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第 6 期

11. 2009

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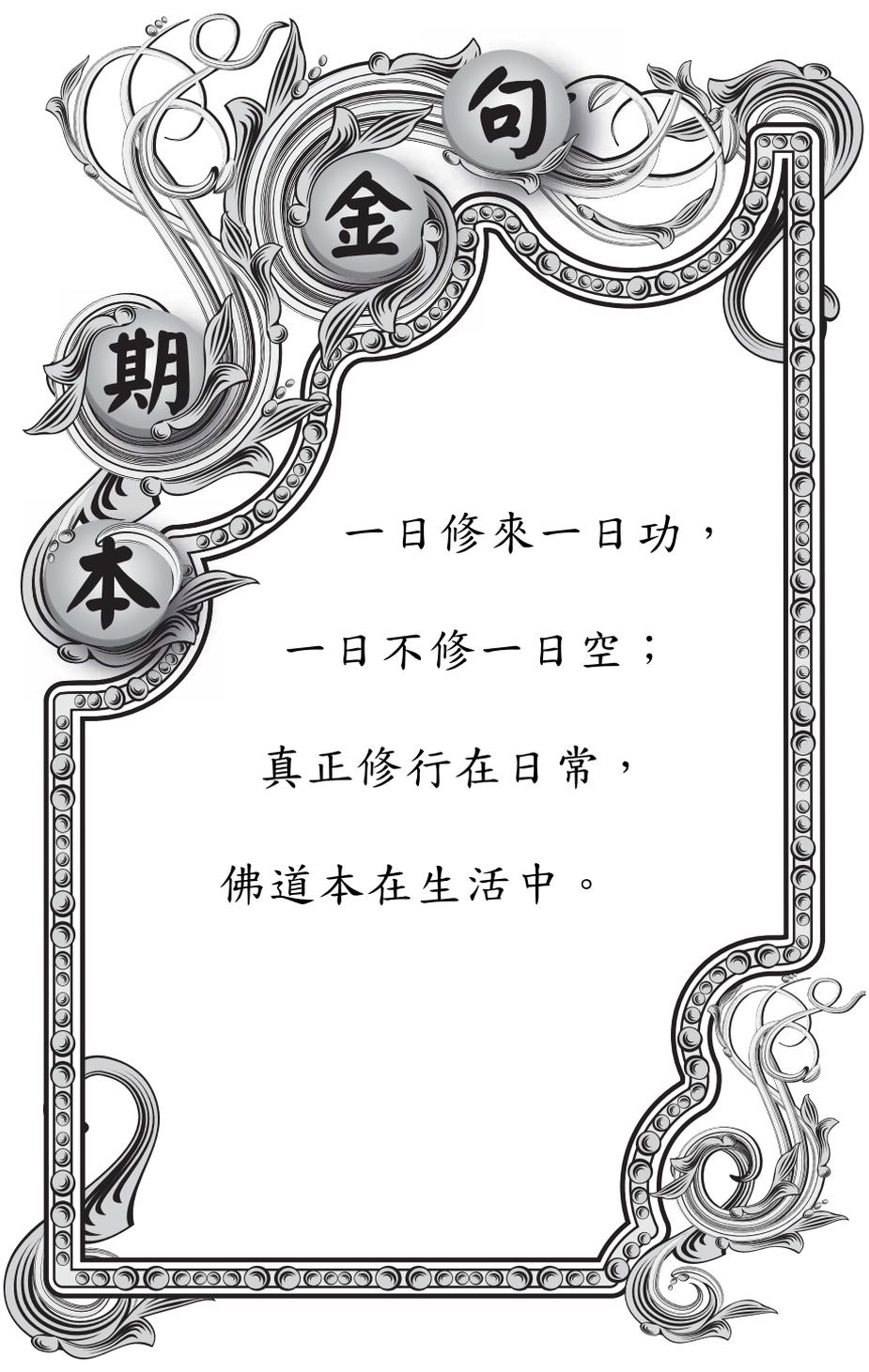
繫緣修心
隨處養心



工作人員

出版者：美國華嚴蓮社
顧問：賢度法師
發行人：天因法師

社長：天融法師
編輯：天寧法師
印刷：快答廣告印刷



期

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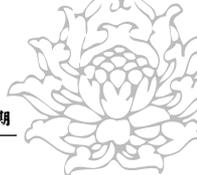
句

一日修來一日功，

一日不修一日空；

真正修行在日常，

佛道本在生活中。



天因法師

華嚴經法要新解

世界成就品第四 (卷七)

與前品同一卷

如第五期的因華中，提及第七卷經文包括了兩品經，一是「普賢三昧品」，一是「世界成就品」，前者於上期已作分解，後者現今作解。

品題之意

世界成就品第四，即是普賢菩薩出定之後為眾生針對世界的分別而回答世界海及眾生海之問題。從另一角度的了解，六道凡夫眾生的雜染世界與賢聖菩薩甚至諸佛的清淨世界，形相萬般殊異，無論面對苦樂或淨穢，其轉變差別的大小，須隨各個眾生境界自行業力所招感而成就的。故經云：「諸世界海有微塵數轉變差別。所謂染汙眾生住，則成染汙轉變；發菩提心眾生住，則成清淨轉變；乃至菩薩所集，則成大莊嚴轉變；諸佛涅槃，則成莊嚴滅轉變」。

依報莊嚴刹土

在「世主妙嚴品」中，普賢菩薩說出了佛的正報莊嚴及如來依報所在，所謂佛的依報就是佛的刹海、佛的國土，至於這些刹海國土是如何形成的，或其成就的因

緣是具備甚麼條件等等的問題，在「世界成就品」一一舉出。

何謂世界

未了解世界如何成就之前，先要了解何謂世界？世者，即三世，包括過去、現在、未來。經言：「欲知過去因，今生受者是；欲知未來果，今生作者事」。如果佛法離開了三世之說，那是屬空談。換言之，學佛者，定必相信有三世：過去、現在、未來。界者：又可以了解成方向之意，十方法界，意謂：東方、南方、西方、北方、東南方、東北、西南方、西北方、上方、下方等。凡夫的世界是有時間、空間的限制，故有出現成、住、壞、空的現象，有生有滅是屬有為法，是眾生業報所成，即五濁污染的娑婆世界；然言佛菩薩的世間是清淨無染，不生不滅是屬無為法，是佛的報土、法性所在，是佛菩薩的願力所成，即清淨無垢的華藏世界。

世界成就具足十個條件

世界之所以能成就，經文中說有十種事：所謂1世界海起具因緣2世界海所依住3世界海形狀4世界





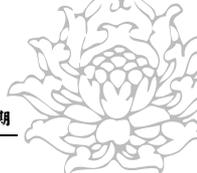
海體性5世界海莊嚴6世界海清淨
7世界海佛出興8世界海劫住9世
界海劫轉變差別10世界海無差別
門。以下作簡短解說：

1. 世界海起具因緣：如來神力、法如是、眾生業、菩薩智力及願力、菩薩勝解、如來善根、普賢菩薩自在力。
2. 世界海所依住：依莊嚴住、依虛空住、依寶光明住、依佛光明住、依佛音聲住、依阿修羅金剛手住、依世主身住、依菩薩身住、依普賢菩薩願力住。
3. 世界海形狀：圓、方、非圓方、水漩形、山峩形、樹形、華形、宮殿形、眾生形、佛形、無量差別。
4. 世界海體性：寶莊嚴為體、一寶莊嚴為體、寶光明為體、種種色光明為體、一切莊嚴光明為體、不可壞金剛為體、佛力持為體、妙寶相為體、佛變化為體、日摩尼輪為體、極微細寶為

體、寶燄為體、種種香為體、寶華冠為體、寶影像為體、莊嚴所示現為體、一念心普示現境界為體、菩薩形寶為體、寶華藥為體、佛言音為體。

5. 世界海莊嚴：莊嚴妙雲莊嚴、說一切菩薩功德莊嚴、說一切眾生業報莊嚴、示現菩薩願海莊嚴、表示佛影像莊嚴、示現神通境界莊嚴、出現佛身莊嚴、出現寶香雲莊嚴、示現珍寶照耀莊嚴、示現普賢行願莊嚴。
6. 世界海清淨：親近善知識同根故、增長功德雲徧法界故、淨修勝解故、觀察菩薩境界而安住故、修治波羅蜜圓滿故、觀察菩薩諸地而入住故、出生淨願海故、修習出要行故、入莊嚴海故、成就清淨方便力故。
7. 世界海佛出興：現小身、現大身、現短壽、現長壽、嚴淨一佛或多佛國土、顯示諸乘或一乘法輪、調伏少分或無邊眾生。





8. 世界海劫住：阿僧祇劫住、無量或無邊或無等劫住；或不可數、不可稱、不可思、不可量、不可說劫住。
9. 世界海劫轉變差別：法如是故，世界海無量成壞劫轉變；染污眾生住故，世界海成染污劫轉變；修廣大福眾生住故，世界海成染淨劫轉變；信解菩薩住故，世界海成染淨劫轉變；無量眾生發菩提心故；世界海純清淨劫轉變；諸菩薩各各遊諸世界故，世界海無邊莊嚴劫轉變；十方一切世界海諸菩薩雲集故，世界海無量大莊嚴劫轉變；諸佛世尊入涅槃故，世界海莊嚴滅劫轉變；諸佛出現於世故，一切世界海廣博嚴淨劫轉變，如來神通變化故，世界海普清淨劫轉變。
10. 世界海無差別門：世界無差別、威力無差別、道場無差別、如來道場眾會無差別、佛光明無差別、佛名號無差別、佛音聲無差別、法輪方便無差別、普入一塵無差別、佛境界無差別。

結語

經文中除了以長行申述世界之成就外，還以偈頌重覆其大意，然而總括上述所說，菩薩欲令眾生知道污染及清淨之境界。或是受苦享樂等之相狀，通通皆從業力所生。菩薩指示眾生必須生起正念之心，修行出離道，入佛智慧海。成就華藏大願世界。 ㊦





大方廣佛華嚴經卷第五十三，離世間品第三十八之一，第三問何等為十種善知識

華嚴經問答與內容

〈離世間品〉是《華嚴經》中的二千個修行法門，由普慧菩薩為當機眾代眾生向普賢菩薩發問，總共發出了二百個問題，而普賢菩薩於每個問題中說出了十個答案，即十個修行法門，故全品經一共有二千個法門，成為了「普慧二百問，普賢兩千酬」的佳話，給後人研讀華嚴經的一個重要指南。

第三問：何等為十種善知識？

經文（P151L5）：佛子！菩薩摩訶薩有十種善知識。何等為十？所謂：

1. 令住善提心善知識；
2. 令生善根善知識；
3. 令行諸波羅蜜善知識；
4. 令解說一切法善知識；
5. 令成熟一切眾生善知識；
6. 令得決定辯才善知識；
7. 令不著一切世間善知識；
8. 令於一切劫修行無厭善知識；
9. 令安住普賢行善知識；
10. 令入一切佛智所入善知識。

是為十。

釋文(V17P54LL4)：

上來講及菩薩要有十種行，而凡做事起行，必須要有善友提攜，在華嚴經來說，所說的善友，就是善知識。善知識所扮演的角色是：「未知善令知，未息惡令息」。意思是說，倘若您週邊的朋友中能具備這兩話的條件的人，處處給自己提點、關懷，這就是您的善知識，人生在世，能遇到真正的善知識的機會不多，故好好把握珍惜！





助人是福 拔苦是樂

有一個男人來到海邊散步。他沿海邊走著發現在海水的淺水窪裡有許多被大風雨捲上岸來的小魚。雖然近在咫尺，但牠們被困在淺水窪裡，回不了大海。被困的小魚也許有幾千條。沒多久，淺水窪裡的水就會被沙粒吸乾，被太陽蒸乾。然後這些小魚都會乾死。

男人繼續往前走，忽然看見不遠處有一小男孩不停地在水窪旁邊彎下腰去，撿起水窪裡的小魚，然後把它們扔回大海。

這個男人停下來，一直注視著這個滿頭大汗的小男孩，忘我地忙於拯救水窪裡小魚們的生命。最後他終於忍不住，走過去勸說小孩：「孩子，這水窪裡有數以千計條小魚，你救不過來的。」

「我知道。」男孩頭也不抬地回答。

「哦？那你為什麼還在扔？有誰在乎呢？」

「這條小魚在乎！」

男孩一邊回答，一邊拾起另一條魚扔進大海。

「這條小魚在乎，這條也在乎！還有這一條、這一條、這一條……」

而在現實的生活中，在我們這個世界上，就有無數人仍在苦難當中掙扎，每一條小魚都是一個完整的生命，當看到在淺水窪中苦苦掙扎的魚時，彷彿就看到了在這個殘酷的世界，每天都有不幸的事情在發生，無數孤苦無依的生命在痛苦中掙扎、呻吟，急需人們的救助……雖然我們無法幫助所有不幸的人，但若能盡力幫助有緣之人，不但使自己心安，而且對社會也總算盡了自己應有的責任。





作育英才 第二屆獎學金頒獎禮 期許學子 回饋社會作國家棟樑

本社秉承台北華嚴蓮社，一貫教學及作育英才的精神；舉辦的獎學金活動今年已經第二屆了，頒獎典禮於八月二十三日早上十時半在大雄寶殿舉行。我們邀請董事長賢度法師及米爾必達市副市長MR. PETE MCHUGE共同主持頒獎，與會者二百多人，座無虛設，盛況空前。

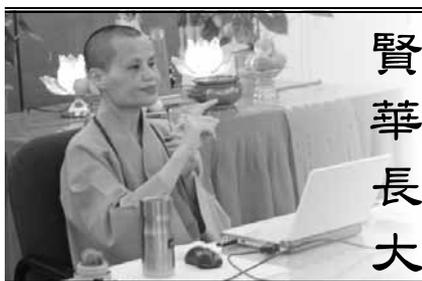
當天參加觀禮者除獲獎學生家長外，獎學金評審委員也有代表出席。

頒獎典禮首先由兩位主禮嘉賓致詞，然後由兩位分別頒發第一、第二名獲獎的學生；其它頒獎嘉賓分別有住持天因法師，評審委員代表心程（李忠霖）、心如（蔡壁如）、心慈（祿青蓮）、善歸（姜汝勤）等，一一頒獎給獲獎學生。

另外獲獎學生代表SOFIA HAN及 TOAN VUONG分別致謝詞。對於獲獎者本社期望學子們能繼續用功，將來能回饋社會，為國家作棟樑！



左：賢度法師
右：副市長Pete Mchuge



賢度法師開示 華嚴經義 長養善根種子 大轉法輪

本社董事長賢度法師再次大轉法輪於八月二十五、二十七、二十九日三天晚上七時至九時為大眾開示華嚴的世界觀。

三天的主題分別是：

- 二十五日：
一乘教義的國土思想。
- 二十七日：
世界成就的因緣
- 二十九日：
十法界

董事長利用先進科技，透過幻燈片、將華嚴經的義理簡單清晰的演譯出來；再透過影片的片段、引入生活當中，讓信眾們對於世界成就的種種因緣，有更深入的理解！

在三天的佛學開示當中，信眾們都非常投入，並不時發問問題凝聚了一股互動的氣氛。經過這一次的佛法薰陶，再堅固了大眾修學華嚴的信心，董事長的開示，長養了大眾的善根種子，三天的佛學講座很快就圓滿了，信眾紛紛向董事長請法，希望能早日回來為大眾再作開示。 囍



董事長開示大眾如沐春風





董事長賢度法師法駕蒞美 主持盂蘭盆法會及再轉法輪

八月二十二日本社董事長賢度法師法駕蒞美，主持盂蘭盆法會，住持天因法師及天融法師親到機場迎候。

翌日，隨即召開上半年度的事務會議，出席者賢度法師、天因法師、天融法師及天寧法師。董事長在聽取各職事報告之後，隨即慈示本社工作仍需秉持以增長信眾法身慧命為主，對於蓮社推行的慈善救濟工作，深表讚揚。

八月二十三日上午九時，秋季盂蘭盆法會隨即展開，是日信眾出

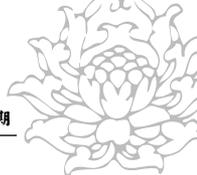
席者踴躍，歸位後之殿堂比前寬倘而且座無虛席；當第一支香結束後，賢度法師大轉法輪，為大眾開示所唸的經文十行品中的法義，同時解釋華嚴字母殊勝功德的意義，更帶領大家唱頌華嚴字母迴向，令參與法會信眾更能契入華嚴義海，再將功德迴向往生堂上的歷代先亡。

此次參予支援此次法會的法師，除了來自台灣的印彬法師外，又有來自洛杉磯的惟悟法師、開見法師、屋崙的心信法師、達堅法師、演密法師、銓欽法師等。



前排左起：惟悟法師、心信法師、演密法師、達堅法師、印彬法師





八月二十九日上午九時，延生普佛由董事長主法，領眾誦《藥師琉璃光如來本願功德經》，並加持誦藥師灌頂真言四十九遍，為現場參與法會信眾及延生堂上設位的功德主祈求增福延壽，消災解冤釋結。又為台灣八八水災受災災民祈求身心自在。

下午由住持天因法師領眾誦持《地藏菩薩本願經》一部，迴向功德堂上及蓮社護法信眾歷代祖先宗親都能往生淨土，離苦得樂。下午四時三十分，住持法師傳授幽冥皈依。

八月三十日上午九時，舉行一年一度的盂蘭盆供法會，大眾虔誦《盂蘭盆經》以報七世父母恩重。董事長賢度法師在開示時，以台灣八八水災為例，提示與會大眾，世間無常的道理，而能將佛法落實在生活當中是急不容緩要做的事。

下午二時，恭請慧解大和尚主持三時繫念佛事一堂，法會進行到傍晚七時圓滿結束；2009年盂蘭盆大法會圓滿，參與信眾各個法喜充滿。☸



董事長賢度法師主持盂蘭法會



行堂組忙於為大眾準備便當



諸位法師為八月份壽星慶生





觀音菩薩 蓮社信眾

清淨莊嚴 虔誠禮敬

八月九日星期日，蓮社舉行觀音誕成道法會。是日出席的信眾超過二百人，這是成一樓重建後的第一次大型法會，很多信眾聞風而至，欲一睹蓮社的新面貌。法會開始，已經座無虛設。

每一次觀音誕，本社都有給信眾點燈供佛做祈福的項目，而當天趕來點燈的信徒也特別多，準備的蠟燭供不應求，向隅者眾。所以順便提醒大家，下次觀音誕要早點來點燈喔！

當天的共修會仍以普佛為主、持誦普門品及大悲咒廿一遍；蓮社資深義工胡心圓，當天請得觀音菩薩聖像來蓮社祈請開光並家庭供奉。中午亦備有齋菜、壽桃、喜糕供佛供眾；也有很多信眾們發心供養的各款點心，除了供佛之外同時也廣結善緣。當天的文物部，也因為是觀音誕的關係，同時八折優惠信眾。

下午有舉行三皈五式的儀式：皈依者有：丁聖剛(心誠)、陳欣琪(心悅)、蔣麗球(心信)、陳美蓮(

心現)、盛曉紅(心光)；求受五戒者：李忠霖(心程)、余寶蓮(心愍)、張寶珠(心念)。☸



點一盞明燈 祈願灼破眾生無明



三年前觀音送子，韓眼已長大了



願消三障諸煩惱





活動素描

俱運送回來，每一次當他們到達時，義工們都連隨停下來，先協助將貨車上的傢俱卸下，好讓他們能再次出發，如是者，他們一天往返了四至五次，總算將所有傢俱運送完畢！

午餐時，香積廚的好幾位義工師姐們，分別送來好幾道小菜，更加上粥、粉、麵，飯一應俱全，大家吃得津津有味。及後，有義工菩薩表示能加入歸位工作實在是非常殊勝，因為蓮社是他們的第二個家，能給他機會為蓮社出一分力，感到自豪。亦有表示，平常都坐在辦公桌上，難得有此因緣運動勞動一下，自利利他。亦有表示，蓮社搬家很累很累，但累得很有價值。

另外有一位菩薩知道我們要歸位，連忙提早結束假期，從 LAKE TAHAO 趕回來，加入義工行列。歸位工作一直進行到下午，接近四時所有傢俱才總算大致安頓下來，而接下來的工作就是要將各類的雜物分類，床上用品的整理，當大家看到我們仍有那麼多東西要處理時，都紛紛表示下星期會再來協助。

看到大眾護持三寶的精神，實在讓我們感到欣慰！同時在整個歸位進行中，萬眾一心，同心協

力，把工作圓滿完成，看到事務處、寮房、大雄寶殿的新貌；雖然搬了一整天，但是大眾的臉上沒有倦容，綻放出來的卻是一份光芒，這光芒把整天的歸位佛事莊嚴起來。



護法金剛頂著大太陽來回穿梭



孔武有力的護法金剛



師兄，這一次是最後一轉了



師父，我們家齋堂很大呢！



加油！成功在望



義工夫婦攜手為蓮社打理齋堂



法喜充滿的一餐



不要急啦！馬上可以吃了！



雜物分類



師父，可以打板食飯了



哇！好多棉被喔





華嚴中秋慶團圓 閤家歡聚樂融融

文：樓曜甄

中秋節不只是自家人團圓吃飯的日子，美國加州聖荷西華嚴蓮社也在這天(十月三日)舉辦華嚴中秋慶團圓的盛會。已經有超過五年沒有舉辦的中秋晚會了，當晚除了禮佛祈福之外，還集結各式的表演、摸彩活動以及美味的佳餚，吸引超過百多位信眾到場參與。

在住持天因法師的帶領下，大家一起圓滿月光拜願，內容有：爐香讚、拜願以及三皈依，同時也替整個活動開啟了序幕。節目一開始由師父領唱「華嚴之歌」，緊接著為大眾開示普茶的意義，所謂的普茶乃是源自於唐宋大陸叢林，以吃茶的方式讓大家聚在一起，談談各自修行的心得及未來的展望。

是晚，我們一邊喝茶，一邊賞月，而典座組準備了簡單、輕便而又美味的晚餐，而文娛組也為我們安排了幾項的表演活動，在用餐的同時第一組上場表演的是由 FANTASIA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER的小朋友帶來HIP-POP和扇子舞的舞蹈表演，

這些小朋友們雖然只有六或七歲但是身手相當敏捷，他們用活力、熱情還有柔美的舞蹈技巧帶動了全場氣氛。在中場摸彩活動之後，緊接著上場的是ALEX（丁煒竣）的武術表演，ALEX只有十幾歲但打起武術套路，虎虎生風，引起在場者熱烈掌聲，紮實的底子也讓現場觀眾大開眼界！

節目的最高潮是於百花演藝學院以優美的合聲加上高低音演唱完「天涯碧合慶團圓」之後，天寧師父在主持人以及現場居士們的要求下也表演了一段粵語歌仔戲，不需要歌詞的情況下天寧師父以優美的嗓音以及精湛的演唱技巧博得了滿堂彩，也讓大家見識到不同於以往的師父。

活動尾聲，住持法師開示燃燈的意義後，大眾在唱燃燈之歌的同時，每個人的面前都有一個小蠟燭，從第一位居士開始接住持法師的燭火，然後將火光傳給下一位，這代表著傳燈的儀式，而「傳燈」，就是傳法的意思，燈燈相傳，表示佛法永續，代代相傳，法燈永不熄滅。最後每個人



都捧著燭火跟著師父一起祈福，滿落幕。☯



住持法師帶領大家燃燈祈福

活動素描



法師領眾祈願



百花演藝學院大合照



丁煒竣武術表演後接收紀念品



大會司儀與法師合照





向迴經誦社蓮 災水八八

莫拉克風災肆虐南台灣，造成台灣這座美麗之寶島遭逢半世紀以來罕見的重大災情，許多人家園破碎。

本社住持天因法師即時發起賑災，發動信眾義賣籌款，並率先撥出美金三千元送交慈濟。又於八月十六日(星期日)下午二時，誦地藏經迴向為生還者祈福。

本社資深義工胡心圓，送出大量家居用品作慈善義賣。第二次籌得的款項 \$4,250.00 全數交與董事長賢度法師帶回台灣，直接用作災場賑濟，將美國蓮社大眾的善心傳達至台灣施與遭患災害的災民身上。



無緣大慈 同體大悲



法師祝願世界和平



信眾為台灣祈福



願往生者早生淨土



燈

文章出處：網上流傳

漆黑的夜晚，一個遠行尋佛的苦行僧到了一個荒僻的村落中，漆黑的街道上，絡繹的村民們你來我往。

苦行僧走進一條小巷，他看見有一團暈黃的燈從靜靜的巷道深處照過來。

一位村民說：「瞎子過來了。」

瞎子？苦行僧楞了，他問身旁的另一位村民：「那挑著燈的人真是瞎子嗎？」

他得到答案是肯定的。

苦行僧百思不得其解。

一個雙目失明的盲人，他根本就沒有白天和黑夜的概念，他看不到高山流水，也看不到紅桃柳綠的世界萬物，他甚至不知道燈光是什麼樣子，那他挑一盞燈豈不

令人可笑嗎？

那燈籠漸漸近了，暈黃的的燈光漸漸從深巷移游到了僧人的鞋上。

百思不解的僧人問：「敢問施主真的是一位盲人嗎？」

那挑燈籠的盲人告訴他：「是的，自從踏進這個世界，我就一直雙眼混沌。」

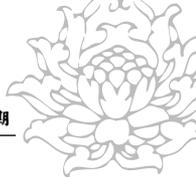
僧人問：「既然您什麼也看不見，那為何挑一盞燈籠呢？」

盲人說：「現在是黑夜嗎？我聽說在黑夜裡沒有燈光的映照，那麼滿世界的人都和我一樣什麼也看不見，所以我就點燃了一盞燈籠。」

僧人若有所思地說：「原來您是為了給別人照明？」

但那盲人卻說：「不，我是為我自己！」

「為您自己？」僧人愣了。



盲人緩緩向僧人說：「您是否因為夜色漆黑而被其他行人碰撞過？」

僧人說：「是的，就在剛才，我被兩個人碰了一下。」

盲人聽了，深沉地說：「但我卻沒有。雖說我是盲人，我什麼也看不見，但我挑了這盞燈籠，既為別人照亮了路，也更讓別人看到了我。這樣，他們就不會因為看不見而碰撞了我。」

苦行僧聽了，頓有所悟。

他仰天長嘆說：「我天涯海角奔波著找佛，沒想到佛就在我身邊。原來佛性就像一盞燈，只要我點燃了他，即使我看不見佛，佛也會看得到我。」

故事就是這樣的簡單，卻彷彿一瞬間點燃了我們內心深處某塊漆黑的地方。

在生活中，熱愛珍惜身邊的一切，我們就會感受到那回饋來的溫暖與快樂！

工作中，要得到別人的尊重，

首先要尊重自己的所言所行！對自己負責，才是對別人負責！

認真地做人；踏實地做事；堅毅地追尋；耐心地積累，最後卻發現，尋找金礦的過程，竟是將自己錘煉成金的過程！

在生命裡，要懂得既然有四季輪換，就有風風雨雨，就有酷暑嚴寒；既然有酸甜苦辣不同的味道，我們就能做出可口的美味佳餚！

有個詞很簡單「捨得」，沒有捨，那來得？！送人玫瑰，手有餘香！

為了我們自己，也是為了我們所有人，點燃生命的燈吧！

這樣，在生命的夜色裡，我們才能尋找到自己的平安和燦爛！





特別活動

1) 傳授三皈五戒

佛誕日傳授三皈五戒，由本社住持天因法師為三皈本師，發心皈依受戒者請與本社查詢。

日期： 佛陀成道紀念法會 2010年1月17日 下午1:30
觀音菩薩誕辰法會 2010年3月28日 下午1:30

2) 幽冥皈依

幽冥皈依對象是已經往生之先人，由親屬帶領代為皈依，使亡者能不墮三惡道，來生不失人身。

日期：2009年12月26日 下午4:00
2010年4月11日 下午4:00

歡迎投稿

「華嚴園苑」歡迎大家投稿，分享心路歷程，學佛心得。來稿可以中英文撰寫，字數不超過五百字為限。可用以下電子郵箱或郵寄到本社：

E-MAIL: LING.ABLS@GMAIL.COM

請連同姓名、電話，以便聯絡。

請註明：華嚴園苑

銘謝啓事

特別感謝參予本期之中、英文撰稿、翻譯、潤筆、校對、設計等義務工作人員：

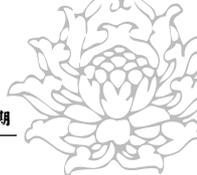
區志揚(心智)居士、胡心圓居士、區洪鈞(心朗)居士、樓曜甄居士、江常生居士。

編輯部謹啟

每月慶生日

本社於每月第四個週日禮拜藥師寶懺之餘，更為當月生日者慶生，歡迎預先報名及參加共修，期仰仗三寶加被，福慧增長，事事吉祥，法會中本社備有生日喜糕供佛供眾，又向當月壽星致送精美而有紀念價值的生日紀念品，歡迎參加，拈香禮佛，供齋結緣，隨喜功德！





活動預告

1. 年終加行功課每天虔誦地藏經一卷
日期: 2009年12月1日至19日 3:00 PM - 5:45 PM
2. 年終法會禮拜梁皇寶懺
日期: 2009年12月20日至27日 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
3. 佛陀成道紀念法會
日期: 2010年1月17日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
4. 新春禮拜三千佛懺
日期: 2010年2月14 日至20日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
5. 華嚴供佛齋天法會
日期: 2010年2月21 日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
6. 觀音菩薩誕辰法會
日期: 2010年3月28 日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
7. 春季法會禮拜梁皇寶懺
日期: 2010年4月4日至11日 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

每月定期共修會

活動項目	日期
虔誦華嚴經	每月第一個星期日
慈悲三昧水懺	每月第二個星期日
華嚴佛一	每月第三個星期日
禮拜藥師寶懺	每月第四個星期日
禮拜金剛寶懺	每月第五個星期日

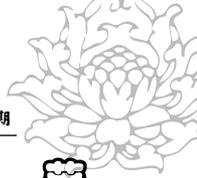




助印功德芳名

第五期 助印功德芳名				
\$500	成一法師	賢度法師		
\$300	天因法師			
\$200	劉小梅			
\$100	張年素	覺明法師	天寧法師	故張國鴻
	天融法師			
\$60	陳翠娥			
\$50	會極法師			
\$40	利絲			
\$30	傅楊春美	何楷		
\$20	楊陳秀明	張家禮	楊麗萍	
\$10	Amy Yi Fan	Yelena Pesic		
第六期 助印功德芳名				
\$500	成一法師	賢度法師		
\$300	天因法師	劉寶足	故 陳錦文	
\$200	胡松齡	Allen Xiano	ChunLien Wang	黃鴻欽合家
\$150	Daniel Tang			
\$120	故 韓信謀			
\$100	Jean Huang	盧美茜	華維祺	蘇文隆
\$90	郭俊男			
\$60	Natalie Ko & Francis Yu			
\$50	Solomon Wong	Meiping Chen	黃妙芬	黃偉光
	文國強			
\$40	徐惟桂	陳秀清		
\$30	傅楊春美			
\$20	賴玉英	鄭彩琴	葉麗萍	David Hattersley
	Huang Yu-Wen			





因華
歡迎助印

華嚴蓮社為一非牟利團體，出版期刊是希望能散播佛法的種子。歡迎助印，廣種福田！

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謝謝您的支持



The
Avatamsa

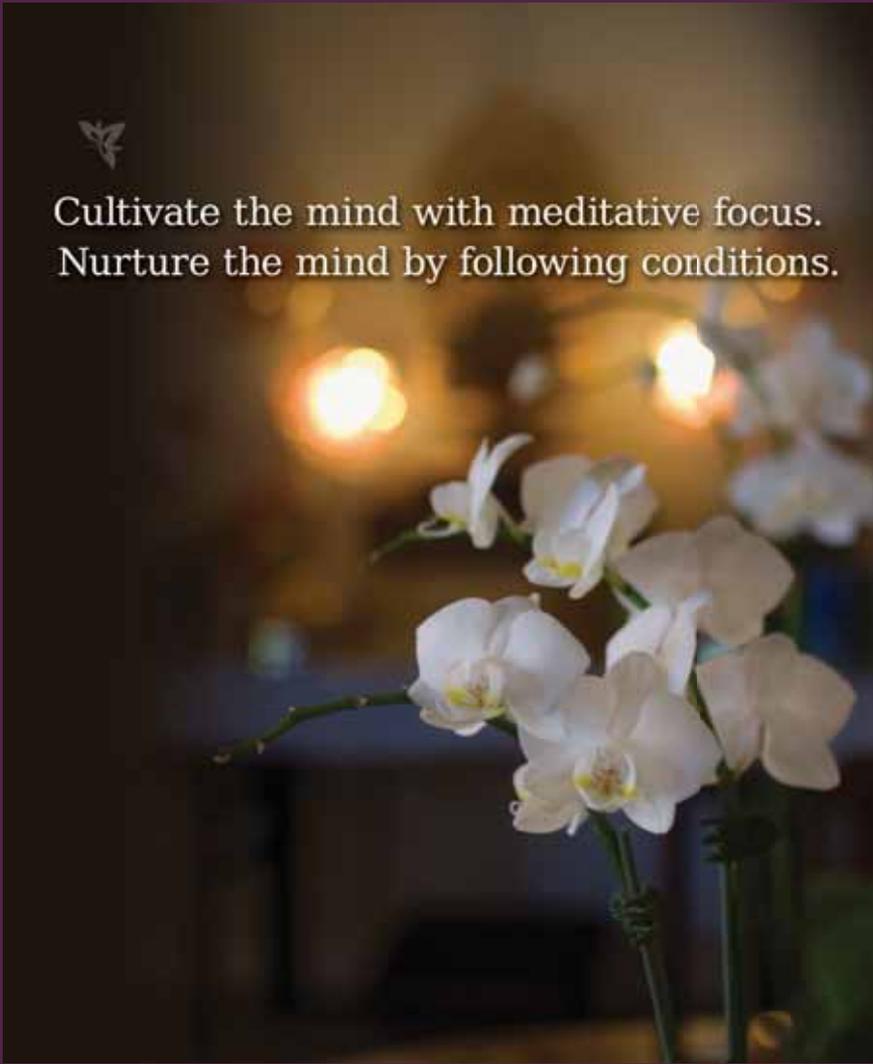
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11. 2009

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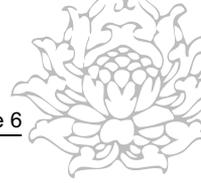
GOLDEN VERSES

A day's effort brings a day's reward

A day's neglect produces a wasted day

True practice is founded on daily effort

Buddha's path is rooted in everyday's living



HELPING OTHERS IS HAPPINESS, ALLEVIATING SUFFERING IS JOY.

Translated by : Matthew Au

On a hot summer day, David was strolling along the beach as he noticed fishes all along the shore being washed up while the tide was moving lower and lower. Within the hour the flapping fishes would be dehydrated under the strong beaming sun.

David continued slowly pacing enjoying the warm weather until he came across a little kid who was frantically scooping up the fishes and throwing them back into the sea. "What are you doing?" asked David with hesitation. "Trying to save the fishes before they all dry up, sir" replied the kid as he swept the sweat across his forehead. "There are so many fishes along the shore, it is almost impossible to save

them all!" David said. "Every fish matters, whether big or small, this one, that one..." mumbled the kid without looking up as he continued. It was then David started rolling up his jeans and gave the kid a helping hand.

In this world, there are many people like the fishes, who are lost and in need of guidance and help from those around them. We as human beings all suffer from our own problems and pain on a daily basis. It is up to you whether or not to step in and offer someone a helping hand as David has learned that every life is worth helping no matter what. Blessings of virtue and infinite happiness arise from doing good deeds.





Story with Inspiration

Light

Translated by :

Oscar Au and Matthew Au

On a dark winter's night, a Buddhist monk on a long journey seeking enlightenment walks into a remote village. As he walks through the dark streets, he noticed it was flourished with people walking up and down the village.

As the monk turned into a small alley, he saw a shimmering glow of light from afar like a still photograph.

"The blind man is coming", the monk overheard a villager say.

The monk stood still in confusion as he thought to himself, "A blind man?" He walked over to ask the villager if he had heard wrong, but indeed, the approaching light was a blind man.

The monk was baffled.

A blind man, he had no concept of day or night. He could not see the beautiful colors of the rainbow, nor tell the difference between the mountains or the sea.

The glow of the lantern got closer and closer. Eventually, the light shone on the monk's feet.

Perplexed, the monk asked the blind man if he was really blind. "Yes, unfortunately I was brought into this world without sight", the blind man replied.

"Since you can't see, how come you are carrying a lantern?" asked the monk.

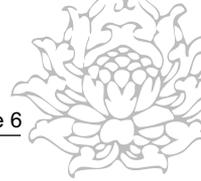
"Oh, is it night time now? I heard that there's no light at night and it is very dark. So everyone is like me, can't see anything. That's why I lit a lantern." replied the blind man.

Looking less confused, the monk said "So you are shining the light for others?"

"Not exactly" said the blind man. "Did anyone run into you as you walked around the village?" as he continued.

Without a second thought, the monk said "Yes, two individuals did not pay attention and bumped into me earlier."





The blind man listened and said "Although I am blind, I have never bumped into anyone. This lantern not only helps others to see, but it also illuminates me for others to see so that they will not walk into me."

The monk gazed into the distant starlit sky with a long deep audible sigh. "I have been extensively traversing throughout my journey to seek for the great Buddha's doctrine, instead it has always been hovering around me. The Buddha's character is just like a burning lantern, as long as it is shining, I know Buddha is always there watching over me, even though I can not see him physically", the monk contemplated and was heartfelt with the sudden enlightenment.

The story is short and simple, yet it presents contemplative morals and principles, and it also lightens up that insignificant spot of darkness we have within our mind and soul.

In everyday life, try to pay more attention into your surroundings with love and passion, you will definitely feel the warmth and happiness in return!

In the workplace, to earn respect from colleagues, you must first start with respecting yourself by saying the right thing and doing good deeds!

Taking responsibility of yourself is as equally important as taking responsibility

of people around you!

In a relationship, treat it as a fresh growing red velvet rose. Only with intensive caring and nurture, would the flower be vibrant, be sweet in aroma, and be in the bloom of youth!

In our life, look at it as the four changing seasons throughout the year. There are pouring rains and violent storms, there are also hot sizzling summers and cold freezing winters. In order to create a delectable gourmet meal, we can not get away from the four basic ingredient: sweet, sour, bitter and spicy.

A simple yet profound Chinese proverb: "give and take". You may lose something on one hand, but without realizing you could gain something on the other. So reach out now and give a hand to people in need!

Live your life to the fullness, cherish every moment, seek and take action in every opportunity, learn from every experience. In the very end, you would be surprised by the effort, determination and hard work you put in all along to achieve that personal goal, you may be very well sitting on a gold mine without realizing it!

May our lanterns continue to light up the path ahead and beyond!





FLU SHOT

On Sunday September 20th, Professional Pharmacist Daniel L. Wang provided free flu shots for volunteers of ABLS. As Mr. Wang leads a busy life, he is unable to take pleasure in volunteering at ABLS as he might wish. So in other ways of helping the temple, he made use of his specialty as a pharmacist to provide free flu shots for those at the temple with his kindest heart.

Mr. Daniel Wang has been a vegetarian since 1996. He believes that being vegetarian is one of the most important ways to protect our environment.

Factory farmed meat causes a larger pollution problem than air pollution from cars. If you are a frequent carpooler, why not also try eating more veggies and less meat.

Another person who should be thanked is Dr. Tran, a licensed chiropractor, who comes to the temple every third Sunday of the month to offer free services for volunteers. He has been helping the temple with his specialized field for almost two years.

Much thanks and appreciation go out to both Mr. Wang and Dr. Tran.

SATURDAY NIGHT DHARAMA CLASS, "LIFE WITH BUDDHISM"

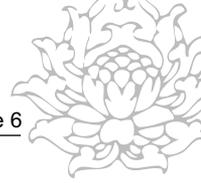
September 19th was the second of a series of classes lead by Abbess Ven. Tien Inn on Saturday nights. A good handful of around 20 people showed up, all eager to ask questions and listen to Abbess Ven. Tien Inn lecture about basic Buddhism with a twist of humor.

The lesson started off with the master answering questions written from the previous week and then continued to a certain topic which was chosen for the night. One of the things I learned from the class was how to deal with a situation where someone has just passed away.

Ideally, it would be best to have the body rest in a peaceful environment for the next eight hours and not move it around. Even though their heart has stopped beating, but their body and mind are still functioning. Family members should not cry or argue next to the body as this will disturb the peace. Chanting should be offered continuously so that the person can have a blissful departure in hopes for a better afterlife.

The second half of the class involved an interactive audience to ask questions related to the topic. People were really eager to ask questions which had interfered with their lives or the others around them. Abbess Ven. Tien Inn connected easily and gave everybody a good laugh too.





SECOND ANNUAL ABL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY ON AUGUST 23, 2009

BY ANNE HU

A little after 10 AM on August 23, 2009, many students and their families gathered outside Chen Yi Hall checking in with Anne Hu, the MC for the award ceremony. It was a beautiful and mild temperature day. Some students were surprised to see fellow classmates as recipients of ABL Scholarship. They waited patiently inside the Chen Yi Hall or took group photos in the hallway while waiting for the dharma service to end at the Grand Hall.



About 10:45 AM, students and families were ushered into the Grand Hall in the front rows. Dr. Hsien Du, Chairman of ABLS flew in from Taiwan to conduct this award ceremony with honor guest, Vice Mayor of Milpitas, Mr. Pete McHugh. Dr. Hsien Du eloquently presented her speech in both Mandarin and English. It's one of ABLS mission to reciprocate to the local community. She also

appreciated donors of the scholarship to assist outstanding students who may need financial assistance in achieving their academic goal. Vice Mayor of Milpitas, Peter McHugh is very supportive and has attended many ABLS events. He praised ABLS for providing this scholarship to aspiring graduates from Piedmont Hills and Milpitas High Schools.

Sofia Han, first place recipient and Toan Vuong from Piedmont Hills gave their acceptance speech and expressed their gratitude to ABLS. Sofia is going to UC Berkeley in the Fall, and Toan has one more year in high school. Both gave heart-felt speeches and received supportive applause. Group photos were taken including scholarship committee members.



The ceremony concluded in thirty minutes. Many students and their families stayed for a vegetarian lunch. Since Dr. Hsien Du announced possible scholarship for college students in the coming years, parents and students were interested to find more information for the application process.





AWARD ESSAY FROM ABLS SCHOLAR 2009

By Shian Hong

I was born in Oslo, Norway. My recollections of that country are vague, fleeting memories of a world that was all I knew, and all I wanted to know. I grew up in the arms of a loving grandmother who spoiled me with sweets and affection. Her words were the only ones that mattered and her hopes are still the center of my accomplishments. When I was five, my mother decided to move to the United States and I, of course, had to follow. I belonged to two families separated by the vast Atlantic Ocean, my father's in Norway and my mother's in the United States. In the United States, I was immersed in a world that I did not understand, one that did not understand me. I lived in a house with strangers my mother called family, people who wanted to comfort me and ease my transition to the United States, and the very people I refused to accept, fearing that acknowledging them would mean forever relinquishing my ties to Norway. I desperately longed to return to my home, to cry in the arms of my grandmother who would surely comfort me with her warmth and gentle touch. Since my father was not an American citizen, he was not permitted to stay in the United States. This transition was extremely challenging because all I had to rely on in this unusual world were my mom and my sister. Without a working

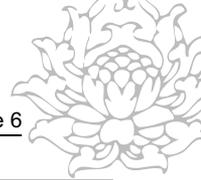
spouse, my mother was forced to labor long hours, struggling to provide for my sister and me.

Even after our abrupt separation, my grandmother continued to visit me annually during the summer. Often, she would explain to me the value of an education. Education is a bridge that towers over minimal-wage jobs, a bridge that allows individuals to realize their true potential, a bridge that leads people towards a fulfilling future. War and political instability in China and Vietnam had prevented both my grandmother and my father from attaining even a high school education. She sensed my reluctance to let her go and consoled me with a promise to bring me back to Norway after I finished high school.

Last year, however, when my uncle arrived in the United States with my grandmother, it became evident that she would not be able to keep her promise. "A ma," I called her, the proper Chinese title for grandmother. She said nothing, but stared at me with a blank face. "This is your granddaughter," my uncle told her. She smiled, but her face seemed different; her smile was empty, her eyes expressionless. A moment later, I finally realized the situation. Like a devil, dementia had taken my grandmother away from me. My name became meaningless and my face, even stranger to her. Tears welled up in my eyes and cascaded down my grief stricken face.

Though my grandmother no longer remembers me, I will never forget her





aspirations for me to succeed and flourish in life. For instance, at age six, I taught myself how to speak English, how to use a dictionary and how to reach out to others for help when my own abilities and efforts were not sufficient. I began to achieve academically in school simply because I realized my own potential. In the field of medicine, I aspire to become a physician or a pharmacist. I understand that medicine can never cure certain illnesses, such as dementia, but I will never forsake my faith in the power of medicine to perform miracles among other diseases. My grandma had always yearned for my success, and my future career in the medical profession will not only exceed her dreams, but my own as well. Her existence is a constant reminder of what I may be able to achieve in her honor and her dementia is merely a shadow I must overlook to know that my accomplishments are never futile.

It has been twelve years since I have last seen the icy slopes of my native Norway. This year, it is my turn to visit her. I hope that, even in her spirit's absence, her presence will be enough to anchor my heart that has been drifting for so long across the Atlantic, desperately seeking to reunite a beloved grandmother and her forgotten granddaughter.

The summer before junior year, I attended a National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in Berkeley, California. Within days, I visited various state-of-the-art hospitals, interviewed real interns studying in medical schools, and even came face to face with

human cadavers. My most memorable experience occurred the day my group was chosen to visit Shriners Hospitals for Children. My limited two years of Spanish classes suddenly became my most valuable asset when I met Jessica, a burn victim, who arrived at the hospital from Mexico. She spoke only Spanish and our initial conversation revealed that her entire family was still in Mexico. She was a patient in a foreign country in which she did not speak the native language. Nonetheless, Jessica showed no signs of fear. Instead, her brown eyes showed she was thankful to be able to receive any form of medical treatment.

I was fortunate to experience the power of language first hand. Speaking even limited Spanish allowed me to intimately know Jessica, a girl whose determination to recover deepened my desire to pursue a career in the medical field. Jessica taught me the valuable lesson that languages can dissolve barriers of ignorance and dispel fears of rejection, allowing unsuspecting strangers to meet one another through successful communication. I am proud that I did not allow my shyness to inhibit my opportunity to encounter such a remarkable character. My commitment to learning Spanish has ultimately improved my introverted personality and enhanced my self-esteem. I left the hospital feeling inspired and optimistic. She opened my eyes to my love of personal interaction and enhanced my desire to communicate and engage in conversations with others around me. For that, I am eternally indebted to her.





THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING

by Ella Southworth

In 2005 I went to Bryman College to study Massage Therapy. I worked as an intern while I was going to school and was offered a job by Dr. Wu , from Landess Accupunture, when I graduated. She volunteers once a month at the temple providing free Acupuncture Services and wanted to know if I would volunteer for Acupressure. Of course I wanted to do this, and so we began our once a month free clinic service together.

I have come to look forward to these visits to the Temple. I really like the friendly people that attend this temple and most of all, the Masters that live

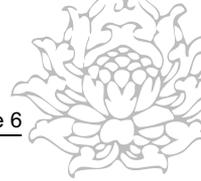
and work at the temple. They are very down to earth and are filled with joy. Their light heartedness and joy for life are the reasons I keep coming back.

I have learned so much from working with Dr. Chuchu Wu. She teaches me new things on a daily basis about the human body, but volunteering at the temple teaches me about the human spirit. To give back is very important, not just to the ones you are giving to, but also to the one giving.

To give your time to someone else, with no intention of something in return except the joy of giving, is priceless. Coming to the temple fills my spirit and gives me hope that the world is full of caring, kind people. When I come here, I feel that how little I do, can still matter to someone.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!!





LEARNING TO GIVE BACK

by Matthew Au

It is that time of the year where college graduates are pouring out from different institutions to fight for job openings during one of the worst recessions of the decade. Sitting at home waiting for job replies and interviews slowly grew more and more depressing. There had to be a better way to use time. So instead of waiting hopelessly, I decided to use time wisely so that I could benefit the community while keeping my mind straight. What better way than to volunteer.

I moved down from Seattle after graduating to live with my brother. He introduced me to this temple because he had been here a few times before and thought it had great vibes. After visiting for the first time, the masters encouraged me to volunteer for the Ullambana Festival which was held for one whole week. After this week of service I had learnt more about the temple's operations and befriended some very friendly people. The masters were very friendly and treated me like family. I never imagined the masters were so approachable and not to mention funny.

Being at the temple gives me a sense of inner peace because it is a quiet place where you can just sit there and think. Sometimes it's so quiet and peaceful that you can hear your heart beat and the birds chirp. This is one of the many reasons why I am still very dedicated to helping out whenever I am available; the temple feels like my second home. There is something about the people and atmosphere that makes me feel very comfortable.

Sometimes people are confused with what kind of volunteer work needs to be done at a temple. The answer is limitless because a temple is not a business; they operate on donations, so volunteers are vital to help maintain their operations. Little things like cleaning the tables and floors matter a lot. If things are not sterile, it could cause viruses to spread and people getting sick.

I highly recommend everyone to do more volunteering, any type of volunteering such as food drives, elderly homes or orphanages. It doesn't have to be at a temple. If you are of different religious backgrounds, you should help your community whenever possible. Take an hour out of your shopping time, it is that easy.





RECENT HAPPENINGS

by Irene Lau

A couple of weeks ago, Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society held an event to recognize and tribute a much respected and honorable Elder Master transition ABLS Chairmanship to Dr. Hsien Du. The Elder Master is nearly a hundred year old! That is astounding and he seems very active, vibrant, and healthy. It was a memorable day. The newly titled Master was very well educated, having previously studied in India and is fluent in several languages. It is quite impressive and amazing.

The temple also celebrated the grand opening of their newly renovated building where the dining Hall is on ground level and residence on second level. Many honor guests and friends including Vice Mayor of Milpitas, Pete McHugh, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

It was a very interesting and exciting day, because I've never attended a religious celebration like this before. There were a lot of attendees partaking this festive celebration. We took a walking tour of the brand new kitchen and building, while the Master blessing the building by dipping Holy water and sprinkling it everywhere, even on us to share the blessings. It was a happy gathering and celebration, and we were very fortunate to be part of this merriment.

Free Flower Arrangement Class

ABLS is sponsoring a free flower arrangement class with volunteer instructor Ms. Irene Yau. She will discuss the art of flower arranging and demonstrate various techniques. Creating your own floral masterpiece will certainly make you appreciate these stunning wonders of nature.

Time Schedule:

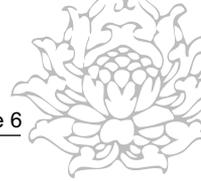
Once a month Every 2nd Sunday Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Materials expense – the instructor will provide all the required materials, students will share the expense

Welcome to participate!

"Let us learn more about flowers and explore the wonders of their nature (Don't miss this great opportunity)"





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Triple Gem Refuge and Five Precepts Ceremony

When a person wishes to become a Buddhist, the first step he takes is to go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for refuge. Since Buddha's time, taking this Threefold Refuge has identified a person as a Buddhist. The Buddha, Dharma and Sangha also known as the Triple Gem represent qualities which are excellent and precious like a gem. Once a person recognizes these unique qualities after careful consideration and is confident that the Triple Gem can help lead him towards happiness and Enlightenment, he or she takes refuge. It is, therefore, not out of mere faith but with an open-minded attitude and enquiring spirit that he begins to practice the Buddha's Teachings.

Date: January 17, 2010 at 1:30 pm
March 29, 2010 at 1:30 pm

Refuge Taking Ceremony for the Deceased

A family representative will attend a Threefold Refuge ceremony on behalf of his/her deceased family member. Taking refuge is the first step on the path to Enlightenment. Even if Enlightenment is not achieved in this life, by taking refuge in the Triple Gem, the deceased Buddhist is more likely to have favorable conditions for attaining Enlightenment in a future life.

Date: December 27, 2009 at 4:00 pm
April 10, 2010 at 4:00 pm



SPECIAL EVENTS

Monthly Birthday Blessings

On the last Sunday of each month, there will be chanting of the Bhaiṣajyaguru (Medicine Buddha) Repentance and Offerings to the Buddhas. For those whose birth dates fall within that month, you can participate

by joining in this chanting assembly and receive special blessings of good health and fortune. For more details, please contact our office.





CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

1) The Past Vows of Ksitigarbha (Earth Store) Bodhisattva Sutra

Date: December 1 to December 20, 2009

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:45 PM

2) Year End Services for Repentance Sutra of the Leung's Emperor

Date: December 20 to December 27, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

3) Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightemnet

Date: January 17, 2010

Time : 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

4) Three Thousand Buddhas Repentacne Service

Date: February 14 to February 20, 2010

Time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

5) Offering Ceremony for Buddhas and Devas

Date: February 21, 2010

Time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

6) Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday

Date: March 29, 2010

Time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

7) Ching Ming Festival for Repentance Sutra of the Leung's Emperor

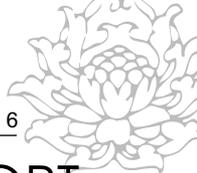
Date: April 4 to April 11, 2010

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

REGULAR ACTIVITIES: (8AM – 1:30PM)

EVENTS	TIME
Avatamsaka (Hua-yen) Sutra	Every First Sunday
Samadhi Water Repentance	Every Second Sunday
1-day Avatamsaka (Hua-yen) Retreat	Every Third Sunday
Bhaisajyaguru (Medicine Buddha) Repentance	Every Fourth Sunday
Diamond Repentance	Every Fifth Sunday





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The Avatamsa

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