

# Tibetan Monks Sacred Art Tour in Taverner

By Rachel R. Peine

A group of Tibetan monks spent several days at Burton United Methodist Church in Taverner at the beginning of the New Year to create a sand mandala, a Buddhist sacred art form. The goal of the tour through the U.S., Canada, and Mexico is to foster peace energy and participate in activities to create a global peace community. The monks are from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in South India, where the Dalai Lama fled after Communist China invaded Tibet in 1959. The monks pour colored sand through long, thin

funnels to form the intricate design of the Peace mandala, which symbolizes wisdom and compassion. After the mandala is completed, the sand is then swept up and dispersed into the bay, symbolizing impermanence and spreading wisdom and compassion through the journey of each tiny grain.

The tour was sponsored by Keys for Peace - [www.keystopeace.org](http://www.keystopeace.org). Future activities are listed on their website. You can learn more about the tour, the monastery, and mandalas at [www.gomang.org](http://www.gomang.org).



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# Spotlight on Kestrels



Story and Photo by Rich Peine

If you've ever spotted a bird hovering like a helicopter (wings fluttering) over the road or field, chances are it was a kestrel. They are small by raptor standards, with adults averaging around 12 inches. Don't let the size fool you; these creatures are super hunters. Mice, voles and other small mammals as well as scorpions, lizards (plenty around here) carrion and small birds make up the bulk of their diet.

measuring 16" h x 8" w x10" d. Drill a 3"to 4" hole high on the front, and throw in some wood shavings. Hang it 10 ft. above the ground, preferably in an open area. Put out a For Rent sign, and just wait for a family to show up.

The kestrel has beautiful coloring that includes brown, gray, blue, black and white. The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center has a pair named Caylin and Jesse. It's really worth your time to check them out. Stop by at feeding time: 3:30 every day. Say hello to Laura and her crew. They are located at 93600 Overseas Hwy. on the Bay side. Call 305-852-4486 or go to [www.flwbc.org](http://www.flwbc.org). for more information. Keep them flying!

Kestrels range over all of North and South America and into the West Indies. They like to nest in woodpecker holes and cavities on the side of cliffs. In fact, you can build a kestrel nest yourself, and they may come. Construct a box

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