



Lama Thogme, a highly revered mandala artist who will be in attendance at the San Francisco Grace Cathedral, is shown here working with a Tools For Peace camper to create a sand mandala.

Bay Area Unites to Raise Awareness and Funds for Tools for Peace™

Mandala represents the complete qualities of enlightened mind. Mandalas can be two-dimensional, such as a painting or a sand mandala, or they can be more intricately represented in three-dimensions. The Tools For Peace curriculum uses the blueprint of the Tibetan Shi-tro Mandala, a symbolic representation of peaceful existence that can help us conceptualize harmony within our world and ourselves.

San Francisco, Aug.31, 2009—For one week in September (Sept. 21–25) four Tibetan lamas and selected students will work daily in the quiet and peace of the north transept of Grace Cathedral creating traditional and community sand mandalas, side by side. In this extraordinary setting and by this unique artistic and spiritual endeavor, participants hope to build awareness for Tools for Peace, a program founded by the venerable Lama Chodak Gyasto Nubpa.

Tools for Peace programs provide participants with the support they need to actively incorporate compassion, peace, and well-being into their daily lives, communities, and our world. Tools for Schools empowers students by teaching them how to cultivate compassion through motivation, mindfulness, meditation.

All week long these monks and students from who are participating in the Tools for Schools program will work together on the installation of the sand mandalas. One of the monks, Lama Thogme, a master mandala artist, has trained many of the monks of the Nyingma and Kagyu lineages in Nepal in the art of mandala making.

On Sept. 26, Grace Cathedral and Tools for Peace will host a fundraising dinner for Tools for Schools and the cathedral. A simple, elegant dinner created by Acre Gourmet and Alice Waters will showcase local food artisans and purveyors, including Cowgirl Creamery and Full Belly Farms. The meal is preceded by a sparkling-wine reception, beginning at 6 p.m., and private performance by k.d. lang.

The public can view the mandalas Sept. 21–25 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For a guided or group tour contact Grace Cathedral at 415-749-6320. The mandalas will be ceremoniously dissolved on Sept. 27 as a part of Grace Cathedral's 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist.

Media Page: www.studio-707.com/news/ToolsforPeace_media.php

Flickr Photo Page: <http://is.gd/1L1qj>

Tools for Peace: www.toolsforpeace.org

Grace Cathedral: www.gracecathedral.org

San Francisco, Event Ticket Information:

- Free to view the creation and dissolution of the sand mandalas.
- \$75 for the reception, program, and concert on Saturday. (www.cityboxoffice.com or 415-392-4400)
- \$250 for the reception, program, concert and dinner on Saturday (rebeccan@gracecathedral.org, or 415-749-6355)

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