like Tibetans everywhere, celebrated with great jubilation.



Little did we know that a mere four months later Lhasa would be in flames, that Tibetans all over Tibet would rise up with great courage in defiance of their 49 years under Chinese rule, and that many Tibetans would be killed or imprisoned in the most brutal crackdown in Tibet since the days of the Cultural Revolution.

Here in San Francisco, we joined Tibet supporters world-wide in mass protests and vigils, and were given a unique opportunity to focus the attention of the world on what was happening in Tibet when San Francisco was chosen as the only North American stop for the Olympic torch relay, just a month after the Lhasa Uprising.

The month passed in a blur of grief, pride, and non-stop action as the entire Bay Area Tibetan community and huge numbers of supporters unified in a coalition called SF Team Tibet. For two unforgettable days during the torch relay, our community stood up in mass in defiance of the Chinese government and sent a passionate, clear message through the world media gathered here that we would never give up on Tibet.

Even in the middle of these historic events, we made great progress on our endeavors to preserve Tibetan culture, and we returned to joy this July, even while carrying on the fight for our fallen and suffering Tibetan people, with a strong representation of TANC members at the historic offering of a long life ceremony, *Tenshug*, to His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Madison, Wisconsin. Thank you, Your Holiness, from the bottom of our hearts, for your kind assurance that you will live a long life!

I cannot imagine a more historic and rewarding year, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve our cause and community. I believe this is my good karma. Our humble achievements would not have been possible without the amazing cooperation and commitment of the leaders of SF Team Tibet, the Tibetan Community Center Committee, the Program Committee, our long-serving volunteer webmaster Lobsang la, our school faculty, members of the community, and most especially my dedicated, tireless colleagues on the Board, who have been a pure delight to work with.

Bhod Gyal lo!

Celebration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Congressional Gold Medal October 20

Over 500 Tibetans and friends of Tibet gathered at Golden Gate Fields to celebrate the awarding of America's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The ceremony began with the chanting of the Dalai Lama's prayer, "Words of Truth," by monks from Gyuto Vajrayana Buddhist Center. This was followed by the lighting of the "Lamp of Peace and Freedom" by former Berkeley Mayor, Shirley Dean, the event's chief guest of honor. Guests were shown a brief video of US President George Bush presenting the Gold Medal to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Before dinner, Tibetan and Mongolian performers entertained the crowd, and prominent Bay Area Tibet supporters addressed the crowd. These included Margery Farrar, Special Assistant to Congressman Tom Lantos, who co-sponsored the Gold Medal bill, and Berkeley Council Member, Mr. Kriss Worthington. The community joined in Tibetan circular dance (*gorshey*) and disco to conclude the joyous celebration.



Thanksgiving Day Party and Basketball Tournament November 23

Eight boys teams and two girls teams participated in the Thanksgiving Day basketball tournament, held to encourage our youth in sports, at the Alameda Youth Center. The winners of both the boys and girls teams were given a cash prize of \$100 at the Thanksgiving party that evening. Highlights of the evening program were a wonderful Tibetan meal, a talent show, a raffle draw with prizes including a laptop computer, digital camera and iPod, and the traditional Tibetan community dance.

Celebration of H.H. the Dalai Lama's Nobel Peace Prize December 10

Joining Tibetans and Tibetan supporters all over the world, we commemorated the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1987 at the Jewish Community Culture Center in Berkeley, with cultural performances that

The Year at a Glance

included the singing of *Nobel Toe-Yang*, a song composed in honor of His Holiness winning the Prize. An election of new board members was conducted, with Tsering Youdon, Phuntsok Dolma and Dawa Chokey elected for the positions of Assistant Member Secretary, Treasurer, and Green Book Coordinator.

Tibet Day December 15



The 22nd Annual Tibet Day, and an evening concert featuring Nepali singing star Raju Lama, was held at St. Anne's Event Center in San Francisco. The wildly colorful displays of Tibetan and Himalayan art and craft vendors blended with booths for non-profits supporting Tibet

and Tibetan photo exhibits, along with a day-long presentation of multi-cultural performances, movies and panel talks on the stage, and sales of delicious momo's. Proceeds benefited the Tibetan Community Center of Northern California (TCCNC) as well as SF Team Tibet -- and their collective efforts to leverage the Beijing Olympics to highlight the truth about the human rights situation in Tibet.

New Year's Celebrations January 31

This year TANC forewent its usual western New Year's celebrations, in order to support the Tibetan Youth Congress fundraiser for SF Team Tibet, which was held in Berkeley at the Unitarian church at Cedar and Bonita, and raised some \$2000 for SF Team Tibet's Beijing Olympic activities.



Losar (Tibetan New Year) Celebrations February 7-9

Losar was celebrated on three different occasions this year. The

first event – on Losar evening itself, February 7th, at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall in Berkeley – featured a simple recitation of auspicious prayers, serving of traditional sweet rice (*doma dresil*) and tea, along with *dre-kar*, a brief cultural performance, and circle dancing. On the following Saturday morning, the community gathered at the Berkeley Marina for a fun, auspicious day of prayers, food, dancing, singing and playing games. That evening, a full Tibetan dinner and culture performances were held, along with a traditional open mike talent show, ending with traditional Tibetan circle dances and disco dancing into the wee hours.

Tibetan National Uprising Day March 10



Protests and rallies by Tibetans and supporters around the world marked the 49th anniversary of the day when Chinese troops crushed a mass resistance effort in Lhasa, Tibet, beginning half a century of authoritarian rule. Over 300 Bay Area Tibetans and supporters witnessed the raising of the Tibetan flag at Berkeley City Hall in the morning, and then gathered at the steps of San Francisco City Hall to chant Olympics-related slogans and listen to a host of inspiring speakers. From there, protestors took to the streets of San Francisco and marched to the Chinese Consulate, accompanied by a huge truck loaded with a sound system and adorned with colorful banners. The Consulate walls shook with the passionate voices of the protestors and speakers for over two hours. Marchers then tirelessly moved on through the streets of San Francisco to the heart of Chinatown at Portsmouth Square. Here a rally was held with speakers including representatives of the Burmese and Taiwanese communities, as well as messages in Chinese to target the many bystanders. The day's events concluded with a final march to Union Square, the bustling center of downtown San Francisco's shopping district, where final speeches, a moment of silence, and a candlelight vigil were held in remembrance of the many lives lost throughout the struggle.

2007 - 2008 The Year at a Glance



See the SF Team Tibet section of this annual report for the extraordinary events of the period leading up to and during the Beijing Olympics.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Birthday July 5-6

This year's somber and dignified celebration had a special significance on account of the recent developments in Tibet, the massive earthquake in China and the Burmese cyclone. The birthday eve celebration, held at the First Congregational Church in Oakland, was attended by local politicians, Tibet supporters and over 500 Tibetans. The program included Tibetan song and dance performances, and a talent show. A vegetarian dinner, in respect for those suffering, was served. In place of the usual community dancing, a drama called *One Year After*, based on the current situation in Tibet, was staged by Mr. Tsering Bawa and his talented actors. Both humorous and politically biting, the show was a great success.

The July 6th celebration took place at the Berkeley Marina, starting with prayers for the long life of H.H. the Dalai Lama and *sangsol*. In addition to a pleasant day of being in community, we held the first of two elections for new TANC board members, at which Dechen Tsering graciously agreed to serve on the TANC board.

Tenshug (Long Life) Offering to H.H. the Dalai Lama

July 19-24

North America Tibetan Associations jointly organized a historic *Tenshug* offering to His Holiness and teachings from Him at Madison, Wisconsin from July 19th to the 24th. The TANC president and many members of our Board and community attended the event on behalf of the organization, along with an estimated 5000 other Tibetans from across North America. It was a great moment of joy for us all when His Holiness very kindly assured us that he would live a long life. The Tibetan associations unanimously pledged to follow his guidance and take more interest in strengthening the Tibetan government in exile and our democratic institutions. We have pledged to preserve

Tibetan language and culture by transferring it to our young people and to improve our green book contributions to the Tibetan government in exile. TANC also backed the Bay Area youth participating in the basketball



and soccer tournaments, by paying for their registration fees. Although our teams could not bring home the trophies, they did put up a great show. Well done, boys!

Education

TANC PROGRAMS REPORT

Background

In October 2006 the Tibetan Community Center for Northern California (TCCNC) Executive Committee established a Program Committee on behalf of the Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC). The main purpose of the Program Committee is to provide innovative culture-based and community-oriented programs to TANC members and the general public. After the committee formed, its members performed surveys on the community to determine what programs were needed, and marketed various projects targeting the younger Tibetan generation. Committee members began enrolling people interested in the programs and looking for potential instructors at major community gatherings, approaching many community members individually. Fortunately, a few experienced teachers volunteered to help. Parents and college students, too, came forward to participate in the projects.

Given the need for a suitable space to house the programs, the committee transformed a large, cluttered room in the TANC offices at 2288 Fulton Street into an interim community center, rolling up their sleeves for some weekends of clearing, cleaning, organizing and decorating the room, which was transformed into an open and usable learning space with a touch of a traditional aura. Since the creation of the space, the Program Committee has delivered many notable programs in it, including monthly information sessions; and classes on Buddhism, Tibetan language, music and history. The Program Committee members, especially Dhonyo Tenzin (then Program Director), regularly supervised the weekend programs. Some of the major programs that the committee has focused on are:

Tibetan language classes

The language classes are essentially divided into three major groups. The first group consists of children age ten and above who met on Saturdays until the beginning of this year, when the classes were moved to Sunday. This group consists of students with prior knowledge of the language both in written and reading. Lhamo Kyi of Oakland has taught this group for almost a year and a half now.

The second group consists of much younger kids who began with no prior knowledge of the language other than being able to recite a few characters of the Tibetan alphabet. Over the course of the class, this group has now become among the more advanced students in the crowd who meet on Sundays.

And the third group is for beginners. This group keeps growing with a flow of new and very young kids. Students study reading and writing the Tibetan alphabet, and learn Tibetan names for animals, vegetables and fruits by working jigsaw puzzles and playing other educational games. We are very happy to have Norbu Dolma (Nordon la) as an instructor for the two higher-level groups. Nordon la is being helped by our college student volunteer, Tenzin Dawoe. Tenzin Dasal also volunteered for several Sundays.



Music classes (instruments and singing)

The members of Semshuk Punda Music Group, Tenzin Thuchen and Tenzin Lhanze, have been teaching Tibetan lute (*dranyen*) to students who are ten years old or older. Currently, there are over ten students learning *dranyen*. This class focuses on both individual and group instruction. In the individual instruction periods, students who can play instruments help the beginners. The Program Committee ordered five *dranyens* from India, which are all being put to full use now. Children below ten years and those who do not wish to study musical instruments are placed in the singing class. Students are taught nursery rhymes and short Tibetan folk songs. Tsering Dolma, who has been coaching TANC children's dance group for the past 12 years, is our instructor for this class.

Buddhism class

Kusho Ngawang Khenrab of Nechung Center taught prayers to the older students on Saturdays. After a thorough evaluation, the Program Committee decided to request Kusho la to take on teaching prayers at the Nechung Center.

Education



Monthly lectures for the community

The purpose of the monthly informational sessions is to inspire and educate the Tibetan community. The TCCNC Program Committee works to match each month's session with relevant Tibetan events. Some of the speakers, and their topics, since the inception have been:

Speaker	Topic
Mr. Strong from UC Berkeley Admissions	University of California admissions and scholarships
Dr. Tenzin Yangdon & Dr. Kalsang Yangdon	Tibetan medicine and the importance of a balanced diet (two sessions):
Mr. Thomas Fisher and Dhondup Tsering	Financial education with Wells Fargo Bank
Ngodup Tsering	Exile Tibetan Government
Kasur Tenzin Tethong	The History of Tibetan National Uprising Day
Lobsang Tashi	Life History of the 10th Panchen Lama
Ven. Thupten Dhonyo, abbot of the Gyuto Center	The Significance of <i>Saka Dawa</i>
Kelsang Aukatsang, Sonam Thunden, Kalsang Tashi	Betsy Gordon Foundation Scholarship Info Session
Lobsang Wangdu and Yolanda O'Bannon	A talk, with photography, on the current situation in central Tibet
Tsewang Khangsar and Ngawang Topgyal.	His Holiness the Dalai Lama's lecture on Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism

Education

Tibetan history class

Kasur Tenzin Tethong-la of Stanford University provided a six-weekend course on Tibetan History and Politics to our community. This course was an introduction to Tibet, highlighting the unique physical, historical, and cultural characteristics of the land and its people. Topics covered included the early history of the Tibetan people and how it was transformed with the arrival of Buddhism; Tibet's unique relationship with the Mongols; Tibet's special ties to the Himalayan region; and how traditional Tibet came to an end when it clashed with the modern world. The class also looked at Tibet today, the Dalai Lama, the exile Diaspora, Tibetan Buddhism, human rights and the politics of the freedom struggle, Tibet as part of the People's Republic of China, and Tibet as a factor in U.S. - China relations. 18 students registered for the course. Each student was charged a registration fee of \$10. The funds have been kept aside to purchase supplies for the weekend programs.

New challenges and new solutions: Sunday classes begin at Black Pine School, Berkeley

The key focus for this second year was to find a functional space of a convenient location to hold the weekend program. While the interim space at the office (shared by TANC, Bay Area Friends of Tibet, Tibet Justice Center and Tibetan Youth Congress) was cosmetically converted to fit the needs of students and accompanying parents, it became more and more challenging to support the increasing number of enrollees in the language and music classes. Given this situation and the fact that TANC received a generous grant of \$180,000 for three years from the Hewlett Foundation, Campaign Director Kelsang Aukatsang, Community Coordinator Ugyen Tsering and Program Committee members worked collectively to find the much-needed space. A few members even visited a German school to study its administration of classes. After weeks of searching, the group finally located Black Pine School with the help of Sonam Gonsar who in fact works at the school.

The Sunday school is held at Black Pine School, located at 2016 7th St. (University Ave. and 7th St.) in Berkeley. It is a free service to the Tibetan community. Currently we have over 40 students attending with supervision from a principal, 5 teachers and a teacher's aide. Besides the help of the parents we will also have the help of two to four volunteers from the Betsy Gordon-Foundation scholarship awardees. Finding a qualified music teacher has always been a challenge but we are lucky to have Tsering Bawa assisted by Tsering Gyurmey. The school is held every Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm. Parents bring lunch, which is served after the school.

With the generous grant from the Hewlett Foundation, we were able to buy teaching aids and text books from the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala and six Tibetan lutes (dragnen) from India. An order for threeyangchins[WHAT IS THIS?] have also been placed and are expected to be delivered soon. We are also able to pay honorarium to the teachers. The Program Committee is also planning other activities such as field trips to centers of learning around the Bay Area.

We have arranged music, song and dance classes for the parents while the students are in class, which became an instant hit with them. However, with the introduction of more instruments the music class for the parents may have to be discontinued to accommodate more time for the students in the future.

Tibetan Language Conference at Ann Arbor, Michigan

A two-day conference of Tibetan language teachers of North America, attended by 30 teachers and experts, was held in April in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Among the participants were three local educators, Sonam Topgyal from Stanford, Karma T. Ngodup from UC Berkeley, and TANC's Norbu Dolma, who gave a report on the curriculum of the Bay Area Tibetan program. The main agenda of the conference was to review the current approach of teaching the Tibetan language to young Tibetans brought up in North America, and it concluded with the drafting of a common curriculum for K-5 to be implemented immediately. His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressed the participants on the second day, highlighting the critical importance of preserving Tibetan language and culture.

The existing Program Committee members are: Dolma Chuteng, Karma Ngodup, Kalsang Y. Tashi (TCCNC Executive Member), Dhondup Tsering

Former members are: Dhonyo Tenzin (Program Director), Sonam Thunden (TCCNC Executive Member), Tenzin Tsephel

2008 Betsy Gordon Foundation Scholarships

To enable the growing Tibetan population in the Northern California to grasp better educational opportunities, a scholarship program has been set up with generous funding from the Betsy Gordon Foundation. The scholarship aims to bring long-term success and well-being to the community by encouraging Tibetans to seek education and necessary skills to advance their knowledge, prepare for their careers, and to take leadership roles in the community.



The 2008 Betsy Gordon Foundation Scholarship was programmed to offer 1) one \$4000 scholarship to a graduate student 2) eight \$4000 scholarships to undergraduate students 3) six \$2000 scholarships to vocational students, and 4) eight \$1000 scholarships to community college students. A selection committee comprised of members from the community facilitated the scholarship.

This year, a total of thirty one students applied for the scholarship — one graduate applicant, fourteen undergraduate applicants, two vocational applicants, and fourteen community college applicants. The selection committee reviewed and selected candidates based on their overall application package — reference, GPA, personal statement essay, and interview. The committee also took account of community services in evaluating their applications.

Since there were only two applicants for the vocational training section, the committee was able to offer one additional scholarship to the undergraduate section, and four scholarships to the community college section. The committee made 1) one graduate award, 2) nine undergraduate awards, 3) two vocational awards, and 4) twelve community college awards.

The executive committee of the Tibetan Community Center of Northern California is reviewing the current scholarship policies for 2009 Betsy Gordon Foundation Scholarship program in collaboration with the board members of Tibetan Association of Northern California. Members of the Tibetan community are encouraged to apply for the scholarship. For more information, please visit www.tccnc.net and stay tuned for the announcement, which shall be made by December 10, 2008.

The recipients of 2008 Betsy Gordon Foundation Scholarship were announced on July 5th at the party for HH the Dalai Lama's birthday.

2008 Scholarship Recipients

Graduate

Lhakpa Chodon

Undergraduate

Tenzin Dasang Subhar

Sharri Lhatso Raptentsetang

Tenzing Tashi Lama

Sonam Chozom

Zayden Tenzin-Yiga Tethong

Dawa Choezom Subhar

Lhamo Dolma Wangden

Yankyi Dolkar Nordrup

Tseten Phuntsok

Vocational Training

Tenzin Youtso

Dekey Sangmo

Community College

Jamba Dolkar Tenzing

Tenzin Tsela

Tenzin Dawoe Chinkarlprang

Tenzin Dechen

Tashi Tsomo

Tenzin Nyendak Tsewang

Tashi D. Lama

Ngawang K.Y. Gyatso

Tenzin Choden Tsewang

Norbu Tsering

Tenzin Yangzom

Tseten Y. Bhutia

Tibetan Community Center Project



The Tibetan Community Center of Northern California (TCCNC) is a project of the Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC). TCCNC was established by TANC in early 2006 and is responsible for developing a capital campaign to raise funds for the creation of a Tibetan Community Center in the Bay Area. The proposed center, once up and running, will enable TANC to carry out a range of cultural, educational and social programs to benefit both Tibetans and the general public in Northern California.

Need

The Tibetan community of Northern California has grown to become one of the largest Tibetan communities in North America. However, there is a lack of cultural, educational, and social services to meet the growing needs of the community. A whole new generation of Tibetan-Americans is being raised with tenuous ties to their rich cultural heritage and traditions. Community programs around Tibetan language classes and performing arts are offered at private homes or out of temporary venues. Whether it is providing a space for elderly Tibetans to spend the day or classes in Tibetan language and culture for young Tibetans, the sheer number of Tibetans requiring services makes it impossible for community members to keep doing these kinds of activities without the support of a facility.

Planned Programs

The Center's initial programs will include classes in Tibetan language and performing arts; scholarship programs, after-school home work assistance for students; mentoring and counseling services; youth and teen empowerment programs; programs to assist seniors and new arrivals; lectures and informational sessions, and special programs for the general public.

Capital Campaign Goal and Update

The campaign aims to raise \$1.5 million by the end of 2009, as this would enable TANC to purchase a property in the East Bay preferably in and around Berkeley and northern Oakland. The campaign did not have any paid staff and consultant until the beginning of May 2008. Nevertheless, over \$400,000 has already been raised so far. In addition, the campaign has helped to attract significant funding for some specific programs including a three-year grant of \$180,000 from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Team

The campaign team consists of two paid positions: a Community Coordinator (Ugyen Tsering) and a Campaign Executive Director (Kelsang Aukatsang), and an all-volunteer team of nine other individuals. The paid positions became possible because of generous support from The Betsy Gordon Foundation. The Capital Campaign Committee works under the close direction of TANC Board of Directors. In addition, there is also a campaign Advisory Council made up of community leaders and friends of the community and a Program Committee to help with program design, monitoring and evaluation.

Please contact Kelsang Aukatsang at (415) 425-0234, kelsang@tanc.org if you would like to support the TCCNC Capital Campaign. More information is also available at www.tccnc.net.

Olympic Campaign:



San Francisco, Tibetans Stand up for Tibet

*SF Team Tibet is: Tibetan Association of Northern California (TANC) * San Francisco Regional Tibetan Youth Congress (SFRTYC) * Students for Free Tibet (SFT) * Committee of 100 for Tibet (C100) * Bay Area Friends of Tibet (BAFoT)*

The 2008 Beijing Olympics offered a rare opportunity for Tibetans and human rights activists to shine a spotlight on the Chinese government's illegal occupation of Tibet. When San Francisco (SF) was chosen as the sole North American stop on the Beijing Olympic torch relay, a coalition of five Bay Area Tibetan organizations formed a coalition – San Francisco Team Tibet (SF Team Tibet) – to oppose it.



San Francisco Team Tibet

Tibetan Uprising Day

In anticipation of the Olympic torch relay being run in San Francisco, 300 members of SF Team Tibet gathered at SF City Hall on March 10th – Tibetan National Uprising Day -- with a portrait of the Dalai Lama above the crowd next to Tibetan flags and banners saying “Olympics in China, Torture in Tibet.” They urged city officials to pass a resolution calling on China to improve conditions for Tibetans in their homeland, and informed the public of our plan to line the April 9th Olympic torch route to protest.

Free Speech Zones?

On March 12, the SF Chronicle reported that there were “tense times between Beijing and city officials over the possibility of protests along the torch route, and that the city would restrict free speech during the Olympic torch rally, limiting protesters to “free speech” zones at both the opening and closing ceremonies. Tibet groups seeking permits to protest were told that all the large SF public spaces were on hold for the Mayor’s office. “Beijing may like these plans, but why should San Francisco?” noted a March 18th SF Chronicle editorial.

Crisis in Tibet Spurs Rallies

Inside Tibet, the harsh suppression of peaceful March 10th protests by monks in major monasteries just outside of Lhasa led to an atmosphere of extreme tension in the city. On March 14th, when Chinese forces beat and arrested more monks demonstrating at Ramoche Temple in full view of a lay crowd, the people took to the streets in passionate defiance of fifty years of Chinese rule and the Han Chinese majority. In the following weeks, Tibetans rose up in every region in Tibet, facing with tremendous courage and pride the full force of the Chinese military sent in to put them down. The whole of Tibet quickly became a military prison, completely shut off from the world media, a situation which has continued through the Beijing Olympics.

Grief-stricken and outraged by the brutal crackdown and the images of Tibetans killed during the uprising that were smuggled out of the country, SF Team Tibet poured their hearts into non-stop protests, petitions, online actions and nightly vigils in support of their friends and family inside Tibet.

Resolutions for Human Rights in Berkeley and San Francisco

Tibetans packed the SF City Hall chambers to support an SF Board of Supervisors resolution brought by Supervisor Chris Daly to commend our Tibetan Freedom Torch and the efforts to raise awareness regarding human rights violations in China. The resolution passed on April 1, 2008 after of a huge rally on the City Hall steps, and despite the introduction of a competing, weaker resolution by Carmen Chu, and protests by the representatives of the Chinese government. Earlier, the Berkeley City Council had passed a resolution supporting Tibet introduced by our staunch supporter Kriss Worthington.

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Our continual protests, petitions, calls and letters to local papers finally produced some movement at City Hall. After weeks of



Olympic Campaign:

stonewalling and disinterest in our pleas, the Mayor's office finally released the details of the torch route, and agreed to a meeting with SF Team representatives on April 3rd. They expressed concerns about Tibetan safety during the torch relay, asked him to support the Tibetan human rights resolution recently passed, and to reach out to the International Olympic Committee to seek their support in canceling the scheduled torch run through Tibet. The Mayor said he would raise concerns to IOC and later called for the cancellation of the Olympic torch relay in Tibet. Suddenly, the city backed off its plan to require protesters to be caged into the "free speech" zones.

Golden Gate Bridge Action for Tibet

On April 7th three SFT demonstrators scaled the cables of the Golden Gate Bridge with two huge banners reading "One World, One Dream, Free Tibet 08," and "Free Tibet." The popular and wildly effective action hit the front page of the NY Times, and made champions of the climbers -- Laurel Sutherlin, Duane Martinez and Hannah Strange.

Tibetan Freedom Torch & Rallies

SF Team Tibet's spring efforts focused on organizing massive protests and rallies for the eve and the day of the torch run in SF, April 9th. Thousands of people, and TV news media from all over the world, gathered at United Nation Plaza on the morning of April 8th for an extraordinary day of events in support of Tibet. Our message was spread far and wide and clear as reporters interviewed scores of Tibetans passionately speaking out for their country people, against the spirited, colorful backdrop of a beautiful Tibetan Freedom Torch (TFT) ceremony that included the release of 50 white peace doves, a massive rally at SF City Hall, and lines of marchers stretching for miles and waving Tibetan flags on their way to shouting down the walls of the Chinese Consulate.

ICT's Candle Lights for Human Rights Rally and Vigil

The crowds returned to United Nations plaza from the consulate for a beautiful candlelight vigil and rally organized by the International Campaign for Tibet, and featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who called on President George Bush and other leaders to not go to the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics, for the sake of human rights. Actor Richard Gere, eventually flanked by Tibetan Buddhist monks echoed Desmond Tutu's call. Thousands joined in prayers for the victims of Chinese government abuse in Tibet.

Olympic Torch Farce

SF Team Tibet gathered at Ferry Park on the morning of April 9th, fully prepared to show the world our distaste for the way the Chinese government was using the ideals of the Olympics as a means to whitewash and legitimize their brutal occupation of Tibet. Under the direction of Mayor Newsom, however, the torch, never appeared on its published router along the waterfront Embarcadero, bypassing tens of thousands of spectators in a bizarre journey that ended in a hasty closing ceremony at the



San Francisco Team Tibet



airport, witnessed by no one.

Having waited at major rallying points by Justin Herman Plaza and by AT&T ballpark all morning, protesters at Justin Herman took matters into their hands around noon, and thousands marched down the Embarcadero in a wide swath behind a 40-foot-wide sign that read, "San Francisco says: No Torch in Tibet." Protestors stopped a 50-passenger bus carrying Chinese officials and, possibly, Olympic torch bearers, laying down in front of it. The Mayor and the Chief of Police would state to the press that the reroute was an eleventh hour decision after the bus, carrying torch bearers and Chinese officials, was stopped.

In the end, we held a victory rally at Ferry Park, celebrating running the torch out of town with its tail between its legs. We cheered Majora Carter and Andrew Michael, official Olympic torch bearers who displayed Tibetan flags on their runs. Tibetans and San Francisco will forever be remembered in Olympics history as having vigorously protested and displayed tremendous

Olympic Campaign:

alarm toward Beijing's fake symbol of peace.

August: The Beijing Olympics

As this report goes to press, SF Team Tibet is participating in a global Tibetan Olympic Uprising of protest, prayer and nonviolent direct action, calling for freedom and human rights in Tibet. In addition to road trips to Oregon and San Jose to connect with Olympic athletes at US Olympic staging areas, members of SF Team Tibet have organized daily vigils, protests and actions in the Bay Area, beginning on the first day of the Olympics and scheduled to continue through the last day.



And we have cheered the brave, creative actions by members of Students for a Free Tibet in Beijing -- banner drops, a die-in, protests at Tiananmen Square. On August 7th, we were horrified when SF Chinese consular official senselessly cut the rope of Nyendak Wangden, an SFT member who was staging a mock hanging from the roof of the consulate, causing her to fall 20 feet, and refusing police and paramedics entry to the consulate to offer medical help to Nyendak, who miraculously was not seriously injured. Outraged by this inhumane assault, a large crowd joined the protests for the opening day of the Olympics, gathering for a rally at the City Hall and the Chinese consulate, as well as for an evening candlelight vigil at UN Plaza. The next day, hundreds of people took part in a Peace March on the Golden Gate Bridge that received major local TV coverage. Two colorful Tibetan Freedom Bike Rallies have been held along San Francisco's Embarcadero and over the Golden Gate Bridge, and all-day rallies at Union Square featuring cultural performances, photo exhibitions and political theater. Strongly attended candlelight vigils in Berkeley and protests at the Chinese consulate in San Francisco are held on alternate days, demonstrating the strong will of San Francisco Tibetans and their supporters to never give up on our people in Tibet.

Photos and video of the campaigns, as well as the complete version of this article can be found at www.sfteamtibet.org and at YouTube under SF Team Tibet.



San Francisco Team Tibet



Tibetan Community Work with Local and National Political Supporters

Tibetans Assist Tibet Supporter Kriss Worthington's Campaign for State Assembly

In June, community members supported Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington's bid to represent District 14 in the California State Assembly. Worthington, a long-time friend of Tibet, often attends Tibetan events, speaks at our March 10th rallies, and is helping with our plans to build a Tibetan Community Center in the Bay Area. Tibetan community members helped to distribute literature, and talk to voters for his campaign. Though he wasn't successful this time, we wish the Councilman well for a bright future in Sacramento.

Meeting with US Congresswoman Jackie Spier

Ugyen Tsering, our community coordinator, met with congresswoman Jackie Spier, who was elected to the US Congress in place of late Congressman Tom Lantos. Ugyen la briefed her about the Tibetan community and requested her assistance and support for Tibet cause. She assured him that she would take a keen interest in the human rights situation around the world and to do her best for Tibet.

Memorial Service for our Dear Friend US Congressman Tom Lantos

Tom Lantos, one of the greatest champions of Tibet and human rights around the world, died this past February. Having lost a great friend, TANC called an emergency prayer session at the Nechung Buddhist Center and offered prayers for his departed soul. Congressman Lantos was remembered on March 26th at a memorial service in South San Francisco, where the TANC board members paid their last respects. We met with his wife and daughters and offered them traditional *khatags*, and urging them to follow in his footsteps and great human rights legacy. Several national and local leaders also attended the service, including House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi. The TANC president seized the opportunity to express to her our appreciation for her strong and vocal support for the people of Tibet in condemning China's brutal crackdown in Tibet. Speaker Pelosi was just back from a congressional visit to Dharamsala, India during which she met His Holiness and addressed Tibetan gatherings.

Religious Activities



In addition to our normal prayer gatherings, TANC organized this year many candlelight vigils, and special prayers for those Tibetan brothers and sisters who lost their lives under the brutal Chinese crackdown of the 2008 Tibetan Uprising, as well as the victims of the Burmese cyclone and Chinese earthquake victims. Our religious events included:

- Talk by Dr. Thupten Jinpa la, an official translator of H.H. the Dalai Lama, on Tibetan Buddhism and Modern Society. At Arjia Rinpoche's Center in Oakland, and sponsored by the Gyuto Center. (6/29)
- Candlelight vigil at San Rafael on the day the Olympic torch was run through Tibet (6/18)
- Thursday vigils in San Rafael for Tibetans in Tibet
- Special prayer and fundraising for the Chinese brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the Sichuan earthquake (5/19)
- Prayer vigil and donation drive for the Burmese typhoon victims, and attendance at the vigil by the Burmese in SF (5/09)
- Talk by Arjia Rinpoche on the life story of the 10th and 11th Panchen Lama's (5/06)
- Dharma advice on basic Tibetan Buddhism for youths by Geshe Tsultim Gyeltsen from Thupten Dhargyling Center in Long Beach, CA. Sponsored by the Gyuto Center (12/16)
- Prayer gathering on every full moon day.
- Candlelight vigils at the downtown Berkeley BART station at least once a week, and often daily since April 14th.
- *Chokor Duchen* (Buddha Skayyamuni's Day)

Special Prayers and Donations for China Quake Victims

One hundred members of our community gathered in Berkeley on Monday, May 19th, to pray for victims of the earthquake in China's Sichuan province, and to collect donations for an earthquake emergency relief fund directed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Tibetan government-in-exile.

"We are gathering in sympathy and solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of Chinese and Tibetan people suffering unspeakable grief and hardship in the areas affected by the earthquake," said TANC president Ngodup Tsering. "We are joining Tibetans all over the world in this effort, including Tibetans inside Tibet." The Tibetan government-in-exile called on Tibetans everywhere to provide relief to the Chinese and Tibetans in the earthquake zones. The local Tibetan prayer session, held at the



Religious Activities

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Hall, included prayers and rituals for the good rebirths of the dead, as well as for the alleviation of the enormous suffering of the injured and those who have lost family and friends in the tragedy. Tsering Gyurme, TANC General Secretary, noted that “despite any differences the Tibetan community may have with the Chinese government, the Chinese earthquake victims are all human beings. We feel great sadness when we see the images of parents who have lost their children or ordinary people who have lost their homes, and we want to do all that we can to help.”

Marin Vigil on the Day the Olympic Torch was Run through Tibet

As the Olympic torch was being run through Tibet, about 200 Marinites and Bay Area Tibetans gathered at San Rafael’s central square, in a moving evening dedicated to peace. Monks from the Gyuto Vajrayana Center set the evening’s tone, chanting in the soft light of the setting sun, followed by the Reverend Sara Vurek, the master of ceremonies, and a Buddhist in the Tibetan tradition, who said, “We are gathered here today because tomorrow the Beijing Olympic Torch is expected to begin its run through



Lhasa. The torch is not welcome in Tibet, and many fear that it could lead to a humanitarian disaster. So we are here to pray for peace in Tibet. Today is especially auspicious because, by chance, today is Saka Dawa and good works are multiplied by 100,000.”

Other speakers included TANC president Ngodup Tsering, Caroline Kornfield, who had returned recently after completing an internship at the Tibetan Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Dharamsala, India, and Dr. Celedra Gildea, who works with a charity that is building a monastery for nuns in eastern Tibet. Dr. Gildea read an emotional letter sent by Tashi, who worked with Ms. Gildea during a recent trip to Tibet, and who movingly thanked exiled Tibetans and their supporters for not letting the world forget about Tibet.

TANC performers dazzled the crowd with traditional Tibetan songs and dances, including three Tibetan teenagers wearing white masks and colorful robes who performed the *Tashi Sholpa* dance, which invites good luck and peace in the world. A shaggy black yak (made by two Tibetan young men in costume, dancing together)

then slowly wove its way through the crowd to the center of the plaza and performed a funny, popular *Yak-tse*, cocking its head at people it recognized, and rolling over to the crowd’s delight.

Mr. Jack Kornfield, a well-known author on Buddhism, and a founder of Spirit Rock Meditation Center in western Marin, gave a powerful talk on the essence of Buddhism and maintaining peace during the current crisis in Tibet. The Reverend Carol Hovis, director of the Marin Interfaith Council, then lead us in a prayer and a call for unity and peace at all levels of our lives. TANC members distributed hot tea to the crowd, who held candles in remembrance of those who died in Tibet. The event was such a success that now there is talk of starting an annual Tibet Culture Day in Marin County.

Cultural Performances

One of our main efforts to preserve Tibetan identity comes through keeping traditional Tibetan songs and dances alive. This year, our accomplishments included our culture group learning some new dances and songs. The one that stands out the most is *Tashi Shoelpa*, which is the most challenging, as well as the Yak dance. The group presented a few great shows in front of crowds and special guests on different occasions such as Tibet Day, Tibetan Losar, His Holiness' Birthday, and the "How Berkeley Can You Be" parade. One very special performance was at the April 8th peace concert. Through the year we built great friendships among each other, while encouraging Tibetan youth to practice and preserve our cultural traditions.



The TANC Board would like to acknowledge Tenzin Tuchen's great efforts in directing our culture group, and each of the participants, all of whom play an important part in keeping Tibetan traditions alive:

Tenzin Palyon, Dhondup Wangyal, Jangchup Dorjee, Thupten Gelek, Tenzin Samphel, Tsering Samdrol, Tsering Tsomo, Tenzin Dolma, Sherap Choetso, Tenzin Yangzom, Tenzin Choetso, Tenzin Dhonga, Tenzin Yonten

TANC Board and Staff

The 2007-2008 TANC Board

Ngodup Tsering, Tsering Gyurmey, Jamyang Nordrup, Jigme Lhundup, Yeshe Sopa, Jigdol Ngawang, Dhondup Danaktsang, Tenzin Tuchen, Tsering Youdon, Phuntsok Dolma, Dawa Chokey

Board Elections

It was decided this year that in the wake of ever-expanding TANC membership activities, the present board needs to be expanded. The Board decided to increase the strength of the board members from 8 to 11, as provided in the TANC by-laws.

Election of New Board Members

At the normal elections during His Holiness' Birthday celebrations in July, only Dechen Tsering la, agreed to serve on the TANC board – thank you, Dechen la! A fresh election was held on August 2nd, with the following members being elected: Lobsang Tharchin, Penpa Tsering, Tsering Gonpo, Namkha, Tsamchoe Dolma, Palmo, Tenzin Woser (Navato). We are grateful to the ongoing board members, and the new crew, for your critical willingness to serve our community.



Community Coordinator Position Created

Thanks to the generous financial assistance of the Betsy Gordon Foundation, we are able to hire Ugyen Tsering as our first Community Coordinator for TANC. As soon as we were able to secure the grant from the Betsy Gordon Foundation, a committee was formed to interview and hire a candidate for this new position. Ugyen Tsering was chosen from a number of applicants. The position is on an annual contractual basis and the community has funding for two years (2008/2009). Ugyen la started working in beginning of May 2008, with responsibilities that include, among other things, staffing the TANC office, assisting with various TANC programs, including the TCCNC project and supervising the Tibetan school. Ugyen la works out of the TANC office from Monday to Thursday, and he is at the Tibetan School every Sunday. TANC has needed the Community Coordinator for a long time, but the community could not create such a position due to lack of funding. Thank you to the Betsy Gordon Foundation for its most generous support!

Fundraising Consultant for TCCNC Project

TANC is happy to announce that in addition to the Community Coordinator position, the Betsy Gordon Foundation is also supporting Kelsang Aukatsang in his work related to the TCCNC project. Kelsang transitioned to a paid consultant position in May 2008. He is putting in at least 3.5 days a week and is responsible for directing the TCCNC capital campaign project and raising the funds needed for the proposed community center in a timely manner. In addition, Kelsang is also helping to raise funds for various community programs being offered by TANC through the TCCNC, including the scholarship program, performing arts, and the Tibetan School.

Outreach to the Chinese Community

TANC Annual Report

Editor-in-Chief

Yolanda O'Bannon

Graphic Design & Photography:

YoWangdu Web Works

Advisor

Ngodup Tsering

Editorial Board

Jamyang Nordrup

Tsering Gyurmey

Jigme Lhundup

Yeshe Sopa

Jigdol Ngawang

Dhondup Danaktsang

Tenzin Tuchen

Tsering Youdon

Phuntsok Dolma

Dawa Chokey

Contributors

Dhundup Tsering

Dolma Chuteng

Giovanni Vassallo

Jamyang Nordrup

Karma Ngodup

Kelsang Aukatsang

Kalsang Tashi

Michael Linvill

Ngodup Tsering

Phuntsok Dolma

Tenzin Subhar

Tenzin Tuchen

Tsering Gyurmey

Tsering Youdon

Thupten Norbu

Ugyen Tsering

San Francisco Bay Area Tibetans and Chinese Meet for Dialogue

On May 3, 2008 over 50 Tibetans, Chinese, Taiwanese and Americans met at the *World Journal** headquarters in Millbrae for a spirited three-hour discussion of China and Tibet. From our Tibetan community, Arjia Rinpoche, Dechen Tsering and Tulku Tashi, spoke as members of the eight-member panel. Chinese community speakers included former UC Regent, Lester Lee, the western US representative of the Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan, and James Yin, author of a book on Nan-king and a pictorial history of Tibet.

The panelists lead a far-reaching interchange of ideas that revealed both stark differences and some points of commonality among the disparate group gathered. In one such interchange, Arjia Rinpoche, former abbot of Kumbum Monastery and one of the most prominent Buddhist lamas to have left Tibet, discussed his experience in Tibet, and pointing out that compassion, cooperation and compromise are critical to mutual understanding. He was followed by James Lin, who proclaimed that Tibet is an internal matter of China, that the Tibetan issue is a fake issue promoted by the West and Western media, and that China would never let go of Tibet because of Tibet's critical strategic position as a geographic source of Asia's water, and her rich minerals and ores. Mr. Lin went on to lambast the "theocracy" of Tibet, which he ascribed with "100% power," and declared that Arjia Rinpoche, as a member of that ruling class, had never had hardship in his life, while he, Mr. Lin, had suffered in China, where members of his family had been imprisoned. Arjia Rinpoche responded by noting that in fact in 1958, when he was eight years old, the "Great Leap Forward" in China resulted in his father's detention and death, the arrest of 29 people in his family, and becoming himself an orphan, with no caretaker.

After the forum officially ended, clusters of pro-Tibet and pro-Chinese people exchanged views and follow up questions, some in Chinese, some in English. While the panel discussions had run quite heated at times, with some people shouting or jabbing the air to vehemently make points, the post-forum conversations settled into more intense listening and exchanging of ideas. In the end, participants agreed it had been a fascinating and useful exchange and committed to do it again.

* The *World Journal* is a newspaper, owned by a Taiwanese, that is widely read among the greater overseas Chinese community.

Finances

	Operational Activities	SFTeam Tibet	Specific Programs	Community Center	
	TANC Bank Account	TANC Bank Account	TANC Bank Account	TANC Bank Account	Total TANC Bank Account
Ordinary Income/Expense					
INCOME					
43400 · Direct Public Contributions					
	31,894.12	49,007.25	101,250.00	355.94	182,507.31
46400 · Earned Income					
	60,288.59	8,729.67	0.00	0.00	69,018.26
Total 47200 - Membership Dues	2,520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,520.00
TOTAL INCOME	94,702.71	57,736.92	101,250.00	355.94	254,045.57
EXPENSE					
60900 · Business Expense					
	118.47	78.15	0.00	32.18	228.80
62100 · CONTRACT SERVICES					
62110 · Audit, Artists/ AD etc. Fees	5,558.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,558.88
62120 · School expenses	0.00	0.00	9,651.50	0.00	9,651.50
62160 · Advertisement/Media/ Publication	0.00	9,489.17	0.00	2,851.37	12,340.54
62170 · Community Coordinator	0.00	0.00	9,027.78	0.00	9,027.78
Total 62100 · Contract Services	5,558.88	9,489.17	18,679.28	2,851.37	36,578.70
62800 · RENT EXPENSES					
Total Office/School/Hall/Equipment Rent	38,185.24	5,494.20	150.00	142.00	43,971.44
63100 · Groceries					
	11,514.76	4,387.29	0.00	127.39	16,029.44
65000 · OFFICE EXPENSES					
	2,929.03	15,693.11	1,938.27	2,510.28	23,070.69
65100 · UTILITY EXPENSES					
	1,003.09	266.15	0.00	250.34	1,519.58
65200 · DONATION & GIFTS	15,653.96	13,295.10	150.00	0.00	29,099.06
68300 · Travel and Meetings Expenses					
	752.30	4,394.05	512.00	40.00	5,698.35
TOTAL EXPENSE	75,715.73	53,097.22	21,429.55	5,953.56	156,196.06
TOTAL INCOME	210,176.55	57,736.92	101,250.00	355.94	254,045.57
NET INCOME from TANC Bank Account	18,986.98	4,639.70	79,820.45	-5,597.62	97,849.51
Additional Income from TCCNC Bank and BGF Scholarship Bank Account					73,624.14
Net Income From Overall TaNC's Activity					171,473.65

Finances

BALANCE SHEET AS OF AUGUST 18TH, 2008

ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
CURRENT ASSETS		EQUITY	
Checking/Savings		30000 · Opening Balance Equity	41,8392.02
14000 · CHECKING ACCOUNTS		Interest Income earned on CDs	10,115.02
14003 · B OA TANC	131,285.93	Net Income for 2007/2008	171,473.65
14002 · BOA Scholarship	68,000.00	TOTAL EQUITY	599,980.69
14001 · BOA Community Center	83,971.06	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	599,980.69
14004 · WELLS FARGO TANC	10,000.00		
14005 · Petty Cash	35.04		
Total 14000 · CHECKING ACCOUNTS	293,292.03		
14100 · WAMU Savings			
14101 · WAMU TANC CD	32,494.7		
14102 · WAMU Building CD1	33396.13		
14103 · WAMU Building CD2	135284.99		
14104 · WAMU Building CD3	94286.98		
Total 14100 · WANC CDs	295462.80		
TOTAL CHECKING/SAVINGS	588,754.83		
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	588,754.83		
FIXED ASSETS			
15000 · Furniture and Equipments			
15001 · Equipments	15,873.87		
15001.1 · Accumulated Depreciation	-5,288.00		
15004 · Furnitures	639.99		
Total 15000 · Furniture and Equipments	11,225.86		
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	11,225.86		
TOTAL ASSETS	599,980.69		

Green Book Contributions

In 2006, there were 360 Tibetan Green Book -- *Dhanglang Chatrel* – contributors from TANC .We had 12 new applicants. In 2007 we had about 500 Tibetan Green Book contributors from TANC, with 21 new applicants.

Donation Drives

TANC initiated fundraising drives to help the victims of Burma's devastating cyclone and China's Sichuan Earthquake, both of which took a heavy toll in lives, and rendered multitudes of people homeless. More than a thousand dollars in each case were donated by TANC members and given to BADA and the Red Cross, respectively, for the above purpose.

Contributions from other Tibetan Associations of North America

The Tibetan Associations of North America responded overwhelmingly with generous donations to support our April protests during the Olympic Torch relay in San Francisco. Our community members, always responsive to our calls for assistance, gave substantial donations and together, we raised a total of over \$50,000, enabling us to stage a stunningly successful protest. Thank you Tibetan Associations of North America.

Acknowledgements

TANC has benefited always from the extreme generosity of many organizations and individuals, this year more than ever. We humbly thank the following:

Organizations

Betsy Gordon and the Betsy Gordon Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
Everest Waterproofing and Restoration Company
Tibetan Youth Congress
Students for a Free Tibet
Bay Area Friends of Tibet
Committee of 100 for Tibet
Nechung Buddhist Center
Gyuto Vajrayana Center
YoWangdu Web Works
Chaksampa
Semshuk Pundha



Individuals:

San Francisco Supervisor Chris Daly
San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin
Berkeley City Councilman Kriss Worthington
US Congresswoman Barbara Lee and her office
Olympians Charles Altekruise & Ed Ferry
Dechen Tsering, Eva Herzer & Taj
Michael Linvill
Tseten Tashi
Yolanda O'Bannon

TANC would like to sincerely thank all those devoted community members whose help has been the pillar of our success for all the wonderful gatherings and functions that we organized this past year. To those of you who served long hours in the kitchen, sat in the chilly Berkeley nights for vigils, hosted our guests in April, helped us clean up after events, contributed so generously your money, unloaded and loaded the flags and signs and candles for our vigils and consular protests, sponsored food and refreshments for our events, helped the children with their practices and performances, served as *rupons*, shopped, chopped and cooked momo's at the Himalayan Fair...

THUK JE CHE! THANK YOU!

We hope and appeal to all to extend the same help and cooperation to the new Board.

