

EDITOR'S PICK

Top Tibetologist Glenn Mullin to bring "Gems of Wisdom" to Lincoln

L. KENT WOLGAMOTT Lincoln Journal Star Mar 2, 2018 Updated 9 hrs ago



Glenn Mullin, one of the world's leading Tibetologists, will speak in Lincoln on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Courtesy photo

When Glenn Mullin moved to Dharamsala, India, to study with the Dalai Lama in 1972, Buddhism was little-known in the U.S. beyond some pockets of interest in Zen and a few classic Tibetan texts that had been translated into English.

Forty five years later, Buddhist terms such as karma and reincarnation are common parlance, companies like Google provide meditation rooms for employees, and “you

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Photos: Inside Lincoln's beautiful houses of worship Jan 7, 2018

If You Go

What: Glenn Mullin - "Gems of Wisdom"

Where: Chateau community room, 3100 S. 72nd St.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday

Suggested Donation: \$25

MORE INFORMATION

Tibetan lama Rimpoche dies at 78

- Jade Buddha welcomed to Lincoln-area temple

can't go into a bookstore in America without them having two or three books by or about the Dalai Lama," Mullin said.

One of the world's leading Tibetologists, Mullin is — in significant measure — responsible for bringing Tibetan Buddhist culture to the West.

The author of 30 books on Buddhism, which have been translated into 20 languages, Mullin, along with the Grateful Dead's Mickey Hart, brought the first touring group of Tibetan monks to the U.S. in 1986.

Two years later, he founded the Mystical Arts of Tibet, which regularly brings monks, primarily from Drepung Loseling monastery, to the U.S. to perform and make sand mandalas. The Mystical Arts of Tibet has held Lincoln performances several times.

Mullin spends about half of every year traveling, teaching and lecturing and conducting workshops on Tibetan Buddhism in the U.S. and Europe.

"I've worked in different spheres," Mullin said. "The books are because I like writing. I started translating from Tibetan, writing and publishing in the late '70s. When I came back 10 years later, I had requests to help with the touring monks, so I worked on that. Then I teach about six or seven months a year."

He'll be in Lincoln on Tuesday and Wednesday for a pair of talks presented by the Lincoln chapter of Jewel Heart, the international Tibetan Buddhist and cultural organization founded by Gelek Rimpoche, who, as a young man, studied at Drepung Loseling.

The talks will be held at 7 p.m. each night at the Chateau community room, 3100 S. 72nd St.

Mullin will speak on “Gems of Wisdom from the Seventh Dalai Lama,” one of his books that compiles and comments on 108 spontaneous short, often earthy verses from the Seventh Dalai Lama (1708-1757) that illustrate key points in the enlightenment tradition.

“The Seventh Dalai Lama is one of my favorites of the 14 Dalai Lamas for a number of reasons,” said Mullin, an expert on the Dalai Lamas. “He gathered together many different lineages’ teachings and wove them into a practical form that is easily accessible. But those little sayings, each one of them, if you attended a teaching by the Dalai Lama, or other high lamas, you can talk about for a day or two.”

The verses generally avoid religiosity — and Mullin said those he selects for his Lincoln lectures will be very direct and understandable, no previous Buddhist required.

“I’m choosing a dozen of them that I think import the practical side of the Tibetan Buddhist world,” he said. “Sometimes when I do this kind of talk, I call it, ‘Enlightening Tips for Modern Living.’”

Those tips, Mullin said, can be universally used, whether a person is Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim or has no religious affiliation.

“Tibetans have a saying that whatever you hear, if you listen to it correctly, it will deepen the understanding of your own tradition,” Mullin said.

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