

***Eating the Flesh of Our Mothers: Tibetan Buddhist Perspectives on Vegetarianism* by Dr. Geoff Barstow**

Wednesday, 3/11/18, 6:30pm, Corvallis Public Library

Drawing on the idea of reincarnation—that we have all had an essentially infinite number of past lives—Tibetan Buddhists often claim that every creature you may meet was, at one point or another, your parent. At that time they treated you kindly, keeping you safe, fed, and warm. Now, they suggest, we should repay this kindness by treating all creatures with generosity and compassion.

Arguments like these would seem to suggest that Tibetan Buddhists should be, almost by default, vegetarian. And yet this is not the case. While some Tibetans were vegetarian, most were not. Further, just as in the contemporary United States, the debates between anti-meat and pro-meat Tibetans could be fierce and acrimonious.

In this talk, **Dr. Geoffrey Barstow** will discuss Tibetan perspectives on meat eating and animal ethics, exploring the reasons Tibetans gave for adopting vegetarianism, why those arguments didn't always work, and some ways in which these Tibetan perspectives might influence contemporary debates over meat eating around the world.