



Telluride Institute Tibet Fund Newsletter

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News updates

My Thanks to Ben Kerr and KOTO radio for broadcasting the latest edition of THE TIBET CONNECTION, a monthly 30-minute program dedicated to all things Tibetan. If you missed it, you can listen on the web <thetibetconnection.org>, well worth the visit! It includes a beautiful segment on ego and self. Future editions will be on KOTO whenever Ben finds an empty slot after the evening news.

Another great place for info is <phayul.com>, a clearing house for Tibet news from around the world.

President Obama and Tibet

Discussions between the Dalai Lama and a senior US Government delegation took place in Dharamsala on September 13 and 14. Delegation leader Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement personally conveyed the commitment of President Obama "to support the Tibetan people in protecting their distinct religious, linguistic, and cultural heritage and securing respect for their human rights and civil liberties" as well as the US President's commendation for the Dalai Lama's consistency in seeking genuine autonomy for Tibetans within the People's Republic of China through his middle way approach."

The statement also revealed that President Obama and the Dalai Lama would meet in Washington, DC, after the US-China Summit in November.

More at <savetibet.org>

Dhondup Wangchen faces trial

Dhondup Wangchen is the man who made the film LEAVING FEAR BEHIND (many of you saw it at the library in March). The film documents Tibetan views of last year's Beijing Olympics, the current situation in Tibet and the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet. The filmmaker was arrested very soon after finishing the film, for "inciting separatism and stealing, secretly gathering, purchasing, and illegally providing intelligence for an organisation, institution, or personnel outside the country." His trial is about to begin, however his chosen lawyer

Li Dunyong was blocked from taking on the case by the Xining judicial authorities, who informed Dhondup Wangchen's family that the court would designate a government-appointed lawyer for the trial. <savetibet.org> has letters ready for us to sign and send off to our elected representatives asking them to speak up for Dhondup. Please help a person in distress!

The girls at the orphanage...

...will be warm and toasty this winter in their new Tibetan coats THANKS to so many of you! More than 50 people have committed to helping a girl for the next year, at \$10 per month. About twenty more pledges are outstanding (please follow up soon). I am so proud of Telluride!

However, another 38 girls are still waiting for a helping hand. Any more potential sponsors out there? Maybe your book club wants to chip in, or your father-in-law? Please help me look around for some more generous donors. THANKS!

By the way, not many people have chosen the option of just paying \$10/month. The Telluride Institute Tibet Fund is fully set up to do this either by bank draft or credit card charge. Just let me know what works for you.

Lastly, to make sure our money goes to the projects we are promised and to renew my own commitment to the cause of Tibet I am planning another, my third, trip there. It will be a cold season trip again, so hopefully snow and winter storms won't keep me from getting to the orphanage (a three day drive from Chengdu, China). I hope to bring back stories and pictures, names and background info...

The People's Republic of China

will turn 60 on October 1. Already the borders to central Tibet (the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region) have been closed once again to all foreigners, until October 8. And again, we have to ask ourselves what is it the Chinese are afraid we might see? Their military parades and assemblies on Lhasa's biggest square which they, the Chinese, created at the foot of the Potala Palace for just such occasions? Or are they afraid more Tibetans will show their deep unhappiness with 60 years of oppression when foreigners are watching?

May there be peace,

Elisabeth