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### Public invited to UM day of dialogue events

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 14, 2009

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**PUBLIC INVITED TO UM DAY OF DIALOGUE EVENTS**

**MISSOULA —**

The University of Montana's fourth annual Day of Dialogue will be held Thursday, Oct. 29, at the University Center.

The free daylong symposium brings campus and community members together for presentations, performances, workshops and exhibits that encourage dialogue about diversity.

Symposium participants can explore topics such as race, gender, ethnicity, ability/disability, religion, sexual orientation, class, social hierarchy and privilege. Day of Dialogue events, which are participatory in nature, are created by UM students, faculty and staff and community members.

The symposium begins at 9:10 a.m. in the University Center Atrium with remarks by Vice President for Student Affairs Teresa Branch and Associated Students of UM President Matt Fennell. Participants then can select from more than 20 free educational sessions that begin at 9:40 and 11:10 a.m. and 1:10 and 2:40 p.m. on the third floor of the University Center.

New this year is a 5:30 p.m. reception sponsored by ASUM. Following the reception, a UM faculty panel will debate and discuss civil discourse in America at 6:15 p.m.

A complete schedule of events is on the Day of Dialogue Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/dayofdialogue>.

Two events will be held earlier this month to further enhance the purpose and intent of this year's Day of Dialogue.

Tibetan monks will create a sacred sand mandala in the UC South Atrium Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 21-23. Unique to the Tibetan culture, sand mandalas are believed to affect purification and healing. They are created by hand and embody traditional meditative designs that represent the universal qualities of harmony, balance, community and pure wisdom.

Buddhist monk Venerable Ngawang Chojor will speak about being a refugee and the human rights issues that Tibetans encounter at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, in the University Center Theater.

Tunnel of Oppression – an interactive event that highlights contemporary issues of oppression – will be held in the UC Ballroom Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 26-28. Participants are guided through a series of scenes that aim to educate and challenge them to think more deeply about issues of oppression, privilege and power. Tours run every half hour between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 4 and 7 p.m. Groups can reserve a tour time.

For more information, call Tina Brown, Day of Dialogue coordinator, at 406-243-5082 or e-mail [dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu](mailto:dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu).

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