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### **RENOWNED TIBETOLOGIST TO SPEAK AT SAMA-ALTOONA**

Altoona – Glenn H. Mullin, a world renowned Tibetologist, Buddhist writer and translator of classical Tibetan literature, will speak at a dinner and lecture event at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona on Wednesday, February 13. The program coincides with the Museum's current exhibition, *Tibetan Treasures: The Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art*.

The dinner, catered by Bold, will begin at 6 p.m. in the museum gallery. Cost is \$40 per person. Please call the Museum at (814) 946-4464 for reservations or additional information. Mullin also will speak at a Lunch a l' Art program at SAMA-Altoona on Thursday, February 14. Included in the presentation will be a showing of *The Sacred Sites of the Dalai Lamas: A Pilgrimage to The Oracle Lake*, a documentary film starring Mullin. Cost for the program, which begins at noon, is \$13 or \$12 for SAMA members. For reservations, please call the Museum.

Mullin lived in the Indian Himalayas between 1972 and 1984, where he studied philosophy, literature, meditation, yoga, and the enlightenment culture under thirty-five of the greatest living masters of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Currently he divides his time between writing, teaching, meditating, and leading tour groups to Nepal and Tibet. He has authored more than twenty books on Tibetan Buddhism. He has worked as a field specialist on three Tibet-related films and five television documentaries, and has co-produced five audio recordings of Tibetan sacred music. In 2002, his book *The Fourteen Dalai Lamas* was nominated for the prestigious NAPRA award for best book, and in 2004, his book *The Female Buddhas* won a Best Book Award from Foreword Magazine.

*Tibetan Treasures: The Rezk Collection of Tibetan and Nepalese Art* will be on view at the Museum January 25 through May 11. SAMA's Rezk Collection is one of the major collections of Tibetan and Nepalese art in the United States. The exhibition features approximately seventy objects, all made within the context of Tibetan Buddhism, including thangkas (scroll paintings), block prints, sculpture, and ceremonial and ritual pieces. These range in date from the twelfth century to the twentieth, and give a fascinating overview of the rich iconography of Tibet's unique form of Buddhism.

The Museum will continue its celebration of the exhibition in March with a three day film festival highlighting Tibetan films and an Arts-in-Education workshop designed to introduce participants to Buddhism. For additional information on the exhibition or the accompanying programs, please call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

The Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art at Altoona is located in the Brett Building at 1210 Eleventh Avenue. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Museum is a handicapped-accessible facility and is open to the public free of charge. Parking is available in the garage across the street or in metered spots in the lot at the rear of the building. For more information, call the Museum or visit [www.sama-art.org](http://www.sama-art.org).

This project was made possible through the AIE Partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. State government funding for the arts depends upon an annual appropriation by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The PCA Arts-in-Education Partner in this region is the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.