

*A Seat of
Sakya Tibetan Buddhism
United States of America
Founded in 1974*



*May the radiant flower of
Tibetan Tradition
be preserved for the
benefit of all beings.*

SAKYA MONASTERY OF TIBETAN BUDDHISM

Non-Religious Tibetan Cultural & Community Programs at Sakya Monastery

1) Greenwood Disaster Relief Center

Sakya Monastery is the designated Disaster Relief Center for the surrounding neighborhood under the city's SNAP Program. With contributions from neighbors and Monastery members, the center is equipped with the following items: two 100-gallon rain barrels for emergency drinking water; a trauma pack, including first aid supplies and stretcher, hard hats, gloves, flashlights and glow sticks for search and rescue; and an external automated defibrillator. Additional funding is needed to provide first aid and search and rescue training through the SNAP program, and to purchase additional first aid items.

2) Preserve Tibetan Culture

One of the key goals of Sakya Monastery is to preserve Tibet's unique culture.

The Sakya family was the first Tibetan family to move to the United States and become US citizens. In 1960, Professor Turrell V. Wylie from the Tibetan Studies Program at the University of Washington, the first such program in the country, invited H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya to participate in a research project on Tibet sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Tibetan culture is being lost every day as it is torn apart and ancient documents are destroyed by the Chinese occupation during the Cultural Revolution. The role that Sakya Monastery plays in historical preservation of Tibetan culture and artifacts is immensely important for future generations.

Digital technology – if available – would greatly improve the long-term viability of such preserved culture. Delicate ancient texts could be scanned. Verbal teachings that have been handed down through hundreds of generations could be preserved through digital recordings – and all shared with researchers, historians, and people interested in Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism world-wide.

Sakya Monastery's Tibetan Cultural Preservation programs at Sakya Monastery include:

- Sakya Monastery co-sponsors cultural programs with the Tibetan Association of Washington (<http://www.washingtontibet.org/Mission.html>).
- Sakya Monastery provides monastery space, resources and support for young Tibetan children to learn the Tibetan language.
- Sakya Monastery celebrates annually His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birthday from its inception and with the existence of the Tibetan Association of Washington (TWA), in conjunction with this Tibetan support group.
- Sakya Monastery provides space for Tibetan Association of Washington community pot-lucks, meetings and also a voting site (Tibetans vote for their Representatives Tibetan Government in exile)
- Sakya Monastery acts as a Tibetan cultural speakers bureau resource. For example, H.E. Dagmo Kusho Sakya recently made a presentation to a senior citizen community and 100 people attended.
- Sakya Monastery collaborates with museums by lending Tibetan artifacts and expertise. For example, we assisted in the current (Nov 4, 2006-Feb 4, 2007) exhibit *Vanished Kingdoms* and *Sacred Portraits of Tibet* at the University of Washington Burke Museum.

- Sakya Monastery is the repository for many Tibetan cultural items, artifacts and antiques. Examples of cultural items include Tibetan shoes, hats, clothing, cups, tea churn, yak tail wisks, coins, etc.)
- Sakya Monastery celebrates the Tibetan New Year with a day-long program that offers traditional Tibetan food, music, presentations and a singing of the Tibetan national anthem.
- Sakya Monastery offers Tibetan Language classes (Beginning and Intermediate).
- Approximately 25% of the books in Sakya Monastery's library are on Tibet history and culture. The Sakya Monastery library is associated with the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, His Holiness Dalai Lama's library in Dharamsala, India. The library is available to Sakya Monastery members, as well as researchers and the public for a nominal library card fee.
- Sakya Monastery participates in the annual Tibet Fest held at Seattle Center. The festival features Tibetan songs and dances, arts and crafts, a photo exhibition, Tibetan film shows, slide shows, and Tibetan foods.
- Sakya Monastery participates in the annual candlelight New Year walk for Peace around Green Lake.
- In 2008 H.H.J.D. Sakya, with Ven. Tulku Yeshe Gyatso, completed a 3 volume autobiography. Within Tibetan culture, the Sakya leaders hold a role 3rd to that of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
- H.E. Dagmo Kusho Sakya has written a book, *Princess in Land of Snows: The Life of Jamyang Sakya in Tibet*. A biography on her life is in process.
- One of the co-founders of Sakya Monastery was His Eminence Dezhung Rinpoche III. A book on his life story was published in 2004: *A Saint in Seattle: The Life of the Tibetan Mystic Dezhung Rinpoche*, by David P. Jackson.
- Sakya Monastery hosts Holiday and Losar (Tibetan New Year) bazaars that promote Tibetan-owned businesses.
- Sakya Monastery is open weekdays from 8:00am to noon.
- Sakya Monastery is occasionally used by outside groups, teachers (e.g., Tai Chi classes, etc), and musicians.
- Trained docents provide tours of the Sakya Monastery shrine room to area school children. Tours include discussions of Tibetan art and culture. Approximately 2- tours are conducted each year.
- Many old and sacred Tibetan texts as well as precious artifacts are stored at Sakya Monastery.