



# The Tibetan Association of Philadelphia

P.O.Box Number 41063  
Philadelphia, PA 19127

## An Annual Report

January 1st, 2019 to December 31st ,2019

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## Our Mission Statement:

The Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) is a non-profit organization of Tibetans living in the State of Pennsylvania. It strives to preserve, promote the unique Tibetan Culture, traditions within the Tibetan community and to others to further for our just cause. We also promote the awareness of current situation in Tibet. The TAP is committed to the Principle of non-violence and support the leadership of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, our precious spiritual leader. We support and promote His, " The Three Commitment."

1. The Promotion of Human Value
2. The Promotion of Religious Harmony
3. Preservation of Buddhist Culture

TAP also abides to the policies and guidelines of our exile Government, the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) which is based in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, India

# Aims and Objectives of TAP

1. To strengthen the Unity and get connected with different Tibetan communities of North America.
2. To raise an awareness about the Chinese occupation of Tibet and the plight of the Tibetan people.
3. To preserve and promote the Tibetan people's distinctive religion and culture heritages.
4. To educate the younger generations of Tibetan-American children about their unique history, religion, and culture.
5. To promote His Holiness the Dalai Lama's message of love, compassion and kindness.

## Current TAP Board Members :

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. President.       | Tenzin Shakya       |
| 2. Vice-President   | Thupten Monlam      |
| 3. Secretary.       | Kalsang Wangyal     |
| 4. Auditor          | Dekyi Chodon        |
| 5. Treasurer        | Nyima Lhamo         |
| 6. School Director. | Treley Parshingsang |

**January 15th 2019**

The Tibetan Association of Philadelphia's Youths proudly performed an amazing traditional Tibetan dances during the opening of the famous 76ers game in Philadelphia. We are very honored to do this every year which helps to educate the general vast basketball audiences about our Tibetan culture and traditions. Thanks to all the youth participants! You did an amazing job! We are very proud of you all !



**January 30th 2019**

Lhakar day prayers for Tibets political & religious cause and long life prayers for His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Unitarian Church. The Lhakar sponsors was Cho Dorjee la family.

February 9th 2019

At 10am, the Tibetan community members and friends assembled at the Mongolian Buddhist Centre to celebrate the Tibetan New Year-LOSAR. The Losar began with prayer services at the Temple which was lead by Geshe las. Thereafter scarf offering to His Holiness's Portrait was done . The attendees were served with a traditional Tibetan butter tea and Dresil a sweet rice mixed with butter, raisin and sugar. Then everyone gathered at the parking lot for incense burning ceremony, everyone chanting with loud voice " Kyi KYi so so Lha gyalo! " The Losar continued at the main Hall of the centre, serving with varieties of delicious Tibetan food, tea ad other soft drinks, playing music, songs, and enjoyed performing dances through the late night was awesome to begin the LOSAR!





**February 12th 2019**

The TAP President Tenzin Shakya participated in meeting with CTA President Dr.Lobsang Sangay at the Office of Tibet, Washington, D.C. during the, "Thank You America" event.



**February 27th 2019**

Lhakar Prayer at the Unitarian Church to accumulate prayers at 7-9am. The Lhakar sponsor was Kungo Shawo Lobsang Dhaygyal la's family.



March 10th 2019

On Sunday, the March 10th, 2019, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) members and supporters commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day in Lhasa, Tibet in 1959. The TAP members and supporters gathered at the Philadelphia's City Building around 2:15 pm. There, the TAP President Tenzin Shakya gave an opening speech followed by reading of CTA President Dr. Lobsang Sangay's 10th March message to Tibetans around the world in Tibetan language. Tashi la, the son of Tsering Jurme read the President's English version of the 10th March message, "Let us continue to strengthen our resilience so that



we can be united with our brothers and sisters In Tibet in freedom. Let us commit to the return of His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama to the Potala Palace in Lhasa-where he rightly fully belongs." President Dr. Lobsang Sangay said.

Then they sang Tibetan National Anthem and observed a minute silent prayer for those who lost their lives for the freedom of Tibetans people in Tibet under brutal Communist Chinese rule. With more vigils, Prayers and chanting slogans continued,

"Free Tibet now," "China out Tibet." "Long Live Dalai Lama." While

marching towards the Liberty Bell Hall to continue our vigils there. This place is very significant for freedom and Liberty. It is very much relevant with our very struggle for freedom.

At 4pm at the Liberty Bell, Kasur Lobsang Dhargyal la spoke and highlighted the significant of 10th March. Mr. Jeff spoke in length the Chinese communist atrocities committed on Tibetans. The Vice-President Thupten Monlam la read the 10th March message of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile. Wangyal la, the son of Thupten la spoke about the 10th march in Tibetan language beautifully. Sonam Tobgyal also spoke. The 10th March vigil continued until late evening with Rise Up songs and 10th March memorial song.

Bodh Gyalo! Long live His Holiness!

## March 25th 2019

On this day at around 4am very early start, several members of the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia and its supporters participated Tibet Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.





They met with several US Representatives, Senators and their staff, requested for their support on Tibet related legislations. After accomplishing positive responses and their assurance for their continue support for Tibet, we returned to Philadelphia around 10pm. The following people had participated at the Tibet Lobby Day:

1. Tenzin Shakya
2. Tsering Jurme
3. Cho Sonam Tobgyal
4. Thupten Choenyi
5. Kunga Dakpo
6. Tenzin Rig-den
7. Tenzin Ngawang
8. Wangchen Tsering
9. Tenzin Chokey
10. Rigzin Lhamo
11. Christine Witherspoon
12. Warren Reynolds
13. Anna Reynolds

## March 27th 20`19

TAP members assembled Lhakar Day prayer at the Unitarian Church from 7-9pm for a long payers for His Holiness and made announcement about Tibet cause related matters to the members.

The Lhakar Day prayer was sponsored by TAP board.

## April 12th 2019

Under the instructions and request from the Department of Religion & Culture CTA and the Office of Tibet,DC, we the TAP members gathered at the Tsering Jurme and Dekyi la's home to accumulate prayers for Political & Religious causes and long life prayers for His Holiness the Dalai Lama from 7-9pm.

This event's sponsor was Tsering Jurme la and Dekyi la family.



### **April 19th 2019**

With per instructions and request from the Department of religion CTA and Office of Tibet,DC, we the TAP members assembled at the Board member Kalsang Wangyal's house for long life prayers for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This was sponsored by Kalsang Wangyal family.

### **April 24th 2019**

Under kind sponsorship of the Folklore Project, the TAP members assembled at the Unitarian Church to observe Lhakar Day and celebrated His Holiness the Panchen Rinpoche Gedun Choekyi Nima's birthday from 7-9pm.

### **April 27th 2019**

On this day TAP members gathered at the Mongolian Buddhist Centre to celebrate the 8th Anniversary of Tibetan Sunday School. The Children and parents gave several cultural show and dances. A delicious pot luck dinner,



tea and soft drinks were served. The calendar of year 2019 Tibetan Sunday school, from January to December 2019, we had 51 days of Sunday school classes.

## May 29th 2019

On this day the Lhakar prayer was done at the home of Kalsang Wangyal. Since TAP President was participating at the North American Tibetan Association's 18th conference in California, the President collected members thoughts and suggestions to present at the conference according to TAP's Charter.

## June 17-21 2019

On this day, under the supervision of School Director Treley Parshingsang and parent teachers the Tibetan Sunday School had their summer camp for five days which was funded by the Tibet Fund. During the camp, the

students mainly focused on traditional culture and language. In 2019 they had 38 Sunday school classes.



### June 26th 2019

TAP members gathered at the Unitarian Church from 7-9pm for Lhakar Day and did prayers for His Holiness's long life. In the same evening, we practiced dances for the 4th of July parade participation. The Lhakar Day Prayer was sponsored by Thupten Monlam family.

### July 4th 2019

As usual the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia participated in 4th of July parade with proudly displaying of Tibetan National Flag, displaying white Yak and prayer flags. All the Tibetan participants wore spectacular Tibetan traditional dresses and carrying a life



size of His Holiness the Dalai lama's portrait , a group of Tibetan men and women performed several Tibetan dances through out the parade, such as “ Bodh la Dro.” Let go go to Tibet. The public were highly appreciative with lots of cheering and covered in

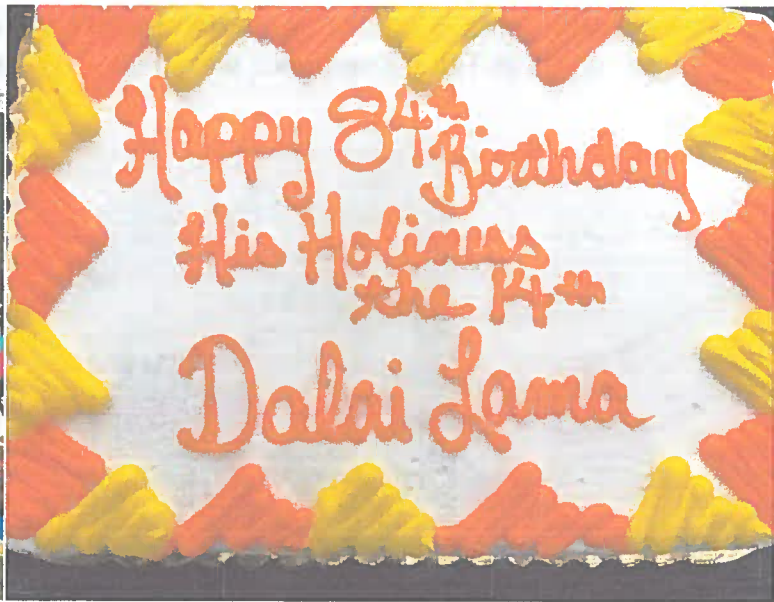


the news clip.

Mr. Tsering Wangdu and Mr. Lobsang Thupten kindly helped to arrange our transportations, Thupten Choenyi and Thupten Monlam also helped to decorate parade carriages. Tsering Wandu painstakingly raised funds for our expenses for the event.

## On July 6th 2019

the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) celebrated our Precious leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 84th birthday at Fort Washington Park with prayers, an incense burning, singing of Tibetan and American Anthems, cutting birthday cake, children and adults dancing, special Tibetan Kham dance performance with beautiful outfit, and an amazing pot luck lunch made this this special day a memorable. The TAP President Tenzin Shakya made opening speech with reading of Kashag's message and Vice President read the Exile Parliament's message. At the beginning weather was hot and humid, but suddenly with short an auspicious rain made our day at the park turned out rather cool and pleasant for the whole day!



## July 7th 2019

With instructions from the department of Religious & Culture CTA, we gathered at the unitarian Church to do special long life prayers for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Tsering Norbu family sponsored this event.

## July 31st 2019

During this Lhakar Day, we gathered at the Unitarian Church to do long life prayers for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This event was sponsored by Oudrung Tsering family.

## August 2nd-3rd 2019

Under the organization of the Department of Religion & Culture CTA and the Office of Tibet, the first Tibetan language school conference was held for two days in New York. TAP Tibetan Sunday School's Assistant director Dechen Kunsang, teacher Tenzin Lhamo and Tenzin Chokyi participated in this event.



### August 28th 2019

TAP members gathered at Kalsang Wangyal and Abu Lhamo's home to accumulate prayers for Tibet's Political & religious cause and long life prayer for His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

### August 30th 2019

On this day the TAP President Tenzin Shakya went to California State to participate in the North American Tibetan Associations's 18th conference for three days.





**September 6th 2019**

At Kalsang Wangyal's home, the TAP board members and Charter Committee announced new draft Charter of TAP.

**September 7th 2019**

TAP members gathered at the Unitarian Church to celebrate the Tibetan Democracy Day and we the board members and charter draft committee members edited TAP's new Charter thoroughly from page one to the end and made declaration to the members with their unanimous consent.

**September 9th 2019**

On this day in Washington,DC, the US Congress gave an official Gala dinner reception on behalf of CTA President Dr.Lobsang Sangay. Tenzin Shakya the President of TAP was there to honor this special occasion for representing TAP members.





## September 25th 2019

TAP members assembled at the Unitarian Church for Lhakar Day Prayer. We also collected suggestions for the third general conference being held in Dharamsala. The TAP President Shakya also announced the resolutions of 18th North American Tibetan Association's conference in California to the members.

## October 3-5 2019

The Special General Meeting of the Tibetans, the Kashag and the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile was convened the third Special General Meeting of Tibetans in October this year.

The Special Meeting with the participation of Tibetan community leaders around the world was gathered from October 3-5 in Dharamshala, India the seat of Central Tibetan Administration.

The key theme of the meeting are 1) Five Fifty Vision and 2) The relationship between the lineage of His Holiness the Dalai Lamas and Tibetan people. On this convergence Kasur Kungo Shawo Lobsang Dhargyal la represented Tibetan Association of Philadelphia.



## October 19th 2019

On the evening of October 19th, 2019, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) celebrated the 12-year anniversary of our precious leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama's acceptance of the US Congressional Gold Medal. We all gathered at the Unitarian Church with our Tibetan community of Philadelphia and friends of the TAP. The event featured the three special guests from the Tibetan Medical & Astrological Institute of Dharamsala, India. The Tibetan school Children sang the Tibetan and American National Anthems. We offered Khatas to His Holiness's Portrait, group dancing, and On the evening of October 19th 2019, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) celebrated the 12-year anniversary of our precious leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama's acceptance of the US Congressional Gold Medal. We all gathered at the Unitarian Church with

our Tibetan community of Philadelphia and friends of the TAP. The event featured the following three special guests, Dr. Phuntsog, Secretary Mrs. Lhamo and An Astro Mr. Neten from the Tibetan Medical & Astrological



Institute of Dharamsala, India. Special thanks goes to Lobsang Samten Ia for organizing medical team's talk in Philly area. At the end, attendees were served with delicious pot luck dinner and danced through the late night hours.

## October 23rd 2019

On October 23rd, during the NBA evening ' games between 76ers and Boston Celtics in Philadelphia, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia members expressed and drew strong attention toward the NBA for issues concerned regarding the China's occupation of Tibet, others. We protested telling Mr. Joseph Tsai, and Mr. LeBron James that Mr. Morey has right to





express his solidarity with Hong Kong. The protesters carried with slogans : China Respect for Democracy!  
NBA, Stand For Freedom!  
Don't let China buy Your Silences! People are dying to be free!!  
Stop genocide in Tibet!!!  
We Stand For Hong Kong!

## October 30th 2019

On this Lhakar Day at the Unitarian Church, the Cho Dorjee la family requested to do prayers for a deceased friend. This event was sponsored by Cho Dorjee Family.



November 27th 2019

On this Lhakar Day at the Unitarian Church, Cho Dorjee la family requested prayers for their deceased friend. This event was sponsored by Cho Dorjee family.



November 29th-30th 2019

From November 29-30, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia had their annual fund raising event called, "Tibet Bazaar." It was held at the Ethical society Building, Rittenhouse Square, in down town Philadelphia.



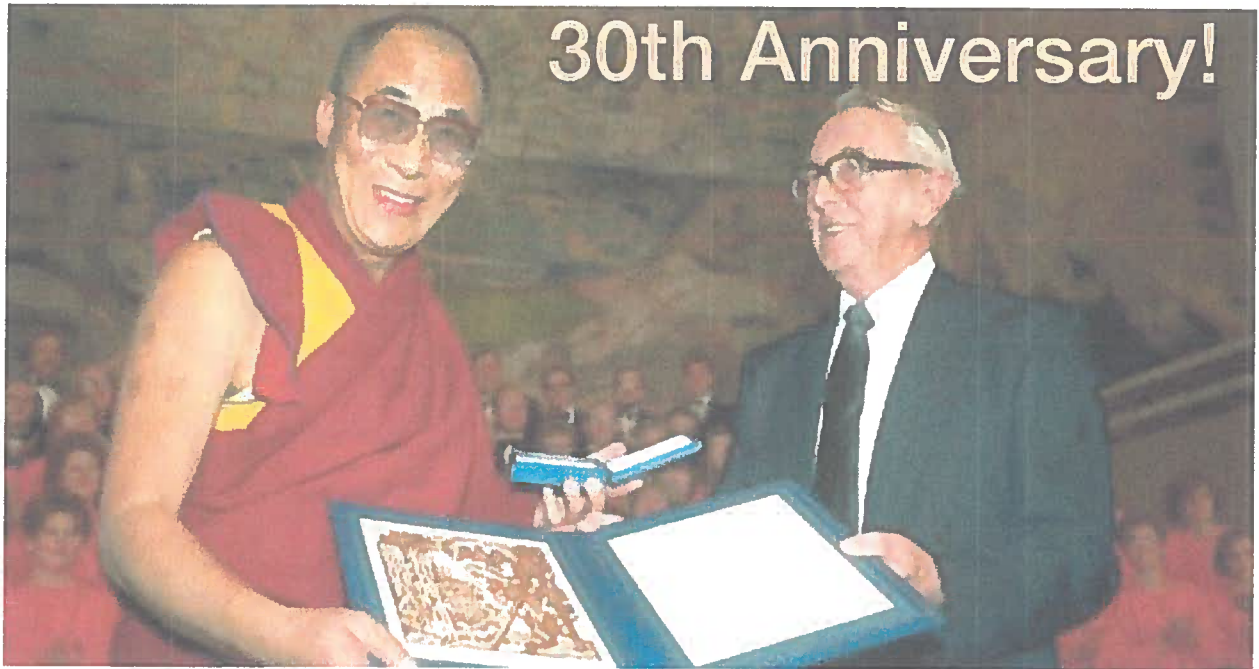
November 30th 2019

Tibetan Association of Philadelphia Youths performed the traditional Tibetan dances during the opening of 76ers game in Philly. So proud of our Youth's an amazing dance performance !



**December 14th 2019**

On the evening of December 14th 2019, at the Unitarian Church, the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia (TAP) members and supporters commemorated the 30th Anniversary of His Holiness was conferred the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway. On this same occasion, the members



voted to select their new TAP board members for the year 2020-2021 term. Pot luck dinner was served and danced through late night.

## **Community Centre Committee meetings in 2019**

From January 1st to December 2019 we had 6 committee meetings held at the home of Tenzin Shakya and Tsering Jurme's home regarding funds for community centre project.

### **The Community Centre committee members**

Tenzin Shakya  
Thupten Monlam  
Tsering Jurme  
Tsering Wangdu  
Kunga Dakpo

## Conclusions of TAP board members

We the out going TAP board members are pleasure of serving our Philadelphia Tibetan Community for two amazing years. And now, we would like to congratulate to all our newly elected TAP board members! We wish them a successful tenure ahead!

Long Live His Holiness the Dalai Lama! Both Gyalo!





