

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice, 2007

Brother Sister Helps to Rebuild Tibetan Monastery!!!

The Gomang College of the Drepung Monastery was founded in 1416 near Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. In 1959, before the invasion of Communist China, Gomang had about 5,500 monks. During the past fifty years, the Chinese Communists have destroyed more than 6,000 of Tibet's monasteries, including Drepung, and have imprisoned, tortured, and executed thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns. In 1969, 62 of the surviving Gomang monks were given 42 acres of land in Mundgod, south India. There they started to rebuild Drepung Gomang Monastery. Today more than 1500 monks live there.

Brother Sister (Gale Tallis) of the Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks, heard of their efforts to rebuild their monastery. Brother Sister schedules and books more than 400 cultural, educational and entertainment events at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri each year. This year, in addition to arranging an exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls at Union Station, she also scheduled an appearance of eight Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery. These Monks are on a year long tour of the United States and Canada to raise money for the rebuilding and maintenance of their monastery. Many of us remember that Brother Sister was the General Manager of the Kansas City Renaissance Festival during its heyday when it was sponsored by the Kansas City Art Institute. During those years, she proved herself to be a master (mistress?) of the art of publicity and promotion. On May 24th of this year, she put those skills to work on behalf of the Drepung Gomang Monastery. There was a strange and unusual occurrence during the Monk's visit to Union Station and it was all captured by video surveillance cameras. Within minutes, the astute Brother Sister had the press release and the video tape in the hands of local television stations and newspapers. The story was picked up by the Associated Press, United Press International and by national television networks. Our Abbot was sitting in his Airstream in southern California when he heard the story and when he Googled the event the next day, he found that the story had been carried by at least 173 newspapers and broadcast outlets around the world. Brother Sister had provided more publicity for the Monks of the Drepung Gomang Monastery than anyone else had during the Order's nearly 600 year history. Here is the story excerpted from reports in the *Kansas City Star* and from the Associated Press:

Missouri toddler ruins monks' meticulous sand design with 'a little tap dance'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Eight Tibetan monks spent two days cross-legged on the floor at Union Station, leaning over to meticulously coax grains of colored sand through metal

pipettes. They were creating an intricate painting of colored sand — called a mandala — as an expression of their Buddhist faith. They were more than halfway done with the design on Tuesday when they ended their work for the day and left. After the monks had finished for the day, a woman with her small child visited the post office inside Union Station, near where the design was being created. While the mother was mailing a package, the child, apparently attracted by the pretty colors, wandered over to play in the sand. “He did a little tap dance on it, completely destroying it,” said Lama Chuck Stanford of the Rime Buddhist Center in Kansas City. The mother did not report the incident, but a security camera at Union Station captured the moment. The security tape shows the boy's mother returning to the mandala, grabbing her son by the arm and walking out of camera range. “She summarily picked the child up and boogied,” said Bob Smock, security manager for the station. The sand design was surrounded by stanchions, but the child simply went under the tape. Officials have said they now will place benches around the new creation to further protect it.



The monks saw the destruction Wednesday. “No problem,” Geshe Lobsang Sumdup, leader of the group from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in southern India, said through a translator. “We didn't get despondent. We have three days more. So we will have to work harder.” Although most people would have been furious, the Tibetan monks believe that if you want others to be happy, you should practice compassion. Without anger or malice, they began rebuilding their sand painting.

The monks are on a yearlong tour of the United States and Canada to raise money for their monastery. The original monastery in Tibet was destroyed by the Chinese. In a ceremony Saturday, the monks will sweep up the sand and offer bits to onlookers for their gardens. The rest will be placed in the Missouri River. The belief is that it will carry the blessings all over the planet, from the Missouri River to the Mississippi to the gulf and to all the oceans of the world.

A Correction

On the last Solstice, our careless Abbot erroneously reported that Flaming Idiot John Conner was one of the Ded Bob Clones. John Conner is not a bob. The second bob was Erin [Muggsy] Aarsvold.

Brother Sister Frances Delivers!!!



Brother Sister Frances (Kristy King) recently delivered a bouncing baby boy. The baby's name is Henry Charles Hamer. Henry was born May 14, 2007. He weighed 7 pounds, seven ounces at birth but he has grown substantially since then. He bears a strong resemblance to his father who is a pilot for a major airline.

Congratulations to Henry and to his proud parents!

Abbot Survives a Perilous Journey to California!

Our Abbot, Brother Donald, told his silly little stories at the Kronenburg Old World Renaissance Festival in Corona, California from May 12 through June 10. On the way there, he had a timing chain, water pump, alternator and regulator replaced in Anadarko, Oklahoma. On his way back over the Rocky Mountains, he blew a head gasket on his 23 year old Ford Van. While he was in California, he did not feel that he could afford to go to Disneyland and have his picture taken with Mickey and Goofy even though he was only twenty five miles away. Instead, he opted to have his picture taken with a



genuine Hollywood movie star and a five foot chicken outside of a fried chicken restaurant in Corona. The movie star is Julie Mondin who will soon be appearing with Jon C. Riley and Tim Meadows in the Hollywood Blockbuster, *Walk Hard*. She will be playing the part of

the harpist. She has also appeared on television in *The Gilmore Girls*, *Frasier* and *Will and Grace*. Many will remember her from her appearances at The Georgia

Renaissance Fair, The Tennessee Renaissance Faire, The Sterling Renaissance Faire and King Richard's Faire in Massachusetts where she also performed as a harpist.

White Hart Renaissance Faire Opens its Second Season!!

In spite of suffering a major loss this winter, the White Hart Renaissance Faire will be opening for its second season in the Missouri Ozarks on June 23. After 30 years of working Renaissance Faires in California, Charles Taylor and his lovely wife, Di, decided to open a faire in a locale where real estate prices and government regulations were more reasonable. Charles and Di opened their White Hart Renaissance Faire last year and managed to put 3,000 patrons through the gate during their three weekend innaugural season. Charles Taylor died on February 13, 2007. He was part of the early production staff of the Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Agoura and at Blackpoint California. He also developed a number of other Renaissance faires in California including Dragonwood and the San Diego Renaissance Faire. His wife, Di Taylor, plans to continue the White Hart Renaissance Faire far into the future. Our Abbot will be telling stories there again during the first two weekends of the 2007 season.



Brother Twang Turns Sixty!



Brother Twang, (Michael Marzella) who recently turned 60 years old, divorced his second wife not too long ago. He also sold his house in Orlando and had heart surgery. In spite of his difficulties, he remains as regal as ever.

Miscellaneous Sad News

Our Abbot doesn't get out much. However, occasionally, people send him odd bits of news. Here's something from Brother Charles (Chuck Dixon) : ***Jon Miller, who was married to Karin Schaffer, (and who used to build willow furniture at Scarborough Faire) just had a real bad run of bad luck. His place got hit by a tornado and he pretty much lost everything. He's also completely broke and can't get a job because of his bad back. His phone has been turned off so he can't get calls or E-mail. If you could get the word out, he could use any help he could get.*** Unfortunately, we have no idea how to go about contacting John Miller. We also recently received an Email from Michael C. Mielnik, better known as Reverend Chumleigh (that's the rope walker, not the axe thrower) here is an excerpt from his Email of June 15: ***My younger sister has taken gravely ill after some surgery and her chances aren't good. Please***

*put your good thoughts out on the ether. If you pray, please do, it
couldn't hurt.*