

# 2017 Holiday Greetings from MACA

*Sanj Altan*



Greetings for the new year 2018. I wish you and your loved ones a happy and restful holiday. I would like to share with you an overview of MACA activities and achievements over the past year, one in which we furthered the MACA goals as envisioned by our founders, Professor Gombojab Hangin, Tsorj Lama and Lopsang Khiyod. In years past, I had provided a summary of activities by paragraph. This year I will summarize with significant highlights followed by a listing of MACA support initiatives. Let me thank the MACA board, Chagaan Baatar, Chinggeltu Borjiged, Belig Borjiged, Enghe Chimood, Tony Ettinger, Palgi Gyamcho and the many friends of MACA for their continued support throughout the past year.

MACA continued the support started in 2016 of the Kalmyk Archival Project, led by Nikolai Burlakoff. The project in collaboration with the Rutgers University library aims to form a repository for materials related to the American Kalmyk-Mongolian diasporan community. MACA materials will be part of this project. Those who wish to donate materials can contact MACA for more information (also see <http://www.maca-usa.org/Issue0216.html>). In connection with the significant cultural work that Nikolai (pictured at right) has promoted, he was awarded the Chinggis Khaan Silver Medal for Cultural Service at the the NJ Folk Festival on April 29th.



MACA was a co-sponsor of the Mongol Heritage Foundation's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tsagaan Sar celebration on March 11th, at the Unorthodox Gallery in Manhattan, NY. The celebration was attended by over 150 local residents and visitors. MACA continued our collaboration with the foundation by co-sponsoring the Oirat Conference held at the Brooklyn Borough Hall on August 26, 2017. The conference was attended by scholars from the US, Russia and Mongolia including the well-known khoomei and epic song singer, Baatarjav Erdenetsogt.



The Mongolian Children's Aid and Development Fund (MCADF) activities continued under the able leadership of Tony Ettinger and Enghe Chimood. Support to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) continued in 2017. In March, MACA provided a special grant of \$2,000 to help the WCS conduct research and treatment of the sudden disease outbreak among the saiga animals in Mongolia. The MCADF continued sponsorship of the the World Biodiversity Day program in Choibalsan, Dornod, and the Biodiversity Trunk training program. The WCS

initiatives aim to educate youngsters about environmental protection and provide natural science and conservation education to communities in and around protected areas. Support of the WCS represents MCADF's major commitment to environmental issues. The MCADF also provided a grant to the Nomadicare fund, led by Sas Carey, to support special nutritional support of the Dukha children of Northern Mongolia.



On November 4<sup>th</sup>, MACA celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Chinggis Khaan Memorial Ceremony at the NJHA Conference and Event Center in Princeton, NJ. We began with a moment of silence in memory of MACA founders Professor Gombojab Hangin, Tsorj Lama and Lopsang Khyiod. This most important of days gives each of us an opportunity to remember and reflect on the greatest Mongol in history, someone whose profound influence on each of us continues to this very day. The Chinggis Khaan Memorial Foundation (CKMF), an arm of MACA, managed the planning and coordination of the events of the day. The organizing committee consisted of members from the Hazara, Buriyat, Kalmyk, Tuvan, Uvur and Aru communities, The committee was ably led by Dr. Chuluu Ujyed. Nearly 200 participants attended. The keynote addresses were given by Palgi Gyamcho on the topic of "History of the Mongol Diaspora Community" and Monica Uriyanghai speaking on "Continuing in the Spirit of Chinggis Khaan". Monica recollected her involvement in the ceremony from the very first to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Her Excellency Minister Goamaral from the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations gave an inspiring congratulatory address. The cultural segment included special performances by Kalmyk, Buriyat and Mongol artists. An edited film story of the day's highlights will be available on DvD shortly (\$30 through the MACA website). Many heartfelt thanks to those who made this year's ceremony possible.



On December 29<sup>th</sup>, MACA held the 26<sup>th</sup> annual memorial ceremony at the Nitsan Temple for the late Tsorj Lama, Gegeen and former Abbot of the Khorgho Sum in Baruun Sunid. Tsorj Lama was the second president of MACA.



The MACA web page ([www.maca-usa.org](http://www.maca-usa.org)) was effectively managed by Belig Borjigid. Simon Braune and Belig coedited MACA's newsletter the eTolbo. Thank you very much Belig and Simon.

On behalf of the MACA board, I close wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and much good health and success of every kind in the coming new year 2017.

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<b>MACA and MCADF Support Initiatives 2017</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>MACA Initiatives</b>	
Gerliin Orgoo International Shaman Organization	\$ 1,000
Honorarium Anda Union Artists	\$ 500
Honorarium Kalmyk performers Danara Shalkhanova, Mergen Kim	\$ 500
Kalmyk diaspora archival project	\$ 1,000
Kalmyk Youth coalition	\$ 500
Kalmyk-Mongolian Buddhist Center, Howell NJ	\$ 324
Mongol Heritage Foundation Oirat Conference	\$ 1,000
Mongolia Society	\$ 500
Mongolian Cultural Center 2017 Conference	\$ 1,000
Mongolian Heritage Foundation Tsagaan event	\$ 1,250
Mongolian Heritage Foundation Oirat conference	\$ 1,500
Mongolian School of the Nation's Capital Area	\$ 500
Nitsan Buddhist Temple, Howell NJ	\$ 500
NJ Folk Festival, Professor Angus Gillespie	\$ 1,000
Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, Ajia Gegeen	\$ 1,000
Tsolmon Damba exhibition	\$ 200
Ulan Zalata Media Production	\$ 500
Ulan Zalata Humanitarian Support Organization	\$ 1,000
WAMCA Children's Festival	\$ 250
WAMCA NAADAM	\$ 250
<b>MCADF initiatives 2017</b>	
Daidobro Children's Rehabilitation Center, Elista, Russia	\$ 800
Nomadicare (Sas Carey)	\$ 500
Wildlife Conservation Fund (Saiga program, Biodiversity Day, Biodiversity Trunk Program)	\$ 6,955