

CIRCLES OF HEALING CIRCLES OF PEACE

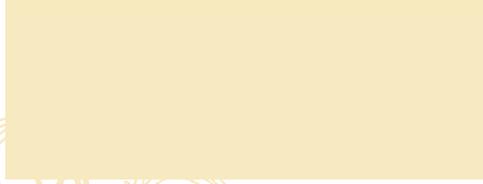
WELLESLEY COLLEGE • DAVIS MUSEUM AND
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A TIBETAN MANDALA PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY:

Office of Religious and Spiritual Life
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CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE

In February/March 2005 Wellesley College, in cooperation with Trinity College, will host eight 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.

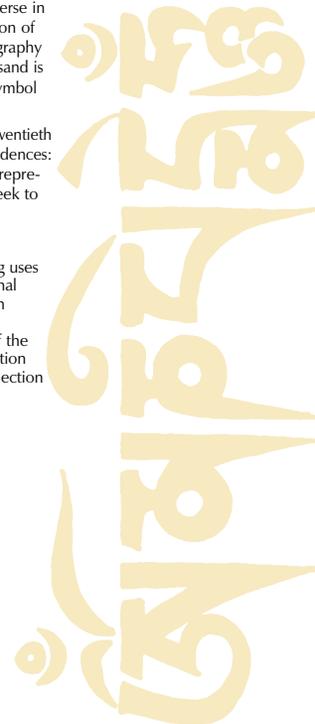
AMANDALA is a graphic representation of the perfected environment of an enlightened being: in this case, Avalokitesvara, the Deity of Compassion. A mandala can be read as a bird's-eye view of a celestial palace, with a highly complex and beautiful architecture adorned with symbols and images that

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.



CIRCLES OF HEALING, CIRCLES OF PEACE

A TIBETAN MANDALA PROJECT • WELLESLEY COLLEGE • FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 1, 2005

February 16: Opening Ceremony, Introduction, and Lecture

Opening Circles of Healing, Circles of Peace will be a ceremony led by the Keydong nuns, and a gallery talk to be given by Professor Heping Liu. The talk will take place in the Davis Museum and Cultural Center at 1:00 pm. The Keydong nuns will be introduced to the community by Dean Victor Kazanjian and Professor Kodera. A gallery opening of works of Tibetan Buddhist art on loan from the collection of Moke Mokotofi of New York, and the creation of the mandala will follow 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 hall will be open to the public between the hours of 11:00 am and 5:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday, between 11:00 am and 8:00 pm Wednesdays, between 12:00 and 4:00 pm on Sundays, and closed Mondays. These hours are subject to change to honor special sacred intervals in the mandala-making process when the hall must be closed.

Thursday, February 17: Panel Discussion, Welcome and Reception

Circles of Compassion: Cultural and Social Interpretations of the Mandala with Professor Liu, Art Department; Professor Kodera, Religion Department; and Professor Gordon Fellman, Sociology Department, Brandeis University. 4:30 pm, Pendleton East 212. A reception will follow the panel discussion, where the Keydong nuns will be welcomed by President Diana Chapman Walsh, Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life, Victor Kazanjian, members of the Wellesley College community, and guests.

Sunday, February 20: Puja of Avalokitesvara

We are honored to announce this opportunity to share with the community the cultural treasures of Tibet, and its diamond-point teachings on peace and wholeness. The nuns will perform a puja (a blessing), dedicated to the Bodhisattva ideal represented by Avalokitesvara, the Deity 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. 1:30 pm, Houghton Chapel

Thursday, February 24: Film, Windhorse

Windhorse deals with the evocative and still very 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. "Windhorse is a magnificent film worthy of the various awards it garnered at festivals around the country", Weekly Wire.

7:00 pm, Slater Center. An opportunity for dialogue with the nuns, who acted in this film, follows the showing. Co-sponsored by Slater Center and the Advisor to Asian Students.

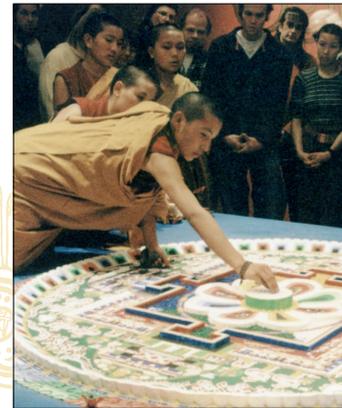
Tuesday, March 1, 4:00 pm: Dismantling of the Sacred Mandala

A closing ceremony and dismantling of the sacred mandala will begin at the Davis Museum and proceed to the shore of Lake Waban where the sand will be returned to the earth.

Tuesday, March 1, 5:00 pm: Circles of Light, Circles of Joy

Wellesley Theater and Wellesley Summer Theater will 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. To be followed by a celebratory dinner.



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