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# Buddhist Monks to Construct Sacred Sand Mandala in Roesch Library Lobby at University of Dayton

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## NEWS TIPS

### **JAN. 12-13: BUDDHIST MONKS TO CONSTRUCT SACRED SAND MANDALA IN ROESCH LIBRARY LOBBY AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON**

Seven Gaden Shartse monks of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition will visit the University of Dayton Friday and Saturday, Jan. 12 and 13, to construct an intricate tabletop sand mandala of the Medicine Buddha in the lobby gallery of the Roesch Library. The monks will begin constructing the mandala from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and continue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The monks, who will wear their traditional yellow robes, will use a metal cone-shaped funnel to precisely and carefully pour colored sand onto the 4-foot-by-4-foot tabletop, creating the intricate patterns representing the Medicine Buddha, an enlightened being who has unbiased compassion for all living things. Of all the mandalas (a Sanskrit word meaning "a circle and surroundings"), sand mandalas require the most concentration to create. In the Tibetan religious tradition, the seed of enlightenment may be nourished by the simple act of contemplating a mandala.

The monks will talk with visitors and explain the work of art and the methods they use as they work on the mandala.

They will also perform two ceremonies while on campus, and both are free and open to the public. They will perform the White Tara Empowerment ceremony from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, in the Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center on campus. The ceremony is designed to promote physical and mental well being.

The monks will perform the Medicine Buddha Healing and Empowerment ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Sears Recital Hall in the Jesse Philips Humanities Center. The closing ceremony will include a distribution of sand to those present.

The monks' visit to UD is part of their World Peace Tour, organized to convey the message of peace, love and compassion and to generate awareness about the Tibetan culture among the worldwide human family.

For more information on the visit, contact **Sister Judith Martin, S.J.**, at (937) 229-4439 and **Justin Turner** at (937) 627-8787.