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### 因華善財稿前言

編輯的話

儘管此刊物已出版到第九期,明 顯地仍是幼苗時期,須要改進及 努力之處殊多,有鑑於此,本社 故從今期開始,「專題研討」 以賢度法師的「善財童子五十三 參」作為首稿,日後如遇到董事 長有專題講座,也將會刊登在此 篇幅上。特此稿函,宜奉大眾。 因華從插秧至現時幼苗狀態,等 待灌溉茁壯成長,有賴各位不吝 賜教,繼續支持。

### 善財童子五十三參的故事

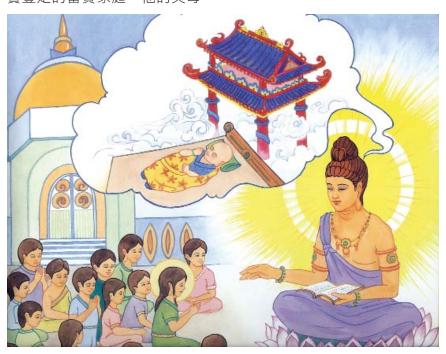
### 第一參 文殊師利菩薩的啟蒙

腎 度 法 師

文殊師利菩薩扮演著啟蒙的角 色,在聽法的五百童子當中,有 一位善財童子,他在聽法以後, 就發起想要成佛的心。文殊師利 菩薩為他介紹善知識,讓他去請 教進修之道。

這一位極具善根的善財童子,是 一位真正嚮往喜愛哲理智慧的奇 特青年。為什麼稱他為善財呢? 因為他出生在「福城」,一個財 寶豐足的富貴家庭,他的父母、

親屬以及占相師,都稱呼狺位孩 童為「善財」。文殊師利菩薩觀 察了善財童子,由於他在過去 宿牛中,曾經供養過無數諸佛如 來,種下了很深的善根,而且發 願要成佛。所以當這位童子在入 母胎的時候,他的家宅中自然湧 出了七寶樓閣,這是從因感果而 來的,當然也説明了他宿世所具 足的善因。而「善財」另外還有 一層意思,是説金、銀、珠寶雖



然是世人所逕求,但是這都僅僅 是屬於眼前的表相財富,主要還 是要廣積善根,才是永恆不變不 失的功德。

當文殊師利菩薩在觀察善財童子的根性以後,就當機為他演說,他為人。一切佛法,可佛法,說一切佛祖續法,如佛法,說一切佛相續法,說一切佛子,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,說一切佛法,也憶念起傳法,一心想要追求佛法,完成善人。

善財童子經由文殊師利菩薩的啟 發以後,發起了進修菩薩道的心 願。他作了三十四首頌,向文殊 師利菩薩表白他發心的意願,請 文殊師利菩薩教導他怎樣修學菩 薩道。他請問文殊師利菩薩: 「應云何學菩薩行?應云何修菩 薩行?應云何趣菩薩行? 應云何

· 應云何學菩薩行? 應云何修音 薩行?應云何趣菩薩行? 應云何 行菩薩行? 應云何淨菩薩行? 應云何成就菩薩 行? 應云何隨順菩薩行? 應云何 憶念菩薩行? 應云何增廣菩薩 行? 應云何令普賢行速得圓滿? 」文殊師利菩薩回答他一句話 說:「善男子,親近供養諸善知 識,是具一切智最初因緣,是故 於此生勿生疲厭。」

文殊師利菩薩告訴善財童子,首 先要發阿耨多羅三藐三菩提心, 如果要想成就一切智,應該還要 祈求善知識,真誠的接受他們的 指導。於是善財童子就這樣踏上 了朝聖之旅。 經



大方廣佛華嚴經卷第五十三·離世间品第三十八之一·第7问何等為成就眾生

# 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。

### 第七問~何等為成就眾生

經文(P153LL5):佛子!菩薩摩訶薩有十種心得安隱。何等為十?所謂:

- 1. 以布施成就眾生;
- 2. 以色身成就眾生;
- 3. 以說法成就眾生;
- 4 · 以同行成就眾生;
- 5. 以無染著成就眾生;
- 6 · 以開示菩薩行成就眾生;
- 7. 以熾然示現一切世界成就眾生;
- 8 · 以示現佛法大威德成就眾生;
- 9 · 以種種神通變現成就眾生;
- 1O·以種種微密善巧方便成就眾生。

是為十。若諸菩薩安住此法,則得如來無上大智安隱。

### 釋文(V17P58L5):

前第六問「心得安隱」,成就了自利利他,故獲得心安。自利,即「智」心安;利他,即「悲」心安。即具備智慧又能慈悲的度眾生。而在這一問(即第七問)是説明利物成就,再進一步的理解,經文中總共以十種法成就了十類眾生,分析如下表:

	經文內容: 以~成就眾生	釋文:成就了~類眾生
1	以布施成就眾生	成就了慳貪貧窮眾生
2	以色身成就眾生	成恃形色憍慢眾生
3	以説法成就眾生	成就了疑法眾生
4	以同行成就眾生	成就了狠戾眾生
5	以無染著成就眾生	成就了貪愛眾生
6	以開示菩薩行成就眾生	成就了愛樂二乘眾生
7	以熾然示現一切世界成就眾生	成就了不愛樂嚴剎眾生
8	以示現佛法大威德成就眾生	成就了不欣喜佛果眾生
9	以種種神通變現成就眾生	成就了邪歸依眾生
10	以種種微密善巧方便成就眾生	成就了邪智狡猾眾生

以上十種法均各以一法成就了一類眾生,但卻闡明了以每一法通於 其餘九法,即十法共通,如是次第地成就了各類眾生,皆得圓滿。 經



## 華 嚴 二 祖 智 儼 和 尙

二祖智儼大師(西元620年-668年)。俗姓趙,天(甘肅)水人,生於隋文帝仁壽二年(六〇二年)。曾講經於雲華寺,別號雲華和尚,又以其曾居至相寺,所以又稱至相尊者。幼即有志於佛道,嬉戲時常累石成塔,或以友伴為聽眾,自任法師。

智儼十二歲時,杜順到他家裡, 請求把智儼給他作弟子, 趙景夫 婦欣然應允。初出家時,感到佛 教的經典和派別很多,難以遍 學,因而在經藏前發誓,信手探 取,獲得《華嚴經》第一卷, 於是決定專學《華嚴》。法師 智慧具足, 書過目能誦。其後, 依杜順和尚所集"華嚴法界觀" 而盡得其玄旨。後遇一異僧對 師説: "若欲解得華嚴一乘之宗 者,十地品六相之義,慎勿輕 視"智儼大師尊照其教誨、研 究,又從北魏慧光所撰《華嚴經 疏》,對此經所說「別教一乘無 盡緣起」的義旨,有所領會。不 到一個月豁然貫通,而「無盡緣 起説」及十地中六相義,影響他 的思想最大。他在這個基礎上, 構成了華嚴思想體系;作《華嚴

經搜玄記》,説明"六相",開演"十玄",建立"五教",為日後"賢首宗"(即華嚴宗)立下根基。

顯慶四年,於雲華寺登座敷講華 嚴經,大振宗風,名遍寰宇,王 宮貴族人民百姓莫不景仰。後得 賢首大師,得傳玄旨。某夜夢見 般若塔傾塌,知世緣盡。於是告 門人説:"我將暫往西方。" 不到一月説法而逝。

六相:總、別、同、異、成、壞 十玄門是

- (1)同時具足相應門
- ( 2 ) 因 陀 羅 網 境 界 門
- ( 3 ) 秘密隱顯俱成門
- ( 4 ) 微細相容安立門
- 5 )十世隔法異成門
- ( 6 ) 諸 藏 純 雜 具 德 門
- ( 7 ) 一 多 相 容 不 同 門
- (8)諸法相即自在門
- (9)唯心回轉善成門
- (10) 托事顯法生解門

五教是:小乘教、大乘始教、大乘終教、大乘頓教、大乘頓教、大乘圓教 <sup>558</sup>

## 『誠信』漂流記

文章出處:網路流傳

話說『誠信』被那個『聰明』的年輕人丟棄到水裡以後,他拼命地游著,最後來到了一個小島上。

『誠信』就躺在沙灘上休息,心裡計劃著等待哪位路過的朋友允 許他搭船,救他一命。

突然,『誠信』聽到遠處傳來一陣陣歡樂輕鬆的音樂。

他於是馬上站起來,向著音樂傳來的方向望去:他看見一隻小船 正向這邊駛來。

船上有面小旗,上面寫著『快樂』二字,原來是快樂的小船。

『誠信』忙喊道:『快樂快樂, 我是誠信,你拉我回岸可以嗎? 』

『快樂』一聽,笑著對『誠信』 説:『不行不行,我一有了誠信 就不快樂了,你看這社會上有多 少人因為説實話而不快樂。對不 起,我無能為力。』説罷,『快 樂』走了。

過了一會兒……

『地位』又來了,誠信忙喊到: 『地位地位,我是誠信,我想搭你的船回家可以嗎?』

『地位』忙把船划遠了,回頭對 『誠信』説:『不行不行,誠信 可不能搭我的船,我的地位來之 不易啊!有了你這個誠信我豈 不倒霉,並且連地位也難以保住 啊!

『誠信』很失望地看著『地位』 的背影,眼裡充滿了不解和疑 惑。

他又接著等。

隨著一片有節奏而卻不和諧的聲音傳來,『競爭』們乘著小船來了,『誠信』喊道:『競爭,競爭,我能不能搭你的小船一程?

競爭們問道:『你是誰,你能給 我們多少好處?』

『誠信』不想説,怕説了又沒人理,但『誠信』畢竟是誠信,他 説:『我是……』

『你是誠信啊,你這不純心給 我們添麻煩嗎?如今競爭這麼激 烈,我們"不正當競爭"怎麼敢 要你誠信?』言罷,揚長而去。

正當誠信感到近乎絕望的時候, 一個慈祥的聲音從遠處傳來:『 孩子,上船吧!』

一個白髮蒼蒼的老者在船上掌著 舵道:『我是時間老人。』

『誠信』忍不住問道:『您為什

麼要救我呢?』

老人微笑著説:『只有時間才知道誠信有多麼重要!』

在回去的路上,時間老人指著 因翻船而落水的『快樂』、『地 位』、『競爭』,意味深長地説 道:『沒有誠信,快樂不長久, 地位是虛假的,競爭也是失敗 的。』



# 觀音成道 信眾虔誦大恐神咒 祈福消災

七月二十五日(星期日)上午八時,本社舉辦觀音菩薩成道法會。是日,出席的信眾超過二百人,蓮社一如往常準備了觀音燈,讓信眾可以燃燈供佛;更,大悲水、午齋、喜糕、壽麵、胡大悲水、午齋、直鞋、壽麵、山內達又準備了一些毛氈,及自製麥芽核桃用作義賣。

當天共修仍以普佛、持誦普門品 及大悲咒廿一遍為主;天因住持 利用開示時間,為大眾介紹不同 化身的觀音菩薩。除了大家早已 家傳戶曉的白衣觀音、楊柳觀音 外,也介紹了準提菩薩;最特別 的是鮮為人知的綠度母原來也是 觀音菩薩的一個化身。在法師開 示之後,大家對漢傳佛教的度母 就有了一定的認識。而住持法師 的最小的徒弟心展(黃健文)只有 五歲,每次來到蓮社,師父都會 教他背誦一些簡短的咒語。在法 師引領下,心展更當眾以他獨特 的記憶方法背誦綠度母心咒,頓 時獲得滿場堂聲。

下午,舉行三皈五戒的儀式:皈依者有:丁聖嘉(心賓)、余維晨(心怡)、高淑珠(心寶); 求受五戒者:黃楚涇(心明)。經



#### 華嚴蓮社 第 美 國 辨大蒙山 次舉

8/29/2010對蓮計來説是一個不 平凡的日子,美國華嚴蓮計第一 次舉辦大蒙山法會,看看常住的 年曆,當天應為盂蘭法會的最後 一天,但為了配合台北華嚴蓮社 的運作,本年度的盂蘭法會提早 了一個星期舉行,故早在上星期 日即8/22已結束了。

為防有信眾錯過了盂蘭圓滿日的 法事,先前經由賢度董事長的指 示,於當天加一堂佛事功德。由 於當天是八月份第五個週日,理 應領眾禮拜 金剛寶懺,有見上述 情況,故共修內容稍作更改,當 天於上午八時開始由天因住持領 眾作一堂延生普佛,功德迴向本





上圖:大蒙山法會主法振冠法師

社延生堂上諸位大德增福增慧、 業障消除。下午一時三十分虔誦 地藏經一部,又於三時恭請洛杉 磯延壽寺振冠法師主法施放大蒙 山法事一堂,功德迴向本社往生 功德堂上各姓亡靈早生淨土、解 脱自在。

常天前來參予者有以為常天就是 盂蘭圓滿日來共霑法益,有參予 者是得悉當天是盂蘭圓滿後加添 的功課來成就功德更加圓滿,在 云云百多人中,各人專心聽法、 攝持念誦,也發揮到共修的精神 及功德的力量,不失為一堂殊勝 莊嚴的佛事,成就了冥陽雙界, 法益滿溢。經

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本社台北董事長賢度法師在百忙之中,依然為法忘驅,率續臻法師、天行法師、通是法師、友真法師、恆熹法師、天恆法師等一行七人於八月五日晚上先後蒞臨本社;住持天因法師及當家天融法師親到機場迎訝。

再者賢度董事長法務纏身,積極 弘法利生,致力佛法教育,一年 難得才來兩次,每次也只能稍作 停留,因此大家都懂得把握這因 緣,護持道場,護持三寶,供佛 供僧。

八月五日晚上,由於航班誤點, 原本賢度董事長應該是五時抵達 蓮社,因此延誤至七時多;另一 班原訂於八時抵達的,延後至十 時多。當全體到達,稍作進食, 一輪擾攘,已經接近零晨了。

八月六日,天融當家為所有從台 北遠道而來支援法會的法師作環 境認識介紹。 八月七日,蓮社資深護法陳潤吾 居士,一向對賢度董事長博學多 聞,見解精闢,多年培植佛教人 材,深深景仰;特於是日中午, 設宴供養諸位法師,廣植福田。

八月八日,盂蘭盆法會揭開序幕,是次法會之特色:是歷年來首次在一次法會中圓滿持誦八十卷《大方廣佛華嚴經》。蓮社好幾位護法居士,早在年初得悉此殊勝因緣時,早已發願,必定參與圓滿八十卷功德,由此盛緣,有願皆成。

在早上八時開始,在續臻法師, 天因住持的帶領下,每天諷誦經 文六卷,晚課加持蒙山施食下濟 三塗。中午由賢度董事長主持宗 供,上供十方常住三寶 席的信徒 ,上供十方常住三寶 席的信徒 亦異常踴躍,座無虛設,兩旁走 道的臨時座位一加再加,便現場 塞得水洩不通。

午供完畢後,賢度董事長為所有從台北遠道而來的法師,向大眾作一個簡單的介紹;賢度董事長 更對大眾表示,對現場很多新面 孔都感到陌生,這都是由於美國 華嚴蓮社近年來積極的推行各種 多元化的弘法活動,接引了很多 信眾;同時鼓勵大家要多聞佛 法,護持三寶。 再者蓮社常住法師及參與支援的 法師,在整個盂蘭法會都扮演著 很重要的角色,領眾認真、法相 莊嚴,使法會能圓滿順利完成。

八月十日晚上十時,賢度董事長 大轉法輪,為大眾展開一連串 總共五天的佛法講座,日期是 8/10,12,14,20及21日。於第一 天即8/10法師承接四月份的開 示,再為大眾解説有關準提菩薩 的法要,同時帶領大眾持誦準提 神咒,其中仍不厭其煩的解釋受 持此咒的儀軌及須注意之處。第 二天至第五天講述的內容是有 關華嚴宗的義理,從判教-小、 始、終、頓、圓開始,講出佛與 眾生的法界乃是一念之差,以多 媒體展示十法界圖,加深與會大 眾對於法界的認知。談及華嚴與 觀行時,法師提及止觀的觀不 是用眼睛來看的,是要用心去觀 照,為了大家都能詳盡的明白, 故以數位影像解釋止觀中的呼吸 觀。而提到華嚴心要部份,主要 舉出我人的五蘊中的受(領納) 、想(取像)、行(造作)、識 (了別)之種種法要。強調要轉 凡夫有漏的八識成佛的清淨智, 是從前五識做起,首先轉五識為 成所作智,而六、七、八識順序 轉為妙觀察智、平等性智、大圓 鏡智。最後一天的講座,法師講

八月十五日是期日,照例來參與 共修的信眾比較平日多,白天繼 續誦華嚴經,於十時三十分加插 了開示時,賢度董事長針對當 天所誦的經文為信徒作詳細的介 紹,法師説今天誦的經文是華嚴 經第七會,是屬等覺法門,內容 有十定品乃至阿僧祗品, 經文中 解釋數字用一、十、百、千、 萬、億、乃至阿僧祇,此為印度 度量衡的單位,表示法門多到數 之不盡之意。經文中提到數量之 多,是從阿僧祇至不可說不可說 之多,包括同類法、異類法、異 類根、及所有境界也不可説,同 一品經文申展到「如來壽量品」 ,講出每處淨土的時劫,又在「 諸菩薩住處品」中提到宇宙十方 之佛剎及菩薩名號,各處不同。

八月十九日,台北法鼓山常延法師到訪,賢度董事長親自接見招待,這次常延法師是代表法鼓山 到海外各道場作出關懷及展開弘



左一為常延法師

法的活動,前來蓮社是因為法師 早年在台北華嚴專宗佛學院任 教,得悉董事長也到了美國,在 信徒的陪同下,來拜訪董事長, 聚舊之餘也互相問好,這就是 第一次踏進美國華嚴蓮社的因 緣,然而法師並不是首次來到美 加,於早年已應邀於兩地的道場 講課,深得信眾支持。董事長隨 即預訂下次常延法師再度來灣區 時,先到本社轉法輪云云。

八月二十二日為盂蘭盆法會第圓滿日,當天前來參予者很多,也特別忙,上午八時開始,舉行一堂延生普佛,功德迴向給健在者增福增慧,消災延壽。接著於



十時三十分舉辦一年一度的高 中獎學金頒獎典禮,今年是第三 屆舉辦,得獎者是十名,當天特 別激請MILPITAS 的副市長VICE MAYOR PETE MCHUGH作為主禮 嘉賓,故頒獎者除了副市長外, 分別有賢度董事長及天因住持, 頒獎者都鼓勵學生努力學習,祈 望有一個美好的將來,最後於頒 獎禮中又安排了兩學生代表說感 謝詞。下午二時為是次盂蘭盆法 會中最重要的一項,是舉辦三時 繫念佛事,經過四個多小時由續 臻法師主法及帶領下,總結了為 往者所做的佛事, 迴向亡靈能往 生淨土,並為本年的盂蘭法會圓 滿的劃下了一個句點。

# 準提生活體驗營



5/29~30/2010是美國華嚴蓮社 自開創廿六年以來,首次舉辦學 佛生活體驗營,這次的生活營為 期兩日一夜,只開放給青年會的 成員及義工大德。所以稱為「準 提生活體驗營」,是承接本社賢 度董事長於今年四月份來美傳授 準提法門為主要動機,故藉此時 是發予者一個實踐的機會,同時 提醒行者精進勤修準提法門。

5/29/2010星期六2:00PM,參加者陸續抵達蓮社報到,由天融當家負責發給每人一套繡有蓮社徽章的居士制服。當大眾穿上制服後,一股道氣自然顯發。接著安排掛單分配寮房,法師簡單解釋了這兩天的活動行程後,又引領參予者認識環境。另天因住持也為大家解釋生活作息的要點及授予

佛門儀軌,而學員對這些規則很 感興趣,也非常專注認真學習。

當天4:30PM是常住晚課的時刻,也是準提生活體驗營學員們的第一堂功課。晚課後藥石持為了配合晚課蒙山施食,住持意為學員們開示蒙山的起源,為學員們開示蒙山的起源來,為學員們開示蒙山的起源來,為學是經及準提咒108遍;然後軍之,學員們進入學員們進入學員們進入,修道氣息爾漫整個空間。

翌日(5/30/2010)星期天5:00AM,學員們開始起床梳洗。5:30AM常住為學員安排了持誦準提咒為早課,結束後過堂用早齋。原想,美國青年人一大清早不太習慣中國傳統式早餐,令人卻出乎意料的是,每人居然

都吃得津津有味,而且也就此學會了過堂儀規。8:00AM學員們全程參與配合週日共修禮拜金剛實懺,2:00PM開始座談會身踴躍表達了他們對這次活動學員踴躍表達了他們對這次活動中也意見給主辦單位,蓮社方面與眾分享,也提供方面提出一些問題來作問卷調查,以便訂定下次主辦同類活動的方針。

總結這次活動,學員們都一致 認為是一種非常難得及珍貴的經 驗,只可惜時間太短了,真希望 能多安排一兩天,大家都表示樂



學員出席座談會



學員參與常住晚課



法師帶領學員誦準提經



全體學員早餐過堂

# 惟新法師弘法活動

於6/3/2010傍晚七時,惟新法師 與在其住眾性德法師陪同下,第 一次踏足美國華嚴蓮社,法師形 容,眼前兩幢耀眼莊嚴的建築物 居然是二十年前自己畢業的佛學 院母校所屬的分院弘法道場,感 覺很親切,有如回到家一樣。

惟新法師一連三天的弘法活動非 常緊湊,步履穿梭於蓮社及聞思 修之間:

6/04/2010 晚7:00在蓮社主持 佛學講座開示華嚴經之淨行品。

6/05/2010 早9:00到聞思修主 持佛學講座-藥師佛消災祈福法 門,晚7:00在蓮社主持佛學座談 6/06/2010 早10:30在蓮社繼續宣講華嚴經·淨行品。下午2:00到聞思修居士林領眾禮拜藥師寶懺。

6/08/2010 惟新法師及性德法師乘機回台,聞思修居士林會長 黃可泰一行四人送機。

這次的活動是由兩個團體合併舉辦,是屬罕見及希有難得,而合併的好處是凝聚兩個道場的人眾,集合了力量、突顯了以眾靠眾的共修效應。法師答應日後有因緣會再回來為蓮社的信徒講課。<sup>經</sup>



惟新法師互持座談會

# 佛學講座「三十七道品與四無量心的關係」

美國中西部芝加哥正覺寺住持繼如法師宣講



本社邀請美國中西部芝加哥正覺 寺住持繼如法師蒞臨為信眾主持 兩場佛學講座,時間是七月三十 及卅一日(星期五及六)晚七至 九時正,開講「三十七道品與四 無量心的關係」。

法師原籍馬來西亞,依止竺摩法師研習大乘佛法,曾任馬來西亞三慧講堂監院、佛教總會青年團副主任,後到美國東部及中西部弘法,曾任美國佛教會董事、紐約大覺寺及莊嚴寺住持;又任美中佛教會主席,現任芝加哥正覺寺住持。法師宿具慧根,深入

經藏,禪教雙修,精通國、粵、 泰、英、馬來五種語言,説法時 聲音宏量,辨才無礙,常引領大 眾暢遊於佛法大海中,令聽法者 身心愉悦。

**這次講座,法師根據佛經分析八** 正道是我人整個生命中身、口、 意的行為,七覺支則是心理的作 用,而四無量心(慈、悲、喜、 捨)是破我見及我執的最好良 藥,但倘若慈悲有特定的對象, 則慈悲會帶來種種煩惱,也很 難生起喜捨的心。故法師概嘆眾 生三業不淨,召感果報不如意; 若不淨化自身,難以解脱。一時 間法師如是妙語連珠的講述了學 佛的基礎觀念,鎖定三十七道品 的七覺支及八正道,連貫了四無 量心並作出種種關係。這次蓮社 舉辦這兩場講座中,坐無虛席, 信眾靜心聆聽妙法,沐浴於法海 中,法喜之情,表露於面。最後 法師以「不忍聖教衰, 不忍眾生 苦工作為給大眾的精神勉勵。



是晚的活動與平常的共修會大不相同,參與人數逾百多人,有常來幫忙的義工、有固定來共修的信徒、有專程來觀摩看看的新人,大部份的都攜眷參加,更有一家全部十七人一起前來

慶祝,很是熱鬧。當晚活動內容 包括了刺激的禮物摸彩及一連串 的文娛節目。第一砲表演的是 本社青年會成員,他們以投影片 播放過去活動的照片,並為大眾 獻唱 "REASON BEHIND YOUR BIRTH"。整場氣氛被帶動起 來,他們專注的投入,他們的熱 情奔放,告訴大家我們就是年青 人,果然獲得全場堂聲及讚許。 表演中有兩姐弟,是丁睦軒及丁 煌竣他們分別以笛子及色十風演 奏音樂,而心字輩皈依弟子也高 唱心經一曲,而獨唱者有心慧( 賴淑慧)及法誕(孫木通)分別獻 歌給與大家。除了表演外,當然 少不了裹腹的食品,典座組的師 姐們於當天的下午已很用心的張 羅豐盛的晚餐及應時的月餅、點 心、水果、飲料等。

活動結束前的一個項目是傳燈。

天因住持開示傳燈的意義後,法 師們領眾唱著三寶歌,手拿著蠟 燭燈燈相接,照亮了整個大雄寶 殿,大眾手捧燈火,跟隨法師們 繞佛三匝後,最後以虔誠恭敬的 心,將燈火供奉在佛前,大眾一 起合掌迥向: 道場正法久住、僧 眾和樂自在、信眾護持佛法、人

人有求皆遂、處處萬眾一心。約 晚上9:30左右,整場活動告一段 落,大眾捧著摸彩得來的獎品, 歡喜賦歸, 在一個西方國家渡過 一個東方的節日,在平凡的日子 中增添了一些色彩、是美好的點 綴、也是快樂的回憶。 缀



"Reason of the Birth" 青年會含唱



大獎得主與任持含照



法師们領眾拜願



我中獎喔



燈燈相傳 佛法不減



Jessica 以笛子伴奏三實歌



"心字輩" 含唱心經



信眾静聽住持領唱三實歌



獎品豐富



住持天因法師領唱三實歌



大眾熱誠投入,高聲唱和



燈燈相傳 佛法不滅



Alex 丁煒竣演奏色士風 Long Ago



# 蓮 社 老 居 士趙 李 學 卿 居 士 到 訪

後因夫婿於2003年往生,自感身體不力,故比較不常到蓮社來,但遇到佛誕期,必定設法前來蓮社供齋,籍此一方面作功德

的延續,一方面不忘與眾結緣, 本寺於2003年擴建工程中,李 居士在金錢及精神上的支持,更 成就了護法安僧的功德。



## 胡蘋華老居士回台



5/16/2010 本社胡蘋華老居士 參與共修後,到大雄寶殿與住 持天因法師拍照留念,並聲聲 道别,在場的也有龍潘滿夫婦 及其他居士。原來胡老居士要 回台灣老家定居,是她老人家的 心願,胡老居十是早年長期護持 台北華嚴蓮社的忠實信徒,後 因小孩就業及肆業的前途,舉家 移民到美國加州,安頓家眷,並 協助成公老尚興建美國華嚴蓮社 (即本社),本社前後座落於 CUPPERTINO, MILPITAS, 甚至 最早期以居士家為暫時弘法據 地,都是得力於胡老居士帶同其 弟弟胡憲文一整家族,從台北護

持到美國來,可謂出錢出力,居 功至大,現今胡氏家族已是四代 同堂的大家族。

# 週日共修會 第一次用禪堂

十月十八日乃第三個週日,本社 共修會如常舉行華嚴佛一,早上 八時開始至中午十二時圓滿,共 有三支香。 內容包括:持咒、 繞佛、唸佛、靜坐、唱華嚴字 母……等。

同時為了充份利用已禪堂,當天 的第一支香靜坐部份便首次公開 給信眾於共修會使用。

隨著法師們領唱「南無大方廣 佛華嚴經・華嚴海會佛菩薩」佛 號,大眾口唸佛號,步履踏實一 個跟一個地走到禪堂,在天因住

持解釋靜坐的點點常識,又教導 信眾在意念方面要思惟佛法或觀 照呼吸,如是的靜坐了三十分 鐘,可謂身、□、意並用。

當天參予共修者眾,禪堂座無虛 席,把原本已經很莊嚴的禪堂, 變得更肅穆平靜。在場參予靜坐 的信徒有第一次認識蓮社一充滿 好奇,也有是為家屬做佛事來參 予共修-洗滌身心,也有期待蓮 社開設禪修班的信眾一精進不 懈。使常天的華嚴佛一平添了點 點色彩。瞬



# 師徒交べ 溫馨和諧不忘初火 氣氛感人

本社住持天因法師自2007年4月接任以來,每逢佛誕都會舉辦三皈五戒活動,三年下來,成就了皈依的弟子為數不少!

識,聚首一堂,以眾靠眾,共同 增上。當天出席皈依弟子異常踴 躍。



**住持法師領唱三寶歌** 



心妙憶述有緣皈依感動落淚



常住持法師問及大家在皈依的前 後,有沒有發現有何改變,各人 爭相發言,當中大部份人表示皈 依、受戒後,個人脾氣的改變, 處理事情懂得為別人設想,有些 表示皈依後,心靈上有了依歸; 最重要的是大家都明白因果的道 理。當中一位八十歲的老太太-心妙,對於自己能夠有緣皈依, 感到非常高興,在分享其皈依因 緣時,更數度感動落淚。另一位 心如,是蓮社一位資深義工,因 父母親往生而與蓮社結緣,皈依 後每次來到蓮計都有回家的感 覺,異常親切。而年紀最少的一 位小男孩一心展,自從皈依後,

與外婆每星期都來蓮社當義工, 外婆在廚房幫忙,而心展在大殿 發心,比如今年的觀音成道日的 供佛臘燭燈的名字標籤都是他幫 忙完成,有空時心展更坐在一旁 拿著念珠持誦綠度母心咒。

活動快結束時,天因住持領眾唱 三寶歌,在場大部份參予者均表 示第一次唱三寶歌,很是新鮮; 最後師父叮囑弟子們回家要做功 課,要以蓮社為第二個家,要不 忘初心、要護持佛法、要精進學 佛,在一片溫馨和樂的氣氛下, 各人依依不捨的跟師父告假。



'心"相聚一堂,以眾靠眾



我是心"展"是師父最小的徒弟

## 三人分牛

從前有一戶人家,父親逝世時,留下了十七頭牛,遺囑上寫明, 三個兄弟分家,其分配的方式是 大兒子得二分之一,二兒子得三 分之一,小兒子得九分之一。

十七頭牛的二分之一或三分之一 或九分之一皆非整數,令三個兒 子非常的苦惱,甚至發生口角, 天天吵架都不能解決問題。

鄰居有一位長者,每天看這三個 兒子吵鬧不休,就自動將自己僅 有的一頭牛送給他們,告訴他們 說:「這一頭牛送給你們,你們 就好分家了,免得你們為了多少 而計較爭吵。」

十七頭牛加上長者的一頭,共十 八條牛,大兒子應分得的是二分 之一,得九條牛;二兒子應分得 三分之一,是六條牛;小兒子應 得的九分之一,是二條牛。三兄 弟所分得的是九條、六條、二條,正好是父親給他們的十七條 牛,一頭也不多,一頭也不少。 但是剩下了隔壁長者的那一條 牛,於是三兄弟又把這條牛還給 長者。長者絲毫沒有損失,反而 替三兄弟解決了問題。

自古以來,凡是有德之家,兄弟分家都是互相謙讓;凡是無德之家,往往為了爭奪財產而兄弟爭鬥,骨肉相殘。其實,分得多的人,也不見得成功,分得少的人,也不一定會失敗。所謂成敗,在「多少」之外,必然另有原因。

所以,多少不是在數量上能絕對計算得清楚的,要用道德、心量、人情義理,在不比較和不計較裏面,才能圓滿解決。經





## 梵 唄 的 起 源

中國的梵唄,相傳起源於三國曹 《十誦律》云:如聽梵唄, 魏時代,陳思王曹植游魚山,聽 到空中梵音嘹繞,深受感動,於 是摹仿其音節,撰文制音,寫為 **梵**唄。至唐代,梵唄漸漸盛行於 民間。

### 梵 唄 利 人 天

殊勝的梵唄又名「音聲佛事」, 能夠感動萬物、利益人天,和世 間上的絲竹、靡靡之音,大相 逕庭。所以梵唄之聲,無論是誦 者、聞者皆能獲大利益。

### 《南海寄歸內法傳》載:

清淨的梵唄,能獲六種殊勝功 德:

- (1)能知佛德深猿
- (2)體悟制文之次第
- (3)今舌根清淨
- (4)得胸臟開通
- (5) 處眾不惶
- (6)長命無病

# 其利有万:

- 一者身體不疲,
- 二者不忘所憶,
- 三者心不懈怠,
  - 四者音聲不壞,
  - 五者諸天歡喜。

相傳昔時有僧諷誦《大佛頂首楞 嚴神咒》,天上的天神聞聲,長 跪合掌恭敬諦聽,直待咒文誦完 始起身離去。照







美國華嚴蓮社青年會, 自用, 主以提倡佛教育及社會 是以提倡佛教育及於2009 年8月, 在100 在100

歡迎您與我們聯絡:

心誠(丁聖剛): edting@gmail.com

心程(李忠霖): wavemanlee@gmail.com

心智(區志揚): matt.au.152@gmail.com

**EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!**"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

# facebook

# 插花班

本社為了讓對插花有興趣的信 眾能對花有更多的認識;特地 開辦了免費插花班,邀請邱國 芳居士義務擔任指導老師,與 大家一齊互相切磋,尋找出花 姿奧妙,同時又能插花供佛, 莊嚴道場,與眾同賞為樂。

插花班時間如下:

每月第二個星期日

時間: 1:30 PM 至 3:30 PM

插花材料費用:

由老師代買,學生平均分擔材 料費

歡迎隨喜參加,與我們一起向 「花花世界」探討!

本社為了增加與信眾間的互動,特地開增FACEBOOK,提供最新活動更新和蓮社新聞,互相分享學佛心得,歡迎大家。

請上 WWW.FACEBOOK.COM 搜尋 HUAYEN USA (美國華嚴蓮社中文版專頁)

#### 特別活動

#### 1) 傳授三皈五戒

傳授三皈正戒,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: 佛陀成道法會 2011年1月9日 下午1:30

觀音菩薩聖誕法會 2011年3月20日 下午1:30 佛陀聖誕法會 2011年5月8日 下午1:30

#### 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	

#### 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:

HUAYENUSA@GMAIL.COM 請連同姓名、電話,以便 聯絡。請註明:華嚴園苑

#### 銘謝啟事

「華嚴園苑」歡迎大家投 特別感謝參予本期之中、英文撰稿,分享心路歷程,學佛 稿、翻譯、潤筆、校對、設計等心得。來稿可以中英文撰 義務工作人員:

區(心智)志揚居士、吳(學寧)艾 惠居士,胡心圓居士、江常生居 十。

編輯部謹啟

#### 活動預告

請以本社網站及FACEBOOK專頁的華嚴蓮社(美國)之日期為準

1. 年終加行功課虔誦地藏經

日期: 2010年12月1日至26日 3:00 PM - 5:45 PM

2. 年終法會禮拜梁皇寶懺

日期: 2010年12月19日至26日 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

3. 佛陀成道日

日期: 2011年1月9日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

4. 供佛齋天法會

日期: 2011年2月6日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

5. 禮拜三千佛懺

日期: 2011年1月20日至2月5日 8:00 PM - 1:00 PM

6. 觀音菩薩誕辰法會

日期: 2011年3月20日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

7. 清明春季祭祖法會

日期: 2011年4月3日至10日 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

8. 佛陀聖誕浴佛法會

日期: 2011年5月8日 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

#### 誠徵志工

因華期刊徵求義務工作人員,凡有興趣於中、英文撰稿、翻譯、資料搜集等工作,請與本刊編輯部聯絡。

E-MAIL: HUAYENUSA@GMAIL.COM

請註明因華義工.

### 第九期 助印功德芳名

\$1000 劉寶足(IvyHo)

\$500 成一法師 張惠天 KATHY PESIC FAMILY

\$400 楊良淵(Steve)

\$300 天因法師

\$200 陳揚新合家 楊惟玉合家 張正台 故 盛澤隆太太

\$140 林駿 李仁植 林修如 林修吉

\$100 天寧法師 JEAN HUANG 陳建耀 MUOI THOI

賈秀民 JULIE VU

姜若瑩迴向父親姜雲通消災延壽

劉亞玫迥向先父劉惠芬往生淨土

\$90 JOE CHEN 柯紹苰

\$80 惟新法師

\$60 曾志偉/李菁

**\$50** 性德法師 通是法師 林楓玉 陳艷/孫曉鵬

及以 下

**7** 王淑芳 滕灼華 李思瑩 姜楊新妹

心寧(鄧玉苓) 文國強合家 李燦榮 葉陳翠歡

傅楊春美 陳秀清 吳弦凌 鄭文東

LIN,MARK 楊炳照 CHENG, HUI CHUAN

馬國雄迥向馬文強往生淨土 MICHAEL CHIU合家

因

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!

## 歡迎助印

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電郵地址:					
金額: \$					

請將此表連同支票寄回

支票抬頭: ABLS

AVATAMSAKA BUDDHIST LOTUS SOCIETY

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捐款收據可申請税務減免



# The Avatamsa

TENEY



Free Distribution

怡悠 然 然 自恬 得靜



#### The Avatamsa's Pick

# **HOPE**

### From: Internet Translated by: Chong S. Lim

On an autumn day, beautiful with vibrant colors, a dying patient watched the leaves of a tree outside the window falling one by one. Her condition had been deteriorating with each falling leaf, day by day.

Deprived of hope, she sadly remarked "When the last leaf falls, my life, like these autumn leaves, shall be over too".

An old artist, overhearing the remark, was overcome with compassion. In the silence of the following night when all was still, he painted the most vibrant

green leaf hanging from a branch of the tree where the dying patient will notice every day.

The autumn winds blow chilly and cold and soon carried away the last leaf from the tree except the painted vibrant green leaf. Winter came, the patient survived and recovered. The leaf had given her hope and the will to fight her illness.

Life may be deprived of many material things, but not hope. Hope is the most precious commodity in life. Where there's hope, there's life!

# A GIFT

From : Internet

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head; To handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you once, it's his fault; If he betrays you twice, it's your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas; Average minds discuss events; Small minds discuss people.

Buddha gives every bird it's food, But He does not throw it into it's nest.

He who loses money, loses much; He

who loses a friend, loses more; He who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are acts of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

The tongue weighs practically nothing, but so few people can hold it.

Friends, you and me, you brought another friend.and then there were 3...

We started our group, our circle of friends and like that circle, there is no beginning or end...

Story with Inspiration

# THE TRUTH OF HONESTY

Translated by : Matt Au

It was once told, a "clever" young man threw his friend "honesty" away into the great sea. The immense waves and currents, quickly carried "honesty" out to the middle of the ocean, where he drifted to the shore of a tiny isolated island.

"Honesty" lay on the beach, waiting for help. Suddenly he heard the sound of relaxing music, and it got louder and louder. As he looked in the direction of where the music was coming from, he saw a boat with the name printed "Happiness". "This must be the boat of happiness", he thought. As the boat approached, "honesty" excitedly asked "Happiness! I am Honesty, can you please give me a ride back home?" "Happiness" replied "I am sorry, but if I had honesty, I cannot be happy anymore. Look at this society; look at how many people are upset because of being too honest and truthful. I'm sorry, I really cannot help you."

A while later, "Social status" came sailing by. Again, Honesty asked if he could get a ride back home. "Social status" said, "Sorry buddy, if I am too honest and do not lie, I cannot be where I am now! I cannot have you on my boat."

Honesty felt upset, as he watched "Social status" sail further and further away.

Not long after, "Competition" came speeding by. Honesty shouted, "Competition, will you be kind enough to take me home?" Competiton replied, "No! I cannot have you aboard, with such competitive opponents; I must do everything I can to win! And sometimes, that is about taking short cuts and doing things in the gray area."

Just when Honesty thought there was no more hope, "Time" stopped the boat and said "Come come, hop on board!" "Who are you and why are you helping me?" asked Honesty. "I am Time, and I am here to help you because time is the only thing that can prove how important being honest is."

As they sailed home, "Happiness", "Social status" and "Competition" were all slowly sinking into the sea.

Without honesty, happiness will not last, social status will not be respected, and competitions will not always be won.

## YOUTH GROUP SERVICE AT SACRED HEART OF SJ

By: Edward Ting

Saturday June 19th, 2010, was another beautiful day in San Jose, CA. at the Sacred Heart Community Service Center. The sun was shining brightly and so were the smiles on the ABLS Youth Group members. This is the second time ABLS Youth Group members have done volunteer work at the center.

With the ABLS Masters, the ABLS Youth Group does volunteer work once a month at different charity organizations locally. The purpose is for the ABLS Youth Group to give back to the community that we live and work in, to those who are in need. Through the process of volunteering, members not only give, but also gain by learning interpersonal, organizational and leadership skills. They can discover new skills and capabilities and learn to overcome personal challenges. This event was organized and led by one of the Youth Group's youngest member, Jacklyn Fang.



Sacred Heart Community Service is an organization with a vision to unite the community and to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty. Sacred Heart Community Service achieves this by providing basic necessities such as free food and school supplies to the poor, homeless, and underemployed in Santa Clara County.

Thirteen volunteers represented ABLS, the largest group at the center that day. Two lines were formed to fill the grocery bags. For 3 hours the group worked very hard at putting canned fruit, rice, canned vegetables, peanut butter and other prepackage food into the bags. Once they are put into bags, Phil, Ed and Jonathan went on to put them on racks.

In the 3 short hours, the group bagged 1900 grocery bags.

The center distributes food daily to 400 people who are in need. These 1900 bags will provide the center with one whole week of supply to provide to the poor, homeless and underemployed in the community.

The majority of the Youth Group members were there, only 4 members were absent. However many "friends and family" came and took part in this rewarding event.

Although it was a very intense 3 hours of packing grocery bags for everyone, but at the end of the day everyone had sense of satisfaction that they had managed to help the local people in need. Just like the way they came, everyone left with a beautiful smile on their face.



## MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL DINNER PARTY -- 9.18.2010

It was quite an evening of fun and celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival at the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society in Milpitas.

The temple hall was beautifully decorated with lanterns and fresh flower arrangements. Trays of moon cakes could be seen on the altar tables. The tables and chairs had been rearranged to open up the center of the hall for performances that evening. A sofa and coffee table was even brought in to create a cozy family room setting. The ambience in the hall was warm, festive and relaxing.

Abbess Tien Inn started the party with a welcoming address. She then led the assembly in executing the Dharma ceremony of Praise to Medicine Buddha and Moonlight Bodhisattva. The assembly was showered with blessings from the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

The assembly then returned to their seats, and dinner plates were filled with delicious vegetarian cuisine. The kitchen volunteer team had spent many days preparing for this wonderful dinner.

The emcees, James and Gloria kicked off the dinner entertainment with a dialogue on the historical origin and tradition of the mid-autumn festival. They then introduced the ABLS Youth Team. This team has been doing wonderful charity work for the Bay Area community, including donating time and effort at food banks as well as visiting senior centers to impart well wishes and friendship. This evening they performed a group song. Their youth and enthusiasm filled the air.

James and Gloria then introduced the Ting family. They are a family of talented musicians. Their son, Alex performed



by: Bihru

two saxophone solos and their daughter, Jessica performed a flute solo. Alex later performed a fun guitar piece accompanied by energetic voices from his family and the ABLS Youth Team.

Most of you have probably heard of and recited the Heart Sutra, but have you heard the Heart Sutra sung to a contemporary yet calming tune? Well, such a song was sung that evening by a group of ABLS members.

Next, the emcees introduced two solo singers. Hannah performed first and mesmerized the audience with her sweet voice. Woody Sun performed next. His clear voice and song of blessings filled everyone's heart with gratitude.

Interspersed with the marvelous performances were gift drawing activities. Many gifts were donated and thanks to



all the donors, everyone had a gift by the end of the drawing.

The closing activity for the evening was a light ceremony led by Abbess Tien Inn. Tea light candles were passed to the entire assembly. When all the candles were lit, the assembly followed Abbess Tien Inn and circumambulated the temple hall. What a sight to behold. All the lights and blessings!





## DINNER GATHERING

On August 15th, a dinner gathering was held to bring Dr. Hsien Du, visiting masters from Taiwan, followers and volunteers together to share our thoughts over a delicious dinner.



Picture above: Gathered together

The dinner was held at the temple, which gave everyone a good chance to ask questions and share their thoughts about Buddhism. We were honored to have Dr. Hsien Du join us for the dinner and also enlighten us with her stories. She also informed us about the new plans on the 4th floor of the Taipei Hua Yen Temple, where they will be

remodeling it into an interactive media space, attracting more young people to learn about Buddhism through this new technology. Dr. Hsien Du concluded by telling us what she aims for the organization to achieve in the near future.

Abbess Venerable Tien Inn and Venerable Tien Yung also reported about the success of the past year's events. One of the highlights of this year's event was the 2 day 1 night Cundi Camp, which was the first time ABLS organized such an event. It gave a chance for many young people to learn the daily routines of a Buddhist monk. Abbess Ven. Tien Inn finished off by introducing future events which are scheduled for the remaining year.

A big "Thank you" goes out to our kitchen volunteers for preparing such a wonderful meal for everyone to enjoy on this special occasion. There was camaraderie among everyone, sharing laughters of joy over delicious food.



by : Matt Au

# CUNDI CAMP:











## **BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY**

My wife must be surprised when I declared that I would attend the Buddha's Birthday Celebration on 16th of May 2010, officiated by the Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society in Milpitas. The celebration started at 8:00 a.m. which meant that we had to rise with the sun on a Sunday to be on time. I normally sleep in on weekends and would not accompany my wife on her weekend prayers at the temple. The prayers, chants and sermons were in Mandarin which I am very poor in, 3rd grade level so laughed my wife, thus I was utterly lost throughout. Nevertheless I willingly put myself through the ordeal to honor this Great Spiritual Teacher without a second thought.

The Buddha was born about 2500 years ago as Prince Siddhartha Gautama of Kapilvastu, a kingdom in what is now part of southern Nepal. His destiny was the conquest and rule of a world empire and a life of supreme luxury. He chose to let go of this worldly destiny for his other destiny of a fully enlightened Buddha! For that alone I bow before him and know that I am not worthy. Yet the letting go of worldly things is not the ultimate act towards enlightenment as illustrated by the message in the movie

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"

This message of letting go in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was plainly stated at the very beginning of the movie, when the hero visited his girlfriend to entrust her with his much treasured sword. It was in the way of his spiritual progress. Material possession seems less difficult to give up. As the story developed we encountered the novice martial artist who would not let go of her youthful ego and arrogance, and her martial art master who would not let go of her anger. What is in our heart and mind is near impossible to let go.

When news about the destruction of the kingdom he left behind was relayed to the Buddha, he was silent but not angry. And when a humble peasant presented poisoned food to the Buddha, he ate it knowing that he will die, so as not to hurt the peasant's feeling. The Buddha had let go of his ego and arrogance, an accomplishment that no gods in the Universe are capable of. We all know many angry and jealous gods.

In this globalised world where rising





civilizations bump up against each other and threaten to clash, where thousand years old religious conflicts threaten to reignite into thousand years old religious wars along religious fault lines, the Buddha's example of letting go resonates. Again I bow to the Buddha knowing that I am not worthy and vow to at least try to control anger, ego and arrogance. The ceremonies ended at 12:00 noon. We were all invited to give Buddha a birthday shower to conclude the day's celebration.

# BEING WISE AT ALL SITUATION

An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

#### Dear Vincent:

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over? I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

#### Love, Papa

Dear Pop:

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love. Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

#### Dear Pop:

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you,





ABLS has recently formed a youth organization, "Avatamsaka Buddhist Lotus Society (ABLS) Youth Group", a subsidiary of Avatasaka Buddhist Lotus Society. The purpose of the ABLS Youth Group is to support ABLS and help promote Buddhist teaching, conduct charity relief, culture, education, and social services.

We are now recruiting new members who are dedicated and are passionate about charity work to join our Youth Group. Our group consist of people of all ages, so everyone is welcomed. We strongly recommend teens to participate and gain some leadership experience through doing community service, which will definitely prepare you for college and your future.

We hold meetings once a month: usually on the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to email us anytime.

## Edward Ting:

edting@gmail.com

#### James Lee:

wavemanlee@gmail.com

#### Matthew Au:

matt.au.152@gmail.com

#### **EVERYONE IS WELCOMED!**

"Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."



# 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 practise the Buddha's Teachings.

Date : January 9, 2011 1:30PM March 13, 2011 1:30PM May 8, 2011 1:30 PM



# facebook

Welcome join us on facebook to follow our most updated news and events!!

Please go to www.facebook.com/pages search for "HUAYEN USA"

# 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)"

## **CURRENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

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

December 19 - 26, 2010 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

#### 2) The Past Vows of Ksitigarbha (Earth Store) Bodhisattva Sutra

December 1 – 26, 2010 3:00 PM – 5:45 PM

#### 3) Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightement

January 9, 2011 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### 4) Offering Ceremony for Buddhas and Devas

February 6, 2011 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### 5) Three Thousand Buddhas Repentance Service

January 30 – Feb 5, 2011 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### 6) Celebration of Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday

March 20, 2011 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES: (8AM - 1:30PM)

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

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