



THE 49TH DILUV KHUTUGTU MEMORIAL SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2013

Gegeen News

Memorial Service History

Diluv Gegen Khutugtu passed away on May 21, 1964, in New York City. He arrived in America in 1950 from Taiwan. In 1946, he traveled to Lhasa, Tibet on an arduous journey to search and possibly confirm the subsequent reincarnation of the late 8th Bogdo Gegen Khalkha Jebtsun Damba.

Subsequently, Diluv Gegen Khutugtu returned to Hongkong where with the help of Dr. Owen Lattimore, he made his way to the United States in 1949. Not too long thereafter, the Kalmyk Mongols arrived to established a community in and around Freewood Acres, now called Howell, New Jersey. Here Diluv Gegen established the first Mongolian Buddhist temple in a modest former garage. After a close to fifteen years of active presence in the Kalmyk community, he passed away after a long illness.

Since then, the late Ven. Jambal Dorj along with other Khalkha Mongols annually held annual memorial service honoring Diluv Gegen Khutugtu. Ven. Jambal Dorj passed away at the age of 102 on December 25, 2011. This year's 49th Diluv Khutugtu Memorial Service continued the important historical spiritual tradition at the very temple dedicated to memory of His Holiness the Diluv Gegen Khutugtu.

Throughout the late 1960's, and well into the early 1990's, less than a dozen participants attended the annual memorial services. Often, the number of the lamas exceeded the participants. Then starting in the early 1990's, as increasing number of Mongols moved to the United States, the annual participants have been growing. Close to hundred or so guests participated in this year's 49th Diluv Gegen Khutugtu Memorial



There was a memorial service held earlier in the morning to honor the late Ven. Jambal Dorj's Baksha, Ochirdar lam, from Omon Gov Aimag. Ochirdar lam, a notable spiritual and a political luminary passed away in 1966 in Freewood Acres. The above photograph of Diluv Gegen and Ochirdar lam was taken in Tibet sometime in the fall of 1946.



Service at the Nitsan Temple in Howell, New Jersey.

Ven. Yondon Gyansto along with nine other Mongolian and Tibetan lamas presided over the two hour long service.

Attending the service were His Excellency Ambassador Altan Gerel and his staff from the Mongolian Embassy in Washington DC, and also His Excellency Ambassador Och and his staff from the Mongolian Mission to the United Nations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ven. Xhamblam Yonden Gyamsto, the staff at the Nitsan Temple, the Mongolian American Cultural Association, and the Gyamcho family extend their deepest appreciation to His Excellency, Ambassador Altangerel, His Excellency Ambassador Och, for attending this year's memorial service.

The organizers of the memorial service acknowledge the generous support of the following DHMS patrons:

Tsogo Manaljav and his family.
Chojsomgijn Munkbold of Mongolia

We also acknowledge the following individuals and families who generously donated contributions to this year's Memorial Service:

Munkbold and family, Munkhsetseg Damdinsuren, Altangerel and Nyamtseren, Dolomsuren Otgonbayar, Sarantuya, Dorscha Khichikov.

Following individuals generously donated their time, effort, and funds towards the luncheon service:

Nyamsuren, Sarantstral, Narmandah, Oyungerel, Bolor, Uranchimeg, Otgon.

We also acknowledge all the volunteers for their time and effort to make it a successful event. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

