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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 21, 2009**

## **Exotic Chocolate Tasting in Time for Valentine's Day**

**What:** Exotic Chocolate Tasting  
**When:** February 4, 2009, 7 – 8 pm  
**Where:** Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland  
**Cost:** \$20/\$15 members  
**Information:** Call 989-837-1885 or visit [www.creativespiritcenter.org](http://www.creativespiritcenter.org)

[Midland] – On Wednesday evening, February 4, Creative Spirit Center offers a class on how to conduct a chocolate tasting like an expert, just in time to prepare a unique surprise for Valentine's Day. Chocolate, says chocolatier Nicole Grates, is the new wine. At this event, chocolate's intricate complexities and levels of flavor will be sampled in locally-made artisan confections in flavors like Aztec truffle and Thai truffle. Flavor notes, texture, and finish will be experienced and described with the language of each chocolate's unique attributes. Participants will find pleasure for the discerning palate, and a new expertise that will be fun to share.

### **About Chocolatier Nicole Grates**

Nicole began her journey into the world of chocolate as a teenager in her mother's New York City kitchen where she made traditional rolled truffles for holiday gifts. Not satisfied with the traditional, she began experimenting with different flavors while also infusing her truffles with various liqueurs.

Through time, her experience and art with chocolate grew. Nicole began creating truffles with blends of chocolate containing various percentages of cacao and infusing them with non-traditional spices and flavors. Still a chocolatier by hobby today, she now has a large repertoire of truffles as well as crèmes, caramels, and other assorted candies. The truffles to be sampled in the class come from Nicole's "Exotic Collection," created over 20 years of experimentation and experience. Her chocolates have become a desired tradition for family and friends throughout the years.

### **About Creative Spirit Center**

Creative Spirit Center is a not-for-profit community arts organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, conferences, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities.

Printed Winter/Spring 2009 schedules showing all classes and events at Creative Spirit Center are available at no charge. Telephone 837-1885 to have schedules delivered to your business or location, or mailed to your home.

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989-837-1885

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