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**CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE
A TIBETAN MANDALA PROJECT AT
THE DAVIS MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER, WELLESLEY COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 1, 2005**

Beginning on February 16, eight Tibetan Buddhist nuns from the Keydong Thuk-Che-Cho-Ling Nunnery in Kathmandu, Nepal will create a sacred sand Mandala at the Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA . The process concludes on March 1 and on that day the nuns will dismantle the Mandala and its vivid sands will be swept away into the waters of Lake Waban. The creation of the Mandala will be accompanied by an exhibition of Tibetan art on loan from a private collection. In a unique opportunity to share the cultural treasures of Tibet, the public is invited to view the creation of the Mandala. **All events are free and open to the general public.**

The Keydong nuns, including Ani Ngawang Tendol, their translator and group leader, are among the first Tibetan Buddhist women to learn this sacred art practice, which was traditionally reserved only for monks. The presence of these women, trained in Tibetan Buddhist practice and arts, challenges centuries of obstacles women have faced.

Mandala is a Sanskrit word meaning circle, cosmogram or “world in harmony.” Sand Mandalas are ancient, two-dimensional paintings created with vibrantly colored sand, representing the perfected environment of an enlightened being - in this case, *Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion*. The Mandala is a symbol of enlightened states that align with the physical universe, bringing about healing and peace.

A Mandala can be read as a bird’s-eye view of a celestial palace, with a highly complex and beautiful architecture adorned with symbols and images that represent both the nature of reality and the order of an enlightened mind. At a deeper level, a Mandala is a visual metaphor for the path to enlightenment: its viewers “enter” a world designed to evoke attitudes and understandings of their own deepest nature. A Mandala is both a microcosm and macrocosm and includes the individual and the universe in its transformative power. Upon completion of the intricate designs and complex iconography of the Mandala, it is dismantled and the sand is offered back to the earth, symbolizing the transitory nature of life.

The concept of the Mandala has found a wide range of correspondences. Within **Jungian psychology**, the Mandala represents an inner wholeness that we all seek to restore. Within **modern art**, the Mandala painting uses geometric shapes to represent a landscape

within the human soul. Within **political science** and **peace studies**, the Mandala refers to the combination of the personal with the political, of contemplation with action, and the inherent deep connection between mind, body, and spirit.

Circles of Healing, Circles of Peace is presented by Wellesley College, in cooperation with Trinity College. More than twenty departments, programs and non-profit institutions have joined together to support this sacred art event at Wellesley College.

WEBSITE: <http://www.wellesley.edu/RelLife/rel/buddhism/calendar.html> or www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu.

February 16 at 1 pm: Opening Ceremony, Welcome and Lecture

Opening *Circles of Healing, Circles of Peace* will be a ceremony led by the Keydong nuns, and a gallery talk given by Professor Heping Liu. Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life Victor Kazanjian will welcome the Keydong nuns. A gallery opening of Tibetan Buddhist art on loan from the collection of Moke Mokotoff of New York, and the creation of the Mandala will begin following the lecture.

February 16-March 1: Creation of the Mandala

The creation of the Mandala will take place in the Davis Museum and Cultural Center. The museum is open 11 am - 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday; until 8 pm on Wednesdays; and noon-4 pm on Sundays; closed Mondays. These hours are subject to change to honor sacred intervals in the Mandala-making process.

Thursday, February 17 at 4:30 pm: Panel Discussion

Circles of Compassion: Cultural and Social Interpretations of the Mandala
Professor Liu, Art Department; Professor Kodera, Religion Department and Professor Gordon Fellman, Sociology Department, Brandeis University. Wellesley College President Diana Chapman Walsh will welcome the nuns at a reception following the discussion.
4:30 pm. Pendleton East 212

Sunday, February 20 at 1:30 pm: Puja of Avalokiteshvara

The Tibetan nuns of Keydong nunnery will perform a puja, (a blessing), dedicated to the Bodhisattva ideal, represented by *Avalokiteshvara*, of compassion. This practice is a traditional way to purify the mind, including visualizations, verse recitations, distinctive and beautiful overtone chanting, complemented by prayer.
1:30 pm. Houghton Chapel

Thursday, February 24 at 7 pm: Film, "Windhorse"

Windhorse deals with the evocative and salient issue of the Chinese occupation of Tibet. *Windhorse* takes the point of view of a Tibetan woman singer, whose rising star brings to light cold realities, leading to a personal crisis of career, family and culture. An opportunity for dialogue with the nuns, who acted in this film, will follow. "*Windhorse is a magnificent film worthy of the various awards it garnered at festivals around the country*", **Weekly Wire**.

7:00 pm, Slater Center. Co-sponsored by Slater Center and the Advisor to Asian Students

Tuesday, March 1 at 4 pm: Dismantling Ceremony.

On March 1st, a closing and dismantling ceremony will begin at 4:00 pm at the Davis Museum and proceed to the shore of Lake Waban on the Wellesley campus.

Tuesday, March 1 at 5 pm: Circles of Light, Circles of Joy

Wellesley Theater and Wellesley Summer Theater celebrate the human spirit in poetry,

song and dance. In a joyous and thoughtful ode to life and those who live it fully, they will engage the audience with them as they present their own “theatrical Mandala.”
5:00 pm, Slater Center.

FREE ADMISSION. FREE PARKING.

CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE

At a time when we are confronted globally with the specter of violence and terror, join us to honor *Circles of Healing, Circles of Peace*, an expression of peace, compassion, and transformation for all sentient beings.

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