



BAY AREA FRIENDS OF TIBET

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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26TH ANNUAL TIBET DAY: TIBET DAY SUNSET DINNER CRUISE BAFoT Celebrates 28 Years of Education & Nonviolent Resistance

August 19, 2011 - San Francisco, CA

Since the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1950, tens of thousands of Tibetans have gone into exile; refugees fleeing persecution, resettling in India, Nepal and other countries. Though displaced from their homeland, they hope for a return of autonomy for Tibet, and work to preserve the valuable religious and cultural heritage of their country. The Bay Area Friends of Tibet became involved in the resettlement of Tibetan refugees when the 1990 Immigration Act opened the door to 1,000 Tibetans and their families to resettle in the United States. San Francisco was among 10 designated resettlement sites across America. Since that time, the Bay Area Tibetan community has grown to be the third largest in the country, and BAFoT continues to work with them toward freedom for Tibet, raising public awareness of the plight of Tibet, and helping preserve the Tibetan heritage for this and future generations. Our work is made possible through the generosity of volunteers and donors throughout the community.

On October 2nd the Bay Area Friends of Tibet (BAFoT) invites you to join us for a spectacular and enchanting Sunset Dinner Cruise on San Francisco Bay to support our efforts on behalf of Tibet and its people. This special celebration dinner cruise will feature delicious and exotic Tibetan and Indian foods aboard the classic luxury yacht, the *Empress*.

At this event you will have the opportunity to not only support the work of BAFoT, but to learn about the issues facing Tibet today, and to celebrate the unique religious and cultural contributions of Tibet. Proceeds from this event will also support BAFoT's efforts on behalf of human rights in Tibet, and provide funding for special initiatives that have a direct impact on the quality of life of Tibetan communities in the U.S., India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.

This celebration is set to coincide with the 136th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, whose model of nonviolent civil disobedience serves as an inspiration for the nonviolent resistance that is part of BAFoT's mission.

WHEN: Sunday, October 2, 2011 - 6 PM to 9 PM *Empress* boarding time: 5:45 PM
WHERE: 310 Harbor Drive, Sausalito, CA
TICKETS: \$75 per person (includes an annual membership in BAFoT)
ONLINE RESERVATIONS: <http://www.friends-of-tibet.org/tibetday/tibetday.html> or (415) 264-3264

There will be a **silent auction and raffle** during the cruise. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, over-bids on auction items may be tax-deductible. Reserve your tickets today, seating is limited.

By joining us on this cruise you will be helping Tibetan's throughout the world. For additional information contact BAFoT at 415-264-3264.

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As donor supported organization, the Bay Area Friends of Tibet, established in 1983, is the West Coast's oldest Tibet support group and the oldest tax-exempt Tibet support group in the country. BAFoT's efforts to relocate 67 Tibetan families to the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1990's led to what is now the third largest Tibetan community in the United States. In addition, BAFoT's efforts have raised thousands of dollars toward the establishment of the Tibetan Community Center of Northern California. BAFoT's ongoing SPECIAL PROJECTS: *SEMSHAE TIBETAN CHILDRENS MUSIC TECHUNG FILM PROJECT, TIBETAN-CHINESE OUTREACH, TIBETAN WOMENS SOCCER, TIBETAN-HIMALAYAN HEALTHCHARE, AND DZONGKAR CHOEDE MONASTERY*. Visit our website to learn more about the many initiatives of the Bay Area Friends of Tibet, the current news about Tibet, and how to get involved in support of our mission, whether as a volunteer or to donate: <http://www.friends-of-tibet.org>. Call/email any questions. Thank you & Thukje Che!