

New Jersey Folk Festival • Department of American Studies  
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## Tibetan Monastery Tour Group To Create Sand Mandala at Rutgers

The New Jersey Folk Festival as part of Rutgers Day, along with Rutgers University Programming Association (RUPA) and the Office of Student Life, is hosting the creation of a Compassion Buddha Sand Mandala by the Monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery at the Busch Student Center from April 25 through April 29, every day from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The event is open to the public daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The mandala, Tibetan sand painting, is an ancient art form of Tibetan Buddhism. “Mandala” is a Sanskrit word meaning cosmogram or “world in harmony.” The sand mandala is carefully constructed from dyed sand particles as vehicle to generate compassion, to realize the impermanence of reality, and to create a social/cosmic healing of the environment. The Compassion Buddha Mandala invokes healing of mind and body and promotes the well-being of all sentient beings.

The opening ceremony for the mandala construction will take place at 9 a.m. on

Monday, April 25. Geshe Lharampa Lobsang Dhondup, tour leader, and the tour monks will chant powerful prayers for peace, prosperity and healing in traditional overtones—the chant master intoning a full chord of three notes. This chanting will be accompanied by delicate hand gestures, cymbals, drums, horns, and flutes. The closing ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29. At that time the mandala will be deconstructed by Khensur Rinpoche and the sands will be dispersed in Passion Puddle on the campus of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Mandalas are destroyed at the end of the ritual as a symbol of the impermanence of all phenomena.

The very next morning, on Saturday, April 30, the Monks will participate in the formal Invocation that opens the New Jersey Folk Festival on the lawn of the Eagleton Institute of the Douglass Campus. Later in the day, they will offer a workshop on Buddhist chanting on the Pinelands Stage, and they will assist with the making of children's crafts.

The Folk Festival is the main attraction of Rutgers Day on the Douglass Campus, but visitors are encouraged to check out the many workshops and live performances at the other Rutgers campuses throughout the day—all designed to demonstrate the impact and value of our world-class university. Admission, parking, and on-campus bus shuttles are all free. The festival is only five minutes off of Exit 9 on the New Jersey Turnpike.

For further details including stage schedules and directions visit our website at <http://njfolkfest.rutgers.edu>, call the festival office at (732)-932-5775, or contact Rutgers

Campus Info Services at (732)-445-INFO.