

BACKGROUND

The Gaden Shartse Monastery, founded 600 years ago by the sage Je Tsongkhapa, is one of the three great seats of learning of the Gelugpa School. Their education includes: Tibetan debate, Tibetan language, Tibetan medicine and special areas of study including mandala and thangka painting.

The primary purpose of the tour is to present the Tibetan perspective of the Buddha's teachings,, Secondly, the generous funds donated help Gaden Shartse maintain the University's temples, classrooms, library. texts, kitchens, food, grounds, and fields. Approximately \$2.00(USA) is needed to maintain one monk for one day. This includes a small weekly stipend for necessities, and as so represents vast sums of money, for over one thousand monks, every day.

Previous tours have provided funds for construction of new buildings at Gaden Shartse, including the new debate hall.. This success is due to the help and generosity of those who support the tours. Now the monks aspire to build a dormitory, to accommodate the elder teachers with a better living standard. The monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery feel deeply indebted to their friends in the West who have given their time and effort to make the tour possible.

TIBETAN MANDALA



A Mandala represents simultaneously, an inner landscape and physical realm, within which every element of experience is unified, balanced and complete. In Tibetan tradition it is considered a great blessing to see a mandala, as it conveys a deep impression of wholeness, bringing about healing and peace.

Each element of the color particle sand mandala has precise symbolic meaning: The structures portrayed are the structures of human consciousness. The surrounding circle represents dynamic awareness. The square symbolizes the sfour directions, the physical world. At each side of the square, a gate is constructed: these represent the four immeasurables: loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity; through these practices one enters the sacred ground.

The interior of the sacred city is equipped with the four gates and sub-divided by two diagonals into four triangles of equal size: it contains a further circle with Vajra symbols. This area encloses the lotus flower upon whose petals the Buddhas or deities appear, arising as emanations from a primal Buddha in the center.

The whole external Mandala, therefore, is a model of that spiritual pattern which the meditating individual sees within himself and which he must endeavor to experience in his own consciousness, starting from the small germinal syllables all the way to infinite dimensions.

Within the mandala there is a central point or focus within the symbol from which radiates a symmetrical design. This suggests there is a center within each one of us to which everything is related, by which everything is ordered, and which is itself a source of energy and power.– Carl Jung

LOSAR

Losar, the Tibetan New Year, is celebrated this year February 10-12. It is traditionally celebrated through visits to temples to receive blessings, rituals of gratitude to the elements of nature, and the enjoyment of traditional arts such as butter sculptures.

This New Year is the Year of the Wood Dragon, which is considered to have characteristics of vitality, dramatic movement and growth.

Tibetan Tea Ceremony dates back to the seventh century CE, when the Tang Dynasty Princess Wencheng wedded the Tibetan King Songzan Gambo, and brought tea with her. It is traditional to drink Tibetan tea blended with yak butter and salt.

MONKS' NORTHEASTERN SCHEDULE

Monday, February 12, 6 pm. LOSAR at the ASIAN AMERICAN CTR ANNEX, 405 ELL.

Losar, Tibetan New Year, is being celebrated by the Gaden Shartse Tibetan Monks with Northeastern University Buddhist Group at the AAC on Monday, February 12, at 6 pm.

The monks will commence the New Year of the Wood Dragon with this warm, chanted ceremony reminding us to be grateful for blessings overflowing – literally. Bring a wish or request for any blessing. Enjoy being enveloped in their deep, chanted tones-- and learning about this beautiful culture.

Tuesday, February 13, 10 am: Mandala Opening Ceremony

10 am- 5 pm Mandala Viewing

Tuesday, February 13, 6 pm. Medicine Buddha Empowerment Ceremony
The Medicine Buddha (Menla) is the awakened embodiment of the power of healing of all the Buddhas. Join us as we receive this empowerment which is connected with Tibetan mind-body-spirit medicine and the wisdom of an ancient lineage.

Wednesday, February 14
10 am- 4 pm Mandala Viewing
4 pm Mandala Dissolution Ceremony

CIRCLES OF PEACE



AT NORTHEASTERN

<https://www.mountainpath.org/post/circles-of-peace-a-tibetan-mandala-project>

<https://www.instagram.com/northeasternbuddhistgroup/nubuddhistgroup@gmail.com/j.padma@northeastern.edu>

Northeastern Buddhist Group
thanks its generous
cosponsors: the Center for
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