

Gualala Arts Lecture Series



BHUTAN: KINGDOM ON THE CUSP OF CHANGE WITH KARMA SINGYE DORJI

Monday, September 13, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5

Bhutanese writer, speaker and tour leader Karma Singye Dorji presents the Himalayan kingdom

of Bhutan through the eyes of his Bhutanese family. Going beyond the headlines about Gross National Happiness, he will discuss what makes Bhutan truly special and how it is making its way into the modern world.

Long removed by choice and geography, Bhutan was a land apart. Not anymore. The recent experiments with modernity present a unique set of challenges for the last Himalayan kingdom and its people. Guiding this change, and providing the moral compass for the nation, is Bhutan's revered monarchy.

National policy discussions in Bhutan are dominated by three words: Gross National Happiness or GNH.

It is through GNH that the government seeks to meet the challenges of a rapidly modernizing state. The basic tenets of GNH include Buddhist respect for all sentient beings, promotion of social harmony through cultural appreciation, and the integrated practice of working together for the common good. But will the homogenizing forces of change and the burgeoning aspirations of a population increasingly exposed to the outside world bring unforeseen problems for a hitherto sensible way of life?

Learn how the situation is evolving, what forces of global change could make or break the fragile peace of this lovely, seemingly mythic country. Understand the battle for hearts and minds that has undeniably arrived at Shangri-La's door.

The presentation will include the images of local artist and photographer Jeanne Gadol, who traveled with Karma Singye Dorji through his homeland in 2009.



THE RIGHT TO VOTE WITH CHARLIE HITT

Monday, September 27, 2010,
7:00 p.m. Admission is \$5

Most Americans think little about voting and many do not bother even registering. If they were to learn the history of voting in America, many would

be shocked and none would take that right for granted again. This presentation on Monday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. by Charlie Hitt entitled "The Right to Vote" comes as the midterm election heats up and will offer an interesting perspective on the franchise in America.

When Charlie Hitt was asked to talk to the Point Arena High School civics class about his experiences in the 2008 election as a representative of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in North Carolina, he did some research on who had the right to vote and various restrictions that were placed on the process throughout our history. What he

uncovered will surprise all but the most ardent history buffs and will confirm that truth is stranger than fiction.

In an entertaining and informative manner, Hitt will explore the evolution of the vote from its origins based on property ownership to the role of slavery, and the franchise history for Blacks and women. For instance, although the right of women to vote in federal elections did not occur in this country until after a hundred year struggle and a world war led to the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, each State and locality had widely different laws about women voting.

The talk will include historical cartoons and photos related to voting rights and Hitt will relate personal anecdotes from his work in North Carolina in November 2008 that offer a glimpse of how modern technology was used to curb voting abuses during that historic election.

A \$5 admission fee (not a poll tax) will be collected at the door.