

Mission and History
of the
Tours of Drepung Gomang Monastery and Friends of
Drepung Gomang Monastery

The Mission
of the
2008 Tour of the Sacred Art of the Land of the Snow Lion
(February, 2008 through October, 2008)

The Mission of this tour is to share and preserve the pure Tibetan culture which overflows with spiritually artistic expression. We bring teachings of ancient ways and beliefs that do, even now, create the possibility of global peace, compassion and wisdom. We want to share beautiful, sacred Tibetan traditions as demonstrated through art, and living dance and prayer. We want all people of all ages, faiths and cultures to experience now, a future that is without violence; a future of worldwide compassion, a future full of the wisdom of open hearts to search for peaceful resolutions to conflict and a future that places the highest appreciation on the value of our ever-connected differences.

Drepung Gomang Monastery, in cooperation with Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery, presents a very special tour focusing on sacred arts and traditions of Tibet, the Land of the mythical Snow Lion. This tour will officially kick off at Carnegie Hall on February 13, 2008, sponsored by Tibet House, NYC and travel throughout the USA until the end of October, 2008.

To become a partner of the tour, or to host an exhibition or workshops, please contact: Sue Simone at sue-1@hotmail.com, or 203-725-6888.

History of the Drepung Gomang North American Tours

Inspired by His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet's outreach to the world and his efforts to create a bridge between the cultures of the East and the West, the Abbot and Directors of Drepung Gomang decided in 1996 to organize a North American Tour whereby 10 monks of the monastery would visit cities and towns throughout the continent in order to introduce them to Drepung Gomang Monastery and create a foundation for friendship and future interaction. Since the inception of Friends of Drepung Gomang, 501(c)(3) in 1998 and its first tour in 1999, the Gomang monks have traveled throughout the entire United States carrying a message of inner peace and compassion to the thousands of people who have been fortunate enough to attend their cultural and religious performances, listen to their teachings, and participate in their prayer ceremonies. The tour group has visited organizations, museums, libraries, universities, elementary and high schools, churches, centers, businesses, theaters and homes in every region of the United States in 1000's of communities and towns. Because the response to their sharing of their culture and religion and history with their American friends has been emphatically positive, Gomang Monastery plans to continue these tours, thereby ensuring that the relationships they have established will be long-lasting and of mutual benefit.

Andreas Kurz, is the president, founder and executive director of Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery and brought the first tour to the US in 1999.

Janaki Pierson coordinated the 2000-2001 USA Tour.

Greg Schultz coordinated the 2001-2002 USA Tour.

Mary Pattison coordinated the 2003-04 Drepung Gomang North American tour.

Jennifer Harris (USA) and Laurel Antti (Canada) coordinated the 2005-06 Sacred Art of the Land of the Snows Tour

Carol Stewart (USA) and Laurel Antti (Canada) served as Coordinators for the 2006-2007 Tour

**2008 will bring two separate tour groups to North America.
Sue Baer Simone is now coordinating for the USA Tour Group and,
Laurel Antti is coordinating the Canadian Tour Group.**

Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery

Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery is a 501(C)(3), non-profit company, organized under New York state law and incorporated in April 1998 by Andreas Kurz. It is a supporting branch of Drepung Gomang Monastery in the United States (Tax I.D. 13-4005994).

Your contribution to Friends of Drepung Gomang is tax deductible for a “quid pro quo contribution;” i.e. your “ticket” for any service is not deductible nor is your donation for our merchandise, but any amount given to us as a pure donation is tax deductible. The law states: “The amount of your contribution that is deductible for federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of any money contributed to the donor over the fair market value of goods or services provided by the charity.” To claim a deduction, you must file a disclosure statement of your contribution for the full amount you have donated to us, but only the amount over and above goods and services rendered may actually be deducted for tax purposes. Upon request, we will give you an acknowledgement of your contribution if your donation is over and above \$250.

All checks should be made out to “Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery.” Donations should be sent to

***Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery
9503 S. Pointe LaSalle’s Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401***