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**Notes from editor (not for publication):**



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 River Gallery School of Art presents ‘Sand Mandala of  
2 Compassion’

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 River Gallery School of Art welcomes Tibetan monk  
6 Lama Tenzin Yignyen to Brattleboro, where he will create the  
7 Avalokiteshvara sand mandala — the mandala of compassion.  
8 Lama Tenzin will construct the mandala at the  
9 Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, 10 Vernon St, Wednesday  
10 through Saturday, April 8–11. The public is invited to stop in and

11 witness the creation in progress, Wednesday through Friday, 10  
12 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

13 On Saturday morning, April 11, there will be a closing  
14 ceremony, beginning at 10:30 a.m., when the mandala will be  
15 ceremonially swept up — a powerful reminder of the  
16 impermanence of all things.

17 Organizers say this mandala symbolizes love, generosity,  
18 wisdom, and appreciation. Lama Tenzin has been creating sand  
19 mandalas for more than 40 years.

20 “The Mandala is a reflection of our inner self — our  
21 inner positive qualities. It presents us with opportunities to  
22 cherish those qualities and a means to rid ourselves of negative  
23 qualities, so we may be happy and peaceful,” said Tenzin in a  
24 news release. “The message of the Mandala includes all the  
25 important elements that can make us a happy and caring person.  
26 The construction is considered a blessing for the area and for the  
27 people who live where it is constructed.”

28 This is the third year River Gallery School is welcoming  
29 Lama Tenzin to Brattleboro — a tradition they say is “grounded in  
30 the belief that art and community bring people together and  
31 cultivate compassion.”

32 Venerable Tenzin Yignyen is a Tibetan Buddhist monk  
33 and known internationally for his intricate mandalas. Trained at  
34 Namgyal Monastery in India, he was ordained by the Dalai Lama  
35 in 1976 and later earned the monastery’s highest degree, Master  
36 of Sutra and Tantra.

37 Lama Tenzin served as a visiting professor of Tibetan  
38 Buddhism at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for more than  
39 20 years, and now travels widely creating sand mandalas and  
40 teaching about Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and sacred art.

41 For more information, [rivergalleryschool.org](http://rivergalleryschool.org) or call 802-  
42 257-1577.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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