

*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**

#### Preserve Tibetan Culture

Because of the 1959 Tibetan diaspora, one of the key goals of Sakya Monastery is to preserve Tibetan culture. Tibetans have struggled to maintain their culture and identity.

The Sakya family was the first Tibetan family to move to the United States and become US citizens. In 1962, 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.

Then in 1974 H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya co-founded Sakya Teching Chöling aka Sakya Monastery. Sakya Monastery was established to share and preserve Tibetan culture and religion for all.

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>).
  - a. Sakya Monastery provides monastery space, resources and support for young Tibetan children to learn the Tibetan language.
  - b. Sakya Monastery co-hosts annually His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birthday celebration with the Tibetan Association of Washington(TAW).
  - c. Sakya Monastery provides space for Tibetan Association of Washington community pot-lucks, meetings and also a voting site (Tibetans vote for their Representatives of the Tibetan Government in exile)
- Sakya Monastery acts as a Tibetan cultural speakers' bureau resource. For example, H.E. Dagmo Kusho Sakya recently made presentations at the Google and Apple campuses.
- Sakya Monastery collaborates with museums by lending Tibetan artifacts and expertise. For example, we assisted in exhibit *Vanished Kingdoms* and *Sacred Portraits of Tibet* at the University of Washington Burke Museum.
- Sakya Monastery has an upgraded sound system which allows talks and community events like Losar (Tibetan New Year) to be live streamed and archived.
- 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 offers Tibetan Language classes (Beginning and Intermediate).
- Approximately 25% of the books in Sakya Monastery's library are on Tibet history and culture. 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.
- In 2008, H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya's life story was preserved in a biography by Ven. Tulku Yeshe Rinpoche. Within pre-Communist Tibetan culture, H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya held a role 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- Two DVDs have been produced about Sakya Monastery: *Journey to the West* and *Our Precious Guru*
- Sakya Monastery hosts a Holiday bazaar that promotes Tibetan-owned businesses.
- Sakya Monastery is open weekdays from 8:00am to noon.
- Sakya Monastery is occasionally used by outside groups for weddings and classes
- Many old and sacred Tibetan texts as well as precious artifacts are stored at Sakya Monastery.
- Trained docents provide tours of the Sakya Monastery's unique Shrine Room. Tours are conducted monthly. Requests for group tours (i.e. school or senior group) may be made by contacting the main office.