

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TIBET FUND  
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT THE

*The 12th Annual  
Tibet Fund Gala*

HONORING

**JETSUN PEMA**

*Educationist and Social Worker*

**OLIVIA HANSEN**

*Philanthropist and Founder of The Synthesis Foundation*

and a special tribute to

**RICHARD WEINGARTEN**

*A founding member of The Tibet Fund*

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HOSTED BY

**CHEF ERIC RIPERT**

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CO-CHAIRS

**RICHARD & ALEJANDRA GERE**

**DIANE BRANDENBURG**

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**LE BERNARDIN PRIVÉ**

153 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10019

Thursday, October 20, 2022

Reception at 6:30pm: Dinner at 7:30pm



## **JETSUN PEMA**

At the behest of her elder brother, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Jetsun Pema became the President of the Tibetan Children's Village (TCV), holding that position for 42 years, until August 2006. She is presently the Vice-Chairman of the Governing Body of TCV and a member of TCV Executive Council.

Because of her efforts, today TCV projects includes five Children's Villages with attached schools, seven Residential Schools, seven Day Schools, ten Day Care Centers, four Vocational Training Centers, four Youth Hostels, four Homes for the Elderly, and an outreach program for over 2,000 children in exile. All in all, the TCV overlooks the well-being of more than 15,000 children and youths. In 1980, she was sent by His Holiness to visit Tibet as the leader of the third Fact Finding Delegation and for three months traveled extensively all over the country. Pema was elected the first Tibetan Woman Minister and served as Minister-In-Charge of the Department of Education. In 1995, the Tibetan Parliament awarded her the title, "Mother of Tibet," in recognition of her dedication and service to Tibetan children.

Pema received numerous awards, including Nari Shakti Puraskar-2017 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India for outstanding contribution to women empowerment; The Mychkin Prize, a special prize to honor recipients with exemplary work in the world of social commitment; Honorary Doctorate, School of Education and School of Nursing & Health Profession, University of San Francisco; Human Rights Hero Award by Association for Human Rights and Tolerance, Italy; Women of Courage Award, National Association of Women Voters of Italy.

She wrote an autobiography in 1997, called Tibet: My Story. In Seven Years in Tibet, a film based on the book by Heinrich Harrer, Jetsun Pema portrayed her real-life mother in the film as the mother of the young 14th Dalai Lama.



## **OLIVIA HANSEN**

Olivia Hansen is the Founder and President of the Synthesis Foundation and the Spiritual Life TV Channel. She has been lead sponsor and collaborator on a number of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's events including Kalachakra for World Peace in Washington DC and the Dalai Lama's World Peace Talk at the US Capitol West Lawn in Washington DC, as well as a significant sponsor at HH the Dalai Lama's events in Atlanta, Chicago, Bloomington, New York City, Louisville and Boulder, Colorado.

Olivia has traveled in Tibet and India, visiting initiatives for the Tibetan people and also having meetings with His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala. Most recently HH the Dalai Lama gave her his support for the Global Silent Minute to benefit the world. Olivia has been a sponsor for the Tibetan Association of Colorado, (TAC), in its co-sponsorship of HH the Dalai Lama's visit to the University of Colorado, as well as the establishment of its newly launched Tibetan Cultural Center in the Boulder area.

Olivia partners with many leaders, teachers and groups of spiritual consciousness to bring about growth of consciousness for a more spiritual and beneficial world. She sponsors conferences and gatherings that encourage higher awareness and progressive, inclusive ideas. She is an advisor to a number of organizations and is a member of the Evolutionary Leaders Group. Through her Synthesis Foundation, Olivia helps numerous humanitarian causes to benefit people around the world. Her Spiritual Life TV Channel features practical wisdom from spiritual traditions, with engaging videos that show how a person can live a more spiritually fulfilled, happy life.



## **RICHARD WEINGARTEN**

Richard Weingarten was born in Rochester, New York. His father, Maxwell, was an anaesthesiologist and his mother, Rosemary, was a nurse and homemaker for four children. After graduating from Yale University and Antioch School of Law, Richard would have a career in law, investment banking, and international development in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. His international development activities included terms as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), working in the world's least developed countries. Richard was the founding Managing Director of the Norwegian Microfinance Initiative (NMI) working on financial inclusion in developing countries, and a Managing Director of Intellectap, helping develop equitable and sustainable businesses.

Alongside these activities, Richard would begin reading the dharma in a trip to Thailand. He would go to Dharamsala, where Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche advised him to attend an upcoming Kalacakra initiation by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Madison in 1981. There he would have his first audience with His Holiness. From this audience, Richard decided to try to use his professional background in service to His Holiness and to help the Tibetan people. Thus, in 1981 he helped found the Tibet Fund and was a member of the board for many years. Among Richard's many other involvements was a months long visit to most of the Tibetan refugee settlements in India and then directing the Tibetan Economic Development Project in India for many years. In more recent times he was a consultant for the Five-Fifty Forum on the future of Tibetan issues.

Richard and his wife, Carol, met in the 1980s at an event in support of the Tibetan community. He arranged their first date at Riverside Church to hear Archbishop Tutu speak and receive a message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Richard passed away peacefully in 2019 in Dharamsala, where they had gone to receive teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

# *Gala Benefit Committee*

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Champa & Robert Weinreb

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Chef and co-owner of Michelin Guide three-starred restaurant  
Le Bernardin, Eric Ripert is the host of the  
12th Annual Gala of The Tibet Fund

## FESTIVE ATTIRE

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Musical performances and auction of distinguished arts and  
photography, special adventures, and luxury items will be held during the  
Reception and Dinner.

**For sponsoring a table or purchasing tickets, please contact  
[info@tibetfund.org](mailto:info@tibetfund.org) or call 212 213 5011**

# *41 Years of Service to Tibetan community*

The Tibet Fund's mission is to preserve the distinct cultural identity of the Tibetan people. Founded in 1981 under the patronage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibet Fund is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening Tibetan communities, both in exile and inside Tibet.

For forty one years, we have funded programs that has made a positive impact on all aspects of the lives of Tibetans in exile, including rehabilitation services and health care; sponsorships for orphaned and poor Tibetan children, monks, nuns, and the elderly; vocational training and community development; and programs to preserve Tibetan cultural identity.

The Tibet Fund reaches out to almost entire Tibetan refugee community in exile through programs including health, education, refugee rehabilitation and cultural preservation. Health programs have contributed to substantial reductions in infant and child mortality rates, morbidity, and tuberculosis incidence. Education initiatives have raised literacy rates, provided schooling for thousands of children, equipped adult refugees with new livelihood skills, and provided scholarships to pursue higher studies in the US and many more to attend universities in India and Nepal.

The Tibet Fund is a 501©3 organization and as such your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you have any questions about our organization, please do not hesitate to call us at (212)213-5011 or write to us at [info@tibetfund.org](mailto:info@tibetfund.org)



THE TIBET FUND

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