CIRCLES OF HEALING

CIRCLES OF PEACE

WELLESLEY COLLEGE •HOUGHTON CHAPEL AND MULTIFAITH CENTER• WELLESLEY, MA 02481

In October 2012, Wellesley College, in cooperation with Trinity College, will host six Tibetan Buddhist nuns including Ani Ngawang Tendol, their translator and group leader, from the Keydong Thuk-Che-Cho-Ling

Nunnery in Kathmandu, Nepal, in the creation of a sand mandala, the Avalokitesvara mandala of compassion. Over twenty departments, programs and nonprofit institutions have joined together to support this sacred art

event at Wellesley College. The Keydong nuns are among the first Tibetan Buddhist women monastics to learn this sacred art practice which was traditionally reserved for monks only.

**A** MANDALA is a graphic representation of the perfected environment of an enlightened being: in this case, Avalokitesvara, the Deity of Compassion. 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 then, a mandala is a visual metaphor for

the path to enlightenment: its viewers “enter” a world artfully 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 as a powerful symbol of the transitory nature of life. The concept of the mandala has, in the twentieth century, found a wide range of correspondences: within Jungian psychology, the mandala represents an inner wholeness which we all seek to restore.

Within modern art, the mandala painting uses geometric shapes to represent a vibrational landscape within the human soul. Within political science and peace studies, the mandala refers to the interpenetration of the

personal with the political, of contemplation with action, and the inherent deep connection between mind, body, and spirit.

Creation of the Mandala:

Public Exhibition October 23-28, 9 am – 6 pm daily.

The nuns of Keydong Monastery invite the public to view the creation of the sacred mandala. These hours are subject to change to honor sacred intervals in the mandala- making process when the hall must be closed.

Monday, October 22nd: Opening Ceremony and Introduction

Opening Circles of Healing, Circles of Peace will be a ceremony led by the Keydong nuns.. The ceremony will take place in Houghton Chapel at 12:30 pm. The Keydong nuns will be introduced to the community by Dean Victor Kazanjian and Professor T. James Kodera. The creation of the mandala will follow the Opening Ceremony.

October 23rd – October 28: Creation of the Mandala

The creation of the mandala will take place in Houghton Chapel. The mandala will be open to the public between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm Tuesday through Sunday. These hours are subject to change to honor special sacred intervals in the mandala-making process when the hall must be closed.

Tuesday, October 23rd: Panel Discussion, Welcome and Reception

Circles of Compassion: Cultural and Social Interpretations of the Mandala with Professor Kodera, Religion Department; and Professor Gordon Fellman, Sociology Department, Brandeis University. 4:30 pm, Houghton Chapel. A reception will follow the panel discussion, where the Keydong nuns will be welcomed by the Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life, Victor Kazanjian, members of the Wellesley College community, and guests.

Thursday, October 25th: Puja of Avalokitesvara

We are honored to announce this opportunity to share with the community the cultural treasure of Tibetan chant and its diamond-point teachings on peace and wholeness. The nuns will perform a puja (a blessing), dedicated to the Bodhissatva ideal represented by Avalokitesvara, the Bodhissatva of Compassion. This practice is a traditional way to purify the mind, including visualizations, verse recitations, distinctive and beautiful overtone chanting, complemented by heartfelt prayer. In Nepal and Tibet as in America, the times are politically uncertain; these nuns have, through meditation, used uncertainty to deepen their compassion. The inner resources they bring are extraordinary. Using traditional chanting and images, a realignment with the sacred is possible, bringing about healing and peace.

8:15 pm, Houghton Chapel

Sunday, October 28th, 12:30 pm: Dismantling of the Sacred Mandala

A closing ceremony and dismantling of the sacred mandala will begin at Houghton Chapel and proceed to the shore of Lake Waban where the sand will be returned to the earth. This will be followed by a celebratory dinner at Slater International Center.

CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE

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CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE

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

A TIBETAN MANDALA PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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