

**TCIA Board Meeting**  
*Monday, November 8, 2010*

***Board Members Present:***

Geshe Thupten Dorjee, Member at Large  
James Ownbey, President  
Pam Dramis, Treasurer  
Bill Symes, Member at Large  
Karen Chotkowski, Co-Treasurer

***Board Members Absent:***

Sidney Burris, Vice President  
Jasmine Merced, Secretary

***Committee Chairs Present:***

***Absent:***

Christy Pollock, Community Outreach

***Committee Chairs***

Cheryl Maese, Membership  
Georgia Lance, Land  
Kate MacNaughton  
Lonberger, Fund Raising

***Others Present:***

Ellen Thompson  
Anne Wenzel

6:32 pm Meeting called to order

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of the Minutes.** No minutes from the last meeting; no vote of approval.

**Financial Reports.** Pam reported that our CPA filed the required 501(c)(3) financial report for the Tibetan Cultural Institute of Arkansas.

**Committee Reports.**

*Community Outreach, report by Christy Pollock.* (1) Interfaith Harmony Day will be on February 5, 2011 in the Parish Hall of St. Paul's Church in Fayetteville. For the past two years TCIA has had an information booth operated by Ben and Christy Pollock and Geshe Dorjee has participated in the program by giving a presentation and participating in the panel discussion. Geshe Dorjee has agreed to participate in the 2011 event and Christy and Ben Pollock have volunteered to host the information booth. (2) November 20, 2010 is Meditation Day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Fayetteville from 1 – 5 pm. Geshe Dorjee is slated as a guest speaker at the event. (3) December 2, 2010 the University of Arkansas is hosting a Resident Assistant Meeting on Faith and Spirituality. Geshe Dorjee is one of the featured guest speakers.

*Land Committee, Georgia Lance.* Nothing to report.

*Membership Committee, Cheryl Maese.* Nothing to report.

*Fund Raising, Kate MacNaughton.* Nothing to report.

### **His Holiness the Dalai Lama Spring 2011 Visit to Fayetteville, AR**

The Walton Arts Center will sell the HHDL tickets. One proposal is for a system of tiered ticket sales in which tickets would be available first to students, second to faculty and local residents, and finally to the rest of the public.

The local restaurant Common Grounds on Dickson Street is hosting a display of tsongas during the Dalai Lama's visit.

Wattle Hollow, Mt. Sequoyah Methodist Assembly and the Unitarian Church of Fayetteville have offered space to house out of town visitors during the Dalai Lama's visit. Denise Lanuti has also offered her studio to house visitors during that time.

Bill Symes is putting together a list of nearby colleges and universities to announce His Holiness's visit in May 2011. He is also looking into placing advertisements in Buddhist publications, including Snow Lion, Shambala and Tricycle.

Bill Symes suggested that the Walton Arts Center host the Mystical Arts of Tibet this Spring in concert with the Dalai Lama's visit. He will contact the arts center program director with the suggestion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Cooking Class taught by Geshe Dorjee and Afternoon Tea fund raiser on October 30 raised a total of \$727 for the TCIA general fund.
2. Tibetan Cookbook Project has arisen from a series of cooking classes to be taught by Geshe Dorjee. The project will consist of writing and publishing a cultural textbook which will include recipes for Tibetan food, stories and other items pertaining to Tibetan culture.
3. A motion was made by Karen Chotkowski to purchase a gas cooker to use for TCIA fund raising dinners and cooking classes. The gas cooker will be purchased from Geshe Dorjee in an amount not to exceed \$200. The motion was seconded by Pam Dramis and was passed unanimously.
4. Proposal was made to purchase a recorder for the TCIA to use for recording Buddhist teachings, including the Sunday and Wednesday night teachings given by Geshe Dorjee. James Ownbey suggested the purchase and use of a

video recorder instead. Discussion of the benefits of a video recorder ensued. It was stated that with recordings, pod casting would be a possibility for airing the teachings. Bill Symes has recording equipment which he offered for immediate use for the TCIA. No decision was reached. Anne Wenzel will research potential recorders to purchase and report back to the Board.

5. Students for a Free Tibet. It was proposed to include a student representative from the University organization, Students for a Free Tibet within the Tibetan Cultural Institute of Arkansas. Bill Symes made a motion that a Student Liaison Committee be formed and that the student representative from Students for a Free Tibet be the chairperson. The motion passed. Karen Chotkowski made a motion that Will Van Laningham be appointed as chairperson of the Committee. The motion passed. Will will be notified immediately of the appointment.
6. Fulbright College Honors Program will present the movie, "Cry of the Snow Lion" on November 29 and 30. A board member expressed concern that the lights in the parking garage of the Fayetteville Public Library (FPL) would be turned off before the movie ended since this had happened at the October 25 book review. It was agreed that the lighting situation be brought to the attention of the FPS staff.
7. Geshe Dorjee gave a presentation on ethics to 60 students in the Sam Walton College of Business. After the presentation Geshe Dorjee cooked a Tibetan meal for all of the attendees.
8. Anne Wenzel interviewed Geshe Dorjee about his October visits to the prisoner on Oklahoma's death row, both before and during his execution. She and Dennis Hargiss are working on the transcripts for the final manuscript. The final manuscript will be submitted to various publications for printing, including The Huffington Post.
9. Geshe Dorjee is currently designing on-line classes in Buddhism for Springhill College in Alabama. The program will include six weekends of classes. His presence at Springhill College will be required for two weekends of the semester. Classes will begin Spring Semester 2011.
10. Updating the TCIA website is in progress. James Ownbey and Sidney Burris are conferring to create a dynamic website having a calendar of upcoming events and an archive of past events. Christy Pollock volunteered assistance from Ben Pollock to help locate potential servers.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, December 13, 2010 at 6:30 pm in the Anne Henry Board Room of the Fayetteville Public Library.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:37 pm.**

Minutes submitted by Karen Chotkowski.